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Join hands for peace in Rakhine

The following is the full text of the report to the people by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered yesterday.

MAY all the people be in good health and well-being. May peace be in your hearts.

First of all, let me tell you how grateful I am, for standing together with our government, with full understanding and unity, at a time when we are facing extreme challenges. There is no power which can compare with the support of the people, trust of the people and the unity of the people. I believe that no matter whatever difficulties we face, we can overcome, with the unity of our people.

As all of you know, the attention of the world on the Rakhine issue has been immense, beginning with the attacks on the police outposts in Rakhine State last October; the terrorist attacks which happened again in August of this year and the related problems that grew out of these attacks. There has been a lot of criticisms against our country. We need to understand international opinion. However, just as no one can fully understand the situation of our country the way we do, no one can desire peace and development for our country more than us. That is why we need to tackle these problems based on the strength of our unity.

At this time, our country needs to continue doing the things that need to be done. Furthermore, the things that need to



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gives a televised speech to the people yesterday from Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

be done, should be done correctly, bravely and effectively. We will implement the commitments we made till progress and success is achieved. Rather than rebutting criticisms and allegations with words, we will show the world by our actions and our deeds. In the Rakhine State, there are so many things to be done. If we are to take stock and prioritize, there are three main tasks:

First, repatriation of those who have crossed over to Bangladesh and providing humanitarian assistance effectively;

Secondly, resettlement and rehabilitation; and

Third, bringing development to the region and establishing durable peace.

We will enhance our ability to provide humanitarian assistance effectively. We are negotiating with the Government of Bangladesh on the matter of accepting those who are now in Bangladesh. Since our independence, we have twice, successfully negotiated with Bangladesh on the issue. Based on these successful traditions, we are now negotiat-

ing for the third time.

As we work on the resettlement and rehabilitation efforts, we need to work not only for those who will be returning from Bang-

ladesh but also for the very small national races such as Daing-net and Mro as well as Rakhine Nationals and Hindus. We will work to ensure that they will regain their normalcy. We will seek durable, sustainable programs to improve their lives. We have to formulate long term programmes for the development of the region- and continue working for durable peace to relieve this region of conflicts in the years to come.

For each program there are many tasks. Our entrepreneurs, NGOs, CSOs and the people, have stated their wish to participate and help. The international community has also stated their wish to cooperate and assist. This is a matter of national importance. The Union Government and state/regional governments will take the leading role. We will give due regard and serious consideration to the sincere offers of cooperation made at home and from abroad.

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Just as no one can fully understand the situation of our country the way we do, no one can desire peace and development for our country more than us.



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Camp caretakers accept the donation for displaced persons from Mandalay Masoyein Taikthit Sayadaw and Sanghas at a relief camp in Sittway in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: WIN MIN SOE (IPRD)**

Donations for displaced persons in Sittway relief camps

MANDALAY Masoyein Taikthit Sayadaw, 30 Sanghas and 30 others went to temporary relief camps in Sittway yesterday and donated Ks3.7 million to 203 households from Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung who are currently staying in Danyawadi Sports ground, Ks1.4 million to 95 households in Maramagyi Monastery, Kyaungtat Road ward, Sittway, Ks6.5 million for 35 households in Mahazeya Theiddi Adatehtan

Monastery, Satyone ward and more than Ks2.9 million for 113 Hindu households in Kyaungtat Road ward Hindu temple.

Residents from Ngatauktat Village, Sittway Township, also donated 13 bags of rice for 27 ethnic national households staying in the Alodawpye relief camp. Camp caretaker U Maung Maung accepted the donation and presented a document of honour, it is learnt.— Win Min Soe (IPRD)

German Unity Day held



UNION MINISTER for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and wife Daw San San Yu were welcomed by German Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel at a ceremony to mark the German Unity Day which was held in Melia Hotel in Yangon at 6:30 pm on 12 October 2017.—Myanmar News Agency

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

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye separately receives ambassadors from Japan and Britain

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye separately received the Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and the Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Andrew Patrick in Maykhalat Hall of the ministry yesterday.

During the meetings, matters relating to humanitarian assistance works conducted by the Myanmar government since the occurrence of terrorist attacks in Rakhine State, international criticism of Rakhine State affairs based on misunderstandings, increasing humanitarian assistance, health care, Rakhine State government, the Tatmadaw, government cooperation in providing assistance, assistance by the Red Cross Movement (RCM) in the region, the cooperative force of



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar Mr. Andrew Patrick. **PHOTO: MNA**

the Myanmar people, increasing humanitarian assistance works, national level projects in reconstruction, resettlement and development of villages, soon-to-start reconstruction works, Japan's cooperation in implementing the suggestions of the Rakhine Ad-

visory Commission, Japan's full knowledge, understanding and continued support of the State's assistance to displaced persons, and technological and other assistance by Britain to Myanmar on Rakhine affairs were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency

KBZ's BFM, Smile Asia bring new smiles for faces of more than 100 children

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation (BFM) hosted a project in partnership with Singapore-based Smile Asia Medical Mission to give smile to more than 100 children for the third time providing free crucial cleft lip and cleft palate operations for children in Myanmar.

The opening ceremony of the mission launched on Thursday at the National Blood Centre in Yangon, under the management of the Ministry of Health and Sports, with address by Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua.

Mr Keiji Matsushima, Member of the Smile Asia, introduced the Smile Asia Medical Mission.

Dr Daw Moe Thuza of Yangon People's Hospital and U Nyo Myint, Senior Managing Director of KBZ Bank, expressed thanks to those who volunteered for the 8th International Friendship Medical Mission 2017 and encouraged the children and their parents.

Following the ceremony, doctors and medical staff of the Yangon People's Hospital and from the Smile Asia carried out



A medical staff carries out check-ups to a child for crucial cleft lip operation at the National Blood Centre in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

medical check-ups and blood tests in preparation for the upcoming surgeries.

"It is encouraging to see that the number of children with cleft who are registered to receive operation has decreased, compared to the previous projects on which we have collaborated with Smile Asia. These missions have not only raised public awareness, but have inspired local communities to actively participate in other campaigns with the same objectives to help these children. The KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation team feels heartened to see the community take care of the infants born with these complications," said Daw Nang Lang Kham, co-founder and chair of the BFM Foundation.

To make these operations

as accessible as possible to disadvantaged children, who may not have been able to seek help otherwise, travelling expenses, accommodation and food for the patients are borne by KBZ Bank and BFM.

The recurring partnership, which has already benefited hundreds of young patients, was reaffirmed at the 8th International Friendship Medical Mission 2017.

The organizations came together for a mission at the beginning of February earlier this year to provide cleft lip and palate procedures for 80 children at the Women and Children's Hospital in Taunggyi, Shan State.

In 2016, they also performed successful operations for 113 children in need of corrective surgery at the Yangon General Hospital.— Thura Lwin (Eco)



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin offer Kathina robes to a senior monk at Sasana Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offers Kathina robes to a senior monk at Sasana Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

President, First Lady and State Counsellor attend Kathina ceremony

THE Myanmar Kahtein Thingan (robe) offering ceremony, or Kathina ceremony, was held yesterday morning at Sasana Beikman, Uppatasanti Pagoda, in Nay Pyi Taw and was attended by President U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The event was graced by Members of the Sangha including State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Padana Nayaka Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and also attended by Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Ser-

vices Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Constitutional Tribunal Chairperson U Myo Nyunt and wife, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) of the Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and wife, Pyidaungsu Htuttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Union Auditor-General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman and their wives, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Joint-Chief of Staff (Army/Navy and Air), Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, Deputy Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, departmental heads and officials.

Before the start of the event, State Counsellor Daw Aung San

Suu Kyi offered *soon* (a day meal) in an emerald bowl, flowers and water to Buddha images in the Sasana Beikman.

Next, President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and guests took the Five Precepts from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Chairman Bhamo Sayadaw and listened to the chanting of parittas by the Sayadaw and sanghas.

Afterwards President U Htin Kyaw offered the Kathina robe and offertories to Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Town Maha Leti Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaza Gandawasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Eindawuda.

The State Counsellor then offered offertories to State Sangha Maha Nayaka Chairman Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Padana Nayaka Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Sad-

dhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa followed by Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offered offertories to Sayadaw and sanghas.

Later, Constitutional Tribunal Chairperson U Myo Nyunt and wife, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife, Vice Senior General Soe Win, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and wife, Pyidaungsu Htuttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Union Auditor General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman Nay Pyi Taw

Council Chairman, Joint-Chief of Staffs (Army/Navy and Air), Nay Pyi Taw Command's commander offered offertories to Sayadaw and sanghas.

Finally, President and First Lady, State Counsellor and guests listened to the sermon of State Sangha Mahanayaka Akyodawsaung, Yangon Region Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Parayita Monastery chairman Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandima Bivamsa and shared merit for the donation.

