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State Counsellor visits vocational training school, computer skills training school in Pakokku, Kyaukpadaung

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 116, 14th Waning of Second Waso 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 10 August 2018

State Counsellor: If people are qualified, it will be difficult for an unqualified government to be in power

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi conducted a peace talk with local populace from Chaukkan Village in Pakokku Township, Magway Region, yesterday morning.

At the peace talk with the local populace, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said talks and discussions on peace were being conducted all over the country, so that the people could understand that peace is the concern of the whole country. As Pakokku does not have any armed conflicts in the past, local populace wouldn't understand what ceasefire is, the meaning of it and the effect on their lives. This is only understood by those who had experienced it. Whether there was armed conflict in their region or not, a country's peace is of concern to all.

All have the duty to achieve peace. I want to know the views of everyone participating in this talk. What to do for peace and why peace is required. I want all of you to think together about these.

I also want to know what you think of the relation between peace and development in our country. The talk can also include other matters happening in your places. For example, where ever I go, I ask the people: is the chief minister behaving well? I think Magway Region Chief Minister is behaving well. But the people will know better. Our government is responsible to the people.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the peace talk with local people in Pakokku Township, Magway Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A government elected by the people is responsible towards the people. We strive to make the lives of the people the best. No government is blameless and there is no government that had never erred. We have a saying that there are no lawyers who hadn't made any mistakes, and governments make more mistakes than the lawyers. The most important thing about a mistake is the ability to correct it. I always say that a problem is not important. The important

thing is finding a solution to the problem.

In this talk, I want all to concentrate on why we don't have peace since independence and how to resolve this, said the State Counsellor.

Ma Phyo Thiri Lwin (Third-year, Technological University)

Magway Region, in the middle of Myanmar, was peaceful for many years, so students and youths here generally are experiencing peace. From news media, they learn of how people in

conflict areas are experiencing. But most only know about it and have a mindset of not being able to do anything about it. Youths and students in conflict areas are holding peace talks and listening to the voices of the people. How can youths and students in peaceful areas participate in this and for the country's development? I think youths and students in peaceful areas need to start thinking about this.

The simplest view of why there is no peace is because

there are misunderstandings, different views and thoughts. Whatever the organisation may be, be it a school or an office, leaders lead without followers following the leaders. There is a gap between the top and the bottom. There are many misunderstandings.

All need to think together on ways to change the mindset of the people and their attitude towards the country starting from a young age.

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Bright object observed over West Siberia could be part of space debris, says scientist

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds 7th-day meeting

U Zaw Win.



U Aung Min.



U Khin Cho.



Maj Tin Lin.



U Aung Thihe.

THE seventh-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting, joint bill committee's findings and comments report on a bill and a joint public accounts committee report were read, and Hluttaw representatives conducted discussions on loan acquisition.

Report on bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law

(2017)

A report by joint bill committee on its findings and comments on the bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law (2017) was first read by joint bill committee member U Zaw Win. The two Hluttaws were unable to agree on the bill.

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

Joint public accounts committee report 6/2018

Next, joint public accounts committee report 6/2018 on the committee's findings and comments on the status of construction work projects of the Basic Education Department, Ministry of Education, in fiscal year 2017-2018 was read by committee vice chairman U Aung Min and tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to deliberate on it.

Discussion on euro 30 million interest free loan from Italy

Afterwards, Hluttaw representatives discussed the euro 30 million interest free loan from

Italy to conduct projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. The matter was sent to the Hluttaw by the President.

U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Sein Win of Maubin constituency, Tatmadaw representative Maj Tin Lin, U Aung Thihe of Seikphyu constituency, U Okka Min of Taninthayi Region constituency 8, Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency, U Whayt Tinn of Chin State constituency 11, U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency, U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency

10, U Thet Naung of Lahe constituency, Dr. Daw Pyone of Indaw constituency, Daw Aye Aye Mu @ Daw Shar Mee of Kalay constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency, U Soe Aung Naing of Kyonpyaw constituency, U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mairel constituency and U Myint Kyi of Katha constituency discussed the matter.

The eighth-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 13 August it is learnt.—Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing (MNA) ■

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives British Ambassador

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed enhancing the law enforcement, cooperation in launching classes, the scholarship programme for human resources development, legal assistance for My Justice Pro-

gram of the British Council, conditions on cooperation with Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Myanmar democratic reform and the role of the media.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Directors-General U Min Swe and Dr. Thida Oo.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives US Ambassador to Myanmar

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel in the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw chamber in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on promoting US-Myanmar relations, strengthening the democratic system, the national peace process, promoting commercial investment and trade, and scrutinizing the budget, checks and balances and legislative process of both countries' parliaments.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman receives Myanma Real Estate Agents

PYITHU Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Win received agents from Myanma Real Estate Agency at the Hluttaw Building

in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed issues on performances of the Myanma Real Estate

Agency, along with its Bill for public's benefits, agents to obey rules and regulations and maintaining the Real Estate Market.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor: If people are qualified, it will be difficult for an unqualified government to be in power

FROM PAGE 1

U Kyaw Naing (chairman of a bus line)

I want to discuss about peace in a family. The ward will be peaceful only if the families in it are peaceful. If the wards are peaceful, the township will be peaceful. If a person wants peace, there'll be peace in the country.

A family will be peaceful if there is general work opportunities and income. There aren't much job opportunities for 70 per cent of the youths who were unable to complete high school for various reasons. If vocational training schools are not opened in considerable numbers, the future for these youths will disappear.

If there is a drug addict in a family, the family will not be peaceful. As such, drugs need to be eliminated. Drugs come from border areas where there is no peace. Drugs can become arms and bullets, and there will be no peace in the country. What the nation's President is doing is quite successful.

If a health of a family member is affected, there'll be no

With union spirit, and each ethnic national having a desire to protect their own people, peace can be easily achieved.

As many different ethnic nationals are living together, inequality breeds conflict and misunderstanding. Because of these differences, peace is far from being achieved. There is a requirement to coordinate and minimize the differences that breed misunderstanding among the people. Areas that are not peaceful are mostly border areas. Border areas are where trades are being conducted.



Ma Phyo Thiri Lwin
(Third Year, Technological University). **PHOTO: MNA**

agriculture. During the days of our grandparents, Pakokku region was not peaceful. The effects of not having peace were felt directly. Despite having peace already, there are still indirect consequences of not having peace. Due to conflict in border areas, flow of goods stop and crop prices decline. Prices of consumer goods coming in from other places rise. As such, wherever a Myanmar citizen lives, be it in peaceful area or not, they will be soon affected.

All of us indiscriminately cut down our forests and use



U Kyaw Naing (chairman of a bus line). **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: MNA**



U Thet Khaing (farmer, Kaing Village). **PHOTO: MNA**



U Myint Win (trader). **PHOTO: MNA**



Ma Yamon Phyo (First-year Master's Pakokku University). **PHOTO: MNA**



Maung Zeya Min (Second-year, Technological University). **PHOTO: MNA**



Ma Ei Sabei Phyo (Second-Year, Education College). **PHOTO: MNA**



Ma Khaing Thazin Aung (First-year, Master's Pakokku University). **PHOTO: MNA**

peace or happiness. Pakokku hospital can be reached easily, but it is small. I heard that a hospital for women and children will be built. As the present hospital is too congested, this new hospital plan needs to be implemented.

Ma Yamon Phyo (First-year Master's, Pakokku University)

Many ethnic nationals live together in our country. As such, there should be understanding among the ethnic nationals.

No peace means no trade and no investments. Therefore, our country's economy is declining. Thus, every region needs to strive towards peace. Peace concerns everyone, old and young. And all need to take part in peace. As there is peace, there'll be development and all will benefit.

U Thet Khaing (farmer, Kaing Village)

I want to discuss about connection between peace and

excessive insecticides and pesticides in our agriculture, and we all are now facing the consequences of it. More agriculture loans are required so that high interest loans from other sources need not be depended on. Agriculture machineries are being sold but most could not afford it. At this time, draft animals are being exported, increasing the shortage of it in agriculture sector. The government should review its policy on this. Help is also need-

ed to getting back confiscated lands.

Ma Ei Sabei Phyo (Second-year, Education College)

I want to talk about education and peace. It is important for all in the country to live in peace. All need to strive together in unity for peace. But peace is easier said than done.

Every youngster, including those in the border areas, need to have access to peaceful education. If there is armed conflict,

the youngsters in the region are unable to have good education. The consequence is not acquiring the ability to live together, have understanding of others and to think effectively. This will make peace an unreachable far-away goal.

Peace could not be achieved by talking about it only. Talks must be conducted with ethnic nationals on how to achieve peace by choosing the correct path.

U Myint Win (trader)

I will talk about peace and business. Now is the time when all should work peacefully in their respective regions. Our region is a peaceful region. The main business in our region is agriculture. But our farms rely on rain water and when there is no rain, we face losses. Another thing is, we rely on traditional agriculture methods so our outputs are declining, affecting our economy. Pakokku Town is also expanding and taking over the farmlands, reducing the agriculture lands and thus reducing income.

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Union Minister U Thaung Tun arrives back from Indonesia

Terrorism, developments in Rakhine, and investment opportunities discussed

MYANMAR delegation led by U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government and National Security Advisor, visited Indonesia from 5 to 9 August 2018 to attend the Sub-regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism.

