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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 5 November 2018

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No (163/2018)**

11th Waning of Thadingyut, 1380 ME
4th November, 2018

Announcement for the list of Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives

The following lists the elected persons at the by-election held on 3 November 2018, according to the announcements by respective Regions and States Sub-Election Commissions in accordance with section 49 (B) of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law. The elected are announced as Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives for their constituencies.

No. Name	NRC No.	Constituency	Representative party
Mandalay Region			
(1) U Sein Myint	5/ Ma Ya Na (Naing) 016287	Myingyan	National League for Democracy
Yangon Region			
(2) U Toe Win	12/ Ta Ma Na (Naing) 068171	Tamway	National League for Democracy
Shan State			
(3) Sai Okka	13/ La Kha Na (Naing) 000181	Laikha	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy

*Sd/ Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission*

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No (164/2018)**

11th Waning of Thadingyut, 1380 ME
4th November, 2018

Announcement for the list of Amyotha Hluttaw Representative

The following lists the elected person at the by-election held on 3 November, 2018, according to the announcements by respective State Sub-Election Commission in accordance with section 49 (B) of Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law. The elected is announced as Amyotha Hluttaw Representative for his constituency.

No. Name	NRC No.	Constituency	Representative party
Kachin State			
(1) U Hsi Hu Dwe	1/ Pa Ta A (Naing) 024750	Kachin-2	Union Solidarity and Development Party

*Sd/ Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission*

Ethnics Culture Festival to be held in Yangon

THE Myanmar Ethnics Culture and Tourism Promotion Festival will be held at Kyaikkasan Grounds from 25 to 29 January next year with the aim of introducing the traditional culture and customs and products.

Under the supervision of the Myanmar Ethnic Entrepre-

neurs Association (MEEA), a ceremony on holding the Myanmar Ethnics Culture Festival was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCCI) in Yangon yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin said he hoped that all the ethnic people would be united even further through such a festival.

"The Myanmar ethnic cultural festival will also offer opportunities for ethnic entrepreneurs to promote their ethnic culture along with the tourism sector and their food products to locals and international visitors," said Nai Thet Lwin.

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(From L to R) Union Ministers Dr. Than Myint and Nai Thet Lwin, and Dr. Aung Tun Thet and MEEA Chairperson U Yaw Satt formally open the ceremony to hold Ethnics Culture Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

... Myanmar Ethnics Culture and Tourism Promotion Festival will be held at Kyaikkasan Grounds from 25 to 29 January next year ...

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No (165/2018)
11th Waning of Thadingyut, 1380 ME

4th November, 2018

Announcement for the list of Region or State
Hluttaw Representatives

The following lists the elected persons at the by-election held on 3 November 2018, according to the announcements by respective Regions and States Sub-Election Commissions in accordance with section 49 (B) of Region Hluttaw Election Law or State Hluttaw Election Law. The elected are announced as Region or State Hluttaw representatives for their constituencies.

No	Name	NRC No.	Constituency	Representative party/ Individual
Chin State				
(1)	U Aung Hlyan	4/ Ma Ta Pa (Naing) 039903	Matupi (1)	Chin League for Democracy
Sagaing Region				
(2)	U Ro Htan Pwe Yar	12/Ma Ga Da (Naing) 001076	Tamu(2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Bago Region				
(3)	U Kyaw Zeya	7/A Ta Na (Naing) 081664	Ottwin (1)	National League for Democracy
Magway Region				
(4)	U Kyaw Ngwe	8/Ma Ba Na (Naing) 057944	Minbu (2)	National League for Democracy
Mandalay Region				
(5)	U Soe Lwin	9/Tha Pa Ka (Naing) 018058	Thabeikkyin (1)	National League for Democracy
(6)	U Sai Pan Hsai (a) U Sai Tun Sein (a) U Kyaw Sein	9/Ma Ya Ma (Naing) 049204	Shan Nationality	National League for Democracy
Rakhine State				
(7)	U Tin Maung Win	12/Tha Kha Na (Naing) 100834	Yathedaung (2)	Independent
Yangon Region				
(8)	U Nay Myo Aung	12/Sa Ka Na (Naing) 001400	Seikkan (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sd/ Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Statement of Myanmar
National Human Rights
Commission with regard
to by-election of 2018
(Statement No. 10/2018)

1. The observation teams led by the Commissioners of the MNHRC monitored the by-election of 6 constituencies among the 13 to be contested for the three Hluttaws by-elections held on 3 November 2018. The monitoring process was carried out based on the international norms of the national human rights institutions as applied to their respective elections.
2. The Commission teams monitored the designated polling stations within the time allocations based on the human resources of the Commission in a fair, unbiased and righteous manner, paying special attention to adherence of the human rights norms.
3. The Commission teams monitored the polling stations of the Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No (2) in Kachin State, the Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency of Tamway township in Yangon Region, the Region Hluttaw Constituency of Minbu Township No (2) in Magway Region, the Region Hluttaw Constituency of Ottwin township No (2) in Yangon Region and Shan ethnic affairs Region Hluttaw Constituency of Mandalay Region, totaling 25 polling stations in all.
4. At the time of monitoring by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, no irregularity was observed at the polling stations and furthermore, it was seen that the international human rights norms were applied as best as possible. The detailed report will be submitted to the relevant institutions.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Date: 4 November 2018

First batch of over 2,260 returnees to be accepted at rate of 150 per day

THE first batch of over 2,260 displaced people will be accepted at a rate of 150 per day, beginning 15 December, according to a meeting of Rakhine authorities yesterday in Maungtau.

The meeting in connection with the reception of returnees was held at the General Administration Department in Maungtau yesterday.

First Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu and Vice Chair of the Committee for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) Deputy Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin explained the process of accepting the returnees and the requirements.

A general round of discussions then followed.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary of UEHRD Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung; Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Phone Tint; Rakhine State Electricity, Industry and Transport Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan and officials.

The Chief Minister and party inspected the homes, water supply, reception counter and staff quarters at the Ngakhuya reception centre. They also observed homes, health clinic, power lines and roads at Hla Po Khaung reception centre.— Kyaw Thu Win and Aung Kyaw Oo (Translated by TMT) ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials inspect homes, water supply, reception counter and staff quarters at the Ngakhuya reception centre. PHOTO: AUNG KYAW OO

Anti-narcotics

Three centres for youth rehabilitation managed by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, and nine centres for rehabilitation managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement were opened to give assistance, education and treatment programs to people taking mind-altering drugs and other kinds of substances. Assistance and rehabilitation to people suffering both physically and mentally was also given through educational and vocational training.

(Excerpt from the report on the current work of the Union Government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

Ethnic Culture Festival to be held in Yangon

FROM PAGE-1

The union minister also expressed his heartfelt thanks to MEEA for implementing and coordinating the aims of the Ministry.

He committed that the Ministry would work towards holding such festivals, full of lively crowds, not only in Yangon but also in other regions and states where the ethnic people live, and he believed they would help in acquiring lasting peace, which everyone wants, aided by Myanmar ethnic entrepreneurs.

The union minister also urged the ethnic entrepreneurs to make Myanmar's beautiful mountains, cultural dances and traditional culture known to the world.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Professor Dr. Aung Tun Thet and MEEA Chairperson U Yaw Satt opened the ceremony by pressing the ceremonial button.

Next, Union Minister Dr. Than Myint said that the aim of the festival was to upgrade the ethnic economy through the tourism sector, and expressed his thanks to the MEEA for the association's attempt in penetrating the international market by collaborating with local food products.

The Ministry of Commerce will extend a helping hand to the entrepreneurs in promoting their manufacturing sectors, the union minister added, and he believed the country's economy was also dependent on the economic development of the ethnic people.

Later, Professor Dr. Aung

Tun Thet, UMFCI Chairperson U Zaw Min Win and Vice Chairman of the MEEA U Aye Win delivered speeches.

The union ministers and officials concerned then took a photograph together with the attendees.

Next, General Secretary of the MEEA U Min Banyar San explained the aim of the Ethnic Culture and Tourism Promotion Festival.

Assistant Manager U Than Htike Thu from Black Knight Media explained the Branding Development of the festival, Managing Director U Zaw Kon Lone from The One Media explained the renovation process of the basic infrastructure, Chairman of the Entertainment Sub-committee of the festival K Ja Nu about the music concept, Secretary General Mran Sai Naw the selection of Miss Ethnic Myanmar 2019, and Joint General-Secretary Dr. Aung Ye Zaw the sponsor type and benefit for the ethnic entrepreneurs, respectively.

The ceremony was attended by ministers for ethnic affairs from respective regions and states, officials responsible from UMFCI, diplomats from foreign embassies, MEEA officials, businesspersons and invited guests.

The Ethnic Culture and Tourism Promotion Festival is aimed at discovering the cultural buildings and interesting places of the ethnic people, to learn more about their culture, traditions, costumes and cuisine and to implement the peace process by promoting friendship and cooperation between the ethnic entrepreneurs. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin) ■

Union Attorney-General attends 6th Asian Legal Analysts Conference in ROK

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo attended the 6th Asian Legal Analysts Conference held from 30 October to 2 November in Seoul, the Republic of Korea (ROK).

The conference exchanged developments and experiences on analysing bills and the legislation sector, shared good practices, discussed projects for enhancing administrative rules and regulations, encouraging public participation in the legislative process, and facilitating communication between legislative groups and the general public.

At the conference, U Tun Tun Oo stressed the importance of the legislation for national and community progress and to protect the people. He said in the country's democratisation drive, legislative bodies are modifying the existing laws to meet the democratic norms. The Union Attorney-General Office is involved in the legislative sector.

It acts as the analyst and adviser for the bills drawn by the ministries, which present the bills to the Hluttaw under the approval of Union government. The Union Attorney-General Office takes part in analysing the bill at the Hluttaw on request. Public interest in the legislative work is rising, and public advice is taken for the good of the legislative process. If necessary, workshops



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo attends the Signing Ceremony of Cooperation Agreement for the establishment of MLIS Operating Committee in Seoul. PHOTO: MNA

are being held for public participation over drafting a law. The MPs are seriously taking into account the voice of the people.

