Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Tachikawa Camp, Jindaiji Temple

Myanmar gears up to sign pact on promotion, protection of investments with Hong Kong

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker opens road, meets with locals in Myawady, Kayin State

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Kayin State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Nan Thuzar Win, Hluttaw representatives and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new concrete road in Myawady, Kayin State yesterday. PHOTO: HTAIN LIN AUNG

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than attended a concrete road opening ceremony to mark the 64th Kayin State Day yesterday morning, and met with villagers at Htichaya Village.

The road opening ceremony was started at Thukha road in Myawady Town at 9 am, with a song sung by Myawady Township Development Affairs personnel, ethnic dances, Myanmar dances and Kayin Don Dance performed by local students.

Next, Township Development Affairs Executive Officer U Saw Robert Htoo, Kayin State JMCS (State level Ceasefire Joint Monitoring Committee) Vice Chairman Saw Pho Doe and Township Development Committee member U Sein Thaung provided sector-wise explanation on works conducted.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than; Kayin State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Daw Nan Thuzar Win; Kayin State minister for Planning, Finance and Development Affairs U Than Naing, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sein Bo, State Hluttaw representative U Aik Kyan Kham and U Than Zin Aung and District Administrator U Tezar Aung cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new Thukha Road.

After Kayin State Minister for Planning, Finance and Development Affairs U Than Naing presented cash prizes to groups performing entertainment dances and Myawady Township Development Affairs Committee Chairman U Than Shwe presented road opening commemorative flags to the road opening ceremony attendees, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and officials inspected that newly opened concrete road.

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Myanmar Endoscopic Surgical Society organizes 4th International Conference

INTERVIEW
Holidaymakers flock to Chaungtha beach during Thadingyut Festival
WITH the central theme of “Exchanging experience, upgrading care”, the Endoscopic Surgical Society (Myanmar) is holding the 4th International Conference that is participated by the experts from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The opening ceremony of the two-day event took place at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe made an opening remark and said that the conference will be helpful to the medics of new generation in learning new technologies and development in medical fields.

He also said the ministry encourages to expose medical professionals to international medical knowledge and to join foreign medical universities online for studying abroad.

The Union Minister also urged professors and medical experts to train the medical practitioners from township and station hospitals for improving capacities in basic medical operation and the use of anaesthetic.

He also suggested to share the knowledge from the conference to the medical doctors in respective State/Region hospitals, to organize medical conferences at State/Region levels and to adopt frameworks and roadmaps that are realistic to the existing human resources, equipment and financial status of the country.

He also highlighted the safety measures of patients, which include history of disease, diagnosis, treatment and recovery processes.

The Union Minister also pledged the ministry will support in the development of endoscopy and other medical fields.

Professor Dr Rai Mra, the President of Myanmar Medical Association, and Professor Dr Thein Myint, the President of Endoscopic Surgical Society (Myanmar), delivered welcoming speeches at the event.

China-made motorbikes come under scrutiny in Nattalin, Bago Region

OFFICIALS of the Consumer Affairs Department have invited complaints from sellers and consumers against low-standard China-made motorcycles in Nattalin, Bago Region.

Motorcycles which do not meet the required standard have affected sales of quality motorcycles in the market.

During an inspection yesterday, officials urged sellers to compile a list of weak points, in terms of the quality of the motorcycles.

They also urged sellers and customers to sign a sales agreement to avoid complaints from either side after the sale is completed. —Win Myint (IPRD) (Translated by TTN)
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Tachikawa Camp, Jindaiji Temple

A Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation to Japan led by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Tachikawa Camp and Jindaiji Temple west of Tokyo on the morning of 10 October.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Deputy Minister of State for Defence Mr Taro Kono at the Ministry of Defence.

At the meeting status of Myanmar going down the multi-party democracy path; efforts of Tatmadaw toward achieving internal peace; support provided by Japan toward this as well as standing for Myanmar in the United Nations; requirement of all nations to cooperate, exchange news and information to prevent and mitigate the effect of natural disaster and severe climates caused by global warming as well as to prevent terrorism; and increasing cooperation and relation in all sectors including defence, education and trade were cordially discussed according to news released by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Ethnic Affairs Union Minister receives Chinese delegation

UNION MINISTER for Ethnic Affairs Mr Nai Thet Lwin received Mr Yu Fei, the Deputy Inspector of Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China, and party in his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed religious freedom of ethnic people, bilateral ties in economic and social affairs, teaching of ethnic culture and literature, law and regulations for ethnic rights and poverty alleviation, strategic plans for ethnic rights and mutual economic interests of Myanmar and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

On 10 October, the Chinese delegation also held talks with officials from National Museum of Yangon about conservation of traditional heritage of ethnic people, organizing exhibitions, development plans and restoration of intangible cultural heritages. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

SWRR Minister meets UNHCR Director of Bureau for Asia and Pacific

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) Dr Win Myat Aye met with UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Asia and Pacific Mr Indrika Ratwatte at UN Office in Geneva yesterday. —MNA

UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Asia and Pacific Mr Indrika Ratwatte visited Tachikawa Camp and Jindaiji Temple in Tokyo yesterday morning.

PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes Tachikawa Camp in Tokyo yesterday. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

PHOTO: MNA

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) Dr Win Myat Aye who was attending the 70th plenary session of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland met with UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Asia and Pacific Mr Indrika Ratwatte at UN Office in Geneva yesterday morning.

At the meeting matters relating UNHCR’s wish to cooperate in increasing its Quick Impact Project (QIP) works in Rakhine State; providing education, health care and job opportunity for displaced persons in Rakhine State and to provide freedom of movement; providing accurate information to displaced persons in camps in Bangladesh, Cox Bazar where they are having concerns about returning; conducting repatriation in village wise or in group of nearby villages for the repatriation process to be successful and to ease the process; importance of distributing and sharing accurate information speedily in Cox Bazar and to include representatives from Rakhine State in conducting such works on the ground; and the status and resources from ASEAN countries Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia available to assist in repatriation were discussed.

In addition to this detailed discussion with UNHCR Resident Representative in Myanmar on future work programme of resettling displaced persons according to national strategy on resettling IDPs and closing down temporary camps in States and Regions where there were displaced persons; status of displaced persons to Bangladesh returning on their own volition and arrangement; status of works on resettling displaced persons in Kachin State conducted by a group led by SWRR Deputy Minister; required programmes to successfully conduct returning of displaced persons; and cooperating according to memorandum of understanding was also conducted. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

UNION MINISTER for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin meets with Mr Yu Fei, Chinese Deputy Inspector of Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
Yangonites crowd Yekyaw Thadingyut Festival

THE annual Yekyaw Thadingyut Festival is taking place from 10 to 14 October this year in Pazundaung township, Yangon, and a large number of people are thronging to enjoy lights, foods and amusement at the festival which comes alive since afternoon.

