

NATIONAL

Office of the President issues press release concerning the majority decision of Pre-Trial Chamber 1 ICC

PAGE-7

NATIONAL

State Counsellor to pay working visit to Viet Nam in near future

PAGE-3

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Saturday, 8 September 2018

VP U Henry Van Thio opens 5th International Industrial Technology & Machinery Show

VICE President U Henry Van Thio attended the opening ceremony of the 5th International Industrial Technology & Machinery Show and Innovation Competition held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre -II (MICC-II), in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

With the aim of promoting the development of the Myanmar industry and technology sector, the show and competition was organized by the Myanmar Promotional Services (MPS) Company Limited together with the Ministry of Industry and supported by the Myanmar Engineering Society (MES).

The opening ceremony was attended by Union Ministers Thura U Aung Ko, Dr. Aung Thu, U Khin Maung Cho, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, MPS Managing Director and officials, representatives from industry and technology companies, invited guests and officials.

First of all Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers Thura U Aung Ko, Dr. Aung Thu, U Khin Maung Cho, Amyotha Hluttaw Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman U Kyaw Thiha, and Managing Director U Zarni Maung Maung cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the 5th International Industrial Technology & Machinery Show and Innovation Competition.

Next, Vice President U Hen-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects a machine at the opening of 5th International Industrial Technology & Machinery Show in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MNA

ry Van Thio, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and guests observed the displayed industrial technology, construction technology, communications technology, information technology, security technology, electricity generation technology, pharmaceutical and food products manufacturing technology by

industry and technology companies, gold sheets, ambulance, mobile vocational training truck and mobile marts produced by the Ministry of Industry and innovation participating in the competition where MPS Managing Director U Zarni Maung Maung and officials provided necessary explanations.

International Technology and Machinery show was held twice in Nay Pyi Taw and twice in Yangon and this is the fifth time it is held where a total of 70 booths are being displayed. The show will be held until 9 September. In addition to international technology and industrial companies, departments under the

Ministry of Industry and local private companies displayed their products and technologies.

An innovation competition to promote technology inventions by youths will also be held during the show period and a "Kanuag Award" will be presented it is learnt.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

PAGE-7



NATIONAL

Tatmadaw families release fish into Yezin Dam

PAGE-4

BUSINESS

YRIC approves 86 businesses during one year

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated border patrols

PAGE-6



Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 16th-day meeting

THE 16th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where questions on SME loan, taxation and construction sector were answered, a report submitted, receipt of a bill informed, a bill tabled and a motion discussed.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency first asked if there is a plan to reduce limitations on SME loans for SMEs to obtain loans easily. Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win answered by first explaining details about SME loans up to July 2018, and then said that there were found to be delays in obtaining necessary documentation prescribed for SME loans. As such, banks were instructed to accept application for loans and process it with recommendations from state/region industrial supervi-



Daw Cho Cho.

sion and inspection department. The department was also being coordinated to permit loans up to Ks 20 million under the Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI) system to SMEs when they can submit SMEs member card, said the Deputy Minister.

Next, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency asked when digital technology based businesses can be registered and collected tax, and how actions will be taken against those who do not abide by the set regulations.



U Maung Maung Win.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said local and foreign telecommunication operators are providing internet service only to digital technology based businesses and Directorate of Telecommunications assess the telecommunication operators as well as digital technology based businesses to issue special, normal licenses, collect tax fully and submit to the State.

Ministry of Planning and Finance and Ministry of Trans-



U Myo Zaw Aung.

port and Communications will be coordinated for registration and taxation of digital technology based businesses and legal action will be taken against businesses that fail to abide by prescribed laws and rules, replied the Deputy Minister.

Following this, U Tin Ko Ko Oo (a) U Atut of Bilin constituency asked if there is a plan to publish organizational setup of government departments and (private) companies conducting construction works and status

of tender winning companies, according to fiscal year. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that relevant state/region tender committees are instructed to announce the profiles of tender winning companies and tender winning prices in a transparent manner, and details can be obtained from relevant state/region governments.

At the Union level, Ministry of Construction only issue tenders for foreign currency purchase of construction materials and the issuing of construction work tenders are being transferred to the relevant state/region governments, who in turn are issuing construction work tenders, said the Deputy Minister.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration is no longer black listing companies since 2013 but action are taken whenever companies violate terms of the contracts/agreements explained the Deputy Minister.

SEE PAGE-10

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw's 9th regular session conducts 16th-day meeting

16th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, bill committee read a report on land confiscation bill and Hluttaw's decision was obtained and a bill discussed.

Asterisk marked questions

The first question was raised by U Sai San Aung of Shan State Constituency 12 who asked if there is a plan to construct a 16-bed hospital in Wa Self-Administered Division Minemaw Township. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that a 1.2 acre land was allocated for the hospital and the authorities from Wa Self-Administered Division were presented with a plan while coordinating with it to get the permission to construct it. Once the coordination is completed it will be included in the long term project said the Union Minister.

U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 then posed a ques-



U Sai San Aung.

tion on plan to upgrade the track and field ground and the football ground in Ye town to an all-weather sports ground. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that Mon State government had allocated Ks 110 million in fiscal year 2018-2019 for the upgrade of Ye Township sports ground approved by Ye Township project planning and implementation committee. However, a synthetic track will cost Ks 745 million and this will not be included said the Union Minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Maung Kyaw Zan of Rakhine State constituency 9 on a plan to



U Myo Win.

upgrade the Satkaw village rural health sub-clinic in Kywe Yine Khat village tract, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State to rural health clinic, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said national health project will be coordinated, comments and remarks from project and organisation setup assessment group and Ministry of Planning and Finance (Budget Department) will be pursued and once obtained, the matter will be submitted to the Union government meeting for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Similarly, questions raised by U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State



Dr. Myint Htwe.

constituency 4 and U Myo Htat @ Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12 were answered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Hluttaw approves Land Confiscation Bill

Next, Amyotha Hlutta Bill Committee member U Thein Lwin read and explained the committee report on the Land Confiscation Bill. After this Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the bill paragraph by paragraph.

Farmers Affairs Committee

Chairman U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region constituency 5 then tabled a motion to approve the bill which was supported by U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2. Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the bill being approved by the Hluttaw after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Hluttaw discusses the second amendment of the Penal Code

Later the second amendment of the Penal Code tabled by U Aung Thein of Bago Region constituency 12 was discussed by Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Aung Tun Lin, U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2, U Hsan Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3, Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10, U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 and U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10. The 17th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled for 12 September it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio opens the 5th International Industrial Technology & Machinery Show in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

VP U Henry Van Thio opens 5th International Industrial Technology & Machinery Show

FROM PAGE-1

The competition will be held for four levels: open level, technology university level, GTC (government technical college) level, THS (Technical High School) level and MES and experts from

the Ministry of Industry will act as judges and present awards, it is learnt.

On the second day of the show experts from European countries will conduct a workshop on food and consumer prod-

uct production while experts from Japan will conduct a talk on Long Shelf-life technology. In addition to this, companies will participate in talks/discussions and present the awards for the four levels of competitions. — MNA ■

Viet Nam's Embassy celebrates 73rd National Day, 1st Anniversary of Viet Nam-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership in Yangon

THE Embassy of Viet Nam in Yangon celebrated the 73rd Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and 1st Anniversary of Viet Nam-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership at the Melia Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and wife Daw Lwin Lwin Hman.

At the ceremony, Viet Nam and Myanmar artistes entertained the visitors with songs

and dances.

The celebration was opened with the national anthems of Myanmar and Viet Nam.

Afterwards, Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and Union Minister U Kyaw Tin extended greetings, and the visitors enjoyed the documentary video about friendly relations between Myanmar and Viet Nam.

The Ambassador of Viet Nam hosted a dinner to the dignitaries and guests to mark

the celebration.

It was also attended by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and wife, Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wife, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon and wife, senior military officers, ambassadors, military attachés, resident representatives of the UN agencies and invited guests. — MNA ■



73rd Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and 1st Anniversary of Viet Nam-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership being convened in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

State Counsellor to pay working visit to Viet Nam in near future

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a working visit to Viet Nam in the near future.—MNA ■

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attends 71st Session of WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe participates in 71st Session of WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia. **PHOTO:MNA**

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the 71st Session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for South-East Asia held in New Delhi, India from 3 to 7 September 2018 and returned to Yangon

on 6 September.

While attending the session, the Union Minister met with WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and discussed WHO reform, WHO works and working with Myanmar it is learnt. — MNA ■

3rd Ground Handling Basic Training Course conducted

THIRD Ground Handling Basic Training Course, jointly conducted by the Department of Civil Aviation of Myanmar and ANA Holding Incorporated of Japan, was opened in Civil Aviation Training Institute (CATI) in Yangon yesterday.

The opening ceremony was attended by the heads and representatives from the DCA of Myanmar, Japan Embassy in Myanmar, ANA Holding Inc and Narita Airport Services of Japan and also Ground Handling Services Providers of Myanmar.

U Ye Htut Aung, Deputy Director General of the Department of Civil Aviation of Myanmar, delivered an opening speech for Myanmar side while Mr. Toru Maeda (Minister, Japan Embassy) and Mr. Hidetomo Aramaki, Vice President of ANA Holding Inc. of Japan, made a speech on behalf of Jap-

anese side.

