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Agricultural loans

A JICA two-step loan amounting to Kyats 200 billion was acquired to support farmers and help them have better access to finance during a transformation process towards mechanized farming, and Kyats 30 billion worth of loans have been extended to farmers so far. The Myanmar Economic Bank also plans to extend loans amounting to Kyats 200 billion for agriculture and livestock farming businesses.

Agriculture loans extended by the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank have increased from Kyats 100,000 to Kyats 150,000 per acre for paddy farming. Loans extended for other crops have increased from Kyats 20,000 to Kyats 50,000 per acre and it is planned to further increase up to Kyats 100,000 per acre.

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

President U Win Myint addresses students from University for the Development of National Races

A CEREMONY to pay respects to and receive words of advice from the President for students from Batch 2 of the five-year education degree program from the University for the Development of the National Races, Education and Training Department, under the Ministry of Border Affairs, was held at the Ngu Shwe Wah Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 9am yesterday.

Attending this ceremony were Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Maj-Gen Than Htut, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of President's Office U Khin Latt, departmental heads of the Ministry of Border Affairs, the rector and faculty members from the University for the Development of the

National Races of the Union, and students from Batch 2 of the five-year education degree program from the University for the Development of the National Races, and other officials.

First, President U Win Myint delivered an address.

(Full text of President U Win Myint's address is covered on page 2.)

Afterwards, Ma Ei Paung Lay, a Wa ethnic national from Hopan Township, Wa Self-administered Division, Shan State, gave a short speech to express respects and thanks on behalf of the students from Batch 2 of the five-year education degree program from the University for the Development of the National Races.

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President U Win Myint warmly greets students from the University for the Development of National Races. PHOTO: MNA

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President: National Education Strategy Plan (2016-2021) intends to provide access to international standard education

President U Win Myint delivered a speech at a ceremony in the Ngu Shwe Wah Hall of the Presidential Palace, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, where students of the 2nd batch of five-year Bachelor's degree programme in education from the University for the Development of National Races paid respects to the President and listened to his words of advice and encouragement. An unofficial translation of the full text of his speech is as follows:

Union Ministers, deputy ministers, students and faculty members, led by the rector of the University for the Development of National Races, and officials from the Ministry of Border Affairs at this ceremony, may you all be blessed with auspiciousness, good health and peace of mind.

First, I would like to say that I am very pleased to meet the new blood teachers-to-be, sons and daughters, who have completed the five-year bachelor's course at the university under the Education and Training Department, the Ministry of Border Affairs. Founded with over 100 ethnic races, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has a great history. Historically, those ethnic groups have coexisted peacefully and harmoniously within the country's territory since the days of yore.

When Myanmar was under the control of the colonialists, they administered people from highland areas separately from the lowlands people, under a divide and rule policy, but the country gained independence due to the leadership of Bogyoke Aung San and the martyrs and the collective efforts of the ethnic races.

However, the country faced huge challenges and hardships in the state-building process due to ideological differences and diverse opinions that came along with independence. That is why border areas have seen weaknesses in education, economic, health and social services.

As part of the efforts to pro-



President U Win Myint delivers an address at a meeting with students from the University for the Development of National Races at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

mote the role of ethnic people, the leaders of the country, who understand the situation of the country, has implemented projects in the Union through a systematic approach to develop infrastructure and human resources, and reduce poverty in the border areas that had existed for so long.

The University for the Development of National Races, formally founded as an Academy of the Development of National Races, was established by the government on 20 October, 1964, with the aim of nurturing a new generation in the education sector who will support the development of the ethnic races and promote cooperation among them. It was upgraded to university level on 10 May 1991. Now the university is entering its 54th year. The objectives of the University for the Development of National Races of the Union are:-

- (a) to strengthen the Union spirit among the national races of the Union, while living in a friendly atmosphere and pursuing education at the University;
- (b) to preserve and understand

- the culture and good customs and traditions of the national races of the Union;
- (c) to promote the spirit, the desire to serve in order to raise the standard of living of the national races of the Union;
- (d) to raise the quality of leadership and efficiency in carrying out the development of the national races of the Union;
- (e) to infuse the spirit and desire to carry out research work with a view to achieving success in development of the national races of the Union;
- (f) to produce good educational personnel who are free from party politics and who are of good moral character;
- (g) to keep alive and promote the spirit and desire to preserve the causes of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and ensuring the perpetuity of the sovereignty of the State.

To date, the university has conferred Masters Degree of Education to 95 students, Master's Degree of Philosophy to 35 students, Bachelor Degree of Education to 3,677 students, Diploma in Teacher Education to 742 students, Junior Assistant Teachership Training to 956 students, Special Primary Assistant Teachership Training to 461 students and Primary Assistant Teachership Training to 7,162 students, totalling 13,182

teachers. I am pleased to see that the 165 trainees who have concluded the current training course includes students from 82 different ethnic races.

Human resource development plays a crucial role in the growth of a country. The National Education Strategy Plan (2016-2021) is being implemented, with the intention of providing access to international quality education to develop human resources.

Sons and daughters who completed the course at the university and who are entering the teaching service soon, I would like to urge you all to continue your education as learning does not end when you graduate. Education is a lifelong process and you all should note the famous quote "An educated person is one who wants to continue learning and is able to do it."

Education is an important resource for the entire human society as well as a guarantee for every individual's life. Therefore, the trainees are to provide not only education services to the students in the region but also nurture their will to learn and to have the correct attitude towards the development of their region.

"Education is an important resource for the entire human society as well as a guarantee for every individual's life."

In other words, the trainees have the additional duty of nurturing and spreading the Union spirit.

In the rapidly developing and changing world of today, there are many challenges as well as opportunities for progress. As such, sons and daughters must strive continuously towards having the full capability to take up these opportunities. Sons and daughters, the university has provided you the skills and knowledge to become a good teacher. Only a good teacher can create educated and disciplined students with good moral. Good teachers are the ones who would create future generations that serve the country. A good teacher provides students with education from school as well as guiding them towards having proper thought process. A

good teacher loves the country, is skilful in specific subject they are teaching, can teach well, is continuously learning, have a spirit of a teacher and follow the ethics of a teacher. The university has trained and nurtured you, sons and daughters, to become such good teachers.

The State is also expecting sons and daughters to become good education staff. I also want to request you all to obtain the collective and united strength of ethnic nationals all over the country and enthusiastically participate in any way possible in the Union Peace Conference work processes. I don't think much need to be said that achieving internal peace is connected to peace and stability in local wards and villages, rule of law, human rights, development of the country and establishing a Democratic Federal Union.

The government is working towards a peaceful, modern and developed Union with the unity of all the ethnic nationals. It is also working towards transparency and a balanced development of states and regions. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi herself had formed a central

committee to implement the development of border areas and ethnic nationals, set up policies for border area development and human resources development and has been working in coordination with the Union, state/region governments. Ethnic nationals in the border areas also need to partake, cooperate and assist towards the development of the Union.

Instead of using arms, the correct approach to end the nearly 70-year long internal conflict should be through political means and dialogues. The process of establishing a Democratic Federal Union is being implemented by taking up the good opportunity of "from internal peace process to national reconciliation."

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"An educated person is one who wants to continue learning and is able to do it."

President: National Education Strategy Plan (2016-2021) ...

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Differences between ethnic nationals can be overcome peacefully and democratically in a roundtable discussion with compassion and generosity. Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong is the only path with which political problems can be resolved with political means. That is why Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was held with the aim to establish a Democratic Federal Union peacefully.

At the opening ceremony of Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong third session, Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Center State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, “Many ethnic nationals live in our country. After gaining independence, we were unable to establish a united nation, trusted and valued by all, and to date, we have more than seventy years of armed conflicts based on suspicion, mistrust, hate and antagonism. Dreams and aspiration of our country and our people were being sacrificed in these long-running armed conflicts.” She added that peace must be established.

Similarly at the 2018 Conference on Implementing Education

Development, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, “Today’s topic for discussion is very important for our country. Although we say higher education sector, this starts from the primary level. For many years, our education system has been weak starting from the primary

belief. As the youths are capable of achieving success, there must be a belief to achieve success.”

Having a healthy and highly educated people in the nationals is the best insurance for a country’s future. Whether a country is developed or not is judged by the health and education status of the

“Good teachers are the ones who would create future generations that serve the country.”

level. When our youngsters reach higher levels, it became more difficult to raise their levels. So if teachers and the Ministry of Education, struggling in the higher education sector, are facing difficulties, our students must also be facing difficulties. We need to think how to overcome the bad foundation in order to reach the ultimate fine destination. The responsibility of everyone involved in the higher education sector is enormous. To achieve success in education, there must be a belief in achieving success. This must be in the mind of our youths. Parents and teachers who guide and teach them also need to have this

national. That is why this government has been placing special emphasis towards encouraging and supporting education and health sectors since it took up the State’s duties.

It is expected that the government’s efforts and endeavors will be observed and understood during this study tour. Maintain the good name of the university by being disciplined and systematic during the study tour. When you complete your study and are assigned in your duty stations, use the experience and knowledge gained from the study tour.

In conclusion, sons and daughters are requested to

- Raise the education level of not only the children but also the entire region you are assigned to.
- Be duty conscious and have the belief that you are responsible for the development of the region and development of the social condition of the people in the region by educating, organizing and enthusiastically participating in the regional development sectors.
- Value, cherish and maintain the language, literature, culture, arts, traditions and historical heritages of all ethnic nationals in the State.
- For eternal peaceful existence of the union continuously organize to perpetually instill the spirit of ethnic national unity and the Union spirit among the people of the region.
- Strive toward the aim of establishing a peaceful, modern, developed Democratic Federal Union, strengthen the basic foundation of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and ensuring the perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State.

President U Win Myint addresses students from University for the Development of National Races

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This was followed by the students from the University for the Development of the National Races presenting souvenir gifts to the President.

Afterwards, the President, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and officials took a documentary photo with the students from Batch 2 of the five-year education degree program from the University for the Development of the National Races.

