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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 147, 1st Waxing of Tawthalin 1380 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Monday, 10 September 2018

Number of nursing trainees to be doubled

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council at the University of Nursing in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UP to 3,600 trainees will be admitted at the nursing schools in 2018, up from the previous annual admittance rate of 1,800, to address the shortage of nurses in the country, according to the top official of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Speaking at the opening of the first plenary session of the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council (MNMC), Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said, "MNMC is prioritizing the task of offering promotion opportunities for nurses and midwives, while producing the human resources of the two fields through diploma courses, off-campus and on-campus programs, as the vitality of their role is equal to that of doctors and other staff of the medical field."

The Union Minister urged MNMC to adopt its work programs, to establish connections with international counterparts, to develop efficiency promotion and ethic enforcement programs and to enhance nursing and midwifery skills through cooperation with the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association.

"Nurses and midwives should meet the 11 points of the core competency standard," said the Union Minister, promising ministry assistance for the MNMC which must strive for the development of the nursing and midwifery sector through unity, team spirit, mutual respect and understanding and coordination.

The plenary session was opened at the University of Nursing in Yangon yesterday morning, with an inaugural address by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein.

The Union Minister attended the dinner hosted at the university on 8 September evening in commemoration of MNMC first plenary session. — MNA ■

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MPC chair: MPC needs power to deal with national-level, international issues

TWENTY-eight new members of Myanmar Press Council (MPC) elected the chair, two vice chairs, the secretary, two joint secretaries, treasurer and the auditor as the executive committee members on 8 September in Yangon.

Myanmar News Agency interviewed the chair, vice chair 1 and secretary of the executive committee.

U Ohn Kyaing.

Dr Myo Thant Tin.

U Kyaw Swa Min.

Myanmar Press Council members voting at the election in Yangon. **PHOTOS: MNA**

U Ohn Kyaing (Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing), Chairman

The first is to amend the 2014 Media Law and the 2015 bylaw in accordance with the current situation, because there are limits in the law and the bylaw. A bill in connection with the matter must be submitted to the parliament. The law should stipulate provisions for the involvement of the MPC in the national-level issues and in opposing the international pressures. The current Media Law is weak in dealing with issues such as ICC's acts to file a lawsuit against Myanmar officials, which amounts to insulting the country's sovereignty. The MPC should be entrusted with the power to get involved in such matters. Todays' mediapersons, especially youths, have weakness in knowledge, experience and ethics. We have a plan to set up media schools or even a university to address this problem. All the MPC members are responsible for realizing the above-mentioned facts for the progress of the nation and the media world. We are trying to exert all-inclusive efforts.

Dr Myo Thant Tin, Vice Chairman 1

I have been with the Council since it was just a temporary body. News media is much important in Myanmar, which is on its way to democracy. We enacted a law, followed by the proclamation of bylaws, including the codes of conduct. I took part in the task during the past three years as the vice chair 2. Our main concern then was to support and fulfill the needs of the media persons, in accord with the existing media law, bylaw and codes of conduct. We dealt with the complaints in a balanced way under the law. We did our best in dealing with important matters in connection with the Rakhine issue. We could evaluate the importance of media for the nation. I am elected as the vice chair 1 for the current term. As we have some experience and teamwork, we promise best efforts for the media profession.

U Kyaw Swa Min, Secretary

We will carry out the process of enacting the press law for the benefit of the media sector. Our program includes the amendment of the press law and bylaw, the holding of a meeting between the fourth estate and the other three estates to ensure swift flow of information and mutual understanding, and opening of media schools for the professional qualifications of mediapersons. As there were changes in the top-level members, our accomplishments during the past three years were not satisfactory. Those from the media world will not be satisfied with us as we still have some unsettled issues. We will review the weak points, and hopefully the MPC will become a reliable force for the media people after we have settled the issues.—MNA ■

Children's Literature Festival concludes in Kyaukse

A CLOSING ceremony of children's literature festival was held in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region, with awards to outstanding students yesterday afternoon.

Officials presented prizes and certificates of honour to students who won first, second and third prizes in Multi-Talent Competition during the festival.

Afterwards, students from basic education high schools and private high schools entertained with the elephant dance, song titled 'Children's Literature Festival (Kyaukse)' and the ceremony came to a successful close.—Kyaukse District (IPRD) ■

Children entertaining with songs and dances at the the Children's Literature Festival in Kyaukse. **PHOTO: KYAUKSE DISTRICT (IPRD)**

Trainees practicing the basic scouting methods at Hinthada University. **PHOTO: MYANMAR SCOUT ASSOCIATION**

Basic Scouts Course concludes in Hinthada

WITH the aim of nurturing the university students with basic scouting skills, a basic scouts course was conducted at Hinthada University in Hinthada from 5 to 8 September.

The closing ceremony of the course was held yesterday at the convocation hall of the university.

During the ceremony, Myanmar Scout Chief Organizer U Aye Kyaing, Youth Scout Chief U Myint Swe, Pro-rector of Hinthada University Dr Daw Marlar delivered welcoming speeches followed by words of thanks by Hinthada University Scout in-charge Daw Moe Moe Khaing.

Afterwards, young scouts entertained with songs of Scouts and reading their ethics, followed by receiving badges of the local and World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

The course was attended by 220 students in total.—Myanmar Scout Association ■

Union Minister inspects plantations, elephant camp in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, U Ohn Win observed the conservation of plantations, educating the public at Forest and Natural Environment Museum and Nga Laik Sakhantha Elephant Camp in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the morning, the Union Minister visited the Safari Park and observed the plantations and Forest and Natural Environment Museum.

Next, the Union Minister and party visited plantations between mile posts 2/6 and 2/3 on the No.1 road in Nay Pyi Taw- Tatkon, and other plantation areas in Nay Pyi Taw.

During his visit, the Union Minister gave necessary instructions to the responsible officials of the plantations.

Later, the Union Minister arrived at the Nga Laik Sakhantha Elephant Camp near mile post 217/0 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. During his visit, elephant camp in charge U Aung Myo Min explained the procedures of the camp to the Union Minister. After his explanations, the Union Minister added necessary instructions for the elephant camp. — MNA ■

Union Minister U Ohn Win inspecting the plantations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr.Myo Thein Gyi addresses the opening ceremony of the English Language Proficiency Upgrading Course yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MOE conducts English Language Proficiency Upgrading Course for staff

AN opening ceremony of the English Language Proficiency Upgrading Course for the staff was conducted at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Directors General and Deputy Directors General, rectors and trainers for the course and attendees.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivered his opening speech.

The course will last for 12 weeks and 156 trainees are attending the course.

The course is being conducted till 25 November by well-experienced English trainers with the aim of promoting the English language skills for the staff in the Ministry, it is learnt. — MNA ■

Campaign talks of three parties on 12, 13, 14 Sept

THE *Mirror* Daily, the *Myanma Alinn* Daily and the *Global New Light of Myanmar* Daily will present campaign talks of the Democratic Party for a New Society, the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy and the Myanmar Farmers Development Party on 12, 13 and 14 September, respectively.—MNA ■

Inclusiveness of natural disaster law discussed

A WORKSHOP in Nay Pyi Taw sought initial means to make the law and bylaws on natural disasters more comprehensive through amendments on 8 and 9 this month.

Speaking on the second day of the meeting, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) Dr Win Myat Aye spoke of the need to consider adding man-made disasters, apart from the ones triggered by the force of nature, in the amended law.

"The work of amending the Natural Disaster Management Law may also need the assessment and adjustment of some of the existing orders and the adoption of a new legal name," he recommended.

"The law should serve and protect the interests of the people," he said, adding, "provisions on the punishments in connection with the offences and disobedience of the law must be stipulated clearly."

"We must listen to the public voices and suggestions of the people's representatives in amending the law and bylaws," he said, saying, "the law should support the State's endeavours for the rule of law, socio-economic development, national reconciliation and peace and the establishment of a federal democratic state."

"Legally, humanitarian aid comes from the funds contributed by the people themselves," he noted.

The SWRR deputy minister suggested the use of terms that are clear and comprehensible to the people.

Apart from the Union Minister and the deputy minister, departmental personnel, officials of USAID/USFS and representatives of Myanmar Disaster Risk Reduction Work Group and Myanmar Red Cross Society took part in the discussions.—MNA ■

Union Minister Dr.Win Myat Aye addresses a meeting to amend the Natural Disaster Management Law. **PHOTO: MNA**

Painting, sculpture exhibition and music concerts held

THE 14thpainting, sculpture exhibition and music concerts of National University of Arts and Culture, Mandalay, was held at the National Theatre of Mandalay yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Thura U Aung Ko, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Mandalay City Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin, Hluttaw representatives, rectors and lecturers from universities and colleges in Mandalay.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko observed the showcasing of arts, painting and sculptures, and watched a music concert performed by the students from National University of Arts and Culture, Mandalay.

There were 22 water and oil paintings, 11 sculptures, along with 13 performances yesterday.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mdy) ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Plans underway to open tourist information counter in Magway

TOURISM authorities are now working to open a new tourist information counter, where travellers can acquire information about destinations they want to visit, within the precincts of Myathalun Pagoda, one of the well-known tourist attractions in Magway Region, the region's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism reported.

U Myint Sein, head of the department, said that there is a directive to open tourist information counters in each region and state. Currently, information counters are opened only in Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan and Inlay areas, where a lot of foreign visitors can be found. The regional directorate submitted a proposal to respective authorities to request a place to open a new information counter in Magway Region, and is now planning to submit a budget request for the project.

Regarding the appointment of daily-wage workers, who can converse fluently in English, relevant proposal has already been submitted to authorities, he added.