The vendors displayed their goods along Yekyaw road and some portions of Bogoke road, Botahtaung road and Upper Pazundaung road where traditional foods are available during the festival.

Torrential rain caused closures of many roadside shops in the first night, but the festival was packed with many revellers as there was no rainfall in the second night.

While some famous artists and celebrities entertained the public, temporary playgrounds have attracted the children who were brought by their parents to the festival.

U Aung Naing, the Ward 9 Administrator of Pazundaung Township, said, “We are trying to promote this annual festival with developing idea. And that we invite all the people to visit Yekyaw Thadingyut Festival.”

MYANMAR is celebrating Thadingyut festival as public holidays have been announced from 11 to 15 October this year. Locals from Mandalay voiced their feelings how to pass times during the holidays.

Saw Cho Thar (Poet)
I will go back to my mother’s home in Yangon to pay respect her as usual. As we have a five-day holiday this year, I could meet with my friends to recite our poets together. I will take the train for the visit.

Ma Mi Mi May Thwin (Mandalay City Development Committee)
I will leave for Dawei by car tonight together with my colleagues from the office. We will try to relax there with swimming, eating seafood and campfire. We will visit pagodas on the way back home. I believe this holiday could surely make our trip pleasurable.

Daw Nay Nay Aung (Mandalay Region Film Promotion Division)
As we have the five days for Thadingyut holiday, our family will visit the parents in Ayadaw Township in Sagaing Region. We expect to reach there by full-moon day. We will visit the homes of our friends and close relatives. I hope we could fully enjoy the taste of country environment.

Ma Min Min Tun (The University of Medical Technology, Mandalay)
I am determined to spend Thadingyut festival efficiently as we have five days this year. I will teach the children at the Dhamma School in Mogok Meditation Centre on the fullmoon day in the daytime, and will enjoy lantern procession festival at night. I will visit PyinOoLwin, Kandawgyi Garden and 7 Mile Recreation Camp with my family.

Thazin Pwint Phyu (UAB Bank, Mandalay)
The annual festival started small stages of performance on Witt Kyaung, Yuzana and Zizawa streets in Ward 8 of Pazundaung. This festival has been held for over 50 years, except between 2002 and 2010, and it resumed in 2011.— Pwint Thitsar (Translated by Aung Khin)

Ko Aung Phyo Kyaw (Sub-Printing House, Mandalay)
The extension of Thadingyut Holiday up to the five days is an opportunity to make meritorious deeds or recreation. For me, I will stay at home for reading books and watching TV. I will visit Maha Muni Buddha Image on the fullmoon day to donate gold foils. In that night, I will go to the nearby pagodas to offer oil lights.— Min Htet Aung (Man Sub-printing House) (Translated by Aung Khin)
Myanmar gears up to sign pact on promotion, protection of investments with Hong Kong

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR is preparing to sign an agreement with Hong Kong for promotion and protection of investments, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar has signed similar bilateral agreements since 1998 with the Philippines, Viet Nam, China, Laos, Kuwait, Thailand, India, Japan, Indonesia, the US, South Korea, Israel, and Singapore. Myanmar is now in the process of discussing the investment agreement with Hong Kong, and the two nations will sign an agreement very soon, said officials.

Signing a bilateral agreement on the promotion and protection of investments can build strong mutual trust among investors and promote business operations, said Daw Tin Aye Han, the deputy director-general of the DICA.

"Regarding the agreement on the promotion and protection of investments, if the country’s laws are enforced strongly, investors will trust the host country to make an investment, and we, therefore, don’t need to sign an agreement. However, the signing of an agreement means generally making a deal stronger. If there is an issue between the two countries, we can solve it according to the agreement. Some countries are weak in laying a legal framework compared with developed Western countries. So, those countries prefer to enter into a strong agreement and sign a treaty," said Daw Tin Aye Han.

"Last month, Myanmar signed a bilateral agreement with Singapore, its biggest investor, for the promotion and protection of investments. So, Singapore can be said to make more investments in Myanmar," said U Aung Naing Oo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Although Myanmar has signed bilateral agreements with other countries to attract more investments, the agreement on the promotion and protection of investments with EU, which was signed in 2014, was suspended in 2017 because of political issues in Myanmar. No negotiations have been made yet on the issue, said officials.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar, Thailand border trade crosses $4.1 bln in 2018-2019 FY

Photo shows cars passing through the Myawady Border trade zone.

MYANMAR/THAILAND bilateral trade between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019 financial year exceeded US$4.1 billion, an increase of $2.4 billion from the 2017-2018 FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In the 2018-2019 fiscal, exports were registered at $2.96 billion and imports were valued at $1.14 billion. In the previous FY, bilateral trade totaled $1.71 billion, with exports pegged at $460 million and imports recorded at $1.25 billion.

Myanmar delivers goods to Thailand through the sea route as well as seven border gates. The border trade camps opened between the two nations are Tachileik, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hikhee, Mawtaung, and Maesai.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products, such as crab, fish, and shrimp, as well as onions, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut, and turmeric, while it imports consumer goods, cosmetic machinery, food products, agricultural equipment, and track cars from Thailand.

The trade value at all border checkpoints in the 2018-2019 fiscal exceeded $10.21 billion, up $1 billion from the previous FY. –Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)
International visitors flock to Dala Township in high season

By Nyein Nyein

THE Security and Disciplinary Department of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has been tasked with controlling beggars around the city of Yangon. Police Colonel Thet Lwin, the head of the department, said the YCDC staff have informed the township municipal committees to control beggars in Yangon because they are begging in crowded areas and intersections and on buses, and presenting papers stating they are in need of help.

“Currently, we have informed the township municipal committees to control beggars in Yangon because they are begging in crowded areas and intersections, and on buses, and presenting papers stating they are in need of help,” he added.

Although the YCDC municipal police sends them to care centers, they revert to begging when they get back home. They are not dropping the begging habit because they can earn money easily. According to the law, the YCDC can only control beggars. However, beggars can be imprisoned under the Police Act. The Yangon Region police arrested a suspect in possession of 4,032 stimulant tablets, together with K30,100, together with a mobile phone near the independence monument in Yangon Township on 10 October.