The two-month 3rd Basic Ground Handling Training Course will be conducting starting from 7 September in Yangon with 14 trainees from Mingaladon Cargo Services Co.ltd, Yangon Airport Group Co.ltd and Pioneer Aerodrome Services Co.Ltd. Among them, eligible trainees in Basic course will be sent to the Advanced Training Course that will be held in Japan for three years.

The 1st Ground Handling Training Course and the 2nd Course had been conducted in 2015 and in 2016 respectively. A total 27 eligible trainees are attending Advanced Training Courses in Japan. The first advanced course will be completed in December 2018 and its 15 trainees will come back to their parent companies in Myanmar. — MNA ■

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

Tatmadaw families release fish into Yezin Dam

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended a ceremony conducted by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) families to release fingerlings in order to raise the fish resources in Yezin Dam, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

The ceremony was also attended by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung and wife, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, high ranking officers from Commander-in-Chief Office



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife, and senior military officers release fingerlings into Yezin Dam, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, yesterday afternoon. **PHOTO: MNA**

and their wives, Nay Pyi Taw Command commander and wife, officers, other ranks and families.

First, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife, Tatmadaw senior officers and their wives released fingerlings

into Yezin Dam.

Next, officers, other ranks and their families released 62,900 fishes into the dam.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife encouraged the participants.

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy

and Air) families release fingerlings into the dam annually since 2011 and to date a total of 485,700 various fishes have been released into the dam, according to news released by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office. — MNA ■

Bagan in Our Heart photo exhibition kicks off in Monywa

A three-day Bagan in Our Heart photo exhibition is being held from 7 to 9 September at Monywa City Hall in Sagaing Region.

"The government is linking related departments with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for Bagan to be included on the World Heritage List. This photo exhibition is the fourth time as part of efforts to enroll Bagan in the UNESCO's World Heritage List. It is important to appreciate cultural heritage and it is a duty of every single citizen to

pass on this heritage to future generations, Sagaing Region Social Affairs Minister Dr. Zaw Win remarked in his opening speech at the exhibition.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony of Bagan in Our Heart photo exhibition was held at the gate of Monywa City Hall. Dr.Zaw Win, Dr. Thein Lwin, deputy director-general of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Daw Amarkyi from Monywa constituency, Sagaing Region Hluttaw, U Myo Swe Than, in-charge of Bagan in Our Heart team and U Aung Aung Kyaw, director of Bagan

Archaeology Department cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

Bagan is the pride of Myanmar citizens. There are many classical and studio songs composed about Bagan era and many authors, artists and photographers also highlight Bagan ancient sites, portraying cultural heritage of Bagan, and its beautiful landscape.

This exhibition highlights the ancient city of Bagan, which is the capital of First Myanmar Empire, said Dr. Thein Lwin. The first photo exhibition of Bagan in Our Heart was held

from 2 to 4 March in the Bagan cultural area, the second time from 13 to 15 March at the National Museum in Yangon and the third time from 20 to 22 August in Mandalay. The fourth time event held in Monywa portrays the cultural heritage, magnificent artefacts, livelihood and grand and stunning landscape of Bagan ancient city, said U Myo Swe Than.

Over 200 photographers have joined the Bagan in Our Heart photo exhibition since its first event in Bagan. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

Ayeyawady dolphin conservation area to be extended

EXTENSION area for Ayeyawady dolphin conservation has been set over 100 kilometers from Malae to Shwegu where 37 dolphins have been spotted.

Initially, the extension area was planned over 200 kilometers from Malae to Shwegu along the Ayeyawady River. Later, it was scaled down to over 100 kilometers and the remaining area has been set as

buffer zone around protected area.

To implement this, the Myanmar Fisheries Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) conducted awareness campaigns and discussions in 50 villages, situated in the conservation area. The plan is to protect endangered dolphins from extinction.

According to latest survey, there are 76 Ayeyawady



Three Ayeyawady baby dolphins seen in the Ayeyawady River. **PHOTO: WCS**

dolphins in an area around 400 kilometers from Mandalay to Bhamo, Kachin State. The area between Malae and Shwegu, along Ayeyawady River, is a

primary dolphin habitat. The first dolphin conservation area was set from Mingun to Kyaukmyaung in Mandalay in 2005. — Nyitu ■

YRIC approves 86 businesses during one year

YANGON Region Investment Committee (YRIC) had already approved 86 foreign and domestic enterprises since its establishment in August 2017, with a total pledge amount of FDI US\$124.7 million and Ks39.78 billion, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Those approved businesses are expected to create over 40,000 local job opportunities,

according to the YRIC.

During the past year, 11 foreign countries, including China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Viet Nam, Malaysia and India invested in the Yangon Region.

Manufacturing sector absorbed the most foreign investments in Yangon Region. Most of the approved manufacturing enterprises are engaged in garment production on cutting,

making and Packing (CMP) basis and some also manufacture pharmaceuticals, vehicles and container boxes.

Between August and March in fiscal year 2017-2018, YRIC approved 39 foreign investment proposals worth \$56.6 million and nine domestic investment projects valued Ks23 billion.

In the past five months of the mini-budget six-month peri-

od prior to next fiscal year 2018-2019, YRIC gave green light to 29 foreign enterprises with a capital of over \$68 million and nine domestic enterprises with Ks16.7 billion.

According to the new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state investment committees are authorised to grant endorsements of an investment proposal with a capital not exceeding \$5 million (Ks6,000

million), with an aim to facilitate the verification process of investment projects.

At present, Yangon Region absorbed 60 per cent of foreign investments. Mandalay attracts 30 per cent and other regions and states attain only a small portion of the investments, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. — GNLM ■

MIC issues three investment permits, three endorsements

MYANMAR Investment Commission issued three investment permits and three endorsements in relation to the investment proposals yesterday

The decisions were made at the MIC's meeting 14/2018 in Yangon after the investment proposals consistent with the Myanmar Investment Law were reviewed.

U Thaung Tun, Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, and nine members of MIC attended the meeting.

The submission of proposals and endorsement applications



U Thaung Tun, Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission attends the meeting 14/2018. PHOTO:MNA

from investors and post-permit activities of MIC-permitted companies were also discussed in the meeting. —MNA ■

Agricultural machinery benefit Sagaing Region's farmers

FARMERS in Sagaing Region are using agricultural machineries, including tractors, power tillers and a variety of agricultural machines for their farming, starting from 2012, according to the Sagaing Region's Agricultural Mechanization Department.

A total of 6734 tractors and 57,337 power tillers were already purchased by farmers in the Sagaing Region, said an official.

"Previously, we used to rent agricultural machinery to farmers. But, within the seven year period of transforming agriculture into a mechanized farming system, farmers became to understand the benefits of using farm machinery.

With the collaboration of private companies, the Department of Agricultural Mechanization arranged for the farmers to get installment loans to be able to purchase the farm



Power tillers are displayed for sales in Sagaing. PHOTO: WIN OO(ZEYTA TAING)

machinery", said U Khin Zaw Maung, an official from the Agricultural Mechanization Department.

"As for now, farmers are using more farm machines due to lack of workers and environmental impacts. As a result, farmers can see more financial benefits, as crop productivity is increas-

ing year by year", he added.

A total of 1,800,210 acres of monsoon paddy is being planted in the townships of ten districts in Sagaing Region, and farm machines are widely used by local farmers, according to Sagaing Region's Agricultural Mechanization Department. — Win Oo (Zeyya Taing) ■

Trade deficit down by half in past five months against last FY

TRADE value in the past five months showed a deficit of US\$1 billion, which is down by half compared to that in similar period of last fiscal year 2017-2018, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April and 31 August in the current six-month interim period prior to next fiscal year 2018-2019, external trade amounted to over US\$15 billion, with export worth \$7 billion and import valued at \$8 billion.

In the similar period of last FY, external trade was worth \$13 billion. Trade value of over \$2 billion was in deficit as import was valued at \$7.6 billion while export was worth \$5.4 billion.

Therefore, Myanmar's export in the past five months is up by \$1.5 billion, while import saw an increase of \$513 million, compared to similar period of last FY.

Myanmar exported agricultural products, animal

products, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, whereas capital goods, raw industrial materials and personal goods were imported into the country.

The country's export sector is depending more on the agriculture and industrial products of small-and medium-sized enterprises, while lessening its reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade.

The government is trying to reduce trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting export.

During last 2017-2018 FY, trade deficit also narrowed to \$3.97 billion.

There were trade deficits of US\$91.9million in 2012-2013 FY, US\$2.5billion in 2013-2014, US\$4.9 billion in 2014-2015 and US\$5.4 billion in 2015-2016 and \$5.5 billion in 2016-2017 FY, respectively, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization. — Mon Mon ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Chin Progressive Party presents its policy, stance and work program



U Shein Tun , Secretary-General of Chin Progressive Party.

SECRETARY-GENERAL of the Chin Progressive Party U Shein Tun has presented the party's policy, stance, work programme and other issues from radio and television on 7 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

The political policy of the Chin Progressive Party is based on Social Liberal Democracy.

The aspiration of the Chin Progressive Party for its administration structure is federal democratic system based on self-determination and equality.