At noon, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung met with the students from Batch 2 of the five-year education degree program from the University for the Development of the National Races at the Ministry of Border Affairs and entertained them with a tea ceremony. —MNA ■

Vice President U Myint Swe attends reception to mark 69th Founding Anniversary of PRC

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay attended a grand reception to mark the 69th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) at Myanmar International Convention Center-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the event were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and wife Daw Yin May, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nan Kyin Kyi, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Union Ministers and their wives, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the reception to mark the 69th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

wife, Ambassadors, diplomats and invited guests.

First of all the national anthems of the Republic of Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China were played, followed by a speech given by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

Mr. Hong Liang.

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a speech. In his speech, the Vice President expressed his appreciation to the government and peoples of the PRC and Chinese Ambassador.

Since the founding of the

PRC, during the 69 years period, the PRC has made enormous progress not only in the economic sector but also in all sectors, particularly after having adopted the Open Door Policy 40 years ago.

As a result of the 69-year long

effort, the PRC now became the fastest developing nation and the second most powerful economic nation, and stands tall as a nation playing an important role in world affairs and the world economy, the Vice President said.

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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
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VP U Henry Van Thio attends Disability Inclusive Development Forum

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD), delivered an opening speech at the Disability Inclusive Development Forum, held at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the forum were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Thein Swe, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Han Zaw and Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Ministers, Vice-chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, state and region ministers for social welfare, Hluttaw representatives, members of the NCRPD, British Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg, Permanent Secretaries, departmental heads, officials from the Myanmar Federation on Persons with Disabilities, Head of the Department for International Development (DFID) Dr. Gail Marzetti, officials from NGOs and INGOs and invited guests.

Speaking at the forum, the Vice President said it was found that the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) cannot enjoy human rights like the majority of the people and there is a significant gap in the socio-economic sectors, according to the research conducted by Myanmar and other countries, and we can reach the development goal only if we can reduce the poverty gaps from which the PwDs are suffering.

In recognition of the rights of the PwDs, Myanmar became a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the PwDs on 7 December 2011 and enacted the Disability Rights Law in 2015, and the PwDs Law, 2017, besides adopting the Myanmar National Strategy for the Development of PwDs 2016-2025). National Committee meetings were held for the first time in 2017, and another meeting in 2018, respectively. Work committee meetings for raising funds for the PwDs were held in 2018 and policies related to development works for them were adopted. The Government has sped up rehabilitation and development works for the PwDs. According to the 100-day plan of the government, arrangements have been made for the



Vice President U Henry Van Thio views documentary photos of projects for people with disabilities and socio-economic life of land mine victims displayed at the Disability Inclusive Development Forum in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

children, women to make braille publications, a project to develop blind massage training for people with visual impairment, a project to enable people with auditory impairment easy access to news and information, and a project to provide vocational training to people with physical disabilities. As a result, we could publish the law and Convention on the Rights of PwDs and the Association of Myanmar Disabled Women's Affairs, using sign language. With the aim of producing translators using sign languages, we are conducting the sign language classes, and have opened an Information, Communication and Technology Training Centre for PwDs.

Various strategic goals and projects are being implemented to provide support, rehabilitation and personal development to a wide range of people with disabilities in Myanmar, said the Vice President. These include a project to develop blind massage training for people with visual impairment, a project to enable people with auditory impairment easy access to news and information, a project to provide vocational training to the PwDs to provide personal development. Moreover we are compiling the employers' manual to create more job opportunities for PwDs.

The Union Government has been allotting monetary aid from its respective fiscal year budgets to 12855 PwDs in 2017-2018, and 12129 PwPs in 2018-2019. Also Mine Risk Education had been conducted starting from 2017-2018 fiscal years, and the government has allotted to provide monetary aid to totaling 400 people, includ-

ing 112 people in Kachin State, 16 people in Kayah State, 39 people in Kayah State, 85 people in Shan State, 62 people in Bago Region and 86 people in Thanithayi Region.

The Disability Inclusive Development Forum has been held to introduce the 7-point agreements, among the governmental offices, organizations, private sector people and CSOs. As for the experts from various fields, we are going to discuss regarding employment opportunities, all-inclusive education, information technology for PwDs and trying to implement 2030 development goals for them. This forum aims to create an all-inclusive community for PwDs.

Then British Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg gave a few remarks. Then Vice President U Henry Van Thio took a photograph with the forum attendees and the first part of the forum concluded after this. After that, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party went round to look at the records and photo displays of the displaced PwDs, due to the conflicts in the Kachin State.

The second part of the forum continued later. Director General of the Department of Rehabilitation U Win Naing Tun, Director General of the Social Welfare Department Dr. San San Aye, Social Policy and Poverty Research Group (SPPRG) Technical Advisor Dr. Aung Naing and chair of the Association of Myanmar Disabled Women's Affairs Daw Nge Nge Aye Maung discussed relating to the

schemes. Then Secretary of the Myanmar Federation of PwDs U Myat Thu Win, Mrs. Vicky Bowman, Daw Wah Wah Kywe, Daw Khin Myo Su and Daw Myat Tha Htwe led the discussions. Chair of the Association of Myanmar Disabled Women's Affairs Daw Nge Nge Aye Maung led the discussion entitled "All-inclusive Education Sector", and Dr. May San Yee, U Htar Oak, Daw Aye Thinzar Maung and Daw Su Su Mar joined the discussion. Regarding the Natural Disaster and Emergencies sector, Deputy Director of Ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Myo Set Aung led the discussion, and U Nay Tun, Dr. Ko Ko Oo, U Kyaw Win Htut and Daw Phyu Lei Lei Tun took part in the discussion. Regarding Information Technology Sector, Social Policy and Poverty Research Group Technical Advisor Dr. Aung Naing led the discussion, and Chair of the Association of Myanmar Disabled Women's Affairs Daw Nge Nge Aye Maung and Social Policy and Poverty Research Group Technical Advisor Dr. Aung Naing made the reviews.

Then, Secretary of the Myanmar Federation of PwDs U Myat Thu Win expressed words of thanks and concluded the second part of the forum. At the Disability Inclusive Development Forum, all the participants took part in the discussions regarding employment opportunities, education, information technology, disaster management, mine risk education sectors, including extensive policies and research. —MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe attends reception to mark 69th Founding Anniversary of PRC

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He also expressed his hope that new positive developments will materialize because of the One Belt and One Road Initiative of President Xi Jinping, which aims to cooperate and share the enormous developments of China with other countries.

The Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation, held in Beijing in May 2017, has also helped the mechanism for implementing the Belt and Silk Road initiative, by setting clear paths to cooperate and reach agreements.

The Vice President also noted with appreciation the close cooperation between the two neighboring countries and visible developments in the sectors of politics, economic, culture, education and other sectors during the last 68 years and since the diplomatic relations were established.

Nowadays, the relations between Myanmar and China have been upgraded to all-round strategic partnership level, and the close cooperation and partnership between the two countries have been strengthened deeper and wider, based on mutual respect in accord with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

The visits of leaders of the two countries gradually strengthened mutual trust between the two countries.

During the visit of Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to Myanmar in July, "The Governance of China" book (Myanmar version) was launched in Nay Pyi Taw, which helped in promoting better understanding and consolidating the relations between the people of the two countries.

Vice President U Myint Swe also attended 15th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS) in Nanning, People's Republic of China, and discussed bilateral economic relations and cooperation in all sectors between Myanmar and the PRC and to promote connectivity among local countries.

He continued to say that Myanmar wishes to express her satisfaction with the efforts of China for maintaining its role as the largest trade partner and cooperation partner of Myanmar.

"I believe that the good relations and cooperation between us will continue to improve under the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor and the Belt and Road project," said Vice President U Myint Swe.

On behalf of the people and government of Myanmar, Vice President U Myint Swe expressed thanks to the government of China for its support to Myanmar's education,

health, social and rural area development sectors and alleviation of poverty, and especially in the peace making process in Myanmar.

"China plays a constructive role in the peace making process in Myanmar. Peace and national reconciliation is important not only for Myanmar but also stability at border areas between the two countries and bilateral cooperation," said the Vice President.

"Myanmar has valued China's constructive support to Myanmar's efforts for solving the Rakhine issue in the regional and international arenas," he said.

He reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to promoting and strengthening bilateral relations.

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang and wife cut the cake to commemorate the 69th Founding of the People's Republic of China.

Later, the dignitaries and invited guests, together with the Vice President and wife, enjoyed the performance by the artistes.

The ceremony ended following the dinner hosted by Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and wife to mark the 69th Founding of the People's Republic of China.—MNA ■



Thura U Shwe Mann meets with US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann receives US Ambassador to Myanmar

THURA U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel yesterday in the Hluttaw Build-

ing (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and cordially discussed matters relating to bilateral relations, development, democratic transition and legal affairs. — MNA ■

Myanmar delegation attends 73rd United Nations General Assembly



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe seen at 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, attended the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York on 25 September.

The Myanmar delegation comprises Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to UN U Hau Do Suan and Myanmar Ambassador to US U Aung Lin. The assem-

bly was opened with speeches by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the chair of the assembly Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés. Leaders from 31 countries, including US President Donald Trump, delivered speeches on the first day of the assembly. Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe will deliver a speech at the annual UN General Assembly on 28th September. Leaders from UN-member 193 countries are attending the assembly, which will end on 1 October.—MNA ■

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives Netherlands Ambassador

ANTI-CORRUPTION Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Wouter Jurgens and party at the Anti-Corruption Commission office guest hall, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to preventing corruption, work done on anti-corruption, and collaboration between governmental departments, private businesspersons, civil service organizations and international organizations.

Present at the meeting were secretary U San Win



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi holds talks with Netherlands Ambassador Mr. Wouter Jurgens in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

and members U Zaw Win and Daw Myat Myat Soe of the Anti-Corruption Commission.—MNA ■

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National United Democratic Party presents policy, stance and work program



Chairman U Sein Win.

CHAIRMAN U Sein Win of National United Democratic Party (NUD) presented the party's policy, stance and work program on radio and TV on 26 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

Respected and valued people,

First of all, allow me to extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes for the health and well-being of all.

