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State Counsellor meets with business leaders



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with five donors to UEHRD and five high tax payers in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with local business leaders at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, discussing over several business issues.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor, officials concerned and business leaders discussed and exchanged views on topics including stability of exchange rate, stability of export and import policies, reducing rate of bank loan interests for

developers and reducing condominium property tax.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thaung Tun, Dr. Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing, U Than Myint, U Han Zaw, U Ohn Maung, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Ministers U Min Thu, U Khin Maung Tin, U Sat Aung and U Aung Htoo, deputy

governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Chief Coordinator of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State and donors, officials of the government banks, and private bankers, high tax payers and invited guests.

The ceremony kicked off with opening speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

(The speech of the State Counsellor is covered on Page-3

and 4).

At the meeting with the State Counsellor, President of the UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win, U Maung Weik of MBCCD and Saypaing Company, Chairman of the Myanmar Developers' Association U Shein Win, discussed the currency exchange rate, export and import policies, bank loan interests and property tax.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor has the documentary photo taken together with Union Ministers, Chairman of the Nay

Pyi Taw Council, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, deputy ministers, deputy governors of the CBM, the chief coordinator of the UEHRD, business leaders and bankers, high tax payers, representatives of the UMFCCI and brotherhood associations.

Following the opening ceremony, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with five donors to UEHRD and five high tax payers.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses Joint Public Accounts Committee's report

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

AT the thirteenth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. Hluttaw representatives discussed the Joint Public Accounts Committee Report (7/2018) on the Office of the Union Auditor General audit report for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency discussed about government departments included in the report implementing projects inaccurately without proper oversight, works done uncoordinated and uncontrolled and formed groups without proper policies to oversee the works of companies (permitted to conduct projects) by citing Min Ye cashew nut plantation jointly conducted by Department of Agriculture and Myanmar Plantation Singapore Ltd.

Daw Naw Chris Tun (a) Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7 on the other hand discussed about Myanmar International Cooperation Agency (MICA) included in the report. Of the 65 works transferred to MICA only 23 were conducted out of which 16 work agreements were



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

signed with MICA while 7 were signed by the department indicating a fraternizing between MICA and the department. It looks as if authorities are working with private business to work on a state-owned business. Winding up of MICA had took more than a year and half now and there seem to be a weakness in the winding up committee even at the formation stage discussed Daw Naw Chris Tun.

In his discussion, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency said project implementation didn't achieve the set targets in all three sectors of agriculture, industry and service. In the 14 smaller

sub-sectors, only the four sectors of electricity, finance, service and trade achieve the set targets. He suggested on uncovering sector wise weaknesses and correcting it.

U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency discussed about ministerial departments reporting to the people through Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in a transparent manner on the actions taken on matters pointed out by the Union Auditor General's Office. He also discussed and suggested about Hluttaw representatives and experts listening to the voices of the people to discuss the matter of "Other Accounts" opened by

some departments.

Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11 also discussed about MICA and suggested following the recommendation of Union Auditor General as well as to take legal action where applicable.

The report was also discussed by U Kyaw Naing of Yangon Region constituency 12, U Nay Myo Htet of Kyauktada constituency, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3, Dr. Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency, Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency, U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency (2), U Thant Zin Htun of

Dekhinathiri constituency, U Shwe Ko of Kyaukpadaung constituency, U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi Region constituency 7, U Kyaw Tin of Saw constituency, U Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 2, U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency, U Sein Win of Maubin constituency, U Kyaw Tote of Mandalay Region constituency 7, U Chin Pe Lin of Mansi constituency, Dr. U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency 6, U Win Win of Minbu constituency, Dr. Maung Maung of Yangon Region constituency 6, U Saw of Nyaung U constituency, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5, Dr. Zaw Win Myint of Singu constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Kyaw Myint Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 10, U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency, U Oo Tun Maung of Ponnagyun constituency, Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency, U Okka Min of Taninthayi Region constituency 8, U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region constituency 5, U Nay Htet Win of Sinbaungwe constituency and U Sai Thant Zin of Hsipaw constituency.

The fourteenth-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held today it is learnt. ■



Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win (Right) meets Senior Directing Staff (Air) Air Vice Marshall TD Joseph VM VSM. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win receives India National Defence College delegation

UNION MINISTER for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received a delegation led by India National Defence College Senior Directing Staff (Air) Vice Marshall TD Joseph VM VSM at the guest hall of Union Minister

Office, Ministry of Defence yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting cooperation between the two armed forces and training matters were openly and cordially discussed.—MNA ■

MMPO donates cash for rehabilitation flood victims

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint accepted cash donated by Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation (MMPO) to the fund for rehabilitation of flood victims nationwide at a ceremony held in MMPO meeting hall in Wingaba Road, Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday.

At the event, MMPO Chairman U Zin Waing explained about the purpose of donation to the rehabilitation fund for flood victims.

Next, chairman U Chit Ko Ko on behalf of Thakayta Township Video Sub-Group, Yangon Region Video Sub-Group secretary U Tin Moe on behalf of Video Sub-Group (Central), MMPO Patron U Aung Lwin, Chairman U Zin Waing and Vice-Chairman U Zaw Min donated Ks 1 million, Ks 4 million and Ks 10 million respectively. The donations were accepted by the Union Minister.

In his speech of appreciation, Union Minister said people from the motion picture circle usually help and donate whenever the people faces disasters. Now, under the leadership of MMPO, various levels of Video Sub-Groups donated with sympathy towards flood affected people. The outcome of this good deed is

believed to be the socio-economic development of the people in the motion picture circle, said the Union Minister. Also present at the ceremony were officials from Ministry of Information, MMPO patrons, executive members, Video-Sub Groups members and invited guests.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers remarks as he accepts cash donated by MMPO for flood victims. PHOTO: MNA

The most important thing is to make our economy a corruption free: State Counsellor

Following is the unofficial translation of the full text of the speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the meeting with business leaders in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said private businesses are vital for developing countries and thus priority is given toward the participation of businesses in this important matter. However, all need to be duty conscious in this matter.

It is important for every citizen to do their duty for the development of the country. In the economy, some say the government didn't do this or that. We'll accept such criticism. But at the same time, businesses also need to bear in mind that they also have duties and responsibilities. Our democratic system will succeed only when the people themselves believe that they have duties and are capable of performing them. If everything is to be done by the government, then, this is no longer a democracy. If there is no understanding about an economic system that is appropriate for democracy, there wouldn't be success. When we attempt to work together, we all need to think what we can do and what our duties are. Corruption is most liable to occur in business/economy. A country's economic dignity depends on how corruption free that country is.

Recently meetings were conducted between the Anti-Corruption Commission and some business persons. The Commission chairman reported to me about concerns expressed by business persons and the concerns were on corruption. It is a good sign for our country that business persons despise corruption. But in some cases, it depends on business persons. For example, corruption is not a one sided thing. There is the giver and there is the taker. If there is no giver, can there be a taker? Some say if they don't give, they can't get the job done. In that case, they can complain to us officially. We will not ignore it. We will take action. But if no one complains or reports, it is difficult for us to take action. It is said that corruption is rampant among the staff (public servants). But it is not possible for the government to know everything. People need to talk (report). Business persons also need to help in this.

If our country is known by the world as corruption free in the economic sector, there'll be more people willing to invest in our country with trust. Most complaints are on tender matters. There are irregularities in tenders. This is related to corruption and we want to be informed about it. The Tender process is a big challenge for us. It is because of the slowness in tender matters that projects in our country were not completed on time.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers address at meeting with business leaders in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

As such, government departments, state/region governments are prioritizing in speeding up the tenders work. We set detailed guidelines on how this is to be done. On the other hand, business persons need to help out. Don't feel upset

If our country is known by the world as corruption free in the economic sector, there'll be more people willing to invest in our country with trust.

when you see irregularities. Inform us. Give us details about who from which department did what. We will take action. As we take action, these things will gradually disappear. I want it to disappear quickly. Complaints about tenders being slow and having irregularities are

connected to corruption.

Another thing is we have too many red tapes. the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry had repeatedly submitted about the many stages that need to be done. Therefore, our Ministry of Planning and Finance and MIC (Myanmar Investment Commission) is focusing on doing things quickly. We are arranging on not to wait a long time for a thing to be done or to be stuck in one of the many stages. I also like to request to help us by pointing out where the bottle-necks are. Only when we know about it can we solve it. In some cases, we don't know as it is difficult to know everything. Economic development is very important for our country. It is important from the political side as well. This is the time where economic wealth is becoming a real force. On the world stage, there is a connection between our weakness in political power and our weakness in economic power. We need the help of business persons for our manpower, brain power and influence to develop. A sustainable and balanced economic development plan from 2018 to 2030 has been envisioned so that everyone knows clearly how we plan to help.

