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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 148, 2nd Waxing of Tawthalin 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 11 September 2018



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets ASEAN Ambassadors and their spouses at the luncheon to commemorate the 51st Anniversary of ASEAN Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor hosts luncheon to commemorate founding of ASEAN

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, hosted ASEAN informal luncheon in commemoration of the 51st Anniversary of the founding of ASEAN on 10 September at M Gallery Hotel in

Nay Pyi Taw.

Present together with the State Counsellor at the luncheon were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and spouse, and ASEAN Ambassadors and their spouses.

At the ASEAN informal luncheon, they cordially ex-

changed views on matters pertaining to the ASEAN activities and related issues.

Prior to the luncheon, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin held a joint meeting with ASEAN Ambassadors at 10 am at M Gallery in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, the

Union Minister updated the Ambassadors on recent developments in Myanmar and they exchanged views on issues of common interests and matters related to the promotion of relations and cooperation under the contexts of both bilateral and ASEAN framework. — MNA ■

Vice President U Myint Swe to attend 15th CAEXPO, sideline business event in China

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe left Yangon by air yesterday evening to attend the 15th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and 15th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, the sideline business event of the 15th CAEXPO to be held in Nanning, People's Republic of China, from 12 to 15 September.

The delegation led by Vice President U Myint Swe, was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, regional ministers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and officials.

Vice President U Myint Swe was accompanied by Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint and officials.

The delegation, led by the Vice President, reached Kunming, People's Republic of China at 7:50 pm local standard time and were welcomed at Kunming International Airport by Kunming-based Myanmar Consul-General U Soe Paing and officials from Yunnan Province foreign affairs office.

The Vice President and party then went to Empark Grand Hotel, Kunming, where they will rest for the night. — MNA ■

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Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 19th-day meeting

By Min Min Zaw, Hmwe Kyu Zin (MNA)

THE 19th-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting, reports on two bills were read and submitted, a motion and amendment motions on a bill tabled and decision of the Hluttaw made after it was discussed by the Hluttaw, a motion on another bill tabled and decision of the Hluttaw made, Union level officials responded to discussions by Hluttaw representatives about the Joint Public Accounts Committee Report (7/2018) on the Office of the Union Auditor General audit report for fiscal year 2016-2017 and the decision of the Hluttaw on the report was made.

Reports read on Myanmar travel bill and Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill

First, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee members U Zaw Win and U Thein Lwin read and submitted the committee reports on its findings and comments on Myanmar travel bill and Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the two bills to enroll their names.

Motion, amendment motions and decision on bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun tabled a motion to approve by paragraph the bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law and the Hluttaw approved it.

Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency then tabled amendment motion on clause 10 and clause 10(a) of the bill and Hluttaw announced the motion



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



Dr. Myo Thein Gyi,



U Khin Maung Cho.

approved as amended again by the Joint Bill Committee.

Afterwards, clause 30(a) sub-clause (c) of the bill was discussed by U Tin Htway of Waw constituency and Dr. Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency. Responding to the discussion, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said it should be as remarked by the President and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee and committee member U Nay Myo Tun tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to approve it as amended again by the Joint Bill Committee, as remarked by the President.

After Hluttaw voted for 519,

against 37 and abstain 3 on the motion, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the amendment by the Joint Bill Committee as remarked by the President on clause 30(a) sub-clause (c) to be part of the bill.

Following this, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to approve clause 33 sub-clause (a) in para 27 as amended by Joint Bill Committee according to the remark by the President, and Hluttaw announced its approval.

Finally, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the bill amending

the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law sent by the President with remarks as amended by Hluttaw and informed the Hluttaw of returning it to the President, according to Hluttaw rules.

Paragraph-wise approval of draft bill amending the Public Debt Management Law

Afterwards, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung tabled a motion to approve by paragraph the draft bill amending the Public Debt Management Law and the Hluttaw approved it.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win then tabled a motion to approve the entire draft bill amending the Public Debt Management Law as decided by the Hluttaw and Hluttaw approved it and an announcement was made accordingly.

Union level officials respond to discussion on Joint Public Accounts Committee Report No. (7/2018)

Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Lin, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung

Myint Tun, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Soe Min, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and Union Auditor General U Maw Than responded and explained the Hluttaw representatives' discussions on Joint Public Accounts Committee Report (7/2018) on the Office of the Union Auditor General audit report for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Khin Maung Win said collecting of revenues and management of expenses were conducted according to regulations, and financial regulations are strictly adhered to. As financial year was changed, reviews will be conducted on payment beyond fiscal year, said the Deputy Minister. Relevant ministerial departments and organisations are informed to transparently explain to the people on foreign exchange balances in hand. The Deputy Minister also responded and explained about collecting outstanding tax for fiscal year 2016-2017, allocation of fund between the Union, states and regions and Other Account (OA Account) of State-owned economic enterprises.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin explained about BOT (build, operate transfer), home loan, laws, rules, procedures for Third Party Inspection Program.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat then remarked on Hluttaw representatives to raise question on the response and discussion and motions to be tabled according to Hluttaw law and rules.

In the end, Joint Public Accounts Committee member U Khin Maung Than tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to agree and accept the Joint Public Accounts Committee Report (7/2018) on the Office of the Union Auditor General audit report for fiscal year 2016-2017, and Hluttaw announced its agreement. ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A COORDINATED patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border mile posts 45 to 46 from 10:55am to 11:45am on 9 September, according to the In-

formation Department of the Myanmar Police Force.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Police Captain Tun Tun Soe from No.1 Border Police sub-division (Aungzu), Area

2, Maungta Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by officer Naib Subedar Md. Atiar Rahaman of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh. — Myanmar Police Force ■



PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE



in
Picture

Vice President U Myint Swe being seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Hong Liang and officials at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE 1)**

UEC, IFES cosponsor workshop on appraising electoral data

AN opening ceremony for a workshop on appraising and administering electoral data, cosponsored by the Union Election Commission (UEC) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), was held in the training hall of the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein attended the opening ceremony along with other UEC members and officials, election officials from state and region election sub-commissions, and IFES officials.

The UEC Chairman spoke at the opening ceremony saying that the main objective of the UEC is to ensure the election process is properly carried out. He added that the success of an election process is not solely credited to the UEC but also to the sub-commissions whose members from all levels of management carried out their duties.

The UEC Chairman said future necessary management operations will need to be based on the previous election's facts. He said an election process requires preplanning the budget, compiling the electoral roll, examining and verifying the number of ballots, the number of

voting booths, and tallying the votes, among other procedures.

The 2020 general elections will be conducted based on facts from the 2015 general elections, said the UEC Chairman. He said this will ensure the 2020 elections have a smoother performance. He said the numbers and figures need a clearer presentation to have a more effective reviewing process.

The UEC Chairman said the workshop will teach members of the UEC and sub-commissions how to organize, format and appraise the electoral data. He said the UEC and sub-commissions need to ensure the electoral data is au-

thentic and formatted properly.

The UEC compiles all the data from sub-commissions and processes it, which is why it is important for sub-commissions to make sure the data they have sent is free of errors, said the UEC Chairman.

He concluded by saying the sub-election commissions, who are the backbone for the success of the election process, need to give their all in the workshop so that they may acquire the skills necessary for preplanning in the election process and for implementing its progress.

The workshop began soon after and will be held for two days. — MNA ■



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the speech at the opening ceremony for a workshop on appraising and administering electoral data. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of service organizations transferred and confirmed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred U Tun Tun Naing, Director General of Foreign Economic Relations Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance as Director General of Office of the Union Minister from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the expiry of one-year probationary period.—MNA ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets participants of International Army Games 2018



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets Tatmadaw officers participating in International Army Games 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OFFICE**

YESTERDAY afternoon at Bayint Naung Guesthouse, Nay Pyi Taw, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Tatmadaw officers and troops who participated in International Army Games 2018.

Present at the event were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw, high ranking officers from Commander-in-Chief Office, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, International Army Games-2018 participants Myanmar Tatmadaw tank force, Myanmar Tatmadaw medical team, Myanmar Tatmadaw sniper team, Myanmar Tatmadaw military band and Myanmar Tatmadaw band troupe.

In his address, the Tat-

madaw Commander-in-Chief said Tatmadaw personnel were sent to compete in international military competition to gain experience, and in order to participate competitively, requirements were fulfilled as much as possible and trainings were conducted in advance. Through taking part in military competition, full trainings will be conducted and fighting capabilities increased. This is the first time our Tatmadaw participated in a military competition and there'll be some difficulties, but our Tatmadaw is recognized and honored for competing on par with other militaries. All are urged to achieve better successes in future competitions, said the Senior General.

Next, participants who participated in International Army Games 2018 explained about their experiences in the competition.

The event attendees were then treated with tea, according to news issued from the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office. — MNA ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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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.

Nyalas, wildebeests displayed at Yangon Zoo

Four wildebeests seen at the Yangon Zoological Gardens. **PHOTO: TUN WIN**

THREE nyalas and four wildebeests, also called gnus, that arrived from Africa will be displayed at the Yangon Zoological Gardens, according to the Yangon zoo.

