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Women walk past the cyclone shelter in Kungyangon which was struck by Cyclone Nargis in 2008. The government yesterday instituted a programme that places higher priority on risk management and preparedness over natural disaster response. **FILE PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Towards a resilient Myanmar

Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction-MAPDRR-2017 launched

THE Union Government launched the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction-MAPDRR-2017 yesterday, assuring that the plan will play a key role in boosting risk-proofing investments in

Myanmar.

Speaking at the ceremony to launch the MAPDRR-2017, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said the plan will also cover not only natural hazards but also man-made accidents

through a people centred and inclusive approach focusing on managing risks rather than managing disasters.

"While our country is accelerating multiple complex transitions towards a demo-

cratic society, peace and stability and development, disasters can knock down all the efforts that we have made by far in a few minutes," said U Henry Van Thio.

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WFP, Rakhine Govt discuss aid for N-Rakhine

WORLD Food Programme and Rakhine State Cabinet held talks yesterday over delivering humanitarian aid to the people in conflict areas in Rakhine State.

At the meeting held at the office of the government in Sit-tway, officials of WFP asked the cabinet to assist the UN agency in delivering aid to those in need of help in Rakhine State and in travelling to areas which are not easily accessible.

U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State said, "Situations changed a lot after the deadly attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists in northern region of Rakhine State. For this, measures are being made for the peace and stability of northern Rakhine after assessing actualities on the ground."

He also reiterated that the government provided security to diplomats and independent journalists who visited the northern Rakhine recently.

"We are ready and willing to cooperate with any kinds of organizations that will come to discuss for the help in the tasks further to be performed," said U Nyi Pu.

U Kyaw Aye Thein, Rakhine State Minister for Finance, Revenue, Planning and Commerce asked WFP to purchase rice produced in Rakhine State and to distribute to the people. Further meetings will be held between the two sides for long-lasting cooperation between them. —GNLM ■



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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World Tourism Day observed in Nay Pyi Taw

A CEREMONY to mark the World Tourism Day was held yesterday morning at the Myanmar International Convention Center-2, Nay Pyi Taw and Chairman of the Central Committee for the Development of the National Tourism Industry Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivered a speech at this event.

The event was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, representatives of United Nations organisations, diplomats, invited guests and officials.

In 2016, 2.9 million tourists arrived Myanmar and 3.5 million is estimated to visit this year.

At the event, the Vice President said World Tourism Day was held every year in member countries of (United Nations) World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) with the aim of economic development, environmental conservation, social and culture development and understanding the importance of tourism. The day's event was held in accordance with the theme set by UNWTO "Sustainable Tourism – a Tool for Development." The Official Celebration of 2017 World Tourism Day was held in Doha, Qatar with the aim of making a better future for the world with the driving force of economic development obtained from tourism.

As 2017 was declared as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development on World Tourism Day, in addition to foreseeing and fulfilling the requirements of future generation as well as having the conviction in long term development of tourism, a drive towards governmental organisations setting up appropriate and correct policies to obtain good practices and for increasing understanding between locals and customers need to be done, said the Vice President.

According to the statement of UNWTO, the number of international travellers was more than 1.2 billion in 2016 and will reach 1.8 billion by the year 2030. The outcome of this increase is expected to increase entry of tourists into Myanmar. In 2016, 2.9 million tourists arrived Myanmar and 3.5 million is estimated to visit this year. From 2017 January to August, there were 2.27 million tourists entering Myanmar and this is an increase of 22 per cent over the same period last year. Worldwide, the tourism sector contributes 10 per cent of GDP value and provides 7 per cent of export value. Tourism is seen as one of the top 10 businesses in the world.

Looking at the likelihood of development in tourism, work opportunities will increase in tourism and related businesses. In the world's export sector, tourism reaches third place and people related to tourism need to think and work towards long term development.

Tourism is a service between people and for more tourists to enter the country emphasis must be towards the satisfaction of the tourists. The drive towards development of the Myanmar tourism sector is not only for economic purposes only but also aims to increase understanding among cultures. To obtain long term benefits from the fast developing tourism sector appropriate



Vice President U Henry Van Thio looks at documentary photos displayed at the ceremony to mark the World Tourism Day in Nay Pyi Taw, on 9 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

arrangements and preparations against possible challenges and losses from tourism need to be made. Myanmar is a country that is becoming a country with increasing number of tourists. Myanmar has many interesting and exotic places and tours. Myanmar is abundant in natural beauty and wild life. Northern Myanmar has snow-capped mountains, mountain ranges where exotic cultures of ethnic nationals can be studied. It is one of the regions in South East Asia where the best historical heritages exist. The amazing site of Bagan region can be seen. Myeik archipelago is formed with more than 800 unspoiled islands that is attracting the attention of nature and marine based tourism. It is a region where the natural beauty and sceneries can be felt and observed. Everything possible needs to be done for smooth and convenient travel to such regions of Myanmar. Responsible travel from the side of the tourists is also important for the long term sustainability and existence of the tourist regions. As tourism is wide ranging and affecting many

sectors, cooperation is required between the government sector and the private sector.

Tourism related ministries are urged to cooperate, coordinate and work closely with a view towards development of tourism. Much effort has been done for the development of tourism by Nature Based Tourism based on Myeik archipelago with more than 800 islands, rural and village based tourism in states and regions, "historical heritage two ancient capitals in one tour region" between Bagan-Siem Reap. These initiatives were carried out with the aim of uplifting and developing of the living standard and long term sustainability. The Vice President concluded by reminding to always remember the remark of UNWTO Secretary-General Dr. Taleb Rifai. "Whenever you travel, wherever you travel, remember to: respect nature, respect culture, and respect your host."

Next, a video message of UNWTO Secretary-General Dr. Taleb Rifai was shown and Myanmar Tourism Marketing Chairperson Daw May Myat Mon Win,

Myanmar Tourism Federation joint secretary U Kyaw Min Htin, Myanmar Restaurant Association Vice Chairman Daw Tin Mar Myint and Cherry flower festival organizing committee member U Ye Tun Oo explained about participating in JATA Tourism Expo-2017 held in Tokyo, Japan and matters related to the Sakura Festival Myanmar-2018 for developing Myanmar tourism.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Kyaw Win, U Thant Sin Maung, U Ohn Win, U Thein Swe and U Ohn Maung then presented prizes to winners in the World Tourism Day event composition writing, essay writing and debate competition, best service hotels and tour companies award, leading investor in hotel investment in 2016 award, most successful Community Based Tourism (CBT) award, Clean Public Toilet awards and also presented a certificate of honor for achieving the Best ASEAN New Tourism Attraction in the Region (Putao, Eastern Himalayan, Myanmar). — Myanmar News Agency ■



U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivers the opening address. **PHOTO: MNA**

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (39/2017) inaugurates

THE Inauguration Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (39/2017), conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Wunzinmin-yarzar Hall of the Ministry in Yangon at 10:00 a.m. yesterday, with an opening remark delivered by U Kyaw Zeya, Perma-

nent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present on the occasion were retired Myanmar Ambassadors, Directors-General and responsible officials of the departments under the Ministry, senior diplomats, professors and instructors as well as trainees.

The 12-week long course comprises the subjects related to diplomacy, contemporary international affairs, negotiation skills, international law, international conferencing, international relations, economics, etc., it was learnt.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■



Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction- MAPDRR-2017 launched

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“In this sense, deeply interconnected risks that the climate change and skewed development practices entail will require forward thinking, long-term investment and partnership in the conduct of disaster risk reduction,” he added.

He also stressed the need to mobilize both domestic and international resources to achieve its successful implementation of the MAPDRR. The drafting of the plan began on 27th October 2016.

Myanmar experiences average annual loss of 3 % of national GDP due to natural disasters while globally, direct economic losses attributed to disasters are rising dramatically and reached about US\$ 1.4 trillion over the last decade.

In last three years, Myanmar saw the changes in disaster risk landscape in which small and medium scale disasters and climate-induced disasters such as floods and cyclones are on a rise.

Vice President U Henry Van

Thio also put the blame mainly on the country's changes in rain fall patterns, sea level rises and temperature increase for exacerbating the occurrences of disasters in Myanmar.

“Low-income countries have to pay a high price in terms of fatalities from disasters, on average, 327 people died per disaster event in low-income countries over the past two decades,” said U Henry Van Thio, “The figure in fact is almost five times higher than the average death toll in high-income coun-

tries.”

“This indicates the importance of national development in minimizing the impacts of natural calamities,” he added.

The MAPDRR-2017 is designed to address the emerging risk of small and recurrent disasters such as river bank erosions, strong wind, lightning strikes and localized flooding.

The plan has also inspired to protect the invaluable heritage in addition to lives, assets, livelihoods and environment.

“This new actionable plan

will ensure the achievement of the first target to be achieved under Sendai Framework for DRR by 2020 that calls for a substantial increase in national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction,” said the Vice President.