An aerial view of Myathalun Pagoda seen on the Ayeyawady River bank. **PHOTO: ZEYATU (MAGWAY)**

U Myint Sein went on to say that the number of international tourists has been increasing in the region, including about 4,000 tourists who visited the Myathalun Pagoda. Upon completion of the project, maps, pamphlets and other destination information will be distributed in both English and Myanmar languages through the tourist information counter.

According to the department, there are 38 hotels and motels in Magway Region, which hosts about 20,000 foreign tourists on an annual basis, including over 10,000 day-trippers and around 4,000 visitors, who usually enter the area by boats, operating along the Ayeyawady River. — Zeyatu (Magway) ■

Fishery export targets to earn $1 billion within two years

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Fisheries Federation (MFF) expects to receive US$1 billion from fishery export within two years, said U Hnin Oo, deputy chair of MFF.

"Fishery export is likely to attain $1 billion within one or two years", said U Hnin Oo.

Last fiscal year, fishery export fetched $700 million. Extensive breeding of saltwater shrimp is being prepared to fulfill the market's needs, according to MFF.

"Fishery export income is only $700 million now. In order to increase marine export earnings, MFF should lead extensive breeding of saltwater shrimp, targeting $1 billion", U Hnin Oo maintained.

This needs technology modification, capital and financial access, according to fishery traders.

"This saltwater shrimp farming has potential to reap fruitful result. That is why we are concentrating on this. Additionally, we are endeavouring to get access to advanced technique and financial support. The fishery sector can possibly to meet its target of $1 billion after building its infrastructure", U Hnin Oo added.

Regarding saltwater shrimp farming, breeders are prepping up to commence their operations in the open season, according to MFF.

Between 1 April and 31 August of current six-month mini-budget period, fishery exports were worth $241.9 million, which was up by $12 million, compared to similar period of last fiscal year 2017-2018. ■

Two arrested for dealing in drugs in Bamauk Township

TWO men have been charged with drug dealing, after they were found in possession of a cache of yaba pills and white opium powder, on Friday evening in Bamauk Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, according to a police report.

Acting on a tip-off, an anti-drug squad from Bamauk District inspected a suspected motorbike driven by one Kyan Lynn with one Maung Soe (also known as Aik Soe) on board, at around 7.15 pm on 8 September, near Nabin Village. Police found 190 yaba tablets worth Ks950,000 and Ks2 million worth of white opium powder weighing 20 grams from Kyan Lynn.

Township police have filed charges against the two suspects under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. They are carrying out further investigations to apprehend others connected with the drug trafficking case. — Lu Aung (Katha) ■

Export to the Netherlands exceeds $100 million from April to June

MYANMAR'S export to the Netherlands from April to June surpassed its import, with export worth US$100.3 million and import valued only $6.5 million, according to figures of the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of trade between Myanmar and the Netherlands reached $109.96 million in the first three months of the six-month mini-budget period, prior to the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Myanmar exports agro products such as oil seeds and vegetable oil and men's and women's shirts, parasols (traditional Pathein umbrellas), and fishery products, while dairy products, consumer goods and raw industrial materials are imported from the Netherlands.

Bilateral trade was registered at $211.57 million in the 2017-2018 FY, $141million in the 2016-2017 FY, $61 million in the 2015-16 FY, $42 million in the 2014-2015 FY, $26 million in the 2013-2014 FY, $9 million in the 2012-2013 FY and $23 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

The Netherlands is listed among the top ten investor countries in Myanmar. A capital of $1.5 billion has been brought into the country since the 1988-1989 FY, according to the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Multinational corporations headquartered in the Netherlands—Shell, Unilever and Phillips—are also doing business in Myanmar. —GNLM ■

Container ships docking at Botahtaung harbour in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Mineral export up by $355 million in five months

EXPORT of mineral products topped US$808 million over the past five months, up by $355 million, as against the same period in the last year, when the country's export of the same was $453 million, according to the latest report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April and 31 August this year, the private sector exported minerals amounting to $499 million, whereas the public sector sold the same worth $309 million.

When compared with the same time last year, the public sector's exports of minerals rose by $253 million, while the private sector saw a significant increase in value by over $100 million.

According to the ministry's trade data, the country earned over $7 billion from overall exports of domestic products during the period, an increase of $1.5 billion from that of the similar period in the last year.

Myanmar's major groups of export products include minerals, agricultural, forest, marine and animal products, manufactured goods and other miscellaneous items. The country principally imports three main groups of commodities, capital goods, semi-finished products and consumer goods.

According to the yearly trade report issued by the commerce ministry, mineral exports were valued at $1.784 billion in the last fiscal year 2017-2018. The country's export of the same was $897 million in the 2011-2012 FY, $399 million in the 2012-2013 FY, $1.34 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $1.498 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $968 million in the 2015-2016 FY, and over $1 billion in the 2016-2017 FY. — Khine Khant ■

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Trade value with Viet Nam shows slight decrease in three months

MYANMAR-Viet Nam trade in the first half of the current six-month interim fiscal period, commencing this April, totalled US$181 million, with exports worth $35 million and imports worth $146 million, according to the monthly report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The current figures between April and June this year showed a slight decrease in value by over $15 million, compared with the same time in the last year, when the bilateral trade was $197 million, including $56 million in export and $140 million in import.

Myanmar normally imports car spare parts, computer parts, construction materials, steel, plastics, foodstuff, pharmaceuticals and other chemical products from Viet Nam.

It mainly exports mineral, agricultural, forest and marine products to the ASEAN member country.

Viet Nam's trade and investment with Myanmar have substantially increased every year. The ministry's annual data showed that the total Myanmar-Viet Nam bilateral trade in the last fiscal year hit a record high of $714 million during seven consecutive years, since the 2011-2012 FY.

Trade between the two ASEAN member states was $494 million in the 2016-2017FY, $346 million in the 2015-2016FY, $321 million in the 2014-2015FY, $281 million in the 2013-2014FY, $155 million in the 2012-2013FY and $143 million in the 2011-2012FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Viet Nam's investment in Myanmar this year reached $6.245 million from two projects. It made investments worth $20.8 million in the last 2017-2018 fiscal year.—Shwe Khine ■

Export earnings increase by $1.5 billion in past five months

MYANMAR'S export earnings from 1 April to 31 August, during the six-month mini-budget period prior to next fiscal year 2018-2019, exceeded US$7 billion, which is an increase of $1.57 billion, compared with the same period last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The government sector's exports were worth $1.65 billion, whereas the estimated value of private sector exports was $5.39 billion.

The agriculture sector saw a significant decrease of $186 million. The forestry sector also experienced a slight decline in exports, while the other sectors increased their value of trade. The export of finished industrial goods brought in $3.79 billion, followed by agriculture exports that were worth over $1 billion. Mineral exports fetched $808 million, while fisheries exports hit $241.9 million. The export value of livestock was some $142.8 million. Forest export earned $79.6 million. Other products worth $875.9 million were also traded.

Myanmar exports its goods through sea and border trade gates. Exports through the sea route fetched $4.8 billion, while $2.24 billion worth of exports flowed into neighbouring countries through the border trade gates. — Mon Mon ■

National Democratic Force Party presents its policy, stance and work program

Vice Chairman U Thet Htun Maung.

General Secretary U Nay Min Kyaw.

VICE Chairman U Thet Htun Maung and General Secretary U Nay Min Kyaw of National Democratic Force (NDF) have presented the party's policy, stance and work program through the radio and television program on 9 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

Esteemed and respected voters,

I am U Thet Htun Maung, Vice Chairman of National Democratic Force. I extend my heartiest best wishes for the health and happiness of the entire people. Our party has emerged according to the political needs of the country. We firmly believe that an independent democracy could be achieved through the parliamentary pathway in the course of general elections. Therefore, our party competed in the 2010 general elections. As a result, 16 lawmakers have been elected to the parliament, and the NDF party effectively served the people's interest in the First Pyithu Hluttaw.

Some of the salient achievements that our party had endeavored were that of providing Ks100,000 agricultural cultivation loan per acre for the farmers, that of stabilizing foreign exchange rate according to the market, that of securing more budget in education and health sector, that of cash guarantee on the price of agricultural crops, that of defending and protecting the rights of the workers, that of submitting the communications bill to lower down the costs of the mobile SIM cards for the public. These were the ground reality of our endeavors and party's outlook and attitude in serving the interests of the people.

The NDF party will never hesitate to serve for the interest of the people in the legislative sector, administrative sector, and in the people's political sector. Whether or not the people directed us and asked our party to do so, we will surely serve the people. Therefore, our party has resolutely declared that it will uphold the national interest of the state.

'National interest' includes all relevant and pertinent interests of the people on political, social and economic issues. That is why, we would like to say that we specially value the equality, self-determination, and people's inborn rights with all personal characteristics. Our party totally accepts the building and construction of a federal union with a democratic system. Only then, we firmly believe, the entire people would be able to enjoy the flavor of peace, unity, equality and prosperity.

The party that is genuinely serving the people's interest is now standing by the people. That is the NDF party. Our party has been constantly following the peace process since the time of its inception. The party upholds principles, such as that of defending the sovereignty, territorial integrity, protecting and shielding the religion and faith, in conjunction with national security and national interest in the context of political alertness. All these endeavors are recognized and accepted by monks and the people.

Esteemed and respected voters,

Allow me to present some of our political activities being served in the interest of the people. During the First Pyithu Hluttaw, our NDF lawmakers were assigned in the investigation commission over confiscated farm lands and other lands. We were successful in returning back the seized lands to the original and rightful owners. The cases occurred in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Mandalay regions and Kayin and Kachin states. These issues could be viewed in the Hluttaw records. Some virgin and fallow lands were from Hukaung Valley of Kachin State. Therefore, the NDF party is in existence in time of needs of the people, and it does not just pop up only when the elections are near.