This plan is for the sustained and balanced development for our country. In our economy, we need experts and

qualified persons who are on par with the rest of the world. This is related to the education sector. On the health sector, our people can be bright and smart but if they are not healthy, it would be useless. That is why we are looking at the health sector too. Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan is setup so that all can support by knowing our country's requirements and priorities. This plan will be implemented soon. In this plan, I want to talk about NECC (National Economic Coordination Committee). Weakness in cooperation between departments, state/region governments and central government, within state/region governments are the major hindrance for development of Myanmar. Due to weakness in cooperation, the economy didn't progress as much as it should. Most complaints were on this. As soon as our government took up the responsibility, we want to encourage such cooperation and formed the NECC. After it was formed, there was not as much development as we wanted but soon a momentum was achieved. Some business persons may notice this. Without such cooperation, our country wouldn't develop. When NECC leads in the implementation everything will become possible. We will see what is required most for our country's development and implement it. I like our business people becoming rich. It is good for the country if our country has rich people. All need to work together for the development of our country.

For us to progress at this time, we need to trust one another and must be loyal towards each other. Being loyal to one another is in the end being loyal to the country. If we are loyal and do things hand in hand there will be progress.

Some don't want our government to succeed. There shouldn't be this sort of mindset. We are not doing things so that our government succeeds. We are doing things so that our country succeeds. If the country succeeds, the government succeeds. If the country didn't succeed, our government couldn't succeed. In other words, making our government fail is to make our country fail. Here, we need to know what success is. Success is not making the people in the government rich. It is to make the whole people rich.

I'm not saying it is difficult for our government to do things. It is to make things easy for the people to live and do things smoothly. Help us to make our country succeed.

The most important thing is to make our economy a corruption free: State Counsellor



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, deputy ministers, deputy governors of the CBM, UEHRD's Chief Coordinator, business leaders, bankers, high tax payers and representatives of the UMFCCL pose for documentary photo at their meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

FROM PAGE-3

We will not look back to the past and treat those who treat us in the same way. We will not look at any business person by linking that business person to the past. The past is past. The present is the most important. How we will do now, where will we head towards, what support is provided for the country to develop. We only look at these main points.

In looking at what support is provided for the country to develop, the most important thing is peace. Peace and national reconciliation. National reconciliation is stability. If we are not at peace among ourselves, this country wouldn't be stable. When we strive towards peace and stability, we need much help from the business persons. Here, I'd like to say thank you. When I ask the help of our people to resolve the problems in Rakhine State, the business persons were at the forefront to help. Some were surprised by this. The world was surprised. The world was surprised that in this country, the people and the business persons came together to help.

This is the strength of our country. When the NRPC (National Reconciliation and Peace Centre) was formed and

a request made for assistance in peace, not only business persons but ordinary people came to help and donate.

The role of these small helps and donations are not smaller but equal to the millions donated by business persons. The will of the people are equal here. Practically, the help and donations provided by the business persons were more effective. In the Rakhine State also, when we requested financial assistance to our business persons, they came to help and I thank them for that too. If we continue like this our country will definitely progress. I don't think there is no other country in the world with the kind of problems we had to face. We are trying to stop the longest running civil war and bring peace to the country. The entire world is looking at Rakhine State so we are trying to resolve it as soon as possible. In such circumstances we all need to be united and work hand in hand.

These are politics. Another purely economic matter is the agriculture sector. To date, our country is based on agriculture. 70 per cent of our people are living in rural areas. Now more and more people from rural areas are moving to urban areas to seek jobs. Looking at this from another side means there are more jobs in urban

areas but we need to have a long term aim.

We want our country to be a country with sustainable development. I want all to think about everything practically.

When I ask the help of our people to resolve the problems in Rakhine State, the business persons were at the forefront to help.

Our people, especially business persons, business persons who are successful in their businesses must think what sort of country we should become. Think what type of economy our country should have.

If we look at things practically, can't we make our country a modern, developed industrial country based on agriculture? If we are to do this, business persons need to plan well in advance from the start.

In the past there were no such businesses. There was no plan to invest by linking the agriculture sector development and industrial sector development. But now, think along this line and implement it. In thinking of doing new things and new ways, now I'd like to talk about our youth.

The other day, I went to a conference on higher education. Youths showed me their inventions. I was much encouraged from what I saw. Our youngsters invested things out of what little they had. I want our business persons to encourage this. Encourage in two ways. Provide investment in research. And think about using these inventions in the business sector.

Our youths still have a long way to go but here, there are many friendly countries

who want to help. I want to urge the business persons to encourage the creativity of our youths. Coordinate and connect with the Ministry of Education and relevant departments to encourage research and make your own businesses progress.

The State will do its best for the economy. Business persons should also come together and put in their best efforts. The most important thing is to make our economy corruption free. Only then can other countries trust and respect us. Reputable businesses would then want to invest in our country. They would want to work with our business people. Encourage cooperation between government and private sector; between central and state/region governments. Help out in the works conducted by NECC. Development shouldn't be for a year or two only. Even five years is meaningless. Development needs to be sustained. Implement together a sustainable economic development system. Suggest to us openly with good will. Suggest directly to the relevant ministries and departments so that things can be done quickly.

Some business persons suggested on more participation of banks in economic development. All need to pitch in and work towards achieving success. The most important thing is peace and stability. Help the country to achieve this. The help is for the development and success of the country. Not the success of the government. It is for the people to have a better life and to stand tall in the world.

For this, we need to have financial strength. But as we don't have enough financial strength, we make this up with our moral strength and unity. I want to urge all business persons to put in not only good will and unity but also their strength of their knowledge and wisdom for the country. I will conclude by urging you all to use your knowledge and wisdom to find a solution.—MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi talks to business leaders. **PHOTO:MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers address at the meeting with business leaders in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

State Counsellor meets with business leaders

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Also present with the State Counsellor at the talks were Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo and Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Bo Bo Nge.

The donors are Daw Nan Kham Naunt of the Kanbawza Group of Companies, U Tun Myint Naing of the Asia World Company, U Kyaw Win of Shwe Than Lwin Company, U Zaw Zaw of Max Company and U Nay Aung of the United Amara Bank.

The high tax payers who participated in the talks are Dr Ko Ko Gyi of Diamond Star Company Ltd, U Than Win of Myanmar Economics Holding Ltd, U Khin Maung Aye of the Cooperatives Bank, U Aung Kyaw Hsan of Bone Kyaw Hsan Company Ltd and Daw Win Win Tint of City Mart Holding Co., Ltd.

Similarly, the talks between the Union Ministers and business leaders was held separately.

It was attended by Union Ministers U Thaung Tun, Dr. Aung Thu, U Than Sin Maung, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing, U Than Myint, U Han Zaw, U Ohn Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Governor of the Central Bank of My-

anmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister U Set Aung, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Min and UEHRD's Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet.

The business leaders at the talks are U Zaw Win Shein, U Thein Tun, U Maung Weik, U Chit Khaing, U Ko Ko Htwe, U Shaung San, U Laphai Khun Sar, U Aung Moe Kyaw, U Zaw Min Win, U Yan Chin Sein, U Hla Min Tu, U Tun Lwin, U Kyaw Aung, Daw Htet Htet Wai and U Maung Kyay.

During the talks, the business leaders discussed interests of bank loans, control of inflation, monetary flow, boosting export and substituting import.

Union Minister U Than Myint, Governor of the CBM U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and Deputy Minister U Set Aung replied the questions raised by the business leaders.

Speaking at the talks, Union Minister U Thaung Tun said the government is ready to listen the voices from the business sector as the government has drafted the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

The Union Minister also expressed the government's willingness to find resolutions in next meetings.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosts dinner in honour of business leaders in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO:MNA**



U Zaw Min Win, President of UMFCCL.



U Shein Win, Chairman of Myanmar Developers' Association.



U Maung Weik of MBCCD and Say Paing Company.

In the evening, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

hosted dinner in honour of the business leaders at the Myan-

mar International Convention Centre-I.—MNA ■



Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson (Centre) is welcomed by officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson Rosario Manalo arrives Myanmar

AMBASSADOR Rosario Manalo, Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson, former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines and former chair and current representative of the Philippines to CEDAW arrived Myanmar by air yesterday afternoon.