“The suspect is identified as Myint Myinmu Township on 10 October. The suspect is identified as Myint Myinmu Township on 10 October. POLICE from Myinmu arrested a suspect in possession of 4,032 stimulant tablets, together with K30,100, and a mobile phone near the independence monument in Yangon Township on 10 October. Police filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Police seize illegal drugs in Tachilek, Myinnmu

POLICE from Myinnmu arrested a suspect in possession of 4,032 stimulant tablets, together with K30,100 and a mobile phone near the independence monument in Myinnmu Township on 10 October. The suspect is identified as Myint Myinmu Township on 10 October. Police filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Voices of people on holiday

FOLLOWING are the voices heard at Yangon-Mandalay express way 115 miles rest station and Pho Kyar Elephant Camp from public servants and people who were going on a vacation during Thadingyut holidays.

Ma Tin Zar Win (company employee)

I left Yangon to visit my parents in Myaing. I'm paying respect to my parents and the elders. During a five-day holiday, I can return to my parents as well as visit some pagodas too.

Ma Thein Theint Maw (garment factory worker)

I work in a garment factory in Mingaladon Industrial Zone. As it was a five-day holiday I'm visiting my parents in Myaing. Afterwards I'll pay homage to pagodas in Pakokku with friends from Myaing. As I bought my express bus ticket in advance, I had no problem. But some who try to buy it in short notice were unable to get it. (Thadingyut) Holiday last year was only three days. So I have enough time to visit my parents and also pay homage to elders back home. Such long holidays are convenient to do good deeds as well as to go on a pilgrimage.

U Ko Ko Maung (executive officer, Agricultural Mechanization Department)

My duty station is Mandalay. I'm returning to my family in Yangon to pay homage to the elders during the holiday. Also plan to take family to where they want to go too. As I'm free only in such long holiday, the time will be given to the family. I have no other programme except to visit Mawlamyineyung.

Daw Ni Ni Khine (school teacher)

I'm from Bago and going to Toungoo to attend a course. Once I arrive in Toungoo, I plan to visit pagodas nearby before attending the course. As I'm attending a course during the holiday, I wouldn't be going anywhere else.

U Aung Maung (retired assistant lecturer)

I retired after working in Yankin Education College. Now I'm going to Kachin State Myitkyina to attend a ceremony paying homage to teachers. I'm sure workers and public servants will be happy about the long holiday as the majority was working in duty stations that are not their home towns. May the leaders of the country be happy together with the people during this holiday.

U Kyaw Kyaw Bo (traveller)

I came from Pyin Oo Lwin with my family and was visiting Pho Kyar Elephant Camp. Afterwards we'll go to Toungoo. From there, we'll go to Chaungtha. On the way back, we'll go to Yangon. Last year we went to Taunggyi. This year, as the holiday was long, my family can go to more places and relax. We'll also get some new experiences.

Tun Tun Win (traveller)

I came to visit Pho Kyar Elephant Camp after hearing about it from friends who were here before. I look forward to watching the elephant given a bath at noon. From here, I'll go to Toungoo and on to Chaungtha.

Daw Kaythi Oo (company employee)

This year it was five days. So we went to Taunggyi. This year, as the holiday was long, my family can go to more places and relax. We'll also get some new experiences.

At the moment there's only a few visitors coming to the camp. But soon, the place will be crowded as visitors come on weekends and long holidays. There are 13 elephants in our camp. The elephant will perform many things like playing balls, walking on a log and standing up on their hind legs.

U Zaw Oo (Mahout)

During this holiday I plan to guide tourists to ethnic villages to Kayah State, Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe and Inle. As a tour guide, I'm always travelling. This month there were quite a number of visitors visiting Kayah State. Now I'm going to fetch my nieces who are attending school in Yangon as their schools closed for ten days.

Daw Ni Ni Khine (school teacher)

May all be happy and may there be peace in the country.

Translated by Zaw Min
Today’s Earthquakes

By Hia Ha Aung (Myanmar Earthquake Committee)

M YANMAR recently experienced some earthquakes across the country, ranging from 4.0 to 5.5 Richter scale. There has been a growing concern about the seismic waves. It cannot be predicted when this natural disaster will happen. Why did the seismic events occur very often from 2104 to 2019? The relevant organizations have conducted earthquake drills and educational talks to prevent huge losses in the quakes. Many people have gained earthquake knowledge. The works such organizations are greatly appreciated. Capable people need to contribute to developing Myanmar into a quake-resistant country.

Analyzing the type of earthquakes

Earthquakes happened very frequently these days. Most of them occurred along Rapheik Mountains in western Myanmar with the ranges from 4.0 to 5.5 magnitudes at a depth between 70 km and 200 km, along Sagaing fault. Shan hills (including southern, northern, and eastern Shan state) with the ranges from 3.0 to 4.0 magnitudes at a depth between 9 to 40 km (mostly common at 10 km). It has been considerable evidence of the subduction zone earthquakes which occurred when India Plate is thrust beneath Burma Plate.

Some significant earthquakes of these types happened with 4.7 magnitude at 50.3 km depth in the northern part of western Myanmar on 26 August 2019, with 4.7 magnitude at 14.2 km depth in Tharraw in 14 August 2019, another one with 5.3 magnitude at 48.3 km depth almost at the same time on the same day, and, with 4.8 magnitude at 88.5 km depth at northwest of Chauk Township on 8 August 2019. These three quakes occurred one after another in eight and 10 days intervals.

These subduction zone earthquakes happened very often. Ten earthquakes in YEU on 31 August 2019 and Mawlamyine on 11 September 2019 were the types of back-arc seismicity related to subduction zone earthquakes.

When heavy India Plate thrusts beneath less heavy Burma Plate, the pressure resulted in normal fault, lateral slip-slip fault and thrust fault, then occurred the basin-inversion earthquakes.

Importance of effective preparedness measures

As the subduction occurred at 95 degree longitude of central Myanmar, the earthquake site can be in the 200 km area. There are 60 per cent of the whole Myanmar population. As a result, it will lead to unnecessary suffering, and many buildings will be destroyed.

We can reduce the risk of death, and awareness about using quality helmets and proper functioning seatbelts, and exact suitable punishment can be done.

We must make preparations not just at central terminals, but all places the buses pass through. We must assign 30 police personnel who will be joined by the local administration body, the governmental staff, community elders and members of fire brigade department. Local authorities will also patrol everywhere day and night for the security of visitors.

