Myanmar Hluttaw delegation leaves for ROK on goodwill visit

A MYANMAR Hluttaw goodwill delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat left Yangon for the Republic of Korea at 11:15 pm yesterday at the invitation of ROK’s National Assembly Speaker Mr Moon Hee-sang. They were seen off by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint and Hluttaw representatives, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa and officials from the Hluttaw office at the Yangon International Airport. U T Khun Myat is accompanied by Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee Chairman U Tin Htwe, Pyithu Hluttaw Electricity and Energy Development Committee Chairman U Kyi Moe Naing and Pyithu Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee members U Kyin Wan and U Tun Kyaw and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office. — MNA

Myanmar Hluttaw delegation leaves for ROK on goodwill visit

PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin briefs AUMM on Myanmar’s cooperation with ASEAN to facilitate repatriation process

THE Alternate Leader of Myanmar Delegation to the 74th UNGA and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin apprised the United Nations Secretary General and ASEAN Foreign Ministers on Myanmar’s cooperation with ASEAN in addressing the issue of Rakhine at the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting (AUMM) held on 28 September 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The President of the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General and UN high-level officials also attended the meeting.

The Union Minister made the brief intervention in response to United Nations Secretary General’s remarks calling for ASEAN to take an active and effective role in resolving the massive displacement of people from Rakhine State and the root causes of the problem at the Meeting.

In his response, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin explained that the issue of Rakhine is one of the complex challenges faced by Myanmar on its nascent transition to democracy and...
Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 43/2019

MEETING 43/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Aye Tha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

— MNA  ■  (Translated by Zaw Min)

International Rubber Conference 2019 discusses boosting this industry

The International Rubber Conference 2019 was organized at Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with the aims to promote the market of its products.

The opening ceremony of conference was attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Thun Myint, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, the deputy ministers, members of Hluttaw Affairs committees, agriculture ministers from State/Region governments, Permanent Secretaries, directors-general, departmental officials, Secretary of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries Dr Nguyen Ngoc Bich, General Secretary of International Rubber Research and Development Board Dr Abdul Aziz, the representatives from members countries of these associations, members of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association and rubber experts from local and foreign organizations.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu made an opening remark at the ceremony, with saying the sustainable development in natural rubber plantation to avoid degradation of forests, biodiversity and ecosystem.

He also said to support the under-20-acres rubber planters who contribute over 90 per cent of rubber plantation in the country.

The Union Minister also suggested to increase the export substitution for rubber products to expand market for rubber planters and create more job opportunities while the demand is surging in tires for motorbikes and automobiles.

He also advised to adopt policies for sustainable development of this industry, establish rubber boards as in the countries with thriving rubber plantation, generate human resources, cooperate with local and international organizations, support in production of high-quality rubber, providing assistance to small-scaled rubber planters, conduct training courses, disseminate knowledge and carry out researches continuously.

He also highlighted the importance of upgrading research facilities and laboratories, growing high-yield and locally adapted rubber varieties, and establishment of research plantation.

U Aung Myint Htoo, the chairman of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, discussed the production and market situation, followed by the extended greetings of Secretary of IRRDB Dr Abdul Aziz.

After the opening ceremony, the Union Ministers and the dignitaries looked around the booths of the conference.

As such, it aims to reduce gender discrimination in all lines of work related to maritime travel and the fishery sector.

The Deputy Minister said ships in Myanmar’s waters are already being managed by women who have graduated from the World Maritime University and International Maritime Law Institute.

He said there are 1.2 million people working on ships across the globe yet women make up only 2 per cent of that number. Furthermore, 94 per cent work on cruise ships and the remaining 6 per cent work on cargo ships. There will soon be more opportunities for Myanmar’s women to legally work on ships, said the Deputy Minister.

Next, Dr Jose Thomas Mathieckal and officials from IMO delivered opening remarks and MTTC Asia’s Chairman, Prof Jin Yongxing, delivered an address. This was followed by a slideshow presentation Myanmar’s maritime sector.

— MNA  ■  (Translated by Zaw Min)

World Maritime Day commemorated in Yangon

YANGON commemorated World Maritime Day at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel yesterday morning with Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, U Kyaw Myo, delivering speech on the occasion.

Organized by the International Maritime Organization, the commemoration is held annually in all member nations to promote vessel safety and security and also to raise awareness on preserving the marine environment, said the Deputy Minister.

The theme for 2019’s World Maritime Day, an official United Nations day, is, ‘Empowering Women in the Maritime Community’. As such, it aims to reduce gender discrimination in all lines of work related to maritime travel and the fishery sector.

The Deputy Minister said
Union Minister U Kyaw Tin briefs AUMM on Myanmar’s cooperation with ASEAN to facilitate repatriation process

FROM PAGE-1

the government is striving through a holistic approach for long term stability and sustainable development in the State. The government is now focusing on expediting repatriation and creating a conducive condition for the returnees and the local ethnic peoples in cooperation with ASEAN, UN and the development partners.

The Union Minister informed that Myanmar has been working closely with ASEAN Secretary General’s Secretariat team and the AHA Centre in facilitating the repatriation process. The ASEAN-ERAT Team has come up with its Preliminary Needs Assessment report in May 2019 with three recommendations in identifying the areas of cooperation. Myanmar and ASEAN have put in place a Technical Working Group which is now focussing on implementation of the three recommendations. He added that the meeting that ASEAN had also joined the Myanmar High-level delegation’s visit to Cox’s Bazaar to explain the displaced persons to explain about the arrangements made for their return. He assured that his work of ASEAN AHA team will not substitute but complement and reinforce the ongoing work of the UNHCR and UNDP. He also informed that ASEAN ERAT team was also present together with Myanmar officials at the reception centre in Rakhine State on the agreed date of the repatriation on 22 August 2019. Unfortunately, no one was sent back from Bangladesh on that day. But there were over 230 peoples who have come back voluntarily with their own arrangements and are resuming their normal lives in safe and secure condition.

