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SUNDAY SPECIAL



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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called on His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam yesterday afternoon at Istana Nurul Imam royal palace in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

During the meeting, matters relating to increased bilateral relations and cooperation, especially conducting closer cooperation in the energy, health and education sectors, were discussed.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam U Cho Tun Aung and officials accompanied the State Counsellor to the meeting. Accompanying the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam at the meeting was Brunei Darussalam Prime Minister's Office Minister, Foreign Affairs and



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. **PHOTO: MNA**

Trade Minister (2) H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng.

Earlier in the day, the State Counsellor received Brunei Darussalam Prime Minister's

Office Minister, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister (2) H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng at the State Guest House.

In the afternoon, Daw Aung

San Suu Kyi went to the Myanmar Ambassador's residence in Bandar Seri Begawan and met with embassy staff and families and discussed education, health

and social matters.

Yesterday evening, the delegation led by the State Counsellor departed from Brunei International Airport via special flight and was seen off by Brunei Attorney General, H.E. Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati POK Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd Salleh, officials from the Brunei Royal Army and Police Force, the Chief of the Protocol Department, Myanmar Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam U Cho Tun Aung, Myanmar embassy staff and families. The delegation led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport at 6:45 pm and was welcomed by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Brunei Darussalam Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Pehin Dato Abdu'r Rahmani Dato Basir and officials. —Myanmar News Agency ■

U Nyi Pu pledges to improve infrastructure in N-Rakhine

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu met with residents of villages in northern Rakhine State yesterday where terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) occurred in August, pledging to improve the communication, transpor-

tation and electrification there within a year's time.

"The state government is taking measures to improve the health, social, education, economy and livelihood of the people as the situation in Maungtau returns to stability. So, the local

people should work hard with unity and can seek help from the state government," said U Nyi Pu at the meeting with the villagers.

Along with state government cabinet members, the Chief Minister visited the villages of Aungthayar, Hpawutchaung, Tarrein,

Thinbawhla and Laungdon and Taungpyolatwe in Maungtau District.

The government is making arrangements to build the necessary infrastructure in the area while giving priority to the transportation, communication

and electrification sectors, said U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State Minister for Electric Power, Industry and Transportation.

During the trip, the officials fulfilled the immediate food and monetary needs of the local ethnic villagers.—GNLM ■

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than hands over two fire fighting engines allocated to the township reserve fire brigade by the Myanmar Fire Service Department. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends ceremony to hand over new fire engines

A ceremony to hand over two fire fighting engines to the township auxiliary fire brigade was held at the fire brigade office in ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State yesterday morning, with the attendance of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.

“We were chosen by the people, so we will serve the people. We believe that we are responsible not only for our township but also for the whole country. We will fulfil the requirements of the people as much as possible”, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker said.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then handed over a Dong-

feng fire engine allocated to the township auxiliary fire brigade by the Myanmar Fire Service Department. An Isuzu fire engine donated by the Border Guard Force command and central advisory general secretary Col. Saw Chit Thu and wife was also handed over on behalf of the donor by Major Naing Maung Zaw and was accepted by township auxiliary fire brigade official U Aung Soe. Afterwards, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Hluttaw representatives and departmental officials sprinkled scented water onto the fire engines, as is the custom. —Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■

Rakhine State Chief Minister delivers aid to Hindu women returned from Bangladesh



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu delivers aids to Hindu Women. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN**

U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister for Rakhine State, met with Hindu women and children who were abducted by ARSA extremist terrorists to an IDP camp in Bangladesh at the Maungtau District General Administration Department yesterday.

At the meeting, the chief minister comforted eight Hindu mothers and presented K50 million to them. Eight Hindu women and six children who were abducted by ARSA extremist terrorists to an IDP camp in Bangladesh were brought back to Myanmar yesterday and gave their accounts of a bloody massacre by Muslim terrorists that killed at least 45 Hindu men who ended up in mass graves, according to local authorities. The eight Hindu women who witnessed the killings of Hindu villagers from Yebawkya Village by

extremist terrorists on 25th August were returned to Myanmar with a police escort following the government's demand to bring back them through diplomatic channels during the visit to Bangladesh on 2 and 3 October of a delegation led by the Union Minister for the State Counselor's Office. The eight women — Rica, 28, Onnica 20, Fawmila, 18, Gaungga 20, Gura Puni, also known as Rushila, 19, Bina Falar, 22, Puja alias Rabia, 18 and Raj Kumari, 15, recounted their experiences on 25th August. A group of about 500 Muslims terrorists led by a foreigner in black clothing and Noru Lauk from Khamaungseik Village entered their homes in Yebawkya village at about 8 am on 25th August and attacked. They took away their belongings, jewellery and mobile phones.—Thant Zin Win ■

120th birthday event of Thakin Mya held in Yangon

The 120th birthday of Thakin Mya, the Chairman of Dobama Asiayone, was celebrated at Thakin Mya Park in Ahlone Township, Yangon yesterday morning by family members of Thakin Mya and Dobama Asiayone (New Generation) group.

In the morning, breakfast and offertories were donated to the Sayadaws as a 120th birthday donation of Thakin Mya.

After the donations to the sanghas, the attendees saluted the sanghas, people and students who sacrificed their lives for independence and democracy and observed eight seconds of silence to pray for the victims of the extremist terrorist attacks of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in northern Rakhine State.

The chairman of the event then delivered an opening speech and Yangon Region Chief

Minister U Phyo Min Thein and U Jimmy of the 88 Generation (Peace and Open Society) delivered speeches of honour and remembrance.

U Hla Kwunt, a political researcher, then read about the political life of Thakin Mya after putting on record the birthday messages.

“Thakin Mya played a primary role in the Myanmar Independence movement. Bogyoke Aung San and Thakin Mya have no political differences and are on the same page, i.e., thinking in a similar way. This history of Thakin Mya needs to be exposed for the people to know. Another thing is the disappearance of Dobama Asiayone nowadays. The event was organised because today's youth don't know about what 'Thakin' is”, said event organising general secretary U Aung Naing.