U Naing Aung (Staff Officer, Director of Hotels and Tourism in Chaungtha beach)

We have received more police forces for the security of visitors to Chaungtha beach. The regional government has assigned 30 police personnel who will be joined by the local administration body, the governmental staff, community elders and members of fire brigade department. Local authorities will also patrol everywhere day and night for the security of visitors.

The official public holidays have five days. We have opted this trip with the preference of majority. The day trip is arranged by our headmistress.

U Kyaw Thu (Administrator of Chaungtha beach)

The regional government has assigned 30 police personnel who will be joined by the local administration body, the governmental staff, community elders and members of fire brigade department. Local authorities will also patrol everywhere day and night for the security of visitors.

Interview by Thi Thi Min

PHOTO: NAY LIN

Many holidaymakers have opted Chaungtha beach as they feel the beach is more convenient for them. Chaungtha is a well-known beach in Ayeyawady delta. The number of visitors has significantly increased this year since the beginning of this holiday, thousand of people have crowded this area, including Pho Kalar island, White Sand island, Brother and Sister Rocks beach and Elephant Camp. The fallowings are the interviews with the happy and joyous visitors there.

Ma Thet Thet Moe Oo (Tailor Garment Factory in Hlinethaung, Yangon)

I come here with my friends from the work. Some of our colleagues went back their homes, while some others go on pilgrimage. Our group has 18 persons. We are visiting Pho Kalar island by motorboat. It is more pleasant with beautiful scenic views than Chaungtha beach.

Ma Khin Cho Zin (Sawmaw Township, Yangon Region)

We are enjoying Thadingyut holiday. Our group has 11 persons. We will stay here one night. We have swam at the beach as we arrived here this morning. We come to Pho Kalar island by motorboat. We will then proceed to the Brother and Sister Rocks. Chaungtha beach is very pleasant so we visit here every year. The beach is safe for swimming.

Daw Khin San Oo (Primary Teacher, Kaung Myat Thar Private School)

We are the Brother and Sister Rocks during our holiday trip to Chaungtha beach. We will make a night stay at the beach before going back home tomorrow. In previous Thadingyut holidays, we visited Lrukha Kyakhpyin and Island. This year we have chosen Chaungtha. We have brought the children from our school. Our group has over 30 persons, and we are from Yangon.

Ma Chit Su Naing (Pre-school Teacher, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region)

Our group has a total of 15 persons, including teachers and family members. We will visit Pho Kalar island. Our school has been closed for six days. We can take relax at Chaungtha beach.

Holidaymakers flock to Chaungtha beach during Thadingyut Festival

The beach is safe for swimming.

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Ethiopia PM Abiy wins Nobel Peace Prize for mending ties with Eritrea

OSLO — Hailed as a visionary and reformer, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for his efforts to resolve the long-running conflict with neighbouring foe Eritrea.

Abiy was honoured “for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea,” the Nobel Committee said.

The award is seen as a welcome boost for Africa’s youngest leader as he faces worries over inter-community violence ahead of a parliamentary election in May 2020. “I was so humbled and thrilled when I just heard the news,” Abiy told the Nobel Committee in a phone call posted online on the Nobel Prize website.

“It is a prize given to Africa, given to Ethiopia.” Abiy also said he hoped it would inspire other African leaders to “think it possible to work on peace-building processes”. Since taking office in April 2018, the 43-year-old has aggressively pursued policies that have the potential to upend society in the Horn of Africa nation and reshape dynamics beyond its borders, after years of civil unrest. On 9 July, 2018, following a historic meeting in Eritrea’s capital Asmara, Abiy and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki formally ended a 20-year-old stalemate between the countries in the wake of the 1998-2000 border conflict.

Abiy swiftly released dissidents from jail, apologised for state brutality, and welcomed home exiled armed groups.

Five stabbed at Manchester shopping centre

LONDON — Counter-terror police were on Friday probing a mass stabbing at a shopping centre in northwest England that left five people injured and needing hospital treatment.

The attack happened at the Arndale shopping centre in the heart of Manchester, where an Islamist extremist suicide bomber killed 22 after an Ariana Grande concert in 2017. “We can confirm that five people have been stabbed and taken to hospital,” Greater Manchester Police said in a statement. “Given the location of the incident and its nature officers from Counter-Terrorism Police North West are leading the investigation as we determine the circumstances,” it added. — AFP

Iranian oil tanker hit by blasts, missile attack suspected: report

TEHRAN — An Iranian oil tanker was rocked by multiple explosions Friday while transiting through the Red Sea, in a suspected missile attack, local media reported.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency said the tanker owned by a state-run National Iranian Oil Co. “was hit by missiles” some 100 kilometers off the coast of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, with oil spilling into the sea.

“Fortunately, all crew on board are safe and sound and the ship is in a stable condition. Only the body of the ship has suffered damage and the crew of the ship is working to control it,” it said.

The stricken vessel was identified as the Sabitii. The semi-official Iranian Students’ News Agency said there were as many as five explosions and two oil tanks were damaged.

Tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been running high since a September 14 attack by drones on two Saudi oil facilities that cut country’s daily production of crude oil by nearly half. Saudi Arabia and the United States have blamed Iran, though Tehran denies any involvement. Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthis rebels have claimed responsibility. — Kyodo News

UN calls for greater heat protection for workers in Qatar

DOHA — Improved safeguards and working hours are needed to protect labourers in Qatar from the effects of heat and humidity, the United Nations said Friday, as it published new research.

The desert monarchy has come under fire for conditions faced by its hundreds of thousands of migrant workers, as it prepares to host the 2022 World Cup.

The risks of Qatar’s heat and humidity were again thrust into the spotlight at the recent World Athletics Championships in Doha when women’s marathon runners collapsed because of the conditions, despite the race being staged at midnight.

Humidity hovered around 73 percent and the temperature was 33 degrees Celsius (91 degrees Fahrenheit) for much of last month’s race.

The study commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Qatar’s labour ministry, praised measures taken to reduce the effects of heat on 4,000 workers at one World Cup stadium project.

It concluded that while the heat mitigation steps taken by the body responsible for delivering the football showcase were “moderately to highly acceptable”, other employers in Qatar could improve protections.