The Union Minister also pointed out that there are many obstacles, including destructive movements of ARSA in the Cox’s Bazaar camps hindering repatriation and exploiting the plights of displaced persons for their political agenda.

Smooth and successful repatriation requires genuine political will and committed efforts as well as strict adherence to the signed Agreements. He reaffirmed that Myanmar is fully committed to take back the verified returnees based on the bilateral Agreements signed with Bangladesh and the tripartite agreement signed with UNHCR and UNDP.

The Union Minister added that Myanmar has been making efforts in creating conducive environment for voluntary, safe and dignified return of verified displaced persons in cooperation with ASEAN, UN and our bilateral partners. As it is a migrant-related issue involving the two neighbors, bilateral mean is the only viable way to resolve the issue. The international community ignores the need to address the main obstacles for repatriation which is the threat of ARSA terror group to those wishing to return. Recently, the DW TV reported the dangerous movements of ARSA in the Cox’s Bazar Camp. Bangladesh must not allow ARSA’s activities on its soil which can become a security threat not only to Myanmar but also to Bangladesh and beyond. There is an urgent need to create a safe environment for the displaced persons in Cox’s Bazar to express their free will to return.

The Union Minister also informed the meeting that the recent tripartite meeting held in New York has agreed to set up an informal working group meeting among the Ambassadors of Myanmar and China in Dhaka and Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh to discuss about repatriation. If one wishes to make Rakhine a secure and stable environment for the returnees, the government’s capacity to provide security and basic services for all communities must be strengthened not weakened. To that end, he concluded by welcoming the constructive support of partners willing to help with sincerity in resolving the problem. — MNA

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Head of Asia, Pacific Public Sector Operations at EIB

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Ms Angela Marcarino Paris, Head of Asia and Pacific Public Sector Operations at European Investment Bank, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly discussed matters related to the rule of law and justice project, legal reforms to attract, foreign investment in Myanmar, legal affairs needed for EIB’s loan for Myanmar and technical assistance provided to Myanmar and internal procedures. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)
Union Minister U Soe Win receives outgoing Czech Ambassador

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win receives outgoing Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr Jaroslav Dolecek at the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UMFCCI, US-ASEAN Business Council delegation meet in Yangon

Members from Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and US-ASEAN Business Council delegation hold a meeting in UMFCCI office in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Indonesian inmate dies in Kawthoung Prison

An Indonesian citizen who was serving a jail term in the Kawthoung Prison died on 29 September while undergoing treatment at a local hospital, prison officials said yesterday. Zuel Phard Li, 34, passed away on Sunday evening while receiving treatment for hemorrhoids at the Kawthoung People’s Hospital. He had been jailed for fishing illegally in Myanmar’s territorial waters. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Filming of Aung San movie commences in Yangon

CREW of Aung San movie started shooting at the National Museum on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday morning. On the first day, Thihap Thana (Sihasona) or Lion throne was on camera by setting up lighting for the shots from various angles for the opening of this film.

Director Lu Min of the film said, “We start Aung San movie filming today by shooting the Lion Throne for the opening of the film. As this is the original throne, we will try to convey the message of ethical ruling of ancient Myanmar kings.”

No actors performed on the opening day of the shooting.

The director also said, “It took times to begin shooting of this film. We faced many challenges, but we are determined to work for the film till the final production. The next shootings will be taken in Yangon University.”

On 1 October, the shootings will take place in Yangon University, especially at the Bago Hall where Bogyoke Aung San stayed as a university student. The following filming will move to Mandalay and Inwa to present about the period of Bo Min Yaung, the grandfather of Bogyoke Aung San, during the colonial time. The childhood life of Bogyoke Aung San will be shot in Natmauk and Ye-nangyoung townships in central Myanmar.

It is expected to finalize the good quality film in five months. Led by Director Academy Lu Min, the crew of production for this film includes members of story/script compilation sub committees, Casting Director Alikar Kyawsoe Academy Artist Soe Moe, Production Designer Academy U Tun Aung Zaw, Art Director Academy Soe Kyaw San.

Casts in the film are Kyaw Kyaw Myo for the character of Bogyoke Aung San, Nant Zarchi Lin for Daw Khin Kyi, Academy Min Yaung, Academy Ye Aung, Academy Min Oo, Academy Khant Si Thu, Nai Nai, Nyo Min Lwin, Pyay Zaw, Moe Hay Ko and other supporting actors. — MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)
Need to raise tourism promotion budget to increase national revenue: Yangon govt

By Nyein Nyein

TO increase the revenue of the nation, a bigger budget needs to be allocated for tourism promotion activities, according to Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs and the deputy chairman of the regional tourism committee.

“Tourism revenue can contribute to the economic development of the country. Therefore, we need a somewhat bigger budget to promote the tourism industry. If the Ministry forwards a project proposal which clearly states the budget spending in each sector in the industry, the hluttaw can screen the proposal to debate and approve it. This way, the tourism sector can improve. However, the current budget allocation for the tourism sector is extremely low,” she said.

“The tourism sector can create job opportunities and also earn revenue for the country. When the budget was allocated, only a small amount went to the sector,” she added.

“More than 1 million tourists enter the country per year. We can earn around US$1.3 billion. But, budget spending in this sector is less than 1 per cent of the national income,” said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo.

“To boost the tourism sector, good customer service is first priority. We are working with 11 associates to set ratings of hotels, motels, and restaurants,” she said.

“Myanmar has many tourist sites. However, good customer service is important to attract tourists. We need to make sure they feel comfortable and get a good service. Skilled labour is also needed to provide healthy and clean service to customers in hotels and restaurants. The 11 associates are preparing to set the ratings of hotels and restaurants to ensure food safety,” said the minister.

