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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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A nurse looks after Ma Kaw Marlar in Buthidaung General Hospital. **PHOTO: MNA**

Hindu women and children escape from terrorists

By Ye Kaung Nyunt

In a ward in Buthidaung General Hospital, a 25 year old Hindu woman lies in bed with a 50 year old woman and a 3 year old child sitting by her bedside. Her name is Ma Kaw Marlar.

Two nurses help Ma Kaw Marlar sit up to answer questions to some news reporters.

"I lost my family," said Ma Kaw Marlar. "My husband, my child, my brother and his wife, six of them were killed. I managed to escape despite some injuries."

She was speaking in Hindi but one of the nurses helped with translating her words.

Around 11 am on 26 August, Ma Kaw Marlar and ten Hindu family members were returning to Maungtaw city from Myinlut city when they walked into a terrorist attack near Myothugyi village. They hid themselves in an unfinished Maungtaw District court building in the village. However, there were ARSA members in the building who upon seeing Ma Kaw Malar and her family shot and killed two men, one woman and three children.

Ma Kaw Marlar and another woman and two children managed to escape but she received serious injuries.

"There were over 100 terrorists in that unfinished building and they shot at us when we went in," said Ma Kaw Malar.

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Union Minister encourages to ethnic people from the nearby villages taking shelter at the No 1 border gurad police force commander's office. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister visits displaced persons in Rakhine

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe visited No 1 border guard police force commander's office (Kyeeganpyin) in northern Rakhine State and gave words of encouragement to ethnic people of the surrounding villages taking shelter there and police members and families of the office. The Union minister also provided cash assistance to families of fallen and wounded police members. He was accompanied by acting chief of Myanmar Police Force and the border guard police force commander.

During his visit to Sittway People's Hospital, the Union minister consoled wounded police members and a health staff and also gave them cash assistance. He then paid respects to Bhaddanta Dr Ariyavamsa of Alodawpyae monastery and presented cash donations.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Rakhine State government provides provisions for Maungtaw locals

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu travelled aboard a military helicopter to Maungtaw District, Rakhine, yesterday, to personally provide provisions to internally displaced people.

The Chief Minister has since Thursday organized shipments of rice, cooking oil, onions and potatoes and medical supplies to Maungtaw residents who fled their homes due to attacks by ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) extremist terrorists on 25 August.

The attacks by ARSA terrorists have caused local residents and farmers to give up their livelihoods and band together in villages or flee to nearby cities like Buthidaung and Sittway.

In yesterday's expedition, the Chief Minister travelled to Ywatnyotaung, Tamahntar and Laungtone villages in Maungtaw to provide food and healthcare. There are 43 houses in Ywatnyotaung Village with diverse ethnicities, 115 houses in Tamahntar Village with Rakhine, Daingnet, Thet and Hindu ethnicities and 105 houses in Laungtone Village with Myo, Thet, Daingnet, Burmese and Rakhine ethnicities coexisting together.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Provisions being handed over to local residents in Ywatnyotaung Village. **PHOTO: MNA**

Schools in Maungtaw Township closed due to violence attacks

The Rakhine State Education Department announced that in light of the violent attacks on 25 August by ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) extremist terrorists, 418 schools across Maungtaw District have been temporarily closed.

"We have temporarily closed schools in Maungtaw because of these terrorist attacks," said U Aung Kyaw Htun, head of Rakhine State Education Department. "We are following orders from the state government to close these schools."

One of the schools in Buthidaung Township temporarily closed due to violent attacks in Maungtaw District. **PHOTO: HLA KYAW (IPRD)**

School closures number 183 schools in Maungtaw Township, 212 in Buthidaung Township and 23 in Yathedaung Township. Over 80,000 students enrolled in the Maungtaw District this academic year.

The department has plans to supplement the days the schools have been closed after tension in the area has decreased and schools are reopened.

U Kyaw Aye Maung, a parent from Buthidaung 4th ward said, "My daughter was attending 6th grade this year but I'm worried about her education since the schools are closed now."

Our schools are frequently being closed whenever a violent attack happens in the area. This is not good for the children's education in the long run."

After the violent attacks in October 2016, a handful of schools were temporarily closed for a week in Maungtaw District but this time all the schools in the district have been closed.—Tin Maung Lwin, Min Htet Aung ■

More aids for temporary relief camps

Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu on 2 September visited relief camps in Sittway and gave words of encouragement to victims of the terrorist attacks from Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships who were taking shelter there.

Accompanied by Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Tha and officials, the chief minister first arrived at the temporary relief camp opened at Pyigyimandaing monastery in Setmusu Ward in the town, consoled the displaced persons and provided K 500,000 for them.

At the relief camp in Lanmadaw monastery in North Lanmadaw Ward, the chief minister visited displaced persons.

More aids will be sent for the displaced persons taking shelter at temporary relief camps run by the local government in Sittway to ensure continuous flow of food and constant health care. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu gives words of encouragement to victims at the relief camps in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister of State U Kyaw Tin attends FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Busan

Myanmar delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin attended the 8th Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 31st August 2017 in Busan, the Republic of Korea. The forum was inaugurated by the opening address by Mr. Moon Jae-In, President of the Republic of Korea and attended by Ministerial delegates from 36 member-countries of East Asia and Latin America.

The forum was co-chaired by Ms. Kang Kyung-Wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and Mr. Herbert Estuardo Meneses, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala to the Republic of Korea. The forum adopted Busan Declaration and new FEALAC Action Plan and agreed to establish the FEALAC Trust fund in order to further enhance the implementation of the cooperation projects between the two regions.

7th Mekong-Rok Foreign Ministers' Meeting in progress. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

At the meeting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin took part in the debate on making FEALAC more dynamic and stressed the need for the two regions to cooperate in the areas of education, culture, trade, climate change, transnational crimes, and fight against terrorism, cyber security and cyber abuse in the social media.

FEALAC was established in 1999 with 16 countries from East Asia and 20 countries from Latin America to cooperate between the two regions on various areas including trade, economy and investment. FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting has been held every 2 years alternately in each region. The Minister of State also attended the 7th Mekong–ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Busan on 1st September 2017. The meeting was attended by Ministerial delegates from the Republic of Korea, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam and was co-chaired by Ms. Kang Kyung- Wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The meeting endorsed the Mekong-Korea new Plan of Action 2017-2020 and issued a Co-Chairs' statement. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin apprised the meeting of the progress on projects being implemented in Myanmar under Mekong-Korea cooperation framework. Under Mekong-Korea new Plan of Action 2017-2020, the meeting approved 5 new projects for the Mekong countries including Preservation and Digitization of the Bagan Photographic Archive project, Strengthening Capacity in the areas of Culture, Education and Tourism project, and Project on the Study of Use of Wind Energy for the rural development.

In the morning of 1 September 2017, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin attended the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Culture House in Busan together with other delegates from ASEAN member countries. While in Busan, Minister of State also met with Ms. Patti Londono, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia on 30 August 2017 at a bilateral meeting, and discussed matters on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, including signing of MOU on Foreign Office Consultations between the two Foreign Ministries, providing Spanish language training course for Myanmar nationals, and sharing Colombia's experiences on peace building and peace making to Myanmar. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Aid delivered to displaced people and security forces in Sittway

Supporting aids distributing ceremony was held yesterday morning at Alotawpyae Monastery in Sittway Township.

Provisions were given to the displaced people suffered by ARSA extremist terrorist attacks occurred in northern Rakhine State on 25 August and security forces' members from Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yethadaung townships in Rakhine State.

Led by Alotawpyae Sayadaw Ariyavamsa and layman supporters, Thandwe Charity Foundation, Tha Bu Chaing offshore motorboats group, Min Zar Ni Co., Ltd family, Lay Kyun Thu Foundation (Yangon), Nyaung U Township's Alotawpyae Sayadaw and supporters and well-wishers aided with the provisions. Captain Hla Myint Soe of Maungtaw Region accepted the provisions and gave Certificates of Honour to the contributors. "To ease the problems of displaced people, we are giving the relief aids with our national spirits. Then, we were collecting funds in Yangon and provisions are being transported by Tatmataw's helicopters to the victims from the edges of Maungtaw Region. We provided the foods and goods today for the displaced people in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yethadaung townships," said Alotawpyae Sayadaw. "Tatmataw and government are responding their best to ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State while we are also involving as a part to help our national ethnic victim people. Moreover, security forces taking their duties in Maungtaw Region were also contributed readymade foods. At today ceremony, over Ks80 million worth provisions were distributed by well-wishers and donors," said U Thein Htay a donor of today supporting aids distribution ceremony. Over 350 displaced people are now in Alotawpyae Monastery. The Presiding Sayadaw of Alotawpyae monastery is looking after them and State government aided with rice and other provisions. —Tin Maung Lwin/ Min Htet Aung ■

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Local metal workers displaced by cheaper, higher-quality imports

THE import of industrial hand tools and other metal products is putting local blacksmiths out of business, according to a story in Saturday's edition of the Myawady Daily.

