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Establishing the Federal Union

Establishing the Federal Union and achieving the democratic standards anticipated by the government will take time and can only be done step by step. However, our ultimate goal to establish a Democratic Federal Union is unwavering.

At the second meeting of the 21st Century Panglong (Union Peace Conference), an agreement was in fact reached on matters regarding the right to self-determination and the formulation of state constitutions. However, after reaching agreement, this had to be set aside. Just as non-secession is important, it is equally important to join hands together to build up a Federal Union.

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

State Counsellor arrives in Japan to attend 10th Mekong-Japan Summit

AT the invitation of Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Nay Pyi Taw for Japan yesterday morning to attend the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit and to hold bilateral talks. The State Counsellor and delegation arrived in Tokyo at 6:00 pm local time.

The delegation led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, Japanese Charge' d' affaires a.i. Mr. Toru Maeda, and officials.

The delegation comprises Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaug Tun, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for the Office of the President U Min Thu, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung, senior officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials.



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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at Haneda Airport to attend the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit in Tokyo. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses opening ceremony of e-Government Forum 2018

VICE President U Myint Swe in his capacity as e-Government Steering Committee Chairman addressed the opening ceremony of e-Government Forum 2018, organized by the Myanmar Computer Federation, at MICT Park, Hline University campus, Yangon, yesterday morning.

Present at the opening ceremony were e-Government Steering Committee Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo, regional ministers, Hluttaw representatives, ambassadors and diplomats, departmental heads, officials from e-Government Steering Committee, e-Government implementation committee and sub-committees, patrons, chairmen, vice-chairmen and members of Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF), Myanmar Computer Professionals Association (MCPA), Myanmar Computer Industry Association (MCIA), rectors and professors from computer universities, departmental officials, experts and invited guests.

MCF President U Khun Oo first delivered a message of greeting. Following this, the Vice President addressed the meeting and said it is a pleasure and an honor to speak at the e-Government Forum held under the theme of "Road to Digital Government" and to inform the people about establishing an e-Government that would be beneficial for the Myanmar people's socio-economic development.

e-Government is a management system of government information and is a two-way communication, transferring of information and provision of service between government organizations, between government and business persons, be-



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers an opening speech at the opening ceremony of e-Government Forum 2018 at MICT Park in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

tween the government and the people using ICT (information and communications technology) that helps in conducting works quickly, correctly, efficiently and cheaply. As the government will have a better management system that is transparent once e-Government using ICT is firmly established, the people will also be able to do their work more quickly and easily. Furthermore, possible avenues of corruption will be reduced, resulting in the people having more trust and confidence in the government's administrative system. Government will have to fully utilize the progressing technology to provide better and smoother service to the people continuously, said the Vice President.

For the successful implementation of an e-Government system in Myanmar, the Office of the President established the e-Government Steering Committee with executive order 14/2018 issued on 23 January 2018. The State Counsellor led the committee as patron and five key objectives were set for the committee. Likewise, the e-Government Implementation Working Committee is also formed with five objectives. The Working Committee chairman and vice-chairman are Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government and Union Minister for Transport and Communications.

On 12 June 2018, an e-ID sys-

tem work committee was formed for the Steering Committee to implement its works successfully. In addition to this, eight sub-committees were formed under e-Government Implementation Working Committee. These were Management sub-committee; Basic infrastructure system, model and design sub-committee; Purchasing and government-private cooperation sub-committee; Human Resources sub-committee; Security sub-committee; Standard setting sub-committee; Research and development sub-committee and Information and international cooperation sub-committee.

At the e-Government Steering Committee meetings, instructions were made to draw up and enact law and rules related to e-ID system that are in line with the times, establishing and using Myanmar Unicode that is according to the International Standard Organization (ISO) norms all over the country as a standard, establishing of ICT institutes and conducting works that are in line with the times and the system.

To successfully implement e-Government system, in addition to setting and conducting long term processes, short term processes that provide Quick Win Services that are highly visible for the people in a short term also need to be systematically drawn up and conducted. Therefore, to support the implementa-

tion of e-Government, Myanmar e-Governance Master Plan was drawn up with funding support of Asia Development Bank (ADB), technical support of the Government of India and studying and comparing together with government departments, ministries, business owner groups, research organizations, local and international e-Government and ICT technology experts to benefit from the good experiences of the countries of the world.

e-Government system can be effectively and quickly implemented by using Public Private Partnership (PPP) system. It is required to identify and calculate priority works that can be quickly conducted with government funds and works to be conducted in cooperation with local companies. It is believed that only local companies can conduct the e-Government system continuously and in accordance with the law.

Personnel from central organizations, union ministerial departments, Nay Pyi Taw Council, State and Region governments assigned as Chief Information Officers are to strive hard toward accomplishing their duties and responsibilities in the transition to e-Government system. If they practically use what they have learnt while striving hard toward learning new subjects, the quality and service related to e-Government will be better and smoother, while their individual capabilities develop. They are urged to explain and familiarize the people they are providing service to the e-Government system. Only then can the e-Government system be implemented quickly and successfully.

According to the UN e-Government Survey 2018, e-Government Development Index (EGDI) of Myanmar increased from 169 in 2016 to 157 in 2018 due to the development of communication sector. The increase need to be in the actual work site as well as in

the index level. That is why all are urged to work together toward the success of e-Government system in Myanmar by studying international experiences and best practices and acquire the good habit of overcoming the difficulties, said the Vice President.

The Vice President thanked the MCF and computer associations for participating under the direction of the e-Government Implementation Working Committee in the e-Government Forum, according to the guidance of e-Government Steering Committee

While MCF and computer associations are to continuously suggest and support required technologies for the socio-economic development of the people in the country, they are to transparently connect the government and private sector works and work together toward successfully implementing the e-Government system, said the Vice President.

Next e-Government Steering Committee Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung explained about the status of setting policy guidelines and norms as contained in the relevant law, in the Myanmar e-Governance Master plan, status of setting up ICT infrastructures, arrangements made to provide e-service to the people with Application Software and status of the people using the service of the government easily.

Afterwards, the Vice President posed for a commemorative group photo with forum attendees.

The second part of the forum was then continued, where group discussions under the titles "National Strategy and Framework for Digital Government," "Implementation Challenges and Opportunities for Local Industry," "Role of Private Sector in e-Government" and "Experts discussion" were conducted. Yangon region minister for Kayin ethnic affairs Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration Director General U Aung Naing Oo, e-Government Steering Committee member MCF patrons U Thaung Tin and U Thein Oo, MCF President U Khun Oo, e-Government Basic infrastructure system, model and design sub-committee chairman U Soe Thein, MCIA patron U Tin Win Aung, invited guests and experts participated in the discussions. —MNA ■



Panel session at the e-Government Forum 2018 titled, "Implementation Challenges and Opportunities for Local Industry," in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

State Counsellor arrives in Japan to attend 10th Mekong-Japan Summit

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When they arrived at Bangkok at 8:30 am on their way to Japan, the delegation was welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than and wife, Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Khin Zaw and staff of the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok.

Upon arrival at the Haneda

Airport in Tokyo, the delegation led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was welcomed by Mr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Thurein Thant Zin, Myanmar military attaché Brig-Gen Saw Min and officials of the Myanmar Embassy. — MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General receives UNICEF Country Representative



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with UNICEF Country Representative Ms. June Kunugi at the Union Attorney-General Office yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION ATTORNEY-GENERAL U Tun Tun Oo received UNICEF Country Representative Ms. June Kunugi and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, matters relating to enacting Children's Rights Law, protecting the rights of children affected by armed conflicts, taking effective action against violators of Children's

Rights Law, approving addendum to agreement on Children's Rights, and cooperation between UNICEF and Union Attorney General Office on protecting children's rights were discussed.

Also present at the meeting were Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin, Directors-General Daw Khin Cho Ohn, U Min Swe and Dr. Thida Oo. — MNA ■

Fifth Annual Union Level Multi-Stakeholder Review for MNCDD Project held in Nay Pyi Taw

AT THE Fifth Annual Union Level Multi-Stakeholder Review for the Myanmar National Community Driven Development (MNCDD) Project held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu said urban development only is not enough in the country-wide development, as development of rural areas, where 70 per cent of population live, is the most important requirement.

The Union Minister continued and said that as an agriculture country, rural regions form the backbone of Myanmar's development and as long as the backbone is straight and strong, the country will develop in an increasing momentum. That is why priority is given toward agriculture sector development with an aim for socio-economic development of the rural populace and basic infrastructure, mainly required for socio-economic development, is being established, said the Union Minister.

Transportation and access to electricity are the most required basic infrastructure, while it is the priority requirement of rural regions. Therefore, relevant departments are fulfilling these requirements, while rural populace themselves are supporting and participating with people-centered project. People-centered pro-

jects also fulfill the country's economic policy aim of "achieving sustainable development through people-centered participation of all." In the project villages, required basic social infrastructures are selected, implemented, managed and ownership taken by the people themselves from start to finish.

Union level multi-stakeholder reviews were conducted yearly since the project was started. Year by year, implementation improves with experience gained, lessons learnt and challenges overcome from the reviews. To this year, 21,122 project sub-works were implemented in 12,011 villages with full quality and much benefit to the people. The outcomes from these implementations are the fruits of development being obtained by 7.1 million rural households.

As the effectiveness of

these reviews was proven by the experience gained from past reviews, discussions are urged to be made in a constructive way for the success of the project and to benefit the people more.

Next World Bank Program Leader Mr. Mark Austin delivered a speech and Department of Rural Development Director-General U Khant Zaw explained briefly about people-centered project.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and officials presented awards to village tracts for their performances in the fifth year of the project and observed the photo records of the project works.