After the event, President U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin and guests offered soon to the Members of the Sangha led by State Sangha Mahanayaka Chairman Bhamo Sayadaw. In the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Kathina ceremony Ks 3.354 million worth of offertories and cash donation of Ks 36.5199 million were donated. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Encephalitis vaccinations to be given in Rakhine

More vaccinations against encephalitis would be given to children in Rakhine State starting in January in order to prevent children from the debilitating and deadly disease, said U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State Government. Speaking at the ceremony to announce the mass vaccination programme held at the meeting hall of the Office of Rakhine State Government yesterday he said that "Encephalitis is an infectious disease which is caused by a viral infection, mostly spread by mosquitoes, and such

cases were found mostly in Rakhine State. Children under 5 were vaccinated with 10 kinds of anti-viral medications to protect them against fatal infectious diseases. During the period from 2007 to 2016, there were 139 infectious patients and 19 deaths. For the success of the mass vaccination effort against encephalitis, we would like the respective departments to systematically take active participation in the plan."

At the ceremony, Dr. Chan Tha, Minister for Social Welfare, Rakhine State, explained in detail

how the programmes would be implemented.

In Rakhine State, children ranging in age from 9 month to 15 years, which totals about one million, will be vaccinated from November 15 to 23 and from December 11 to 20, it was learnt.

Present at the meeting were U Kyauk, Chief Judge of the High Court of Rakhine State, ministers, Chief Advocate of the Rakhine State, State Auditor, departmental heads and representatives from civil societies. —Tin Tun (IPRD) ■



Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu addresses a ceremony to announce the mass vaccination programme. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Italy to assist in pilot project for Yangon urban heritage preservation

By May Thet Hnin

A pilot project to preserve urban heritage in Yangon will be conducted with the assistance of the Italian government, it was announced at a press conference held at Strand Hotel yesterday.

A ceremony to launch phase 1 of the tourism and cultural heritage project was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, H.E. Pier Giorgio Aliberti, the Italian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials from Yangon Heritage Trust.

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) will contribute 180,000 euros for preservation activities and the tender-winning Yangon Heritage Trust will be responsible for its implementation.

U Kyan Dyne Aung, senior programme officer for Yangon Heritage Trust, said they will draw up guidelines to modernise the city without hurting its cultural heritage, set up a coordination mechanism to attract international organisations that specialise in urban planning, collect data on heritage buildings, and write a proposal after review of existing rules and laws relating to heritage protection.

According to a survey conducted by Yangon Her-



Yangon urban heritage preservation to be supported by Italian government. **PHOTO: PHOE KWAR**

itage Trust, there were 400 to 600 heritage buildings. Of them, six to eight unused state-owned buildings will be submitted to the government, which will select two and preserve and renovate the buildings so that they can be used for public welfare.

In addition, area plans will also be drawn up to effectuate the development in areas within Yangon.

Tourism and Cultural Heritage - Phase 1 started in September and is slated to end in August 2018.

"There is a rush to carry out the above stages", said U Kyan Dyne Aung.

Based on surveys, the Yangon Region government will take the lead to implement Yangon urban heritage preservation activities.

"We could do more, you should do more. If you preserve your cultural heritage, people will come to see what it is.

People don't want to see this place is older.

You have something unique and you have to preserve it", said H.E. Pier Giorgio

Aliberti, Italian Ambassador to Myanmar.

In addition to this project, AICS in Myanmar is financing and implementing within the cultural sector several initiatives, including interventions of institutional support to the safeguarding of the monument sites and their inclusion in the UNESCO world heritage list, projects promoting university-level training courses on the topics of tourist planning development and responsible tourism, and initiatives supporting the valorisation of cultural patrimony. ■

Concrete products selling well in the local market

CONCRETE products are selling well in the local market because of demand from villages around Mandalay city, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The concrete businesses

are producing concrete stone, concrete pipe conduits, concrete blocks and concrete walls.

"When aggregate is mixed together with dry cement and water, the mixture forms a slurry that is easily poured and molded

into shape," said the owner of a concrete shop. "We have to keep the concrete products for between five and seven days for drying. Nowadays, the concrete businesses are providing the delivery services, he said.

"A three-foot-wide and 1.5-foot-high wall of concrete stone is selling for Ks9,000, and a four-foot-square concrete cover costs Ks18,000" said the owner of the Thar Gyi Twe concrete shop. —GNLM ■

Myanmar in discussions with India on cross-border night trip plan to Lake Reed

OFFICIALS from Myanmar and India are discussing cross-border night trip plan to Lake Reed for travelers to India, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

Chin State possesses nat-

ural scenic beauty and tourist attraction sites. Therefore, a cross-border trip plan through India to Tiddim and Kalay towns is under discussion.

"At present, only day trippers are seen and so, we are

discussing matters related to cross-border night trip plan as it can give the travelers traditional, social and tribal customs of Chin people, said an official from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (Upper

Myanmar).

Lake Reed, located in Chin State and near the Indo-Myanmar border, has attracted tourists and local visitors with its unique heart-shaped outline and crystal clear waters. —GNLM ■

Tax exemptions or relief for domestic investors

May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) released an announcement last Tuesday that domestic entrepreneurs can apply for tax exemption or tax relief.

According to section 100 (B) of Myanmar Investment Law, those currently operating enterprises without seeking approval or endorsement of MIC can submit endorsement applications in line with Myanmar Investment Law.

Even if those enterpris-

es are endorsed by MIC, they are not allowed to apply for income tax exemption embodied in section 75 of Myanmar Investment Law.

However, the announcement stated that those enterprises are allowed to apply for tax exemption and tax relief represented in section 77 (B), (C) and (D) of Myanmar Investment Law.

U Aung Naing Oo, director-general of MIC, said that there were many local businesses who did not seek approval from MIC because

Myanmar Investment Law is far beyond their understanding. Therefore, they lost an opportunity to enjoy tax relief under the law and lag behind those permitted by MIC. Thus, MIC conducted above said tax exemptions or reliefs within the existing investment law framework.

According to section 77(B) of Myanmar Investment Law, exemptions or relief from customs duty or other internal taxes or both on the importation of raw materials and partially manufactured goods

conducted by an export-oriented business for the purposes of the manufacture of products for export. Section 77 (C) of Myanmar Investment Law stated that reimbursement of customs duty or other internal taxes or both on imported raw materials and partially manufactured goods which are used to manufacture products for export. Section (D) of Myanmar Investment Law.

According to section 77(C) of Myanmar Investment Law, if the volume of investment is increased with the approval of

the Commission and the original investment is expanded during the permitted period of investment, exemptions or reliefs from the customs duty or other internal taxes or both on machinery, equipments, instruments, machinery components, spare parts, materials used in the business and construction materials unavailable locally, which are imported as they are actually required for use in the business which is being expanded as such increases may be granted. ■



A file photo shows workers seen on a production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Garment sector likely to earn US\$3 billion this FY

GARMENT exports are expected to reach US\$3 billion in the current fiscal year, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

Myanmar earned more than a billion from garment exports in the first half of this FY, which is \$330 million more than that of the similar period of last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Garment exports primarily go to Japanese and European markets. Additionally, it is exported to South Korea, China and the United States.

Myanmar's garment industry uses the Cutting, Making and Packing (CMP) system, and those engaged in the industry are striving to transform from CMP to the Free on Board (FOB) system.

In the fiscal year of 2016-2017, there were estimated earnings of about US\$2 billion from garment exports, according to the Commerce Ministry.

In the export sector, natural gas and agricultural products respectively made up 25 per cent of the sector, while CMP garments account for

16 per cent, minerals account for eight per cent, fisheries for five per cent and forest, animal products and other products for 21 per cent.

There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, with a labour force of more than 300,000 workers. Myanmar's cheap labour attracts foreign manufacturers to invest in the country, which sometimes leads to conflicts between the workers and the employers because of wages and work conditions.

— Htet Myat ■

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• Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)	• City Mart (Junction Square)
• Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)	• City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
• Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)	• City Mart (Sule Square)
• City Mart (Aung San Stadium)	• City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
• City Mart (47th street)	• City Mart (Waizayandar)
• City Mart (Yankin)	• City Mart (Hledan)
• City Mart (China Town)	• City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
• City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)	• City Mart (Junction 8)
• City Mart (FMI)	• City Mart (St. John)
	• Ocean North Point (9 mile)
	• Ocean Shwegonedine

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22 GSM base stations underway in Maungtaw and Buthidaung

With progress made toward the restoring of peace and stability in the area, development works in the Maungtaw region — acquisition of electricity and development of the transportation, health, education, agriculture, livestock breeding, communication and economic sectors — are underway. As part of that effort, the installation of 22 GSM base stations necessary for mobile phone communication is under preparation.

“Presently, those GSM base stations had been designed to be built, but locations are not certain yet. Consulta-

tion will have yet to be done with respective organisations. Arrangements are being made to commence the project in late October. Upon completion of these base stations, it will be able to link with all lines”, said U Swe Thein, telecommunications manager for Rakhine State.

