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A man takes photos of the fire at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel yesterday morning as flames were still visible on upper floors. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

Two dead as fire guts iconic Kandawgyi Palace Hotel

By May Thet Hnin

TWO people were killed and at least one injured when a massive fire engulfed the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel at about 3:15am yesterday, gutting the landmark

building located on the edge of Kandawgyi Lake in the centre of Yangon.

The cause of the fire remains unknown, but hotel officials said the blaze began on the fifth floor of the hotel, which

is constructed mostly of wood.

“Since the hotel was built mainly with teak, the fire quickly engulfed the buildings”, said U Htay Lwin, a spokesman for the Htoo Group of Companies, owners of the hotel.

Kyodo News reported that they had confirmed that one of the people killed in the fire was a hotel guest visiting from Japan.

“The fire started on the 5th floor. The cause of fire is under inspection. **SEE PAGE-4**

Gold mining firms urged to pay debts to government

SOME long overdue bills are about to get collected by the Union government, it was revealed at yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw session.

U Ohn Win, the Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, replied to a question raised by U Zarni Min of Shweku constituency about the status of old gold debts owed the government.

“Arrangements are under way to sue gold mining companies for failing to hand over agreed-upon portions of their gold finds to the government for many years. Three big gold mining companies have been giving pure gold left to hand over to the government in FY2016, as agreed to pay during the year 2018. And arrangements are being made to take deposit money given by gold mining companies and to make responsible personnel from the department supervise the companies to hand over the gold monthly to the government.

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Union Minister U Ohn Win.



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Gold mining firms urged to give debts to government

FROM PAGE-1

When they fail to do as committed, legal actions will be taken against them in accord with rules, laws and procedures”, U Ohn Win said.

In reply to a question raised by Daw Mi Kun Chan of Paung Constituency, U Ohn Win said, “There is not any plan to cancel the gravel production project of Long Life Aggregate Mining Co. in Kalamataung Forest Reserve in Paung Township. In case the company is found guilty of violating rules and regulations, legal action will be taken against the company.”

Afterward, Dr Daw Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon Constituency put forward a motion urging the Union Government to make known the national income received from mining

sectors of natural resources and to lay down arrangements for all these earnings to inclusively go into the Union Revenue Fund in accord with the recommendation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (ETTI) into which Myanmar joined as the preliminary candidate in June 2014.

“National citizens are the ones among 13 countries that enjoy the fewest benefits from extraction of natural resources. The motion has been put forward with a view to applying pressure for reaching an all-inclusive development state and effective management of natural resources. It will be more beneficial use for the national development for our country to carry out things to be done in accord with the standards, instructions and



Pyithu Hluttaw session being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

recommendations of ETTI. So, it needs to perform the task of making national income from extraction of natural resources to inclusively go into the Union Finance Fund”, Dr Daw Thet Thet Khaing said.

Following that, U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced that those interested in discussing the motion approved by Pyithu Hluttaw to be seconded in the Hluttaw to enroll their names.

After that, Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, submitted a bill on International Theravara Buddhist Missionary University (ITBMU) Law. —Myanmar News Agency ■

MPs call for fishing rules enforcement to save aquatic resources

MPs of the Amyotha Hluttaw called for fighting illegal fishing, such as using banned fishing nets, and corruption in order to conserve Myanmar's aquatic resources, which are quickly declining.

When debating a motion on sustainable development of Myanmar's fishery sector was tabled by MP U Khin Myo Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 12, MP U Han Win Thein of Taninthayi Region's constituency 4 called for making strict rule enforcement of onshore and offshore fishing to prevent illegal fishing and use of banned fishing nets in order to prevent depletion of fish resources.

“Before fishing boats depart out to sea, thorough inspections and surprise checks should be carried out and effective actions

should be carried out against corruption in the fishing sector,” he said.

The motion focused on collecting all taxes which are deserved from fish and aquatic resources from Myanmar's sea, conservation of fish resources and permitting the transfer of fish to factories or permitting export through FOB and CIF systems by vessels only after the fish hauls from near and far shores are inspected at loading and off-loading ports.

The MP also called for providing full expertise and service loading and off-loading of fish at the ports in order to control the quality of fish and for installing vessel management systems (VMS) on fishing boats.

MPs also stressed the need for aquatic research works to be



U Han Win Thein.



U Okka Min.

conducted systematically and consistently to maintain the ecosystem and for the development of the fishery sector.

U Okka Min of Taninthayi Region constituency 8 said One Stop Service provided by Fishery Department in Kawthoung and Myeik inspection stations is

now changed to MFI and there were nine groups cooperating. There were 1,128 fishing vessels five foreign joint venture fishing vessels, 33 local fish-carrying vessels working under the inspection of the Myeik inspection station. Most of the fish were exported to Thailand and

Malaysia, and four types of inspections were conducted. If the inspection is to be conducted on the wharves, it should be big, wide and government-owned wharves. Advanced machinery and cold stores with sufficient electrical power are required. Installation of VMS to prevent fishing vessels from conducting illegal fishing urgently needs to be implemented. Only then can the Myanmar fishery and aquatic sector be maintained and developed with sustainable production while losses in tax and revenue prevented.

Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Soe Naing, Dr San Maung Maung of Bago Region constituency 1 and Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3 also discussed the motion. —Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives EU Ambassador

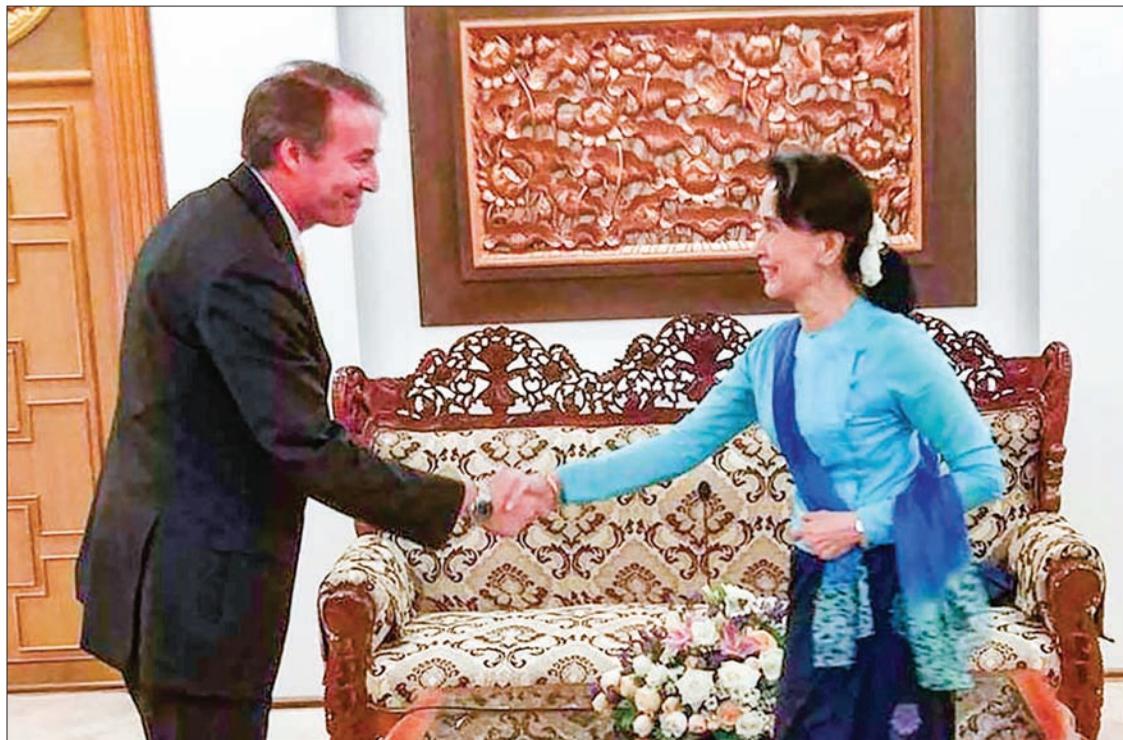
PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received H.E Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar yesterday afternoon at the Pyithu Hluttaw office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed the right way for My-

anmar to transition into democracy, national reconciliation and peace, relational promotion and cooperation between the EU and Myanmar, provision of humanitarian aid for Rakhine State implemented by the government of Myanmar, regional development and the legislative processes of

the Hluttaw.

Ambassador Schmidt, a Danish national, previously served as the Head of the European Union delegation to Uganda and held several senior positions in the European Union's headquarters in Brussels. — Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives EU Ambassador

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, receives H.E. Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union to the Re-

public of the Union of Myanmar on 19 October 2017 at 3:00 pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters related to the promotion

of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the European Union, and the progress of the situation in the Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Ceremony for handing over machinery bought as two step loan held

Farming machinery bought with a JICA Two-Step Loan were handed over to farmers in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony to hand over the machinery was held at the office of the Maternity and Child Care Association, Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw. U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance said the move will improve and increase the country's agricultural sector.

"The two-step loan project is designed for farmers to borrow a considerable amount of money in the form of short-term and long-term loans so as to be able to invest in the tasks from preparation of land for growing to the stage of harvesting, winnowing, milling, packing and selling; to purchase agricultural farming equipments and to build up rice mills, oil mills and storehouses." U Tin Htut, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member, made

an address, followed by clarifications about the objectives and processes of the JICA Two-Step Loan from U Min Thu, director-general of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.