Attendees of the review then conducted discussions under various themes. After these discussions, the attendees were divided into groups and conducted group discussions. —MNA ■



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu attends the Fifth Annual Union Level Multi-Stakeholder Review for the MNCDD Project. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Transfer of Head of service organization

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Daw Thway Thway Chit, Director General of Project Appraisal and Progress Reporting Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance, as Director General of Planning Department of the same ministry from the date she assumes charge of her duties. ■

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Comparison of foreign tourist entry from international airports and border gates

Sr.	International airports and border gates	September 2017		September 2018		Remark
		Tourist	Business	Tourist	Business	
1.	Yangon Airport	24570	15164	25057	16671	
2.	Mandalay Airport	4690	3092	4283	3685	
3.	Nay Pyi Taw Airport	49	357	193	282	
4.	Myeik Airport	-	-	-	-	
5.	Tachilek	141	313	426	142	
6.	Myawady	635	266	558	533	
7.	Kawthoung	575	74	59	70	
8.	Hteekhee	32	17	40	12	
9.	Tamu	-	-	152	54	
10.	Reedhorda	-	-	-	2	
Total		30693	19283	30768	21451	

Comparison of foreign tourist entry from international airports, sea ports and border gates

Sr.	Month	From April to September 2017			From April to September 2018		
		Tourist	Business	Total	Tourist	Business	Total
1.	April	34367	19605	53972	31198	20392	51590
2.	May	28446	20518	48964	29096	21425	50521
3.	June	26565	18034	44599	28844	18636	47480
4.	July	33498	20634	54132	30496	20673	51169
5.	August	34604	18922	53526	32068	19807	51875
6.	September	30693	19283	49976	30768	21451	52219
Total		188173	116996	305169	182470	122384	304854

MIC, JICA to hold Ayeyawady Region investment fair

THE Ayeyawady Region Investment Fair will be held at Yamonnar Oo Resort Hotel, Ngwe Saung Beach, Patheingyi Township on November 30, and December 1, 2018.

Ayeyawady Region Investment Fair is jointly held by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Ayeyawady Region government.

At the event, officials from the government and leading people from private sector will hold panel discussions and keynote speeches. Also, they will present the findings of Ayeyawady Region Investment Opportunity Survey. Booths of Patheingyi Industrial City, local industries

and development projects will be displayed for potential investors. The fair will also conduct business-to-business matching between local entrepreneurs and foreign investors.

Additionally, there will be site visit tours on 1 December to destinations near Ngwe Saung Beach, Patheingyi Industrial City and Industrial Zone near Patheingyi and some potential investment areas.

Ayeyawady Region accounts for 28 per cent of the country's rice production. Also, it can bring many investment opportunities as the region is rich in land, water resources and beautiful resorts.

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is holding

investment fairs in order to spur development more evenly among all states and regions.

The DICA has been meeting both local and international investors to explain the latest developments, such as the recent enactment of the new Myanmar Investment Law and new opportunities available for investments.

According to the new Myanmar Investment Law, the investors who finance in undeveloped regions will be given tax exemption as an incentive.

Moreover, regional and state investment committees have been granting permission to local and foreign investments which do not exceed an initial investment of Ks6 billion or US\$ 5 million. —GNLM ■

Experts from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia conduct talks in Yangon Dental University

WITH an aim for a sustained development and dissemination of dental science, three experts from Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia conducted talks on dental subjects, under the arrangement of International Team for Implantology. The talks were attended by dental university teachers, post graduate students and interested persons.— MNA ■

Union Minister: food safety depends on unity of all supply chain stakeholders

By May Thet Hnin

ALL stakeholders in food supply chain need to come together in planning for food safety practices to create a quality life, said Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports at a discussion under the titles “Moving Forward in Food Safety”, held at UMFCCI office tower.

“Manufactures require to adopt good manufacturing practices as well as good storage practices. Also, they need to use quality raw materials. The ministry is raising campaigns for consumers’ awareness of food safety and promoting health literacy. Moreover, we are carrying out food safety measures in accordance with rules, regulations and guidelines. All stakeholders in food supply chain, including manufacturers, consumers and authorities, need to cooperate in this. The ministry has been assessing the market to set food safety standard and norms in order to ensure quality products in the market”, said the Union Minister.

The ministry alone cannot implement this. Concerted efforts need to be exerted by all stakeholders in food industry, including consumer associa-



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe speaking at the “Moving Forward in Food Safety” discussions in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

tions, NGOs, CBOs and CSOs, the Union Minister added.

The event was hosted by Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association and supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Health and Sports, Yangon Region government, Yangon City Development Committee, the Republic of the Un-

ion of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Consumers Union, Food Science and Technology Association and Food Industries Association.

The discussion aims to bolster food export, distribute food products in compliance with national food law and regulations., raise awareness of food safety and effectuate SME development in food chain, protect from

importation of substandard food products and disseminate food related real-time information.

Officials from government side and chair of Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association delivered keynote speeches. Related officials explained policy, rules and regulations and guidelines relating to food safety, seeking FDA certificate for food processing businesses, including export and im-

port, FDA laboratory services, food additive regulations, Good Agriculture Practices, post-harvest technology, labelling affixed on food products.

Myanmar Consumers Union, Food Science and Technology Association and Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association also discussed food safety related matters, such as technologies for assuring food quality and safety and uniformity of food safety measures in ASEAN countries.

Manufacturers play a vital role in food safety. Both responsibility and accountability are crucial in production. There is no responsibility for illegally imported goods, which can harm the public health. Therefore, the government should regulate this, said U Aye Win, chair of Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association.

The Consumer Protection Law was enacted in 2014. The National Food Law, enacted in 1997, needs to be amended. Prior to institution of labelling law, local products and imported goods are required labelling in Myanmar, according to June’s notification of the government. Details of that notification will be released within months. ■

High demand seen for Bago Region paddy

By May Thet Hnin

NEWLY-PRODUCED fresh paddy from northern Bago Region is in high demand, with daily purchase of 30,000 baskets, prompting Myanmar Rice Millers Association (MRMA) to call for effective combating illegal paddy export, said officials from MRMA.

“Even a single township can supply thousands of paddy baskets per day. More townships will be joining in the coming harvest season. Millers have to purchase tons of paddy. At that time, some paddies illegally flow out of the country through border trade routes. When that happens all the time, illegal export volume will reach to a peak level, which concerns us”, U Nay Lin Zin, general secretary of MRMA said.

Local low-grade paddy variety (Aemahta) is highly

demand. Fresh paddy fetches Ks650,000 per 100 baskets, whereas dried paddy is offered at around Ks750,000. Local millers cannot offer such a high price as they will surely not make profit in domestic market.

With excessive illegal paddy export, the country might face difficulties in reaching rice export target of 2.5 million tons in current fiscal year 2018-2019 tons, U Nay Lin Zin stressed.

Despite the country’s export restriction for paddy, China has demanded paddy at a good price for the past three years. Therefore, MRMA put forward its report to the Ministry of Commerce in 2017. Also, the government has instructed related officials to counter the illegal trade under the existing law. Nevertheless, that continues to happen, and asking millers to report again as those illegal

trade might affect the revenue of the country in certain way, said U Nay Lin Zin.

Paddy can be freely traded within the country and so, its trading in the country’s territory cannot be regulated. This being so, there are many difficulties in tracking and tracing illicit paddy trade.

Illegal paddy export threatens milling operations, which might affect the whole supply chain, including rice mill jobs and rice products and related livestock industry. Local rice price will also rise in this situation. The growing illegal trade will affect maintaining public trust and the efficiencies of administrative mechanism. Additionally, that might lead to more problems in the value-added production industry, he added.

When monsoon paddy is harvested, merchants purchase



Workers unloading sacks of rice from a ship in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

them from Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago, Mandalay and Sagaing regions to send them to border market. This could drastically affect the whole agricultural supply chain, said U Tin Aung, deputy chair of MRMA.

“China might have their own particular reason for paddy purchase when they can buy rice as

much as they want. We cannot know what specific reason of direct paddy purchase China has”, he continued.

The MRMA will report those difficulties again at the meeting between Private Sector Development Committee led by Vice President (1) and private entrepreneurs. ■

Union Minister attends closing of 69th session of UNHCR's Executive Committee

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended the closing of 69th session of UNHCR's Executive Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday.

Representatives of 141 countries attended the session, held from 1 to 5 October.

In his speech, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye briefed on consequences of the terrorist attacks in Rakhine State, returning to normalcy in the state, challenges for bringing about peaceful coexistence between the two different communities, works of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development

in Rakhine State, implementing recommendations on Rakhine State, works done in accordance with the agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar, cooperation with UNDP and UNHCR, establishment of the Independent Commission of Enquiry and efforts for accepting the returnees with human dignity.

Besides, the Union Minister held talks with leaders of the delegations to the session over cooperation for rehabilitation in Myanmar.

He also held talks with Mr. Gilles Carbonnier, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, at the head of the ICRC in Geneva.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye acknowledged the cooperation of the ICRC in Rakhine State through its Red Cross Movement after the terrorist attacks.

He also said that Myanmar is carrying out development works in Rakhine State in accordance with the policy of seeking solutions through negotiations and discussions leading to coexistence between different communities.

The Union Minister also stressed the importance of ensuring transparency in cooperation with local people and local social organizations to gain better results.

ICRC's vice-president said he took pride in carrying out humanitarian activities in Myanmar, pledging that ICRC would continue its cooperation in giving aid to people not only in Rakhine but also in Kachin and Shan.