Blacksmiths who used to make axes, mattocks, hoes and other tools, are being undercut by plentiful Chinese products that are often cheaper and of higher quality.

Blacksmiths make about Ks4,000 a day while other skilled workers earn Ks8,000.—GNLM ■

Workers of blacksmith workshop focusing on poduction of agricultural tools in traditional ways at a village in Kawa Township to survive their livelihoods while agricultural machinery are bieng used on a wider scale in rural area for cultivation of paddy and crops. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Two Singapore-based companies authorized to start Myanmar hospitality businesses

TWO Singapore-based companies- Nautical Ace Co., Ltd and Smooth Way Developments Co., Ltd were authorized to start hotel businesses in Yangon Region, according to a report of Saturday's edition of Myawady Daily.

Nautical Ace Co., Ltd will invest US$35 million for a business on University Avenue Road, Sayasan Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region. Smooth Way Developments Co., Ltd will invest $12 million for a business on lower Kyimyindine Road, Sawyanpaing South Ward, Ahlon Township, Yangon Region. Singapore is Myanmar's leading source of investment capital this fiscal year, followed by China.

The MIC has authorized 13 new local and foreign investments creating more than 1,300 employment opportunities, according to a recent meeting of MIC. . —GNLM ■

Four irrigation systems result from agricultural project

THE Agricultural Development Support Project (ADSP) is being implemented in four irrigation systems in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Sagaing and Mandalay regions, with the support of the World Bank.

A workshop on the project jointly organised by the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the consultant group Korea Rural Community (KRC) Jv Consultant was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at the end of August. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the current situation of the irrigation systems where the project will be implemented, share opinions and views of the project participants on challenges and opportunities and future work processes.

At the workshop, U Bo Bo Kyaw, the deputy director-general of the department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management, gave an opening speech followed by discussion from responsible officials from the department and experts from the World Bank's consultant groups. —Than Oo (Laymyathnar) ■

Trucking business slows due to rainy season and Chinese and Indian trade restrictions

SOME trucking services are suspending their operations due to lack of demand for transport during the monsoon season, according to a report in Myawady Daily, last Saturday.

This year, trade decreased by 20 per cent during monsoon. In addition to bad eather, the decline in trade is due to flooding in regions and states, new import restrictions enacted by India and China which effected Myanmar's pulses, rice, sugar and corn markets, according to Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association. —GNLM ■

Trucks forced to halt by decreasing trade flow

WITH decreasing trade flow in the monsoon season, some trucks- 12-wheeled trucks, 18-wheeled trucks and 22-wheeled trucks will come to rest, according to a report of Myawady Daily, last Satruday.

This year, trade flow in monsoon season decreases 20 per cent less than last year.

Decrease in trade flow this year is attributed to the flood across the regions and states, policy restriction on pulses by India and on rice, sugar and corns at Muse gate by China, according to Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association. Goods transport to Muse, Buthitaung and Maungtaw areas keep declining. —GNLM ■

PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

Manufacturing sector absorbed more foreign investments in Thilawa SEZ

FOREIGN direct investments in Thilawa SEZ primarily flowed into manufacturing sectors which accounts for 73 per cent of total FDI in the zone.

At present, FDI in Thilawa SEZ reached more than US$1.14 billion so far. Manufacturing sector in Thilawa SEZ absorbed investments of about US$843 million in 62 enterprises. Trading sector attracted investments of $101 million. The investments were $77 million into logistics, over $81 million into service sector, over $30 million into real estate sector and over $12 milllion into hotel sector.

Japan invested the highest in Thilawa SEZ, followed by Thailand.

Out of 2,400 hectare areas of land in Thilawa SEZ, 400 hectares are for Zone A which is totally developed. And, the construction of Zone B on 101 hectares of areas is slated to complete in mid 2018. Some plots of land in Zone B will be leased to the investors in late 2017.

Upon the completion of Thilawa SEZ, about 150 foreign companies are expected to invest in the zone. Thilawa Zone A is expected to constitute five per cent of export, with export values of $600 million a year.

The country is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones_ Thilawa, Kyaukpyu and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading with its better infrastructure and successful business.—Ko Khant ■

Local businesspeople, government officials hope to promote 'Made in Myanmar' designation

May Thet Hnin

ECONOMIC experts and business leaders held a panel discussion on Saturday to discuss ways to affix local export products with a "Made in Myanmar" label to improve international opportunities and to counter the Myanmar's reputation abroad as a poor and conflict-afflicted country.

Economist Dr. Aung Tun Thet argued that the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry should establish a system whereby high quality products can be authorized to use a Made in Myanmar label.

"Previously, Myanmar did not have the opportunity to establish a 'Made in Myanmar" initiative due to western countries' sanctions," he said. "Under the current government, international countries changed their opinions on Myanmar and so we should take advantage of this to create our own products which can bring added status to homegrown brands under a Made in Myanmar designation."

Currently there is no system to certify Myanmar made products, despite the fact that the country produces a significant number of goods for export.

"In order to manufacture products under a Made in Myanmar brand, local producers need to keep up with technology trends so products can meet international standards. With the ASEAN Economic Community common market initiative approaching, Myanmar needs to prepare its products to enter free and competitive market", said U Aye Han, paint distributor.

Panel discussion "Make in Myanmar" was held by experts and entrepreneurs at UMFCCI on 2 September. ■

Agricultural machinery imports to be granted tax exemption

The Customs Department will grant a tax exemption for farm machinery starting 1 October under a new policy intended to promote agricultural investment and adoption of modern farming techiniques, according to a report of Myawady Daily last Sunday.

Imported spare parts and other agricultural supplies will continue to be taxed a rate of one to two per cent.

Myanmar lacks agricultural machinery slowing sector growth and investment and hampering efforts at gaining export market share.—GNLM ■

Intermediate goods import increases US$760 million more than last FY

IMPORT value of intermediate goods nearly five months of this FY increased by US$760 million against last FY, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry last Friday.

Foreign direct investment mostly flows into manufacturing sector in current FY, which increases import of intermediate goods, especially construction materials. Private sector imported more than government sector.

Intermediate goods import hit more than $2.88 billion between 1 April and 25 August this FY. In addition to intermediate goods, capital goods and consumer goods are also imported into Myanmar. Import value of capital goods was $2.64 billion while consumer goods worth $1.82 billion are also imported into the country.

As of 25 August in current FY, import values amounted to $7.35 billion whereas export earned more than $5.04 billion, resulted in trade deficit of $2.3 billion. — Mon Mon ■

ARSA extremist terrorists destroy border fence

ARSA extremist terrorists were making movements after tearing the border fence apart, cutting off the heads of Buddha statues of a pagoda in Nantthataung village and burning down a monastery, a Buddhist school and homes in Maungtaw Township.

Security forces while on their area clearance and anti-terrorist operations in the surrounding areas of Nantthataung village in the township on 1 September found two damaged sections of the fence -- one 120-foot long and the other 32-feet long -- between Meetaikchaungwa outpost and Kunthebinchaungwa outpost. The ARSA extremist terrorists were easily crossing the border through the damaged parts and moving along the mouths of the creeks.

The security forces found that the terrorists cut off all the heads of the Buddha statues of the pagoda and burnt down a monastery, a Buddhist school and 37 homes. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Photo shows the damage caused by ARSA extremist terrorists. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Interview with the family members of the villagers slain by ARSA extremist terrorists

Rakhine State Chief Minister and responsible personnel went to Wailar Taung village where the remaining families of the 5 Daingnets killed by ARSA attacks were taking temporary refuge and supplied the monetary assistance to them. The Rakhine State government donated Ks. 200,000 each and total Ks. 1,000,000 and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement gave Ks.300,000 each and total ks. 1,500,000.

In that journey, the interview with the remaining family members of the 5 Daingnets killed by ARSA extremist terrorist attacks were made and hereby presented.

U Thar Hla (Daingnet, Yankar Zedi village)

Our village is consisted of 10 households. All the inhabitants are Daingnets. All the villagers fled the village when terrorist attacks broke out.

The five families fled to new land territory. We fled to Wailar Taung village. Our group consisted of 22 people and at about half way about 100 terrorists attacked us with knives and swords. 5 villagers were killed and some were wounded. My wife, daughter-in law, my son and my grandchild were killed.

The bodies of my wife and grandchild were recovered thanks to the help of security forces. The bodies of my wife and son still remained undiscovered. The government had supported Ks.500,000 each for my deceased family members.

U Thar Hla (Daingnet, Yankar Zedi village).