U Aye Maung Sein, Nay Pyi Taw Council member, U Tun Tun Naing, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Mr Sakai, Deputy In-Charge of JICA Myanmar Office handed over documents on the machinery bought by farmers. Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and responsible officials then inspected agricultural farming equipment.

The JICA Two-Step Loan was approved by the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 3rd Regular Session. It was launched in Pyay Township as a pilot project in FY 2017-2018 and the project will be launched in the remaining Regions and States further.—MNA ■

Nationwide animal census to be taken in January by Livestock Breeding & Vet Dept

The first meeting of a national-level animal census central committee was held yesterday morning at the Royal ACE Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu said the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is arranging to conduct an animal census in January, with preliminary data collection already conducted in 11 wards and 1,113 villages of Nganzun, Kyaukse, Singgaing, Myittha, Tada-U, Miekhtila, Wundwin, Thazi townships, Mandalay Region while the Food and Agriculture Organization Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (FAO-LIFT Fund) collected data from Mahlaing, Myingyan, Natogyi, Pakokku, Taungtha and Yesagyo townships of Mandalay Region and Magway Region totalling 422,618 houses in 14 townships.

The Union Minister said the animal census could not be conducted successfully simply by having time, manpower and technology. The work can be successfully conducted by the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department with the support of



Officials discuss collecting data on animal population. PHOTO: MNA

the ministry, the cooperation of related organisations, expertise of the data collectors and enthusiastic and transparent mental and physical cooperation of the people. As per the current calculations, there are 330 townships and 63,860 villages in Myanmar and, excluding townships that didn't have villages and villages where data has already been collected, data will be collected from 20 per cent of villages and wards in 283 townships numbering 12,399 villages and 515 wards consisting of about 1.5 million houses, said the Union Minister.

Only when exact animal census data is collected can policies, aims and projects be implement-

ed in the animal breeding and production sector, which will support the country's political, economic and social sector developments, added the Union Minister. Dr. Ye Tun Win, the director general of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, explained the animal census collection project and implemented works, and an official from FAO explained how the collected data will be utilised. The steps for the national-level animal census collection work process were then reviewed by central committee members and officials of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.—Myanmar News Agency ■

KBZ's BFM foundation funds K3 billion for development projects in Rakhine

Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated Ks3 billion to an effort led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for implementing projects in all sectors for the development of Rakhine State.

The philanthropic foundation put Ks3 billion into the bank account CF-003434 of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine yesterday, said a foundation official.

The donation came about one week after State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi announced the establishment of UEHARD, inviting NGOs, CSOs, partner nations, UN agencies and INGOs to work together with the Union Government for implementing the three main tasks of humanitarian assistance, resettlement and development in Rakhine State.

For the rehabilitation and resettlement in Rakhine State, the foundation has also

previously contributed Ks47 million to the fund for civil servants who were injured and killed in the conflicts in Rakhine in 2017, Ks300 million to development tasks and more than Ks3.1 billion for stability in the border area, bringing the BFM's total contributions to Rakhine State to more than K6.5 billion yesterday.

In early 2017, BFM established a Ks3 billion peace fund for the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre-NRPC.

When serious floods hit Myanmar in 2015, the foundation donated Ks11.5 billion to the fund for rescue and resettlement in Rakhine State.

BFM chaired by Daw Nang Laung Kham, has donated more than K135 billion so far since its establishment in 2008.

To develop the Rakhine State, the Union Government has invited local and private donors to assist the government.—Thura Lwin (Eco)■

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Two dead as fire guts iconic Kandawgyi Palace Hotel

FROM PAGE-1

The body is being examined to confirm the identity. The injured person is a Chinese female guest from the Macao Special Administrative Region. She was sent to Yangon General Hospital after injuries to her waist. After we confirm the identity of the deceased, we plan to go to his or her country and will send our deepest condolences to the family", said U Htay Lwin at a press conference held at the Yangon Zoological Garden yesterday afternoon.

Yesterday afternoon at about 3pm, firefighters found a second body in a hotel room. The nationality and gender of the person could not immediately be determined.

The fire broke out in the early morning hours, triggering a fire alarm and prompting many of the 60 hotel staffers to knock on guest's doors and help them evacuate, said Mr. Raymond Bragg, CEO of Kandawgyi Palace Hotel.

There were a total of 141 guests registered at the time of the blaze, including 120 foreigners.

"We prioritise guest safety, and the hotel's fire alarm belled once the fire broke out. Fire extinguishers was also used, Mr. Bragg said.

Of the hotel's 185 rooms, 140 were burnt down. Only 40 rooms on the ground floor and first floor remain. An adjoining building and a nearby Japa-



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at Kandawgyi Palace hotel in Yangon on 19 October 2017.

PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

nese restaurant were slightly damaged, Mr. Bragg said.

The hotel is insured and the policy includes public liability coverage for guests. The evacuated guests were accommodated in nearby hotels, U Htay Lwin said.

"We provide fire protection courses to the staff every three months, which minimised the possible danger to the guests. We are cautious about the possibility of fire, as Deepavali was celebrated on 18 October and the guests might light candles", he added.

The monetary cost of fire damage is still calculated. Police are interrogating the night-shift manager and supervisor.

Yangon Region Chief Min-

ister U Phyo Min Thein, hluttaw representatives and officials from related departments visited the scene yesterday.

"It was a real shock to hear that fire had engulfed the hotel, which was built in 1995-1996 during Visit Myanmar Year. Most of the hotels in Yangon are of the tower type, making this hotel architecturally unique, with the charm that came with natural islands, the water and the pagoda", said U Thet Lwin Toe, chairman of the Union of Myanmar Travel Associations.

After hundreds of firefighters battled the blaze for nearly four hours, the fire was brought under control at 6:23am, officials said. The fire was com-

pletely extinguished at 8:24am, according to the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

One fireman from the Myanmar Fire Force was injured with a head wound and sent to Yangon General Hospital. His injuries were not life-threatening, it was reported.

The main part of the hotel was built in the 1990s, but its oldest section dates back to the 1930s, when the site was used as a rowing club by British army officers.

The Htoo Group of Companies, owner of the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel for the past 12 years, is chaired by Myanmar business tycoon U Tay Za.— Reuters contributed to the report ■



Kandawgyi Palace hotel in Yangon.

Bilateral trade with China hit US\$4.45 billion in five months

BILATERAL trade value between China and Myanmar in first five months this FY reached US\$4.45 billion comprising 1.91 billion worth of export and 2.54 billion worth of import, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The border trade performed better than the sea route in trading with China. Between 1 April and end of August, trade at Sino-Myanmar border gates amounted to \$2.34 billion while trade through sea route fetched

\$2.1 billion.

Myanmar's trade value with the world's most populous country China was about \$10.7 billion in 2016-2017 FY, \$10.9 billion in 2015-16 FY, \$9.7 billion in 2014-2015 FY, \$7 billion in 2013-2014 FY, \$4.95 billion in 2012-2013 FY and \$5 billion in 2011-2012 FY.

Sino-Myanmar border trade values as of 6 October this FY amounted to over US\$3 billion, which shows a decrease of \$91 million compared to sim-

ilar period of last FY. Decrease in border trade with China is attributed to a sharp decline in Muse which is the largest border trade gate in Myanmar.

Myanmar's rice, sugar, various pulses, sesame seeds, corns, dried tea leaf, fishery products, minerals and animal products are exported to China while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods flowed into the country.—Ko Khant ■

Bidder eyes South Korea and China made vehicles with left-hand drive

SOUTH Korea and China made vehicles with left-hand drive are highly bid, resulting from recent announcement of 2018 vehicle import policy, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

Prices of those vehicles increased by about Ks2 million on automobile website on account of high number of bidders.

After vehicle import policy 2018 was released, local importers expressed concern over import of vehicles with left-hand drive. Bidding for vehicles with left-hand drive will continue to increase next two months, said an importer.

According to new vehicle import policy, model year 2014 would be the oldest cars allowed for the vehicle import in 2018. Also, only vehicles with left-hand drive are allowed to import un-



Vehicles seen in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

der new policy.

The new vehicle import policy affects cars imported with slip as a return of deregistration of old vehicles, cars imported under consignment system, individually imported cars, Private-licensed cars, vehicles for religious use,

mini-bus, passenger buses, vehicles donated from abroad, fire truck, ambulances, hearses, state-owned vehicles, machinery which cannot be driven on public road such as excavators, bulldozers, tower cranes, pilling machines.—GNLM ■

Rubber export volume up in September

EXPORT volume of rubber in early October increases after rubber price rises a bit in September, according to yesterday's report of City News.

Rubber export in August declined because of decrease in global rubber price. More than 4,560 tons of rubber with estimated value of US\$5.47 million was exported in August. Volumes of rubber export via border checkpoints in July exceeded 5,225 tons.

Estimated volume of 1,110

tons was exported through Muse, Lweje and Tachilek gates in the week of 2nd to 8th September. Sea route saw 101 tons of MSR 20 (Myanmar Standard Rubber) export to Korea in the week of 3rd to 9th September.

Additionally, over 460 tons of rubber was exported through Muse 105 mile trade zone in the week of 30 September to 6 October. More than 760 tons of rubber worth more than a million dollar was exported to Malaysia, Korea, China and Japan via sea route

between 1 and 7 October.

