Inter-faith prayers for peace in Myanmar
By Ye Khaung Nyunt & Zaw Gyi (Panita)

THE YANGON Region National League for Democracy held a mass prayer ceremony in Yangon yesterday, attracting about 30,000 people from different faiths.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein lit a candle to commence the ceremony with inter-faith prayers at Aung San Stadium with Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Christians and others taking part.

Dr Bhaddanta Iddhibala, Chairman of the Yangon Region Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, appealed for loving kindness and truth for the world with peace, praying “Be free from killing one another; be free from causing pain to one another; be free from destroying one another; be free from looking down and jealous each other.”

Muslim leaders Alahaj Mofiti Mohamad, U Ko Lay and Hafiz Mufti Ali (a) U Kyaw Kyaw, also prayed for peace. “Citizens should collaborate in friendship and work for the country,” Ali said. “Freedom of life, freedom of education, freedom of religion, it is absolutely necessary for the country to fulfil all these rights.”

Solving the refugee issue
Steps taken for verification and repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh

With the visit of a delegation comprised of Union ministers, diplomats and independent journalists to northern Rakhine State yesterday, the Union Government started to take steps to begin the verification and repatriation of refugees who fled to Bangladesh after the deadly terrorist attacks in August.

The delegation flew from Yangon to Sittway and were then taken by helicopter to areas where terrorists attacks occurred in August. The delegation included the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, who is also chairman of the committee on implementing the recommendations for Rakhine State, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, the Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, ambassadors from five neighbouring countries, diplomats, and local and foreign journalists.  SEE PAGE-6

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Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Mr. Nicholas Coppel, Australian Ambassador

SPEAKER of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Ambassador of Australia to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Nicholas Coppel at the Amyotha Hluttaw hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to development of Hluttaw, legislative process, status of Hluttaw representatives working for the people, improving the experience and upgrading the ability of Hluttaw representatives and support to Hluttaw by Australi- ia. Present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the office of the Amyotha Hluttaw. — Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Ambassador of Australia

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received Australian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Nicholas Coppel, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar at the Hluttaw Building hall (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting matters relating to boosting friendship and cooperation between the governments, parliaments and peoples of Australia and Myanmar, democratic transition, national reconciliation and peace in Myanmar and legislative matter in Hluttaw were discussed.

Officials from the office of the Pyithu Hluttaw attended the meeting. — Myanmar News Agency

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Australian Ambassador

THURA U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission received H.E. Mr. Nicholas Coppel, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar at the Hluttaw yesterday at 9:30 am.

During the meeting, the Commission Chairman said that Australia is a good friend to Myanmar and had helped a lot in Myanmar democracy transition. He thanks Australia for participating in Myanmar peace process and in the current events faced in Rakhine State. He also remarked of Australia’s proper participation in providing humanitarian assistance for stability, peace and development in Rakhine State. — Myanmar News Agency

Coordination Meeting for 2nd Hluttaws 6th Regular Sessions

To ensure the success of the 2nd Hluttaws 6th Regular Sessions, the Central Committee and Working Committees held a coordination meeting at the Zabu Thiri Building’s meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“It had already been declared that the 2nd Hluttaws 6th regular sessions be convened on 17 October, 2017. On the days when Hluttaw meetings are to be convened, tasks to be performed by the Hluttaw will be implemented in order of priority, including the promulgation of the bill on the revised budget estimate of the Union for the FY 2017-2018 and the enactment of the Bills (under way) of the all Hluttaws”, said Win Maung Khin Than, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Leading Patron of the Central Committee for Convening Hluttaw Sessions, stressed the need for depart- ments and organisations, which include working committees, to collectively participate not only in regular tasks but also in occasional tasks such as security for the successful convention of Hluttaw meetings.

Union ministers, deputy ministers and officials present at the meeting reported on the performances of working committees, with U Win Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, discussing further suggestions over submissions.

Afterward, Speaker Mahn Win Khain Than delivered the closing address. Present at the meeting were U Win Myint, Mahn Win Khai Than, U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, respective working committee members, permanent secretaries, directors-generals, managing directors and responsible officials from Hluttaw Offices. —Myanmar News Agency

ASEAN and Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports

Myanmar is hosting the 1st ASEAN and Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports (1st AMMS+Japan) today and a coordination meeting between ASEAN and Japanese high-level sports officials for the successful hosting of 1st AMMS+Japan was held yesterday morning at the Kempinski Hotel, in Nay Pyi Taw.

The coordination meeting was jointly chaired by the Ministry of Health and Sports, Department of Sports and Physical Education Director General U Myo Hlaing and Japan’s International Affairs Division Director Mr. Jugo Imalzumi.

Chairman, Director General U Myo Hlaing welcomed ASEAN meeting partner Japan Sports Commission member Mr. Daichi Suzuki and said the coordination meeting was held because there are matters required to be discussed tonight. From 2016-2020, ASEAN sports work programmes and sports cooperation between ASEAN and Japan have been harmonious.

Japan’s coordination meeting chairman Mr. Jugo Imalzumi delivers a welcoming speech at the coordination meeting yesterday, during which Japan raised the matter of participating in ASEAN Sports meetings. Japan wishes to be invited to these meetings and pledged Japan’s cooperation in ASEAN sports work programmes up to 2016-2020. Matters relating to people in the country and private sector actively participating in implementing ASEAN-Japan sports cooperation, reviewing ASEAN-Japan sports cooperation works, more participation of young women in ASEAN sports sector, preparation and arrangements made for successful holding of 1st AMMS+Japan and a fixing date for the 1st ASEAN and Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (1st ASOMS+Japan meeting) to be held in 2018 were discussed. — Myanmar News Agency
Government to step up security measures at border to avert terrorists

SECURITY will be tightened at border checkpoints and in airports to prevent terrorists from entering the country, said Vice President U Myint Swe yesterday.

“Security must be given special care, as terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State can damage the tourism industry and terrorists can enter the country through border checkpoints,” said U Myint Swe in his opening remarks at the meeting of Foreigners Monitoring and Protection Central Committee.

The 2nd coordination meeting of the Foreigners Monitoring and Protection Central Committee was held to step up measures for security at border points as the situation demands following the terrorist attacks in Maungtaw and Buthidaung in northern Rakhine in August.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Rear Admiral Myint Nwe, U Kyaw Myo, U Maung Maung Win, U Soe Aung, Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, Myanmar Police Chief, Permanent Secretaries, heads of departments and officials.

At the meeting, central committee chairman Vice President U Myint Swe said the President’s Office has issued notification 48/2016 dated 26 June 2016 to form a nineteen-member Foreigners Monitoring and Protection Central Committee to prevent foreign visitors from entering Myanmar for various reasons from affecting the security of the nation and to scrutinize and protect them.

The scope of the work involves setting up a work policy of Foreigners Monitoring and Protection Central Committee, forming and assigning duties of work committees for scrutinizing and protecting foreigners, informing work policies to work committees, reporting to the Government the foreigner caring works conducted for protection of foreigners submit to the Government laws and directives drawn up related to foreigners that is appropriate for the time and drawing up appropriate laws and directives related to foreigners and submitting them to the Government, setting up a timetable for coordinating meeting of work committees and exchanging information with 24-7 Channel in Myanmar Police Force for working and contacting internationally.