The political roadmap of the Chin Progressive Party is laid on equality and impartiality, and its approach towards federal administrative system is built on constructive engagement.

The definition of social democracy under the Chin Progressive Party has three values. They are liberal, equality, and constitutionalism. It upholds the actual application and customary practice in accordance with the constitution.

Under the term of social democracy, it places high values on citizens, politics, social, economy, culture and literature, with focus on social welfare rights in the building of the nation.

In the broader sense of social democracy, besides accepting the basic rights, politics, social, economic, culture of the citizens, it places diversity under lofty value. Matters and diverse issues are to be arranged and managed under the administration perspective, thus paving the way for resource management and reasonable state financial budgeting and allocation.

The social security will be based on social welfare with the intent for basic freedom of citizens and their rights.

Furthermore, social democratic market economy means a coordinated market economy that is vital in democracy process needed for the human society with firm and sound foundation structure.

With regards to liberal democracy, the term 'liberal' derives and develops from the Latin word independent. The true meaning of liberal is the rule of law, where human rights is being valued. Therefore, the liberty and political independence of the citizens are based as the core. In other words, the term liberal means the policy where the human rights are being valued. With regards to the word independent, it means the independence of each and every individual.

When we talk about each and every individual, it involves the political ideology of citizens.

In general terms, even if there is no antagonism with one another in the community, the preference and inclination of the State may possibly have different independent policy approach. However, when the Chin Progressive Party is talking about social liberal democracy, the State or the government is in no way to intervene, to limit, or to restrict the rights of the people.

It is a system that the party aspired, where equal rights are the central part and core, that the government au-



Party logo.

thorities could not intervene among the citizens, and the inborn rights could never be encroached.

Another factor is that the Chin Progressive Party upholds high value on equality in terms of political status, especially the inborn rights such as the right to life, the right to liberty, and the right to property.

When referring the term liberal, it means the individual liberty including the property liberty and ownership, and the right to life.

Similarly, the party is strongly desirous to create the freedom of speech, the freedom of publishing, the freedom of belief, and the freedom of association.

With regards to the term 'constitution', the Chin Progressive Party believes that the constitution is the contract or agreement between the instrument and the people. In plain words, the government declares that the administrative pillar will govern the people in a way that the people will accept and the people approve it and ask the adminis-

tration not to go beyond what is agreed upon. This is a constitution that contains checks and balances. The party is desirous to have checks and balances style of constitution.

Furthermore, when it comes to the governing of the whole human society, our aspiration and objective is that the constitution should be the soul of all the people in the broadest term of federalism.

Therefore, the constitution is regarded as the most important document that safeguards and defends the liberty and the ownership of the citizens, a bond between the government and the people.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure and honor to present the view of the Chin Progressive Party, that a constitution is a set of fundamental principles or established precedents containing freedom and fairness, and that the constitution is very much vital, essential and fundamental.

Thank you very much.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated border patrols

BORDER guard forces of Myanmar and Bangladesh conducted a coordinated patrols in the Naf River and along the border between border posts 44 and 45 on 6th September.

A troops led by Police Inspector Kyi Soe of Kyekyun Outpost, Subdivision 3 of No 1 Border Police Force in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State, left from Naval Vessel Outpost (Maungtau) with two high speed naval vessels and met with a 12-member

Bangladeshi troop led by Subedar Shaik Adul Jalil of No 2 Border Guards Bangladesh at nautical mile-15 in the middle of the Naf River between the two countries on 6 September morning.

They conducted a coordinated naval patrol along the Naf River and arrived at the nautical mile-18 near the mouth of Thechaung Stream.

During the patrol, the two troops also discussed future coordinated patrols.

Similarly, a troop led

by Police Captain Tun Tun Soe of Aungzu Area Police Force, Subdivision 2 No. 1 Border Police Force, Maungtau Township, Rakhine State, and a troop led by Officer Naib Subedar Md. Wares Sarkar of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh of Chakdhala Outpost conducted a coordinated patrol from border post 44 to 45 from 8 am to 11:30 am on the same day, according to the Information Department of the Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM ■



Photo: MPF





Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Press Release

12th Waning of Wagaung 1380 ME
7 September 2018

The Office of the President issued a press release yesterday concerning the majority decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber 1 of the International Criminal Court ("the Court"). Following is the full text of the press release.

THE Government of Myanmar regrets the majority decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber 1 of the International Criminal Court ("the Court"), asserting that it may exercise jurisdiction with regard to Myanmar. Myanmar resolutely rejects the decision which is the result of faulty procedure and is of dubious legal merit.

Myanmar reiterates its position, that not being a party to the Rome Statute, it is under no obligation to respect the ruling of the Court. The decision was the result of manifest bad faith, procedural irregularities and general lack of transparency. Permission was given to organizations to file amicus curiae submissions without consideration of their identity or the beneficial scope of their proposed contributions. Several of the briefs submitted did not address legal issues. Furthermore, allegations consisting of charged narratives of harrowing personal tragedies which have nothing to do with the legal arguments in question were permitted thereby putting emotional pressure on the Court. Submissions of observations by these groups had the intended effect of placing the Court in an emotional bind.

Myanmar has rightly contended that the Prosecutor has incorrectly applied Article 19(3) in its request for a ruling from the Court on jurisdiction when the Court is not properly seized of the matter.

We are heartened to learn that one of the Judges, Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut shares this opinion. It has been reported that Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut is of the view that Article 19 (3) and 119 (1) of the Rome Statute are inapplicable and that the principle of la compétence de la compétence cannot serve as an alternative basis for the Chamber to provide a ruling.

The allegations of deportation cannot be further from the truth. Myanmar reiterates that it has not deported any individuals in the areas of concern and in fact has worked hard in collaboration with Bangladesh to repatriate those displaced from their homes. Several bilateral agreements have been signed such as the "Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State" between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

In fact the Union Minister for the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, went to Rakhine in October 2017, together with the Ambassadors of the four neighbouring countries including the Ambassador of Bangladesh to persuade the people who are preparing to leave Rakhine, to not do so but the effort was in vain.

The Government upon taking office in 2016, immediately set up the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State to address the issue. This was immediately followed by the setting up of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State headed by the late Mr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide recommendations for bringing about peace, stability and development to Rakhine State.

The Government has time and again reiterated its principled position of promoting and implementing the rule of law, justice and accountability. On 31st August 2018, it had established the Independent Commission of Enquiry to investigate the violations of human rights and related issues in regard to Rakhine. The Independent Commission of Enquiry includes two international personalities well versed in the issue of humanitarian assistance and human rights as well as Myanmar nationals with judicial background and relevant UN experience. Myanmar is both willing and able to investigate any crimes and violations of human rights in its own territory.

The over-extended application of jurisdiction challenges the fundamental principle of legal certainty and is contrary to accepted principles of public international law. It has created a dangerous precedent and erodes the moral authority of the Court.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over National Planning bill for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday morning. The meeting was attended by deputy chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and committee members from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee, invited Hluttaw representatives, members

of joint project works and budget assessment group, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, officials from Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Electric and Energy, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Construction, Myanmar Economic Bank, Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA ■



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting being convened.
PHOTO: MNA

70th Anniversary of founding of DPRK held in Nay Pyi Taw

70th Anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was held at Aureum Palace Hotels and Resorts, Lake View Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, invited guests and officials. The event was started by playing of the national anthems of Myanmar and DPRK. This was followed by message of greetings delivered by Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. Jong Ho Bom and Union Minister U Ohn Maung.

Next Union Minister for Ho-



Union Minister U Ohn Maung welcomed by Korean Ambassador Mr. Jong Ho Bom at yesterday's 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. PHOTO: MNA

tels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Korean Ambassador Mr. Jong Ho Bom and guests posed for a commemorative group photo and

attended a dinner hosted for the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.—MNA ■

Election campaign presentations of USDP, NDF, NLD to be published in newspapers

ELECTION campaign presentation of the Union Solidarity and Development Party will be published in the 9 September

issues; the National Democratic Force Party in the 10 September issues and the National League for Democracy in the 11 Sep-

tember issues of the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar dailies.—MNA ■

The west should listen to Myanmar voices instead of intimidating it in the name of the “international community”.

lages covered) - 100%; agricultural credit disbursed by co-operatives - 46.15%; fertilizer disbursed (6.049 million tons) - 36.22%; nutrient - 27.65%; sugar produced (10.400 million tons) - 59.0%; capacity utilization of sugar mills - 111.5%; wheat procurement (4.50 million tons) - 31.8%; animal feed production/supply - 50%; retail fair price

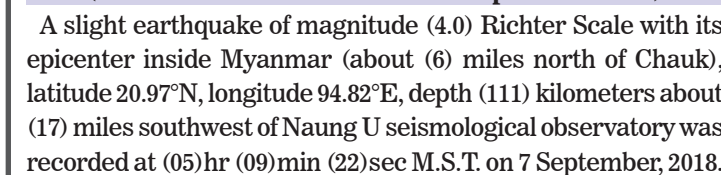
an organization of the farmers on the basis of common efforts for common interests. Observation shows that, under this system, all landowners in a village form a co-operative enterprise for tilling the land; the land is pooled, but each farmer retains the right of property and the produce is distributed by each; they are allowed to withdraw from the cooperative

At the operational level, there exists a primary co-operative to extend credit to the farmer. This unit epitomizes the vitality and service potential of the co-operative movement in India. The organization of these cooperative societies dates back to 1904, when the first Co-operative Societies Act was passed; these societies were started with the object of providing cheap credit to the agriculturists in order to free them

Myanmar has had over 100 years of experience regarding the cooperative enterprises and it is observed between 1970 and 1988 that the cooperatives, as second pillar (sector) of the national economy, ownership in the Gross Domestic Product was reached up to around 18%. Observation shows that "mismanagement and manipulation" is one of the causes

Observation from the Indian cooperative movement shows that lack of awareness is also one of the major causes of slow progress of the cooperative movement. People are not well informed about the objectives of the movement, the contributions it can make in rebuilding the society and the rules and regulations of cooperative enterprises. Unfortunately, no special efforts have been made in this direction and people look upon these enterprises as means for obtaining facilities and concessions from the government. So long as people expect to get something from the government, they see to it that cooperative enterprises somehow continue to function; lack of education, dirty politics of the village, caste ridden elections to the offices of cooperative societies, bureaucratic attitudes of the government officers at the lower

SEE PAGE - 10



Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session ...