Maungtaw has 18 GSM base stations and Buthidaung has 16. After completion of the latest project, there will be a total of 56 GSM base stations in Maungtaw and Buthidaung.— Naing Lin Kyi and Thant Zin Win ■



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein addresses the meeting of Yangon Region Investment Committee. **PHOTO: CITY NEWS**

Yangon Region Investment Committee Meeting 4/2017

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee's meeting 4/2017, led by the Chairman of the Yangon Region Investment Committee U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister for the Yangon Region Government, at 1:00 pm on Wednesday at Yangon Region Office, Yangon and was attended, by Members of the Yangon Region Investment Committee.

The meeting cordially discussed the road map of the Yangon Region Investment Committee in order to facilitate and liberalize the standard of procedures, such as scrutinizing of Endorsement applications, and supervision and monitoring of businesses in the Yangon Region. According to the Myanmar Investment Law and its rules, the meeting endorsed one business, a joint venture foreign investment with the total pledge amount of US\$0.767 million and that endorsed business is expected to create 1,002 local jobs. Yangon Region Invest-

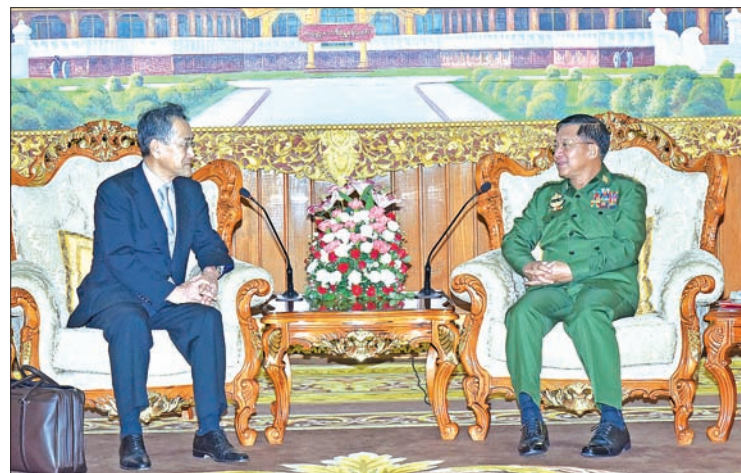
ment Committee had already endorsed six businesses in the manufacturing sector from three countries: Singapore, People's Republic of China; and Hong Kong with the total pledge amount of US\$ 9,430 million and created 3,039 local job opportunities, as of 11th October, 2017.

On behalf of the Yangon Region Investment Committee, its Secretariat Office, Yangon Region Office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration would like to announce to investors, who desire to carry out business with the investment capital amount up to USD 5 million or MMK 6 billion in this Yangon Region of issuance of Endorsements, that they submit Endorsement applications to the Yangon Region Office, located at No.1, Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon and make a call through officer phone number 95-01-657892 in order to acquire information and request any other assistance.— City News ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi in Bayintnaung Guest House, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the ambassador said the government of Japan understands the difficulty Myanmar faces with regards to the events in northern Rakhine State, and supports the security matters conducted with a positive attitude by the government and Tatmadaw. Assistance will be continued for Myanmar's nation-building effort without a changing of stance. Some facts were different from what the Myanmar government and Tatmadaw is actually doing, and suggested that Myanmar needs to let the world know of the actual situation in Rakhine State. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said displaced Rakhines, local



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, the Ambassador of Japan, in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

ethnic nationals, Hindus and Bengalis were being provided with assistance and medical treatment.

“There is no ethnic cleansing in the country and, according to photographic evidence, Muslim villages can be seen departing calmly rather than fleeing in terror. They didn't accept the words of government administrative of-

officials not to leave. Those who fled to Bangladesh will be accepted back according to the bilateral agreement of 1993. But when they are in Myanmar, they need to obey and respect the existing law said the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services”, the Commander in Chief said.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Mini-Lab for sewage treatment to be built

By Ko Moe

A mini-laboratory will be built for testing waste water in Yangon, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

U Saw Win Maung, assistant head of the environmental conservation and sanitation department of YCDC said “An international standard mini-laboratory for sewage treatment for testing sewage disposed from factories will be built during one or two years to come. Depending upon the annual budget allotment, necessary parts are being fulfilled”, U Saw Win Maung said.

So as not to destroy the natural environment due to disposal of sewage, preparations are underway.

Construction of a pre-treatment facility and central treatment facility which will comply with designated standards are being built for treatment of sewage disposed from factories.

U Saw Win Maung went on to say that works for scrutiny and supervision are being carried out by forming in-charge groups of industrial zones so that pollution of the soil, water and air does not to occur in industrial zones.

In-charge groups of industrial zones have been formed and assigned to perform environmental conservation. If the factories are found to have violated rules and regulations, warning letters will be sent to them, after the first offense. Thereafter, fines will be levied. The YCDC is carrying out the task of measuring the quality of the air in Yangon Region through the help of four air-quality monitoring equipments.

There are 24 industrial zones and a total of 3,474 factories, plus 188 sewage disposal factories in the Yangon region.

Four students to join Yunan Mechanical & Electrical College

FOUR students from Government Technological College in Mawlamyine, Mon State, left for Yunan, China, to join the Yunan Mechanical & Electrical College under a scholarship program.

The exchange program became the nine-day trip of a Myanmar delegation led by Principal of the college U Aung Moe to universities and colleges in Yunan



Principal of the college U Aung Moe (centre) with students from Mawlamyine, Mon State pose for a photo before departure for the Yunan Mechanical & Electrical College. **PHOTO: SAN NADI KYAW**

Province in October last year.

The four students are two 2nd-year students majored in the Electrical Communications at the college namely Ma Ma Shun Le

Le Kyaw and Ma Hnin La Wun Pyai Aung and two 1st-year students majored in Civil namely Mat Htut Htut Aung and Maung Lin Phyu.— San Nadi Kyaw ■

Establishment of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State

Order No.75/2017 establishing the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was issued on 12 September 2017. Thereafter, Order No.83/2017 enlarging the membership was subsequently issued on 9 October 2017. The Terms of Reference of the two orders are identical. The following is the official translation of Order No.83/2017.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order No.83/2017

4th Waning of Thadingyut 1379 ME
(9 October 2017)

Establishment of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State

1. In order to implement the report of the Maungdaw Region Investigation Commission and the recommendations contained in the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State has been established with the following persons:

(a) Union Minister	Chairman
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	
(b) Chief Minister	Joint Chairman
Rakhine State Government	
(c) Deputy Minister	Vice Chairman
Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor	
(d) Permanent Secretary	Member
Union Government Office	
(e) Permanent Secretary	Member
Ministry of Home Affairs	
(f) Permanent Secretary	Member
Ministry of Information	
(g) Permanent Secretary	Member
Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture	
(h) Permanent Secretary	Member
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	
(i) Permanent Secretary	Member
Ministry of Transport and Communications	
(j) Permanent Secretary	Member
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population	
(k) Permanent Secretary	Member
Ministry of Education	
(l) Permanent Secretary	Member
Ministry of Health and Sports	
(m) Permanent Secretary	Member
Ministry of Construction	
(n) Chief of Police	Member
Myanmar Police Force	
Ministry of Home Affairs	
(o) Managing Director	Member
Electricity Supply Enterprise	
Ministry of Electricity and Energy	
(p) Acting Director-General	Member
Administration and Finance Department	
Office of the President	
(q) Deputy Minister	Secretary

- Ministry of Border Affairs
(r) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
- Joint Secretary
2. The duties of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State are as follows:
- (a) To effectively and beneficially implement the recommendations of the Maungdaw Region Investigation Commission and the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State based on the situation on the ground;
 - (b) To work towards ensuring the rule of law, peace and stability and peaceful coexistence among different communities;
 - (c) To draw and implement a strategic plan for the enhancement of security and speedy development of economic and social sectors in Rakhine State;
 - (d) To ensure the sustainability of ethnic villages and to work towards the closure of IDP camps;
 - (e) To formulate and implement necessary policies to develop infrastructure and to create more job opportunities in order to prevent the migration of local people;
 - (f) To prioritize efforts on ensuring that the area is free from terrorists attacks and the scourge of narcotic drugs;
 - (g) To manage the allocation of humanitarian aid and relief supplies provided by local and international organizations in accordance with the policy adopted by the State;
 - (h) To expedite the process of granting citizenship to those who qualify under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law and to speed up the National Verification Process;
 - (i) To manage the expeditious implementation of tasks for ensuring that all communities in Rakhine State have equal access to education and health care services regardless of citizenship, religion, race and sex;
 - (j) The progress report regarding the status of the Committee's implementation shall be made public every four months;

3. The office of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State shall be established and all expenses of the Committee shall be borne by the funds from the Office of the President.
4. The Office of the President and Rakhine State Government shall provide necessary security and administrative assistance to the Committee in the discharge of its duties.
5. An advisory committee will be formed with local and international experts and experienced individuals to provide necessary advice for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State based on the situation on the ground. A separate order for the establishment of the advisory committee will be issued.