Ban on working hottest hours

Of Qatar’s roughly 1.9 million workers, just 30,000 work directly on World Cup projects. The head of the UN agency’s Qatar project office, Houtan Homayounpour, said the project was working with the government to turn the study’s recommendations into “improved legislation”. Workers need to be able to set their own pace, he told AFP, in terms of “when to stop, when to have a break, when to drink water — it’s very important... They know best how they feel.” — AFP

Heat at Doha

A picture taken in March 2017 shows the Sabiti docking at the platform of the oil facility in the Kharg Island. PHOTO: AFP

The UN study praised measures taken to reduce the effects of heat on 4,000 workers at one World Cup stadium project.

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The UN study praised measures taken to reduce the effects of heat on 4,000 workers at one World Cup stadium project. PHOTO: AFP
China’s Xi arrives in India for summit with PM Modi

NEW DELHI — Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived India on Friday afternoon for an informal summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the first leg of his South Asia visit that will include a state visit to Nepal.

Their two-day informal summit in the southern state of Tamil Nadu is the second of its kind, the first having been held in the Chinese city of Wuhan in April last year.

Before holding talks Saturday in the historical town of Mamallapuram, the two leaders will tour the World Heritage site’s ancient temples and monuments Friday afternoon and attend a cultural program followed with a dinner in the evening.

India’s foreign ministry said the summit will “provide an opportunity for the two leaders to continue their discussions on overarching issues of bilateral, regional and global importance and exchange views on deepening India-China Closer Development Partnership.”

Xi’s visit comes after India voiced irritation with a joint statement issued after Xi’s meeting Wednesday in Beijing with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan amid heightened tensions between Pakistan and India over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

The joint statement said the Kashmir issue, which has long been the main thorn in relations between India and Pakistan, should be “properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.”

In response, the India’s foreign ministry issued a statement the same day reiterating that Kashmir “is an integral part of India.”

“China is well aware of our position. It is not for other countries to comment on the internal affairs of India,” it said.

Xi last visited India in September 2014. He will visit Nepal at the weekend, making him the first Chinese president to do so after an interval of 23 years.

— Kyodo News

Japan top court upholds damages over student tsunami deaths

TOKYO — Japan’s top court has upheld a ruling awarding millions of dollars in compensation to families of children swept out to sea in the massive 2011 tsunami, officials said Friday.

In all, 74 children from Okawa Elementary School in the city of Ishinomaki drowned after being told to wait on school grounds with teachers, 19 of whom also died, instead of seeking higher ground.

The 29 plaintiffs — parents of 23 children who died in the disaster — argued their children would have survived if they had been evacuated in time.

The Sendai district court ruled in 2018 that two local governments should pay a combined 1.43 billion yen ($13.7 million) to the plaintiffs.

That ruling was upheld in 2018 by the Sendai High Court, and on Thursday, Japan’s Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the local governments, a court spokeswoman said.

“This is historic,” the plaintiffs’ lawyer Kazuhiro Yoshioka told AFP. — AFP

S Korea’s army says will cut force by 100,000 in three years

SEOUL — South Korea’s Army said Friday it will cut its force by 100,000 in the next three years in the face of a shrinking population.

Seoul, a key Washington ally, conscripts able-bodied men for two years of service to defend the country from the nuclear-armed North and its much larger army, which invaded the South in 1950 backed by communist allies China and the Soviet Union.

The war ended three years later in an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the South and North technically at war and the peninsula divided along the Demilitarized Zone.

Troops will be cut down from the current level of 464,000 by 2022, the Army said in a report to MPs, according to the South’s Yonhap news agency.

In line with the reductions, the number of Army corps will be down to six from the current eight by 2022 and divisions from 38 to 33 by 2025, the Army stated.

South Korea’s combined force of 600,000 personnel is already much smaller than the North’s nearly 1.3 million strong military (which includes 1.1 million in its army), according to Seoul’s 2018 defence white paper.

Analysts estimate Pyongyang also has between 20 to 60 nuclear warheads. To make up for the reduced manpower, the Army stressed it would develop “next-generation game changers” such as high-mobility flight vehicles and artificial intelligence systems, according to Yonhap.

The downsizing comes as the government struggles to boost the country’s total fertility rate — the number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime — which dropped to 0.98 in 2018, far short of the 2.1 needed to maintain population stability.

Currently 51 million, the population is projected to fall to 39 million in 2067, when the median age will be 62. — AFP

China exhorts UN member states to pay annual fees

BELING — China’s Foreign Ministry on Friday urged member states of the United Nations to adequately fulfill their financial obligations as the world body faces “a severe financial crisis” on account of unpaid dues.

“As the second-largest financial contributor, China has paid in full its financial obligation to the United Nations,” ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular press briefing.

On Tuesday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres told the General Assembly in New York, “This month, we will reach the deepest deficit of the decade,” adding that the organization now risks “exhausting peacekeeping cash reserves, and entering November without enough cash to cover payrolls.”

“Payment of UN contributions on time, in full and without conditions is a Charter obligation of all member states,” Geng said.

While 129 states out of 193 have now paid their regular annual fees, the United Nations was still missing 30 percent of its regular budget for the 2019 fiscal year at the end of September.

Geng also said that many countries have “expressed serious concern” about the United States being “in arrears for a long time.” — Kyodo News

FILE PHOTO: Troops will be cut down from the current level of 464,000 by 2022, the Army said in a report to MPs, according to the South’s Yonhap news agency. PHOTO: AFP

FILE PHOTO: Troops will be cut down from the current level of 464,000 by 2022, the Army said in a report to MPs, according to the South’s Yonhap news agency. PHOTO: AFP
Diaz-Canel elected president of Cuba

HAVANA — Cuban leader Miguel Diaz-Canel was elected on Thursday to serve in the newly-created post of president of the Republic of Cuba.

The election took place at an extraordinary legislative session of the National Assembly of People’s Power, the single-chamber parliament.

Currently serving as president of the Council of State and Ministers, Diaz-Canel received 579 votes in favor from the 580 deputies present in the election, and he will be in office through 2023.

In his first speech as president, Diaz-Canel said his priority will be to continue to strengthen the economy to ensure a better future for all Cubans.

Salvador Valdes Mesa, 74, was elected vice president. He is currently first vice president of the Council of State and Ministers and a member of the politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC). Earlier, legislators voted to have Esteban Lazo continue as president of the National Assembly and Council of State.

The extraordinary session, held at Havana’s Convention Center, was attended by the first secretary of the PCC, Raul Castro. Since September 18, the members of the National Candidacy Commission have been consulting with lawmakers over potential candidates. A new electoral law passed in July, in keeping with a revised Constitution adopted on April 18, gave the National Assembly three months to elect its president, vice president and secretary. The 21 members of the State Council, and the country’s president and vice president.