The nyalas and wildebeests were sent to Yangon zoo from the Nay Pyi Taw safari park, adding to the range of animals on display at the Yangon zoo.

"Wildebeests have been displayed at Yangon zoo previously. But, nyalas have never

been seen before at the zool. We have planned to display these two new species at the Yangon zoo for the sake of knowledge," said U Tun Win Aung, Yangon zoo administrator.

The population of the two species has increased from the original 12 nyalas and 12 wildebeests at Nay Pyi Taw safari park that arrived from Africa in 2011, according to U Than Soe Aye, deputy general manager from Htoo Zoo & Garden.

Additionally, we have put them near Chaw Su, the dromedary camel's compound, so that the public can see them. We will also provide them 24 hours healthcare, and provide natural environment for them, according to Yangon zoo administrator.

The Yangon zoo is home to 1,124 animals of 132 species. It hosts over 100,000 visitors monthly, especially during the weekends and public holidays. —Thi Thi Min ■

Eleven Myanmar fishermen brought back from India

A TOTAL of 11 Myanmar fishermen, who were detained at the Open Distress Camps in India for trespassing into the territorial waters of India, have been brought back home, through diplomatic channel, on 9 September.

The fishermen arrived back from Port Blair to Yangon International Airport on Sunday evening by a chartered flight after they were verified as Myanmar citizens.

The fishermen were welcomed and provided with aid by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Ministry of Home Affairs and arrangements were made to send them back to their homes.

According to a record of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar fishermen were brought back to Myanmar by airlines or ships starting from 1988. 272 were brought back to Myanmar from Port Blair by chartered flights in 2016, 133 in 2017 and 44 from January to September 2018. — MNA ■

Border trade valued at \$3.41 billion

THE value of border trade from 1 April to 31 August, during the six month interim period prior to the next 2018-2019 financial year, increased by US\$493 million, compared to the same period last year.

Border trade from 1 April to 31 August hit \$3.41 billion, which included \$2.24 billion in exports and \$ 1.16 billion in imports, according to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar trades with neighboring countries China,

India, Bangladesh and Thailand. Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung gates, while Myanmar is conducting border trade with India through Tamu and Reed. The country's border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau, and with Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, HteeKhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

Out of sixteen border

trade camps, the Muse camp has the largest border trade volume, with a trade value of \$2.44 billion. That was an increase from US\$1.98 billion in the similar period of last year.

The value of border trading, as of 31 August 2018, was \$2.44 billion in Muse, \$77 million in Lwejel, \$132 million in Chinshwehaw, \$81 million in Kanpikete, \$1.05 million in Kengtung, \$36.3 million in Tachilek, \$334 million in Myawady, \$53 million in Kawthaung, \$108 million in Myeik,

\$3.24 6 million in HteeKhee, \$4.27 million in Mawtaung, \$0.40 million in Maese, \$53.82 million in Sittway, \$4.25 million in Maungtau, \$56.9 million in Tamu and \$14.33 million in Reed. Myanmar primarily exports agricultural products, animal products, forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products, while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country. — GNLM ■

Yangon-Mandalay highway accidents claim six in August

THERE were a total of 38 traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in August, resulting in six deaths and 44 injuries, according to the highway traffic police in Nay Pyi Taw.

The highway saw a total of 297 road accidents in which 60 people were killed and 571

were injured between January and August. According to highway traffic police, the monthly average is 37 accidents, seven fatalities and 71 injuries.

According to an official report for 2018, there were nine deaths and 83 injuries from 41 cases in January, 11 deaths

and 76 injuries from 36 cases in February, four deaths and 62 injuries from 33 cases in March, 12 deaths and 137 injuries from 44 cases in April, eight deaths and 77 injuries from 37 cases in May, six deaths and 55 injuries from 40 cases in June, and four deaths and 37 injuries

from 28 cases in July. To reduce road accidents, the traffic police are taking legal action against drivers who overspeed on the highway and fail to wear a seat belt. The main cause of road accidents are high speed, unsafe vehicles and negligent driving. — Zwe ■

Gold hits new record, market cool

By May Thet Hnin

WITH the US dollar gaining in the local foreign exchange market, gold price also reached a new record of Ks988,200 per tical (16.4 gm) yesterday.

Starting from the second week of August, the exchange rate of a dollar was around Ks1,500. It went above Ks1,557 per dollar in the evening of 10 September.

At present, global gold price is US\$1,194 per ounce, which is lower than last month's price. However, Myanmar's gold price has not been affected by the fall in global gold price. Instead, it turned to the high side again.

This price is an all-time record high. With the gold price soaring in domestic market, the market is keeping cool.

"Domestic gold price is increasing, possibly related to dollar appreciating against local currency. Therefore, sellers are



Gold jewellery on display at a shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

also observing the market, hoping for an increase in gold price. Buyers rarely purchase them",

said U Ohn Myaing, secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

Gold market is still not adversely affected from the dollar exchange rate appreciation and

cool trading, said gold entrepreneurs.

"The market is remaining cool. Some purchase gold in the morning and sell them back in the evening. Those making orders at the goldsmith are rarely seen", said U Tin Tun, chair of Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

An escalating trade war between the US and China resulted in dollar appreciation in international currency markets, including Myanmar. Minimum gold price was above Ks930,000 per tical this year, and it has been gradually increasing since August, reaching the all-time high price this month.

At present, imported goods, including pharmaceuticals increased by 5 to 10 per cent minimum owing to the soaring dollar exchange rate. Most of the traders are struggling from competitive exchange rate in floating system. ■

Over 19,000 Myanmar workers sent legally to Thailand last month

IN August, 19,721 Myanmar workers went to Thailand, followed by Malaysia and Japan, according to figures released by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Some were sent to the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan and Qatar.

A total of 24,157 Myanmar workers legally took overseas jobs in eight countries last month.

At the same time, 24,190 local job-seekers took up domestic jobs in respective states and regions. Yangon hired

16,535 employees, followed by Bago Region with 2,802 and Mandalay Region with 1,174. Meanwhile, 869 workers were recruited in Sagaing Region, while Ayeyawady Region received 645 employees. The remaining regions and states saw an influx of less than 500 new employees.

The ministry is making concerted efforts to create more employment opportunities for both domestic and overseas job hunters through the electronic labour exchange management system. — GNLM ■

World Bank releases Myanmar Future Jobs main report

By May Thet Hnin

WORLD BANK is estimating job opportunities in Myanmar by releasing the Myanmar Future Jobs main report on 8 September.

The report is categorized into a macroeconomic context for more and better jobs, Myanmar's labour force, jobs in agriculture, micro enterprises, private sector jobs and migration as a jobs strategy.

The report described that jobs are a priority policy for Myanmar. Myanmar has experienced rapid economic growth and structural transformation in recent years, accompanied by an expansion of jobs in the private domestic sector.

Economic growth and private sector development are necessary, but it is still not sufficient to meet the job demands in Myanmar. The report presented that over one-third of workers own a family farm and 16 per cent are also agricultural labourers. One in four people own non-farm related household business-

es. Among wage earners who do not work in agriculture industry, half are engaged in small firms while the others are working in large, domestic or foreign private firms or in government jobs.

The nature of jobs in each sector, except the public sector, is described in the report, mentioning the challenges to improving those sectors and policy suggestions to develop sector-specific job strategies.

This report identifies priority areas that could have the greatest impact on each sector in promoting a framework for job policy reform under the government's Myanmar Sustainable Development Program (MSDP).

According to this report, 24.1 million are working in various sectors, with 8.5 million in agriculture, 6.2 million in household enterprises, 3.9 million as hired laborers in agriculture industry, 1.7 million as private firm employees and 2.8 million working abroad as migrant workers.

In a bid to generate more and better jobs, there are three key macroeconomic

challenges. First, Myanmar's lack of resilient agricultural infrastructure and narrow production base can have serious long-term consequences on the quality and stability of employment. Second, the country is experiencing difficulties to control competitive exchange rate, which is critical to the employment generating potential of tradable sectors.

Third, small-and medium-sized enterprises have limited financial access, making more difficulty to create more jobs.

Myanmar still has severe competitiveness constraints that hamper investment, job creation and growth. Poor policy implementation and weak institutions can lead to low competitiveness, which can be seen through macroeconomic instability, poor public service delivery and high cost of doing business.

Myanmar attracts foreign investors with low-cost labor. The country's productivity enhancing reforms will be critical for increasing its competitiveness and driving job creation. ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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National League for Democracy presents its policy, stance and work program



Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Vice Chairman 2 of National League for Democracy (NLD).

VICE CHAIRMAN 2 Dr Zaw Myint Maung of the National League for Democracy (NLD) presented the party's policy, stance and work program on radio and TV on 10 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

On behalf of the National League for Democracy, that has overcome the challenges and difficulties of the country together with the citizens, I, Dr Zaw Myint Maung, the Vice Chairman 2 of the party, greet all ethnic peoples with pleasantness, while placing in heart the gratitude it owes to the people.

The message sent by NLD Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the 2015 Election Manifesto states: "The NLD, which emerged from the 1988 democratic struggle, has strived for over 30 years to represent people from all parts of society." In fact, it is a common knowledge.