(sd) Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Meeting to hold mass support event of State Counsellor in Pyinmana Township

A PRE-COORDINATION meeting on holding mass support of State Counsellor's works in Pyinmana Township, Dekkhina District, Nay Pyi Taw, was held yesterday afternoon in Pyinmana Township Information and Public Relations Department's community centre. In his opening remark, Pyinmana Township

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Than Soe Aung said the arrangement of eight townships to show their support of the State Counsellor is a good tradition and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives will cooperate with whoever or whichever group will lead the event. The attendees from eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw formed

groups in order to form a 15-member steering committee, which discussed with the steering committee the place, date and time to hold the mass support event. The event was attended by Hluttaw representatives of townships in Nay Pyi Taw, party members, civil society groups and welfare groups. — Nay Pyi Taw IPRD ■



Pyinmana Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Than Soe Aung addresses the meeting on holding mass support event of State Counsellor's works in Pyinmana Township. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Believe News With Judgement

Khin Maung Oo

VETERAN journalists always teach tenderfoots not to believe it just by hearing a news item, instead believe half of it even though they witness themselves. In reality, the news heard from others may differ from actual events when reporters go to collect news on the ground. Sometimes they happen to turn up to be the exaggerated ones. Occasionally news about events happening before one's eyes has different matters in the background.

Buddha says "Parpa Samein Ramati Manaw" which is meant for Human beings tend to feel pleased in mischievous deeds. Likewise, according to the theory of journalism, humans are easily inclined to prefer evil news to good ones. Accordingly, a news item,

a portrait, a cartoon sketch, a line of short writing and a word cause an impact among the people like echoes, depending upon the amount of people who like it.

Just the moment media illustrate an ogre as a poor being by using their poetic skills, readers accept the ogre as the poor one. Critical thinking follows likeliness to believe over sensational news stories. In other words, it is human's nature to prioritize feeling more than judgement.

Previously, newspapers, journals and magazines were news media. When radios and televisions appeared in homes, they became broadcasting media, which could spread news and information more rapidly. Print media were under threat of electronic media. Print media and electronic media are

one-way media which journalists collect or cover news, edit and produce them.

The latest media or new media based on internet social website are two-way media. Just holding a smart phone of moderate price, every individual can become journalist, linking with internet websites.

Journalists who get involved in original media—print media and electronic media are required to behave in accord with professional standards, ethics, rules, laws and codes, with those requirements, responsibility and accountability disappearing in news media. So, personal attacks, acting as political lobbyists, deception by use of false news and racial extremists' agitations are being made by those from different spheres for their own sake.

Due to deception by the news

which appears on a palm-sized telephone screen, some people are subjected to deceivers' deception, causing loss of several million of money. We need to take lessons from these events, blaming deceivers and the deceived. Without believing in all what we find, we need to believe just after careful judgement.

Internet social website pages are bonanzas for knowledge if we know well how to use it, or otherwise. It has myriads of traps. At least, it takes money, time and our effort.

Under the current situation, there are intentional attacks which damage our country's image and national dignity through internet social website pages. So, we hereby urge our media to constantly monitor these attacks from our technological sphere and respond to them promptly. ■

Commission, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Constitution

Thet Nyo

THERE was a case of complaint stating that organizing a commission by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is contrary to the Constitution was submitted to Constitutional Tribunal.

Is there any right to form a commission

According to the news, it is learnt that submission of the complaint was made by 50 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives of Tatmadaw including Brig-Gen Maung Maung.

They contended that the Constitution has not endowed the authority to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to form a commission. Therefore, it is contrary to the Constitution if the amendment to the law regarding Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is promulgated without any authority endowment by Constitution.

Whatever it is construed that it can be done as there is no explicit provision for ban or the authority is given indirectly, it cannot be done, said the submitters. The fact that the authority to execute something is not prescribed in a law, can be construed clearly as a ban to execute it. The case can be viewed as amending the Constitution.

It is amending the State Constitution

Regarding this case, the approved and accepted Legal Maxim says "expressio unius est exclusion alterius" that can be interpreted as "the fact Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has authority to form Hluttaw Commission is not expressed in the Constitution and it is clear and explicit," so it should not be construed beyond that point. Changing, adding and amending

the prescribed laws are tantamount to changing the Constitution as long as they are not mentioned in the Constitution, pleaded the submitters.

Is it in conformity with the Constitution

Their submission is not meant for the execution of Hluttaw regarding the forming of commission at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. There is no right to make such a submission. However, their submission is meant for the securing the remark from State Constitutional Tribunal on whether the law promulgated by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is in accord or not in accord with the Constitution, expounded the military representatives.

In conformity with the law

U Aung Kyi Nyunt on behalf of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw respond with the following facts:

- In amending the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, the original law Article-2 (f) has not been amended.
- According to the statement in Article 2 (f) the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has the right to form commissions and organizations apart from the committees.
- Amending the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law by the Law 2/2014 adding Articles 7 (b) and 7(c) that allow forming committee, commission and organization, is not contrary to the Constitution.
- According to the Constitutional Law Article 118, the Pyithu Hluttaw and according to the Article 150, Amyothar Hluttaw are endowed with the authority to form the necessary commissions and the organizations. Hence the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that

emerges from the combination of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyothar Hluttaw has been automatically provided the authority to form commissions and organizations without mentioning again specifically in the Constitution. Since the time before the promulgation of Law 2/2014 amending the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law Article 2(f), Investigation Commission to carry out the works to eliminate the grievances suffered by people from land confiscation has already been formed.

- The proposals of law professional Bhawani Lai regarding the important facts in interpreting the Constitutional Law was presented on page 9 of the book "Interpretation of Statutes" (1964-printing) as "The Constitution must be interpreted in a broad and liberal manner giving effect to all its parts and the presumption should be that no conflict or repugnancy was intended by its framers."
- For the remaining cases that are not clearly mentioned in Table 1, 2 and 3 of the Constitution the legislative power is endowed to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by Constitution Law Article-98, hence the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is deemed to be the highest institution in having legislative power. Therefore, the assessment that only Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyothar Hluttaw have the legislative power and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has no such power is a complete misinterpretation, pleaded the defender U Aung Kyi Nyunt referring to the 3 or 4 Precedents.

The argument pleaded by Attorney General's office only from legal point of view without any concern to both submitter and defender is also remarkable.

In this regard, here is the argument of the agent representing the Office of the Union Attorney General. The argument is as follows:

- Law on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has been enacted as the State Peace and Development Council Law 11/2010.
- In article 2/ (F), Union Organization means any committee or commission formed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, it was defined. Accordingly, it must be supposed that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has the power to form committees and commissions likewise Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. In other words. The prescription that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has been eligible to form a commission had been prescribed since the time of promulgation of Law on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by SPDC.

According to the definition included in the Law on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw article 2 [F] under article 443 of the Constitution, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw must be presumed to be eligible to form a commission. That being so, the prescription on formation of a commission by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in the article 7 [b] [c] and [d] of the Amendment Law on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw must be presumed to have been promulgated for convenience and smoothness in performing the tasks of Hluttaws. Hence, it must be concluded that the promulgation of the said prescription is not against the Constitution.

SEE PAGE-9

Join hands for peace in Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

For the development of Rakhine State, to implement projects in all sectors, we need a mechanism which allows the Union Government, the people, the private sector, local NGOs and CSOs, friendly countries, UN agencies, INGOs to work together in cooperation.

We will call this mechanism the “Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine”. This enterprise has been established with the aim of allowing the Union Government and all local and international organizations to work in all sectors and all strata of society.

In this “Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine”, I will act as

Chairperson, representing the Government in my capacity as State Counsellor. Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will act as Vice Chairman. He is the Chairman of the Committee assigned to implement the recommendations of Dr. Kofi Annan’s Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. We will implement the short and long term tasks effectively.

We will use this Programme to show practical and progressive results as we work towards the emergence of a peaceful and developed Rakhine State. I wish to earnestly invite and welcome, all the people of our country, NGOs, CSOs and Business Leaders to join hands and cooperate with us. We will begin the Programme this coming week. As

we implement this Programme, I believe that we will be able to utilise the strength of will, determination, and knowledge; bravely and energetically. We will use the power of truth and purity, so that this Enterprise will be worthy of being called a ‘milestone’ in our history.

To develop the Rakhine State, we have invited those who wish to assist us; UN agencies, financial institutions like the World Bank and ADB, INGOs like the Nippon Foundation and friendly countries.

We place great hope on our Union nationals living within the country and abroad. No matter where they may be in the world. I have no doubt that all of them would come forth to help us with Metta (loving kindness) and Thit-sa (Truth). Although our Union

may not be strong, I am confident that we will be successful by uniting our will. Our people are well known for their generosity and philanthropy and have even been ranked as number one in the world. We will put to good use this generous nature of our people, systematically.

The most powerful force for making our Union peaceful and developed is our people. No matter how much anger, hatred and bullying, we may have to face, we shall overcome all challenges and obstacles by holding fast to Metta, Karuna and Mudita (Loving kindness, Compassion and Sympathetic joy). Let us join hands and work together for the success of the “Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine” with

the understanding that we are not working for one region only but for the entire Union.