The Union Attorney-General Office has been posting legal information and data on its website since May this year. The website posts all the legal information and laws, rules, procedures and orders enacted or issued throughout the successive periods. Legal information is also available on mobile phones.

Myanmar is cooperating with the Ministry of Government Legislation of South Korea for the development of the system.

The Union Attorney-General held talks with Kim oe-sook, Minister of Government Legislation

of ROK, on 30 October, and cordially discussed greater bilateral cooperation for the progress of the legislative sector, sustainable development of the Myanmar law information system.

During the stay in ROK, Minister Kim oe-sook and U Tun Tun Oo signed an agreement on the formation of a Myanmar law information system facilitating committee. Under the agreement, bilateral cooperation will be undertaken for the sustainability of the Myanmar law information system, to turn it into a system that promotes foreign investments and for the improvement of the legislative sector. — MNA (Translated by TMT) ■

Poppy farm two miles north of Demoso Tsp destroyed

Authorities destroyed a seven-acre poppy farm located two miles north of Saungdu Village in Demoso Tsp, Lobaco Village-tract, Kayah State, yesterday. The eradication group was made up of 65 people and consisted of teams led by Police Major Aung Min from the Tsp police force, Police Captain Myint Win from Loikaw Narcotic Drug Enforcement Division 20, and Captain Aung Myint Myat from the 427 light infantry division, along with department officials and local residents. — Ri Yel (Demoso) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■



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Myanmar to manufacture electric buses

"WE need to use alternative fuels, as the fossil fuels we are burning today will be exhausted soon", said Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho at the signing of an agreement to manufacture electric buses and erect charging stations in Myanmar.

At the signing ceremony, held at the Research and Development Bureau in Yedhashe, the Union Minister said the country is promoting the use of renewable energy, while reducing the consumption of fossil fuels. Electricity may be the best tool in alleviating the consequences of burning fossil fuels. So, the global production and use of electric cars is on the rise, as fossil fuel-burning cars are being replaced by hybrid and electric cars. Myanmar also needs the assembling of electric cars to protect the natural environment and reduce carbon emissions.

Accordingly, the ministry will manufacture electric buses and charging stations, in cooperation with Green Power Myanmar Co Ltd, by adapting the technology of Csepel Holding Limited of Hungary. He also



The Signing ceremony for the manufacturing of electric buses being convened. **PHOTO: MNA**

said the ultimate aim is to turn Myanmar into an electric bus and parts exporter, as well as the Southeast Asian hub for electric vehicles. The Hungarian cooperation will provide Myanmar with new manufacturing, repair and maintenance technologies. Moreover, the country can earn income from exports and generate job opportunities.

Honorary Consul of Hungary for Myanmar Daw Tint Tint Lwin spoke words of greetings and Executive Director of Green Power Myanmar Co Ltd, U Tin Maung Kyin, and Director of

Csepel Holding Limited Kalachelvan explained the electric car production and charging station erection program through the use of video clips.

Managing Director No 1 Heavy Industry U Kan Chun and Managing Director of Green Power Myanmar Co Ltd Daw Nilar Kyin signed the agreement in the presence of the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Director Kalaichelvan.

Following this, Green Power Myanmar Co Ltd and Oriental Transportation Enterprise Co Ltd signed an agreement to

manufacture 300 electric buses for Myanmar.

Green Power Myanmar Co Ltd, which is working with Csepel Holding Limited of Hungary has already taken orders for 7,000 electric buses for Sri Lanka, India and Singapore, and another 300 for Myanmar. Because of the lower fuel costs, the business expects to see profits within three to five years.

As electric buses are smokeless vehicles that do not need lubricants, their maintenance costs are low. Using ten-year batteries, they are light vehicles which can travel up to 300 kilometers. There are charging stations and modern services tied into an e-ticket system. Because of such advantages, a new transport sector is expected to emerge in Myanmar.

The Union Minister, MPS, the Honorary Consul, Hungarian engineers and officials toured the electric car and hybrid car assembly lines of No 12 Heavy Industry, No 15 Heavy Industry and the No 26 Heavy Industry. —MNA (Translated by TMT) ■

Union Minister U Ohn Maung urges tourism promotion in Mandalay, Mogok

WITH a view to promoting tourism in Mandalay Region and Ruby Land Mogok area, Union Minister U Ohn Maung for Hotels and Tourism inspected the information counter at the Mandalay International Airport (MIA) on 1 November.

Later, he urged the MIA authorities and officials of Myanmar National Airlines to make all-out efforts to facilitate visas on arrival and the sharing of information through an electronic system, and discussed further plans. Then, the Union Minister left for Mogok. He visited the potential tourist destinations of Mogok area, including the over-a-century-old British cemetery



Tourists seeing scenic views of Mandalay from the top of Mandalay Hill. **PHOTO: MIN HTETAUNG**

in Bernard Town, Manimingala jewellery market, pagodas and villages of the ethnic people and

hotels in the Mogok area. He also inspected the cherry trees and ways to keep them healthy. The

trees have been planted as part of Myanmar and Japan tourism promotion.

After that, personnel from related departments and hoteliers and travel agencies and locals from Mogok area discussed matters concerning the emergence of a sustainable tourism plan, creation of new tourism destinations, development of hotels and tourism businesses, ensuring safe and sound accommodation for visitors and creation of opportunities for small jewellery traders at King Bridge Hotel. The officials received the suggestions of the participants and dealt with the difficulties raised.—GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon) ■

Pickpockets arrested on bus in Yangon

YANGON Region Police arrested three suspected pickpockets on YBS-76 on Friday morning.

The suspects were identified as Myo Aung (a) Ta Yoke

Lay, 40; Aung Aung, 27; and Win Naing Tun, 31, from 104 Ward in Dagon Myothit (South).

On Friday morning, the police were keeping an eye on

the bus YBS-76, as cases of pickpocketing are often reported, and discovered a Kenbo mobile phone and currency notes worth Ks21,200 from the suspects,

which were stolen from a female passenger. Police took action against the suspects according to the laws.—MNA(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun) ■

Myanmar, ROK sign Investment Protection Agreement

THE Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of Korea recently entered into force, according to a 4th November news released issued by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar had a bilateral investment treaty with South Korea for the promotion of investments which concluded on 5th June 2014. In accordance with Article 16, the effective date of the Agreement between Myanmar and South Korea on

the Promotion and Protection of Investments is 31st October 2018.

South Korea is the fifth largest investor in Myanmar, with 149 South Korea-listed companies bringing in capital of US\$3.8 billion and accounting for 6 percent of the total foreign investment, according to the DICA's data of foreign investment of existing enterprises.

Myanmar has bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with twelve countries, including China, India, the Philippines, Japan and South Korea.

Also, the 3rd round of meetings on the Promotion and Protection of Investment Agreement



A container ship docking at Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Singapore was opened at the Myanmar Investment Commission Office in Yangon on 9th

July, 2018.

Matters of reciprocal protection and promotion of investment between the two states were discussed.

The BITs aim to minimize investment barriers, encourage investments and create more opportunities for investors. — GNLM ■

Actual FDI registered at \$2.14 bln; approved amount at \$1.76 bln in past mini-budget period

THE actual amount of Foreign Direct Investment during the past mini-budget period from April to September is worth US\$2.145 billion, while the amount approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) was registered at \$1.765 billion, according to the MIC.

The approved enterprises, however, might not bring in the entire submitted capital immediately, which means some investments will arrive during three or four events.

Otherwise, only small

amounts of approved investments might flow this year, and large capital can be delivered in the upcoming years, said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of MIC.

Every three months MIC releases the actual amounts of foreign investment arriving in the country.

A total of 85 foreign enterprises were approved by MIC during the six-month interim period prior to fiscal year 2018-2019, with capital of \$1.76 billion, including expansion

of capital.

During this period, Singapore was the main investor, followed by China and the UK. Next were Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Viet Nam, USA and Seychelles during the six-month period.

Agriculture, Industrial Estate, Hotel and Tourism and Manufacturing sectors attracted the most foreign investments.

Additionally, FDI was re-

ceived in agriculture, livestock and fisheries, power, transport and communication and other services.

According to the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan jointly developed by MIC and Japan International Cooperation Agency, expected foreign investments include US\$5.8 billion from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, and then increasing to \$8.5 billion from 2020-21 to 2025-26 FYs.

The FDI is likely to grow to US\$12.3 billion in another

five-year term, from 2026-2027 to 2030-2031 FYs.

It is expected that the total foreign investment will reach US\$17.6 billion in the last five-year term, from 2031-2032 to 2035-36 FYs.

The actual amount of Foreign Direct Investment for the 2017-2018 financial year is 4.34 billion, and the amount approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is US\$ 6.11 billion, according to the MIC. — GNLM ■

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Trade deficit shows decline in one month this FY

THE trade value in nearly one month of the current fiscal year 2018-2019 showed a deficit of US\$282.6 million, a decrease compared to the similar period in FY 2017-2018, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

In the last FY 2017-2018, there was a trade deficit of \$623.36 million.

Between 1 and 26 October, external trade amounted to over \$2.17 billion, with exports worth \$948 million and imports valued at \$1.23 billion.

During that period, maritime trade was registered at \$1.69 billion, while border trade reached \$479 million.

Myanmar exported agri-

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

The country's export sector is more dependent upon agriculture and industrial products from small and medium sized enterprises, while reducing its reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and the mining of jade.

The Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its policy reforms with a series of liberalizations and an openness to expand a more viable trade environment.

The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by introducing negative lists of import goods and policy liberalizations, screening luxury import items, allowing foreign companies to increase their trading in agricultural inputs, and boosting exports.

During the 2017-2018 FY, the trade deficit narrowed to \$3.97 billion. Of note, there were trade deficits of US\$91.9million in 2012-2013 FY, US\$2.5billion in 2013-2014, US\$4.9 billion in 2014-2015, US\$5.4 billion in 2015-2016 and \$5.5 billion in 2016-2017 FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). — Mon Mon ■

Second day of Children's Literature Festival, Exhibition, Book Sales held at Pathein University

THE second day of the Children's Literature Festival, Exhibition and Book Sales was held yesterday morning at the Pathein University Convocation Hall in Ayeyawady Region, where Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and wife Daw Khaing Nwe Oo attended the festival.