I am Chairman U Sein Win of National United Democratic Party and Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Maubin constituency.

Today, it is my honor to submit National United Democratic Party policy, stance and work program.

National United Democratic Party has emerged as a requisite of the nation; and also at the behest of the peasants and farmers it comes up as people's new party with right persons, at right place and to exercise correct system. The party genuinely represents the farmers.

Today, the nation is facing political problems and they are rooted in the internal peace issue, the problems of national races, the failing economy, the weakening in the export of agriculture and fishery sectors, and the Myanmar political discord.

As we could not build a 'genuine federal Union system', the 'Union problem' has emerged. As the national races, such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and other ethnics are residing in the country, a genuine federal union system is very much vital to be established. Only then, a nation of unity, justice, eternal peace, developed Union could be built for all the national races.

For the unity of all national races, a correct solution that has been found is that it is needed to be based on 'Union principles' with the mindset of 'Panglong Spirit' in building a genuine federal democratic system.

For the sake of national unity, democratic rights, equality among national races, and self-determination are the needy factors which

could end the civil war and achieve eternal peace.

The economy of the nation must be based on a free and fair structure, and that is to be built with solid foundation. In such an economic system, all the citizens must have the rights for equal opportunity to work independently on their desired economic business. Foreign investment must be allowed systematically, in accordance with the laws.

The people have the right to enjoy profits from their business in line with policy, rules and regulations. When doing business in the context of market oriented economic system, protection and prevention must be secured carefully for the people as to keep them far from harm, and to protect the environmental degradation.

Serious consideration must be made for the basic class, such as the cultivators, to enable them to work in their respective lands with peace of mind, safe from harm and risks, and secured lives for the future.

An economy based on agriculture, meat and fishery sectors would be given first priority and later worked out on other businesses with multifaceted concepts, so as to build a modern industrial nation.

Unlawful and illegal confiscation of lands under 1894 Land Acquisition Law, and other illegitimate land matters are to be solved with a correct approach. Our party will properly manage on resources, such as land, human, and water.

Agriculture and land matters and illegal land confiscation acts that emerged during the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are to be investigated to relieve the suffering of the people with correct solution and decision for successful implementation.

Special care would be given for the basic working class of the nation to have security of workers, along with the welfare of food, clothing and shelter. The rule of law and the transparency in the ju-

dicial system would be controlled properly so as to reduce the unjust acts, the incorrect attitude and injustices. The education, health, social development, and human rights would be drawn in short term and long term projects to uplift to the international standard.

For the successful implementation of the above concept and theory, the public management, the public administrative system are to be filled in with the right people, at right place, correct system, right persons in creating the people's government.

Intellectuals and intelligentsias from various fields would be assigned in relevant sectors giving priority with accountability in their implementation, and that such teams would be formed with serious consideration.

For the benefits of the cultivators, the necessary protection would be provided in advance regarding the environmental damage and the weather disaster in the agricultural sectors.

Rice and agricultural products are to be regulated in accordance with the market economy, and no restriction would be made in their cultivation so that they could produce high quality crops.

From the traditional agriculture system, it is to move ahead into small and medium agricultural mechanization system. Gradually, it will move from agriculture mechanization system to modern and developed mechanization system.

In the agricultural areas, adequate water supply, prevention from flood, and systematic and management use of water and maintenance would be prioritized.

In order to protect the interests of the cultivators and provide the full rights for independent activities, the united farmers' unions would be allowed to form.

Animal husbandry and fish breeding sectors would be supported for all round development.

In creating such as that of agricultural produce with high quality price, fair market and stable business, necessary investment would be encouraged and supported.

Allow me to present our party's stance.

We would pay serious attention and work continuously on the internal peace process and the matters of national races. We would endeavour for the democratic federal union system. Implementation would be made by paying attention and value over the voice of the people, desire of the people, and the aspiration of the people. The Hluttaws and the government would be put on track for mutual check and balance, transparency and harmony.



Party logo.

The government employees would be assigned on the basis of right persons, right place and right system for the benefit of the people.

Implementation would be made for the rule of law, fair judgment, and to enact better laws.

Realization of media sector transparency and uplifting of standard would be carried out.

Systematic building of the modern Tatmadaw, in conjunction with State defence and national security, is in the agenda.

All round development in agriculture and fishery sector, road communication sector, electricity and power development sector, and other development sectors would be carried out with 'multifaceted system'.

With regards to the prosperity of the village, township, district, division and state, the accountability and responsibility, reward, punishment, dismissal from post would be carried out to all relevant officers and staff members.

Moreover, the life of farmers and workers would be elevated, the better utilization of skills of intellectuals and intelligentsias would be carried out, and to plan for ending Myanmar migrant workers going abroad.

Priority would be given for national unity under democratic system using alliance policy for the benefits of the people.

Allow me to present party work program.

Unity of the entire nationals would be endeavored with a view to uplifting the interest of the nationalities. Efforts would be exerted for the rights of self-determination and self-government of the entire national races. Adequate protection would be provided to all the national races residing in regions and state in the union.

Full rights of democracy could be enjoyed by all the citizens irrespective of race, religion, gender residing in the union. All national races would have equal opportunity politically and racially under the rule of law and for the environmental conservation in relevant regions.

Efforts would be made to achieve eternal peace by finding solution to end the civil war through the national races, ideology and political approaches.

The existing democratic basic principles of the Constitution of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008) would be added with genuine union principles for the unity and national reconciliation.

Freedom and choice of cultivation by the farmers would be enforced according to 2012 Land Law. There would be no unjust land confiscation. Illegal land confiscation would be reviewed and land handed back to original owners. Independent farmer unions will be formed.

Workers rights would be assured and workers unions would be formed. Rights of the children and women would be protected. The benefits gained from the international investment would be shared equally among the national races. Education, health, social, economy and other opportunities would be elevated. Job opportunities would be created for the national races.

All productive sectors would be placed in the hands of the people for their own decision making. All natural resources would be shared according to policy and equally divided. National races residing abroad would be given the chance to return to Myanmar with dignity. The central control system would never be allowed to be revived in the country, and that endeavor would be made to build federal union.

The flag of the party represents the farmers, the workers, and the intellectuals and intelligentsias on behalf of the people. The 14 stars around the large white star refers to the federal union. The party flag refers to the unity of farmers, the workers and intellectuals towards federal union under democratic system. The NUD flag is the serious combination of 5 elements, such as the earth, the stars, the sky, the human being, and the moon. The attire of the party has been chosen with Khaki color depicting the earthly element.

In conclusion, I would like to say the following.

The NUD party is for the people. Let us vote for the NUD party. The NUD party is genuinely for the people. Let us vote for the NUD party to get the right people and right system. The NUD would work for the people. Let us vote for NUD party to uplift the life of farmers. We give our high esteem to the people. Thank you very much.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Local, foreign media collect news in Thet Kal Pyin Camp in Sittway



Foreign journalists gather news at a rescue camp in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

A GUIDED media trip, consisting of local and foreign journalists, flew from Yangon to Sittway yesterday afternoon.

The media group reached Thet Kal Pyin Camp in Sittway and interviewed responsible officials about the resettlement-

process of the people staying in the camp.

They then met with the people at the camp and asked about their accommodation and situation.

The media group included journalists and reporters from

Nikkei Shimbun, NHK, Nippon TV, CRI, CNN, The Guardian Newspaper, The Washington Post, CBC, Arte Television, MRTV, MITV and MNA.

Since the incident in October 2016, media groups have been allowed access to Rakhine State, once in 2016, eight times in 2017, and seventeen times in 2018, making a total of twenty-six visits. The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State has planned for conducting two guided media trips per month within 2018, with the current trip being the 11th one.

Negotiations are made with the state government, depending on the advice of local and foreign journalists, to gather news in Maungtau District, with arrangements made, depending on area security matters.—Thura Zaw ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A COORDINATED patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted from border posts 52 to 53 from 10:50 am to 12:40 pm on 25 September.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Police Major Zaw Lin Aung, from No.5 Border Police sub-division, Area 1, Maungtau Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by NaibSubedarMd.Rulwl Amin of No.11 Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

Similarly, on the same day,

another coordinated patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at border posts 41 to 41/2 at 11:40 am to 12:45pm.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Police Captain Aung Kyaw Kyaw, from No.1 Border Police sub-division, Area 2, Maungtau Township and the Bangladesh patrol was led by NaibSubedarMd.MojiburRahman of No. 34 BGB.—Police Information ■



Border guards force conduct coordinated patrol along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. **PHOTO:MYANMAR POLICE FORCE**

Excess freshwater from rain possible cause of mass clam death: Kyaukpyu District Fishing Department

THE mass death of clams that occurred in Pyarpinlahar creek and its vicinity in Tapyuchaing island, Kyaukmyaung village-tract, An Township, Kyaukpyu District, is not due to polluted water and the species of clam in question could have died due to excess freshwater from rain, conclusion of its natural lifespan, or because of climate change, said U Oo Tun Thein, Deputy Director-General of the Kyaukpyu District Fishing Department.

“An article was uploaded on social media on 22 September showing clams dying. This worried people and they shared the story around,” said U Oo Tun Thein. He continued, saying, “When the district departments went to inspect Tapyuchaing island on 24 September, we found that the images of the dead clams

uploaded on social media was not the same with the dead clams here. The dead clams here are a species that only grow up to one-two centimeters. It’s also entirely untrue that the clams died due to water pollution. These clams naturally live in seawater, so they could have died from the excess freshwater from the rain. They could also have died from reaching the end of their natural lifespan or because of the overbearingly hot weather. If it were true that they died due to water pollution, then the giant clams, snails and fish in the area would have died too. But we saw that the giant clams, snails and fish were continuing to live normally. The local fishing people were fishing normally in the area, too. It’s a common occurrence for these tiny clams to die off like this.

People became worried after this was posted on social media, and they misconstrued the situation. There is nothing to worry here.”

