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Panelists participate in the "Where is Myanmar in its Transition" session of the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Myanmar democratic transition requires greater attention

DURING the third day of the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition at the Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday, Dr. Soeren Keil, associate professor of international relations at Canterbury Christ Church University in the United Kingdom addressed the fragile nature of

Myanmar's democratic gains. While Myanmar has progressed, Dr. Keil noted that no new parties have recently signed the National Ceasefire Agreement and that economic development, a prerequisite for lasting peace, has been lackluster. Dr. Keil also warned that

democratic transition is not always a smooth orderly process. "Democracy might not be as stable as we have believed," he said. Dr. Keil said that certain indisputable elements have changed for the better in Myanmar, including a new exposure to global communication flows.

"In terms of social and cultural changes, we now see everybody has a mobile phone. Internet usage has substantially increased across the country," he said. "Again, that provides access to information, and also access to different media." Dr. Keil noted that with new access to new ideas and sources

of information, come new challenges to prevailing orders and traditions. "When we look at democratization key challenges remain," said Dr. Keil, noting recent crackdowns on news organisations and Facebook posters for making political statements. **SEE PAGE-3**

KBZ BANK
STRENGTH OF MYANMAR

သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Comprehensive forum proves progress of democratic transition

Six papers presented at the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition were reviewed at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

As regards the paper “Global Overview Setting the Framework” Professor Daw Chaw Chaw Sein of International Relations Department of Yangon University said she would like to highlight six points and discuss the topics on “Wave of Democratization and Types of Democracy: and “Third Wave”. There were discussions on the difference between Arab Spring and Myanmar Spring, the hardships of democratization and the greater degree of difficulties in countries facing wars or battles, she said. The discussions included China’s impact on the regional countries, democracy and progress which could draw the attention of youths, the transition of Myanmar, a multi-national state, is different from other countries, matters on commitment, coordination and cooperation, the need of patience in the transition which is an endless process, democracy and peace that should always stand together, and diversity which should be an opportunity, she said, adding, many agreed the absence of a fixed model in transition.

Recounting the discussion, Daw Chaw Chaw Sein said transition process needs stability, and Myanmar’s transition is stable and wins international recognition, the transition from military rule to civilian rule, from centralized economic system to open market economy and from war to peace, the need for stability whether it is a top down process or bottom up process, the emergence of poverty from social instability, the public understanding of the transition and no-U-turn transition were interesting topics.

She noted the important role of the rule of law, the firmness of the rule of law, internal security and institutions and the absence of corruption in democracy, the holding of such forums also in the provinces, the youth involvement, the invitation of the Tatmadaw for transition, reinforcement of the transition through promotion of military-civilian relations by encouraging more public participation in the Tatmadaw’s role, the essential role of the people in political, economic and social sectors, self-determination and all-inclu-



The review session of the Forum of Myanmar Democratic Transition in progress. PHOTO: MNA

siveness in the nation building task as important issues.

Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Lwin Ko Latt reviewed the paper on political transition from military to civilian government, saying that international transition processes, especially the one in Indonesia were studied; that the summary of the Panelist discussions pointed out the requirement of multi reforms involving reforms in military-civilian relations in the democratic transition in addition to free and fair elections. He said countries under transition have the military-controlled Security Council. Depending on situation the military influence is still large, and assumed that the strengthening of civilian organizations will gradually decrease military influence. He said some discussed the fact that powerful military involvement in politics will pose hardships in strengthening the government, parliament, and judicial bodies. He said it is found that economic growth and security have direct relations, which is a worrisome situation for the people of the countries under transition that military might seize power with lack of security and stability as the reason. Political and racial extremism and political confrontation are also worrisome for people. He said he also notices the various types of transition theories, and the possibility of the transition based on firm goals, views and unity among the civilian organizations. He said there were suggestions in connection with the ending of internal armed conflicts through peaceful means, the support for military reforms, the new role and duties of the Tatmadaw in civilian and military reforms and sharing of benefits of the transition among all stakeholders

including the Tatmadaw.

The discussions dealt with the work of building trust in the fact that the Tatmadaw also is a part of the government, reinforcing the peace process and transition process with the greater involvement of civilian organizations. In his review he said more forums should be held for the greater transparency of the political and peace process through distribution of authentic information, which would ensure public participation in making important decisions for the country. He said political and economic security and stability can be harmed during the transition, that greater military-civilian cooperation will support the transition through security and stability enforcement.

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo reviewed the paper on Central control economic system to market economy system, saying there were discussions on the practice of socialism in Myanmar in the past, the centralized economic system and the market economy system under the Tatmadaw government, 23 years the transition from centralized economic system to the market economy system took, opportunities and challenges, drug problem, the issue of internal peace, 2008 Constitution, trade deficit, the need to harmoniously implement the peace process and the market economy, the possible deterioration of the national situation through poor economy, harmonious efforts to ensure peace and economic development as there is the correlation between the two, the weakness in cooperation in connection with the challenges, the reinforcement of coordination and cooperation under the leadership of the State

Counsellor, poverty alleviation, benefits of economic growth, the important of the private sector in national economy, farming sector which contributes 30 per cent of the GDP, as the most important business of the private sector, transparency in budget transfers, clear goals for economic progress, practical means for economic progress.

Mr. Christophoros Politis of UNDP (Myanmar) reviewed the topic on “From war to peace”. Saying he has noticed the issues on dos and don’ts, cooperation as the success for transition, greater education reforms, drumming up of the public awareness on peace, prioritization of peace economy over war economy, power sharing though democratic means, social welfare undertaking of the civilian government, all-inclusive and constructive power sharing, realization of a system suitable to the country politically, socially and culturally.

U Kyaw Lin Oo of Peace Commission also discussed the issue, saying the discussions were centred on the three groups of the transition process, coordination between anti-transition group and pro-transition group, the dependence of the reforms on the success of the coordination, international experts’ views on war-less peace and full peace, implementing of a peace process acceptable to all, the three important points for the success of the national reconciliation which are forgiveness, substitution, and reconstruction for justice, national reconciliation through greater cooperation instead of revenge, legal reforms, law-making mainly based on State building, wider understanding among stakeholders, the distribution of public peace awareness through MPs, the implementation of in-

frastructures and machinery for peace to save victims from miseries.

Ms. Isabella Kurkowski of DW Akademie made the review of the role of media in Myanmar democratic transition, saying, media itself is in the reform process. She then dealt with the significant development of social media in Myanmar, the popularity of the forum among the public, the arrival of 38 foreign correspondents to the forum, developments and challenges of the media, international norm of the media, the media law, issuance of reliable information by the government bodies, media strategy policy and plans for its development, trust-building among government, parliament and media, media as part of democracy development, development of ethnic media, media policy and strategy.

As regards the topic, Director Daw Thin Thin Aung of Mizzima Media Group also said a certain length of time is required in reducing the Tatmadaw’s involvement in which all-inclusiveness is an important part. She also said there were suggestions on the progress, corrupt-free administrative machinery, and the assessment of possible benefits in adopting a policy.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint thanked all for the success of the forum, saying, the forum has successfully concluded although the exact date for the success of the Myanmar democratic transition cannot be fixed. He expressed thanks to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for her opening address and all other participants and supporters. He said transparency has been ensured to the most possible degree for the appearance of a wide array of recommendations, assessments and comments. So there was freedom of speech, and open discussions in connection with the government’s accomplishments are welcomed and recognized. Candid criticisms have made the forum more comprehensive and active, and this shows the progress of the democratic transition. The panel discussion entitled, “Where is Myanmar in its Transition?” is the most interesting topic of the forum. After hearing the discussions of the forum, we felt that the potentiality of democratic transition has exceeded 50 per cent and the forum a success. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Collective offering of Waso robe and rice in Yangon Region

Waso robe and rice offering ceremony comprised of National League for Democracy- NLD (Yangon Region) and the people was held yesterday at Mula Sel Taung Pyae monastery in Thimgangyun Township, Yangon at 9:00 am, receiving the sermons administered by the Chairman Sayadaw of Yangon Region Sangha Nayaka Committee. Prior to the ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, secretary members of the NLD Central Work Committee, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and ministers, Hluttaw representatives and guests received five precepts administered by State Ovadacaviya Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddama Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Dhamma Nanda. Then the audience listened to the pirittas recited by Sayadaws and Sanghas.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint presents offertories to a Sayadaw. PHOTO: MNA

After receiving and listening to the Dhamma, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party offered the waso robe and offertories to the 63 Reverend Sayadaws. Then, the Chairman Sayadaw preached the

sermons and shared the merits of the deed. At the end of the ceremony, the audience offered meal to the Sayadaws.

At noon, the National League for Democracy (Yangon Region)



The rice donation ceremony in progress. PHOTO: MNA

and the people, related departments in the Region and donors offered rice and offertories to a total of 960 members of Sanghas and 40 of nuns from 1,000 monasteries and nunneries. In addition

to this ceremony, all donations of rice, cooking oil, potatoes worth of Ks 700 million were offered to 325 monasteries and 91 nunneries in Yangon Region. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar democratic transition requires...

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Dr. Keil also noted that reform of the Tatmadaw remains a key issue. Dr. Keil said discussions at the 21st Century Panglong Conference remained relatively superficial and there was still no guarantee of their success.

And Dr. Keil noted that while Myanmar's economy has improved, those improvements are relatively modest and mostly clustered in urban areas, giving rise to greater inequality.

"Economic growth figures are quite low. In other transition societies we have seen growth figures easily exceeding double figures," said Dr. Keil. He then quoted a World Bank statement: "Substantial infrastructure investment, restructuring of the economy and more foreign in-

vestment friendly policies are needed and need to be implemented in order to have positive economic growth."

"Economic growth ensures greater success," he said.

Concerning the question on revocation of the law of reporting the visitor list, Representative of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Phyo Zeyar Thaw explained that in 1885 some parts of Myanmar was occupied by English and became part of India in 1886. The law to report to the head of village if visitor came to house was enacted in 1889. The law was actually aimed to oppress the people. The law was not applied to the whole country even under the British rule. The law affects the only parts signed by the governor. The law of visitor list was revoked because it was

considered incorrect and in the law was described if there is any suspicion of illegal undertakings the responsible personnel was given the right to check or inspect. Without knowing the facts completely, the revocation of visitor list law was criticized. The security is also important. Therefore the preventive measures to curb the security risks were put in the law of village administrator. The breach of security can be prevented if the provisions in the village administrator law was strictly observed.