Six work committees under the Central Committee are namedly the Work Committee to scrutinize and protect international tourists, the Work Committee to scrutinize and protect diplomats, the Work Committee to scrutinize and protect UN and NGOs, the Work Committee to scrutinize and protect foreigners entering with other visas, the Work Committee to approve and issue entry, re-entry and stay permits and the Information Work Committee on scrutinizing and protecting foreigners. In the first coordination meeting of the central committee, 36 decisions were made and work committees are to report the status of implementation.

Yangon International Airport, Mandalay International Airport, Nay Pyi Taw International Airport and Yangon International Port (Thilawa) are designated as four international exit and entry gates. There are 23 other gates that include border gates. In some of those exit and entry gates, entry and exit is permitted with a Border Pass. A Border Pass needs to have an area restriction. Check Gates need to be established and (visitors) must exit from the gate where the entry was made. As dangerous acts can be conducted by going anywhere without exiting from the entry gate, proper instruments need to be installed to prevent the entry of blacklisted persons and terrorists.

In Myanmar, there are re-entry, special and multiple-entry visas, in addition to 12 other types of visas planned to be issued. Visas were permitted according to procedure and the six work committees need to systematically scrutinize those entering with visas. Defence against blacklisted persons and terrorists can only be achieved through proper assessment and scrutiny, the vice president said.—Myanmar News Agency

Effective uses of social media explored

AT a workshop on effective uses of social media and their nature held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, gave an opening address that touched on the issue of fake news.

“Effective uses of social media will be discussed at today’s meeting. As for the Ministry, assessments will be made over results received from the discussion. After finding out the advantages and disadvantages of social media, further discussions will be held at the offices of townships, districts, regions and states under the Ministry, for rightful uses of social media. Nowadays, social media are increasingly used across the world, hence the acquisition of advantages and disadvantages. Spreading fake news on social web pages is being seen not only across the globe but also in our country. For fake news and false information found in social media in our country not to cause evil effects on our people, we are required to monitor them all the time to release true news and information effectively,” Dr Pe Myint said.

The deputy permanent secretary clarified the fundamental nature of social media. At the meeting, departmental officials and ministry personnel discussed effective use of social media. The workshop will continue today.—Myanmar News Agency
PyinOoLwin Flower Festival to be held on 1st December

AN expanded PyinOoLwin Flower Festival will be held at the National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden in PyinOoLwin beginning 1st December. “The festival has been held annually in Pyin Oo Lwin for about a two-week period for the last 11 years. This year, however, the flower festival will be held from 1st December to the end of the month. Therefore, we expected to increase the number of visitors to the flower festival at the garden this year,” said an official from the National Kandawgyi Botanical garden administration office.

To celebrate the flower festival, the authority is decorating and preparing the flowers at the garden.

They are also planning to sell souvenirs including sweaters and warm clothes, local products, handicrafts and other products. The 437-acre garden (172 hectares) received millions of visitors last December.

The festival will display more than 130,000 foreign flower species, artificial flowers and local flower species.

Last year, the entrance fee charged during the festival period was Ks1,000 per adult, Ks500 per child and US$5 each for foreigners.

About 40 children to get free cleft lip and palate surgery

ABOUT 40 children will receive cleft lip, palate surgery treatment free of charge for six days from 12 to 17 October at Yangon General hospital, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The Ministry of Health and Sports will conduct the free surgical treatment for cleft lip and palate with the assistance of KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation and Smile Asia Medical Mission.

Currently, KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation will provide the free cleft lip, palate surgery treatment to 40 children across the country. The patients have to register at KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation.

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation will take responsibility for accommodation for those patients who come and get the cleft lip, palate surgery treatment.

Patients seeking to register for cleft lip or cleft palate surgery may contact 09-42756203 or 09-42756204.—GNLM

Yangoon Water Bus to be extended depending on number of passengers

Yangoon Water Bus will be extended within three months based on the number of passengers, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

Yangoon has launched a water bus service, starting the first phase with 13 boats which will cruise daily operating between Insein Township and Botataung jetty in Botataung Township. The fleet comprises three ships from Thailand with a capacity of 60 passengers and seven local boats with capacity of 120 passenger each.

Yangoon Region Government wants to reduce Yangon’s traffic congestion by developing water transportation. Many commuters also took Yangon Water Bus on the opening day.

For the safety of passengers, the company has provided life-saving jackets and equipment for all passengers and installed GPS system CCTV at all ships. Ships will be managed via a control center.

Authorities requested the passengers to avoid chewing betel, smoking, littering into the river and drinking alcohol. The authorities do not allow any cargo to carrying on the Yangon Water Bus except the passengers. Water bus fare will be Ks300 for one route but no need to pay the cash. Any pay card will be available at the jetties.—GNLM

One killed and 35 injured in road accident

ONE person was killed while 33 passengers injured when a passenger bus overturned on Yangon- Mandalay highway road on 9 October.

According to the investigation, the passenger en route to Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon driven by Wai Lin Thu with the passengers on board over turned between mileposts 155/7 and 156/0, Zee Pin Thar road, on Yangon- Mandalay highway when the driver lost control.

The accident killed one person on the spot while 35 other passengers sustained serious injuries. The injured were rushed to Taungoo general hospital. The reckless driver Wai Lin Thu has been charged under sections 304-A/338/337 of the Penal Code.—Than Oo (Lay Myethanar)
Pigeon pea price falls to 10-year-low after suspension of India’s demand

Pigeon pea prices plunged to their lowest point in a decade this month, a result of the suspension of demand from India, once the main buyer of Myanmar pulses.

There is demand only from those who want to stockpile the peas, according to a report of City News yesterday.

“The price of pigeon peas dropped to Ks36,000 per three-basket-bag. And it is the lowest price recorded during a decade”, said an official from the Mandalay commodity depot.

There are about 1.5 million acres of pigeon peas in the country; with new peas to be harvested in March 2018. The growers will suffer heavy financial losses if there is no foreign demand by then, officials said. In early August, India announced a 200,000-ton import quota on pigeon peas and 300,000-ton quota on mung beans and green grams.

The export of Myanmar’s pulses is heavily reliant upon the Indian market, which usually accounts for 70 per cent of export volume. The sole reliance on a single market has led the Myanmar pulses industry to plunge into chaos, an official said. – GNLM

Poor timing in tomato cultivation led to unstable price

A worker preparing to transport tomatoes harvested from farmland in Inle Lake to markets. PHOTO - AYE Min Soe

MYANMAR tomato growers are weak in their choosing the right varieties for growing, their knowledge of pest protection and the timing of cultivation matched with production rates, according to yesterday’s report of the City News.

The main reason of fluctuating tomato prices is that the cultivation time in upper and central Myanmar does not match, according to tomato depots.

There are more than 15,000 acres of tomato cultivation in southern Shan State.