The original photo of the dead clams was uploaded onto social media by a local resident. The article spread quickly and raised some concerns. U Ye Myat Thein, the Township Administrator from Kyaukpyu Township General Administration Department, said the area where the incident occurred does not have any human settlements and very few human visits. He also said local fishers gather clams and hunt crabs, prawns and fish. He said the tiny clams can usually be seen on the sand flat when the tide falls. He said the sand flat measures about 150 feet on all sides and there are usually dead clams stuck in the mud. He said these particular clams are not the ones normally consumed by humans, but rather used in chicken feed. He added that their deaths are a natural phenomenon and not instigated. “These clams did not die at the time we received the news. The Fishing Department suspects that since there was excessive rain in the past month, it could have led to excess freshwater entering the area and thus killing off the clams that

were not resilient to freshwater,” said U Ye Myat Thein. “We can also conclude they had reached the end of their life circle. It was not due to any instigation because other species of clam and other marine animals are still alive in the area. The local residents also said there was no peculiar activity. The clam collectors say they found dead clams and live ones, too. They said the dead clams could have died from getting into contact with freshwater. They also said they did not see large number of dead clams collectively in a single area. He said not every villager go to that area as it takes one-and-a-half hour by boat to get there. Only expert fishers go there.” U Ye Myat Thein said this event cannot be concluded based solely on speculation. He said similar incidents could have occurred before, and it could have gone unnoticed since the area is seldom visited by humans. He said a precise answer should be researched by experts but also added that no peculiar activity relating to this occurred in the Kyaukpyu District. He said there was no devastating damage to the natural environment nor mass public concern, and that the life of local people was carrying on as normal.—Min Hein ■



PHOTO: KYAUPYU DISTRICT FISHING DEPARTMENT

Police confiscate 48,000 psychotropic tablets in Lashio

AT around 10:15am on 25 September, police from the Lashio police force 24, under the Drug Enforcement Division, were conducting a surprise investigation near Hopeit Oriental tollgate in Lashio Tsp, when they stopped and searched a car driven by Phyo Ko Maung and Mae Maung, en route from Kutkai Tsp to Lashio. Police arrested the two, after discovering 48,000 ‘88/1’ pink psychotropic tablets hidden in the car engine and Ks 140,000 from the tool box, as well as two cellphones.

Further investigation led police to search a house in Area 6, Ward 7, Lashio Tsp, owned by Bo Phyu. Bo Phyu was not present at his house but police found his sister Ma Phyu and discovered and confiscated 70 pink psychotropic tablets from the bedroom, various accessories used in consuming drugs, and a Crown model car.

The search for Bo Phyu continues and cases have been opened against Bo Phyu, 33, Phyo Ko, 23, and Mae Maung, 26, in accordance with the Anti-Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA ■

Take the right ethical path, to strengthen moral fibre of our people

THE prestige of the Judiciary is indeed essential in a system of government. The behavior of Judges is, in present circumstances, closely scrutinized to guarantee continued confidence in the integrity of the Courts.

While the Union Government is making efforts to strengthen the country's weak judiciary system, a regrettable judicial conduct occurred in which one regional Advocate-General, four law officers and one police officer were involved.

The Yangon Region Advocate-General, four law officers and one police officer appeared at the Yangon High Court on Tuesday to face charges for allegedly accepting bribes in return for dismissing a case against three men accused of killing a prominent comedian.

It is the most high-profile anti-corruption case to go to trial since Myanmar's transition to a multi-party democracy in 2011.

Not only our Anti-Corruption Commission, but also government departments cannot fight corruption alone, which is why we need cooperation and inclusiveness in order to compel and eliminate it once and for all.

people and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fibre of our people.

The combination of power, responsibility and humanity accounts for both the most exemplary and sometimes, the most regrettable judicial conduct. To this end, Judges must exercise decorum in all their undertakings.

No doubt, the legal profession is crucial in the maintenance of a high quality of justice delivered within the justice system.

Corruption is not limited to bribe-taking. It also includes the giving of judgments or orders based on any consideration other than legal merit.

Such success or failure of our fight against corruption will depend on our willingness to take the right ethical path.

Not only our Anti-Corruption Commission, but also government departments cannot fight corruption alone, which is why we need cooperation and inclusiveness in order to compel and eliminate it once and for all.

The cooperation will be among all levels of organizations and age groups. Included in this effort will be closer scrutiny and action on complaint letters in accordance with rules and regulations.

As a result, we believe that we can make great progress in handling this issue within a period of two years with the people and the authorities concerned working in unity.

We should bear in our mind that bribery is a crime which should not be tolerated in our country.

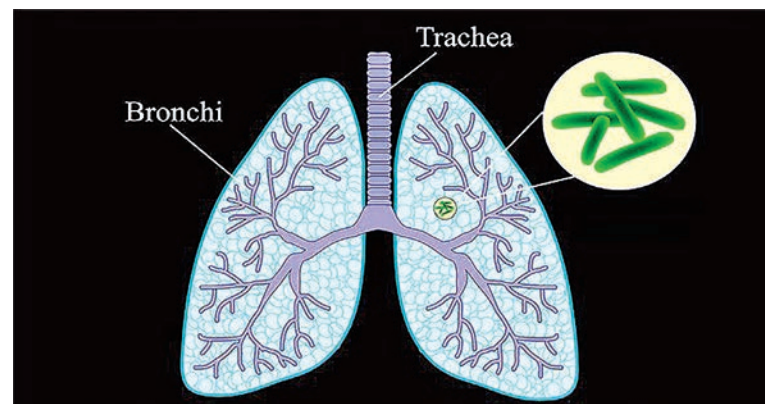
Standing tall: The battle against tuberculosis and noncommunicable diseases is taken to the UN General Assembly

By Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh
Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia

ON 26 and 27 September respectively, the world's most esteemed political forum – the UN General Assembly (UNGA) – will deliberate on how best to address two equally challenging public health issues: tuberculosis (TB) and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

For many years WHO South-East Asia and its member states have been Ground Zero in the battle against both. The numbers show why: the region accounts for 50% of TB-associated mortality, with TB the region's leading cause of death and lost productive years in the crucial 15-49 years old age group. TB/HIV co-infection is meanwhile responsible for 25% of AIDS-related deaths. On NCDs, though the region accounts for a bit over a quarter of the world's population, it is home to around 29% of NCD-related premature mortality. Every year 8.9 million people in the region die of NCDs, accounting for 64% of all deaths, many of which are entirely preventable.

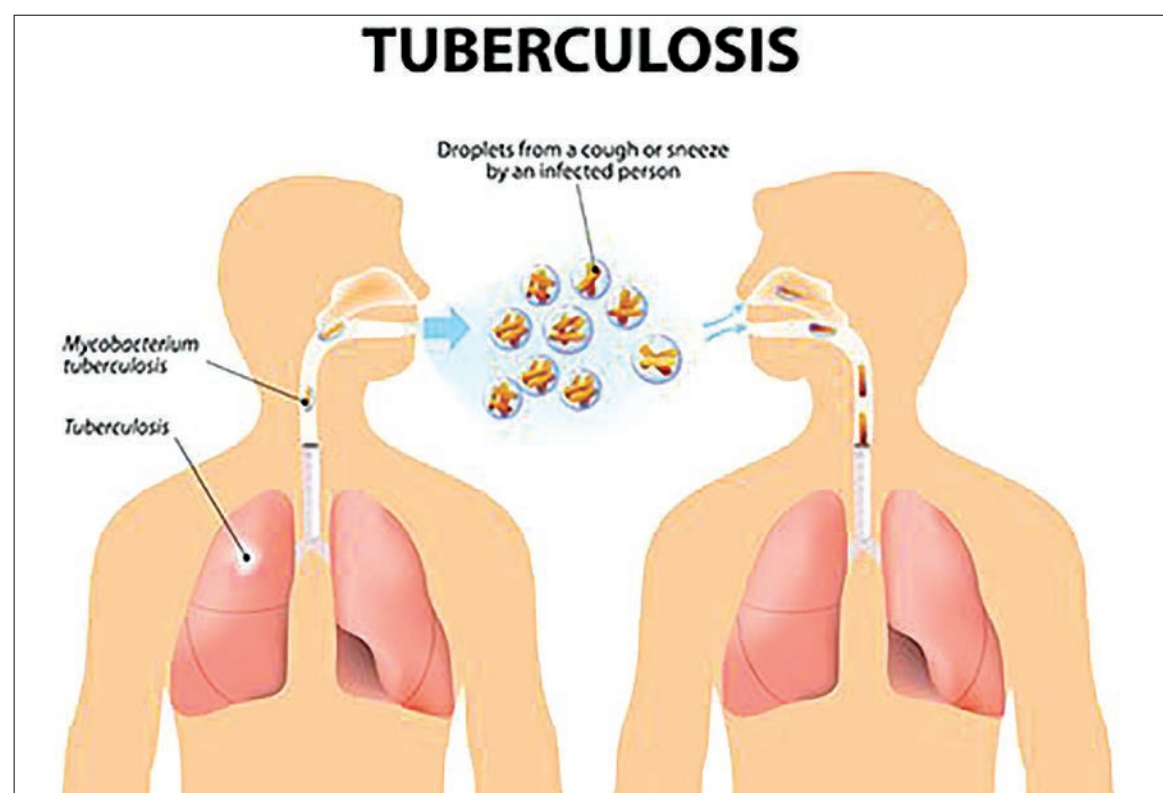
The adverse impact these problems have on health and development – and in the case of TB, on health security – cannot continue. Not for the region's 1.8 billion people, who have a right to the highest attainable standard of health; nor for the pursuit of the region's Flagship Priorities and the Sustainable Development Goal targets.



To their immense credit, member states are making strong gains.

