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**SUNDAY SPECIAL**



# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 132, 6<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tawthalin 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 27 August 2017

## Security increased for ongoing terrorist attacks in N-Rakhine

FOLLOWING at least six more deaths of civilians in another wave of ambushes by extremist terrorists in northern Rakhine that included shooting attacks and the use of improvised explosive devices, security forces have boosted their operations in the restive western state, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

Yesterday afternoon, extremist terrorists killed Abu, also known as Bibi, 62, who is the head of the 100 households of Maungtaw's Myoma Taung Ward, officials said.

The statement from the State Counsellor's Office also claimed that Lateya Village acting village head Sweta Long, the head of 100 households Saed Kula and the village head office assistant Zahid Tusong were killed by extremist terrorists on Friday under the suspicion of being government informants.

Those killed were Lateya Village's acting village head Sweta Long, head of 100 household Saed Kula and village head office assistant Zahid Tusong (father) Saleh, aged 37.

Terrorists also fired into the house of a Hindu family in front of Maungtaw Hospital about 2 pm, killing one child and injuring a man. Earlier in the day, an



Villagers and security forces are trying to put out the fire in a village which was set fire by extremist terrorists.

**PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

armed clash occurred between security forces and extremist terrorists near Myothugyi Village in Maungtaw Township at about 11 am after the terrorists ambushed a police convoy with improvised explosive devices,

leaving one terrorist dead, according to officials.

In another incident near Nwayontaung Village in the township at about 9.30 am, about 150 extremist terrorists armed with machetes tried to attack se-

curity forces but were repelled.

Police at the Kyunpauk Pyusu police outpost in Maungtaw Township also dispersed about 300 extremist terrorists approaching the outpost at around 11:30 pm.

The terrorists also burnt down a village in Myinlut, destroying 88 houses, more than 100 shops, two mosques, eight religious schools, nine vehicles and four motorcycles.

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# CPVCC General Secretary and party leave Yangon after working breakfast

Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPVCC) and party attended a working breakfast at the Melia Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

Also present at the working breakfast were Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Than Myint and U Kyaw Win, departmental officials, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) president and officials, and Myanmar-Viet Nam business personnel.

At the meeting, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win remarked on Myanmar and Viet Nam cooperation in economic, investment, trade,

agriculture, communications, banking and mining sectors and on the increasing investment and cooperation in future.

Mr. Dang Hai Nha, the CEO for the Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam (BIDV) Yangon, FPT Myanmar Chairman Mr. Doung Dung Trieu and UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win then gave welcoming speeches.

After the working breakfast, the General Secretary and party visited Shwedagon Pagoda to pay homage and made donations.

The party led by the General Secretary of CPVCC then attended the opening ceremony of the head office of Telecom International Myanmar Co. in Dagon Township, Yangon and departed from Yangon by air later in the evening. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein sees off CPVCC General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Sarpay Beikman marks its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary

A ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Sarpay Beikman was held yesterday morning in Printing and Publishing Department Sarpay Beikman building at the corner of 37th Street and Merchant Street, Yangon.

Sarpay Beikman, established on 26 August 1947 as the Burma Translation Society, encourages local writers to print and publish books of all types. The society presents the annual Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards and Burma National Literature Awards for excellent new unpublished and published writing in various categories.

Yesterday's ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, departmental officials, renowned writers, authors who have consistently helped Sarpay Beikman by writing articles, book donors, literature circle personnel and invited guests.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and ceremony attendees viewed the photos, logo and image used on Sarpay Beikman books in 1957, the Myanmar encyclopedia section, the Myanmar encyclopedia yearbook section, the section containing

books published by the Burma Translation Society, the Sarpay Beikman magazine section, the Shwe Thwe journal section and the Shwe Thwe journal special issue section displayed as part of the Sarpay Beikman 70th anniversary ceremony.

In his remembrance speech on Sarpay Beikman, the Union Minister said Sarpay Beikman is a place, a building, where exemplary and worthy traditions were set.

However, only a few of these were being implemented and much still needs to be done, the minister said. But plans are underway to continue this through cooperation among people and organisations with the same interest and willingness and all are urged to imitate these examples and traditions for literacy development, he said.

He added that now is a free and transparent time where literacy organisations are working for the development of literature. It can be said that now is the dawn of a new age for Myanmar literature. According to Sarpay Beikman's original motto of bringing forth light and removing darkness, literacy light is expected to shine brightly through the

works of literature personnel, which in turn will brighten the country's future. The Union Minister said the founders of Sarpay Beikman are remembered and honoured and their works are appreciated and acknowledged. Sarpay Beikman editor (retired) U Khin Maung Soe (Saya Maung Paw Tun) then gave a speech and Sarpay Beikman chief editor (retired) U Maung Hlaing (Saya Maung Swe Nge) read a brief history about Sarpay Beikman.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint

was then presented with a 70th anniversary Sarpay Beikman commemorative gift by Printing and Publishing Department Director General U Aung Myo Myint.

Afterward, the Union Minister presented certificates of honour to people who have consistently helped Sarpay Beikman and book donors while Director General U Aung Myo Myint presented certificates to authors and writers and delivered a speech of appreciation.

In the afternoon, commemorating the 70th anniversary of Sarpay Beikman Sayagyi Dr. Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min – Danubyu) and Sayagyi Nyunt Han (Nyunt Han – Kyu Taw) gave talks titled “Sarpay Beikman That I Know” and “Literature That Gave Thoughts and Views”, respectively. After the talks, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and Director General U Aung Myo Myint gave commemorative presents to the two Sayagis.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint poses for a photo with attendees at the ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Sarpay Beikman. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Vice President attends opening of MYTEL Head Office

A ceremony was held yesterday morning for the opening of the Telecom International Myanmar Co., (MYTEL) head office in Dagon Township, Yangon, which was attended by Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPVCC).

The ceremony was also attended by Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen

Nyo Saw, Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone, officials from MYTEL and invited guests.

As part of the ceremony, CPVCC General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, Vice President U Myint Swe, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, the MYTEL CEO and officials opened the MYTEL head office by cutting a ceremonial ribbon.

The MYTEL CEO then spoke about the status of completed project works, followed by MYTEL Chairman U Khin Maung Soe's remarks about implementing a high-speed telephone communications system



Vice President U Myint Swe, CPVCC General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong and officials cutting ribbon to open MYTEL head office in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

in Myanmar and other future works. Afterwards, the Ministry of Education and MYTEL signed an agreement for cooperation between the company and the

ministry in the education field.

The CPVCC General Secretary then delivered a closing speech, after which he signed the visitors' book together with the

Vice President and other guests. This was followed by a photo session after which the ceremony was concluded. - Myanmar News Agency ■

## Security increased for ongoing terrorist attacks in N-Rakhine

### FROM PAGE-1

About 500 extremist terrorists tried to enter HsinOh Village in the Ahtet Nanyar Village-tract in Yathedaung Township about 10:40 pm on Friday, but villagers and police were able to fight them off.

### Extremist terrorists planted IEDs, killed villagers

Extremist terrorists are setting up mines to impede the movement of security forces and are attacking the vehicles of security forces with improvised explosive devices and are also killing village officials they suspect of being government informants, according to a news release issued yesterday afternoon by the

State Counsellor's Office.

The news release said extremist terrorists reportedly told villagers to avoid the internal road along Ward 5 in Maungtaw and the motor vehicle road on the Maungtaw-Myo Oo (Italia)-Cashew Plantation because mines had been planted to restrict the movement of security forces.

A three-vehicle convoy of security forces was attacked by extremist terrorists with mines and guns on a village road in Maungnamagyi Village, Maungtaw Township and a brief gun battle erupted, during which two Foton vehicles in the convoy were damaged. When the area was cleared after the brief firefight, security forces found



An improvised explosive device used by extremist terrorists in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

a hand-made gun, wires and a small battery, according to the State Counsellor's Office. Yesterday morning, security forces discovered two mines on Maungtaw-Buthidaung Road near the old Myothugyi Village. The mines were connected with wires to a nearby house. The news release mentioned that there was a brief firefight between extremist terrorists and security forces near

that village. Meanwhile, the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee declared the attackers as a terrorist group and warned those who might assist the insurgents. More security forces have been supplied to assist in operations being conducted in the areas where extremist terrorists are known to hide, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.—MNA

## National Human Rights Commission's statement

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued a statement yesterday condemning Friday's deadly terrorist attacks by Muslim extremists.

The statement said extremist terrorists attacked 30 police outposts in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships and also the regional Tatmadaw battalion headquarters, on Friday morning, resulting in the death of one Tatmadaw personnel, 10 Myanmar Police Force personnel, one immigration department official, and injuring nine security personnel. Many innocent civilians were also wounded and six weapons were lost, the statement said. "The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission strongly condemns such brutal attacks with various arms and weapons by extremist terrorists.

"These acts are considered to adversely affect the efforts of the government on stabilisation and reconciliation in Rakhine State", said the statement. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Merchants, Indian Ambassador hold talk over Myanmar-India bean trade

May Thet Hnin

A meeting between India's Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri and representatives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and sister associations met yesterday in the UMFCCI office in hope of restoring stability to the Myanmar-bean trade after import restrictions from India rankled the market.

The meeting was also attended by officials of the Myanmar Rice Association, Yangon Region Commodity Trading De-

pot, Ministry of Commerce and Department of Agriculture.

H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri said bean production this year is up by more than 40 per cent compared to previous years, resulting in a drop of bean prices and prompting restrictions on imports to control the declining local bean prices in India.

The Myanmar Pulses and Beans Merchants Association explained the difficulties faced by the pulses and bean sector and farmers. Such difficulties have not been seen during the past 30 years of the two countries' cooperation in the bean sector. It

becomes harder to resolve these difficulties when restrictions are imposed without prior notice, said merchant association chairman U Tun Lwin. An urgent need to have a government-to-government agreement for a stable trade in bean between the two countries was also included in the discussion. Furthermore, discussions were also made on resolving the matter of beans that are already on their way to India, said U Ye Min Aung.

The announcement of India's new policy on beans that severely restricted imports was made on 22 August. Since that

day, bean trade in Bayintnaung has been temporarily suspended. Bean farmers and businesses in Myanmar rely almost exclusively on the Indian market, and many difficulties are now being faced, officials said. According to farmers, there is now a problem to find a market for beans that have already been harvested, as well as for beans that will be grown during the coming open season. With the uncertainty of the market conditions, it is becoming increasingly difficult to decide whether to plant any beans in the coming season, they said. ■

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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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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# Yangon city railway upgrade in October

Ko Moe

THE upgrading project for the Yangon circular train will be implemented on 1 October at a cost of over US\$300 million, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The upgrade will increase comfort and safety and is scheduled to be completed in 2022, said an official from Myanmar Railways, which operates under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

U Thurain Win, Managing Director of Myanmar Railway, said it is possible the project could be completed before 2022, but the finishing date was chosen in case there are difficulties.

The total cost for the project will be \$301.29 million, with \$94.76 million from Myanmar and \$206.53 million in loans from a Japan fund.

The Myanmar Railways will use the national fund of \$94.76 million for work upgrading stations, repairing railway, over-passes bridges and fences for platforms. The loans from Japan will be used to buy new diesels, train coaches and alarms for 25 car-crossing locations along the railway.

While upgrading the railway, people will not be faced with difficulties, officials said. Routes will run normally, with



Two locomotives on railway lines near a rural railway station. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

the work done mainly in the afternoon when there are fewer travellers, said U Tun Aung Lin, general manager of Myanmar Railway (lower Myanmar).

Upgrading for the east part 1 through Danyingone station to Paywet Sate Kone station, a distance of 7.25 miles, will be done from 1 October to 31 January 2018. For the east part 2 from Paywet Sate Kone station to Yangon (Pazundaung), a distance of 8.5 miles, the work will be done from 1 February 2018 to 31 May 2018.

For the west part 1 of Danyingone-Insein (3.75 miles) the work will be from 1 October to 31 December 2018. For the

west part 2 of Insein-Kyimyindine (5.5 miles), the work will be performed from 1 January 2018 to 31 March 2019. For west part 3 of Kyimyindine-Yangon (2.75 miles) the work will be done from 1 April 2019 to 31 May 2019.

It currently takes about three hours for a passenger to ride the full circuit of the circular train, but this will be reduced by about one hour after the upgrade, officials said.

The upgrade will increase efficiency, and the new coaches will replace aging, dirty coaches.

"We want the trains to be on time. As for good loaders and vendors, they need to throw their trash away systematically",

said a train passenger.

There are 2.5 million passengers who commute daily in the Yangon Region, with most of the people depending on cars. But about 90,000 per day use the train.

The Myanmar Railways said they will try to increase train passengers from 90,000 to 263,000 by 2022. The current speed of the train is 15 kilometers per hour. In 2022, the speed of the train is expected to be 26 kilometers per hour for normal travel and 60 kilometers per hour for fast travel, said the Myanmar Railway.

The railway is 46 kilometers long, with 38 stations and 25 train coaches run in daily routes. ■

## 500 acres of mangrove trees to be planted in Rakhine State

Over 500 acres of mangrove trees will be planted in the Wanpaik Forest Reserve in Myebon Township, which has a problem of high deforestation in Rakhine State, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on 26 August.

After signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU),

the Yambye Township forest department will start to implement a project in the next fiscal year. To implement the project, Denmark will provide US\$5 million. The five-year project will end in 2022. The department will plant 100 acres of mangrove trees per

year at the forest reserve by the seed sowing method, grafting method and traditional reproduction method. The department has selected to plant the byuchayhtauk species, which grows well in Rakhine State. Myanmar is ranked seventh in prevalence of mangrove forests

around the world, but it ranked third in Southern Asia.

There are over 750,000 acres of mangrove forests across the nation. The mangrove trees grow well mainly in Ayeyawady and Taninthay regions and Rakhine State. —GNLM ■

## Training for garment workers offered by government

A 28-month sewing training project scheduled to commence in September will train 5,000 garment workers, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on 25 August.

The training courses will be offered free of charge by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the

Victory Garment Project. The first training course will accept only 80 trainees. Only 24 people have applied so far for the training. Trainees will be given lunch and a daily allowance of Ks1800. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 40 are welcome to attend.

The courses are meant to increase Myanmar's garment

worker labour pool for the benefit of investors and job seekers.

Those applicants who do not have any experience in the garment industry have to take two-month training course. Upon completion of the training course, they have to work in the industry for four months as interns. Then, they have to take

the skill test of National Skills Standard Authority (NSSA) to receive certificate recognized by other Asian countries.

The first free training course will be opened in Pin Lon hall at the Skilled Workers Training School in North Dagon Township in Yangon Region. —GNLM ■

## Stability of pulses market sought after India policy

FOLLOWING India's Restricted Pulse Import Policy, a co-ordination meeting on plans for Myanmar's pulses exports in respective sectors was held at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently issued an import policy change to import only 200,000 tons of toor whole on 5 August, and 300,000 tons of mung bean and green gram on 21 August. The Union Minister met with the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw and sent a message via diplomatic means over India's restricted pulse import policy.

"Ways are to be found for market stability of pulses that remain to be exported due to India's restricted pulse import policy. And for pea-growers, so as not to suffer losses for the pulses that will be harvested very soon, arrangements are to be made under the law on the protection of farmers' rights and the upgrade of their benefits. During the official visit of the Indian Prime Minister to Myanmar, arrangements had been made to discuss the matter of reducing its import



Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

policy. Presently, nearly 100,000 tons of toor whole and 300,000 tons of mung beans are still left to be exported. Besides, the case of toor whole to be produced in mid-November and December as well must be taken into consideration", Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, said at yesterday's meeting.

The Union Minister added,

"The committee for finding solutions through negotiation consisting of respective ministries and entrepreneurs from private sector will be founded to discuss with the Indian Government for reducing the restricted policy. The committee will negotiate to export Myanmar's pulses to India and further negotiations will be made to sign an MoU on pulse

trade with India, through government to government. Growing other pulses which are favourable in global markets in substitution for mung beans to be grown very soon must be taken into consideration, including pedigree seeds and techniques."

At the meeting, Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

said a meeting between the State Counsellor and the Prime Minister of India has been scheduled.

"It has been learnt that State Counsellor will discuss with the Indian Prime Minister during his official visit to Myanmar very soon to reduce the impact of India's restricted pulse import policy to some extent. The present problem was attributed to the dependency on one market only. In producing agricultural produce and products from livestock breeding, it is necessary to acquire markets. So, we must make efforts to gain markets. It will be implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, UMFCCI and farmers", Dr. Aung Thu said.

Present at the meeting were responsible officials from respective ministries, merchants and industrial entrepreneurs, representatives from MPBSSMA and brokerage centers, professionals and farmers, discussed respectively. At the meeting, 10 matters to be carried out in the future on Myanmar's pulses in various sectors in regard to India's restricted pulse import policy were discussed, it was learnt. —MNA

## Domestic gold prices reach record high, trade declines slightly

May Thet Hnin

THE price of gold have been on the rise in domestic market during these days as world gold prices increased to US\$1,291 per ounce, with the result that the local gold trading is currently in decline, said U Kyaw Win, general secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

He added, "The current situation in the local market is mainly concerned with the ris-

ing global gold prices. Another associated point is an increase in dollar prices but it is estimated that the gold price is not likely to increase more in the market."

Dollar exchange rates and gold prices are directly impacting the market. As long as the global gold prices are increasing, the local prices will follow. Currently, the gold prices of 16 carat gold have reached a record high of Ks924,500 per tical, a traditional Myanmar weight meas-

urement of 16.33 grams, while 15 carat gold have been sold for Ks870,100 in local market.

"At the present time, we see a slight decrease of demand at gold shops," U Kyaw Win said.

Since mid-July, the gold prices reached above Ks900,000 per tical. The prices have been unstable since this April. The price gap between the past and present time is calculated to reach around Ks35,000 per tical. ■

## Nearly 40 tons of dried tea leaves exported to Thailand in 2nd week of August

MYANMAR exported nearly 40 tons of dried tea leaves to Thailand from Tachilek border trade camp between 5 and 11 August, receiving US\$15,522 from the export, according to border trade authorities.

There was no border export of dried tea leaves to Thailand in the previous week before 5

August. The country also exported 18 tons of dried tea leaves to China from Muse border point of entry between 5 and 11 August, receiving US\$5,551 from the export. The export of dried tea leaves to China increased by 13 tons compared to the previous week before 5 August. In the previous week, the country sold only

five tons of dried tea leaves to the world most populous country. According to Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association, Germany pledged to purchase the good quality dried tea leaves produced from Shan State after testing the quality of dried tea leaves by experts.—Khine Khant ■

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- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City SUPERCENTER City Mart Supermarket

## Japan's UN peace project focuses on ikebana to mark ASEAN's 50 yrs

NEW YORK — The Japanese mission to the United Nations on Friday used the ancient art of flower arranging to highlight the half-century mark of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at a programme it offered at the world body's headquarters.

"We can and must coexist and prosper in peace with flowers that we share," said Japan's Ambassador Koro Bessho in his remarks to open the event, which was the fourth this year in the "Peace is ..." series.

"Today's 'Peace is ...' event is another memorable moment to share together between Japan, ASEAN and other fellow UN members," he added, speaking to a crowd of diplomats, UN staffers and special guests who gathered in the Visitors Lobby to commemorate the 10-member regional bloc's founding on 8 August, 1967.

Bessho explained that the "Peace is ..." initiative focuses on "art and culture as a medium through which everyone can better come and connect with the United Nations and its objectives."

Ambassador Teodoro Locsin, Jr of the Philippines, the country currently holding ASEAN's rotating chairmanship, also used the occasion to reflect on the body's past and future.

"ASEAN forges ahead to consolidate a vibrant, peaceful and outward-looking regional organization within the global community of nations," he said.

"What better way to celebrate this happy occasion than through ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement, the disciplined expression of creativ-



Noritaka Noda (R), New York bureau chief of the Ikenobo Society of Floral Art, gives a demonstration at the UN headquarters in New York on 25 August, 2017, together with ambassadors from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to hail their friendly ties. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ity and grace where nature and humanity are brought together."

After the speeches, Noritaka Noda, a professor with the Ikenobo Ikebana Society, used seasonal selections including flowers from his own garden in an ikebana demonstration.

This was followed by a participatory group arrangement with diplomats from the Southeast Asian nations and Bessho placing flowers into a bamboo structure that Noda created.

"I just wanted to make a big cluster of colors," Noda told Kyodo News when explaining the concept behind using red, white, yellow and blue flowers as a reflection of the ASEAN flag.

Noda's five assistants led demonstrations at different ta-

bles where participants could choose to arrange flowers that symbolized the themes of harmony, homenaje, unity, beauty and friendship. Musicians representing some of the Southeast Asian countries also performed during the demonstrations.

"It is nice how something as unexpected as flower arrangement can bring us all together," said Muna Idris, first secretary of Brunei's mission, who worked with her peers from Indonesia and the Philippines. "It gives us a chance to express our creativity."

Instructors such as Yuri Ishizuka, the president of Ikebana International Chapter #7, emphasized the importance of holding the event at the international body that promotes peace.

"Every flower has its own beauty," the 70-year-old explained. "Flowers are like countries and people. Everyone is different but somehow it comes together."

The well-attended program is the latest installment of the series initiated by the Japanese mission in 2017.

The first programme held in April focused on dance as the embodiment of harmony. This was followed by a May event highlighting Spanish Flamenco guitar music, representing homenaje. The third programme used calligraphy to mark a UN ocean conference to symbolize unity.

Friday's ikebana event carried the heading "Peace is beau-

tiful," as each event in the "Peace is ..." series uses a different word to complete the phrase.

All the offerings so far have been led by Japanese artists such as Noda who live in New York.

As the creator of the concept, Hajime "Jimmy" Kishimori — the mission's counsellor and a potter himself — is adamant about tapping into the rich pool of artists who can help audiences connect with peace and other foundational but sometimes abstract goals often discussed at the international body.

"The protagonist is the Japanese artist residing in New York for a long time, which means that they are Japanese but at the same time they are New Yorkers," the Hiroshima native explained.

The series of programs that he hopes will extend into perpetuity was hatched as a result of an event last December commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan's accession to the United Nations.

It involved Japanese artists who constructed a temporary "plaster wall" on which then-Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, UN ambassadors, staffers and others wrote messages of peace in their respective languages.

Recalling the level of interest and requests for more such events, Kishimori said he recognized an opportunity to use Japanese culture as a way of "presenting a different face of Japan" to global audiences.

While pointing to the importance of showcasing diversity, it was equally important, he said, to link it to a universal sense of commonality.—Kyodo News ■

## Chinese govt advisor says more Mandarin needed to fight poverty

BEIJING — Not enough effort is being put into teaching China's ethnic minorities standardised Mandarin Chinese during Beijing's fight to eradicate poverty, a top advisor to the government said on Saturday.

Chinese president Xi Jinping has declared war on poverty, and instructed local governments to eliminate impoverishment to create a "moderately well-off society" by the beginning of 2021, in time for centenary of the ruling Communist Party.

While regional authorities

have dolled out supportive policies, funds and programmes in China's poorest regions, they are failing to teach ethnicities enough Mandarin, Zhu Weiqun, said in an article in the state-backed Global Times newspaper.

Efforts to teach minority peoples Mandarin are "not up to scratch" in various places, said Zhu, who is head of the minorities and religions committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body. "I regularly come across low level cadres who with great

effort use a mouthful of dialect to talk about their poverty alleviation plans without realising that dealing with their own deficiencies in speaking Mandarin is an urgent task," he said.

China promotes the use of standardised Mandarin, based on the dialect of Beijing, and encourages ethnic minorities to learn the official language in a bid to improve unity in multi-ethnic areas of the country.

But there has been resistance to the push for standardization in regions such as Tibet

and Xinjiang, where Tibetans and Uighurs, a Turkic speaking mostly Muslim minority, often consider language integral to their cultural identity.

Beijing denies that Mandarin promotion damages minority culture, arguing that learning the official language gives minorities greater opportunities for work and schooling.

Zhu said in the article that communication issues with workers from Xinjiang could cause a "vicious cycle" when companies group the workers together hin-

dering their ability to work with others.

Over 70 per cent of the population speaks Mandarin, but there levels of fluency in west China are 20 per cent lower than in the east, with only 40 per cent of people able to speak Mandarin in some rural areas, Zhu said.

"Using standardised Mandarin to alleviate poverty, using poverty alleviation to promote standardised Mandarin, does not only have an economic importance, but also has a deep political importance," he said.—Reuters ■



Ousted former Thai prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra greets supporters as she arrives at the Supreme Court in Bangkok, Thailand on 1 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Thailand's former PM Yingluck fled to Dubai — senior party members

BANGKOK — Thailand's former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has fled to Dubai, senior members of her party said on Saturday, a day after she failed to show up for a negligence ruling in which she faced up to 10 years in prison.

Puea Thai Party sources said Yingluck left Thailand last week and flew via Singapore to Dubai where her brother, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who lives in self-imposed exile to avoid a 2008 jail sentence for corruption, has a home.

"We heard that she went to Cambodia and then Singapore from where she flew to Dubai. She has arrived safely and is there now," said a senior member of the Puea Thai Party who declined to be named because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

Deputy national police chief General Srivara Rangsi-brahmanakul said police had no record of Yingluck, 50, leaving the country and were following developments closely.

A Reuters reporter was stopped by security at the exclusive Emirates Hills community in Dubai, where Thaksin has a home.

A Thaksin spokesperson in Dubai did not respond to attempts by Reuters to contact Thaksin.

Police estimate that up to 3,000 supporters had gathered

outside the court in Bangkok on Friday where Yingluck was due to hear a verdict in a negligence trial against her involving a rice buying policy of her administration.

But Yingluck did not show up at the appointed hour and the court quickly issued a statement saying she had cited an ear problem as the reason for her no-show.

The court rejected the excuse and moved the verdict reading to 27 September. It later issued an arrest warrant for Yingluck.

Immigration police said they would arrest Yingluck on the spot if she is found. Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam said the government "should not comment" on Yingluck's case and her whereabouts.

"It's a matter for police to proceed with the arrest warrant," Wissanu told reporters, adding that her whereabouts "will be clear soon".

National police spokesman Dechnarong Suticharnbancha said on Saturday police were still investigating reports that Yingluck had either fled to Singapore or Dubai and said police had no new information on the matter.