In Lombok, the Union Minister had separate meetings with Mr. Wiranto, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia and Mr. Peter Dutton, Minister for Home Affairs of Australia. In the meetings, they exchanged views on matters relating to the emerging threats of terrorism and radicalism in the region. The Union Minister briefed his counterparts on the developments in Rakhine State.

The Sub-regional Meeting on Counter Terrorism was postponed due to the powerful earthquake that struck Lombok in the evening of 5 August.

In Jakarta, the delegation met with Police General Prof.

Tito Kamavian, Head of the Indonesian National Police at the National Police Headquarters and visited the Indonesian Police Mobile Brigade Corps and the Police Science College.

During the working breakfast meeting hosted by Mrs. Retno L. P. Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia in the Foreign Ministry on 8 August, the two Ministers discussed matters relating to the promotion of bilateral ties and cooperation.

The Union Minister also informed the Indonesian Foreign Minister of the latest developments in Rakhine including the government's implementation of the agreements on repatriation of displaced persons signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh as well as progress of implementation on the MOU between Myanmar and UN Agencies.

Later in the day, the Union Minister, in his capacity as the Chairman of Myan-



Union Minister U Thaung Tun shakes hands with Mr. Wiranto, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia. **PHOTO: MNA**

mar Investment Commission, met with Indonesian business community at the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and explained the change and transformation taking place in the investment sector and business

opportunities in Myanmar. The Indonesian business enterprises expressed their keen interest to diversify their investments and expand their ongoing business in Myanmar. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives British Ambassador



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received a delegation led by British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg at the ministry's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed social security processes from newborn to senior citizens, along with natural disaster management, setting up the policies for legal processes, reconciliation processes, and financial aid programmes already set up for expectant mothers and under two year-old infants in Chin State, Naga

Self-Administered Zone and Rakhine State and the same programme to be extended into Kayah and Kayin states, and the repatriation and resettlement processes in Rakhine State.

The discussion also focused on the need for information relating to the aforementioned processes to be disseminated to the international community and for international media to collect news in Rakhine State freely, and MoU matters between the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and UNHCR and UNDP. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Travel Authorization for Rakhine State already granted to the staff of UNDP and UNHCR to conduct assessment survey for the operationalization of the MoU

IN order to operationalize the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Myanmar Government, UNDP and UNHCR on 6 June 2018, assessment survey will be conducted in 5 Village Tracts (12 Vil-

lages) in Buthidaung Township and 8 Village Tracts (11 Villages) in Maungdaw Township in Rakhine State.

The First Phase of the assessment will be conducted in 13 Village Tracts

(23 Villages).

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has informed the UNDP and UNHCR on 7 August 2018, that the travel authorization has been approved for the staff responsi-

ble for field assessments.

This information has been transmitted to the relevant departments to make necessary arrangements for the field assessments.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor: If people are qualified, it will be difficult for an unqualified government to be in power

FROM PAGE 3

North of our village is garment factory No. 11. There are many workers in that factory. But if the factory does not run anymore, many will be out of work. Thus, arrangements need to be made to ensure the long-term survival of the factories.

Ma Khaing Thazin Aung (First-year Master's, Pakokku University)

Peace means others coming to have meals with me. It means I go to their place and drink their water. Visiting one another's places and exchanging different views and culture. This interdependence is what peace is. Myanmar is a country of not a single race but of many ethnic nationals living together. This makes Myanmar, and all need to be united and be together. Lack of peace affects the people directly. Without peace, children could not attend school and had to flee into the jungles. Some become orphans.

Maung Zeya Min (Second-year, Technological University)

I want to discuss about my views of the essence of peace. Peace is to be established together, based on family spirit.

Education is basic for a person's dignity. All need to know this. Most of us think that being a graduate makes a person a learned person. But most graduates are not learned persons. There are only a handful of graduates who become experts and support the country. As such, we must strive towards becoming a person benefiting the country, rather than just becoming a graduate.

Response of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

I noticed one of you saying followers not following a leader is a problem. But the leader needs to be right. And another thing is choosing the right leader. Democracy is a system where you have the right to choose your own leader.

If the people are qualified, it is very difficult for an unqualified government to come into power. The better the people are, the better the government will be. It is important for the people to be courageous and dignified in standing firm on what they believe.

We are in politics with a view towards the future. To view towards the future, we need to look

truthfully at the present. We need to look at the present problems and challenges we are facing.

We must not go back to the past and become prisoners of the past. But looking at the future without doing the present work, or concentrating on the future only is not possible. If all work together on what need to be done now, peace will be achieved. One said there was no peace because there was a lack of understanding. Understanding is based on respect to others. Only with respect can a person listen. A person will listen to someone they respect. They wouldn't listen to someone they don't respect. This is human nature.

Our country needs a lot of people with vocational education. For a country to catch up other countries quickly, the education they have need to be in line for the development of the country.

We are striving towards giving true and complete opportunities to all. Through this, we believe that stability, a foundation for peace will be laid. If the people are mentally and physically safe, the country will also be safe. Unity is important. Especially if people and organisations in the peace process truly have goodwill towards the country, there will be peace. Even a region like Pakokku, that had peace for some time, is not as developed as it should be.

were quite surprised that I asked them this.

When I ask officials from their education ministry, they say students who completed vocational training are respected by the community, as they have better income than university graduates. We will do the best we can in this.

Drug abuse is a real problem. In the past, opium and opium products were dangers. Now it's ecstasy pills. Children at a very young age are starting to use it. The rate of usage is also increasing. Parents need to have the ability to judge whether their children are using these pills. Once the parents know, parents also need to have the ability for

situation where farmers can use farm machineries.

To return land to the rightful owner is also facing many problems. People who confiscated the land do not want to return it. Even when there is an agreement to return it, departments were not doing the work of returning it back properly. Of course not everyone who applies to have the land back are rightful owners. There are those who applied even though they have no right to the land. So rightful owners have more problems to solve. To overcome these problems, all need to be truthful.

I want to ask a question to the one who is trying to become a teacher. This is a question asked



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and local people hold the peace talk in Pakokku Township, Magway Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

I want our people to believe in themselves. With a view towards a future, we are emphasizing on the present education and health. Because from the physical side we need health and from the mental side education, including character. We are striving towards development, based on these two. When subjects to learn are based on examination scores, both parents and the students go for honor rather than genuine interest in the subject. They learn it not because they are interested in it.

We need to discard anything that effects peace. And we need to encourage anything that will bring about peace. In this, the people need to participate. We are changing the education system. We are not setting levels by points achieved at an examination anymore, and instead using a grading system. We are encouraging vocational education instead of a university education. Education is to have a secure and good life. This is not something that can be achieved only through a university education. There are many who have a secure and good life without a university education.

This is because the entire country is also not developed. If the entire country is not developed, it would be difficult to have development in a single region.

If elderly people like me can live on hope, why can't others do the same? But hope alone is not all, as we need to have the ability to work and implement. We also need the skills. I value what the youths have told me. Although they may not have the same view, they are expected to work towards peace single-mindedly.

I encourage vocational education. Parents must not be reluctant in giving vocational education to their child. Some think vocational education is a second-rank education. Rich countries of the world, like Switzerland, Germany and Sweden, do not differentiate students attending vocational education and university education. Those who finish vocational education have higher possibility of income and thus it is a dignified education.

When I was in Switzerland, I asked four students attending a vocational school whether they were treated differently. They

their children to admit this problem and solve it together with understanding.

Our union has many ethnic nationals. Most are living in conflict regions in border areas, which is affecting the economy. The economy of the country as well as the relation with other countries.

I understand that our people are precious. All need to consider themselves and others as precious. It is important to instill this in everyone. Education will develop only when the country is rich. This two is linked. Development in education can also make a country rich. But we could not wait until we are rich to reform the education system. We have to do it the best we can.

Our country is an agricultural country. For the country to develop, agriculture is important. Developing agriculture is not making the agriculture sector disappear. Exporting draft animals may be a problem for the farmers. But it is done to prevent illegal export of draft animals. We will have to reduce our reliance on draft animals, and at the same time create

by a senior teacher. The question was what a teacher needs to know to teach a student.

What the teacher needs to know is the student. Not the teacher's ability. Not the knowledge of the subject. Only when the teacher knows the student can the teacher teach the student.

Now we are reforming the education system. We are not encouraging rote learning. But to a certain level, examination marks are depending on rote learning. A smart student can memorize things quickly. Someone who is less smart would need more time, but the less smart one may be better in social dealing. This one resolves problems among their friends. It is important for the teacher to know the students' ability. Expansion of towns could not be blamed for reducing agriculture area. Farm land could not be used for other matters easily. High rise buildings couldn't be built on a farm land. But some see fault in this. Why can't farmers sell their lands for a hefty income? They can't because our country is an agriculture country.

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Information and news media coordination meeting held

THE information and news media coordination meeting was held in the first-floor meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Chamber in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, who is also the 2018 Chairperson for the Central Committee in charge of Organizing Hluttaw Meetings and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, central committee vice-chair and Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Chairperson of Infor-

mation Committee Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Vice-Chair of the Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Kyaing and council members, and directors-general and officials from the Pyidaungsu, Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws.