Mostly, Chinese tourists have entered the country this year. Over 740,000 travellers visited Yangon in the seven months till July; an increase of 100,000 compared to the year-ago period, according to U Naing Win, the director of the Yangon Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Earlier, the hotels and tourism sector was regulated by the Union government. Under the Myanmar Tourism Law 2018, the sector has been decentralized and more power given to the regional and state governments, said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein is the chairman of the regional tourism committee. The members of the committee include officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, Civil Society Organizations, and non-Governmental Organizations, including the Union of Myanmar Travel Association.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Ease of Doing Business 2020: Myanmar among top 20 improvers

MYANMAR has been ranked as one of the top 20 improvers in Doing Business 2020 by the World Bank, based on the number of reforms and the degree by which the country’s ease of doing business score has improved.

Myanmar implemented five initiatives that enhanced its business environment. The city of Yangon imposed stronger construction quality controls by introducing stricter qualification requirements for architects and engineers, and invested in its water and sanitation infrastructure. Additionally, Myanmar launched an online company registry platform, merging several procedures and reducing the need for in-person interaction. The country also made property registration faster by streamlining deed registration and appraisal. In addition, Myanmar courts started publishing performance measurement reports, and a new company law strengthened minority investor protection by mandating greater disclosure of transactions with interested parties, increasing director liability and requiring greater corporate transparency, the World Bank stated.

Doing Business has selected economies that have implemented reforms to make it easier to do business in three or more of the 10 areas included in this year’s ease of doing business score.

Doing Business has also sorted economies on the basis of the increase in their ease of doing business score due to reforms from the previous year. The list of top-20 improvers does not fully reflect an economy’s attractiveness for businesses, and is based purely on the improvements across 10 different regulatory areas. The choice of the most improved economies is determined by the largest improvements in the ease of doing business score among those with at least three reforms, the World Bank stated.

The list of the best performing or best ranked economies will be disclosed at the Doing Business 2020 launch on 24 October.

In Doing Business 2019 rankings, Myanmar had been placed a lowly 171 among 190 countries.

To improve the ease of doing business ranking and provide precise answers to the tricky questions posed by the World Bank, Myanmar held coordination meetings for the public and private sectors at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Last year, the World Bank determined a country’s ease of doing business rank based on 11 indicators: starting a business, obtaining construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, resolving insolvency, and managing labour; all of which are incorporated into those indicators in 2018.—GNLM

Lower imports drag down trade deficit to $1.1 bln

A fall in imports over the past eleven- and-a-half months of the current financial year has helped narrow Myanmar’s trade deficit to US$1.1 billion, a significant drop from a trade gap of $3.23 billion registered in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October 2018 and 20 September 2019, Myanmar’s external trade decreased to $34 billion from $34.4 billion recorded in the same period of the previous FY.

In the October-September period, exports were estimated at $16.45 billion and imports were valued at $17.5 billion. Compared to the previous fiscal, exports have increased by $792 million, while imports have fallen by $1.3 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, CMP raw materials, and consumer goods.

The country’s export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country’s reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The government is trying to cut the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports. Myanmar’s trade deficit was pegged at $1.3 billion in the last mini-budget period, $3.9 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, $5.3 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, and $5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization.—Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Municipal water supply only meant for household use in Yangon: YCDC

By Nyein Nyein

THE WATER supplied by the municipal authorities in Yangon Region is only meant for household use, and not for drinking, said U Sein Ohn, a member of the No 9 water supply and water distribution team, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

“Our water supply department does not supply water for drinking purposes; the water is only meant for household use. So, the water we provide is merely for domestic use. We don’t say we are supplying drinking water,” he added.

“Although we are supplying water for domestic use, people can boil the water; if they wish to use it for drinking. We have also been drinking municipal water our entire life — for more than 60 years,” said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

To implement a public private partnership (PPP) system for water distribution in Yangon, private companies were invited to submit expressions of interest (EOIs) on 27 August, according to the tender committee of the YCDC.

“Local and foreign or joint venture companies need to submit their proposals to the water supply and water distribution team by 28 October. Late proposals will not be considered. The tender committee will invited qualified companies after scrutinizing the proposals.”

Currently, the YCDC is facing great difficulties in terms of wastage of water as well as insufficient number of staff. So, the authorities have decided to invite private companies to conduct the water distribution business in the Yangon City Area, said U Maung Maung Soe.

“The water meter charges for Yangon region collected by the YCDC do not cover the cost of production. There are two types of costs: fixed costs and operation costs. The fixed costs are concerned with the installation of the pipelines. The current rate for water is much lower than the actual cost because the government is subsidizing water supply for the sake of the general public. You can compare this problem with the production and supply of electricity! The higher the water or electric supply, the greater the loss the government suffers,” said the Yangon Mayor.

Although the YCDC is facing losses in water distribution, it has not increased the water meter charges so far. Currently, the committee is launching an awareness campaign on the systematic installation of water meters, and curbing wastage of water and illegal tapping of water from pipelines.

At present, the YCDC is charging K88 per unit of water for residential use and K110 per unit for commercial use. One unit equals 220 gallons. Water rates in Yangon are still low compared to Mandalay.

Although the committee is supplying more than 200 million gallons a day from Hlawga, Gyeyu, Phyu, and Ngamoyeik reservoirs, almost half of the water supply is getting wasted or lost during distribution.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

COMMISSION was awarded to farmers affected by the Bago River Bridge project (Darpein-Thabyu) during a ceremony held recently at the meeting room of the Township General Administration Department, Hlegu Township, northern Yangon District.

At the ceremony, Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Thein San, regional representative Daw Myat Marla Tun, Township Administrator U Htay Aung, Bridge Management Department Deputy Director U Myint Win, and Township City Development Affairs Committee Assistant Director U Khin Oo disbursed over K220 million to 39 farmers as compensation for 30.34 acres of farmland acquired for the project and loss of crops.