All are aware of the fact that the NDF party is ready to fulfill the needs of the people. Therefore, we wish to declare with full confidence that the NDF party is a reliable party. It is because of the fact that NDF never ever infringes its loyalty to the people. The word State is referred to the people. The NDF is functioning with the political sense in fulfilling the welfare and safety of life, health, prosperity, food security and patriotism among the people. The basics of politics is food, clothing and shelter. When food, clothing and shelter are not sufficient, it could be said that the politics of a nation is sure to fail.

Economy is very much vital for the nation. People would be happy and contented under the government that is well versed with an economic manoeuvre. The situation of food, clothing and shelter of the people will remain messed up when the government does not understand the importance of economy and has no ability of properly functioning.

Parties must have effective policy on politics, social and economic issues that could properly serve the people and in conformity with the existing times.

The NDF party has laid down the market economic design, a combination of government and private sector that balances the economy through the control of law. Such paradigm is based on social status intended for the convenience of people to enjoy the flavour of independence. The aim is to reduce the wide gap between the filthy rich and the starving poor.

Esteemed and respected voters,

I am U Nay Min Kyaw, the General Secretary of National Democratic Force.

Today in Myanmar, 26 per cent of the population is poor. The majority are peasants and farmers. They are in a poor state of economy and sinking due to natural disasters and poor market situation. In our country, we have 40 million acres of land that can be cultivated. Currently, we can cultivate only on 19 million acres of land. If we could cultivate in all the fallow lands and virgin lands, like in other developed agricultural countries, we could manage the poverty line to a certain extent.

Natural disasters will be there every year. In overcoming this hurdle, peasants and farmers must utilize some sort of methods in their cultivation that gauge and evaluate the weather condition. That was why our party had submitted a proposal at the First Pyithu Hluttaw for introducing an agricultural system that goes hand in hand with the weather condition. NDF had proposed a policy on land ownership rights to those peasants who are toiling on their land. When peasants of Myanmar have the rights to own lands with 30-year land lease grants, similar to China, Vietnam and Thailand, and if all the 40 million acres of land are brought under cultivation with modern method, then Myanmar is sure to become a top agricultural nation. On an appropriate day, we will be able to wipeout poverty. We are submitting this to convince that the party is working for the interest of the people.

At this juncture, I would like to share some words of Lord Buddha in comparison with the political situation that is worth of emulating. The preaching is not to believe what one has heard through others, not to believe due to the reason that successive generations have accepted it, and not to believe due to directives ordered by superiors. One has to think twice whether they benefitted you before, think whether it is only lip service, and then analyze with one own's wisdom and judgment. If it brings advantage to self, others and the people, then it is to be accepted. In the same way, it is necessary to check points, such as whether the voted party is actually serving to the advantages of the people, whether they are keeping their promises or not, whether they get lost from the people's sight after being elected. If a party is reliable and respects the people, that party should be given the vote.

At this moment, I would like to briefly present our current political stance. They include matters, such as that of the peace process that all people aspire, that of to tackle and fix the rising prices of commodities on daily food, clothing and shelter, that of defending and protecting any breach of Myanmar's sovereignty. We pledge and promise that we will work with patriotism and love for the country.

Esteemed and respected voters,

General elections are held only once every five years. In a democratic system, the desire of the people determines the governing of the nation. If a person stays away from voting, thinking that it is worthless, then they will lose their own rights of wasting away their valuable creative rights. Therefore, please vote in the election. If one remains muted by not voting, then it is tantamount to giving away entirely the people's rights of governing authority to a handful of persons. Therefore, please vote for NDF party that has political dignity and political tradition and ready to serve truly for the State and the people.

SEE PAGE-7

Failure of justice in 2008 crash eroded public trust: inquiry chief

WASHINGTON — Phil Angelides pointed the finger at some of the world's most powerful men — leaders of an industry that crashed the global economy and drove untold millions into despair, unleashing the raw emotions now dominating American politics.

The targets of Angelides's ire included a former Secretary of the Treasury and key Citigroup executive, top brass at the century-old investment house Merrill Lynch, and the former chiefs of the globe-spanning insurance giant AIG. All of them, according to the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, which Angelides led, should have been investigated. Evidence suggested they had misled investors about their exposure to the toxic investments at the heart of the meltdown on Wall Street. The commission confidentially passed the evidence to the US Department of Justice in 2010, according to records released years later, expecting prosecutors to pick up the ball and run with it. But they did not. No big fish were held responsible.

"Not one person who drove the conduct, condoned the conduct, oversaw the conduct, was held criminally or civilly liable for that conduct," Angelides, a former California state treasurer, told AFP. Indeed, after 10 years and hundreds of billions in corporate penalties imposed on bank shareholders, perhaps the most enduring legacy of the financial crisis is — unlike the scandals of prior decades —- no one of consequence was arrested, tried or convicted.

It was as if the banks "engaged in systemic, massive wrongdoing but apparently no bankers were involved," he added, and the consequences of that reverberate today.

"I don't think there's any question that the lack of accountability in the wake of the financial crisis has roiled the politics of our country." A *Wall Street Journal* review in 2016 found that of 156 civil and criminal cases against 10 of the largest Wall Street banks in the aftermath of the crisis, responsible individuals were identified only 19 percent of the time — and of those only one of 47 was even boardroom level.

Angelides said the failure to hold Wall Street executives to account had 'roiled' American politics. **PHOTO: AFP**

Eroding public trust

Investigators identified former Treasury secretary Robert Rubin, who served on the board of Citigroup for 10 years, briefly taking over as acting chairman. But a representative for Rubin told AFP the Justice Department investigators had never contacted him.

"Mr Rubin acted appropriately at all times. Any suggestion to the contrary is false," the spokesperson said.

Former top AIG executives Martin Sullivan and Steven Bensinger, as well as Merrill Lynch leaders Stanley O'Neal and Jeffrey Edwards, did not respond to requests for comment.

Angelides said investigators found "hard evidence" on the officials identified in millions of pages of documents and hundreds of interviews. But the commission did not take a position on whether these men were in fact guilty.

"The Justice Department has investigated and held accountable those responsible for financial fraud," a department spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson pointed to a string of smaller cases tied to interest rate rigging, accounting fraud and other cases — unrelated to the largest financial crisis-era cases.

Pollsters say the crisis, the bailout and lack of individual prosecutions scarred the national psyche, eroding public trust in government and leaving voters polarized and enraged.

Washington mobilized trillions of dollars to rescue the very industry that had caused the crisis. But outside Wall Street, the rest of America was riven by economic pain.

Suicide rates mounted as foreclosures blanketed the nation. About 10 million Americans lost their jobs. The size of the labor force as a share of the population fell sharply, as many workers simply gave up, and it still has not recovered. In recent election cycles, candidates on the right and left have lampooned each other for ties to investment banking and Goldman Sachs in particular. President Donald Trump capitalized on those feelings in the 2016 presidential campaign, vowing to wrest control away from Democratic elites to help working Americans, often using xenophobic and racist language.

"The American public just does not trust in any way the establishment," said Chris Jackson, head of US polling at Ipsos.

America needs a 'strong leader'?

Two thirds of Americans now believe the United States needs "a strong leader" to "take the country back" from the rich and the powerful, Jackson said.

Paul Pelletier, a former top white-collar prosecutor at the Justice Department who pursued AIG executives for years, said Washington suffered a collapse of political will to prosecute tough fraud cases. "What went wrong is 100 percent a question of competence and courage," he told AFP.

In the savings-and-loan crisis of the late 1980s and the Enron-era securities fraud scandals of the early 2000s, prosecutors were empowered and given resources nationwide to take risks and pursue hundreds of powerful defendants, come what may.

But a change of leadership early in President Barack Obama's tenure, combined with some high-profile courtroom failures, left officials more concerned with avoiding losses, and opting instead for huge settlements.

Prosecutors learned courtroom mistakes could end their careers, Pelletier said.

In the years after the crisis, probes targeting executives from Goldman Sachs and Lehman Brothers — whose collapse remains the symbol of the crisis — and others fizzled out and died.

Pelletier said Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer felt a conviction was not guaranteed in a case against AIG executive Joseph Cassano and dropped it.

Breuer did not respond to a request for comment.

But Pelletier, who recently made an unsuccessful run for Congress as a Virginia Democrat, said the public was understandably angry and disillusioned. "One righteous prosecution would have gone a long way to ameliorating some of that," he said.—AFP ■

National Democratic Force Party presents its policy, stance and work program

FROM PAGE-6

I would like to say candidly that if one votes in this manner, then one will not regret for the act. In choosing to vote, it may be advisable to look at the party and for the right person; that the person is clean from political guilt, the party is spotless and the candidate is fine. Only then the people will be free from the cycle of political darkness. In other words, the most valuable vote might go to a wrong direction.

The NDF party will not accept a lopsided electoral dictatorship where democracy is taken hostage. As people do not like a one-party system, then people must vote in such a manner that multiple parties are elected to the parliaments, clearing and sweeping out the atmosphere of electoral dictatorship. It was, therefore, the NDF party, together with other nationalities parties, seriously proposed the "proportionate representation" system during the First Pyithu Hluttaw, which is an electoral system in which parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes cast for them.

In one-party authoritarian system or in an electoral dictatorship pattern, the overall influence and power remains in the hands of one party, creating a situation deprived of checks and balances, losing the rights of amending, and lacking the opportunity for advice and suggestions. Therefore, with a view to eliminating the defects that are detrimental to the interest of the people, the NDF party plans ahead to work for the "proportionate representation" method in Myanmar's parliamentary system.

Esteemed and respected voters,

In the upcoming by-election, the esteemed voters are sincerely urged to vote for reliable candidates and a dependable party that will serve the interest of the locality. In conclusion, I would like to say that if voters decided to choose our NDF party with the symbol of Myanmar bamboo headwear and entrusted us as lawmakers, then the NDF party seriously and courageously promise to uphold the national interest with full patriotism and serve the interests of the people.