Central Committee Chair U Tun Tun Hein gave instructions on ensuring media personnel gather parliamentary news smoothly and systematically. Next, Central Committee Vice-Chair U Aye Tha Aung, Information Committee Chair Dr. Pe Myint, Myanmar Press Council



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein delivers the speech at the information and news media coordination meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice-Chair, council members and attendants discussed the various categories of newsgath-

ering in the Hluttaw premises. The Central Committee Chair then gave the necessary advice

and suggestions, based on the discussions. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint poses for a photo together with British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint receives British Ambassador

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Patrick Chugg, at the guest hall of the ministry,

yesterday morning. During the meeting, they discussed sending local and foreign media groups to Maungtau Region in Rakhine State, announcements already

released about performances for peace and development processes in Rakhine State and media freedom in Myanmar. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Journalists visit Maungtau, report on security, resettlement, repatriation readiness

A VISITING media delegation visited Maungtau yesterday, reporting on stability, construction of houses for new villages, repatriation and rehabilitation of displaced people. They interviewed the Maungtau District Administrator U Ye Htut at the General Administration Office in Maungtau about arrangement for regional security and freedom of movement for local people.

Afterwards, the delegation visited the Ngakhuya Reception Centre and viewed the repatriation readiness. They also met with the displaced people who returned under the arrange-

ment of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State. Afterwards, they visited the shelter for local Hindus and interviewed the officials of the camp about food supply to the people, education and health care services for the people there and condition of houses being built in Maungtau with the assistance of the Indian Government for the resettlement of the local Hindus.

The delegation comprised of journalists from the MRTV, MITV, MI Radio, MRTV-4, 7-Day Daily and Shwe Zarmi news agency. —Min Thit/MNA ■



Journalists interviewing displaced persons at the Ngakhuya Reception Centre, Maungtau yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Preparations complete for All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay)

CHAIRMAN of the Work Committee for Holding the All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay) Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, together with the Mandalay Region Minister for Municipal Affairs and Mandalay City Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin, inspected the University of Mandalay's premises where decorations and preparations to the buildings and sports fields, stage for ceremonies and events, exhibit booths and stalls are set up for the festival.

There are 280 exhibit booths and stalls set up for the festival that will showcase various items from government departments, associations, regional universities and colleges, and books from Yangon and from within Mandalay. The All-Round Youth Development Festival will include sporting activities such as volleyball, tug-of-war, htote-see-htoe (a Myanmar game combining elements of hopscotch and tag), pillow fights, endurance tests, gunny sack race, three-legged race, basketball and demonstrations of wushu, gymnastics, karate, taekwondo, and chinlone (cane ball). There will also be

booths for science exhibits and job opportunities.

MRTV, together with famous musicians Iris Zin Mar Myint, Ringo, Yone Lay, J Maung Maung, Mi Mi Win Pe, and vocalists who won the Peace Music Festival awards will perform every day of the All-Round Youth Development Festival, once in the morning from 10am to 12pm, and once in the evening from 3pm to 5pm.

Additionally, on 11 August, the State Counsellor and twenty student representatives from Mandalay Region's universities and colleges will have a literary

talk in the University of Mandalay's convocation hall. On 12 August, a morning walk will be held at 5am with 2,500 participants.

The festival will be open from 9am to 5pm on all days and will include English-language competitions, Myanmar ad lib and poetry contests, youth talks, recreational sporting events, sport demonstrations, science fair exhibits, booths for job opportunities, awareness raising exhibits, programmes for reducing and protecting orphans, seminars and stage plays. —Mandalay Sub-printing house ■



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun inspects the preparations for All-Round Youth Development Festival (Mandalay) at the Mandalay University. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor visits vocational training school, computer skills training school in Pakokku, Kyaukpadaung

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a peace talk with local people at Chaukkan Village in Pakokku Township, Magway Division, yesterday.

At the talk, they exchanged views on peace, youth and menace of drugs, job opportunities, health, education and socio-economic issues.

In the afternoon, the State Counsellor visited the Vocational Training School under the Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Border Affairs in Pakokku. The school is conducting basic vocational courses, including advanced sewing courses, sewing with motor machines course, basic course for receptionists, housekeeping course and food and beverages course for needy people.

At the meeting with the trainees, the State Counsellor called on them to apply their vocational skills when they arrived back in their areas to earn more income for their families.

The training school was opened on 12 December 2005, and it has produced 623 trainees so far. During the visit, the State Counsellor viewed the furniture produced by the Sein Soe San

Co., Ltd. from Pakokku Industrial Zone.

The factory commissioned into operation in October last year with 122 local employees and it has produced furniture. The factory was established with the aim of creating job opportunities and producing waste-to-value-added products.

During the visit, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung and Dr. Myint Htwe, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo and Deputy Minister U Min Thu.

In the evening, the State Counsellor and party visited a computer skills training school opened by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, free of charge, near the foot of Mt. Popa in Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Region.

During the visit, she urged the trainees to apply their knowledge and skills to benefit others and serve the country.

The computer skills training school was opened on 7 December last year and has produced 174 trainees in two courses. Currently, 96 trainees are attending the third course of the school.— Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by trainees as she arrives at Mt. Popa in Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the Vocational Training School under the Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Border Affairs in Pakokku Township. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor: If people are qualified, it will be difficult

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These laws were put in place because rice is the main staple for our people. Of course, laws need to be changed in order to be in accord with the times. Towns could not be prevented from expanding. This is the outcome of development. There are benefits as well as drawbacks.

One said children and women suffer when there is no peace. I agree with this. Everyone said if there is no peace the most who suffer are women and children. That is why women need to participate deeply in the peace process. Women need to have the courage to ask the men why they want to make things that increase suffering. If peace is really desired, it can be achieved within a short time.

Most teachers didn't experience a good education system. To establish a good education system, the qualities of the teachers need to be raised. We could not concentrate on the

students only. We also need to look at the teachers. Raising the quality of the teachers is not an easy matter.

A while ago I went to Petaw Village. The primary school there is a bit special. Unique because of the five teachers there, three were men and two were women. This is quite special because most schools have more women teachers than men. There are many that only have women teachers. I'm more impressed with the students there who are not shy or afraid. When asked what they know, they answer with full confidence. This is the most important thing.

The will to know and understand things is important in getting an education. If a child has a strong desire to know and understand things, they'll get the education. From their surroundings, a lot of knowledge can be obtained. Anyone who can learn something outside a classroom becomes an educated person. A person is not an educated person if they knew

only things that are taught to them in a classroom. Thanks to everyone for participating in this discussion, said the State Counsellor.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Magway Region minister for agriculture and irrigation U Win Maw Htay spoke about health and agriculture sector in Magway Region. Other officials, including Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, and the State Counsellor also explained further about topics raised by the people participating in the talk.

Finally, the State Counsellor replied to three questions raised online. She urged all desiring peace to speak out and have their voices heard by related people in response to a question raised by Min Ya Tha. She also added that she didn't consider holding these peace talks as making her tired, because the talks allow her to engage with the people and through this, the people also

support her work.

Responding to a question by Kyaw Zaw Aung, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, "It is a good suggestion to make the ministers engage more in states and regions to reduce my work load. But I don't want my work to be more overloaded for any wrong engagement by the ministers. If the people desire this sort of talks with the ministers, I will arrange for them to have talks and discussions with the people in their respective sectors."

Replying to a question by Kyaw Nyein Thant, the State Counsellor said, "When I work, I not only plan but do the work as well. Mobile libraries of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation had spread to the whole country. This was started in my Kawhmu constituency. All the books were rented out on the first day. This shows that people are interested to read, and they are unable to read only because they don't have any books available. Now there are mobile libraries by

Daw Khin Kyi Foundation all over the country. In future, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education will cooperate in making mobile libraries available in towns and schools."

"The habit of reading needs to be instilled in the youths. Parents need not only to encourage but help their children practically in this," she added.

Union Ministers, Magway Region Chief Minister, region Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Justice of the High Court, Region Auditor General, Advocate General of the region, regional ministers, Hluttaw representatives, local populace and members of social organisations attended the peace talk.

Peace talks were held five times in 2017. In 2018, it was held in Myaungmya Township Basic Education High School No. 1, Ayeyawady Region, on 10 April, and at Mawlamyine University, Mon State, on 14 June. This peace talk is the third one held this year.— News Team ■

Cornerstone of tourism industry

“We must think and act like a host if we want our country to be attractive among international travelers,” said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her opening address at the Central Committee for the Development of the National Tourism Industry (CCDNTI) meeting in Nay Pyi Taw the other day.

At the fourth meeting of the CCDNTI, participants discussed the importance and brighter prospects of international tourism amidst global economic trend showing signs of progress in all aspects.

As regards the success of the country’s tourism business, the State Counsellor warned that business-orientation alone might not bring the anticipated progress. “A good host always knows and cares about the needs of their guests,” she pointed out at the meeting that surveyed the international smokeless industry, in which Asian countries like China and Thailand are among those in the forefront.

Normally, neighbouring Thailand receives over 35 million visitors annually, while the number of annual visitors to our giant neighbor China hits 60 million.

Myanmar with her beautiful beaches and islands... has brighter prospects for the success of the tourism industry. What we need is unity, hard work and harmonious efforts, as they are the cornerstone for the development of our tourism industry.