At the festival, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and audience enjoyed the entertainment programmes with songs, dances and 31 kinds of performances staged by students from various schools in Ayeyawady Region. — Thi Thi Min, Min Thit (MNA) / (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung) ■



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and wife Daw Khaing Nwe Oo and the audience enjoy the youth's performance at the Children's Literature Festival. PHOTO: IPRD



Crowds flock to 2nd day of Children's Literature Festival in Pathein



Kyaukse elephant dance attracts the people. PHOTO: NAY LIN



Youths choosing books at the book-stall. PHOTO: NAY LIN



Children participate at quiz and games program. PHOTO: NAY LIN

STUDENTS, teachers and the general public visited Pathein University in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, as the second day of the Children's Literature Festival, Literature Ex-

hibition and Book Sales commenced its second day.

The university was full of students from Ayeyawady Region partaking in entertainment programmes and young children participating in storytelling, paper-folding (origami), colouring, and art competitions.

U Thein Tun, a judge at the art competition, said a lot of the children at the festival showed interest in art. Over 200 children participated in the competition on the first day and there were

not enough spaces for them to sit down, he remarked. He said children who show an interest in arts develop calm personalities and become disciplined.

Children, students and adults of all ages also had fun assembling toys and puzzles and entering a maze.

Ma Khin Myo Thant travelled from Pathein Tsp with her children to the festival. She said the festival is also fun for adults and purchased books for her children to read.



Football matches are played in the playground. PHOTO: NAY LIN



The festival hall packed with people. PHOTO: NAY LIN

Writers give talks on literature in Pathein

A literature roundtable was held under the title 'Literature, youths and the future' with Myint Moe Aung (composer/singer), writer Kyaw Zaw, Nyo Mya Lay and Zin Min (Thamein Hta) in the afternoon session of the Children's Literature Festival yesterday at Pathein University.

Following the roundtable, writer Min Htet

Maung and six students also discussed literature.

At the festival, writer Dr. Khin Maung Nyo and Maung Sein Win (Pan Myaing Lel) gave talks on literature under the titles 'Youth and the future' and 'You are your own master' respectively. — Ayeyawady Region IPRD (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■



A literature talk at the festival underway. PHOTO: AYEYAWADY REGION IPRD

People were rushing to the exhibition from various universities in the Ayeyawady Region and the "Unique Ayeyawady People" was particularly jam-packed.

Maung Hein Aung from BEHS 1 Pathein said the aforementioned exhibition was very informative and offered him a chance to learn about extraordinary people never heard of before. "It fills me with pride to know these great people are from our Ayeyawady Region," he

said.

The books sales area was also filled with people buying textbooks, teaching aids, literature, fiction, autobiographies and storybooks, all sold at reasonable prices.

U A Tee from Nagar Pyan Sarpay said he had not expected to sell so many books. "We came here to put books into the hands of children so that they become obedient and cultured," he said. — Thi Thi Min, Min Thit (MNA)/(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■

US wages gains will get Fed's attention; no rate hike yet

WASHINGTON — Wage gains at long last have made an appearance in the US economy after a baffling absence amid robust job growth but the Federal Reserve is expected to hold its fire next week.

Central bankers certainly will take notice of the recent data, with especial focus on everything contributing to inflation, but have made it clear they are committed to a gradual pace of increases in the benchmark lending rate, meaning the fourth hike of the year will not come until December.

The Fed's rate-setting Federal Open Market (FOMC) meets Wednesday and Thursday but, in keeping with recent custom, economists do not expect any moves to be made since this meeting is not one that will be followed by a press conference with Fed Chairman Jerome Powell.

That dynamic will change next year when Powell will hold a briefing after every policy meeting, making economists' forecasts a bit more lively.

Fed officials have made it clear the economy can continue to perform well for some time with the current course of rate increases.



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell will try to tap on the economy's brakes so that growth continues without inflation. PHOTO: AFP

Three more are expected next year as the central bank removes stimulus from the economy to prevent price pressures from accelerating.

The meeting takes place against the backdrop of President Donald Trump's repeated attacks on Powell for raising rates, which has injected an unwelcome political element into the deliberations.

Trump said the Fed has gone "crazy" and posed the greatest threat to his economic policies by moving too fast.

"He was supposed to be a low-interest-rate guy. It's turned out that he's not," Trump said.

But the Fed has made it clear more rate hikes will be needed, since as companies increasingly are having difficulty finding and keeping workers, which likely means wages will rise faster.

And firms also are facing price increases due to Trump's aggressive trade policies that have imposed steep tariffs on steel, aluminum and thousands of needed inputs.

Don't kill the recovery

Diane Swonk of Grant Thornton said the central bank was trying to fine tune the economy so that it can continue to grow without igniting inflation.

"The Fed is not trying to kill the economy," she said in a research note.

Instead, the FOMC members "are trying to pace us so that we can extend the length of this marathon we are now running."

The recovery from the 2008 global financial crisis is now in its 10th year, making it the sec-

ond-longest of the post-World War II era. "The FOMC would like it to exceed the 1990s in length," Swonk said.

Able to declare victory with half of its dual mandate achieved — full employment, as seen by the 48-year low in the jobless rate of 3.7 per cent — central bankers are watching closely for any buildup of inflation.

The Fed's preferred measure of inflation is right on target at two per cent a year but policy-makers will scrutinize the continued job creation, the 3.1 per cent gain in average hourly wages and a 2.8 per cent quarterly gain in total compensation.

Mickey Levy of Berenberg Capital Markets, said, "The moderate improvement in wage growth keeps the Fed on track to hike again in December and enables them to transition to a slower pace of rate increases next year."

Economist Joel Naroff notes that the pace of job creation "seems to be unsustainable."

But he cautioned that the 3.1 per cent wage gain "will be the data point that catches the attention of the Fed members the most. And they will not be happy about it." — AFP ■

Saudi readies to boost supplies over Iran oil sanctions

DUBAI — With Washington poised to curtail Iran's oil exports, OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia and its partners stand ready to ramp up supplies even as market conditions remain uncertain, analysts say.

The renewal of sanctions on the Islamic republic comes at a time of major supply disruptions in several producer nations and as US President Donald Trump aims to prevent an oil price hike.

Analysts expect that Iran's oil exports, which reach around 2.5 million barrels per day in normal times, to plunge by one million to two million bpd when sanctions take effect on November 5.

That is expected to strain an already tight market.

Outages in Libya, Venezuela, Nigeria, Mexico, Angola and others forced OPEC and non-OPEC producers in June to abandon an agreed cut in output and boost supplies.

"We are entering a very crucial period for the oil market," the International Energy Agency said in a September report. "Things are tightening up."

Spare capacity in Saudi

Saudi Arabia is the only producer with significant spare capacity of around two million bpd that can be tapped into to compensate for the loss of Iranian supplies.

The kingdom has been under scrutiny after Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi — the former royal court insider-turned-critic — was killed in his country's consulate in Istanbul in October.

Even as relations soured between the West and Riyadh over the murder of the Washington Post contributor, Saudi Arabia said it had no plans to wage a retaliatory oil embargo.

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said his country, which raised output by 700,000

bpd to 10.7 million bpd in October, was prepared to further bump up production to 12 million bpd.

"We have sanctions on Iran and nobody has a clue what Iranian exports will be," he told the Russian news agency Tass last week.

In addition, there are potential declines in Libya, Nigeria, Mexico and Venezuela, he said, also pointing to uncertainty over US shale oil production.

Falih said the kingdom could turn to its huge strategic reserves of around 300 billion barrels to meet global demand.

Anas al-Hajji, a Houston-based oil expert, said the fall in Iranian exports was tough to assess but he expected "less than what most analysts are talking about".

"The Iranians have perfected their game working under sanctions. There will be a black market for Iranian crude," Hajji told AFP.



The renewal of sanctions on the Islamic republic comes at a time of major supply disruptions in several producer nations and as US President Donald Trump aims to prevent an oil price hike. PHOTO: AFP

Saudi Arabia's neighbours the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait can also raise their output by up to 300,000 bpd if needed.

'It's unsustainable'

Kuwaiti oil expert Kamel al-Harami said he doubts Riyadh can sustain production of 12 million bpd for a prolonged period.

"It is very unlikely... They never even did 11 million bpd on a sustainable basis... Its unsustainable," Harami said.

OPEC is constrained by low spare capacity in a tight market under threat from unplanned outages, low investment and unpredictable geopolitical unrest.

Iranian officials are betting on the unstable market conditions to beat US sanctions.

"Mr Trump both tries to decrease Iran's oil exports significantly and also wants prices not to go up. These two can't happen together," Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said late September.—AFP ■

Understanding land use policy is beneficial for land management system

SOME 70 percent of Myanmar's population resides in rural areas and depends on agriculture and livestock breeding. An agriculture development strategy was drawn up for Myanmar's agriculture sector development, and the aim of the strategy was to raise the standard of living of small plot farmers in rural areas through a high yield, weather resistant agriculture sector in Myanmar that is self sufficient in food and nutrition, and can compete in the world market by 2030.

Therefore, the management of farmlands, as well as vacant, fallow and virgin lands, needs to be improved. Meanwhile, priority over land use and land rights should be given to the small farmers and landless farmers.

To achieve this, an agriculture policy and an agriculture development strategy have been adopted.

To conduct the main work processes effectively, it is required to form one of the National Land Use Council's support committee agriculture development work committees.

Based on the outcome of the National Land Use Forum which was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 and 3 October, National Land Use Council's duties and responsibilities, which are in line with the national land use policy, are to be firmly implemented to establish a systematic and appropriate land management system in Myanmar, and to draw up a national land law.

Four priority work processes will be conducted in regions and states for the effective implementation of the National Land Use Council's duties and responsibilities, which will establish a proper land administration and management system to implement the aim, guidelines and basic principles of the National Land Use Policy.

At the same time, those who are using the vacant, virgin and fallow land without permission are urged to apply for land use to the central committee or regional committees in accordance with the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law-2018.