U Tin Maung Than of Myanmar Resource Development discussed regarding the working capacity of the incumbent government. I want to stress the importance of management and administration. In case the owner and the manager are the

same person administration is not needed. If the owner and manager are different persons the administration system is needed so as to deter the misappropriation. People is the owner of sovereignty of the country in democracy system. Hluttaw and Ministers represent the people. The system that can prevent the misappropriation must be established. However, in the present system owner and manager is not clearly differentiated.

They think themselves as the owner cum manager. The present government is weak in building the administration system. Transparency and accountability are integral part of the administration.

Capacity can be approached in both ways, the capacity of laying policy and the capacity of im-

plementation. From policy point of view to assess if the system of visitor list is right and if the system has been adopted to protect the invading of foreigners, we have to review whether the system can realize the objectives. It is to take the expense, labour and human resource that will follow after a certain system into consideration. Whether the problems concerning the human rights may arise or not has to be considered.

There may be some expense due to human rights violation. It should also consider whether the policy adopted can engender the direct benefit or not. The successive governments have been deemed weak in this capacity. There was moves in the previous and incumbent governments.

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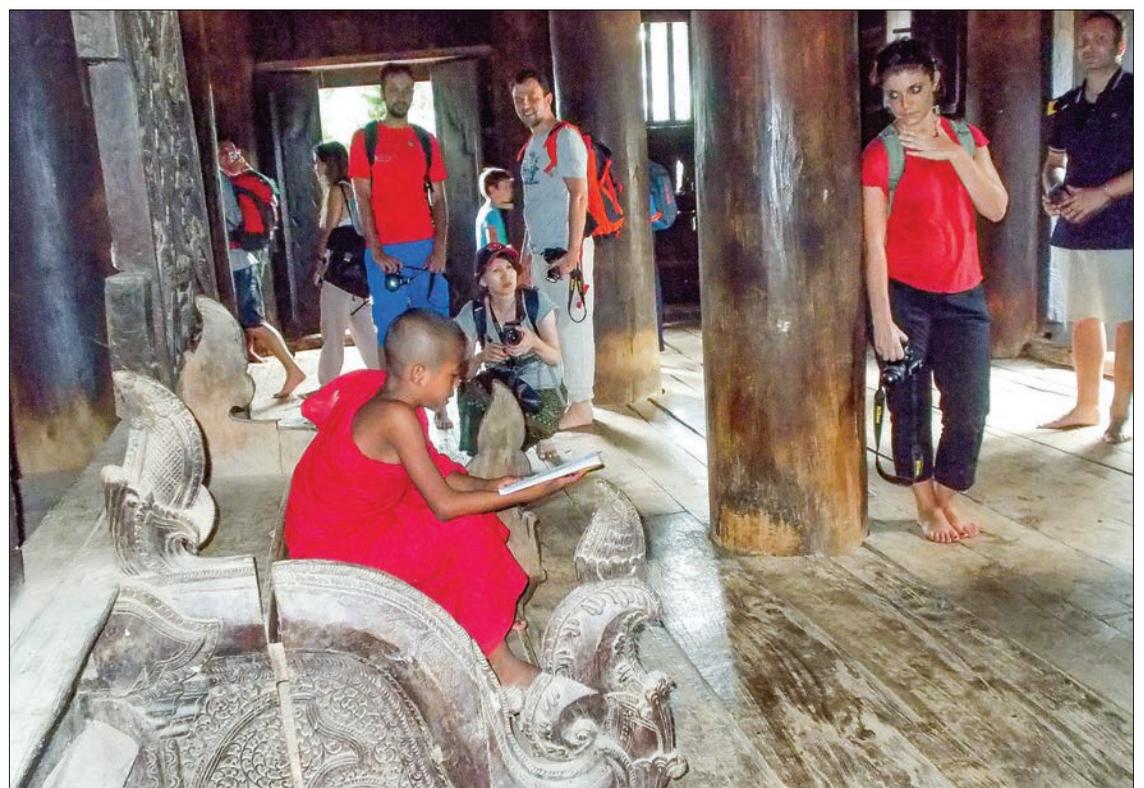
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Ava Ancient city flocked with international visitors this monsoon

LOCATED in Mandalay Region, Ava, also known as Inwa, served as an imperial capital between 14th and 19th centuries, and received impressive numbers of visitors during the monsoon season. Ava is famous for its religious architecture, including traditional wooden Buddhist monasteries, stupas, pagodas and other attractions.

Among the most popular landmarks in Ava are the Ava Bridge, the Ava Palace, the Bagaya Monastery, the Maha Aungmye Bon Zan Brick Monastery (Me Nu Oak Kyaung), the Nanmyin Tow-



Tourists are taking photograph of a novice who is sitting and reading religious book at an ancient monastery. **PHOTO: TAINTAMAN**

er and the city's many pagodas, Wingaba Pagoda, Taunglaylone Pagoda, Lawkamanaung Pagoda, Zeyamanaung Pagoda, Myat-

manaung Pagoda and Mingala Manaung Pagoda, built by King Taninganway.

Tourists are able to view

parts of Ava in a horse-drawn carriage. Rental bicycles are also available from tour companies.—Taintaman

Silk weavers get regular domestic demand for luxurious silk clothes

Silk weavers from Latpen Village, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, said that they are seeing stable domestic demand for silk garments throughout the year.

The village produces valued-added silk textiles which are famous in local market for their quality and design. A traditional hand-woven silk longyi is currently worth about Ks200,000. Silk clothes manu-

factured in the village are sold in Mandalay markets.

There are six looms located in Latpen Village producing high quality silk clothes throughout the year. Weavers earn between Ks3,600 and Ks4,000 per day.

Traders wishing to purchase new pattern designs of silk cloth usually must order three months in advance of delivery.—Taintaman



Senior women more at risk for cervical cancer

SENIOR women suffering from cervical cancer reached at 23.1 per cent among cancer patients, according to a report of Myawady Daily.

Of cancer patients receiving treatment in the hospitals of Yangon and Mandalay, 1,178 patients who are in accordance with research rules are studied, said an official from Department of Medical Research.

According to this research of cancer patients, 28 per cent of male patients above 60 are found to suffer

from lung cancer and 23.1 per cent of female patients above 60 are very prone to cervical cancer.

Seniors are at risk for cancer. Lung cancer is the most common cancer for elder men while cervical cancer mostly occurs in elder women.

Population of 7.4 million died of cancer worldwide every year, and 56.8 per cent of cancer incidences and 64.9 per cent of death rate due to cancer happens in the least developed countries (LDC). The rate is likely to rise in 2025. —GNLM

100 more box culverts to be installed in Yangon's Thonegwa Township

MORE than 100 culverts will be installed in Yangon Region's Thonegwa Township to improve run off drainage and reduce dengue, malaria and other mosquito-born and communicable diseases caused by stagnant water. The culverts

will be installed by the Yangon City Development Committee.

In addition to the culverts, three new creek bridges have been installed in Ward-9 and Ward-1 according to the development plan.—Ko Kyaw (Thonegwa)



Workers being seen at the work place. **PHOTO: KO KYAW (THONEGWA)**



Photo shows Muse (105) mile border trade camp. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Bilateral trade with China hit \$2.8 billion in first three months of this FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and China amounted to more than US\$2.8 billion in the first three months of this financial year, comprising \$1.34 billion through sea route and \$1.48 billion through Sino-Myanmar border gates, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce this week.

Of the total, Myanmar's export to the populous nation

China hit about \$1.21 billion and its imports from the largest neighbour reached about \$1.61 billion from April to June this FY. Myanmar predominantly exports agriculture products, marine products and, forestry products to the Chinese market.

Imports from China include medicine and related equipment, consumer goods, electronic appliances, and other commodities. Sino-Myanmar

trade is conducted through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpiketee and Keng Tung land points of entry. The trade value between the two countries was about \$10.8 billion in 2016-2017 FY and 2015-16 FY saw \$10.9 billion. The bilateral trade reached \$9.71 billion in 2014-2015 FY, \$7.03 billion in 2013-2014 FY, \$4.96 billion in 2012-2013 FY and \$5 billion in 2011-2012 FY. — Khit Thit ■

US to double investment in Myanmar by 2020

US investments into Myanmar could double within three years, said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

American entrepreneurs are interested in financial services, technology business and precious metals and minerals, the secretary said. MIC expects American investments to increase once Myanmar relaxes

more of its protective regulations, U Aung Naing Oo said in Myawady Daily newspaper, yesterday.

Last Friday, officials from Union of Myanmar Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), the American embassy and the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetables Producer and Exporter Association met at UMFCCI to discuss

potential agricultural exports to America and US technical assistance in agriculture.

Later this month UMFCCI will host a similar delegation from America comprised of American pharmaceutical executives.

American businesses have invested \$371 million in Myanmar since 1988, according to MIC. — Ko Htet ■

Thai-Myanmar border trade falls slightly

Border trade between Thailand and Myanmar from 1 April to 4 August showed a slight decrease of about US\$19 million compared to same period of last fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry. Thai-Myanmar border trade was \$412 million including \$84 million in exports and \$328 million in imports. The busiest land ports of entry include: Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

Of these seven gates, Myawady gate is the main point

for Thai-Myanmar trade and saw a decline of \$10 million compared to last fiscal year.

Imports from Thailand include cosmetics, machinery, food products and agricultural equipment. Exports to Thailand include marine products (fish, crabs), agricultural products including onions, sesame seeds, turmeric and corn.

Myanmar does border trade with Thailand, India, China and Bangladesh through 16 checkpoints.

In border trade, Myanmar's

export trade value surpassed its imports. Border trade as of 4 August totaled \$2.49 billion with estimated export value of \$1.53 billion and import value of \$958 million. Border trade this year is \$24 million more than last year.

Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw and Keng Tung while Myanmar's trade with India goes through Tamu and Reed land points of entry. Trade gates with Bangladesh are Maungtaw and Sittway. — Mon Mon ■

Real estate tops Myanmar domestic investment

The real estate sector accounted for more than 20 per cent of Myanmar's domestic investment, or Ks2.8 billion, between 1 April and 21 July, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Domestic investment in

real estate was followed by the manufacturing and transport and communication sectors.

In total, Myanmar domestic investment reached Ks14 billion as of end of July with a total of 1,274 projects, according to MIC statistics.—Htet Myat ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၀

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဇေယျာသိရိမြို့နယ်၊ ဓရေပင်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၀၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

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The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၄၃၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၄၄၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၉၂ x ၉၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဇွေရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၂၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၇၁၂၂

တချင်းတုံ
မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကချင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၀၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

ပြင်ကြီးများ
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရောရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရွာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ စီမံကိန်းအနီး၊ မန်းကျွန်းမြင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၀

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာဝတီ၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ဖြတ်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလောင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ဖြတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၃၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

မုံရွာ
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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Views On The Discussions Made On Democratic Transition of Myanmar

Interviewer :
Kyaw Htaik Soe
Photo: Ko Min

The outcomes from the interview with the international professionals and experts who attended and spoke at the Forum on Democratic Transition of Myanmar held from 11-13 August at the Myanmar International Convention Centers at Nay Pyi Taw were described below.

Interviewee — Ms. Isabella Kurkowski, Country Representative Myanmar, DW Akademie

From my point of view this forum is a momentous step in democratic transition of Myanmar. The economic transition unprecedented in the previous governments was discussed with great enthusiasm. In the previous forums and seminars only peace and economic transition were discussed. As a Myanmar representative of DW Akademie I felt greatly honoured to have a chance to participate in such an event in which the responsible personnel from Ministry of Information, members of Hluttaw, skilled professionals in respective subject and youths are taking part. To have an opportunity to discuss with the professionals local and abroad, of great expertise in the respective field of study is the essence of this forum. Myanmar can have the chance to learn the experience of India, Sri Lanka and East European countries. According to the opening speech of State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in which she clearly warned to not do the same mistake of the



Ms. Isabella Kurkowski.

past. The media also takes the important role in the transition. It is very important to inform of what the government is doing and the State can have the confidence of the people through the media. The government should utilize the media-pluralism in building a new democratic country. The media must have the right to secure the news of Hluttaw and government. Myanmar should bring forth the well-qualified reporter. It is found that Myanmar with the population of 54 millions has only two independent institutions, Myanmar Journalism Institute and National Management College where full time course on Journalism can be provided. This is the big setback of the democratic country. Another problem is libel that can send the media men to jail at any time. The reporter has to try to get news from other sources as it is sometimes difficult for reporters to get the news from authentic source. It is very dangerous for reporters, so section 66 (D) should be mended. And the role of intermediary arbiter should be raised.

Interviewee — Prof. Dr Aurel Croissant, professor of political science, Institute of Political Science, Heidelberg



Prof. Dr Aurel Croissant.

University, Germany

In this forum, I appreciate the discussion, especially made by Myanmar participants. It is found that thorough discussion on military-civilian relationship, peace and economic development are made. In this three day sessions the participants are discussing openly. Myanmar military has still retained an important role in the institutions. Though the civilian government elected by the people took power, it seems they are trying to construct a better relationship with the military. The relationship between civilian and military becomes improved. The civilian and political party has to be patient. The media role is also important and to express the hate speech freely is not the work of media. Media should express the news with responsibility and accountability. There should be the coordination between media and other organizations. It needs to do a lot of works for the freedom of press. If they are given more pressure they will call for more freedom of press. They will give more pressure on the government. Media is not the enemy of government, so also not the enemy of the military. Media is the institution that can point out



Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn.

the mistakes of government.

Interviewee — Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn, Executive Director and Chief Editor, Myanmar Times

The three day forum is very productive as the participants can speak freely their view on advantages and disadvantages and opportunities of the democratic transition on Myanmar. Media has taken more important role in the time of the incumbent government. The speech of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi reflects the real situation of Myanmar. If the news are reported with bias without taking the real ground situation into consideration, the outside world will not have the chance to know the real situation of Myanmar. I discussed with citing examples of Singapore. Singapore has been the best country in reporting the real situation of the country. Media takes the important role in building a country. Media is responsible for not only to point out the mistakes of the government but also to give the true information. Media has the right to secure the news on whatever the government is doing. Media cannot help the government if they don't get the required information. Currently Daw Aung Suu



Dr. Soeren Keli.

Kyi is the only person who can make the world known Myanmar through media. The Global New Light of Myanmar can also do it. It is important to get equal right to the access of news.

Interviewee — Dr. Soeren Keli, Canterbury Christ Church University, UK

The success gained in the transition and stamping out the civil war, the economic development, civil and cultural change were mainly discussed in this forum. Media freedom is seen much improved compared to 2009. The economy also has developed 7% starting from the previous years. The firm outcome resulted from the discussion among the 8 armed ethnic organisations of NCA-signatory group is also very supportive to peace development process. Since the military had initiated the transformation to democratic state, the democratic forces were responsible to move the process forward. In media sector the freedom of press in Myanmar is not in the satisfactory state and the media men are still in the haunted stage. Whatever it may be, this three-day forum is much beneficial to the people of Myanmar. ■

Peace music festival continues

MRTV is staging the peace music festival 2017 in the respective venues around the country.

The festival which includes the song contest is held as the symbol of national reconciliation, unity, internal peace and democratic federation. The Level-1 held in Taunggyi, Myitkyina, Mawlamyine, Lashio and Patheingyi has already selected three local vocalists from each venue.

Ten vocalists took part in level-1 local selection contest held at MRTV (Yangon) and the first

prize winner, the second prize winner and the third prize winner have already emerged.

Minister for Social Affairs of Yangon Region government U Naing Ngan Lin, Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, officials and invited guests enjoyed the contest.

The level-1 contest in Yangon continues till 20 August.

Families of the festival and well-wishers are visiting IDP camps of the host cities and donating provisions.—MNA ■



Peace music festival in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Development on projects of road, bridge and electric power in Ayeyawady Region

Union Minister for Construction and Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing ordered to responsible officials the requirements on the rebuilt of concrete road near mile-post (21/6) where inundated in 2016 while he was inspecting the conservation of Yangon- Pathein

road on 13 August. Before meeting with staff from district and township at the director's office in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, the Union Minister checked the control room and switch yard of 230KV Pathein main power substation. The Union Minister then

continued his inspection tour to the construction site of Nga Wun Bridge (Lay Myat Hnar) conducted by the department of Bridge, and inspected construction of the middle bridge and bridge on the side of Lay Myat Hnar Town. The length of the bridge was total of

600 meters (1968.6 ft) with 173 ft width and 20 ft height. For the part of the town, the bridge was constructed with RC girder and plate girder and for middle part with steel box girder. The permission weight for each vehicle was 75 tons. Afterwards, the Union

Minister carried on his inspection on the preservation of Hinthada-Sone Kone-Myanaung-Kyan Khin road and also checked the control room and preparation on large gas turbine of the electric supply industry in Myanaung. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar democratic transition requires...

FROM PAGE-3

It was actually not the transition. It needs to carry on to realize the requirements. As the State Counsellor said, instead of blaming each other in national reconciliation, determination of the time with target should be adopted.

Regarding the questioning in the Hluttaw, Hluttaw representative U Phyo Zeya Thaw replied that question can be raised freely. As the ministers are not present all the time in Hluttaw according to the Hluttaw System, the questions have to be given in advance. He continued that he wanted to explain why the questions and motions of NLD representatives were limited. The NLD party had targeted to build a democratic country since the founding of the party. Now we were still in the transition process and as the questions that can lead to misunderstanding and the present time is not suitable for some questions, the questions were postponed. The questions that did not hinder the democratization process were allowed to pose.

The question on whether there was time frame in democratic transition was answered by U Aung Kyi Nyunt. He stressed that different countries had different historical background and there could be no ideal model to copy. We had to consider on the works to be carried out in transition period.

In determining the time frame we had to try to take the time as short as possible. If we go forward with responsibility, but not with personal benefit we hoped we could reduce the span of time frame.

Stock-taking: where is Myanmar in its Transition?

Afterward, Mizzima Media Group director Daw Thin Thin Aung moderated the panel discussion on "Stock-taking: where is Myanmar in its Transition?" with panellists U Tin Maung Than of Myanmar Development

Resource Institute, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Phyo Zeya Thaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyi Nyunt.

U Tin Maung Than said democracy transition are observed to be not in stages, differing from country to country as well as in time. Existence of political prisoners and groups yielding veto power can be viewed as only reaching part way through the journey.

When measured with (existence of) independent political party, ability to live with disagreement, (existence of) political prisoner and (degree of) human rights, weaknesses still exists and there is a need to setup a wide ranging strategy. A Time Bound Action Plan need to be drawn up and the situation should be measured with the indicators. Work need to be done by the government, hluttaw and civil society organisations should be identified. An Open Government Partnership that includes government setup, check and balance system and participation of the people should be strengthened.

Armed organisations such as the military, police, ethnic armed groups must be made to understand more the concept of human rights. All must respect and abide by human rights and democracy. The government need to fulfil minority right and not only the government but civil society organisations also need to cooperate in this. Civil society organisations need to enable the grass root people to express their opinions and views on the daily issues they faced. Hluttaw also need to repeal laws that are hindering human rights. 1923 National Secret Act need to be reviewed to enable news collection. Laws protecting workers and farmers should be enacted.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Phyo Zeya Thaw said in Myanmar political transition process, mindsets need to be changed as mentioned by the State Counsellor. If the mindsets are as in the past, it will be an

obstacle to the transition process. Similarly, the State Counsellor has guided us not to be trapped in the past.

In the past, the opposition didn't dwell in the losses but thought and worked together with an optimistic view for the goodness and development of the country, for the birth of a true and a democratic nation and a democratic system that is acceptable by all ethnic nationals. Thus the military and civil services are urged to overcome what was done in past and work for a better future.