According to a global authority on tourism, the number of tourists around the world will reach 1.6 billion in 2020, while 123 million of them visiting Asian countries. In fact, just by hosting even a small portion of this number may benefit Myanmar greatly. According to an address delivered by Vice President U Henry Van Thio at the meeting, over 3.44 million visitors came to Myanmar in 2017, indicating an 18 per cent rise compared with the 2016 figure. Judging by what he said, we can draw a conclusion that Myanmar’s tourism industry is not in a bad shape.

The largest number of travelers visiting Thailand were from Asian countries, including China, Chinese Taiwan, Hong Kong special administrative region and Japan. Nearly 10 million from China visited the Kingdom for various purposes. Normally, they are eager for a vacation in Thailand or a delicious Thai food, but 80 per cent of Chinese people love visiting roadside stalls, where food is cheap and fresh, or tax-free shops and shopping malls, or enjoying cultural shows.

Recently, Myanmar has eased visa restrictions on vacationers from Japan, South Korea and China. In this regard, the Vice President spoke of the need to provide better services at hotels, charge reasonable room charges, keep the food stalls clean and tidy, ensure safety of international travelers and sell hygienic food. He also stressed departmental cooperation in generating greater progress.

Myanmar with her beautiful beaches and islands along the long coastline, snow-capped mountains in the far north, abundant array of valuable natural resources, natural watercourses large and small and rich cultural heritage already has brighter prospects for the success of the tourism industry. What we need is unity, hard work and harmonious efforts, as they are the cornerstone for the development of our tourism industry.



Basic function and benefits of reservoirs

By Aung Zaw Min

DUE to lack of knowledge based on groundless facts about reservoirs and their benefits, this article is being written with the aim of understanding the nature of reservoirs and understanding the reality. The construction of reservoirs has been going on for ages around the world. Actually, a reservoir is an enlarged natural or artificial lake storage space for fresh water created, using a dam or lock to store water. Reservoirs can also be constructed in river valleys using a dam with retaining walls and levees.

Depletion of fresh water

Water is our most important resource and essential commodity for our existence on earth. Water is vital and a precious source for all of us, because there are many other ways water are used in our daily life, such as food, clothing and shelter. Due to the effects of increasing world’s population and high living standard, water consumption has increased year by year, on account of agricultural production and household use. On the other side, the world is running

out of fresh water by dint of ‘reckless’ human activity and water deterioration as a consequence of global warming. Water covers 70 per cent of the Earth’s surface and it can reasonably be considered to be of a large volume, but in reality 96.5% of all the Earth’s water is contained within the oceans as salt water, while the remaining 3.5% is fresh water lakes and frozen water locked up in glaciers and the polar ice caps. Of the fresh water, only 2% of water can be utilized for the humans.

The effect of climate change

Although fresh water is plentiful in Myanmar, it has to encounter the hazards of flood, drought and other related natural disasters. The country has to face drought and flooding due to the climate change. The outbreak of disaster is likely to occur in many parts of the world and because of the impacts of climate change, many of these consequences occur, such as late arrival of monsoon, scarcity of rain, ground-water depletion and so on, across the country. The increasing scarcity of water has become a well-recognized problem, and efforts should be made to construct reservoirs aiming to



PHOTO: AFP

cope with growing water scarcity and misuse and management of available water resources in Myanmar. Dams are very useful and important because they provide water for domestic, industry and irrigation purposes. Moreover, dams often improve the river navigation.

Preventing natural disasters

Many reservoirs have been constructed, under the supervision of efficient and experienced engineers from the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (IWUMD) to prevent flash flooding and other natural disasters.

within a short period. Unexpected amount of reservoir water overflowed out from the spillway causing some extent of flooding in the downstream of the dam.

By incorporating the 2015 July flood data, new probable design floods, including standard project floods as well as probable maximum floods have been produced. The dam had been constructed to hold the rising water and prevent from overflowing, aiming to ensure the safety of the dam and its design life.

A reservoir is an artificial lake where water is stored, and most reservoirs are formed by constructing dams across rivers.

In 2015, torrential rains fell across the area of Min Myin Dam situated in Kanbalu, Sagaing Region. Due to the impact of climate change, the heavy and intense rain within a short duration in the Min Myin Dam Project area resulted in over flowing of the dam crest

water that flows out of the reservoir.

A spillway is a structure used to provide the controlled release of flows from a dam into a downstream area, typically the riverbed of the dammed river itself. Spillways ensure that the water does not overflow and damage or destroy the dam. Floodgates and fuse plugs may be designed into spillways to regulate water flow and reservoir level. Such a spillway can be used to regulate downstream flows – by releasing water in small amounts before the reservoir is full. Operators can prevent sudden large releases that would happen if the dam was filled over the brim. Other uses of the term “spillway” include bypasses of dams or outlets of channels used during high water, and outlet channels carved through natural dams. Water normally flows over a spillway only during flood periods – when the reservoir cannot hold the excess of water entering it over the amount used.

As for the IWUMD, all-out efforts are being made to conduct flood safety measures, with the cooperation of the locals. For the safety of the region, the IWUMD has already assigned high-ranking engineers in-charge to supervise and watch the conditions of embankments and the amount of moving water in the dams throughout the day and night. In doing so, the IWUMD goes through checking the stability and strength of the embankment, while taking preliminary measures to store up necessary equipment, such as machinery, tools and labour force.

For the safety of the people, the IWUMD has made an announcement that the occurrence of flooding are mainly due to incessant and torrential rains, and has advised the public that they should not believe every bit of baloney that are being rumoured about. The IWUMD has tried to disseminate accurate news and updates about the current conditions.

There is no standardization to measure which dams have reached the danger level. Only the dam embankments have this kind of standardization. Regarding safety measures, the IWUMD has assigned high-ranking engineers to supervise the conditions round the clock, and officials concerned are also fulfilling the requirements. Through the state-run media and Facebook, the IWUMD is issuing relevant information, news and updates to the public.

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung

State Counsellor’s youth literary talk in Mandalay to broadcast live

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is conducting a youth literary talk with local people at the University of Mandalay in Mandalay on 11 August morning.

The talk will be broadcast live at 9am on that day by Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), Myanmar International TV (MITV),mntv, Skynet Up to Date, Skynet ethnic, Myanma Radio, MIR(Radio), MOI Web Portal Myanmar Facebook, MRTV Facebook, Myanmar Digital News Facebook, President’s Office Facebook, Myanmar State Counsellor’s Office Facebook and Information Committee’s Facebook. —Myanmar News Agency



Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 9-8-2018)
According to the (13:30) hrs MST observations today, the water levels of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada and Zalun are observed as each about (1) foot below their respective danger levels. The water levels may reach their respective danger levels during the next (4) days.
It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river bank and low lying areas at Hinthada and Zalun townships, to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 9th August, 2018)
BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 10th AUGUST, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magwayregions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Mon State and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Chin and Kayinstates. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9)feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5 -7)feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Shan, Kayin and Mon states.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).



Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

Press Release
(Dated: 9 August 2018)

Background

The International Criminal Court (“the Court” or “ICC”) was established through the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (“the Rome Statute”). The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Myanmar is **not party** to the Rome Statute and the Court has no jurisdiction on Myanmar whatsoever.

Regardless, the ICC’s Prosecutor has made a *Prosecution’s Request for a Ruling on Jurisdiction under Article 19(3) of the Statute* (“the Request”) to the ICC and has requested Myanmar to submit its opinion. Myanmar has declined to engage with the ICC by way of a formal reply due to the reasons stated below.

A. Bad Faith (Mala Fides)

1. The Request by the Prosecutor may be interpreted as an indirect attempt to acquire jurisdiction over Myanmar which is not a State Party to the Rome Statute.

2. Myanmar, as a non-State Party, is under no obligation to enter into litigation with the Prosecutor at the ICC or even to accept *notes verbales* emanating from their Registry by reference to article 34 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (“Vienna Convention”).

3. The actions of the Prosecutor, constitute an attempt to circumvent the spirit of article 34 of the Vienna Convention. By allowing such a contrived procedure, the ICC may set a dangerous precedent whereby future populist causes and complaints against non-State Parties to the Rome Statute may be litigated at the urging of biased stakeholders and non-governmental organizations and even then, selectively based on the political current of the times.

4. The Prosecutor appears to have chosen to ignore the fact that the United Nations Security Council has issued a Presidential Statement stressing the need for transparent investigations of alleged human rights abuses while, at the same time, recognizing Myanmar’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Respect for Myanmar’s sovereignty would permit it to continue to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law whether committed by its own forces or by elements hostile to the Government authorities such as the forces of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (“ARSA”).

B. Procedural Framework Irregularities

5. It is submitted that the Prosecution has in-

correctly applied Article 19(3) request for a ruling from the Court on jurisdiction when the Court is not properly seized of the matter. Article 19(3) was intended to allow the Prosecutor to seek preliminary rulings on matters pertaining to jurisdiction and admissibility which arise in the normal conduct of proceedings i.e. within a “situation”. In this matter, the Prosecutor has bypassed important procedural safeguards and instead used Art. 19(3) to request preliminary rulings on issues of jurisdiction prior to even initiating proposed cases within a “situation”.