The Independent Commis-

sion of Enquiry Chairperson was welcomed on arrival at Yangon International Airport by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Studies and Training Department Deputy Director-General U Zaw Phyto Win, Protocol Department Deputy Director-General U Zaw Tun Oo and officials.

Similarly Independent

Commission member, former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian and Emergency Relief Coordinator and former Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Ambassador Kenzo Oshima will arrive Myanmar by air on the evening of 28 August. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Farmers swift from pulses to cotton in Meiktila Township, eyes more profit

LOCAL BEANS AND PULSES farmers in Meiktila Township have turned to long staple cotton to cope with the impacts of climate change and market. "Due to changing weather patterns and declining market for beans and pulses, we decided to swift from beans and pulses to long staple cotton," said U Kan Shwe, a farmer from Sayatkon Village in Meiktila Township.

"Besides, local farmers prefer long staple cotton because the cultivation cost is lower and thus more income can be obtained from it," he added.

The number of long staple cotton growers has increased this year compared to last year.

The growers started planting long staple cotton in the third week of July.

Governmental experts disseminate agricultural knowledge to farmers in Meiktila. **PHOTO: THEIN MYINT KYAW -IPRD**

Jute planting are thriving this year in Zayetgon, Thabwiton, Ywardan, Hlawphyubin, Hsinsweya, Hsu Yeitdon, Gwechoe, Aungta and Latpaeine villages
Agricultural Department

Deputy Director U Aye Ko Ko met with the local farmer on 26 August and urged to cultivate long staple cotton pledging that the agricultural department will provide modern farming methods for long

staple cotton. He also suggested the farmers to grow cotton after harvesting long staple cotton and has offered fighting methods for pests and insects. —Thein Myint Kyaw (IPRD) ■

Aquatic farmers receive skills for basic fish farming, hormones injection in Thaton

THE opening ceremony of basic fish farming and hormones injection breeding training was held at fishery training center in Thaton on 27 August. The training was provided by Mon State Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation with the aim to develop the fish farming sector in Mon State.

At the ceremony, Mon State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Transportation and Communications U Tun Htay said the fish resources are become scarce because of illegal fishing and climate change. To achieve local self-sufficiency, fish farm-

ing need to be conducted. Mon State is rich in both in freshwater and seawater fish. Therefore, the basic fish farming and hormones injection breeding training courses are opened to develop the fish farming sector in Mon State said the Mon State minister.

The training was attended by a total of 31 people who are interested in fish farming, students and teachers from Agriculture Science from Hpa-An, Marine Science Department and Zoology Department from Mawlamyine University.

The three-day course includes measuring the quality

Trainees attend fish farming training in Thaton. **PHOTO: THET OO (THATON)**

of soil and water, fish diseases and treatments, laws relating to fish breeding/farming, fish/prawn breeding and production, breed-

ing parent fish, artificial insemination and properly breeding hatched fingerlings in earthen ponds. —Thet Oo (Thaton) ■

FDA to check chili powder at the market

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will conduct spot-checks on chili powders sold at shop in Yangon region to ensure that it is fit for consumption said Dr. Min Wun, chief of Yangon FDA branch.

"We are planning to check chili powder this month. We conduct spot-checks every month by targeting one item. FDA also conducts regular inspection in the market," he added.

FDA collects food dyes and

chili powder samples from the shops to conduct test at FDA laboratory on inclusion Alfatoxins and other illegal dyes it is learnt.

"At the present, the Yangon branch of the FDA conduct spot-checks on chili powder, being sold at the shops in Bayinnaung wholesale Market, Theingyi Market, Nyaung Pin Lay Market with the assistance of Township FDA committee members. They collected the samples

from the shops and tested at the laboratory. The results of the test will be announced soon. Moreover, FDA will continue to check other markets too," said Dr. Min Wun.

"The result is not ready yet. If the result is ready, we will announce soon. We will regularly check the market," said Dr. Min Wun.

If the chili powder is found not to be fit for consumption according to the laboratory result,

FDA will recall all food products related to that chili powder from the market and destroy it.

Most of the foods in Myanmar were found to be contaminated with Auramine O, Rhodamine B, Sudan Dyes and Orange II. These can cause gastric intestinal inflammation, vomiting, cancer, liver and kidney damage and affect growth in youngsters according to Ministry of Health and Sports. —Nyein Nyein ■

Fishery exports see increase in past four and half months

FISHERY exports in the past four and half months is worth nearly US\$220 million, which is up by 17.5 million compared to that in a similar period of last FY 2017-2018, according to data released from the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar exports only raw fish materials, but value-added products are still required to enhance the sector.

The Myanmar Fishery Federation is making concerted efforts to adopt advanced farming technologies to enhance the fishery export sector.

Fishery products, including prawns, crabs, squid, eels, shrimp, dried shrimp and dried fish were exported to Thailand through the Kawthoung and Myeik border trade gates and

to China through the Muse gate.

Also, they are shipped to many foreign markets such as Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, the Middle East, Europe and the United States. However, exports to Western countries are still limited, due to their high standards for food safety.

A total of 568,227.327 metric tons of fishery products, worth US\$717.7 million, were exported to foreign trade partners in the 2017-2018 FY. The figure is the highest volume in 20 years, according to an official release by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

There are over 408,000 acres of fish and prawn lakes across Myanmar. — GNLM ■



Workers processing fish for export at a marine product factory. PHOTO: PHOE KHWA

Over 14.2 million fish larvae targeted by Sagaing Region hatcheries in FY 2018-2019

OVER 14.2 million of fish larvae are projected to be produced by three hatcheries under Sagaing Region Fisheries Department in fiscal year 2018-2019 to supply other regions and states.

“They are produced by three hatcheries under our department. The fish larvae will be added free of charge into rivers, creeks, reservoirs and

dams in Sagaing Region. Those fingerlings will also be sold for fish ponds and grant ponds. About 35.93 per cent of targeted volume have been produced as of third week of August. We are attempting to meet the target in FY 2018-2019”, said U Tun Tun Win, head of Sagaing Region Fisheries Department.

Target volumes are 6.75

million from YeU hatchery, 5.13 million from Shwebo hatchery and 2.13 million from Ingyingon hatchery respectively. As of the third week of August, a total of 5.1 million fingerlings have been produced by three hatcheries, with 3.9 million fish larvae from YeU, 600,000 each from Shwebo and Ingyingon. —Win Oo (Zeyartine) ■

Myanmar-China border trade reaches over \$2.5 billion

BORDER trade between Myanmar and China from 1 April to 17 August, during the six month interim period prior to the next 2018-2019 financial year has reached over US\$ 2.5 billion. Myanmar’s export volume is more than its imports, according to a report from the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar-China trade volume reached \$2,538.39 million, consisting of \$1,852.84 million in exports and \$685.548 million in imports, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar-China trade volume reached \$2,181.18 million, with an export volume of \$1.496.54 million and import volume of \$684.64 million during the previous year, 2017-2018.

The four border gates linking China are Muse in northern



Trucks seen at 105-mile trade zone Muse, northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWA

Shan state, Lwejel in Kachin State, Chin Shwehaw in north-eastern Shan State and Kanpikete in Kachin State, Muse border gate is the largest trade transaction zone between the two neighbors.

Myanmar exported rice, fish, timber, beans, sesame,

clothing, aquatic products, rubber, minerals and other goods to China. Myanmar imported machines, machine parts, electrical devices, electronic gadgets, chemicals, fertilizers, medicine, dairy products and other items from China.—GNLM ■

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Giving a bribe is equally as bad as taking it

CORRUPTION, which is the single greatest challenge that erodes and defeats efforts made by many nations towards sustainable development, is a significant problem for democracies throughout the world. Even the most democratic countries constantly face the threat of corruption and the consequences.

Individual responsibility of every citizen is critical for reducing corruption in democracies. In a democracy, all are responsible to think about which responsibility they have and how they can contribute towards the society rather than what they can get from the country.

The integrity of a country depends on how far it can free from corruption. This is because corruption is also crucial for promoting and strengthening of democratic institutions and values.

Public procurement, the process by which public authorities purchase goods or services from companies or businesses, takes up a huge share of public expenditures and has always been susceptible

to corruption. Corruption is defined as dishonest or illegal behavior especially by people in authority.

During the recent talks between the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission and local business leaders, the businessmen expressed their worries of corruption. This is a good sign that entrepreneurs hate corruption. Not only those who take bribes but also the ones who give bribes are responsible for corruption and they must be arrested and punished. Some givers can give reasons that they cannot work without giving bribes. If so, they can lodge complaints to the Anti-Corruption Commission anytime.