FROM PAGE-2

Replying to a question raised by Dr. U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency on the reason for the delay in implementing the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Yangon-Dala bridge project, and when and how construction will start, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said that the loan agreement to construct the bridge came into effect since 2016 but increasing the main span of the bridge causes an additional loan requirement of US\$20 million. A meeting between Ministry of Planning and Finance and Korea Exim Bank was held on 7 August to obtain the additional loan and discussions made were forwarded to Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of Strategy and Finance through the ROK Embassy.

At the moment, ROK Ministry of Strategy and Finance is discussing with Korea Exim Bank for the additional loan of US\$20 million, and once agreement is reached, the matter will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said the Deputy Minister.

In order not to delay the

project while discussion is ongoing for the additional US\$20 million, construction work will be started where possible, answered the Deputy Minister.

Similarly, questions raised by Daw Myint Myint Soe (a) Daw May Soe of Botahtaung constituency and U Win Win of Minbu constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Submission of Bill on Children's Rights and report on the bill read

Following the question and answer session, a bill on children's rights was submitted to the Hluttaw by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung.

After Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Sai Tun Aye read the bill committee report on the bill, announcement was made for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to table an amendment motion to register their names.

Discussion on motion to set up appropriate reform policies to reform state-owned enterprises

A motion table by Dr. Daw

Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency urging the government to set up appropriate reform policies to reform state-owned enterprises (SOEs) was then discussed by Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Myo Win Hlaing, U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency, U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyai constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency and U Thauang Aye of Pyawbwe constituency.

In discussing the motion, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said SOEs are playing a big role and reforms should be conducted stage by stage. The Deputy Minister explained that the motion is acceptable in principal and the State is conducting the matter accordingly.

Hluttaw then decided to approve the motion.

The 17th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 12 September, it is learnt.

—Myo Myint (MNA) ■

Int'l Tourism Expo to boost tourism service sector

TO develop the international tourism service sector and local tourism sector, International Tourism Expo Myanmar (ITEM) 2018 supported by Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) and Myanmar China Friendship Association (MCFA) will be held in Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon from 2 to 4 November according to a press conference on International Tourism Expo conducted in Tawwin Garden Hotel, Yangon yesterday morning.

"We have arranged the event with the aim of promoting the development of the local travel and business, giving information about travel and tourism industry in detail to the public," said direc-

tor U Nway Moe Aung of Travel Support Co. Ltd. The expo will feature airlines, banks, insurance businesses, hotels, cruise (ship) companies, local and foreign travel services, companies producing and selling travel related products, car transport services and telecommunication companies.

According to statements made at the press conference, holding the expo will develop Myanmar tourism sector, increase income from abroad, increase job opportunities and develop local business sectors related to travel sector and bring international recognition to Myanmar's culture, history and natural beauty. —Min Thit (MNA) ■



A beach in Myanmar crowded with tourists and local people.
PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)

FROM PAGE - 9

rank are some of the hurdles in spreading the correct information about the cooperative movement and in educating the people about its true character and vital role in the society, it is learnt.

Various studies also show that restricted coverage is one of the causes of slow progress in Indian cooperative movement. The cooperative movement has also suffered on account of two important limitations on its working. One is that the size of these cooperative societies has been very small; most of these cooperative societies are confined to a few members and their operations extended to only one or two villages; as a result, their resources remain limited, which make it impossible for them to expand their means and extend their area of operations. Two, most of the cooperative societies have been single purpose societies; for this reason, these societies are unable to take a total view of the persons seeking help, nor can they analyze and solve problems from different angles; the help these coopera-

tive societies render thus cannot be adequate. By assessing the persons and the problems only from one angle, these cooperative societies neither properly help the person nor make an optimal use of their resources. Under these circumstances it has not been possible for these cooperative societies to make much progress, it is learnt.

It is found that functional weakness is also one of the causes of slow progress. The cooperative movement has suffered from inadequacy of trained personnel right from its inception. Lack of trained personnel has been caused by two major factors. In the first place, there has been a lack of institutions for this purpose of training personnel; secondly, because of the unsatisfactory working of cooperative institutions, efficient personnel did not feel attracted or motivated towards them. The functioning of the cooperative societies, too, suffer from several weaknesses; some of these are, taking no care of the need of credit seekers or their repaying capacity at the time of granting loans, making no adequate provision for the return of loans, unsatisfactory

keeping of accounts, factional politics in its management, lack of coordination among various divisions of the cooperative structure, too much dependence on outside sources of finance, lack of adequate auditing. Such weakness have prevented them from progressing on healthy lines, it is learnt.

National policy on co-operative enterprises which is likely to uphold the values and principles of co-operation, recognizing its autonomous characters and attaching priority to professionalism, human resource development and to act as preferred instrument for execution of public policy in rural areas and in sectors where they provide the most effective delivery system; to strengthen their competitive edge in the market, total quality control initiatives, management initiatives and cost reduction initiatives will also be taken up. It is now increasingly recognized that the co-operative system in India has the capacity and potentiality to neutralize the adverse effects emerging from the process of globalization and liberalization, and continue to play an important role in employment pro-

motion and poverty alleviation, both as production enterprises – mainly of the self-employed – and as providers of services to members. Although cooperatives are not instruments of employment promotion, they do effectively create and maintain employment in both urban and rural areas and thus provide income to both members and employees in the form of shares of surplus, wages and salaries or surpluses (profits) depending of the type of cooperatives, it is learnt.

Government interference is another weakness to slow progress in the Indian cooperative movement. The cooperative movement in India was initiated in 1904 under the auspices of British government; right from the beginning the government has adopted an attitude of patronizing the movement; cooperative enterprises were treated as if these were part and parcel of the administrative set up of the government. The government interference thus became an essential element in the working of these enterprises; as a result, people's enthusiasm for the cooperative movement did not grow. The movement's inde-

pendence and self-reliance existed only on paper and files. After attainment of independence, in particular after beginning of the planning, some healthy changes in the attitude of the government did take place; it was not given proper importance that it deserves in any plan. But even the cooperative movement has not become full-fledged people movement. Even today, quite often, cooperative societies are imposed upon the people. This does bring about an increase in the membership of the cooperative societies; but the spirit of cooperation cannot flower fully in these circumstances; neither its growth took place according to any plan nor did it become a people's movement. It just grew very slowly and that too, haphazardly; it was a state driven institution, it is learnt. May Co-operative Movement in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar be free from all dangers, and be healthy, happy and prosperous in the months to come!!!

Reference: *Cooperative Movement in India: Problems and Prospects from the web-site, July 2017*

■■■

British Airways hacked with details of 380,000 bank cards stolen



Customers' details on 380,000 cards of British Airways were stolen in a data breach. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — British Airways said that the personal and financial details of customers making bookings between 21 August and 5 September had been stolen in a data breach involving 380,000 bank cards.

The almost two week long hack did not involve travel or passport details, the airline said, adding that it had launched an urgent investigation into the theft of customer data.

"The personal and financial details of customers making bookings on our website and app were compromised," it said. "The breach has been resolved and our website is working normally. We have notified the police and relevant authorities."

BA said the breach took place between 2158 GMT on August 21 and 2045 GMT on September 5

and that around 380,000 payment cards were compromised.

BA advised anyone who believed they may have been affected to contact their bank or credit card provider and follow their recommendations.

In terms of compensation, BA said they would be in touch with customers "and will manage any claims on an individual basis."

"We are deeply sorry for the disruption that this criminal activity has caused," the airline said.

It said customers due to travel could check in online as normal as the incident had been resolved.

BA customer Daniel Willis, 34, who booked a flight on Monday with the airline, said he had not been contacted by the airline despite being affected by the data

breach.

"I've not heard anything from them on this and I've just had to cancel the card I used. They're a shambles," he told the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

Another BA customer, Stephanie Jowers, said she contacted the airline hours before the hack was announced to query a suspicious charge on her account but was not informed it could have been compromised.

"I asked repeatedly for an explanation. None was given," she told the *Daily Telegraph*.