The NLD can take the leading role in the legislative and administrative sectors, thanks to the public support it enjoyed in the 2012 by-election, the 2015 general election and the 2017 by-election. In this regard, NLD expresses thanks to the entire people for the support and the party is on the way towards realizing promises it has given since 2015. The NLD that started its campaign in accordance with the slogan "Time for Change" is still in the mission of launching this campaign under the guidance "Together with the People" and "The Collective Force" which has full essence.

Esteemed voters and nationals,

Once again, I would present the Four Objectives of the Election Manifesto, in which the NLD has promised all the brethren of the Union as follows:

1. Ethnic affairs and internal peace;
2. A constitution that ensures that all the people of our country can live together in tranquility and security;
3. A system of government that

will fairly and justly defend the people;

4. The freedom and security to prosper.

In accordance with the first objective, we have already adopted six action programs that enable the entire ethnic peoples to work in harmony and unison for peace, progress and perpetuation of the whole Union.

1. Work towards a peaceful, prosperous and durable Union, through solidarity with all ethnic groups.
2. Hold political dialogue, based on the Panglong spirit, in order to address the roots of internal armed conflicts and enable people to live in security and tranquility.
3. Strive for the establishment of a genuine federal democratic union based on the principles of freedom, equal rights and self-determination.
4. Lay down transparent projects for the balanced development of all states and regions.
5. Work to ensure a fair distribution across the country of the profits from natural resource extraction, in accordance with the principles of a federal union.
6. Resolve problems between ethnic groups through dialogue based on mutual respect.

The government led by the NLD could carry out the actions till the third session of the Union Peace Conference: 21st Century Panglong. The second session reached 37 Union level agreements and the third session approved 14 more Union level agreements. With due respect, I call for continued support for the NLD to carry on its task of maintaining and further promoting the success it has achieved so far. The establishment of a future Union based on democracy and federalism has already been approved. I make this request to assign our representatives again as the journey is long and there remain a lot of challenges along the road to the destination.

NLD wishes to further cement the foundation of the future Union.

We are constantly striving to dutifully shoulder the duties, while forming party discipline enforcement bodies at all levels, laying down the procedures, rules and structural principles, political ideologies and action programs to stand as an able party to do this job.

The NLD government has formed Anti-Corruption Commission on 23 November 2017 for the entire people to have freedom and liberty and for the administrative system to justly protect the people. It has already submitted the six work programs to set up a judicial pillar that is fair and impartial. Currently, the Legal Aid Law was enacted and the formation of the Legal Aid Board is underway. So we are in the process of upgrading the judicial system and protecting the people in a correct way.

We are working towards a financial system for the emergence of a transparent management system that is in accord with the procedures for using the public funds under long-term view for the national economy, for the reduction of centralized system, and for fulfilling the requirements of public capital including entrepreneurs, SMEs and farmers.

I would present a report on the undertakings in the interest of the people and for development of the government during its two and a half years in office.

In the investment sector, the government implemented 413 investment undertakings worth US\$13.2 billion during the period. It also implemented 236 local investment undertakings worth Ks6,400 billion. In the health sector, the government extended 11 station hospitals, 18 rural dispensaries and 16 traditional medicine hospitals. It has already distributed 20,000 standard tablets containing health facts for public healthcare. It will also send 735 doctors to station hospitals and another 330 to township hospitals.

The power consumption is increasing by 14% annually and is estimated to reach 4,531 megawatts in 2020. The government was able to generate 556 megawatts more during the two and half years. Work is underway to install 143.7 miles of new 500kv cables and to adopt plans for erecting transformers and various kinds of power stations to fulfill the electricity demand. In the whole country, 3,843 villages have been electrified, indicating a 6.3 percent progress. In other words, 52.7 percent of all the villages now have electricity.

The government has built 4,842 apartments for its employees in the respective states and regions. Addi-



Party logo.

tionally, it has distributed 9,364 units for low-income families. Priority has been given to retired personnel who worked for the nation throughout their service to enjoy a tranquil life in building staff housings. Now the government provides Ks300,000 for anyone who dies of natural disaster, up from Ks100,000 in the past, and Ks50,000 for anyone who is injured, up from Ks10,000 to Ks30,000 in the past. It has also increased the amount of financial aid provided for property damage, depending on the degree of destruction. It now provides 22 kinds of relief equipment and rice for every victim.

As regards the rural development work, the government has electrified 4,074 villages with home-use solar system and 26 villages with small-scale generators totaling 4,100 villages with 230,000 homes. Rural water supply can be installed at 5,886 villages and benefiting 3.327 million people.

A total of 1,497 tube-wells have been sunk to irrigate 7,485 acres. Another 390 tube-wells were dug for supplying drinking water for 78,000 persons. Thirteen new river-pumping water projects are irrigating 7,450 acres of crops. The government planned to build 221 miles of rural production roads in fiscal year 2018-2019. A total of 1,811 rural vocational courses were conducted and 47,200 completed them. A total of 374,814 farmers have completed the 5,818 courses for development of good agricultural practices (GAP). In the road transport sector, the government has built 1,300 miles of nylon tar roads, 480 miles of tar roads, 325 miles of concrete roads and is building 31 180-foot long bridges.

We believe that the people will notice our efforts to fairly settle the farmland problems and to allow land use rights.

Education is a life-long process. In its 2015 Election Manifesto, NLD promised life-long education opportunities and beneficial knowledge for all. In accord with the promise, the NLD government has significantly increased health and education budgets. The government projected its 2018-2019 year budget for education sector at Ks2,176 billion, up from Ks1,533 billion in fiscal year 2015-2016. It also projected its 2018-2019 year budget for health

sector at Ks1,151 billion, up from 778 billion in fiscal year 2015-2016. The budget increase has significantly pushed up the rural school attendance rate, exceeding the 91 percent mark projected by the UN. The government has opened 1,544 new schools. The middle school attendance rate is 71.4 percent and the national literacy rate has increased to 97.5 percent. Up to 96.4 percent of the teachers have already completed their skill enhancement courses. The former Myanmarsar Board is transformed into Myanmar Ethnic Language Department and the centralized system was erased. Ethnic languages are being taught under the management and norms of the respective states and regions. The National Education Law has released the restrictions of the higher education sector, and student involvement is permitted in the university-wise advisory groups.

We will launch drug awareness campaigns in cooperation with civil organizations. We have already amended the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law as per our declaration to carry out treatment and rehabilitation undertakings more effectively. The law is amended to meet international standard. We can resettle the future life of the drug-addict youths.

Esteemed voters and nationals,

We of the NLD are working towards leading the entire Union to be able to steer the government and the emergence of a government that accepts public steering. We are constantly studying the global trend, the national needs, hopes and wishes of the people, in continuously upgrading the qualifications of the party officials. I would acknowledge to the people that the government has already drawn the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan. Our reform program has met with a lot of challenges. The NLD, conceived at the very start of the policies that prioritizes the real life situation and needs of the people and the democracy movement, will accept the decision and the assignment of the people to fully serve the duty of the nation so as to stand as a strong government that values mutual respect. Thank you.

Translated by UTM

Inle Lake named fifth Ramsar Site



Inle Lake has been designated as Ramsar Site on 7 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

INLE Lake has been designated as Myanmar's Ramsar Site (Site No. 2356), by Ramsar Convention, and included on the list of Wetlands of International Importance because of their ecological, botanical, zoological and hydrological importance.

The Ramsar Convention announced the designation on its website on 7 September.

According to the Ramsar Convention, sites designated as Ramsar sites are added to the Convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance and become known as Ramsar sites.

In designating a wetland as a Ramsar site, countries agree to establish and oversee a management framework aimed at conserving the wetland and ensuring its wise use.

The Ramsar Convention encourages the designation of sites containing representative, rare or unique wetlands, or wetlands that are important for conserving biological diversity.

Inle Lake is the second largest lake in Myanmar and located

in the Nyaungshwe Township of Taunggyi District of Shan State, part of Shan Hills with an estimated surface area of 44.9 square miles, and one of the highest at an elevation of 2,900 feet (800m).

Its unique geology has created ideal conditions for a wealth of plants and animals, including many which are endemic to the site.

Elephant grass, known locally as kaing, is important in maintaining the structure of floating islands for agriculture. The endemic Inle carp (*Cyprinus intha*), locally called nga-phein, is culturally symbolic and important for household as well as commercial consumption. Other fish species such as Sawbwa resplendens, *Danio erythromicron* and *Microrasbora rubescens* are only found in the lake and so are globally endangered; nonetheless, they are commercially exploited for the aquarium trade.

Local inhabitants have adopted unique lifestyles and livelihoods that reflect their biophysical environment: most of

them practice traditional methods of fishing and hydroponic cultivation of floating gardens.

Inle Lake was established as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1985 to protect and conserve the rich biodiversity of the wetland ecosystem. As a critical staging ground for migratory birds on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the site was listed as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) in 2004. It became an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003 and was designated as Myanmar's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2015.

