Work under way to put Maungtaw into national grid system

MAUNGTAW in northern Rakhine State which is recovering from the wounds of conflicts will be inclusive in the national grid next year, according to a district official.

Currently two diesel generators are supplying power to 1872 households in Maungtaw which has over 4000 households. If the town is connected with the national grid, all the households will get power. Villages including ethnic villages are receiving power for two hours every day from the two generators – a 1000-KVA generator and a 500-KVA generator. Apart from the two under operation the town has three reserve generators with capacities 500-KVA, 400-KVA and 300-KVA respectively.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is supplying power for nine hours a day after the October 2016 incident. Works have been started to supply power to 15 villages in Maungtaw Township and 11 villages in Buthidaung Township totaling 26 from the national grid.

SEE PAGE-3

Maungtaw sells up to 50,000 baskets of paddy to this date

CHIEF Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu during his field tour facilitated the transfer of harvested paddy to winnowing stations in Maungtaw District yesterday.

First the chief minister and party inspected the use of mechanized harvesters of Agricultural Mechanization Department-AMD at a village in Yatheinaung Township and the buyers transporting the rice.

They looked into the requirements in preparing to transport the harvested paddy in a number of villages and stressed the need to transfer the products soonest to the buyers.

Maungtaw District has sold up to 50,000 baskets of paddy harvested by AMD and packed by Agriculture Department to Rakhine Rice Company. At their meeting with ethnic peoples in Inndin village monastery, the chief minister sought opportunities to create farming and fishery businesses in the district. —Zeya Myint

SEE PAGE-3

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu coordinates storage and sale of paddy in Maungtaw District.

PHOTO: NAY WIN TUN
Buddhist missionary presents provisions for monks

A Buddhist missionary in Yangon offered rice and other provisions for 1053 members of the Sangha in commemoration of the 64th anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod in Kaba Aye of the commercial city yesterday.

Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Obasa administered the Five Precepts, followed by the recitation of Parittas by the monks.

The main sponsor of the donation ceremony Sayadaw Parittas by the monks. The procession including Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko presented the offerings to the monks.

The Buddhist missionary presented K 20 million as a health trust fund for Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and K 30 million for other purposes including hill missionarison services.

Then the provisions were presented.—Myanmar News Agency

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye surveyed the plot near December Thiri Gayhar Housing yesterday afternoon to build a rehabilitation center.

Assistant director U Aung Zaw Myint of Urban and Housing Development explained coordinated measures for land survey, demarcation, road paving and fencing.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is launching rehabilitation program for abandoned infants and mothers, victims of child molestation, child tramps, beggars, female victims of violence, and victims of human trafficking, the vulnerable aged, and the disabled enabling them to rejoin the society with dignity, enjoy human rights and pursue an independent life.

Then, the ministry is also planning to open the vocational training schools and create job opportunities in cooperation with private entrepreneurs.

Similarly, the ministry is trying to develop the socioeconomic lives of the citizens in cooperation with related ministries by protecting the vulnerable including minors, women, elder persons, persons with disabilities from any kind of harm or dangers.

The Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center will be built on a 50-acre plot near December Thiri Gayhar Housing, east Yangon.—Yangon.—Myanmar News Agency

Pyay in Bago Region introduces sugar-cane harvester

Pyay in Bago Region introduced a 380-horsepower Brazilian made sugar-cane harvester at the sugar-cane field of Shwe Pyi Myay Co.Ltd, yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Bago Region Agriculture and Livestock Minister U Aung Zaw Naing pointed out the need to extend sugarcane plantation in Bago Region as it put only 27000 acres under the crop out of a total of 3.3 million acres. The country is taking legal measures for joint venture business operations amidst the overtures foreign investments in the sector. Currently sugarcane plantation is through collective system, and the arranging the flow if capital for farmers.

The sugarcane harvester which is a type of Case A 8,000 can harvest about 200 tonnes of sugarcane per day, at a COST OF 8,000 kyats per ton. The machine can help increase yield as it can harvest the plant from its roots.

Officials from Bago regional government and departmental officials, Business Director from Caw New Holland Industry, Officials from Shwe Pyi Myay Co.Ltd and invited person attended the ceremony.—Thant Zin Win

The Hluttaw Developmental Fund allotted to village officials in Mawlaik Township

A ceremony to present Ks 100 million of the Hluttaw Developmental Fund was held at the meeting room of the General Administration Department in Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region on 9 December afternoon.

At the ceremony, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Tin Maung Win made an opening speech and the Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Cho Win explained allocation of the funds. Afterwards, the lawmakers and the township administrator presented the funds to the representatives of the village development committee from 29 village-tracts.

Developmental Fund will be spent on implementation of 39 development plans throughout the township.—Mawlaik Tharlay

Chin State Hluttaw Speaker meets locals in Tiddim Township

Accompanied by the Chin State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Mining, the Speaker of Chin State Hluttaw U Zo Bwe held a meeting with the town elders, members of township management committee and development affairs committee, representatives from political parties, INGO and CSO and local people at the meeting room of the General Administration Department in Tiddim, Chin State on 9 December.

At the meeting, the Chin State Hluttaw Speaker urged those present to carry out regional developmental tasks in joining hands with the government and local people, upholding the public interest in the fore. The chairman of Township Management Committee and a town elder reported on basic requirements for regional developmental tasks and the Chin State Speaker gave clarifications.—Nay Su (Chin Yoma)
Senior General visits Nepal for promoting relations between two countries

At the invitation of Chief of Army Staff of the Nepali Army, Gen. Ranjendra Chhetri, a delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services departed for Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Senior General and party arrived at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday afternoon and were welcomed by Nepal’s Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hemantha Kunwar and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal U Tin Oo, U Lin and wife, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig.-Gen Thein Zaw and wife and other responsible officials at the international Airport.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party were accorded a guard-of-honour welcome by the Chief of Army Staff of the Nepali Army.

Then, in the meeting hall, the Senior General and the Chief of Army Staff of the Nepali Army discussed the exchange of bilateral goodwill military visits and trainees and promotion of friendly ties between the two armed forces. After that, the Senior General and party laid wreath at Bir Smarak memorial to heroes in Army Pavilion, Tundikhel.

Myanmar to attend 1st Solar Scouts Jamboree Festival

12 member Myanmar Scout Delegation led Thiha Senior Scout U Aye Kyaw, U Tin Maung Latt, U Myint Sein and Daw Thit Thit of Myanmar Scout Association left for Thailand yesterday morning to attend “The 1st Solar Scouts Jamboree” festival. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by National Chief Scout Dr. Tin Nyo Chairman of Myanmar Scout Committee and Senior Scout.