In recent years, each one of them has pledged unprecedented

How a series of high-level meetings at the world body can help consolidate gains, accelerate progress and promote game-changing innovations across the WHO South-East Asia Region



political commitment to tackle TB, as expressed in the 2017 'Delhi Call for Action' and the 2018 'Statement of Action' – a bold and very public vow to accelerate sustainable progress to end TB by 2030. That commitment continues to be reflected in on-the-ground action, including initiatives aimed at scaling up active case-finding, increasing nutritional assistance for TB sufferers, addressing latent

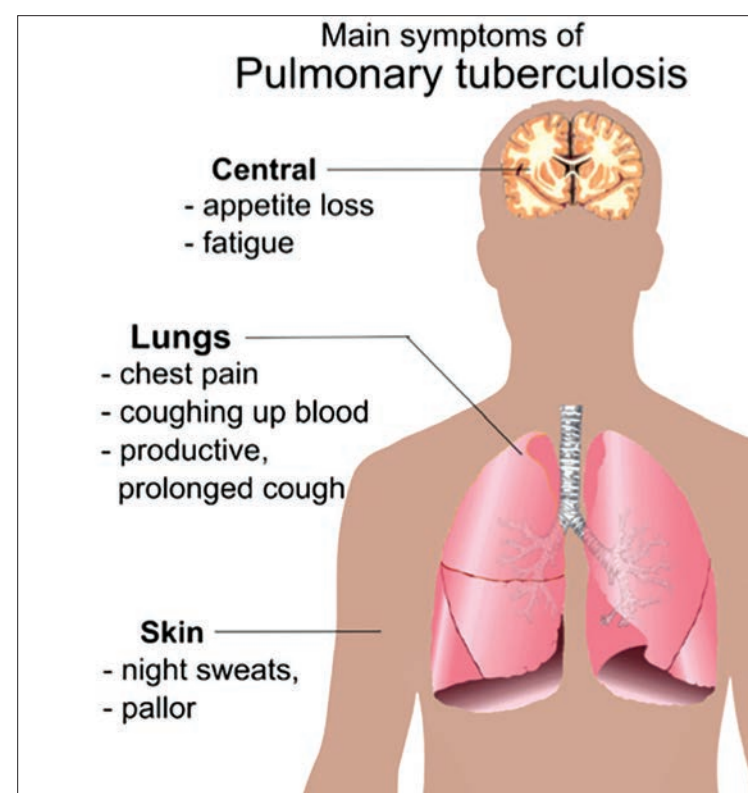
As per the Colombo Declaration, which member states adopted in 2016, each of them is committed to integrating NCD services at the primary level, while country-specific multisectoral action plans to counter the problem have been developed and rolled out region-wide. These have included a range of groundbreaking initiatives, from nutrient labelling systems that enhance health literacy to promoting physical activity through the provision of outdoor gyms.

The forthcoming high-level meetings at UN headquarters in New York provide the region significant scope to consolidate these many gains, accelerate progress, and promote game-changing innovations in each of these areas.

How so? Start with TB. The high-level meeting provides member states an open – and global – platform to highlight the problem's significance and present a detailed outline of how they are addressing it. Of note is the chance to underscore the dramatic increase

high-burden countries have made in domestic funding and the accelerated progress adequate resources from the global community could generate. While the meeting will emphasize the need to pursue differentiated strategies according to a country's TB burden, of critical importance to all – whether high-burden, medium-burden or low-burden – is harnessing greater investment in research and development, at the same time as influencing and participating in developing low-cost, affordable diagnostics and drugs to treat the disease.

For NCDs the stakes are similarly high. The meeting provides member states the opportunity to highlight progress since the first high-level UNGA meeting was held in 2011, as well as reiterate political momentum and resolve as they reach the half-way mark in the quest to reduce premature deaths caused by NCDs by a quarter by 2025. Importantly, it will also provide an opportunity to highlight where

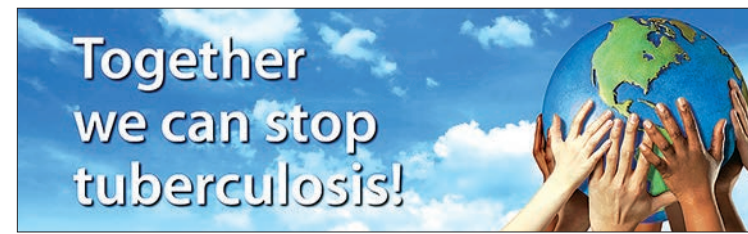


more spending is needed and how governments can be better supported in implementing their country-specific plans. That includes by emphasizing the significance of preventive measures that are among the most cost-effective (though underfunded) ways to deal with the problem.

Member states region-wide are well prepared. In recent months WHO South-East Asia has worked to support them on technical and procedural matters associated with the meetings, and to secure several speaking roles – as well as positions on stakeholder panels – that are crucial to amplifying the region's voice. That support is part of WHO South-East Asia's ongoing effort to work with member states to develop regional positions on specific issues where

feasible, and to ensure each country's voice is fully leveraged.

Given the opportunities at hand, that outcome is vital. Even as member states region-wide make strong domestic inroads in tackling TB and NCDs, gains must be consolidated, sustainable progress accelerated, and innovation promoted and pursued as a matter of priority. Each of the UNGA's high-level meetings provide the opportunity to make that happen. Now more than ever, by standing tall, highlighting progress and effectively communicating their interests, member states can return from the meetings having secured the support needed to drive last-year progress. In the battle against both TB and NCDs, who dares will indeed win.



International Day of Older Persons logo and text: "အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများနေ့" INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS "သက်ကြီးအရွယ်အရပ်ရပ်အား ဦးစားသက်တမ်းကြို" "Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions" ၂၀၁၈ ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ ၂၈ ရက်

12th World Rabies Day 28 September Rabies: Share the message. SAVE A LIFE. "ခွေးရူးရောဂါကာကွယ်ဖို့ သတင်းစကားမျှဝေကာ အသက်ကယ်ဖို့" ၂၀၁၈ ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ ၂၈ ရက်

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 26th September 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Southern Shan and Kayah states, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin and Northern Shan states, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay Region. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Patheingyi (3.25)inches, Mandalay (3.15)inches, Kayan (2.74)inches, Phayathonzu (1.89)inches, Lashio (1.42)inches and Mogaung (1.18)inches. BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the North Bay and monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 27 September 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin and Northern Shan states, scattered in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (100%). STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (1 - 4) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from Deltaic areas. FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends High-Level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin who has already arrived in United States to attend the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 73), attended the High-Level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping at Trusteeship Council on 25 September.

During the meeting, declaration of shared commitments on peacekeeping oper-

ations was approved by 145 UN member countries, including Myanmar.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence Ms. Pramila Patten at noon, followed by a meeting with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi at 2 pm on the same day. —MNA ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends the High-Level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping at Trusteeship Council during the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly on 25 September. PHOTO: MNA

Experts gather at ADB Resilience Academy workshop to improve Yangon urban infrastructure



Daw Hlaing Maw Oo delivers the opening speech at the Resilience Academy-RA Workshop in Yangon. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

YANGON City Development Committee, jointly with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Resilience Academy (RA) and Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF) is organizing a three-day workshop - Resilience Academy (RA) - in Yangon from 26-28 September in Melia hotel, Yangon.

The ADB RA is developed as a participatory project development workshop, which will bring together interdisciplinary groups from YCDC, YRG with technical experts to design projects that address the current and future climate and urbanization related risks of cities.

“YCDC has been continuously implementing various development projects either with its own budget or through ODA loans and grants of international development agencies such as JICA, AFD, World

Bank, ADB and so on. One of such projects under preparation is Yangon Urban Services Improvement Project which is planned to be implemented with the ADB Loan. It is the ADP loan project for upgrading water supply facilities by installation of pipeline from Ngamoeyeik reservoir and construction a new sewerage system and wastewater treatment plant for Zone W1 and W2, said Daw Hlaing Maw Oo.

The YUSIP1 has an objective to improve urban environment and public health conditions in Yangon City through the improvement of urban infrastructure and strengthening of urban management capacity.

The UCCRTF is currently preparing a small-scale grant project to support vulnerable communities in Yangon, completing the ADB YUSIP1.—GNLM ■

One killed, one injured in shooting in Hlinethaya, four arrested

A 56-year old man was killed in a shooting in Hlinethaya Tsp, Yangon Region, yesterday and police arrested the four suspects linked to the incident.

Police reports show that Khin Maung Lwin (a) Wa Gyi, 56, and Aung Min Oo were together in a house on Sansett Street, Apyinpadan village, Hlinethaya Tsp, when a taxi ridden by Solomon (a) Ko Saw and three others arrived at the scene. Solomon was reportedly asking for Ks 33 million, cost for building a fence owed to him by Khin Maung Lwin. The tension between the two parties escalated and resulted in Solomon shooting Khin Maung Lwin in the head, killing him on the spot.

Solomon and the three suspects then ganged up on Aung Min Oo and injured him. The four suspects then carried Aung Min Oo in the taxi they arrived in and drove along the road leading to Maubin Tsp. Police forces swiftly responded to the incident upon receiving news and tracked down the taxi driv-

er hired by the suspects. Police discovered that the suspects had fled towards the Twantay canal in the Aung Tun Creek by motorboat.

Police eventually discovered an injured Aung Min Oo in a guard hut of a fish farm in Yekyawlay village, Twantay Tsp, and sent him to Yangon General Hospital.

Around 3:40pm, police force spotted Solomon and the oth-

er suspects around other fish farm in Yekyawlay village and promptly arrested them.

Police seized the .45 pistol used in the crime with one bullet and a Remington gun with five bullets.

Police are continuing detailed investigation into the case and will handle the situation in accordance with the law. —MNA ■



(From left to right) Four suspects named, Solomon (a) Ko Saw, Hpa Kyal (a) Saw Gyi, Nyi Nyi (a) Pho Kala and Saw Tun Naing. PHOTO: MNA

Police confiscate 1,000 psychotropic tablets, 990g of heroin in Muse Township

ON 25 September in Namhsan village in Muse Township, police officers from the Muse police force 22 under the Drug Enforcement Division and the Namkam police, acting on received

information, arrested Ywe Sai, 50, after discovering 1,000 ‘88/1’ pink psychotropic tablets (est. to be worth Ks 1.5 million) and 10g of heroin in her living room, and ninety soap trays collectively

containing 990g of heroin (est. to be worth Ks 20 million) in her storeroom. A case has been opened against Ywe Sai under the Anti-Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA ■

Workshop aims to connect Myanmar, UK companies

A UK promotion workshop, including one-to-one business matching session, was jointly hosted by Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI), the British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar (BCCM) and the Department of International Trade (Myanmar) (DIT), in order to share the information with local companies on the benefits of partnering with UK counterparts on 25 September.