The new Constitution also calls for the election of a prime minister, and Diaz-Canel has three months to appoint someone to the post. The 865-member National Assembly, considered Cuba’s highest governing body, meets regularly twice a year and holds extraordinary sessions as needed. — Xinhua

EU and UK bid to save Brexit talks before key summit

BRUSSELS — British and EU negotiators met Friday in a last-ditch bid to restart talks on an orderly Brexit, amid “promising signals” that a deal could still be possible just days before a key EU summit.

British minister Stephen Barclay and EU negotiator Michel Barnier met for two hours behind closed doors in the Brussels headquarters of the European Union, one day after talks between Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar.

As they met, the president of the European Council and host of next week’s Brussels summit Donald Tusk warned that Britain has yet to come forward with a “workable, realistic proposal” for a Brexit deal. “A week ago I told Prime Minister Johnson that if there was no such proposal by today, I would announce publicly that there are no more chances, because of objective reasons, for a deal during the incoming European Council,” he said.

“However, yesterday, when the Irish taoiseach and the UK prime minister met they both saw, for the first time, a pathway to a Brexit deal, but EU diplomats warn the road ahead is long.”

Ireland’s Prime Minister, Leo Varadkar and Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson say they can see a “pathway” to a Brexit deal, but EU diplomats warn the road ahead is long. — PHOTO: AFP

Colombian peace process moves forward through challenging period: UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS — The top UN envoy in Colombia said Thursday that the peace process has continued to move forward through a challenging period.

Two years after the successful conclusion of the laying down of arms by former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels, the vast majority of former fighters remain engaged and committed to the peace agreement, said Carlos Ruiz Massieu, the UN secretary-general’s special representative and head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia.

Thousands of former fighters are pursuing academic studies, receiving vocational training, participating actively in cooperatives, and are employed in activities related to the peace agreement.

More than 3,500 former combatants are involved in collective and individual productive projects, ranging from agricultural ventures to clothing manufacturing to eco-tourism, he told the Security Council. — Xinhua

Kyrgyz ex-leader on no-show at trial after summer of turmoil

BISHKEK — Kyrgyz ex-president Almazbek Atambayev, who faces a litany of charges including organising murder and civil unrest, failed to appear Friday at the opening of his trial, his lawyer said.

The 63-year-old former ally of President Sooronbai Jeenbekov was detained by police during a summer of political turmoil in the volatile Central Asian country but has refused to cooperate with investigators or the court in Bishkek.

He has been charged with corruption over the release from jail and flight to Chechnya of one of the ex-Soviet nation’s most notorious mob bosses during his presidency in 2013. Atambayev faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted. The preliminary hearing of the case was closed to the public. Lawyer Sergey Slesarev said Atambayev is being held in a pretrial detention facility in Bishkek, “refused to take part in the show”, leading the court to adjourn until Monday. — AFP

Heavy fighting as Syria Kurds hold off Turkish assault

QAMISHLI — Fighting raged in northeastern Syria on Friday as Turkish forces and their proxies tried to seize key Kurdish-held towns on the third day of a long-threatened offensive.

The Syrian Democratic Forces — the autonomous Kurds’ de facto army — scrambled to repulse multiple ground attacks along a roughly 120-kilometre (75-mile) long segment of the border. “There is heavy fighting between the SDF and the Turks on different fronts, mostly from Tal Abyad to Ras al-Ain,” the Syria Observatory said. Turkish war monitor said the Turkish forces and their Syrian proxies — mostly Sunni Arab former rebels — were using air strikes, heavy artillery and rocket fire. “The SDF are using tunnels, trenches and benches” in their defence operations, the Observatory said.

Kurdish counter-attacks overnight led to the retaking of two of the 11 villages they had lost since the start of the Turkish-led assault on Wednesday. — AFP

Heavy fighting as Syria Kurds hold off Turkish assault
Three dead in China bridge collapse

BEIJING — Three people were killed and two injured in eastern China when a highway overpass collapsed and crushed cars below it, local officials said Friday.

One clip posted on Twitter-like Weibo showed the bridge narrowly missing a small three-wheel car, whose driver leapt out and ran away.

Other images showed crushed cars, with only their front sections or headlights visible under a huge block of grey concrete.

A preliminary investigation showed the collapse had been caused by an overloaded truck, the Wuxi city government said in a statement on Weibo.

Three vehicles — including one that was parked and unoccupied — were crushed, and three people in the two other cars were killed, according to the statement.

Five vehicles were on the bridge deck, including two trucks.

The collapse also left two people injured, the statement said.

Construction and road accidents are not uncommon in China.—AFP

The Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk will receive the Nobel Literature Prize 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Frankism, a Jewish messianic sect that sprung up in Poland in the 18th century, was “a remarkable rich panorama of an almost neglected chapter in European history.”

An environmentalist with long, dark dreadlocks, she is also a political activist who does not shy away from criticising Poland’s right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government.—AFP

Olda Tokarczuk, Peter Handke win Literature Nobels

STOCKHOLM — Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk on Thursday won the 2018 Nobel Literature Prize, which was delayed over a sexual harassment scandal, while Austrian novelist and playwright Peter Handke took the 2019 award, the Swedish Academy said.

Experts had predicted the Academy would go to great pains to steer clear of controversy with its pick of laureates, as it seeks to restore its tainted reputation.

But Handke, 76, was quickly seen as a divisive choice for his pro-Serb support in the Balkan wars.

Tokarczuk, 57, considered the most talented Polish novelist of her generation, was honoured “for a narrative imagination that with encyclopaedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life.”

She told Swedish Radio she “couldn’t believe” she had won, and was pleased to share it with Handke, “my favourite writer.”

“I’d always been of the opinion of the Nobel Prize for Literature, but I never thought it would finally affect me,” Tokarczuk told AFP by telephone while on her way to a reading in Bielefeld, Germany.

Handke meanwhile told reporters outside his home near Paris that he was “astonished” to be honoured, terming it a “courageous” move by the Academy.

Tokarczuk’s books portray a polychronic world perpetually in motion, with characters’ traits intermingled and language that is both precise and poetic. Her first novel, “The Journey of the People of the Book,” released in 1993, chronicles a failed expedition to find a mysterious book.

Tokarczuk also won in 2018 the Heinrich Böll Prize along with her translator Jennifer Croft for her translation of her book “The Man Who Mysteries.”