A tons of RSS (Ribbed Smoked Sheets) is up by \$50 in the global rubber market while prices of MSR are slightly changed.

A ton of rubber fetches \$1,550-1,600 for RSS1, \$1,500-1,600 for RSS2, \$1,450-1,550 for RSS3, \$1,400-1,500 for RSS4, \$1,350-1,450 for RSS5, \$1,950-2,050 for MSR3L, \$1,600-1,700 for MSR10, \$1,450-1,550 for MSR2, \$1,350-1,450 for MSR50, \$1,250-1,350 for Crepe Rubber.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်မှာယူနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စိမ့်ရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရေပင်လမ်းဆွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကင်း
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၉၅၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဌေး ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၅၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၀၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၀၂

ကျိုင်းတုံ
မြို့သစ် (၃-၁) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၀၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးများ
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေခဲရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

ဝင်္ကေ
ရတနာတိုက်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိမိတက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဝင်္ကေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

ဟူးရှီး
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Five killed, five police injured in Hpakthant jade mine attack

FIVE people were killed and 20 people and five police officers injured in an attack at a jade mine area in Hpakthant Township, Kachin State yesterday.

While police were patrolling the jade plot owned by 111 Company in Hpakthant Township at around 9:30pm, nearly 50 jade seekers tried to force their way onto the work site.

When police prevented their entry, they left. One hour later, nearly 600 people returned and attacked the police, burning dump trucks and destroying a backhoe. As po-

lice were attacked with knives, police opened fire to drive back the attackers.

Twenty-five injured people, including five police officers, were sent to the Lone Khin sub-township Hospital using vehicles of the philanthropic association of Hmaw Pone Village. Of the 25, nine seriously injured people were transferred to Myikyina Hospital.

Police are investigating the case in accord with the law, according to Ministry of Home Affairs. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Healthcare using traditional medicines provided for Hindu IDPs in Sittway

THE Traditional Medicine Department of Rakhine State provided healthcare and traditional medicines to the Hindu displaced people in the IDP camp of Danya Wadi playground in Sittway Township yesterday morning.

Treatment was given mostly for asthma, ulcers, coughs and diseases of the skin, said U Thein Htay Aung deputy

medical practitioner of the Traditional Medicine Hospital of Sittway.

One-hundred and fifty-six patients in the temporary relief camps of Danya Wadi playground were given treatment with traditional medicines by U Thein Htay Aung, deputy medical practitioner, health officials and five staff members. —Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■

Media, state officials meet in Rakhine

MEMBERS of Rakhine State information committee held talks with media men from Sittway at the meeting hall of the Sittway District Information and Public Relations Department.

The Secretary of the Rakhine State press release committee and the head of Rakhine State's information and public relations department U Maung Maung explained the rules and regulations of media groups that are working in the region.

Media representatives then revealed their experiences in

reporting, challenges and news gathering. Inspector Kyi Sann Lwin and officials briefed the media members about releasing information on true ground situations in Rakhine State.

The head of Rakhine State's Information and Public Relations Department, police officials and journalists representing print and broadcast media including Eleven, RFA, SkyNet, News Watch, DVB, MCN, Irrawaddy, Narinjara and Rakhine Gazette participated in the meeting. —Tin Htun (IPRD) ■

Ygn Region Parliament debates nationalising unused land and buildings

By Ko Moe

YANGON Region Hluttaw representatives debated in support of nationalisation of unused State-owned land and buildings at the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting on 19 October.

Concerning the motion urging the Yangon Region Government to nationalise unused land and buildings taken ownership under many devious ways and means after careful scrutiny, nine Hluttaw representatives came out in support of the motion.

According to the Hluttaw representatives, entrepreneurs and so-called cronies are selling and renting State-owned buildings and land plots at excessive rates, most of which had been taken in dishonest ways. Some were found to be in original condition, and some were making big profits from selling them, it was learnt.

U Hla Htay, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative of Mingala Taungnyunt constituency 1 said, "Now is the time when the Government is specifically implementing for the national

development and creation of job opportunities for citizens. Had these plans been implemented, the State will earn a lot of income and more job creation will emerge."

The motion was put forward to the regional parliament on 3 October by U Hla Htay.

Following that, respective officials at the regional level replied to questions raised by Hluttaw representatives and it was also learnt that a bill on prevention against risks of fire and natural disasters was submitted to the Hluttaw. ■

Rain expected over upper Myanmar due to depression

THERE is a depression over Westcentral Bay of Bengal, its centered at about (150)miles South-Southeast of Puri and (210)miles South-Southwest of Chandbali India and it is likely to move to North-Northwest, according to Dr Tun Lwin, a prominent weather expert of Myanmar.

According to the observations at (18:30)hrs M.S.T on 20 October, it is forecast to further intensify and cross Odisha coast near Puri and Chandbali during next (18) hours. Depression is located at Latitude (17.3) degree North and Longitude (86.3) degree East, Centre pressure of depression is (1000) hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is (35) miles per hour at (18:30) hrs MST today. Weather is

partly cloudy over the South Bay and cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere Bay of Bengal. It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the depression is coded yellow stage. The weatherman warned that trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts to notice in condition of the depression. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) M.PH. Wave height will be about (6-10) feet in off and along Myanmar Coast.

The DMH forecast that there will be isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Shan (North and East) States, scattered in Taninthayi Region and Southern Shan State, fairly

widespread in Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in Naypyitaw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Chin and Rakhine States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Regions and Rakhine States in next two days.

Concerning flood warning issued at (14:30) hr M.S.T observation, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (½) foot at Toungoo above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (1) day. The weathermen has advised the people who settle near the river bank and low lying area at Taungoo Township of Sittoung River, to take precaution measure.—GNLM ■



Authorities in Sittway meet with local media personnel. PHOTO: TIN HTUN (IPRD)

China says foreign firms welcome benefits from internal Communist Party cells

BEIJING — Foreign companies operating in China have welcomed the ruling Communist Party to set up cells in their firms, as a way of helping them understand Chinese policies and resolve disputes, a senior party official said on Thursday.

President Xi Jinping's efforts to strengthen the party's role throughout society have reached the China operations of foreign companies, some of whose executives have expressed concern about the resulting demands they face.

The presence of party units has long been a fact of doing business in China, where the law requires companies, including foreign firms, to set up a party organisation, though many executives long saw the measure as symbolic, rather than a real concern. Party cells in foreign firms have been well received, said Qi Yu, a deputy head of the Communist Party's Organization Department. "Senior executives at some foreign invested companies say party organisations can help them to understand in a timely manner Chinese policies, to resolve salary disputes, and provide positive energy for the company's development," said Qi. "The vast majority of investors welcome and support party organisations to have activities in their company," he told a news conference on the sidelines of a key party congress that is held every five years. A US executive had said his best workers were party members, said Supervision Minister Yang Xiaodu, who is also a deputy at the party's graft-busting Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, describing his talk with the executive.—Reuters ■



The Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and the forward-deployed Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Stethem steam alongside ships from the Republic of Korea Navy in the waters east of the Korean Peninsula on 18 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

US carrier patrols off Korean peninsula in warning to Pyongyang

ABOARD USS RONALD REAGAN, (Sea of Japan) — The USS Ronald Reagan, a 100,000-ton nuclear powered aircraft carrier, patrolled in waters east of the Korean peninsula on Thursday, in a show of sea and air power designed to warn off North Korea from any military action.

The US Navy's biggest warship in Asia, with a crew of 5,000 sailors, sailed around 100 miles (160.93 km), launching almost 90 F-18 Super Hornet sorties from its deck, in sight of South Korean islands.

It is conducting drills with the South Korean navy involving 40 warships deployed in a line stretching from the Yellow Sea west of the peninsula into the Sea of Japan. "The dangerous and

aggressive behaviour by North Korea concerns everybody in the world," Rear Admiral Marc Dalton, commander of the Reagan's strike group, said in the carrier's hangar as war planes taxied on the flight deck above.

"We have made it clear with this exercise, and many others, that we are ready to defend the Republic of Korea." The Reagan's presence in the region, coupled with recent military pressure by Washington on Pyongyang, including B1-B strategic bomber flights over the Korean peninsula, comes ahead of President Donald Trump's first official visit to Asia, set to start in Japan on 5 November, with South Korea to follow.

North Korea has slammed

the warship gathering as a "rehearsal for war". It comes as senior Japanese, South Korean and US diplomats meet in Seoul to discuss a diplomatic way forward backed up by UN sanctions.

The UN Security Council has unanimously ratcheted up sanctions on North Korea over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes since 2006. The most stringent include a ban on coal, iron ore and seafood exports that aim at halting a third of North Korea's \$3 billion of annual exports. On Monday, Kim In Ryong, North Korea's deputy UN envoy, told a UN General Assembly committee the Korean peninsula situation had reached a touch-and-go point and a nuclear war could break out at any

moment. A series of weapons tests by Pyongyang, including its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on 3 September and two missile launches over Japan, has stoked tension in East Asia. A Russian who returned from a visit to Pyongyang has said the regime is preparing to test a missile it believes can reach the US west coast. On Sunday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said President Donald Trump had instructed him to continue diplomatic efforts to defuse tension with North Korea.