The 1st Solar Scouts Jamboree” festival under the title “Let’s save energy for a better World” will be held from 11 to 15 December at Vajiravudh Camp in Thailand.

15000 scouts of Thailand, 100 scouts from international Scout Federations including Myanmar will take part in the event. At the Event, representatives will hold discussions under three titles “Solar for Life”, “Solar for Health” and Solar for Environment” will make practical activities.

They will also attend the Birthday ceremony of Thai King’s Daughter.

Ferries ready for Literary Conference 2017

TRANSPORT will be arranged for the would-be participants of the Literary Conference 2017 at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon from 13 to 16 this month.

Ferries will leave the gathering point in front of the City Hall for two times at 8 am and 8.15 am.

Held under the theme — free voice, free literature — the conference starts at 9.45 am and ends at 5 pm daily.

“A Literary conference is not just for the men and women of letters. It is a forum that calls for the participation of the entire people who love books. It is an occasion people should come and listen. So we arrange transport for all interested persons. There will be three stops along the way — Myanmar, Hledan and 9th-Mile, said,” writer Daw Thanda Khin.

The conference will be welcomed by literary talks, poem recitations, fun fairs and games in front of the city hall from 8 am to 11 pm daily between 8 and 12 of this month.

Meanwhile the third day of the pre-literary conference saw a large number of people enjoying the talks given by prominent writers.

The conference will involve 50 round-table literary talks by over 200 men and women of letters in six parts including periods for public participation. Over 700 writers, poets, cartoonists, publishers and international literati will take part in it.—Aye Min Thu
Areca nut exports to India continue to decline

INDIA imported US$0.569 million worth of areca nut weighing about 700 tonnes from Myanmar in the week between 18 and 24 November through border points of entry, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar-India border exports of areca nut continue to decline. According to border traders, the country exported more than 1,200 tonnes of similar products to its second largest neighbouring country from the Tamu and Reed border gates in the previous week before 18 November.

This week saw a significant decrease in export of areca nut from the two cross-borders. The country exported US$0.068 million worth of areca nuts weighing 77 tonnes through Tamu border station and 622 tonnes of those nuts worth US$0.501 million from Reed border gate within the aforementioned week.

In addition, other commodities including 15 tonnes of cigarette worth US$0.486 million was also exported from the Republic of India at the Tamu border gate, whereas the country exported 94 tonnes of food, cigarettes, clothes and blankets through the Reed border gate, earning US$0.288 million.

About 150,000 acres of areca nut plantation have been cultivated in the country, particularly in Taninthayi and Ayeawady regions, and Mon State. — Khine Khant

Income from sugar re-export drops this FY from late cut-off date for re-export licence

EARNINGS from re-export of sugar from 1st April to 24th November this FY was down by US$316 million compared to similar period of last FY because cut-off date September 22 for re-export licence is late when there was abundant stock in the market.

Additionally, Myanmar’s merchants have to deal with the problems like China’s confiscation on the imported sugar as China is considering this trade as illegitimate.

Myanmar re-exported more than 16,920 tons of sugar to China through Mute gate during the week of 18-24 November and the volume was up by 3,882 tons compared to that of previous week. In the similar period, re-export of sugar through Chinshwehaw checkpoint showed decrease of 920 tons against last week.

During that week, Muse depot gave sugar price Ks40,000 a ton more than last year’s price, with China’s purchase price increasing from 3,940 to 4,146 Yuan, according to the news recently released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar’s merchants import sugar mostly from Thailand and India and also from Brazil, Qatar and UAE and then it is re-export to China through Sino-Myanmar checkpoint as Myanmar sugar millers are unable to produce quality sugar which meets export criteria for the lack of advanced refining machinery. About 2 million tons of sugar is annually traded under re-export system. — Ko Khant

Twelve foreign investment proposals seeking MIC approval with capitals of US$650 mil

TWELVE foreign enterprises have submitted their investment proposals to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) with capitals of about US$650 million, according to a report of Myawady Daily last Saturday.

U Aung Naing Oo, the director-general of the Directorate of Investments and Company Administration (DICA) said that 12 foreign businesses are seeking approval from MIC to be engaged in manufacturing, real estate, livestock and fishery, mining, electricity and service sectors.

In addition to foreign enterprises, 16 domestic companies also submitted proposals to MIC with estimated investments of Ks236 billion.

According to new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DICA offices are authorized to give approval to investment proposals with capital of not more than $5 million. Land lease are also permitted from regional office. In addition, there is also tax relief for investments depending on the set investment zone.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is conducting to disclose actual amount of foreign direct investments every three months in an attempt to have transparency in the record, based on MIC’s report, statistics of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Myanmar Customs’ import data.

During the past three months July to September, the actual amount of Foreign Direct Investment for 2017-2018 financial year was US$2.4 billion whereas the amount approved by Myanmar Investment Commission was over US$44 billion.

Another three-month investment data from October to December will be unveiled. The report will be continued to release until March 2018.

The figure will be released on official website of MIC and media and social network. — GNLM
UMFCCI to submit 17-point suggestion from its convention to government

May Thet Hnin

A 17-point suggestion from the UMFCCI Convention 2017 will be submitted to the government, according to Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). The UMFCCI held the convention at its headquarters in Yangon on December 9 for the first time after 25 years.

The first convention took place in 1992. Prof Dr Aung Tun Thet, advisor of the UMFCCI, said the main aim of this activity is to let government listen to the voices of private entrepreneurs.

The 17-point suggestion includes creating a close cooperation with government in developing the country’s economy; close collaboration between member organisations of the UMFCCI reach development that will be beneficial to all business entities; creating a strong link with other regional international chambers of commerce and development partners; and encouraging works in accordance with the SCR, UN Global compact and business for peace.

The suggestion also urges the government to ensure the emergence of a better economic environment and genuine cooperation between the government and the private; to effectively carry out the strategic use of agreements of the AEC 2018 one-belt-one-road (OBOR), (look East-Act East) policy and the country’s geographical location; and to ensure the realization of digital economy.

The UMFCCI also urges the authorities to support economic extension policy for home and abroad and the free and fair commercial policy; to encourage innovation of young entrepreneurs and to effectively take actions against illegal trans-border trade. Currently, the government is working to promote the role of private sector.