U Ye Myint Aung, the son

of Thakin Mya said “I am happy that this event is held. We were holding this event every year at our home. I am especially happy that this event was now being permitted to be held openly in Thakin Mya Park during the present government's time. A new generation of youths need to know the path made by Thakin Mya.”

The event was attended by Yangon Region ministers, persons from political circles, invited guests and residents. Alinka Wutyi traditional music band performed songs of national pride.

The Dobama Asiayone (New Generations) will continue organising annual commemorative events of Thakin Mya and will strive toward the erection of a Thakin Mya statue in Thakin Mya Park, Ahlone Township, Yangon. —Zaw Gyi ■



Chairman of Dobama Asiayone and attendees celebrating the 120th birthday of Thakin Mya at Thakin Mya Park in Ahlone Township, Yangon on Saturday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

State Counsellor attends royal banquet honouring Brunei Sultan's golden jubilee

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a Royal Banquet on Friday evening in Brunei Darussalam in honour of the Royal Golden Jubilee of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddualah.

The event was held at the Istana Nurul Imam, the official residence of the Sultan of Brunei, who is celebrating 50 years on the throne.

The banquet was also attended by the presidents of Indonesia and the Philippines, the vice president of Viet Nam, the prime ministers of Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, the deputy prime minister of Laos, members of the royal families of Britain, Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Europe and Middle East, friends and invited guests.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and guests arrived at the Royal Palace at 8:30pm local time and were warmly wel-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends royal banquet in Brunei Darussalam in honour of the Royal Golden Jubilee of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddualah on Friday. PHOTO: MNA

comed by government ministers of Brunei Darussalam and palace officials. The festivities began at 9 pm when His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Mu'izzaddin Waddualah greeted the guests with a prayer of good wishes. While guests were having dinner, they were entertained by musicians playing the

traditional music of Brunei. After the Royal Banquet, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah greeted each guest individually and conveyed his thanks for attending

the event.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddualah is the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Finance of Brunei. The Sultan of Brunei was born in Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Town (now Bandar Seri Begawan) on 15 July 1946 and obtained his early education in Brunei Darussalam and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. From 1966 to 1967, he attended the Sandhurst Royal Military Academy in the United Kingdom. In 1960, at the age of 15, he became the Crown Prince. On 5 October 1967, he ascended to the throne as the Sultan of Brunei after his father Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien III abdicated the throne on 4 October 1967. The 5th of October marks his golden jubilee that celebrates 50 years of His Majesty's ascension to the throne. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Coordination meeting held for Children's Literature Festival

A coordination meeting for the Children's Literature Festival was held yesterday morning at Monywa University Convocation Hall, Sagaing Region, where Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said the festival was being held for the happiness of the children and to support the proper and systematic development of children that in turn will play a part in supporting a fully democratic nation.

Dr. Zaw Win, Sagaing Region Minister for Social Affairs and the Children's Literature Festival Organising Committee chairman, explained about the preparations being made to hold the festival and relevant officials of committees explained their completed works.

Afterwards, Information and Public Relations Department



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint addresses the Children's Literature Festival coordination meeting at Monywa University Convocation Hall in Sagaing on 7 October 2017. PHOTO: MNA

(IPRD) Acting Director-General U Ye Naing provided additional explanation about preparation for the festival, while Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing added that the Monywa Children's Literature Festival will

be conducted in an all-round outstanding way. The Union Minister, Chief Minister and regional ministers then viewed the preparations made in the convocation hall where the Children's Literature Festival will be held

and viewed places where books will be shown and contests will be held, construction of about 200 exhibition booths, a puppet show stage and the surroundings of the convocation hall.

At the Children's Literature

Festival, the city of Sagaing is arranging to show jade art and cane weaving art, Bawditahtaung stone cutting art, blankets, pillows and mattresses and products made from old tires from Monywa Township will be demonstrated. Additionally within the convocation hall and outside, magic and puppet shows of interest to the children will be shown, while Sayagyi Min Thuwun's children's poems and arts will be displayed in a separate room just inside the entrance to the hall, it is learnt.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint then went to the Sagaing Region IPRD office and met with the staff. Later, the Union Minister went to sub printing house (Monywa) and inspected the printing press, staff houses and work being done.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Private sector export of agro products valued at \$1.4 billion since April

THE export of agro products by the private sector as of 22 September amounted to more than US\$1.4 billion, an increase of \$65 million compared to last year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

During this period last year, the sector sent \$1.369 billion

worth of similar products to foreign countries.

According to official figures, the country also exported \$7.2 million worth of animal products, \$274 million worth of marine products, over \$630 million worth of minerals, \$107 million worth of forest products, more

than \$2.878 billion worth of manufacturing goods and others worth over \$1.131 billion.

This year, there was no deal to export agro products by the government sector with international trade partners. This time last year, the external export of agricultural commodities by the

sector totalled \$0.043 million.

The department is putting forth continuous efforts to increase the export of the country's products and seeking new markets under the national export strategy. The largest barrier to penetrate the international market is cost of production. Produc-

ers are searching a cost-effective way to gain a handsome profit.

Myanmar continues to trade with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle East countries and some European and African states, and other western countries mainly through by sea.—Swe Nyein ■

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Shwedagon Pagoda hosts nearly 450,000 foreigners this year

SHWEDAGON Pagoda, the most famous pilgrimage site in Myanmar, was visited by nearly 450,000 international travellers over the past nine months of this year, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

In 2016, the Pagoda hosted over 410,000 foreign visitors, a significant increase from last year, officials said.

According to statistics provided by pagoda authorities, Thailand topped the list of origin countries for tourist arrivals to the pagoda with over 93,000, followed by China with more than 37,000. In addition, the pagoda saw an



Foreign tourists tour the Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

increase in the number of visitors from South Korea, Japan, the US, France and Germany.

A plan is underway to increase the entrance fee to Ks10,000 per foreigner begin-

ning this December, according to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is currently drafting plans to nominate the pagoda to be included on UNESCO's world heritage list.