The workshop highlighted the benefits of partnering with UK companies. Additionally, it is also to strengthen UK-Myanmar trade relations and developing a network of local companies in Mandalay and enhance the relationship among DIT, MRCCI and BCCM according to the British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar. This workshop aims

to connect Myanmar companies with UK counterparts through one-to-one business matching session. Myanmar's economy has been gradually growing reflecting a series of liberalization, investment facilitation and policy reform, said DIT Director Mr. Douglas Barnes.

British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar mentioned that only chemical free fishery and food products can be placed on the UK market.

One-to-one matching session was set for energy and advanced engineering, infrastructure, marketing and communications, education, and financial service.

Present at the workshop were chair and members of MRCCI and DIT Director Mr. Douglas Barnes and private businesspersons from various sectors.—Khaing Set Wai, Ko Htet ■



MRCCI members and DIT Director Mr. Douglas Barnes pose for a documentary photo at the UK Promotion Workshop on 25 September. **PHOTO: KHAING SET WAI**

Online savings fraud to be dealt under Telecoms Law

By Nyein Nyein

FRAUDULENT cases involving savings solicited in person or in the form of social network will be taken action under the Telecommunications Law and the Penal Code, said Col. Aung Soe Moe, minister for Yangon Region's security and border affairs. Col. Aung Soe Moe was responding to a question raised by U Kyaw Zeya from Dagon Township constituency 2 at the tenth-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 26 September, if there is any plan to take action against those unscrupulous persons cheating others of their savings in person or through social network. Additionally, he asked how many of them have faced legal action, number of cases and scammed money amount.

"Informal savings in townships among the people involve a group of individuals who agree to meet, in order to save and borrow together, a form of combined investment, plotting for their self-interest and benefits. Formal legal actions cannot be taken under existing laws although that

kind of savings is illegitimate. However, There is no provision that prohibits legal savings. Therefore, we are planning to take action against them under the Telecommunications Law and the Penal Code", Col. Aung Soe Moe responded. Regarding fraudulent cases in informal savings, awareness will be raised through media or Yangon Police Facebook Page for crime prevention and safety measures. Those violators will be punished severely and public will be given a warning of them, he maintained. At present, 12 culprits are charged for allegedly scamming money, approximately worth over Ks939.6 million, through social media, in a total of 28 cases.

Again, four defendants are facing 13 civil cases regarding scamming through social network, with an estimated value of Ks228 million. Meanwhile, the 17 accused are facing legal action with 13 fraud cases committed personally among the public, with scammed value of Ks61.5 million. And, 24 culprits are facing lawsuit over 22 fraud cases through social network, scamming over Ks599.9 million. ■

Action taken against turning stalls into storages: Yangon mayor

By Nyein Nyein

SOME stalls hired at markets are seen being used as storages and legal action is being taken against those registered stall owners which violate rules and regulations of the market, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

The mayor was responding to a question raised by U Kyaw Min Han, Latha Township constituency 2 at the 9th day meeting of the seventh regular session of the Second Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 25 September, if there was any plan to take action against undisciplined mar-

ket stall owners who turn their stalls into storages, not complying with rules and regulations of the market.

"Some stalls are left to be used as a warehouse. And then, they sell their goods outside of the market building, squatters. We should control them. We witness those cases especially in Theingyizay Market. Those undisciplined stall owners are facing legal action for failure to comply with market rules and regulations", said U Maung Maung Soe.

Northern district authorities conducted an inspection tour to Theingyizay Market

and found that A and B building were cramped with sellers while stalls at the C and D buildings, which have lower sales are left to be used as storages. About 186 stalls were taken action by authorities. Additionally, the remaining 24 stalls were also given a notice to clear out their goods, said the Yangon mayor.

The stalls rented out at the markets by the Yangon City Development Committee need to strictly follow the set rules and regulations. There are 34 rules for sellers to abide by, and rule No. 13 states that market stalls are not allowed to be used as spaces to store things. ■

Replacement nominated for dismissed Yangon Advocate General

DAW Khin Myo Kyi has been nominated by the Yangon Region Chief Minister as Yangon Region Advocate General to replace dismissed former Advocate General U Han Htoo who is charged of bribery. The nomination was read by U Tin Maung Tun, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker at the tenth-day meeting of the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 26 September. Daw Khin Myo Kyi started her career from legal staff-4 to township law officer,

assistant-director in Mandalay, deputy director in Monywa and head of Kayin State law office, and then, retired as director of the Union Attorney General office in June, 2018, as mentioned in her biography distributed in Yangon Region Hluttaw. The regional Hluttaw speaker announced that Hluttaw representatives can make objection on the candidate, providing documents as proof.

In accordance with the provisions stated in Article 268 of the Constitution of the Republic of the

Union of Myanmar and Article 29 of the Anti-Corruption Law, Advocate General of Yangon Region U Han Htoo has been terminated from his position, according to the 14 September announcement of the Office of the President. Six government officials, including former Advocate General U Han Htoo, accused of taking bribes in the case against the killing of comedian Aung Ye Htwe, were charged under Sections 55 and 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law on 25 September. —Nyein Nyein ■

Japan PM Abe open to summit with N Korea's Kim

UNITED NATIONS (United States)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a longtime hardliner on North Korea, said on Tuesday he was willing to meet Kim Jong Un after the once reclusive leader's historic summit with US President Donald Trump.

Abe, who one year ago warned at the United Nations that the window for diplomacy with North Korea was closing, took a more open but still cautious tone in his latest address to the world body.

But he said that any summit would be devoted to resolving a decades-old row over North Korea's abductions of Japanese civilians—a deeply emotive issue for much of the Japanese public on which Abe built his political career. "In order to resolve the abduction issue, I am also ready to break the shell of mutual distrust with North Korea, get off to a new start and meet face to face with Chairman Kim Jong Un," Abe said in his UN address, while stressing that nothing was yet in the works. "But if we are to have one, then I am determined that it must contribute to the resolution of the abduction issue," he said.

North Korea kidnapped scores of Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s to train the



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks at the General Debate of the 73rd session of the General Assembly at the United Nations in New York City on 25 September, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

regime's spies in Japanese language and culture. Former Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi traveled twice to Pyongyang to seek a new relationship with the current leader's father Kim Jong Il and was told by North Korea that remaining abduction victims were dead—a stance adamantly rejected by Japanese family members and campaigners. Speculation has been rising that Abe could meet with Kim, who reportedly told Trump during their summit in June in Singapore that he was willing to talk to arch-enemy Japan.

With South Korea's dovish President Moon Jae-in also court-

ing Kim, fears have risen in Japan that it could be shut out of any ultimate resolution on North Korea if it refuses dialogue. Trump in his own UN address earlier Tuesday pointed to his "bold and new push for peace" and saluted Kim's courage. It was a far cry from a year ago, when Trump stunned assembled leaders by threatening to "totally destroy" North Korea and belittling "rocket man" Kim. Despite Trump's optimism, many analysts are skeptical on how much North Korea has changed, saying the regime has already conducted the tests it needed to build its nuclear and missile programs.—AFP ■

Philippines' Duterte continues to enjoy high trust, approval ratings

MANILA—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte continued to enjoy high trust and approval ratings, according to an independent poll released on Tuesday.

A survey by Pulse Asia Inc. conducted from 1 to 7 September showed 75 per cent of the 1,800 Filipinos aged 18 and above surveyed nationwide approved of the way Duterte runs the country.

The survey further showed that 72 per cent of those surveyed continue to trust the 73-year-old leader.

At the national level, Pulse Asia said Duterte experienced

a 13-percentage points slip in his approval ratings compared to 88 percent approval rating he earned in June.

Duterte's spokesman Harry Roque said Duterte's ratings were still high. "We take note of the survey results but we are not affected by it," he told a news conference.

Duterte assumed the presidency in June 2016. He vowed to stamp out corruption and improve law and order in the Philippines by waging war against criminals and terrorists.—Xinhua ■



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (L) speaks during an interview with Xinhua News Agency in Manila, the Philippines on 13 October, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Hundreds pay tribute to Viet Nam president at state funeral

HANOI (Viet Nam)—Hundreds of black-clad mourners, weeping or lighting incense and laying wreaths, gathered early Wednesday for a somber final tribute at a state funeral for Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang who died last week after a prolonged illness.

Long lines of officials, family, police and monks in golden robes streamed through the National Funeral House in downtown Hanoi where Quang's flag-draped coffin lay beneath a large portrait of the leader who passed away at age 61 on Friday.

His family sat vigil next to the coffin, dressed in black and wearing white headbands, and were greeted by stone-faced mourners, many who wept as they passed his body. The country's top party cadres led tributes with large red, yellow and white floral wreaths, including Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong, who lit

incense and bowed their heads before the coffin.

A two-day national mourning period opened on Wednesday.



Viet Nam president's office staff, dressed in black outfits, wait to pay their respects to late president Tran Dai Quang during the first day of a two-day-national mourning at the national funeral house in Hanoi on 26 September, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Viet Nam's communist leaders praised Quang's long devotion to the party, which he joined in 1980, and his more than four

decades of service in the country's powerful security apparatus.

"He devoted his entire life and made numerous contribu-

tions to national revolutionary causes... his passing is a huge loss to our party, state and people," Deputy Prime Minister Truong Hoa Binh said at the prayer ceremony. Quang courted a reputation as a hardline leader who was tough on dissent and drew criticism for overseeing a crackdown on activists and bloggers since he became president in 2016.

He also backed a sweeping anti-corruption campaign that has seen dozens of former and current officials and executives jailed in the past two years.

Though he was a member of the powerful politburo and was the country's head of the Ministry of Public Security for five years before he became president, his role as the official head-of-state was largely ceremonial.