The strongest organisation in the present transition process

The law to report to the head of village if visitor came to house was enacted in 1889.

is the hluttaw. It had repealed the laws that are causing a burden and difficulties to the people while enacting laws that protect and benefitted the people.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyi Nyunt discussed that although he is satisfied with present situation, much still need to be done. The present situation is to be accepted as an historical existence.

2008 Constitution can be observed as a constitution that had primary emphasis placed on security out of apprehension. There is no argument against preventing the disintegration of the nation. But the path toward the final destination was made with a single law and a single force resulting in an unending problem that exists up to the present.

Setting up a federal democracy union for Myanmar's future

at the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong is considered as a huge transition. Organisations involved need to meet repeatedly and through this (good) relation and understanding will be attained. Additionally, the aspirations of the each organisations will be known and must be made known transparently to the people of the country who are making the decision. This part will involve the media. Civil society organisation with good aims must be encouraged to implement with full power. It is expected that through this there will be transition and progress.

In the afternoon, a penal discussion under the same title was conducted with international ambassadors that were moderated by Mizzima Media Group Managing Director U Soe Myint and panellists were Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Chua Hian Kong Robert and Norway Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Ms Tone Tinnes.

Singapore Ambassador H.E. Mr. Chua Hian Kong Robert said Myanmar had more than 130 nationals and there were ongoing conflicts with some ethnic nationals. Myanmar is believed to continue with it works for democracy. Myanmar Summer is better than Arab Spring. Successful nation are disciplined and united. Myanmar's independent architect Bogyoke was very far sighted. The need for unity was mentioned in his 1947 speeches.

People of Myanmar can formulate Myanmar's democracy. The government need to handle political processes with unity and wisdom. The government is seen to be inviting all stakeholders to the roundtable for peace. Work also needs to be done for economic development. Peace and democracy must be continued to be established with the government and people working together.

In economic, Myanmar is trying to become a middle-income country by 2030. Civil services reforms and capacity building will be provided by working in

cooperation with international organisations. There are challenges of ethnic conflict in social development. An appropriate solution for the country should be sought with the help of international organisations. For social development in Myanmar, international organisations can assist in education and health sector and social discipline. These are just his view for Myanmar. He is confident that Myanmar will move forward to democracy. The cost will be enormous if there is back tracking.

Norway Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Ms. Tone Tinnes said discussions made at the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition is related not only to Myanmar alone but also the entire world. I've heard of differences. Political transition, peace process and economic transition were being done. We will help Myanmar in its transition and share our experience. There are affective progresses in the economic sector. Laws are enacted to attract foreign and local investors. The challenge of attracting good investment is the same challenge faced by other countries.

Many countries are encouraging freedom of speech. What can be done and what is restricted need to be discussed in Myanmar in the same way as was discussed in Norway. Peace process was started in the political transition. This is a process that need to be done long term. There were important progresses. We have different experiences and the best experience need to be studied. Myanmar need to strive to become a middle income country from a least developed country. Norway and Myanmar is similar in being rich in natural resources. Norway will share its experience in these sectors. Norway can help in good management practise to get the best benefit from natural resources.

Afterward, forum attendees' questions were answered by the panellists. —Myanmar News Agency ■

A burden no democratic society can tolerate

Tin Maung Than

WHEN we say reforms it includes institutional changes both the government and the private sectors are undertaking. As for the government sector, normally, the departments will have to rely on the budget allocations of the Union Government as they are not money-making bodies.

They are just the institutions combating crime, enforcing the rule of law, conserving the environment, collecting revenues for the Union, taking care of public health and education, facilitating public commu-

nications and transport or rendering assistance to disaster-hit areas at the Union's expense.

In fact, they are financial outflows of a nation, but on the other hand they are essential tools for the efficiency of the government's administrative machinery.

Currently, government departments in our country are trying to adapt themselves more to the changing trend, while conducting staff capacity-building programs as every government-provided kyat they are spending on their functions is precious and should serve the people's

interest best in one way or another.

In some cases, government departments are overstaffed, low in competence and they also lack enthusiasm.

But that can be changed. They can assess their structure, find their faults and weaknesses, modify staff welfare and training programs, cut unnecessary procedures where loopholes occur and later introduce means to become actually helpful tools of the government while spending less and doing more for the people and the country.

As the country is gaining more

ground in conducting reforms that covers institutional changes, there is extra room for the departments to develop the sense of accountability, responsibility, liability and consideration among the staff.

What's more, good governance and clean government is the most important and reliable force behind all measures to curb corruption, the worst enemy of all institutions trying to improve their image.

We believe no department will be left behind in this reform drive as failure will turn it into a burden intolerable for any democratic society. ■

A Wrong Step May Lead into Life-long Plunge

By Ei Cherry Aung/
Myanmar Now

THE night-mare which started on her way home, came to an end just after many years. Now 30-year-old Ma May Khine Oo (the then 17-year-old girl) got well with a couple although they were total strangers, on the train bound for Mudon from Ye township, southern part of Myanmar where her granny lived. She refused to accompany them to accept their offer of employment for her personal reason that she was required to go back home. Yet, she happened to have drunk the water from them. Following that she lost consciousness to have fallen fast asleep in a moment. At the time she managed to open her eyes, she was in for a rude awakening that the train went past her destination.

Ma May Khine Oo who had to drop out prior to the completion of primary education recounted, "Lack of extra money for ticket and knowing nothing how to return home from somewhere strange I had never been to, made me decide that I would go back home just after saving some money by working at the job they would introduce."

In fact, the couple took her to sell the latter in China, giving promises to send her back to her parents over three months after being employed at the eatery they would introduce. Thus, Ma May Khine Oo became the one among 3489 victims of human trafficking the Myanmar Police Force dealt with during the past decade.

According to departmental officials and civil societies, not only promulgation of effective law but also launching campaigns for sharing knowledge are needed to be per-

formed for lessening human trafficking of female teen-agers.

Escape through the use of social media

Ma May Khine Oo said that an idea frequently occurred to her to run away from having been forced to enter wife-hood after having fallen prey to human trafficking. She said, "As my whereabouts is not well convinced, I don't know where to go. I was afraid of being in a worse place again."

At the time of having started a family with two children—one son and one daughter, she asked her spouse for a permission to go back home, he gave a consent. And she asked for a help from a neighbor, a Myanmar woman for her return trip. Since taking my jewelries to sell them for my trip expenses, the so-called Daw Myint Myint Aye no longer appeared before me. What is worse, she made me become a victim of human trafficking for the second time, in the hand of the trafficker.

On arrival at the second husband's residence, she reached the age of 28. After 8 months when she arrived there she fortunately found a way to escape from present sufferings through "WeChat."

"TV Programs in China very often broadcasts ways and means how to use "WeChat," through which I managed to link with Myanmar organizations for my escape, said Ma May Khine Oo.

At the time of arriving back at her native place, she is expecting a baby with her second husband. Daw Win Win Mar, head of social welfare department, Mawlamyaing explained that the department subsidized K 500,000 as a monetary aid so as to run a kind of kiosk in front of her house, and a rural

dispensary is giving medical care to her pregnancy.

Police Inspector Hsan Oo of Mawlamyaing township human trafficking suppression team disclosed that Ma May Khine Oo's case was under investigation under section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, 2015.

Human Traffickers' Target

U Tun Hlaing, project manager of Yangon Justice Center founded by lawyers asserted that the poor were targets of human traffickers. He said, "Sharing knowledge on human trafficking needs to be launched to the grass-root level in respective regions and checks need to be done at border gates. The organization is pleading for the victims free of charge. And he added that the more job opportunities increase in the country, the less and less victims we will have in future. Simultaneously exodus of migrant workers to overseas countries will decrease if daily income of the poor are increased.

He added, "Cases of human trafficking can be found not only when going abroad for work but also when working in this country. As many cases go unreported to authorities concerned, they do not come to the media and social pages. Otherwise, they can grow bigger gradually."

U Myo Aung, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population (labor branch) said, "Illegal immigrants are more likely to be prone to victims of human trafficking. There are many cases that were trafficked. Later these days, problems of being unpaid wages to the full are increasing. Especially, rural people are liable to be the targets. Sharing knowledge and educative talks on hu-

man trafficking should be made more broadly than ever to reach rural areas by the State, with a view to alleviating human trafficking. Yet, our country abounds with exodus of migrant laborers who fall for cheatings of traffickers without paying attention to educative activities. Out the country, they know nothing what to do, finding it difficult to contact with anybody. As we have no particular facts, we cannot help. Only when cases happen, we come to know. The major problem is such a case."

Head of Pazundaung township police force Khin Maung Latt assumes that more secure ways and means should be applied to reach those actually needed, in delivering leaflets of sharing knowledge on human trafficking. He added, "Mainly, it is necessary to educate the people. Sometimes, it is inconvenient to educate through talks. It will be more effective to share knowledge door to door while performing police routines."

Human trafficking/trafficking in persons is defined in Anti-trafficking in persons law, 2015 that if a person is transported, transferred, purchased, hired, allowed to take shelter or received with a view to be exploited, regardless of their consent or not, these are human trafficking. Exertion of force, threats, frauds and cheats, power abuse, taking advantages in critical conditions for survival and giving or accepting bribery to get the agreement from the person with power or authority that can control someone, are involved with human trafficking. If someone is acquitted of committing a crime under the law, he may be sentenced to 10-year imprisonment at least or life sentence to the utmost or the culprit may be fined as well.

SEE PAGE 9

Union Ministers inspect Maungtaw District

UNION MINISTERS and members of the Rakhine State cabinet looked into the requirements of regional development undertakings yesterday.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Phone Tint and Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs U Chan Tha inspected the construction of 100 units of low-cost homes at Kyaukpandu village, Maungtaw District under the funds provided by Ministry of Border Affairs.

They collectively facilitated the work of fulfilling the re-

quirements in providing power and smooth transportation and farming sector.

Border Areas and National Races Development Department is implementing the project at a cost of Ks 650 million allotted under 2016-2017 budget.

The Union ministers and party then cordially conversed with villagers of Kyaukpandu village. Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presented 250 FM radios.