With high esteem to all of you.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Would not accept inappropriate decision

NATIONS around the world have been standing tall as independent sovereign states, with their own nation, own nationals, own government and with their own laws prescribed.

Throughout human history, many diverse races have formed their own societies that are suitable to their social lives. They have set up their own administrative power or state power to tackle complex social problems, such as those dealing with food, clothing, shelter, and so on. In this regard, the state power that they created is to shape the destiny of their own society.

At present time, some superpowers using their military might can no longer manipulate or interfere in the affairs of other smaller countries. And yet, we see their attempts of interference in small nations by representing global organizations on the pretext of human rights. This can be especially seen in a small country like Myanmar.

Every country tends to have its own problems that may be small or big, and some would be based on diverse views or different political backgrounds. Interference in these matters can be assumed as an act of dishonesty intended to hamper internal peace, national reconciliation, democratization process, development, and even harm Myanmar's sovereignty.

> ... any groundless accusations made by any organizations would not be accepted, and inappropriate decisions, lacking fundamental principles of legality, would be nonetheless turned down.

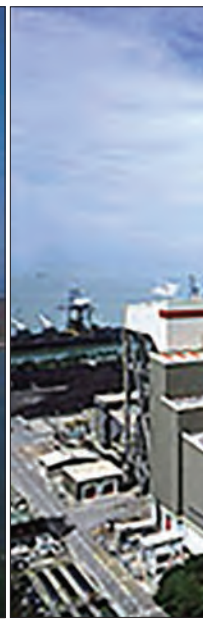
Their efforts to take action on Myanmar is unreasonable and their objective is to undermine Myanmar Government's commitment and efforts in dealing with the problems. The decision they took was based on false accusations and are unacceptable.

Myanmar has pledged to carry out the implementation tasks to the fullest extent, within the shortest timeframe possible, and in consonant with the situation on the ground. Moreover, there is a bilateral cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the Bangladesh Government to assist in the speedy, efficient resettlement and rehabilitation of the returnees.

The Government has also formed the Independent Commission of Enquiry regarding the accusations of human rights violations, and efforts are being made to take legal action against those who break the law. In fact, it has been said many times that the real violators of human rights are the ARSA terrorists.

The Government has time and again reiterated its principled position of promoting and implementing the rule of law, justice and accountability. Thus, any groundless accusations made by any organizations would not be accepted, and inappropriate decisions, lacking fundamental principles of legality, would be nonetheless turned down. ■

Lamma Power Station of Hongkong Electric Company. **PHOTO: COURTESY OF HEC**



Castle Peak Power

Electricity Generation Random Jot

By Sayar Mya (MOFA)

ON a cool Friday evening in August, I was at the Victoria Harbor in Hong Kong, enjoying the "Light Show" with amazement and wonder over the decorative lights and lasers from buildings using huge amount of electricity. "Symphony of Lights" is a daily light and sound show in Hong Kong.

I purposely chose to go there on a Friday evening, as they do the narration is in English. It begins at 8 pm and ends at 8:15 pm every day. It is the world's largest permanent light and sound show, according to Guinness World Records. In Hong Kong, electricity is generated using coal, natural gas and nuclear energy as the sources. Electricity consumption per capita was 6,073.02 kWh (2014).

A few months back, I came across a report entitled, "Myanmar's growing electricity needs", in which an interview with Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing was posted on the Ministry's website on 29 January 2018.

The consumption rate of electricity in Myanmar is increasing at least 15 per cent each year, and it is estimated that Myanmar is expected to consume about 4,531 megawatts of electricity in 2020-2021. Currently, the annual total electricity production is 3,189 megawatts, with 1,342 megawatts still needed. It is generated from 17 hydropower stations and 15 thermal power production facilities. With more plants under the plan, the demand is set to be met by the year 2022.

These power plants can produce 15 per cent from hydropower production, 18 per cent from power plants based on Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO), 30 per cent from power plants using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and 5 per cent from solar power plant.

The power supply is the first question asked by foreign and local investors. Currently, the ministry can say that it could take responsibility for a reliable power supply by 2020.

At this juncture, the writer of this article would like to share some knowledge with the esteemed readers on the topic "Electricity Generation and Transmission in Hong Kong". In no way the writer is suggesting to imitate, copy, reproduce, mirror, echo or follow it. I fully understand that we are on our way and in our own pace.

Electricity sector in Hong Kong ranges from generation, transmission, distribution and sales of electricity covering Hong Kong. There are two main providers of electricity in Hong Kong.

(1) Hongkong Electric Company (HEC)
(2) CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP)

Generation fuel

In 2012, Hong Kong relied on coal (53%), nuclear (23%), natural gas (22%) and a very small amount (2%) of renewable energy for its electricity generation. As coal-firing generation units started to retire in 2017, the Government planned to raise the share of natural gas to 50% in 2020, while maintaining the share of nuclear power at present levels.

Electricity generation in power plants in Hong Kong coal-fired power plants

The power plants in Hong Kong mainly use coal and natural gas as fuel to generate electricity. The fuel releases chemical energy upon combustion; hot steam or gas is generated and used to drive turbines, thus converting part of the internal energy of the hot steam or gas into useful kinetic energy. Turning turbines then operate a generator to produce electricity. Examples of coal-fired power plants can be found in the Lamma Power Station of The Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd. (HEC) and Castle Peak Power

Guangdong Daya Bay Nuclear Power S

Station of CLP Power. **PHOTO: COURTESY OF CLP POWER**

in Hong Kong: tting

Station of CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP Power).

In Hong Kong, power plant generators are turned at a precise rate of 3000 rpm during operation to generate an AC of frequency 50Hz. In order to withstand the tremendous force in rapid rotation and to optimize the output during operation, the design and construction of the generator is detailed and complex.

Natural gas power plants

Natural gas is gaining importance as the fuel for electricity generation in Hong Kong as well as worldwide. Natural gas is cleaner when burning and can burn at a higher temperature. A higher temperature is more favorable in achieving higher efficiency for electricity generation. But a high temperature also places higher demand on the material of the turbine. The recent advancements in metallurgy, ceramics and material technologies allow natural gas to be used efficiently in electricity generation.

Gas turbines can be used in power plants that use natural gas or some forms of fuel oil like industrial gas oil or diesel oil as the source of energy. The technologies applied to gas turbines for electricity generation are borrowed from those developed for aircraft jet turbines. Gas turbine power plants designed for combined cycle operation have a higher efficiency.

CLP Power also obtains power from the Guangdong Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station. Nuclear power stations use uranium as the source of energy for electricity generation. Uranium is a kind of heavy metal element. When it undergoes nuclear fission reaction, a large amount of energy is released and this is used as the source of energy for electricity production. While conventional power plants use chemical energy, nuclear power plants use nuclear energy for electricity generation.

Station. **PHOTO: COURTESY OF CLP POWER**

Transmission and distribution system in Hong Kong

Power plants are usually far away from populated areas. Underground cables and/or overhead lines are required to transmit and distribute electricity from power plants to users living in populated areas. A system of underground cables and overhead lines, forming a transmission network, carries the electricity over long distances to the substations close to populated areas. In the substations the voltage is stepped down. Through another system of cables, forming the distribution network, electricity is distributed over shorter distances to users. In Hong Kong, transmission voltage are 275 kV and 132 kV for HEC and 400 kV and 132 kV for CLP Power.

Costs

It is estimated on average that basic costs for electricity, heating, cooling, water, garbage, etc. for an 85 square meter size apartment is 1,386 HK$. (US$176)

How much does it cost to run a 60 watt light bulb for 1 hour? If the bulb is operated for an average of six hours per day, then over the course of a year it will use approximately 6x365x60 = 131 kilowatts of electricity. At an average cost of 12 cents per kilowatt-hour, the 60-watt incandescent bulb will cost approximately HK$17 (US$2.17) per year to operate.

Popular renewable energy and electricity

For many decades, almost all the electricity consumed in the world has been generated from three different forms of power plant -- fossil, hydro and nuclear. Currently, the renewable energy is generating in a relatively small share of the world's electricity, although that trend is growing fast.

In conclusion, the writer would like to wrap up in a broader approach. There is widespread popular support for using renewable energy, particularly solar and wind energy, which provides electricity without giving rise to any carbon dioxide emissions.

■

Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons

Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

The entire public needs to participate, Trafficking in persons to eliminate...

2018 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives

- To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders – government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Sunday 9th September, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 10th September, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Rakhine State, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Sagaing ,Ayeyarwady Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.
FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 9-9-2018)

Flood conditions of Sittoung River

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (3) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (1) foot from the present water level during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (4) feet at Hpaan above its danger level. It may fall about (1½) feet from the present water level during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Madauk and Hpaan Township, to take precaution measure.

Syria's Idlib under 'violent' air strikes after Tehran failure

IDLIB (Syria) — Syria's last major rebel bastion Idlib was Saturday targeted by the "most violent" Russian air strikes in a month, a monitor said, after the failure of a three-way summit on the Syrian conflict.

The renewed strikes came a day after the leaders of rebel backer Turkey and regime allies Russia and Iran failed at the summit in Tehran to agree on how to stave off a threatened offensive on the northwestern province of Idlib.

Aid organisations have warned that any military campaign to retake the region of nearly three million people on the Turkish border could spark one of the worst humanitarian disasters in Syria's seven-year war.

On Saturday, dozens of Russian air raids hit southern and southeastern areas of Idlib province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said.

At least nine civilians including two children were killed in the strikes and as dozens of barrel bombs were dropped by regime aircraft, the Britain-based monitor said.

An AFP correspondent in the southern village of Al-Muntar saw huge clouds of grey smoke billow up above olive trees after a barrel bombing.

Syrian protesters wave the flag of the opposition as they demonstrate against the regime and its ally Russia, in the rebel-held city of Idlib on 7 September 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Civilians flee

Women and children ran terrified across nearby fields, one woman appearing to clutch a baby in a blanket. An elderly man sat out of breath, barefoot and dazed in the red earth, his walking cane by his side.