Yangon's most famous landmark is crowded every day with a large number of devotees and merit makers. For foreign visitors, it is a great place to observe Myanmar's culture through ancient architecture. The Shwedagon Pagoda is situated on Singuttara Hill on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township, downtown Yangon, just west of Kandawgyi Lake.—GNLM ■

Highway police on standby for safety of passengers during Thadingyut festival

HIGHWAY police are on standby for the safety of the passengers who are travelling during the Thadingyut festival, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on 6 October.

Highway police are patrolling highways and roads with over 500 police personnel on call to help in emergencies.

Likewise, fleets of patrol cars, motorbikes, administrative vehicles, ambulances and cranes are available 24 hours a day to aid buses and private cars running on the road and to prevent crimes of any sort, including rock-throwing.

Officials said they will be on the lookout for robbery

scams in which obstacles are set up on the road that causes cars to skid off the road, at which point the car's occupants are robbed.

"Currently, we are checking vehicles and providing educational talks on the highway road to ensure the safety of the passengers and the smooth

flow of traffic and passengers along the highway," said an official from the highway police station.

The Highway Police Force is also conducting road safety measures that include educating road users and testing drivers for alcohol use to prevent drunk driving.—GNLM ■

Artists invited to take part in Tazaungdaing cartoon contest

ART enthusiasts have been invited to participate in Yangon's Tazaungdaing cartoon contest to honour the late U Ba Gyan, the country most famous cartoonist.

Anyone is eligible to compete in the contest under the title of 'My country, My Land', urging them to create works reflecting the duties and responsibilities of a citizen and other development activities for the country. A contributor is allowed to send three cartoons to the organising body no later than the evening of 29 October.

The organising body said Ks300,000 will go to first prize winner and Ks200,000 each to second prize winner and the

third prize winner.

The annual cartoon contest and exhibition will be held on 13th Street in Lanmadaw Township, the street on which U Ba Gyan lived. The competition has the aim of inspiring people to pursue the profession and raising their awareness.

U Ba Gyan is famous for his cartoons that covered a wide variety of topics and events, including human frailties. In 1935, he created the first cartoon movie released in the country. After his death, he was awarded the Alinkar Kyawswa award, the highest national honour of recognition of an individual for their artistic skills.—GNLM ■

Man arrested for snatch-and-run robbery

POLICE arrested a young man on suspicion of committing a snatch-and-run robbery at a roadside shop in Hlaingthaya Township in Yangon North District on Friday morning.

Police said Htet Lin Naing (aka Ko Naing), 24, grabbed a 15-karat gold necklace with a locket weighing about three ticals from Ma Nilar, a betel quid seller, on Bo Aung Kyaw Street at 2 am on that day. The suspect was arrested by police as he attempted to flee.

According to the investigation, the suspect resides in Ward-7 in the same township.

No one is thought to have been hurt in the incident, according to investi-

gators. Action has been taken against the suspect by the township police station under Section 382 of the Penal Code. Police say that investigation is ongoing.—Son Ye (Hlaingthaya) ■



Htet Lin Naing (aka Ko Naing).

Imports through Myawady border decrease by \$14 million

THE import of products from Thailand to Myanmar via the Myawady border trade camp in the current fiscal year totalled US\$377 million, a decrease of \$14 million matched against the same period of last year, the Commerce Ministry reported.

Over the first half of this FY, bilateral trade through the Myawady border gate exceeded \$400 million, including \$29.328 million from the export sector, which is \$3 million more than that of last year. Overall trade value between the two countries from this border point decreased by over \$11 million in past six months.

Thailand's products flow in and out of the country from the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese border



Workers processing fish for export at a marine product factory. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

points of entry. Last FY, Myanmar imported a wide range of products worth more than \$1 billion via those seven border gates.

Myanmar primarily imports a wide range of consum-

er products, food, soft drinks, cooking oil, plastic ware, and cosmetics, and exports marine products, agricultural commodities and other items to the neighbouring country.—Shwe Khine ■

Raw bamboo and rattan collection to begin on November

MYANMAR Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association will collect the raw bamboo and rattan beginning from November 2017 to reduce the scarcity of the raw materials of rattan and bamboo, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on 6 October.

“Previously, China bought the raw rattan and bamboo. But now, the raw rattan and bamboo are scarce because China is no longer buying the raw products and merchants were no longer collecting them. To prevent the scarcity of raw rattan and bam-

boo, the association will start to collect the raw rattan and bamboo at the villages with the cooperation of the local people beginning from November 2017, said U Kyaw Thu, the chairman of the Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association. The raw rattan and bamboo will be collected beginning from November 2017 at Rakhine and Kachin states and, Bago region and Taninthayi region which can found more raw rattan and bamboo.

“The association will col-

lect generally around 5 million pieces of raw rattan,” he added.

There are over 1,500 bamboo species in Myanmar. Currently, the bamboo products manufacturers are using 15 species of bamboo. The finished rattan and bamboo products are mainly exported to European countries as well as Brazil and other countries as well.

Myanmar has exported the raw and finished products of the rattan and bamboo amounting to US\$ 10 million annually.—GNLM ■

Trade deficit exceeds \$2.2 billion in first half of this FY

THE total value of external trade for the current fiscal year hit over US\$15 billion since April, with a trade deficit of more than \$2.2 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

This time last FY, the country's imports usually exceeded the value of its exports, resulting in a trade deficit of \$1.8 billion.

From 1 April through 22 September, foreign trade rose

by nearly \$2.7 billion compared with the same period of last year. This year's exports were about \$6.5 billion, while imports were over \$7 billion.

Trade value included over \$4.4 billion from normal trade and over \$2.07 billion from the border trade, which is \$8 million less than that of last year.

According to the ministry's yearly report, the country's

trade deficit was \$91 million in FY2012-2013 and increased to \$2.555 billion in FY2013-2014, \$4.109 billion in FY2014-2015, \$5.441 billion in FY2015-2016 and \$5.5 billion in FY2016-2017.