After inspecting a relief camp at Hsatyoekya new town, Sittway Township, they provided Ks 67.7 million, one hundred thousand kyats per house, to install meters at the new town. They also looked around the Thekkepyin and Darpaing IDP camps. They also discussed regional development undertakings with the local.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye provides FM radios to villagers in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Four men of Bangladesh nationality arrested in Maungtaw

FOUR men of Bangladesh nationality were arrested at the creek near the police outpost of Nga Khaungto in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

As the information re-

ceived that a motor boat is arriving at the creek near the police outpost of Nga Khaungto in Maungtaw Township, the security force went and investigated.

Four men of Bangladesh

nationality including Harlar Yar, 20 were arrested as they enter to Myanmar illegally.

The suspects are filed a lawsuit under the Myanmar immigration Act.— Myanmar News Agency ■

A Wrong Step May Lead into Life-long Plunge

FROM PAGE 8 Prevention

Out of 1380 cases on trafficking in persons, dealt with by human trafficking suppression police force during the period from 2006 to 2016, forced marriages were on the top of the list, followed by sex slavery and forced labor. Most of the trafficked Myanmar nationals were sent to China, followed by homeland itself, Thailand and Malaysia it was learnt, according to the statistics of the team.

Civil societies say that human trafficking is generally attributed to being in

debt, poor education, shortage of job opportunity and in-house terror, adding that the victims include those who are easily deceived, the ones with excessive decorum, naive ones, those desirous of risks, unprotected children, persons who are excessively impressed on alien nations and kind of people who are dissatisfied with their present existences. Maung John, director of Agency for Basic Community Development said, “Kachin State sees exodus of local people who leave their region for the main land and overseas countries due

to poverty, though the region is peaceful. It is the economic problem. It needs to broadly educate and share knowledge among them. On the other hand, it is necessary to create job opportunities.”

Ma May Khine Oo, who herself had been a victim, said she had been sharing her personal experiences to nearby friends and neighbors, warning that parents should not let their children travel alone, especially by taking lessons from my experiences, as for girls.

Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U)

Health staff missing in Buthidaung

A health staff of Sai Din Zay village in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State was missing after going out for medical treatment.

U Tun Aye Maung, a health staff, was picked two people including Aung Kyaw Win to Tha Lue Pyar village for giving medical treatment to Daw Ma Nu on 1 August.

On 8 August morning, he came back home and left again. From the day on, he didn't come back. Therefore, Daw Phyu Ma, wife of U Tun Aye Maung filed at the Nyaung Chaung police station for her missing husband. Police are investigating for further information relating with missing man.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Death toll from H1 N1 virus has remained stable at 23 people since 21 July

Myanmar health officials say that fatalities related to a recent outbreak of the H1N1 virus have not increased since last month, when 23 people were known to have died from the sickness.

On 12-13 August, 34 patients were tested for the virus and nine new positive cases were discovered, bringing the total number of H1N1 cases since 21 July to 230, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

As of yesterday, 73 patients had been treated for the virus at Waibergeri Specialist Hospital in Yangon, and, additionally, 66 patients received treatment in

other states and regions.

Health officials said that 18 patients died from diseases other than H1N1 yesterday.

The ministry is working to improve its treatment and safety protocols at hospitals.

The ministry reminded the public that those most at risk of infection are the elderly, children, pregnant women and other people with weakened immune systems. People at risk of infection have been urged to wash their hands frequently and to avoid crowded, enclosed spaces.— 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

Virginia police, FBI probe deadly violence at white nationalist rally

CHARLOTTESVILLE (Va.) — US authorities will investigate on Sunday the violence stemming from a white nationalist rally a day earlier that killed one person, injured more than 30, and challenged US President Donald Trump's leadership.

The unrest in the southern college town presented Trump with a domestic crisis, with many on both left and right criticizing him for waiting too long to address it and then, when he did so, failing to explicitly condemn the white-supremacist marchers who ignited the melee.

"Absolutely we are going to have further demonstrations in Charlottesville, because our constitutional rights are being

denied," said Jason Kessler, identified by civil rights groups as a white nationalist blogger. He did not specify when.

Kessler organised the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville against a plan to remove a statue to Confederate war hero Robert E. Lee from a park, saying in a telephone interview those who came in support will not back down.

Four people were arrested in the violence, including James Fields, a 20-year-old white man from Ohio being held in jail on suspicion of ploughing a car into a crowd of counter-protesters on Saturday, killing a 32 year-old woman and injuring 19, five of them critically.

Police have not yet provided a motive for the incident but US attorneys and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have opened a civil rights investigation into the crash, an FBI field office said. Federal authorities were also looking into a helicopter crash on Saturday that killed two Virginia state policemen aiding efforts to quell the clashes.

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat, declared an emergency and halted the white nationalist rally planned for Saturday but that did not stop the violence.

About 15 people were injured after rival groups fought pitched battles using fists, rocks and pepper spray.

"Please go home and never come back," was McAuliffe's message for the white supremacists, delivered at a news conference.

"There is no place for you here, there is no place for you in America," he added.

Trump said "many sides" were involved in the Charlottesville incidents, remarks that drew fire from across the political spectrum for not specifically denouncing white nationalists.

"We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides," Trump told reporters at his New Jersey golf course on Saturday.

The planned rally stemmed from a long debate in the US South over the Confederate battle flag and other symbols of the rebel side in the Civil War, which was fought over slavery.

The Charlottesville violence is the latest clash between far-rightists, some of whom have claimed allegiance to Trump, and the president's opponents since his January inauguration, when black-clad anti-Trump protesters in Washington smashed windows, torched cars and clashed with police, leading to more than 200 arrests.

About two dozen people were arrested in Charlottesville in July when the Ku Klux Klan rallied against the plan to remove the Lee statue. Torch-wielding white nationalists also demonstrated in May against the removal. —Reuters ■



Virginia State Police use pepper spray as they move in to clear a clash between members of white nationalist protesters against a group of counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, US, on 12 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

WORLD BRIEFS

Britons should be given second Brexit vote - David Miliband

LONDON — Former foreign secretary David Miliband called on Saturday for voters to be given a second referendum on whether Britain should leave the European Union.

Writing in the Observer newspaper Miliband, foreign minister under a Labour government between 2007 and 2010, called Brexit an "unparalleled act of economic self-harm" and said there should be another public vote once the final terms of Britain's exit are known.

Although no longer a serving British politician, Miliband - brother of former Labour leader Ed Miliband - is still seen as an influential centrist voice. — Reuters ■

Egypt punishes train disaster selfie medics

CAIRO — Egypt's Health Ministry has punished six medics who took selfies in front of a deadly train wreck by transferring them to a remote part of the country, local sources said Sunday.

Two trains collided Friday near the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, killing 41 people in one of the deadliest such accidents in the North African country.

Pictures of an ambulance crew taking selfie pictures in front the wreckage sparked anger on social media, with one Twitter user posting a photograph with a hashtag reading: "conscience in a coma." —Xinhua ■

German FM warns against escalation of US-DPRK war of words

BERLIN — German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel warned Sunday that the provocations between Washington and Pyongyang could escalate to a military conflict.

"I am really concerned that the rhetorical escalations and mutual upheaval would end up in a military conflict," Gabriel said in an interview with Bild am Sonntag, a leading Sunday newspaper in Germany. —Xinhua ■

Iran eyes more funds for missiles, Guards after US sanctions

DUBAI — Iran's parliament gave initial approval on Sunday to a bill to boost spending on Tehran's missile programme and the elite Revolutionary Guards in retaliation for new sanctions imposed by the United States.

Lawmakers overwhelmingly approved the outlines of the bill to "counter America's terrorist and adventurist actions" as some chanted "Death to America", the state broadcaster IRIB reported.

The measure came in retaliation to legislation passed

by US Congress and signed by US President Donald Trump in early August to impose new sanctions on Iran over its missile programme.

Iran denies its missile programme violates a UN resolution which endorsed Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and calls upon the Islamic Republic not to conduct activities related to ballistic missiles designed to deliver nuclear weapons. Tehran says it does not design such missiles.

The Iranian plan would require Iran's government and armed forces to draw up a strategy to counter US violations of human rights around the world, and to support Iranian bodies and individuals affected by US sanctions.

The measure would also allocate over \$260 million each to Iran's ballistic missile programme and the Quds Force - the external arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has been deployed to battlefields

in Iraq and Syria.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told members of parliament that the government backed the bill, which he said "was designed wisely so that it does not violate the (nuclear deal) and provide excuses for opposing sides", state news agency IRNA reported.

The bill must now pass a second vote before being submitted to a clerical body for final approval and passage into law. —Reuters ■

Bomb kills at least 15 in Pakistani city of Quetta

QUETTA, (Pakistan) — A bomb exploded near a crowded market in the Pakistani city of Quetta on Saturday, killing at least 15 people, officials said, the latest attack to hit the restive southwestern province of Baluchistan.

Middle East-based Islamic State, which has a branch of loosely affiliated fighters in Afghanistan and Pakistan, claimed the attack shortly afterwards, saying a motorcycle suicide bomber had killed 17 soldiers.

The powerful blast hit as a paramilitary patrol passed by on the road, Baluchistan provincial home minister Sarfraz Bugti said, adding the patrol may have been the target.

“According to the information we have received so far, there are around 15 casualties, people who were martyred, and around 40 people were wounded,” Bugti said.

He said a state of emergency had been imposed in the city and all hospitals were on alert.

Quetta’s chief of bomb disposal squad, Aslam Tareen, said initial information was that a



Vehicles are seen burning after a bomb blast in Quetta, Pakistan, on 12 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

suicide attacker rammed a motorcycle into a military vehicle.

Pakistan’s army press wing said the patrol was the target and there were at least seven civilians among the 15 killed.

It cited army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa as saying terrorists were trying to dis-

rupt Monday’s celebrations of 70 years of independence from Britain.

“Our resolve won’t succumb to any challenge,” Bajwa was quoted as saying in an official tweet from a top military spokesman.

Separatist militants in

Baluchistan have waged a campaign against the central government for decades, demanding a greater share of the gas-rich province’s resources.