Maung Ba Maung (Daingnet, Aungzan village).

Maung Ba Maung (Daingnet, Aungzan village)

The deceased due to the attack of terrorists is my cousin brother Maung Thein Hla. He was killed on the roadside near Anobali village while he was on his way to Khamaukseik on 25 August. Though I wished to search for the body of my brother I dared not go on security ground. Now, people from Aung Zan village and Thet village came to the monastery of Waila Taung village to take refuge. Meals are going well here as the government sent the food for the displaced people. Police are deployed here for the security.

This is the time for all people to unite and cooperate in wiping out the ARSA terrorists from the land of Myanmar. This interview is written to let the people know about the heart-rending incidents of Daingnet people. ■

Hindu women and children escape from terrorists

FROM PAGE-1

Ma Kaw Marlar gestured slowly with her injured right arm while telling the reporters that the terrorists were mostly dressed in black pants, shirts and masks while a few of them had normal attire on. "Some were armed with sticks and swords and some were armed with guns," she said.

Ma Kaw Marlar witnessed her husband, child and relatives shot and slashed to death and herself shot. The terrorists left, thinking she was dead but Ma Kaw Malar and the three other survivors later hid themselves inside a barrel.

"I was shot on the left side of my chest," said Ma Kaw Marlar. "They thought I was dead and left. Another women and two children were hiding in a barrel and I joined them. Now I, this child, and the other two are the only ones who survived," said Ma Kaw Marlar as she gestured to the three-year old boy by her bedside.

Although she survived, Ma Kaw Marlar lost her family in the attack.

The doctor looking after Ma Kaw Marlar said that the bullet to her chest ripped off some of her left breast and they are transferring her to Sittway's hospital for better treatment.

The unfinished two-storied court building stands silently as armed policeman are stationed nearby. A red Surf vehicle is parked in front of the building with all its windows smashed, littering glass onto the concrete road.

Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, a senior medical staff of Maungtaw General Hospital, was part of a group who carried the bodies of the Hindu family that were killed in the attack on 26 August.

"There were children among the six Hindu family members that were killed," said Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein. "It's very sad. They were children around the ages of 5, 7 and 9 years. It's very cruel," he said.

Up till 25 August, Maungtaw city was full of people of diverse races and languages living peacefully. ARSA terrorists led a coordinated attack on 25 August and invaded 30 security posts and police outposts in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships and Taungbazar village, killing security personnel, an immigration officer and innocent civilians.

ARSA terrorists had disrupted the peace that was slowly building in Rakhine.

Counter-terrorism is a global concern for the United Nations, international organizations and international goevrnments and is equally important for everybody to oppose it.

Now is the time for us to collaborate to push back the terrorists not only in Rakhine State but in other states across the country as well.

Ma Kaw Marlar lays down on a bed in the outpatient ward. Her eyes are resting upon her three-year old son, her only family left. ■

Beware of the spread of false information on social media

NEWS, photos and video clips purporting to be from the conflict in Myanmar have been circulated widely on the pages of social media networks including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. In fact those news, photos and video clips were taken in other countries, said a news release issued by Information Committee yesterday evening..

For example, the deputy prime minister of Turkey tweeted photographs of the event that actually occurred in other countries. People who could trace back the origin of the photos discovered that they are inauthentic.

When the ambassador of Turkey to Myanmar was called in to explain the matter there appeared a tweet admitting the inauthenticity of the said post which was later deleted.

Likewise, AFP has to change its photos after confessing to using wrong ones in releasing Rakhine region news.

Although the confessions were made about the false information and images, they have already damaged the image of the government, the security forces and the people.

Sharing or distribution of the information and images on the social media networks pages should be carried out only after carefully checking their authenticity. People should be aware of the false news and images spreading on the social network.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Dr. Zaw Myint, Director-General officially open the new building. **PHOTO: MNA**

New building of Myanmar Language Commission opens in Yangon

Opening ceremony of new building of the Myanmar Language Commission was held yesterday at the building in Inya Road, Yangon.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Dr. Zaw Myint, Director-General, the Department of Myanmar Nationalities' languages opened the ceremony by cutting the ribbons.

The Union Minister for Education said that the ministry is carrying out the development of Myanmar language as well as nationalities' language. The Myanmar language Commission is implementing development on not only Myanmar language but also other nationalities' languages. He also encouraged people to carry out altogether the development of nationalities' languages.

Then, the Yangon Region Chief Minister said that he wished Myanmar language, literature, culture and nationalities' languages to be long-lasting forover. A member of Myanmar Language Commission Dr. Khin Aye spoke the words of delight.

Afterwards, U Maung Maung Aung, Managing Director of Viking Myanmar Construction Co.Ltd handed over the documents of the building and Dr. Zaw Myint accepted the documents.

At afternoon' discussion held at the Higher Education Department, Yangon, the Union Minister met with committee members of basic education grade-3 level course curriculum and curriculum planning members, and discussed on treating the grade-3 level school text books timely and in high quality.—Myanmar News Agency■

Peace music festival 2017 continues in Nay Pyi Taw

Level-1 of the Peace music festival 2017 in progress. **PHOTO: HEIN HTET ZAW**

Level-1 of the Peace music festival 2017 was held at MRTV studio in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Tin Htut and officials.

The festival will be held in 11 cities, and Taunggyi, Mawlamyine, Myitkyina, Lashio, Pathein, Yangon have already hosted the festival.

As the number of contestants for Yangon festival is large, the festival was held two times in August – one on 3 August and the other 20 August. Of the over 200 applications, 47 were selected. After the voice test there remain only ten.

Ten contests took part in the level-1 contest, and first, second and third prizes were presented to winners.

The level -1 contest in Mandalay will be on 10 September. Other level- 1 contests will also be held at the respective venues.—July Moe ■

Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs arrives Yangon

H.E. Mrs. Retno LP Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and party arrived by air at Yangon yesterday at 11:00 pm and were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Daw Kay Thi Soe, Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ito Sumardi, Indonesia Ambassador to Myanmar and officials from the embassy. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Retno LP Marsudi and party arrive in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

High potential of Myanmar Economy

Maw Linn

THE topic of economic transformation in Myanmar was thoroughly discussed at the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition held from 11 to 13 August 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw. The talks could generally be summed up that despite the slow economic take-off in Myanmar, the good potential of the Myanmar economy will be seen in the future.

The present economic situation was reviewed and analyzed in comparison with that of the previous government. It was quite evident that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2015-16 was USD 9.4 billion and it came down to USD 6.6 billion in 2016-17. However, it is usual practice to size up the general situation of the country in the beginning of a new government while it had been busy with changes in policy and government and change of accountability.

Nevertheless, if compared with the first year of the previous government, it could be seen 2011-12 financial year had FDI $4.6 billion and that of the incumbent government in 2016-17 was $ 6.6 billion. According to the latest information, as of August of the 2016-17 financial year, within one and half year of the incumbent government, FDI had increased to $ 15.207 billion.

In respect of FDI, China is at the top with over $19 billion, but most of the China's FDI was invested in the early part and decreased later. The FDI of China was mostly in the energy sector, hence there was not much creation of jobs. Singapore was found to have rapidly increased its FDI in Myanmar with its total FDI $16 billion as of 1st quarter of 2017-18. Vietnam came third in FDI having invested US$ 2 billion up to now, which came up from US$ 23 million only before 2010.

The present FDIs were mostly invested in industries, telecommunications and other services. It was found that the successful implementation of the Thilawa Industrial Zone helped boost the Myanmar Economy. The domestic economy was seen to be relying too much on the extraction and selling of the natural resources of the country. Besides, almost all of the nation's economic transactions had not been transparent and was monopolized by a handful of cronies. Therefore, taxes were evaded and national income had dwindled. Such an economic slow-down which is the anathema of all the people usually occur in the democratic transition of a country.

In a discussion session held at the Novotel Hotel on 24 August Professor of Economics, Sean Turnell pointed out the fact that in the last three-year term of the previous government the budget deficit had gone up successively, with 13.5% in 2014-15 rising to 31.5% in 2015-16. Inflation rate was also rising from 5.9% in 2014-15 to 11.4% in 2015-16. The NLD government had to inherit such unfavorable circumstances from the previous government and if the NLD could not control the situation from getting worse, the incumbent government could have encountered bankruptcy.

The inflation rate had fallen to 6.97% in early 2017 and it was found to go down to 4.92 at the end of July. According to the current official report of the World Bank, the poverty rate in Myanmar had improved from 31% to currently 19%. The good economic potential can be perceived in future of Myammar due to the correct economic policy laid down by the government, change from resource-relying economy to regular economy and axing the government expenses. It was learnt that Myanmar economic growth rate declined to 6.5% in 2016-17 FY and will come up to 7.5 in 2017-18 according to the forecast of the IMF.