Overthrown in 2014, Yingluck had faced up to 10 years in prison if found guilty. Her former commerce minister was jailed in a related case for 42 years on

Friday.

Political parties led or backed by the Shinawatras have dominated Thai politics, winning every general election since 2001.

The Shinawatras have been accused of corruption and nepotism by the Bangkok-based establishment who loath Thaksin. The family command huge support in the poorer, rural north and northeast.

The rice buying scheme, a flagship policy of Yingluck's administration, proved popular with rural voters but the military government says it incurred \$8 billion (£6 billion) in losses.

Yingluck pleaded innocent to the charges against her and said she was the victim of political persecution.

The military government has used sweeping powers to silence critics, including supporters of the Shinawatras, since 2014.

The mood in the northeast, a Shinawatra stronghold, was sombre on Saturday. Leaders of the red-shirt United Front For Democracy there said they weren't surprised Yingluck fled.

"Most people I know feel glad that Yingluck has left the country," said one red shirt leader, who declined to be named for safety reasons.

"For now there will be less activity from the red shirts because of military suppression." —Reuters ■

## No toxic bacteria found from factory samples in salad poisoning probe

MAEBASHI, (Japan) — The government of the Gunma Prefecture city of Takasaki said on Saturday it did not find any toxic bacteria in food samples taken from a local factory after potato salad produced there caused E coli food poisoning earlier in the month.

Twelve people who ate the salad sold in Gunma and the neighboring Saitama prefectures in early August were found to have been infected with the O157 strain of the bacteria, and one of them became gravely ill.

Those who became infected ate the salad made on 5-7 August at the food factory in Takasaki. Tests on potato salad samples made between 1 and

18 August and preserved at the factory found no toxic bacteria, according to the eastern Japan city.

So far, no evidence of toxic bacteria has been found at delicatessens which sold the salad, and employees there have tested negative for O157 infection. Bagged potato salad shipped from the plant was mixed with ham and apple pieces at the delicatessens where customers used tongs to take the salad from self-service areas.

The Gunma-based operator of the delicatessens, which also runs supermarket chains in eastern Japan, has suspended operation of all of its 17 delicatessens.—Kyodo News ■

## India detains hundreds, cancels more than 300 trains after deadly 'godman' protests

PANCHKULA (India) — Indian authorities have arrested hundreds of people and cancelled more than 300 trains passing through two northern states after at least 29 people were killed in violent protests following the conviction of a self-styled 'godman'.

Security forces were on "standby" outside the spiritual leader's headquarters where some 10,000 followers remained holed up, the Director General of Police in Haryana state, Baljit Singh Sandhu, told India Today news station.

Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, the head of a social welfare and spiritual group with a wide following in Punjab and Haryana states, was found guilty on Friday of raping two followers in a case dating back to 2002 at the headquarters of his Dera Sacha Sauda group in the northern town of Sirsa.

Supporters rampaged in response, attacking railway stations, petrol stations and television vans in towns across the northern states of Punjab and Haryana, witnesses said.

At least 29 people were killed in Panchkula town where the court returned its verdict on Singh and more than 200 people were injured, mainly in Haryana state. The protests, about 250 km (155 miles) from the Indian capital New Delhi, was one of the biggest this year related to a 'godman' spiritual leader.

About 524 people had been arrested, Ram Niwas, a top Haryana administrator, told Reuters. Authorities said they were bracing for Singh's sentencing on Monday when there could be more violence.

A spokesman for the northern division of Indian Railways said 340 trains have been cancelled on Saturday as a precaution.

"We're monitoring the situation but we may have to cancel more trains," Neeraj Sharma told Reuters.

Security personnel were still guarding Panchkula, which was among the worst affected towns during the violence, as some shops started to reopen and people came out of their homes.—Reuters ■

# A new future for the world and a new future for Myanmar

By Maw Lin

THE United Nation Global Compact – UNGC is a program that encourages social responsibility and sustainable development of the economic enterprises of the world under the leadership of the United Nations. Four principal categories, Human Rights, Labour Affairs, Environmental Conservation and Eradication of Corruption are included in the UNGC program. There are 10 principles under the 4 main categories.

If we divide the 10 principles into categories, there are 2 principles under the Human Rights category.

They are to respect and protect the internationally approved human rights and not to be connected or involved in any way with human rights violations. There are 4 principles under the category of Labour Affairs. They are to be able to organize labour unions freely, the right to discuss, negotiate and reach agreement among employers and employees regarding worker's rights and labour relations at the work site, eradication of child labour and eradication of discrimination at the work site. There are 3 principles under the category for conservation of natural environment. They are to approach the challenges to environ-

mental conservation with full awareness, to organize eco-friendly business extensively and to promote techniques for conserving the natural environment. There is only one principle under the category of corruption. This is to oppose and combat all types of corruption.

All the 10 principles described above urge businessmen of the world to conduct their business enterprises with dignity and with a spirit of social responsibility towards the people of the world. The people of the world also reciprocate these business enterprises by recognizing and supporting their products and services. This is a

model that would integrate economic development and human survival in a harmonious way. It is also a model that would shape the new future of the world. It has been learnt that an MOU has been signed between the Local Resource Center of Myanmar and UNGC Myanmar Network with the vision to be able to cooperate between the LRC and the UNGC Myanmar Network for Myanmar business enterprises to participate more actively. Therefore, we wholeheartedly support the signing of the MOU as it would support the creation of a new future for the world, including a new future for Myanmar. ■  
(Translated by U Khin Maung Win)

## Are healthcare PPPs possible in south east Asia?

Lieven Jacquemyn

Healthcare is a booming business in south east Asia.

With a population of more than 620 million and less than three beds per 1,000 people, south east Asia's demographics reveal an attractive investment opportunity for private healthcare providers. In fact, some of the largest and most profitable private healthcare providers are based in Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia, where there are clear pockets of excellence generating impressive medical tourism streams.

To date, it seems public and private healthcare providers are simultaneously serving separate client segments. A true partnership in which public and private partners team up, allocate tasks and risks to the party best able to handle them, and jointly work towards a common goal, is very rare in the region. The new Women and Children's Hospital in Kuala Lumpur is one exception. A public-private partnership (PPP) to build an orthopaedic centre in the Philippines was cancelled in 2015.

Several countries in Southeast Asia are working towards the World Health Organisation's goal of universal health coverage (UHC). For example, Indonesia created the single payer UHC model in 2014, aiming to provide health insurance for its entire population of 250 million within five years. Thailand and Myanmar ministries of health are also exploring nationwide solutions to increase access to healthcare, even in remote areas.

Although government spending on

healthcare has been rising in most of south east Asia, the emerging economies spend frugally on healthcare (3% to 6% of GDP), which is well below developed Asian countries (up to 10%) and their EU/US counterparts (above 10%). The huge population base in south east Asia magnifies the challenge to move up in healthcare spending.

Thailand is the only country whose government accounts for over 75% of total healthcare funding. Government healthcare spending in Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines ranges from 60% to 40%. Private funding clearly has an important role and is likely to increase to reach UHC.

According to a 2014 study by The Economist magazine, south east Asian countries' readiness to do PPPs varies considerably, reflecting the region's diversity in demographics, economic development, and other factors. Almost all countries, however, have successfully implemented PPP in economic infrastructure sectors including energy, transportation, and water. Social infrastructure like schools and hospitals have not been perceived as priority investments.

Since 2004, the International Monetary Fund has highlighted the need to invest in health to achieve economic development goals. Today, the links between a healthy working population, reducing healthcare burden, and increasing productivity have been clearly established. Investing in healthcare should not be an ancillary project for a ministry of finance but, rather, a central element of a country's development

plan and competitive strategy.

Public-private partnerships in healthcare are certainly possible in Southeast Asia if all parties can see that such a collaboration will help them reach their respective goals and interests. Our recommendations for each of the partners:

True PPP team up, allocate tasks and risks.

### Governments:

- Increase health spending to at least 8% of GDP
- Prioritise health investments as a conduit for economic growth.
- Organise nationwide healthcare solutions, generating similar benefits as pool funding.
- Service and equipment providers: Rethink your services and products from the bottom up to suit the specific needs of developing countries.
- Assume your role of a responsible

corporate citizen by measuring performance beyond traditional shareholder requirements.

Investors:

- Take a global view on return on investment by uniting different investment requirements – for example, short-term real estate and long-term infrastructure investments. This approach will allow you to capture the wider economic benefits.
- Solve for co-investing in healthcare projects on a blended capital basis alongside public funds.

Over the last 15 years, GE Healthcare has been involved in more than 100 PPP/MES (managed equipment services) projects and approximately 50 operational projects across the globe, working closely with governments and investors. In south east Asia, we see a clear trend of ministries of health and state-owned hospitals pro-actively engaging with the private sector to find mutually beneficial ways to work together. One factor driving this trend is an increasing willingness and ability to articulate a project's objectives and framework for realisation.

This is a great basis to start a long-term partnership and will go a long way jointly to contribute to universal health coverage. ■

*Lieven Jacquemyn, PPP international development director at GE Healthcare Singapore, discusses how governments, providers and investors can work together to bring universal health coverage to the region.*

## Minister of State for Foreign Affairs takes part in Bali Process Government and Business Forum on human trafficking held in Perth, Australia

MYANMAR delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin participated in the Bali Process Government and Business Forum which was held in Perth, Australia from 24 to 25 August 2017. The Forum was organized in order for the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime to engage constructively for the first time with private sector following the Bali Declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference in 2016. The Forum was co-chaired by Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia and H.E. Ms. Retno LP Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and participated by government representatives from over forty countries, rep-



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin poses for a documentary photo with participants at the Bali Process Government and Business Forum held in Perth. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

representatives from relevant international organizations and business leaders from the region.

At the Forum, Minister of State U Kyaw Tin made a statement apprising the meeting of the enhanced efforts taken by

the government of Myanmar in the fight against trafficking in persons focusing on prevention, protection and pros-

ecution. He also expressed Myanmar's concern about the revival of modern day slavery and pledged Myanmar's support to the initiative and its readiness to work together with its partners to engaging with private sector to eliminate this heinous crime. The participating business leaders have adopted a Work Plan for 2017-2018 to address the issue.

The Minister of State, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Australia U Tha Aung Nyun also attended the breakfast meeting on 25 August 2017 hosted by Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia to launch the New Colombo Plan Alumni Ambassadors Program of the Australian Government. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

## Families of peace music festival in Sittway donate aid to security members in Maungtaw

Officials and volunteers for the peace music festival who are currently in Sittway donated aid to the families of security forces in Maungtaw yesterday.

The ceremony to hand over the aid was held at the Strand Hotel in Sittway.

Director-General U Myint Htwe of the Myanma Radio and Television and dignitaries handed over the aid including food and drinking water bottles to the officers of a local military base.—Min Htet Aung ■



Officials and volunteers from Peace music festival donate aid to the security forces's families in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MAUNG HMWE**

## Restrictions lifted, H5N1 virus outbreak under control

IN response to an outbreak in July 2017 of the H5N1 virus, also known as bird flu, at chicken farms in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region and Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department has brought the spike in the number of cases under control with an emergency containment programme and has lifted restrictions on the transport of chickens and chicken products, it was announced yesterday.

The department said there

have been no suspicious chicken deaths since 29 July in Mayangone Township and 4 August in Dawei Township.

Twenty-one days after the start of the containment programme, restrictions imposed on the transport of chicken and chicken products from these areas were lifted, according to the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, which operates under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.—Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department. ■

## All-inclusive cooperation remains key for protecting women against violence

May Thet Hnin

ALL-INCLUSIVE cooperation including government departments, civil society organizations and public is needed for protecting women against all forms of violence, say participants who attended the recent interface workshop held in Yangon.

Organized by Action Aid Myanmar, township level government officials, MPs, CSOs and volunteers actively discussed and exchanged views on the current situation and security measures of women in urban areas and future plans.

"All people are responsible for protecting women from violence and responsible officials are needed to conduct surveys

in the community to understand the real situation of grassroots women, expecting that the action is likely to raise voice of victims who dare to disclose about violence they faced," said U Nyi Nyi, secretary of Yangon Region Hluttaw Social Affairs and Management Committee.

He continued to say that currently complaints relating to child rape cases, cases involving women under the age of 18 years, domestic violence and harassment of female labours are mainly solved in the region and weak participation of some government staff have been found in the cases.

Representatives from the Action Aid Myanmar also took part in the workshop, discuss-

ing violent experiences faced by women residing in Dala, Dawpon, Hlinethaya, Insein, Mingaladon, South Dagon and Thakayta townships based on their studies.

Daw Lwin Lwin Hlaing, programme manager of the Action Aid Myanmar, said "According to discussions made by participants in women forums in each township, it is found that quite streets, darkness, bushy places, weak security measure, increase in beer stations, drug abuse, cases of theft and rape as well as gambling threaten the security of women. Raising participation of CSOs, governmental officials and general public is a key point to create a safe environment for women."

U Thant Tin Tun, a volunteer

working for women in Thakayta Township, said we face delays in solving problems and cases of women.

Daw Su Su Latt, another volunteer working for women in Dala Township, said, "In a child rape case, we immediately tried to open a file against the offender at a police station. However, the case delayed for next seven or 10 days with the reason that police station is too busy,"

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin from Dala Constituency, a member of Yangon Region Hluttaw Judicial, Rule of Law, Complaints and Appeals Scrutiny Committee, said people have rights to tell their problems to the respective MPs.