The duty of the government is to enforce rule of law. It also has a duty to fulfill public goods such as water, electricity and road transport facilities, and all development facilities that would help support the implementation of market-oriented system,” he continued. The Myanmar’s future economic growth banks on the development of private sector. The private sector development committee led by the Vice-President U Myint Swe monthly holds discussions with entrepreneurs to deal with difficulties. The collaborative efforts are being made between the government and private sector to reach a desired rank on the list of doing business index, said U Zaw Min Win, president of the UMFCCI, who believes that the government will consider the suggestion from the 2017 convention.

Import of consumer goods increases by over $500 million

Myanmar’s import of consumer products in the current fiscal year topped US$2.9 billion, an increase of $542 million against the same period of last year, according to official figures released by the Commerce Ministry. Over the past nine months, the private sector bought $2.8 billion worth of similar goods to foreign trade partners, while the imports of the government was valued at $106 million. The country’s total import value as of 1st December exceeded $12 billion, including $4.3 billion worth of capital goods and $4.8 billion worth of intermediate materials. The figures are $2.2 billion more than that of the similar period of last financial year. According to the ministry’s statistics, the country earned a total of $9.361 billion from overseas exports this FY.

In order to reduce the growing trade deficits, the government is finding the best solutions in cooperation with private businesspersons.—Swe Nyein
New tour destination to be created between Inle Lake and Loikaw

A new tour on boat will be created between Loikaw, Kayah State and Inle Lake, Shan State in cooperation with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and inbound tour companies, according to a report from Myawaddy Daily.

Maintenance to strengthen retaining wall of Moe Bye dam constructed on the Bah creek in Kayah State and water route plan are being implemented.

It is 20 years that a water route between Inle Lake and Loikaw were shut down its operation due to the weakening retaining wall of Moe Bye Dam. Those walls were repaired last year and now they are strong enough to be closed and opened. Therefore, water trip plan can resume there again.

Last year, Kayah State hosted more than 16,000 local trippers and over 6,000 tourists. More than 23,000 local travelers and over 6,500 tourists have visited Kayah State this year so far.

Upon the completion of this tour plan, more visitors are likely to enter the state through Inle Lake, one of the famous tourist attractions in Myanmar. — GNLM

Dispute between employer and employees decrease this year

DISPUTE between employer and employee has decreased significantly this year compared with the previous years, according to a report of the Myawaddy Daily.

U Maung Maung, chairman of the Confederation of the Trade Unions-Myanmar, said almost 100 labour disputes including individual disputes were completely resolved in 2014-2015 financial year. The figures dropped to about 30 this year.

The number of labour strike has notably decreased this year. Despite a drop in the number of labour protests, some employers fail to abide by the arbitration council's decisions and the labour law. Workers have yet to fully enjoy the rights enshrined in the labour law as there is no a clear-cut labour policy.

Negotiation approach is better than disputes for employers and employees, said an official of Myanmar Industrial Craft and Service Trade Union Federation.

Over five years, workers have chances to form labour organizations independently. These organizations can help in solving labour disputes. Last year, the number of labour disputes hit a record high. — GNLM

Over 55 tonnes of illegal teak, hardwood seized in Bago Region in one week

MORE than 55 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwood have been confiscated from traffickers across Bago Region in the first week of this month, arresting four traffickers, according to the region forestry department.

Between 1 and 7 December, the region forest authorities seized two trucks loaded with 14 tonnes of teak and over ten tonnes of hardwood in Bago District; nine tonnes of teak, other nine tonnes of hardwood and 160 tonnes of charcoal in a motor vessel in Taungoo District; and 0.228 tonnes of teak in Thayawaddy District and four tonnes of teak and six tonnes of hardwood in Pyay District.

According to the official statistics, the forest authorities seized more than 2,900 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwoods and 337 vehicles from January and November of this year, arrested 501 people connecting with illegal smuggling of the forest product. — Kyemon

Police search for mobile phone theft

POLICE say they are investigating the theft of mobile phones from Academy Link Mobile Phone Store in Indaw Township in Sagaing Region.

Hein Htet Oo, staff of the store, firstly found that the main door of the shop was destroyed by fire and immediately informed it to his boss. Owner U Aung Lwin Oo confirmed 32 handsets worth more than Ks5.5 million were stolen while his mobile phone store located at Sipin Housing on Myakantha Street in Indaw Township was burgled on Saturday night.

Investigation is being made by township police in an effort to people in connection with the case who will face legal charges under the existing Penal Code.—Maung Chit Lin

New project aims to benefit over 40 villages in Thaton Township

A NEW plan is underway to carry out regional development tasks throughout Thaton, a township in Mon State, which is expected to directly benefit more than 40 villages, according to a report of the Myawaddy Daily.

This is part of the rural development programmes of Mon State with the aim of reducing transportation barriers, establishing a complete water supply system and improving the socio-economic status of residents.

Mon State government has approved a Ks300 million budget to carry out the projects, including construction of water facilities, paving new roads and extending the town’s old roads, for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Under the new plan, all development tasks must be finalised before the end of March 2018.

The state government will grant 50 per cent of the total cost in the initial stage to the respective ward/township committees.

U Thein Win, head of Thaton Township General Administration Department, said that there are a lot of town development projects.

Because of budget limitations, priority will be given to the projects which are actually needed to implement. Authorities have already inspected areas prior to the new development schemes. The rest will be developed next fiscal year.—GNLM

Photo: Su Pyay District.

Over 337 vehicles from January and November of this year, arrest 501 people connecting with illegal smuggling of the forest product. — Kyemon

Photo: Su Pyay District.

Photo: Su Pyay District.

Photo: Su Pyay District.
**Myanmar wins award at a Southeast Asian video festival**

A contestant from Myanmar won an award for a children’s film at the South East Asia Prix Jeunesse Video Festival (SEAPJ)’s national and regional level competitions held in Manila, Philippines. The event was broadcasted on MRTV (Yangon) TV channel yesterday.

The contestant Ma Kyaw Hnin Si won the Regional level award for her video clip “Let fragrance of ThaNaKha be lasted forever” in the category for Professional Video Maker (Fiction). SEAPJ focuses on showcasing films made to educate young people between the ages of 8 and 17 years old and included contestants from 10 ASEAN countries.

Ma Kyaw Hnin Si said her video clip was a documentary for raising awareness for undergraduate rape cases. “When I was in Myanmar, I was quite confident that my video clip would be selected,”

—Myanmar News Agency

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**11th Mandalay Open Chess Championship continues in Mandalay**

THE Mandalay Region Chief Minister’s Trophy Inter-Township Chess Tournament and the 11th Mandalay Open Chess Championship kicked off at the Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay on 5 December.