She is also a political activist who does not shy away from criticising Poland’s right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government.—AFP

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V. SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (633 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (633 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MI.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDEERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (046 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MI.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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The global new light of Myanmar

12 October 2019

The Claims Day.
ART & CULTURE

Heritages of laterite culture

Maung Tha (Archaeology)

ARCHITECTURAL works, sculptural works and religious monuments made of laterite can generally be dubbed as laterite culture. Professor G.H. Luce firstly used the word “laterite culture” as examples for Kyaukhthaung Pagoda, its walls decorated with reliefs of elephant and horse troops in Zokthok Village, Bilin Township, Mon State. Myanmar dictionary defines laterite is mixed with clay and rust. Iron and aluminum from laterite convert themselves into oxide in mixing with oxygen from atmosphere. So laterite can be seen as reddish. It can be called unburned brick because of hardening in meeting with air. Laterite can be seen in Mon State, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions. Kyontu near Waw of Bago Region, and Hanmaung and Padagyi in Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships of Yangon Region are significant laterite regions. I remembered the long roads in Kyaukhtaw of Ayeyawady Region were paved with laterite. In fact, laterite is clay transformed into hard and compact stone, so it can be used in paving the roads as well as buildings. Statues can be made of laterite. Hence, laterite was used in making statues, pagodas, stupas, umbrellas and walls. That was why the regions where laterite was produced flourished laterite culture. Ancient laterite works and various forms of reliefs made of laterite in modern designs can be seen in Myanmar.

Students from post-graduate diploma course of Archaeology Department from Yangon University and some outstanding trainees made trips to some regions in Bago Region and Mon State to study laterite culture. They paid visits to Kyauktaw of Bago Region and Kyauktaw, Winka, Zokthok and Thaton of Mon State.

Kyontu

Ancient Kyontu pagoda mound is located two furlongs on right side of Yangon-Mawlamyine Road, one mile from Waw in Bago Region. The pagoda precinct of Kyontu located on eastern bank of Bago-Sittang Canal, northeast of Waw, can be seen from Yangon-Mawlamyine road. Two pagodas Naungdawgyi and Naungdawlay were situated on Kyontu pagoda mound. The collapsed Naungdawlay Pagoda was renovated in around 2012. In this regard, the pagoda was built of brick on the laterite lower structure. Researchers assumed Kyontu was a region of Mon State flourishing laterite culture. (Now these pagodas do not have original works due to renovation.)

A lake namely Myasein Lake with 150 feet in length, 100 feet in width and 20 feet in depth is located in southeast of Kyontu pagoda mound. Base of the lake is laid with bricks which are 18 inches in length, nine inches in width and three inches in thickness. Moreover, baked earthen statues with 18 inches in diameter and four inches in thickness were found from the precinct of Kyontu pagoda. The statues decorated with dancers and music players encircled by dots in double circles. Broken baked statues are kept at the prayer hall of Kyontu Pagoda. Moreover, a pair of laterite lion statues in same sizes was found from the lake. These lion statues are five feet and seven inches high each and are kept under shelter near the lake.

A brick with finger lines with 15 inches in length, 7.5 inches in width and 2.5 inches in thickness were found from the precinct of Kyontu pagoda. The statues decorated with dancers and music players encircled by dots in double circles. Broken baked statues are kept at the prayer hall of Kyontu Pagoda. Moreover, a pair of laterite lion statues in same sizes was found from the lake. These lion statues are five feet and seven inches high each and are kept under shelter near the lake.

A statue made of laterite. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)
were seen with three crossing finger lines, finger lines in length, three hemisphere shape finger lines at each end, and vertical finger lines in central parts. Broken bricks with finger lines are kept together with broken baked statues at Dhammayon in front of two Kyontu pagodas. Laterite culture researcher U Maung Maung Lwin explained that baked earthen statues may be works in 4th and 5th AD centuries.

**Kyaikkatha**

Kyaikkatha is located between Kyakto and Moppalin, on the eastern bank of Sittoung River. Yangon-Mawlamyine railroad crosses the walls of Kyaikkatha. The eastern part of railroad is named Kawsan Village, the western Kyaikkatha Village. The two villages are combined as Kyaikkatha Village-tract. Forestry Commissioner U Aung Myint himself discovered the ancient city Kyaikkatha in January 1981. The Archaeology Department carried out excavation at ancient Kyaikkatha city in 1986.

Before entering Kyaikkatha Village, Department of Archaeology maintains a cave namely Moksoema Cave where a Mon queen took a shelter after Thaton city had deteriorated. It is man-made cave in a laterite hillock. Interior parts are formed with partitions for safety location. Researchers reviewed Moksoema Cave may be a station for ancient infantry troops due to findings on close locations to the walls and systematic preparations to defend the enemy.

It is 80 feet long and 20 feet wide. The entrance to the cave is two feet and three inches wide. A local said there was a bed made of laterite in the large room of cave but now there is nothing.

Phaya Tahtaung mound is situated in Malotchauang Village, one mile from Kyaiakthana. We saw 42 mounds each along both sides of road to Phayahtaung Mound or Phaya Tahtaung Mound. Each mound is 12-26 feet high. It can be assumed that small pagodas were built on each mound in the past. Now, a total of 14 gilt pagodas on the mounds.

A building in a shape of Dhammayon was built near the pagoda on the mound. After clearing the bushes near the building, we saw Buddha images made of laterite. Moreover, we saw other laterite statues in the bushes. Among them, two Buddha images made of laterite are situated back to back. One of the two is 33 inches high, 16 inches broad in width and 20 inches in breadth. The remaining one is 23 inches in breadth. Both images are in shape of Payalammanasana called dangling position of legs similar to that of the Buddha image built by Queen Shin Saw Pu in Kyaiakmaraw. However, the images did not have heads. That is why the Buddha images with dangling position of legs existed in laterite cultural era in Myanmar.

**Walls decorated with reliefs of elephant and horse troops**

The laterite walls significantly decorated with reliefs of elephant and horse troops are located two furlongs southwest of Kyaikthsaung Pagoda in Zothok Village of Bilin Township. The ancient laterite wall is 420 feet long and 10 feet high. The left ending of the walls was 31 feet and eight inches thick of laterite. A total of 15 plots of laterite reliefs were carved on the walls. Each plot is created on 3.5 square feet area. Each plot is formed with two laterite pieces as high reliefs. Despite calling elephant and horse troops, the plots depict lion and elephant reliefs. Each plot has vases with lotus flowers.