6. In order to obtain the impartial facts necessary to substantiate a jurisdictional request, the Prosecutor should have conducted a preliminary examination, of the sort envisaged in the *chapeau* of article 53(1) of the Rome Statute. Failure to do so, even if it was in part due to financial reasons, was, in fact, an abandonment of her mandatory duty to exercise her unique discretion under article 53(1)(a), namely to evaluate the information to see if it provides a reasonable basis for believing that a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court has been or is being committed.

7. With the benefit of a proper preliminary examination, the Prosecutor would possibly have dealt with the sources of information forming the basis for the Request with more circumspection. As it is, the sources on which the Prosecutor has relied for the purpose of the Request present a completely one-sided and biased narrative of the events in Rakhine State.

8. The amendment of Regulation 46 (3) of the Regulations of the Court (“RoC”) on 29 June 2018, in the course of the present proceedings, must be viewed negatively, as it provides support for the Prosecutor. The effect of the amendment was to provide the Prosecutor with a short-circuit process to enable a speedy deliberation of this matter.

9. The Prosecutor had not sought the opening of an investigation by virtue of her *proprio motu* powers under article 15(3) of the Rome Statute. By her actions she has “put the cart before the horse” by approaching the Pre-Trial Chamber for a ruling on jurisdiction *before* conducting a preliminary examination. It is submitted that the Prosecutor has reversed accepted procedure without legal justification.

C. Lack of Transparency

10. Myanmar is concerned with the lack of fairness and transparency of the ICC proceedings.

11. The regulations governing the conduct of ICC proceedings stipulates that reasons should be

given for derogating from the default rule, namely that its hearings be conducted in public. Regulation 20 states among others, that when a Chamber orders that certain hearings be held in close or private session, the Chamber shall make public the reasons for such an order. In this matter, the Pre-Trial Chamber held an *ex parte* Prosecutor only status conference on 20 June 2018. It also debated issues placed, at the time, on a confidential agenda in a closed hearing without written justification and in blatant violation of its own regulations.

12. All issues discussed at the closed hearing would be of crucial importance and the fact that the Prosecutor’s responses to some of these issues still remain confidential is both inexplicable and prejudicial.

13. The lack of transparency was further manifested when Bangladesh chose to file its observations with the Court confidentially. The Court has the ability to require a participant in the legal proceedings to present its submissions in a public manner or, at the very least, in a partially redacted fashion in order to safeguard vital interests. This was not done and, as a consequence, Myanmar could not reasonably have been expected to make an appropriately informed and formal response when it was denied the submissions of the very country on the territory of which jurisdiction is sought.

D. Amici Curiae - prejudicial vs probative value

14. The Court has permitted organizations to file *amicus curiae* submissions without consideration of their identity or the beneficial scope of their proposed contributions. Several of the briefs submitted did not address legal issues, but instead presented allegations consisting of mostly charged narratives of harrowing personal tragedies calculated to place emotional pressure on the Court.

E. Victims (irregular application)

15. Furthermore, the Court has allowed unsolicited victims’ applications (something which, to date, has only ever happened in the context of a pre-existing “situation”) which is a totally new development. This is worrying, because the Court appears to have pre-determined or, at least, acquiesced to a procedural mechanism which would normally be subject to due process. Article 68(3) states that the Court shall permit views and concerns [of victims] to be presented and considered at stages of the proceedings ... in a manner which is not prejudicial to or inconsistent with the rights of the accused and a fair and impartial trial...”

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Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

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16. It has been made known that several groups have *de facto* joined the legal process and have filed detailed observations, without the Court even ruling whether their participation is appropriate under regulation 86 of RoC. The unauthorized and unsolicited submission of observations by these groups has had the effect of placing the Court in a difficult emotional bind. Rejection of their submissions on the grounds of a flagrant procedural irregularity would have left the ICC judges exposed to a charge of callousness.

F. Preconditions to the exercise of jurisdiction - Article 12(2)(a) of the Rome Statute

17. Myanmar categorically rejects the proposition that the Court has jurisdiction as proposed by the Prosecutor in the Request. Myanmar also disagrees with the Prosecution's assertion that population displacement across a national boundary is an essential objective element of the crime of deportation set out in Article 7(1)(d).

18. Furthermore, there is no organizational policy of the kind required for proving crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute. Such a policy would be hard to reconcile with the repatriation agreement signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh in November 2017, whereby both countries agreed on a short time frame for the voluntary return of all those who had left Rakhine State as a result of hostilities in the region. Myanmar and Bangladesh also signed the Terms of Reference for the Joint Working Group (JWG) and Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh ("the Physical Arrangement"). All these bilateral agreements are aimed to facilitate repatriation of verified residents of Rakhine State who crossed over to Bangladesh following the terrorist attacks in October 2016 and August 2017. There is no cap on the number to be repatriated and the process was to have commenced on 23 January 2018.

19. The Myanmar Government has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with UNDP and UNHCR on 6th June 2018. The MOU

seeks UN participation in coordinating and harmonizing humanitarian and development action in Rakhine State, and in assisting the GoM in the voluntary, safe and dignified return of the displaced persons from Rakhine State who have been duly verified as residents of Myanmar according to the Arrangement.

G. Complementarity

20. The Myanmar government has on 30th July 2018 established an independent Commission of Enquiry. The Commission consists of four members: two international members (one is the Chairperson of the Commission) and two national members. The Commission will investigate the allegations of human rights violations and related issues following the terror attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA).

Conclusion

21. For all the reasons cited above, Myanmar submits that the *Prosecution's Request for a Ruling on Jurisdiction under Article 19(3) of the Statute* is meritless and should be dismissed. ■

Union Supreme Court receives 882 criminal cases, 1,427 civil lawsuits from Jan-June

THE Supreme Court of the Union and State and Regional High Courts held their 15th coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Supreme Court's building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo delivered the opening speech at the meeting, saying that in order to strengthen the judicial sector and pave the way for a system of fair judgement free from prejudice and corruption, appropriate responsibilities have been assigned to officials throughout all levels of the state, region, district and township judicial authorities to ensure everyone carries out their duties and obligations. This is why judges should be free of prejudice and corruption in administering justice so that a judicial system the

people can trust will emerge, he said.

The Union Chief Justice said they are implementing the fifth strategic action area outlined in the Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022), which focuses on promoting efficient case management and court specializations. The nationwide legal case management programme began implementation in state and region courts on 1 August. He said this system is needed for the emergence of better high-quality justice, as well being an important index for measuring Myanmar's economic operations. Afterwards, the Union Chief Justice announced that the Supreme Court of the Union has, between 1 January and 30 June 2018, received 882 criminal cases and completed scrutinizing 852 cases; 1,427 civil lawsuits and



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo delivers the opening speech at the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

completed scrutinizing 1,323 lawsuits; 147 writs of habeas corpus and, in addition to the previous year's 26 remaining cases, have completed scrutinizing 173 writs.

The State and Region High Courts have received 3,501 criminal cases and, in addition to 20 cases from the previous year, have completed scrutinizing 3,521 cases; 2,882 civil lawsuits and have completed scrutinizing 2,521 lawsuits. The District Courts have received 10,870 criminal cases and completed scrutinizing 9,428 cases; 6,805 civil lawsuits and finished scrutinizing 5,406 lawsuits.

Township Courts have received 155,828 criminal cases and have completed scrutinizing 149,275 cases; 15,461 civil lawsuits and have completed scrutinizing 12,257 lawsuits. Concerning the other courts constituted by law, the juvenile courts (Yangon and Mandalay) have received 164 lawsuits filed with the Child Law and, in addition to 10 cases from the previous year, have completed scrutinizing 174 lawsuits. The courts to try municipal offences (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay) have received 9,956 lawsuits filed with the Municipal Act and have completed scrutinizing 9,945

lawsuits. The courts to try traffic offences (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay) have received 58,594 lawsuits filed for violation of vehicle rules and road discipline and have completed scrutinizing them.

Attending the coordination meeting were Supreme Court judges, Chief Justices of the High Court of Regions and States, permanent secretaries, directors-general, deputy directors-general and directors, and state and regional legal personnel. The coordination meeting will continue till 11 August (tomorrow).—Myanmar News Agency ■

Bangladesh Foreign Minister arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

A DELEGATION led by Bangladesh Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Bangladesh Minister and his delegation were welcomed by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu, Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor U Win

Kyaw Aung, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Manjurul

Karim Khan Chowdhury and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and mosques were levelled by the quake, which struck on Sunday as evening prayers were being said across the Muslim-majority island. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indonesia quake toll jumps to 164, survivors wait for aid

MATARAM (West Nusa Tenggara) (Indonesia) — The devastating earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok was “exceptionally destructive” and wiped out entire villages in the worst-hit regions, relief agencies warned as the death toll jumped to more than 160 on Thursday.

Relief efforts have yet to reach parts of the island four days after the quake hit, Indonesian authorities said, as hopes fade of finding further survivors among the wreckage.

“There are still some evacuees that have not yet been touched by aid, especially in North Lombok and West Lombok,” national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho tweeted Thursday.

A total of 164 people were now confirmed dead in the quake, Nugroho told AFP, with a further 1,400 seriously injured and more than 150,000 displaced.