When tomatoes produced from Myingyan, Meiktila, and Mahlaing towns in Mandalay Region, and Monywa town in Sagaing Region began flowing into the market, the price of tomatoes from southern Shan State began to decline.

Domestic tomato market requires a stable market, a fixed price and export quality, said U Aung Ko Lat, a tomato agronomist. — GNLM

Border trade value shows slight decrease in first half of this FY

TRADE through 16 land points of entry from 1 April to 22 September amounted to about US$3.4 billion which slightly decrease against that of last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Decrease in border trade is attributed to the sharp decline at Chinshwehaw gate and other checkpoints - Kengtung, Myawady, Htee Khee, and Tamu also showed a slight decline. Export surpassed import in Myanmar’s border trade unlike trading via sea route. Export fetched about $2.1 billion and import value was $1.3 billion.

Myanmar is trading with four neighbouring countries - China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh through 16 checkpoints. Sino-Myanmar border trade at Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpietee and Kengtung gates in first half of this FY amounted to $2.75 billion which shows only small increase than that of last FY. In the similar period, Thai-Myanmar border trade fetched about $600 million which is a slight decrease against last FY. The country’s border trade with Thailand flows in and out of these gates - Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Mawtau and Maese. Meanwhile, values of India-Myanmar trade through Tamu and Reed checkpoints showed decrease of about $15 million than that of last FY. Trade at Sittway and Maungtau land points of entry between Bangladesh and Myanmar increases a bit. – Ko Khant
**Inter-faith prayers for peace in Myanmar**

**FROM PAGE 1**

Hindu leader Dr Hla Tun, U Arsara, Patron of Quan Yin Buddhist Monastery and Charles Maung Bo, the current Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Yangon, also spoke of their hopes for peace in Myanmar.

“Myanmar is facing a turning point of history. We all are under the leadership of our leader State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,” said Charles Maung Bo.

A visiting Mahayana Buddhist Monk from the Republic of Korea also prayed for Myanmar and its people.

“This event shows that Myanmar is a country where people with different faiths are living in harmony,” said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

“Prayer for loving kindness is the strength, the power we can share with those who are facing difficulties and challenges,” said U Phyo Min Thein. “I pray for their cooperation for the development of our country.”

“Let’s build the future of our country under the leadership of our democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,” he added.

Afterwards, the congregation including Buddhist monks and nuns, Christian nuns, Hindus and Muslims prayed for peace in Myanmar while holding lit candles and portrait of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

**Steps taken for verification and repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh**

**FROM PAGE 1**

During the visit to Yathedaung Township’s Anaukpyin Village, where most of the Muslim community did not flee to Bangladesh and are living in peace, the Union ministers explained to the Islamic villagers about the government’s ongoing efforts on security and humanitarian aid to be provided, and the verification and repatriation process that will be implemented with the cooperation of the Bangladesh government.

Diplomats and journalists also interviewed villagers, enquiring if they had a desire to go to a neighboring country.

Departing villagers have said that they feel less secure in Myanmar now because the number of Muslims is decreasing and many of their relatives are living in Bangladesh. Following the visit, the delegation met with about 1,000 Muslim villagers gathered near Lasyinpyankwin Village and about 700 Muslim villagers gathered near the border fence, ready to leave for Bangladesh.

At the meeting with the villagers, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said that they came to meet the Muslim villagers who wanted to flee to Bangladesh, even though security forces halted law enforcement measures since 5 September.

The Union Minister also pledged to make arrangements for their return home and to provide aid, security and assistance if they wish to return.

Though the number of refugees who fled to the neighboring country is in the hundreds of thousands, the Myanmar government is committed to repatriation of those who actually settled in Myanmar.

**Bangladeshi Ambassador**

Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman also requested that villagers not to go to Bangladesh, disclosing that the two countries are negotiating to repatriate the refugees who are currently staying in Bangladesh and experiencing difficulties to make a living.

Meanwhile, the diplomats enquire about the cause of fleeing to the neighboring country and if they receive humanitarian aid or not. At the meeting with Muslim villagers from the Paungau Village in Maungtaw Township, the Union ministers pledged to rebuild the homes destroyed in the terrorist attacks and clarified the verification process. When arrived back the Maungtaw General Administration Department, Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut, clarified the regional situation before and after the terrorist attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists.

They also visited the Ngakhunya Village where ethnic Rakhine people, Hindus and Muslim villagers are living in harmony and conveyed the message of the Union government on its commitment for rehabilitation and resettlement for the villagers.

During an ethnic Mro village of Khondaing which was completely torched by ARSA extremist terrorists, the Union ministers encouraged the villagers, promising that the government will coordinate with local authorities to rebuild a new village in a new area and to provide further humanitarian aid to them.

The delegation returned to Yangon yesterday evening.

During the trip, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe reiterated the commitment made by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi that Myanmar will carry out the verification and repatriation of refugees in accordance with the agreed criteria set out in the Joint Statement between Foreign Ministers of Myanmar and Bangladesh in 1992. Though the number of refugees who fled to the neighbouring country is in the hundreds of thousands, the Myanmar government is committed to repatriation of those who actually settled in Myanmar, said U Kyaw Tint Swe.

He continued to say that similar issues occurred two times after independence, and both countries solved the issues bilaterally, in an amicable way.

The repatriation issue is one to be resolved by Myanmar and Bangladesh through negotiation, he added.

Though the security forces stopped law enforcement measures since 5 September, international communities misunderstand that the forces are continuing with security measures in northern Rakhine, said the Union Minister.

The trip showed the Myanmar government’s willingness to implement a national verification and repatriation process, while Myanmar’s neighbouring countries are urging them to take steps to solve the issue, which must be done through negotiation between Myanmar and Bangladesh, the Union Minister said.

— Myanmar News Agency
Tropical depression likely approaches near Shan State

By Sandar Soe

A tropical depression from South China Sea is approaching toward Shan State, likely to move on to Kachin State, said Dr. Tun Lwin, a former weather expert of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The tropical depression (TD 23) has crossed Viet Nam’s coast near Vin Town during the early morning hours of Myanmar Standard Time and is continuing to travel in northwest direction, Dr. Tun Lwin stated on his post. The depression system, which weakened into a low pressure area after traveling inland, would continue to move in northwest direction.

Due to the depression, rain or thundershowers will be scattered or widespread in Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Kachin states and Northern Bago, Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions with isolated heavy rainfall in the next 36 hrs.

Under its influence, heavy rain accompanied by squall wind will blow and speed of squall wind may reach (50-35) mph and gusty wind may reach about (40-45) mph.

Meanwhile, according to observation made at 2:30 hrs, the water level of Sittoung River at Taungoo is observed as about (1.5) feet below its danger level, the DMH warned.

Therefore, the department has advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas in Taungoo Township to take precautionary measure as it is likely to reach the danger level of the river during the next 2 days.

Concerning the outlook for subsequent two days, likelihood increase of rain will continue in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan State, the DMH forecasted.

Inter-faith prayers from Mandalay pray for peace

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

An inter-faith gathering was held at Manaw Ramman Square Grounds in Maha Aung Myae Township, Mandalay, in support of the leadership of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday evening.