Washington has not ruled out the eventual possibility of direct talks with the North to resolve the stand-off, US Deputy Secretary of State John J Sullivan said on Tuesday.—Reuters ■

Philippine forces kill 13 pro-IS fighters in overnight assault in Marawi

MANILA — Philippine forces killed 13 pro-Islamic State (IS) fighters during an overnight assault in the southern Philippine city of Marawi, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen Eduardo ANO said on Thursday.

Military assault continued to flush out the remaining 30 Maute-ISIS rebels holed up in the besieged city despite Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of "liberation" on Tuesday,

Ano said in a statement.

"Our operations to flush out and deal with terrorist stragglers have been continuing relentlessly since Wednesday," Ano said, adding that Wednesday's operations had been "very positive."

A verification process is underway to confirm whether or not Malaysian Mahmud Ahmad, who allegedly financed the Marawi siege, was among those killed in the assault, Ano said.

"Earlier confirmation regarding this was received from the rescued hostages. We are now working on getting full confirmation," Ano said.

The troops also rescued a mother and her wounded daughter during the operation, Ano said, adding however, there are still more than 20 people remaining in captivity.

Six soldiers were also wounded in the assault. "But most of

our wounded soldiers are safe," he said.

There are still estimated 30 militants who continue to fight it out with the government forces, according to military estimates.

Military ground commander Col Romeo Brawner said that "we cannot say definitely" if Mahmud Ahmad was among those killed on Wednesday night. "We have to confirm this. There has to be validation process," he told reporters.

Brawner said that the troops "cannot move forward easily" because the militants continue to use the hostages as shield.

"We believe that the remaining fighters are really motivated to fight to the end," said Brawner.

More than 1,000 people, including more than 800 extremist fighters and 163 soldiers and policemen, have been killed in the battle to completely retake the city from IS militants.—Xinhua ■

Security and Rule of Law

By Khin Maung Oo

Just after 7 pm, on October 15, 2017, three men were arrested at the Nay Pyi Taw airport terminal together with two firearms and bullets. According to the news, airport security forces found them before leaving Nay Pyi Taw for Yangon by MNA flight. During further searches at their lodging more weapons and some narcotic drugs were seized again. Legal action has been taken against them under criminal law for illegal possession of drugs and lethal weapons, it was learnt.

In carrying luggage onboard an aircraft, it is not allowed to take even a nail clipper or any type of small knife, intentionally or otherwise. In the present case, lethal weapons were found in the luggage.

A weapon in the hand of a person regardless of age or sex is of great danger. Very often, there have been accidental cases even in the hands of responsible personnel who know how to systematically hold and use them. As known by all, there have been groundless inhumane mass shootings occasionally in America where citizens are allowed to purchase and keep guns for self-defense.

It can be assumed that such a seizure of guns, bullets, sniper lens and related accessories is a violent threat to the people. Especially, we believe that security of high-ranking officials of the government and political leaders should be taken very seriously. Most Myanmar people love peace and they greatly value loving-kindness. However,

we must keep in our minds that there are some wicked people who are willing and ready to harm others.

Before any assassination happens, we need to pay great caution to everything. Much has been experienced that we had no alternative but to feel sorrow and great anger when brutal deeds had been committed in history.

Not too long ago, there had been cases where victims were brutally killed but culprits could not be arrested till now, far from being punished as they deserved, for example, the murder of five persons and assassination of the NLD's legal advisor.

We generally understand that the Government, the Executive Branch, especially the Ministry of Home Affairs

and the police force and the Chief Justice of the Union will take legal actions against them in accord with the law, with regard to those arrested. Likewise, we firmly believe that Hluttaws will review the current laws relating to holding of weapons from every possible perspective.

Last but not least, we assume that newspapers which constitute the Fourth Estate, are under duty to highlight that responsible officials should not condone such events, instead they should take these matters seriously as national security is of great importance to the nation.

Our national leaders should be given the kind of tight security they deserve as they perform their daily duties on behalf of the nation. ■

Considered ecologically extinct in the wild, Myanmar star tortoise population has grown to more than 14,000 individuals

Wildlife Conservation Society

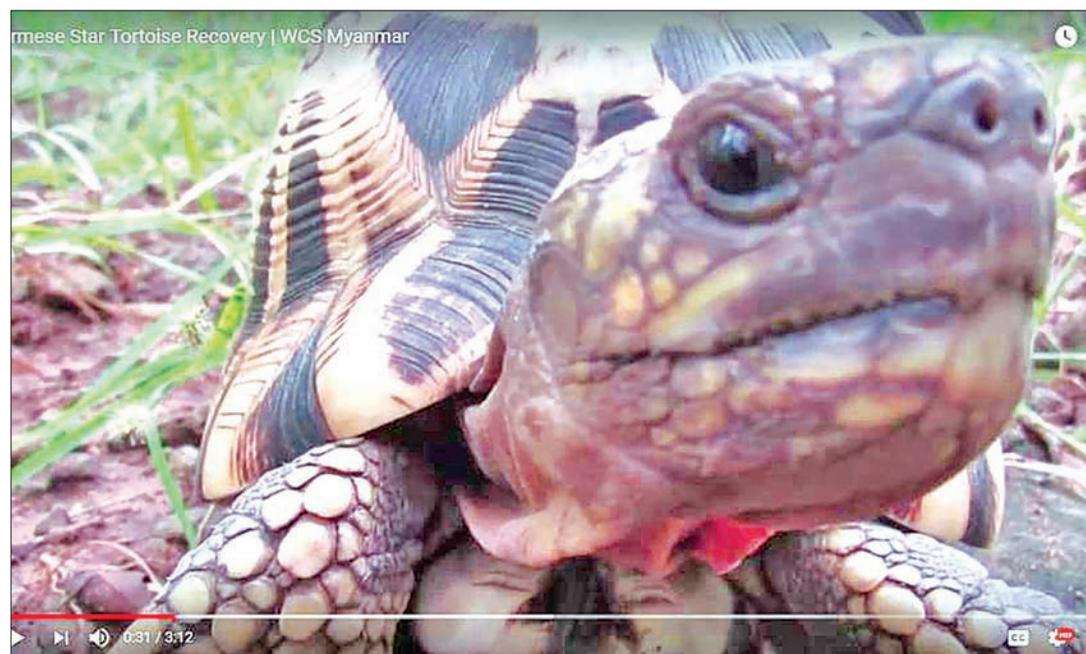
THE Myanmar star tortoise (*Geochelone platynota*), a medium-sized tortoise found only in Myanmar's central dry zone, has been brought back from the brink of extinction thanks to an aggressive captive-breeding effort spearheaded by a team of conservationists and government partners.

Efforts to restore the tortoise are described in the latest issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Herpetological Review*.

The tortoises now number over 14,000 individuals, up from an estimated population of just a few hundred animals in the early 2000s. Burgeoning demand from wildlife markets in southern China beginning in the mid-1990s virtually wiped out the tortoise in a matter of years until viable populations could no longer be found, and the species was considered ecologically extinct.

In 2004, The Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division of the Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)/Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) Myanmar Program established three "assurance colonies" to hedge against the extinction of wild populations. The three colonies began with an estimated 175 individuals, mostly confiscated from illegal wildlife traffickers.

The colonies were sited at facilities within existing wildlife sanctuaries. After the colonies were established, conservationists had to determine the species'



The Myanmar star tortoise (*Geochelone platynota*), a medium-sized tortoise found only in Myanmar's central dry zone, has been brought back from the brink of extinction thanks to an aggressive captive-breeding effort spearheaded by a team of conservationists and government partners. **PHOTO: WCS**

husbandry requirements including diet, feeding, reproduction, and hatchling care. Herpetologists from WCS's Bronx Zoo helped design the breeding centers as well as provide husbandry expertise. In addition, veterinarians and molecular scientists from the Bronx Zoo conducted health screenings of the captive population to determine what diseases might be present (no major diseases of concern were discovered). Bronx Zoo vets continue to consult with WCS Myanmar vets on various health cases, confirming diagnoses and recommending treatment options.

Approximately 750 animals have been released into wild areas of the sanctuaries, and the long term objective of restoring viable populations in every protected area in the central dry zone is now biologically attainable. However,

political and social challenges need to be resolved before large-scale reintroduction takes place to ensure the tortoises are not taken by poachers.

Said lead author Steven Platt, a herpetologist with WCS's Myanmar Program: "This is the modern day equivalent of saving the bison from extinction. A team of conservationists spearheaded an aggressive captive breeding effort, and have brought an animal back from the brink to where it now has the potential to be reintroduced into the wild in large numbers."

Said Andrew Walde, Chief Operating Officer of Turtle Survival Alliance: "The Myanmar WCS/TSA partnership is a model chelonian conservation success story. If you had told me more than 10 years ago when the project started that we would have more than 10,000

Myanmar Star tortoises, and that we would have returned nearly a thousand to the wild, I wouldn't have believed it. It is success stories like this that make all the hard work worth it."

WCS works to save turtles and tortoises around the world. In 2012, WCS launched an organization-wide program to revive some of the most endangered turtle and tortoise species. Efforts include breeding programs at the Bronx Zoo in New York, head-start programs abroad, and working with governments and communities to save species on the brink of extinction.