Mr. Gilles Carbonnier said ICRC would continue its efforts for reducing landmine incidents in Myanmar.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye also met with Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director-General of the International Office for Migration-(IOM) on 4 October in Geneva and expressed thanks for IOM's assistance for disaster reducing efforts and damage and loss assessment during and after disasters.— MNA ■



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends the closing of 69th session of UNHCR's Executive Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Civil Service Board holds coord meeting (5/2018) in Nay Pyi Taw

THE university advisory group members of Central Institute of Civil Service and Civil Services Academies (CSAs) under Union Civil Service Board held a coordination meeting No. 5/2018 at the meeting hall of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, where the Union Civil Service Board Chairman Dr. Win Thein delivered a speech.

At the coordination meeting, training and teaching processes of Central Institute of Civil Service and Civil Services Academies were suggested and submitted by the university advisory group members and Union Civil Service Board Chairman Dr. Win Thein reviewed and remarked on the suggestions and submissions.

Union Civil Service Board members U Win Maw, U Than Tun, U Saw Valentine and advisory group members of Civil Services Academies, universi-

ty subject groups, permanent secretary, directors general and rectors of Civil Services Academies attended the coordination meeting.— MNA ■



Union Civil Service Board holding its coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Win Khaing holds talks with Adani Group in New Delhi, India yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister attends "The Bankers' Perspective on Renewables" discussion

UNION MINISTER for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing attended the "The Bankers' Perspective on Renewables" discussion held at India Expo Centre, New Delhi, India yesterday morning.

Next, the Union Minister discussed with Adani Group on cooperating in

electricity works.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister met with Minister of State (IC) for Power and New and Renewable Energy H.E. Mr Raj Kumar Singh and discussed bilateral cooperation and technical cooperation in renewable energy.— MNA ■

Independent Commission of Enquiry chairperson, members meet



Members of Independent Commission of Enquiry U Mya Thein and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet meet with Chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manalo. **PHOTO: MNA**

AMBASSADOR Rosario Manalo, Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson, former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines and former chair and current representative of the Philippines to CEDAW, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, former Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, former United Nations Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and

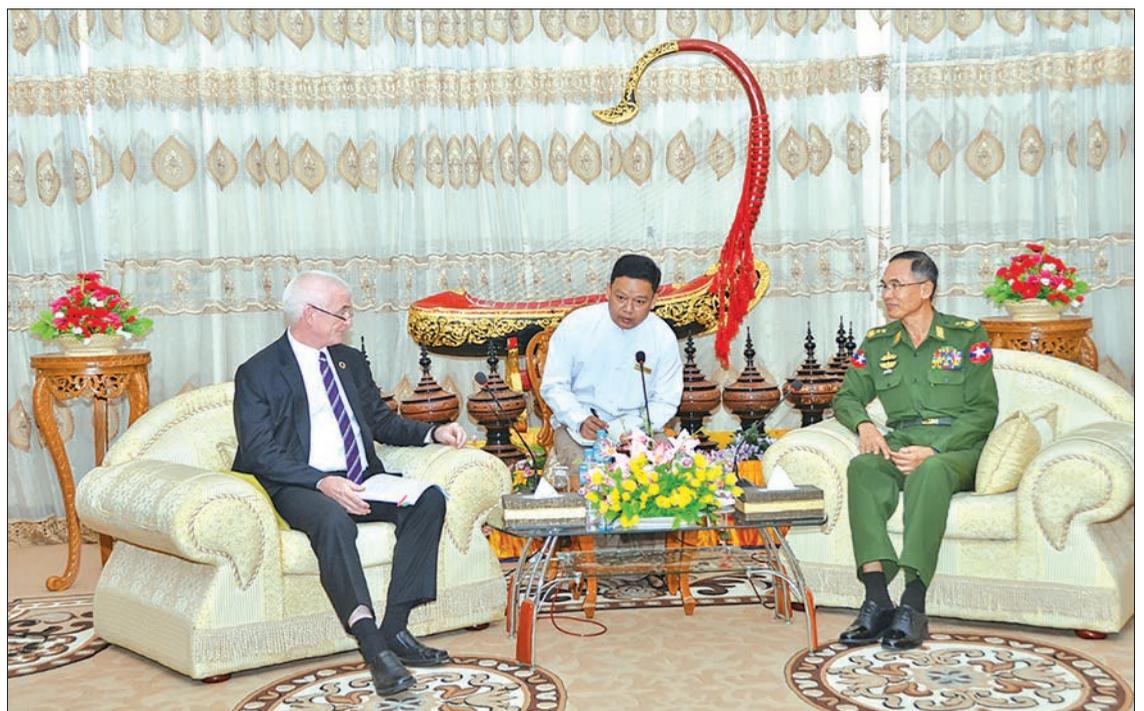
Emergency Relief Coordinator and Independent Commission of Enquiry members, U Mya Thein and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet met and discussed at Sedona Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

The government formed the Independent Commission of Enquiry to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine State.— MNA ■

Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win receives CTFMR co-chairs

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received the co-chairs of the United Nations (UN) Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Knut Ostby and UNICEF Representative in Myanmar Ms June Kunugi at the Union Minister's office in Ministry of Defence

yesterday morning. During the meeting, matters relating to preventing the recruitment of child soldiers and training on protecting children from violence were discussed. Also present at the meeting were Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khun Thant Zaw Htoo and officials.—MNA ■



Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win meets with UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Knut Ostby yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Chief Minister, Dy Minister attend Taunggyi International Trade Fair 2018 opening ceremony

AN opening ceremony of the very first trade fair in Taunggyi, held by Ministry of Commerce Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and supported by the regional government of Shan State was held at Kyauk Tine Hall, Taunggyi, yesterday morning. Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Linn Htut and Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo were present and delivered opening remarks. The trade show is aimed to create a business platform for businessmen in Shan State and

to expand business network. In the trade show, agricultural products, food and beverage, coffee, clothing, gift shops, jewelry and decorative items, traditional medicine, stationary, school supplementary, home electronics, car decorated accessories, commodities, dry machines, water-purifying machine, GPS and phone accessories, electric heated bed sheets, services and products of Shan State from over 90 booths of 7 countries were displayed.

In the ceremony, Ministers from the regional government of Shan State, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Director General U Aung Soe for Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, officials from State-Level Departments, Business Ambassadors from foreign Embassies to Myanmar, merchant associations and businessmen from respective companies were present. It was reported that this trade show will be held from 5 to 8 October.—MNA ■

Myanmar delegation to attend Asia Film Centre Roundtable in Busan, ROK

A FILM delegation left for the Republic of Korea yesterday to attend the Busan International Film Festival and Asia Film Centre Roundtable. The three-member delegation is led by U Ye Naing, Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information. AFC Roundtable is conducted by the Korean Film Council (KFC) with the aim of seeking ways for development

of films in Asian countries and promoting exchange of culture among Asian countries as part of efforts for establishing Asian Film Centre. Besides, members of the delegation including film expert Daw Swe Zin Htike will give presentation about efforts for development of film industry in Myanmar at the 2018 LINK of CINE-ASIA's Rising Asia Session conducted by Busan Film Commission.—MNA ■

Coord meeting held for Development of National Strategic Plan of the National Drug Control Policy



Police Brigadier General Win Naing delivers the speech at the coordination meeting for Development of National Strategic Plan of the National Drug Control Policy in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

A COORDINATION meeting for Development of National Strategic Plan of the National Drug Control Policy was held at Shwe San Eain Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning. Police

Brigadier General Win Naing, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) joint secretary and head of Myanmar Anti-Drug Police Force, representatives from 10 groups under

the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, senior officers from Myanmar Police Force, representatives from UNODC, experts and invited guests, totalling 55 attended the meeting. At the meeting, Police Brigadier General Win Naing delivered the opening remarks, followed by group discussion on reducing production, alternative development, international collaboration, increasing research works, to be in accord with human rights, reducing consumptions and health sector and timeline for National Strategic Plan to implement the National Drug Control Policy. The coordination meeting came to a close after Police Brigadier General Win Naing delivered a closing speech.—MNA ■



Director-General U Ye Naing and film delegation seen at the Yangon International Airport before departure for ROK to attend the Asia Film Centre Roundtable in Busan. PHOTO: MNA

National land use policy

VICE President U Henry Van Thio's speech at the National Land Use Policy Forum held recently gave a detailed depiction of how the nation handles its land resources. Land resource is without question the most fundamental natural resource for any sphere of society. Yet, it has limited availability and cannot be multiplied. Coupled with this fact, we can see how the significance of proper land resource management grows exponentially in relation to the booming world population.

In his capacity as the Chairman of the National Land Use Council, the Vice President based his presentation and discussion on the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization-(FAO)'s projection of how land resource will become more restricted as the global population continues increasing at a rapid pace.



If we comb through the country's history we shall find that there has never been a National Land Use Policy in Myanmar until 2016. As a result, there have been some problems between the public, the government, and investors or businesses.

Use Policy in Myanmar until 2016.

As a result, there have been some problems between the public, the government, and investors or businesses. The lack of statistics and accurate maps have led to dire consequences between administrators and local residents and also resulted in the appearance of squatters.

Finding a sustainable method for managing the nation's land resources is a national requirement that emerged in conjunction with the public's involvement to draft the National Land Use Policy, which was enacted in January 2016.

The enactment of this policy, which has never existed in the chronicles of Myanmar, is a true breakthrough in the country's reform of its land sector. For the objectives, guidelines and basic principles of the National Land Use Policy to be truly effective, the relevant authorities, organizations and individuals need to fully understand its contents, so that they may also fully implement it.