The extended walls bear horse reliefs. Horse reliefs at the left end of the walls are not original works, said Associate Professor Dr Maung Maung Lwin of Archaeology Department from Mandalay University. Frog, fish and turtle statues were made of laterite on the mound in east of elephant and horse troop reliefs but no one know the purpose of carving.

A lake was seen near the walls decorated with elephant and horse reliefs. Locals said the lake was an area of extracting laterites to be used in building the walls. Similar large pits where laterite was extracted can be seen as lakes near the laterite pagodas similar to Kyaiktthaung Pagoda, Kyaikkatha Pagoda and Thaton Shwesaryan Pagoda. Whatever it maybe, laterite images, pagodas and walls are ancient objects bearing historical images of laterite culture. They are firm evidences for new generations to conduct researches. However, it needs to preserve laterite works without strengths of resilience as stones against impacts of raining and flooding.

**Translated by Than Tun Aung**

Reference:
Myanmar’s ancient cities from satellite photos (U Aung Myint) Suvannabhumi Research (U San Win) Papers on Suvannabhumi laterite culture (Maung Maung Lwin)
Myanmar-Thai traditional lethwei challenge to be held at Kyaikkhami

THE Myanmar-Thai traditional lethwei challenge will be held on 15, 16, and 17 October at the site of the Kyaikkhami Yele Pagoda festival in Kyaikkhami Town, Thanyuzayar Township, Mon State.

The main bout will feature Myanmar’s Phyan Thwe and Thailand’s Toeto. In another match, Myanmar’s Aung Paing (Nagar Man) will face Thailand’s Phar Mee Chaing.

More matches have been scheduled between Saw Shwe Lay (Do Yoe Yar) and Lin Htet Aung (Taung Kalay), Thura Moe (Thaton) and Yar Hoo Pha Lon (Hoo Mylltar Hooe), Negro (Pa Nga) and Ye Htet Soe (Thaton), and Chit Sue Nge and Saw Soe Oo (Shwe Barlar).

The lethwei challenge will take place at 11 a.m. from 15-17 October. — Kyaw Khin

2022 World Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar lose to Kyrgyzstan 0-7

MYANMAR was defeated by Kyrgyzstan 6-7 in the second round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers on Thursday at the Dolen Ozmurazakov Stadium, Bishkek City, the home ground of Kyrgyzstan.

The goals for Kyrgyzstan were scored by Bernhardt at the 26th and 27th minutes, Alykulov at the 26th minute, and Kichin at the 45th minute.

In the first leg of the second round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifications, Myanmar also played against Mongolia on 5 September and Japan on 10 September. Myanmar lost all matches.

Team Myanmar will next play against Tajikistan on 19 November at the Mandalair Thiri Stadium in Mandala.

Myanmar, Japan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia have been placed in Group F in the second round of the qualifiers. Each team will play one another in two legs in the round. The second leg matches for Myanmar will be against Mongolia on 19 November, Japan on 26 March, 2022, Kyrgyzstan on 31 March, 2020, and Tajikistan on 9 June, 2020.

There are eight groups competing in the second round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification. The eight group winners and the four best runners-up will advance to the third round.

The FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place between 21 November and 16 December, 2022 in Qatar. — Kyaw Khin

Vardy’s wife receives death threats after Coleen Rooney’s leak allegations

Rebekah Vardy has received death threats over leak allegations. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Rebekah Vardy says she has received death threats even aimed at her unborn child since Wayne Rooney’s wife Coleen accused her of leaking stories.

Seven-months pregnant Vardy, a reality TV star married to former England striker Jamie Vardy, told Friday’s Daily Mail she has received abuse via social media since Rooney went public with her accusations on Wednesday.

Federer loses cool and follows Djokovic out of Shanghai

Roger Federer’s trademark cool evaded him as the new generation of men’s tennis stars took centre stage in Shanghai. PHOTO: AFP

SHANGHAI (China) — Roger Federer’s trademark cool spectacularly deserted him and he was given a point penalty as he followed Novak Djokovic out of the Shanghai Masters quarter-finals on Friday.

Alexander Zverev defeated the usually unflappable Swiss 6-3, 6-7 (7/9), 6-3 in a dramatic match that saw Federer twice hit the ball out of the court in anger and row with the umpire.

The sixth-ranked Zverev, 22, faces Matteo Berrettini in the semi-finals on Saturday after the Italian defeated Austria’s Dominic Thiem in straight sets.

Federer said that he “played alright”, but was effusive about the rise of Zverev, Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas, all in the semi-finals in Shanghai.

“This is the way you knock on the door big time, it’s exciting, it’s great,” he said.

Federer has 11 career titles, but only one arrived this year.

“It was a match to turn my year around a little bit,” he said, adding that he thought Federer played better when he was riled.

Former number one Federer evaded questions about the umpire afterwards, shrugging his shoulders and firing back at one reporter: “Do you can write something on Twitter, yeah?”

“The 20-time Grand Slam champion saved five match points to force a deciding set, but he then became engaged in a continual war of words with the chair umpire.

His point deduction came at 3-0 and 3-15 down in the third set, as the 38-year-old threatened to unravel and he pinged another ball towards the crowd.

Federer said that he “played alright”, but was effusive about the rise of Zverev, Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas, all in the semi-finals in Shanghai.

“The young guys are knocking on the door big time, it’s exciting, it’s great,” he said.

Federer has 11 career titles, but only one arrived this year.

“It was a match to turn my year around a little bit,” he said, adding that he thought Federer played better when he was riled.

“Scared”

Tsitsipas said that he scares the “Big Three” after the young Greek stunned world number one Djokovic in their quarter-final.

The 21-year-old has now defeated Djokovic, Federer and Rafael Nadal this year to burnish his fast-growing reputation.

On Saturday though he faces the red-hot 23-year-old Medvedev — who has beaten him twice.

Tsitsipas recovered from losing the opening three games in just seven minutes to shock the reigning champion Djokovic 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Calling it the best comeback of his nascent career, the seventh-ranked Tsitsipas said he had dreamt of beating the “Big Three”.

But rather than being intimidated by them, Tsitsipas said: “I honestly feel like they are more threatened than I am and that makes me more relaxed on court.

“I know I just have to hang in there and be able to be more aggressive. Once you get aggressive and they see you going for it, I might even say they get scared.”

It was a double celebration for Tsitsipas, who also confirmed his place in the prestigious season-ending ATP Finals.—AFP