In his concluding remarks, Vice President U Henry Van Thio urged ministries and departments concerned to oversee the implementation of the plan on the ground and to make sure its effectiveness for the local people and the country.—GNLM ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio speaks at the ceremony of launching the MAPDRR-2017. PHOTO: MNA

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear special civil appeal cases

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and judges of the Supreme Court sat the Plenary Court at the Union Supreme Court yesterday at 9:30 am, hearing the special civil appeal cases. They made judgments on four special civil appeal cases and heard other five special civil appeal cases.— Myanmar News Agency

Holding of 2017 World Post Day event

9 October 2017 is 143th World Post Day and a ceremony was held in meeting hall of Ministry of Transport and Communications yesterday morning to commemorate the day. Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung attended the event and delivered an address.

The Union Minister said World Post Day events were held in 191 member countries including Myanmar annually and according to the statement of Universal Postal Union (UPU), 327.4 billion letters and 7.4 billion parcels were annually delivered by 5 million postal personnel.

The gigantic network of post offices is serving businesses and nationals and is seen as playing an important sector in the socio economic development of the countries said the Union Minister.

Next Directorate of Telecommunications Deputy Direc-



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung delivers an address at the ceremony of 143th World Post Day on 9 October 2017. PHOTO: MNA

tor Daw Ni Ni Han read a 2017 World Post Day message sent by Switzerland based UPU's Director General and letter to international youth competition (local level) assessment group vice chairman U Zaw Win explained about assessment system for prize winners.

Afterwards letter to interna-

tional youth competition for under 15 (local level) winners were presented with prizes. Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung presented the first prize to Ma Win Pyae Pyae Zaw of State High School (1) Natmank, Magway Region, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo presented the second prize to Ma Ju Htat Zaw of State High School-Saipyin,

Sagaing Region and Permanent Secretary U Chit Wai presented the third prize to Ma Nyein Thet Hnin of State High School 1 Mog-ok, Mandalay Region.

Directorate of Telecommunications Director General U Soe Thein then delivered a speech thanking the letter to international youth competition (local level) assessment group and presented commemorative gifts after which first prize winner Ma Win Pyae Pyae Zaw say words of thanks on behalf of the prize winners.

After this Myanmar Post Office Managing Director U Kham Aung and officials presented prizes to responsible persons of best performing post offices of states and regions. World Post Day was celebrated each year to honour the creation of the Universal Postal Union and this year is the 143th it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Myanmar, Thailand officials discuss certificate of identity issue at distribution camps

Myanmar delegation comprising of 5 members Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Ministry of Home Affairs inspected Certificate of Identity Distribution Camps from Mahachai 1 and 2, Samut Prakan, Ranau, Songkhla, Chiang Mai, Maesai, Mae Sot and Nakhon Sawan and in Bangkok from October 3 to 7 accompanied by responsible officials.

On October 3, Myanmar delegation led by U Win Shein, Director-General of Directorate of Labour met with Myanmar societies in Thailand, discussing openly matters concerning inability to have CI made according to dates registered when they have paid fees in 7/11 mini-markets, exploitations of brokers, paying extra Visa fees, problems facing in

sending laborers under MoU system, being paid less than the designated wage in some areas of Thailand, performances of respective departments concerning collection of return expenses from laborers in the past and matters for protecting Myanmar workers.

On arrival at the camps, the director-general said that affairs of Myanmar migrant workers needed to be dealt with the existing laws and rules of the respective country.

According to discussions with Myanmar civil societies in Thailand and inspection at the CI distribution camps, following statements were discussed.

Under the contract between Counter Service Co., Ltd and Myanmar Banking Service Team, in accordance with Queue designation pro-

cess, Baht 300 plus service charges Baht 10 for 7/11 mini-marts—310 Baht in all must be paid in lump sum. Myanmar side must take responsibility queue designation.

Queue system must be performed for taking out CI in designated dates, by cooperating with Myanmar and Thailand, without consulting directly with Counter Service Co Ltd, from Thai, Labour department.

Brokers from both countries demanding extra service money must be taken action against.

Laborers who have taken out CIs must undergo medical check-up in one day, and distribution of Visa and Work Permit must be specifically from Thailand.

Matters for being equipped with transportation vehicles at

CI camps with no cars and One Stop Service, increased formation of medical check-up groups at the camps where many laborers come will be made after negotiation with Thai Authorities concerned.

For the convenience for Myanmar workers in the regions where laborers are densely populated and freedom from involvement, the Thai authorities will negotiate with Myanmar mobile team, as much as possible.

Priority will be made concerning Myanmar migrant workers without any evidence in hand, according to data collected from Thailand.

Working Group Meeting and Technical Meeting will be held in Thailand at the end of November, 2017.—MNA

Three Gas-Generators to supply electricity needed for Myawady

MYAWADY, a Myanmar-Thailand border area town, is going to be supplied electricity needed for the town's power consumption starting from November 2017 with three gas generators which produce 2 mega-watts each. Presently, efforts are being made for the full acquisition of 8 mega-watts bought from Thailand, according to Shwemyit Thaungyin power distribution enterprise.

At present, Shwemyit Thaungyin Company, a tender winner, has been running its operation starting from March 2017. At the start of the operation, power breakdowns, insufficient power supply and alternate power cut-outs are more increasing.

U Saw Tin Win, managing director of Shwemyit Thaungyin power distribution enterprise explained in detail to the media on 8 October, "Before now, electricity bought from Thailand was said to be 8 mega-watts but present power distribution across the town is 6.8 mega-watts only. So, in last September we have already paid Baht 31.4 million to the Elec-



Three gas-generators to supply electricity needed for the town's power consumption starting from November 2017 in Myanmar-Thailand border area, Myawady. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

tricity Department of Thailand as a surety for the full acquisition of 8 mega-watts. PEA of Thailand is going to send 8 mega-watts to Myawady. And, three gas generators which can produce 2 mega-watts each at the end of this month in Myawady Industrial Zone will operate."

"Just at the time when we started to take office, we paid Baht 17 million to Thailand, equivalent to K 700 million in Myanmar currency. We are responsible for electricity. Had there been power cut-outs, people would have insulted us.

For this, we need not to be upset. It is incumbent upon us to think about how we will find out solutions. So, we had planned to produce 2 mega-watts in the industrial zone. To do so, it will cost us K 800 million. We will operate 3 gas generators. Presently, what we invested in the project amounted to K 3000 million. Until now, we had not yet got any profits, being far from recovering the invested amount. Yet, we will try our best to fulfill the need of people and to make them utilize power regularly. In early November, we guarantee

that the whole Myawady area will be bright with lights, due to 1.2 mega-watts to be refilled from Thailand and 3 gas generators that will produce 2 mega-watts," said U Saw Tin Win.

Presently, for not causing any difficulty for town dwellers power cut-outs are being made in the locations such as hotels and other places which consume power a lot at nights so as to distribute power in civilian areas. In the first week of November, all power problems will be solved, it was learnt. —Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■

Yangon aims to be regional trade hub, Chief Minister tells OBG

Long-term plans to develop Myanmar's largest city of Yangon into a regional economic and trading hub were high on the agenda at a meeting held recently between U Phyo Min Thein, the regional government's chief minister, and a team from Oxford Business Group (OBG) Monday.

U Phyo Min Thein told OBG's representatives that the regional government aimed to build on Yangon's competitive advantages, which include its growing population, traditional role as the county's main commercial and trading city and strategic location that could become a gateway for Myanmar's landlocked neighbours to access international markets. As the Chief Minister explained, "Maritime trade will play a determinant role, since 90% of the goods imported into Myanmar enter through the Port of Yangon".

The Chief Minister said that bringing the regional government's vision for the city to fruition as a relevant centre of economic activity in the region would require the rolling out of major transportation and logistics projects connecting Yangon

to the rest of the country and improving mobility within the city. "At the same time, we will have to expand dry port and storage capacity to create the conditions needed to further develop local industry and the manufacturing sector," he noted.

OBG's representatives met U Phyo Min Thein as part of their work on The Report: Myanmar 2018, the global research and consultancy firm's fifth publication on the country's economy which will include an in-depth interview with the chief minister. The Report will also chart the progress of the many infrastructure projects earmarked for Yangon and the rest of the country, which form an essential component of efforts to meet rising demand for public services and launch the foundations for sustainable economic growth.

Yangon's severe infrastructure gaps, which have been exacerbated by the city's growing population, were also key topic of discussion at the meeting. "Yangon's expansion in recent decades has not been followed by the modernisation of its infrastructure and this



Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, (2nd from right), Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe (Right), and representatives of the Oxford Business Group pose for photo after the meeting. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

is now putting pressure on the city's management and public services," U Phyo Min Thein acknowledged.

Traffic congestion is a major problem across the city, made worse by the poor state of Yangon's roads and the absence of an integrated system of public transportation. The regional government has introduced a centralised traffic management system and started to work on solutions to improve mobility to begin addressing the challenges it faces. In this context, U Phyo

Min Thein highlighted the key role that the centralisation of the city's bus network is likely to play in providing an "an integrated and affordable" service for Yangon's citizens. "The next steps in improving Yangon's public transport services will be the upgrade of its Circular Train System and the creation of a water transportation system plan," he told OBG.