U Thant Zin quoted its com-

mittee's report as saying that it is necessary to develop a fair and good jurisdiction system without bias to create a good administration system which will guarantee to offer protection fairly to general public. Promotion of cooperation of respective officials who are working for jurisdiction and rule of law community plays a vital role in creating a bias-free community and raising trusts of public.

For the time being, female victims experienced psychological or physical abuses have been cared mainly by the social welfare department. Collaborative efforts have also been made between civil society organisations to help those victims as much as they can. ■

## Trump likely to rescind Obama 'Dreamer' programme — media reports

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump is likely to rescind an Obama-era policy that protects nearly 600,000 immigrants who entered the country illegally as children and are known as "Dreamers," according to media reports on Friday.

Trump's decision on whether to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, policy could be announced as early as next week, reported ABC News, citing multiple sources.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions discussed the program with senior White House officials on Thursday, according to an administration official.

Department of Homeland Security spokesman David Lapan denied reports that the department had made any recommendations on DACA to the White House. "There have been continuing discussions about DACA but nothing has been determined," Lapan told Reuters.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters on Friday that the programme continues to be under review. A White House spokesperson told Reuters that only Congress can legislate a permanent solution for the plight of children who are currently protected from deportation by DACA.



US President Donald Trump gestures as he walks with his granddaughter Arabella on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, US, before his departure to Camp David, on 25 August 2017. **PHOTO:REUTERS**

Trump had pledged on the election campaign trail to scrap all of former President Barack Obama's executive orders on immigration, including DACA.

Immigrant advocates reacted to the news with a flurry of statements, promising to defend the programme with protest and legal action.

"Immigrant youth fought to create the DACA program and we will fight like hell to defend it," said Greisa Martinez Rosas, Advocacy Director and DACA-beneficiary of United We Dream said in a statement.

Civil rights groups said ending the programme could increase racial divisions in the country in the wake of the recent violence in Charlottesville.

Ten Republican state attorneys general in June urged the Trump administration to rescind the DACA programme, while noting that the government did not have to revoke permits that had already been issued.

If the federal government did not withdraw DACA by 5 September, the attorneys general said they would file a legal

challenge to the programme in a Texas federal court.

The 10 who signed the letter represent Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

A larger coalition of 26 Republican attorneys general had challenged the Obama-era policy covering illegal immigrant parents, known as DAPA, that had been blocked by the courts before it took effect. The Department of Homeland Security rescinded that policy earlier this year.—Reuters ■

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Trump signs disaster proclamation as Harvey nears landfall in Texas

LOS ANGELES — President Donald Trump on Friday signed a disaster proclamation for the state of Texas as Hurricane Harvey began to move onto the coast.

Trump said on Twitter that he had signed the declaration at the request of Texas Governor Greg Abbott, adding that doing so "unleashes the full force of government help."—Reuters ■

#### French foreign minister, defence minister arrive in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and Defence Minister Florence Parly arrived Saturday in Baghdad, Iraqi State TV said.

Le Drian and Parly will discuss with Iraqi leaders the war on Islamic State, the stabilisation of cities destroyed in the conflict and assistance to refugees, according to diplomats.

France is a main partner in the US-led coalition helping Baghdad fight the militants who seized parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014.—Reuters ■

#### Eight people dead and four injured in UK motorway crash — police

EDINBURGH — Eight people died and another four were injured when two lorries and a minibus collided on one of Britain's main north-south motorways early on Saturday at the start of a busy bank holiday weekend.

The collision occurred in the southbound lane of the M1 motorway, near the English town of Newport Pagnell, 50 miles (80 km) northwest of London..

The minibus was believed to have travelled from the Nottingham area, police said.

Two men have been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. They are both currently in custody.—Reuters ■

## More landslides expected in Swiss valley, search for hikers halted

ZURICH — Swiss police said on Saturday they were expecting more landslides in the remote valley near the Italian border where eight people went missing in a massive rock fall this week.

Rescuers suspended a search for the missing hikers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland on Friday as second landslide sent a wall of mud through the village of Bondo.

The tiny settlement was already partially destroyed after the side of a mountain collapsed

on Wednesday, dumping rock, rubble and mud metres high.

A geologist flew over the site in a helicopter early on Saturday to inspect the 3,369-metre (11,053 ft) Piz Cengalo mountain in the canton of Grisons to assess whether another slide is imminent.

"We are expecting more rock slides and mud slides in the affected area," Grisons police said.

Evidence that the hikers had been in the valley at the time of the slide was growing

"more concrete" the force added.

Experts have said melting permafrost due to high temperatures was likely only a minor factor behind the disaster, with longer-term changes in Piz Cengalo's structure, water content and pressure over the last thousand years playing a larger role.

"The number (of landslides in Switzerland) have stayed roughly the same in the past few years because we've had several years of very hot periods in

the summer," Michelle Phillips, group leader for snow and permafrost at the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL).

"These tend to trigger smaller events, less than 100,000 cubic metres."

Larger events — like this week's cataclysmic slide that sent more than 4 million cubic meters (141 million cubic feet) of boulders and mud crashing into the valley — are not likely to increase significantly, she said on Friday.—Reuters ■

# Iraqi forces capture Tal Afar centre from Islamic State

TAL AFAR (Iraq) — Iraqi forces have dislodged Islamic State from 70 per cent of Tal Afar, a stronghold of the militants in northwestern Iraq, including its central citadel neighborhood, officials and military commanders said on Saturday.

“Seventy per cent of the city has been liberated.... God willing, the remaining part will be liberated soon,” Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari said at a news conference with his French counterpart, Jean-Yves Le Drian, and French Defence Minister Florence Parly, in Baghdad.

The offensive on Tal Afar, which lies on the supply route between Syria and the former Islamic State stronghold of Mosul, started on 20 August.

The elite Counter Terrorism Service “liberated the citadel neighborhood .. and raised the Iraqi flag on top of the citadel

building,” a statement from the Iraqi joint operations command said.

Much of the Ottoman-era citadel itself was destroyed by the militants end 2014.

The city, located 80 km (50 miles) west of Mosul, has produced some of the militant group’s most senior commanders.

It experienced cycles of sectarian violence between Sunnis and Shi’ites after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Tal Afar, which had a pre-war population of about 200,000, is the latest objective in the US-backed war on Islamic State following the recapture of Mosul after a nine-month campaign that left much of the city, the biggest in northern Iraq, in ruins.

The fall of Mosul effectively marked the end of the self-proclaimed caliphate Islamic State



Smoke rises during clashes between joint troop of Iraqi army and Shi’ite Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) against the Islamic State militants in Tal Afar, Iraq on 26 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

declared over parts of Syria and Iraq in 2014. Tal Afar was cut off from the rest of IS-held territory in June.

Up to 2,000 militants remain in Tal Afar, according to US and Iraqi military commanders. The number of civilians left in the city is between 10,000 and 20,000, according to the US military.

As in the battle for Mosul, civilians are suffering.

Waves of residents fled the city in the weeks before the battle started. Those remaining are threatened with death by the militants, who have held a tight grip there since 2014, according to aid organisations and residents who managed to flee. On Tuesday,

the UN refugee agency UNHCR said those who had fled were suffering from dehydration and exhaustion, having lived off unclean water and bread for three to four months.

People were arriving at camps for displaced people with wounds from sniper fire and mine explosions. — Reuters ■

# Afghanistan’s Shi’ites call for protection after latest mosque attack

KABUL — Victims of the latest attack on Shi’ite Muslims in Afghanistan directed their anger squarely at the Afghan government, accusing it of failing to protect them despite repeated attacks.

Suicide bombers and gunmen, some dressed in police uniforms, attacked a mosque in Kabul during prayers on Friday, killing more than 40 people and wounding more than 100, according to mosque leaders.

Many of the victims were women trapped on the mosque’s second floor.

The United Nations put the preliminary toll at 20 civilians killed and more than 30 wounded, while the Interior Ministry said 28 people died and 50 were wounded.

At least 30 victims were buried on Saturday on the grounds of the same mosque as hundreds of family members, friends, and other mourners gathered under bullet-marked buildings.

Inside the mosque itself, blood was spattered everywhere and the walls were burned and

scarred. “The government does not care about us,” said Akhtar Hussain as he attended the funeral of a relative. “What should we expect from a government that has never tried to protect us?”

Islamic State-affiliated militants claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest in a number of deadly assaults on Afghanistan’s Shi’ite population.

Sectarian violence has been relatively rare in Afghanistan, but since 2015 Islamic State militants have helped escalate fears by killing scores of Shi’ites at mosques, public gatherings and elsewhere.

Friday’s attack was the sixth attack on Shi’ite mosques so far this year, with Islamic State claiming responsibility for half of them, according to the UN.

“This latest in a series of attacks targeting members of the Shi’a community at worship has no possible justification,” Toby Lanzer, acting head of the UN mission in Afghanistan, said in a statement.

“Such attacks directed against congregations and places of worship are serious violations

of international law that may amount to war crimes.”

The attacks often take political overtones as members of the Shi’ite minority complain that the government ignores their needs.

“This attack could have been avoided,” said Abdul Razaq Sakha, a leader at the mosque. “Our government is guilty in this regard.”

After past pleas for more protection, the government assigned one policeman to help guard the mosque, he said.

That policeman died alongside a private guard when the attackers stormed the gates.

Mourners who gathered on Saturday said the government should help provide security, otherwise they would take the matter into their own hands.

“A police check point is very close to our mosque but they did not act until terrorists killed and wounded dozens of people,” said Mohammad Jahfar Rezaee, whose aunt died in the attack.

“The government is deaf so we have to defend ourselves at any cost.” — Reuters ■

# France pledges continued support to stabilize post-IS Iraq

BAGHDAD — France will assist in reconstruction and reconciliation efforts in Iraq as it emerges from the war with Islamic State, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on Saturday after talks with Iraqi officials in Baghdad.

France is a main partner in the US-led coalition helping Baghdad to fight the militants who seized parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014. The coalition provided key air and ground support for Iraqi forces in the nine-month campaign to take back Mosul, Islamic State’s capital in Iraq.

The fall of Mosul, in July, in effect marked the end of the “caliphate” declared by Islamic State’s leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, over parts of Iraq and Syria. The town of Tal Afar was cut-off from the rest of IS-held territory in June.

“We are present in the war and we will be present in the peace,” Le Drian told a news conference in Baghdad with French Defence Minister Florence Parly and Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

“Even if our joint combat against Daesh is not finished, it is entering a phase of stabilization, of reconciliation, of reconstruction, a phase of peace,” Le Drian said, referring to Islamic State by its Arabic acronym.

The French ministers were also due to meet Iraqi Kurdish leaders in Erbil, the capital of the autonomous Kurdistan region, whose Peshmerga fighters have also played a key part in the fight against Islamic State.

France and other western countries are worried that the Kurdistan Regional Government’s (KRG) plan to hold an independence referendum next month could ignite fresh conflict with Baghdad and neighbouring states who host sizeable Kurdish communities, mainly Iran and Turkey.

A diplomat familiar with French policy said Le Drian and Parly will convey to KRG President Massoud Barzani the French position in favour of an autonomous Kurdistan that remains part of the Iraqi state. — Reuters ■



BK-16, a high speed landing boat developed by the Kalashnikov group. PHOTO: TASS

## Foreign customers mull buying Russian amphibious assault boats

KUBINKA — South Africa is considering buying 12 transport and landing and assault boats from Russia's Kalashnikov Group while Argentina and the Philippines want to buy 10 such vessels, Kalashnikov spokeswoman Sofia Ivanova told TASS on Thursday.

"The Armed Forces of South Africa are considering the purchase of 12 boats of both modifications while the Philippines and Argentina want to buy 10 such vessels," the spokeswoman said at the Army-2017 military and technical forum out-

side Moscow where the Kalashnikov Group is featuring its BK-16 and BK-10 cutters.

Kalashnikov Group CEO Alexei Krivoruchko earlier told TASS that the company expected to sign several contracts this year for the delivery of boats to

foreign customers.

The Kalashnikov Group produces the BK-18 multipurpose cutter, the BK-16 transport and landing boat, as well as the BK-10 high-speed assault boat and the BK-9 high-speed amphibious assault cutter.—Tass ■

## US Black Hawk helicopter crashes off Yemen, one service member missing

WASHINGTON — A US Black Hawk helicopter crashed off the coast of Yemen on Friday during a training mission and a search was under way for one US service member, the US military said.

US Central Command said in a statement that five other service members aboard the aircraft had been rescued after the crash, which took place about 20 miles (32 km) off the southern coast of Yemen at 7 pm (16000 GMT).

A US official told Reuters that the cause of the crash was under investigation.

"When the incident took place the helicopter was not very high above the water," CENTCOM spokesman Colonel John Thomas said.

The United States has been carrying out air strikes against al Qaeda in Yemen, with at least 80 launched since the end of February.

A small number of ground raids using US Special Operations forces have also taken place, including one in January which resulted in the death of a US Navy Seal.

There have been a number of aviation mishaps involving US military aircraft in the past few months.

The US Coast Guard recently said that it had suspended its search off Hawaii for five Army aviators missing since their Black Hawk helicopter crashed earlier this month.