An underground hospital located in the province's Hass area was hit by an air strike, damaging the building and equipment, an AFP correspondent said.

"We've had non-stop air raids since the morning," said Abu Hussein, originally a resident of Hama province to the south before he found refuge near the Idlib village of Al-Abdine.

"Barrel bombs dropped by helicopters crashed close to us," he told AFP.

The raids prompted hundreds of families to take to the roads, as dozens of cars and trucks tried to ferry civilians away from the bombardment.

Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said the raids targeted jihadist and rebel positions, some of which were empty and others in use.

It was the heaviest bombardment since August 10, when at least 53 civilians were killed in Idlib and the neighbouring province of Aleppo, he said.

Idlib is largely controlled by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an alliance led by Al-Qaeda's former Syrian affiliate, as well as rival rebels.

The United Nations has warned that any offensive could force up to 800,000 people to flee their homes and urged key powerbrokers to avoid a "bloodbath".

On Friday, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan openly disagreed with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at a press conference in the Iranian capital.

Erdogan called for a "truce", while Russia's president said Damascus "has a right and must eventually take under control all of its national territory".

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned against a "scorched earth" policy, but said "fighting terrorism in Idlib is unavoidable".

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime has upped its rhetoric on retaking control of Idlib and surrounding areas over the past month. The threat comes after it recaptured areas around the capital Damascus and in southern Syria earlier this year, through a combination of deadly bombardment and surrender deals. —AFP ■

Egypt to open two Suez Canal tunnels to improve poverty-stricken Sinai

People work in a tunnel under construction in Ismailia, Egypt, on 4 September 2018. Egypt will inaugurate soon two twin-tube road tunnels linking the restive Sinai Peninsula to the Egyptian heartland, a project Egypt hopes would help improve the impoverished territory. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ISMAILIA — Egypt will inaugurate soon two twin-tube road tunnels linking the restive Sinai Peninsula to the Egyptian heartland, a project Egypt hopes would help improve the impoverished territory.

The tunnels are part of the Suez Canal Corridor Area Project, which was launched in August 2014 and aims to increase the role of the Suez Canal region in international trading.

The project will also facilitate the development of three canal cities, namely Suez, Ismailia and Port Said, as well as Sinai Peninsula.

Last week, Egypt announced that South Port Said and North Ismailia tunnels, which run under the Suez Canal, were near completion.

It is expected that Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi will open the two tunnels, located northeast of Cairo, in October.

The new tunnel system is meant to meet the requirements of development in the Peninsula and completely eliminate the traffic congestion, which has gone far beyond the capacity of the ferries of the Suez Canal Authority, Al-Salam Bridge and the Ahmed Hamdi Tunnel.

The tunnels, which costed 1 billion U.S. dollars, will shorten the time for crossing the Suez Canal to 10 minutes, instead of waiting for the ferries for several days. The Armed Forces Engineering Authority, which oversees the tunnel projects, contracted with Petrojet and Concord Egyptian construction companies to build the North Ismailia tunnels, which run under the existing and new Suez Canal north of the city of Ismailia. — Xinhua ■

15 killed, 190 wounded in Basra violent protests

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi Ministry of Health said Saturday that 15 people have been killed and 190 others wounded since violent protests against worsening living conditions broke out several days ago.

"The casualties come from both demonstrators and security forces," the Health Ministry Spokesman Sayf Bader said in a statement.

Bader said that most of the wounded have received treatment and left the hospitals of Basra province.

During the week, hundreds of angry demonstrators burned the provincial government buildings, the offices of leading political parties and the headquarters of some Shiite militias in protest of wide-spread corruption, poor public services, unemployment and water contamination in the province.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) called for restraint over the deterioration of the security situation in Basra. "The deaths of civilians and the growing number of casualties at the ongoing demonstrations is particularly worrying, as is the use of firearms for restoring public order," ICRC statement said.

Basra, the province's capital city which bears the same name, has long witnessed complaints among its over 2 million residents about the collapsing infrastructure, power cuts and corruption.

Water supply in the province is also widely criticized for high salinity, with thousands of residents having been hospitalized.

The protesters also accused the influential political parties of being behind the wide-spread corruption, which led to high unemployment and failure in rehabilitation of the country's electricity, water and other basic services. — Xinhua ■

Far-right tipped to win big as Swedes go to the polls

STOCKHOLM—The polls opened for Swedish legislative elections Sunday with the far-right expected to notch up a record score as voters unhappy about immigration punish one of the few remaining left-wing governments in Europe.

Opinion polls suggest the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats (SD) could garner between 16 and 25 percent of the vote, making it one of the biggest parties and almost impossible to predict the make-up of the next government.

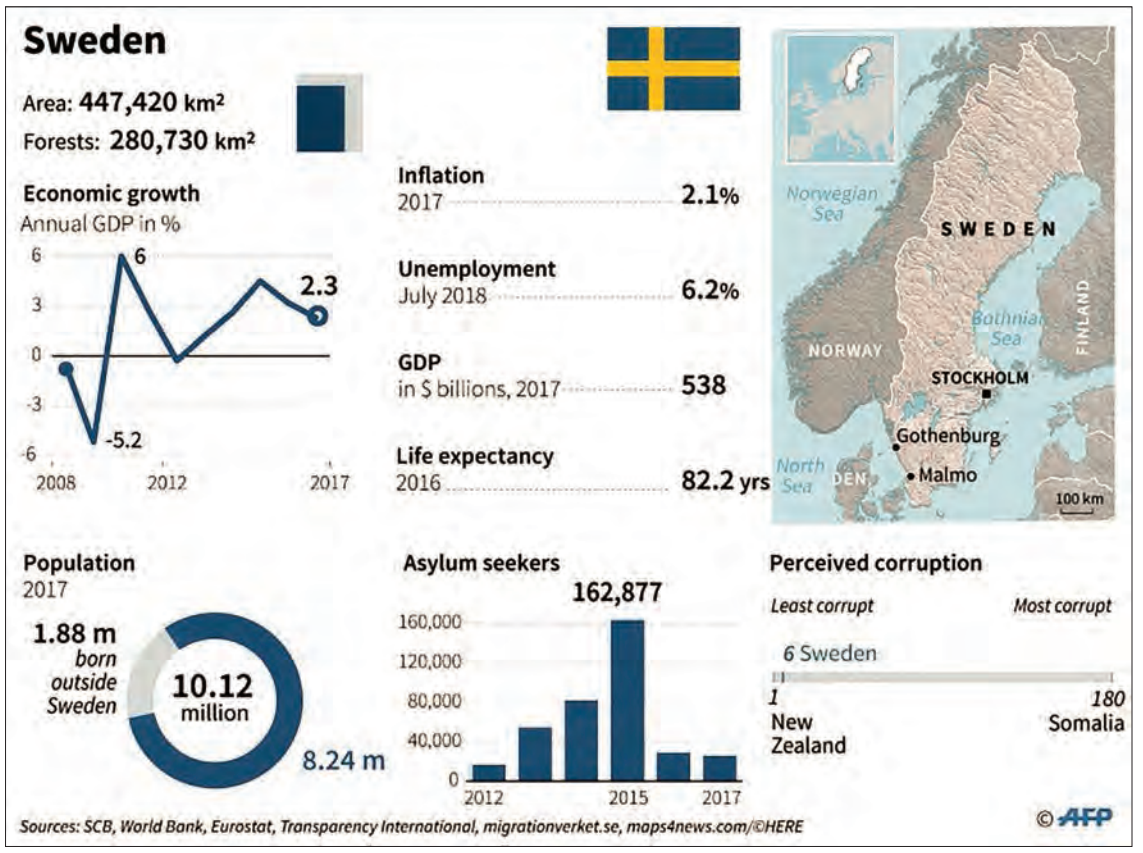
The party with roots in the neo-Nazi movement has called the arrival of almost 400,000 asylum seekers since 2012 a threat to Swedish culture and claims they are straining Sweden's generous welfare state.

The traditionally two largest parties, the Social Democrats and the conservative Moderates, are expected to win around 40 percent of the votes combined, down 10 percentage points from the last elections in 2014.

Candidates from the eight parties campaigned down to the wire on Saturday, targeting in particular the 20 percent of the 7.5 million eligible voters still undecided, according to pollsters.

"I'm still hesitating between the Moderates and SD. SD is quite close to the Moderates but they're a little more clear in what they want. They're more direct," Elias, an 18-year-old voting in his first election, told AFP.

Social Democrat Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has repeatedly called the elections a "referendum on the future of the welfare state". But the far-right SD has presented it as a straight vote on immigration and integration, after Sweden took in more than 160,000 asylum seekers in 2015 alone, the most in Europe on a per capita basis.



Socio-economic factfile on Sweden. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Hateful forces'

On the eve of the election, Lofven condemned "the hateful forces" in Sweden.

He urged voters to "think about how they wanted to use their time on Earth", calling on them to "stand on the right side of history".

Moderates leader Ulf Kristersson said that after the election, Sweden would need "a strong cross-bloc cooperation to isolate the forces... pushing for Sweden to withdraw from international cooperation".

In southern Sweden, an SD stronghold, party leader Jimmie Akesson campaigned among throngs of supporters as detractors booed him and shouted "No racists on our streets!"

"We're now competing against the Social Democrats and Moderates to become the biggest party in the country," he said, dismissing the protesters as "communists".

Polling stations opened across the country at 8:00 am (0600 GMT) and close at 8:00 pm, with first estimates expected soon afterwards.

Final results are due before midnight (2200 GMT) but the composition of the next government may not be known for weeks. —AFP ■

Australia to ditch climate targets bill after PM ousting

SYDNEY — Australia's new prime minister will not revive plans to embed carbon emissions targets in law, a thorny issue that triggered the ousting of his predecessor in a party coup.