Past IT issues

The National Crime Agency said: "We are aware of reports of a data breach affecting British Airways and are working with partners to assess the best course of action."

The NCA is set up to tackle the most serious and organised crime posing the highest risk to public security in Britain.

BA apologised in July after technology issues caused dozens of its flights to and from London Heathrow Airport to be cancelled.

The airline said the problem was down to an incident with an IT system.

And in May 2017, British Airways suffered a major computer system failure triggered by a power supply issue near Heathrow which left 75,000 customers stranded. —AFP ■



Mattis' visit comes as Afghan and international forces try to push peace talks with the Taliban. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mattis makes unannounced visit to Afghanistan

KABUL — US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis landed in Kabul on Friday for an unannounced visit to war-torn Afghanistan, where he will meet President Ashraf Ghani and the new US commander for American and NATO forces.

His trip comes a little more than a year after President Donald Trump unveiled a revamped strategy for Afghanistan that saw him commit thousands of additional US forces to the country on an open-ended basis.

Mattis, on his second visit to the country in recent months, arrives in Kabul at a sensitive time in the 17-year war.

The grinding conflict has seen little progress by Afghan

or US forces against the Taliban, Afghanistan's largest militant group.

Afghan and international players have been ratcheting up efforts to hold peace talks with the Taliban, which was toppled from power by US-led forces in 2001.

An unprecedented ceasefire in June followed by talks between US officials and Taliban representatives in Qatar in July fuelled hopes that negotiations could bring an end to the fighting.

But a recent spate of attacks by the Taliban and the smaller but potent Islamic State group that left hundreds of security forces and civilians dead has severely dented that optimism. —AFP ■

Mass grave site with 166 bodies found in Mexico

MEXICO CITY — Mexican authorities discovered at least 166 bodies at a mass grave site in Veracruz state, prosecutors said Thursday, the latest horrifying find in a region hit by bloody drug cartel turf wars.

Home to the city of Veracruz, one of Mexico's largest ports, the eastern state has a history of corrupt politics and grisly power struggles between rival cartels -- a toxic mix that has caused an explosion of violence.

"The remains of at least 166 people have been found" in the latest mass grave site discovered in Veracruz, state prosecutor Jorge Winckler told journalists, making it one of the largest such sites so far.

The grave is located in central Veracruz, but authorities are not releasing the exact location for security reasons, he said. Fo-

rensic specialists are still working at the scene.

Winckler said investigators had also found 200 articles of clothing, 144 ID cards and other personal belongings at the site since exhumations began on August 8.

An informer told authorities that hundreds of people in all were buried at the site, the

state prosecutor's office said in a statement.

"Based on forensic analysis of the discoveries, it had been determined that these are clandestine burial sites which are at least two years old," it said.

Authorities have used drones and ground-penetrating radar to help them locate the bodies. —AFP ■



Mexican authorities discovered at least 166 bodies at a mass grave site in Veracruz state. **PHOTO: AFP**

Brazilian presidential candidate Bolsonaro suffers "extensive" injuries from attack

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro, who was stabbed earlier on Thursday, sustained "extensive" injuries but is now stable, doctors said.

The medical team who attended to Bolsonaro gave a press conference on Thursday evening to inform about the candidate's condition after the attack.

According to surgeon Luiz Henrique Borsato, Bolsonaro had abdominal trauma and was in shock when admitted to the hospital.

Borsato said the candidate had extensive internal hemorrhage, which was stanchied in the surgery. He

had three perforations on the small intestines and one in the colon, the doctor said, but no injuries in the lung or liver, as it was rumored earlier.

Because of the injuries to the intestines, Bolsonaro was submitted to a colostomy, a procedure to put on a colostomy bag, which temporarily collects the feces of the patient while the intestines heal. He will have to use the bag for a couple of months, the doctors said.

According to the medical team, Bolsonaro will not leave the hospital for another week or 10 days, and returning to the campaign in the streets is not on the line yet. —Xinhua ■



Photo shows some of the 12 boys and their soccer coach who were rescued from a flooded Thai cave attending a dinner banquet at the Dusit Palace in Bangkok on 6 September, 2018. The Thai government organized the event for about 7,000 Thai and foreign guests to show appreciation for their efforts in freeing them in July. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Thai gov't holds thank you event for rescuers of cave-trapped boys

BANGKOK — The Thai government on Thursday organized a dinner banquet for about 7,000 Thai and foreign guests to show appreciation for their efforts in freeing 12 boys and their soccer coach from deep inside a flooded cave in July.

Those attending the event at the Dusit Palace in Bangkok included expert divers, Thai navy seals and other military personnel, rescue volunteers, doctors, police, ambassadors and foreign media representatives, all of whom received royal letters of appreciation. Among the guests were citizens of 15 foreign countries including Britain, the United States, Australia, China, Japan and Laos.

The Wild Boar soccer team members and their coach got trapped by flooding waters in the cave in Chiang Rai Province on 23 June. Amid a frantic search effort by hundreds of rescuers and support

personnel, British divers found the group sheltering on a dry patch some 3.7 kilometers from the entrance of the cave on 2 July.

The rescue operation, which drew worldwide attention, began on 8 July with four boys safely rescued, followed by four on 9 July and the last group of five including the coach on 10 July. Adul Sam-on, one of the 12 boys, spoke on behalf of them at the event and thanked all those involved for their kindness, support and sacrifices.

Specifically addressing the Thai king, prime minister and government agencies, he said, "All your sacrifices made us realize that we have to be good citizens. We feel the love of Thai people and the whole world." Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha hailed the rescue operation as a remarkable success, even though one rescuer lost his life.—Kyodo News ■

Toll from Japan quake rises to 16 as hopes fade for survivors

TOKYO — Japanese rescue workers with bulldozers and sniffer dogs scabbled through the mud Thursday to find survivors from a landslide that buried houses after a powerful quake, as the death toll rose to 16.

Around 26 people are still unaccounted for in the small northern countryside town of Atsuma, where a cluster of dwellings were wrecked when a hillside collapsed with the force of the 6.6-magnitude quake, causing deep brown scars in the landscape. "We've heard there are people still

stuck under the mud, so we've been working around the clock but it's been difficult to rescue them," a Self-Defence Force serviceman in Atsuma told public broadcaster NHK. "We will take measures to find them quickly," he added. One village resident said: "It was horrendous. The land slid all the way down and I thought I would die. I thought my house would collapse." Around 1.6 million households in the sparsely populated northern island of Hokkaido were still without power after the quake damaged a thermal

plant supplying electricity to the region. According to Hokkaido Electric, power has been restored to 1.4 million houses — about 40 percent of the population — but authorities have warned it could take as long as a week to get the service fully back to normal. Some 22,000 rescue workers including troops called up from the Self-Defence Forces handed out emergency water supplies and long lines formed at petrol stations and supermarkets, as people stocked up fearing further quakes.

"So far there are 16

(dead) people and many people injured, with 26 still missing," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a cabinet meeting to discuss the quake. "Please give your sympathy to people who spent a dark night in fear, and do everything you can to restore electricity as soon as possible," he instructed his ministers. The earthquake, which scored the maximum on a Japanese scale measuring the power of a quake's shaking, also collapsed a handful of houses and walls in the main city of Sapporo.—AFP ■



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)

Tender Invitation

To observe UMFCCI's centennial, we will be organizing many events during 2019 including the "UMFCCI Centennial International Expo".

The Expo will be held in March 2019 on a grand scale and many exhibitors from far and near around the globe will be participating to grab the new opportunities for businesses and investments.

UMFCCI therefore invites interesting international event organizers to submit their proposals to the Trade Fair and Exhibition Committee for selection and approval.

Particulars

Venue of Expo	(i)	Myanmar Event Park (48,000 sq-m) (OR)
	(ii)	Myanmar Convention Center (98,000 sq-m)
Title of Expo	-	"UMFCCI Centennial International Expo"
Exhibits	-	Country products, Personal and General Commodities, Industrial goods and others.
Contact Persons	(i)	Daw May Thawdar Win (Deputy Executive Officer) Tel: 95-9-450200340, E-mail: ma@umfcci.com.mm
	(ii)	Daw Hnin Yee Nandar (Staff Officer) Tel: 95-1-2314344, Ext: 118, E-mail: ma@umfcci.com.mm
Closing Date	:	5 th October 2018 (Friday)

Anyone desirous of acting as licensed representative for country wise show booths or for further information or to submit the applications can contact the above-mentioned persons.