Present at the ceremony were Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Mandalay Region Cabinet’s Chief Minister and ministers, U Aung Kyaw Oo, Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw and Hluttaw representatives, revered Sayadaws and clerics from Interfaith group, U Tin Htut Oo, chairman of the Mandalay Region NLD and members, students from “Charge-free Learning Centre on Mother’s Lap” and townspeople — a total of about 3,000, it was estimated.

At the ceremony, U Aung Thein Htay, a senior member of the Mandalay district NLD, led prayers on behalf of five inter-faiths, followed by prayers from those present at the ceremony.

People from different faiths pray with candle light. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

MJA outstanding students award

Japanese exchange visit 2017

By Yangon News Agency

Under Myanmar-Japan Association’s outstanding students award Japanese exchange visit 2017, 11 students who passed BEHS exams, 2017 outstandingly, 5 from YUFL majoring in Japanese, 16 in all were selected. Those students were trained in the special training camp for the excursion trip to Japan under the close guidance of responsible personnel from MJA at the Yangon International Hotel from 3rd October to 9th October.

During the training period, caps, shirts, trousers, sweaters, over-coats, backpacks, traveling trunk, Myanmar costumes, socks and shoes, 24 kinds in all were provided to trainees.

Ceremony for conferring certificates of outstanding awards was held at 1pm on 9th October 2017 at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel. Present at the ceremony were chairman of MJA, and EC members.

The trip will last from 10 October to 19 October, spending for 4 nights in Sendai, for one night each in Tokushima and Osaka and 2 nights in Tokyo.

Afterward, U Ariya Vamsa Bhavamsa of Myawady monastery, Pyiyi Tagun Township, sent blessings. Dr. U Zaw Win Aung, a Christian, U Muthu Kumar Mann, a Hindu, U Maung Nu, the secretary of Jamiat Ulema-e Islam, and U Myint Swe of the Bahai faith also sent blessings. Those present at the ceremony stood still for seven minutes holding lighted candles, also praying for peace in Myanmar. The ceremony came to an end at 7 pm.

Delegation comprising of 16 students led by U Saw Hla Min, chairman of MJA left Yangon International Airport for Japan by ANA aircraft of flight NH—814. They were seen off at the airport by MJA personnel and parents.

The trip will last from 10 October to 19 October, spending for 4 nights in Sendai, for one night each in Tokushima and Osaka and 2 nights in Tokyo.

MRTV-4 film crew accompanied the delegation to broadcast from TV with a view for students to imitate outstanding students. The delegation will arrive back at Yangon International Airport at 6pm 19th October. — Myanmar News Agency
We need not fall for traps or tricks

Khin Maung Oo

A strong desire for more wealth, possessions, power, etc. than a person needs is greed or craving. Here, we need to be well convinced that strong desires for material things and lust mean real craving, as opposed to our desire for justice, knowledge and desire to share with those in need. So, the former ones must be categorized under real greed, while the latter kinds may be ranked as unreal ones. We rarely consider passion and attachment to be real greed, but they are just strong feelings for something or someone for worldly beings. Yet, every being is concerned with the above-said kinds, so they are in for trouble or something in our cycle of life. Whatever it is, excessive strong desires to possess and lust cause sufferings, so they are called originators of suffering.

Nowadays various kinds of sufferings mostly result from greed, craving and attachment. The more greed we have, the more sufferings we face, and the less we have the less we suffer. If we are completely void of it, sufferings will never come to us. Here, we should have known that tricks are companions of greed. A trick is like a magician, a magician can deceive a person to hallucinate a stone as a lump of gold. Likewise, a deceiver pretends that they are free from any mistakes, hiding their faults for people not to see them.

These days, there are many kinds of tricks in our social, economic and political fields. Greed, anger and ignorance make us plunge into the trap, making us find it difficult to get out of the labyrinth of tricks. We are currently seeing businessmen being in trouble because of deceivers. Some were victimized again for their uncontrolled greed, though they had never experienced similar events of deception previously. Incentives are effective weapons in doing so. Those who get profits initially want to get more and more. These people do not realize that they have been deceived. In this way, huge sums of money are accumulating in the hands of deceivers. When they have made enough money, they abscond all of a sudden.

In our world, there are such incidents of suffering a lot. As a matter of fact, these are consequences of lack of knowledge, excessive greed and overwhelming ignorance. As long as we fail to contemplate mindfulness and equanimity, a calm state of mind, especially in difficult situations, we will still be in the whirlpool of tricks. In such a modern age, tricks can easily be set up through social websites; our elderly citizens have never encountered such tricks when they were much younger. Deceivers can easily develop websites to make profit online by deceiving the innocent and gullible citizens. So it is incumbent upon us to assess whether they are true or false, good or bad and whether there will be evil side-effects or not.

To sum it up, we would like to call upon our people not to bear excessive anger, greed and naivety so that they would not fall for traps or tricks.
More tourists visiting Mingun Bell

THERE was an increase in the number of tourists visiting the Mingun area, Sagaing Region in the first week of October, with most visitors coming to see the Mingun Bell, the third-largest bell in the world.

“Most tourists who’ve been to the Mingun area are delighted with the Mingun Bell, as they can strike the bell and hear the sound. They take photos posing beside the bell. They are fascinated to see a world famous bell,” said a tour guide.

Casting of the bell started in M.E. 1170 and its weight is 90,718 kg, or 90 tons. The outer diameter of the rim of the bell is 16 feet, 9 inches. The outside circumference at the rim is 50 feet, 3 inches. The bell is 1 foot, 7 inches thick and stands 27 feet, 8 inches high from the rim to the top.

Myanmar is a country with stunning natural scenery, historical heritage and cities on the world heritage list. It is also a country with many different traditions and customs that are of much interest to tourists.—Than Zaw Min

Myanmar attracts over 2 million tourists in eight months

MYANMAR attracted over 2 million tourists in the first eight months of this fiscal year, an increase of 22 per cent compared with the same period of last year, said Vice President U Henry Van Thio of the Central Committee for the Development of the National Tourism Industry.

The increase is due at least in part to the new effort to promote culture-based tourism, by which tourists can observe the culture of ethnic peoples in Myanmar.

The country is blessed with natural scenery, eco-tourism sites and ancient archeological sites.

In 2016, tourist arrivals in the country reached 2.9 million. This year, the government hopes to receive 3.5 million tourists.

Visitors from Thailand topped the list of foreign visitors from Asia, followed by those from China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia. Among western travelers, those from the United States were the most numerous, followed by France, Germany, Italy and Spain, according to official statistics.

Meanwhile, the country is implementing eco-tourism, cultural tourism and community-based tourism in resource-rich areas with historic landscapes, rivers, lakes, beaches, islands and forests.—Zwe

Entrepreneurs from Taninthayi invited to Thailand

THAI entrepreneurs have invited Myanmar entrepreneurs to discuss tour destinations between Thailand and Myanmar, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Ten tourism entrepreneurs from Taninthayi Region will go to Thailand from 13 to 14 October to discuss the tourism possibilities.

“There are many popular tourist sites in the Taninthay Region and Thailand tourism entrepreneurs are interested in the Myeik region”, said a tourism entrepreneur.