Scott Morrison won a Liberal Party ballot to replace Malcolm Turnbull—a moderate who struggled to get his conservative colleagues to support the National Energy Guarantee (NEG)—as leader in late August.

Australia is considered one of the world's worst per capita greenhouse gas polluters, and is a heavy user of coal-fired power.

Morrison, who is to the right of Turnbull, said the proposal to help the government meet its Paris Agreement pledge was "dead" and his government would focus instead on lowering soaring electricity prices.

"The NEG is dead, long live reliability guarantee, long live default prices, long live backing new power generation," he told the *Weekend Australian* on Saturday.

Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison will not revive controversial carbon emissions targets. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Next week we will be putting to rest the issue of the legislation... it won't be proceeding."

Canberra said it would still work to reduce Australia's emissions despite a lack of laws to enforce the Paris target.

The ruling Liberal-National coalition—as well as previous Labor governments—have struggled to introduce climate policies over the past decade amid political infighting and turbulence.

Former Labor PM Kevin Rudd's flagship carbon-trading scheme, which aimed to cut emissions by between five and 25 percent of 2000 levels by 2020, was shelved in 2010.

Rudd's Labor successor Julia Gillard, faced with a hung parliament, later introduced a carbon pricing scheme in exchange for support from two independents. —AFP ■

Argentine president optimistic about economy with new budget, IMF deal

BUENOS AIRES—After weeks of market volatility and depreciation of the Argentine peso against the U.S. dollar, Argentine President Mauricio Macri said on Friday he was optimistic about the economy following a new budget and a 50-billion-U.S.-dollar International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement.

During a press conference in the western city of Mendoza, Macri said the tax announced earlier in the week will "generate the necessary resources that Argentina needs in order to have calm and certainty" in the coming year's budget. He also praised the "maturity" Argentinians have shown in facing the crisis, saying the leaders had "collaborated and acted responsibly and independently, regardless of their political leanings."

On Monday, the president had announced new austerity measures, including large-scale spending cuts and a temporary tax on the export of raw materials, to eliminate the chronic fiscal deficit.

The budget for next year is expected to go to the Congress for approval in the coming weeks.

The peso began to appreciate this week after Economy Minister Nicolas Dujovne began talks with the IMF director in Washington on Tuesday.

Argentina signed a 50-billion-dollar standby deal with the IMF in June and is now seeking early disbursements of the financial package.

The peso began its climb against the dollar on Wednesday and on Friday reached the level of 37.6 pesos to 1 dollar from its worst 40 pesos during the volatility.—Xinhua ■

North Korea holds 70th anniversary parade, without ICBMs

Huge crowds of civilians followed the military display. **PHOTO: AFP**

PYONGYANG (North Korea) — Thousands of North Korean troops followed by artillery and tanks paraded through Pyongyang Sunday as the nuclear-armed country celebrated its 70th birthday, but it refrained from displaying the intercontinental ballistic missiles that have seen it hit with sanctions.

Instead leader Kim Jong Un showed off his friendship with China, raising the hand of President Xi Jinping's envoy as they saluted the crowd together afterwards.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as the North is officially known, was proclaimed on September 9, 1948, three years after Moscow and Washington divided the peninsula between them in the closing days of the Second World War.

Such set-piece dates are a mainstay of the North's political calendar, and have for years been opportunities to demonstrate progress in its quest for a missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the United States.

But too militaristic a display this time might have risked upsetting the recent diplomatic dalliance on the peninsula, after Kim's Singapore meeting with US President Donald Trump in June and his third summit with the South's President Moon Jae-in due in Pyongyang later this month.

After a 21-gun salute, dozens of infantry units marched through Kim Il Sung Square, some in night-vision goggles or wielding rocket-propelled grenade launchers, as the current leader — the founder's grandson— looked on from a rostrum.

Li Zhanshu, one of the seven members of the Chinese Communist party's Politburo Standing Committee, the country's most powerful body, sat next to him, the two of them occasionally exchanging comments. Armoured personnel carriers, multiple rocket launchers and tanks followed, with biplanes flying overhead in a '70' formation. At one point jets trailing red, white and blue smoke — the colours of the North Korean flag — roared above the Juche Tower, the stone monument to Kim Il Sung's political philosophy.

Finally came the missiles, the traditional climax of the parades. But the only ones on show were short-range battlefield devices, the Kumsong-3 anti-ship cruise missile, and the Pongae-5 surface-to-air weapon. There was no sign of the Hwasong-14 and -15 rockets that can reach the mainland United States and changed the strategic balance when they were first tested last year.

"It looks like the North Koreans really tried to tone down the military nature of this," said Chad O'Carroll, managing director of Korea Risk Group.

Any display of longer-range missiles would have cast doubt on North Korea's commitment to denuclearisation, he added.

'Long live!

Pyongyang has not publicly stated a willingness to give up the weapons it has spent decades developing at huge political and financial cost, but it has been on a diplomatic charm offensive for months.

In April, Kim declared that the North's nuclear programme had been successfully completed and "socialist economic construction" was the new strategic priority.

In a speech Sunday, ceremonial president Kim Yong Nam lauded the country and its army as "the strongest in the world", but did not mention nuclear weapons.

And immediately after the parade thousands of citizens rallied through the square, alongside floats displaying economic themes and calls for Korean reunification — the peninsula has remained split since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

Thousands of accompanying citizens waved bouquets and flags, chanting "Long live" to the leader. —AFP ■

China, Pakistan vow to push forward all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new high

ISLAMABAD — China and Pakistan pledged here on Saturday to push forward the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries to a new high.

While meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi hailed the smooth and successful general elections in Pakistan in July, saying China respects the choice made by the Pakistani people on their own will.

As Pakistan's good friend, good partner and good neighbor, China will stand firmly with the Pakistani side, Wang said.

Stressing ties between China and Pakistan as all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, Wang said relations between the two countries have been established on the basis of long-term mutual understanding, mutual support and mutual trust beyond party differences and government changes. China and Pakistan are "iron brothers" who have forged time-tested friendship, Wang said.

Noting that China highly appreciates the reaffirmation of Pakistan's new government to continue taking the development of ties with China as the cornerstone of its foreign policy, Wang said China will also continue to take the development of ties with Pakistan as a priority in its foreign policy and neighborhood diplomacy. China will firmly support Pakistan's new government, help Pakistan in its efforts to realize new development targets, consolidate strategic mutual trust and strategic coordination and expedite the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), so as to elevate the level of all-round cooperation, deepen the friendship between the two peoples, push forward the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a new high and forge a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future, Wang added. —Xinhua ■

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS

Extension of Tender Closing Date

Myanma Railways Extends the Tender Closing Date as follows:

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Initial Closing Date & Time	Extension Closing Date & Time
1	16/MR/INDIA (E) 2017-2018	Track Recording Car EM 80 and Small Track Maintenance Machineries	12.9.2018 (14:30) Hr	14.11.2018 (14:30) Hr

Managing Director, Myanma Railways
Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

TRADEMARK CAUTION

AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION, a company registered under the laws of Republic of Korea, which is located at 100, Hangang-daero, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

RAREKIND

Reg. No. 7249/2018

In respect of **Class 3:** Cosmetics; cosmetic preparations for skin care; make-up preparations, namely, make-up base; make-up powder; mascaras; creamy foundation; lipsticks; nail polish; beauty masks for cosmetic purposes; shampoos; dentifrices; perfumery; tissues impregnated with cosmetic lotions; cosmetic soaps.

VITALBEAUTIE

Reg. No. 7250/2018

In respect of **Class 5:** Foods for infants (except milk powders); Bracelets for medical purposes; Microorganisms for medical purposes; Nutritional supplements; Ginseng capsules for medical purposes; Multivitamin preparations; Dietetic substances adapted for medical use; Oriental medicines for women's diseases; Pharmaceuticals; Capsules for medicines; Stem cells for medical purposes; Medicine cases, portable, filled; Adhesive plasters.

In respect of **Class 29:** Meat; Seaweed extracts for food; Fish, not live; Fruits, tinned [canned]; Fruit, preserved; Vegetables, preserved; Eggs; Milk products; Edible fats; Vegetable salads.

AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)
For **AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION**
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: 10th September 2018

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The Ministry of Construction
Department of Highways

September 7, 2018

Invitation to Pre-Qualify

For the

Yangon Elevated Expressway Public Private Partnership Project Phase 1

The Ministry of Construction ("MOC") of the Union Government of Myanmar, coordinating with the Yangon Regional Government, is inviting interested parties to pre-qualify to undertake the design, engineering, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of the first phase of an elevated four-lane expressway project in Yangon of approximately 27 kilometers through a long term Public Private Partnership (PPP) concession agreement (the "Project").

The elevated toll road is expected to provide improved access to Downtown Yangon, Yangon International Airport, Mingalardon Industrial Park and the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

For this purpose, the MOC has prepared a Request for Qualifications (the **"RFQ"**) and Preliminary Information Memorandum (the **"PIM"**) containing background information in respect of the Project.

The RFQ and PIM may be purchased by interested parties for a non-refundable fee payable to the MOC of one thousand five hundred United States Dollars (USD1,500.00)(the **"RFQ Fee"**) at Finance Department, Building No. 11, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Attention: Yangon Elevated Expressway Project Team. Phone no. 067-407068, 09-402671136, 09-2023012. (9:00AM-5:00PM)

Interested parties can pay the RFQ Fee through one of the following ways:

- In person, with cash, to the "Finance Department" of MOC (Building No. 11). Upon payment, the interested party will receive a payment slip, and the interested party should submit the payment slip to the Yangon Elevated Expressway Project Team as proof of payment.
- International wire transfer to
    - o Bank Account Name - Department of Highway (DOH)
    - o Bank Name - Myanma Economic Bank, Naypyitaw Branch
    - o Intermediary Bank - Myanma Economic Bank (Head Office),Naypyitaw.
    - o Bank Account No. - MD 012906
    - o Swift Code - MYEBMMMY
    - o RFQ Document Fee - USD1,515.00(note: includes $15 for bank fee)

Send proof of wire transfer by email to the Yangon Elevated Expressway Project Team.
Email: yexmoc@gmail.com, Attention: U Kyi Zaw Myint, Deputy Director General, Department of Highway, Ministry of Construction.