—Naing Lin (Hlegu)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Tourists arrive up at Tachilek border checkpoint

The Tachilek border gate registered 26,322 tourist arrivals between 20 and 26 September, according to official data. Tourists entered Myanmar through the gate for day trips and overnight stays.

Tachilek has well-known destinations for day visits, such as the Tarlat market, Bayintnaung statue, Mahu Myat Muni Pagoda, Wankaung market, and Kengtung townships, such as the Maha Myat Muni pagoda, Wat Inn monastery, Yat Taw Mu, and Koeklet waterfall in Kengtung. Afterwards, they travelled on to Heho-Yangon-Mandalay-Lashio on domestic flights.

A total of 870,576 tourists entered Myanmar through the border gates, and 46,500 tourists entered the country on free visas, according to data recorded between 1 January and 26 September.

A large number of foreign travellers are visiting Myanmar through the international entrances and border checkpoints to enjoy its natural scenery, visit tourist destinations, and explore the lifestyles of the ethic people.

—MOHT

(Translated by La Wonn)
Top Iran general says destroying Israel ‘achievable goal’

TEHRAN (Iran)—The commander of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said Monday that destroying arch-rival Israel has become an “achievable goal” thanks to his country’s technological advances.

‘The Islamic regime must be wiped off the map and this is no longer...a dream (but) it is an achievable goal,” General Hossein Salami said, quoted by the Guards’ Sepah news site.

Four decades on from Iran’s Islamic revolution, “we have managed to obtain the capacity and means to destroy the Israeli Zionist regime”, he said.

Salami’s comments, while not unusual for Iranian officials, come amid particularly heightened international tensions over Iran’s nuclear programme and its military influence in the region.

In a statement, he urged the parties to meet at the “nearest opportunity” to resume discussions on future exchanges. The Husitis’ own announcement on the prisoner release said there were 350 in the group, including three Saudis.

“We have presented to the United Nations a unilateral initiative to release 350 prisoners,” Abdel Kader Mortaza, the Husiti official in charge of prisoner affairs, said at a press conference in Sanaa. — AFP ■

Thai govt determined to solve traffic problems by building metros: PM

BANGKOK — Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Monday presided over the official opening ceremony of a metro line extension in Bangkok and emphasized the role of metro in solving the city’s severe traffic congestion. During his speech at the official opening ceremony of the Blue Line Extension from Wat Mangkon to Lak Song, Prayut said the government is devoted to solving Bangkok’s traffic congestion by implementing major infrastructure projects, especially metros.

The prime minister said it is written in the 20-year National Strategy that the government has to upgrade the traffic condition in Bangkok and the Bangkok metropolitan region to improve the city’s competitiveness and facilitate transport for commuters. The Blue Line extension is one urgent project of the government, he said — Xinhua ■

Indonesian police fire tear gas at protesters approaching parliament

JAKARTA — Protesters clashed with police Monday evening in Indonesia’s capital Jakarta while attempting to reach the parliament building, with the police firing tear gas to disperse them.

The protesters say proposed revisions of the Criminal Code would undermine civil liberties, while an amendment to a law on the Corruption Eradication Commission would reduce its authority and independence.

Thousands of protesters, including university students, high school students and laborers, threw stones at police officers near blocked streets leading to the parliament.

Several train stations and roads were closed for security reasons.

U.S. Ambassador Martin Griffiths, welcomed the announcement of the ICRC that three Saudis were freed.

Mr Griffiths said, referring to the 2018 decision in May 2018 to pull out of the landmark nuclear accord between Tehran and the West, has charged that “Iran calls for Israel’s destruction and they work for its destruction each day, every day, relentlessly”.

He welcomed his ally US President Donald Trump’s decision in May 2018 to pull out of the landmark nuclear accord between Tehran and world powers, arguing the deal would “enable Iran to threaten Israel’s survival”.

Israel considers Iran as the archrival and has carried out many strikes against the Islamic state, Iran has responded to the US withdrawal by increasing its nuclear programme and its military influence in the region.

The country has been consistently hostile towards Israel since its revolution, and Tehran openly supports anti-Israeli armed groups including Palestinian Hamas and Lebanon’s Hezbollah.

'Segregation' is not a recognition of Israel, but a dream the world powers in 2018, has withdrawn from a landmark nuclear accord between Tehran and the world powers, leading to the parliament.

The International Committee of the Red Cross hailed the move as “a positive step that will hopefully revive the release, transfer and repatriation of conflict-related detainees” under a deal struck last year between the rebels and Yemen’s government.

The Husitis recently announced the capture of hundreds of Yemeni loyalist forces in an August offensive near the Saudi border, but they were not among those freed on Monday: the United Nations’ special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, welcomed the initiative to “unilaterally release detainees”. ■

The United States, which withdrew from a landmark nuclear deal between Iran and world powers in 2018, has imposed a campaign of “maximum pressure” — with vocal support from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The comments by the commander of Iran’s ideological army were given prominent coverage by the Tasnim and Fars news agencies, close to ultra-conservative political factions.

The official IRNA agency also carried his remarks, but placed more emphasis on his assertion that Iran was growing stronger and would finally beat its foes despite “hostility” towards it.

In contrast, foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Moussavi in a tweet wished “Happy (Jewish) New Year to our Jewish compatriots and to all true followers of great prophet Moses (PBUH), an acronym for ‘peace be upon him’.

Moussavi’s greetings were written in Persian, English and Hebrew.

Iran only has a few thousand Jews left compared to hundreds of thousands Jews left compared to hundreds of thousands of Jews left in the region 30 years earlier this month, the ICRC said.

By 2018, the number of gaps in the map had risen to six months in prison and “obscene acts” in public by up to six months in prison. It also covers abortions, blasphemy, pornography, the spreading of Marxist-Leninist teachings, and “insults” to the president or vice present.

The changes to the anti-graft body would limit its ability to authorize wiretaps and subject it to oversight that many fear would lead to interference.