WCS tortoise conservation in Myanmar is supported by The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation, the Panaphil and Uphill Foundations, and the Turtle Conservation Fund. ■



The coordination meeting between the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) and Russia held in progress at hall of MICC-2 in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

COST coordination meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

The coordination meeting between the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) and Russia, the United States and the European Union (EU) was held yesterday morning at the Myanmar International Convention Center 2 (MICC-2) in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the officials discussed the confirmation

of future science and technology plans being incorporated with COST, the roles of extension plans and agendas for upcoming meeting. ASEAN's delegation led by Director General of the Department of Technical and Vocational Education Dr. Aye Myint, Executive Director Ms. Irina Kuklina from the International Centre for Innovations in Science,

Technology and Education, Deputy Permanent Representative Ms. Jane Bocklage from the U.S Mission to ASEAN and Head of Unit from the European Commission Mr. Kostas Glinos attended the meeting.

The 17th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology (AMMST) will be continued today.—Thura Zaw (MNA) ■

Maungtaw to have access to electricity by the end of 2018

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is implementing a project to supply electricity to the Maungtaw area at the end of 2018 and to attain electricity access for the whole nation by 2030.

“Transformer installation projects will be carried out this year to distribute electricity to Maungtaw Town from the national grid. Four or five transformers are intended to be fixed in Maungtaw. After

getting electricity access to Maungtaw Town, 15 villages close to Maungtaw Town will be distributed”, said U Thant Zin Tun, head electrical engineer of Maungtaw District.

Electricity from the national grid will be distributed from Ponnagyun, to Yathedaung, Buthidaung and then to Maungtaw.

The Ministry is carrying out plans to supply electricity for Maungtaw Township in De-

cember, 2018 and Yathedaung Township in March, 2018.

Before the 9 October, 2016 attacks in Maungtaw, electricity was distributed five hours a day by diesel generators.

When electricity can be supplied from the national grid to the area, 15 villages in Maungtaw Township and 11 villages in Yahtedaung Township will have much-needed electricity. — Naing Lin Kyi/ Thant Zin Win ■

Invitation for Myanmar businessmen to participate in LMCE expo in China

The Lancang-Mekong Sub Regional Commodity Exposition (LMCE) will be held at the Kunming Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Center in China from 24 to 29 November.

Myanmar businessmen who would like to participate in this expo are being invited by the Ministry of Commerce and the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization with the aim of progressing the export sector in Myanmar

and upgrading international trading.

Detailed information can be obtained from the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization. Phone no. 067-430446, 067-430447 and Fax no. 067-430128, Email: moctradefair@gmail.com and Myanmar Trade Center Yangon Phone no. 01-254024, Email: itpic.moc@gmail.com and website www.trade.gov.mm.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Yaba pills seized in Loikaw

An anti-narcotics squad stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Maung San (a) Kalar near Kyaukkyi (North) village, Loilin lay village-tract, in Loikaw Township at 3pm on 18 October and seized 1,400 yaba pills. Similarly, an anti-narcotics squad from Muse searched a motorcycle driven by Ma Jarmaw Htwalsei with Ma Ywalsei on board near gum trees (Eucalyptus) plantations on Kutkai-Kaungkha road, Kutkai Township at 6:30 am on the same day. Police detained them after finding 2,000 yaba pills and 22 grams of heroin.

Another anti-narcotics

squad from Mandalay (South) searched a motorcycle driven by Maung Maung Sein (a) Ga Nay, with Supar Gyan on board near at the corner of 83rd and 25th street, Pyigy Kyathayay (West) Ward in Aungmyaythazan Township. Police detained them for possession of 9 kilos of marijuana, Ks103,500 and three mobile phones. Police also seized Ks5 lakhs and a mobile phone from Nay Myo Aung, who is allegedly linked to this case.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■



Ma Jarmaw Htwalsei and Ma Ywalsei together with drugs. **PHOTO: MPF**

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Trying to unblock Brexit impasse, May to make offer on EU citizens

BRUSSELS — British Prime Minister Theresa May, seeking to unblock stalled talks on Brexit, promised on Thursday to make it as easy as possible for European Union citizens living in Britain to stay after it leaves the bloc.

Weakened by losing her Conservative Party's majority in a June election and failing to rally support at an ill-fated party conference, May had initially hoped she would regain her footing by persuading EU leaders at a two-day summit starting on Thursday to let Brexit talks move beyond matters of the divorce.

But EU leaders have ruled that out, saying London must agree to pay more as part of an exit settlement than May has said is acceptable. So, changing the focus, she will offer greater concessions for those EU citizens anxious about their rights in Britain post-Brexit.

This is unlikely to alter the outcome of the Brussels summit. Continental leaders have assumed for weeks that a deal can be struck on this issue. But it indicates British officials are pursuing a new course — adopting a softer approach to try to win over the bloc's negotiators, if not all its governments. May will say: "We are in touching distance of agreement" of securing the rights of the around 3 million people from other EU countries in Britain.

"I couldn't be clearer: EU citizens living lawfully in the UK today will be able to stay," she wrote on her Facebook page, adding she would set up a group of those affected and experts to make sure the process is smooth.

"I know both sides will consider each other's proposals for finalising the agreement with an open mind. And with flexibility and creativity on both sides, I am confident that we can conclude discussions on citizens' rights in the coming weeks."

Offering concessions, May will say that EU citizens settling in Britain will no longer need to have Comprehensive Sickness Insurance, as they currently



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves 10 Downing Street in London, Britain on 18 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

require under EU rules.

A senior government official said the aim was to get clear commitments to "swift progress on both sides for an ambitious plan to be set out for what should be achieved in the weeks ahead and particularly a shared urgency in ... reaching an agreement on citizens' rights."

EU negotiators have, however, so far been wary of British offers that London refuses to back up by giving people a right to turn to the EU court to enforce if British courts do not.

The offer is a change of tack by the British leader, who is under increasing pressure from Conservative Brexit campaigners to pull out of the talks which hit deadlock last week.

EU leaders are expected to say at the summit the talks have not yet made sufficient progress for them to open the post-Brexit trade negotiations that May wants.

In an open letter to May on Thursday, pro-Brexit politicians and business people said

that unless the EU agreed to trade talks, Britain should signal it was ready to be subject to World Trade Organization (WTO) rules from 30 March, 2019, when Brexit takes effect.

Meanwhile, the leader of Britain's main opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, arrived in Brussels on Thursday to meet EU lawmakers to try to break "the Brexit logjam" created by what he called government "bungling".

The EU leaders are expected to make a "gesture" and to recognise concessions May offered in a speech in Italy last month by telling EU staff to prepare for talks on a transition period needed to ease uncertainty for business.

"We have to work really hard between October and December to finalise this so-called first phase and to start negotiating on our future relationship with the UK," Donald Tusk, the chairman of EU leaders, said on Wednesday.

Some EU officials said Britain could unlock the talks

by putting a higher figure for the divorce bill on the desk of chief negotiator Michel Barnier, something May says she cannot do until she has an understanding of the shape of future ties.

If May offers more than the around 20 billion euros she outlined in her Florence speech, she risks angering some in her party, which, according to two sources, is getting ready to line up a successor.

A senior British government official said she would not change position on the financial settlement and instead would focus on the deal on EU citizen rights — an issue that the EU says must be resolved before the talks can move on.

The official said the change of focus was not to try to save face at the summit, at which she will present her case over a dinner on Thursday. She will then be excluded from the other 27 EU members' discussions on Friday about Britain's planned departure from the wealthy bloc. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Earthquake of magnitude 6.1 strikes off southern Japan: USGS

SINGAPORE — An earthquake of magnitude 6.1 struck off southern Japan on Thursday, the United States Geological Survey said.

The quake struck 682 km (424 miles) off Japan's island of Kyushu at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles), the agency said, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. —Reuters ■

Philippines says 'big possibility' key Malaysian militant killed in Marawi

MARAWI CITY, (Philippines) — The Philippine military said on Thursday there was a "big possibility" that top Malaysian operative Mahmud Ahmad was killed in a battle overnight in Marawi City, during which 13 rebels were killed.

Colonel Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of operations in Marawi, said further investigation was required, including questioning of hostages and scientific tests, but the military believed Mahmud was among the dead.

Mahmud, an academic, is believed to have been pivotal in funding the siege of Marawi, which has lasted almost five months. Some experts say he could succeed Isnilon Hapilon as point man in Southeast Asia for Islamic State following the death of Hapilon on Monday. —Reuters ■

Iraq expects to restore Kirkuk output Sunday — oil ministry official

BAGHDAD — Iraq won't be able to restore Kirkuk's oil output to last week's levels before Sunday because of missing equipment at two fields, an oil ministry official told Reuters on Thursday.

The official accused the Kurdish authorities previously in control of Kirkuk of removing equipment at the Bai Hasan and Avana oil fields, north west of the city. —Reuters ■

Pakistani anti-corruption court indicts ousted PM Sharif

ISLAMABAD — A Pakistani anti-corruption court on Thursday indicted ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter over allegations linked to ownership of London properties, opening a trial that could see the former leader jailed.

The Sharifs have called the corruption proceedings against them a conspiracy, hinting at intervention by the powerful military, but opponents have hailed it as a rare example of the rich and powerful being held accountable.

Sharif, 67, resigned in July after the Supreme Court disqualified him from holding office over an undeclared source of income, but the veteran leader maintains his grip on the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party.

A Reuters witness in court said Sharif, his daughter Maryam, as well as her husband Muhammad Safdar, had all been



Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. PHOTO: REUTERS

indicted by the court of the anti-corruption agency, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

They all pleaded not guilty. Maryam and Safdar were present in court, but Sharif, who was

prime minister twice in the 1990s, sent a representative while he tends to his ailing wife in Britain as she undergoes cancer treatment.