Inle Lake becomes the fifth Ramsar site, following the Moe-yungyi Wetland in Bago, Intawgyi Lake in Kachin State, Meinmahla Kyun in Ayeyawady Region and Mottama Gulf in Mon State.

A Ramsar Site is a wetland site designated of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Located on the Shan Plateau of eastern Myanmar, Inle is the second-largest inland lake in the country.— MNA ■

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

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 14/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 8 September.

The ministry made the

arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 8 September. The full text of the press release will be reported in the 12 September issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM ■

Pyithu Hluttaw committee receives Power China Co. delegation



Chairman U Kyi Moe Naing meets with Power China Kunming Engineering Corporation (KHIDI) delegation in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

U KYI MOE NAING, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Electricity and Energy Development Committee, received a delegation from Power China Kunming Engineering Corporation (KHIDI) Co. Ltd. in meeting hall I-8 of the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the

status report and experiences of the hydroelectric projects conducted with the investment of KHIDI Co. Ltd. were explained, along with discussions of the feasibility of signing MoUs to invest in additional hydroelectric projects in Myanmar and continued projects. — MNA ■

Tatmadaw medical teams provide treatment in Naga Self-administered Zone

THERE was an outbreak of illnesses in Wanyote village, Donhee (Sub) Township in Naga Self-administered Zone, Sagaing Region, on 19 August. Upon learning of it, a team consisting of specialists from Tatmadaw hospital under the Northwest Command arrived at Wanyote village on 29 August.

Together with doctors from Donhe station hospital,

necessary inspection, medical treatment, medical care and informative talks were conducted starting from 30 August.

As of 8 September, 97 persons from Lanpan village, Nanyun Township and 40 persons from Larma village were provided with health care services, according to news from the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office. — MNA ■

Landslide hampers rescue of trapped miners

FOUR people were killed and one other injured in a coal mine explosion near Kyaukmyaung Village, Saw Township in Magway Region on 6 September. Four miners were still trapped in the coal mine.

A group of rescue workers led by the Director of the Department of Mining U Ko Ko Hlaing attempted to rescue the trapped four miners using modern equipment.

The rescue efforts stalled

after the rescue workers entered about 600 ft. into the coal mine and found a scarcity of oxygen and a massive volume of methane gas that can be harmful to human life.

They also found a big rock which is too heavy to be moved and experienced landslides in the coal mine. So the rescue workers decided to suspend rescue attempts.

The coal mine is being operated by the Tun Yar Mining

Company. The manager of the mining company is being questioned by the local police.

The four trapped miners are identified as Ko Nyi Nyi, 32, from Konzaung Village, Pyintbyu Township, Ko Kyaw Min Tun, 30, Ohnpin Village, Pinlebu Township, Ko Tun Maung, 30, Laytha Village, Wuntho Township and Ko Aung Aung, 30, Padan Village in Ngaphe Township.— IPRD/MDN ■

Towards successful implementation of legal objectives

THE new Yangon City Development Law (YCDL), promulgated during the month of June, will come into effect on 1 October. There are only a few weeks left in between before this law is adopted, and measures are being taken to make it known, as widespread as possible, and to enforce it by educating the Yangonites.

It is of great importance to publicize and disseminate a new law, once it has been enacted, and to make the people understand what the law says and how it should be practiced among them. If people do not understand or abide by a law, its main purpose would have been to no avail. One should also remember that even if people are not aware of a prescribed law, it doesn't excuse them, if violated. No one can plead ignorance as a defense to escape the consequences of breaching the law. In other words, ignorance of a law will excuse no

“

Laws are by nature a system of rules, disciplines, orders or instructions, which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members. Laws also enforce the imposition of penalties, if they are violated.

one. Thus efforts should be made to understand the nature of a law and to abide by it.

Laws are by nature a system of rules, disciplines, orders or instructions, which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members. Laws also enforce the imposition of penalties, if they are violated. Those who don't obey a prescribed law shall be punished, and by not complying with it would lead to punishment as prescribed in the law.

The Yangon City Development Law should be taken seriously, as it contains restrictions, fines and prison time, depending on the infringes committed. Fines range from Ks.10,000 to Ks.5 million, and minimum jail time from three months to maximum one year. There might

be both fines and prison sentences, depending on the seriousness of the offence.

The new law will impose fines ranging from Ks.30,000 to Ks.50,000 for spitting chewed betel quid, littering, throwing garbage on the roads, spitting in public and for pet animals dirtying the streets with their pooh. Those who recklessly dispose of their trash will be imposed fines from Ks.50,000 to Ks.300,000. What was once a bad habit will now be considered as breaking the law.

This would be a good reason for every citizen to start reviewing their minds and behavior, and begin discarding their bad habits, once and for all. After all, the purpose of YCDL is to foster sustainable development of the city, bring about a higher standard of living, create clean and pleasant environs to help achieve a reasonable and an improved quality of life.

From concept to implementation Health Clinic Model

Dr. Than Lwin Tun, Dr. Phyu Phyu Aye, Dr. Nang Naing Naing Shein, Dr. Nyein Aye

THE Union Minister for Health and Sports highlighted the concept of community health clinic (CHC) model for strengthening community health services to meet the changing health needs and to utilize limited resources efficiently. Over the last decade, the health needs of the population had altered considerably because of changes in dietary intake pattern and disease patterns, increased life expectancy and increased aging population. According to STEPS survey, which had investigated the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in 25- to 64-year old population in Myanmar (2014), 26.4% had hypertension, 10.5% had diabetes mellitus and 22.4% had been categorized as overweight. Another national survey on the causes of death using verbal autopsy in Myanmar (2016-2017) showed that 74% of total deaths were due to NCDs. These data indicate the growing need to provide health care in local community setting.

A meeting titled, "From concept to implementation of CHC Model" was held at the meeting hall of Mingalar Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, on 31 August. The Union Minister for Health and Sports, the Deputy Minister, directors general, deputy directors general, state and regional health directors and deputy directors attended the meeting. The Union Minister gave instructions for effective implementation of CHC model and the attendees actively discussed regarding this issue.

The operational definition of the CHC is the action oriented public health care activity



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers an opening speech at the meeting "From concept to implementation of CHC Model" at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

providing health care services focusing on health literacy promotion, screening for hypertension and diabetes mellitus, and treatment of uncomplicated NCD cases and elderly health care on every Wednesday at rural health centers (RHC) and urban health centers (UHC).

The goal of the CHC is to ensure improved accessibility to effective and efficient health care in community, which contributes to reduction of NCDs morbidity and mortality. The three main objectives of CHC model are: 1) to promote health literacy through motivation and

supporting community members; 2) to provide screening, proper treatment and appropriate referral of people with NCDs, such as hypertension and diabetes mellitus through provision of essential medicines; 3) to serve the health needs of the vulnerable and under-privileged people, including the aging population. The CHC model is set up with six principles: quality, partnership, equity, effectiveness, efficiency and community involvement. From the aspect of community involvement, the CHC will be supported by community support group (village health com-



Measuring blood pressure at a Community Health Clinic



Health literacy promotion at a Community Health Clinic

Implementation of Community Health Clinic (CHC) Model in Myanmar

Tun, Dr. Le Thandar Soe, Dr. Zar Ni Lwin (Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar)



From concept to implementation of Community Health Clinic (CHC) Model" on 31 August at Mingalar Thiri Hotel,

mittee), including local NGOs and voluntary health workers. The RHC and UHC are the main structural focus involved in providing and facilitating CHC. The activities of CHC includes: 1) measuring body mass index (BMI-kg/m²); 2) measuring blood pressure; 3) measuring blood sugar level; 4) treatment of uncomplicated cases of hypertension and diabetes mellitus; 5) referral to higher centers according to Package of Essential NCD interventions (PEN) guideline; and 6) promoting health literacy according to Health Literacy Promotion

guideline. The accomplishment of the Union Minister's concept to implementation of CHC will improve the health status of rural population by promoting health literacy, including raising awareness of NCDs. Early detection and treatment of NCD cases and timely referral will reduce complications of NCDs and its related deaths. Moreover, effective primary and preventive health care for elderly people can prolong their life with better quality of life. In addition, the Department of Public Health plays the role

of coordination and support for the implementation of CHC in every state and region, together with the contributions of community-based organizations, civil society organizations, international non-governmental organizations, donor agencies and the private sector. The CHC is expected to support achieving Universal Health Coverage by accessing good quality health services without financial hardship and improving quality of life, which is also in line with the National Health Plan of Myanmar (NHP, 2017-2021).



Community Health Clinic



Offering health check-up to the elderly at a Community Health Clinic



Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons



Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

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

2018 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives

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



Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 10-9-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (2½) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (1) foot from the present water level during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (3) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may fall about (1½) feet from the present water level during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and low lying areas in Madauk and Hpa-an Township, to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 10th September 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 11th September 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of decrease of rain in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions and Rakhine State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

School textbook tender accepting and assessment committee holds coord meeting



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the coordination meeting of school textbook tender accepting and assessment committee yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY MINISTER for Information U Aung Hla Tun attended and addressed the coordination meeting of school textbook tender accepting and assessment committee for academic year 2019-2020, held in Ministry of Information meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

School textbook tender accepting and assessment committee chairman Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said that this is the first meeting of the committee. Only seven months remain to print a total of more than 60

million books and distribute to schools, teachers and students country wide by end of April 2019. As this is a big task for the ministry to do it alone, appropriate private businesses are to be systematically and transparently selected and works assigned. For the whole project to be successful and smooth, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and private businesses need to cooperate in a transparent manner, said the Deputy Minister.