Trade Fair and Exhibition Committee
UMFCCI

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ENTERPRISE Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) – Consulting Services

Date	: 7th September 2018
Project No.	: 50020-002
Project Title	: Myanmar: Power Network Development Project
Title of Assignment	: Project Implementation Consultant (PIC) (Distribution Component)
Deadline for Submission of EOI	: [27th September 2018 , 14:00 hr]

- The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Power Network Development Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments for the Project Implementation Consultant (PIC) – Distribution Component ("the Assignment").
- Electricity Supply Enterprise (ESE) of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar ("the Client") invites firms from eligible source countries of ADB to submit EOIs through ADB's Consultant Management System (CMS) (<https://cms.adb.org>).
- The PIC for distribution component of the project is required to assist ESE and MOEE throughout the implementation of the Power Network Development Project. The main tasks are: (i) conduct procurement of project packages from contract packaging, bidding, evaluation and award of contract; (ii) update and implement resettlement and ethnic group development plan (REGDP); (iii) construction supervision and supervision supply and construction contracts; (iv) preparation of environmental management plan (EMP) and environmental supervision and monitoring; (v) overall project administration; (vi) reporting; (vii) financial management, and (viii) public communication and consultation. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found on CMS. The location of the Assignment is in Myanmar, and the duration is six years.
- Quality-Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) process will be used in accordance with the *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants for Asian Development Bank and Its Borrowers*. A Full Technical Proposal (FTP) will be required from shortlisted firms. For further information, please visit <https://cms.adb.org>.
- EOIs must be submitted through CMS (<https://cms.adb.org>) on or before [27th September 2018 , 14:00 hr]. Firms that are not yet registered with CMS are required to register.
- ESE will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by firms in connection with the preparation or submission of EOIs.

Name and Designation of Client's Representative:

Mr. Thuya Aung Bo
Deputy Chief Engineer
Electricity Supply Enterprise
Office address, email and telephone no.:
Office No. 27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Naypyitaw, Myanmar
thuyaungbo.es@gmail.com
+95 9 5089858

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CSC RUI HAI VOY. NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CSC RUI HAI VOY. NO. (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S TOKO KANN KAISHA

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

China-made degradable plastics promise end to ocean pollution

BEIJING — Chinese scientists have developed a plastic that degrades in seawater and could help curb the increasingly serious plastic pollution in the oceans.

The new polyester composite material can

decompose in seawater over a period ranging from a few days to several hundred days, leaving small molecules that cause no pollution, said Wang Gexia, a senior engineer at the Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry of

the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

“For a long time, people focused on ‘white pollution’ on land. Plastic pollution in the seas only caught people’s attention when more and more reports about marine animals

dying from it appeared in recent years,” said Wang.

Scientists combined non-enzymic hydrolysis, water dissolution and biodegradation processes to design and invent the new material.

The research was re-

cently selected as one of 30 winning projects at a contest of innovative future technologies in Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province.

The contest encouraged young Chinese scientists to conceive ground-

breaking technologies and trigger innovation.

China has given top priority to ecological environmental protection, contributing Chinese wisdom to resolving global pollution.

— Xinhua ■

Global warming hikes risk of landslide tsunamis

PARIS — With a wave run-up of nearly 200 metres, the tsunami that ripped through an Alaskan fjord in 2015 was one of the largest ever documented. But with no-one killed, it almost went unnoticed.

It was triggered by a massive rockfall caused by melting of the Tyndall Glacier, which experts say has given them the clearest picture to date of landslide-generated tsunamis.

With global warming causing glaciers to shrink at an unprecedented rate, there is an increased risk of tidal waves triggered by the collapse of rocky slopes weakened as ice retreats, a study in *Scientific Reports* said Thursday.

“As glaciers thin around the world, they are modifying their landscapes dramatically. In the case of Taan Fjord, the result was a massive tsunami,” said Dr Dan Shugar, assistant professor of Geoscience at the University of Washington Tacoma and co-author of the report.

“The tsunami was triggered by a massive



Almost all mountain glaciers in the world are retreating with the thinning ice caused by warming on a global scale. **PHOTO: AFP**

landslide in October 2015 that occurred above a glacier that had retreated dramatically in the late 20th century,” he told AFP.

The tsunami generated a wave run-up, the maximum vertical extent of wave uprush on a beach, of 193 metres (633 feet).

Glacial ice supports and undercuts steep slopes so when the ice melts, the underlying bedrock is left exposed and unstable, increasing the likelihood of rockfalls and landslides.

“We need to better

understand the risk posed by these steep slopes in a changing climate,” Shugar said.

The study provides a benchmark for modelling landslide and tsunami hazards, the authors said.

“Our results call attention to an indirect effect of climate change that is increasing the frequency and magnitude of natural hazards near glaciated mountains.”

Mapping a giant tsunami

Most of the recent

risk research on tsunamis has focused on those caused by earthquakes, such as one in the Indian Ocean in 2004.

Little is known about landslide tsunamis, which are relatively rare, with the best-documented example dating back 60 years.

“This is the first time scientists have been able to study a landslide tsunami from start to finish,” said co-author Dr Bretwood Higman, executive director of Ground Truth Trekking.—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT OF POWER TRANSMISSION AND SYSTEM CONTROL Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) - Consulting Services

Date	: 7th September 2018
Project No.	: 50020-002
Project Title	: Myanmar Power Network Development Project
Title of Assignment	: Project Implementation Consultant (PIC) - Transmission Component
Deadline for Submission of EOI	: 27th September 2018, 14:00 hr

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Power Network Development Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments for the Project Implementation Consultant (PIC) - Transmission Component (“the Assignment”).
2. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) (“the Client”) invites firms from eligible source countries of ADB to submit EOI through ADB’s Consultant Management System (CMS) (<https://cms.adb.org>).
3. The PIC for the transmission component of the project is required to assist DPTSC and MOEE throughout the implementation of the Power Network Development Project. The main tasks are: (i) conduct procurement of project packages from contract packaging, bidding, evaluation and award of contract; (ii) update and implement resettlement and ethnic group development plan (REGDP); (iii) supervision of EPC/turnkey contracts; (iv) preparation of environmental management plan (EMP) and environmental supervision and monitoring; (v) overall project administration; (vi) reporting; (vii) financial management, and (viii) public communication and consultation. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found on CMS. The place of assignment is Nay Pyi Taw and project sites, Myanmar, and the duration of the assignment is six years.
4. Quality-Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) process will be used in accordance with the *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants for Asian Development Bank and Its Borrowers*. Shortlisted firms will be required to submit a Full Technical Proposal (FTP). For further information, please visit <https://cms.adb.org>.
5. EOIs must be submitted through ADB’s CMS (<https://cms.adb.org>) on or before 27th September 2018, 14:00 hr. Firms that are not yet registered with CMS are required to register.
6. DPTSC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by firms in connection with the preparation or submission of EOIs.

Director General
Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC),
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: 95 67 8104286
Email: sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com,
Website: <http://www.moee.gov.mm>

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1090 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1090 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-9-2018 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
SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (027 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (027 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.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

Indian artist draws portraits with a typewriter

MUMBAI — Clickety-clack, clickety-clack, ding rings out from a home in India's Mumbai where Chandrakant Bhide is creating his latest artwork — on a typewriter.

The 72-year-old thumps the keys of the bulky, manual machine to draw portraits of famous people, all bearing an unmistakable resemblance to their subject.

From politicians and film stars to cricketers, animation characters and religious symbols, Bhide has produced around 150 pieces of typewriter art over the past half century.

"I have done many personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and



Indian artist Chandrakant Bhide poses with artwork showing portraits of public figures and deities that he created using a typewriter.

PHOTO: AFP

Hardy. This is my hobby, my passion," he tells AFP.

Bhide has held 12 exhibitions of his work and become something of a local celebrity since discovering his unique talent in the late 1960s while employed as a bank clerk.

As a young man he had wanted to go to art school and become a commercial artist but his family was unable to afford the costs so he trained in stenography instead.

Bhide was working in the administrative department of Union Bank of India when in 1967 his boss asked him to type up a list of staff intercom numbers.

"I typed it in the form of a

telephone itself. When I saw it I thought, 'This is fantastic, I can make art through this medium.' Everybody seemed to like it too," he recalls. Bhide started using the "x" key to produce images of Hindu god Ganesha to mark India's annual festival celebrating the elephant-headed deity.

He then began to experiment with other keys — including "w", dash, asterisk, ampersand and percentage sign — progressing to create portraits of celebrities from India and abroad.

While Bhide takes only 15 minutes to draw Ganesha, several hours are required to complete a famous face in what is a painstaking process.—AFP ■

Netflix opens Toronto film festival

TORONTO (Canada) — The Toronto International Film Festival launched on Thursday with a Netflix production — the first time any major movie showcase has opened on a release not intended for theaters.

Cannes, the world's largest film festival, issued a decree earlier this year banning movies from competition that do not have a theatrical release in France. But in an apparent rebuke, the 43rd TIFF opens with Netflix's "Outlaw King," which will be available only to subscribers of the streaming giant.

"We went with the best film we could find that really fit the scale that we want for opening night," festival chief Cameron Bailey told AFP.

"It's a big period epic, a really rousing story of Robert the Bruce — a contemporary of William Wallace who audiences

might remember from 'Braveheart,'" he said.

Filmed on location in Scotland, "Outlaw King" reunites director David Mackenzie with his "Hell or High Water" actor Chris Pine, who plays the 14th century Scottish king.

The epic story about Robert the Bruce's struggle to regain control of Scotland after England declares him an outlaw also stars Aaron Taylor-Johnson — also at the festival in "A Million Little Pieces" — Florence Pugh and Billy Howle.