Beginning from Sunday, 15th October, we will announce through our website and State news media how you can help and how to communicate with us. We shall make arrangements, so that all the sons and daughters of our Union and our friends abroad who have goodwill in their hearts may get in touch with the nearest diplomatic missions and Consulates-General to help us in this endeavour.

May I once again pray for the good health of all our people, the true strength of our country, whom we trust and depend upon. May you all have peace and tranquillity in your hearts. May all your righteous good wishes be fulfilled. ■

Commission, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Constitution

FROM PAGE-8

Need to broadly construe the essence of the Constitution

In construing the essence of the Constitution, it needs to do broadly it, absolutely not in a narrow scope.

And, it is necessary to broadly construe so that powers and authorities entrusted can cover the scope as far as it reaches, that is to say, to construe its essence for people’s sake as much as possible.

Law on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the prescriptions in the Amendment Law on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw were not enacted through indirect misinterpretation into entrusted power, by including those which were not definitely prescribed in the Con-

stitution. Instead, conclusions were presented that it was found to have been prescribed by interpreting the meaning of the power entrusted in the Constitution as far as it reaches, with a view to implementing Hluttaw tasks with convenience and smoothness.

Making decision that the Amendment of the Law on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is not against the prescriptions of the Constitution

It has been found that the State Constitution Tribunal made a decision that the included promulgation of formation of a commission in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in the Amendment Law on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law [Law on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 2, 2014] and inclusion of the wording

“commission” in other related articles are not against the prescription included in the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, according to the arguments and conclusion in accord with the articles 453, 441, 443, 77, 322[B], 293[C] and 98.

Rejection Decree

The submission made by 50 military Hluttaw representatives including Brigadier General Maung Maung was found to have been rejected by the Constitution Tribunal chaired by U Myo Nyunt with U Nyi Nyi, U Myint Win, U Myo Myint, U Khin Maung Cho, Daw Khin Htay Kywe, U Twal Cin Pau, Daw Hla Myo Nwe and U Kyaw San as members on September 21.

To amend the Constitution

Since the rule of the former government, the Constitution was found to have included matters causing misunderstanding to each other and many matters to be negotiated. At that time, there had been cases of getting decisions from the Constitution Tribunal. Since the time when Tatmadaw government took office, 2008 Constitution itself had weakness to be amended, it was found.

One of the most fundamental weak points was found to be too strict to be amended. Even if it would be amended with the consents of the whole people, there may be some difficulties to do so.

Holding a concept that having already made the Constitu-

tion is sufficient for the country is tantamount to negligence of the future. It needs to be the Constitution that will reflect people’s desires.

It is assumed to be an issue of great importance, which still needs to find out a solution after considering in every way.

(The Constitution Tribunal also is a Court of Justice. Likewise judicial courts, it hears cases to the full, makes trials in accordance with the laws and make decisions in just and fair ways. It has been found to have been released at length in Myanmar Gazette that decisions made by the Tribunal can undergo any criteria tests for its justice. The present article was designed for the people to be well convinced with transparency.) ■



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Gorbachev, last Soviet leader, wants Trump-Putin summit to save arms pact

MOSCOW — Mikhail Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader, said on Thursday a landmark arms control treaty that helped end the Cold War was in peril and called for a summit between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin to save it.

Gorbachev, 86, said US-Russia relations were in the throes of a “severe crisis” and that the treaty, which banned all Soviet and American short and intermediate-range land-based nuclear and conventional missiles, was now at serious risk.

Gorbachev signed the pact — the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty — in 1987 along with then US President Ronald Reagan in Washington. Russia, after the 1991 Soviet collapse, took on its obligations.

Both sides have accused each other of violating the treaty in recent months however, stoking fears it might break down as US-Russia ties continue to



Former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev attends the parade marking the World War II anniversary in Moscow. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

deteriorate amid allegations that Moscow interfered with the 2016 US presidential election, something Russia flatly denies.

Gorbachev, writing in government newspaper Rossiiskaya Gazeta, said the INF treaty was in danger and that Trump and Putin needed to meet and discuss the problems of nuclear disarmament and strategic stability.

“It has turned out to be the most vulnerable link in the system of limiting and reducing weapons of mass destruction,” Gorbachev wrote of the landmark treaty.

“If the system of curbing nuclear arms crumbles, and that is exactly what the collapse of the INF treaty can lead to, the consequences will be catastrophic.”

The INF treaty required the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate and forego all nuclear ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 Km, eliminating an entire category of weapon.

Appealing to Trump and Putin, Gorbachev said he wanted to see a “fully-fledged” US-Russia summit of the kind he took part in towards the end of the Cold War.

“It’s totally abnormal for the presidents of nuclear powers to meet somewhere ‘on the sidelines’ (of an event) and that they have only met once,” Gorbachev wrote, referring to a meeting between Trump and Putin at the G-20 summit in Germany in July.

“If the INF treaty could be saved, it would be a powerful signal for the whole world that the biggest nuclear powers understand their responsibility and take their obligations seriously,” wrote Gorbachev.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Ceasefire deal sealed for southern Damascus

CAIRO/BEIRUT — A ceasefire deal for a Syrian rebel-held pocket south of Damascus was reached on Thursday, brokered by Egypt and Russia, Egyptian state media said.

The ceasefire, which includes the Jaish al-Islam rebel faction, went into effect at mid-day on Thursday (1000 GMT), Egypt’s state TV reported.

Rebels hold a small pocket of territory south of Damascus, bordered on the west by an enclave held by Islamic State.

Backed by Russia, Iran and Shi’ite militias, the Syrian government has pushed back rebels across Syria over the past year, shoring up its rule over the main urban centres.—Reuters ■

Italian government wins latest confidence vote on electoral law

ROME — The Italian government on Thursday won the last of three confidence votes it had called on a contested electoral law that is likely to penalise the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement in next year’s election.

The centre-left coalition, supported by most mainstream opposition centre-right parties, says the reform is needed to harmonise disparate voting systems in the upper and lower houses of parliament.—Reuters ■

Britain will not speculate on possible US withdrawal from Iran deal — May’s spokesman

LONDON — Britain will not speculate on what will happen if the United States withdraws from an international deal to curb Iran’s nuclear programme, Prime Minister Theresa May’s spokesman said on Thursday.

He said Britain’s government has been crystal clear about the importance of the deal and its ongoing commitment to it. “As for speculating on what happens next, I’m not going to do that,” the spokesman said when asked about a possible US decision to decertify the deal.—Reuters ■

Spaniards use national holiday to show unity amid Catalan crisis

MADRID — Spaniards began lining the streets of Madrid on Thursday and national flags hung from balconies across the capital as unionists used a holiday military parade to show unity in the face of moves by Catalonia to declare independence.

The wealthy region’s intention to break away has plunged Spain into its worst political crisis since an attempted military coup in 1981, with Madrid threatening to sack the Catalan government if it goes ahead.

On Thursday, a military parade to mark the anniversary of explorer Christopher Columbus’s arrival in the Americas on behalf of the Spanish crown took place in a city already festooned with flags hung by Spaniards in a display of unity.

Tension remains high between the central government and Catalonia after the region’s leader signed a symbolic declaration of independence on Tuesday, citing the results of an



Two new apartment buildings are draped in giant Spanish flags in a suburb of Madrid, Spain, on 11 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

October referendum which had been declared illegal by Madrid.

Catalan government chief Carles Puigdemont had stopped short of moving a motion of independence in the regional parliament, disappointing many of his own supporters.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has given Puigdemont eight days to drop his push for independence or face the sus-

pension of its political autonomy.

If Puigdemont does not respond in time or confirms a will to secede, Rajoy can turn to article 155 of the 1978 constitution which allows him to sack the regional government.

“Ask for dialogue and they answer you by putting the 155 on the table. Understood,” Puigdemont tweeted late on Wednesday.

Uncertainty remains over what article 155, which has never been invoked before, would mean in practice.

“I can’t tell you exactly what the measures are,” Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis told France’s CNews TV channel.

“Article 155 is...quite large. It can be fine-tuned, and that’s certainly what the government will do, acting prudently as it has been,” Dastis said.

Political analysts expect Rajoy’s next step would be to call a snap regional election to plot a path out of the crisis.

King Felipe presided over the Madrid parade, which included almost 4,000 military and police officials. Last week, in a rare intervention, he accused Catalan secessionist leaders of shattering democratic principles and dividing Catalan society.

People were also expected to gather on Thursday at Plaza Catalonia in central Barcelona, the Catalan capital.—Reuters ■

US military to ground CH-53 helicopters after accident in Okinawa

NAHA, (Japan) — The US forces in Japan will ground all CH-53E helicopters to confirm their safety after the same type of chopper crash-landed near a US military training area in Okinawa on Wednesday, Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said.