Next, committee secretary Ministry of Information

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Secretary (1) Printing and Publishing Department Director General U Aung Myo Myint, Secretary (2) Ministry of Education Department of Basic Education Director General U Ko Lay Win and committee members, and meeting attendees discussed and provided suggestions.

At the meeting, tender process, rules and tender period were discussed, and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivered concluding remarks. —MNA ■

U Myo Tint appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of Argentina

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myo Tint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the

Federative Republic of Brazil, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concurrently accredited to the Republic of Argentina.—MNA ■

Disease outbreak kills seven in Nanyun

AN outbreak of unidentified disease in Nanyun in the Naga Self-administered Zone has killed seven.

The outbreak started in Kwelan Village, Donhe Villate-tract, Nanyun Township, in August and spread to Shanhepawkun Village in Shanhenoteny Village-tract.

Symptoms of this disease were fever, reddish eye, and rashes on the skin, coughing, respiratory problems, diarrhoea.

“The disease has not yet been identified. We have received necessary medicines from the

township health department. Besides, we have asked help from private donors. We are consulting with the health department to make decision over stock of necessary medicines,” said U Sein Maung, MP of the Sagaing Region Hlutaw.

The village which is facing the outbreak of disease has a population of over 600.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out laboratory tests to identify the disease and has sent medical teams to the affected areas. —Ko Min (Intaw) ■



Medical team providing care to patients in Nanyun Town in the Naga Self-administered Zone. **PHOTO: MNA**

Iran Guards confirm missile strikes on Kurd rebels in Iraq

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed Sunday they had launched deadly missile strikes against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq the previous day.

“The terrorists’ headquarters... was successfully struck by seven surface-to-surface rockets on Saturday by the missile department of the Guards’ aerospace force,” it said on its Sepah News website.

The statement added that their drone division was also involved.

Fifteen people were killed in the rare cross-border attack on the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran, which is blacklisted as a

“terrorist” group by Tehran, a KDPI spokesman, Soran Louri, told AFP on Sunday.

Around 30 others were injured, according to local medical sources. Iranian state television showed images of the missiles being launched and drone footage of the impact.

“The punishment of transgressors was planned following the recent months’ wicked acts by terrorists from the Kurdistan realm against the Islamic republic’s borders,” the Guards’ statement said.

It cited incursions by numerous “terrorist teams” into Iran’s West Azarbaijan, Kurdistan and Kermanshah provinces

bordering Iraq. The KDPI had recently clashed with Revolutionary Guards forces in the towns of Marivan and Kamyaran in Iran’s own Kurdistan region, the statement added.

The Kurdish group was holding a meeting at the time of the missile strikes, and the party’s secretary general and his predecessor were injured, according to one of its officials.

The headquarters is in Koysinjak, around 60 kilometres (35 miles) east of Arbil, capital of Iraq’s autonomous Kurdish region.

Iraq’s foreign ministry denounced the Iranian missile strike. —AFP ■

Agents from Western countries interfere in Ugandan affairs, says president

KAMPALA — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Sunday said agents from Western countries have been interfering in the country’s affairs through non-governmental organizations and some opposition politicians.

In an address telecast live from Entebbe State House, Museveni said such agents have been using opposition politicians to cause a riotous situation in Uganda with an intention to foil its economic growth. The president said it is ironical of the United States to complain about alleged Russian intervention in their election while seeing no problem in their interference in the affairs

of other countries. These “external parasitic elements” must be kept out of Uganda, Museveni said, adding: “It is important that external players refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.”

“If there is a problem in our house, we the occupants will solve it,” he said. Museveni’s remarks came after the capital of Kampala saw a series of demonstrations following the arrest and alleged torture of opposition-leaning legislators last month.

Several opposition legislators and their supporters were arrested and charged in court with treason.—AFP ■

Trump salutes Kim for N Korean parade without nuclear missiles

WASHINGTON (United States) — US President Donald Trump saluted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Sunday for holding a massive military parade “without the customary display of nuclear missiles” to celebrate his country’s 70th anniversary.

“This is a big and very positive statement from North Korea. Thank you To Chairman Kim. We will both prove everyone wrong!” he tweeted.

“There is nothing like good dialogue from two people that like each other! Much better than before I took office.”

The tweet included a quote that said experts believe the missiles were cut from the parade to show Trump North Korea’s commitment to denuclearizing.

“Theme was peace and economic development,” the US

president said.

Trump said on Friday he was expecting a letter from Kim. He has since appeared upbeat about the state of relations.

The two leaders met in June in Singapore, ending a tense months-long standoff over the North’s missile and nuclear tests.

The North Korean leader pledged to work toward the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, following Washington’s demands for a “final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea.”

But the momentum lagged after the summit, and late last month Secretary of State Mike Pompeo abruptly canceled a scheduled trip to North Korea, citing a lack of progress on denuclearization.—AFP ■



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: AFP

Rebels say Colombia govt peace talk terms are ‘unacceptable’

HAVANA, (Cuba) —Colombia’s National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas said Monday that conditions set by Ivan Duque, the country’s new president, to restart peace talks in Cuba aimed at ending their insurgency are “unacceptable.”

Right-winger Duque gave the Marxist ELN a one-month deadline after his inauguration on 7 August to convince him it is serious about laying down arms and reentering civilian life.

That cut-off point expired on Friday.

By refusing to recognize agreements reached under Duque’s predecessor, Juan Manuel Santos, “and unilaterally placing unacceptable conditions, this government is... ending the process of dialogue” aimed at reaching a peace agreement, ELN negotiators in Havana said in a statement.

The statement called for restarting talks “with no further delays.”

Duque on Saturday demanded the release of all ELN hostages – believed to be 16 – as a

condition to restart peace talks.

With an estimated 1,500 fighters, the ELN is the last recognized armed rebel group operating in Colombia. Authorities believe it is financed through drug trafficking and illegal mining.

Santos won the Nobel Peace Prize for signing the historic accord with the much larger Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels in 2016, turning that armed group into a political party after more than 50 years of violent insurrection.—AFP ■

French police disperse protesters opposed to motorway construction

KOLBSHEIM (France) — French police used tear gas early Monday to disperse around 200 protesters blocking the construction of a ring road near the eastern city of Strasbourg, an AFP journalist said.

Regional authorities gave the green light in August to the plan for the construction of the 24-kilometre (15-mile) stretch of motorway.

But critics say it will destroy farmland and threaten endangered species including the great hamster of Alsace.

The protesters, who call themselves “zadistes”, from the French phrase “Zone a Defendre” (Zone to Defend), had set up barricades of wood and tyres on a stretch of road from the edge of the planned site to the village of Kolbsheim a few hundred metres away.

At around 6:20 am (0420 GMT) around 500 officers moved in, using their shields and tear gas to disperse the eco-activists.

They also used chainsaws to cut down the barricades,

and one officer used a bolt-cutter to remove a demonstrator who had chained herself to a tree.

The mayor of Kolbsheim, Dany Karcher, in whose town the “zadistes” have been based for almost a year, denounced the use of force by the police.

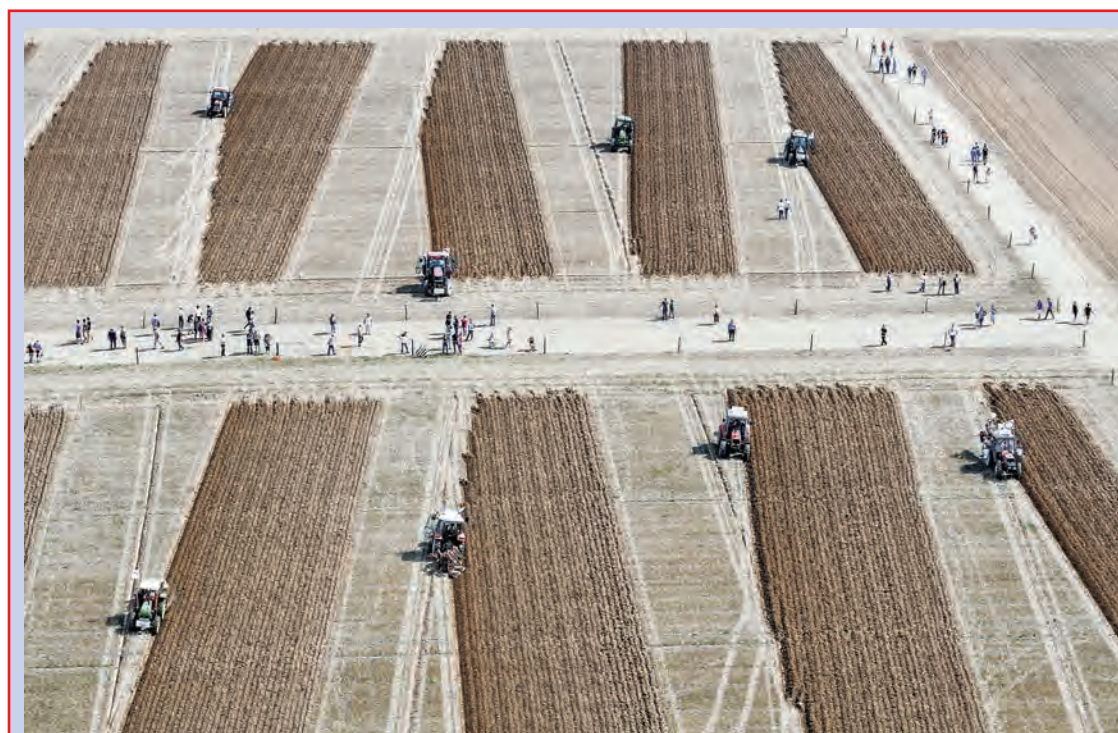
“All we are asking is, at the very least, that the work be postponed” while all judicial procedures take place, he said.