Efforts are being made by trade authorities to reduce the trade gap by boosting domestic production in anticipation of healthy exports.—Khine Khant ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

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နေပြည်တော်: ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ဝိမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

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တောင်ကြီး: ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး: နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

တနင်္သာရီ: မြို့ပေါ် (၃-၀) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပေါ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၇၉၂

တလေး: အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၀၃၃

မြစ်ကြီးနား: အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေခဲရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ: မြောက်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးခတ်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး: ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ အဝေလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်: မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်: ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၅၆

ပဲခူး: နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေး တာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ ပဲခူးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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A-bomb survivors hail nuclear abolition NGO's Nobel Peace Prize win

TOKYO — Survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki welcomed on Friday the awarding of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to an international group campaigning to eliminate nuclear weapons, while voicing frustration that Japan still has not joined an international treaty banning the weapons.

“The young people’s activities have been recognized,” Toshiyuki Mimaki, 75, of the Hiroshima Prefectural Confederation of A-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, told Seiko Ikeda, 85, after the two watched the Nobel broadcast side by side in Hiroshima. Ikeda is from the confederation.

The award to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, or ICAN, follows the adoption in July of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. ICAN worked with “hibakusha,” the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to lead the campaign for the treaty.

During the treaty negotiations, Toshiki Fujimori, assistant secretary general of Nihon Hidankyo, had recounted before delegates his experience of the “hell on earth” of the Hiroshima bombing.

He expressed hope the prize will “speed up the flow of countries joining the treaty,” and said he wants ICAN to step up its appeals to countries to join the treaty to “make it more effective.”

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons requires ratification by at least 50 nations to come into force.

Sunao Tsuboi, 92-year-old chairperson of Hidankyo, said in a statement that he will “work with ICAN and everyone else as long as I live to realize a world without nuclear weapons.”

The ban treaty was endorsed by more than 50 UN members in September, but the world’s nuclear-armed states, and Japan and other countries under the “umbrella” of the US nuclear arsenal, did not participate in the negotiations.

In Nagasaki, members of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors Council broke into applause, saying the achievement gave them new motivation to continue their work.

The group watched the announcement accompanied by a photograph of Nagasaki hibakusha and long-time campaigner Sumiteru Taniguchi, who died in August at age 88.

In Tokyo, senior members of Nihon Hidankyo watched the broadcast in hopes that their group might be chosen.

Terumi Tanaka, who stepped down as the group’s secretary general earlier this year, was happy for ICAN, while expressing “regret” that Hidankyo was not directly honoured.

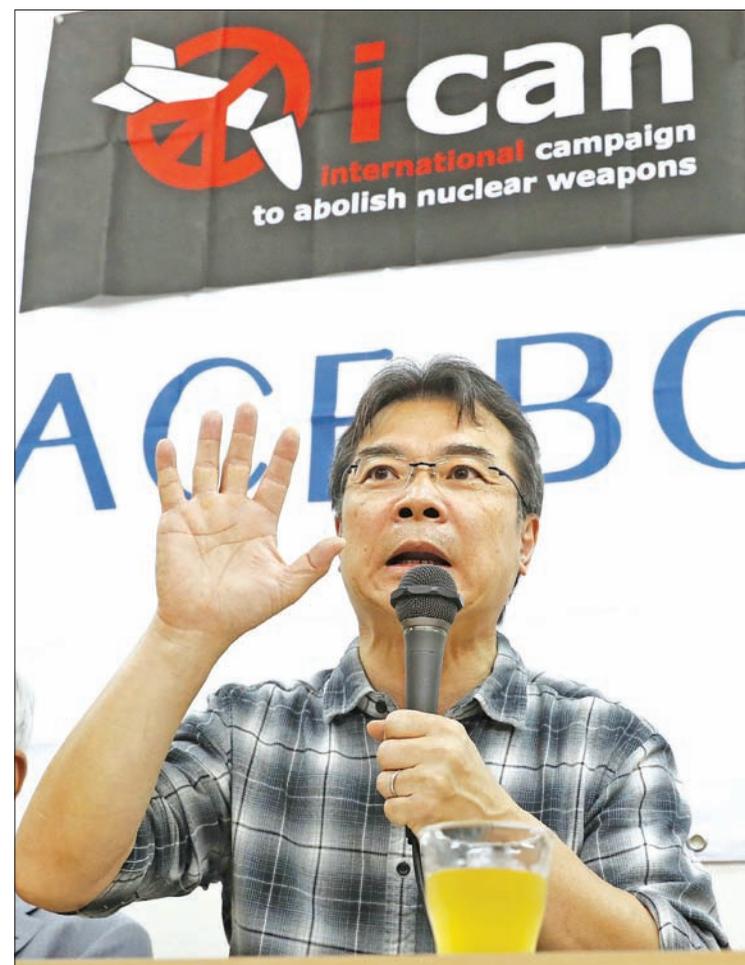
“We told the world about the inhumanity (of nuclear weapons). We laid the foundations for ICAN to do its work,” Tanaka said.

He said the win will “make an impact” on Japan and other countries absent from the treaty.

The coalition of nongovernmental organizations that make up ICAN includes the Japan-based group Peace Boat. At Peace Boat’s Tokyo office on Friday evening, a crowd of about 70 people shared their joy, with some breaking into tears.

Peace Boat founder Tatsuya Yoshioka said the awarding of the prize to ICAN “has the same value as if it were given to every hibakusha.”

Hiroshima hibakusha Nobuo Miyake, 88, smiled and flashed a peace sign at the assembled press. “I’m full of emotion. This is a good opportunity to wake up to the importance of the nucle-



Tatsuya Yoshioka, founder of a Japan-based nongovernmental organization Peace Boat, meets with reporters in Tokyo on 6 October, 2017, after the International Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. The coalition of NGOs that make up ICAN includes Peace Boat. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ar weapons ban treaty,” Miyake said. Separately, the older brother of Sadako Sasaki, who died of leukemia at age 12 a decade after the bombing of Hiroshima and whose mission to fold paper cranes made her an iconic figure,

said the selection of ICAN for the prize has given him courage.