Aungmyethazan Township stood first in the Mandalay Region Chief Minister’s Trophy Inter-Township Chess Tournament, followed by Amarapura Township and Meikhtila Township. 11th Mandalay Open Chess Tournament continued at the same venue this morning.

President of Myanmar Chess Federation U Maung Maung Liwin, Vice-President U Win Aung and Secretary of Mandalay Region Chess Sub-committee U Ne Win enjoyed the event.

A total of 99 athletes are taking part in the chess contest.

—Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

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**Interviews with Myanmar’s entrepreneurs and the future of innovation**

THE 2nd Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association Summit was held on 9 December at the Myanmar Convention Center -2 in Nay Pyi Taw. Some of the pioneering youths and the Chairman of the Myanmar Innovators Association sat down for interviews.

U Tun Tun Naing (Chairman of the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association)

Our association was officially formed on June 2012. Myanmar business economy is developing and our objective is to prepare for a future with innovation as the cultural norm. We want to support young people to become successful. Associations like ours had already sprung up internationally 30 years ago and there are quite a few in ASEAN as well. We are also a member of the ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Association which is made up of 10 other countries.

The first summit was held in 2016 and there we highlighted six systems necessary for young entrepreneurs. That project is estimated to take 2 years and only when it’s completed will young entrepreneurs in Myanmar receive support from the government.

Dr. Theingi Win (Founder and Business development director, Global Assistance Co.Ltd)

Some policies and laws prevent themselves as obstacles for young entrepreneurs while a lack of certain laws means there is no security for them. A Competition Policy is needed because even though it’s an open market, an elephant and a goat aren’t equal competitors. There also needs to be a policy for the government to allot a fixed budget for startups enterprises.

Myanmar has a good standing both geographically and resource-wise and it is also surrounded by efficient neighboring countries. Together, we make up two thirds of the world’s economy. I believe if we had the capacity and capabilities then our country could develop quite quickly.

I want to tell all the budding entrepreneurs and business owners in Myanmar that our country’s economy is in our hands; we cannot depend on external entities to support us all the way.

Dr. Theingi Win (Founder and Business development director, Global Assistance Co.Ltd)

Our company is focused on medical services and packages. We have a modernized clinic in New Bagan City for both expats and local citizens. We have plans to establish more clinics in other areas and probably one in Inlay next year. One of our services is planning medical trips to Bangkok and Singapore for patients via various airlines.

I used to work in a hospital and there I saw a lot of requirements for medical tours. I established this company to meet those requirements and to help develop the health sector in the country. I believe I received this award (at the summit) for providing satisfactory services to local clinic and people in Bagan.

There are many people who want to do a startup but they need a strong financial background and good plans for sustainability. I was able to grow my company to its current state within two years despite the challenges for a female entrepreneur.

Ko Pone Nya (Social Entrepreneur)

I started a startup some time ago for collecting waste products and using the profits from that to fund causes for children’s education. At first it was a volunteering project but for future sustainability and expansion, I switched over to a kind of social enterprise.

Currently we are making these innovative garbage collectors that can be installed in houses, offices and schools. They’re kind of like a storage space for waste that can be sold or donated for recycling efforts. It’s my belief that for our country to develop we must employ new, innovative ideas to speed up development. I believe I got this award from MYEA for my innovation and this is a great morale boost for us.

The future for us innovators and entrepreneurs is uncertain since many of the fields we are working in have new challenges never faced before. You need an unwavering dedication to succeed in your dreams. You need to take care of your health and keep researching and learning new technologies.

A message I want to give to young people is ‘Innovative’. Try to be a inventor and an innovator and seize your accomplishments.—Myanmar News Agency
National roadmap that education will bring about!

The Seminar on Implementation of Educational Development (Basic Education Sector) State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed his expectations that Education can give, at length. The State Counsellor pointed out that we, the People, can liberate ourselves from poverty and work for the emergence of tranquility, freedom and rule of law, by redesigning the education system and making it pertinent to the needs and aspirations of the children. He also highlighted that we could only build up our country into a more consolidated, peaceful and highly developed nation and state through education and conservation of traditional culture of national ethnic races.

To sum it up, the State Counsellor’s address shows us that education can improve the socio-economic situation of every citizen, and is a vessel to live comfortable lives.

The State Counsellor’s instruction meaning, “So as to enjoy the educational benefits, the deep-rooted reform in the education system must be planned and executed by all teaching staff. The current system is burdened with the capability, in making educational reforms. Here, we must realize that the State Counsellor’s statement is to be instructed only in educational reform and also in reforming all other sectors.

The State Counsellor’s statement that children must be taught to know the country’s history as well as world history. This really underscores the national commitment of the Union Government for transformation of the education sector. The State Counsellor furthered that the Ministry of Education has been implementing educational reforms on educational management, ing educational qualifications, curriculum and syllabus, within the capacity building initiatives. The Ministry of Education has been implementing educational reforms on educational management, as well as world education system. It is impossible to the Ministry and its departments/enterprises with wise and therefore these qualifications need to be built and enhanced to exchange the information and disclosures of the financial and operational information to make available the information. Knowledge about their homes, societies and the environment, not only at school, but also at home.

We feel that this point should be taken seriously by all teaching staff. The State Counsellor clarified that the Ministry of Education has been implementing educational reforms at the national level.

Children must be taught to know the country’s history as well as world history. This really underscores the national commitment of the Union Government for transformation of the education sector. The State Counsellor further emphasized that the Ministry of Education has been implementing educational reforms on educational management, as well as world education system. It is impossible to the Ministry and its departments/enterprises with wise and therefore these qualifications need to be built and enhanced to exchange the information and disclosures of the financial and operational information to make available the information. Knowledge about their homes, societies and the environment, not only at school, but also at home.

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In the end, the State Counsellor pointed out that education will bring about the destruction of corruption. The State Counsellor furthered that the Ministry of Education has been implementing educational reforms on educational management, as well as world education system. It is impossible to the Ministry and its departments/enterprises with wise and therefore these qualifications need to be built and enhanced to exchange the information and disclosures of the financial and operational information to make available the information.

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Iraq declares final victory over Islamic State

BAGHDAD — Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared final victory over Islamic State on Saturday after Iraqi forces drove its last remnants from the country, three years after the militant group captured about a third of Iraq’s territory.

“The announcement comes two days after the Russian military announced the defeat of the militants in neighbouring Syria, where Moscow is backing Syrian government forces.

Iraqi forces recaptured the last areas still under Islamic State control along the border with Syria, the military said.

“Honourable Iraqis: your land has been completely liberated. The dream of liberation is now a reality,” Abadi said in a televised address. He was speaking with five Iraqi flags and dozens of servicemen from different branches behind him.