It is required that those using the above land should apply for permission six months after the law was enacted or their land would be confiscated in accordance with the law. If they decline to abandon the land, they would face legal action.

For the objectives, guidelines and basic principles of the National Land Use Policy to be truly effective, the relevant authorities, organisations and individuals need to fully understand its contents, so that they may also fully implement it.



Those who are using the vacant, virgin and fallow land without permission are urged to apply for land use to the central committee or regional committees in accordance with the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law-2018.

Let's work together for development of reference libraries on museums

By Mar Lar Aung (Culture)

FOR the sustainable progress and continued perfection of Myanmar cultural heritages, more museums are being established and maintained. The museum is a building in which objects of artistic, cultural, historical or scientific interest are kept and shown to the public.

There are museums such as the National Museum, the Archaeological Museum, the Arts and Sculpture Museum, the Scientific and Technological Museum, the Memorial Museum, the Religious Museum, and the Historical Museum.

There exists an atmosphere of the librarians and staff members, the researchers and the students surrounding this subject and that the reference libraries have come into existence.

Type of Libraries

There are four types of libraries such as the National Library, the University libraries, the School libraries, and the Public libraries. The reference libraries on museum are special libraries where relevant books are being collected in connection with the museum. The term "reference work" means to provide required information to the researchers in shortest possible time. In serving this purpose, it depends on the exhaustive reference books and the skill of the librarians. Therefore, the reference libraries and the librarians are the instruments in providing necessary data and information to the researchers.

A reference book means a book that contains facts and information, that one looks at when you need to find out something particular such as dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books compiled in alphabet, year, subject, or system. The books are accurate, brief and concise, which are updated from time to time, being printed by government departments, organizations and prestigious publishing houses.

The books could be categorized as (1) encyclopedia; (2) condensed; (3) dictionary; (4) handbook; (5) guide book; (6) autobiography; (7) map; (8) gazet-



People visit the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 July 2018. PHOTO: MNA

teer (or) geography glossary; (9) reference; (10) summary of lists; totaling in ten items. The items from (1) to (8) are the straight reference books where the information could be obtained directly while the reference item (9) and item (10) mentioned information where to find the necessary facts in detailed.

and rare books and manuscripts, which supports the Museum in its mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence. All relevant data and information on museum including digital records are maintained, which is being linked through an-

The colorful and lively libraries are the wonderful places for the knowledge seekers including children, researchers and general public, and therefore, the librarians and the staff members have very important role to play such as extending patience and kindness towards the visitors along with the love and devotion on the library work.

Most of the reference library keeps the books that can be read in the library but cannot be borrowed.

Knowledge books

The Reference Library is a reference collection of materials relating to the arts, antiquities,

line with other institutions. At the open shelves library, the readers can get the book by themselves for use, and put the book back in proper place after reading it. The staff members of the library may also assist in putting back the book in appropriate place. Open shelves are the mod-

ern method of displaying the library collections with the purpose of removing barriers imposed to readers and providing free access to shelves where readers can choose by themselves the books they are interested in.

In a closed shelves library system, the reader can find a book through the catalogue with the assistance of the staff member. The purpose of the closed shelves area is to protect library material which, by virtue of its condition, format, value, subject content or illustration, is subject to damage, mutilation or theft on open shelves. The reader as well as the library staff members is required to exercise patience and restraint in dealing and relation with each other.

Myanmar Aquarium Fish Museum is located at the north of Yangon Zoological Garden and facing Kandawgyi Lake. It was opened on 1 October 1978, and the museum reference library was established in 1985.

In 1923-1924, the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (M.B., B.S.) course was introduced at the old Rangoon College building at the site of the present Neurology Department of the Yangon General Hospital. The medical faculty museum and a library had initiated in 1923, and a medical faculty department was established in 1929 which was ma-

tured into Institute of Medicine (I) in 1964 along with a library. In the year 2000, the library is being upgraded and moved to four-storied building on Bo Gyoke Aung San Road near New Yangon Hospital.

The Drug Elimination Museum was opened with ceremony on 16 May 2002. It is located at the corner of Kyandaw Road and Hanthawady Road in Kamayut Township, Yangon. It is dedicated to the International Day against Drug Abuse and illicit trafficking. The museum has three floors which contain exhibits on drug abuse and government efforts to contain the problem. The reference library is located on the third floor.

There are many museums in the regions and states under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The National Museum

The National Museum (Yangon) was established at the Jubilee Hall on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in June 1952, and the museum was equipped with 2000 books. On 8 February 1970, it was moved to Pansodan Street. The new five stories National Museum has been opened on Pyay Road to public since 18 September 1996. It is attached with a reference library.

The National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) attached with a refer-

ence library is established in Ot-tara Thiri Township on 15 July 2015.

Many archeological research museums are established in Bagan; Sirikhitara (Hmawсар) Research Museum; Beiktano (Taundwingyi); Hanlin (Shwebo); Innwa; Tagaung (Tabeikkyin); Myauk-U (Rakhine), and these museums are equipped with reference libraries.

Many museums are attached with reference libraries, however, some museums are yet to equip with reference libraries.

Let's work for more development

The librarians and the staff members of the museum reference libraries may collect more reference books including digital data and information, and lend assistance to the library users and researchers, which could further enhance and elevate the role of the reference libraries.

If and when we have good reference libraries, then we could uplift and upgrade the museums in the country.

The colorful and lively libraries are the wonderful places for the knowledge seekers including children, researchers and general public, and therefore, the librarians and the staff members have very important role to play such as extending patience and kindness towards the visitors along with the love and devotion on the library work. More importantly, the readers and the staff members must maintain understanding and considerate toward each other, and also having esteemed to the writers of the books.

With the development and improvement of reference libraries, it is certain that the museum visitors and the researchers may have more clear knowledge over the artifact and relic of the museums. In conclusion, the author of the article would like to draw the kind attention of the librarians, the staff members, the researchers and the knowledge seekers and urge them to work hand in hand together for the development of reference libraries on museums.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Advertisement for Myanmar Daily Weather Report, featuring a logo and text in Burmese and English.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 4th November, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 5th November, 2018: Light rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region, Shan and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of continuations of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th November, 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th November, 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th November, 2018: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter in inside Myanmar (about (24)miles north-northwest of Pauk), latitude 21.79°N, longitude 94.41°E, depth (27) kilometers about (52) miles northwest of Nyaung-U, seismological observatory was recorded at (02)hr (42)min (55)sec M.S.T on 4th November, 2018.

Advertisement for 'Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special' by The Global New Light of Myanmar, including submission details and contact information.

Trade war's bark turns to bite in Asia

SHANGHAI (China)—The US-China tariff slugfest has for months triggered warnings that it could impact global economic growth, and recent data indicates the trade tension is indeed beginning to bite. Manufacturing gauges in several export-reliant Asian countries, as well as China, weakened in October as gloom deepens over the trade outlook.

China's official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which measures factory activity, came in at 50.2 in October, down from 50.8 the previous month, the latest sign of weakness in the world's second-largest economy amid the trade war and a domestic debt problem. But China's troubles are bad for the rest of the region, and the world, analysts said.

Asian exporting countries from South Korea to Malaysia saw PMI decreases in October, according to indices compiled by Nikkei/IHS Markit.

Taiwan saw its steepest falls in production and new business in just over three years, purchasing activity by companies fell for the first time since May 2016, and firms anticipate lower factory output in the next 12 months, Nikkei/IHS Markit said. "Taiwan is feeling the effects of this trade war because China is the factory for many companies in Taiwan. When the estuary is blocked, you



Manufacturing gauges in several export-reliant Asian countries, as well as China, weakened in October.

PHOTO: AFP

feel the effects," said Sun Ming-te of the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research.

Paying the price

South Korea's PMI slipped to 51.0 in October from 51.3 in September, while a separate Korean business sentiment index for manufacturing sank to its lowest level in two years. China is South Korea's largest trading partner, absorbing a quarter of Korean exports. "The situation may get worse next year due to a prolonged trade war between the US and China, growing default risks at debt-plagued Chinese firms and a slowing global economy that reduces demand for our

exports," said c, an analyst at the Korea Institute of Finance.

Southeast Asian manufacturers were feeling the effects too, with PMI in Malaysia and Thailand slipping below the 50-point level, which indicates contraction in the sector. It was Malaysia's lowest PMI since July and Thailand's lowest in two years.

In an AFP interview last week, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad complained that US President Donald Trump—who has accused various trading partners of "ripping off" America—"seems to be withdrawing from all commitments overseas". Mahathir, 93, said that hurts everyone, including the

US. "We want to remain friendly with the US, and we want to continue trading with the US," Mahathir said. "But the trade war that is going on between the US and China is damaging for us. We have to pay a price for that."

Viet Nam or bust

The International Monetary Fund warned at its annual meeting last month that the trade friction and other threats would hobble the world economy, lowering its growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019.

The Eurozone posted disappointing PMI figures in October, though due largely to factors other than trade tension.—AFP ■

Oil market on alert as Iran sanctions hit

LONDON (United Kingdom)—US sanctions against importers of Iranian oil threaten the crude oil market's precarious balance and risk surging prices, all under Saudi Arabia's watchful gaze, according to experts.

"In the next weeks all eyes will be on Iranian exports, whether there will be some cheating around US sanctions, and on how quickly production will fall," said Riccardo Fabiani, an analyst for Energy Aspects. The US will from Monday target buyers of Iranian oil in order to deprive Tehran of its main source of income. Going after Iran's oil money will hit Tehran where it hurts, but it also means hitting a major pillar of the global oil market—Iran is the OPEC cartel's third-largest producer—with major consequences for world supply.

Iran exported the equivalent of 2.5 million barrels a day in April, before the announcement of sanctions turned buyers away.

"Even if the United States grants exemptions, Washington will demand that the volume imported from Iran be significantly reduced," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo, who expects prices to rise.

Exemptions

However, oil prices have fallen by nearly \$15 in less than a month, after peaking in early October at their highest level in two and a half years, with a barrel of Brent at over \$85.