“It’s wonderful that these low-profile, often unseen activities have been recognized,” said 76-year-old Masahiro Sasaki. — Kyodo News ■

Cambodian gov’t files lawsuit to dissolve main opposition party

PHNOM PENH — The Cambodian government has filed a lawsuit seeking dissolution of the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party ahead of next year’s general election, a senior police official said on Friday.

Khieu Sopheak, spokesman of the Interior Ministry, said a group of its lawyers filed the lawsuit to the Supreme Court, seeking dissolution of the CNRP

for allegedly plotting to topple Prime Minister Hun Sen’s government.

He said that if the party is found guilty of treasonous offenses, it will not only be dissolved but its leaders will be banned from political activities.

Hun Sen, of the Cambodian People’s Party, had warned several times of dissolving the CNRP, accusing its leaders of

treason.

The charge has been denied by opposition party, which accuses the CPP of cracking down on it ahead of the election to be held in July 2018.

Its current leader Ken Sokha is already in jail, after being arrested early this month and charged with treason, while other opposition leaders have also been detained or are in

self-exile abroad.

Fearing arrest, Mu Sochua, vice president of the CNRP, fled the country on Tuesday, saying that she preferred to be outside it rather than being imprisoned inside it by an unjust court.

Sam Rainsy, the party’s former leader, has been living abroad and faces arrest if he returns to Cambodia due to multiple convictions and new court

cases registered against him.

Government sources suggested that once the CNRP is dissolved, the 55 seats it has in the National Assembly may be redistributed among minor parties, some of which similarly seek its dissolution, including the royalist FUNCINPEC Party led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The CPP has 68 seats in the body.— Kyodo News ■

NHK chief apologizes to parents of reporter who died from overwork

TOKYO — NHK Chairman Ry-ichi Ueda apologized on Friday to the parents of a 31-year-old reporter who died from overwork at the public broadcaster in 2013, the broadcaster said.

On Wednesday, NHK made public for the first time that the

death of Miwa Sado was determined by labor standards inspectors in 2014 as having been caused by overwork. Her family had been calling for NHK to make the cause of their daughter’s death properly known. In a visit to their home, Ueda told the family about the

broadcaster’s efforts to improve working conditions following Sado’s death, according to NHK.

Ueda had said at a press conference on Thursday that he wanted to meet the parents and speak with them directly.

Covering elections as a re-

porter in charge of the Tokyo metropolitan government, Sado worked 159 hours of overtime with just two days off in a one-month period prior to her death.

The case, providing further evidence of severe working conditions many Japanese employees

endure, came as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s administration has been seeking to improve labor practices following the suicide of a new recruit at Japanese advertising giant Dentsu Inc in 2015 due to excessive working hours. — Kyodo News ■

N Korea preparing long-range missile test — RIA cites Russian lawmaker

MOSCOW — North Korea is preparing to test a long-range missile which it believes can reach the west coast of the United States, a Russian lawmaker just returned from a visit to Pyongyang was quoted as saying on Friday.

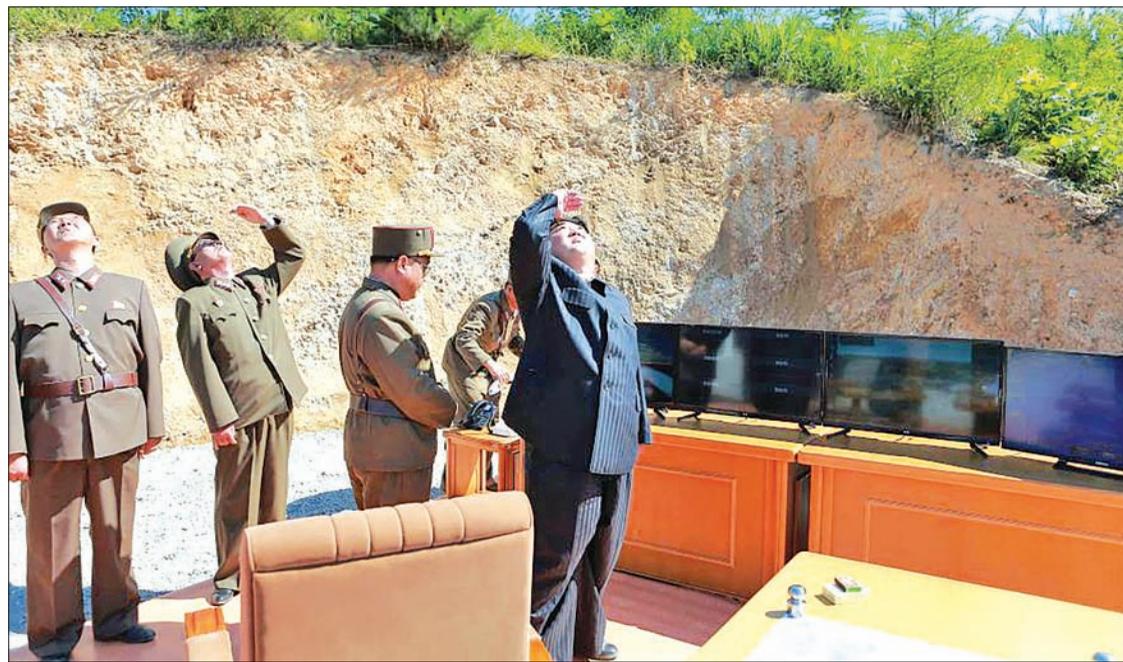
Anton Morozov, a member of the Russian lower house of parliament's international affairs committee, and two other Russian lawmakers visited Pyongyang on 2-6 October, Russia's RIA news agency reported.

"They are preparing for new tests of a long-range missile. They even gave us mathematical calculations that they believe prove that their missile can hit the west coast of the United States," RIA quoted Morozov as saying.

"As far as we understand, they intend to launch one more long-range missile in the near future. And in general, their mood is rather belligerent."

Tensions have risen in recent weeks over North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs as Pyongyang has test-fired several missiles and conducted what it said was a test explosion of a hydrogen bomb as it advances toward its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the US mainland.