Local authorities, international relief groups and the central government have begun organising aid, but shattered roads have slowed efforts to reach survivors in the mountainous north of Lombok, which bore the brunt of the quake.

“We are still waiting for assessments from some of the more remote areas in the north of the island, but it is already clear that Sunday’s earthquake was exceptionally destructive,” Christopher Rassi, the head of a Red Cross assessment team on Lombok, said in a statement.

“I visited villages yesterday that were completely collapsed.”

Tens of thousands of homes, businesses and mosques were levelled by the quake, which struck on Sunday as evening prayers were being said across the Muslim-majority island.

There are fears that two collapsed mosques in north Lombok had been filled with worshippers.

Rescuers have found three bodies and also managed to pull one man alive from the twisted wreckage of one mosque in Lading Lading village, while at least one body has been spotted under the rubble in Pemenang.

Authorities are gathering information from family members with missing relatives to determine how many more people may have been in the buildings when they collapsed, national search and rescue agency spokesman Yusuf Latif told AFP.

Waiting for aid

Across much of the island, a popular tourist destination, once-bustling villages have been turned into virtual ghost towns.

Many frightened villagers are staying under tents or tarpaulins dotted along roads or in parched rice fields, and makeshift medical facilities have been set up to treat the injured.

Evacuees in some encampments say they are running out of food, while others are suffering psychological trauma af-

ter the powerful quake, which struck just one week after another tremor surged through the island and killed 17.

There is a dire need for medical staff and “long-term aid”, especially food and medicine in the worst-hit areas, government officials said. Some evacuees have complained of being ignored or experiencing long delays for supplies to arrive at shelters.

“There has been no help at all here,” said 36-year-old Multazam, staying with hundreds of others under tarpaulins on a dry paddy field outside West Pemenang village.

“We have no clean water, so if we want to go to the toilet we use a small river nearby,” he said, adding they needed food, bedding and medicine.

The Indonesian Red Cross said it had set up 10 mobile clinics in the north of the island.

A field hospital has also been established near an evacuation centre catering to more than 500 people in the village of Tanjung.

Kurniawan Eko Wibowo, a doctor at the field hospital, said most patients had broken bones and head injuries.

“We lack the infrastructure to perform operations because (they) need to be performed in a sterile place,” Wibowo told AFP.

Aid groups say children are particularly vulnerable, with many sleeping in open fields and suffering illnesses from lack of warm clothing and blankets. —AFP ■

Typhoon Shanshan clips Japan coast, sparing Tokyo

TOKYO — Typhoon Shanshan clipped Japan’s eastern coast on Thursday morning, sparing Tokyo but bringing heavy rain, strong winds and high waves to some areas along the Pacific coast.

The fierce storm system was expected to begin moving away from land after brushing Japan’s main island, the country’s meteorological agency said.

But authorities urged residents to stay on alert as the slow-moving typhoon could still trigger landslides and flooding.

Shanshan was around 150 kilometres (90 miles) northeast of Tokyo off the coast of Mito City at 0100 GMT, the meteorological agency said.

Four people have been injured by the storm, but there have been no reports of major damage, the disaster management agency said. More than 2,000 people evacuated their homes by early Thursday, with Shanshan still packing gusts of up to 180 kilometres per hour (112 mph).

Its approach towards the greater Tokyo area on Wednesday sparked fears the busy morning commute in the capital could be disrupted on Thursday.



Typhoon Shanshan. **PHOTO:AFP**

But the worst of the storm’s weather had subsided in Tokyo by the morning, leaving behind clouds without major rain and winds.

The typhoon is the latest weather front to batter Japan, which has been sweating through a deadly record heat-wave that claimed 124 lives last month.

Heavy rain also devastated central and western parts of the country in July, causing flooding and landslides that killed more than 200 people.—AFP ■

Xi’s special envoy attends Colombian presidential

BOGOTA — Chinese President Xi Jinping’s special envoy Li Xiaopeng, also the transport minister, attended the Colombian presidential inauguration and met with the new president, Ivan Duque, here on Tuesday.

Li conveyed Xi’s warm congratulations and good wishes to Duque, and said that China and Colombia are facing an unprecedented historical opportunity to strengthen cooperation.

China is ready to join efforts with Colombia to prioritize political guidance, tap bilateral cooperation potential, boost cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative in such areas as trade and economy, energy and mining, infrastructure

construction, agriculture and innovation, promote exchanges and mutual learning on civilization and step up coordination on multilateral affairs, so as to keep pushing China-Colombia relations to new levels, Li said.

Duque thanked Xi for sending an envoy to the inauguration.

Colombia has attached great importance to its relations with China and treated the development of the bilateral ties as a priority of its foreign policy, Duque said, adding that his country is willing to strengthen exchanges with China on governance, deepen cooperation in various areas, and push for the sustained development of bilateral relations.—Xinhua ■

Ten ways climate change can make wildfires worse

PARIS — As out-of-control wildfires ravage large swathes of Portugal, Spain and northern California, AFP talked to scientists about the ways in which global warming can amplify the problem.

Other factors have fuelled a sharp increase in the frequency and intensity of major fires, including human encroachment on wooded areas, and dodgy forest management.

“The patient was already sick,” in the words of David Bowman, a professor of environmental change biology at the University of Tasmania and a wildfire expert. “But climate change is the accelerant.”



Wildfires have caused devastation in parts of Portugal. PHOTO: AFP

Fine weather for a fire

Any firefighter can tell you the recipe for “conductive fire weather”: hot, dry and windy. No surprise, then, that many of the tropical and temperate regions devastated by a surge in forest fires are those predicted in climate models to see higher temperatures and more droughts.

“Besides bringing more dry and hot air, climate change — by elevating evaporation rates and drought prevalence — also creates more flammable ecosystems,” noted Christopher Williams, director of environmental sciences at Clark University in Massachusetts.

In the last 20 years, southern France and Portugal have seen three or four droughts of a magnitude that used to occur only

once a century.

More fuel

Dry weather means more dead trees, shrubs and grass — and more fuel for the fire.

“All those extremely dry years create an enormous amount of desiccated biomass,” said Michel Vennetier, an engineer at France’s National Research of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (IRSTEA). “That’s an ideal combustible.”

Change of scenery

To make matters worse, new species better adapted to semi-arid conditions grow in their place.

“Plants that like humidity have disappeared, replaced by more flamma-

ble plants that can withstand dry conditions, like rosemary, wild lavender and thyme,” said Vennetier. “The change happens quite quickly.”

Thirsty plants

With rising mercury and less rain, water-stressed trees and shrubs send roots deeper into the soil, sucking up every drop of water they can to nourish leaves and needles. That means the moisture in the earth that might have helped to slow a fire sweeping through a forest or garrigue is no longer there.

Longer season

In the northern hemisphere’s temperate zone, the fire season was historically short — July and Au-

gust, in most places.

“Today, the period susceptible to wildfires has extended from June to October,” said IRSTEA scientist Thomas Curt, referring to the Mediterranean basin.

In California, which only recently emerged from a five-year drought, some experts say there’s no longer a season at all — fires can happen year-round.

More lightning

“The warmer it gets, the more lightning you have,” said Mike Flannigan, a professor at the University of Alberta, Canada and director of the Western Partnership for Wildland Fire Science. “Especially in the northern areas, that translates into more fires.”

Worldwide, he notes,

95 percent of wildfires are started by humans.

Weakened jet stream

Normal weather patterns over North America and Eurasia depend heavily on the powerful, high-altitude air currents — produced by the contrast between polar and equatorial temperatures — known as the jet stream.

But global warming has raised temperatures in the Arctic twice as fast as the global average, weakening those currents.

“We are seeing more extreme weather because of what we call blocked ridges, which is a high-pressure system in which air is sinking, getting warmer and drier along the way,” said Flannigan.

“Firefighters have

known for decades that these are conducive to fire activity.” One of these blocked ridges, he added, will be parked over the Pacific Northwest for the next ten days, according to forecasts.

Unmanageable intensity

Climate change not only boosts the likelihood of wildfires, but their intensity as well. “If the fire gets too intense — and we are seeing this in California right now, and saw it in Greece a few weeks ago — there is no direct measure you can take to stop it,” said Flannigan.

“It’s like spitting on a campfire.”

Beetle infestations

With rising temperatures, beetles have moved northward into Canada’s boreal forests, wreaking havoc — and killing trees — along the way. “Bark beetle outbreaks temporarily increase forest flammability by increasing the amount of dead material, such as needles,” said Williams.

Positive feedback

Globally, forests hold about 45 per cent of Earth’s land-locked carbon and soak up a quarter of human greenhouse gas emissions.

But as forest die and burn, some of the carbon is released back into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change in a vicious loop that scientists call “positive feedback.”

—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY. NO. (1802N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY. NO. (1802N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0253-478W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0253-478W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-8-2018 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING

LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0088 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0088 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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

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LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Syria's first lady treated for breast cancer



Syria's First Lady, Asma al-Assad is being treated for breast cancer in Damascus. **PHOTO: TASS**

MOSCOW — Syria's First Lady, Asma al-Assad has been admitted to a hospital in Damascus after being diagnosed with incipient breast cancer, the Presidential Office twittered on Wednesday.