Currently, both Myanmar and Thai people use a temporary border pass to enter the countries. Tourism development can create more job opportunist for local people.—GNLM

Lawyer and Tears

FROM PAGE 8

Global consternation

The world was shocked and dismayed.

“We have absolutely no fear for international inspection and pressure.”

(Daw Aung San Suu Kyi)

The gritty speech of State Counsellor has overwhelmed the world. The world pays more attention, thinks deeper in the case, judgement they make who are real victims. Slew of supports by both outside and inside rallies.

No flaunting, no exaggeration! But the jealous denigrates…the pessimists castigate.

People who can contain anger

1. I am also angry when I am attacked. Action calls for reaction. If he blows I will blow back. Everybody has fighting spirit. How you fare?
2. However, we should not go wild, intense and foolhardy in retaliation; try to collect yourself, must be prudent.
3. We should manifest our straightforwardness, truthfulness and firmness in this regard. Entertain the peace-loving mentality together with the people. It is time to consider the background history of Rakhine State, people’s regard on this issue and good and bad legacies. We should approach the crises from different angles and from different views. We must discuss. Stay united in oneness.
4. Let the world hear justice. Let the world know the truth.

Myanmar is a country where people never pursue the path of wrath without control. This is Myanmar’s identity. United Nations, a legally-bound organization must observe the law. Does UN take side, turn the blind eye on terrorist’s atrocities in Rakhine.

What to do?

The name of the terrorists should be sent to Bangladesh government, INTERPOL and UN to be able to take action according to the law. Moreover ………

Retain the culture

Ethnic people such as Mro, Daingnet had to flee their residents, their villages. Resettlement program and programs to retain the culture of the ethnic groups will be carried out immediately.

Will seek the advice from UN-HABITAT, will have to accept repatriates under 1993 agreement, all in compliance with the law. There might be confidential program in combating the terrorism. With method, with system, with policy, with strategy, and with law.

People in consolidated unity

1. This is the time to get in one voice.
2. This is the time to get completely united.
3. This is the time to set the disagreement and misunderstandings aside.
4. This is the time to avoid mutual recrimination.
5. This is the time not to get ablaze with fury.
6. This is the time not to instigate to a riot.
7. Don’t make mistake.
8. To be knowledgeable and understand.
9. Try to get the best result out of the messy issue.
10. To be dignified Myanmar in the world.

Rallies across the country in support of the explicit speech and gritty performance of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi regarding the Rakhine Issue are the undeniable testimony of the consolidated backing of the whole people.

Read more the news papers

Read more newspapers, listen more radio news and watch more news on television. Better to extend your reading to news in English language in addition to reading news in Myanmar. Take helps from those who are good at English if you are weak in English. Only then you can know the world. We once fell in trouble as we lack world knowledge. We should chalk the failures up to experience. The world is wide, Myanmar should not be lagged behind. Myanmar will always be an eternal entity in the world. To not forget, to not be careless, to strive more…I believe like this.

Lawyer and tears

1. I am a lawyer.
2. As I am a lawyer, I have to plead against terrorists at the court of justice.
3. I have to define what is right and what is wrong and take side on the right. Make a clear cut decision. Don’t get astride on the fence.
4. The photo of Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye wiping the tears of Hindus drove me into utter desolation. My heart beat heavily.
5. I could control my anger; but … tears rolling down on my cheek.

Translate by Khin Maung Win
Notice to the public from Ministry of Planning and Finance and Central Bank of Myanmar

Some unknowning people in the public were learnt to have incurred financial losses from unauthorized financial services and stock & share trading services. Similar conducts were made in the year 2002 and 2003.

Financial services in Republic of Union of Myanmar are permitted according to the following laws.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial service type</th>
<th>Governing Law</th>
<th>Authorizing and monitoring entity</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banking</td>
<td>Central Bank of Myanmar Law</td>
<td>Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM)</td>
<td>4 government banks and 24 public banks. A total of 28 banks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial service company</td>
<td>Central Bank of Myanmar Law</td>
<td>Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM)</td>
<td>Total of 15 companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microfinance service</td>
<td>Microfinance Business Law</td>
<td>Financial Regulatory Department (FRD)</td>
<td>Total of 168 service providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security trading company</td>
<td>Securities and Exchange Law</td>
<td>Security Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM)</td>
<td>Total of 6 security trading companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance company</td>
<td>Insurance Business Law</td>
<td>Insurance Business Regulatory Board</td>
<td>1 government and 11 public totaling 12 insurance companies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only registered public companies can buy and sell their shares to the public. Shares of listed public companies registered in Yangon Stock Exchange can be traded through Security Trading companies in Yangon Stock Exchange. Investor who wanted to buy, sell and trade shares of listed public companies in Yangon Stock Exchange individually or in a group could do so through Security Trading companies. Only government banks, private banks and microfinance service provider with permission from Ministry of Planning and Finance and financial service companies and mobile payment companies with permission from Central Bank can make loan, accept deposit and provide money transfer services.

As such the public is notified to avoid contacting financial service companies that do not have a proper permit and companies that are not permitted to sell shares. Be aware of high interest payments, high profit shares and attraction provided by multi-level marketing type incentives. — Ministry of Planning and Finance and Central Bank of Myanmar

Imports of High-Quality Insecticides Discussed

Ko Moe

LARGER quantities of safe, high-quality insecticide needs to be systematically imported into Myanmar in order for the country’s agricultural sector to flourish in global markets, an agricultural official said yesterday.

Daw Khin Lay San, assistant director of plant protection division under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, said that there is currently only one factory that produces insecticide in the country. High-quality insecticide needs to be used by more farmers in order to increase the quantity and quality of their harvests, she said.

“Insecticides are essential for growing crops. They should be utilised systematically. As green grams purchased from Japan were found to have been contaminated with insecticides, the export of the pulses was rejected from the other side, leading to the destruction of the market for Myanmar’s pulses in Taiwan,” Daw Khin Lay San said at the CPD Seminar on the Related Regulation and Procedure of Customs Formality, under the Programme of Continuous Professional Development, held yesterday at the Yangon offices of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFFCI).

Being an agro-based economy, Myanmar should be importing more agricultural insecticides from abroad, she said.

H.E. U Ko Ko Shein Presents Credentials to President of Russia

U Ko Ko Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, President of the Russian Federation on 3 October 2017, in Moscow.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Afghan-Pakistan border villages brace for Berlin Wall-style divide

CHAMAN/QUETTA, Pakistan — Thousands of Pashtun tribal people who for decades ignored the invisible line that bisects their dusty villages and demarcates the Afghanistan-Pakistan frontier are bracing for a Berlin Wall-style divide of their neighbours.

Pakistan, worried by Islamist attacks, is building a fence to prevent militants criss-crossing the porous 2,500 km (1,500 mile) frontier along the disputed colonial-era Durand line drawn up by the British in 1893.

The fence, which Kabul opposes, will run down the middle of so-called “divided villages” where few people have passports and Pashtun tribal loyalty often trumps allegiance to the state.