The complaints from the business sector are very helpful for the commission to take necessary actions against the malpractices.

Sub-section (A) of Section-3 of the Anti-Corruption Law with fourth amendments has prevented corruption and the abuse of power by making use of a position in the government's administration.

The new section is aimed at fighting the abuse of power and preventing the misuse of public money.

The commission has received a large number of complaints against delays and malpractices in granting tenders to private companies. That sector is considered the corruption prone area.

To speed up the business process, we need to abolish the red tape that burdens the people and the businesses and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fibre of our people.

To streamline the procedures for operating businesses, the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Myanmar Investment Commission is stepping up their works to remove bottlenecks and accelerate the implementation process.

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To streamline the procedures for operating businesses, the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Myanmar Investment Commission is stepping up their works to remove bottlenecks and accelerate the implementation process.

The business leaders, on their part, are also urged to oppose corruption and should take this task as a duty and a responsibility.

Nawngkhio, a town which is situated on both Railway and Motorway, is composed of six wards, 35 village tracts and 253 villages and with a population of 127007 according to the 2017 March census; but it is famous due to the world-renown Gokteik Viaduct.

Nawngkhio town

Also spelt Nawngcho, it is in the Kyaukme District, northern Shan State, Myanmar; Kyaukme Township lies in the East and North, Pyin-Oo-Lwin township in the West and Yaksawk township in the South. Situated 2750 feet above the sea level, the town has two distinct topographical features—hilly areas and valleys.

According to the Shan dialect, Nawng means 'lake' and Hkio means 'green'; Nawngkhio once lied behind a Hawtaw monastery as Green Lake camp. By the order from Thibaw Sawbwa Sir Saw Chai, U Khun Mon ruled Thonsay Region near the Green Lake. At the time of constructing the Gokteik Viaduct, Thonsay Region was moved to the Green Lake which later became known as Nawngkhio. On 21 June, 1972 the Ministry of Home Affairs extended the township to an area square miles of 1265.61. Along the Railway, when one gets to the milepost no. 463/09, he will view a breathtaking panorama of historical Gokteik Viaduct with a railway line on it. Tourists, both domestic and foreign, take a great interest in the Viaduct which is now nearly 120 years old.

Background information of the Gokteik

Hokut village in Hsipaw township which is 60 miles north-east of Mandalay, happened to be



an Administrative Unit in 1898 to have ruled 48 villages. The name Hokut has originated from the disappearance of rivers and

Nawngkhio & Gokteik Viaduct

By Kaung Sithu



creeks in the area, according to Myanmar Encyclopaedia Vol.3. Near Hokut village, the Nam-pasay river flows through three rock caves and appears in the distant place. Thus this area became a Nguteik village which later became as the Gokteik village. The British constructed a railway line from Mandalay to Kowloon, thus creating the world-famous Gokteik Viaduct

structions of many railway lines across the country. Among them the Gokteik and Thanbyzayat Railways are widely known. The Gokteik Viaduct was built across the valleys and mountains by the British; the railway line is the highest and second-longest between mountain ranges which are 300 feet above the sea level. The Death Railway in Thanbyzayat Township, Mon State, was built during World War II at the risk of Prisoners of War of Allied Forces and a great loss of Myanmar people's lives. In this way, the Death Railway has been popularly known as undesirable or unpleasant sensation of war.

The British Government built a railway line between Mandalay and Bhamo and again the one between Mandalay and Kowloon, thereby creating the Gokteik Viaduct at the highest above the sea level. The Burma Railroad Company assigned by the British Government for the construction of the Gokteik Railway by employing the British and Myanmar engineers. The Burma Railroad Company hired the Pennsylvania and Maryland Steel Company for the construction of the Gokteik Railway. But

engineer Sir Arthur Rendel led the group of the British and Myanmar engineers by ordering construction materials from the United States. The Viaduct was designed by Sir A M Rendel and Company; construction materials included many steel posts — supporting posts with ranges of 45 feet to 320 feet. The Viaduct was built with difficulty by connecting two steep valleys of over 300 feet.

The Viaduct is 2260 feet long with erections of steel posts on low valleys and on the valleys as high as 1100 feet. The average height of Viaduct is 820 feet from the water surface and 335 feet above the ground. Iron and steel of 4311 tons and as many as one million tacks were used for the construction. There are 16 supporting steel posts—the ones in the middle nos .8 and 9 are the tallest.

The British built the Mandalay-Kowloon railway to carry lead and other elements from the Namtu mines. The construction began in 1899 and completed on 1 Jan, 1900 at the then cost of K. 1698200 and opened to the public in 1903. As the Viaduct was a boost to Myanmar economy, the

Allied Forces destroyed it, breaking no.2 and 5 steel posts. When Japanese troops withdrew from Myanmar, the steel posts in the middle were destroyed by bombings, demolishing nos.10,11 and 12 posts and four steel frames collapsed. After independence in 1948, the Myanmar Rail Transport was assigned to repair the Gokteik. Due to scarcity of construction materials and difficult transportation, it took three years to get it finished in August, 1951 at the cost of K. 3.2 million. With high technology used for the construction and due to scenic beauty around the Viaduct, it is the world's biggest trestle and the highest one among the viaducts around the world. Leth viaduct in Alberta, Canada is two times longer than the Gokteik but lower than the latter.

As the Gokteik is over 100 years old, the strength of the Viaduct has weakened, letting trains travel slowly. The Viaduct is easily accessible from Nawngkhio by car as well as from Mandalay and Pyin-Oo-Lwin by train; some people walk from the Gokteik Station to the Viaduct itself. If one wants to go by train, he will have to take Mandalay-Lashio

train from Mandalay or Pyin-Oo-Lwin and descend the train at the Station after crossing the Viaduct.

Passers-by are now banned from crossing the Gokteik in order to avoid possible risks. It is eight miles away from Nawngkhio Town. First go to the Gokteik Station after taking the right side on the Pwin-Oo-Lwin-Lashio-Pyidaungsu Highway by going through the Shwepyinyunt village. One can walk along the railway line up to the Viaduct; no one is allowed to go across nor descend it.

With a mixture of scenic beauty of northern Shan State and worldwide fame, the Gokteik Viaduct is not only a historical landmark but also tourists' attraction. The number of tourists, both domestic and foreign, is increasing year by year and maintenance of the Gokteik Viaduct is a must. Tourism will definitely flourish in connection with the landmark, thereby benefitting large sections of local populace. Ref: Myanmar Encyclopaedia, Gokteik Viaduct and personal travelogue.

Translated by Arakan Sein

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No.12/2018 yesterday, making public the Home Affairs Ministry's arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up until 25 August.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President up until 25 August.

The full text of the press release will be covered in the 29 August issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar: —GNLM



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.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 27 August 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Odisha Coast and near West Bengal Coast(India) still persists. Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 28 AUGUST 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions, scattered in Mandalay Region, fairly widespread in Shan and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Wave height will be about (6-10)feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 AUGUST 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 AUGUST 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 AUGUST 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. PHOTO: AFP

Netanyahu warns Jews still under threat

VILNIUS (Lithuania) — Israel's prime minister said on Sunday that Jews were still at risk even decades after the Holocaust as he wrapped up a groundbreaking visit to Lithuania, a Baltic state once home to his forefathers.

"For the Jewish people, what has changed in these 75 years? Not the attempts to destroy us, they still seek to destroy us," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told around 300 Lithuanian Jews gathered in Vilnius's Choral Synagogue. The Israeli leader identified what he termed new existential threats facing the Jews, with Iran and the Islamist movement Hamas which runs the Gaza Strip being among them.

"What has changed is our ability to defend ourselves by ourselves... This is a magnificent change of history," added Netanyahu, who is the first-ever Israeli premier to visit Lithuania, a Baltic EU state.

Pre-war Lithuania was home to a thriving Jewish community of more than 200,000 people, with Vilnius a hub of learning known

as the "Jerusalem of the North".

But historians contend that around 195,000 perished at the hands of the Nazis and local collaborators under the 1941-44 German occupation, nearly the entire Jewish population.

Today there are around 3,000 Jews living in the EU and NATO member state of 2.9 million people. Netanyahu said he spent Saturday touring the Vilna Ghetto and recalling Lithuanian Jews taken to Paneriai — also known as Ponar or Ponary — on the outskirts of the city, the site of the Ponar massacre.