In April, a Black Hawk US Army helicopter crashed on a Maryland golf course, killing one crewmember and seriously injuring two others.

Last month, a military transport plane crash killing 16 service members including elite special operations forces in northern Mississippi.—Reuters ■

### Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by Crop-China Internationals Limited are transferring from 7 Star Agro Power Co., Ltd to Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the the following Pesticides within 7 days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Crop-Tologist 50 WP	Carbendazim 50% WP	Provisional	P2017-4001
2	Crop-Kbroad 25 SL	Fomesafen 250g/l SL	Provisional	P2017-4006
3	Crop-Gesima	Glufosinate-ammonium 150 g/l SL	Provisional	P2017-4007
4	Crop-Sterile 50WP	Iprodione 50%WP	Provisional	P2017-4008

7 Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd

### Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

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2.	Crop-Marsur	Azoxystrobin250g/lSC	Provisional	P2017-4000
3.	Crop-Sinman 3GR	Carbofuran 3%GR	Provisional	P2017-4002
4.	Crop-Cohey	Copper Hydroxide 77% WP	Provisional	P2017-4003
5.	Crop-Finice	Dinotefuran 20%SG	Provisional	P2017-4004
6.	Crop-Famator 3 GR	Fipronil 3% GR	Provisional	P2017-4005
7.	Crop-Karyard24EC	Oxyfluorfen 240g/l / EC	Provisional	P2017-4009
8.	Crop-Gextin 27.6SL	Paraquat27.6% SL	Provisional	P2017-4010
9.	Crop-Skilor 25WG	Thiamethoxam 25% WG	Provisional	P2017-4011
10.	Crop-Swenstor40EC	Triazophos 40% EC	Provisional	P2017-4012

7 Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd

## British counter-terrorism officials investigate armed man arrested near queen's palace

LONDON — A man armed with a large knife who assaulted two police officers outside Buckingham Palace is being investigated by counter-terrorism officials, British police said on Saturday.

The man was stopped on Friday evening while driving in a restricted area near the palace, the London home of Queen Elizabeth, after officers spotted a blade weapon in his car.

"During the course of detaining him, two male police officers suffered minor injuries to their arm," police said. They were later discharged after treatment.

The suspect, who is in his mid-20s according to the police, was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm and assault on police. He was then

further arrested under Britain's Terrorism Act, the police said in another statement overnight.

Britain has been hit this year by four militant attacks in which 36 people were killed, and the country's threat level is at severe, meaning an attack is highly likely.

No members of the royal family were present in the palace at the time. The area is a magnet for tourists in Britain's capital in the peak August holiday weekend.

"My partner saw a sword (...) as well as a policeman with blood on him, looking like his hand or chest was injured.

The police officer had it in his hand, walking away with it," said an unnamed witness quoted by The Times newspaper, who said tourists were



A police officer stands at a cordon after police arrested a man carrying a knife outside Buckingham Palace in London, Britain on 25 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

running away from the scene.

"Something happened before, which is why the people ran away. I'm not sure what this was. But people were already scared and I saw the policeman pull the man from the car" the witness said.

The suspect was taken to a London hospital for treatment of minor injuries, and there were no other reported injuries.

Police appealed to witnesses to come forward with any further information on the incident.—Reuters ■

# North Korea tests short-range missiles as South Korea, US conduct drills

SEOUL/WASHINGTON — North Korea fired several short-range missiles into the sea off its east coast early on Saturday, South Korea and the US military said, as the two allies conducted annual joint military drills that the North denounces as preparation for war.

The US military's Pacific Command said it had detected three short-range ballistic missiles, fired over a 20 minute period.

One appeared to have blown up almost immediately while two flew about 250 km (155 miles) in a northeasterly direction, Pacific Command said, revising an earlier assessment that two of the missiles had failed in flight.

The test came just days after senior US officials praised North Ko-

rea and leader Kim Jong Un for showing restraint in not firing any missiles since late July.

The South Korean Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said the projectiles were launched from the North's eastern Kangwon province into the sea.

Later on Saturday, the South Korean Presidential Blue House said the North may have fired an upgraded 300-mm caliber multiple rocket launcher but the military was still analyzing the precise details of the projectiles.

Pacific Command said the missiles did not pose a threat to the US mainland or to the Pacific territory of Guam, which North Korea had threatened earlier this month to surround in a "sea of fire".

Tensions had eased



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un guides a target-striking contest of the special operation forces of the Korean People's Army (KPA) to occupy islands in this undated picture provided by KCNA in Pyongyang on 25 August, 2017. PHOTO: KCNA VIA REUTERS

somewhat since a harsh exchange of words between Pyongyang and Washington after US President Donald Trump had warned North Korean leader Kim Jong Un he would face "fire and fury" if he threatened the United States.

North Korea's last

missile test on 28 July was for an intercontinental ballistic missile designed to fly 10,000 km (6,200 miles). That would put parts of the US mainland within reach and prompted heated exchanges that raised fears of a new conflict on the peninsula.

Japan's Chief Cabi-

net Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the missiles did not reach its territory or exclusive economic zone and did not pose a threat to Japan's safety.

The South Korean and US militaries are in the midst of the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills involving computer simulations of a war to test readiness and run until 31 August.

The region where the missiles were launched, Kittaeryong, is a known military test site frequently used by the North for short-range missile drills, said Kim Dong-yub, a military expert at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies in Seoul.

"So rather than a newly developed missile, it looks to be short range missiles they fired as part of their summer exercise

and also in response to the Ulchi Freedom Guardian drill," he said.

The United States and South Korea are technically still at war with the North because their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. The North routinely says it will never give up its weapons programs, saying they are necessary to counter perceived US hostility.

Washington has repeatedly urged China, North Korea's main ally and trading partner, to do more to rein in Pyongyang.

China's commerce ministry late on Friday banned North Korean individuals and enterprises from doing new business in China, in line with United Nations Security Council sanctions passed earlier this month.—Reuters ■

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
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## Taylor Swift takes aim at haters with 'Look What You Made Me Do'

LOS ANGELES — After a year in which she went through a high-profile breakup, a short-lived fling, celebrity feuds and a court battle, Taylor Swift is coming for her haters with a mad, bad, edgy new single.

Swift released "Look What You Made Me Do" late on Thursday, a high-octane pop track in which she takes aim at unnamed subjects who have tried to bring her down, singing "Maybe I got mine, but you'll all get yours."

"The role you made me play of the fool, no I don't like you ... But I got smarter, I got harder in the nick of time/ Honey I rose up from the dead, I do it all the time/ I've got a list of names and yours is in red underlined/ I check it once and then I check it twice," Swift sings.

Swift, 27, dropped out of public view earlier this year after a highly publicized breakup with British DJ Calvin Harris, a short-lived fling with British actor Tom Hiddleston and feuds with Katy Perry, Kim Kardashian and



Taylor Swift. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kanye West.

The song comes just over a week after the singer scored a court victory against a radio DJ whom she accused of groping her

bare bottom while posing for a photo with her in 2013. Swift, who delivered unflinching testimony in a Denver court, was awarded the symbolic \$1 in damages that

she had sought after a federal jury found for her.

A 13-second sneak peek of the music video to "Look What You Made Me Do" was unveiled

on "Good Morning America" on Friday, showing glimpses of Swift biting into a diamond necklace, channeling Hollywood glamour while on a swing, and wearing an all-black ensemble while standing in front of her dancers.

The video will debut at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, which will be hosted by Perry, fueling speculation that the two may bury their long-running feud on stage.

"Look What You Made Me Do" quickly became a top trend on social media on Friday. In the song, from Swift's upcoming November album "Reputation," she embraces a darker pop sound with biting lyrics, a continuation of her fiery "Bad Blood" from her 2014 hit album "1989."

The singer, who broke out as a country-pop star at the age of 16, also points to reinventing herself in her latest song.

"I'm sorry, the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now/ Why? Oh. 'Cause she's dead," Swift sings.—Reuters ■

## Hurricane Harvey forces Coldplay to postpone Houston show

TEXAS — British rock band Coldplay was forced to postpone a concert in Houston scheduled for Friday night as the most powerful hurricane in a dozen years bore down on Texas, the band said on Friday.

Hurricane Harvey is forecast to come ashore on the southern Texas coast late on Friday. Houston is not directly in the path of the storm, but it is expected to receive up to 20 inches of rain. "We really wanted to play tonight, but sitting here all together watching the news about the storm we feel that we can't ask anyone to put their safety at risk," the band said on Twitter. "So, sadly, we will have to postpone."

Details about rescheduling and refunding would be published later, the band said.

Coldplay, which is on a US tour, tweeted from Houston on Thursday night that it was in communication with local authorities and prepared to play or cancel, depending on the weather and safety.—Reuters ■

## 'Caitlin' gives voice to Dylan Thomas' widow in violent UK dance drama

EDINBURGH — "Hello. I'm Caitlin, and I'm an alcoholic."

A punchy dance performance at the Edinburgh Fringe shines a rare spotlight on Caitlin Thomas, whose husband Dylan was one of Britain's greatest 20th century writers, and the brutal self-inflicted torture of an alcoholic relationship.

The couple dance, drink, crawl, brawl and wrap themselves around one another lovingly and viciously within the circle of an Alcoholics' Anonymous (AA) meeting formed by the audience.

The show at the world's largest arts festival has around a dozen spoken lines by Caitlin, a dancer whose name has always been in the shadow of the author of "Under Milk Wood".

"We were supposed to be equal. But it wasn't like that," says Caitlin, played by Eddie Ladd whose lilting Welsh accent echoes the Swansea-born author of "And Death Shall Have No Dominion".

Thomas died in 1953 during a United States poetry tour, aged 39. His powerful voice lit up his



Eddie Ladd and Gwyn Emberton perform as Dylan and Caitlin Thomas in Caitlin at the Lauriston Hall, Edinburgh, Scotland on 25 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

work and is familiar to Britons thanks to his BBC radio performances.

But in "Caitlin" he does not speak.

"He's all about the words, so we decided to mute him and give her a voice," Gwyn Emberton,

who plays Dylan, told Reuters. At times in the performance Caitlin is physically wrapped around his head or holds his mouth to stop him speaking.

The reputation of Dylan, author of some of the most-quoted verse in the English language,

such as "Rage, rage against the dying of the light", owes something to his record as a performer, a drunk and a womaniser.

Caitlin outlived him by 40 years, eventually attending AA after his death.

"People celebrate what they think of as being the rumbustiousness of (their relationship). But when they get a glimpse of what that is really like, well, that's only the half of it," Ladd told Reuters.

Emberton says the author of "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" has an exaggerated reputation, while Caitlin is perceived as the demon muse.

"In Wales many people see him as a glorious, genius figure, while she was the one who was leading him astray," he said. The performers hope to redress the balance, in some way.

Originally conceived as part of the centenary of Thomas' birth in 2014, "Caitlin's" impact and intimacy has given it a longer life and the company hopes to perform it more widely having toured extensively in Wales.—Reuters ■

## Japan, China, S Korea to co-host cultural events during Olympics

KYOTO — The culture ministers of Japan, China and South Korea confirmed on Saturday that their countries will co-host events to spread East Asian culture during the Olympic and Paralympic games to be hosted by them between 2018 and 2022.

At a meeting in Kyoto, the ministers also agreed to set up an experts' body to discuss measures to strengthen exchanges among 15 "culture cities of East Asia" in a programme aimed at deepening mutual understanding.

Japanese culture minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and his South Korean and Chinese counterparts Do Jong Whan and Luo Shugang adopted the Kyoto declaration covering those agreements.

"Through cooperation



The culture ministers of Japan, South Korea and China gather in the Japanese city of Kyoto on 26 August, 2017, confirming that their countries will co-host events to spread East Asian culture during the summer and winter Olympic and Paralympic Games to be hosted by them between in 2018 and 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

toward the Olympics, we wish to further promote cultural exchanges between the three nations," Hayashi said.

The ministers aim to promote East Asian culture by organizing events in conjunction with the 2018

Winter Games in Pyeongchang, the 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo, and the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing.

In their previous meeting in August last year on Jeju Island, the three Asian neighbors agreed to study

mutual dispatch of artistic delegations and co-hosting of events featuring both culture and sports.

The envisioned experts' group will also consider tie-ups between East Asian cities and cultural programs of the Associ-

ation of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as the European Union.

Under the Culture Cities of East Asia program, which started in 2014, every year one city in each of the three countries holds various cultural activities to build a sense of solidarity in the region and enhance intercultural communication.

China's Changsha and South Korea's Daegu are holding events for the program this year.

So far, the Japanese cities of Yokohama, Niigata, Nara and Kyoto have been selected. Japan has picked Kanazawa for next year.

The trilateral cultural ministers meeting has been held almost every year since 2007 and the Kyoto gathering was the ninth overall.

—Kyodo News ■

## Medal count at 29 for Myanmar at 2017 SEA Games

Sandar Soe

Myanmar has so far won a total of 29 medals in the 2017 Southeast Asian Games being held in Malaysia – six gold, eight silver and 15 bronze.

Three of the six gold medals came from the Sepak Takraw competition. Two were awarded in Wushu and one for shooting.

Myanmar has also garnered one silver medal in Archery, three in Billiards and Snooker, two in Sepak Takraw and two in Wushu, for a total of eight.