(Translated by Khin Maung Win)

Hurricanes & Storms: Effects of Irreversible Climate Change

By San Shwe Aung

IT is evident that we, the world citizens have over the last few decades experienced irregular patterns of climates in almost every part of the planet. Rainy season has shortened in the tropical rain forests, drought has crept in the places where it used to have regular rains. Tropical cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons have hit the coastal areas in North Asia, South and South East Asia and America. Tsunami had hit several countries in Asia on the boxing day (26th December) of 2004. Cyclone Nargis had devastated delta regions of Myanmar 2nd & 3rd May 2008, killing hundreds of thousands of people & animals living in Ayeyarwaddy Region. These natural disasters had killed combined millions of people and tens of millions more people had lost homes, jobs, economy, infrastructures& livelihoods forever. All severe natural disasters have occurred due predominantly to climate change and global warming.

Climate change

Climate change is the rise in average surface temperatures on Earth, mostly due to the burning of fossil fuels. Climate change, also called global warming, refers to the rise in average surface temperatures on Earth. An overwhelming scientific consensus maintains that climate change is due primarily to the human use of fossil fuels, which releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air. The gases trap heat within the atmosphere, which can have a range of effects on ecosystems, including rising sea levels, severe weather events, and droughts that render landscapes more susceptible to wildfires. There is broad-based agreement within the scientific community that climate change is real. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concur that climate change is indeed occurring and is almost certainly due to human activity. The primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, which emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere—primarily carbon dioxide. Other human activities, such as agriculture and deforestation, also contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change. While some quantities of these gases are a naturally occurring and critical part of Earth's temperature control system, the atmospheric concentration of CO_2 did not rise above 300 parts per million (ppm) between the advent of human civilization roughly 10,000 years ago and 1900. Today it is at about 400 ppm, a level not reached in more than 400,000 years. Even small increases in Earth's temperature caused by climate change can have severe effects. The earth's average temperature has gone up 1.4° F over the past century and is expected to rise as much as 11.5° F over the next 100 years. That might not seem like a lot, but the average temperature during the last Ice Age was about 4° F lower than it is today. Rising sea levels due to the melting of the polar ice caps (again, caused by climate change) contribute to greater storm damage; warming ocean temperatures are associated with stronger and more frequent storms; additional rainfall, particularly during severe weather events, leads to flooding and other damage; an increase in the incidence and severity of wildfires threatens habitats, homes, and lives; and heat waves contribute to human deaths and other consequences. While consensus among nearly all scientists, scientific organizations, and governments is that climate change is happening and is caused by human activity, a small minority of voices questions the validity of such assertions and prefers to cast doubt on the preponderance of evidence. Climate change deniers often claim that recent changes attributed to human activity can be seen as part of the natural variations in Earth's climate and temperature, and that it is difficult or impossible

Hurricane Katrina (2005).

to establish a direct connection between climate change and any single weather event, such as a hurricane. While the latter is generally true, decades of data and analysis support the reality of climate change—and the human factor in this process. In any case, economists agree that acting to reduce fossil fuel emissions would be far less expensive than dealing with the consequences of not doing so.

Global warming

Here's a simple definition of global warming. Over the past 50 years, the average global temperature has increased at the fastest rate in recorded history. And experts see the trend is accelerating: All but one of the 16 hottest years in NASA's 134-year record have occurred since 2000. Climate change deniers have argued that there has been a "pause" or a "slowdown" in rising global temperatures, but several recent studies, including a 2015 paper published in the journal Science, have disproved this claim. And scientists say that unless we curb global-warming emissions, average temperatures could increase by up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century. Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other air pollutants and greenhouse gasses collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface. Normally, this radiation would escape into space—but these pollutants, which can last for years to centuries in the atmosphere, trap the heat and cause the planet to get hotter. That's what's known as the greenhouse effect. In the United States, the burning of fossil fuels to make electricity is the largest source of heat-trapping pollution, producing about two billion tons of CO_2 every year. Coal-burning power plants are by far the biggest polluters.

SEE PAGE 9

Myanmar hails UNESCO Status for Indawgyi Lake and expects more UNESCO sites to be announced in the future

IN yet another nod to the huge potential of tourism in Myanmar, UNESCO has designated Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State—the largest freshwater lake in the country and the third largest in Southeast Asia—as a Biosphere Reserve. The recognition is the second of its kind for Myanmar. In 2015, Inle Lake in Shan State was granted UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status for its ecological importance.

Spanning over an area of 133,715 hectares, the Biosphere Reserve of Indawgyi Lake includes the lake and the surrounding wetlands and forest to a distance of about 15 kilometres. Indawgyi Lake is also home to more than 160 bird species—some of which are globally threatened water birds—as well as turtle species, endemic fish, mammals, reptiles and primates. Every year in the fall, migratory birds from as far as Siberia find solace around the area within Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.

Indawgyi is not the only site in Myanmar recognized by UNESCO. Up till now only the Pyu Ancient cities (the remains of three brick, walled and moated cities of Halin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra are listed as World Heritage site thanks to efforts from the Myanmar government these sites have been listed since 2014. UNESCO is of course known as well for The World Heritage List (presently comprising 721 exceptional cultural and natural sites in 124 countries) including some of the world's greatest tourism destinations, ranging from the Taj Mahal to Machu Picchu and the banks of the Seine in Paris, from the Great Barrier Reef to Sagamartha and Kilimanjaro).

Lesser known are the 3 "memories of the world" which include the Kuthodaw Inscription Shrines in Mandalay, the Myazedi Stone Inscription in Bagan which includes an inscription in four languages, Pyu, Mon, Myanmar and Pali, on each of the four sides of the column and The Golden Letter from 1756 of the Burmese King Alaungphaya to King George II of Great Britain.

In total 14 other places in Myanmar submitted on the Tentative List including Bagan ancient temple city and the lesser known Mrauk U ancient city.

"Myanmar Tourism Marketing is of course hoping that other places around Myanmar will soon receive UNESCO Heritage status, just as Indawgyi Lake recently got recognised" says Myanmar Tourism Marketing Chairperson Ma May Myat Mon Win "as more international recognition will help showing the world how much cultural and natural beauty this country has to offer".

Tourism authorities in Myanmar and Cambodia announced last month that they will launch a joint action plan aimed at boosting tourism industry of the two countries, the Myanmar Ministry of Hotels and Tourism said on Thursday.

Cambodia recently got a third temple complex listed as World Heritage Site and the country have seen how much benefits this recognition can bring to the tourism industry. The famous Angkor Wat temples are often compared with the temple site of Bagan and received world heritage status in 1992. Nowadays Angkor Wat receives over 2 million tourists a year (compared to 280.000 tourists visiting Bagan in 2016).—GNLM ■

The Ananda temple in Bagan - possibly the next not to be missed UNESCO World Heritage site?. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Hurricanes & Storms: Effects of Irreversible Climate Change

FROM PAGE 8

The country's second-largest source of carbon pollution is the transportation sector, which generates about 1.7 billion tons of CO2 emissions a year. Curbing dangerous climate change requires very deep cuts in emissions, as well as the use of alternatives to fossil fuels worldwide. The good news is that we've started a turnaround: CO2 emissions in the United States actually decreased from 2005 to 2014 thanks in part to new, energy-efficient technology and the use of cleaner fuels. And scientists continue to develop new ways to modernize power plants, generate cleaner electricity, and burn less gasoline while we drive. The challenge is to be sure these solutions are put to use and widely adopted. Scientists agree that the earth's rising temperatures are fueling longer and hotter heat waves, more frequent droughts, heavier rainfall, and more powerful hurricanes. In 2015, for example, scientists said that an ongoing drought in California—the state's worst water shortage in 1,200 years—had been intensified by 15 percent to 20 percent by global warming. They also said the odds of similar droughts happening in the future had roughly doubled over the past century. And in 2016, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine announced that it's now possible to confidently attribute certain weather events, like some heat waves, directly to climate change. The earth's ocean temperatures are getting warmer, too—which means that tropical storms can pick up more energy. So global warming could turn, say, a category 3 storm into a more dangerous category 4 storm. In fact, scientists have found that the frequency of North Atlantic hurricanes has increased since the early 1980s, as well as the number of storms that reach categories 4 and 5. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina—the costliest hurricane in U.S. history—struck New Orleans; the second-costliest, Hurricane Sandy, hit the East Coast in 2012.The impacts of global warming are being felt across the globe. Extreme heat waves have caused tens of thousands of deaths around the world in recent years. And in an alarming sign of events to come, Antarctica has been losing about 134 billion metric tons of ice per year since 2002. This rate could speed up if we keep burning fossil fuels at our current pace, some experts say, causing sea levels to rise several meters over the next 50 to 150 years. Each year, scientists learn more about the consequences of global warming, and many agree that environmental, economic, and health consequences are likely to occur if current trends continue. Wondering how to stop global warming? Reduce your own carbon footprint by following a few easy steps. Make conserving energy a part of your daily routine and your decisions as a consumer. When you shop for new appliances like refrigerators, washers, and dryers, look for products which produce less or no greenhouse gases such as CFC (chlorofluorocarbon-which damage ozone layer of the earth); they meet a higher standard for energy efficiency. When you buy a car, look for one with the highest gas mileage and lowest emissions. Hybrid or electric vehicles are now more available in the car markets, which produce less or no CO2 at all.