Outside the court, Maryam

again hinted at military interference in the judicial process by saying the trial was “a repeat of 1999”, the year her father was toppled in a military coup led by former army chief Pervez Musharraf.

“These courts aren’t new for me. It has happened in 1999,” Maryam added, without elaborating.

It is not clear if she was comparing the trial to the 1999 coup, or subsequent corruption accusations and investigations that Musharraf ordered into Sharif.

Sharif’s disqualification stemmed from the Panama Papers leaks in 2016 that appeared to show that his daughter and two sons owned offshore holding companies registered in the British Virgin Islands and used them to buy posh flats in London.

The Supreme Court initially declined to dismiss Sharif but ordered an investigation into his

family’s wealth.

A separate Supreme Court-appointed panel said the family’s wealth did not match its income, and accused Maryam and her brothers of signing forged documents to obscure ownership of offshore companies used to buy the London flats.

After the probe, the top court disqualified Sharif and ordered the NAB to investigate and conduct a trial. Sharif denies ever receiving the small source of income that led to his disqualification.

The NAB has in the past been described as toothless because of its low conviction rates, especially when it comes to powerful politicians, and investigations that last many years.

But the Supreme Court has ordered the trial to be concluded within six months. Opening arguments are due to begin on 26 October.—Reuters ■

Taliban kill at least 43 Afghan troops as they storm base: officials

KABUL — The Afghan Taliban stormed a military base in the south of the country killing at least 43 troops on Thursday, the Defence Ministry said, with the militants putting the toll at least 60.

Of 60 soldiers manning the base in the province of Kandahar, 43 were killed, nine were wounded and six were missing after the militants attacked in the middle of the night, the ministry said in a statement.

At least ten Taliban were also reported killed.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a local spokesman for the militant group, said the attack began with a suicide car bomb followed by an assault that overran the base.

The attack killed at least 60 Afghan soldiers and wounded many more, he said.

The Taliban have been waging an insurgency for a decade and a half in an attempt to overthrow the Western-backed government in Kabul and reestablish a fundamentalist Islamic regime.—Reuters ■

Iran’s Guards say missile programme will accelerate despite pressure

ANKARA — Iran’s elite Islamic Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) said on Thursday its ballistic missile programme would accelerate despite US and European Union pressure to suspend it, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

In a significant US policy shift on 13 October, President Donald Trump disavowed Iran’s compliance with a landmark 2015 nuclear deal and unveiled a more aggressive approach to the Islamic Republic over its missile development activity.

“Iran’s ballistic missile pro-

gramme will expand and it will continue with more speed in reaction to Trump’s hostile approach towards this revolutionary organisation (the Guards),” the IRGC said in a statement published by Tasnim.

The Trump administration has imposed new unilateral sanctions aimed at impairing Iran’s missile programme. It has called on Tehran not to develop missiles capable of delivering nuclear bombs. Iran says it has no such plans.

Tehran has repeatedly pledged to continue what it calls

a defensive missile capability in defiance of Western criticism.

“Imposing cruel sanctions against the Guards and hostile approach of the rogue and brute (US) president shows the failure of America and the Zionist regime’s (Israel) wicked policies in the region,” the Guards statement said.

Iran has one of the most advanced ballistic missile programmes in the Middle East, viewing it as an essential precautionary defence against the United States and other adversaries, primarily Gulf Arab states

and Israel.

Signalling no respite in geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, where Shi’ite Muslim Iran has waged a long proxy war with US-allied Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia, the Guards vowed to continue confronting the United States and Israel.

“More decisive and stronger than ever, the Guards will continue to defend Islamic Iran and its interests,” the statement said, alluding to the Quds force, the Guards’ overseas arm that operates in Iraq, Syria and Yemen among other places.—Reuters ■

Ethiopian gov’t warns traders against illicit price hike

ADDIS ABABA — The Ethiopian government on Thursday warned traders who are attempting to exploit the public by sabotaging the recently effective currency devaluation to increase imported products’ price.

According to the Ethiopian Trade Practice and Consumers Protection Authority, some traders have attempted to hide their products, particularly imported goods, so as to increase the products’ price in line with the present rate of the Ethiopian birr (ETB).

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has recently announced the plan to devalue the Ethiopian birr by 15 per cent, due effective as of the first day of the second month of the Ethiopian year on Wednesday last week.

The move was mainly designed to attain the east country’s target to increase its earnings from the export sector during the recently commenced Ethiopian 2017-2018 fiscal year.

However, as the value of the ETB dropped by 15 per cent, the value of imported goods, mainly

electronics and other technology-related products, is expected to increase.

The authority announced in a statement on Thursday that traders who have imported goods prior to the devaluation will not be allowed to hide their products from the market or increase the price of their products from the previous market price, in which the products were purchased from foreign markets.

The authority also warned that it will take legal actions on wrongdoers for their actions on

the matter.

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), together with the currency devaluation, had also increased the interest rate on deposit by 2 per cent from the previous 5 per cent to 7 per cent.

The recent ETB devaluation is the biggest that Ethiopia has made in seven years. The east African country had in August 2010 devalued its birr by 16.7 per cent, a move the Ethiopian government said was made to spur economic growth and boost foreign trade.—Xinhua ■



The helicopters have received upgraded onboard radio-electronic equipment and a search system. PHOTO: TASS

Russian Navy's aviation to get 10 upgraded antisubmarine warfare helicopters a year

MOSCOW — The Russian Navy's aviation arm plans to receive 10 modernized Kamov Ka-27M antisubmarine warfare helicopters a year, Russia's Defence Ministry reported on 16 October, 2017.

"This year, the number of Ka-27 helicopters arriving for naval aviation will make up another ten rotocraft. In compliance with the state armament

programme, the naval aviation is planned to be receiving 10 upgraded Ka-27M helicopters a year until the entire pool of these choppers is modernized," the Defence Ministry said.

The first eight Ka-27M helicopters arrived for the Navy's aviation in 2016. The helicopters are being modernized at the Kumertau Aircraft Production Enterprise.

"The helicopters have received upgraded onboard radio-electronic equipment and a search system that allows using new systems of searching for and destroying submarines, and also radio-acoustic equipment that helps considerably improve the fulfillment of designated missions by this type of helicopters," the Defence Ministry said.

The helicopter incorporates modern methods of information transmission to ground-based and shipborne command posts while its system of communication with other helicopters has been modernized.

The crews of Ka-27M helicopters are undergoing training at the naval aviation flight personnel training centre in Yeisk.

Ka-27 multi-purpose helicopters of various modifications are the mainstay of the naval aviation's helicopter pool.

They provide antisubmarine defence of naval groups, search for, detect and destroy submarines and are capable of searching for and rescuing the crews of aircraft, ships and vessels in distress at sea.—Tass ■

EU leaders to call for end to North Korea's weapons programme

BRUSSELS — European Union leaders will demand on Thursday that North Korea end its nuclear and ballistic weapons program, according to the draft final statement of an EU summit. The statement, to be delivered after a discussion among leaders on Thursday evening, will follow the latest EU sanctions agreed on Monday by foreign ministers, which go beyond United Nations measures.

Leaders will tell Pyongyang "to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner", the draft said. Leaders will also say they are ready to consider further measures, without specifying what they might be. Diplomats said they could include sanctions on non-EU countries still doing business with Pyongyang. Among other steps, the European Union has now banned the sale of oil and oil products to North Korea, although that is largely symbolic, aimed at encouraging countries that have more significant levels of trade with the country to follow suit. China and Russia have resisted an outright ban on crude exports. The EU has imposed a blanket ban on doing business with North Korea.—Reuters ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(17 / 2017)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-071(17-18)	Hydraulic Oil Light (H.O.L) (300) Drums	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-072(17-18)	SAE 15W 40 Diesel Engine Oil(800)Drums	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-073(17-18)	Gear Oil(PGGO-140EP)(GL-5)(300)Drums	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-074(17-18)	4 1/2" & 5 1/2" Casing Swab Cup Guiberson (2) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-075(17-18)	Magna Dewax PT-2066 Parafin Solvent (8400) Ltr & Wild Cat 441(4200)Ltr	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-076(17-18)	4 3/4" Insert Bit for Seismic Shot Hole (120) Nos	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-077(17-18)	Spares for F 1600 Rig Pump Ex ZJ 70 L Drilling Rigs (23) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time- 20-11-2017, 16:30 pm

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 19 October 2017 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206

US Senate poised for crucial vote related to tax reform measure

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's drive to overhaul the US tax code headed for a pivotal moment on Thursday, with Senate Republicans poised to approve a budget measure that would help them pass tax legislation without Democratic support.

The Senate and the House of Representatives must agree on a fiscal year 2018 budget resolution for Republicans to meet their goal of enacting a tax bill

and sending it to Trump for his signature by the end of this year.

The budget resolution contains a legislative tool called reconciliation, which would enable Republicans, who control the 100-seat Senate by a 52-48 margin, to move tax legislation through the Senate on a simple majority vote. Otherwise, tax reform would need 60 votes and would likely fail.

Although Republican Senator Rand Paul, a fis-

cal hawk, has threatened to oppose the budget resolution, Senate Republicans appeared to have enough support to approve it with at least 50 votes, along with a possible tie-breaking vote from Vice President Mike Pence.