Taliban and other Islamist militants also operate in the province, which shares borders with Afghanistan and Iran. A

US drone strike killed Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour last year in Baluchistan.

The province was rocked by a series of attacks late last year that claimed over 180 lives and raised concerns about a growing militant presence, including fighters affiliated with Islamic State, which has claimed several bombings in Baluchistan.

A judicial report released after an attack on the province’s lawyers left more than 70 dead criticised security provisions in the region and called for increased clampdowns on extremists.

Interviews with Baluchistan police and an internal police report viewed by Reuters described a Baluchistan-based militant network in the province’s remote mountainous area of Wadh with 500-1,000 operatives led by a former military asset. However, military intelligence officials denied the Wadh network exists and the father of the alleged leader says his son is not involved with militants attacking the state. —Reuters ■

Iraqi forces kill 12 IS militants in Salahudin clashes

TIKRIT, (Iraq) — The Iraqi forces on Sunday killed 12 Islamic State (IS) militants in Iraq’s northern central province of Salahudin after fierce clashes, a provincial security source told Xinhua.

The clashes erupted before dawn when dozens of IS militants attacked the military bases of the security forces after heavy mortar barrage and machine guns in Zuwiyah area, some 250 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The troops fought back overnight and foiled the attackers from storming their bases, but the militants managed to block the main road between Salahudin’s province capital Tikrit and the city of Mosul in northern Iraq, the source said.

In the morning, reinforcement troops and helicopter gunships dispatched to the area and reopened the main road after defeating the extremist militant, who

withdrew to their redoubts in Makhoul mountain range in the northern part of Tikrit, which itself located some 170 km north of Baghdad, the source added.

After the withdrawal of the extremist militants, the troops found 12 of their bodies and two destroyed armored vehicles, three trucks along with large amount of weapons and ammunition left in the battlefields, the source said.

The clashes also resulted in the killing of three soldiers and the wounding of eight others, the source added.

In Salahudin province, the terrorist IS group still in control of Makhoul mountain range and the villages between the range and the Tigris River, in addition to the eastern bank of the town of Shirqat, about 280 km north of Baghdad, as well as its surrounding villages and rural area that stretches to the IS-held town of Hawijah in the western part of the oil-rich province of Kikruk.—Xinhua ■

Senior Islamic State commanders killed in Afghanistan air strike — US military

KABUL — Several senior members of Islamic State’s central Asian affiliate were killed in a US air strike in Afghanistan, officials said on Sunday.

The attack on Thursday killed Abdul Rahman, identified by the US military as the Kunar provincial emir for Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan, according to a statement from the command in Kabul.

“The death of Abdul Rahman deals yet another blow to the senior leadership of ISIS-K,” said General John Nicholson, the senior US commander in Afghanistan.

Three other senior ISIS-K members were also among those killed in the strike in eastern Ku-

nar province.

Nicholson has vowed to defeat Islamic State militants in Afghanistan this year.

The group’s emir, Abu Sayed, was reported killed in a strike on his headquarters in Kunar in July, the third Islamic State emir in Afghanistan to be killed since July 2016.

In April, Nicholson deployed a 21,600-pound (9,797 kg) “Massive Ordnance Air Blast” bomb against Islamic State positions in neighbouring Nangarhar province, one of the largest conventional weapons ever used by the United States in combat.

On Saturday, Afghan officials said as many as 16 civilians, including women and children, had

been killed by a US air strike in Nangarhar, but American officials said only militants were killed.

As part of an increased campaign against both Islamic State and the Taliban, the dominant Islamist militant group in Afghanistan, the US Air Force has dropped nearly 2,000 weapons in the country as of the end of July, compared to fewer than 1,400 in all of last year.

Despite some battlefield successes by Afghan and American special operations troops, Islamic State has continued deadly attacks around Afghanistan, fuelling fears that the group is seeking to bring the group’s Middle East conflict to Central Asia.— Reuters ■

Seven Syrian rescue volunteers killed in shooting

BEIRUT — Seven volunteers with the Syrian civil defence rescue service were killed in a shooting by unidentified attackers in rebel-held Idlib province on Saturday, the civil defence

said on its Twitter feed.

The attackers stole two vehicles and other equipment in the incident targeting a civil defence office in the town of Sarmin at dawn. Idlib province

in northwestern Syria is controlled by Syrian rebels groups.

The civil defence, otherwise known as the “White Helmets”, operates in rebel-held areas of Syria.— Reuters ■

At least 11 dead as post-election unrest erupts in Kenya

NAIROBI/KISUMU, (Kenya) — Kenyan police have killed at least 11 people in a crackdown on protests as anger at the re-election of President Uhuru Kenyatta erupted in the western city of Kisumu and slums surrounding the capital, officials and witnesses said on Saturday.

However, the NASA opposition coalition, led by four-time presidential hopeful Raila Odinga, put the death toll at more than 100, including 10 children, but did not provide evidence. Odinga has rejected the poll and its result as “massive” fraud.

The eruption of violence has revived memories of a decade ago, when Odinga, now 72, lost an election in controversial circumstances that sparked a wave of political and ethnic unrest in which 1,200 people were killed and 600,000 displaced.

Kofi Annan, the former UN head who mediated during that crisis, on Saturday issued a statement warning Kenya’s leaders to “be careful with their rhetoric and actions in this tense atmosphere”.

Reuters was able to confirm 11 deaths, including one girl, in the space of 24 hours. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights said 24 people had been shot dead by



Anti riot policemen clash with protesters supporting opposition leader Raila Odinga in Mathare, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 12 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

police since Tuesday, election day.

Top Odinga lieutenant Johnson Muthama said police had been packing corpses into body bags and dumping them, remarks likely to exacerbate the tensions that followed Friday night’s official announcement that Kenyatta had won, with 54.3 per cent of votes.

Mwenda Njeka, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said the opposition claims were “hogwash”. Acting Interior Minister Fred Matiang’i had earlier said trouble was localised and blamed it on “criminal elements” rather than legitimate political protest. He also denied accusations of police brutality.

“Let us be honest - there are no demonstrations happening,” he told reporters.

“Individuals or gangs that are looting shops, that want to endanger lives, that are breaking into people’s businesses — those are not demonstrators. They are criminals and we expect police to deal with criminals how criminals should be dealt with.” However, James Orengo, another top NASA official, said the killings were part of a carefully laid plan by 55-year-old Kenyatta’s Jubilee party and the security forces to rig the poll, crush dissent and then hide the evidence.

“This violence, this state terror is being executed following very meticulous preparation,” he said.

He and Muthama urged Odinga supporters to stay calm and out of harm’s way but, ominously, said there would be no backing down. “We will not be cowed. We will not relent,” Muthama said.

As with previous votes in 2007 and 2013, this year’s elections have exposed the underlying ethnic tensions in the nation of 45 million people, the economic engine of East Africa and the region’s main trading hub.

In particular, Odinga’s Luo tribe, who hail from the west, hoped an Odinga presidency would break the Kikuyu and Kalenjin dominance of central government since independence in 1963. Kenyatta, the son of Kenya’s first president, is a Kikuyu.—Reuters ■

Argentina primary vote measures appetite for populist ex president

BUENOS AIRES — Argentines vote on Sunday in a closely watched mid-term primary election that will test their appetite for bringing back the left-wing populism of former President Cristina Fernandez.

Fernandez, who was indicted for corruption last year, is vying for a Senate seat in Buenos Aires province, home to nearly 40 per cent of the country’s voters. She is running against business friendly President Mauricio Macri’s former education minister and other candidates from a divided opposition.

Investors and wealthy Argentines fear a Fernandez comeback in Congress could pave the way to her running for president in 2019. Her return to power would likely mean the end of Macri’s reforms and a resumption of rampant spending, protection of industry and isolation from trade agreements and international capital markets.

A seat in Congress would give the 64-year-old Fernandez immunity from arrest, though not from trial. She dismisses the corruption accusations as politically motivated.

The compulsory primary vote on Sunday will essentially serve as a detailed poll ahead of the 22 October election for one third of the Senate and half the lower house of Congress, as no major candidates are being challenged from within their own parties.

Though her chosen successor lost to Macri in Buenos Aires province in 2015, Fernandez now appeals to many in its struggling industrial belt, where Argentina’s emergence from recession in the second half of last year has yet to take hold.

The final weeks of primary campaigning were marked by repeated headlines highlighting gaffes from Esteban Bullrich, Macri’s former education minister and scion of a wealthy Buenos Aires family. On Wednesday he apologised for calling the jailing of young people “progress.”

Bullrich had previously suggested craft beer as an alternative employment opportunity for Argentines who had lost their jobs and was criticized by feminists for a radical anti-abortion stance.—Reuters ■

Additional Words of Declaration

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Silvzole 430 SC
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Hoprole 150 SC
Hoprole 30 WG
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Giantrole 200 SC
Leadrole 80 WG
Punto Plus 35 WG
Distar 325 SC
Fenprozole 500 EC
Manconil 72 WP
Broadsafe 50 EC

Trade Name

Tropica 900 EC
Sable 69 EW
Porselen 5 SG
Colam 247 SC
Amimespray 860 SL
Cleanspray 96 SG
Icefate 75 SP
Shooter 480 EC
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Rainbonil Pro 80 WG
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Peru condemns Venezuela force threat, preparing regional statement

LIMA — Peru condemns the threatened use of force in Venezuela and is negotiating a written response with other nations in the region, Foreign Minister Ricardo Luna said in a statement sent exclusively to Reuters on Saturday.

US President Donald Trump on Friday threatened military intervention in Venezuela, a surprise escalation of Washington’s political crisis. Caracas disparaged the threat as “craziness.” Peru under

President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has taken the toughest stance towards Venezuela’s socialist regime as President Nicolas Maduro seeks to consolidate power and crack down on anti-government protests and unrest that have left 120 dead since April. But the day after expelling Venezuela’s ambassador in Lima, Peru said force is not the answer. “All foreign or domestic threats to resort to force undermine the goal of reinstating democratic governance in

Venezuela, as well as the principles enshrined in the UN charter,” Luna’s statement said. Venezuelan authorities have long said US officials were planning an invasion, and Maduro has accused Latin American countries critical of his government of being part of an “imperialist” conspiracy. A former military general told Reuters earlier this year that some anti-aircraft missiles had been placed along the country’s coast because of that possibility.—Reuters ■

Two girl scouts, three other people die in storms in Poland

WARSAW — Five people, including two teenage girl scouts, died and more than 30 were injured as a result of falling trees in a series of severe storms that hit Poland overnight.