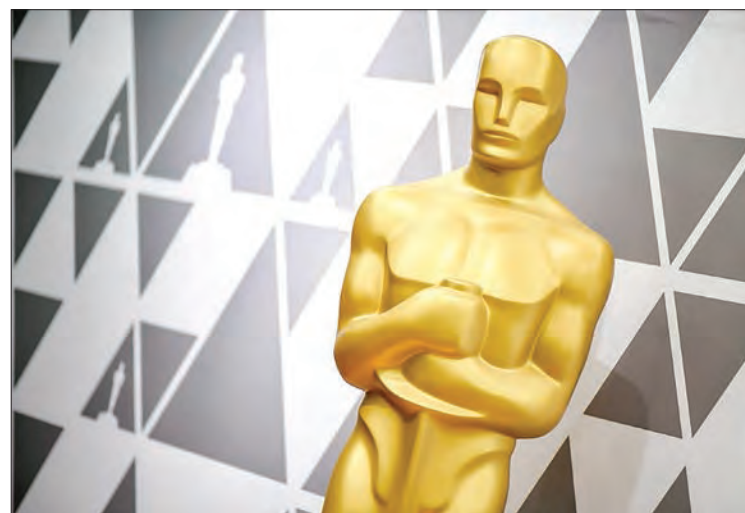
Netflix pulled all its films from consideration at Cannes after the ban was announced on its non-theatrical releases. Bailey said however TIFF was "fully behind the theatrical experience." "I think people are going to be thrilled to see films in the finest possible way you can present them which is in a great

big old theater, with incredible sound," he said. "But if the films come from a streaming service, that's just fine," he added.

More from Netflix

Bailey said online movie platforms such as Netflix, Amazon and Hulu were "supporting some of the best talent around these days."

"And we really value not only the theatrical experience but the ability of filmmakers to make the films they want to make. So whatever is going to get those films made, we are supportive of." It is not the first time a Netflix film has screened at TIFF. Dee Rees's "Mudbound" and Angelina Jolie's "First They Killed My Father" premiered in Toronto last year, and Netflix also picked up the rights to several other films at the festival.—AFP ■



The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is shelving plans for a "popular film" Oscar award that had been panned by critics as a bid to increase viewership of the annual show. PHOTO: AFP

Academy shelves plans for 'popular' Oscar award

LOS ANGELES — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Thursday it was shelving plans for a "popular film" Oscar award that had been ridiculed by critics as a desperate bid to boost viewership and honor moneymaking movies.

"There has been a wide range of reactions to the introduction of a new award, and we recognize the need for further discussion with our members," Dawn Hudson, the CEO of the Academy, said in a statement.

"We have made changes to the Oscars over the years — including this year — and we will continue to evolve while also respecting the incredible legacy of the last 90 years."

The organization that hands out the Oscars had announced the new award in August along with other changes to the 91st Oscars that will be held in Holly-

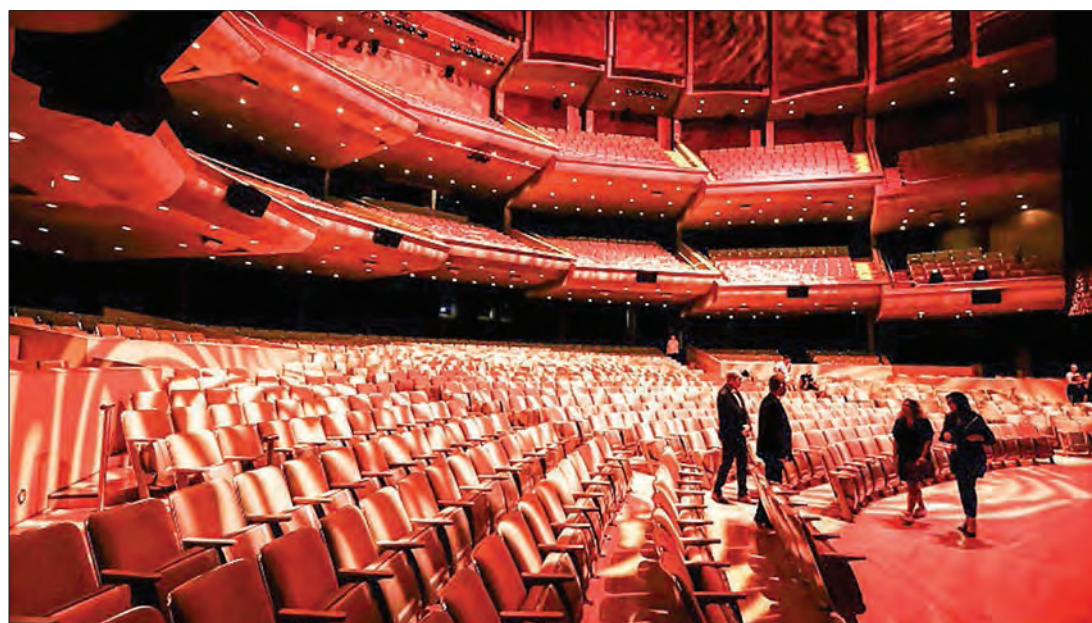
wood on February 24 of next year.

Those changes include shortening the ceremony to three hours — this year's lasted nearly four — and handing out some of the awards during commercial breaks.

The proposed "popular film" Oscar had been panned by critics as a bid to increase viewership of the annual show and to honor blockbuster movies such as Star War films or Marvel Universe films that rake in millions at the box office.

Viewership of the Oscars has been steadily declining over the years. This year's ceremony held on March 4 posted all-time low television ratings with 26.5 million viewers.

The Academy on Thursday also announced that the 2020 Oscars would be held on February 9, several weeks earlier than usual.—AFP ■



Interior of Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, pictured on 5 September 2018, after improvements completed for the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival. PHOTO: AFP

China launches new marine satellite

TAIYUAN — China sent a new marine satellite into orbit Friday to help improve understanding of maritime waters and climate change.

A Long March-2C rocket carrying the HY-1C satellite took off at 11:15 a.m. from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.

The satellite HY-1C will help monitor ocean color and water temperatures, providing basic data for research on the global oceanic environment, according to the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

Its data will also be used in the survey of the resources and environment of China's offshore waters, islands and coastal zones, marine disaster relief and the sustainable utilization of ocean resources, said the administration. With a design life of five years, it was developed by the China Spacesat Co., Ltd. under the China Academy of Space Technology.

Friday's launch was the 284th by the Long March rocket series. —Xinhua ■

Crop-eating pest could hit Africa food supplies: experts

PARIS — Unpredictable weather patterns and the spread of crop-destroying fall armyworm caterpillars could lead to “no food at all” for communities across Africa, experts have warned.

The caterpillars, which were discovered in Africa in 2016 and are believed to have come from South America, have now been identified in 44 countries, up from 28 last year.

The director-general of development at Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), Dennis Rangi, blamed globalisation for the spread of the pest.

But it could have a potentially devastating effect combined with unpredictable weather patterns,

he said on the sidelines of an agricultural conference in Kigali.

“Rainfall is not very reliable anymore so when you get a combination of a little drought and the fall armyworm you are going to be talking about no food at all,” he told AFP on Wednesday.

“The fall armyworm does not feed on maize alone. It will be able to jump to other crops, which means it will devour any other green thing that is out in the field.”

Some 300 million people across Africa could be at risk from the effects, he estimated.

CABI was researching the extent of the damage done so far but Rangi said more needed to be done as some farmers turned to

makeshift remedies such as soap and detergents.

“We are beginning to see that desperation. We really need to move even faster. It's pretty scary,” he added.

Rangi earlier told delegates at the Africa Green Revolution Forum that the continent's success in agriculture hinged to a large extent on how it dealt with the pest.

“Forcefully removing this invasive species cannot be overlooked if we desire this agricultural transformation we are talking about,” he said.

‘Big challenge’

CABI research from 2017 found the caterpillar could cut yields by up to 60 percent, costing 10 of Africa's major maize-producing economies \$2.2 billion to \$5.5 billion (1.9 billion to 4.7 billion euros) a year in lost harvests.

But Rangi said that was likely to be a conservative estimate.

Fall armyworm, which was first spotted in Nigeria and Togo and damaged crops from South Africa to Ghana, eat staple crops such as maize, wheat, millet and rice.

They also attack cotton, soybean, potato and tobacco fields.

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has previously warned that the innocuous-looking but hugely destruc-

tive caterpillars pose “a huge threat to food security”.

The FAO's representative to the African Union, Chimimba David Phiri, said it was too late to get rid of the pest, as it had developed some resistance to pesticides.

Instead, African countries needed to learn to live with it.

Applying pesticides would not work, he said, suggesting farmers should scan their crops and crush eggs.

“We can manage it but we can't get rid of it. Governments and communities need to understand that,” he said.

May-Guri Saethre, from the Nigeria-based International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), said experts did not yet know how fall armyworm affected countries across Africa.

“All these things we haven't really sorted out yet, its because it's so new,” said Saethre, deputy head of research for development at the IITA.

“We know how it behaves in Latin America but we don't know how it is behaving in Africa. That is a big challenge,” she added.

Fall armyworm is believed to have been brought to Africa on commercial flights from South America or in plants imported from the region. Saethre said it could have been prevented by proper customs and border control checks. —AFP ■



Fall armyworms attacking a maize plant in Kenya earlier this year. On farms across Africa, a seemingly innocuous brown and beige caterpillar is waging a silent war, devastating rural incomes and posing a major threat to the continent's food supply. **PHOTO: AFP**

Across China: Internet changes life for herders

HOHHOT — Sitting in the quiet grasslands, Qoluman couldn't stop laughing as he watched a popular video online with his mobile phone.