It is our wish, therefore, to urge everyone to have a complete comprehension of the policy, as a national obligation.

Executive organ (or) government, sovereign power in a state

By U Khin Maung (a retired diplomat)

THERE are three vital organs in a state. They are the law-making organ or the parliament, the executive organ or the government, and the judicial organ or the judiciary. As regards the term, "the government," Black's Law Dictionary has explained as follows: "Government" is the structure of principles and rules determined on how a state or organization is regulated.

"The government" is "the sovereign power in a nation or a state". "The government" is an organization through which a body of people exercise political authority, the machinery by which sovereign power is expressed.

In this sense, the term refers collectively to the political organs of a country, regardless of their function or level, and regardless of the subject matter they deal with.

And especially in the United States of America, the government is called the "Administra-

tion together with the incumbent President; for example, the Trump Administration".

From a general point of view, government may be classified into various systems. To mention just a few, governments may be classified into the monarchy, an oligarchy, democracy, dictatorship, despotism, etc. As for a democratic government, or democracy, there is a well-known definition made by Abraham Lincoln, also known as the father of freedom in US history. It reads: "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." In this definition Daniel Webster further made, varied slightly in its terms and considerably in its scope, since the latter part of the 18th

century as follows: "Democracy" means "the people's government, made for the people, made by the people, and answered to the people." In our tradition and culture, a good monarch has to follow the ten principles incumbent on him. These ten principles are: (1) charity (2) religious practice (3) benefaction (4) fairness (5) gentleness (6) keeping Sabbath (7) benevolence (8) avoidance of cruelty (9) patience (10) avoidance of conflict.

And in this modern age, there are essential ingredients of a democratically elected government or a good government, with clean governance. To mention just in essence, performing works to promote, protect, preserve and safeguard the public interests, ensuring rule of law in the government's functions and business; these are the essential and necessary ingredients.

In a sense, there should be no nepotism, no cronyism, no



over a man's self". "The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse."

"Corruption" is too wide a term to define in a single sense. But "Power tends to corrupt; and absolute power corrupts absolutely." In this sense, "Corruption is depravity, perversion or trait, an impairment of integrity, virtue or moral principle; especially the impairment of a public official's duties by bribery. Corruption is also the act of doing something with intent to give some advantage inconsistent with official duty and the right of others."

And in another sense, if a public servant of the government decides a case out of prejudice and bias, that public servant is said to be corrupted. Corruption means not only taking bribes or committing acts of bribery. If a public servant decides a case out of emotion, that is love or hate, out of anger, out of fear for his job or out of ignorance of proper law, rules and regulations, he is said to be corrupted. He is said to have committed acts of mismanagement and acts of malpractice or acts of corruption.

Applying zero tolerance policy and practice against bribery and corruption, the incumbent government's anti-corruption is taking serious legal action against its own public servants in accordance with the law. In connection with corruption, may I quote, just in essence, a few salient points

as follows: "Corruption is an evil which should be fought by all of us. It is a cancer which can exist or be removed completely only by the efforts of every member of the society. For any penny which is paid, there is one who gives and one who takes. Corruption in many cases has become a participatory venture which both the giver and the taker benefit. The only loser is the state."

Well, I have already mentioned that the incumbent government is "a democratically elected government of the people, by the people, for the people".

In a wide sense, the incumbent government is doing its utmost to become a good government with clean governance, thereby winning the hearts and minds of the people. The good government must always be together with the people. The good government must always serve the public requirements. So, the ingredients of the good government and clean governance are as follows:

- (a) accountability (b) transparency (c) rule of law (d) freedom of press (e) independence of judiciary (f) corruption-free (g) people's participation

If we assess and evaluate the incumbent government, how well, how effectively and how actively it is working during its over two years in office, I, a retiree, a nonentity, believe that our government is doing a good job of what they have to do. So,

our government is winning the hearts and minds of the people as a good government, with clean governance. Well, as we know, governments may come and governments may go, but a good government will remain in the heart and history of a nation forever. A good government is remembered not by the years it stayed in office, but for the years it used for the welfare of the people.

In this article, I would like to quote a few salient points from the message extended by His Excellency, U Win Myint, our President, on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2018.

The President's message on the theme of the International Day of Democracy fits perfectly with Myanmar's current context of democratic reform process.

"This year marks the eighth anniversary of the celebration of the International Day of Democracy in Myanmar. In other words, it can be said that our country has undergone democratic transition for eight years. In a democratic society government is a basic entity existed together with political parties, civil societies, other associations and the media.

Therefore, they all bear the responsibility to oversee in order to maintain and strengthen democracy. If we fulfill our own responsibility, the significance of the theme "over-sight" will become meaningful.

Democracy is endowed with Justice, Freedom and Equality. Democracy also leads to peace and development of a country and prosperity for its people. Moreover, democracy guarantees the right to live, freedom and happiness. Democracy system is based on the theory that 'democratic government is to serve the people and the people not to serve the government.'

Therefore, on the International Day of Democracy, may I convey this message and my best wishes for all ethnic nationals to be able to strive together with collective strength of the people to bring about a united and harmonious society in the spirit of mutual understanding, respect, trust and amity as well as for successful building of a Democratic Federal Union."

In conclusion, please permit me to convey my highest regards and profound respects to the democratically elected incumbent government of the people, by the people, for the people and wish it every brilliant success together with the people.

References:
(1) *A book of essential quotations, Eric Patridge*
(2) *Law and custom in Burma and the Burmese Family, Dr. Maung Maung*
(3) *Black's Law Dictionary, Bryan A. Garner*
(4) *The Global New Light of Myanmar, 15 September 2018*

Three Organs

- Every country has 3 organs
 - Legislative Organ (Legislation)
 - Judicial Organ (Judicial Action)
 - Administrative Organ (Administrative Role)

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 16:45 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 16) miles east of Paukkhaung), latitude 18.93°N, longitude 95.79°E, depth (10) kilometers about (42) miles west of Taungoo seismological observatory was recorded at (16)hr (13)min (19)sec MST on 5 October 2018.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Friday 5 October 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, Southwest monsoon has been withdrawn from the Southern Myanmar area (over the whole country). Weather has been partly cloudy in Eastern Shan State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Region, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon regions, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Magway Region and isolated heavy falls in Bago Region and Northern Shan State. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Hsipaw (3.73)inches, Pyay (3.18)inches, Saw (2.41)inches, Gyobingauk (2.06)inches, Machanbaw (1.97) inches, Kyaukme (1.89)inches, Nyaungshwe (1.61)inches and Kyaukhtu (1.56)inches.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 6 October 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in (Northern and Southern)Shan State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi regions, Kachin and Kayah states and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (2 - 5)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of rain or thundershowers in Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 October 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay regions.

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Australian Defence Minister Marise Payne (far l) and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop (2nd from R) shake hands with their Japanese counterparts, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (2nd from l) and Defence Minister Tomomi Inada, after a press conference as the two countries held “two-plus-two” talks in Tokyo on 20 April, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Japan, Australia to hold foreign, defence ministers’ talks on Wednesday

TOKYO — The foreign and defence ministers of Japan and Australia will hold talks in Sydney next Wednesday to deepen security ties and cooperation over regional issues such as North Korea, Japan’s Foreign Ministry said Friday.

At the “two-plus-two” meeting, the countries are expected to

discuss possible joint exercises by Japan’s Self-Defence Forces and the Australian military as well as how to respond to North Korea, which has been evading UN sanctions through ship-to-ship transfers of goods at sea.

From Japan, Foreign Minister Taro Kono and Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya will attend

the meeting.

After visiting Australia, Kono will travel on to East Timor and New Zealand to strengthen bilateral ties and seek coordination over regional issues in the Indo-Pacific region, according to the ministry. He will return to Japan on 16 October. —Kyodo News ■

Toyota announces new recall of 2.4 million hybrid cars

TOKYO — Japanese car giant Toyota said Friday it is recalling more than 2.4 million hybrid cars over a fault that could cause crashes, just a month after another recall affecting hybrids.

The firm in September said it was recalling more than one million hybrid cars globally after uncovering a technical problem that could cause fires.

The latest recall affects several models of Toyota’s Prius and its Auris hybrid vehicles produced between October 2008 and November 2014, with more than a million of the affected cars in Japan.

Another 830,000 are in North America, 290,000 in Europe, 3,000 in China, and the rest in other parts of the world.

In a statement, Toyota said the cars involved in the recall had already been involved in previous recalls in 2014 and 2015, but “the remedy conducted then did not anticipate the new condition identified in

this recall.”

The problem identified arises when the cars fail to enter “failsafe driving mode as intended.”

“If this occurs, the vehicle could lose power and stall. While power steering and braking would remain operational, a vehicle stall while driving at higher speeds could increase the risk of a crash,” Toyota said.

Japan’s transportation ministry said Toyota had reported three malfunctions locally related to the issue, but no accidents.

The car giant last month issued a recall for 1.03 million cars globally over an issue related to wiring that could cause fires in vehicles.

Toyota has sold more than 10 million hybrid gasoline-electric vehicles globally, including the Prius, since 1997.

In 2016, Toyota announced the recall of 3.37 million vehicles globally over problems with air bags and a fuel emission control unit.—AFP ■

S Korea ex-president Lee jailed for 15 years over corruption

SEOUL — Former South Korean president Lee Myung-bak was jailed for 15 years for corruption Friday, becoming the latest of the country’s ex-leaders to be sent to prison.