Since its founding in 2002, the body has pursued investigations leading to convictions of high-profile figures including a House speaker and dozens of parliament members, ministers, governors and top business leaders.

Several previous attempts to weaken it through proposed legislation failed due to strong public opposition. — Kyodo News ■
Equality cannot go hand in hand with prejudice. The UN cannot ignore the growing acknowledgments of other countries upon Myanmar’s development and transition. The multiple accusatory reports on Myanmar are not based on solid facts and only incorporate partial information that only serve their own agendas. The UN Government respects human rights and has produced tangible results that are visible upon close inspection. Some have produced tangible results that are visible upon close inspection. A lot of nations have given their acknowledgements to the Union Government for the role our country. Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional health director of the WHO South-East Asia Region has made dramatic progress in advancing public health and well-being. Its newly updated Flagship Priorities will fast-track its trajectory.

In recent years, the WHO South-East Asia Region has made dramatic progress in advancing public health and well-being. Its newly updated Flagship Priorities will fast-track its trajectory.

Flagship Priorities will accelerate its winning trajectory and continue to accelerate efforts to strengthen health systems, improve health services and address the major causes of death and disability. They will also continue to accelerate efforts to improve the health and well-being of the region’s most vulnerable populations, including women, children, adolescents, older persons and people with disabilities. They will also continue to accelerate efforts to improve the health and well-being of the region’s most vulnerable populations, including women, children, adolescents, older persons and people with disabilities.

The Flagship Priorities are designed to achieve specific outcomes and targets, and are a series of key initiatives. This report focuses on one of those initiatives, the “Rosenthal report regarding the mini ice ages that our scientists have reported on”.

The Rosenthal report, published in 2009, describes a series of mini ice ages that occurred in the past few thousand years. These mini ice ages were characterized by a cooling of the Earth’s climate, which led to the formation of glaciers and the lowering of sea levels. The report suggests that these mini ice ages were caused by variations in the Earth’s orbit and axial tilt, which can affect the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth.

The Rosenthal report also notes that mini ice ages are not a new phenomenon, and that the Earth has experienced them in the past. For example, the last mini ice age began around 17,000 years ago and ended around 11,000 years ago.

The report notes that mini ice ages can have significant consequences for human health. For example, they can lead to changes in the distribution of diseases, such as malaria, which is transmitted by mosquitoes.

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Is the much anticipated Mini Ice Age a possibility?

**FROM PAGE 9**

According to them, another “Maunder Minimum” could hit Earth again in the 2030s, the first such event to occur since the early 1700s. New experiments on the Sun’s solar cycle carried out at Northumbria University suggest solar activity will see a “significant” drop, causing temperatures on Earth to plummet. Such periods were thought to be driven by convecting waves of fluids deep within the Sun. But new research suggests a second force, or “wave”, is also causing them. Two waves, operating at different layers in the Sun’s interior, are now believed to drive the solar activity.

When these waves are de-synchronized, temperatures on Earth will fall. Both waves fluctuate between the northern and southern hemispheres of the Sun. When the waves stay in phase we see high levels of solar activity such as sunspots, and when out of phase we see low activity. Such events are in no way linked to climate change, with fluctuations in solar activity having a far smaller impact than global warming. Thus it can be assumed that Maunder Minimum is not caused by the climate change.

**Possibility of another “mini ice age”**

If the scientists’ prediction should prove to be true it would mean a return to freezing temperatures last seen 370 years ago. During that period the River Thames froze to such an extent that regular “frost fairs” were held during the winter, with market stalls and ice skating a common sight on the river. During the winter of 1683-84 the river was frozen solid for two months to a thickness of 28cm, according to historical records. Solid ice was also reported extending for miles off the coasts around England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

According to a media report in 2015, solar scientists predicted that the earth is heading for another mini ice age within 15 years. Research has predicted a new solar “Maunder Minimum” to take place in the 2030s. Solar researchers at the University of Northumbria have created a new model of the sun’s activity which they claim produces “unprecedentedly accurate predictions”. They said fluid movements within the sun will converge in the 2030s. Thus, the earth is 15 only years from a period of low solar activity similar to that last seen in the 17th century during the “Little Ice Age”, when the River Thames froze.

Solar scientists are adamant that this will lead to a situation known as “Maunder Minimum”. Maunder Minimum, indicating low sunspot activity, was the name given to the period between 1645 and 1715, when Europe and North America experienced very cold winters. This phenomenon is also known as the “prolonged sunspot minimum”, when sunspots became exceedingly rare. As was noted by solar observers during the last mini ice age. The term “Maunder Minimum” was named after the prominent solar astronomers Annie Russell Maundr (1868-1947) and her husband, Edward Walter Maundr (1851-1928).

**Conclusion**

Having mentioned that, I would like to analyze the situation as conclusion to this article. Some may think that, with the cold spells about to be brought on by the looming “Maunder Minimum”, there would be some sort of relief from the ravages of the climate change we are facing now. From the past experiences of the “Little Ice Age” that hit Europe and North America, that wouldn’t be the case.

In the higher latitudes, there would be a big freeze up. That would affect seriously on the agriculture and the pastures and grazing grounds for the animals would be under ice or thick layers of snow. The wildlife and the domestic animals could starve to death. There would be shortage of food and famine among humans that could be widespread. Such conditions would impact the populace in those places directly. As for us, in the Tropics, we may find some solace from the cooler weather conditions, which would be a great relief from the scorching heat.

However, I am a bit sceptical that would be the case either. If nearly half the Earth is freezing, the weather patterns would become erratic and nothing could be predicted correctly in the normal way. Anything can happen to us, but as a lay person, I cannot say what or how. So, let us be prepared for the worst and hope for the best.

**Reference**:
2. Little Ice Age - Wikipedia

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**Expenditure on Health and Sport of Myanmar**

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**Expenditure on Education of Myanmar**

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Source: Budget Department
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization
Albania’s endangered Jewish museum reopens

BERAT (Albania) — Albania’s sole Jewish history museum reopened in southern Berat on Sunday thanks to a businessman who rescued it from the brink of closure.