Despite the fact that his village is deep in the grasslands, Qoluman, 39, a herder of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, can also enjoy the many benefits of the Internet.

Qoluman lives in Adancholu Village, New Barag Right Banner, in the city of Hulun Buir, and spends more than half the year herding his sheep. Two years ago, WiFi was installed in his Mongolian yurt, and when he is out herding his sheep, he can access the Internet using 4G with his phone.

“Before, when a guest arrived, the first thing he said was ‘Hello.’ Now people ask, ‘What's your WiFi password?’,” he said. “These days, herders like myself can chat, shop, watch soap operas, and play games on our

phones. In the past, I could only stare blankly at the grassland because there was nothing to do after work.”

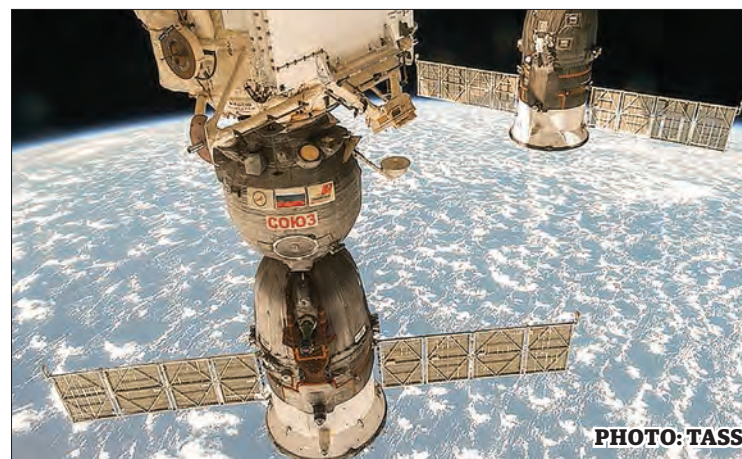
As of June 2018, according to China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the number of 4G mobile Internet users in China exceeded 1.1 billion. Over the next three years, China will work to improve the country's Internet infrastructure, pledging that 98 percent of villages will enjoy fiber-optic Internet and 4G services by 2020.

For Ganzhaorog, 43, in Huugjilt Village, Sunite Left Banner, Xilin Gol League, the Internet has helped him build a modern farm since WiFi was installed three years ago. In 2015, his farm became one of the first in the village to have a video monitoring system. By 2016, four cameras that can monitor up to four km were installed, enabling him to see almost everything on his farm. —Xinhua ■

Cosmonauts may examine hole in Soyuz spacecraft's hull during spacewalk — source

MOSCOW — During a spacewalk, Russian cosmonauts may examine from the outside the hole in the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft, which caused a pressure drop aboard the International Space Station (ISS) last week, a rocket and space industry source told TASS on Friday. “The possibility of conducting a spacewalk to examine from the outside the hole in Soyuz is now being considered. Possibly, they will be able to find the ‘plug’ that closed the hole before the August 30 emergency situation, or some other ‘evidence,’” the source said. TASS has been unable to officially confirm the information at the time of the publication.

“A spacewalk is unlikely to be carried out for the purpose, but such works are possible during routine maintenance,” the source added. At the same time, the source said that the commission investigating the incident is looking into all possible versions.



Soyuz hull damage

On August 30 a drop in air pressure was registered on the ISS. The crew examined the compartments and add-on modules one by one to identify a two-millimeter hole in the hull of the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft. In the evening of the same day it was patched up with several layers of epoxy resin. Pressure returned to normal. On August 31 the crew reinforced the patch with another layer of sealant.

The head of the Roscosmos corporation, Dmitry Rogozin, said the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft, attached to the ISS, had been damaged with a drill from the inside.

The space rocket corporation Energia is conducting an investigation to identify those responsible. Inquiries are being made into who had access to the spacecraft, what works were carried out, and who supervised them. —Tass ■



Moment of history: Naomi Osaka celebrates her victory over Madison Keys. **PHOTO: AFP**

'I love you', Osaka tells US Open final opponent Serena

NEW YORK — Naomi Osaka told US Open title opponent Serena Williams "I love you" just moments after she became the first Japanese woman to reach a Grand Slam final.

The 20-year-old breakout star of the tournament swept into the record books and Saturday's championship match against the 23-time major winner with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Madison Keys, the runner-up in 2017.

When asked on court what she told herself as she served for the match, she said: "Don't double fault".

"Why," asked the interviewer. "Serena," replied the

charismatic Osaka.

"I love you, Serena," she added before adding "I love you, mom; I love everybody".

Osaka, the 20th seed, has met and defeated Williams once — at Miami in March.

Keys had beaten Osaka three times out of three before Thursday's semi-final but the 14th seed admitted she had been completely over-powered.

"I thought I could get a break but every time she would hit an ace or a big shot," said the 23-year-old.

"It was difficult. You think she's going to let up but she didn't. She was very impressive." — AFP ■

England bid to use World Cup feel-good factor against Spain

LONDON — England start on the road to Euro 2020 against Spain with a spring in their step less than two months after a World Cup campaign that rekindled the nation's love for the team. A run to the last four in Russia before the crushing disappointment of semi-final defeat to Croatia restored pride in England and hope that even better things are to come.

Gareth Southgate took the third youngest group in the competition to Russia and the boss has stuck to his youth policy, throwing Manchester United's Luke Shaw and Liverpool's Joe Gomez into the mix.

At 28, Fabian Delph is the oldest member of Southgate's squad for Saturday's UEFA Nations League opener at home to Spain and a friendly with Switzerland on Tuesday, with veterans Gary Cahill, Jamie Vardy and Ashley Young dropping out from the 23 that went to the World Cup.

As well as giving the World Cup squad members a taste for further success, England's run in Russia inspired Gomez, 21, and Shaw, 23.

"The World Cup is the biggest stage for any footballer," said Shaw. "It was wonderful to see how well we did as a team

and how far we got was brilliant. But also it was quite gutting not to be there."

Gomez was firmly in Southgate's plans for Russia after starring in friendlies against Brazil and Germany but an ankle injury ended his season early and ruined his World Cup dream.

"I think the squad doing what they did in the summer gives the opportunity to try to build on that," said the Liverpool defender. "To do so, we've got to carry on that level of performance, reaching semi-finals and finals."

Build momentum

Southgate rightly earned

rave reviews for the meticulous preparation that allowed England to surpass expectations by making the semi-finals of a World Cup for the first time in 28 years.

However, he now has to guard against an emotional hangover from the highs and lows of five weeks in Russia to build on that momentum. The inaugural Nations League campaign helps Southgate's task, with competitive games against top-tier opposition a better measure than traditional friendlies of how confident England can be of winning Euro 2020 on home soil with the semi-finals and final of that competition to be played at Wembley. — AFP ■



Harry Kane takes part in a training session ahead of England's match against Spain. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar lethwei tournament to be held in Tokyo

"LETHWEI in Japan 9 KODO", Myanmar lethwei tournament in Tokyo, hosted by International Lethwei Federation Japan, will be held on 13 September at Korakuen Hall, Bunkyo-ku in Tokyo, Japan.

The event features six fights, five men pairs and one women pair, at present. Weight classes are from 61kg to 73kg, in which two Japanese lethwei fighters Makoto and Tereka will compete in 61.5kg weight class, while Tauk Shar (Myanmar) will fight against Shumichi Shimizu in 62kg weight class.

Myanmar lethwei fighter Tun Lwin Moe will compete against Japanese player Ikkyu Sojun in 64kg weight class, Shan Ko (Myanmar) will fight



PHOTO: MYANMAR LETHWEI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

against Will "The Kill" Chope (USA) in 72kg weight class, while Saw Min Aung (Myanmar) will fight against Japanese fighter Kouhei Tokeshi in 73kg weight class.

The women pair will be

between Ve Ro Ni Ka (Myanmar) and Marina Kumagai (Japan) in 61kg weight class.

The Thursday event will be open at 17:30 local time and the fights will begin at 18:30.

— K. Banana ■

Woods and McIlroy share lead at BMW Championship

NEWTOWN SQUARE (United States) — Tiger Woods fired his lowest opening round in nearly 20 years to join Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy at the top of the leaderboard at the BMW Championship on Thursday.

The 14-time major winner Woods and McIlroy have a one-stroke lead after both shot eight-under 62 which marked the American's best PGA first round since the 1999 Byron Nelson Classic.

Woods managed an eagle and seven birdies and his only hiccup being a late bogey on his back nine at the Aronimink Golf Course in Philadelphia.

Woods was joined in the lead by McIlroy who highlight-

ed his round of 10 birdies with a career-best six in succession, beginning with the last hole of his front nine.

McIlroy though let slip any thoughts of a 59 when he bogeyed his 16th and 17th holes of the round.

This is the first time Woods has shared a PGA Tour lead after any round since capturing the 2013 WGC-Cadillac Championship. Woods and McIlroy had played a nine-hole practice round together on Tuesday.

"I made a few putts today and also from right out of the gate with birdies at 10 and 12 and 13 so that was a nice way to get things rolling," said Woods, who started on the back nine. — AFP ■