Analysts have said his passing is not likely to shake up politics in the one-party state where the communist party maintains a tight grip on power.—AFP ■

Tiger population nearly doubles in Nepal

KATHMANDU — Nepal's wild tiger population has nearly doubled over the last nine years, officials said on Monday, in a victory for the impoverished country's drive to save the endangered big cats.

Wildlife groups have welcomed the news as a sign that political involvement and innovative conservation strategies can reverse the decline of the majestic Royal Bengal tiger. A survey carried out earlier this year counted 235 tigers in Nepal, up from around 121 in 2009.

Conservationists and wildlife experts used more than 4,000 cameras and around 600 elephants, trawling a 2,700-kilometre (1,700-mile) route across Nepal's southern plains where the big cats roam.

"This is a result of concentrated unified efforts by the government along with the local community and other stakeholders to protect the tiger's habitat and fight against poaching," Man Bahadur Khadka, director general of Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, told AFP.

Deforestation, encroachment of habitat and poaching have devastated big cat numbers across Asia, but in 2010 Nepal and 12 other countries signed a pledge to double their tiger numbers by 2022.

The 2010 Tiger Conservation Plan — which is backed by high profile figures including actor Leon-



The wild tiger population in Nepal was counted as 235 in a survey carried out this year, double that in 2009. **POTO: AFP**

ardo DiCaprio — quickly began bearing fruit, and in 2016 the World Wildlife Fund and the Global Tiger Forum announced that the wild tiger population had increased for the first time in more than a century.

In 1900, more than 100,000 tigers roamed the world but that fell to an all-time low of 3,200 in 2010.

DiCaprio tweeted his support for Nepal's success: "I am proud of @dicaprio's partnership with @World_Wildlife to support Nepal and local communities in doubling the population of wild tigers."

Ghana Gurung, country representative of WWF in Nepal, said the country's

progress was an example for tiger conservation globally. "The challenge now is to continue these efforts to protect their habitats and numbers for the long-term survival of the tigers," he said.—AFP ■

Judge restores protections for Yellowstone grizzlies, hunts canceled

HELENA (Montana) — A US federal judge has restored endangered species protections to the Yellowstone grizzly bear a year after it was taken off the list by the Trump administration, preventing the animal from being hunted for the first time in decades.

In his ruling issued on Monday, US District Judge Dana Christensen in Montana said the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) had acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in its delisting of the species from the Endangered Species Act in June 2017.

"This case is not about the ethics of hunt-

ing, and it is not about solving human- or livestock-grizzly conflicts as a practical or philosophical matter," Christensen said, adding his sole responsibility was to determine whether the agency had exceeded its legal authority.

He found that that FWS had failed to consider how delisting the Yellowstone-area grizzly bear would impact other grizzly populations, adding that a pair of studies the government had quoted to back its decision themselves noted that the species' long term health depends on the introduction of new genetic material.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0106N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0106N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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.

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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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (070N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (070N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 1st October
(Monday) 2018 "Bank Holiday" under the
Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Screen legend Judi Dench honoured at Spain film festival

SAN SEBASTIAN (Spain) — British screen legend Judi Dench was honoured on Tuesday with a lifetime achievement award at Spain's famous San Sebastian film festival.

The 83-year-old actress, who won an Oscar in 1999 for her role as Queen Elizabeth I in "Shakespeare in Love", received the festival's Donostia Award, which goes to "a great film personality in recognition for their work and career".

During a short ceremony to collect the prize, Dench said she first visited San Sebastian with her parents when she was a teenager but "never thought for a second, that I would be an actress the rest of my life" and receive "such an incredible award" here.

"I appreciate it very much indeed," she added before her new film "Red Joan," directed

by Trevor Nunn, was screened.

In the film, inspired on a true story, she plays a tranquil retiree who is suddenly arrested by MI5 and exposed as a long-standing KGB spy.

Dench, a veteran star of the stage and screen, made her cinema debut in 1964 and has worked with directors as varied as Stephen Frears, Kenneth Branagh, Clint Eastwood and Sam Mendes.

Her subtle portrayal of complex characters such as Queen Victoria in "Mrs Brown" or author Iris Murdoch in "Iris" have earned her critical acclaim.

A seven-time Oscar nominee and the recipient of several Bafta awards, Dench is perhaps best known worldwide for playing M, the head of MI6, in James Bond films.

It was her first visit to the San Sebastian film festival, the



Dame Judi Dench with British director Trevor Nunn during a photocall in San Sebastian to promote their new film "Red Joan". PHOTO: AFP

oldest and most prestigious event of its kind in the Spanish speaking world.

Dench joined US actor Danny DeVito and Japanese director

Hirokazu Kore-eda, whose film "Shoplifters" won the Palme d'Or in this year's Cannes Film Festival, who also picked up a Donostia Award this year. —AFP ■

Dancing queen: Abba-period Cher has a new army of devotees

LOS ANGELES—Cher has a stately air as she receives a steady line of journalists in a West Hollywood hotel room with the studied equanimity of Catherine the Great addressing her subjects at the Winter Palace.

If Madonna is the Queen of Pop then Cher is surely the Empress of Entertainment, surveying the spoils of a showbiz career that has reaped a best actress Oscar, three Golden Globes, an Emmy, a Grammy and a number one record in each of the last five decades.

And with an acclaimed movie role this summer, a new album of Abba covers on the way and a Broadway musical about her life on the horizon, the 72-year-old icon shows no



Cher, with Andy Garcia at the world premiere of the film "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" in London, shows no signs of slowing down. PHOTO: AFP

signs of abdicating anytime soon.

"It seems I have a bunch of new fans, young ones, little ones. It's great. I honestly didn't expect it," she enthuses, a play-

ful grin fleetingly snapping the aristocratic aura.

A post-war baby boomer of Armenian, European and Cherokee heritage, the performer was born Cherilyn Sarkisian in

southern California. To a certain generation she will always be an icon of Sixties counterculture and the unique contralto voice who, along with late former husband Sonny Bono, gave the world "I Got You Babe."

But she has been shocking and delighting since ditching her folksy girl-next-door Sonny and Cher-era image to emerge as the siren in a hardly-there body suit and leather jacket in the 1989 "Turn Back Time" video—a quarter-century before "twerking" had entered the lexicon.

"Believe" brought Cher to a new generation of fans in 1998, with its innovative deployment of the robotic, digitally-enhanced "vocoder" vocal for which she is now famous. —AFP ■

Hong Kong action film "L Storm" continues to lead Chinese box office

BEIJING—Hong Kong action thriller "L Storm" continued to dominate the Chinese mainland box office on 23 September, China Film News reported.

The third installment of the Storm franchise has raked in 369 million yuan (53.7 million US dol-

lars) since it was released on the Chinese mainland on 14 September. Domestic action film "Golden Job" is now in second place, bringing in a total of 157 million yuan at the box office since its release on 21 September.

Paramount's action-packed

"Mission: Impossible - Fallout", meanwhile, came in third making nearly 1.2 billion yuan at the box office since hitting Chinese screens on 31 August. China's coming-of-age film "Cry Me a Sad River" took fourth place, gaining nearly 78 million yuan since being

released on 21 September.

Ranking out of the top five was domestic crime film "Ash Is Purest White" directed by Jia Zhangke, with a total box office earning of 40.9 million yuan since hitting the big screen on 21 September. —Xinhua ■

Japanese airlines to offer discount to people with mental disorders

KAGOSHIMA (Japan) — Japanese airlines will start offering up to a 50 per cent discount on domestic flights to travelers with a mental disorder, sources with knowledge of the matter said on Tuesday.

A total of 10 air carriers, including Japan Airlines Co and All Nippon Airways Co, decided to expand the scope of special fares to include people who are suffering from disorders such as depression, epilepsy and autism, in addition to those with physical and intellectual disabilities.

The decision comes after the enforcement of a new law aimed at improving treatment of people with impairments.

It is the first time that airlines in Japan have introduced a special discount for people with mental disorders, according to the transport ministry.

The JAL group will start accepting reservations for the discount on 4 October, while other airlines plan to implement the new policy as early as January next year.

Under the new system, the discount fare is also available to a caregiver traveling on the same flight as a person in possession of an official welfare document certifying their condition.

A similar discount programme has already been introduced by some railway, bus and ferry companies following the enforcement of the 2016 law for eliminating discrimination against people with disabilities.

Noriaki Yamakawa, 79, who heads a nonprofit organization supporting people with mental illness in Kagoshima Prefecture, welcomed the airlines' new policy, saying it would help them travel more widely and integrate into society.

Until now, the airline companies limited special fares only to travelers with physical and intellectual disabilities. —Kyodo News ■

Scientists discover “smarter” way to produce energy from the sun

SYDNEY—A team led by scientists at Australia’s Curtin University have created a much cheaper and environmentally friendly way of turning solar energy into clean fuels like hydrogen.

In a paper published on Tuesday, researchers described how they developed tiny nanocrystals as highly efficient catalysts to generate solar energy for the production of clean fuels.

“Previously, in order to use catalysts to derive energy from sunlight and transfer it into clean fuels such as hydrogen, we would

have had to use cadmium-based semiconductors in combination with expensive noble metals including platinum, iridium and ruthenium,” lead researcher Dr Guohua Jia from Curtin’s School of Molecular and Life Sciences explained.

“However, the high toxicity of cadmium and the high cost of noble metals are considerable obstacles to their widespread use.” The team have now invented tiny crystals that do not contain any noble and toxic metals and can be directly used as environmentally

friendly catalysts to convert solar energy into hydrogen.

With hydrogen considered instrumental in the transition to a low carbon economy, Jia believes the method could be revolutionary in reforming high energy cost activities like powering cars as well as various industrial processes. “These nanomaterials may be of great interest to the energy industry, as they are made from cheap and near-abundant elements and offer industries a potential cleaner and cheaper fuel source,” Jia said.—Xinhua ■

World’s largest telescope more powerful, popular after two years

GUIYANG—His eyes brimming with excitement, seven-year-old Wang Jun ran to an exhibition stand to pick up a pair of headphones and started listening, leaving his father behind.