The 76-year-old CEO-turned-president, who served from 2008 to 2013, was found guilty on charges including bribery and embezzlement and ordered to pay a fine of 13 billion won (\$11.5 million) by the Seoul Central District Court.

“Bringing everything into consideration, heavy punishment for the accused is inevitable,” said a judge during the trial that was live televised.

Lee was not in attendance, citing ill-health.

The former South Korean leader was indicted in April on 16 charges that included bribery, embezzlement and abuse of power.—AFP ■

Spanish cities grapple with invasion of electric scooters

MADRID — Cities across Spain are grappling with electric scooters that have popped up on sidewalks across the country, helping riders zip around but exasperating drivers and pedestrians.

In Madrid public opinion is divided over the hundreds of electric scooters which California-based start-up Lime — partly owned by ride-hailing Uber and Google parent company Alphabet — has made available since mid-August.

Unlike schemes involving shared bicycles that typically must be left in docking stations, the scooters are dockless, leaving riders responsible for parking them out of the way. The next rider can find the nearest scooter with a smartphone app, unlock it and use it for a fee.

Similar electric scooter sharing programmes have been introduced in other European cities including Paris, Vienna and Zurich.

In Madrid, Lime’s scooters — which have already been used over 100,000 times — are tolerated by the left-wing city hall, intent on reducing pollution.

But the scooters are often left in places where they obstruct sidewalks — and their users often speed by pedestrians or hog roads. Last month a video of two people, including a child, wearing masks while they raced along a highway near the Mediterranean port of Valencia on an electric scooter went viral.

“They don’t respect anything at all. We need rules. It’s crazy. They ride on lanes reserved for buses and taxis. They cross in front of cars,” Fernando Sobrino, a 59-year-old taxi driver, told AFP as he waited for passengers in the centre of Madrid.

Jose Manuel, a 55-year-old salesman, complained the scooters “ride on sidewalks without any control”.

“There is a risk of getting rear-ended by one as happened to me the other day,” he said as he made his way along the Gran Via, a busiest shopping street in central Madrid.

‘Dangerous and annoying’

The arrival of the scooters in Madrid follows the introduction of a public electric bike share

system in June 2014. Users of the scooters are delighted. “You move around faster, you can visit more areas, it’s relaxing and easy to use,” said Monica Rodriguez, 58, at Madrid’s bustling Retiro park.

She admitted, though, that the scooters can be “dangerous and annoying for people who are walking”.

The introduction of this new form of transport caught big Spanish cities off guard. In Madrid, which is home to around 3.2 million people, there are no laws regulating the use of scooters.

Now the municipality plans to introduce a new mobility plan that will include rules for scooters. Valencia is set to adopt new rules banning scooters from sidewalks.

Seizures

Barcelona, Spain’s second-largest city which is overwhelmed by mass tourism, already bans the use of privately owned scooters from sidewalks.

“Self service” scooter rentals like those offered by Lime are banned. When German firm

Wind launched an electric scooter sharing programme in Barcelona in August, within hours police removed the vehicles from the streets.

The municipality of Llobregat near Barcelona stopped Lime from setting up shop.

The scenario was repeated in Valencia, which has an extensive network of bike lanes.

Lime deployed a fleet of scooters in the city in August without authorisation from city hall, which demands a licence for anyone who carries out a commercial activity on public roads.

Lime’s scooters were removed and the firm was slapped with a fine. It is now trying to convince Valencia city hall to allow it to pay a fee in exchange for an operating licence.

Lime’s representative in Spain, Alvaro Salvat, said he regrets the lack of specific laws for electric scooters in Madrid and most Spanish cities.

“We are the first to ask for them for our users, for residents, so we know where to go and where not to go,” he told AFP.—AFP ■

Nobel Peace Prize honours champions of fight against sexual violence

OSLO (Norway) — Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi campaigner Nadia Murad won the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for their work in fighting sexual violence in conflicts around the world. The pair won the award “for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict,” Nobel committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said in unveiling the winners in Oslo. “A more peaceful world can only be achieved if women and their fundamental rights and security are recognised and protected in war,” she said.

One a doctor, the other a former Islamic State sex slave, both have come to represent the struggle against a global scourge which goes well beyond any single conflict, as the #MeToo movement has shown. The prize was announced as #MeToo marks its first anniversary after a year in which allegations of sexual abuse, rape and harassment have topped dozens of powerful men.

By recognising the pair’s work, the Nobel committee has placed a spotlight on the use of sexual violence in war as a global problem.

‘Weapon of mass destruction’

Mukwege, 63, was recognised for two decades of work to help women recover from the violence and trauma of sexual abuse and rape in the war-torn eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Women, children and even babies just a few months old, Mukwege has treated tens of thousands of victims of rape at Panzi hospital which he founded in 1999 in South Kivu.

Known as “Doctor Miracle”,

he is an outspoken critic of the abuse of women during war who has described rape as “a weapon of mass destruction”.

“Denis Mukwege is the foremost, most unifying symbol, both nationally and internationally, of the struggle to end sexual violence in war and armed conflicts,” Reiss-Andersen said.

Alongside Mukwege, the committee honoured Murad, a 25-year-old Iraqi woman from the Yazidi community who in 2014 was kidnapped by Islamic State militants and endured three months as a sex slave before managing to escape.

She was one of thousands of Yazidi women and girls who were abducted, raped and brutalised by jihadists during their assault that year on the Kurdish-speaking minority, which the United Nations has described as genocide. Her nightmare began when the jihadists stormed her village in northern Iraq in August 2014. From there she was taken to Mosul where she was repeatedly gang-raped, tortured and beaten.

“The first thing they did was force us to convert to Islam”, she told AFP two years ago. “After conversion, they did whatever they wanted.” After her escape, she quickly became a figurehead for efforts to protect the Yazidi community and was later named a UN ambassador for victims of human trafficking. The Nobel committee said Murad had shown “uncommon courage” in recounting her own sufferings and speaking up on behalf of other victims. “She refused to accept the social codes that require women to remain silent and ashamed of the abuses to which they have been subjected.”



This combination created on October 5, 2018 of file pictures shows Congolese gynecologist Denis Mukwege (October 24, 2016 in Paris) and Nadia Murad, public advocate for the Yazidi community in Iraq and survivor of sexual enslavement by the Islamic State jihadists (June 21, 2016 in Washington, DC). Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi rape victim Nadia Murad won the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize on October 5, 2018 for their work in fighting sexual violence in conflicts around the world. PHOTO: AFP

‘Personal security at risk’

Both Mukwege and Murad had “put their personal security at risk” by focusing attention on and combating such war crimes, Reiss-Andersen said.

“Denis Mukwege is the helper who has devoted his life to defending these victims. Nadia Murad is the witness who tells of the abuses perpetrated against herself and others. “Each of them in their own way has helped to give greater visibility to war-time sexual violence, so that the perpetrators can be held accountable.” Whether in Africa or the Middle East, rape has been used against hundreds of thousands of people, either as a weapon of war or tool

in the oppression of minorities.

Sexual violence as a weapon of war has been going on for centuries, but it was only recently acknowledged as a crime against humanity with the UN’s adoption in 2008 of Resolution 1820.

And the #MeToo movement, which rose up a year ago following allegations of rape, sexual abuse and harassment against Hollywood director Harvey Weinstein and has since swept the globe, has also had a very sobering effect. “#MeToo and war crimes is not quite the same thing. But they do however, have that in common: that it is important to see the suffering of women, to see the abuses and to achieve

that it is important that women leave the concept of shame and speak out,” said Reiss-Andersen.

It was a #MeToo scandal that prompted the Swedish Academy to postpone this year’s Literature Prize for the first time in 70 years. Mukwege and Murad will share the prestigious prize of a gold medal, a diploma and a cheque for nine million Swedish kronor — almost \$1 million or 863,000 euros.

The award will be presented at a ceremony in Oslo on December 10, the anniversary of the death of prize creator Alfred Nobel, a Swedish philanthropist and scientist who died in 1896. — AFP ■

Earlier predictions for the Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO (Norway) — The bookies’ odds point towards the Koreans, or Donald Trump. The experts are betting on the fight against sexual violence or defenders of the press. But all speculation ends Friday when the Nobel Peace Prize is unveiled in Oslo.

At 0900 GMT, the annual Nobel prize-giving week reaches its peak as the five-member Norwegian committee ends the guessing game by announcing this year’s winner.

And anticipation is likely to

be heightened after the postponement of this year’s Literature Prize for the first time in 70 years over a rape scandal that came to light as part of the #MeToo movement which took off exactly a year ago.

This year, a total of 331 individuals and organisations were nominated for the prestigious peace award, almost a record number.

But with the list a closely guarded secret, guessing who might be a contender is largely

a game of chance.

Among the bookmakers, the choice was largely unanimous with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in front-runners for the prize for their efforts at rapprochement between the two nations.

But choosing Kim may be a step too far for the Norwegian committee, given the UN’s damning verdict on North Korea’s “long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross

violations of human rights”.

Another unexpected favourite is Donald Trump, who at 7-1 is one of three frontrunners flagged by online bookies Betsson, with the odds suggesting the bombastic American president is 10 times more likely to win than figures like France’s Emmanuel Macron or Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

Taking a step back from the international spotlight, several Nobel experts see the prize honouring those involved in the fight against sexual violence at a time when the aftershocks of the #MeToo movement are still

making waves around the globe.