The Report: Myanmar 2018 will be a vital guide to the many facets of the country, including its macroeconomics, infrastruc-

ture, banking, agriculture and other sectoral developments. The publication will contain a detailed, sector-by-sector guide for investors, alongside contributions from leading national personalities. The Report will also feature the insights of international leaders, including Xi Jinping, President of China, Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development; and Jin Lichun, President of the AIIB. The report will be available in print and online.—GNLM ■

Myanmar hosts the 7th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Sports

At the 7th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Sports yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, U Myo Hlaing, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department and General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee acted as the current holder of the rotating presidency.

Afterward, Doto Lokman Hakim Ail, Secretary General of Ministry of Youth and Sports and the former holder of the rotating presidency handed over duties of the current holder of the rotating presidency to U Myo Hlaing, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Following that, U Myo Hlaing, the current holder of the rotating presidency of SOMS-7 said, "Sports exercises play an important role in human's daily rituals and it is a powerful diplomatic channel which encourages friendship on culture

among countries".

After that, participants of the meeting made review of the decisions on sports among ASEAN countries, assessment of resolutions made at previous SMOS-6 held in 2016, discussion for designation of 8 August as ASEAN Sports Day, the acquisition of hosting the 2034 FIFA World Cup in ASEAN, discussion on supports for Malaysia's bid to host the 2034 World Cup, congratulation of sports-persons in ASEAN region who gained success in 17th Rio Olympic Games held in 2016, Para Olympic Games, discussion on renaming the SEA Games as the ASEAN Games, suggestions over planning concerning sports in ASEAN countries, reviews of 29th SEA Games and 9th Para Games. Myanmar will chair and host the ASEAN Sports Meeting for two years in 2017 and 2018.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Driving license test starts on 9 October for applicants who obtain token online

By Hsu Hnin Lei

ONLINE system of taking token for driving license test was started on 1 October and driving test for those who took such advance appointment was being conducted on 9 October according to Yangon Region Road Transport Administration Department (Myintha).

Online advance appointment system started on 1 October can make an appointment a minimum of 3 days to a maximum of 30 days in advance and in the first test (under the system) was conducted on 9 October with 4 written tests totaling 400 applicants.

"Test for those who took appointment online was conducted today. 4 tests with 100 in each test totaling 400 were tested today. It can be said that almost all who applied

online came for the test. It is quite convenient. As this is the beginning, there were a bit of queue in the online section opened in the office as many came there instead of going online on their own. Actually a token can be easily obtained by using own mobile, tablet and computer" said an official from Road Transport Administration Department (Myintha).

In obtaining token online, visit www.rta.gov.mm website and click "obtaining appointment for driving license written test" and select appointment date, type of license applied for, time of test, license number if currently holding a license and select Road Transport Administration Department (Myintha) as test location.

Next click "test" and once the test is successful, click ok and fill in detailed particulars

of applicant. After the filling is completed, click "submit" and the screen will say "application is successful." The file can either be printed or saved on mobile phone or tablet it is learnt.

A total of up to 400 applicants in four tests per day are accepted with each test sitting 100 applicants (85 for B License, 15 for D and E License) it is learnt. First test is from 10:00 to 11:30 hour (report on 8:30 hour), second test is from 11:30 hour to 13:00 hour (report on 10:00 hour), third test is from 13:30 hour to 15:00 hour (report on 12:00 hour) and fourth test is from 15:00 hour to 16:30 hour (report on 13:30 hour) it is learnt.

After sitting for written test, practical test is conducted in Ywathagyi and preparations are being made to conduct tests in Southern District (Thanlyin) it is learnt. ■

Depression makes landfall in India

By Sandar Soe

A depression over the Northern area of Bay of Bengal and adjoining coastal areas of Bangladesh and West Bengal crossed near Kolkata in India, according to yesterday's announcement of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH).

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department stated that the low pressure area has intensified into a deep depression during the morning of Monday before entering Kolkata.

Meanwhile, the weather department announced yesterday that a tropical depression existing in South China Sea is centred at the sea distanced about 265 miles away from southeast of Vin, Viet Nam and

will continue to travel in west or northwest direction.

Based on observations made at 10:00 hrs on 9 October, the weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay and East Central Bay. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

According to the weather forecast within 24 hrs, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread along Taninthayi and widespread along Rakhine coastal. The state of the sea will be slight to moderate and wave height will be about (3-6) feet in along the Coast.

The outlook for subsequent two days, there is likely to have increase of rain in most parts of Myanmar, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. ■



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talk with Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Tone Tinnes. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Border Affairs receives Norwegian Ambassador for bilateral cooperation

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung received Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Ms. Tone Tinnes at the meeting hall of the Ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed about the development of ethnic people in border regions and issues related to development of human resources, matters related to cooperation between UN and non-government organisations, cooperation of Norway's government in peace process being implemented by the government of Myanmar, terrorist attacks in Maungtau, Rakhine

State and philanthropic works for local people in that region.

They also discussed about implementation processes according to the recommendations of Rakhine State investigation commission, bilateral cooperation in repairing for infrastructures and buildings that were destroyed by terrorist group, potential aid by international organisations, to get sustainable peace and development of Rakhine State and matters relating to increased bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the plantation of the local battalion in Pinyin Gyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

SG Min Aung Hlaing inspects Pinyin Gyi military area and Tatmadaw vocational trainings

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with officials yesterday went to recruitment and resettlement depot in Pinyin Gyi and inspected livestock kept, DYL swine, dairy cows and Novogen Brown chicken kept for eggs, animal feed factory, Green House sweet cucumber plantation, storage and package for seeds.

Next the Senior General and personnel met with military officers from Bago and Pinyin Gyi

military area at the sports hall of Pinyin Gyi military area.

After the meeting, officers from military areas were presented with books by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, foods by the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and sports equipment by the Commander-in-Chief (Air) respectively.

Then, the Senior General and personnel arrived in Tatmadaw vocational training camps and viewed hotel and motel training course, printing label, dying and

printing work course, glass painting, ceramic painting and barber training course. After that, the Senior General and personnel viewed photos displayed in the showroom and handmade products of the trainees.

The Tatmadaw vocational training camp conduct 19 types of vocational trainings and in addition to military personnel, personnel from Myanmar Police Forces are also attended the trainings it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Prayer Ceremony of inter-faith group to be held in Mandalay

According to the chairman of Mandalay Region's NLD, prayer ceremony of the inter-faith group will be held on Tuesdays every week at the Manaw Rammam Square Ground situated at 62nd Street, Maha Aungmye township, Mandalay as of 10 October.

With a view to responding to hatred, pressure and destructive forces with loving-kindness from the people, prayer ceremonies of multi religious organisation are to be held under the leadership of National League for Democracy on the nationwide scale. As for the Upper Myanmar, negotiations will be made with Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions. The Mandalay Region Chief Minister will take responsibility for Upper Myanmar. Holding such ceremonies is attributed to our desire to disclose our intention that we always stand together with our



Members of the inter-faith group discuss plan for holding prayer ceremony in Mandalay. **PHOTO: TIN MAUNG**

State Counsellor who is facing pressure in international sphere but who determines herself to overcome all difficulties, without any hatred, prejudice, grudge and anger. As known by all, our State Counsellor addressed at the dinner party in Brunei, "Fire cannot be extinguished by fire, apart from water. Likewise, hatred cannot be removed by hatred, except for loving kindness."

Our State Counsellor is as if teaching the people and taking us to the destination. What we are experiencing will be overcome with the force of people in the country. We want to show peo-

ple's strength in the country. We want our people and the whole world to know aims, objectives and ideas of our leader. Under the programme, those who profess Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hindi and Bahai faiths will light-candle lights for one hour. On Tuesdays every week throughout October, prayer ceremonies will be held. Prayer ceremonies of the inter-faith group will be held in Mandalay on October 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 6 pm at Manaw Rammam Square Ground on 62nd Street, Maha Aungmye, Mandalay.—Tin Maung (Sub Printing House) ■

Ethics and responsibilities of news media men

Khin Maung Oo

"SO as to become a perfect newsman, the main responsibility he needs to do is to fulfill himself with a wide range of knowledge by searching for facts needed in building up the nation, all the time and to firmly stand on their own dignity and beliefs which can never be harmed so that they will be a good leader who will be able to guide the country. Only if the spirit of keeping one's dignity and reforming matters unsuitable for the country had been developed in him, assuming that every newsman is responsible for having made a historically remarkable reform or something during his existence as a newsman, will he become a typical newsman."

Some sixty years ago, Chief

Editor of Union Express U Maung Maung Pyay, a well-known journalist made the above statement at a journalism course conducted at the Yangon University. The speech highlighted qualifications needed for a good journalist, responsibilities to be performed, ethnics to abide by and the kind of spirit needed in such a person.

The Myanmar media world had been nearly under total eclipse for almost half a century, leading to the great loss of professional ethics and standards of journalism.

With the increasing importance of the Fourth Estate in democratic nations likewise the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary, Renaissance of Journalism in Myanmar, that is, revival of journalists is happening

again. At such a transitional period, the fourth estate is still in its infancy. To put it simply, some media-men lack skills and knowledge on ethics. Simultaneously opportunists and selfish ones waiting for their chances are entering the media world incognito.