Seven such villages are dotted around Chaman district, home to the bustling border-crossing town of Chaman in Pakistan’s southwestern province of Baluchistan. Other divided villages are believed to exist further north in the restive Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

Pakistani officials in Baluchistan are now working on shifting Pakistani citizens in the divided villages to their side of the fence and say security worries override concerns that it will break up communities.

“A border wall was there in Germany, it is in Mexico. It is all over the world — why not in Afghanistan and Pakistan?” said Col Muhammad Usman, commander of Pakistan’s Frontier Corps paramilitary force in Chaman.

“These tribes have to understand that this is Pakistan and that place is Afghanistan.”

Yet scepticism about the fence abounds. Pakistan’s previous attempts to build one failed about a decade ago and many doubt whether its possible to secure such a lengthy border.

---Reuters

Hundreds of suspected Islamic State militants surrendered to Kurdish authorities last week — Kurdish official

EBRIL, Iraq — Several hundred suspected Islamic State militants surrendered last week to Kurdish authorities in northern Iraq, a Kurdish security official told Reuters on Tuesday.

The suspects are part of a group of men who fled toward Kurdish-held lines when Iraqi forces captured Hawija, the last stronghold of the militants in northern Iraq.

“Approximately 1,000 men surrendered over the last week. Not all, however, are terrorists,” said the official, referring to Islamic State members. “It’s fair to say hundreds probably are ISIS members, but that will be clear after the debriefs.”

---Reuters

Zimbabwe’s Mugabe creates cyber ministry in cabinet reshuffle

HARARE — Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe moved Patrick Chinamasa from the finance ministry on Monday to lead a new cyber security ministry that will focus on crimes on social media and other websites ahead of an election due next year.

Chinamasa will be replaced at the treasury by Home Affairs Minister Ignatius Chombo in a cabinet reshuffle that also diminished the role of Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, seen as a potential successor to Mugabe.

Chombo’s move, announced in a government statement, comes against the backdrop of a severe hard currency shortage that has dealt a fresh blow to confidence and investment in the southern African economy, which uses the US dollar.

Chinamasa was appointed finance minister after Mugabe’s re-election in 2013 and his move to head the new Ministry of Cyber Security, Threat Detection and Mitigation was unexpected.

Its creation comes after Chinamasa said last month the government would now treat social media as a security threat after accusing users of spreading rumours about shortages of basic goods, which caused panic buying and price increases.

The government has been uneasy with social media after activists such as pastor Evan Mawarire and his #ThisFlag movement last year used social media to organise a stay-at-home demonstration, the biggest anti-government protest in a decade. Government critics took to Twitter deriding Chinamasa as new “minister of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp affairs”.

Chinamasa, a lawyer by training, will also be responsible for bringing to parliament a long awaited cyber crimes bill that criminalises false information posted on the internet, revenge porn, cyber-bullying and online activity against the government.

---Reuters

UAE: Qatar must shun “extremism” to host 2022 World Cup

DUBAI — A senior United Arab Emirates official said Qatar’s hosting of the 2022 World Cup should depend on it rejecting “extremism and terrorism”, in comments drawing the soccer tournament into in the worst diplomatic row between rich Gulf monarchies in years.

The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain severed diplomatic, trade and travel ties with Qatar in June, accusing it of sponsoring hardline Islamist groups, a charge Doha denies. Egypt, the Arab world’s most populous state, also joined the boycott.

Kuwait and US attempts to ease the row have yielded little progress and media outlets backed by the opposing sides have unleashed a war of words that has aggravated tensions in the US-allied Gulf.

“Qatar’s hosting of World Cup 2022 should include a re-pudiation of policies supporting extremism & terrorism. Doha should review its record,” UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash wrote on Twitter.— Reuters

Meanwhile Chombo, who does not have a finance background and is a staunch Mugabe supporter who comes from the 93-year-old leader’s rural home district, was the surprise pick for minister of finance.

He will have to contend with a serious shortage of foreign currency that has seen US dollar bank balances lose value against cash dollars, fuelling a thriving black market.

The worthless Zimbabwe dollar was replaced by the US dollar in 2009 but the economy has struggled over the past 18 months because of a massive domestic shortage of greenbacks. As a result, cash, especially crisp, new, $100 bills, has enjoyed a steady 10 per cent to 20 per cent premium over dollars stored electronically in bank accounts — nicknamed “zollars” — meaning people have to transfer more than face value to the person selling the dollars on the black market.

---Reuters
Thai junta sets firm date for election after many false starts

BANGKOK — Thailand will hold a general election in November 2018, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-chha said on Tuesday, the most precise date he has given yet for the vote since taking power in a 2014 military coup.

Prayuth, head of the ruling junta, said the exact date would be announced in June 2018. The junta has announced election dates at least two times in the past, only to push them back later, citing concerns such as changes to the constitution and security issues.

"Around June we will announce the date for the next election," Prayuth told reporters at Bangkok's Government House. "In November we will have an election."

Former army chief Prayuth, who led the May 2014 coup widely criticized by Western nations, said it was necessary to end a decade of political turbulence and root out corruption.

In April, King Maha Vajiralongkorn signed into law a military-backed constitution that kickstarts the process for an election the junta has promised will restore democracy.

The new charter provides for a proportional voting system likely to reduce the influence of major political parties, which critics say aims to strengthen the role of the military.

Analysts expect political activities to resume slowly after the funeral of King Bhumibol Adulyadej this month ends a year of mourning for a monarch many Thais saw as a father figure.

"Prayuth wants to delay the election but he knows that after the king's cremation, there will be pressure for an election," said Kan Yuanyong of the Siam Intelligence Unit think tank.

"This announcement for the election in November next year will act to reduce that pressure, because if not, there could be chances for protests," he told Reuters. Thailand's main stock index rose 0.7 per cent after the news, having opened on Tuesday down 0.3 per cent.

The government has faced increasing pressure to lift a ban on political activities levied soon after the coup.

Prayuth will consider lifting the ban "at an appropriate time", he told reporters, without giving details.

The junta had initially promised an election in 2015, after seizing power from the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, sister of Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin's governments, or those backed by him, have won every election since 2001, partly because of their overwhelming popularity with politically-powerful rural voters. But the Shinawatras made enemies, including those among the military-backed establishment who accused Thaksin and his allies of corruption. Thaksin was ousted in 2006 and lives abroad in self-imposed exile. Yingluck followed suit in August, when she fled Thailand ahead of the verdict in a criminal case.

Some politicians expressed skepticism over the election date.

"It isn't really believable, because they have changed it many times," said Chaturon Chaisang, a member of Thaksin's Pua Thai Party.

Ong-art Klampai- boon, deputy leader of the Democrat Party, Puea Thai's biggest competitor, welcomed the news.

"Some politicians expressed skepticism over the election date. It isn't really believable, because they have changed it many times,"

Catalonia nears possible independence proclamation despite Madrid warnings

BARCELONA — Police tightened security at Catalonia’s parliament on Tuesday as regional leader Carles Puigdemont prepared to address a session that may unilaterally declare independence from Spain despite Madrid’s warnings of counter-measures.