Distorted or ignored

Up to 100,000 people including Jews, Poles and Russians were slain there by the Nazis and Lithuanian collaborators during World War II. "What a distance we have travelled in 75 years from the death pits of Ponar to a rising power in the world," Netanyahu said.

His groundbreaking visit has not been without controversy and Netanyahu has come under sharp

criticism from top Israeli Nazi hunter Efraim Zuroff for warning to Lithuania.

Arguing that Vilnius has not done enough to come to terms with the role Lithuanians played in the Holocaust, Zuroff charged in a Sunday Facebook post "that to praise the Lithuanian government's efforts to commemorate the Shoa is like commending the KKK for improving race relations in the US". A Lithuanian research centre has identified 2,000 Lithuanians suspected of taking part in the Holocaust, either by killing Jews, sending them to execution or by confiscating their wealth.

At the same time nearly 900 Lithuanians hold the honorary title of "Righteous Among The Nations", awarded by Israel to gentiles who risked their lives to save Jewish neighbours.

The Holocaust was either distorted or ignored in Lithuania under five decades of Soviet rule that followed the war. An honest examination only began after it became the first republic to split from the USSR in 1990. —AFP ■

Ethiopian PM vows 'free and fair' 2020 polls

ADDIS ABABA (Ethiopia) — Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Saturday pledged the 2020 election would be "free and fair" and promised a democratic transition if his party loses, as he pushes forward with lightning reforms to transform the one-party nation.

Abiy, who took office in April, has prioritised reconciliation between critics and the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which has held power unopposed for 27 years.

In an announcement on Saturday night, he said work had been done to make the Electoral Commission "non-partisan and credible", adding that the country could adopt an electronic voting system for the upcoming polls.

In his first press conference since taking office, he ruled out postponing the polls and said the ruling party wanted to "conduct truly democratic elections".

"EPRDF's desire at this moment is to conduct a truly democratic election," he said.

"If EPRDF wins a truly democratic election it can implement its agenda with full confidence, and if EPRDF loses, it will fulfil its long-held

pledge to implement democratic transition."

The EPRDF has held power unopposed since the elections of May 2015 when it scooped up all 547 seats in the parliament, in a ballot denounced by the opposition as a "farce".

Observers say the EPRDF, which has held power since 1991, has been forced to change course due to a wave of anti-government protests by the country's two largest ethnic groups that began in late 2015, leaving hundreds dead.

A year later, with the unrest ongoing, the government of then prime minister Hailemariam Desalegn imposed a state of emergency.

But he resigned in February this year, paving the way for Abiy to take over, becoming the first leader to ever come from the Oromo people, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group.

Since then, Abiy has launched a series of sweeping changes which have shifted the power balance within Africa's second-most populous country. He has shaken up the security services, ended the state of emergency, freed jailed dissidents and signed a peace deal with neighbouring Eritrea, ending two decades of hostilities. —AFP ■

Suicide bomb attack kills two in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL — A suicide bomb blast killed at least two people on Saturday outside an election commission office in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, officials said.

The latest attack in the war-torn country targeted a protest camp outside the building in Nangarhar province, where a group of people were rallying in support of a candidate disqualified from parliamentary elections due in October.

"It killed two people, and four others were wounded," provincial governor spokesman Attaullah Khogyani told AFP, adding that a suicide attacker was responsible for the explosion.

Provincial health director Najib Kamawal confirmed the two deaths.

An eyewitness said the blast was caused by a suicide bomber who detonated explosives near a tent full of protesters outside the election commission's office in Jalalabad, sending people fleeing as security forces cordoned off the area.

"It was very big blast and it shook our home," said witness Mirza Amin, who added she lived 50 metres (160 feet) from the site of the explosion.

The blast comes nearly a week after President Ashraf Ghani offered a conditional three-month ceasefire to the Taliban, a move welcomed by the United States and NATO after nearly 17 years of war.

The Taliban have yet to provide an official response to the offer. —AFP ■

Iran to open lawsuit against US sanctions at ICJ

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — Iran will argue on Monday against renewed sanctions imposed by the United States, as a bitter legal battle between Tehran and Washington opens before the UN's top court.

US President Donald Trump reimposed a wave of tough unilateral sanctions on Iran three weeks ago, bringing back into effect harsh penalties that had been lifted under a landmark 2015 agreement.

A second round of measures is to come into effect in early November, targeting Iran's valuable oil and energy sector.

Tehran filed its case before

the International Court of Justice in late July, calling on the Hague-based tribunal's judges to order the immediate lifting of sanctions, which it said would cause "irreparable prejudice."

The US had no right to reinstate such measures, Tehran added, as it demanded compensation for damages.

Iran maintained restoring the penalties lifted under the historic 2015 deal, aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear ambitions, violated a decades-old treaty signed between the two nations in 1955.

The ICJ — set up in 1946 to rule in disputes between countries — is expected to take a cou-

ple of months to decide whether to grant Tehran's request for a provisional ruling, while a final decision in the case may actually still take years.

Trump described the 2015 deal between Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, as well as Germany, as a "horrible one-sided deal (that) failed to achieve the fundamental objective of blocking all paths to a Iranian nuclear bomb."

Even though all of the other parties pleaded with him not to abandon the pact, Trump pulled out and announced he would reinstate sanctions. —AFP ■

Russia to maintain assistance to S Ossetia in maintaining national security, says Putin

TSKHINVAL — Russia will continue rendering assistance to South Ossetia, including aid in the sphere of national security, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a message of greetings to the leadership and people of the young South Caucasian nation on occasion of the tenth anniversary since recognition of its state independence by Russia.

Russia's Ambassador to South Ossetia, Marat Kulakhmetov read the message

out in the course of celebrations of independence in Tskhinval.

"Russia notes with pleasure the achievements South Ossetia has scored in building the institutes of its statehood and in various branches of national development," Putin said. "We plan to continue helping with resolution of national security issue your country is faced with."

He indicated that recognition of the republic's state sovereignty by Russia opened up

broad vistas for its independent development. He wished peace and flourishing to the people of South Ossetia.

Overnight to August 8, 2008, Georgia government forces launched an amassed armed attack on South Ossetia, a hitherto formally region of Georgia that had been pressing for independence as of the early 1990's. Russia rose to defend the residents of the region, many of whom had received Russian citizenship by then, as well as its



Russian President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: TASS

peacekeepers stationed there.

The five days of hostilities claimed more than a thousand human lives, including the lives of 72 Russian military. Moscow

recognized independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, another former autonomous region of Georgia on 26 August, 2008.—Tass ■

WWII bomb defused in Germany after 18,500 evacuated

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, (Germany) — A German bomb disposal team on Sunday successfully defused an unexploded World War II bomb that had forced the evacuation of 18,500 people in the city of Ludwigshafen.

The 500-kilogramme (1,100-pound) aerial bomb, thought to have been dropped by American forces, was discov-

ered during construction work earlier in the week.

"Good news: the bomb has been defused! Citizens may return to their homes," the city of Ludwigshafen said on its official Twitter feed.

It also posted a picture of the freshly unearthed, corroded bomb, strapped to a pallet before being removed from the area.

Authorities in the western

city had ordered all those living within a 1,000-metre (0.6-mile) radius of the bomb site to leave their homes from 08:00 am (0600 GMT) as a precaution ahead of the defusing operation.

It took the bomb squad just over an hour to complete the delicate task, and the all-clear was given shortly after 2:00 pm.

More than 70 years after the end of World War II, Germany

remains littered with unexploded ordnance, a legacy of the intense Allied bombing campaign against Nazi Germany.

In the biggest post-war evacuation to date, some 60,000 Frankfurt residents were evacuated last year so that an unexploded 1.8-tonne British bomb dubbed the "blockbuster" could be defused.

In April, thousands had to

clear an area around Berlin's central railway station after another British bomb was discovered on a building site.

Unexploded munitions have also complicated the work of firefighters this summer, with forest fires sparked by a spell of hot, dry weather setting off long-buried ordnance, causing small explosions on several occasions.—AFP ■

Videogamer shoots 2 dead, kills self at tournament

MIAMI (United States) — Two people were killed and 11 others wounded on Sunday when a video game tournament competitor went on a shooting rampage before turning the gun on himself in the northern Florida city of Jacksonville, local police said.

Sheriff Mike Williams named the suspect of the shooting at a Madden 19 American football eSports tournament as 24-year-old David Katz from Baltimore, Maryland.