Much has been heard that there frequently occurred irritating offences which caused people to misunderstand news-men and the media world, for example performing the tasks of searching, arresting, blackmailing, extorting, playing the role of mediators and in certain cases making money by carrying out interrogations as if they were intelligence personnel, in a shameless way.

There is an urgent need to remove misunderstandings over the fourth estate, scourged by bogus jour-

nalists. As for the fourth estate, they need to perform their duties with mutual understanding, in harmony with the other three estates of the State.

Accordingly, meetings among the four estates are being held at the cities of Regions and States, with a view to having mutual respect for each other and co-operating mutually in finding news and information for people to know, with meetings already held in Rakhine State, Mon State and Bago Region. Very soon, it will be held in Ayeyarwady Region too.

We hereby express our wish for the success of bringing about mutual trust and understanding and eradicating the bogus journalists in disguise, according to the aims and objectives of meetings of the Four Estates. ■

How To Help Farmers Prepare For Climate Change

Dian Spear,

University of Cape Town and Chandni Singh,
Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)

FLOODS as well as droughts and heatwaves are increasing and will continue to do so in Africa and South Asia. Farmers and governments need to adapt to this changing climate regime. But adaptation requires decisions to be made under high uncertainty, often with incomplete knowledge. This makes planning and investing in it difficult.

There is an increasing demand for short-term climate information like weather advisories. They are used most commonly to help people decide when to sow or irrigate their crops. For their part, seasonal forecasts are used for decision making by governments and NGOs, and by some farmers. But long-term information, going from seasonal forecasts to decadal climate projections, isn't being used for planning. This includes anticipating and preventing disasters.

There is increasing evidence from across many African and South Asian countries that contextual, timely climate information, helps farmers manage the risks they face. This is particularly true when its integrated with other information such as disease outbreaks or market prices and demand. The information can guide decisions on which crops to grow, when to plant them, what seeds to use, how to market the produce, and how to divide resources between farming and other livelihoods.

But there's less demand for long-term climate information. This is



Lessons learnt from a flooding in the Indian state of Odisha has helped reduce casualties. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

primarily because it tends to be highly uncertain and the scale of long-term climate projections tends to be too coarse. Also, policymakers find it difficult to justify investment and action based on what might happen far into the future. And there is typically a lack of institutional capacity to deal with long-term climate risks.

Other barriers to the use of climate information include: mismatches between personal or traditional beliefs and what climate information suggests, the availability of useful information at the right time, how it's communicated and to whom, and inadequate capacity to interpret provided information.

To overcome these problems, climate information providers must develop services tailored for different needs. This requires local, national,

regional and international institutions to work together. They must also work closely with vulnerable communities so that relevant climate information can be co-developed.

Notable exceptions

A number of initiatives in India and Africa illustrate the ingredients needed for the successful uptake and use of climate information. The Adaptation Learning Programme in Ghana, Niger and Kenya integrates national meteorological information with local rain data and traditional forecast knowledge. And in India, the Watershed Organisation Trust's innovative advisories are crop specific and include nutrient, water, pest and disease management recommendations.

What makes these initiatives suc-

cessful is that they:

- use participatory processes to communicate and interpret climate information, including multiple stakeholders,
- provide timely and scale-appropriate information, and link it to the potential effects on peoples' lives and livelihoods.

For long term climate information to be used decision makers need to trust and understand the information. In addition, it must be tailored to the local context, fit for purpose and available in time. There must also be relevant governance and institutional structures in place and an emphasis on the socio-economic value in subsequent decision making.

Benefits of short-term actions

Short-term actions that farmers take to cope with weather can help them adapt to long-term change. When people see progress, they learn how to plan. They may change their behaviour, re-structure their systems and learn from extreme events like hurricane Harvey.

1. Behavioural shifts: For example, in Western Kenya, at the start of each rainfall season, seasonal forecast information is jointly produced by the Kenya Meteorological Services, sector experts and indigenous knowledge forecasters to help communities plan for rainfall extremes. Climate projections that demonstrate a warming trend can motivate people to start growing temperature tolerant crop varieties.

SEE PAGE 9

The Bombing of the Martyrs' Mausoleum

Yay Thuye

IT has been almost thirty four years since that tragic incident took place. However, in my mind, it was as though it happened only yesterday and every event that took place was still vividly imprinted in my memory. That morning, October 9, 1983 was like that of any other normal October morning. With the monsoons receding, it was a bright and sunny day. That day we had an important assignment to carry out. His Excellency Mr. Chun Doo-hwan, the President of the Republic Of Korea or South Korea, will be laying wreaths at the Martyrs' Mausoleum as a gesture of honoring our national hero, General Aung San, and other martyrs who were assassinated along with him.

I was the Commandant of the No.1 Naval Provost Unit and was responsible for provost duties at that place whenever a foreign head of state or dignitary visited there. I was well familiar with the nature of the duty at that place and had never encountered any hitch in the past, so I was quite relaxed and confident that morning as I drove the car to meet with the Army, Navy and Air Force MPs who would be working with me.

About 0800 hour, I had already finished briefing and detailing my men for various duties that each of them had to perform. After making a round to check whether my men were in their right positions, I took up my usual position under the

portico of the Mausoleum. Apart from us, only the mine clearing party of the Myanmar Engineering Corps and some staffs of the Yangon Command Head-Quarters were in the compound at that time, as it was still early. Moments later responsible persons from various departments started to arrive.

Everything was as usual, until the South Korean security personnels arrived. I had never seen such a large number of security personnels accompanying a foreign dignitary before. As soon as they arrived, a mine clearing party started poking around the lawns and the flowerpots lining the building. Some were even lifting and checking under the red carpet where there were bulges. One of them climbed up an overhead water tank, close to the building, to check inside. One went even further to ask me to remove a large insect resting on a beam at the entrance to the hall, through which the President must pass.

By then all the usual persons from different departments were in position. At the portico, while a Deputy Director of our Foreign Affairs Department and I were conversing, a South Korean dressed in civilian suit approached us and introduced himself as a Brigadier General (BG) of the Presidential Guards. He asked who will open their President's car door. When I replied, that was my duty, he said, they had an agreement with our top brasses to allow their men to do that job throughout the whole visit. I told him, if that was

so, they can open the door on the side of their President, but insisted I must open the door on the side of our Foreign Minister, who will be accompanying their President in the same car. So everything settled and the Korean BG satisfied, thanked me and left.

Then as the time of the arrival of the guests drew near, I made a quick check on my men and gave each of them last minute instructions. The moment I got back to my post, I saw the first of the three motorcades, came winding up the road that lead to the mausoleum. According to the prior information, it must be the one coming from the Inya Lake Hotel bringing low-level cabinet members. Soon, the second motorcade, coming from the Military Guest House conveying high ranking South Korean military and cabinet members, piloted by three police motor cycles, with the South Korean Ambassador to Myanmar's car in the lead, arrived.

While I was showing a Korean security man where the President's car would stop and where he should take position, I noticed the Korean guests assembling in the confined space at the rear of Bogyoke's tomb. The naval guard-of-honor platoon hurriedly fall in, with the platoon commander a naval lieutenant (senior grade), giving orders to get his men ready for the arrival of the President.

As I had finished instructing the Korean, I was about to take up position on the opposite



Martyrs' Mausoleum before the bombing.



Naval personnels and diplomats carry the injured after the bombing.

side facing him, when I saw a plain-clothed Myanmar intelligence personnel, who was just outside the portico, suddenly dived to the ground. His action mystified me, but was more confused on hearing a loud boom. However, within a split second I realized what had happened. As I was standing with my back to the building, I had not seen the explosion, which the man who dived to the ground must have seen. Only when the force of the blast sent me staggering forward followed by the sound

of the loud explosion, I realized what had happened. In just a matter of a split second, I regained focus, reoriented and the first thing I did was to check my watch. The time was nearly 10:25 hours. Instinctively, I looked back over my shoulder towards the direction of the explosion, which was at the center of the building, and saw the debris still falling and was shrouded in thick smoke and small patches of fire burning among the wreckage.

SEE PAGE 10

How To Help Farmers Prepare For Climate Change

FROM PAGE 8

2. Restructuring the system: For example, in India, national investments in the mid-2000s helped develop a robust system of climate information services. The system produced forecasts, trained extension staff and held field demonstrations through regional ag-

riculture universities. These investments slowly recognised the importance of climate information to manage risk. Forecasts are improving and the private sector sees the value it gets from investing in climate information delivery. Climate information is increasingly being used in adaptation initiatives.

3. Sudden change: high impact extreme events like Hurricane Harvey or flooding in Mumbai can motivate swift action to set up infrastructure, increase investment and build capacity. Once in place, these initiatives can lead to longer term change. For example, in India, the super cyclone in Odisha in 1999,

which killed almost 10,000 people, led to better early warning systems. It changed the way people thought and behaved. When cyclone Phailin hit the Odisha coast in 2016, the death toll was drastically reduced to 45 people, with lower losses to property.

As climate continues to change there is an increasing

need for long-term information to be incorporated into decision making. When this information is tailored to local contexts it can help people adapt.

Dian Spear, Southern Africa lead, Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions, University of Cape Town and Chandni Singh, Research Consultant, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Domestic pilgrimages up compared to last year during Thadingyut Festival

RECORD numbers of pilgrims flocked to the famous Pagodas in Bagan, to celebrate the holidays of the Thadingyut Festival this year, according to an official of Hotels and Tourism and local people in Bagan.