Puigdemont, a 54-year-old former journalist, was holding a cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning to decide how to press an independence drive that has stirred powerful emotions in the region and raised concern in European Union partner states.

Catalan police armed with automatic rifles stood guard at Barcelona’s Parc de la Ciutadella which houses the elegant 18th century building. Spanish national police, decried by separatists over their use of force at an October referendum, were not to be seen. A declaration of independence would deepen Spain's biggest political crisis since an attempted military coup in 1981 and would almost certainly draw tough counter-measures from Madrid, possibly including suspension of the regional government.

Pro-independence demonstrators were due to gather before the parliament building under the slogan “Hello Republic” to mark Puigdemont’s speech at 6 pm (1600 GMT).

Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated against breaking away in Barcelona at the weekend, bearing red-yellow Spanish flags through the city centre. That rally fell a week after some 900 people were injured when police fired rubber bullets and stormed crowds with truncheons to disrupt a referendum ruled illegal in Madrid. Puigdemont has said he is determined to apply a law passed by the Catalan assembly which called for a declaration of independence within days if Catalans voted in favour in the October referendum.

Moscow gives green light to CNN International broadcasting in Russia

MOSCOW Russia said on Tuesday it had dropped accusations against CNN International following Russian media law and the US channel could continue broadcasting in Russia. The head of broadcasting regulator Roskomnadzor, Alexander Zharov, said the issue was resolved after CNN agreed to rectify details of its Russian licence shown onscreen during broadcasts, the Interfax news agency reported. He gave no details.

CNN said it did not plan to make any comment on the matter. The regulator had raised the accusations in September, a day after the Russian foreign ministry accused Washington of putting unwarranted pressure on the US operations of Kremlin-backed media outlet RT. Zharov at the time gave no detail of the exact nature of the dispute; but he said when the accusations were raised that Russia was not motivated by any political considerations.

"Claims against CNN have been dropped, the channel will continue working in Russia, but Roskomnadzor will continue monitoring the compliance of the American company’s activities with Russia’s legislation,“ Interfax cited Zharov as saying. President Vladimir Putin told a Security Council meeting last month that Russian media outlets working abroad were facing "growing and unacceptable pressure".

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-chha.
Russia’s formidable S-400 Triumf air defence missile system

MOSCOW — Russia’s Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation reported on 9 October, 2017 that Moscow and Riyadh had reached an agreement on the delivery of S-400 air defence missile systems and other armaments to Saudi Arabia.

The S-400 Triumf (NATO reporting name: SA-21 Growler) is a Russian long- and medium-range air defense missile system. It is designed to destroy air attack and reconnaissance means (including stealth aircraft) and any other aerial targets amid intensive counter-fire and jamming.

Development and entry into service

The work on the conceptual design of the point air defence missile system initially designated as the S-300PM3 was launched by the Almaz research and production association (currently the Almaz research and production association named after Academician Alexander Raspletin, Moscow) in the mid-1980s under the supervision of Chief Designer Alexander Lemansky. This work was intensified in the late 1990s and on February 12, 1999 the system was demonstrated at the Kapustin Yar practice range in 2011. Six weeks later, On 27 September, 2007, the Triumf’s developer, Alexander Lemansky who saw the launch of his missile system into serial production, died at the Kapustin Yar practice range in 2011.

The S-400 is based on the S-300PMU2 air defence missile complex. It differs from its predecessors by its extended combat range and the capability of using new surface-to-air missile systems. It is capable of detecting and destroying low-observable (stealth) and fast-moving aerial targets.

S-400 system and its integral parts

The S-400 Triumf comprises the following:
- a combat control post;
- a three-coordinate jam-resistant phased array radar to detect aerial targets;
- six-eight air defence missile complexes (with up to 12 transporter-launchers, and also a multifunctional four-coordinate illumination and detection radar);
- technology support system;
- missile transporting vehicles;
- a training simulator.

The S-400 system can also additionally include an all-altitude radar (detector) and movable towers for an antenna post. All the S-400’s means are mounted on the wheeled all-terrain chassis (produced by the Minsk Wheeled Tractor Factory and the Bryansk Automobile Plant) and can be transported by rail, water and air transport.

The S-400 can selectively operate with the use of no less than 5 missile types of various takeoff weights and launch ranges to create a layered air defense zone.

The S-400 is capable of exercising control of other air defence missile systems (the Tor-M1, the Pantsyr-S1), providing highly effective air defense even amid a mass air attack with the use of electronic warfare means.

Technical characteristics
- target detection range - up to 600 km;
- aerodynamic target kill range — from 3 to 250 km;
- tactical ballistic missile destruction range — from 5 to 60 km;
- target destruction altitude— from 2 to 27 km;
- engageable target velocity — up to 17,300 km/h;
- the number of targets engaged at a time — up to 36 (up to six with one air defense missile complex);
- the number of simultaneously guided missiles — 72;
- the time of the system’s deployment from its storage position — 5-10 min, the time of making the system combat ready from the deployed position — 3 min;
- the operational service life of ground-based systems — no less than 20 years, air defence missiles — no less than 15 years;

The Global Light of Myanmar
11 October 2017

OFFICE OF THE MIDA

Invitation to Local Companies and Contractors

The Myanmar Investors Development Association (MIDA) members’ public companies are implementing projects which are likely to provide opportunities for Infrastructure works, Land Development, Road & Bridge Construction and Building Construction works. Those companies and contractors who are interested in partaking in those activities are invited to contact the MIDA (5th Floor, Co-operative Business Centre, Corner of New University Avenue & Saya San Road, Bahan Township 11201, Yangon, Myanmar). To access the official invitation document, please visit MIDA Website: www.myanmarida.com

Office of the MIDA
Date: 11/10/2017.
SAN FRANCISCO — Shares of cinema stocks dropped on Monday after domestic opening weekend ticket sales for science fiction sequel “Blade Runner 2049” fell short of expectations, the latest disappointment following an underwhelming US summer movie season.

AMC Entertainment Holdings Inc, Regal Entertainment Group and Cinemark Holdings Inc were all down, with price target cuts by Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter also weighing on the shares.

Third-quarter domestic box office sales would be lower than previously expected, Pachter said in a report, “as several titles in the summer release slate failed to resonate with moviegoers.”

AMC fell 7.7 per cent to $14.02, Regal Entertainment Group and Cinemark Holdings Inc were all down, with price target cuts by Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter also weighing on the shares.

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That compared to an expected range of $45 million to $50 million, despite positive reviews and the popularity of the original 1982 “Blade Runner,” according to a report by Variety.com.

Other recent movies have fallen short of expectations, including “King Arthur: Legend of the Sword” and “Baywatch,” in a slow US summer movie season that underscored the trend of more consumers watching entertainment online. Wedbush’s Pachter cut his price target on AMC to $29.50 from $22.75 and lowered his target for Regal Entertainment to $19 from $23.

It was a major draw at the box office and earned Stallone his third Oscar nomination in the Best Supporting Actor category. He was previously nominated in 1977 in the Best Original Screenplay and Best Actor categories for playing Rocky Balboa, a role that helped him become an international action star.