"There were three deceased individuals at the scene, one of those being the suspect, who took his own life," Williams told reporters. He said local fire and rescue transported nine victims — seven of whom had gunshot wounds — to local hospitals, while another two people who were shot took their own transportation to hospital. Williams said Katz was a com-

petitor in the eSports tournament and used "at least one handgun" to carry out the shooting.

Madden is a hugely popular multi-player video game based on the National Football League, which in a statement said it was "shocked and deeply saddened by the horrific tragedy."

The tournament at The Landing entertainment and shopping complex — a regional qualifier for finals in Las Vegas with a \$25,000 prize — took place at the GLHF Game Bar.

Sheriff Williams said the shooting occurred inside the Chicago Pizza restaurant in the complex around 1:30 pm (1730 GMT). Earlier on Twitter, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office had urged people hiding in locked areas of The Landing to stay in place and call 911 to make their location known.—AFP ■

Colombians fail to approve tough anti-corruption measures

BOGOTA (Colombia) — Colombians on Sunday failed to approve rules that hardened punishment for corrupt officials, a measure sent to voters as a referendum after congress proved reluctant to implement stricter anti-graft measures.

Some 36 million voters were called to the polls amid an ongoing bribery scandal involving Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht that has engulfed the region.

With almost all ballots counted by late Sunday, the measure was 470,000 votes short of the 12.1 million votes needed for approval, election officials said.

"Ninety-nine percent of those of us who voted sup-

port the initiatives," President Ivan Duque said in an address to the nation.

"Unfortunately the number of votes did not reach the minimum needed for approval," he said.

Duque, in office only since 7 August, was in favor of the measure even though it had only had lukewarm support from members of his right-wing party, the Democratic Center, which have a majority in the senate.

"We were five cents short, but change is unstoppable and here there was a shaking of the traditional political class," said Green Party Senator Angelica Lozano, who also supported the measure.

Colombians "want gen-

uine changes to the political practices and to corruption," she told reporters.

The measure included seven proposals, from cutting high-ranking officials' salaries to imposing term limits to eliminating house arrest as a punishment.

While mostly aimed at cracking down on abuses by public officials, the initiative would have also made private contracts with the state more transparent, and ban companies convicted of corrupt practices from dealing with the public sector.

One university study found that, from 1991 to 2011, corruption cost Colombia 4 per cent of its GDP.—AFP ■

LDP group seeks referendum on Constitution change by next summer

TOKYO — The second-largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party urged Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday to push for a referendum on proposed constitutional revisions before the upper house election next summer.

The move by the intraparty group led by Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso could accelerate debate over the issue ahead of the party's 20 September leadership race. Accepting a written proposal from representatives of the group at his office, Abe, who on Sunday formally declared his candidacy in the race, said he "completely" shares the basic idea, according to one of the faction members.

Abe has made revising the supreme law, which has never been amended since its entry into force in 1947 during the US-led postwar occupation, one of his chief political goals.

His opponent in the leadership race, former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba, has called for more debate on constitutional revision.

The prime minister is pushing constitutional revisions including adding an explicit reference to the Self-Defence Forces in the war-renouncing Article 9 to ensure there is no room to view them as "unconstitutional."

In the run-up to the upcoming LDP leadership contest, he has said the party should present



Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso speaks to reporters at the Finance Ministry in Tokyo on 27 July, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

constitutional amendment proposals to an extraordinary Diet session expected to be convened in the fall, apparently aiming for parliament to formally initiate a constitutional revision process during the regular Diet session next year.

Amending the supreme law requires approval by two-thirds majorities in both chambers of parliament, followed by majority support in a national plebiscite. The LDP and other forces supportive of revising the Constitution currently control the required seats in the Diet.

As five of the LDP's seven factions, including the Aso group, have expressed their readiness to support the incumbent, Abe is likely to incorporate their proposals into his leadership race

campaign pledges, sources close to him said.

Ishiba, seen as facing an uphill battle in the two-horse race, has argued that constitutional revisions should not be rushed amid a lack of public understanding.

Abe is currently on a nationwide tour aimed at broadening his support base among local rank-and-file LDP members, with Ishikawa, Fukui and Toyama prefectures on his itinerary on Monday.

In the leadership election in 2012, he was defeated by Ishiba, who was popular among local LDP members, in the initial round of voting, but came from behind in the runoff when only LDP Diet members cast ballots.

— Kyodo News ■

Seoul may delay N Korea office plans

SEOUL (South Korea) — South Korea said on Monday it may delay the imminent opening of a liaison office in North Korea, after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's trip to Pyongyang was abruptly cancelled by Donald Trump.

Trump on Friday pulled the plug on the visit, blaming a lack of progress in denuclearisation efforts since his historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June. The sudden cancellation has put the brakes on Seoul's plans to open a liaison office in North Korea following a rapid diplomatic thaw on the Korean peninsula.

"I can't say it won't have any impact," Kim Eui-kyeom, the South's presidential spokesman, told reporters.

"We were considering the opening of the liaison office as part of a smooth series of events including Pompeo's visit to the North and the inter-Korean summit, but there is a need to review it since a new situation has arisen," he added.

Blue House officials told AFP he was referring to the timing of the opening rather than the project as a whole.

The setting up of the inter-Korean liaison office was agreed between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and the North's Kim at their summit in April.

Moon favours engagement

with the North and has pressed for a resumption of cross-border cooperation, potentially risking differences with Washington.

The South Korean leader is due to visit Pyongyang next month for what will be his third meeting with Kim this year.

But the office, to be located in the North's border city of Kaesong, has raised concerns that the transfer of material there could violate UN sanctions against North Korea.

Seoul's unification ministry on Monday brushed off the accusations, saying that all goods were being transferred to build and operate the office and "not for the economic benefit of North Korea". During their summit in Singapore in June, Trump and Kim signed up to a vague commitment to denuclearisation, which the US leader touted as a historic breakthrough.

But Pyongyang has since criticised Washington for its "gangster-like" demands for complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament and the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency recently reported there were no indications that North Korea has stopped nuclear activities.

After the cancellation of Pompeo's trip, the Rodong Sinmun newspaper, the mouthpiece of the North's ruling party, accused Washington of "double-dealing attitudes". —AFP ■

Japanese man detained in N Korea expected to be expelled via China

BEIJING — Expectations grew on Monday that a Japanese man detained in North Korea would be expelled via China following North Korean state media's announcement the previous day that Pyongyang has decided to

deport him "on the principle of humanitarianism."

Tomoyuki Sugimoto, who visited North Korea as a tourist, has been "kept under control by a relevant institution to be inquired into his crime" against

the country's law, but it "decided to leniently condone him," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said in English on Sunday. Sugimoto may be moved to China from North Korea by air or by train. Tokyo has been trying to collect relevant information through its embassy in Beijing and consulate general in Shenyang, a Chinese city close to the border with North Korea.

A Japanese government source said earlier that a man detained in North Korea earlier this month was thought to be a videographer in his 30s from Shiga Prefecture in central Japan.

The man may have been suspected of shooting video footage of a military facility when he visited the western port city of Nampo with a tour group, the source said.

Tokyo has been urging Pyongyang to release the man

as soon as possible.

The man was visiting North Korea on a tour arranged by a China-based travel agency, the source said, adding there is unconfirmed information about him having visited the country in the past.

A source in Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration said Sugimoto may return to Japan via Beijing.

"We will have to complete several procedures until his return to Japan. We have to support him as the government," the source said.

There have been concerns that the detention of the Japanese tourist could adversely affect Abe's effort to arrange a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, one that he hopes will lead to progress on the issue of Japanese nationals abducted

by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s.

Foreign affairs experts say, however, that the tourist's release, should it be realized, is unlikely to pave the way for a summit as Pyongyang has stepped up criticism of Tokyo.

In recent months, North Korean official media have said the issue has been already "resolved," while calling on Tokyo to atone for its past military occupation and colonial rule of Korea.

Abe has said tackling the abduction issue is his "life's work."

The Japanese government has requested all its citizens to refrain from travelling to North Korea, as part of sanctions against Pyongyang, which has developed nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in defiance of international warnings. — Kyodo News ■



A woman walks past portraits of former North Korean leaders Kim Il Sung (l) and Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang on 11 June, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Rain brings relief to drought-stricken Australia farmers

SYDNEY — Widespread rain fell across drought-affected parts of eastern Australia over the weekend, bringing relief to farmers struggling to cope with the driest conditions in more than half a century.

Graziers have had to hand-feed sheep and cattle, sell down stock — and in some cases even shoot them to end their suffering — as they run out of hay and grain in the severe conditions affecting Queensland and New South Wales states.