With one from Athletics, two from Billiards and Snooker, one from Football, four from Karate, three from Shooting, two from Taekwondo and two from Wushu, Myanmar has also earned a total of 15 bronze medals, putting them in seventh place in the SEA Games for total number of medals.

Myanmar is behind in its medal acquisition this year, especially when compared to the 28th Southeast Asian Games in Singapore in 2015, when it won a total of 68 medals – 12 gold, 25 silver and 31 bronze. ■

## For tsar's great-grandson, Russia needs a strong leader

ZURICH — A century after the October Revolution that ended his family's three-century reign of Russia, Hans Georg Yourievsky believes the country needs a tough leader.

But — for now at least — it is not a role for him, the last living great-grandson of a Russian emperor.

Yourievsky, born and

raised in Switzerland, traces his line to Tsar Alexander II, the reformer known as the Liberator for freeing Russia's serfs, modernising the legal system and pushing for a constitution that would introduce democracy to Russia.

The reforms came to a halt when Alexander was killed in 1881, soon

after marrying his long-time mistress Catherine Dolguruky.

Their passionate love affair inspired the 1959 film Katia starring Curd Jurgens and Romy Schneider. For Yourievsky, 55, his great-grandfather's assassination by revolutionaries marked the beginning of the end of the royal dynasty

and a lost chance to move toward a constitutional monarchy that has flourished in other European countries.

"It would have changed a lot" if Alexander's reforms had been implemented, Yourievsky said in an interview with Reuters just across the river from the Zurich house

where Vladimir Lenin lived in exile before returning home to lead the 1917 Bolshevik uprising and founding the Soviet state.

The Bolsheviks killed Tsar Nicholas II and his family of the Romanov dynasty, but the Yourievsky line from Alexander II's second wife continued.

— Reuters ■

## In Ireland, summer goes on rain or shine

GALWAY, (Ireland) — Anyone who visits Ireland in summer might experience bright sunshine, a thunderstorm, driving rain and more sunshine on a single day.

The west coast, where weather systems from the Atlantic meet mountains to create frequent rains, gets twice the rainfall of the east.

On the other hand, extreme weather is rare and average national

temperatures are 10 degrees Celsius (50 Fahrenheit).

Even Tourism Ireland says on its website: "Okay, it does rain in Ireland, but long bouts of rain are pretty rare."

Summer fun means keeping a raincoat handy because of sudden downpours, cultivating a hardy attitude and taking full advantage of the sun when it shines. — Reuters ■



### Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(27-8-2017 07:00am ~28-8-2017 07:00am) MST

	10:49	Am			Safari World
	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)				
	<b>Prime Time</b>				
	07:03	Pm			News
	07:26	Pm			Travelogue: "Anyar Myay" or Upcountry (Part-III)
	07:43	Pm			Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
	07:49	Pm			Today Myanmar: 29th Southeast Asian Games 2017 "Malaysia"
	08:03	Pm			News
	08:26	Pm			Hanthawaddy U Win Tin: A Fearless Man (Ep-2)
	08:44	Pm			Myanmar Masterclass: Performance Art
	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)				
	(For Detailed Schedule – <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a> )				



Myanmar football fans watch Myanmar football match on a large outdoor screen in Mahabandola Park, Yangon : PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN

## Myanmar loses to Thailand in SEA Games football semi-finals

Kyaw Zin Tun

The Myanmar men's football team was defeated by Thailand in a semi-final match yesterday by a score of 0-1 at the 2017 Southeast Asian Games in Malaysia.

Myanmar went with the lineup of Sann Sat Naing (GK), Nan Wai Min, Hteik Aung, Thiha Htet Aung, Hlaing Bo Bo, Aung Thu, Sithu Aung, Mg Mg Lwin, Yan Naing Oo, Than Paing and Hein Thiha Zaw.

In an evenly matched contest, neither team could score in the first half. In an effort to break the scoreless tie, Myanmar substituted Aung Kaung San for Mg Mg Lwin and Shine Thura for Sithu Aung during the second half.

Thailand came close to scoring in the second half, but the game remained a draw until the 90-minute mark. The tie was finally broken after the fourth minute of injury time when Thailand's team leader

Chenrop Samphaodi received a pass from the left corner and headed the ball cleanly into the net.

Myanmar substituted Aung Kaung San for Maung Maung Lwin and Shine Thura for Sithu Aung during the second half.

Ko Zaw Lin Tun, a former football player for Myanmar, said that yesterday's game showed the sporting spirit of the Myanmar team, but pointed out that spirit alone can-

not win games. The loss was a bitter one for Myanmar, the silver medalists in the 2015 SEA Games in Singapore, who impressed competitors and spectators over the past two weeks with their crisp play.

Thailand, a two-time defending SEA Games champion, will now face either Malaysia or Indonesia in the gold medal match, which will be played on Tuesday. The match that decides third place will be played on the same day. ■

## Myanmar takes three medals in shooting competition

Kyaw Zin Tun

The six-day shooting competition at the 2017 Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia concluded yesterday with Myanmar taking three medals.

Shooting is the act or process of discharging firearms or other projectile weapons such as bows or crossbows.

The shooting competition at the 2017 SEA Games featured 14 events, nine for men and five for women. For the men, the events were the 10m air pistol, 10m air rifle, 50m pistol, 25m rapid fire pistol, 50m rifle (3 positions), 50 m rifle prone, Skeet, Trap and Double Trap.

The five events for the women were 10m air pistol, 10m air rifle, 25m pistol, 50m rifle (3 positions) and 50 m rifle prone. May Poe Wah won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol event. Kyaw Sawr Win won a bronze medal in the men's 50m pistol and Kaung Htike won another bronze medal for the men's 50m rifle prone.

Thirty-nine shooting were granted this year. The top countries in the competition were Thailand, which earned 11 medals, and Malaysia, with 10 medals.

The shooting events at the 2017 Southeast Asian Games were held from 21 to 26 August at the National Shooting Range Centre in Subang, Malaysia. Myanmar won two shooting medals at the 2015 SEA Games and four in the 2013 SEA Games. ■

## Myanmar earns three more SEA Games medals

Myanmar earned three more medals at the 2017 SEA Games in Malaysia yesterday, and has a chance at a gold medal today.

The shooting competition was completed yesterday at the National Shooting Range Center Subang, Malaysia, where Kyaw Swar Win earned a bronze medal in the 50m pistol competition with a score of

214.8. Teammate Ye Tun Naung finished in fourth place with a score of 194.8. U Myo Hlaing, general secretary of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, presented the medals at the competition.

The Sepak Takraw men's doubles competition was held at the Titiwangsa Stadium yesterday, where the Myanmar

team beat Laos by a score of 2-1 in the morning and beat Malaysia, 2-1, in the evening. The last group match of this team will play against Cambodia today. If Myanmar wins, the Myanmar Sepak Takraw men's doubles team will receive the gold medal.

Sun Shine won the bronze medal in the men's individual

Taekwondo competition, while Thet Myat Noe Wai won the bronze medal at the women's individual competition.

The Myanmar men's volleyball team played against Indonesia at MITEC Hall (1) in their semifinal match yesterday and was defeated by a score of 2-3.

The Myanmar men volley-

ball team will play against Viet Nam today, 27 August for the bronze medal.

Myanmar athletes in action today include events in swimming, diving, snooker (single), indoor hockey (men), Judo (men and women), and Sepak Takraw men's doubles. —Public Sports and Educative Department ■

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

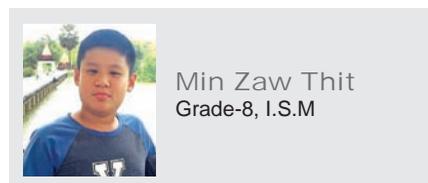
NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

27 AUGUST 2017  
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

# MIND VACATION ACTIVITIES



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



Min Zaw Thit  
Grade-8, I.S.M

**W**E all, the young and the elderly may have duties or tasks to carry out every-day. As a result, we all long for new experience in new places. All human beings usually desire to travel all around the earth. For those who are too young to travel, can't afford to do so. And also people who can spend their money but don't have enough time, have to create their imaginary vacation activities.

Most teenagers love to travel around the world but parents push us to focus more on succeeding our own education. Therefore, we create imaginary vacation activities to different countries or places we are not ready to go yet. For example, middle-schoolers, they have to focus on advancing to a more and more difficult grade. While the school opens, we don't have time to travel because of time and other factors like missing out lessons and homework. One of the main reasons that people create mind activities is the cost that they can't afford to go. Orphans, and workers who get less income have to work hard in obtaining knowledge and money. They

work for hours and hours and only get money to buy a cup of rice or eat a lunch. This is why they create mind vacation activities by thinking about that specific place and here the wonderful places are and imagine about the trip. Likewise, the rich families can't plan a vacation either because of time. Therefore, they imagine their own vacation. They can't cancel their jobs and they have to urgently plan on something they need to do.

In conclusion, everyone deserves to go on a inspiring vacation that can fulfill their dream. No matter how rich or poor you are, you may organize your own mind vacation. ■

## Stray dog

Honey Soe (B.M.T.M)

Nameless  
Nothing possess  
Belongs to nobody  
Dog from the alley

Down the alley in and out  
Poor creature runs about  
Driven by the starvation  
Hurriedly performs daily vocation

Some people shout  
Some drive the poor thing out  
Some kind enough to feed  
Some pay no heed

Snuggling in the doorway  
Let the night go away  
Want to know what in its brain  
Perhaps empty and free from strain

He is a living thing though  
Probably suffer trouble of living soul  
As long as his heart beat runs  
Suppose his trouble never ends

## Freedom

Kyal Yaung Htin (B.E (NA)

Life has a colour  
Colour of my life was grey  
My thoughts became duller  
Each and every passing by days...

In one of my boring days  
I saw you walking in my way  
Your smile made everything brighter  
Not even a sound I could utter...

Suddenly I'm filled with colours  
Thought my life is better  
You gave me orange, green, purple and blue  
My life is filled with nothing but you...

After some time,  
I'm living inside a twinkling star  
But it makes me hotter than ever  
The life you gave makes me suffocate  
Now I think, my old grey life is great...

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to [dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

# Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

## Lesson 16: Sentence Structure (part 1)

Hello dear students,

We have already learnt all Eight Parts of Speech and something about sentences.

There are three different kinds of “groups of words”, which are “Phrase, Clause and Sentence”.

Among these both “Phrase” and “Clause” are “groups of words” which do not have complete sense. Here we have “No Verbs” in “Phrases”, whereas we have “Verbs” in “Clauses”. But, both do not have “complete sense”.

e.g. on the table, in a house, through the window, on Saturday, in 2010 .. are Phrases which have no Verbs and no complete sense.

e.g. who is my friend, when I wake up, where we stay, which is on the table, and what you see are “Clauses”. They have Verbs but without any complete sense.

### Exercise 16.1

- I. Give 5 examples of Phrases.
- II. Give 5 examples of Clauses.

But, a “Sentence” is a group of words which has complete sense.

(A Sentence always has a Verb.)

- e.g. (i) I have eaten my dinner.  
(ii) The dog bites the cat.  
(iii) He is my younger brother.  
(iv) Mg Mg is his best friend.  
(v) The girl is singing a sweet song.

Note that “a sentence begins with a Capital Letter and always ends with a full-stop.”

### Exercise 16.2

- III. Write 5 example sentences.
- IV. Complete the following blank spaces so that it will become sentences. Please remember that you have to begin with a Capital Letter and end with a full-stop, and it has to make complete sense and always have a Verb.
  - (a) He ..... his car on the Highway.
  - (b) ..... wants to eat more cakes.
  - (c) She will sing ..... to you.
  - (d) Ma Ma is dancing very .....
  - (e) The boy beats the .....
  - (f) I have monhingha for my .....
  - (g) I have to finish my homework by ..... morning.
  - (h) ..... and your friends can come for a visit.
  - (i) Daphne is a /an ..... girl.
  - (j) Thinzar is studying her ..... Lesson.

Here, we can find different patterns of sentences. Although there are different kinds of sentence structures, we will study only two patterns of sentence structures in today’s lesson. These are: ..

- (1) S+V Pattern ( Subject + Verb ) and
- (2) S+V+O Pattern ( Subject + Verb+ Object ) .

Let’s begin with the first kind of structure ... S+V.

Here in this pattern we have only Subject and Verb. Let’s see some examples.

- (1) The dog runs.
- (2) The boy is playing.
- (3) We are singing.
- (4) They have come.
- (5) Mi Mi cries.
- (6) Ko Ko can jump.
- (7) The birds flew.
- (8) They stood.
- (9) He had slept.
- (10) Mother was cooking.

In all these above sentences we have only Subject and Verb.

### Exercise 16.3

- V. Make 5 sentences of your own with S+V Pattern. (Please do not forget that each sentence should have complete sense, begin with a Capital Letter and end with a full-stop.

- VI. Fill in the following blank spaces to make sentences with S+V Pattern.

- (a) ..... runs.
- (b) The girls are .....
- (c) We have .....
- (d) Daddy is .....
- (e) The King .....
- (f) I have .....
- (g) Babies are .....
- (h) Nurses are .....
- (i) I am .....
- (j) She can .....

Here comes the second Pattern, the S+V+O Pattern ( Subject + Verb + Object Pattern) . Look at the examples.