A top contender would likely be Congolese gynaecologist Denis Mukwege, better known as “Doctor Miracle”, who has spent two decades helping women recover from the violence and trauma of rape in war-torn eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Another possible laureate is Nadia Murad, a 25-year-old Yazidi woman who was kidnapped by Islamic State militants in 2014 and endured three months as a sex slave before managing to escape. — AFP ■



Andi Fadli talks about tsunami that hit his village Kampung Muara, near the port of Donggala, on Indonesia's Sulawesi island on 28 September, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Indonesia raises death toll from quake, tsunami to 1,558

PALU (Indonesia) — Indonesia said Friday the death toll from a powerful earthquake and tsunami that struck the central Indonesian island of Sulawesi a week ago has risen to 1,558.

As rescue and recovery efforts continue, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said 113 others remain missing, with the number of people displaced following the magnitude 7.5 quake and ensuing tsunami unchanged at 70,821.

Palu, the capital of Central Sulawesi province, and the nearby coastal town of Donggala are

two of the worst-hit areas where most of the deaths have occurred after bearing the brunt of the tsunami waves up to 3 meters high.

As many locals desperately wait for basic supplies and other kinds of help, national police said Thursday evening that 42 people have been arrested for allegedly looting minimarts, shops or vehicles carrying humanitarian assistance.

Indonesia sits in one of the world's most active seismic regions in which a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. — Kyodo News ■

Hokkaido hit by M5.2 quake, biggest since deadly September temblor

SAPPORO — An earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 5.2 jolted Hokkaido on Friday morning, the biggest since a deadly temblor that rocked Japan's northernmost main island about a month ago, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The 8:58 am quake, which occurred in a southern part of the island at a depth of around 30 kilometers, registered lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in the towns of Atsuma and Mukawa, the agency said.

No one was injured in Atsuma and Mukawa, though a woman in her 30s sustained an injury in Sapporo, which recorded 3 on the intensity scale, after a shelf collapsed at her home, according to a local fire department. No tsunami was seen after the quake. Hokkaido Electric Power Co. said it found no abnormality at its nuclear and coal-fired power plants in the prefecture.

Friday's temblor was the biggest since the magnitude 6.7 quake on 6 September that claimed the lives of 41 and caused a prefecture-wide blackout. More than 10,000 buildings were damaged and hundreds of residents were still staying at

evacuation centers as of Friday.

Yasuko Tsuzuki, a 72-year-old woman in Atsuma, said the quake reminded her of the one in September. "I was gradually finding emotional closure but it broke my heart," she said.

"The jolt is believed to be part of seismic activities linked to the earthquake last month. More quakes are expected for a while so I want people to ensure their furniture is securely fixed," said Toshiyuki Matsumori, head of the agency's earthquake and tsunami monitoring division.

At a press conference on Friday, the agency called on residents to be prepared for about

a week for potential quakes with an intensity of 4 or higher. It also urged residents to brace for heavy rain and mudslides as another typhoon is expected to approach Hokkaido on Sunday.

The Ground Self-Defence Force said it has detected no fresh landslides in an aerial survey by helicopter over the town of Atsuma.

Although the quake temporarily suspended the operation of a shinkansen bullet train and local trains, New Chitose Airport was unaffected, according to Hokkaido Railway Co. and the transport ministry.

— Kyodo News ■



Officials from fire authorities patrol in Atsuma, Hokkaido, after a strong earthquake hit the region on 5 October 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Australia farmers welcome rain relief amid severe drought

SYDNEY — Farmers in drought-stricken parts of Australia are celebrating after the heavens opened up this week, inundating parched lands with more than a month's rain in one day following the country's driest September on record.

Eastern Australia has been suffering from an extended dry period — in some regions stretching across several years — leaving farmers struggling to keep their sheep and cattle alive with dwindling supplies of feed.

A trough system moving across New South Wales state in the southeast of the vast continent since Wednesday has brought wild weather, including heavy rain, to bone-dry towns including Broken Hill and Dubbo.

"A lot of New South Wales is in drought so getting rain anywhere is quite good," Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Chua Zhi-Weng told AFP.

The outback town of Broken Hill received 34.2 millimetres (1.35 inches) of rain on Wednesday, above the October monthly average of 24.2 millimetres and more than what they had received in the previous nine months.

"Forty-one millimetres! It's bloody great to see. I've lost my words," one farmer near the outback town of Menindee, which received some 50 millimetres in one day, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"It doesn't matter how old you are, rain brings people joy," another farmer told the ABC.

In the state's central-west, towns battling the dry such as Dubbo received 45 millimetres of rain on Thursday.

Further north in the inland regions of Queensland state, graziers welcomed the arrival of storms that gave their fields a much-needed drenching.

Despite the wet conditions, meteorologists said more rain was needed in the coming weeks and months to break the drought.

"We do need some more follow-up rain to overcome the deficit that's been built up over the time we haven't had enough rain," Chua added.

The weather bureau said on Monday that rainfall in September was "very much below average nationally, and particularly low across the southern mainland".

"The year-to-date has also been exceptionally dry over the mainland southeast, with significant rainfall deficiencies continuing to affect large areas of eastern Australia at timescales out to around two years duration," the bureau added.

Farmers will also get little comfort from the weather bureau's forecast of a drier and warmer-than-average end to the year. — AFP ■

Pressure on Duterte as Philippine inflation jumps

MANILA — Philippine inflation jumped to an almost 10-year high in September, data showed Friday, putting pressure on President Rodrigo Duterte to act as the cost of food and fuel hit the country's poor in the pocket.

Consumer prices have risen every month this year, with food surging further after Typhoon Mangkhut, the world's most powerful storm in 2018, smashed into the country's northern agricultural heartland in mid-September.

Increases have been powered by a collision of factors including Duterte's massive spending on a broad infrastructure building effort, climbing oil prices and weak farm output.

Consumer price increases accelerated to 6.7 percent, from 6.4 percent in August, in the steepest climb since February 2009, the Philippine Statistics Authority said.

"We... understand that many are feeling the hit of a faster in-

flation rate, particularly those who toil so hard just to keep up," Duterte's economics team said.

The tens of millions who get by on less than \$2 per day in the Philippines have been especially hard hit by the increase.

The government has boosted imports of rice, the national cereal staple, following shortages but authorities acknowledged Friday that grain prices remain "elevated" due to the typhoon.

Analyst Astro del Castillo told AFP the problem "will not be solved overnight" because some factors are beyond the government's control, such as oil prices. Global crude prices are sitting at a four-year high around \$85 and there are warnings it they could break \$100.

However, del Castillo said the people expect the president to do something about it.

"You've seen the (opinion) surveys. The people would like inflation to be the government's top priority," he added. — AFP ■

Charity urges aid for sinking cities

PARIS — Governments must provide “major” investment in flood risk reduction to save coastal cities around the world, a charity said Friday, as rising seas and sinking urban areas pose unprecedented threats to millions of homes.

Cities such as Jakarta — which is sinking 25 centimetres (0.8 feet) each year — Bangkok, Houston and Shanghai risk being inundated within decades as a mixture of poor planning, megastorms and higher tides wreaks havoc.

London-based charity Christian Aid studied eight coastal cities around the world that are sinking, potentially compounding the misery that rising sea levels will inflict on inhabitants.

“The impacts of climate change will be seen

across the world and as you saw this summer we had a very warm northern hemisphere, very abnormally so,” Kat Kramer, global climate lead at Christian Aid, told AFP.

“Many of the big cities in the developing world are extraordinarily vulnerable to climate change which is why it’s very important that they are given support to adapt and build resilience.

“Lives are already being lost through extreme weather events,” Kramer added.

The call coincides with the release next week of a major United Nations report expected to urge governments to drastically increase their efforts to limit global temperature rises.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change will examine the effect of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels.

That is the most ambitious target that nations signed up to in the 2015 Paris treaty on climate change, which aims to limit temperature increases to “well below 2C” by the end of the century.

‘Natural measures’

But even keeping the world within that temperature range will have a catastrophic impact on coastal cities, with some studies showing a 2°C increase could raise global sea levels by up to half a metre.

Thursday’s paper picked out Jakarta, Bangkok, Lagos, Manila, Dhaka, Shanghai, Houston and London — home to a com-



People walk through the flooded waters of Telephone Rd in Houston in August 2017 during tropical storm Harvey.—AFP

bined 100 million people — as particularly at risk.

The charity highlighted a host of local factors that contribute to sinkage, the majority manmade.

In Jakarta, a city of 10 million people that sits on a confluence of 13 rivers, half the population lacks access to piped water, so many dig illegal wells to extract groundwater.

This puts greater pressure on the soil, which

doesn’t get replenished as it should by rainfall as nearly all of the city is covered in asphalt and concrete.

In Houston, efforts to provide a growing population with drinking water have also caused land to sink — an effect made worse by sea level rises and storm surges.

Kramer said large infrastructure such as sea walls or London’s

Thames Barrier could help mitigate the damage, but also urged governments to preserve nature’s own defences. “Something noticeable with the Asian tsunami (2004) of was that areas that had their mangroves intact had greater resilience to that kind of storm surge,” she said.

“There are many ways that natural measures can help if they are left intact.”—AFP ■

Wind turbines contribute to climate change

WASHINGTON — Wind turbines, designed as an alternative to fossil fuels, still contribute to climate change due to the way they redistribute heat and moisture in the atmosphere, according to a study published on Thursday.