The wet weather was the first farmers in some areas had seen for more than a year, and even included hail.

But locals cautioned the ground had become so dry in recent months that more downpours over the next few weeks and months would be needed to make a difference.

“Those rains will be far from drought breaking,” National Farmers’ Federation president Fiona Simson told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Sunday.

“What we need is 20 (millimetres, 0.79 inches) next week on 20 the next week, 20 the next week, and... (in the) next few months... to aptly build up those depleted soil and moisture reserves in the soil.”

The respite came as new Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he would make addressing the drought the top priority of his government.

“It was pleasing to see the report on the rain yesterday in the last 24 hours,” Morrison, who will visit stricken areas with the deputy PM this week, told ABC radio early Sunday.

“That is encourag-



Drought in Australia's eastern states has turned green pastures into dust. PHOTO: AFP

ing, but we know that is nowhere near what is obviously needed.”

The government under previous PM Malcolm Turnbull, who was ousted in a party coup Friday, had pledged Aus\$1.8 billion (US\$1.3 billion) in financial

aid for graziers and local communities.

The Labour opposition called on Morrison to factor the battle against climate change into his drought policies, amid a push by the right wing of his Liberal Party to ditch

an emissions mitigation policy which contributed to Turnbull’s ousting.

“If he is not prepared to stand up and say ‘this is a consequence of climate change and I am going to commit to both mitigation and adaptation’, then he

will fail farmers,” shadow agriculture minister Joel Fitzgibbon told Fairfax Media. While droughts are not uncommon in Australia, the length and severity of the dry conditions have strained farmers’ efforts to stay afloat.—AFP ■

Satellite images show Arctic’s “last bastion” of thickest ice melting

WASHINGTON — Recent NASA satellite images show that some of the oldest and thickest ice in the Arctic is melting, reports said.

A chunk of hard ice north of Greenland has disappeared, according to a report published earlier this week by Live Science, a science news website.

“It should be there; it’s been there for longer than any other ice in the Arctic,”

the report said.

“On average, it’s over four metres thick and can be piled up into ridges 20 metres thick or more,” CNN reported, quoting Walt Meier, a senior research scientist with the US National Snow and Ice Data Centre. Some of the ice has been replaced by miles of open water for the first time on record.

“(The open water is) 20-30 miles (32-48 kilo-

metres) wide and goes all the way from the northeast off Greenland to the northern tip, and even further west,” Keld Qvistgaard, a senior ice adviser with Danish Meteorological Institute’s Greenland Ice Service, told CNN.

“I’ve been in this business for 26 years and I don’t recall that I’ve seen a breakup this big,” Qvistgaard added.

The melts have oc-

curred twice this year — one in February and the second in August. Winds and warm weather have pushed the ice off Greenland’s coast further than it has ever been observed, according to a report by USA Today.

“This was the area that was seen as the last bastion, where we’d see these changes come last, but they’ve arrived,” Meier said. — Xinhua ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA BAYU VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA BAYU VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-2 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL LINES

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNISKY VOY. NO. (034N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNISKY VOY. NO. (034N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (005 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (005 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1823)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1823) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-8-2018 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

More riches for 'Crazy Rich Asians' at N America box office

LOS ANGELES — Rom-com "Crazy Rich Asians" continued to sparkle in North America, topping the box office for the second weekend running, according to industry estimates on Sunday.

The Warner Bros adaptation of Kevin Kwan's best-selling novel of the same name took \$25 million, almost matching its \$26.5 million debut last week, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said.

Starring veteran actress Michelle Yeoh, British-Malaysian former BBC host Henry Golding and American sitcom star Constance Wu, the film tells the story of a American economics professor who meets her super-wealthy boyfriend's family in Singapore.

It is the first major studio release with a mostly Asian cast since "The Joy Luck Club" in 1993.

Shark attack thriller "The Meg" clung on to the runner-up spot for another week, taking \$13



"Crazy Rich Asians," the Warner Bros. adaptation of Kevin Kwan's best-selling novel of the same name, took \$25 million. **PHOTO: AFP**

million — a significant tumble from last week's earnings of \$21.2 million. It stars action movie reg-

ular Jason Statham as a rescue diver who tries to save scientists trapped in a submarine from a

huge, prehistoric shark.

In at third was newly-released mystery "The Happytime

Murders," which took \$10 million.

Based in a world where humans and puppets co-exist, the film follows a joint police force as they probe a recent murder spree targeting puppet TV stars.

On its heels with takings of \$8 million was Tom Cruise's action blockbuster "Mission: Impossible - Fallout," which took fourth place in its fifth weekend in theaters.

Fifth went to Disney's live-animated hybrid Christopher Robin, which took \$6.3 million.

Ewan McGregor plays Winnie the Pooh's now grown-up and stressed-out pal who reunites with his old stuffed friend.

Rounding out this weekend's top 10 were:

"Mile 22" (\$6 million)

"Alpha" (\$5.6 million)

"BlackKklansman" (\$5.3 million)

"A.X.I." (\$3 million)

"Slender Man" (\$2.8 million)—AFP ■

Courtney Cox to star in 'Shameless' season nine

LOS ANGELES — Actress Courtney Cox will be guest starring in the ninth season of "Shameless".

The 54-year-old "Friends" star will play Jen Wagner, a famous actress with a past problem with alcohol who hires Lip (Jeremy Allen White) as her sober companion while she is in town.

Actress Katey Sagal will

also be appearing in the upcoming ninth season. Sagal, 64, best known for "Sons of Anarchy", will be having a recurring role as Ingrid Jones, a crazed psych patient that Frank (William H Macy) is immediately infatuated with when he encounters her in the ER. The ninth season of "Shameless" will premiere on Showtime in September next year.—PTI ■



The actress Courtney Cox. **PHOTO: AFP**

Prolific US playwright Neil Simon dead at 91

NEW YORK — Neil Simon, the prolific and Pulitzer Prize-winning US playwright who wrote for stage, television and cinema, and won more Oscar and Tony nominations combined than any other writer, died on Sunday. He was 91.

A legend of American theater, Simon was credited with shaping American humor in the 1960s and 1970s in a vein similar to film director Woody Allen, with a focus on life in the big city and family conflict.

His death, early Sunday in a New York hospital of complications from pneumonia, was announced by his longtime friend Bill Evans. His wife, daughter and grandson were at his bedside, Evans told AFP.

He had represented Simon for three decades from 1976 to 2006. Simon was the author of critically acclaimed and commercial hits such as "The Odd Couple" (1965) "The Sunshine Boys" (1974) "Barefoot in the Park" (1963) and "Lost in Yonkers" (1990).

Several of his plays went on to become major Hollywood movies, including "The Goodbye Girl" in 1977 that won Richard Dreyfuss an Oscar for best leading actor and "The Odd Couple" in 1968 about two friends sharing an apartment starring Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon.

While several of his plays



A legend of American theater, Neil Simon was credited with shaping American humor in the 1960s and 1970s in a vein similar to film director Woody Allen, with a focus on life in the big city and family conflict. **PHOTO: AFP**

were darker, he was best known as the king of comedy, peppering his plays with witty one-liners.

Much of his work explored the everyday struggles of the middle-classes, or what he called "domestic wars" and inter-family conflict, influenced by his troubled upbringing in the Bronx during the Great Depression in a family where money was scarce.

"He was a writer and an artist who couldn't stop going inside of himself and finding new things. Like any creative artist there was a compulsion to explore and go deeper," Evans told AFP.

"He wrote every single day. He went to his office, a nondescript office and wrote," he add-

ed. "He found a connection in all of us."

'Slice of Americana'

Simon first made a name for himself in the early 1960s, starting with "Barefoot in the Park," about a bickering married couple, and "The Odd Couple" credited with capturing the zeitgeist of that decade.

"The phrase 'odd couple' is now used in so many different contexts. It was a privilege knowing him," said Evans.

Simon followed up in the 1980s with trilogy "Brighton Beach Memoirs", "Biloxi Blues" and "Broadway Bound" in which the leading character Eugene Jerome is an alter ego for the playwright himself.

The trilogy starred a young Matthew Broderick, now the celebrated stage actor and husband of film star Sarah Jessica Parker, as the leading character in what Evans called a "Slice of Americana." In 1991, Simon achieved the highest honor in US drama, winning the Pulitzer Prize for "Lost in Yonkers," an autobiographical comedy about a mother and her daughter, which was his last big splash on Broadway.