Morozov's comments drove up the price of US Treasury bonds, as investors, worried



Kim Jong Un looks on during the test-launch of the intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong-14, in this photo released on 5 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

about the prospect of new North Korean missile tests, moved into assets the market views as a safe haven in times of uncertainty.

Reuters was not able to independently verify Morozov's account, and he did not specify which North Korean officials had given him the information about the planned test.

In Washington, a US official said that there had been indications that North Korea could be preparing for a missile test on or around 10 October, the anniversary of the founding of the ruling Korean Workers Party and a day

after the Columbus Day holiday in the United States.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, did not disclose the type of missile that could be tested and cautioned that North Korea in the past has not staged launches despite indications that it would.

A senior CIA analyst, speaking at a conference in Washington this week, said the North Korean government likely would stage some kind of provocation on 10 October but did not elaborate on what form it might take.

"There is a clarity of purpose

in what (North Korean leader) Kim Jong Un is doing. I don't think he's done," said Yong Suk Lee, the deputy assistant director of the CIA's Korea Mission Center, which was set up this year. "In fact, I told my own staff (that) October 10th is the Korean Workers Party founding day. That's Tuesday in North Korea, but Monday — the Columbus Day holiday — in the United States. So stand by your phones."

Morozov's delegation had "high-level" meetings in Pyongyang, RIA news agency said, citing the Russian embassy in the

North Korean capital.

Tensions over North Korea's nuclear programme have been running high in recent weeks since Pyongyang staged a series of missile tests, and conducted a text explosion on 3 September of what it said was a hydrogen bomb.

There has also been an exchange of tough rhetoric between Pyongyang and Washington.

US President Donald Trump threatened to "totally destroy" North Korea if it threatens the United States. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un responded by calling Trump deranged and saying he would pay dearly for his threat.

China, North Korea's main ally, has backed sanctions against Pyongyang and on Saturday in response to the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, said it backed a worldwide ban on nuclear weapons.

"China has always supported a complete and total ban on nuclear weapons, but also believes that the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament cannot be achieved overnight and must advance gradually within the existing disarmament mechanism. China is willing to work with all parties to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world," said China's foreign ministry.—Reuters ■

Malaysia arrests eight over suspected terror links

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia has arrested four foreigners and four Malaysians for suspected involvement in terrorist activities linked to Abu Sayyaf, the Islamic State and Jemaah Islamiah, the police said on Saturday.

Among the foreigners arrested were three Filipinos, one of whom is a permanent resident in Malaysia, and an Albanian.

The arrests were made in the states of Sabah, Selangor and Perak between 27 September and 6 October.

Five suspects were arrested in the Borneo state of Sabah, suspected of assisting the Abu Sayyaf militant group's infiltration into Malaysia.

Police said the arrested Albanian, a law lecturer at a local public university, has contact with Islamic State.

Another two arrested are former convicts, previously found guilty in 2016 of participating in terrorist activities.

One was arrested under suspicion of recruiting convicts in prison and planning an attack on Muslim, Christian and Hindu places of worship in Malaysia. The suspect is also said to harbour information about a member of the Tanzim Al-Qaeda Malaysia, a group linked to Jemaah Islamiah, who remains at large.

The other was an accomplice suspected of recruiting two

Malaysians.

Malaysia has arrested hundreds of people over the past few years for suspected links to militant groups.

The Southeast Asian country has been on high alert since suicide bombers and gunmen linked to Islamic State launched multiple attacks in Jakarta, the capital of neighbouring Indonesia, in January 2016.

A grenade attack on a bar on the outskirts of the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, in June last year wounded eight people. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks, the first such attacks on Malaysian soil.—Reuters ■

Indian military helicopter crashes near China border, seven dead

NEW DELHI — A military helicopter crashed on Friday in India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, near the disputed border with China, killing seven personnel who were on board, local media reported.

The Russian-made Mi-17 V5 transport helicopter of the Indian Air Force went down around 6 am in a remote, mountainous area of the state while carrying supplies to a forward army post, the Press Trust of India said.

The bodies of the seven victims— five from the air force

and two from the army — have been found at the crash site at Yangchi, some 130 kilometres from Tawang town and close to the border, NDTV reported.

China claims some 90,000 square kilometers of Indian-held Arunachal Pradesh as its "Southern Tibet." It protested strongly when the Dalai Lama visited the state last April.

In October 1962, the Chinese and Indian militaries fought a brief but bloody border war, followed by some skirmishes in later years.—Kyodo News ■

We need to respond to false news with true ones promptly

By Khin Maung Oo

THESE days, much has been said that a lie will go round the world while truth is still pulling its boots on. Quite right in saying so! Prior to making true news known to the public, destructive elements have already spread false news across the world, by fabricating invented news. That being so, international figures, especially those from western countries have been found to have put pressure in various ways on a smaller and weaker nation such as Myanmar, holding those false news as truth.

Accordingly, we are required to promptly respond to the false news which had covered up the true news and information. In performing the urgently needed task of getting rid of false ones with the true news, we are doing in our mother tongue, hence failure to gain success as hoped, in the international sphere because of the

language barrier. We are still suffering from false allegations until now. So, our media needs to be endowed with good command of the English language, skill in penetration, systematic analysis of complicated affairs and professional abilities so that news and information of truth can penetrate the wall of deliberate falsification erected by destructive elements for the global community to know the true situations.

In responding to the false news with accurate news and information, accuracy and promptness are of great importance. As regards evidence, it is necessary for us to acquire directly connected news and directly related things. Just after receipt of these, if we can expose true news and evidences via our media that can send them by courtesy of effective foreign languages to our targets—respective persons and media, surely we can get rid of false news and allegations.

In our effort to eradicate false allegations on northern Rakhine State affair, the latest evidence and disclosure of their relations are the ones of great essentiality.

Those evidences and their disclosure can erase groundless and inhumane allegations of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

After committing a massacre of Hindus at the refugee camp, eight Hindu women were abducted by ARSA extremist terrorists to the refugee camp in Bangladesh. Now, bringing them back to Myanmar is a sheer luck for them as well as the acquisition of solid evidence for the country to respond to false allegations with exact evidence. By using the English language as a communication tool effectively, the real image of the destructive elements has been uncovered vividly. Now the global community which has been inundated with false news and allegations can see

the true situation clearly.