“We have accomplished a very difficult mission. Our heroes have reached the final strongholds of Daesh and purified it. The Iraqi flag flies high today over all Iraqi lands.”

Daesh is an Arabic acronym for Islamic State, also known as ISIS. Several squadrons of Iraqi helicopters flew over Baghdad carrying Iraqi flags at noon, in an apparent rehearsal for a victory parade that Iraq is planning to hold in coming days.

The government said the declaration meant Iraqi forces had secured the western desert and the entire Iraq-Syria border, and marked the end of the war against Islamic State.

Abadi declared 10 December a national holiday to be celebrated every year. State television aired celebratory songs praising government forces and militias, and showed scenes of celebration on the streets of Baghdad and other provinces.

The US-led coalition that has been supporting the Iraqi forces against Islamic State welcomed the news, as did Brett McGurk, the US Special Presidential Envoy to the coalition.

“We congratulate the Prime Minister and all the Iraqi people on this significant achievement, which many thought impossible,” he said in a series of tweets.

“We honour the sacrifices of the Iraqi people, its security forces, and the Kurdish Peshmergas, and admire the unity in their ranks that had made this day possible.”

The US State Department also issued a statement of congratulations. Mosul, the group’s de facto capital in Iraq, fell in July after a gruelling nine-month campaign backed by a US-led coalition that saw much of the northern Iraqi city destroyed.

Islamic State’s Syrian capital Raqa also fell to a US-backed Kurdish-led coalition in September.

Libya and Italy to set up operations room to tackle migrant smuggling

TRIPOLI — Libya’s U.N.-backed government agreed with Italy on Saturday to establish a joint operations room for tackling migrant smugglers and traffickers as part of efforts to curb migrant flows towards Europe, according to a statement.

Libya is the main gateway for migrants trying to cross to Europe by sea, though numbers have dropped sharply since July as Libyan factions and authorities have begun to block departures under Italian pressure.

More than 600,000 have made the journey over the past four years.

The agreement to set up the operations room was announced after a meeting in Tripoli between the head of the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), Fayez Sarraj, Libyan Interior Minister Aref Khodja, and his Italian counterpart Marco Minniti. A statement from Sarraj’s office said the centre would consist of “representatives from the coastguard, the illegal migration department, the Libyan attorney general and the intelligence services, along with their counterparts.”

No details were given on the location of the centre and how it would operate. In the past, migrant smugglers have worked with impunity in western Libya, where the GNA has little authority over armed groups that have real power on the ground.

The Italian navy already has a presence in Tripoli port, providing “technical” assistance to Libya’s coastguard, according to Italian and Libyan officials.

The coastguard, which is receiving funding and training from the European Union, has become more assertive in recent months in intercepting migrants and bringing them back to Libya.

With foes absent, Venezuela’s socialists to gain from local vote

CARACAS — Venezuela’s ruling Socialist Party looked set to sweep Sunday’s nationwide mayoral polls, deepening opposition splits and consolidating President Nicolas Maduro’s position ahead of a likely 2018 re-election campaign.

Major opposition parties were boycotting the elections for 335 municipal mayors around the South American nation of 30 million people, in protest at a vote system they say is at the service of Maduro’s “dictatorship”.

But some small parties in the Democratic Unity coalition have dissented and run candidates, confusing opposition supporters already disillusioned at the failure to weaken Maduro in months of protests earlier this year that claimed 125 lives.

On a roll after surprise wins in October gubernatorial elections, the socialists were pulling out the stops to increase their current roughly 70 per cent share of mayorships.

“The opposition controls 76 mayorships; it’s virtually impossible for them to keep half of those,” predicted local elections expert Eugenio Martinez, saying abstentionism was a gift to the government’s already well-oiled election machinery.

The socialists also hoped to win a re-run of the October gubernatorial election in western Zulia state. That vote was annulled after winning opposition candidate Juan Pablo Guanipa refused to swear loyalty to a pro-Maduro legislative superbody.

Manuel Rosales, a former Zulia governor who fled to Peru in 2009 after corruption charges levelled by the government of Maduro’s predecessor Hugo Chavez, was running for the opposition this time. But Guanipa supporters and other sectors of the opposition boycotting Sunday’s vote have called him a “traitor.” —Reuters
Russia says it is fully committed to nuclear missile pact

MOSCOW — Russia said on Saturday it was fully committed to a Cold War-era pact with the United States banning intermediate-range cruise missiles, a day after Washington accused Moscow of violating the treaty.

The US State Department said on Friday Washington was reviewing military options, including new intermediate-range cruise missile systems, in response to what it said was Russia’s ongoing violation of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

The warning was the first response by President Donald Trump’s administration to US charges first levelled in 2014 that Russia had deployed a ground-launched cruise missile that breaches the pact’s ban on testing and fielding missiles with ranges of 500-5,500 kms (310-3,417 miles).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said those allegations were “absolutely unfounded”.

“They are not supported by the technical characteristics of the launch installation which allegedly does not comply with the treaty, or by flight telemetry data. Nothing. And it is understandable why — because it simply does not exist,” he said in written comments published by the foreign ministry.

Echoing previous Russian statements, Ryabkov said Moscow was fully committed to the treaty, had always rigorously complied with it, and was prepared to continue doing so.

“However, if the other side stops following it, we will be forced, as President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin has already said, to respond in kind,” he added.

The US allegation has further strained relations between Moscow and Washington, and the State Department on Friday hinted at possible economic sanctions over the issue.

Washington has already sanctioned Russian entities and individuals, including people close to Putin, for Moscow’s 2014 seizure of Crimea from Ukraine and its alleged interference in the 2016 US presidential election. The Kremlin has repeatedly denied interfering in the election.

Ryabkov said the “attempts to frighten us with sanctions” were laughable.

“It’s time for American politicians and diplomats to understand that economic and military pressure on Russia will not work,” he said. — Reuters

French conservatives choose leader to rattle Macron’s perch

PARIS — In his first seven months in office, President Emmanuel Macron has faced little opposition. But come Sunday, the once-dominant Republicans elect a new leader they hope might recover the party’s voice.

Frontrunner to lead the party of former presidents Jacques Chirac and Nicolas Sarkozy is Laurent Wauquiez, an ambitious 42-year-old who like Macron passed through the elite ENA school and promises to shake up the political establishment.

There are few policy parallels between the two men, however. Wauquiez is a relentless critic of the 38-year-old president, dismissing him as out of touch with rural France, weak on security and too much in favour of closer European integration.