"This year is a record numbers of pilgrims. Due to the influx of local pilgrims to Bagan than previous year, all hotels, motels and lodging houses have been booked.

Also monasteries in Bagan were full with local pilgrims and visitors. All the streets were crowded with the pilgrims," said a local driver Ko Maung Myint.

"Because of more pilgrims than previous years, motorboats charge outrageous fares to Tantkyitaung Pagoda on other side of the river and each boat has enjoyed many more trips a day between Bagan and

Tantkyitaung Pagoda.

"The increase in pilgrimage is good for us and our country," a pilgrim U Tin Win from Yangon said, adding that domestic religious pilgrimages help to develop the country's tourism industry," he added.

The Thadingyut Festival, also known as the Lighting Festival, is held on the full moon of the Lunar month of Thadingyut to celebrate the Buddha's descent from the heaven.

In five-holiday Thadingyut Festival this year, famous pagodas in the region — Shwe See Gone, Ananda, Ah Lo Daw Pyae, Buu pagoda, Lawka Nanda and Htilo-Minlo pagodas are heavily congested with pilgrims, with local residents paying homage to the pagodas like during the Thingyan Festival (New Year Water Festival).—001 ■



Pilgrims are seen around the golden stupa of Paya Pagoda by the Ayeyawady River, Bagan. PHOTO: 001

The Bombing of the Martyrs' Mausoleum

FROM PAGE 9

My first impulse was to rush to the center of the building where the explosion occurred and give assistance to the wounded. There, I saw two naval lieutenant commanders (Lt. Cdr.), who were to act as aide de camps (ADC) to the President on his arrival, were already among the wreckage pulling out the wounded. As the security was also important during such chaotic situations, I surveyed the surrounding and on seeing no one taking charge of the situation, I called out to my Petty Officer (PO), to post some of our MPs at the two gates of the compound and not to let any unauthorized persons entering or leaving.

At the epicenter of the explosion, I saw a gruesome sight. The whole mid-section of the rectangular shaped building had totally collapsed and almost all the roofing tiles had been shattered. There were people trapped under massive wooden beams and struts, with blood and soot covering their faces and bare skins exposed through the shredded clothings. Some were moaning and writhing with

pain, but some were motionless.

Suddenly, I remembered our Cultural Minister, who earlier was sitting on the other side of the main building while waiting for the arrival of the President. I was worried for his safety, so I hurriedly went looking for him. I was greatly relieved when he appeared around the corner of the main building, but as he was walking with a limp, I approached him and asked whether he needed assistance. He replied that his injury was just superficial and told me to carry on with my work.

There was no ambulance on standby and there were no stretchers either, so I had to improvise a way to carry the wounded. I had seen some plain tin sheets lying about amongst the debris. I instructed my PO to collect some and use them as stretchers. That solved the problem somewhat because before that, the wounded could not stand the pain when being lifted due to fractured bones. Still there was the problem of transporting them to the military hospital, which was only over a kilometer away. As the situation necessitated, I took the

initiative and sent the wounded with the Mercedes sedans they came in, with the three police motor cycles that arrived earlier, taking turns to escort each car as soon as it was loaded with one wounded person. We managed to send all the wounded to the hospital within minutes of the incident.

When everything was under control and going smoothly, I returned to the scene. By then, the surviving victims had already been rescued and a team of army men were retrieving the dead bodies. There I met an army major who was in-charge of our mine clearing team. He showed me some electronic components, which he assumed were to be parts of a remote-controlled firing circuit and said it was a remote controlled explosion (a fact, which the two naval officers, one an electronics expert and the other, a demolition expert had told me earlier). He told me they retrieved one unexploded cluster bomb from the wreckage. He also showed me a cracked canister with some liquid inside and patches of small flames scattered here and there, which

were the results of the spilled inflammable liquid. He said it was a napalm bomb.

According to his assumption, there were three bombs, two cluster bombs and one napalm bomb planted, but luckily only one cluster bomb exploded. He added, if the napalm bomb of that size should have exploded it could be very devastating, as it would incinerate everyone inside a radius of hundred yards. Hearing that sent chills down my spine, on realizing how close I was to death, as I was only about twenty yards from the explosion. However, the sense of humor of one naval Lt. Cdr, relaxed me. He said we must thank the rats for saving us and showed me the tooth marks on the plastic coatings of some wires in the electronic circuits, which were bitten off by them.

Then I saw the Minister for Home Affairs' car arriving at the scene. As there was no one to meet him, I hurried to the front of the building to meet him. He asked me how it happened and I told him that a remote-controlled bomb detonated when the guests started to take up positions. He asked me how I

could be so sure that it was a remote-controlled bomb. When I explained to him what I had learned from the two naval officers and the army major, who was in-charge of the mine clearing team, he was convinced. At that moment, the Deputy Commander of the Yangon Command Headquarters arrived and reported to the Minister, so I excused myself and went about my duty.

The Ninth of October, 2017 will be the thirty-fourth anniversary of that tragic incident. I want to honor those who perished, and those who were wounded on that fateful day thirty four years ago. Thus I dedicate this account of that incident to those persons. According to the media reports, there were 21 deaths, 17 South Koreans and 4 Myanmar nationals, and 46 injured. I also wish to give credit to the two naval officers, whose rapid response to the emergency situations saved many lives. The credit should also go to the Army, Navy and Air Force MPs, who carried out their duties with professional efficiency and others who assisted in the rescues. ■

Militants attack Congo bases in northeast, killing UN peacekeeper

GOMA, Democratic Republic of Congo — Militants attacked two military bases in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday, killing a UN peacekeeper and injuring a dozen others, the UN mission and the army said.

The mission, known as MONUSCO, said it had deployed attack helicopters in response to the raid, and local sources said the army was battling militants along the main road leading from North Kivu province's Beni territory to the Uganda border.

The fighting, which began this weekend, is a fresh outbreak of violence for a region plagued by ethnic tensions and massacres that killed more than 800 people between 2014-2016.

"I can confirm an attack on the MONUSCO base at Mamundioma this morning which killed one peacekeeper and injured 12," said the spokeswoman for the UN's Congo mission Florence Marchal, referring to a village near the city of Beni.

Army spokesman Mak Hazukay said the attacks were carried out simultaneously and

blamed the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan Islamist group active near the border between Congo and Uganda, for the attacks. He said the UN base houses Tanzanian peacekeepers that formed part of an intervention brigade which has a mandate to conduct offensive operations against militants.

ADF is believed by authorities to have ambushed and killed many civilians nearby this weekend after a lull in attacks against civilians near Beni this year.

Omar Kavota, who leads an organisation that monitors violence in North Kivu, said ADF fighters killed at least three civilians on Saturday by slitting their throats and took another 19 hostages, citing testimony by other captives who were released or managed to escape.

Congolese authorities have blamed the ADF for nearly all the massacres between 2014-2016. However, independent and UN experts say several armed groups as well as national army commanders have been involved. —Reuters ■



People wait in front of the visa application office entrance of the US Embassy in Ankara, Turkey on 9 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS/UMIT BEKTAS

Turkey urges US to reverse visa suspension, defends arrest of consulate worker

ANKARA — Turkey's Justice Minister said on Monday he hoped the United States would review its suspension of visa services to Turkish citizens after the arrest of a US consulate employee last week, saying the case was a matter for Turkey's judiciary.

The United States has condemned the charges against its Turkish employee as baseless and said on Sunday it was halting

all non-immigrant visa services in Turkey while it reassessed Turkey's commitment to the security of its missions and staff.

Within hours Turkey announced it was taking the same measures against US citizens. The moves sent Turkish markets tumbling, with the lira falling 2.4 per cent and the main share index falling as much as 4.7 per cent.

"If this is an issue relating

to security, then the necessary steps will be taken, but if it's an issue regarding the arrest of the consulate employee, then this is a decision the Turkish judiciary has given," Justice Minister Abdulhamit Gul told A Haber television.

"Trying a Turkish citizen for a crime committed in Turkey is our right. I hope the US will revise its decision in this light."

—Reuters ■

Iran's military threatens retaliation if US imposes sanctions

TEHRAN — The head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps warned the United States on Sunday that US military forces in the region could face retaliation if Washington designates the IRGC as a terrorist group and imposes fresh sanctions.

If the United States were to "stupidly" take that step, it should consider moving its military bases outside the 2,000-kilometre range of Iranian missiles, Maj Gen Mohammad Ali Jafari suggested, in remarks carried by the IRGC's website.

In such a case, Jafari, said the IRGC — the elite branch of Iran's armed forces — would treat US military forces in the region no differently than it treats Islamic State terrorists.

Such hostile US action would

be considered a breach of the nuclear deal that Iran signed with world powers in 2015, he said, adding that Iran would view it as an opportunity to develop its "defense and missile programs in the region."

Iran and the United States have long accused each other of supporting terrorist groups in the Middle East, such as in Syria and Iraq.

Jafari's remarks follow US media reports that Trump will later this week declare the IRGC a terrorist organization.