- e.g. (i) The boy beats the dog.  
(ii) I drink tea.  
(iii) The girl likes cakes.  
(iv) She eats her breakfast.  
(v) You will see him.

Please do not forget that “a Subject is the doer of a Verb” and “an Object is the one upon which an action is done by the Subject.”

A Verb which has an Object is called “a Transitive Verb” as the action of the Verb has transition onto the Object.

And a Verb without an Object is called “an Intransitive Verb”.

### Exercise 16.4

- VII. Make 5 sentences of your own with S+V+O Pattern.

- VIII. Fill in the following blank spaces to make sentences of S+V+O Pattern.

- (a) She can sing a .....
- (b) Children ..... ice-creams.
- (c) He is playing his .....
- (d) I have eaten my .....
- (e) Mya Mya is reading a .....
- (f) He has finished his .....
- (g) The lady will greet the .....
- (h) The doctor is ..... his patients.
- (i) Mother is cooking .....
- (j) The boy can catch the .....

Now, we have studied two basic patterns of sentence structures.

That’s all for today’s lesson on Patterns of Sentence Structures. You will see more later.

Hope that you can do your exercises well!  
Bye Bye Students!

*Your English Teacher (GNLM)*

*Email: dr.numuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com*

### Here are the answers to last week’s exercise 15.

- I. pretty prettier prettiest  
small, smaller, smallest  
slow, slower, slowest  
happy, happier, happiest  
sad, sadder, saddest  
content, more content, most content  
ugly, uglier, ugliest  
bad, worse, worst  
good, better, best  
little, less, least  
(Here, I want to give you a present, “a beautiful poem” you should keep in mind for life. It comes like that ...

“Good, Better, Best  
Never let it rest;  
Till your Good is Better  
And your Better Best.”

- II. To fill in the blanks ...

- (a) best / cleverest
- (b) thicker / better
- (c) most
- (d) beautiful
- (e) faster / quicker
- (f) ugliest / prettiest
- (g) more / less
- (h) Best
- (i) Better, Best
- (j) handsome / cleverest

Hope that you all have done well!

*Bye for now! See you next week!*  
*Your English Teacher (GNLM)*

# A glance at the Basic Education System in Japan

Dr. Myo Win  
Yangon University of Education

Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU), of Hyogo, Japan, and Yangon University of Education (YUOE), Myanmar, signed an agreement on Academic Cooperation on April 26, 2016 to promote partnership and academic exchange between the two parties. According to this agreement, KGU offered a study tour programme in Japan which lasts for ten days. The YUOE team, led by pro-rector, Dr. Pyone Pyone Aung visited schools and observed classes, discussed educational administration, learning situations and teacher training in Japan. This article is about basic education in Japan, based on the findings of classroom observations in some schools in Japan.

The YUOE team visited Namaze Kindergarten in Nishinomiya city led by professor Sekiya of KGU. This school is not very big, but full of facilities. We observed the children making paper toys by using pieces of coloured paper. The teacher gave them necessary materials such as scissors, glue, pieces of coloured paper, etc. They looked at the model in their book and made their own figures. We learned that they are not taught academic subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science, etc. On the walls of the classroom, pictures drawn by the children are stuck. Learning can occur in many ways. We hear and learn; we see and learn. In the same way, we learn by doing. Learning by doing aids the retention. In the Myanmar context, we also believe learning by doing. This concept is not strange to us. But the weakness lies in the fact that theoretical knowledge cannot be fully realized practically. Starting from this academic year, kindergarten children in our country are nurtured in an innovative way. Now children learn through doing, playing, singing, etc. When we went up-stairs, it was found that on each step, numbers and figures to represent the number are drawn. There is number 1 and a cat to represent the number on the first step. On the second step, there is number 2 and two fish. On the third step, number 3 and three spiders are drawn. In this way, children always see these numbers together with figures whenever they use the stairs. There are two kinds of learning: conscious learning and sub-



conscious learning. If children are taught number 1,2,3, etc. by the Mathematics teacher in the classroom, then such a learning is called conscious learning. On the other hand, when children learn these numbers by themselves while they are going up the ladder; this is subconscious learning. Conscious learning makes children feel mental insecurity. They feel they are taught. As a result, learning does not occur as successfully as expected. But, if they learn through playing, their learning environment becomes positive. As a result, they learn happily. Children enjoy playing. Therefore, the teacher must have the ability to exploit the nature of the children in teaching them.

The next day, our team visited Naruo Junior High School in Nishinomiya city. As it is a junior high school, children are taught academic subjects. It was observed that students are taught Mathematics by using computers. When we visited a science lab, students were doing science practical work with sufficient equipments under the supervision of a science teacher. As co-curricular activity, some students were doing judo in a large gymnasium. In another class, children were doing their own stamps, using soft stones and pointed iron sticks. First, they wrote their names on the paper. Then, they copied this name on the surface of the soft stone and carved it. Such kind of classroom activity is based on the concept of learning by doing. In general, it is observed that basic education in Japan places great emphasis on co-curricular activities so that their children become all-round developed students. One of the slogans in basic education in our country is "စာတွေ့လက်တွေ့၊ နှိုးပျော်မွေ့". But it is not realized successfully. There are three periods for co-curricular activities

(arts and music) in a week for lower primary schools. But these periods are not beneficially used in real practice. Weaknesses may be because of scarcity of materials, resource persons and wrong attitude on these co-curricular activities by the teachers and students. For instance, there is a period for arts in the timetable. But there is no arts teacher in school. In fact, arts or drawing is a specialized co-curricular subject. No academic subject teacher can teach this subject. It has its own theory and practical work. Without expertise, no teacher can teach effectively. In the same way, music is one of the co-curricular subjects which is not taught by a music teacher. As a result, students are not interested in co-curricular activities. In Japan, a primary school teacher must be skillful in arts and music to get a teacher license. Another reason for unsuccessful implementation of co-curricular activities in basic education in Myanmar lies in the weakness of the Education Policy. Our education system is still based on the exam oriented system. One of the objectives of basic education is to produce all-round developed students. We want them to be physically strong, mentally healthy, and have a positive attitude towards society. But, in practice, academic achievement of students is more emphasized than their physical development or attitude. The scores of Matriculation Exam are the only criteria for the students to pursue their higher education. As a result, it is not sure if a student will be all-round developed or not in spite of his excellent academic performance. Most of the students want to pass the exam with great marks so that they will be entitled to go to the best universities. They are not interested in music, sports, drawing, etc. which enable them

to become all-round developed students. Most of the teachers may probably think that their duty is only to teach the subjects they are assigned. Some teachers even use the co-curricular periods to teach core subjects such as English, Mathematics, Physics, etc. The consequence is that students cannot be said to be all-round developed ones though the objective of education is stated to be so.

We also visited Nishiyomiya Higashi High School in Nishiyomiya city the next day. We observed students in some classes studying their subjects. The way they teach academic subjects are more or less the same as ours. The interesting thing is their evening co-curricular classes. After school hours, students have to take one of the co-curricular activities such as sports, music, drawing, etc. We observed girl students playing their traditional harps. In a large gym, we observed students playing some sports such as volleyball, badminton, table tennis, which are also included in our curricular activities. The difference is that our co-curricular activities are not successfully implemented. In our context, when school is over, most of the students in urban areas are usually busy with tuition classes. In the same way, some students in rural areas may probably busy helping their parents' work. The school system in our country itself has no evening co-curricular classes. The Comprehensive Education Sector Review started in Myanmar on 1st August 2012. In the CESR review, it is reported that the time allocated for co-curricular subjects in Myanmar is the shortest among ASEAN countries; core subjects are often taught during that time. All this has constrained the generation of all-round graduates with healthy attitudes. (pg 2.

CESR Phase I Rapid Assessment Report). This report suggests us to consider increasing the time allocated for co-curricular subjects and monitor systematically to ensure that the allocated time is accurately used.

On 3 February 2017, our team visited Uegahara Elementary School in Nishinomiya city. There is a good library system in this elementary school. It is learnt that children have to report what they read once a month. Their book report is displayed on the bulletin board in the library. There are two kinds of reading: intensive reading and extensive reading. Intensive reading done in the classroom has limited value, especially in the knowledge explosion age. Any reading programme is imperfect without extensive reading. Intensive reading is controlled by the teacher in the classroom. The reader has no opportunity to decide what to read. In the library, the reader can decide what to read according to his or her interest. Moreover, he can decide his own reading speed which is decided by the teacher in the classroom. Therefore, systematic use of the school library is a must if students are expected to be life-long learners. In another class, our team observed children growing plants in groups. This activity is also based on the concept of learning by doing.

In conclusion, classroom observations in some schools in Japan reveal the importance of co-curricular activities for all-round development of students. The Myanmar education system also aims to produce students with all-round development. Educational philosophy is the same between two countries and so are the objectives of education. But our country cannot implement the educational objectives successfully. Each and every stakeholder of education, starting from ministry level to school level, those in the inner circle or those in the outer circle, have the responsibility for the successful implementation of co-curricular activities which can promise all-round development of students.

## Reference

1. Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) Phase 1 : March 2013
2. မြန်မာနိုင်ငံပညာရေးသမိုင်း (အခြေခံပညာကဏ္ဍ) ၂၀၁၄- ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ



Men participate in Kyin, a traditional wrestling sport of Rakhine ethnic people. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

# To Maintain and Safeguard the Intangible Culture Heritage

By Mar Lar Aung (Culture)

**O**UR ancestors since the time of Pyu, Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Taungoo, Nyaung Yang, Konbaung, Yadanabon and present eras had left the edifying tales and stories, traits and mores related to their faith, treatises of traditional medicine, handicrafts, fine arts, music, plays and etc. as cultural heritage for the posterity.

The relay of cultural heritage from our ancestors successively down to later generations by teaching orally or practical training or leaving written notes has brought forth the national identity of culture of Myanmar.

Myanmar cultural heritage can be differentiated in two parts as tangible heritage that can be seen or touched as a material object such as religious edifices and handicraft materials and intangible heritage which cannot be seen or touched, but can be represented by invisible things such as traditions, beliefs and social mores and conventions.

Intangible cultural heritage is meant by human achievements and skills, traditional rites, making of traditional foods and snacks, traditional sports that have been handed over to the later generations since the time

men had been cultured. In other words intangible cultural heritage are the living culture of every age incessantly streaming down from generation to generation.

UNESCO announced the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at the 32nd session of UNESCO held at Paris, France from 29th September to 17 October, 2003. Myanmar had signed the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in May 2014 so as to be able to take part in international cooperation and to take value and safeguard the intangible cultures of Myanmar.

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture led the implementation tasks in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage. The ministry has formed the Myanmar Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Committee on 10 February 2015 consisting of the representatives from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Health and sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Education, Union Attorney-General's Office, Union Civil Service

Board and one minister each nominated by Chief Minister from Region and State Government, Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, Thabin Asiayone, Musician Asiayone and Artist and Sculptors Asisayone.

Myanmar Intangible Cultural Heritage were sector-wise listed as follows:

(a) Language, spoken traditions and expressions (e.g. tales, poems and languages)

(b) Entertaining arts (e.g. traditional dance and music)

(c) Social conventions and mores, theatrical shows and pwes (e.g. pagoda festivals, 12 monthly traditional festivals)

(d) Traditions and knowledge related to nature and mankind (e.g. astrology, medicinal treatises, calendar, smearing Thanakha)

(e) Traditional handicrafts (e.g. blacksmith, goldsmith and other 8 Pun crafts, weaving looms)

(f) Traditional foods (e.g. Poneyaygyi ie. fermented paste of pea)

(g) Traditional sports (e.g. Top playing, Htote Siteo)

According to the Covenant the member countries have to submit their list of intangible heritages once in six years.

The specifying of norms between the World Heritage (tangible) Site and Intangible Heritage is quite different when they are submitted to UNESCO to be registered in World Heritage List. The norms of tangible heritages are usually specified by authenticity determined by professional expert. However, the intangible heritages can be determined by people who practically maintain the heritage or by village people who take part in the activities. For instance, Kachin people can determine and submit their Manaw Festival as their own intangible heritage.

Changes of using materials with time is not taken into consideration in determining the

intangible heritage. (e.g. though the earthen pot was used in old time, the suitable type of pot can, now, be used.)

UNESCO General Assembly is held biennially and Chairman of UNESCO Myanmar National Commission, Union Minister for Education, member of the commission, responsible personnel from Ministry of Culture and secretary of the commission attend the general assembly. The Ambassador of Myanmar in France where UNESCO Head Office is present takes the position of Permanent Delegate of Myanmar to UNESCO. Member countries have to contribute to the fund annually at the amount determined by the GDP and population ratio of each country. Myanmar is liable to chip in US\$ 300 annually.

Under the aid of Norway government and under the supervision of UNESCO, the staffs from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and people involved in related works with intangible heritage were given the capacity building training workshops from 25.11.2013 to 26.11.2013 at Nay Pyi Taw, from 19.5.2014 to 24.5.2014 at Mandalay, from 27.10.2014 to 3.11.2014 at Inlay of Shan State and from 14.9.2015 to 19.9.2015 at Taunggyi.