Part of the explanation lies in the ambiguous position of the US, which initially insisted that the sanctions were designed to reduce Iranian exports to zero barrels, but has since has softened its position. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday announced exemptions for eight countries, without naming them.

Turkey indicated that it was one of them and analysts believe that India, one of the world's largest importers, is also on the list, which will be published on Monday. "India said to the US that they can't stop before March, they are facing a major currency crisis," explained Joel Hancock, analyst at Natixis. Consumer confidence in the US itself could also suffer if rising oil prices translate into higher prices at the pump. "If prices start to rise again or another major producer has difficulties, it could put pressure on the US and lead to new exemptions," said Fabiani.—AFP ■

Struggling farming school in Hokkaido revived by its lamb products

ASAHIKAWA (Japan)—An agricultural high school in Japan's northern prefecture of Hokkaido—its survival once at stake due to a shortage of students—has bounced back by earning fame through the delicious lamb produced by its students.

The Embetsu agricultural high school, the sole high school in the town of Embetsu in northern Hokkaido, has about 60 students and owns around 25 hectares of land used. It keeps around 20 to 40 Suffolk sheep, a breed from Britain, with students mainly handling the breeding of animals and processing of meat.

"This is the only high school in the country specialized in lamb production and processing," said Uriel Ishikawa, 28, who teaches students how to raise sheep.

At school events, it has sold meat processed into lamb slices, ground lamb and sausage. But it

had been struggling due to the declining number of incoming students, leading authorities to consider whether they should close the school.

The turning point came about four years ago, when the town began sending the school's lamb products as one of the return gifts to people who donated money to the municipality under the country's so-called hometown tax donation scheme.

The donation system launched in fiscal 2008 provides tax deductions to people who donate to a local government of their choice and it has become popular because of attractive and unique gifts offered by local governments in return for donations.

The lamb produced by the school became a huge hit, with people who received the gift praising the meat as "tender and tasty."

The amount of donations to the town surged to around 140 million yen (\$1.23 million) in fiscal 2017 from around 6.6 million yen in fiscal 2014. Among the gifts, lamb is so popular that it often runs out of stock. Along with the spread of a reputation for its signature lamb, the school enrolled 26 new students, surpassing the minimum requirement level of 20 students for merger or closure considerations, for this academic year. "These are results far beyond what we expected," a town official said.

Students at the high school feed the animals, clean the sheep shed and keep a close eye on the health of each animal, reporting such observations as one was "bleeding from its leg" or "dung was softer than usual."

Ryunosuke Ohashi, one of the students, said, "The sheep is a delicate animal. We try not

to overlook small changes in the animals as part of efforts to maintain the quality of our products for consumers." Feed for the sheep is mixed with broken rice, an idea that came from the students.

Now the school even attracts students from outside Hokkaido.

"The increase in the number of high school students will vitalize the town," said Tatsuhiko Nomura, an Embetsu town official who handles matters related to the hometown tax. In fiscal 2016, tablet computers purchased with the hometown tax donations were leased to all students and used in class activities.

"While taking care of lives (of animals here), I want the students to also learn advanced technologies so that they will become capable professionals who will lead farming in the future," said Yuji Sato, the principal of the high school.—Kyodo News ■

New Caledonia votes on independence from France

NOUMEA (France) — The French Pacific islands of New Caledonia were voting on Sunday on whether to become an independent nation, in a closely-watched test of support for France in one of its many territories scattered around the globe.

Some 18,000 kilometres (11,000 miles) from the French mainland, New Caledonia is home to a quarter of the world's known supplies of nickel—a vital electronics component—and is a strategic foothold for France in the Pacific.

Voting in New Caledonia's 284 polling stations opened at 8:00 am Sunday (2100 GMT Saturday) and was to end at 6.00 pm, with results expected the same evening.

The participation rate was 73.68 per cent at 5:00 pm, much higher than at the same time during local elections in 2014.

Some 175,000 people are eligible to vote in the remote islands fringed by spectacular beaches, with opinion polls predicting a large majority in favour of staying French. But there are fears the referendum could inflame tensions between indigenous Kanak people, who tend to favour independence, and the white population, which boiled over into

deadly violence in the 1980s.

The quasi-civil war claimed more than 70 lives. It led to the 1998 Noumea Accord which paved the way for the steady devolution of powers as well as Sunday's referendum.

Separatists have urged Kanak voters to choose self-determination for Kanaky, their name for New Caledonia, and throw off the shackles of "colonial" authorities in Paris.

"It's a great day for us. My father, my grandfather fought for this country and today is the second fight in the ballot box," said pro-independence supporter Patrick Watrone on Sunday, dressed in the colours of Kanak flag.

"Today, us young Kanaks, we have no jobs. If we are the ones who manage the country, we will have more opportunities," said Fabrice Ude, 28.

But indigenous people make up less than 50 per cent of the electorate and some Kanaks back staying part of France, not least due to the 1.3 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) the French state hands to the islands every year.

Going it alone, "I'm not sure we have all the assets we'd need to succeed," said Marc Gnipate, a 62-year-old pensioner. — AFP ■

Cuba plans a centre devoted to study of Fidel Castro: Granma

HAVANA (Cuba) — As the second anniversary of Fidel Castro's death approaches, Cuban authorities are working on a center for the study and promotion of his ideas, the official newspaper *Granma* reported on Saturday.

Castro, the leader of the 1959 Cuban revolution, asked before his death on 25 November, 2016 that no statues be erected in his memory, and no streets or other sites be named in his honour.

His request was formalized in a law that does allow an exception: the Castro name can be

used to designate any institution devoted to the study and spread of his work and ideas.

"It will be political in character, open to the public, with high-tech equipment to stimulate interactive learning and with an emphasis on children, adolescents and young people, without excluding the rest of the public," said Alberto Alvarino, who is overseeing the project.

Granma said the new centre would host academic events, meetings and competitions, and support teaching and research

projects, as well as the publication of books and other printed matter.

It will cooperate with other national and international institutions "linked to the figure of the commander in chief" and will defend his image as a leader of the Cuban revolution, the newspaper said.

The institute will be based in Havana's central El Vedado neighbourhood and should open by the end of next year, coinciding with the 500th anniversary of the city's founding. — AFP ■



A new center devoted to the study of late Cuban leader Fidel Castro, whose pictures are seen here on the wall of a Havana school, will open by the end of 2019. PHOTO: AFP

Restrictive rules keep millions of Americans from voting

WASHINGTON (United States) — Millions of Americans will be barred from casting ballots in Tuesday's crucial midterm elections due to electoral rules at the state level, which effectively exclude many minority voters to the detriment of Democrats.

Here's a look at states where these restrictions could impact the poll's outcome.

1.5 million Floridians disenfranchised

Nearly six million Americans are excluded from voting because they are imprisoned, on parole or awaiting sentencing.

African-Americans, who are overrepresented in the US penal system, are four times more likely to be unable to vote than the rest of the population, according to The Sentencing Project, a non-profit organization.

Rules vary widely by state, with some like Maine and New Hampshire allowing inmates to vote.

But in places such as Ken-

tucky, Iowa, Virginia and Florida, any conviction — even for a minor offense like possession of marijuana — results in lifelong disenfranchisement.

In Florida, where Donald Trump won by just 112,000 votes in 2016, nearly 1.5 million people are cannot vote because of a criminal record.

In addition to choosing their governor and members of Congress, Florida residents will vote on whether to restore voting rights to people with prior felony convictions once they have finished their sentences, besides those convicted of the most serious crimes.

Proof of street address

There is no national identity card in the United States, with each state defining what documents can be used as identification at the polling station.

And according to the American Civil Liberties Union, an influential civil rights organization, several states have imposed

restrictive rules since 2010.

North Dakota has since 2016 required its residents to present a document with proof of a street address.

But the state is home to thousands of Native Americans who live on reservations in rural areas with but a single post office box.

They might be turned away at the ballot box, where Heidi Heitkamp — a Democrat who was elected to the Senate in 2012 by just 3,000 votes — is campaigning to keep her seat.

Backers of the rule hold it prevents fraud, as North Dakota does not require voters to pre-register.

'Exact match' rules

In Georgia, the data voters provide when registering at the polls have since 2017 been compared to those given when applying for a driver's license or social security number.

If there are discrepancies, authorities might refuse the registration.

Some 53,000 applications are currently pending, 70 per cent of which belong to African-Americans, according to the Southern Poverty Law Centre.

Democrat Stacey Abrams — who hopes to become the first black woman elected governor in the US — has accused her Republican opponent, Brian Kemp, of using his position heading the office that oversees elections to influence the vote.

Kemp in turn says voters can cast ballots if they clarify their situations, and accuses Abrams of wanting to let undocumented immigrants vote.

A federal judge on Friday ordered the state to immediately change its procedure and make it easier for those who have already been flagged, about 3,100 people, to prove their citizenship.

But even if applications in limbo are ultimately approved, Abrams fears the challenge to register might cause these voters to stay home. — AFP ■

MiG-29M fighter crashed in Egypt

MOSCOW — A MiG-29M plane has crashed in Egypt, the press service of the United Aircraft Corporation told TASS on Saturday.

The newspaper *Kommersant* reported earlier the crash of a MiG-29M, which had been delivered to this country in 2018 under a commercial contract, during a training flight. The Egyptian pilot was able to safely eject, according to the newspaper.

"We have the latest information about the crash of a MiG-29M of the Egyptian Air Force. In the near future our technical experts will go to Egypt to help investigate the incident," the press service reported.

The MiG-29 is a "4++" generation multi-role supersonic fighter. There are more than 20 versions of the plane, including the MiG-29M. The fighter is being operated in more than 25 countries. — Tass ■



This photo taken on 8 February, 2018 and released on 9 February, 2018 by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) shows Hwasong-12 ballistic missiles during the military parade to mark the 70th anniversary of the Korean People's Army at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang. **PHOTO: AFP**

North Korea warns of returning to nuclear policy

SEOUL (South Korea) — North Korea has warned the United States it will “seriously” consider returning to a state policy aimed at building nuclear weapons if Washington does not end tough economic sanctions against the impoverished regime.