In 1983 he gained the rare accolade of having a New York stage, the Neil Simon Theatre, named in his honor. In addition to his Pulitzer, he won a Golden Globe and three Tonys.—AFP ■

New AI system trained to detect missed tumors in cancer patients

SAN FRANCISCO — A new artificial Intelligence (AI) system has been created to help detect small tumors for lung cancer often missed in conventional way of scanning, says a study to be announced at an international medical conference in Spain next month.

The new AI system, developed by a group of engineers and doctors at the University of Central Florida (UCF), is about 95 per cent accurate in spotting small tumors in computerized tomography (CT) scans, whereas human radiologists have a success rate of 65 per cent.

The scientists at the UCF Computer Vision Research Center taught a computer how to detect tiny specks of lung cancer in CT scans by adopting an approach similar to the algorithms of popular facial-recognition found on the iPhone X.

“We used the brain as a

model to create our system,” which scans thousands of faces looking for a particular pattern to find its match, said Rodney LaLonde, a doctoral candidate at the UCF centre.

LaLonde was assisted by Engineering Assistant Professor Ulas Bagci who leads the group of researchers in the center that focuses on AI with potential medical applications.

The research team fed more than 1,000 CT scans from the National Institutes of Health into the software they developed to help the computer learn to look for the tumors.

Each CT scan taught the AI what to look for in tumor size and shape, among other trademarks, and the system learned how to differentiate between cancerous and benign tumors.

“I believe this will have a very big impact,” said Bagci, who has worked extensively in biomedical imaging and machine learning. —Xinhua ■

Russian space agency to set up new Flight Control Centre for lunar missions

KUBINKA — Russia’s State Space Corporation Roscosmos will set up a separate Flight Control Centre for programmes to explore the Earth’s natural satellite, Roscosmos Chief Dmitry Rogozin said on 23 August as he visited the display stand of Russian Space Systems at the Army-2018 forum.

“Can this potential [accumulated by Russian Space Systems for developing satellite control systems] be used in forming the Flight Control Centre, which we will be creating for the lunar programme?” Rogozin asked, addressing the company’s Deputy CEO Yevgeny Nesterov.

“Today we are transforming jointly with the chief designer many Glonass [satellite navigation grouping] solutions into those solutions that will be linked with future lunar programmes. All this will lay the basis,” Nesterov noted.

The first stage of the Russian lunar programme envisages studying the Earth’s natural satellite with the help of automatic missions. Specifically, as Rogozin noted earlier, the program will begin with the launch of the Luna-25 automatic probe in 2021. Later, the probes Luna-26 and Luna 27 are set to fly to the Moon and in 2025 the Luna-28 is expected to deliver a lunar soil sample to Earth.

After the completion of the automatic missions, Russia earlier planned to build a domestic base closer to one of the Moon’s poles to comprise a whole range of laboratories and to regularly accommodate cosmonauts. Under the Roscosmos new leadership, the base’s status was not discussed yet.

Russia is also considering participating in NASA’s project to create the Deep Space Gateway inhabited lunar outpost. — Tass ■

Japan to nurture young scientists by integrating education programmes

TOKYO — Japan aims to help talented math and science students grow into leading researchers by integrating education programmes at some high schools and universities from next academic year, sources familiar with the matter said on Monday. The move comes as concerns grow over Japan’s faltering scientific research performance in recent years amid a decline in budget. Under the envisioned system for providing consistent specialized education, university professors can teach at high schools and high school students can visit university laboratories, the sources said.

In university admissions, special slots for talented students may be created based on common standards established by high schools and colleges, they said.

The project will start as a part of the existing framework of Super Science High Schools that offer advanced math and science education. At present, about 200 institutions have been designated by the education ministry as such schools and they develop education materials and have close links with universities and private companies.

Shinichi Mizokami, professor of education at Kyoto University, welcomed the planned integration of high school and university programs at some institutions, saying starting early is the key to raising top-level researchers.

He said under the current system, even students who go



Photo taken on 4 July, 2018, shows the building of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

through special math and science education programs at designated high schools cannot immediately move on to full-fledged research upon entering universities as they would be initially required to take liberal arts courses.

Mizokami attributed such a problem to a “lack of the universities’ readiness to accept” promising students. The professor urged the education ministry to ensure the new system will cover talented students who are not studying at designated institutions as well.

The new system could possibly allow students to skip grades and enter universities before graduating high schools in the

future and will be beneficial for universities that seek to secure talented researchers from an early stage.

The ministry aims to secure the necessary budget for fiscal 2019 and solicit participating institutions from across Japan, select a model case in the first year and expand the scheme to several locations over the following years, according to the sources.

The education ministry plans to have core universities and local high schools form a council to decide on a consistent education program and require high schools and universities to jointly apply for the project. —Kyodo News ■

National qualification match for 2018 World Robot Olympiad in Syria



in
Picture

Syrians take part in the national qualification match for the 2018 World Robot Olympiad in Damascus, capital of Syria on 26 August, 2018. A total of 65 teams took part in the match to showcase their works in the field of robotics. Seven teams of winners will compete in the final of 2018 World Robot Olympiad, which will be held in Thailand in November. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Bale and Benzema in the goals as Real Madrid survive scare

MADRID — Karim Benzema netted twice and Gareth Bale scored a trademark goal as Real Madrid overcame an early scare at Girona to win 4-1 on Sunday.

Seeking their second win of the new La Liga season, the European champions went behind after Borja Garcia opened the scoring for Girona with a superb goal after 17 minutes.

Real briefly

looked rattled as Girona probed and Marcelo was continually exposed in the Real defence.

But the inevitable comeback started when Marco Asensio was sent tumbling to the turf by a clumsy captain Sergio Ramos scored with an audacious ‘panenka’ penalty on 39 minutes.

Asensio won his side’s second spot kick as Pere Pons lunged at the Real forward.

This time it was Karim Benzema who stepped up to stroke home the penalty for his first goal of the season.

Bale produced a typical finish for Real’s third goal, sprinting away from the Girona defence after being released by a wonderful pass from Isco and

calmly steering the ball home.

Benzema scored his second on 80 minutes as he collected Bale’s tempting cross and had time to turn and power the ball home.

The referee referred the goal to VAR for suspected offside but the goal was allowed to stand.

— AFP ■



Real Madrid’s Welsh forward Gareth Bale (R) shoots to score a goal during the Spanish league football match between Girona FC and Real Madrid CF at the Montilivi stadium in Girona on 26 August, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Germany midfielder Rudy quits Bayern for Schalke — reports

BERLIN (Germany) — Germany midfielder Sebastian Rudy has transferred from reigning Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich to rivals Schalke 04, last season’s runners up, for 16 million euros (\$18.6m), according to reports on Sunday.

Magazine *Sport Bild* and daily newspapers *Bild* and *WAZ* said the deal has been done, but

neither club has confirmed the transfer.

According to *Sports Bild*, Rudy, who has made 26 international appearances and was part of the Germany squad which crashed at the World Cup in Russia, will be presented as a Schalke player on Monday.

The 28-year-old only joined Bayern last August on a free

transfer from Hoffenheim and signed a contract with Bayern until 2020, but has been frustrated by his lack of matches in Munich.

Rudy was left out of the match day squad by new Bayern coach Niko Kovac for Friday’s 3-1 win over his ex-club Hoffenheim which kicked off the new Bundesliga season. — AFP ■



Bayern Munich’s Germany midfielder Sebastian Rudy (R) is set to join Schalke for 16 million euros (\$18.2m), according to reports on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**



Michael Keane of Everton receives medical treatment during the match between Bournemouth and Everton at Vitality Stadium on 25 August, 2018 in Bournemouth, United Kingdom. **PHOTO: AFP**

Everton’s Keane sidelined with skull fracture

LONDON — Everton defender Michael Keane has suffered a small hairline fracture of his skull and will be sidelined for up to four weeks.

Keane was carried off on a stretcher in stoppage time of the 2-2 Premier League draw at Bournemouth and taken to hospital following a nasty clash of heads with team-mate Idrissa Gueye.

Everton on Sunday released a statement which said the 25-year-old had suffered the hairline fracture

but “no other complications” and “will be unable to engage in head contact for between three and four weeks, from which point he will be able to resume full training”.

Keane was admitted to Poole Hospital, accompanied by club doctor Dr Aboul Shaheir, before being released on Sunday morning.

The former Burnley player, who had scored his side’s second goal against the Cherries, said: “Thank you to everyone for all the well wishes and support.” — AFP ■