The minister said that Maj. Gen. Charles Chiarotti, deputy commander of US Forces Japan, told him of the decision during their talks in Tokyo on Thursday. An official of the Defence Ministry's local bureau, meanwhile, said the accident site was found to have been about 300 meters away from residential houses.

The CH-53E transport helicopter caught fire in midair during a training flight and burst into flames as it made an emergency landing near the US military's Northern Training Area on the main island of Okinawa. None of its seven crew members or local residents was hurt.

The Japanese gov-



Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga (C) speaks to reporters on 12 October, 2017, after visiting the site where a US military transport helicopter crash-landed and burst into flames the previous day in the southern island prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ernment asked the United States to clarify the cause of the accident, while Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga expressed dismay over the incident as he visited the site in the village of Higashi the same day.

"I felt disconcerted at seeing the sudden change from ordinary life to this horrible situation. I feel sad," he said.

In Tokyo, Onodera

told Chiarotti the accident was "deplorable" and had caused "considerable anxiety among the residents living nearby and other people in the prefecture."

Chiarotti said the US military is aware of the concerns of local people and will consider measures to prevent such incidents.

Katsutoshi Kawano, chief of the Japanese Self-Defence Forces Joint

Staff, who is currently in Hawaii, also called on Adm. Harry Harris, the top US military commander in the Asia-Pacific region, to investigate the cause of the accident, according to the Japanese Defence Ministry.

The US Naval Safety Center has rated the accident as the most serious "Class A" mishap, saying that a fire broke out in the

engine of the aircraft, forcing it to make an emergency landing.

The CH-53E helicopter belongs to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa. It is the latest in a string of accidents involving US aircraft in the island prefecture that hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan.

People in Okinawa have long been frustrated with noise, crimes and accidents connected to US bases. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ordered the Defence Ministry and the Self-Defence Forces to use their expertise in looking into the cause of the incident rather than solely relying on US investigations, a senior government official said.

Local police dispatched officers and cordoned off the accident site, investigating the case as a possible violation of a Japanese law on endangering aviation. But it remains unknown whether Japanese authorities can probe the cause as they do not have

the power to search or seize US military assets without consent under the Japan-US status of forces agreement.

The Okinawa prefectural government said it had tried to conduct some environmental tests Wednesday night at the accident site, suspecting the helicopter may have been equipped with a safety device that contained a low-level radioactive isotope, but its officials were denied entry by the US military. Following the crash of a CH-53D helicopter in 2004 at a university in Ginowan city in Okinawa, which injured three crew members, the US military effectively blocked the site and local police could not conduct an on-site inspection.

The Northern Training Area, straddling the villages of Higashi and Kunigami, has helipads that are used by the US military's Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, including ones that are located close to residential areas.—Kyodo News ■

Paris plans to banish all but electric cars by 2030

PARIS — Paris authorities plan to banish all petrol- and diesel-fueled cars from the world's most visited city by 2030, Paris City Hall said on Thursday.

The move marks an acceleration in plans to wean the country off gas-guzzlers and switch to electric vehicles in a city often obliged to impose temporary bans due to surges in particle pollution in the air. Paris City Hall said in a statement France had already set a target date of 2040 for an end to cars de-

pendent on fossil fuels and that this required speedier phase-outs in large cities.

"This is about planning for the long term with a strategy that will reduce greenhouse gases," said Christophe Najdovski, an official responsible for transport policy at the office of Mayor Anne Hidalgo.

"Transport is one of the main greenhouse gas producers...so we are planning an exit from combustion engine vehicles, or fossil-energy vehicles, by

2030," he told France Info radio. The French capital, which will host the Olympic Games in the summer of 2024 and was host city for the latest worldwide pact on policies to tame global warming, had already been eyeing an end to diesel cars in the city by the time of the Olympics.

Paris City Hall, already under attack over the establishment of no-car zones, car-free days and fines for drivers who enter the city in cars that are more than 20 years

old, said it was not using the word "ban" but rather introducing a feasible deadline by which combustion-engine cars would be phased out.

There are about 32 million household cars in France, where the population is about 66 million, according to 2016 data from the Argus, an automobile industry publication.

Many Parisians do not own cars, relying on extensive public transport systems and, increasingly, fast-burgeoning networks

offering bikes, scooters and low-pollution hybrid engine cars for short-term rental.

The ban on petrol-fueled, or gasoline-engine vehicles as they are known in the United States, marks a radical escalation of anti-pollution policy. Many other cities in the world are considering similar moves and China, the world's biggest polluter after the United States, recently announced that it would soon be seeking to get rid of combustion-engine cars too.—Reuters ■

India blames rains, rumors for fatal stampede in Mumbai

NEW DELHI — India's Railway Ministry has blamed monsoon rains and rumors for last month's fatal stampede on an old railway foot overbridge in financial capital Mumbai, that claimed the lives of 23 people.

The tragedy occurred during the morning rush hour of September 29 at

Elphinstone station, which connects two major local lines in Mumbai. Apart from 23 deaths, more than 30 people were also injured in the incident.

Two weeks on, a five-member probe panel set up by the Railway Ministry has claimed in its report that monsoon rains which forced people

outside at the ticket counters to rush to the already jammed staircase for cover, led to the stampede.

"The committee concluded that the incident occurred due to sudden downpour of heavy rains and accumulation of commuters on FOB (foot overbridge) and staircase at around 10:00 hrs (local

time) onwards," the Ministry of Railways said in a statement.

According to the probe panel, the situation got out of control when a local vendor dropped a bundle of flowers and shouted "my flowers fell" that commuters "mistook" as the bridge fell. "This may have possibly triggered panic and

led to the stampede," the statement said.

The committee submitted its probe report after carefully studying the testimonies of the witnesses and written statements of injured people, and analyzing closed-circuit TV channels footage of the incident, the ministry said.—Xinhua ■

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Ong Minn U (Advocate)
May Phyo Kin (H.G.P)
For. JTB Corp.
Myanmar Global Law Firm
Ph: 09443220023
Dated: 13th October 2017

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**MV YANTRA BHUM ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
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Myanmar Global Law Firm Ph:09443220023

Dated: 13th October 2017

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People watch as Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant opens the flood gates after a heavy rainfall caused by a tropical depression in Hoa Binh province, outside Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 12 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Floods, landslides in Viet Nam kill 37 people, thousands evacuated

HANOI — Floods caused by a tropical depression in Viet Nam killed 37 people, one of the highest death tolls recorded in the country from flooding, the disaster prevention agency said on Thursday.

Forty people were missing and 21 others were injured after rains caused landslides and flooding, mostly in northern and central Viet Nam.

"Our entire village had sleepless nights...it's impossible to fight against this water, it's the strongest in years," Ngo Thi Su, a resident in northwestern Hoa Binh province, was quoted as saying by state-run Vietnam Television (VTV). Viet Nam often suffers from destructive storms and floods due to its long coastline. More

than 200 people were killed in storms last year.

A typhoon tore a destructive path across central Viet Nam just last month, flooding and damaging homes and knocking out power lines. The latest floods hit Viet Nam on Monday. Viet Nam's Central Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control said authorities were discharging water from dams to control water levels.

In a report, it said more than 17,000 households have been evacuated and more than 200 homes have collapsed, while nearly 18,000 other houses were submerged or damaged.

It said more than 8,000 hectares of land growing rice was damaged and around 40,000 animals

were killed or washed away.

Hoa Binh province in the northwest declared a state of emergency and opened eight gates to discharge water at Hoa Binh dam, Viet Nam's largest hydroelectric dam, the first time it has done so in years, VTV reported. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc visited northern Ninh Binh Province where water levels in the Hoang Long river are their highest since 1985.

Rising sea levels are also threatening Viet Nam's more than 3,260 km (2,000 mile) coastline, resulting in increased flooding of low lying coastal regions, erosion and salt water intrusion.

Floods have also affected seven of 77 provin-

es in Thailand, Viet Nam's neighbour to the west, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said on Thursday. More than 480,000 hectares (1.2 million acres) of agricultural land have been affected, the department said.

Thailand is the world's second-biggest exporter of rice. "It is still too soon to tell whether there will be damage to rice crops because most of the rice has already been harvested," Charoen Laothamatas, president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association, told Reuters.

In 2011, Thailand was hit by its worst flooding in half a century. The floods killed hundreds and crippled industry, including the country's key automotive sector. —Reuters ■

Netherlands wins its seventh world solar car challenge in Australia

SYDNEY — The Netherlands claimed a seventh World Solar Challenge title on Thursday after its solar-powered car drove the length of Australia in a little over 37 hours.

The challenge began on 8 October with 42 cars powered only by the sun racing from Australia's tropical north to its southern shores, a grueling 3,000 km (1,864 mile) endurance test through the outback.

The Nuon Solar Team from Delft University of

Technology in the Netherlands, entering the lightest car in the field, reached the finish line in 37 hours, 10 minutes and 41 seconds, according to race organisers. The United States came in second, organisers said.