Trump indicated as much last Friday when he alleged that Iran "supports terrorism and exports violence, bloodshed, and chaos across the Middle East" and said a related announcement would be made "very shortly."

Under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act signed into law on 2 August, the IRGC is already subject to sanctions, though they have not been implemented yet.

The act describes the IRGC as the primary arm of the Iranian government "for executing its policy of supporting terrorist and insurgent groups" and says it "provides material, logistical assistance, training, and financial support to militants and terrorist operatives throughout the Middle East and South Asia"

There have also been strong indications that the Trump administration will not recertify Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal it inked with the United States, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia in July 2015,

under which it agreed to curb activities such as uranium enrichment in return for the lifting of crippling economic and financial sanctions. Trump has repeatedly described the deal as "embarrassment" and "disaster" to the United States, while threatening to tear it up.

His administration has recertified Iranian compliance twice before, under a law that requires it to notify Congress every 90 days. The next decision has to be made by 15 October.

In his remarks Friday ahead of a meeting with top military brass, Trump also vowed to "put an end to Iran's...nuclear ambitions" and suggested it has "not lived up to the spirit of" the nuclear deal.

The chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, Gen Joseph Dunford, recently testified, however, that Iran "is not in material breach" of the agreement, which has "delayed the development of a nuclear capability by Iran."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told reporters Friday that Trump and his team have been "looking at all of the bad behavior of Iran" including its nuclear program, ballistic missile testing, cyberattacks, destabilization of the region and state sponsorship of terrorism.

"He wants to look for a broad strategy that addresses all of those problems, not just one-offing those. That's what his team is focused on, and that's what he'll be rolling out to address that as a whole in the coming days," she said.—Kyodo News ■

MiG-29 multirole frontline fighter sends its might to new heights

MOSCOW — The first prototype of the Mikoyan MiG-29 multirole frontline fighter jet took to the skies forty years ago, on 6 October, 1977.

History, designing

The development of fourth-generation fighter jets started in the Soviet Union and in the United States in the late 1960s. As compared to their predecessors, the Soviet MiG-23, the US F-5 Tiger and the French Mirage F-1, the new-generation planes were intended to become multifunctional (ie to be able to destroy targets both in the air and on the ground), show increased maneuverability and spend less fuel, feature electric flying controls, new avionics and highly efficient weapons.

In the 1970s, three types of fourth-generation fighters went into service in the United States at once: the light F-16, the heavy F-15 and the deck-based F-14. These planes excelled by a whole number of parameters the second- and third-generation MiG-21, MiG-23 and MiG-25 aircraft operational in the Soviet Air and Air Defense Forces.

Soviet defence specialists and scientists also launched work on developing several classes of fighter jets for accomplishing specific missions. Under this concept, the light fighter was designed for operations over its territory and in the enemy's immediate rear (up to 150 km). This plane was required to be easy in its piloting control, production and operation. The designers were set the task of furnishing the plane with the most advanced electronic equipment and armament at that time, provide for its high maneuverability and thrust-to-weight ratio.

The design of this fighter, which received its designation, was assigned to the Separate Design Bureau of Moscow's Zenit Machine-Building Factory (currently, the Mikoyan Design

Bureau Engineering Center of the MiG Aircraft Corporation).

In 1976, the concept design was completed and the fighter's mockup was made. They were approved by the customer (Air Force specialists) in 1977.

Trials

The MiG-29 prototype (board No. 901) was made by August 1977. On 6 October, 1977, Chief Pilot of the Design Bureau Alexander Fedotov performed the first flight aboard the plane.

Overall, 16 planes were built for trials. Two of them were lost due to problems with engines: one was lost in June 1978 and the other in October 1980. In both cases, the pilots ejected to safety.

The state trials of the MiG-29 fighter were completed on 27 October, 1983.

Serial production and combat service

From 1982, the fighter's serial production was organized at the Moscow Znamya Truda Machine-Building Enterprise while the trials were not yet completed.

In July 1983, the first MiG-29 planes started arriving for the 234th Guards fighter air regiment (Kubinka, Moscow Region).

Overall, more than 1,600 MiG-29 planes have been produced and the production of their improved modifications continues today.

The fighter jet was used during combat operations in Afghanistan, in various armed conflicts in the post-Soviet space, in Persian Gulf countries, Ethiopia, Eritrea, the former Yugoslavia, India, Yemen, Sudan and Syria.

According to public information, the Russian Air Force currently operates up to 270 MiG-29 fighters of various modifications. Up to 40 such fighters are operational with the Russian Navy. Specifically, the 100th shipborne fighter air regiment was formed in 2016. It is armed with MiG-29K aircraft, which are intended to be



On October 6, 1977, the first prototype of the Mikoyan MiG-29 multirole frontline fighter jet took to the skies. **PHOTO: TASS**

operational on the Russian Navy's sole aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov.

Export

During the Soviet period, MiG-29 planes were exported to several Warsaw Treaty member countries (East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Romania), and also to the former Yugoslavia and Iraq. After 1991, MiG-29 fighters were sold not only by Russia but also by former Soviet republics (Ukraine and Moldova). Today, MiG-29 fighters are operational in the Air Force of 25 countries.

Design

The MiG-29 is a fourth-generation multirole frontline supersonic fighter. It is designed under the normal aerodynamic scheme and is a mid-wing aircraft with a trapezoidal mechanized wing. It has a two-keel vertical tail with all-movable stabilizers.

The plane has the so-called "integral arrangement:" the fuselage and the wing form a single bearing body, which provides less drag and greater lift at large angles of attack.

Two RD-33 engines are placed in the nacelles in the fuse-

lage's tail section. The RD-33 gas turbine engine is a two-shaft, double-circuit motor with an annular combustion chamber, a variable nozzle and a hydraulic electronic control system. The air intakes under the fuselage are closed by special curtains during steering on the ground to prevent debris from getting into the engines.

Performance characteristics

Crew - 1 person (2 pilots in the combat trainer modification)
Length - 17.32 m;
Height - 4.73 m;
Wing span - 11.36 m;
Maximum speed - 2,450 km/h (2.3 Mach);
Engine's "full afterburner" thrust - 8,300 kgf;
Service ceiling - 18,000 m;
Practical range at high altitude - 1,430 km (2,100 km with suspended fuel tanks);
Maximum takeoff weight - 18.1 t;
Maximum combat load weight - 2.18 t.

Armament

The aircraft is furnished with a GSh-301 30mm gun (an ammunition load of 150 rounds) and can carry various types of air-

to-air missiles (R-27R, R-73 and R-60M), rockets and air bombs at six underwing nodes.

Modified MiG-29 fighters are also capable of using Kh-29, Kh-31 and other air-to-surface missiles.

Modifications

Over twenty modifications of the MiG-29 fighter have been developed, including the following:

MiG-29UB two-seat combat trainer (Item 9-51);

Item 9-13 with the increased fuel supply, a new electronic warfare complex and an active jamming system;

MiG-29S (9-13S) with an upgraded armament control system and the capability of using R-77 missiles;

Deck-based MiG-29K (9-41) and MiG-29 KUB (9-47) fighters;

MiG-29M (9-15) - a heavily upgraded version with the flight range increased to 3,200 km;

MiG-29SM/SMT (9-14/9-15) with the capability of using air-to-surface precision weapons;

MiG-35 - the generation 4++ multifunctional fighter with a new phased antenna array radar, a new engine control system and the reduced cost of its operation.—Tass ■

France fears Iran's Revolutionary Guard terror listing would fuel crisis

PARIS — France said on Monday it was worried that designating Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) as a terrorist group could exacerbate ten-

sions in the region, and appeared to urge Tehran to show restraint.

Iran's foreign ministry promised on Monday to give a

"crushing" response if the United States' President Donald Trump designated the country's most powerful security force as a terrorist organization, part of

a broader US strategy on Iran.

"In the context of regional instability, France is vigilant on any actions that could exacerbate the current crises," foreign

ministry spokeswoman Agnes Romatet-Espagne told a daily briefing, when asked if Paris backed putting the IRGC on a terrorism list.—Reuters ■

Catalan leader under pressure to drop independence

BARCELONA/MADRID — Catalonia's secessionist leader came under intense pressure on Monday to abandon plans to declare independence from Spain after hundreds of thousands of unionists took to the streets at the weekend to protest against the region breaking away.

Spain fears the Catalan parliament will vote for independence on Tuesday, when Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont is due to address the assembly in the wake of a banned 1 October referendum in which Catalan officials say people voted overwhelmingly for

secession.

Under Catalonia's referendum law, deemed unconstitutional by Madrid, a vote for independence on Tuesday would start a six-month process that would envisage divorce talks with Spain before regional elections and a final act of separation.

But the Spanish government, buoyed by Sunday's protests in Barcelona, the Catalan capital, made it clear on Monday it would respond immediately to any such vote.

"I'm calling on the sensible people in the Catalan government...

don't jump off the edge because you'll take the people with you," Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria said in an interview with COPE radio station.

"If there is a unilateral declaration of independence there will be decisions made to restore law and democracy."

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has not ruled out removing Catalonia's government and calling new regional elections if it claims independence.