"We feel good about where we are," Republican Senator John Thune, a member of the Senate leadership, said. "The level of resolve is pretty high."—Reuters ■

China's 3rd-quarter GDP growth slows to 6.8%

BEIJING — China's economy expanded 6.8 per cent in the July-September quarter from a year earlier, but the pace of growth decelerated slightly from the first half, despite strengthening global demand, official data showed on Thursday.

The figure is down from the previous two quarters' expansion of 6.9 per cent in gross domestic product. This is the first slowdown marked since the first quarter of 2016, when its GDP growth slipped to 6.7 per cent from 6.8 per cent. However, the third-quarter performance is still much better than the Chinese government's GDP growth target this year of around 6.5 per cent, after its economy expanded 6.7 per cent in 2016 — the weakest pace in 26 years.



Reporters receive China's July-September gross domestic product data, released on 19 October, 2017, in Beijing. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

“The national economy grew steadily with continuously optimizing structure, rapidly growing new driving forces and remarkably improv-

ing quality and efficiency, sustaining the momentum of stable and sound development,” said the National Bureau of Statistics, which released the data.

The data were released a day after the opening of the Chinese Communist Party's twice-a-decade congress, during which President Xi Jinping

pledged to continue with the country's ongoing economic structural reforms and further liberalization of its economy. “Openness brings progress, while self-seclusion leaves one behind,” Xi said in his lengthy speech at Beijing's Great Hall of the People on Wednesday, in the presence of around 2,300 delegates, representing more than 89 million members of the ruling party. “China will not close its door to the world.” “We will only become more and more open,” he said. Underpinned by brisk household consumption and solid exports, the latest data showed that China's overall growth was largely unaffected by the government's curbs on infrastructure spending and property purchases, as well as other tightening

steps implemented in the months leading up to the party congress, with the aim of minimizing financial stability risks.

As China seeks to re-engineer its growth model, from one driven by massive state-led spending to a domestic consumption-led economy, retail sales of consumer goods registered a year-on-year increase of 10.3 per cent in September, up from 10.1 per cent in the previous month.

Fixed asset investment, which includes spending on infrastructure and property construction, grew 7.5 per cent in the first three quarters, but the expansion was 0.7 percentage point lower than in the same period in 2016, and down from 7.8 per cent in the first eight months of this year.—Kyodo News ■

German parties express optimism after first day of coalition negotiations

BERLIN — The Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Christian Social Union (CSU), Free Democratic Party (FDP) and Greens have drawn a positive conclusion from their first day of coalition negotiations on Wednesday night.

The CDU/CSU parliamentary faction held separate talk with the FDP and Greens concerning the formation of Germany's next federal government over the course of Wednesday.

“Those were two good conversations from the perspective of the CDU”, CDU secretary general Peter Tauber told German press.

Tauber added that he looked forward to a second larger round of talks including all potential “Jamaica” coalition partners on Friday with “joyful anticipation”.

Green party chairman Michael Kellner shared Tauber's positive

view of early negotiations. Kellner described his party's meeting with the CDU/CSU as a “good conversation”, adding that there was still a long way to go to “Jamaica”.

In his own assessment, CSU secretary general Andreas Scheuer noted that the election campaigns were now “concluded”, the meeting had been “important” and that the atmosphere of talks was “ok”.

Scheuer further said, that the CSU was “happy” that coalition negotiations had “finally begun”. The first talks had been “constructive” and “characterized by mutual respect”.

The FDP praised the “business-like” and “solution-oriented” atmosphere of talks. FDP secretary general Nicola Beer expressed confidence that the “first steps” towards a “Jamaica” coalition had been made.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV. SPRING NELSON VOY. NO (098)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. SPRING NELSON VOY. NO (098) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2017 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Harry Potter exhibition blends wizardry with history

LONDON — A new exhibition celebrating the 20th anniversary of the first Harry Potter book's publication is offering 'muggles' with an interest in magic the chance to view rare memorabilia, combined with historic artifacts referenced in the popular series.

"Harry Potter: A History of Magic," held in the British Library in London, features Potter memorabilia including author JK Rowling's first annotated sketch of Hogwarts school, as well as her handwritten list of its teachers and subjects.

As well as the items associated with Rowling and the book series, the exhibition also features historic artifacts from the library's collection, including al-

chemists' scrolls from the 1500s and Chinese oracle bones from the 12th century.

"Our exhibition explores the history, mythology and folklore behind the Harry Potter stories," Julian Harrison, the exhibition's lead curator, told Reuters.

"We investigate broomsticks and cauldrons and unicorns and dragons. We've organized the exhibition around some of the subjects that students would study at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, from potions to charms to astronomy and divination."

The seven Harry Potter books have been translated into 68 languages and have sold more than 400 million copies worldwide, Rowling's publishers say.



A gallery assistant poses for photographs during the press preview of the exhibition "Harry Potter: A History of Magic" at the British Library in London, Britain on 18 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The final book in the series was published in 2007, but the series spawned a series of hit films, a US theme park and a hit stage play that have kept the franchise in the public eye.

Rowling herself appears to have enjoyed the blend of her fictional world with the library's collection.

"Encountering objects for real that have in some shape or

form figured in my books has been quite wonderful," she said in a statement.

The exhibition runs from 20 October until 28 February 2018.

—Reuters ■



Singer Ed Sheeran. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Ed Sheeran 'bruised and broken' after accident, tour uncertain

LONDON — Singer Ed Sheeran said he was "a bit bruised and broken" on Wednesday as he recovered from a bicycle accident that left him with a broken wrist, elbow and rib and led to the cancellation of shows on the Asia leg of his tour.

Sheeran, 26, sported a full cast on one arm and a sling on the other arm as he walked down the red carpet at London's Q Awards for music. "I am a bit bruised and broken but I am fine," the singer told Reuters. "It was a bike accident and I broke my wrist, broke my elbow, broke a rib ... I'll be alright though." Sheeran added that

the future of his "Divide" world tour was "up to (my) manager and agent." The singer said in an Instagram post this week that he suffered fractures to his wrist and elbow and that he was "unable to perform live concerts for the immediate future." His injury forced the cancellation of tour dates in Taipei, Osaka, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong so far. Sheeran went into Wednesday's awards with three nominations and won the accolade for best act in the world today. The annual ceremony hosted by Britain's Q magazine, celebrates musical talent. —Reuters ■

Canada's Tragically Hip singer Gord Downie dies, PM weeps

TORONTO — The death of Tragically Hip frontman Gord Downie, a music superstar beloved for songs about culture, small towns and hockey, triggered an outpouring of tributes and grief across Canada on Wednesday.

Downie, 53, who was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer in 2015, died on Tuesday night surrounded by his family, according to a family statement.

Weeping openly, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters that he had drawn strength and inspiration from the nation's best known songwriter. At his final concert in August 2016, televised nationally, Trudeau had joined Downie on stage in tribute. "We are less of a country without Gord Downie in it," Trudeau said in Parliament.

Downie was known for his frenetic stage presence and telling long stories in the middle of songs. Formed in the 1980s with roots in blues and rock, the Tragically Hip found radio popularity on both classic and alternative rock stations.

The Hip, as it was widely known, held an emotional farewell tour last year after Downie's cancer was revealed, with the

band's last hometown show in Kingston, Ontario, billed as a national celebration.

On Wednesday, radio stations played Tragically Hip songs as news of his death spread across the country, and tributes poured in on social media as Canadians remembered their encounters with Downie.

The National Hockey League Players' Association tweeted thanks to Downie, saying his music was "the soundtrack of car rides to practices, bus trips to tournaments, and dressing

rooms across Canada. Hockey was part of you and you will always be part of hockey."

Perry Bellegarde, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, tweeted prayers for Downie's family, adding that "our hearts break on news of the passing of ... an ally and friend."

Downie had become an outspoken supporter of Canada's indigenous people, penning songs about the painful legacy of colonialism and urging Canadians towards reconciliation. —Reuters ■



Tragically Hip lead singer Gord Downie performs at the Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre to kick off the band's latest "Man Machine Poem" tour in light of Downie's brain cancer diagnosis, in Victoria, BC, Canada on 22 July, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

With the crazy 'Italics', Asterix returns for 37th adventure

PARIS — Asterix, the indomitable pint-sized Gaul forever outfoxing the Romans, returns for his 37th comic adventure on Thursday, this time battling his way across Italy in a chariot race.

The moustachioed hero, who has been entertaining readers with his magic-potion exploits alongside Obelix since 1959, has become a mainstay in the publishing industry, with more than 370 million albums sold worldwide.

As well as being translated into more than 100 languages, the books have inspired a dozen movies and cartoon series, making it a global phenomenon.

The latest edition, 'Asterix et la Transitalique' (Asterix and the Chariot Race), is set in ancient Italy.

Rather than a showdown with Julius Caesar, it involves the resolute Gauls meeting a tribe called the Italics who are also fighting to remain independent from Rome.

The original books, written by Rene Goscinny and illustrated



Author Jean-Yves Ferri (L) and illustrator Didier Conrad (R) pose with a copy of their new comic album "Asterix et la Transitalique" (Asterix and the Chariot Race) after an interview in Vanves near Paris, France on 17 October, 2017, the latest in the series created by illustrator Albert Uderzo and writer Rene Goscinny in 1959. PHOTO: REUTERS

by Albert Uderzo, built up a mass following in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, with many childhood readers from those days still snapping up

the titles decades on.