Hurricane Katrina (2005)

Hurricane Katrina was an extremely destructive and deadly tropical cyclone that was the costliest natural disaster and one of the five deadliest hurricanes in the history of the United States. The storm originated over the Bahamas on August 23 in 2005 (exactly 12 years before Hurricane Harvey) from the interaction between a tropical wave and the remnants of Tropical Depression Ten. Early the following day, the new depression intensified into Tropical Storm Katrina. The cyclone headed generally westward toward Florida and strengthened into a hurricane only two hours before making landfall on August 25. After very briefly weakening to a tropical storm, Katrina emerged into the Gulf of Mexico on August 26 and began to rapidly deepen. The storm strengthened to a Category 5 hurricane over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, but weakened before making its second landfall as a Category 3 hurricane on August 29 in southeast Louisiana. The storm caused severe destruction along the Gulf coast from central Florida to Texas, much of it due to the storm surge and levee failure. Severe property damage occurred in coastal areas, such as Mississippi beachfront towns where boats and casino barges rammed buildings, pushing cars and houses inland; water reached 6–12 miles (10–19 km) from the beach. Total property damage was estimated at $108 billion (2005 – US Dollar). Over fifty breaches in New Orleans's hurricane surge protection were the cause of the majority of the death and destruction during Katrina on August 29, 2005. Eventually 80% of the city and large tracts of neighboring parishes became flooded, and the floodwaters lingered for weeks.

(To be continued)

UK PM May says EU repeal bill best way to avoid Brexit 'cliff edge'

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May warned lawmakers on Saturday that Britain could be faced with a Brexit "cliff edge" if they fail to back her EU repeal bill, as reports suggest momentum is growing within the ruling Conservative party to unseat her.

On Thursday, British lawmakers will hold their first full parliamentary debate on legislation dubbed the Great Repeal Bill, which will sever the country's ties with the European Union.

May failed to win a clear mandate at a snap June 7 election and only has a slim majority in parliament thanks to an agreement with a smaller party. She remains vulnerable if her pro-European lawmakers team up with other parties to vote down legislation or support amendments.

An official adjusts a European Union flag next to a Union Jack flag, ahead of a news conference by Britain's Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union David Davis and European Union's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier in Brussels, Belgium, on 28 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The main opposition Labour Party is planning to table several changes to the repeal bill designed to keep Britain in the single market and customs union during a Brexit transition period after 2019, according to The Times.

On Saturday, May's deputy warned Conservative lawmakers from doing anything that would increase Labour's chances of returning to power, while May said the bill was the best way to ensure Britain's successful exit from the European Union.

"The Repeal Bill ... (is) the single most important step we can take to prevent a cliff-edge for people and businesses, because it transfers laws and provides legal continuity," she said in comments provided by her office.

"We ... welcome the contributions of MPs from across the House. But for us to grasp the great prize ahead of us, that contribution must fit with our shared aim: to help Britain make a success of Brexit."

But in a move that would irk many Eurosceptics, May is preparing to pay a Brexit divorce bill of up to 50 billion pounds ($65 billion) to the EU, The Sunday Times reported, citing an unnamed source. A spokeswoman at May's office told Reuters the report "is simply not true."

Earlier this week, May tried to draw a line under leadership speculation by saying she wanted to continue as Britain's leader beyond the next parliamentary election, not due until 2022, dismissing expectations she would quit as early as 2019.

But the Sunday Times reported that her announcement prompted "two or three more" Conservative lawmakers to sign up to a letter calling on her to quit, bringing the total to about 25. At least 48 are needed to trigger a leadership contest. A spokeswoman at May's office declined to comment on the report.

The Observer newspaper cited unnamed parliamentarians, including former ministers, as saying there was growing anger among pro-European Conservatives as they are told that softening the repeal bill with be seen as backing Labour, making a leadership challenge against May more likely this autumn. But May is trying to grow support by winning over younger people who backed Labour in the election with plans to reform tuition fees and provide cheap homes to key public sector workers, the Sunday Times said. —Reuters ■

Russia: US order to vacate diplomatic property 'blunt act of hostility'

MOSCOW — The Russian foreign ministry said on Sunday that a US order to vacate Russian diplomatic property in Washington and San Francisco was a "blunt act of hostility".

"We urge American authorities to change their minds and return Russian diplomatic facilities immediately," it said on its website.

On Saturday, Russian diplomats worked to vacate three properties in the United States, including the six-story consulate in San Francisco, complying with the US order which was issued in retaliation for Moscow cutting the American diplomatic presence in Russia. —Reuters ■

Members of the Consulate General of Russia load furniture into a vehicle in San Francisco, California, US, on 2 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

WORLD BRIEFS

EU commission criticism of Brexit talks was 'silly'

LONDON – Britain's chief Brexit negotiator David Davis said on Sunday the European Union had made itself look silly by criticising the British approach to the talks that Brussels said had made little progress.

"Bluntly, I think it looked a bit silly, because there plainly were things that we've achieved," Davis told the BBC. "The commission puts itself in a silly position if it says nothing has been done."

He also said it was likely Britain would continue to pay some money into the EU budget after Brexit, but that the sums would not be large over the medium to long term.–Reuters ■

Iran tests own air defence system to match Russian S-300

TEHRAN – Iran has tested its home-grown air defence system, designed to match the Russian S-300, state broadcaster IRIB reported on Sunday.

The report cited the head of the Revolutionary Guards' air defence Farzad Esmaili as saying that Iran has "a specific plan to boost missile power."

"The system is made completely in Iran and some of its parts are different from the S-300. All of its sub-systems have been completed and its missile tests have been conducted," Farzad Esmaili said.–Xinhua ■

Al-Shabaab attacks military base in Somalia

MOGADISHU – Al-Shabaab militants attacked and took control of a military base in the outskirts of Somalia's coastal city of Kismayu on Sunday, military officials said.

The fighters attacked the base some 30 kilometers north of Kismayu at dawn and engaged the Somali troops in a fierce fighting. A senior a military officer, Ismail Sahardid ,told journalists that the fierce fighting went on into daybreak but did not provide number of casualties. The Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility through its media outlet, noting it had killed 26 soldiers in the camp.–Xinhua ■

Colombia's ELN says it killed Russian hostage; risks peace talks with government

NORTHWESTERN JUNGLES, (Colombia) — Colombia's ELN guerrilla group said a Russian-Armenian citizen it held hostage for six months was killed in April while trying to escape, a startling admission that risks throwing current peace talks with the government into jeopardy.

In a rare interview, a commander of the National Liberation Army, Colombia's last active guerrilla group, said that ransoms from kidnappings were necessary to keep its fighters in the field and that peace would be impossible without state funding to feed and clothe the rebels.

Yerson, commander of the National Liberation Army (ELN), talks to Reuters in the northwestern jungles in Colombia, on 30 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The ELN seized Arsen Voskanyan in November. The group claimed that he was collecting endangered, poisonous frogs in the jungles of the northwestern department of Choco and accused him of wanting to smuggle wildlife overseas.

After his lengthy captivity, Voskanyan was shot when he grabbed a hand grenade in a bid to escape, according to the ELN commander, who would only give his nom-de-guerre Yerson.

"He's dead," Yerson told Reuters in a remote area along the banks of a river that sees frequent combat between the leftist rebels, government troops and right-wing paramilitaries.

"The grenade exploded ... several of our boys were wounded, the entire unit of five boys. He fled, he was shot and killed ... The issue of his body will be negotiated," he said, adding that the death took place within his unit. Yerson supplied no evidence to back up his assertions.

Another person with knowledge of the matter also subsequently confirmed that Voskanyan had been killed.

Reuters could not independently confirm the circumstances surrounding Voskanyan's death.

Colombia's government said it knows nothing of the ELN's claim and the last it knew was a statement from the ELN that said he had escaped.

"The responsibility is with the ELN," the senior official said, asking not to be named.

The Russian Embassy in Colombia, Colombia's High Peace Commissioner and the Foreign Ministry in Moscow did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The ELN's practice of kidnapping civilians is a key issue at peace talks taking place in the Ecuadorean capital of Quito. The fact that Voskanyan was killed as talks progress and the ELN failed to inform the government may complicate already tricky negotiations to end 53 years of war with the Marxist group.