The stakes are high for Spain as it faces its big-

gest political crisis since it became a democracy four decades ago.

Losing Catalonia, which has its own language and culture, would deprive Spain of a fifth of its economic output and more than a quarter of exports.

A stream of Catalonia-based firms and banks have moved their legal bases outside the region.

The crisis has also reopened old divisions in a nation where fascism is a living memory easily revived by strong displays of nationalism. —Reuters ■



during a press conference on 29 September, 2017, in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Yanmar, Konica Minolta push automation in agriculture

TOKYO — Farm equipment manufacturer Yanmar Co and precision equipment maker Konica Minolta Inc are pushing the automation of Japan's agriculture amid an aging and decreasing farming population. The two companies launched this month a joint venture to conduct a pilot project in which they will use a drone to observe rice crops and an unmanned helicopter to scatter fertilizer. The venture, FarmEye Co, is headquartered in Osaka with a capital of 250 million yen (\$2.2 million).

The partners expect the project to help farmers increase their earnings by allowing them to provide fertilizer to areas in their paddies that most need it.

Using a special camera loaded on the drone that can sense the degree of light absorption by leaves, farmers will be able to easily grasp the growth levels of rice.

Yanmar holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture and Konica Minolta owns the remaining 49 per cent. A test employing the same remote sensing technology by Yanmar and Konica Minolta, together with Yamagata University, confirmed that the method leads to increased yields for some rice varieties.

The FarmEye project mainly targets large-scale farmers who have difficulty getting a complete picture of growth levels across their entire rice paddies. An aerial assessment by drone for 1 hectare will be priced at around 12,000 yen, with a separate fee for scattering fertilizer. The 2015 census of agriculture and forestry showed Japan's farming population shrank by around 60 per cent in 30 years from 1985, when comparable data became available, while the average age of farmers was 66.3. —Kyodo News ■



Peruvian literature Nobel Laureate Mario Vargas Llosa addresses a pro-union demonstration organised by the Catalan Civil Society organisation in Barcelona, Spain on 8 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV LIMCO ACE VOY. NO (1117)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LIMCO ACE VOY. NO (1117) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW-2 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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Linklater's war veteran comedy speaks to modern America, says star

LONDON — “Last Flag Flying”, a comedy-drama about Viet Nam war veterans, will resonate with Trump’s America, despite, or perhaps because of, its period setting, actor Bryan Cranston said on Sunday after a screening at the London Film Festival.

Set in the United States in December 2003 — when US forces in Iraq were dragging Saddam Hussein out of a “spider hole” — it is the story of three ageing former servicemen who reunite to bury the son of one of them who has been killed in action.

With President Donald Trump saying he could “totally destroy” North Korea and characterizing a dinner with military commanders as “the calm before the storm”, Cranston said “Last Flag Flying” was a timely reminder of the effect on normal Americans of ill-advised military campaigns.

“I think it has a lot of relevance today in the sense that (today) it’s not clear cut as far as the (what are the) intentions of the government or military,” Cranston, acclaimed for his lead role in the TV drama “Breaking Bad”, told Reuters.



Cast member Bryan Cranston (R) and director Richard Linklater pose with festival director Claire Stewart as they arrive for the premiere of “Last Flag Flying” during the British Film Institute (BFI) London Film Festival at the Odeon, Leicester Square, in London, Britain on 8 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

“In World War Two, it was the ‘good war’, it was clear and present danger; we had to stop this mad man. Since then, with Vietnam and Iraq, (there are) a lot of questions ... among the troops and the citizens as to if we are doing the right thing and

what is the purpose of our being there.”

“Last Flag Flying” was produced by Amazon Studios and directed and co-written by Richard Linklater, whose greatest critical acclaim has been for the naturalistic “Before Sunset”

trilogy and the 2014 “Boyhood” which won a slew of Oscar nominations.

Linklater also made comedies including “School of Rock” and “Everybody Wants Some!!”, about skirt-chasing undergraduates. “Last Flag Flying” falls

somewhere between the two genres.

The drama and comedy stem from the chemistry between the three leads, each played by a big Hollywood name.

Steve Carell is the awkward shy one who, we assume, was quiet and withdrawn even before the loss of his son. Cranston plays a foul-mouthed, hard-drinking bar owner who is his own best customer, and Laurence Fishburne, is a man who has found God and become an evangelical preacher, preferring to forget the sex and drugs they all indulged in back in ‘Nam.

Vanity Fair’s Richard Lawson said the film’s ability to honor the footsoldiers while being critical of the wars they are sent to fight, could hit “an Academy sweet spot, satisfying both the more conservative oldsters and the younger, leftier types.”

Other critics said “Last Flag Flying” lacked the light touch of Linklater’s best work. The Guardian’s Benjamin Lee called it “a half-baked TV movie masquerading as Oscarbait, a curious misstep for the Oscar-nominated indie auteur”. —Reuters ■

Box Office: ‘Blade Runner 2049’ fades to \$31.5 million opening weekend

LOS ANGELES (Variety.com) — “Blade Runner 2049” is heading for a downbeat \$31.5 million opening weekend at 4,058 sites in North America.

Sunday’s estimated result throws serious doubt onto what had been high hopes for a box office success story. In one of the most surprising turnarounds in recent years, “Blade Runner 2049” fell far short of expecta-

tions, which had been in the \$45 million to \$50 million range at the start of the weekend amid stellar reviews, strong advance ticket sales, and the revered status of 1982’s original “Blade Runner.”

Instead, the film grossed only a moderate \$12.7 million on Friday, including \$4 million from Thursday night previews. Saturday saw an 11% decline

to \$11.4 million and Sunday’s projected total was \$7.4 million.

The key factors for the under-performance were the movie’s 163-minute running time — which limits the number of showings each day — plus far less traction among younger moviegoers than anticipated.

“The core of enthusiastic and loyal ‘Blade Runner’ fans were over 25 and predominantly male and propelled the film as expected to the top spot, but a lengthy running time and lesser interest among females made it tougher for the film to reach the original weekend box office projections,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst with comScore.

According to PostTrack, males over 25 represented 50% of the audience and females over 25 were 27%, while males under 25 represented 15% of moviegoers and females under 25 were 8%. Males gave the movie an A CinemaScore, while females gave it a B+.—Reuters ■



Harrison Ford, Ryan Gosling, Ana de Armas and Sylvia Hoeks pose during a photocall to promote Blade Runner 2049 at a hotel in central London, Britain in September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Singer Lady Gaga. **PHOTO: PTI**

Lady Gaga films an inspiring anti-bullying video

LOS ANGELES — Singer Lady Gaga has filmed an inspiring video after learning her friend’s daughter is being bullied.

The pop star took to Instagram and posted a video talking directly to the children at the girl’s school and encouraging them to “be kinder” and be brave enough to stand up to the popular kids who are picking on her. “Hi everybody at El Marino Elementary. This is Lady Gaga. I’m friends with Venice, and

I work with Venice’s mommy, Julie. I’m really, really sad to hear that Venice is being bullied at school.

“... I encourage you all to be kind to one another and to search within your community for bravery. Sometimes, it’s hard to stand up to the popular kids and hang out with someone who’s being bullied. Be kinder. Be braver. Go and sit with Venice and have lunch. Be a rebel,” Gaga said.—PTI ■



People participate in a tomato war at Cikarembi Village of Bandung in West Java, Indonesia, on 8 October 2017. Tomato war is a tradition here for farmers after harvest. PHOTO: XINHUA

Vinyl renaissance spreads to China

BELJING — Although vinyl records long ago lost their battle with cassettes, CDs and online downloads, fans of the retro music format are seeing signs of a comeback in China.

"During the past year or two, more and more young people have come to my record store and listened to and talked about vinyl. I'm so happy to see the trend," said Jin Fangyong, 60, in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou.

Jin, who has a collection of nearly 100,000 records, has also noticed a resurgence of vinyl at domestic music shows in recent years, where nearly every record company has dedicated a booth to vinyl.

Industry insiders said the renewed interest in vinyl in China stems from its renaissance in Europe and America, which started years ago.

A Deloitte report predicted that vinyl sales would generate one billion US dollars globally for the first time this century in 2017, accounting for 6 percent of global music revenues. In addition, new vinyl revenues are likely to see a seventh consecutive year of double-digit growth this year, with 40 million new records sold.

Domestic record manufacturer YongTong, based in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, has ridden the wave of vinyl's surging popularity. The company opened a

vinyl production line in 2015, the first since China's last such line closed nearly 20 years ago.

Chen Yingming, general manager of the company, said the idea was inspired by his son, a die-hard music fan. Five years ago, the boy, 17 years old at the time, asked for a record player from his father.

"I was astonished. Where did he see vinyl?" said Chen. He later learned that records had made a comeback abroad, and some of his son's idols had even put out recordings on vinyl.

Chen's team visited several record factories in Europe and the United States in 2012, before spending more than two years manufacturing and improving the company's first vinyl pressing machine.

Now YongTong has eight production lines, each able to press 800 records per day, supplying both domestic and foreign record companies.

Some domestic record companies, including China Record Corporation, have also considered opening vinyl production lines, after Japanese electronics and entertainment giant Sony announced a plan in June.