Recently, one of the Muslim clerics in Syria, Sheikh Ahmad Badreddin Hassoun has spoken out in an interview with Indian News channel “World is One” that western media are exaggerating the amounts of Bengalis who fled Myanmar to Bangladesh many times a day, differently one from other. He added these were really fabricated in dubious ways, saying that these media, contrariwise failed to disclose the fact that Saudi Arabia put nearly 9 million Yemen refugees into trouble. His statement reveals that many media are posting false news.

We certainly must try ourselves for truth to cover the whole world by upgrading our media in quality and technology, for spreading evidence of truth worldwide through the effective use of the international language, in responding to news of falsity with genuine ones. ■

First global pledge to end cholera by 2030

GNLM with World Health Organization

CHOLERA, which is spread through contaminated water, kills about 100,000 people every year.

It is the first time governments, the World Health Organization, aid agencies and donors have made such a pledge two days ago to end cholera by 2030 while the preventable disease still sickens 2.9 million people every year and kills 95,000 people a global badge of shame.

Disease of the poor

Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.

Cholera is a diarrheal disease. The bacteria that causes cholera lives in coastal waters and in brackish rivers. It thrives where there is poor water treatment, poor toilet sanitation and poor hygiene. It's caused by eating or drinking contaminated food and water.

It can spread quickly and widely in cramped, dirty conditions.

The infection is cheap to treat with rehydration salts, and easy to avoid altogether if people have access to clean water and decent toilet facilities.

But about two billion people globally lack access to clean water

and are potentially at risk of cholera, according to the World Health Organization.

The UN health agency says weak health systems, and outbreaks not being detected early enough also contribute to the rapid spread of outbreaks.

Forty-seven countries are affected by cholera, and the WHO expects the global cholera situation to get worse, which is behind its urgency to end the disease.

Malnutrition plays a role

Malnutrition is also a factor. Jesse Hartness is the senior director of emergency health and nutrition at Save the Children, an agency that has been working to control the cholera outbreak in Yemen.

“There’s a cycle of illness and malnutrition where you have a child who is sick, and they lose their appetite,” Hartness said.

“They are dehydrated from having diarrhea, they lose weight, and, once they are malnourished, that also drives their vulnerability to additional illness.”

Anyone can get cholera, but children, pregnant women and the elderly are most at risk.

Yet, cholera is not difficult or expensive to treat. Hartness said it is simple if the disease is caught early and if you can provide hydration to

the less severe patients so they don’t become severe patients who require more intensive treatment.

But in places ravaged by flooding and other natural disasters, or by manmade disasters like war, or in crowded refugee camps, sanitation is hard to maintain. Water can’t be treated properly. Human waste can’t easily be disposed of hygienically, so in addition to providing aid, organizations like Save the Children find themselves trying to rebuild sanitation systems.

No more disease of the poor—cholera—by 2030.

The WHO says about 2 billion people globally lack access to clean water.

The WHO says about 2 billion people globally lack access to clean water.

‘Badge of shame’

The charity Wateraid estimates it would cost \$40 (£30) per person to provide water, sanitation and hygiene.

“Looking around the world, the map of cholera outbreaks is essen-

tially the same as a map of poverty and marginalisation.

The oral cholera vaccine is another important part of the fight against this enduring disease.

It only offers protection for up to 3 years. But in situations where outbreaks are highly likely, it can save thousands of lives.

“The vaccine alone doesn’t solve the problem, the water and sanitation is a more long-term solution,” said Dr Seth Berkley, chief executive of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations.

“In the interim, we need to work to ensure we are doing both.”

Northern Europe and the US managed to eliminate cholera 150 years ago.

Tuesday’s pledge aims to, finally, achieve that goal for some of the world’s poorest people.

Estimated global annual cholera cases:

- India: 675,188 cases, 20,266 deaths
- Ethiopia: 275,221 cases, 10,458 deaths
- Nigeria: 220,397 cases, 8,375 deaths
- Haiti: 210,589 cases, 2,584 deaths

Source: Johns Hopkins University

Mandalay shows support for State Counsellor

By Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

THOUSANDS of Mandalay residents, religious leaders, politicians and students took part in an event yesterday that organisers said was a way to symbolically stand together with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and support the State Counsellor's handling of Myanmar affairs.

The rally was held at Manawraman Ground in Mandalay District in Mahaangmyae Township and attracted a crowd estimated at about 13,000, many holding large posters of the State Counsellor and signs that read "We Stand Together With Daw Aung San Suu Kyi" and "May Mother Su be healthy".

The Sein Duwa Mingalar Band entertained the attendees with music starting at 3:15 p.m. The event with an 11-point programme started at 4 p.m. and began with the playing of the national anthem. After a reading of the poem "Call God by Phone When the Time is Critical", author Zaw Khaing Oo and comedian, author and director Chitsaya delivered speeches in



People gather in Maha Aungmyae Township on 7 October, 2017 as they participate in a rally in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's efforts for the State's affairs. **PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

support of the State Counsellor. The Sein Duwa Mingalar Band then continued to entertain the crowd with traditional music.

Members of Pyigyidagun Township, Myawady Mingyi Monastery, Myawady Sayadaw

U Ariya Bhivamsa, Amarapura Township, Mahagandaryone Monastery, Bawa Alin Sayadaw U Thawbita and about 20 sanghas, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and regional govern-

ment ministers, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo and Hluttaw representatives, Regional National League for Democracy (NLD) Chairman U Tin Htut Oo and NLD party members, students from Kan-

tetkone Masoyane Monastery, civil society organisations, invited guests and local elders were among the attendees.

The event was concluded at 5:50 p.m. by the singing of the national anthem.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presents the gift to Brunei Darussalam Prime Minister's Office Minister, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister-2 Mr Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by families of the staff of Myanmar embassy in Brunei. **PHOTO: MNA**



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed back by Ambassador of Brunei to Myanmar Dato Abdu'r Rahmani Dato Basir at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

WORLD
BRIEFS

British Prime Minister Theresa May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Conservative plotters told to get behind UK's May amid Brexit fears

LONDON — Lawmakers in British Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative Party who are trying to oust her as leader have been told to "put up, shut up" by the party's chief in Scotland.