For years, the North had pursued a “byungjin” policy of simultaneously developing its nuclear capabilities alongside the economy. In April, citing a “fresh climate of detente and peace” on the peninsula, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared the nuclear quest complete and said his country would focus on “socialist economic construction”.

But a statement issued by the North's foreign ministry said Pyongyang could revert to its former policy if the US did not change its stance over sanctions.

“The word ‘byungjin’ may appear again and the change of the line could be seriously reconsidered,” said the statement carried by the official KCNA news agency late Friday. At a historic

summit in Singapore in June, US President Donald Trump and Kim signed a vaguely-worded statement on denuclearisation.

But little progress has been made since then, with Washington pushing to maintain sanctions against the North until its “final, fully verified denuclearisation” and Pyongyang condemning US demands as “gangster-like”.

“The improvement of relations and sanctions are incompatible,” said the statement, released under the name of the director of the foreign ministry's Institute for American Studies.

“What remains to be done is the US corresponding reply,” it added. The statement is the latest sign of Pyongyang's increasing frustration with Washington.

Last month, the North's state media carried a near 1,700 words long commentary accusing the US of playing a “double game”, implicitly criticising Trump for his comments aimed at barring Seoul from lifting sanctions against Pyongyang.

Despite a flurry of diplomacy on and around the peninsula differences are emerging between Seoul and Washington, which stations 28,500 troops in the South to protect it from its nuclear-armed neighbour. The South's doveish president Moon Jae-in has long favoured engagement with the North, which is subject to multiple UN Security Council sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

He has dangled large investment and joint cross-border projects as incentives for steps towards denuclearisation, while the US has been adamant pressure should be maintained on Pyongyang until it fully dismantles its weapons programmes.

In an interview with Fox News on Friday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reiterated that sanctions will remain until Pyongyang carries out its denuclearisation commitments made in Singapore, adding he will meet with his North Korean counterpart next week. —AFP ■

Viet Nam could give tech companies one year to obey cyberlaw

HANOI (Viet Nam) — Viet Nam may give internet companies like Google and Facebook one year to comply with a controversial cybersecurity law, according to a draft decree that outlines how the draconian bill could be implemented.

The cybersecurity bill, which observers say mimic China's repressive web control tools, is set to come into effect in January despite drawing sharp criticism from the US, the EU and internet freedom advocates.

The bill would require tech companies to store data in the country, and remove “toxic content” from websites and hand over user information if asked by the government to do so.

Critics of the bill say it will be a chokehold on criticism in the one-party state where activists are routinely jailed and all independent media are banned.

According to a draft decree on how the law may be implemented, published by the Ministry of Public Security Friday, companies offering internet services in Viet Nam may be given 12 months to comply.

“Enterprises... must archive data (and) set up branches or representative offices in Viet Nam,” the decree said. It did not outline the punishment for failing to comply, but any country in breach of the law could be barred from offering its services in Viet Nam.

An enterprise can mean internet service providers, e-commerce sites, online payment firms and social networks.

The draft decree added that companies must store user data in the country for at least 36 months.

Personal data required to be stored includes everything from a user's name to passport number, medical records, credit card information and biometric data.

Google declined to comment Saturday, while Facebook did not immediately respond to a request from AFP.

The public has two months to provide feedback on the decree, in line with Vietnamese law, though public comments have not traditionally led to dramatic alterations to proposed bills.

The law was passed by Viet Nam's rubber-stamp parliament in June, part of a broader crackdown on internet freedoms that has sparked outcry from the country's activists.

This week, the government said it had set up a web monitoring unit that can scan up to 100 million items per day to sniff out “false information”. A few days later officials said 3,000 sites featuring “inappropriate content” had been blocked.

With 53 million users, Facebook is by far the leading site in Viet Nam, a country of 93 million.

It is a crucial platform for activists — and many have been jailed based on Facebook posts — but also a leading site for business owners.

Any efforts to block access to the site are likely to spark widespread opposition across the country. —AFP ■

Majority of Japanese support bill to accept more foreign workers: poll

TOKYO — A majority of Japanese support a bill to accept more foreign workers, a Kyodo News poll showed on Sunday.

The nationwide telephone survey conducted over the weekend found that 51.3 per cent were supportive of the bill, approved by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet on Friday, while 39.5 per cent opposed it.

The poll also showed 50.8 per cent of respondents opposed a consumption tax hike in October next year to 10 per cent from the current 8 per cent, while 46.4 per



Photo shows Roneta Ratumaitavuki (far R), a Fijian employee at Narita International Airport Corp, attending to customers at TraveLounge at Narita airport, near Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

cent were supportive.

The approval rate for Abe's Cabinet stood at 47.3 per cent, up

0.8 percentage point from the previous survey conducted a month earlier. —Kyodo News ■

Yacht catches fire, 9 foreign visitors rescued in southern Thailand's Phuket

BANGKOK — A yacht caught fire and sank on Saturday in southern Thailand's Phuket, with all nine passengers rescued.

The accident occurred at about 4:45 pm local time on the northeast coast of the famous seaside destination Phuket.

The luxury yacht with nine foreign tourists on board was struck by lightning in heavy downpour before it was engulfed in flames. Fortunately, all the passengers were rescued by

fishing boats, reports said.

The catamaran was completely destroyed.

The cause of the accident is under investigation. Deputy Phuket governor and officials from concerned agencies rushed to the spot to inspect the wreckage.

Boat accidents are frequent in the famed southern tourist destination. Phuket has been tightening its tourist safety and security measures to restore tourist confidence. —Xinhua ■

Coal-dependent Poland shifts on wind ahead of climate meeting

WARSAW—Restrictive legislation introduced by Poland's right-wing government in 2016 threw a spanner into the works for onshore wind energy, but the easing of some measures now promises to get the sector spinning.

The change comes ahead of the COP24 World Climate Conference that opens on 2 December in the southern Polish city of Katowice, a coal mining hub long among the main providers of the country's primary source of both fuel and pollution.

"We're on the right track," Janusz Gajowiecki, chairman of the Polish Wind Energy Association (PSEW), told AFP of plans to bring an additional one gigawatt (GW) of wind energy online.

Poland currently has around 6.4 gigawatts of installed wind power, compared to neighbouring Ger-



More wind turbines are needed if Poland is to meet its green energy commitments. PHOTO: AFP

many, which has around 56 GW.

An auction for wind farm licenses to add that one gigawatt of production capacity is set for 5 November and public subsidies will also be available under a new government plan aimed at helping coal-addicted Poland meet EU goals for renewable energy use.

The EU has set itself an overall target of 20 per cent green energy in its mix by 2020. Poland, meanwhile, must boost its overall use of renewable energy to at least 15 per cent by 2020 under EU deals on emissions curbs.

Renewables accounted for 11.3 per cent of Poland's energy mix in 2016, according to the latest

available figures, and a study published last year by the Ecofys consultancy warned that it risks falling short of the 2020 target.

The country of 38 million, with an ever-expanding economy, was likely to have no more than 13.8 per cent of renewables in its energy mix by the end of the decade, Ecofys found.—AFP ■

Delhi's air quality improves further, comes down to 'poor' category

NEW DELHI—Delhi's air quality continued to improve on Sunday with the pollution level coming down to 'poor' category after oscillating between 'very poor' and 'severe' for nearly three weeks, authorities said.

The overall Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 231 on Sunday which falls in 'poor' category.

On Friday, the AQI was recorded at 370, which came down to 336 on Saturday, according to data of the Central Pollution Control Board.

On Sunday, the PM2.5 (particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres) level was recorded at 106, while the PM10 (particles in the air with a diameter of less than 10 micrometres) was recorded at 198.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and

400 'very poor' and 401 and 500 'severe'. Authorities have attributed the improvement in air quality to control measures and meteorological conditions but they have also warned of deterioration of air quality to 'severe' levels from Monday.

Delhi authorities have stepped up efforts to combat pollution which includes measures like halting construction activities and regulating traffic.

There is a halt on all construction activities involving excavation. Civil construction has also been suspended in Delhi and other NCR districts, besides closure of all stone crushers and hot mix plants generating dust pollution.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has also directed the Transport Department and the Traffic Police to intensify checking of polluting vehicles and

control travel congestion in the region during 1-10 November.

An aggressive 10-day-long 'Clean Air Campaign' from 1-10 November has also been launched to monitor and report polluting activities as well as to ensure quick action.

A total penalty of Rs 80 lakh was imposed on viola-

tors on Friday and Saturday by the teams deployed to monitor implementation of measures to combat pollution in Delhi-NCR under the campaign.

These teams are visiting different parts of Delhi and adjacent towns of Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Noida.—PTI ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (1815 / 1816)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (1815 / 1816) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Electricity and Energy Electric Power Generation Enterprise Invitation for Prequalification Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project

Date: 6th November, 2018

Loan Agreement No: MY-P22 dated 25th April, 2017

IFP No: EPGE/HPR/Package3

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Project intends reduce the unplanned power outage and improve the remaining life of the power plants by rehabilitating the equipment of Baluchaung No.1 Hydropower Plant, Kayah State and Sedawgyi Hydropower Plant, Mandalay Region.

The works in contract packages 3 intends to rehabilitate and to improve the performance of substation facilities in both plants.

It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.

2. The Electric Power Generation Enterprise intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for Rehabilitation of Relevant Substation and Transmission Line Facilities in Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project.

The subjected Substations are two stations in the two Hydropower plants. For convenience, the facilities and functions as substation in these power plants are defined as substations in this document as follows:

Power plant name	Definition of plants in this Document
Baluchaung No.1 Hydropower plant	Baluchaung No.1 Substation
Sedawgyi Hydropower plant	Sedawgyi Substation

The project comprises Package 3 and other two packages as follows:

Package 1	Baluchaung No.1 Hydropower plant Generation facilities rehabilitation
Package 2	Sedawgyi Hydropower plant Generation facilities rehabilitation

3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in January 2019.

4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries.

5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents during the office hour at;

Address: Project Director of Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project, Renewable Energy and Hydropower Plant Department Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE), Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Phone : +95-67-8104269, +95-67-8104270

Facsimile number : +95-67-8104273

E-mail : renewablebranch@gmail.com

6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 300,000 Kyats.