Prompted by the growing appetite for vinyl, record stores have emerged in major cities, such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

"Given vinyl's increasing popularity abroad, it is only

a matter of time for China to embrace the renaissance," said Lin Hengmin, founder of Hym-origins, a company that has provided vinyl services to musicians since 2015.

Many aficionados are attracted to the sound quality of vinyl, which is warmer and more natural than modern formats.

"I can still remember the feeling when I first listened to music on a turntable as a teenager," Jin said.

Jin believes vinyl is an art. "Everything about vinyl deserves appreciation: the covers, photographs, packaging, and signature," he said.

Some young people have turned to vinyl to seek a long-lost "sense of ritual" in this fast-paced era, Lin said. "When playing records, you must manually change songs on the turntable. It's a more interactive way to enjoy music."

Some fans buy vinyl just to pay tribute to their idols, even if they are used to digital music, Lin said.

Vinyl's comeback reflects the more diverse musical tastes and lifestyles of Chinese people, especially the young generation, said Liu Jin, general manager of the musician division of Taihe Music Group.

"Despite its renaissance, vinyl will remain a niche. But it won't die out," Jin said. —Xinhua ■

Uganda makes Japanese singer Piko Taro its tourism ambassador

NAIROBI — YouTube star Piko Taro was appointed by the Ugandan government Friday as a tourism ambassador to help boost the number of Japanese travelers to the East African country.

In a ceremony in the capital Kampala, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni asked Piko Taro, best known for his hit viral song "Pen-Pineapple-Apple-Pen," if he is a samurai. The Japanese responded that he is "a singer-songwriter" and drew laughter from the attendees with a performance of the song, also known as "PPAP."

Uganda "has fantastic weather and tasty food. It is a great country to visit for those

who want to spend a relaxing time," the singer said of the country known as the "Pearl of Africa" for its lush greenery, but which currently draws few Japanese tourists. Piko Taro, who will serve in the post over the next year, said he aims to write a song to promote tourism to Uganda.

According to the singer, he met with members of the Ugandan national soccer team on Thursday and taught them how to do the PPAP dance so they can perform it when scoring a goal. The singer is popular in Uganda, with PPAP topping the local charts in October last year, said an official from Piko Taro's management office Avex. — Kyodo News ■

Albania holds fest featuring cultural diversity

TIRANA — Folklore bands and artisans from Albania and other European countries gathered Saturday in the southern Albanian city of Gjirokastra for the 2017 Argjiro Fest featuring cultural diversity, traditional costumes and folklores.

The four-day Argjiro Fest showed the folklores and ethno-cultural traditions of all Albanian ethnic regions, as well as some Albanian minorities abroad like Arberesh communities in Italy and Greece and Diaspora in the United States and elsewhere, the event organizers told reporters.

The event attracted several folklore bands and thousands of artists and artisans from Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and the United States. On the opening day, a series of cultural activities were held, including a national costume parade and a craftsmen's fair, which exhibited traditional Albanian arts and crafts.

Mayor of Gjirokastra Zamira Rami said the festival helps promote his city, which has entered the World Heritage List in 2005. — Xinhua ■

Police investigating after historic temple marked with graffiti

NAGANO (Japan) — Police have launched an investigation into alleged vandalism following the discovery of graffiti at Zenkoji Temple in central Japan, part of which is designated as a national treasure.

The temple in the city of Nagano on Sunday contacted police who later found about 100 markings, including x-marks made with a white pen, on the temple premises and in nearby religious facilities, the police said.

The marks were made on

columns and other parts of the temple's five structures including its main hall, a national treasure. It is unclear when the markings were made, but the police said they were relatively new.

"This is blasphemous to our faith. I don't know the reason for it, but I am sad and angry," Zenkoji official Shinsho Wakaomi told reporters on Monday. The temple is believed to have been built in the seventh century, while the current main hall was rebuilt in 1707. — Kyodo News ■



Myanmar's Htun Htun Aung (middle) seen with gold medal in 9th World Bodybuilding and Physique Championship in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 6 October. **PHOTO: WORLD BODYBUILDING & PHYSIQUE FEDERATION**

Myanmar Bodybuilders win gold and silver in 9th World Bodybuilding & Physique Championship

Kyaw Zin Lin

TWO Myanmar athletes, Htun Htun Aung secured gold medal at 60 kilo weight class category and Htun Minn won silver medal at 65 kilo weight class category in 9th World Bodybuilding and Physique Sport Championship which was hosted in Ulaanbaatar, city of Mongolia on 6 October. In 60 kilo men's competition, Htun Htun Aung won the first place, while bodybuilders from Thailand and

Cambodia achieved second and third place respectively.

In 65 kilo men's competition, Htun Minn acquired the second place while Thailand won the first place and bodybuilder from Canada got the third place.

It is known that there were just two athletes: Htun Htun Aung and Htun Minn participated for Myanmar and all men could bring great pride for Myanmar.

Htun Htun Aung has also

secured gold medal in the 60-kilo men's bodybuilding event of previous Asian bodybuilding championship that was hosted in Seoul, South Korea in August 2017.

More than 400 bodybuilders from 134 countries competed in the championships, which were being organised by the Mongolian Bodybuilding & Fitness Federation. The 2017 bodybuilding champions were named in 42 categories. ■

Gymnastics: Murakami, Shirai shine gold in floor, vault at worlds

MONTREAL — Mai Murakami became the first Japanese woman to win the floor at the artistic gymnastics world championships on Sunday, while compatriot Kenzo Shirai captured his second title of the meet in the men's vault.

On the final day of the championships, Murakami became Japan's first female world champion in 63 years after winning the floor with 14.233 points. American Jade Carey took silver with 14.200, Briton Claudia Fragapane (13.933) bronze.

"Winning the gold medal is proof I'm improving," the 21-year-old Murakami said. "It might have been the best routine I've ever done. It was my last performance here, so I'm happy I finished with my best one."

Keiko Tanaka in the balance beam was the last Japanese wom-



Mai Murakami of Japan poses with her gold medal after winning the women's floor exercise at the world gymnastics championships in Montreal, Canada on 8 October, 2017. Murakami became the first Japanese woman to win the floor at the artistic gymnastics world championships. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

an to top the podium in 1954. "The women haven't been able to win a medal, so I'm glad I was able to

(win gold) for us for the first time in 63 years," Murakami said.

"By winning a medal here, it keeps me in the conversation for the (2020 Tokyo) Olympics. I think I can win a medal at the Olympics if I stay in shape and keep trying."

The 21-year-old Shirai, who also won the floor and was third in the all-around at these championships, took the vault title with 14.900 — just 0.001 ahead of Ukraine's Igor Radivilov. Kim Han Sol (14.766) of South Korea finished with bronze.

"I was able to win this gold medal by keeping my cool," said Shirai, who became Japan's youngest world champion ever in 2013 when he won the floor. "I was able to leave everything out there. This result will help me become a true all-around gymnast."—Kyodo News ■

Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan 2019 AFC Championship Qualifier today

Kyaw Zin Lin

As a road to 2019 AFC Asian Championship that will be hosted in United Arab Emirates (UAE), Myanmar national football team will play an important match against Kyrgyzstan national football team today evening at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The match coordination meeting and pre match press conference was held yesterday at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon.

Head Coaches and players from both teams attended the conference.

"The match is extremely important for both teams. The winner team will be in good chance for the qualification as

the team will get 6 points. We have prepared well by testing with Thai team. We have also got lessons from previous friendly against Thailand", said Myanmar Head Coach Gerd Zeise.

"We will fully focus on this match against Myanmar. I have already learnt the playing style and technique of Myanmar team from internet web pages. My team has over a month period of preparation for this match. It is so convenient for our team to stay and play here", said Kyrgyzstan Head Coach Alexander Krestinin. Myanmar's star Kyaw Ko Ko, Aung Thu and Captain Yan Aung Kyaw who showed brilliant skills at previous friendly with Thailand will likely to participate in today's match. ■

Argentine coach plots downfall of Messi's Argentina



Argentina's Lionel Messi (R) smiles next to Mauro Icardi, during a training session ahead of their match against Ecuador on 8 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

BUENOS AIRES — Argentine coaches working in South America have done their national team a few bad turns over the past two years and Jorge Celico could deny the twice champions and 2014 runners-up a place at the World Cup in Russia next year. Celico, little known in his native Argentina, could help to dash the hopes of Lionel Messi's team if his Ecuador side deny them the win they need in their final qualifier on Tuesday in the tricky venue of Quito at high altitude in the Andes.

"Destiny put things in your path that you don't imagine," Celico was quoted as saying by Argentine broadcaster TyC Sports. "I have a big commit-

ment to the people of Ecuador, because I have done my (coaching career) here. Today I have to be thankful for that and do my best, as is right," he said when asked what it meant to face his country. Argentina's current campaign, in stark contrast to the last World Cup cycle when they qualified comfortably and reached the final in Brazil, has been dogged by Argentine FA mismanagement, two changes of coach and poor results. Gerardo Martino steered them to the Copa America final in 2015 but they lost on penalties to the Chile team managed by Argentine Jorge Sampaoli, who is now at Argentina's helm. —Reuters ■