The fastest time of 29 hours and 49 minutes was achieved by Japan's Tokai University in 2009.

Nuon team manager Sander Koot said drivers were forced to adjust their strategy after encounter-



The solar vehicle for the team called 'Punch 2' prepares to start the World Solar Challenge in central Darwin, Australia, on 8 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ing wind gusts of up to 60 km per hour (37 miles per hour) to profit from the winds as if a sailing ship.

The race starts in the northern city of Darwin and ends in the southern city of Adelaide, with cars

typically reaching speeds of 90 kph to 100 kph (55 mph to 62 mph). Organisers said the biennial event had attracted one of the widest fields ever, with teams from more than 40 countries.—Reuters ■

More Japanese firms eager to recruit foreigners, disabled

TOKYO — Japanese companies have become more active in hiring foreigners and disabled people, in response to a chronic labour shortage, legal change on the employment of the disabled and for overseas expansion, prompting the job placement industry to organize various job fairs to that end.

Foreign students in Japan are drawing attention as potential manpower, along with women and elderly people, while companies are expected to recruit more people with mental illness, as well as those with physical and intellectual disabilities — ahead of the enforcement next April of the revised law for employment of disabled persons.

The revision will oblige employers to employ mentally ill people as well as other disabled people.



Manpower agency Recruit Staffing Co. and LITALICO Inc., a job and education assistance service provider for disabled people, arrange interview sessions in Tokyo on 15 September 2017 for the recruitment of disabled people, bringing some 20 companies and 40 job seekers in their 20s-40s. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

As a way to diversify employment, companies are already holding job fairs in response to the various needs and characteristics of potential employees.

NODE Inc., a manpower agency targeting

foreign students in Japan, mainly those from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations members, held a seminar in Tokyo in mid-September.

Seven Japanese companies interested in hiring foreigners took part in the

seminar sponsored by the Tokyo-based staffing agency, including nursing care and real estate businesses.

Among the students who participated in the event were about 30 from ASEAN countries such as Viet Nam and Thailand.

At the seminar, the participating companies were briefed about how to obtain work permits for prospective employees and the advantages of employing foreigners, while the students were given advice on job interviews.

An official in charge of personnel affairs at Tokyo-based realtor Tact Home Co. said, “We are looking for human resources who can become our partner when we advance into the Southeast Asian market.”

A student from Thailand who attended the seminar, said “I’d like to work in fields where I can use my environmental management expertise. I want to act as a bridge between Japan and Thailand,” she said.

Since its launch in 2014, NODE has organized 10 job-matching seminars, inviting students from

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, and companies interested in hiring them.

According to the government-backed Japan Student Services Organisation, the number of foreign students in Japan totaled 239,287 as of May 2016, up 14.8 per cent from a year earlier, with those from ASEAN countries accounting for more than a quarter.

“Inquiries we receive from companies looking for work-ready manpower have increased year after year,” said a NODE official. Also in mid-September, Recruit Staffing Co. arranged interview sessions for the recruitment of disabled people, bringing some 20 companies and 40 job seekers in their 20s-40s in Tokyo. —Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SAN GIORGIO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAN GIORGIO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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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
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LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI NO (039)

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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.

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Phone No: 2301185

Battle with Thor kicks off three-movie arc for Marvel's Hulk

LOS ANGELES — Marvel's big green Hulk may not be getting his own standalone movie but actor Mark Ruffalo, who plays the current iteration of the superhero, said the character will get a mini arc within three upcoming Marvel movies.

Hulk, the muscle-bound, larger-than-life green alter-ego of scientist Bruce Banner, appears in the upcoming "Thor: Ragnarok," out in US theatres on 3 November, as a gladiator trapped on a futuristic planet and forced to fight Thor.

The Hulk will also appear in 2018's "Avengers: Infinity War" and its sequel, 2019's yet-to-be-titled Avengers 4.

"We've taken the arc of a standalone Hulk movie and put it into those three movies, consciously," Ruffalo said. Ruffalo, who has spent more time as scientist Banner than as the Hulk in the past two Avengers films, said he relished the opportunity to be

in character as the Hulk for the majority of "Thor: Ragnarok."

"This movie is about just breaking free of the forms and rules, and so I got to break free from what we thought Hulk was to a slightly more fleshed-out character," he said.

The Hulk, who first appeared in comics in 1962, has had his own standalone television shows and movies in the past, notably 2003's "Hulk" and 2008's "The Incredible Hulk" films, both from Universal Pictures.

The cinematic rights to Marvel's Hulk superhero are owned by Comcast Corp's Universal Pictures, while Walt Disney Co owns Marvel studios and is behind the current success of the superhero movie franchise.

"Ultimately Universal owns the rights there. I don't see them like hanging out together any time soon to be like 'Hey, let's do another Hulk movie'," he said.

—Reuters ■



Chris Hemsworth and Elsa Pataky at World Premiere of "Thor: Ragnarok" - Los Angeles, California, US, on 11 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Producer Harvey Weinstein suspended from British film academy

L O N D O N

— Harvey Weinstein was suspended from the British film academy B A F T A on Wednesday, following allegations that the Hollywood movie producer sexually assaulted several women.

"In light of recent very serious allegations, BAFTA has informed Harvey Weinstein that his membership has been suspended, effective immediately," the academy said in a statement.

"We hope this announcement sends a clear message that such behavior has absolutely no place in our industry."

In an article in the New Yorker on Tuesday, Weinstein's spokeswoman Sallie Hofmeister responded to the allegations, saying that "any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied

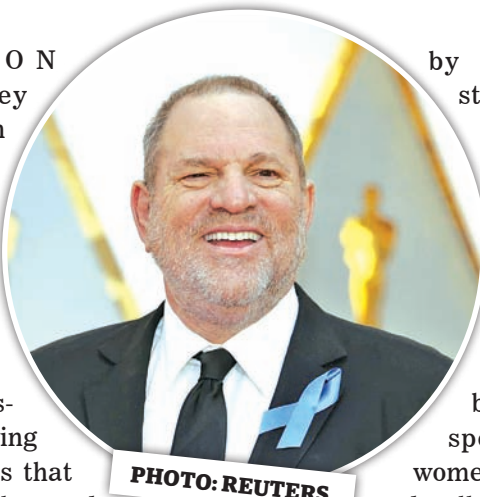


PHOTO: REUTERS

by Mr. Weinstein".

"Mr. Weinstein obviously can't speak to a n o n y m o u s a l l e g a t i o n s, but with respect to any

women who have made allegations on the record, Mr. Weinstein believes that all of these relationships were consensual."

Reuters was unable to independently confirm any of the allegations.

Weinstein and several of the women cited in the article have not immediately replied to emailed requests for comment.

Weinstein was one of BAFTA's New York trustees and regularly threw a lavish party ahead of its annual prize ceremony. His films have been nominated for the academy's prestigious award four times.—Reuters ■

Gal Gadot in talks to join Nazi revenge thriller 'Ruin'

LOS ANGELES — Actor Gal Gadot is in negotiations to join the cast of Nazi revenge thriller "Ruin".

Justin Kurzel, who directed "Assassin's Creed", is set to

helm the movie, which centers on a former Nazi captain who, as a way of making up for his crimes, hunts down and kills his former team of SS officers in Germany, according to The

Hollywood Reporter.

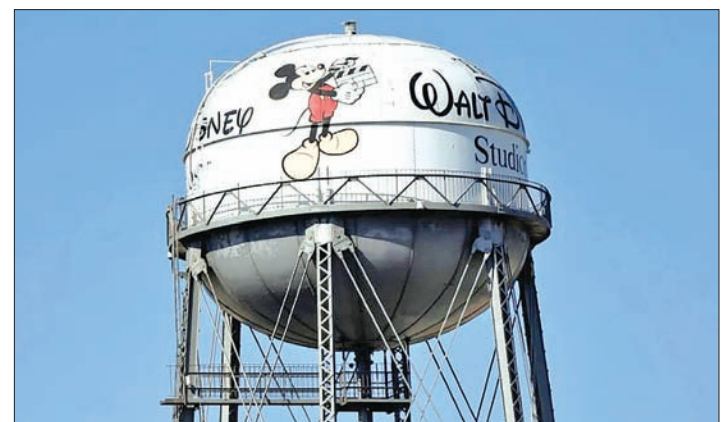
It is unclear what role Gadot would play in the movie.

Kurzel is also said to be prepping a film about Australian outlaw Ned Kelly.—PTI ■

Movie studios join Disney-led service to link digital purchases

LOS ANGELES — Five Hollywood film studios have joined together to offer a new service designed to make it easier for consumers to collect digital movies that they can watch at home or on mobile devices, the studios said in a statement on Wednesday. The Movies Anywhere service was developed by Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) to provide a single app and website where customers can find movies they have purchased from a variety of retailers.