Voskanyan's death makes the need for a bilateral ceasefire more pressing, said leftist Senator Antonio Navarro Wolff, who once belonged to now-demobilized urban guerrilla group the M-19.

"It makes it urgent to get a bilateral, verifiable ceasefire as soon as possible so this doesn't keep happening," Navarro Wolff told Reuters.

Yerson and his troops said they are not optimistic a peace agreement can be reached because neither side will give ground on kidnapping.

The ELN has refused to stop taking hostages for ransom, launching bomb attacks and extorting foreign oil and mining companies while talks are ongoing. The government has said it will not move forward on issues like a bilateral ceasefire until it does.

Talks with the ELN are being held as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), until this year the biggest rebel group, has demobilized, formed a new political party and ended its part in a civil war that killed more than 220,000 people and displaced millions over five decades.—Reuters ■

Over 2,000 IS militants killed in Iraq's Tal Afar

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi forces killed over 2,000 Islamic State (IS) militants and more than 50 suicide bombers during a major offensive to free Tal Afar area in west of Mosul, the Iraqi military said on Saturday.

"The IS total casualties in the blitzkrieg during the period from 20 to 31 August were more than 2,000 terrorists and over 50 suicide bombers, along with destroying and detonating of 77 car bombs, 71 booby-trapped buildings and 990 roadside bombs," Lt. Gen. Abdul Amir Yarallah from the Joint Operations Command (JOC) said at a televised press conference.

More than 40,000 Iraqi fighters from the Iraqi army, federal police and its commandos known as Rapid Response forces and Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) forces, in addition to ten brigades of the paramilitary Hashd Shaabi fighters, participated in the offensive, which was supported by Iraqi and international coalition aircraft, Yarallah said.

Yarallah also said that the Iraqi forces sustained 115 martyrs and 679 wounded during the 12-day battles to liberate Tal Afar and its surrounding areas, including the towns of Mahalabiyah and Ayadhiyah.

"Those who take a look at this figure (Iraqi forces casualties) will realize that fierce battles took place in Tal Afar area," Yarallah said.

The troops evacuated a total of 40,758 people from the city of Tal Afar and surrounding areas before and during the offensive, 18,822 before 20 August and 21,936 others during the 12-day offensive, Yarallah said.

The Tal Afar area is about 3,206 square km, which consists of the city of Tal Afar and three towns: Zummar, which is under control of the Kurdish security forces, Mahalabiyah and Ayadhiyah, which were freed from IS militants during the offensive.

The whole Tal Afar area consists of 47 villages scattered around the city and its three towns.

The majority of the population in the Tal Afar area are Sunni and Shiite Turkomans, in addition to the Kurds and other minorities.

On Thursday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared full liberation of the city of Tal Afar and surrounding areas from the extremist IS militants.— Xinhua ■

Police fire tear gas at Congo opposition leader's supporters

KINSHASA — Police fired tear gas to disperse supporters of Democratic Republic of Congo's opposition chief on Sunday as they gathered in the capital amid high tensions over election delays keeping President Joseph Kabila in power, a Reuters witness said.

Felix Tshisekedi, head of an opposition coalition, is due to fly back to the capital Kinshasa on Sunday after a prolonged absence abroad. Around a dozen supporters had gathered at his family residences in the morning, although there was no sign of violence.

Tshisekedi intends to call for a civil disobedience campaign in order to pressure Kabila, whose mandate expired last year, to step aside.

Congolese authorities banned the coalition's planned meeting on Sunday, citing a risk of violence in the Central African country of more than 70 million people.—Reuters ■

Saudi confirms five cholera cases in border city with Yemen

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia confirmed Saturday five cholera cases in the border city of Jajan close to Yemen, Al Muwatin online local news reported.

According to the health ministry, the cases are non-Saudis, and the country is providing proper medical treatment to them.

The microbe in the tested cases proves to be the same discovered in Yemen by the World Health Organisation, the ministry added.

As a precaution, the hospital accommodating the cases has been evacuated.

The ministry didn't disclose the nationalities of the cases, but they were suspected of arriving from Yemen which is witnessing the worst cholera epidemic in the world.— Xinhua ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
Invitation for Bids

Date: 1st September, 2017
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM
Contract Title: Steel Parts and Accessories for National Electrification Project
Reference No. : C1-G7

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Steel Parts and Accessories for National Electrification Project.
2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of Steel Parts and Accessories to be delivered in 2018 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 7 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.
3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include:
- The minimum average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years shall be shown in the table column (b) below.
- The bidder should have past experience of having satisfactorily completed during the last 5 years at least **two contracts** for supply of similar goods, with the value of each such contract should be greater than the minimum amount shown in the table column (c) below.
- The details of the qualification requirements are seen in the bidding documents.

Lot no. and description	Amount in USD (million)	Amount in USD (million)
(a)	(b)	(c)
Lot 1 – Steel Parts package for Yangon	2.0	1.5
Lot 2 – Steel Parts package for Mandalay	5.0	4.0
Lot 3 – Steel Parts package for Kayin,Mon	1.5	1.3
Lot 4 – Steel Parts package for Kachin,Kayah,Chin,Sagaing,Naypyitaw	12.0	9.5
Lot 5 – Steel Parts package for Bago(E)	7.0	5.8
Lot 6 – Steel Parts package for Ayeyarwaddy	7.0	5.7
Lot 7 – Steel Parts package for Rakhine, Shan(E), Shan(N), Shan(S), Magwe, Bago(W)	20.0	16.8

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmomoep@ gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours Myanmar time at the address given below.
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.
In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:
Director General, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Email: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 27, 2017**, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below on **October 27, 2017**, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.
9. The address referred to above is:
Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone : +95 67 410203
Facsimile : +95 67 410077
E-mail : nep.pmomoep@gmail.com
Web site : http://www.moep.gov.mm

Police officers get their instructions as 60,000 people in Germany's financial capital are about to evacuate the city while experts defuse an unexploded British World War Two bomb found during renovations on the university's campus in Frankfurt, Germany, on 3 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Thousands evacuate in Frankfurt before WWII bomb defused

FRANKFURT — Thousands of residents in Frankfurt evacuated their homes early on Sunday ahead of the planned defusing of a massive World War II bomb discovered on a building site in the German financial capital.

A steady flow of people filed into a temporary center at Frankfurt's trade fair site, in Germany's biggest evacuation since the war.

The bomb was found last week in the city's leafy Westend suburb, where many wealthy bankers live, and the evacuation area included the country's central bank where $70 billion in gold reserves are stored.

Around 60,000 people had to leave their homes and Frankfurt fire and police chiefs said they would use force if necessary to clear the area, warning that an uncontrolled explosion of the bomb would be big enough to flatten a city block.

Police set up cordons around the evacuation area, which covered a radius of 1.5 km (roughly a mile), as residents dragged suitcases away and many families rode away from the zone by bicycle.

The fire service said the evacuation of two hospitals, including premature babies and patients in intensive care, had been completed and they were now helping about 500 elderly people leave residences and care homes.

More than 2,000 tonnes of live bombs and munitions are found each year in Germany, even under buildings. In July, a kindergarten was evacuated after teachers discovered an unexploded World War II bomb on a shelf among some toys.

In Frankfurt, bomb disposal experts will use a special system to try and unscrew the fuses attached to the HC 4,000 bomb from a safe distance. If that fails, a water jet will be used to cut the fuses away from the bomb.

The bomb is assumed to have been dropped by Britain's Royal Air Force during the 1939-45 war. British and American warplanes pummeled the country with 1.5 million tonnes of bombs that killed 600,000 people. Officials estimate 15 per cent of the bombs failed to explode, some burrowing six meters (yards) deep.

Three police explosives experts in Goettingen were killed in 2010 while preparing to defuse a 1,000 lb (450 kg) bomb.

Frankfurt police said they would ring every doorbell and use helicopters with heat-sensing cameras to make sure nobody is left behind before they start diffusing the bomb on Sunday.

Roads and transport systems, including the parts of the underground, will be closed during the work and for at least two hours after the bomb is defused, to allow patients to be transported back to hospitals. Air traffic from Frankfurt airport could also be affected and small private planes, helicopters and drones were banned from the evacuation zone. Most museums were offering residents free entry on Sunday.—Reuters ■

Spanish PM insists Catalan Independence vote not to happen

MADRID — Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Saturday repeated his assurance that the referendum over the independence of the Catalan region in the northeast of the country "will not happen." Pro-independence groups in the Catalan regional assembly are expected in the coming week to pass a law paving the way for the referendum to be held on 1 October.

However, addressing a meeting of his People's Party, Rajoy insisted the referendum went against the Spanish Constitution, saying "the law will prevail," and that if this was not the case it would be "folly."