The girls, 13 and 14, were crushed by falling trees while sleeping in a tent when a storm hit their campground late on Friday in the Tuchola Forest in northern Poland, according to the Regional Crisis Management Team office in Gdansk. Some 20 scouts were injured and taken to local hospitals.

Adam Kralisz, chairman of the Lodz Region of the Scouting Association

of the Republic (Poland), where the scouts were from, told the private Polsat television that evacuation was ordered immediately, but conditions were horrendous. “We had to force our way for kilometres through the forest, among falling trees,” he said.

Three other victims also died as a result of falling trees and 10 people were injured in separate incidents in Poland’s north.

More than 170,000 people were left without power and 800 buildings were damaged in storms that hit mostly Poland’s north and west, according to the Regional Crisis Management

Team in Gdansk.

More storms were expected on Saturday and warnings of severe weather conditions were issued for a number of regions amid unusually high for Poland temperatures that on Friday reached 35 to 38 Celsius. An emergency meeting of the government’s Crisis Management Team was called on Saturday and Prime Minister Beata Szydlo promised to help all those in need.

Grzegorz Nowik, head of the Scouting Association of the Republic (Poland), ordered a month of mourning for the organisation. —Reuters ■



A roof destroyed by a storm hangs from an apartment building in Bydgoszcz, Poland, on 12 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Merkel’s predecessor critical of her handling of diesel scandal —Blick

VIENNA — Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has accused his successor Angela Merkel of neglecting her duties by going on holiday rather than chairing talks on diesel car emissions aimed at repairing the vital auto industry’s battered reputation.

Merkel’s conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) has a commanding lead in opinion polls ahead of a parliamentary election on 24 September. But her government has come under mounting pressure for not doing enough to crack down on vehicle pollution after an emissions scandal and for being too close to car-makers.

At a “diesel summit” in Berlin on 2 August, while Merkel was on a three-week holiday, politicians and car-makers agreed to overhaul engine software on 5.3 million diesel cars.

But environmentalists immediately dismissed the plan — almost two years after Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) admitted to cheating US diesel emissions tests — as too little, too

late.

“I don’t want to spoil anyone’s holiday. But here I would have taken charge personally. It is all far too important,” Schroeder, a Social Democrat who was replaced by Merkel after a narrow election defeat in 2005, said in an interview with Swiss tabloid newspaper Blick which was published on Sunday.

Ministers have been wary of angering the owners of 15 million diesel vehicles and damaging an industry that is the country’s biggest exporter and provides about 800,000 jobs. At this month’s meeting, politicians stopped short of demanding costlier mechanical modifications to engine and exhaust systems.

Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks, also a Social Democrat, accused the VDA car industry association of lacking humility for the way it trumpeted the deal. Schroeder, a former member of Volkswagen’s supervisory board, said that had he been in Merkel’s shoes he would taken a more muscular approach.—Reuters ■

Study finds evidence of poor computer security practices in DNA sequencing

SAN FRANCISCO — A new study from University of Washington (UW) researchers finds evidence of poor computer security practices used in DNA sequencing tools.

By analyzing the security hygiene of common, open-source DNA processing programmes, researchers at the University of Washington confirmed that

known security gaps could allow unauthorized parties to gain control of computer systems, potentially giving them access to personal information or even the ability to manipulate DNA results.

The DNA is a system that encodes information in sequences of nucleotides. Rapid improvement in DNA sequencing has

sparked a proliferation of medical and genetic tests that promise to reveal everything from one’s ancestry to fitness levels to microorganisms that live in one’s gut. However, some open-source software programmes used to analyze DNA sequencing data were written in unsafe languages known to be vulnerable to attacks,

in part because they were first crafted by small research groups who likely were not expecting much adversarial pressure.

But as the cost of DNA sequencing has plummeted over the last decade, open-source programmes have been adopted more widely in medical- and consumer-focused applications.—Xinhua ■

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study commenced for drilling program in Block A-7 and AD-5

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd (Woodside) proposes to undertake drilling programs in Block A-7 and AD-5, located offshore Ayeyarwady Region, Myanmar.

The drilling program in Block A-7 is scheduled to commence in 2018 and the area in which the wells will be drilled is at least 15 miles from the Myanmar coastline. The drilling program in Block AD-5 is scheduled to commence in 2018 and the area in which the wells will be drilled is at least 56 miles from the Myanmar coastline.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Woodside is required to undertake Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the proposed activities.

The EIA studies will be conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Resource and Environment Myanmar (REM), on behalf of Woodside, in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015). EIA scoping studies are currently in progress and associated stakeholder engagement is being undertaken at the national, state and local levels in Yangon, Naypyidaw, Patheingyi and Ayeyarwady Region.

More information about the proposed activities can be found on Woodside’s webpage woodside.com.au/myanmar-consultation. Any queries, comments or suggestions on the proposed activities can be provided in writing to feedback@woodside.com.au or woodside.myanmar@erm.com.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study commenced for drilling program in Block AD-1

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd (Woodside) proposes to drill one well in Block AD-1, located offshore Rakhine State, Myanmar.

The drilling in Block AD-1 could commence as early as November 2017 and the well will be located about 60 miles from the Myanmar coastline.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Woodside is required to undertake Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the proposed activities.

The EIA studies will be conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Resource and Environment Myanmar (REM), on behalf of Woodside, in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015). EIA scoping studies are currently in progress and associated stakeholder engagement is being undertaken at the national, state and local levels including in Yangon, Naypyidaw, Sittoung and Kyaukpadaung.

More information about the proposed activities can be found on Woodside’s webpage woodside.com.au/myanmar-consultation. Any queries, comments or suggestions on the proposed activities can be provided in writing to feedback@woodside.com.au or woodside.myanmar@erm.com.

Wild brass bands festival kicks off in Serbia

GUCA, (Serbia) — The 57th Guca Brass Band Festival, Serbia's liveliest traditional music event, has attracted tens of thousands of people crowding the streets and savouring the trumpet beat.

Guca, a normally sleepy town with only 3,700 people in the rolling hills of southwestern Serbia, is hosting the country's biggest party, with 50 brass bands competing for the coveted Golden Trumpet.

Launched in 1961 with just four bands and only 2,500 visitors, Guca has since received more than 15 million people.

The "Dragacevo Trumpeters Assembly," as the festival is officially called, now lures not only Serbians but tourists from around the world.

"One Serbian girl in Germany told me about it ... and now I'm

here, it's great, I love it," said Maria, a Bulgarian tourist in her 20s.

The music has a long tradition in Serbia — it goes back to a royal decree establishing a military brass band in 1831.

The bands, those competing for the prize and those weaving through dozens of tents teeming with guests eating, drinking and partying, make good money from tips. Most visitors drink beer and plum brandy and eat barbecued meat or a local delicacy, seasoned spicy cabbage with three kinds of meat which simmers for hours in large clay pots.

In an attempt to avoid the serious road accidents which have marred the festival in the past, police have ordered all drivers along the two roads leading in and out of Guca to take a breathalyzer test.—Reuters ■



A band plays during the 57th Brass Band Festival, in the village of Guca, Serbia, on 11 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

“Men don't cry” film premieres at Sarajevo Film Festival

SARAJEVO — A few minutes of applause and tears in the eyes of audience marked the premiere of the first Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) film, “Men don't cry”, on the 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival on Saturday afternoon.

The premiere was the first gala screening at the festival in the BiH's capital Sarajevo, asking questions and providing the audience with answers they wanted to know about the BiH's reality.

The movie shows BiH's reality, 15 years after the war that happened in 1990's at the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Ten men, the former war veterans fighting against each other, are the guests at a remote mountain hotel.

The film tells a story how they survived together, training to overcome the differences because of which they fought in a war. At the workshop in the hotel, 9 men are trying to reconcile and overcome the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with the help of the trainer:

After the premiere, film crew has addressed to the public at the National Theater in Sarajevo. Director of the film, Alen Drljevic, said that the topic of the film is very close to the people living in BiH, whether they were actively present during the war

that lasted for 4 years or they were not.

Speaking about the film, director said that the best way to deal with PTSD is to have a direct encounter with the former enemies and that this was the guide of the whole film.

“Everyone in a film has tried in a certain way to ‘dive’ deeply into the subject we were dealing with and to identify with what was lived during the war,” said Drljevic.

The movie sends another strong message, allowing people to talk without the fear about the feelings they lived, and to stop the prejudices about how men must deal with the roles imposed on them.

On Saturday night, the audience will have the opportunity to see the world premiere of the film “Grain”, a long anticipated Turkish movie.

From 11 August to 18 August, thousands of movie lovers will be watching 235 films in 18 different programmes, featuring 43 world premieres from 54 countries.

The Sarajevo Film Festival, launched in 1995, has become a cultural event in the Balkan region. Some 100,000 fans are expected to visit Sarajevo during the event, according to organizers.—Xinhua ■

‘Spider-Man’ spinoff to release in February 2019

LOS ANGELES — Sony has set the release date for Spider-Man spinoff “Silver and Black”.

The female-centered adaptation about Marvel characters Silver Sable and Black Catfilm will arrive in cinemas on 8 Feb-

ruary, 2019, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

It will be directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, who will also rewrite the “Silver and Black” script originated by “Thor: The Dark World” scribe Christopher

Yost.

The new film will cast up and is meant to follow “Venom”, the Spider-Man universe expansion film that will star Tom Hardy with Ruben Fleischer directing.—PTI ■

Leonardo DiCaprio to play Leonardo da Vinci in new biopic

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio is all set to portray the leading artist and intellectual of the Italian Renaissance Leonardo da Vinci in an upcoming biopic.

The film marks DiCaprio's ninth project in which he plays a real life character.