A photo uploaded in Twitter showed President Bashar al-Assad visiting his spouse at a hos-

pital ward.

Official reports on Mrs. Assad's disease were followed by numerous wishes of an earliest possible recovery the rank-and-file Syrians tweeted in the social media.

Asma al-Assad, 42, who was born into a Syrian family in the

UK and graduated from King's College London, enjoys popularity owing to her social activity. She supervising a program of assistance to those who suffered while fighting for homeland. Also, she provides assistance to the families of soldier who died in combat and to shelters for orphans.

One more area of her activity is promotion of young talents and organization of research internships for them in other countries, including Russia.

In addition to Syrian citizenship, Mrs. Assad has a UK passport. She worked in the field of banking and investment before marrying to Bashar Assad.

In 2008, Elle magazine called her the world's most elegant First Lady. The Assads have three children - the daughter Zein, 14, and the sons Hafez, 16, and Karim, 14. —TASS ■

Lady Gaga announces Las Vegas residency shows

LOS ANGELES — Pop diva Lady Gaga has announced a Las Vegas residency which will begin from December 28 this year.

In an official statement, the organisers said the residency, to be held at Park Theatre at the Park MGM Las Vegas resort, will offer two kinds of shows to the fans of the pop diva.

The main feature will be Lady Gaga Enigma, described as a "brand new odyssey of her

pop hits".

The other show, Lady Gaga Jazz and Piano, will feature "stripped-down versions of her hits as well as music from the Great American Songbook".

"I can't wait to share ENIGMA with all of my fans and with Las Vegas. We're creating a show unlike anything I've done before," the six-time Grammy award winner said in the statement posted on her official website. "It will be

a celebration of all that is unique and different within us. The challenges of bravery can be overcome with creativity and courage that is grown out of adversity, love and music," she added.

Gaga also posted the details of the residency, which will include 27 concerts in total -- 23 Enigma performances and four of the Jazz And Piano shows.

The pre-sale tickets will be available from 13 August.—PTI ■

Pink out of hospital, cancels another Sydney show

SYDNEY—American pop star Pink has been discharged from an Australian hospital after being treated for an "excruciating" gastric virus, but has cancelled another Sydney concert scheduled for Thursday while she recovers.

The singer pulled out of a show in Sydney last Friday before battling through a Saturday performance.

But she was rushed to hospital the next day, suffering from dehydration and a virus, with two further concerts called off.

Pink told her 4.7 million Instagram followers: "About 20 minutes before I left for the

soundcheck, I was rushed to the hospital, in excruciating pain.

"I was discharged from hospital last night, and am following doctors orders of liquids and rest," she added.

On Wednesday, after being discharged, she announced the cancellation of Thursday's performance but vowed to be back on stage at the weekend.

The singer of "Just Give Me a Reason" and "Get the Party Started" said her shows were physically demanding and she needed to be in peak condition.

"I think all of you deserve the full show and me at my

best," she told her huge Australian fan base. —AFP ■



The singer of 'Just Give Me a Reason' and 'Get the Party Started' said her shows were physically demanding and she needed to be in peak condition. **PHOTO: AFP**

Oscars to add 'best popular film' award, shorten gala

LOS ANGELES — Organizers of the Oscars -- under fire for plummeting ratings and accused of elitism -- on Wednesday announced the creation of a new category to honor top blockbusters and said they would shorten the ceremony to attract more viewers.

"Change is coming to the Oscars," tweeted the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which has traditionally put together the glittering awards gala each year in late February or early March.

Earlier this year, the 90th Oscars on 4 March lasted nearly four hours, and posted all-time low television ratings with 26.5 million viewers.

For 2019, organizers are hoping to produce a "more accessible" three-hour show -- by presenting some of the awards during commercial breaks, Academy president John Bailey and chief executive officer Dawn Hudson told members.

Edited excerpts of those presentations will then be shown during the broadcast.

They will also create a new award for "outstanding achievement in popular film" -- a response to accusations that for the past decade or more, the Academy has honored arthouse fare only seen



There will soon be a new Oscar statuette up for grabs -- "best popular film". **PHOTO: AFP**

by limited audiences.

The Academy did not offer specifics about how the category will be defined.

The final reform will be to hold the ceremony earlier in the calendar year -- in 2020, it will shift to 9 February. In 2019, the date already set -- 24 February -- will be maintained.

Industry observers have complained that sometimes, the Oscars come nearly two months after the Golden Globes, making Tinseltown's awards season a marathon of gowns, glitz -- and stress.

"We have heard from many of you about improvements needed to keep the Oscars and our Academy relevant in a changing world," Bailey and Hudson said in a letter to members, a copy of which was sent to AFP.

"The board of governors took this charge seriously."

But the new measures were immediately met with criticism -- with some suggesting the new "popular film" would mean critical and box office hits like "Black Panther" might be snubbed in the race for the coveted best picture statuette.

"The last thing that the Academy should now be doing is creating a reactionary new category that is, in effect, the Popular Ghetto," said Owen Gleiberman, the chief film critic for Hollywood news outlet *Variety*.

"Instead, it should be working to take off its blinders and make more room in the big tent for every movie that comes out. That's how to win viewers back to the Oscars without trashing the essence of what movies are." —AFP ■

Crop-destroying Armyworm caterpillar detected in Asia

NEW DELHI — A caterpillar native to the Americas that has devastated crops across Africa has made its way to Asia, scientists in India said Thursday, warning of a threat to food security.

Scientists at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research said a survey had identified fall armyworm or *Spodoptera frugiperda* on more than 70 percent of maize crops examined in the Chikballapur area of southern Karnataka state, the first time the armyworm has been spotted in Asia.

In addition to maize, the pest can devour more than 180 plant species including rice, cotton and sugar cane, according to the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), a not-for-profit group.

A.S. Vastrad, a scientist with the University of Agriculture Sciences, said the yellowish-brown caterpillar had the potential to spread rapidly to India's neighbouring states and countries.

"The female lays eggs very rapidly and the pest has already

entered two more Indian states, Tamil Nadu and Telangana," he told AFP.

The pest was first detected in Africa in 2016 and has since spread to more than 40 African countries causing massive destruction to maize, a staple food crop essential for food security in large areas of Africa and Asia.

It is likely that the armyworm arrived in India through human-aided transport after slipping through regulatory systems.

Natural migration is also a possibility as the moth can fly



Armyworm caterpillar devours plant species, including maize, rice, cotton and sugar cane, and has devastated crops across Africa.

PHOTO: AFP

hundreds of kilometres in one night on prevailing winds.

"Rapid action is necessary as the pest has the potential to spread to other Asian countries

owing to suitable climatic conditions and the prominent cultivation of maize in the region," CABI said in a report on its website.—AFP ■

Bright object observed over West Siberia could be part of space debris, says scientist

YEKATERINBURG — A bright object observed by urban dwellers in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region-Yugra in West Siberia in the evening of 4 August could have been part of space debris, Associate Professor of the Urals Federal University Mikhail Larionov told TASS on Wednesday.

Social network users in towns of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region-Yugra posted several videos in the evening of 4 August 4 showing several illuminating objects, after which they presumed this could be a meteorite. The regional branch of Russia's Emergencies Ministry later told TASS it had not received any information from local residents that the fall of the objects had triggered any consequences.

The trajectory of the bright

object was later analyzed by scientists of the Urals Federal University.

"The trajectory of the object's fall is quite flat and its speed is quite slow. Proceeding from this, it can be presumed that space debris was burning up. The well-known bolides, for example, the Chelyabinsk fireball [in the Urals] or the Ozerki meteorite whose fragments were found in the Lipetsk Region [in west Russia] looked differently by their characteristics. For example, the speed of meteorites' fall is 10-70km/s while the speed of the downfall of a satellite is about 2-8 km/s," Larionov said.

Researchers of the Urals Federal University have extensive experience in the search for meteorite substances both in Russia and abroad.

The first searches for meteorites outside Russia were organized as part of the 61st Russian Antarctic expedition from December 2015 to January 2016 on the territory of Queen Maud Land in the Antarctic. In 2017, trips were organized to the Dasht-e-Lut desert in Iran and the Atacama Desert in Chile. This year, scientists are planning to visit the Gobi Desert in Mongolia.

The Urals Federal University has set up a specialized laboratory, Extra Terra Consortium, which now holds leading positions in the study of space substances.

Besides, the Urals Federal University plans to open the first Master's degree program this year to specialize in "Instruments and Methods of Space Mineralogy."—Tass ■



A Russian university has set up a laboratory, which now holds leading positions in the study of space substances. PHOTO: TASS

Giant prehistoric shark teeth unearthed in Australia

SYDNEY — Australian paleontologists said on Thursday that they have uncovered a set of teeth from a giant prehistoric shark, the first fossil of its kind in the country and one of three in the world.

"These teeth are of international significance, as they represent one of just three associated groupings of *Carcharocles angustidens* teeth in the world, and the very first set to ever be discovered in Australia," Erich Fitzgerald, senior curator at the Museums Victoria public museums group, said in a statement on Thursday.

The Great Jagged Narrow-Toothed Shark could grow to more than nine meters long, almost twice the length of today's Great White Shark, about 25 million years ago and was a top predator that would have hunted small whales.