Following payment of the RFQ Fee using one of the methods mentioned above, the interested party will be sent the documents of RFQ and PIM to the email address provided to the Yangon Elevated Expressway Project Team by IFC.

The pre-qualification application submission deadline is 30th October 2018 at 14:00 hours Myanmar Standard Time.

Pre-qualification is open to all interested parties, whether local or foreign, subject to conditions for eligibility under the RFQ. To pre-qualify, interested parties will be entitled to form consortiums in accordance with the arrangements set out in the RFQ.

Only parties who have paid the RFQ Fee will be permitted to submit a pre-qualification application (if submitting as a consortium, at least one consortium member shall have paid the RFQ Fee).

Only pre-qualified bidders will be invited to submit a bid proposal for the Project.

MOC shall reserve the right to reject any or all prequalification applications, modify the RFQ or any aspect thereof anytime for any reason whatsoever.

Roman gold coins discovered in Italian theatre

COMO (Italy)—Hundreds of ancient Roman gold coins have been discovered on the site of an old theatre in Como in northern Italy, the Ministry of Culture said.

The coins date back to the end of the Roman Empire in the 5th century and were found in a kind of stone urn in the Cressoni theatre basement, not far from the site of the ancient city of Novum Comum. According to Italian media, the coins could be worth millions of euros.

Hundreds of ancient Roman gold coins, similar to the one pictured in March 2016, were found in a kind of stone urn in the Cressoni theatre basement in Como. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We do not yet know in detail the historical and cultural significance of this discovery but this area is a real treasure for our archeology," said Culture Minister Alberto Bonisoli on Facebook.

The theatre, which was inaugurated in 1870 and later became a cinema before closing in 1997, was due to be demolished to allow the construction of a luxury residence.

Authorities now plan to suspend work at the site to allow further excavations, according to local media. —AFP ■

Cuaron's Mexican 'masterpiece' wins Venice film festival

VENICE—Mexican director Alfonso Cuaron won the Golden Lion top prize at the Venice film festival Saturday for "Roma", which critics have called not merely a movie but "a vision".

With its highly emotional story centred on an indigenous maid working for a middle-class family in Mexico City in 1971, it has been hailed as Cuaron's most personal film—and also his best.

Cuaron told reporters that in an incredible coincidence "today is the birthday of the woman the movie is based on. What a present!" The film industry bible *Variety* said "Roma" is likely to go down as a "masterpiece".

"It is no mere movie—it's a vision... where every image and every emotion is perfectly set in place," said critic Owen Gleiberman."He dunks us, moment by moment, image by luminously composed image, into a panorama of the hurly-burly of Mexico City." The Italian press declared it "sublime" while for *The Guardian's* Peter Bradshaw it was a "complete triumph".

Vintage year

Cuaron, 56, reconstructed his own childhood home for the Netflix-backed film, borrowing furniture back from relatives to recreate how it was when he was 10. But the heart of the film is the "luminous" performance of first-time actor Yalitza Aparicio, who plays Cleo, a young live-in maid of Mixteco heritage who looked after the director as a boy.

Mexican director Alfonso Cuaron with the Golden Lion top prize for his film "Roma" at the Venice film festival on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Cleo is based on my babysitter when I was young. We were a family together," Cuaron told AFP.

"But when you grow with someone you love you don't discuss their identity. So for this film I was forced to see myself as this woman, a member of the lower classes, from the indigenous population. This is a point of view I had never had before."

The second prize Silver Lion went to France's Jacques Audiard for his hugely enjoyable Western "The Sisters Brothers" starring Joaquin Phoenix and John C Reilly, with the Coen brothers picking up best script for a set of intersecting Wild West tales, "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs".

Britain's Olivia Colman won best actress for playing the needy and weak-minded Queen Anne in "The Favourite", a viciously funny and apparently accurate historical drama about powerful two women competing for her favour. Hollywood legend Willem Dafoe won best actor for his acclaimed portrait of the painter Vincent Van Gogh in "At Eternity's Gate".

Venice has become the launchpad for the Oscars race with Hollywood heavyweights like Damien Chazelle and Paul Greengrass jostling for attention in a line-up director Alberto Barbera called "the best in 30 years".

Pop superstar Lady Gaga also made a highly praised big screen debut playing a ballsy young waitress who dreams of being a singer in "A Star is Born".—AFP ■

Jack Ma to unveil succession plans, not imminent retirement: SCMP

BEIJING—Alibaba co-founder and chairman Jack Ma will unveil a succession plan on Monday, the *South China Morning Post* reported Sunday, with a company spokesman denying a *New York Times* report that he would retire that day.

The *SCMP*, which is owned by Alibaba, said China's most famous tech billionaire will "unveil a succession strategy" on Monday—his 54th birthday—but remain the company's executive chairman for the foreseeable future.

The *New York Times* ran an article on Friday, based on an interview with Ma, saying the former teacher turned billionaire planned to use his birthday to announce his retirement as chairman of Alibaba to focus on philanthropy. The paper quoted Ma as saying the decision was "the beginning of an era".

The *SCMP* reports that Ma plans to unveil his succession strategy on Monday, not his imminent retirement. **PHOTO: AFP**

But an Alibaba spokesman told the *SCMP* that the *New York Times'* story "was taken out of context, and factually wrong".

"An Alibaba spokesman said Ma remains the company's executive chairman and will provide transition plans over a significant period of time," the *SCMP* wrote. The paper added that the Monday succession strategy was part of a plan "for grooming a generation of younger executives to take over the reins" of the company.

Ma was an English teacher before starting Alibaba in 1999 and built it into a multibillion-dollar internet colossus, becoming one of the world's richest men and a revered figure in his homeland. His own worth has soared along with that of the company, which has added cloud computing, films and e-payments to its growing portfolio and was valued at $420.8 billion when the stock market closed on Friday.

The *New York Times'* report surprised many in the global business community because of Ma's comparative youth, especially in China where it is not unusual for tycoons to remain in place into their eightees. Alibaba did not return requests for comment on Saturday after the story ran.

Ma gave up the title of Alibaba CEO in 2013 but remains a pivotal figure within the company as well as its most recognisable face. In an interview with Bloomberg TV released on Friday, Ma hinted at his retirement plans, saying he wanted to follow in the footsteps of Microsoft founder Bill Gates, one of the world's most prolific philanthropists.

"There's a lot of things I can learn from Bill Gates. I can never be as rich, but one thing I can do better is to retire earlier," he said. The *SCMP* report ran quotes from Ma himself, but they did not address when exactly he would retire. Ma said he met with company executives 10 years ago to work out "what Alibaba would do without me".

"Anybody who knows me knows I embrace the future. This is not about retiring, stepping away, or backing off. This is a systematic plan," the paper quoted Ma as saying.

The *SCMP* said Ma would be in Russia next week for Alibaba business meetings as well as an upcoming trip to South Africa and a planned speech at the company's investor day in mid-September. — AFP ■

New iPhones aim for momentum in sputtering smartphone market

SAN FRANCISCO—Apple is set to unveil new iPhones, aiming to gain fresh momentum in the premium segment of a global smartphone market showing signs of fatigue.

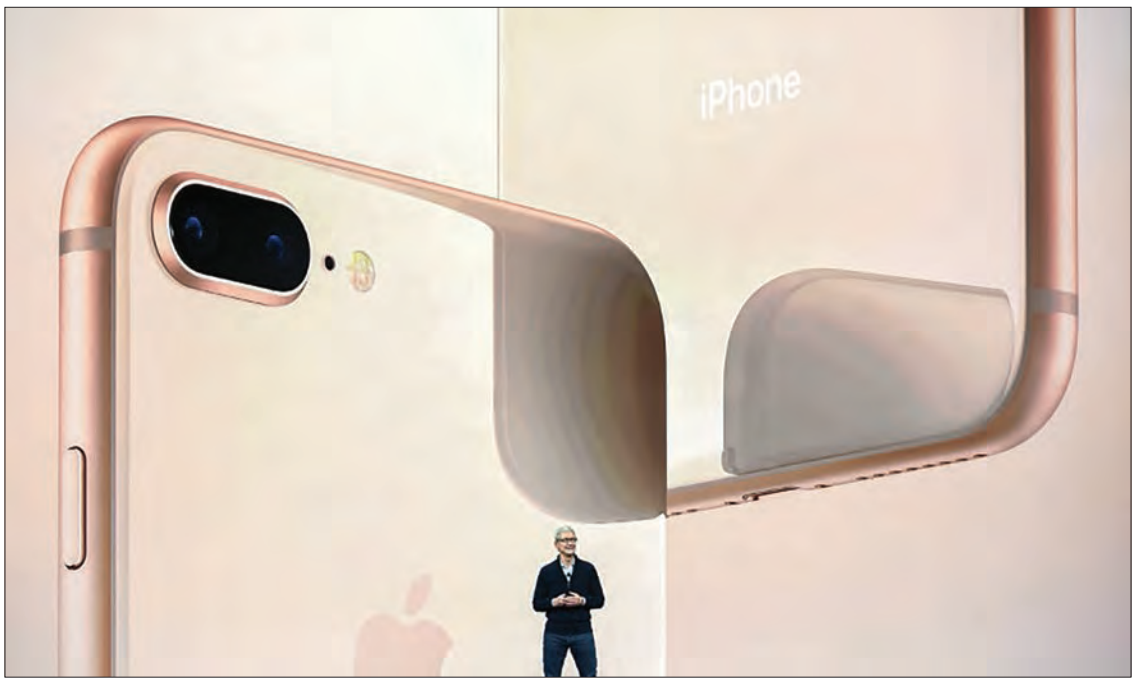
In its usual secretive style, Apple has remained mum about revelations planned for Wednesday's event at its spaceship campus in Silicon Valley, but the timing fits its pattern of annually introducing new iPhone models.