“The resistance is there,” he added, criticising what he alleged was “violence by the security forces” and the use of tear gas.

“We build motorways, we destroy the planet — they take everything from us,” said Germaine, 89, who used her walker to place herself at the frontline of the protest early Monday.

“Oh my God, I’m so tired, I was at the front, they tear-gassed me, my chest hurts,” she said.

Several leading ecologists appealed last month to Nicolas Hulot, France’s environment minister at the time, to stop the project.—AFP ■



Farmers participate in the French National Ploughing Championships organized by Young Farmers’ union on 9 September, 2018 in Javene, western France. PHOTO: AFP

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China calls on US, N Korea to implement Singapore deal

BEIJING — China's top legislator voiced hope that North Korea and the United States will implement their nuclear summit agreement as he met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Chinese state media said on Monday.

Li Zhanshu, sent by President Xi Jinping to attend North Korea's 70th anniversary parade on Sunday, said China was committed to the goal of denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, the Xinhua news agency said.

"We have high regards of the efforts the DPRK has made towards regional peace and stability," Li was quoted as saying, using the acronym for the North's official name.

Xinhua said Li also conveyed his hope that North Korea and the United States could implement the outcome of the June summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Singapore and work to preserve peaceful talks.

Trump and Kim reached a vague agreement to work to-



Politburo Standing Committee member Li Zhanshu (L) met North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (R) during a military parade and mass rally to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of North Korea. **PHOTO: AFP**

wards the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, but there has been little movement since and Trump has accused Beijing — North Korea's sole major ally — of complicating Washington's

relationship with Pyongyang.

But North Korea refrained from displaying its intercontinental missiles during Sunday's parade, a conspicuous absence that Trump hailed as "a big and

very positive statement".

For his part, Kim said North Korea adheres to the consensus reached at the summit and "has taken measures in this regard while the US side should take

corresponding actions to jointly promote the political settlement of the Korean peninsula issue," according to Xinhua.

Li also handed a signed letter from Xi to Kim.

In the missive, according to Xinhua, Xi wrote that it "is an unswerving policy of the CPC (Communist Party of China) and the Chinese government to safeguard, consolidate and develop China-DPRK relations".

Relations between Pyongyang and Beijing have gone through a rough patch in recent years, with China backing United Nations sanctions to punish its Cold War-era ally for its nuclear activities.

But ties have recently improved as Kim met Xi in China three times this year. Although the Chinese leader has yet to return the favour with his own visit to Pyongyang, he sent a major figure in Li to represent him. Li is a member of the Communist Party's seven-person Politburo Standing Committee, China's ruling council. —AFP ■

Cambodian court frees former opposition leader on bail

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian court on Monday granted bail to former opposition leader Kem Sokha charged with treason, according to a court verdict.

In the verdict, Phnom Penh Municipal Court judge Ky Rithy ordered the prison chief to free Kem Sokha, former president of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), on bail.

Chan Chen, one of Kem Sokha's lawyers, confirmed

Sokha's release, saying that his client was freed from the Trapaing Thlong Prison in southeastern Tboung Khmum province at 3:30 am local time and arrived at his home in Phnom Penh's Tuol Kork district at around 5:00 a.m. local time.

"As his lawyer, I welcome this move and congratulate my client on being released on bail," he told Xinhua.

Kem Sokha, 65, was arrest-

ed on 3 September last year and charged with treason for conspiring with a foreign power in an attempt to overthrow the government. He could face up to 30 years in prison if found guilty of committing treason.

More than two months after his arrest, the CNRP was dissolved by the Supreme Court and 118 senior party members were banned from joining politics for five years. —Xinhua ■

Several bodies, including children, found in Australia home

SYDNEY (Australia) — The bodies of up to five people, including children, were found in a Western Australia home by police on Sunday.

Investigators went to the house in suburban Perth after the man, aged in his 20s, presented himself to a regional police station.

Officers "discovered the deceased bodies of several people including children", police said in a statement.

Investigators did not confirm the number of victims, but said it was "believed to be up to five people". The ages and gender of those found were also not revealed.

"The man is currently in custody and assisting police with their inquiries. There are

no ongoing concerns for public safety as a result of this incident," police added.

It was unclear how the victims died or any details about their connection with the man in custody.

Assistant Police Commissioner Paul Steel told reporters the investigation was still in a "very early stage".

The deaths came three months after a father shot dead his teenage son and daughter at their home in Sydney before turning the gun on himself. It also follows the deaths of seven people, also in Western Australia, when a grandfather shot dead his wife, daughter and her four children in a mass murder-suicide in May. —AFP ■

Indian state recommends release of 7 killers of former PM Rajiv Gandhi

NEW DELHI — India's southern state of Tamil Nadu has recommended the release of seven convicted killers of the country's former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The Tamil Nadu government took the major decision at a Cabinet meeting in capital Chennai Sunday evening, following which the recommendation has been sent to the state governor.

D Jayakumar, a state minister, said the decision was in line

with "public sentiment."

"The governor, Banwarilal Purohit, will have to accept recommendations of the Council of Ministers.

There is nothing to reject," the minister told the media.

According to the Indian Constitution, the governor has power to grant pardons and to suspend or commute sentences of any convict.

Rajiv Gandhi, the husband of Congress leader Sonia Gan-

dhi, was assassinated in Tamil Nadu by a suicide bomber of erstwhile Tamil Tiger rebels based in Sri Lanka on 21 May, 1991.

The seven convicts — Perarivalan, Murugan, Santham, Nalini Sriharan, Jayakumar, Robert Payas and Ravichandran — are currently serving life terms across various jails in Tamil Nadu.

The seven convicts have already spent 27 years in jail. —Xinhua ■

Trade Mark

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Nations round on US, allies as UN climate talks wrap up

BANGKOK — Developing countries rounded on the United States and its allies at emergency climate talks on 9 Sunday September, accusing the world's richest nations of stalling a deal aimed at preventing runaway global warming.

Experts from around the world have been locked in discussions this week in Bangkok, aiming to reach a comprehensive rulebook for countries to implement the landmark Paris Accord on climate change.

But talks have foundered over the key issue of how efforts to limit climate change are funded and how contributions are reported.

Delegates representing some of Earth's poorest and smallest nations said on the final day of the summit that the US and other Western economies were failing to live up to their green spending commitments.

"Developed countries are responsible for the vast majority of historic emissions, and many became remarkably wealthy burning fossil fuels," said Amjad Abdulla, the head of a negotiating bloc of small island states.

"Yet, we face devastating climate impacts and some of us could be lost forever to rising seas" without progress on the Paris deal by the end of the year, he added. The Paris deal, struck in 2015,



Environmental activists and supporters take part in a demonstration in front of the United Nations building in Bangkok on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

aims to limit global temperature rises to less than two degrees Celsius and to below 1.5 degrees Celsius if possible by the end of the century.

To do this, countries agreed to a set of promises, including to establish an annual US\$100 billion fund to help developing nations react to our heating planet.

The US and other developed economies want less oversight on how their funding is gathered and more flexibility over how future funding is structured.

But developing nations insist they need predictable and open funding in order to effectively plan their fight against the fallout from climate change.

A senior source within the African nations' negoti-

ating bloc told AFP the US and others were reneging on pledges made in Paris by refusing to discuss future climate funding.

"It's as if we started from scratch" in Bangkok, the source said.

Paris Deal "on brink"

The Bangkok talks were organised as an emergency negotiating session after little progress was made at previous rounds towards a final rulebook.

Under the timeframe

set in Paris, the guidelines for nations must be finalised by the COP 24 climate summit in Poland in December. While delegates have made some progress on areas such as new technology and carbon markets, activists said the US — with Western acquiescence — had stonewalled any momentum on the key funding issue.

Harjeet Singh, global lead on climate change for NGO ActionAid, said Sunday the Paris deal was "on the brink".—AFP ■

Japan toll 44 after strong quake, no more missing

TOKYO (Japan) — The death toll from a powerful earthquake that triggered massive landslides in northern Japan rose to 44 on Monday with tens of thousands of police and troops still on the ground to support survivors.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said no one was left on a missing list, which suggested the figure could be the final death toll.