Fossil enthusiast Philip Mullaly first spotted the teeth, up to seven cm long, at Jan Juc along Victoria state's Surf Coast area, leading paleontologists to exca-

vate the site up till early this year, according to the museum group.

"I was walking along the beach looking for fossils, turned and saw this shining glint in a boulder and saw a quarter of the tooth exposed.

I was immediately excited, it was just perfect and I knew it was an important find that needed to be shared with people," said Mullaly.

The paleontologists also discovered teeth from the smaller sixgill shark species which might have fed on the carcass of their much larger cousin, making the Jan Juc spot one of the country's most important fossil sites, "as it continues to provide us with unique insights into the deep history of Australia's marine life including whales, dolphins, sharks and countless smaller marine animals," said the museum group.

The find of 45 shark teeth have been put on display at the Melbourne Museum in the state capital. —Xinhua ■

China's animal, bio-safety lab in operation

BEIJING — A high-level animal and biological safety laboratory was put into use Tuesday, according to *Science and Technology Daily* Wednesday.

Independently designed, constructed, and managed by China, the lab will conduct experiments on animals carrying infectious diseases.

Supported by Harbin Veterinary Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Agricultur-

al Sciences, the lab will conduct animal infection experiments on horses, cattle, sheep, poultry, mice, and monkeys, said the newspaper. The construction of the lab started in 2012 and was completed in 2015. The lab is expected to improve the country's abilities in prevention and research of severe infectious diseases. It will also provide support for the animal breeding industry and public health safety.—Xinhua

Man Utd aim to defy Mourinho's doubts in Premier League opener

MANCHESTER — Manchester United have to defy their own manager Jose Mourinho's fears for a season of doom and gloom when they kick off the Premier League campaign against Leicester City on Friday.

Mourinho has repeatedly called for more backing in the transfer market if United are to close the record 19-point gap they trailed Manchester City by last season despite finishing second in the table.

Instead, the Portuguese's mood has been further soured by seeing another fierce rival Liverpool steal a march with a £170-million (\$220 million) splurge on new signings.

"If we don't make our team better it will be a difficult season for us," Mourinho warned earlier this week, so far to no avail ahead of Thursday's transfer deadline.

After securing the signatures of Brazilian international midfielder Fred and Portuguese teenage full-back Diogo Dalot early in the window, strengthening his centre-back options has been Mourinho's priority.

Yet, United could end up facing one of



Jose Mourinho has predicted a "difficult" season for Manchester United due to a lack of signings. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mourinho's top targets in Harry Maguire at Old Trafford, with Leicester reportedly holding out for a world-record fee for a defender to land one of England's heroes from a run to the World Cup semi-finals.

Maguire and Leicester's main goal threat, Jamie Vardy, may not start having

just returned to pre-season training this week after their exertions in Russia.

United shorthanded

But United are even more shorthanded by the quick turnaround between the World Cup and the start of the new season.

Romelu Lukaku, Marcus Rashford,

Phil Jones and Victor Lindelof were all praised by Mourinho for cutting short their holidays to return to training and be in the frame to play a part on Friday.

Paul Pogba did not follow suit as the French World Cup winner's frosty relationship with Mourinho has sparked interest from Barcelona.

But Mourinho must finally get the best from his star midfielder and Alexis Sanchez to avoid his third season in charge turning sour as it did in his second spell at Chelsea and Real Madrid.

Mourinho was sacked by Chelsea in December 2015 with the then-Premier League champions languishing in 16th, just one point above the relegation places.

Likewise in his final campaign in the Spanish capital in 2012/13, Mourinho clashed with a number of senior players in a trophyless season.

The ingredients appear to be in place for another Mourinho meltdown should United get off to a bad start and he believes even the scheduling of his side's opening fixture has made his task even harder. —AFP ■

Tiger still excites rivals as 100th PGA showdown looms

ST. LOUIS (Missouri) — Ten years after his last major victory and five years since his last triumph, Tiger Woods is back on the prowl and a new generation of rivals couldn't be more thrilled.

When 98 of the

world's 100 top players tee off Thursday in the 100th PGA Championship at Bellerive Country Club, there will be more than a few who hope to live out a boyhood dream and battle the 14-time major champion for glory on Sunday.

"He's still Tiger," said Britain's 27-year-old Tommy Fleetwood. "For guys from my generation that would have grown up with Tiger in his prime, how many people get the chance to be in contention or play against Tiger Woods on a final day of a major when he was the guy you watched. He was the hero."

Woods is only eight months into his comeback from spinal

fusion surgery after missing most of the past two seasons with severe back pain that had him wondering if he might ever play again.

"Just for me to be able to have this opportunity again is a dream come true," Woods said. "I didn't know if I could do this again, and lo and behold, here I am."

"So just coming back and being able to play at this level and compete, I've had my share of chances to win this year as well, hopefully I'll get it done this week."

Woods, ranked 51st, has not won a major title since the 2008 US Open and has not won any event since the 2013 WGC Bridgestone Invitational.

Woods briefly led the British Open on Sunday but shared sixth last month at Carnoustie, while Fleetwood shared 12th.

"It's something very special for quite a large number of players at the moment that he's had his comeback and he's playing well and we have that chance really, we could eventually be playing with Tiger on a Sunday coming down the stretch," Fleetwood said. —AFP ■



Myanmar's Pyae Phyo Aung leaps up to intercept an elevated kick during yesterday's AFF U-16 semifinal match at Delta Sidoarjo Stadium. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar beaten by Thailand in AFF U-16 Championship semifinal

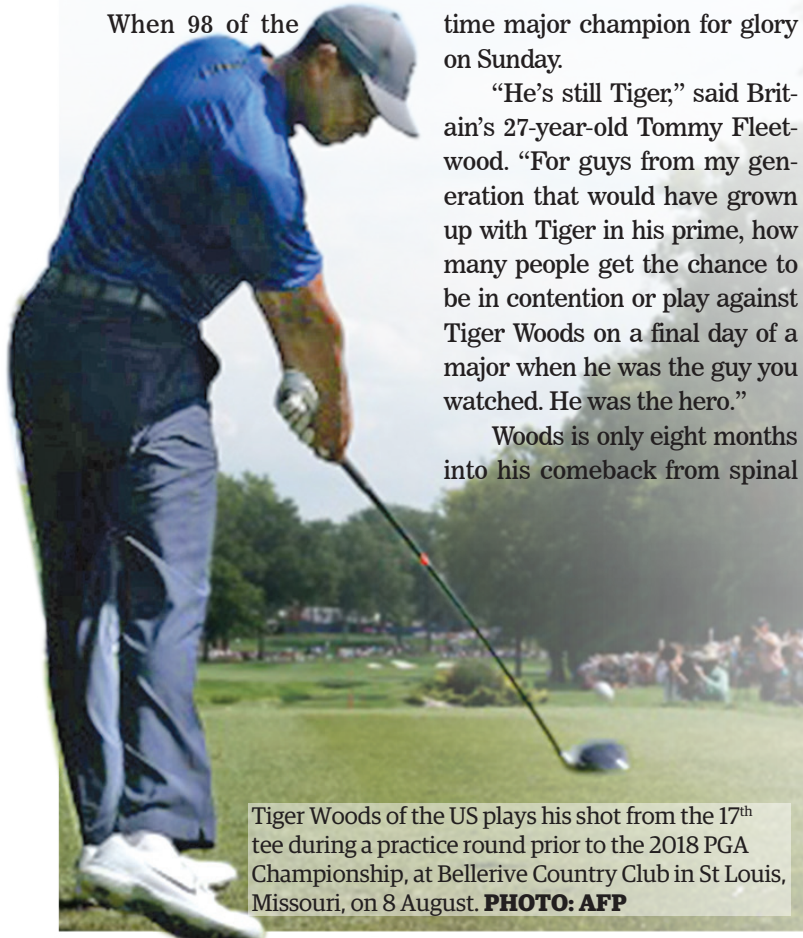
ALONE goal scored from Thanarin Thumsen early in the second half was enough to place Thailand U-16 national football team in the final of the AFF Under-16 Championship 2018, after their 1-0 win over Myanmar U-16 national football team in yesterday's semi-final, which was played at the Delta Sidoarjo Stadium in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Myanmar lined up with Kaung Khant Kyaw, Thaw Zin Htet, Nyan Lin Htet, Captain Naung Naung Soe, Aung Ko Oo, Pyae Phyo Aung, La Min Htwe, Shin That Aung, Yan Kyaw Soe, Khum Kyaw Zin Hein and Goal Keeper Nay Lin Htet.

Myanmar forced play at the start with smart tackling, but Thailand became the aggressor with a strong, sustained attack. The first half ended with scoreless draw with both teams' to and fro efforts. But the match intensified in the second half with better play by Thailand.

Taking advantage of Myanmar's ragged defence line, Thailand scored a single or the winning goal in the early minutes of the second half, with a quick action by Thai's footballer Thanarin Thumsen, combined with the support of his team midfielder teammates.

Myanmar tried to equalize the goal, but all efforts were blunted with some uncertainty by Myanmar's young attackers who could not muster a goal. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Tiger Woods of the US plays his shot from the 17th tee during a practice round prior to the 2018 PGA Championship, at Bellerive Country Club in St Louis, Missouri, on 8 August. **PHOTO: AFP**