In his campaign to lead the party, Wauquiez has charted a rightward path to attack Macron’s social and economic reforms.

“The Right is waking up. It is back and I want to be clear: we’re not going to be told what we can say or think any more,” Wauquiez told Reuters.

“The future of France’s democracy cannot be a centrist swamp that gathers both Socialists and right-wingers around Macron,” he said. — Reuters

— The Global New Light of Myanmar
UN envoy ends North Korea visit with apparent lack of progress

BEIJING — The UN political affairs chief on Saturday ended a rare visit to North Korea after holding talks with senior diplomats, but apparently with a lack of major progress in stopping the country’s accelerating nuclear weapons and missile programmes.

Shortly after Jeffrey Feltman, undersecretary general for political affairs, returned to Japan, North Korea’s official news agency put out a report summarizing his visit saying the country told him the United States is totally responsible for the current tense situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Feltman later arrived in Beijing but did not make any comments to a horde of journalists waiting for him. The United Nations has not given any details about what the two sides discussed.

On Thursday, Feltman, the most senior UN official to have visited Pyongyang in more than six years, met with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, who told reporters in New York in September that his country could test a powerful hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean.

During the discussions, the Korean Central News Agency said, the diplomats noted that “the present tense situation of the peninsula is entirely ascribable to the US hostile policy and nuclear threat.”

The UN side, meanwhile, voiced “its readiness to make a contribution to the relaxation of the tension on the peninsula under the UN Charter” and both sides agreed to communicate through visits at various levels on a regular basis, according to KCNA.

Feltman had a separate meeting with Vice Foreign Minister Pak Myong Guk on Wednesday. Feltman also visited a factory and several hospitals sponsored by UN agencies while he was in the North Korean capital, with KCNA saying he recognized that a series of sanctions imposed by the international community on Pyongyang are “negatively affecting” its humanitarian assistance.

The report may suggest that inviting him to North Korea had an ulterior purpose of highlighting the plight of its ordinary citizens affected by the sanctions.

North Korea has faced multiple rounds of UN sanctions over its tests of nuclear and ballistic missile technologies.

The United Nations has no plans to provide information about the outcome of Feltman’s trip until he returns to New York. According to diplomatic sources, he is scheduled to brief the UN Security Council on Tuesday afternoon in a possibly closed-door meeting.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said the political chief had not met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as of Friday.

Guterres disclosed this in a group interview with the Japanese media in New York ahead of his visit to Tokyo next week, his first since taking office in January.

Japan, US, South Korea to hold missile tracking drill amid North Korea crisis

TOKYO — The United States, Japan and South Korea will hold two days of missile tracking drills starting on Monday, Japan’s Maritime Self-Defense Force said, as tensions rise in the region over North Korea’s fast-developing weapons programmes.

The United States and South Korea conducted large-scale military exercises last week, which the North said made the outbreak of war “an established fact”.

North Korea has fired missiles over Japan as it pursues nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in defiance of UN sanctions and international condemnation. On 29 November, it tested an intercontinental ballistic missile which it said was its most advanced yet, capable of reaching the mainland United States. This week’s exercises will be the sixth drills sharing information in tracking ballistic missiles among the three nations, the defence force said.

It did not say whether the controversial THAAD system would be involved. The installation of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea has angered China, which fears its powerful radar could look deep into China and threaten its own security. North Korea’s missile test last month prompted a US warning that North Korea’s leadership would be “utterly destroyed” if war were to break out. The Pentagon has mounted repeated shows of force after North Korean tests.

The United States has also pressured China and other nations to cut trade and diplomatic ties with North Korea, as part of international efforts to dry up Pyongyang’s illegal cash flows that could fund its weapons programmes. On Sunday, South Korea said it would impose new unilateral sanctions on 20 institutions and a dozen individuals in North Korea, barring any financial transactions between those sanctioned and any South Koreans.

Philippines’ Duterte to seek one-year extension of Mindanao martial law

MANILA — Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte will ask Congress to extend martial law in the volatile southern island of Mindanao to quell an insurgency, cabinet officials said on Sunday.

Duterte placed the restive region of 22 million people under martial rule on 23 May after Islamist militants took over parts of the southern Marawi City in what was the Philippines’ biggest security crisis in years.

Martial law is due to expire on 31 December.

The Philippine leader will formally request on Monday a one-year extension of martial law, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea told reporters.

The 23-member Senate and the 296-member House of Representatives, which convene in joint session, are due to go on recess on 16 December to 14 January 2018.

Military rule should be extended in Mindanao given threats from Maodo guerrillas, Islamist militants and separatist groups, Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said.

Militants linked to Islamic States, which tried to gain a foothold in Southeast Asia by capturing parts of Marawi City, are strengthening their recruitment programs, Andanar said.

Andanar told a radio interview.

The request comes nearly two months after Duterte declared the liberation of Marawi City. More than 1,100 people — mostly militants — were killed and 350,000 displaced by the Marawi unrest.

Continuing martial law beyond the initial 60-day limit requires lawmakers’ approval, but the constitution does not restrict how long it can be extended.

Andanar said.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte participates in the opening session of the 15th ASEAN-India Summit at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila, Philippines, on 14 November 2017.  

PHOTO: REUTERS

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—Reuters
California’s Getty museum survives wildfire, ready for quakes

LOS ANGELES — Southern California’s Getty Center, one of the world’s wealthiest art institutions, said it had survived a wildfire tearing through Los Angeles thanks to a disaster plan that has it ready for earthquakes as well.

Fires that have chased almost 200,000 Californians from their homes covered the Getty’s hillside location in smoke this week. Perched above the busy 405 freeway, an artery of California’s traffic system, the Getty is among the most visited US museums and reopened on Friday after two days closed.

The Getty’s design, and a plan developed with insurers eager to keep the valuable collection safe, helped shield from damage the art including Edouard Manet’s “Spring,” for which it paid more than $65 million in 2014.

More than 5,700 firefighters have battled six large wind-stoked fires and several smaller ones that erupted since Monday. More than 200,000 people have been forced to evacuate.

As gray clouds swept onto the campus earlier in the week, a high-tech air filtration system pushed air out of buildings, making it harder for smoke to seep inside, said Linda Somerville, assistant director of insurance and risk management for the J. Paul Getty Trust, which oversees the Getty Center and has nearly $12 billion in assets, including art.

The museum has its own water tanks and has landscaped the complex in order to keep flames at bay. “By putting all these bells and whistles in, we are able to wet down our hillsides, close intake valves and keep smoke and debris out,” Somerville said.