Researchers from Harvard University found that powering the entire United States with wind energy would cause a 0.54

degree Celsius ground temperature rise in the area where the turbines were located, and a 0.24°C increase across the continental United States. “Wind beats coal by any environmental measure, but that doesn’t mean that its impacts are negligible,” said David Keith, an engineering and public policy professor and senior author of the study, published in *Joule*. By com-

parison, the average global temperature has risen by approximately one degree since the end of the 19th century. The Paris climate accord, meanwhile, calls upon countries to limit temperature increases to between 1.5°C to 2°C to avoid serious environmental consequences. Previous studies have also examined the impact of wind turbines on climate change. One re-

cent study, published in the journal *Science*, concluded that covering an area of the Sahara desert with wind turbines would affect local temperature, rainfall, and in turn, vegetation. The Harvard researchers said that installing solar panels would have an impact around 10 times smaller than wind turbines for the same energy generation rate.—AFP ■

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by Shangdong Binnong Technology Co., Ltd are transferring from Sweet Trading Co., Ltd to Myanmar Golden Byter Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the following pesticides within (14) day.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	BNS Nico Atra	Atrazine 20%+ Nicosulfuron 4%OD	Experimental	E2017-3638
2	BNS Meso Atra	Atrazine 80.8%+Mesotrione	Experimental	E2017-3639
3	BNS Qui Fome	Fomesafen 12.5%+Quizalofop-P-ethyl 3.5%EC	Experimental	E2017-3640
4	BNS S-Meto	S-metolachlor 87.3%EC	Experimental	E2017-3641

Myanmar Golden Byter Co, Ltd
No.936, Zatila 2nd street, 16/1 quarter, Thingangyun Township, Yangon, Myanmar

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1091 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1091 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-10-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SN QUEEN VOY. NO. (105)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SN QUEEN V-105 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V RED KNOT K VOY. NO. (218035)

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Phone No: 2301928

Old and new art worlds meet at London Frieze

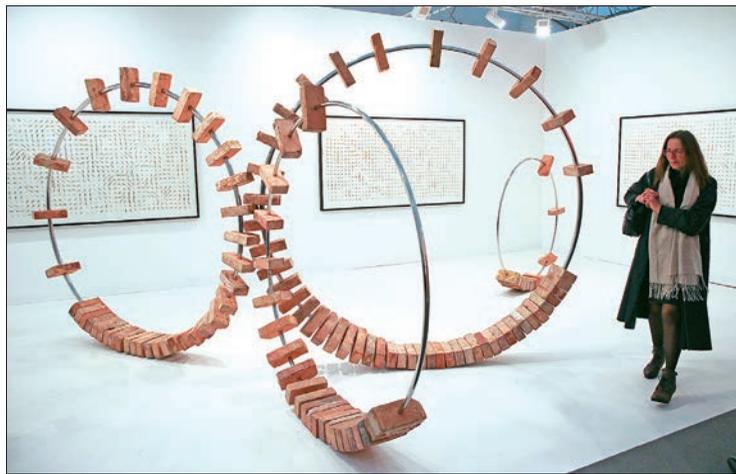
LONDON (United Kingdom) — The art world descended on London this week for the Frieze Art Fair, with over 160 top international galleries making their pitch to dealers, artists and assorted eccentrics.

Alongside the US and European powerhouses are scores of galleries from outside the traditional hubs of the industry, flexing their increasing muscle on the world stage.

“The presence of non-western art is very strongly felt across the fair,” Shanay Jhaveri, a curator at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, told AFP on Thursday.

“There is a gradual shift that is taking place, there is growing integration of non-western work.”

The event at Regent’s Park in London comprises the main Frieze, which focuses on contemporary works, Frieze Masters, which showcases more traditional art, and Frieze Sculpture — with over 1,000 artists on display



A visitor poses in front of an art installation by Polish artist Alicja Kwade, entitled “TrialTurn, 2017” during a photocall for the Frieze Art Fair in London on 4 October, 2017. PHOTO: AFP

in total. The event attracts dealers looking for the next masterpiece or breakthrough artist, but also tens of thousands of champagne-drinking enthusiasts, giving it a festival feel.

Top New York galleries including Gagosian, David Zwirner and 47 Canal all have booths at the event, along with London’s White Cube and Victoria Miro.

They rub shoulders with galleries from India, China, Mexico, South Africa and Guatemala, among other countries, reflecting the rise of artists and buyers in those markets. Among the works on display are US artist Josh Kline’s “Unemployed Journalist”, which explores the rise of automation and its possible effect on middle-class employment. The

work is a 3D printed mannequin of a middle-aged reporter wrapped up in a plastic bag slumped on the floor.

Mumbai’s Project 88 gallery, which has helped boost Indian art at Frieze over the past 10 years, has works from five artists, including Sandeep Mukherjee’s “Tree Skin” — six aluminium panels molded into an organic tree-like form. Gallery owner SreeGoswami told AFP that London’s “unique history” with India meant that Frieze was the ideal place to show off their works. Non-western artists are broadening the event’s horizons. “Each region in the non-west has its own economy, or community or ecosystem,” Jhaveri said. “They operate within those, so their perspectives are different, their relationship to scale — literally and metaphorically — is different as well. “You see that variation — the use of material, the concerns they are engaged with, which are manifold,” he added.—AFP ■



A petition has been launched in support of Finnish demands for legislation to protect breastfeeding mothers from being driven out of public places. PHOTO: AFP

Finns demand legal right to breastfeed in public

HELSINKI (Finland) — Finnish health officials are demanding a law to protect breastfeeding mothers from being driven out of public places, including restaurants and coffee shops, in one of western Europe’s most gender equal nations.

The public health authority (THL) called last year for new legislation securing women’s rights to nurse a child anywhere in public across Finland.

Now campaigners have launched a petition in support of the proposal, backed by the national midwifery association. The petition was on Thursday was signed by 1,000 people.

If it gathers 50,000 signatures within six months, lawmakers will be forced to debate the issue in the parliament.

“I’m worried that the general attitude regarding breastfeeding is not very good at the moment,” petition co-organiser Kati Bhat-tacharya, a student and nurse in Helsinki, told AFP.

Although Finnish women breastfeed their children for longer on average than counterparts in many other European countries, THL says breastfeeding rates are lower in Finland than other Nordic countries.

Finland also falls short on World Health Organisation guidelines to feed babies exclusively on breast milk for the first six months of their lives.

Officials say that negative public attitudes to mothers nursing their babies are partly to blame. A case last year of a breastfeeding mother in a restaurant who was asked by staff to either go into the toilet or downstairs made headlines and generated vigorous online debate in Finland. The establishment, in the southern town of Tampere, later told media they asked the woman to move so as not to upset other customers.—AFP ■

Asia’s stars grace the red carpet at Busan Film Festival

BUSAN (South Korea) — The looming threat of Typhoon Kong-Rey failed to cloud a glittering opening to the 23rd Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) Thursday, with a parade of the region’s brightest stars gracing the red carpet.

South Korean K-pop singer-turned-actress Choi Soo-young was joined at the festival’s opening gala by the likes of Hong Kong actress Sammi Cheng, here with the drama “First Night Nerves”, and China’s Zhao Tao, who stars in the latest JiaZhangke feature

“Ash is Purest White”.

Veteran Japanese composer and pianist Ryuichi Sakamoto, in town to collect the Asian Filmmaker of the Year award, took to the stage to perform the theme song from his Oscar-winning score for “Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence”.

Sakamoto also scored the animated feature “My Tyrano: Together, Forever”, a Korean-Japanese-Chinese co-production having its world premiere in Busan.

The composer said he hoped its themes of peace and tolerance

would resonate with recent political developments in the region.

“It seems finally that peace is coming to the Korean peninsula and as an Asian this fills me with immense joy,” said Sakamoto.

“Film helps connect people and this is also what this film festival does.”

Noted international filmmakers attending this year’s event include Hollywood producer Jason Blum (“Whiplash”, “Get Out”) and Indian hit-maker Rajkumar-Harani (“3 Idiots”).

Festival organisers were

bracing for the imminent arrival of Typhoon Kong-Rey on Saturday, as the stormfront was projected to close in on the South Korean coast over the next 48 hours. After being downgraded from Super Typhoon status on Thursday, organisers hoped the storm would weaken further as it moved north.

Regardless, the local weather bureau has suggested there was an 80 to 90 percent chance of a direct hit on Busan, with winds of up to 110 kilometres per hour (68 mph) and heavy rain.

Meet-the-public events scheduled for the city’s Haeundae Beach, featuring the likes of local star Moon So-ri, have been moved under cover at the Busan Film Centre over the next few days, with memories of the havoc wrought by Typhoon Chaba in 2016 still fresh in the minds of organisers.

This year they are taking no chances after that storm uprooted stages and lay waste to festival displays.

The world premiere of the South Korean drama “Beautiful Days” opened the festival Thursday, starring acclaimed actress Lee Na-young in her first role for six years. Lee plays a North Korean mother reunited with her family after escaping to the South looking for a better life.—AFP ■



Hong Kong director Stanley Kwan (C) will premiere his new drama “First Night Nerves” at Busan on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

Scientists zero in on cause of unusual Indonesian disaster

JAKARTA — Almost a week after a quake-tsunami wreaked devastation in central Indonesia, scientists are zeroing in on what they believe caused the highly unusual natural disaster.

The 7.5 magnitude earthquake hit off Sulawesi island Friday and sent destructive waves charging into the coast, reducing buildings in Palu to rubble and sweeping people to their deaths.

The city was not regarded as being at high-risk of a tsunami and was left grossly unprepared for the catastrophe, which has so far claimed more than 1,400 lives with hundreds more injured and missing. Now experts are piecing together the unlikely chain of events which laid waste to Palu.

The quake was a sideways — rather than vertical — movement of tectonic plates, seen as unlikely to generate a tsunami.