Around 40,000 police, fire fighters, troops and maritime safety officials were providing assistance, with more than 2,700 people still forced to stay in shelters after the killer quake struck the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido last week. The majority of the dead are from the small rural town of Atsuma, where a cluster of dwellings were wrecked when a hillside collapsed from the force of the 6.6-magnitude quake, causing deep brown

scars in the landscape.

"The government will strive to get hold of what is needed on the ground and take every possible measure so that people can return to a normal, safe life as soon as possible," Suga told a news conference.

He also warned that islanders should remain on alert as rainfall was forecast in the region, which could trigger fresh landslides. The quake was the latest in a string of natural disasters to batter the island nation. Western parts of the country are still recovering from the most powerful typhoon to strike Japan in a quarter of a century, which claimed 11 lives and shut down the main regional airport. Launching a campaign for another term as head of his ruling party, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reiterated his government will "do its best" to restore the disasters-hit regions.

—AFP ■

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR EXPLORATORY DRILLING OFFSHORE BLOCKS M-12, M-13 AND M-14 BY PCML

PC Myanmar (Hong Kong) Limited (PCML) proposes to undertake an infill drilling program in blocks M-12, M-13 and M-14 at the offshore of Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar. This is scheduled to commence in Quarter 4 of 2018. The area in which the wells will be drilled is located approximately 100 km from the nearest islands of the Myeik Archipelago and 140 km from the Mainland coastline.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PCML is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Environment Quality Management (EQM), on behalf of PCML, are currently undertaking an EIA Study, which includes associated-stakeholder engagement. The EIA will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedure(2015).

More information about PCML in Myanmar can be found at PETRONAS website www.petronas.com

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION FOR 3D MARINE SEISMIC SURVEY OFFSHORE BLOCK M-12, M-13 AND M-14 BY PCML

PC Myanmar (Hong Kong) Limited (PCML) proposes to undertake a 3D Marine Seismic Survey in Blocks M-12, M-13 and M-14 at the offshore of Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar. This is scheduled to commence in Quarter 4 of 2018. The area in which the survey will be conducted is located approximately 70 km from the nearest islands of the Myeik Archipelago and 125 km from the Mainland coastline.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PCML is required to undertake an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) in order to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Environment Quality Management (EQM), on behalf of PCML, is currently undertaking an IEE Study, which includes associated-stakeholder engagement. The IEE will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedure(2015).

More information about the PCML in Myanmar can be found at PETRONAS website www.petronas.com

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1825)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1825) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR INDEPENDENT CONSULTING SERVICES FOR C 1.1.10 - E-GOVERNMENT ADVISOR TO MINISTRY

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) invites Independent Consultants ("Consultant") to indicate their interest to provide their services as e-Government Advisor to support MoTC to undertake the related tasks, as part of the engagement over a one year time period under the World Bank/IDA funded Telecommunications Sector Reform Project.

The Consultant is requested to submit their soft and hard copy of curriculum vitae to the address mentioned below by 01st October 2018. Interested Consultant should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the task.

A firm can also nominate qualified individual consultant for the assignment. In case of a firm nominating the consultant, only the experience and qualifications of individuals shall be used in the selection process and the corporate experience of the firm shall not be taken into account and the contract would be signed with the firm.

Further information can be obtained from the below address during office hours 0930 to 1630 hours and www.motc.gov.mm.

Attn: Daw Nwe Ni Soe Yin,
Director, Information Technology and Cyber Security
Department,
S12 Exchange Building, Ground Floor,
Zabu Kyatthayay Road,
Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: +95 67 422447 Fax: +95 67 422447
E-mail: nwenisoeyin@e-motc.gov.mm,
soemyintnaung@e-motc.gov.mm

Warner's 'Nun' proves part of a winning habit in N America theaters

LOS ANGELES — Horror movie "The Nun" was the top draw in North American movie theaters this weekend, extending a remarkable string of recent successes by Warner Bros, industry watchers said.

"The Nun," the latest scary feature in the popular "Conjuring" series, took in an estimated \$53.5 million for the three-day weekend, box office tracker *Exhibitor Relations* said. British director Corin Hardy had made his name with 2015 horror film "The Hallow."

"Nun" stars Demian Bichir, Taissa Farmiga and Jonas Bloquet in a story about a young nun, an exorcist and a guide stumbling onto a dark secret deep in Dracula country: the Romania of 1952 — Transylvania, no less.

"Nun" bumped another Warner product, "Crazy Rich Asians," to second place after three strong weekends at the top. The glitzy rom-com, with its nearly all-Asian cast led by

Henry Golding and Constance Wu, took in \$13.6 million.

Taken together with another Warner film, "The Meg," the studio has now claimed the top two spots on the North American box office for four consecutive weekends, a feat no movie studio had accomplished in 25 years, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*.

"The Meg," starring Jason Statham as a rescue diver confronting a huge, prehistoric shark, placed fourth this weekend, taking in \$6 million, behind new vigilante action film "Peppermint," which grossed \$13.3 million.

"Peppermint," from STX Films, stars Jennifer Garner as a mother seeking revenge against the drug cartel she blames for killing her husband and daughter. And in fifth spot was Sony thriller "Searching," starring John Cho as a man desperate to find his missing teenage daughter. It took in \$4.5 million. —AFP ■



Director Corin Hardy at the recent Hollywood premiere of his movie "The Nun," which topped North American box offices over the weekend. PHOTO: AFP

Bulgarians held in Greece over museum 'miracle' oil daubs

ATHENS (Greece) — Two Bulgarian Roma women were arrested in Greece on Sunday on suspicion of smearing oil on exhibits at some of Athens' top museums for the past two months, state agency ANA said.

The two suspects were arrested at the National Historical Museum, which houses relics from the 19th-century Greek war of independence.

The two women allegedly told police that they were daubing the works with oil and myrrh "because the Holy Scripture says it is miraculous", the agency said.

They will be taken before a prosecutor on Monday.

In July, two middle-aged women left oil marks on dozens of items at the Byzantine and Christian Museum — home to the country's most extensive collection of religious relics. The incident was revealed by *Kathimerini* daily, not the museum itself, and then Culture Minister Lydia Koniordou tried to play down the incident. "I wouldn't exactly call it vandalism...it was some ladies spreading oil," said Koniordou, who was later replaced in a cabinet reshuffle. —AFP ■



US actors Algee Smith (R) and Amandla Stenberg attend the premiere of "The Hate You Give" at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario on 7 September, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

'The Hate U Give' movie takes on racism, police brutality

TORONTO (Canada) — The Toronto film festival cast a spotlight over the weekend on racism and police brutality in director George Tillman Jr's "The Hate U Give."

Applauded by critics and audiences alike, the adaptation of the best-selling young adult novel by Angie Thomas is "a timely commentary in the Black Lives Matter era," said the festival's youth committee that chose to screen the movie.

"We are, through this film, protesting police brutality," said Amandla Stenberg who plays Starr, a teenage girl seeking her voice while living a dual life — growing up in a tough black neighborhood while attending a predominantly white prep school in another part of town in hopes of a safe and better future.

"Hopefully what it does is, make black people, black girls feel validated, feel empowered, feel strong, and stand up for their truth," she said.

"And hopefully it brings some light to these events, and evokes empathy in people to have real dialogue about it, from a real place instead of just understanding these events in a topical and sometimes desensitized manner."

The film opens with Starr's father (played by Russell Hornsby) trying to instill black pride in her and her siblings at a very young age, while also warning them of potential perils of being black, for example, how to navigate a police encounter — what Hornsby described to reporters as a chilling lesson for a child.

At school, although her classmates adopt the slang and clothing of black Americans, she is more circumspect about her cultural heritage.

"Slang makes them look cool, but it makes me look hood," she says in the film.

Back in her neighbourhood, she is forced to flee a weekend house party broken up by gunshots, which is presented as an unfortunate normality in the community.

A childhood friend, Khalil (Algee Smith), offers to drive her home, but it all goes sideways during a routine traffic stop when Khalil is shot dead by a white police officer as the 17-year-old boy reaches for a hairbrush.

Investigating police seek to blame the victim, and by association Starr, while a local gang leader presses her to keep quiet for fear of being implicated, and a civil rights lawyer urges her to testify before a grand jury in hopes of getting justice for Khalil.

Black Lives Matter movement

Such killings in the United States, publicised by smartphone and police video, have given rise to the Black Lives Matter movement.

But prosecutions, let alone guilty verdicts, have proven rare.

At a press conference, author Angie Thomas said: "It is important to speak up and speak out, especially in moments of injustice."

But too often, she explained,

black people in impoverished and crime-ridden neighbourhoods in the United States do not feel safe coming forward.

"Not snitching is a survival tactic," she said.

"There is no witness protection for people who talk about what happens in the neighborhood," echoed Anthony Mackie, who plays gang leader King in the film.

"As a community, as a people, as men, our job is to protect women and children and in this generation we have failed miserably," he said.