Address : Procurement Department
Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE),
Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE)
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Phone : +95-67-8104279

Time : from 10:00 to 15:30 hr on November 6th (Tuesday) ~ 19th (Monday) 2018. (Myanmar Standard Time)

7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the following address before 15:00hr on December 18th, 2018 (Myanmar Standard time) and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project Package-3"

Address : Yadanar Hall
Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE)
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Phone : +95-9424685463, +95-9797137280

Japan mulls holding celebration event next fall for new emperor



Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito. PHOTO: Kyodo News

TOKYO—Japanese lawmakers and business leaders plan to hold an event next fall to celebrate the ascension of the new emperor, political sources said on Saturday.

The celebration will be one of a number of events held in 2019 after Crown Prince Naru-

hito accedes to the throne on 1 May, ushering in a new era.

Emperor Akihito will abdicate on 30 April and a major enthronement ceremony for the crown prince, Akihito's elder son, is scheduled to be held on 22 October.

The celebration to be organ-

ized by political and business circles will be held separately after the enthronement ceremony, according to the sources.

A similar celebratory event was held on 17 November, 1990, five days after Emperor Akihito's enthronement ceremony.

On that day, tens of thousands of Japanese holding paper lanterns and national flags took to the streets of Tokyo, and the emperor and Empress Michiko greeted an estimated 47,000 people who gathered in front of the Imperial Palace, raising their lanterns.

A cross-party league of lawmakers and an event committee joined by executives of business lobbies such as Keidanren, also known as the Japan Business Federation, will be launched as soon as late November to begin planning the celebratory event.

Bunmei Ibuki, former speaker of the House of Representatives, and Keiji Furuya, former chairman of the National Public Safety Commission, are respectively set to assume the posts of chairman and secretary general of the league of lawmakers, the sources said. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be an adviser.—Kyodo News ■

Visitors damage Salvador Dali's artwork during exhibition in Urals

YEKATERINBURG—A group of young girls damaged a picture by Salvador Dali during an exhibition at the Main Avenue Cultural Centre in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg, organizers said. "A group of girls—there were four of them—behaved inadequately. As a result, they damaged two works of art, which were on display in a tandem: pictures by Francisco Goya and Salvador Dali. Goya's work had its frame and glass broken. As far as Dali's artwork is concerned, apart from shattered frame and protective glass, it also suffered damage to the picture itself," a culture center employee said. The damaged artworks are Goya's etching from the Los Caprichos series, and Salvador Dali's interpretation of it. "The incident is being investigated, the works of art are being examined by specialists," the source said. Local police confirmed that they have been informed of the incident.—Tass ■

Tunisia film festival starts under tight security

TUNIS (Tunisia)—Tunisia kicked off a major film festival on Saturday under tight security, just days after a suicide blast rocked the centre of the capital. Events at the Carthage Film Festival are being held a stone's throw away from where a female suicide bomber wounded 20 people in central Tunis on Monday. "We wanted to show that Tunisia continues to live," Prime Minister Youssef Chahed told AFP at the opening ceremony. "Tunisia combats terrorism through security measures... and also through culture."

The festival, now in its 29th year, celebrates the best of Arab and African cinema and is set to run for one week. Monday's attack was the first in the Tunisian capital since 24 November, 2015 when a suicide bombing killed 12 security agents on a bus for presidential guards. That attack was claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group. Since the 2011 uprising that toppled dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, jihadist attacks in Tunisia have killed dozens of foreign tourists and members of the security forces. In June 2015, 38 people were killed in a shooting rampage at the coastal resort of Sousse which targeted tourists, while an attack in March that year on the National Bardo Museum in Tunis left 22 people dead, most of them tourists. Those attacks, also claimed by IS, devastated Tunisia's crucial tourism sector.—AFP ■

US jazz trumpet player Roy Hargrove dies at 49

WASHINGTON (United States)—American trumpet player Roy Hargrove, a precocious talent and a frequent performer at European jazz festivals, died on Friday at age 49, his Facebook page announced on Saturday.

The page quoted his long-time manager Larry Clothier as saying Hargrove died in New York from cardiac arrest following complications from a battle with kidney disease.

"One of the most respected and loved musicians in our New York City community and the world at large, the trailblazing multiple Grammy Award-winning trumpeter was known just as intensely for his brimming fire and fury as he was for his gorgeous, signature balladry," the post read.

"Over and over, his sound attested to and sanctified his deep love for music. His unselfish timbre covered the waterfront of every musical landscape.

Owning his music, his sound, Roy inspired generations of musicians."

The Texas-born musician, discovered at his Dallas performing arts high school during a visit by legendary trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, developed his talents quickly.

Under Marsalis's tutelage and encouragement, he traveled to Europe to play at festivals the summer after his high school graduation. By age 25, his star was already on the rise in the contemporary jazz world.

Hargrove went on to play or record with Marsalis and other jazz greats, including Herbie Hancock, Joe Henderson, Stanley Turrentine and Joshua Redman. He won Grammy awards in two different categories: in 1998 as Best Latin Jazz Performance for "Habana," and in 2003 for Best Jazz Instrumental with "Directions in Music," recorded with what was called a post-bop supergroup.—AFP ■

Leisure boat industry seeking to attract young people

TOKYO—The leisure boat industry is putting greater effort into attracting young people and women to its services and events, including boat sharing offered at cheaper prices. The industry is seeking to expand its market beyond its core customers until now—men in their 50s and 60s—by taking advantage of the increased preference among consumers to spend money on experiences

rather than goods. Yamaha Motor Co has been offering its Sea-Style Jet rental service for jet ski bikes since 2013. Around half of its members are in their 30s or younger, with a rising number of women. Under its Sea-Style Light program for those without boating licenses, which does not require monthly fees, members can enjoy cruises, fishing and other marine leisure activities offered

at 20 marinas nationwide.

The membership of Yamaha's Sea-Style boat rental services doubled in a decade to 22,000 in 2017. The monthly fee is 3,240 yen (\$29) and the price for a boat on a weekday starts at 4,400 yen for three hours. Its services include fishing and barbecuing. "The rental cost is fixed, so it is less burdensome and easy to recommend to young people," a male member said after enjoying a cruise at the Yokohama Bayside Marina. "I want to create opportunities for more people to go out to sea," said Yasuhiro Murasawa of Yamaha's marine business division, which is seeking to increase activities catering to beginners.

In March, the Japan Marine Industry Association organized for the first time a seminar featuring boat fishing lectures for women and a study session on ways to enjoy rides on small inflatable boat during an annual international boat show.—Kyodo News ■



Supplied photo shows the jet ski competition at the Asian Games in Jakarta on 24 August, 2018. PHOTO: Kyodo News

Cerebellum checks, corrects thoughts, movement: study

CHICAGO—US researchers suggested that the cerebellum has a hand in every aspect of higher brain functions, not just movement, but attention, thinking, planning and decision-making.

Having access to more than 10 hours of scans on each of 10 people though the Midnight Scan Club dataset, and using the cortex's networks as a template, the researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis could identify the networks in the cerebellum.

Notably, the sensory networks, vision, hearing and touch, are missing, and only 20 per cent of the cerebellum is devoted to movement, roughly the same amount as in the cerebral cortex.

The remaining 80 per cent is occupied by networks involved

in higher-order cognition: the attention network; the default network, which has to do with daydreaming, recalling memories and just idly thinking; and two networks that oversee executive functions such as decision-making and planning. "The executive function networks are way over-represented in the cerebellum," said postdoctoral researcher and first author Scott Marek. The researchers measured the timing of brain activity and found that the cerebellum was consistently the last step in neurologic circuits.

Signals were received through sensory systems and processed in intermediate networks in the cerebral cortex before being sent to the cerebellum. There, the researchers surmise, the signals undergo final quality

checks before the output is sent back to the cerebral cortex for implementation.

"If you think of an assembly line, the cerebellum is the person at the end who inspects the car and says, 'This one is good; we'll sell it,' or 'This one has a dent; we have to go back and repair it,'" said senior author Nico Dosenbach, an assistant professor of neurology, of occupational therapy and of pediatrics. "It's where all your thoughts and actions get refined and quality controlled."

People with damage to their cerebellum are known to become uncoordinated, with an unsteady gait, slurred speech and difficulty with fine motor tasks such as eating. The cerebellum also is quite sensitive to alcohol, which is one of the reasons why people

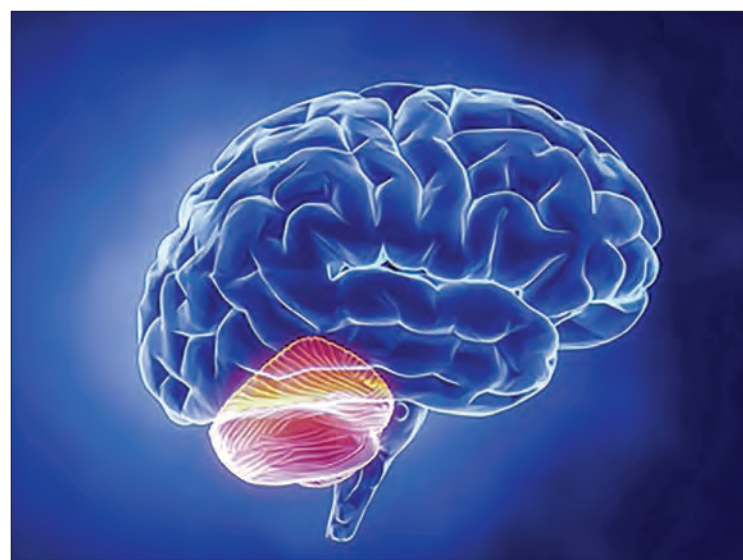


PHOTO: XINHUA

who have had too many drinks stumble around. But the new data may help explain why someone who is inebriated also shows poor judgment.

Just as a person staggers drunkenly because his or her compromised cerebellum is unable to perform the customary quality checks on motor function, alcohol-fueled bad decisions might also reflect a breakdown

of quality control over executive functions.