But after sifting through mounds of data, scientists believe that the powerful tremor occurred over the vast length of a fault line, triggering underwater landslides that caused the tidal waves.

“This is an earthquake that is not the standard mechanism to



Palu was left grossly unprepared for the catastrophe, which has so far claimed more than 1,400 lives with hundreds more injured and missing. PHOTO: AFP

generate a tsunami,” Costas Synolakis, director of the University of Southern California’s Tsunami Research Center, told AFP.

“It’s fairly rare.”

When the monster waves did roll in, their force was intensified as they rushed down a narrow bay into Palu.

In recent years Sumatra has been the main focus of authorities’ concern when it comes to tsunamis as Aceh, on the island’s northern tip, was devastated by a deadly quake-triggered tsunami in 2004.

Officials fear another major quake and tsunami are inevitable at some point on the highly vola-

tile fault line off the island’s west coast, meaning there was greater vigilance towards the threat than in Sulawesi.

Apart from a handful of tsunami experts, few seemed worried that the fault line that cut through Palu would produce a tsunami, particularly as it is what is known as a “strike-slip” fault,

where tectonic plates move sideways.

In the Aceh tsunami and the majority of others, destructive waves were generated by a violent upward thrust of the Earth’s crust, not a sideways movement.

But such was the force of the quake off Sulawesi and the aftershocks that followed, one or more underwater landslides are believed to have occurred that displaced huge quantities of water and sent waves barrelling into the coast.

‘Have to learn from this’

“There is reasonable confidence that this tsunami was triggered at least partially by a landslide,” Adam Switzer, a tsunami expert from Nanyang Technological University’s Earth Observatory of Singapore, told AFP.

“It’s very unlikely the earthquake alone could generate a tsunami of that size.”

Even before the tsunami hit, the quake and the aftershocks that followed caused widespread devastation along the Sulawesi coast, with many buildings left in ruins and huge cracks ripped in roads. —AFP ■



Russia’s State Space Corporation Roscosmos Chief Dmitry Rogozin. PHOTO: AFP

Russia to create Moon-linked transport system

KOROLYOV (Moscow Region) — Russia will build a permanently working transport system in 6-7 years that will be able to reach the Moon, Russia’s State Space Corporation Roscosmos Chief Dmitry Rogozin said on Thursday.

“Today the Russian Federation has the sole space transport system so far. We have carrier rockets and manned spacecraft. Ballistics specialists of the Energia Rocket and Space Corporation have made calculations of our possibilities. In about 6-7 years,

we will be able, using already the Angara-A5 rocket, in case that it blasts off from the Vostochny spaceport beginning from 2023-2024, we will be able, even using the current manned spacecraft, to ensure the permanently operating transport system capable of reaching the Moon and working in the lunar orbit,” the Roscosmos chief said.

So far, Americans are planning their expedition without having the necessary spacecraft, Rogozin said. —AFP ■

Astronauts return to Earth from ISS amid US-Russia tensions

ASTANA (Kazakhstan) — Two American astronauts and a Russian cosmonaut returned to Earth Thursday wrapping up a six-month mission at the International Space Station as tensions between Washington and Moscow threaten a rare area of cooperation. NASA astronauts Drew Feustel and Ricky Arnold and Oleg Artemyev of Roscosmos touched down on steppe land southeast of the Kazakh town of Dzhezkazgan at the expected time of 1145 GMT.

The landing is the first since Russian space chief Dimitri Rogozin bemoaned “problems” in the Russian space agency’s cooperation with NASA that he attributed to interference from unnamed American officials this week. The outspoken official also said Russian investigators believed a small hole that appeared in a Russian space craft docked at the orbiting station in August causing an air leak on the ISS had been made deliberately.

Feustel has called the suggestion that the crew was somehow involved “embarrassing” and

NASA on Wednesday expressed doubts over the theory that the hole was the result of sabotage.

The ISS is one of the few areas of tight Russia-US cooperation that remains unaffected by the crisis in ties, including after Washington’s sanctions against Russia over Ukraine and other crises.

Earlier the ISS hosted the usual emotional goodbyes as the returning trio left Alexander Gerst of the European

Space Agency, NASA’s Serena Auñón-Chancellor and Roscosmos’ Sergey Prokopyev waiting for the next three-person crew’s arrival. The next launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan is scheduled for next Thursday.

Feustel invoked Hollywood comedy actor Jack Black’s character Nacho Libre as he tweeted farewell to life on the space station. —AFP ■



NASA astronaut Andrew Feustel rests in a chair shortly after landing in a remote area outside the town of Dzhezkazgan (Zhezkazgan), Kazakhstan, on 4 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Deschamps unfazed by mounting Pogba-Mourinho feud



French national football team head coach Didier Deschamps speaks during a press conference in Paris on 4 October, 2018 to announce the 23 players squad for the upcoming friendly match against Iceland and the Nations League match against Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS (France) — France coach Didier Deschamps insisted Thursday he was not concerned by escalating tensions between Paul Pogba and Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho after he named his latest squad ahead of games against Iceland and Germany.

Pogba told reporters he was “not allowed” to talk as he passed through the post-match mixed zone interview area following United’s 0-0 draw with Valencia in the Champions League on Tuesday.

It was the latest episode in an increasingly tense atmosphere at the club, where a growing rift be-

tween Pogba and Mourinho saw the France international stripped of the vice-captaincy last week.

“I’m not worried at all. I’m definitely not Jose Mourinho and I’m not going to meddle in their relationship,” Deschamps said.

“Everything is clear with Paul. He knows each time why he’s here and what I expect from him.”

United are languishing down in 10th place in the Premier League after seven matches, and suffered a shock defeat by second-tier Derby County in the League Cup last week.

Pogba, a key member of France’s World Cup-winning

side in Russia, also appeared to get under Mourinho’s skin after their recent draw with Wolves by saying United should attack more.

“There’s what’s happening at their clubs but that doesn’t just depend on them,” said Deschamps.

“You can’t separate individual performance from a team performance with certain clubs who can go through a spell where results aren’t as good.

“That goes for all the players. You have to take that into consideration, but the set-up is different when they join us in the France squad.” — AFP ■



Wales’ manager Ryan Giggs. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mourinho should stay at Manchester United, says Giggs

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Wales boss Ryan Giggs said on Thursday that Jose Mourinho should remain as Manchester United manager despite the mounting crisis at the club.

Mourinho is under increasing pressure at Old Trafford with United a lowly 10th in the Premier League and winless in four games in all competitions. Giggs, who played almost 700 games for United and was at Old Trafford on Tuesday for a 0-0 draw against Valencia in the Champions League.

“I said that last time: where do they go?” Giggs said when asked about United at a press conference to announce his Wales squads for matches against Spain and Ireland on Thursday.

“My stance hasn’t changed. United are going through a tough time at the moment. But change now and you will be in

the same position in a year or two years quite possibly.” Giggs has included Gareth Bale in his Wales squad even though the forward missed Real Madrid’s midweek Champions League defeat through injury.

The 25-man squad also includes Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who was given special dispensation to miss his side’s Europa League appointment with Qarabag on Thursday as his wife is expecting twins.

Speaking about Bale, Giggs said: “He had a little groin strain. The scan has come back clear and he expects to play on the weekend.” Giggs does not expect Ramsey’s contract stand-off with Arsenal to harm his Wales form.

“What I have seen is a fantastic professional. I expect the same,” said Giggs. — AFP ■



Arsenal’s Swiss defender Stephan Lichtsteiner kicks the ball during the UEFA Europa League group E football match between Qarabag FK and Arsenal FC in Baku on 4 October, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Arsenal avoid Qarabag slip-up as Celtic fall in Austria

Paris (France) — Unai Emery’s Arsenal cruised to a 3-0 victory away to Azeri champions Qarabag in the Europa League on Thursday, while Celtic slumped to a 3-1 defeat against Red Bull Salzburg.

Sokratis bundled in a Nacho Monreal header on four minutes in Baku, with Arsenal academy graduate Emile Smith Rowe and French youngster Matteo Guendouzi also scoring their first goals for the club.

The Gunners extended their winning run to eight matches and lead Sporting Lisbon on goal difference at the top of Group E, after the Portuguese side snatched a 2-1 win in Ukraine with two late goals against Vorskla Poltava.

Arsenal’s Armenian midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan did not make the trip to Azerbaijan due to diplomatic tensions between the country and his homeland.

Odsonne Edouard fired Celtic ahead after just two minutes in Austria, but a brace from Munas Dabbur and a goal from Japanese forward Takumi Minamino gave Salzburg a second win in two Group B matches.

Celtic lost James Forrest to a straight red card after he upended Andreas Ulmer in the area, with Dabbur converting the resulting penalty to condemn Brendan Rodgers’ side.

Seven-time European champions AC Milan recovered from a goal down at home to Olympiakos to claim a 3-1 victory in Group F, as Patrick Cutrone scored twice either side of a Gonzalo Higuain effort.

Steven Gerrard’s Rangers are in action at home to Rapid Vienna in the later round of games, while Chelsea host Hungarian outfit Vidi at Stamford Bridge. — AFP ■

Napoli charged by UEFA after fans set off flares in Liverpool game

NAPLES (Italy) — Napoli have been charged by UEFA after fans set off flares during the team’s 1-0 win over Liverpool in the Champions League in Naples.

Lorenzo Insigne’s late winner sent Carlo Ancelotti’s side top of Group C after two games, one point ahead of Paris Saint-Germain and Liverpool.

But on Thursday the Italian side were charged by European football’s governing body for breaching disciplinary regulations, with fans allegedly setting off flares in the home end. — AFP ■