"So until we do our job, the idea of speaking out about what's happening in our community is practically impossible because there's no one to protect you."

The film, which will be released in theatres on October 19, also stars Issa Rae, Regina Hall, Sabrina Carpenter, rapper Common, KJ Apa and Lamar Johnson.

"Hunger Games" actress Stenberg was assailed on social media for not being "black enough" when she was cast in the role, but delivers a stellar performance.

"It was the first time in my life that I'd had my blackness questioned," she said in Toronto. "Ironically it's something that Starr faces in the film."

"It's been hard," she acknowledged. "But I have a great sensitivity towards the place from which that comes. It's a place of pain, it's a result of people being frustrated because they are navigating a colorist system at all times. And that's painful." —AFP ■



Vostochny spaceport. PHOTO: TASS

Soil cavities discovered underneath Soyuz-2 launch pad at Vostochny spaceport

MOSCOW — Repairs must be carried out at the launch pad for Soyuz-2 carrier rockets at the Vostochny spaceport in Russia's Far East after cavities were discovered in the soil underneath a servicing tower, a source at the spaceport told TASS.

"Cavities appeared underneath the reinforced concrete

foundation of a mobile servicing tower at the first launch pad of the Vostochny spaceport," the source said. "We have already concluded a contract to eliminate the cavities."

The source did not specify the origin of the cavities at the launch pad of the spaceport in Russia's Far East, while the Cen-

tre for the Operation of Ground-Based Space Infrastructure refrained from making comments on the situation.

The first launch site at the Vostochny space center was built in 2012-2016 for Soyuz rockets and the first launch from it was carried out on 28 April, 2016. —Tass ■

Home monitoring improves blood pressure control

WASHINGTON — Home blood pressure monitoring improved hypertension control, according to results of a pilot initiative presented at the on-going American Heart Association's Joint Hypertension 2018 Scientific Sessions.

According to Roy R Champion, clinical quality registered nurse at Scott and White Health Plan in Texas, less than one in five providers were including home blood pressure monitoring in documentations for hypertension patients.

Champion said that home monitoring combined with doctor visits to measure a patient's blood pressure helped to avoid numbers skewed by "white-coat hypertension," when blood pressure was high in a medical setting but not in everyday life, and "masked hypertension," when blood pressure is normal in a medical setting but high at home.

Champion studied the impact of an intervention that provided free home blood pressure monitors, online and print resources for tracking their read-

ings, and monitoring reminders to 2,550 adult patients with persistent uncontrolled high blood pressure.

By their third office visit, nearly 67 per cent of patients had their blood pressure controlled, and nearly 60 percent of patients had blood pressure control by their sixth visit, according to the study.

At the end of the intervention, systolic blood pressures had decreased an average 16.9 mmHg and diastolic blood pressures fell an average 6.5 mmHg.

In the six months after the intervention, nearly 80 per cent of the participants achieved blood pressure under control.

"Even with the more stringent guidelines, we showed home blood pressure monitoring is vital to achieving control among hypertensive patients," Champion said.

Home monitoring helps providers better understand patients' everyday blood pressure numbers in a cost-saving way that doesn't increase the burden on patients or providers, Champion said.—AFP ■

Chinese scientists use domestic satellite to conduct light pollution research: CAS

BELJING — Chinese scientists have conducted nighttime light pollution research using a domestically-produced remote sensing satellite, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Scientists from the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth of the CAS assessed the potential of using Luojia-1 nighttime light imaging to measure artificial light pollution.

Luojia-1, a scientific experiment satellite, was sent into space on 2 June this year. Its spatial resolution reaches 130 metres.

Compared with ground-based measurements, nighttime light remote sensing is able to acquire larger-scale and higher quantities of artificial lighting

data. The scientists found that Luojia-1 can detect a higher dynamic range and capture the finer spatial details of artificial nighttime light.

Excessive lighting in the cities can cause light pollution which has negative effects on animal behavior, human health, the ecological environment, and astronomical observations. Light pollution is highly related to the economic development.

The averages of the artificial light brightness differed across various land use types. The brightness of the artificial light pollution of airports, streets, and commercial services was high, while dark areas include farmland and rivers. —Xinhua ■

Lesotho emerges as unlikely testbed for 5G revolution

JOHANNESBURG, (South Africa) — The mountainous kingdom of Lesotho in southern Africa has become an unexpected test venue for high-speed 5G mobile technology that is set to revolutionise global communication, transport and entertainment.

Two companies in the country's tiny capital Maseru are now using one of the world's first commercial 5G networks on the long-awaited 3.5 GHz spectrum.

The network in Lesotho, set up by local Vodafone affiliate Vodacom, delivers speeds of up to 700 megabits per second, allowing movies to be downloaded in seconds and could in future provide safe technology for driverless cars.

"It is a bit of a testbed for

us," Andries Delport, Vodacom's chief technology officer, told AFP on Friday after the service was launched.

"With 5G, there is a lot of hype based on future use. It is transformative... it allows us to start talking about driverless cars, and robots and machines in factories," he said.

"I can tell you, the Lesotho people are super-proud of this."

Just 530 employees at the head offices of the Central Bank of Lesotho and the Letseng Diamond Mining company in Maseru currently enjoy the 5G speeds, but Vodacom plans to extend the scheme.

The Lesotho network, which is the first in Africa, could mean that customers on the continent could avoid

the need for expensive fibre cabling, instead "leap-frogging" to the new higher speeds.

Other commercial networks have been set up in Qatar and Saudi Arabia in the race to bring 5G, meaning "Fifth Generation", to customers.

Lesotho, which is entirely surrounded by South Africa, has a population of just 2.2 million.

It is known as the "Kingdom in the Sky" as it largely consists of rugged mountains with some villages accessible only by foot or pony.

Vodacom said it chose Lesotho because the government offered the 3.5 GHz spectrum that has not yet been allotted in South Africa and many other countries.—AFP ■



Luke Shaw was set to return to Manchester United after he suffered concussion. **PHOTO: AFP**

Shaw heading back to Manchester United after England concussion

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Luke Shaw was set to return to Manchester United after he suffered concussion in England's defeat by Spain as Gareth Southgate called up Ben Chilwell and Demarai Gray.

Southgate's side kicked off their UEFA Nations League campaign with a frustrating 2-1 defeat at Wembley on Saturday but concerns over their 23-year-old left-back's well-being overshadowed the result.

Shaw superbly set up Marcus Rashford's opener on his first England start since September 2015 — an appearance that came just a week before he suffered a hideous double leg-break in a Champions League tie.

The left-back looked like he may have suffered another major injury minutes into the second half on Saturday, with his head appearing to hit Dani Carvajal's hip before sickeningly bouncing off the turf.

The impact was audible from the stands and led to him leaving on a stretcher wearing an oxygen mask and a neck brace after lengthy treatment.

Shaw was later walking and talking and tweeted he was "doing fine" but he will return to United on Monday.

A statement from the Football Association read: "Luke Shaw remained at St. George's Park today for further rest and monitoring having sustained

concussion against Spain yesterday. He will return to his club tomorrow."

Shaw's injury has opened the opportunity for uncapped left-back Chilwell, who moves up from the England Under-21 squad with Leicester teammate Gray.

The pair could make their senior bows on home turf this Tuesday as the King Power Stadium plays host to a friendly against Switzerland. — AFP ■

Serena fined \$17,000 after US Open final outburst

NEW YORK (United States) — Serena Williams has been fined \$17,000 by the US Tennis Association in the wake of her outburst during a controversial US Open final loss to Japan's Naomi Osaka.

The American star was fined for coaching, racquet abuse and for verbal abuse when she accused umpire Carlos Ramos of being "a thief" during Saturday's stormy final.

Williams was incensed at the coaching violation, although

coach Patrick Mouratoglou, sitting in her box, admitted that he was coaching when he moved his hands.

That violation carried a \$4,000 fine, while a second violation for racquet abuse — after she smashed her racquet after dropping her serve in the fifth game of the second set — cost her \$3,000.

The second violation also cost her a point in the match, sparking her renewed verbal attack on Ramos, a code violation



Serena Williams has angry words for chair umpire Carlos Ramos during her US Open final loss to Naomi Osaka on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

which carried a \$10,000 fine.

Her third code violation of the match also cost her a game, putting Osaka on the brink of

what would be a 6-2, 6-4 victory that made her the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam title. — AFP ■



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates his victory over Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina (l) after their 2018 US Open men's singles final match on 9 September, 2018 in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

Djokovic wins third US Open, equals Sampras on 14 Grand Slams

NEW YORK (United States) — Novak Djokovic clinched his third US Open title on Sunday with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 triumph over Juan Martin del Potro, taking him level with Pete Sampras's mark of 14 Grand Slams.

Djokovic, playing in his eighth final in New York and already the champion in 2011 and 2015, is now just three Slams behind Rafael Nadal and six back from the record 20 held by Roger Federer.

It was also the third time the 31-year-old Serb had completed the Wimbledon-US Open double.

For world number three Del Potro, it was a heartbreaking experience coming in just his second Slam final, nine years after he was crowned US Open champion. — AFP ■