The small “Solomon Museum”, which tells the remarkable story of how Albania’s Jewish population was saved and even grew during the Holocaust, was the project of a local professor, Simon Vrusho.

Vrusho opened the tiny museum in 2018 and funded it with his pension and small donations left in a box by the door.

When the 75-year-old died in February, the future of the exhibit looked uncertain.

But after reading an AFP report about it, French-Albanian businessman Gazmend Toska decided to finance the museum and move it to a larger site in the city, where scores of people gathered Sunday for the opening.

“It was deeply moving to see the response to AFP’s coverage of this museum,” Toska, 58, told an audience at the museum’s new home in Berat’s oldest quarter.

France’s ambassador to Albania, Christina Vasak, praised “a beautiful story of rebirth”.

Vrusho, himself an Orthodox Christian, spent years collecting documents, photos and memories bearing witness to a Jewish community that first arrived in Berat in the 16th century from Spain.

“Memories need to have their own home,” the retired professor, a wiry man with warm eyes, told AFP shortly before he passed away.

‘Unimaginably humane’

At the heart of the exhibit are stories and photos of more than 60 Muslim and Christian families in Berat who hid Jews in their homes and basements during World War II.

They were “deeply, unimaginably humane” people, said Vrusho, whose own image, carved like sardines and “not be able to lie down or rest,” NSPCA spokeswoman Meg Wilson told AFP.

An online petition against the shipment has gathered 77,000 signatures so far.

The NSPCA also conducted two inspections at a farm where the sheep are being raised which revealed abysmal conditions.

“The sheep were fighting for food, there was no shelter, including in the hospital pens, some animals looked underfed with ocular and nasal discharge. Some were blind, limping and bruised all over their bodies,” Wilson said.

Authorities in the Eastern Cape province, where East London is located, said they were not aware that a ship was due to leave for Kuwait shortly carrying live animals.

However, they added that all vessels had to meet “strict requirements” for animal welfare, agriculture reform ministry spokesman Ayongcaw Lungisa said.

PORT ELIZABETH (South Africa) — Animal rights activists in South Africa are trying to stop over 60,000 goats, sheep and cows being shipped to a Kuwaiti abattoir, saying many of them would die en route.

An inspection of the Al Shuweih vessel revealed miserable and cramped conditions, the National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA) said.

“Disease, overcrowding, pneumonia, motion sickness, physical trauma and injuries, and stress creates the perfect environment for excruciating suffering and many animals will die in transit,” it warned.

The Kuwaiti-flagged vessel is docked in the southeastern port of East London.

The animals will be packed like sardines and “not be able to lie down or rest,” NSPCA spokeswoman Meg Wilson told AFP.

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500 Spain hotels ‘to close immediately’ after Thomas Cook fall: industry

MADRID (Spain) — Hundreds of hotels in Spain are facing imminent closure over the collapse of British travel giant Thomas Cook, the head of the Spanish hotel federation warned on Monday.

“There are 500 hotels which are going to be empty immediately due to the collapse of Thomas Cook and the situation could get worse if the government doesn’t take immediate action,” Juan Molas, head of Spain’s Confederation of Hotels and Tourist Accommodation, told business daily Cinco Días.

And the sum in unpaid bills left by the demise of the tour operator would be much higher than the initial estimate of 200 million euros ($220 million), said Molas, whose organisation represents 15,000 businesses.

“It will be much more. The amount for only eight chains is close to 100 million.”

Of those hotels facing immediate closure, 100 were exclusively dependent on Thomas Cook, he said, while the rest counted on the firm for between 30 and 70 percent of their clients.

One hotel in Fuerteventura, the second largest of the Canary Islands, had recently undergone a 20-million-euro upgrade and was now faced with 700 rooms “which are going to be empty from October 7” and 200 employ-ees it would be forced to dismiss.

Worst hit are those in the Canaries and the Balearic Islands, where 40 percent of hotels are affected.

The industry has put together an emergency plan to be presented to Tourism Minister Reyes Maroto at the next Spanish tourism board meeting on October 7 which will also address the urgent question of air links with the Canary Islands.

Industry experts fear the impact there could be even more devastating than elsewhere as the resort is very popular as a winter destination among tourists from northern Europe.

—AFP
Dieselgate is now ‘part of the group’s history’. PHOTO: AFP

Volkswagen faces first mammoth diesel lawsuit on home turf

BRAUNSCHWEIG (Germany) – A case pitting hundreds of thousands of owners of manipulat-ed diesel cars demanding compensation opened against German car behe-moth Volkswagen Monday, four years after the country’s largest post-war industrial scandal erupted.

Around 450,000 people have joined a first-of-its-kind group proceeding, introduced by lawmakers after the dieselgate emissions cheating scandal broke in 2015.

The first hearing in what is likely to be a grind-ing, years-long trial began in 2015. “I bought a manipulated ve-hicle in 2011, said “I don’t think it’s right, the way Volkswagen treated us.”

Uwe Reinicke, who bought a manipulated ve-hicle in 2011, said “I don’t think it’s right, the way Volkswagen treated us.”

The trial is Germany’s largest so far in the tentacular diesel scandal, which last week saw VW chief executive Herbert Diess charged with mar-ket manipulation over his role. —AFP

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (2019)**

Open tenders are invited for service of the following operations in United States Dollars.

Sr No Tender No Description Remark
(1) OS-001 24°Vadana Offshore U$S Domestic Gas Pipeline Free Span Survey

Tender Closing Date & Time - 15-11-2019, 16:30 Hrs

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 16th October, 2019 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No.44 Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (248E)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (248E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of the vessel at the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**M.V MANDARIN FORTUNE**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MANDARIN FORTUNE VOY. NO. (19125) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of the vessel at the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SERVICES CO LTD**

Phone No: 2301185
British PM on defensive again over groping claim

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom) — Britain’s Boris Johnson is known for his colourful love life but the accusation he grabbed a young woman’s thigh when he was a magazine editor risks a scandal as he seeks to unite his party over Brexit.