Speculation includes talk that Apple will introduce three new iPhone models, infusing some with features from a premium iPhone X that debuted last year with a $1,000 price tag.

While the iPhone has made Apple the world's most valuable company worth more than $1 trillion, it has slipped to third place among smartphone makers as Chinese-based Huawei has grabbed the number two spot.

Still, analysts say Apple has a formula that works with a loyal customer base and steady sales.

"There is nothing in their product line-up that isn't working for them in the premium segment of the market, so there is no imperative for them to break that mold," NPD analyst Stephen Baker said of Apple likely sticking with modest improvements in new iPhones this year.



Apple is expected to release an upgraded version of its premium iPhone X, which was unveiled last year by CEO Tim Cook. **PHOTO: AFP**

"They gobble up most of the profits. I don't think they are under any pressure at all."

Technalysis Research chief analyst Bob O'Donnell agreed that Apple is fine with holding its niche in the market.

"Apple doesn't have to prove anything, other than that they are willing to segment the market more," he said, while pointing out that the company will likely be "offering a wider array of choices."

Premium competition

Samsung, the world's biggest smartphone maker, last month unveiled its latest flagship handset, the Galaxy Note 9, and next month Apple rival Google will hold an event at which it is likely to showcase new Android-powered top-end Pixel phones.

Google took to making its own smartphones to showcase the capabilities of the Android operating system that it makes available free of charge to handset makers. Android smartphones have come to dominate the market.

Apple's event comes with the global smartphone market largely saturated, without a major catalyst for sales ahead of a likely rollout of 5G, or fifth generation wireless networks, expected in 2019.

Research firm IDC expects worldwide smartphone shipments to decline 0.7 percent in 2018 to 1.455 billion units, with growth likely to resume as 5G devices become available.

"We still believe the smartphone market has some healthy growth in the years to come, although finding and competing in those markets and segments is increasingly more challenging," said IDC analyst Ryan Reith.

Watching the watch

Apple has sold more than a billion iPhones since the first model was unveiled by late co-founder Steve Jobs in 2007.

The company is in the unique situation of controlling the hardware and software in its mobile devices, with content for users required to go through its App Store that takes a percentage of revenue.

Leaks and rumors have it that Apple plans to unveil three new iPhone models, including an improved version of the flagship X model released a year ago with a $1,000 price tag. —AFP ■

China develops carbon fiber light rail train

People look at the new-generation carbon-fiber light rail train at an exhibition held in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province on 7 September 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHANGCHUN—China's leading train maker on Friday released its new-generation carbon-fiber light rail train at an exhibition held in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province.

The body of the train is made of carbon fiber composite and weighs 30 percent less than those made of stainless steel, making it more energy-efficient, according to its manufacturer CRRC Changchun Railway Vehicles Co. Ltd.

The material also provides better thermal and sound insulation performance than traditional metal, which makes the new train less noisy during operation, according to the company.

The train is designed to travel at 80 km per hour and can carry up to 368 passengers. It is equipped with a super-capacitor which can power it to run 10 km with a two-minute charge.

CRRC Changchun is a major train maker in China with more than 18,000 employees producing over 8,000 trains each year.—Xinhua ■

China's self-developed heart stent wins worldwide recognition

BEIJING—China's self-developed heart stent has won recognition from the international medical community, with its clinical trial results published online in the world-leading medical journal *The Lancet* earlier this week.

Named Firehawk, the drug-eluting stent was developed by MicroPort Scientific Corporation, a Chinese healthcare company, to treat patients with coronary artery disease.

The metal stent is 86 microns thick, which is roughly the diameter of a human hair. It contains drugs in micro grooves engraved by lasers on the surface, which prevents the drug from leaking during the transportation of the stent.

Clinical trials were conducted in 21 hospitals in 10 European countries from December 2015 to October 2016. Altogether 1,653 patients from the UK, France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Austria, and Denmark were implanted with the stent.

According to William Wijns, a professor from the National University of Ireland Galway who led the clinical study, this is the first time that China's medical device went through randomized clinical trials in Europe at such a scale.

Results showed that the safety and clinical efficacy of this stent could rival the Xience stent, one of the world's leading drug-eluting stents.

In addition, its unique structure design could save drug dosages, which help prevent side effects such as thrombus after implantation. —Xinhua ■

US Open Women's Single champion Naomi Osaka of Japan holds the trophy following her Women's Singles Finals match against Serena Williams of the US at the 2018 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on 8 September, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Osaka's US Open win: rare good news in disaster-hit Japan

NEW YORK — Japan on Sunday hailed Naomi Osaka's stunning upset against the legendary Serena Williams to win the US Open, giving the nation some rare good news after a summer of deadly natural disasters.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe led the praise, taking to Twitter to congratulate Osaka after her 6-2, 6-4 win in New York.

"Congratulations on your victory at the US Open. The first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam title. Thank you for giving energy and inspiration to the whole of Japan," the premier tweeted. Abe was on his way to the northern island of Hokkaido where a massive earthquake last week sparked landslides that buried houses in a rural town, killing at least 35 people and injuring hundreds of others.

Osaka's grandfather Tetsuo Osaka, 73, lives in Hokkaido and said he wept watching his granddaughter on television.

"It still hasn't sunk in for me yet. The moment she won, my wife and I rejoiced together. I was so happy, I cried," he told public broadcaster NHK.

"I hope she stays healthy and continues her good work. I also hope she wins at the Tokyo Olympics (in 2020)," he said.

Fellow tennis star Kei Nishikori flooded Twitter with emojis of trophies, thumbs up and Japanese flags, followed by a simple tweet of "proud" alongside a Japanese flag.

And Tsuyoshi Fukui, a former top Japanese player and now senior official at the Japanese Tennis Association, said Osaka's performance would help to cheer the country up after typhoons, floods and earthquakes dominated the headlines this summer.

Osaka's "tenacious and patient performance ... must have been a great show of encouragement to those Japanese people who saw damage from such things as typhoons and earthquakes," Fukui told Japanese media. Meanwhile, NHK took a break from its round-the-clock coverage of the disaster to turn to happier news. — AFP ■

Kane rages at ref as Spain puncture England's feel-good factor

LONDON — Harry Kane raged at Dutch referee Danny Makkelie for ruling out a late equaliser as Spain punctured England's post World Cup euphoria by winning 2-1 at Wembley to hand coach Luis Enrique a winning start in the Nations League.

In their first game since reaching the semi-finals in Russia, England were denied a point when Makkelie awarded a foul in favour of Spanish goalkeeper David de Gea for minimal contact with Danny Welbeck.

"In the big moments you need the referee to stay strong, but unfortunately he has bottled it," said Kane.

"Big moments you need a firm referee who don't, under the pressure, get wrong decisions, basically."

However, England manager Gareth Southgate admitted his side weren't good enough as Spain bounced back from Marcus Rashford's opener to go ahead before half-time through Saul Niguez and Rodrigo.

'Bottled it': England players surround Dutch referee Danny Makkelie for ruling out a late equaliser by Danny Welbeck. **PHOTO: AFP**

Despite the joy at reaching the last four in Russia, England have now lost three consecutive games for the first time in 30 years.

"We have to accept Spain were better than us for long periods of the game," said Southgate.

"Their retention of the ball was top class. We were a bit disjointed in our pressing, but even when you press well against them they have some wonderful players.

"We aren't able to do that when teams press high against us yet."

There was some relief for England, though, as left-back Luke Shaw confirmed he is fine after being stretchered off early in the second half with a nasty head injury. — AFP ■

Myanmar placed with four ASEAN countries in AFC U-20 Futsal Championship 2019

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) held the drawings for the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship 2019, recently at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Myanmar was placed in the ASEAN Zone, with four teams, Thailand, Viet Nam, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The Central Zone has Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan

The teams from ASEAN and Central zones will play in a league format, wherein the top three teams will qualify for the Finals.

In the East Zone Group A, Japan is teamed withHong Kong and Macau, while Group B comprises Mongolia, China and Chinese Taipei. The top two teams from each group in the East Zone will qualify to the Finals.

The West Zone Group A has Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, while Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Syria are in Group B. For the West Zone, there will be a playoff match between the second-placed teams from the two groups to determine the third-ranked team. The top team from each group and the winners of the playoff match will qualify for the Finals.

The East Zone qualifying matches will be from December 1 to 3, the West Zone from December 7 to 10, while the ASEAN and Central zones will play from December 1 to 5. —Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Shorinji Kempo martial arts course conducted in Yangon

A MARTIAL arts course is being conducted at the sports hall of the Sports and Physical Education Department (SPED) in Yangon, starting from yesterday.

The course which was supervised by SPED and Myanmar Kempo Federation, will be conducted till 18 September and is being attended by 17 players.

The Shorinji Kempo course is being conducted by world-class trainers, including head coach Mr. Morena.

Outstanding Kempo fighters will be selected from the course and they will be sent to World Shorinji Kempo Organisation (WSKO) in Japan to upgrade their skills.

Shorinji Kempo is an esoteric Japanese martial arts, considered by some as a modified version of Shaolin Kung Fu. It was established in 1947 by Doshin So, a Japanese martial grandmaster and former military intelligence agent.—Myo Min Thein (Mayangon) ■

Shorinji Kempo martial arts course taking place in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MYO GYI**