 Getty representatives meet quarterly with US commercial property insurer FM Global, the Getty’s insurer; to review everything from brush on the property to sprinkler system design, Somerville said.

The Getty, which opened in 1997, also works year-round at preventing potential earthquake damage, Somerville said.

Art and display cases throughout the museum sit atop systems that absorb the energy of earthquake vibrations, known as base isolators. And experts who repair art and artifacts in the Getty’s conservation labs must secure the items to stable surfaces in case an earthquake hits.

“Everything is latched down at all times,” Somerville said. — Reuters

A-bomb survivor urges N Korea, US to never use nuclear weapons

OSLO — An atomic bomb survivor who played a role in the award of this year’s Nobel Peace Prize to a group campaigning to ban nuclear weapons urged North Korea and the United States on Saturday — ahead of the prize awarding ceremony in Oslo — to never resort to using nuclear weapons.

Setsuko Thurlow, 85, who survived the 1945 US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and now lives in Canada, also criticized the Japanese government for not joining the landmark nuclear weapons ban treaty promoted by the prize winner, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

Amid the heightening tension between Washington and Pyongyang, Thurlow said at a press conference in Oslo: “I repeatedly and strongly urge the leaders (of the United States and North Korea) never to use nuclear weapons, and urged them to negotiate without issuing military threats.

She also said Japan has “a moral responsibility” as the only country to have suffered atomic bomb attacks, to work to eliminate nuclear weapons. Thus it was “unfortunate,” she said, that the government of Japan has not joined the UN treaty despite being prodded to do so by atomic bomb survivors and its citizens.

ICAN won this year’s peace prize for work that led to the adoption in July of the UN treaty outlawing nuclear weapons. But Japan did not vote in support, likely due to its reliance on the protection provided by the US nuclear deterrent.

Thurlow said that the atomic bomb survivors were “unacceptable human suffering,” and highlighted the need to convey the memories of atomic bomb survivors, or hibakusha, so as not to repeat their tragedy.

Japan is the only country ever to be attacked with a nuclear weapon. The United States dropped a first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August, 1945, and a second on Nagasaki three days later, during the final stages of World War II. ICAN Executive Director Beatrice Fihn and Thurlow are expected to make speeches at the ceremony on Sunday. Thurlow said she will give an account of the horrors in Hiroshima in her speech.

Norwegian state broadcaster NRK reported that the Russian and Chinese ambassadors to Norway will not attend the award ceremony. That means no ambassador from any of the five major nuclear powers will be there as the United States, Britain and France also are not sending their ambassadors. Normally most ambassadors to Norway attend the annual event. But the nuclear powers are believed to be boycotting the peace prize ceremony due to the nuclear weapons ban treaty promoted by ICAN. — Kyodo News

Cambodia reports new outbreak of H5N1 bird flu

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia has discovered a new outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu in the country’s eastern province of Kompong Cham, according to the government.

In a report filed by the Agriculture Ministry to Prime Minister Hun Sen, a copy of which was seen Saturday, it said 200 chickens were found dead in Koh Svay village.

The report dated Friday said the chickens were found on 28 November, and based on samples tested on Wednesday, it was confirmed that they had succumbed to the H5N1 bird flu virus, which can be fatal to humans.

The report, meanwhile, said the relevant authorities have taken precautions in the area.

Cambodia reported its last bird flu outbreak in January 2017 with the deaths of some 380 chickens and ducks in the eastern province of Svay Rieng. — Kyodo News
The grand final event and awarding ceremony of 2017 peace music festival was held yesterday night at People’s Park, Dagon Township, Yangon. The 2017 Peace music festival was supervised by Ministry of Information, supporting nation peace process.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and wife, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho and wife, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and wife, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin and wife, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and wife, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, cabinet members and wives, Yangon Region Attorney-General U Han Htoo, departmental officials, invited guests and music lovers were in attendance.

Before the competition started, donors and well-wishers handed over the cash for holding the festival successfully to U Myint Htwe Director General of Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) who accepted the cash and returned the certificates of honors to the donors.

In the competition, Phyu Hla, a singer from Sittway competed with the song of composer Kai Zar “U Ma Kwe Theik Ma Pyet”, Kyu Kyu Khaing from Kalay competed with the song of composer Shwe Tai Nyunt “Thiri Yadana”, Sa Paung from Hpa-An competed with the song of composer Kaung Zaw “Sit Ma Pyit Nae” and May Thu Kyaw from Yangon competed with the song of composer Naung Naung (SF) “Chuin Chet Ma Shi”.

Then, Sa Paung and May Thu Kyaw competed with the duet song “Say Yang Chal Par” composed by Min Chit Thu and Phyu Hla and Kyu Kyu Khaing competed with the duet song “Pan Tai Mwe Par Saw” composed by Myat Lay.

The winner, May Thu Kyaw (PMF10) was awarded Ks 30 million and the first runner up, Kyu Kyu Khaing (PMF09) was awarded Ks 20 million by Union Minister Dr Po Myint. The second runner up, Phyu Hla (PMF08) was awarded Ks 10 million and the third runner up, Sa Paung (PMF07) was awarded Ks 5 million by Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. The seven consolation winners were awarded Ks3 million each by the officials.

The Peace Music Festival was supervised by Ministry of Information and held by MRTV across the nation with the aim of arousing public awareness and support of and cooperation in the national reconciliation, the national unity, the internal peace and the democratic federal state.

The well-known singers, Myanmar classic singer Yi Yi That, Zaw Paing, R Zarni, Aung Htet, Acid, Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein, Yadana Mai, Chan Chan, Ni Ni Khin Zaw and seven consolation winners also attended and entertained. —Zaw Gyi, Min Thit
70th International Human Right Day celebrated

The 70th International Human Right Day celebration was held yesterday morning on 68th Street between 26th Street and 27th Street, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, the patron of Mandalay Region Women’s Affairs Committee Dr Yu Yu May and Region Cabinet members and human rights activists attended the celebration.

In his speech, the Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung-stressed legal action to promote and protect the human right of Myanmar citizens. Then, U Aung Myo Min from Equality Myanmar explained the background of human right.

Then the chief minister cut ceremonial ribbon to open the event. Led by the chief minister over 400 cyclists wearing costumes in uniformity distributed human rights awareness pamphlets in Chanayethazan Township.

Myanmar Human Right Commission also held a workshop to postpone the death penalty for the criminals and submitted proposals to the President after examining the prisons of Nyaung U, Myingyan, Htun Bo and Yamein in Mandalay Region and reported to therespective departments.—Thihakoko (Mandalay)

Pyin Oo Lwin Photographic Society launches opening ceremony

Opening ceremony of Pyin Oo Lwin Photographic Society (PPS) was held in front of the PPS hall situated near National Races village of National Kandawgyi Park in the morning of 10 December.