The prime minister, who is attending his Conservative party’s conference in Manchester, northwest England, is accused of giving a female journalist’s leg “a squeeze” while at a private lunch 20 years ago.

Johnson never comments on his personal life but his spokesman issued a clear denial — an acknowledgement that the claim is more serious than gossip about his affairs. It follows accusations that Johnson gave special access to a US businesswoman that Johnson gave special access to a US businesswoman with whom he is alleged to have had a relationship when he was mayor of London. He denies any impropriety, but it is yet another headache after his defeats in parliament and the courts over his pledge to leave the EU on 31 October, come what may.

Powerful men

In an article published in The Sunday Times, journalist Charlotte Edwards described a boozy lunch in the offices of The Spectator magazine around two decades ago, when Johnson was editor. She was sitting next to him and wrote that “under the table I feel Johnson’s hand on my thigh. He gives it a squeeze.”

“He’s hand is high up my leg and he has enough inner flesh beneath his fingers to make me sit suddenly upright.”

She said a woman she spoke with after the dinner, who was sitting on Johnson’s other side, said the same thing happened to her.

Johnson was married at the time to his second wife. They are now divorced and he currently lives with his girlfriend Carrie Symonds.

Downing Street said Edward’s claim was “untrue”, and the prime minister himself denied it in a television interview, while refusing to comment further. But health minister Matt Hancock said he knew Edwards well, and “I entirely trust what she has to say”.

Former Conservative minister Justine Greening, who is now an independent MP said the claim was “deeply concerning”.

It went “to the heart of this question about character and integrity of people in public life and what standards the electorate have a right to expect,” she told BBC radio. The allegation comes two years after defence minister Michael Fallon quit following revelations he tried to kiss a journalist. Opposition Labour lawmaker Deon Butler added: “What is it about powerful men feeling entitled to harass women? Boris Johnson has serious questions to answer.” — AFP

Death toll in east India’s rain-related incidents reaches over 25

NEW DELHI — Over 25 people have died in more than last 48 hours in rain-related incidents in India’s eastern state of Bihar, media reported on Monday.

Heavy rainfall in several parts of the state has affected roads, railways, air traffic, healthcare facilities and schools. According to the state-run broadcaster, Patna district administration has ordered the closure of all schools till Tuesday. Several teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed in affected areas of the state.

It is also reported that the state government has established a State Emergency Operation Centre to coordinate with the rescue and relief work.

India Meteorological Department on Monday predicted heavy rainfall at isolated places in Bihar. — Xinhua

JCB increasing rate of credit card issuance, topping 1 mln in Viet Nam

HO CHI MINH CITY — Major Japanese credit card issuer JCB Co. topped 1 million in the number of its cardholders in Viet Nam this month, broadening its customer base with perks and discount services.

The number of its credit cards issued in the first half of this year surged 92 per cent from a year earlier, with the market share in Southeast Asia’s emerging economy reaching over 10 per cent, according to Kimihisa Imada, president of JCB International Co., the company’s group arm to oversee businesses outside Japan.

Although the JCB brand still lags far behind Visa and Mastercard in terms of market dominance, the number of JCB credit cards newly issued in Viet Nam in 2018 increased 41 per cent from the previous year, with the total transaction value jump ing 41 per cent.

JCB International is capturing cashless payment demand from consumers as it offers privileges and discounts through partnerships with airlines, retailers, restaurants and shopping malls, Imada said in an interview with NNA on 20 September.

The Tokyo-based unit also provides various types of credit cards specifically targeted at and designed for wealthy individuals and the younger generation.

Since its entry into Viet Nam in 2011, the Japanese brand took five years to gain 500,000 cardholders, but three years for an additional 500,000, said Tomoaki Yamaguchi, chief representative of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City representative offices under JCB International (Thailand) Co.

“We will keep the pace (of business expansion) and aim to achieve a 20 per cent market share in 2020,” Yamaguchi added.

The overseas business unit plans to increase the number of its banking partners in Viet Nam from the present 11 to 15 next year, according to Yamaguchi. — Kyodo News

China holds ceremony to mark Martyrs’ Day

A ceremony presenting flower baskets to deceased national heroes on the Martyrs’ Day is held at Tian’anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, on 30 September 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: XINHUA

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India Meteorological Department on Monday predicted heavy rainfall at isolated places in Bihar. — Xinhua

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS
World leaders pay final tribute to France’s Chirac

PARIS (France) — Dozens of world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, on Monday paid their final respects to France’s ex-president Jacques Chirac as the country held a national day of mourning for its charismatic former head of state.

Putin and other world leaders joined President Emmanuel Macron for a funeral service at the Saint-Sulpice church in the French capital, a day after 7,000 people queued to view Chirac’s coffin.

Chirac’s death on Thursday aged 86 prompted a flood of tributes to a man whose high-profile political career spanned four decades, capped by 12 years as president from 1995 to 2007.

But it also sparked questions about how much the consummate political operator actually achieved during his long spell in office and again threw the spotlight on a 2011 conviction for graft of his presidency, Trump in a

A true intellectual

After a private service for his family at the Invalides memorial complex, Chirac’s coffin was driven under military escort through the streets of Paris to Saint-Sulpice. Thousands of people had braved wet weather and hours of waiting Sunday to view Chirac’s coffin at the Invalides military hospital and museum in Paris. Perhaps the former French leader’s most significant action on the international stage was his opposition to the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. On Sunday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo belatedly condemned, saying he “worked tirelessly to uphold the values and ideals that we share with France.”