After Goscinny's death in 1977, Uderzo wrote and illustrated the series until he retired in 2009.

The last three editions have been written by Jean-Yves Ferri and drawn by Didier Conrad, sticking closely to the original format.

"We had Italy in mind and then I had the idea of a chariot race, a sort of rally from ancient times, a trip across the peninsula leading from one city to another," said Ferri as he and Conrad presented the new edition this week.

According to tradition, the latest Asterix features a new villain, Coronavirus, a mysterious, masked chariot racer who will stop at nothing to win.

While Uderzo plays a role overseeing the series, Ferri said he had not asked for any changes.

"He wanted a team able to perpetuate the tradition and he put his trust in us," he said. "He shows his support, but is not really critical.

"The only change we had to make was putting a dot on the 'i' of 'italique'," he joked. "We agreed against our will." With the Asterix movies proving box office successes, the books have attracted a new, younger generation of followers. That is reflected in the print run for Asterix and the Chariot Race, with five million copies planned. —Reuters ■

Japan's "Blade Library" offers joy of blade running to amputees

TOKYO — Haruta Saito, a young Japanese amputee who dreams of becoming a Paralympian, remembers strapping on a prosthetic "running blade" for the first time.

The 10-year-old boy, who had his right leg amputated at age two, never had the chance to use a blade because it was too expensive. That changed in April when he was given early access to Japan's new Blade Library in Tokyo, which lets people try on prosthetic limbs for running for a small fee. "It's difficult to leap forward with the prosthetic limb I usually use. It's different from this one (the blade)," Saito told Reuters during a weekend ceremony when the library officially opened to the public. "But this blade jumps and leaps...it lets me run faster," he said after running and shooting basketballs on the library's sports track. The curved prosthetic blades are often made of carbon fiber and bend and spring as a person runs.

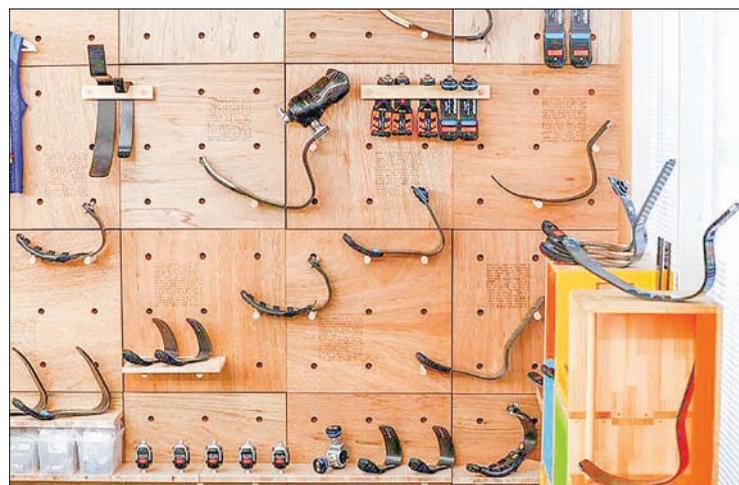
The blades, which can cost thousands of dollars each, generally do not qualify for government subsidies in Japan because they

are not deemed "essential to daily life," an official at the health and welfare ministry told Reuters.

The Blade Library allows people to try any of its 24 prosthetic blades for a daily fee of around 1000 yen (\$9). The library was opened by Xiborg, a Japanese company that researches and develops prosthetic limbs for runners. The company collected over 17.5 million yen (\$156,300) in crowdfunding to open the facility. "It's sad that having your leg amputated becomes the reason why

you can't run," said Ken Endo, Chief Executive Officer of Xiborg. "I want to create an environment where everyone can run and have fun," he said. Chie Yamashita, a 20-year-old university student whose left leg was amputated a decade ago after a car accident, played tennis with a regular prosthetic limb because blades were too expensive.

"If there is a place like this library, then I can borrow them without hesitation and that's wonderful," she said.—Reuters ■



Prosthetic "blades" are displayed at a special "library" that lets people borrow and try out prosthetic "blades" for runners, in Tokyo, Japan on 15 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Two more Washington restaurants shine with Michelin stars

WASHINGTON — Washington's dining scene received some extra sparkle on Tuesday as Michelin bestowed stars to two more restaurants in its second annual guide of the city's best eateries, which will go on sale Friday.

The addition of Komi and Métier, both praised for their inventive, modern American dishes, brought the total number of restaurants with Michelin stars in the US capital to 14 in the latest guide, from 12 a year earlier.

"The chefs here are really upping their game," Michael Ellis, international director of the Michelin Guide, said on Tuesday.

Michelin's anonymous reviewers rate restaurants in about 28 countries and its stars are seen as a sign of top-notch dining around the world. It also rates restaurants in three other US regions: Chicago, New York and the San Francisco area.

Komi and Métier joined

Blue Duck Tavern; The Dabney; Fiola; Kinship; Masseria; Plume; Rose's Luxury; Sushi Taro and Tail Up Goat in the one-star category for their "high quality cooking, worth a detour."

Métier and Kinship, located in the same building, are overseen by chef Eric Ziebold.

Three Washington restaurants — The Inn at Little Washington; minibar and Pineapple and Pearls — retained their two-star ranking for their "excellent cuisine, worth a detour."

No Washington establishments have earned three stars, Michelin's highest honor that has been bestowed on more than 100 restaurants in the world.

The current two-star restaurants in Washington are "close" to earning three stars, Ellis said.

It takes time to achieve that distinction, and all its inspectors have to agree on it, he said.—Reuters ■

Myanmar wins gold in World's Dragon Boat Championship

Myanmar won the gold medal on Wednesday in the 2,000 meter traditional dragon boat race with a time of 10 minutes and 16 seconds at the 13th International Dragon Boat Federation World Nations Championship being held in Kunming, China.

Host country China attained second place and a silver medal with a time of 10 minutes and 17 seconds. Canada came in third with a time of 10 minutes and 17 seconds.

The win for Myanmar was historic because they defeated well-regarded, world-class teams from China, Canada, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, India, Singapore and Thailand in the competition.

The International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) hosts the IDBF World Championships once every two years in odd-numbered years such as 2015 and 2017. The championships are held in different locations around the world, where participants represent their country as a member nation. The previous championship was held in 2015 in Canada.

This year's event in Kunming, China is being held from from 18 to 22 October. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■



Players from Gandamar and Myawaddy vies for the ball in yesterday's match at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO: MWL

Myawaddy FC embarrasses Gandamar FC with 14-0 win in KBZ Bank Women's League

Myawaddy FC trounced Gandamar FC by a lopsided score of 14-0 yesterday in the third match of week 12 of the KBZ Bank Women's League 2016-2017 yesterday at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon.

One Myawaddy player scored eight goals and another

scored five goals in the unequal affair.

Myawaddy FC exhibited solid ball handling throughout the match and also kept the pressure on Gandamar defenders by using alternately slow and fast playing styles.

Myawaddy's lineup included

stars from the national women team, including Win Theingi Tun and May Sabei Oo. Yupar Khaing scored at 17 minutes, 19 minutes, 27 minutes 28 minutes and 52 minutes.

Win Theingi Tun scored at 21,32,44,59,71,75,81 and 85 minutes. May Sabei Oo scored at the

78-minute mark.

Myawaddy FC's depth at all positions made it difficult for their opponents to score.

After playing 10 matches of week 12, Myawaddy FC stands in first position of the standings with 34 points. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Mourinho's pragmatism reaping rewards for United

LISBON — Accustomed to winning trophies with prolific scoring more than by cagey, safety-first displays, Manchester United fans may have to get used to Jose Mourinho's preferred strategy if a dour 1-0 Champions League win over Benfica is anything to go by.

The result left United on the verge of reaching the Champions League knockout stages and the Portuguese manager was happy.

"I never felt we could concede a goal and were solid defensively," he told BT Sport.

"Sometimes I feel being good defensively is a crime, but that is a way of getting results. We are one point from qualifying and one victory away from win-



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

ning the group with two games at home to play." Bereft of cutting edge up front or creativity in midfield without the injured Paul

Pogba, United won thanks to a freak Marcus Rashford goal and a solid defensive display.

Still unbeaten in either the

Champions League or in domestic competitions, United, who are two points behind local rivals City in the Premier League, are in position to challenge for their first league title since 2013.

Having netted four goals in wins over West Ham United, Swansea City, Everton, Burton Albion, CSKA Moscow and Crystal Palace, United's last two games against Liverpool and Benfica made those performances look like flat-track bullying.

Romelu Lukaku, the club's only out-and-out striker with Zlatan Ibrahimovic injured, made a dream start to his United career by scoring 11 goals in his first 10 games after arriving from Everton. But the Belgian looked

toothless in a dour 0-0 draw at Liverpool followed by the narrow win at Benfica. Injuries to midfielders Pogba, Marouane Fellaini and Michael Carrick have hampered Mourinho but his back line has held firm. "Without any pressure, we knew the goal would arrive," Mourinho said after the Benfica game which was settled by a dreadful error by the Portuguese side's 18-year-old keeper.

"I knew how good the goalkeeper was, I told the players that. We had a little bit of a strategy, especially on set-pieces to make him uncomfortable. We put men around him on corners so he cannot come out," Mourinho said.—Reuters ■