Attendees at the ceremony are Dr Aung Khin and U Aung Min from Mandalay Region Huttaw, U Arkar Lin, Township administrator and PPS’s chairman U Ye Win Naing and executive members.

PPS aims to portray culture of national races and ancient cultural sites through photos and hold photo galleries featuring photos which can bring about political, economical and social, cultural and environmental development. It is also kind of photo library with photograph albums.

There are a group of patrons including U Lu Maung, U Soe Lin, U Khin Maung Win, U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, U Wai Myo Aung, executive members with chairman U Ye Win Naing, vice chairman Ko Richard and secretary Ko Zaw Min Htway, joint secretary Ko Tun Tun (Dream) and 17 members.

Workshop meetings will be held with expert photographers. PPS will lead photo competition of Pyin Oo Lwin Flower Festival which will kick off on 16th December in cooperation with Htoo Companies Group, said U Ye Win Naing, chairman of PPS.—02

Lotaya, Yamom win Tharaphu Magazine’s Mr & Miss Crown 2017

To mark the 20th anniversary of Tharaphu (Crown) Magazine, Mr and Miss Crown 2017 final contest was held at National Theatre on Sunday on a grand scale.

The Crown Magazine organises this kind of contest every five years, giving a chance to young man and woman who won photogenic awards in the magazine’s monthly programme. This year’s contest allows 15 male and 15 female totalling 30 contestants from across the nation.

Among finalists in men’s event, Lotaya won the Mr Crown Award while Miss Crown Award went to Yamom. They were awarded Ks1 million each by the organising body.

After the contest, Best Designer Award went to Designer Kyaw Htet Aung, Mr Citi Fashion Award to Yamon (Yangon); Mr Photogenic Award to Zar Ni Aung (Yangon) and Miss Photogenic Award to Lae Yamin (Yangon); Mr Cool Award to Sandi Kay Khine Thin (Yangon); and Miss Best Body Award to Hsai Ratt (Miyiikinya) and Miss Best Award to Sandi Kay Khine Thin (Yangon); and Mr Photogenic Award to Aung Kaung Pyae (Yangon) and Miss Photogenic Award to May Thada (Yangon).—Aye Min Thu

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

© WEATHER

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (15:30)hrs M.S.T on 10 December the low pressure area over the West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh Coasts still persists. Weather is generally fair over the West Central Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 11th DECEMBER, 2017: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states, scattered in Napyitaw, Ayeyarwady Region and Kachin State, isolated in Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions. Degree of certainly is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about 0.5 - 7 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of likelihood of rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th DECEMBER, 2017: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainly is (80%). FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th DECEMBER, 2017: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainly is (60%). FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th DECEMBER, 2017: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainly is (80%).
LONDON — Chelsea’s hopes of retaining the Premier League title suffered a severe blow as West Ham United upset the form book to win the London derby 1-0 on Saturday and give David Moyes his first victory since taking over as manager. Marko Arnautovic’s early goal and a gritty rearguard action by the Hammers inflicted a first league defeat in eight games on third-placed Chelsea who are 11 points behind leaders Manchester City ahead of their game against second-placed Manchester United on Sunday.

Tottenham Hotspur returned to form with a first win in five league games, thrashing Stoke City 5-1 with Harry Kane scoring twice as Spurs moved back into fifth place.

Burnley are level on 28 points with Tottenham and Arsenal after beating 10-man Watford 1-0 at a wintry Turf Moor thanks to Scott Arfield’s goal on the stroke of halftime.

Watford were reduced to 10 men from the 39th minute after Marvin Zeegelaar was shown a straight red for a wild tackle.

Christian Benteke missed a stoppage-time penalty that would have given Crystal Palace victory over Bournemouth but they had to be content with a 2-2 draw as Jermain Defoe scored twice for the visitors at Selhurst Park. Swansea City climbed off the bottom, above Palace, with a 1-0 home victory over West Bromwich Albion that ended a near two-month run without a victory. —Reuters

Chelsea stunned by West Ham, Tottenham return to form

Myanmar U-21 football team in Viet Nam

Kyaw Zin Lin

In competing for the Viet Nam’s International U-21 Thanh Niên Newspaper Cup, Myanmar U-21 national football team departed for Viet Nam from Yangon international airport yesterday evening.

Myanmar will play round robin format with host team’s U-19 and U-21, Thailand U-21 and Japan’s well known Yokohama Club.

The International U-21 Thanh Niên Newspaper Cup is an annual football tournament held in Vietnam.

The tournament was officially launched in 2007 by Thanh Niên News in cooperation with the Vietnam Football Federation, with the aim of improving youth football in Vietnam.

In addition to improving the quality of football in the country, the tournament also serve to help VFF selectors build up the next generation of players who would represent Vietnam at the senior and U23 levels.

During the first edition of the tournament, which lasted from 24 to 28 October 2007, host nation Vietnam competed against four visiting teams from Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand. Vietnam won the first edition of the tournament, with Thailand finishing as runners-up.

Kyaw Zin Lin

New, innovative players selection made by Shan United in Taunggyi

Kyaw Zin Lin

Young, new, innovative and talented footballers were selected by Shan United FC at the Shan State Sport Stadium on 7 December.

Sixty nine players of under 19 and 25 players of under 25 came and showed their respective football skills so as to be selected in the morning of that day.

The judges acted for the player selection were U Aung Tun Tun of U-19 Shan United team, U Min Thu of U-21 Shan United team and Goal Coach U Yawai Zin.

The final decisions for the player selection will be released soon according to the Shan United FC website. Kanbawza FC was a founding member of the Myanmar National League in 2009, and represents the Shan State. It finished fourth in the league’s inaugural cup competition, the Myanmar National League Cup 2009.

Shan United FC or The Shan Warriors is a Myanmar football club representing of Shan State, based in Taunggyi, Myanmar.

The Shan Warriors is founded by the name of Kanbawza FC in 2005 played as an amateur club in Myanmar League, the highest football league in Myanmar. In 2015, KBZ FC name changed to Shan United FC.

The first professional manager is Aye Maung Gyi, who also guided as a head coach for Kanbawza FC, a former Club of Shan United.

Former Myanmar national football team’s captain, Soe Myat Min is being acted as the team’s head coach.

Shan United gave great happiness to its fans by winning two titles even in a year, the 2017 Myanmar National League Champion and Champion of 2017 General Aung San Shield.

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