"They are not going to do that," continued Rajoy, saying he would stop the referendum "with all the legitimacy there is, without raising our voices and without entering into any sterile confrontation," although he also called for unity and the "cooperation of security forces." "Some people aim to liquidate the rights of Spanish democracy in one day and they are not going to do that," he said.—Xinhua ■

Ground personnel carry member of the International Space Station (ISS) crew Peggy Annette Whitson of the US after the landing of the Soyuz MS-04 capsule in a remote area outside the town of Dzhezkazgan (Zhezkazgan), Kazakhstan, on 3 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Record-breaking US astronaut and crew back on Earth

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla) — NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson and two crewmates made a parachute touchdown in Kazakhstan on Saturday, capping a career-total 665 days in orbit, a US record.

Whitson, 57, ended an extended stay of more than nine months aboard the International Space Station, a $100 billion research laboratory that flies about 250 miles (400 km) above Earth.

"I feel great," the biochemist said during an inflight interview on Monday. "I love working up here. It's one of the most gratifying jobs I've ever had."

During her third mission aboard the station, Whitson spent much of her time on experiments, including studies of cancerous lung tissue and bone cells. She also completed four spacewalks, adding to her six previous outings, to set a record for the most time spent spacewalking by a woman.

Two crewmates who launched with Whitson in November returned to Earth three months ago. She stayed aboard to fill a vacancy after Russia scaled down its station staff from three to two cosmonauts.

Whitson returned to Earth with Jack Fischer, also with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin, who had been aboard the station since June.

The crew's Russian Soyuz capsule touched down in Kazakhstan at 9:21 pm EDT Saturday (0121 GMT Sunday).

"I'm looking forward to seeing friends and family," Whitson said during another interview.

"But the thing I've been thinking about the most, kind of been fantasizing about a little bit, are foods that I want to make, vegetables that I want to sauté, things that I've missed up here."

In April, Whitson broke the 534-day US record for cumulative time in space. Only seven Russian men have logged more time, including Gennady Padalka, the world record-holder with 878 days in orbit.

Whitson, who grew up on a farm in Iowa, said she was inspired by the US Apollo program that landed men on the moon, but it was not until later, when the first women become astronauts, that she set her sights on joining them.

Whitson, who became an astronaut in 1996, was the first woman to command the space station and also the first woman and first non-pilot to serve as chief of the NASA Astronaut Corps.

"I am working on paying forward some of the advice and mentoring that I received on my journey, in hopes that one day those young people will do the same and look back on a life in which they leapt at the opportunities and broke their own records," she said.—Reuters ■

Largest wildfire in Los Angeles history forces hundreds to evacuate

LOS ANGELES — A wildfire on the northern edge of Los Angeles rapidly grew on Saturday into what the mayor called the largest blaze in the city's history, prompting the evacuation of hundreds of people and the closure of a major highway.

The 5,000-acre (2,023-hectare) La Tuna Fire, named after the canyon area where it erupted on Friday, has led authorities to evacuate more than 700 homes in a north Los Angeles neighborhood and in nearby Burbank and Glendale, officials said.

Authorities warned of erratic winds that could force them to widen the evacuation zone, after the fire destroyed three houses in Los Angeles on Saturday.

"Other than that, no loss of any property," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference. "That is a pretty amazing thing."

The fire was only 10 per cent contained with more than 500 firefighters battling it. The blaze in thick brush that has not burned in decades was slowly creeping down a rugged hillside on Saturday toward houses, with temperatures in the area approaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius), the Los Angeles Fire Department said in an alert. "This fire, which broke out yesterday, we can now say is the largest fire in the history of L.A. city, in terms of its acreage," Garcetti told reporters.

On Saturday night, Garcetti declared an emergency, ordering "all available resources" deployed to protect residents and property.

"This declaration also requests that the Governor declare an emergency - so that state and federal assistance can be provided to the City as quickly as possible," Garcetti said in a statement.

The fire could make air unhealthy to breathe in parts of Los Angeles, the nation's second-largest city, and nearby suburbs, the South Coast Air Quality Management District said in an advisory. —Reuters ■

The La Tuna Canyon fire over Burbank, California, on 2 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Three civilians killed in Saudi-led airstrike in NW Yemen

SANAA — Two women and a child were killed and six others wounded when a Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a family's home in Yemen's northwestern province of Hajjah early on Sunday, a local security official said.

The targeted house in Washahah district is few meters away from a security checkpoint run by Shiite Houthi rebels.

This is the latest airstrike targeting civilians in the war-torn Arab country.

Last week, the coalition fighter jets hit three houses in Faj Attan quarter in the capital Sanaa, killing 14 people, including six children. In March 2015, the Saudi-led coalition intervened in the Yemeni conflict to back internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi against Iranian-backed Houthis, who invaded the capital Sanaa militarily and seized most of the country's northern provinces.

More than 10,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the war that also displaced over 3 million, according to UN agencies. The country has also been hit by a deadly cholera outbreak and is on the edge of famine.—Xinhua ■

Myanmar Port Authority
"Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.50 feet to 21.00 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of September 6th to September 11th 2017.

Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015 and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum to inform the high tide to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

George Clooney tackles 'original sin' of slavery and racism in dark comedy

Actor and director George Clooney and his wife Amal pose during a red carpet event for the movie "Suburbicon" at the 74th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on 2 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

VENICE — Breaking the brittle veneer of the picture-perfect suburbs of 1950s America, George Clooney's new satire tackles racial prejudice which the actor and director said on Saturday continues to erupt in today's angry society.

"Suburbicon", starring Matt Damon and Julianne Moore, is set in a town of that name which is rudely awoken from the American dream by a series of surreal crimes and the residents' furious reaction to a black family's arrival in the neighborhood.

"This is a movie about our coming to terms with the idea that we have never addressed our issues with race fully," Clooney told a news conference after the premiere at the 74th annual Venice film festival. "We've still got a lot of work to do, from our original sin of slavery and racism." Damon said last month's violent clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia showed the issues addressed in the film "have not and will not go away until there is an honest reckoning in our country".

Damon plays Gardner, a family man whose home life darkens as tensions rise in the community outside, while Moore plays both his wife and her twin sister.

Based on a script written by Joel and Ethan Coen in the 1980s, the film opens with a cheery prologue promoting the charms of Suburbicon, which include a church and a mall.

But the promise that it is a "melting pot of diversity" is quickly and categorically disproved, and a burgeoning friendship between a white boy and his black neighbor sparks violence.

Clooney, a festival stalwart who got married in a star-studded party in Venice in 2014 and has since made Italy his second home, said the film reflected deep anger in his home country, although he declared, "this isn't a movie about (President) Donald Trump". "People are angry, a lot of us are angry, angry at ourselves, angry at the way that the country is going, angry at the way the world is going," he said.

Asked whether he would like to be the next US President, Clooney joked, "That sounds like fun!" and Damon cut in: "Can I just say I would like anybody to be the next President of the United States, right away please."

"Suburbicon" is Clooney's latest turn in the director's chair since 2014's "The Monuments Men", but he is perhaps best known for his decades-long acting career. He reminisced on Saturday about participating in Civil War re-enactments in his home state of Kentucky when he was growing up, when the meaning of the roles assigned had eluded him. "You got to pick if you wanted to be a union or a rebel soldier and I was like give me the rebel, I want to be the rebel. You didn't really understand the history of the Confederate flag ... a flag that was designed to carry into battle ... in favor of slavery."—Reuters ■

Singer Tom Jones performs at the Concert for Diana at Wembley Stadium in London, on 1 July 2007. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Singer Tom Jones postpones US tour on medical advice

LONDON — British pop star Tom Jones is postponing the start of his U.S. tour, which was scheduled to begin on Wednesday, due to advice from doctors, the star posted on Twitter.

The 77-year-old Welsh singer, famous for hits including "It's Not Unusual" and "Sex Bomb", was due to begin his American tour on Sep. 6 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

"Following medical advice, Sir Tom Jones has announced that he will unfortunately be postponing his US tour," read a statement posted on his Twitter feed late on Friday, without giving further details about the health issue. "Dates are being re-scheduled for May and June 2018," it added, saying the singer "sends his sincere apologies to fans."—Reuters ■

Chance the Rapper raises USD 2.2 million for Chicago schools

LOS ANGELES — Chance the Rapper has announced that his SocialWorks organization has raised USD 2.2 million for the Chicago Public Schools' arts programs. The money will be used to support art programs at Chicago public schools. Twenty schools will receive the donations.

Each will get USD 100,000 over the course of three years, reported Rolling Stone.

"Quality education for public schools is the most important investment a community can make," he said at Harold Washington Cultural Center.