In his last film “The Revenant”, DiCaprio portrayed frontiersman, Hugh Glass, the role which won him the best actor Oscar for the first time.

DiCaprio will also produce the latest film under his Appian Way banner alongside president of production Jennifer Davisson for Paramount, which has acquired the rights to Walter Isaacson's book on Leonardo da Vinci, reported Variety.



PHOTO: PTI

Da Vinci, who was born in 1452 and died in 1519, painted the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper. He also was a skilled inventor.

Leonardo DiCaprio apparently wanted to play the promi-

nent artist as he was so named because his pregnant mother was looking at a Leonardo da Vinci painting in a museum in Italy when he first kicked. So, she decided to name the actor Leonardo.—PTI ■

Myanmar climbers hoist flag atop Mount Fuji



Myanmar team reaches at the top of Mt Fuji, hoisting the country's national flag. PHOTO: HTUT HTUT (YE)

MYANMAR climbers in Japan reached the 12,389-foot peak of Mount Fuji, an active volcano and Japan's highest at dawn on 12 August, according to the expedition team.

The Myanmar climbers are currently working and living in Japan and started climbing the world famous mountain on 11 August, Japan's Mountain Day. Once arriving at the peak, they planted the country's flag, said a member of Myanmar Tozan Club.

More than 90 Myanmar citizens participated in the mountain climbing event this year.

The climbers said they will make the ascent on an annual basis.—Htut Htut (Ye)

Ninja proficiency test to be held for 1st time in Tokyo

OTSU (Japan) — A ninja proficiency test will be held at a Tokyo temple for the first time in October, far from the usual venue in Koka, western Japan, known as the home of a famous clan of the feudal mercenaries.

Zoji, the family temple of the Tokugawa shogunate, will host the exam measuring knowledge of the Koka clan of ninja, which had close ties to the founder of the shogunate, according to the Koka city tourism association, which organizes the test.

The ninja test has been held every year since 2008 in Koka, Shiga Prefecture, but this year Zoji will host the 10th exam as Tokugawa Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, is said to have been helped by ninja in 1582.

Following the Honnoji Incident in Kyoto that year, which resulted in the death of warlord Oda Nobunaga, Ieyasu successfully fled from Osaka to his home in Mikawa, now central Japan's Aichi Prefecture, by travelling mountainous areas in Iga, Mie Prefecture, in a matter of a few days with the help of ninja from the Koka and Iga clans.

In the incident, Nobunaga was forced to commit suicide after an attack on Honnoji temple by his subordinate Akechi Mitsuhide which dashed the warlord's hopes of consolidating centralized power in Japan under his authority. Ninja employ covert techniques called ninjutsu and their tasks include espionage, sabotage and assassination.

—Kyodo News ■

More than 80,000 hit Sydney streets for City2Surf fun run

SYDNEY — More than 80,000 runners took part in Sydney's annual City2Surf race on Sunday, with 2016 champion Harry Summers defending his title in 42 minutes and 16 seconds, media reported.

Celia Sullohern was the first woman to complete the 14-km (8.7 mile) run from the Sydney central business district through to Bondi Beach in a time of 47 minutes and 11 seconds, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Three-time Paralympic Gold Medallist Kurt Fearnley won the wheelchair event. The City2Surf started in 1971 and raised over A\$4 million (\$3.16 million) this year for hundreds of charities, according to the official race website.—Reuters ■



A man in a Superman outfit runs during the annual City to Surf fun race in Sydney, Australia, on 13 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

<p>(13-8-2017 07:00am -14-8-2017 07:00am) MST</p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:27 Am Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations-Gem Stone Painting</p> <p>07:46 Am MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- II)</p> <p>08:40 Am Grow Back For Posterity "The Dawn of Development"</p> <p>08:51 Am Kindhearted Pet Lovers</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am A Trip To The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine</p> <p>09:45 Am Yoghurt Vendor</p>	<p>09:52 Am The Youth & Library</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:26 Am Product of Myanmar - Stone of TheHeavens</p> <p>10:53 Am Parents' Day</p> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>Prime Time</p> <p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:27 Pm Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-2)</p> <p>07:51 Pm Cultural Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Shan Noodle Salad)</p> <p>08:44 Pm A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving</p> <p>08:52 Pm Chef Life: Zin Minn Htun</p> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>	
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World's deepest canyon closes due to safety concerns

LHASA — The Yarlung Zangbo River Grand Canyon scenic area in Tibet, known as the world's deepest canyon, has been temporarily closed to visitors due to safety concerns.

Continuous rainfall has blocked several road sections to the scenic area, and the area's administration office announced in a Saturday statement that it has decided to close the area immediately. Travelers who plan to arrive to Tibet by driving, cycling or walking are also warned

of possible geological disasters along the Sichuan-Tibet Highway, a 2,400-km route serving as the main artery for visitors to enter Tibet. The 504-km-long Yarlung Zangbo River Grand Canyon is a national 4A tourist attraction. The canyon, Potala Palace and Mt. Qomolangma are considered Tibet's three world-class tourist destinations. With a maximum depth of 6,009 meters, the Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon features a rich variety of unique species and plateau scenery.—Xinhua ■

Myanmar draws Inter Milan 2-2 in 2nd friendly match

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar U-18 national football team played against Inter Milan youth FC yesterday evening at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon. Myanmar showed their best performances in front of home crowd and drew Inter Milan 2-2 proving that Myanmar's football standard is advancing and may reach the global level one day.

Myanmar got its opening goal at 18 minute from Win Naing Tun's simple shot. But two consecutive goals by Inter Milan's Federico Pelle and Andrea Adorante just before the end of first half silenced Myanmar football fans. During the other half, Myanmar changed some tactics using speedy passes in penetrating opponents' defenceline with greater and accuracy than they showed in the first half.

At 63 minute Myanmar's Pyae Sone Naing equalized by penalty shoot and the result changed to 2-2. After the equal-



Myanmar's Thet Paing Htwe(left) vying for the ball against the opponent during yesterday's friendly match. **PHOTO :MFF**

izer, Myanmar played more aggressively but lost pretty chances as Inter Milan defenders cleared

the ball well. Myanmar's shining Goal Keeper Tun Naing Oo blocked two repeated tough kicks

by Inter Milan's striker in late minutes and ended the match with 2-2 draw.

Myanmar traditional boxing challenge on 18 August

A lethwei fighting match is scheduled to take place at 6 p.m., 18 August, Mandalathiri Stadium in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region, according to an official of the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation.

The event will feature matches between Thabyay Aung and Eantbwa, Min Thit versus Hsu Meik and Yan Naing Tun versus Kyar Pauk. Other fighters include Min Htet Mike, Naw La, Shwe Yar Man, Phoe Kay and Soe Win Than. —Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Svitolina hammers Halep to reach Toronto final

TORONTO — Ukrainian Elina Svitolina crushed defending champion Simona Halep 6-1 6-1 on Saturday to reach the Rogers Cup final in Toronto where she will face Dane Caroline Wozniacki.

Both Svitolina and Halep were competing on little rest after rain pushed their quarter-final clashes to Saturday but it was the Romanian who was worse for wear as she dropped her first set of the tournament en route to losing the match in 56 minutes.

Fifth seed Svitolina, who beat Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the quarter-finals, used a strong serve and forehand to control the tempo against Halep.

The Romanian, who beat Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia 6-4, 6-2 earlier on Saturday, showed some life in the sixth game of the second set when she fought off a match point and earned her only break but Svitolina quickly shut down any chance of a comeback.

"It was a very tough match for me mentally because it was the second time I was playing on this court today," said Svitolina.—Reuters ■

Myanmar Volleyball team fixtures for 29th SEA Games

The Myanmar women's volleyball team is aiming to give a tough fight against their opponents at the 29th SEA Games with the hope to secure gold medals according to Myanmar Volleyball Federation website.

The volleyball matches for

the upcoming SEA Games will be held at Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Myanmar men's team has fallen in the Group (A) together with Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia and women's team

has fallen also in the Group (A) along with Thailand and Indonesia.

Myanmar men's volley ball squad will play with Thailand as an opening match on 21 August; host Malaysia on 22 August and with Cambodia on 25 August.

Myanmar women's volleyball squad will play with Thailand on 25 August and Indonesia on 25 August.

The semi-final matches will be held on 26 August and final match will be on 27 August. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Federer beats Haase, meets Zverev in Montreal final

MONTREAL — Roger Federer used a dominant service game to beat Dutchman Robin Haase 6-3, 7-6(5) in Montreal on Saturday, setting up a Rogers Cup final against German Alexander Zverev.

Haase, playing in his first ATP World Tour Masters 1000 semi-final, did well to force a second-set tiebreak but Federer proved too much to handle as the Swiss fired down nine aces and dropped only nine points on serve.

Federer, whose five titles this year include the Australian Open and Wimbledon, credited a positive mindset for helping him extend his winning streak

to 16 matches.

"Confidence can get you a long way, and if you're feeling fine physically and you are ready to fight mentally you have a lot of things in the bag," said the 19-times grand slam champion.

"And then the only thing that maybe is missing is practice, but sometimes practice is overrated. It's all about the matches at some stage. "I'm happy I'm playing as well as I am this year on the match courts. At the end that's what matters because I spent hours and hours on the practice courts in the last year."

Next up for the Swiss

right-hander, who is seeking his third Rogers Cup title after triumphs in Toronto in 2004 and 2006, is Zverev after the fourth seed advanced with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Canada's Denis Shapovalov.

Federer owns a 2-1 edge against Zverev in head-to-head meetings, most recently a 6-1, 6-3 win at Halle in June.

Zverev ended Shapovalov's magical week on his third match point when the 18-year-old, who had been the story of the tournament after a stunning run that included an upset win over world number two Rafael Nadal, sent a backhand wide.

Shapovalov, who was born in Israel and moved to Canada before his first birthday, had a great chance at 4-3 in the second set but failed to convert on his three break points.

"I wasn't too sharp on the big points," said Shapovalov, who made headlines in February for inadvertently blasting a ball into an umpire's face in a fit of rage during a Davis Cup quarter-final.

"I had a couple looks at some second serves and I missed some returns. But at the end of the day he did a good job to make me play those points."—Reuters ■