UNESCO branch office in Myanmar, related ministries, NGOs, associations of literature and culture of indigenous people and other enthusiasts in this field were invited to national level workshop held at Minglar Thiri hotel from 17.3.2016 to 18.3.2016 with a view to designate a suitable way of national-level listing the intangible heritage basing on the UNESCO guidelines and to promote the awareness of the people in protecting and safeguarding the intangible heritage.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, after carrying out the tasks concerning with exploring and discovering the tangible and intangible heritage, collecting, recording,



Ethnic women in hilly areas in central Myanmar prepare to make their traditional alcohol made from rice. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Pole climbing competition is a popular sport in rural and urban areas. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO



Children participate in a popular sport-cum-entertainment in rural area. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

maintaining, protecting and distribution, published a Manual for Intangible Cultural Heritage on 17.3.2016.

The ministry is now making a survey throughout the country and listed the intangible cultural heritage including sandstone sculpturing, painting, lacquer ware, Pone Yay Gyi (fermented paste of pea) producing, traditional snacks making and pagoda festivals to help in treating a Dossier which is an important step in striving for the intangible heritage of Myanmar to be listed in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The staffs of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the persons who are currently working for the intangible heritage are participating in the international paper reading sessions

on the cultural heritage held in Korea and Asean countries.

Lacquer school was opened in Bagan and is disseminating knowledge and techniques of lacquer among the later generations. Sounda weaving and vocational school is also conducting the practical training on traditional weaving.

University of traditional medicine has been opened in Mandalay and relays the traditional medicine to the later generations. So also the ten crafts (Puns) such as painting, wood carving, masonry, goldsmith, blacksmith, stucco relief making, stone carving and etc. are handed down to the posterity by the businessmen and professionals of the respective field.

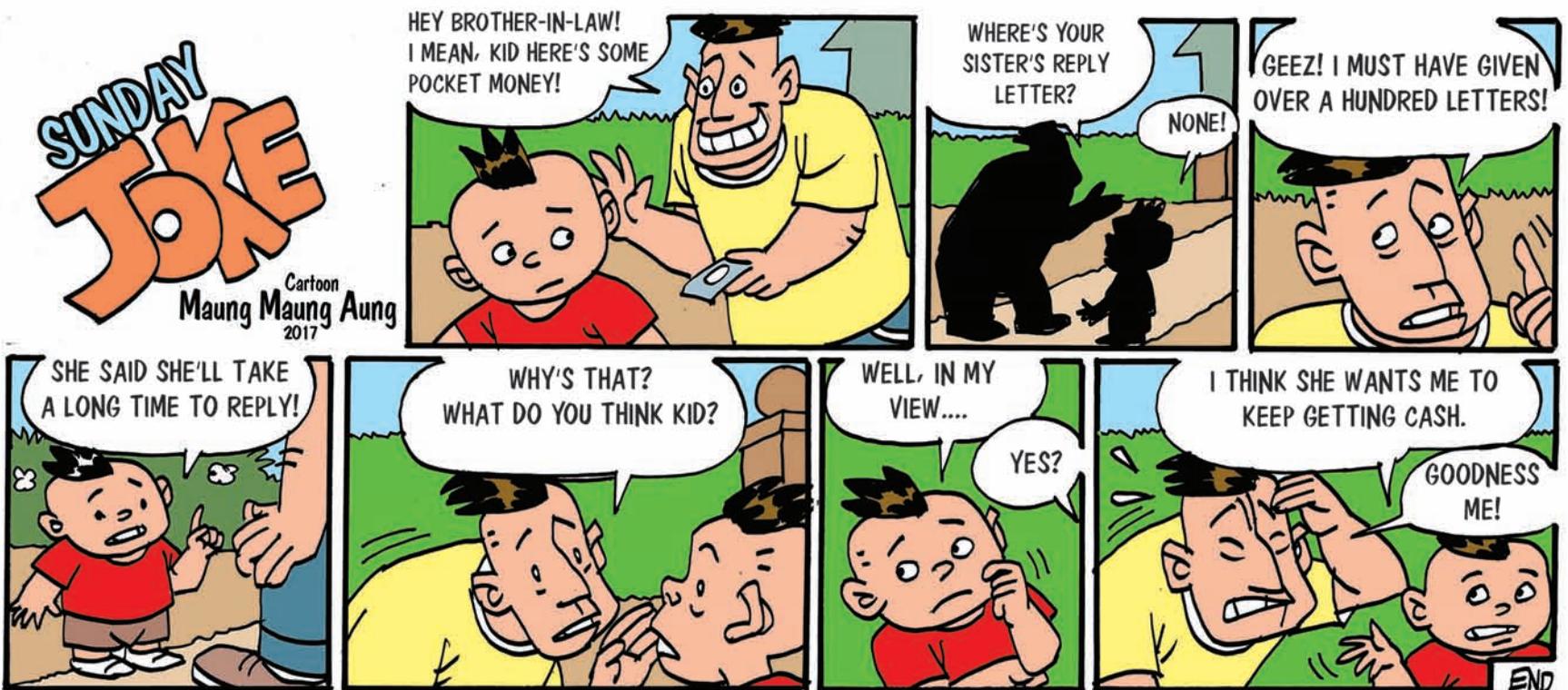
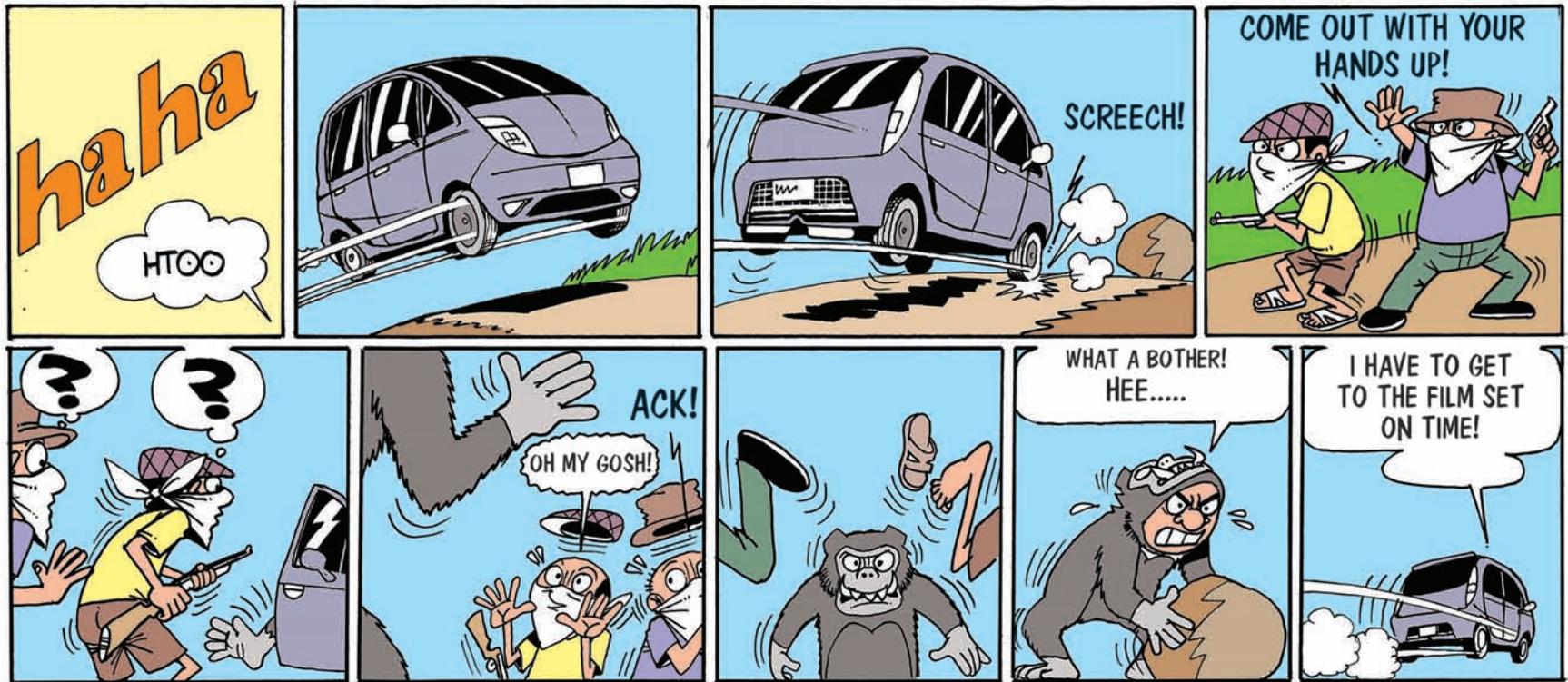
Myanmar can be said as a country rich in intangible cul-

tural heritage that the people are obliged to maintain and safeguard. This is our responsibility to retain them, otherwise no other but we are to be blamed for the fading out or vanishing of such intangible cultural heritage.

Moreover, people of Myanmar should have high regard on those who are practically working with or maintaining the intangible cultural heritage and those who are involved in doing or making the intangible heritage have duty to maintain and convey those heritage to later generations.

In conclusion people are urged to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Myanmar with great enthusiasm by cooperating with the departments concerned.—Translated by Khin Maung Win

# SUNDAY COMICS



# Interview with Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Tone Tinnes

**A wide-ranging Interview with Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Tone Tinnes by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Norway and Myanmar.**

**Q: Please share your impressions on Norway-Myanmar relations.**

A: Norway has a long lasting relationship with Myanmar and we cooperate on a broad range of issues. In July this year, our Foreign Minister visited Myanmar and had very good meetings with the State Counsellor and other Government representatives. In those meetings, he emphasized the good relationship between the two countries and the willingness from the Norwegian side to continue to assist Myanmar in its democratization process. The Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended the Oslo Forum in June this year. In Oslo Forum, key persons from countries with an ongoing peace process come together and exchange experiences on the peace process behind closed doors.

**Q: At the second session of the Union Peace Conference 21st Century Pang-Long, the participants talked about inclusiveness and patience and understanding so what is your impression on Myanmar's peace process and democratization?**

A: We see an eagerness from all parties to move forward and find solutions and a willingness to try to find compromises. The peace process will however take time and it's important that the process is inclusive and includes everyone who has a stake in the peace process.

**Q: What would be your expectations as Myanmar is moving forward towards federal democracy?**

A: Federalism is a very important discussion and therefore a substantive part of the political dialogue in the peace process. We see that the government and EAOs are now seeking experience from many countries. Norway is not a federal country, but our experience on how we manage our natural resources and how we share income between central and local levels might be of interest. For instance, in Norway many smaller hydropower plants are owned by the local communities and the substantive part of the incomes are kept at the local level.

**Q: Can you tell us about Norway's support in Myanmar's economic and political reform?**



Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Tone Tinnes to Myanmar speaks during the interview with GNLM and MRTV at the Norway Embassy in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

A: First of all, we see that Myanmar has a lot of potential when it comes to economic development. The country has so many resources like rivers that can be developed into hydropower, minerals, land and fish resources, and a young labor force. The country continues to open up to foreign investment and many Norwegian companies like Telenor, Statoil and Yara are already here. These companies bring competence and are responsive businesses.

The Norway-Myanmar Business Consul was established in 2015 and the embassy works closely with them. We try to encourage more Norwegian companies to come to Myanmar and be a part of the economic development.

**Q: We've learnt that Norway has established unique and trusted relationships with Myanmar civil society organizations. We want to know more about social support programs.**

A: Norway has a vibrant civil society, which has played a very important role in developing and strengthening the democratic process. In Myanmar Civil Society Organizations play an important role in providing social sector services like education and health, but also act as a bridge between people and government. CSOs have also an important role in the peace process in Myanmar.

**Q: Please elaborate about Norway-Myanmar cooperation programs and projects.**

A: Norway tries to assist in the peace process by sharing some of the experience we have gained assisting peace processes in other countries. We also provide financial support to some of the initiatives and structures in the peace process, for instance through Joint Peace Fund.

We have increased the relationships

and cooperation with the Government. We share Norwegian experience in managing natural resources; not only the good experiences but also the bad experience so Myanmar will not make the same mistakes. We also bring in experts from Norwegian institutions to work with experts in Myanmar institutions. To give some examples, we have cooperation with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. Through the cooperation the Ministry has established a unit that assess environment and social impact of potential hydropower projects. We also work with MOEE and share our experience in managing petroleum resources. We have similar cooperation with the Ministry of Environment where we also bring in Norwegian institutions and we help to increase capacity on waste management, water resources and biodiversity.

When the Norwegian foreign minister visited in July, Norway and Myanmar signed a memorandum of understanding on capacity building of the fishery sector.

**Q: MRTV is trying to move to the public service broadcasting so could you share your opinion about media development?**

A: Norway has state media as well as independent media. We have established regulations that ensure a level playing field and give equal opportunities for the state media and independent media.

As Myanmar has opened up the country has developed independent media that has an important role to play. It is very important for the government to continue providing information to its citizens, but it must also provide good regulations and framework that encourage independent media. Independent media might have a different angle and cover different stories and will therefore contribute to the democratic development that Myanmar is going through.

**Q: Do you have any more remarks for the democratic transition and peace process in Myanmar?**

A: Democratic transition takes time in every country. Myanmar is continuing its transition and we see important progress in both the political as well as economic area.

The country has in addition a complex peace process. The advantage in Myanmar is a strong commitment both from the government and other stakeholders to take the peace process forward, to find compromises that will lead to a sustainable peace.

Norway has supported the democratic transition and will continue to support in many areas and we are ready to continue to respond to requests. ■

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