Putin worked intensely with the Chirac in the first phase of his own presidency and the pair were notably united in their opposition to the invasion. In unusually gushing comments in an interview with The Financial Times in June, Putin said Chirac was the modern world leader who had impressed him the most. “He is a true intellectual, a real professor, a very level-headed man as well as very interesting,” Putin said. —AFP ■

Trump: I want to meet my accuser

WASHINGTON (United States) — US President Donald Trump said on Sunday he wants and deserves to meet the anonymous whistleblower at the center of the fast-moving scandal that triggered an impeachment inquiry into Joe Biden, his potential 2020 rival for the White House in 2020, Joe Biden. PHOTO: AFP

Donald Trump is accused of pressing Kiev to investigate his potential rival for the White House in 2020, Joe Biden.

Trump’s personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani — who has emerged as his point man in the Ukraine scandal — led the charge along with Miller in combative Sunday talk show appearances.

Branding what he said were affidavits incriminating Biden’s son Hunter over his work at a Ukrainian company, Giuliani said Trump was duty bound to raise the issue with Kiev.

“If he hadn’t asked them to investigate Biden, he would have violated the constitution,” Giuliani told ABC’s “This Week,” charging that “Donald Trump was framed by the Democrats.” —AFP ■

Austria’s Kurz faces tricky search for partners despite victory

VIENNA (Austria) — The 33-year-old leader of Austria’s centre-right People’s Party Sebastian Kurz faces the start of a tough search for possible coalition partners Monday, despite resounding success in parliamentary elections.

His ÖVP party won a clear victory with around 37 per cent in Sunday’s vote, a marked improvement on its performance in 2017. The result means Kurz will have the responsibility of sound out other parties — which may be an uphill task.

“We will of course talk to all parties... to see with which parties we could have a stable government,” Kurz told the national public radio on Monday, adding this could stretch for more than the two months it took him last time to form a pact with the far-right.

But that government collapsed in May after his junior coalition partner, the anti-immigration Freedom Party (FPOe), was engulfed in the so-called “Bízga-gate” corruption scandal which led to the resignation of its leader Heinz-Christian Strache.

In the week before the vote, the FPOe was hit by further allegations of expenses abuse by Strache and suffered a worse than expected loss, down almost 19 percent from 2017 to around 16 percent, according to projected results.

The ÖVP-FPOe alliance — hailed as a model by nationalists across Europe, including Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán — now seems unlikely to be repeated as FPOe leaders say they would prefer to lick their wounds in opposition.

Dejected current FPOe leader Norbert Hofer says steps towards the “reconstruction” of the party will be announced in the coming days, while the influential Strache, who led the party for 14 years, could be expelled if the expenses allegations turn out to be true. —AFP ■
SPORT

Myanmar U-19 women’s football team to play friendly against Viet Nam

THE Myanmar U-19 women’s football team will play friendly matches against Viet Nam in preparation for the AFC U-19 Women’s Championship 2019, which is scheduled to be held in Mandalay.

The chief coach of the team, Daw Thei Htar Win, said that the Myanmar U-19 team will undergo training from 6 to 19 October at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. As part of the training, the team will play four friendly matches two against local teams and two against the Viet Nam U-19 women’s team.

The two matches against Viet Nam are scheduled on 11 and 13 October. Team Myanmar will play against ISPE on 16 October and the Mandalay Football Academy’s U-14 team.

For the AFC U-19 Women’s Championship 2019, Myanmar has been placed in Group B with China PR, South Korea, and Japan. Group A includes host Thailand, North Korea, Australia, and Viet Nam. At the group stage, Myanmar will play against Japan on 28 October, China PR on 31 October, and South Korea on 3 November at the IPE Chonburi Stadium at Chonburi City in Thailand.

Two teams each from Groups A and B will advance to the semi-finals, which will take place on 6 November. The final and third place matches will take place on 9 November.—Kyaw Khin

A lethwei contest titled ‘Fearless Tiger’ is being organized on Friday in Mandalay by the World Lethwei Championship (WLC).

The event will include local and international fighters, and will start at 5 p.m. on 4 October at the Mandalay Thiri Indoor Stadium in Mandalay.

The event will feature eight bouts, including a women’s bout.

The main bout of the event is scheduled to take place between Myanmar’s Thway Thit Win Hlaing and Germany’s Burutlek Petchyindee Academy in the light welterweight (60 to 63.5kg) class. Myanmar’s Thway Thit Maung will also meet with Morocco’s Omar Elnouyr in the light welterweight (60 to 63.5kg) class.

There will be three bouts featuring Myanmar lethwei fighters: Hein Tun Aung will meet with Auk Chin Lay in the lightweight (57 to 60kg) class, Hein Tun Aung will take on Auk Chin Lay in the lightweight (57 to 60kg) class, and Tein Soe will fight Soe Win Than in the bantamweight (51 to 54kg) class.

The event will be broadcast live on CANAL+ Myanmar FG.—Kyaw Khin

WLC: ‘Fearless Tiger’ lethwei fight planned on Friday

The Myanmar U-19 women’s football team will train at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium from 6 to 19 October. PHOTO: AFP

Pochettino ‘happy with squad’ ahead of Bayern Champions League clash

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino has plenty to think about as his side prepare to face Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Sudan’s first ever women’s club football league begins

KHARTOUM (Sudan) — Sudan’s first ever women’s club football league kicked off Monday, with two teams clashing at a Khartoum stadium as crowds of fans and diplomats cheered.

The championship, which involves 21 clubs, would have seemed unlikely just months ago when long time Islamist ruler Omar al-Bashir was in power.

The first club match was played between Tahadi and Di-faain in the capital on Monday. Matches are also scheduled for Madani, Al-Obeid and Kadugli. “Civilian rule, Civilian rule,” chanted the crowd as the first match between the two teams began.

Crowds clapped and whistled, with many also chanting “Kandaka, Kandaka,” referring to ancient Nubian queens.—AFP