Comcast Corp's (CMC-SA.O) Universal Pictures, Time Warner Inc's (TWX.N) Warner Bros, Twenty-First Century Fox Inc's (FOXA.O) 20th Century Fox and Sony Corp's (6758.T) Sony Pictures Entertainment have signed on to the effort, the statement said. Hollywood's



The water tank of The Walt Disney Co Studios is pictured in Burbank, California in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

movie studios are looking for ways to encourage digital sales of movies after they leave theaters in order to help make up for the decline in popularity of physical DVDs.

The free Movies Anywhere service, launched in the United States on Wednesday, initially

will allow users to access movies purchased from Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) iTunes, Amazon.com Inc's (AMZN.O) Amazon Video, Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL.O) Google Play and Wal-Mart Stores Inc's (WMT.N) Vudu. Other retailers and studios may join in the future.—Reuters ■

Children's Literature Festival in Monywa kicks off

MYANMAR traditional martial art is included in the entertainment program of the children's literary exhibition which will launch today through 15 October at Monywa University.

The festival is designed to turn children on to reading.

The Children's Literature Festival includes 35 entertainment programs on the first day, 50 on the second day and 40 on the third day, and booths selling children's books.

Besides, poem recitation contest, story telling con-

test, extempore talk contest, painting contest, paper folding contest and games etc. will be included in the festival which is jointly conducted by Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Sagaing Region Government.

Children and visitors can also enjoy magic shows, puppet shows and Myanmar traditional martial arts at the festival which is the fifth one after the festivals in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi. —Aung Min Han ■



Children performing Myanmar traditional martial art at the Children's Literature Festival in Monywa. PHOTO:

Earthlings test warning system as asteroid flies by

FRANKFURT — An asteroid the size of a school bus flew remarkably near Earth on Thursday, providing scientists with an opportunity to test the warning systems that would kick in if a space collision was coming.

Asteroid 2012 TC4 came close — passing Earth at a distance of only around 44,000 km

(27,000 miles), which is nothing in Universe terms.

There was no actual risk of a hit, although the asteroid did come well inside the orbit of the Moon and that of some human-made satellites.

“Basically, we pretended that this is a ‘critical’ object with a high risk of impacting Earth

... and exercised our communication channels and used telescopes and radar systems for observations,” Detlef Koschny of European Space Agency said in a blog post on the agency’s website.

The results were mixed.

Koschny said one big radar system in Puerto Rico did not

work due to damage from Hurricane Maria but that another US based radar system was used instead.

“This is exactly why we do this exercise — to not be surprised by these things,” he said.

Radar images showed the asteroid was about 10 to 12 metres (yards) wide, roughly the

size of an asteroid that exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia in 2013, leaving more than 1,000 people injured by flying glass and debris.

Koschny said the ESA now needed to update its predictions for how close 2012 TC4 will come to Earth on its next flyby, which has so far been forecast for 2079.—Reuters ■

Thailand cuts 2017 tourist arrivals forecast to 33-34 million: minister

BANGKOK — Thailand’s tourism minister on Thursday said the country expects 33 to 34 million visitors this year, down from an earlier forecast of 35 million.

“Right now Thailand has welcomed 27 million already this

year so I think for the whole year we should get 33 to 34 [million],” tourism minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul told reporters.

She did not give a reason for the projecting a lower number.

The smaller number would

still be a record for Thailand, which welcomed 32.6 million foreign visitors in 2016, with the largest group coming from China.

Tourist arrivals so far this year are 5.6 per cent above the

same period of 2016, with 7.63 million out of the total of 26.9 million coming from China, Kobkarn said.

The ministry said Thailand attracted far more tourists from China during its just-ended “Golden Week” holiday than a year earlier.

A ministry document said that 251,120 Chinese visitors arrived during 1-9 October, a 69 per cent increase from a year earlier.

Revenue generated by them during the period was 12.53 billion baht (\$378.55 million), or 76 percent higher than last year, the ministry said.

“We’re still the number one destination for Chinese tourists and many others, so our revenue still constantly grows,” Kobkarn told reporters.

Thailand is heavily dependent on tourism, which accounts for around 12 per cent of the economy.

Tourism was hurt by political turmoil and a coup in 2014 and by widespread floods in 2011, but the industry recovered quickly.—Reuters ■

New species of clone sea slug found in Japan bay

TOYAMA, (Japan) — The discovery of a new species of clone sea slug, usually found in chilly polar waters, in central Japan’s Toyama Bay may shed light on sea temperature changes, a local university said Thursday. The discovery was made by a team of researchers led by Zhang Jing, a professor at the University of Toyama’s graduate school. Researchers in Japan have confirmed through gene analysis that the species — the fifth of its kind — has previously not been identified. “It’s surprising to find a creature of the cold ocean (near the Arctic) in a place so far south,” said Zhang, who has been studying the ecological system in Toyama Bay, one of the deepest in Japan.

Zhang’s team collected some 30 clones, also known as sea angels, in August last year and roughly 100 earlier this month in the bay’s waters at a depth of around 1,000 meters.—Kyodo News ■



Tourists visit the Grand Palace in Bangkok in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thitsar Arrman FC standing second place in KBZ Bank Women League

Kyaw Zin Lin

THITSAR Arrman beat Zwegapin by a score of 2-0 with both goals scored by star football player Nilar Win in yesterday's match of KBZ Bank Women's League 2016-2017 at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

Thitsar Arrman played aggressively, while Zwegapin played a defensive style mostly throughout the first half, seeming to be upset for giving up several scoring opportunities to their opponents.

Thitsar Arrman's Nilar Win scored the icebreaker at the 25-minute mark and the second goal just before the first half ended.

In the second half, Zwegapin elevated their level of play and changed game tactics. Zwegapin's defenders and goalkeeper were strong enough to block the ball even though Thitsar Arr-



Players from Thitsar Arrman and Zwegapin FC in action at yesterday's match in Aung San Stadium. **PHOTO: MWL**

man still got more goal chances in the last minute of the second half.

With the victory, Thitsar Arrman remains in second place with 24 points, while Zwegapin is

in sixth place with 5 marks. Both teams have played 10 matches this season. ■

Japanese football coaches help improve Myanmar youth skills

With an agreement between the Myanmar Football Federation and J-league from Japan to upgrade Myanmar's footballers, experts and coaches from Japan's J League taught basic football techniques and skills to 100

Myanmar youths at the training grounds of the National Football Academy in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw, a delegation led by the Dep-

uty Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Mr. Toshiei Mizuochi, MFF officials, officials from the Myanmar National League and other invited persons attended yesterday's ceremony.

The J-league football experts and coaches are from the Cerezo Osaka football club, it is learnt. The training plan will continue today, according to Myanmar Football Federation. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Frenchwoman Garcia completes WTA Finals field

SINGAPORE — Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia became the eighth and final player to qualify for the season-ending WTA Finals in Singapore after Britain's Johanna Konta withdrew from the Kremlin Cup in Moscow due to a foot injury, the WTA said on Thursday.

Garcia won back-to-back titles in Wuhan and Beijing, beating Simona Halep in the final of the latter to move past Konta in the Race to Singapore rankings at the start of this month, but withdrew from the ongoing Tianjin Open with an injury. Her withdrawal gave Konta an outside chance of qualifying for the 22-29 October event, although she would have had to reach the finals of the Moscow tournament to overtake Garcia.

"Qualifying for the WTA Finals in Singapore means the world to me," Garcia, who will be making her first-ever singles appearance at the event, told the WTA website. (www.wtatennis.com)

"I'm very proud to be among the top eight players of the season and I'm looking forward to being part of that incredible field."—Reuters ■

Super rookie Park shares lead in South Korea

SEOUL — US Women's Open champion Park Sung-hyun closed with a pair of birdies to join Minjee Lee and Kim Min-sun at the top of the leaderboard on six-under par after the first round of the LPGA's \$2 million KEB Hana Bank Championship in Incheon on Thursday.

World number two Park, playing in the marquee group alongside top-ranked South Korean compatriot Ryu So-yeon and number three Lexi Thompson, carded six birdies in a bogey-free round at the SKY72 Golf and Resort, west of Seoul.

American Thompson ended the day three strokes back after a 69 while world number one Ryu carded an even-par 72. Australia's Lee, meanwhile, offset two bogeys with eight birdies, while



Sung Hyun Park. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Korean Kim finished her round with five straight birdies.

Park has enjoyed an incred-

ible rookie season in the United States and leads Ryu and Thompson on the official money list with

almost \$2 million from 18 events.

Playing in the same group as her closest rivals did not faze her

in the slightest on Thursday, nor did the huge galleries following the trio despite the chilly weather. "It is true that this morning was really cold. At one point it did cross my mind that there may not be many spectators today. I was quite surprised when I reached the first hole and saw the size of the crowd," she said.

"I can't speak for the other players from abroad, but I've never felt that it's uncomfortable to have a larger crowd. I think the larger the cheering is more fun for me, so I had a really good time out there today."

Spaniard Carlota Ciganda, who beat Alison Lee in a sudden death playoff to win the event last year, finished on even par with American Lee coming in at two-over par.—Reuters ■