"So today, all of us at SocialWorks are excited to take our biggest, boldest step yet and announce our first-ever grants from the New Chance Fund. Today we're giving a new chance to kids in 20 more schools across our city." The hip-hop star paid homage to the late Apple CEO Steve Jobs, wearing a black turtleneck tucked into a pair of faded jeans during the event.

He also announced the first-ever Twilight Awards to celebrate "teachers, parents, principals, and students that convey leadership." It will take place in Chicago in June 2018 and featuring special guest performances. James Corden will serve as a host.—PTI ■

Hogwarts School off to flying start in new digital experience

LONDON — Harry Potter's magical world is coming alive like never before.

Fans of the best-selling books and films can now fly through the boy wizard's Hogwarts School and its quidditch pitch, in an immersive digital experience. The Hogwarts Experience was launched on the fan website Pottermore.com on Friday to coincide with the Sept. 1 date when 11 year-old orphan Potter first started at Hogwarts school in J.K. Rowling's 1997 book "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone." While Hogwarts School has been created many times for movies, in art work and even in theme parks, the free digital experience allows fans to fly through the exterior of the castle, the forbidden forest including Hagrid's hut, and the quidditch pitch.

"This new feature on our website marks the first time fans will have the opportunity to explore the famous wizarding school any time, any place and at their own pace," Henriette Stuart-Reckling, global digital director for Pottermore, said in a statement. Rowling's seven Harry Potter books have sold more than 400 million copies worldwide and were made into eight films that grossed $7 billion. —Reuters ■

Mandalay housewives stage charity beauty show

Housewives in Mandalay vied for Mrs. Royal Beauty 2017 at Oriental House in 64th street, Chanayethasan Township of the cultural city of Myanmar yesterday evening.

The contest which was a charityshow also included entertainment programs in which vocalists sang to the accompaniment of local music bands, traditional cultural troupes performed a variety of dances, and puppeteers staged marionette shows.

A total of 34 housewives took part in the contest, and officials of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation (Mandalay Region) and Smart & Charity Organization and donors presented prizes to winners. — Maung Pyithu (Mandalay) ■

Village women complete tailoring course

Fifteen village women completed a free-of-charge tailoring course conducted by the Cottage Industries Department in Bago Region north of Yangon yesterday.

Of the 15 women of the Paegyi village of Padaing Township of the region, three outstanding trainees were awarded with a sewing machine each and other related equipment.

The course sponsored by Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation involved practical lessons for making various kinds of women's dresses including sarongs and skirts, trousers and baby wares in centimeter measuring system.

The one month course was conducted at the village monastery from 4 August to 3 September under the financial support of the region government. — Shwe Win (Pyay) ■

PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

Amitabh Bachchan scores 29 million Twitter followers

MUMBAI — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has crossed a fan following of 29 million on Twitter.

The 74-year-old star expressed his gratitude to his followers as he continues to be the most followed Indian actor on the microblogging site.

"There was a time when only one (person) had seen my tweet. Today it's 29 million. I'm grateful," wrote Bachchan. The "Pink" actor is ahead of Shah Rukh Khan (27.6 million), Salman Khan (25.1 million), Aamir Khan (21.8 million), Deepika Padukone (20 million) and Priyanka Chopra (18.9 million). Bachchan had joined Twitter in 2010.— PTI ■

Twenty-eight locals graduated from foreign-based vocational school

Twenty-eight graduates, all locals, of a foreign-based vocational school have officially entered the workforce in Myanmar after having completed two years of diploma study in hospitality management.

Jointly launched by Hilton and Eden Group Company Limited in collaboration with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourismin Nay Pyi Taw in September 2015, the Hilton Vocational Training Centeris tasked with the mission of empoweringyouth through meaningful employment across the world.— GNLM ■

mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(4-9-2017 07:00am ~5-9-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	The Rising Glory of Myanmar Arts
07:55	Am	Kid's Home
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The two brilliant Mountaineers (MT. EVEREST)
08:55	Am	Scented Buddha Images
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
09:50	Am	A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-2)
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Clam Farming
10:42	Am	SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-10) (Part-1)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	A Highland with Peace and Charm
07:45	Pm	Writer
07:52	Pm	Myanmar Puppet

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Programme Schedule

(4-9-2017, Monday)

6:00 Am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadsaw

7:00 Am
- Breakfast News

7:35 Am
- MRTV Travelogue

8:35 Am
- Women in Myanmar Society

9:10 Am
- Documentary

9:30 Am
- World Heritage "Aph ordite, Cypnus"

10:30 Am
- Documentary (Agriculture)

11:15 Am
- ASEAN Programme

11:15 Am
- SEA Games (Football)

11:30 Am
- MRTV Youth's Programme

12:35 Pm
- Teleplay

1:45 Pm
- Fine Arts - Bosom of Dramatic Performance

2:30 Pm
- Tasty Trip

3:00 Pm
- Peace Music Festival (Nay Pyi Taw)

4:20 Pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) - Fourth Year (Botany)

5:05 Pm
- This Week's Special Interest

5:20 Pm
- Documentary (Mandalay Palace)

5:25 Pm
- Yea or No Talks Show (Part-2)

6:20 Pm
- Football Magazine

6:35 Pm
- Law Affairs

7:15 Pm
- TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm
- News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 Pm
- MCN Debate
- TV Drama Series
- TV Drama Series

Press Conference held for AFF U-18 Youth Championship

KyawZin Lin

The press conference of Asian Football Federation under 18 Youth Championship was held yesterday at the Myanmar Football Federation office in Yangon, Myanmar yesterday.

During the conference, head coaches from respective national football team and officials discussed and talked about the conditions of each team.

"We have about five weeks of preparation time for the Championship and our team had friendly matches with Inter Milan and Thailand. As all teams have prepared their best, it won't be easy to predict which will be the best team in the Championship. We have to play with Indonesia, one of the strongest team in AESEAN on Tuesday as a result we need to show our best", said Myanmar Head Coach Rabah Benlarbi.

"We are not mainly focusing on this Championship but intended to have experiences for the next Championship that will host in Indonesia. There are a total of 23 star players all together in our team", said Indonesia head coach Indria Sjafri.

Myanmar U-18 will play against Indonesia U-18 on Tuesday at Thuwanna Stadium. ■

Shan United football players receiving the prize as they won the champion of MNL Max Cement U-19 Youth League 2017. **PHOTO:SOE NYUNT**

Shan United crowned MNL Youth Championship 2017

Ye Yint Shine

The awarding ceremony of Myanmar National League (MNL) U-19 Youth Championship 2017 was held yesterday and Shan United got the first prize, Ayeyawaddy FC second and Yadanbon FC third respectively.

As Shan United won Yangon United in their last match garnering 55 marks all together, the team has become the champion of MNL Youth League 2017.

During the rewarding ceremony Myanmar Football Federation chairman U Zaw Zaw, vice chairman Dr Sai Sam Htun and officials attended and rewarded 10 million kyats to the champion team, 5 million kyats to Ayeyawaddy FC and 2.5 million kyats to Yadanabon FC respectively.

Shan United won 17 matches, lost one match and drew 4 matches throughout the tourney. The team was handled by its head coach U Minn Thu, a former football star player of Myanmar national football team. ■

Brilliant Isco leads Spain show of dominance over Italy

Spain's Isco in action with Italy's Andrea Barzagli during 2018 World Cup Qualifications in Madrid, Spain, on 2 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

MADRID — Two brilliant strikes from Isco and a late goal from Alvaro Morata gave Spain a spectacular 3-0 win over Italy, their nearest challengers in Group G, to move into the driving seat for automatic qualification to the 2018 World Cup.

Real Madrid attacking midfielder Isco, who was deployed in a "false nine" position as a deep-lying striker, curled a free kick beyond the reach of veteran Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon to put Spain ahead in the 13th minute.

Isco then received the ball on the edge of the area and danced past a defender before cracking a low shot into the near bottom corner which again proved too quick for Buffon five minutes before halftime.

Substitute Morata crafted a superb counter-attack with Sergio Ramos to start and finish the move for the third goal which he slotted past former Juventus team mate Buffon 13 minutes from time, rounding off Spain's best performance against Italy since their 4-0 win in the Euro 2012 final.

"I'm very satisfied with the players' response since I've been here, their mentality and commitment is excellent. Perfection doesn't exist, but we played a great game tonight," Spain coach Julen Lopetegui told reporters.

"You can always improve but it's hard to ask how today. We understood the importance of the game, and we have to thank the fans for how they created an atmosphere like the ones we've seen in Paris and Wembley. We felt their presence."

Spain top Group G on 19 points, three ahead of Italy and seven clear of Albania, who beat basement side Liechtenstein 2-0 on Saturday while Macedonia pulled off a surprise 1-0 victory at Israel.—Reuters ■