Along with a picture of himself with Jordan, Stallone wrote on Instagram, “Looking forward to directing and producing the incredible talent of Michael B. Jordan in CREED 2 next year... One more Round!”

In addition to playing Balboa, Stallone has written all the six films before “Creed.” He has also directed “Rocky II,” “Rocky III,” “Rocky IV” and “Rocky VI.”

— PTI

LOS ANGELES — New theatrical trailer for “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” debuted on Monday night during the halftime of an American football game between the Minnesota Vikings and the Chicago Bears.

Walt Disney, which owns the rights to the Star Wars franchise, including “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” released the trailer. The new film reunites the cast of the 1977 first film in the “Star Wars” series, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill, and introduced a new generation of characters.

LOS ANGELES — Sylvester Stallone has announced that he will direct and produce “Creed 2,” the eighth installment in the Rocky franchise.

The 2015 film, starring Stallone and Michael B. Jordan, was a spin-off of the original boxing drama and was directed by Ryan Coogler.

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— PTI
PARIS—Cristiano Ronaldo is the favourite to retain the Ballon d’Or trophy as his Real Madrid side dominated the 30-man shortlist announced by France Football on Monday.

The 32-year-old, who helped Real win the Champions League and La Liga last season, is one of seven Real players on the list — the most from any team.

Should the Portugal forward triumph, he will equal the record of his great rival and five-times winner Lionel Messi of Barcelona, who is also nominated.

The only other Barca player in the running is Luis Suarez, while Paris St Germain’s Neymar and Edison Cavani are also included on the shortlist.

Argentina need a win in Ecuador on Tuesday to guarantee at least fifth place but a playoff place for the World Cup finals, says Sampaoli.

Argentina ‘deserve’ to go to Russia, says Sampaoli

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador — Argentina need a win in Ecuador on Tuesday to guarantee at least a playoff place for the World Cup finals but coach Jorge Sampaoli says his side fully deserve to be in Russia next year despite their underwhelming qualifying campaign.

Argentina, who reached the final three years ago in Brazil, lie in sixth place in the 10-team South American group, currently outside the qualifying places for Russia.

The top four qualify automatically and the fifth-placed side go into an intercontinental playoff against Oceania winners New Zealand.

“Argentina has shown the personality to demonstrate what it is, superior to the rest,” Sampaoli said in Ecuador on Monday.

“I hope we qualify because, looking beyond the numbers, Argentina deserves it.”

Argentina, who have won the World Cup twice, have taken just three points in their last four games. A win would guarantee Argentina at least fifth place but a draw might be enough to take them into the top four depending on results elsewhere.

BRAZIL have qualified all the way to the World Cup finals but lost out to Malaysian Mohd Faiz Subri’s spectacular 35-metre, swerving free-kick.

Ronaldo and Messi lead the way on Ballon d’Or shortlist

The Ballon d’Or, which merged with the FIFA World Player of the Year award from 2010-15 to create the FIFA Ballon d’Or, returned to France Football magazine this year having been established in 1956. A panel of journalists picks the winner.—Reuters

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2017 region and state U-25 table tennis competition held

The 2017 region and state under-25 single table tennis competition was held yesterday at Wunna Theikdi Stadium (C) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Table tennis, also known as ping pong, is a sport in which two or four players hit a lightweight ball back and forth across a table using a small bat. The game takes place on a hard table divided by a net. Except for the initial serve, the rules are generally as follows: players must allow a ball played toward them to bounce one time on their side of the table, and must return it so that it bounces on the opposite side at least once. A point is scored when a player fails to return the ball within the rules. Play is fast and demands quick reactions. Spinning the ball alters its trajectory and limits an opponent’s options, giving the hitter a great advantage.

The winners of the state and region male and female singles under-25 table tennis competitions were Nan Sat Wah (Yangon), who received the top prize and Khin Myo Myat (Mon), who received the second prize. Wai Wai Aung (Mandalay) and Yoon Lae Phyo (Mandalay) shared the third prize.

The male singles quarterfinal competitions and male and female group competitions will be held today at Wunna Theikdi Stadium (C). Admission is free. —Public Sports and Education Department

Struggling Italy head for playoffs after win over Albania

SHKODER, (Albania) — Italy battled to a 1-0 win over Albania on Monday with a late Antonio Candreva goal as the struggling Group G runners-up head for the playoffs in a bid to reach next year’s World Cup.

“Today we played a great game, we were united in our play and we brought the victory home,” said midfielder Lorenzo Insigne. “Today we went after the victory at all costs and we managed to win. We gave everything and showed that Italy never gives up”.

Struggling Italy faced a two-legged playoff against one of the other eight best runners-up from the European qualifying campaign to secure a place at next year’s finals in Russia.

Under-fire Italy coach Gian Piero Ventura told reporters: “In the November playoffs, I hope they (the team) are in better health, I hope we can get back some of the injured players.”

Third-placed Albania were eager to show they had improved over the last few years thanks to coaching from Italians. Their current manager Christian Panucci, a former Italy international, spurred his side to attack against his compatriots. —Reuters

Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan Republic draw 2-2

Kyaw Zin Tun

MYANMAR and Kyrgyzstan played to a draw yesterday in a Group A football match of the 2019 Asia Championship qualification held at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myanmar lined up with Thiha Sithu (GR), Win Min Htut, Zaw Min Htun, David Htan, Yan Aung Kyaw, Tin Win Aung, Aung Thu, Kyaw Ko Ko, Yan Nang Oo, Si Thu Aung and Thein Than Win.

Kyrgyzstan’s team consisted of Matiaish Pavel (GR), Kichkin Valerii, Tamirkan Kozubaev, Maiier Viktor, Bulnaytov Azamat, Edgar Bernhardt, Alvazbek Otkeev, Lux Vitalij, Duishebekov Baktiyar, Musabekov Pankhat and Zemlianukin Anton.

The opening goal for Kyrgyzstan was scored by Anton from a penalty at the nine-minute mark. The second goal was scored by Maier at the four-minutes mark of the second half.

The first goal for Myanmar was scored by Aung Thu at 32 minutes, and the equalizer was scored by Kyaw Ko Ko at the 90-plus-three minute mark.

So far, Myanmar stands in second place after playing three games. Myanmar will play India on 14 November in India. —Reuters

Myanmar U-19 football team in Japan preparing for AFC U-19 Championship

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE Myanmar national U-19 football team left for Japan yesterday evening to train for the qualification matches of the Asia U-19 Championship.

The Myanmar U-19 football team will play three friendlies during this training period. They will play against Hana University football team on 15 October, Gamba Osaka U-18 football team on 18 October and Hanna Youth football team on 20 October.

The team will then go for Cambodia to play the qualification matches against the Philippines on 24 October, Cambodia on 26 October and China on 28 October in Group G of the 2018 AFC U-19 Champion qualification.

Forty-three teams are involved in qualification and divided 10 groups, from Group A to Group J. All the qualification matches will played from 24 October to 8 November in 10 host countries. A total of 16 teams including the host Indonesia will advance to the AFC U-19 Championship, which will be held from 18 October to 4 November, 2018. —Reuters