The researchers also performed individualized network analyses on the 10 people in the data set, and found that while brain functions are arranged in roughly the same pattern in everyone's cerebellum, there is enough individual variation to distinguish brain scans performed on any two participants. —Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 12 October, 2018 shows the specimen of a giant mosquito at the Insect Museum of West China in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

Chinese entomologist breaks new Guinness World Record for biggest mosquito

CHENGDU—A Chinese entomologist has broken a new Guinness World Record after discovering the world's biggest mosquito.

This week, Zhao Li, with the Insect Museum of West China in Chengdu, capital of the southwestern province of Sichuan, received certification from the Guinness World Records, which confirmed a giant mosquito he discovered in June to be the world's biggest.

Previously, the record holder was a mosquito discovered by British zoologist Mark Carwardine. Carwardine describes in his 2008 book "Animal Records" that the distance between the mosquito's foreleg and hind leg could reach 23 cm.

But Zhao's discovery of the

mosquito, known as *Holorusia mikado*, has nabbed the top spot. The specimen of the mosquito, kept in Zhao's museum, has a wingspan of 11.15 cm, while the distance between its foreleg and hind leg is 25.8 cm.

Holorusia mikado, the biggest kind of mosquito, was originally discovered in Japan. Zhao said that such giant mosquitos barely suck on blood. Instead, they feed on honey flower.

"Actually, in English, it is not called a mosquito," Zhao said. "It is called a crane fly. Meanwhile, people in Germany call it a 'long-legged father'."

The Insect Museum of West China keeps more than 700,000 items, including insect specimens, fossils and cultural relics. —Xinhua ■

Scientists develop minuscule robot able to drill through eyeballs

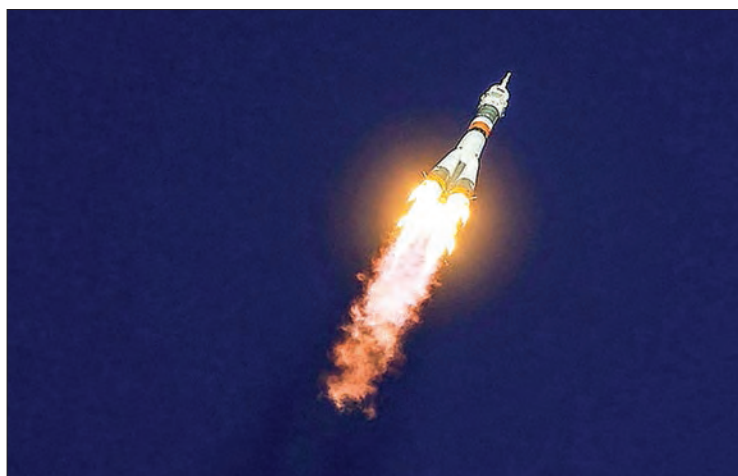
WASHINGTON—German, Chinese and Danish scientists developed a nanometer-sized robot that can, for the first time, drill through eyeballs without damaging them, with a potential to be used as a minimally-invasive tool for precisely delivering drugs. The study, published on Friday in the journal *Science Advances*, described the propeller-shaped vehicle, 200 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair and even smaller than a bacterium's width. With a slippery coating, the robot can move unhindered through the dense tissue in the eye, according to the study.

"We applied a liquid layer found on the carnivorous pitcher plant, which has a slippery surface on

the peristome to catch insects," said the study's first author Wu Zhiguang at the Germany-based Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems.

"It is like the Teflon coating of a frying pan. This slippery coating is crucial for the efficient propulsion of our robots inside the eye, as it minimizes the adhesion between the biological protein network in the vitreous and the surface of our nano-robots," said Wu. The researchers tested their nano-propellers in a dissected pig's eye. They injected tens of thousands of their bacteria-sized helical robots into the vitreous humor of the eye. With the help of a surrounding magnetic field that rotates the nano-propellers, they then swim toward the retina. —Xinhua ■

Glonass-M satellite has been placed into orbit



This is the fourth launch of a Soyuz-2 carrier rocket from Plesetsk Cosmodrome in 2018. PHOTO: TASS

MOSCOW—After the separation from the Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket the Fregat upper successfully launched the Glonass-M satellite into orbit, an official with the Defence Ministry told reporters on Sunday.

"The Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket that was launched from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome on 3 November at 23:17 Moscow time, has successfully launched the Russian navigation spacecraft Glonass-M into the calculated

orbit at a set time," the official said.

This is the fourth launch of a Soyuz-2 carrier rocket from Plesetsk Cosmodrome in 2018.

Flight tests of the Soyuz-2 space launch complex began at Plesetsk in the autumn of 2004. Over the past 14 years, 36 launches of the Soyuz-2 carrier rockets (modernization stages 1a, 1b and 1b) have been conducted from the northern cosmodrome, including the launch on Saturday.

The Soyuz-2 rocket replaced the Soyuz-U carriers, which was launched from Plesetsk from 1973 to 2012. In total, 435 Soyuz-U missiles were launched from the cosmodrome, about 430 vehicles were launched into orbit. —Tass ■



U Zaw Zaw (second right), U Naing Ngan Lin (second left), and Mr Freddy (first right) cut ribbons to mark the opening ceremony of MFF U-14 100 PLUS Cup 2018. **PHOTO: MFF**

MFF U-14 100 PLUS Cup 2018 kicks off in Yangon

JOINTLY-ORGANIZED by Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and 100 Plus, MFF U-14 100 PLUS Cup 2018 was opened on the turf of National Football Academy in Yangon on 3 November morning.

At the outset, U Zaw Zaw, President of the MFF, delivered an opening address on the occasion, saying, "I express great delight in seeing all the contenders from regions and states who are taking part in U-14 football tournament. Thanks to all sponsors. I reaffirm I thank the teachers of the Ministry of Education for taking the contending teams to the tournament. The players should not focus only on the prize, but to try to be the ones on whom the

country will rely. If the players are good at playing, they will become the selections for football academy, AFF U-16 and World Cup U-17 football tournaments. Technique is a crucial part of the sports. In this state, may I tell the managers and the coaches, football standard is rapidly developing nowadays. For that reason, the coaches need to observe football methods better than now besides giving training to the players. The players should try themselves to be the outstanding ones as the lectures of the coaches are not enough for them. I would like to instruct you to try through united efforts in football sports, education and social matters."

Afterwards, Country Manager Mr Freddy Oh of 100 PLUS, clarified the reasons why they are providing sponsorship to the tournament. Then, those dignitaries who were present opened the tournament by cutting ribbons and greeted the contenders.

The opening ceremony was graced by U Zaw Zaw, President of the MFF, U Naing Ngan Lin, Minister for Social Affairs of Yangon Region, Yangon Mayor Maung Maung Soe, the officials of Yangon Region Government, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports, 100 PLUS and the MFF and the contenders. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Myanmar national women's roster comes into view

MYANMAR Football Federation (MFF) announced a 29-member lineup made up for Myanmar national women's football squad, which is going to take part in Asian first round qualification of Women's Olympic Football Tournament.

Nine managers and coaches as well as 20 players were named on the roster. The lineup was made up depending on the team that participated in KBZ Bank Women League.

Myanmar will have to host Asian first round qualification of Women's Olympic Football Tournament from November 8 to 13. Myanmar is about to play against Bangladesh, Nepal and India on home soil at Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon.

U Tin Myint Aung will

steer the squad as a manager while U Win Thu Moe will handle the squad as a coach.

The roster is lined up with Zar Zar Myint (goalie), May Zin Nwe (goalie), Wai Wai Aung (defender), Ei Yadanaphyo (defender), Zin Zin Naing (defender), Khin Than Wai (defender), Aye Aye Moe (defender), Yon Me Me Lwin (defender), Khin Myo Win (defender), Khaing Thazin (defender), Khin Marlar Tun (midfielder), Khin Mo Mo Tun (midfielder), May Sabei Phu (midfielder), Lei Lei Hlaing (midfielder), Nu Nu (midfielder), Khin Moe Wai (midfielder), Yi Yi Oo (forward), Win Theingi Tun (forward) and July Kyaw (forward). —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



Myanmar national women's players celebrate after scoring a goal. **PHOTO: (MFF)**

AFF assigns U Zin Myo Aung to AFF Futsal Championship 2018

U ZIN MYO AUNG will act as FIFA Futsal referee at AFF Futsal Championship 2018 to be held in Indonesia.

ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) officially assigned U Zin Myo Aung to AFF Futsal Championship 2018.

Indonesia will host AFF Futsal Championship 2018 in Yogyakarta from 5 to 11 November.

AFF Futsal Championship 2018 has been divided into two groups. Myanmar is in the Group-A together with host Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia. The Group-B is comprised of Thailand, Viet Nam, Brunei and Timor Leste.

The referees from Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam will handle the Futsal matches. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



U Zin Myo Aung poses for a single photo before departure at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar prepares the best for AFF MNC Futsal Championship

MYANMAR national futsal team conducted their official training at UNY Stadium in Yogyakarta, Indonesia yesterday 4pm according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The team was comprised with talented futsal players from Myanmar Futsal League, the top league for futsal clubs in Myanmar, which include the

top most league clubs Myanmar Imperial College team and Pyay United team. Myanmar national futsal team will play their opening match on 5 November at 1:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

Myanmar will also play their second match against Cambodia at 11:00 am Myanmar Standard Time on 6 November and their third match against Malaysia

at 11:00 am Myanmar Standard Time on 7 November according to the MFF. The match against host team will be broadcasted live on Indonesian TV channel MNC TV and www.metube.id.

All Myanmar futsal matches in the tournament could be watched on www.metube.id according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Arsenal have quality to compete with big guns, says Lacazette

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Goalscorer Alexandre Lacazette said Arsenal had belief in themselves to compete with table-topping Liverpool after they battled back to secure a 1-1 draw in the Premier League on Saturday.

James Milner's 61st-minute opener looked set to send Jurgen Klopp's men three points clear of champions Manchester City, who host Southampton on Sunday, at the top of the table.

But Lacazette struck eight minutes from time to give the

hosts a well-deserved point from an enthralling encounter at the Emirates.

The result took Arsenal's unbeaten run to 14 games and meant Jurgen Klopp's side remain unbeaten in the Premier League.—AFP ■