“The Sound of Pulsar Stars collected by FAST,” read a sign next to the stand.

FAST, Five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope, is the world’s largest single-dish radio telescope and was set up two years ago on this day in southwest China’s Guizhou Province. It helps scientists understand the universe by receiving and recording pulsar and interstellar signals from extraterrestrial sources.

Engineers and astronomers continuously try to perfect the telescope, making improvements to allow it to see farther into space. Meanwhile, those who visit the telescope find themselves in awe of the giant dish and its ability to lead to breakthrough discoveries.

SENSITIVE GIANT

Since its trial operation in 2016, FAST has found some 50 stars which bear features similar to pulsars, with 44 confirmed, according to scientists in National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC).

Pulsar observation can be used to conduct research on gravitational waves, black holes and

to help solve many other major questions in physics.

“We are still improving the system,” said Jiang Peng, chief engineer of FAST with NAOC, during Xinhua’s recent tour to the FAST observatory. “Now we have met many goals previously set for the telescope.”

The sensitivity of a telescope is the minimum brightness that it can detect. The lower the number, the farther a telescope can see. In FAST’s case, Jiang’s team cut the number by 20 per cent in the last two years, making it arguably the world’s most sensitive telescope.

They have also extended its annual observation time from around 700 hours to more than 1,000 hours, which means more data for scientists to analyze.

The telescope will start formal operation and open to Chinese astronomers in 2019, according to NAOC.

“We often say the telescope was almost usable two years ago; now it is usable, and our goal is to make it good to use,” Jiang said.

SILENT TOURISM

The state-of-art technology and the spectacle of the giant dish have become a magnet for tourists over the years. “My son is interested in science and aliens,” said Wang Lifa, Wang Jun’s father. “We are here to satisfy his imagination.” —Xinhua ■

Europe’s Ariane 5 rocket blasts off for 100th time

PARIS—A European-made rocket has blasted off from French Guiana for the 100th time, in a symbolic landmark for its manufacturer as it comes under increasing pressure from Elon Musk’s SpaceX programme. The Ariane 5 spacecraft took off from the Caribbean launch site on Tuesday at 19:38 (22:38 GMT), propelling two telecoms satellites into orbit.

In service for more than two decades and capable of blasting heavy payloads into the sky, the Ariane 5 has become the workhorse of European space launches under the guidance of the European Space

Agency (ESA).

But it will soon be replaced by an updated model, the Ariane

6, which will be an estimated 40 per cent cheaper to make.—AFP ■



Ariane 5 rocket lifts off for its 100th mission to space from Kourou, French Guiana, on 25 September, 2018. Its payload is two satellites: Horizons 3e, a high-throughput communications satellite built by Boeing, and Azerspace-2 / Intelsat 38. PHOTO: AFP

NASA sees its stalled Martian robot, but still no signals

WASHINGTON—NASA scientists can now see their solar-powered probe that was lost in a Martian dust storm more than 100 days ago—but the vintage robot hasn’t shown any signs of life.

Thanks to a high-resolution camera aboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, NASA said on Tuesday it can see the Opportunity rover in Perseverance Valley, on the edge of a huge crater.

Opportunity was descending into the valley when a dust storm that was first detected on 30 May swept over the region. In NASA’s image, the vehicle appears as a tiny white dot.

The 15-year-old rover was

last heard from on 10 June, when it went into “sleep” mode as dust blocked out the Sun and darkness enveloped the Red Planet.

“NASA still hasn’t heard from the Opportunity rover, but at least we can see it again,” NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory said in a statement. Opportunity and its twin rover, Spirit, are a pair of unmanned robotic vehicles designed by NASA to tool around on the Martian surface and transmit data about conditions there back to Earth. They landed on Mars in 2003 on a mission meant to last 90 days and span 1,000 yards (meters). Spirit lasted 20 times longer

than that. It became stuck in soft soil in 2009, and its mission was formally declared over in 2011.

Opportunity is going on 60 times its planned mission life, has

traveled 28 miles (45 kilometers) and found evidence of water on Mars and conditions that may have been suitable for sustaining microbial life.

Last month, NASA said it would work until mid-October to try to bring Opportunity back to life, a timeframe fans of “Oppy” said was too short.—AFP ■



This 20 September, 2018, image obtained from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory shows the Opportunity rover as a blip in the center of the square. PHOTO: AFP

Vowing US first, Trump lashes out against ICC at UN

UNITED NATIONS (United States) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday urged heavy pressure both on Iran and Washington's trading partners as he offered a robust defense of the US right to go it alone.

Addressing world leaders at the start of the annual United Nations General Assembly, Trump lashed out at the OPEC oil cartel, China's trade policies and the International Criminal Court which he vowed the United States would never accept.

Hours before Iranian President Hassan Rouhani takes the same rostrum, Trump denounced the clerical regime as sowing "chaos, death and destruction" and doubled down on the US withdrawal of an international agreement on curbing Tehran's nuclear program.

But the real estate mogul turned populist leader was comparatively subdued a year after he stunned the global body with his bellicose language on North Korea, including a threat to "totally destroy" Kim Jong Un's state.

This time around, Trump heralded his own diplomacy on North Korea including a historic summit in June with Kim, say-



US President Donald Trump speaks during the General Debate of the 73rd session of the General Assembly at the United Nations in New York, on 25 September, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

ing he has worked to "replace the specter of conflict with a bold and new push for peace."

With midterm elections in the United States little more than a month away, Trump's address at times took on the feel of a campaign address as he heralded low unemployment.

Boasting that his team "has achieved more than any administration in the history of our country," Trump was met with laughter, highly unusual in the solemn General Assembly. "I didn't expect that reaction, but that's okay," Trump responded.

Isolating Iran

Iran is a major focus of the annual week of UN diplomacy, months after Trump irritated US allies in Europe by withdrawing from a 2015 agreement under which Tehran has sharply curtailed its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief.

A day after the European Union announced a new legal framework in hopes that companies can keep doing business with Iran and evade incoming US sanctions, Trump demanded that all countries take aim at Tehran — and noted that his decision has been popular among the Shiite-majority nation's Sunni Arab rivals.

"We cannot allow the world's leading sponsor of terrorism to possess the planet's most dangerous weapons," Trump said, in an allusion to Tehran's support for Islamic militant movements such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

"We cannot allow a regime that chants 'Death to America' and that threatens Israel with annihilation, to possess the means to deliver a nuclear warhead to any city on Earth," he said.

"We ask all nations to isolate Iran's regime as long as its aggression continues."

'America will never apologize'

Trump robustly attacked the "globalist" view of the world — shared by many at the United Nations and on the political left in the United States — and vowed: "America will never apologize for protecting its citizens."

He said that the UN-backed International Criminal Court has "no jurisdiction, no legitimacy and no authority."

His national security adviser John Bolton earlier went so far as to threaten to prosecute judges from the court in The Hague if they take up accusations against US forces in Afghanistan.

"We will never surrender America's sovereignty to an unelected, unaccountable global bureaucracy. America is governed by Americans," Trump said.

Amid a growing trade war with China, Trump said that the commercial imbalance with the Asian power "cannot be tolerated" and reserved harsh words for OPEC, the global oil cartel that includes both US allies and foes.

"OPEC and OPEC nations are, as usual, ripping off the rest of the world, and I don't like it. Nobody should like it."—AFP

Trump hails N Korea's Kim at UN, but says sanctions remain

NEW YORK — US President Donald Trump on Tuesday hailed North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's "courage" in taking steps toward denuclearization, but said that sanctions will remain in place until Pyongyang dismantles its nuclear weapons programme.

In his second speech at the UN General Assembly, Trump highlighted his recent engagement with North Korea — including a historic meeting with leader Kim in June in Singapore — in a bid to replace "the specter of conflict with a bold and new push for peace." "I would like to thank Chairman Kim for his courage and for the steps he has taken, though much work remains to be done," he said, referring to Kim by his title as chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea. "The sanctions will stay in place until denuclearization occurs."

The speech provided a stark contrast to Trump's maiden speech at the global body last year in which he threat-



Combined file photo shows US President Donald Trump (L) and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ened to "totally destroy" North Korea and called Kim a "rocket man" on a "suicide mission for himself and for his regime" with its "reckless pursuit" of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. A year later, however, Trump has described the relationship with Kim as "very good" and even "extraordinary," as the United States aims to achieve the final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea by the end of the president's first term in

January 2021. Trump is planning to hold a second summit with Kim "in the not too distant future" following the first-ever US-North Korea summit at which Kim committed to "complete" denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In an interview with Fox News on Tuesday, South Korean President Moon Jae In — who discussed the possible timing and location of a second US-North Korea summit during a meeting with Trump on Monday in New York — said

Trump could meet Kim before the end of the year. In the UN address, Trump thanked Moon, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping for their cooperation over the North Korean nuclear issue. Nonetheless, Trump also condemned China over its "unfair" trade practices, as well as its massive and chronic trade surpluses with the United States. "I have great respect and affection for my friend President Xi. But I have made clear our trade imbalance is just not acceptable," he said. "China's market distortions and the way they deal cannot be tolerated." On Monday, the Trump administration invoked tariffs on an additional \$200 billion in Chinese imports in response to Beijing's alleged intellectual property and technology theft.

The action was the most significant escalation yet in the trade war between the world's two largest economies. China immediately hit back, slapping

additional tariffs on \$60 billion in US imports. "The United States will not be taken advantage of any longer," Trump said on Tuesday. "We will not allow our workers to be victimized, our companies to be cheated and our wealth to be plundered and transferred."

Unlike his conciliatory tone toward North Korea, the US leader slammed Iran over its nuclear program and support for militant groups in the Middle East, urging all nations to isolate the regime in Tehran as long as its "aggression" continues. Washington is cooperating with Japan and other countries that import Iranian oil to "cut their purchases substantially" so as to dry up the regime's revenues, according to Trump.

Trump defended the US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers and the US reimposition of sanctions on Tehran, saying, "The Iran deal was a windfall for Iran's leaders."—Kyodo News ■