Others in the party warned that the uncertainty over May was damaging Brexit negotiations with the European Union.

May on Friday said she would remain as leader after a former Conservative chairman said he had garnered the support of 30 lawmakers who wanted her to quit.

It followed a disastrous speech at the party's conference and a snap election in June in which May lost her party's majority in parliament.

Senior figures have rallied round May, but the open rebellion comes as Britain embarks on crucial talks just 18 months before Britain is due to leave the European Union.

One newspaper reported on Saturday EU negotiators were stepping up talks with the opposition Labour Party amid

concerns the government will collapse.

Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson, who is considered a possible successor should May be forced out, told the BBC the prime minister's critics should "put up, shut up and get off the stage".

"I would tell my party to get its house in order, get together, knuckle down, and make sure that our first commitment, last commitment and only commitment is to the country," she said.

Her message came after former party chairman Grant Shapps toured media studios calling for a leadership election. Shapps said 30 Conservative lawmakers backed his view, well short of the 48 needed to trigger a contest.

Commentators said a lack of an obvious replacement and deep divisions in the party over the direction of Brexit meant the rebellion had lost momentum despite disquiet over May's performance as leader.

One Conservative lawmaker, Nigel Evans, said the

"botched plot" appeared to have fizzled out within 24 hours but said it would play into the hands of EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier and EU Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker

"The sniping from people like Grant Shapps is ... going to be used by people like Michel Barnier and Juncker to say there's divisions within the government, maybe we can offer them a worse deal or drag things out," Evans told BBC TV.

"He's done us absolutely no favours whatsoever."

The Daily Telegraph reported EU negotiators had increased private talks with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and the party's Brexit spokesman as they feared May's government would fall before the a divorce deal was agreed ahead of Britain's exit in March 2019.

The paper, citing unnamed sources said there had been a "significant change in tone" towards Labour and Corbyn had held meetings with Barnier.

In a sign of the challeng-

es facing May over Brexit, the Financial Times reported on Saturday that Germany and France had dashed hopes of fast-tracking talks a two-year transition deal after Brexit in 2019, and instead wanted details of the divorce settlement resolved first.

As May tries to reassert her authority, the Guardian newspaper said she would be urged by her lawmakers to sack Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson who used media article and interviews ahead of this week's party conference to put forward his own view of Brexit.

While he professed loyalty to May, his interventions were seen as undermining her and causing unnecessary unrest.

"There's a general feeling that there's support for her there, but I do think she needs to do a major reshuffle, and if she doesn't act to sack Boris and to bring some new people on board, she has a problem," one unnamed Conservative lawmaker told the paper. —Reuters ■

US Embassy in Saudi Arabia cautions citizens after unconfirmed reports of foiled attack in Jeddah

RIYADH — The United States Embassy in Saudi Arabia warned US citizens to exercise caution in the area around the Peace Palace in Jeddah on Saturday after reports on social media of an attack there.

There were several unconfirmed reports that security forces had foiled an attack near the king's palace, leaving the attacker and several guards dead. The Saudi government has not issued an official statement confirming the incident.—Reuters ■

Trump, Macron discuss joint counterterrorism operations in Africa's Sahel

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump, speaking with French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday, discussed joint counterterrorism operations in the Sahel region of Africa, the White House said in a statement.

The US military said earlier on Friday that a fourth soldier was killed during an 4 October attack in Niger, raising the death toll from an incident that has thrown a spotlight on the US counterterrorism mission in the West African nation.—Reuters ■

NZ PM says final election tally does not weaken his chances of forming a coalition govt

WELLINGTON — New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English said a final election tally released on Saturday did not fundamentally change negotiations between his National Party and the nationalist New Zealand First Party to form a coalition government.

The final count in the 23 September election showed National had lost two seats compared to the preliminary count on election night, but remained in the lead with 56 seats, compared to the opposition Labour Party's 46.—Reuters ■

Turkey starting 'serious operation' in Idlib says Erdogan

ISTANBUL/BEIRUT — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday “a serious operation” was beginning in Syria’s Idlib and a Syrian rebel official said his group was preparing to enter the area with the backing of Turkish forces.

Idlib and surrounding areas of northwest Syria are among the largest bastions for rebel groups fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, but have increasingly fallen under the sway of jihadist insurgent factions.

“Today there’s a serious operation in Idlib and it will continue, because we have to extend a hand to our brothers in Idlib and to our brothers who arrived in Idlib,” Erdogan said.

“Now this step has been taken, and it is underway,” he said, adding that Turkish forces were not yet involved at that it was a rebel operation so far.

Turkey-backed Free Syri-



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan. PHOTO: REUTERS

an Army (FSA) groups in the Euphrates Shield campaign that Ankara launched in north-

ern Syria last year are ready to cross into northwest Syria from Turkey, Mustafa Sejari, a senior

official in the Liwa al-Mutasem group said.

“The Free Syrian Army with

support from Turkish troops is in full readiness to enter the area but until this moment there is no movement,” he said.

Erdogan said last month that Turkey would deploy troops in Syria’s northwest Idlib province as part of a so-called de-escalation agreement brokered by Russia in August.

Another FSA rebel in the Euphrates Shield campaign told Reuters he believed an incursion into northwest Syria was imminent.

The Hamza Brigade, also part of Euphrates Shield, posted video online of what it said was a convoy of its forces heading for Idlib.

Residents near the Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey in Syria sent Reuters photographs of what they said was a section of the frontier wall being removed by the Turkish authorities. — Reuters ■

Three charged with plotting NY attacks for Islamic State — US prosecutors

NEW YORK — Three men have been arrested since May of last year on charges of plotting attacks in New York City for Islamic State in the summer of 2016, US prosecutors said on Friday.

The planned attacks, which were thwarted by law enforcement, included detonating explosives in Manhattan’s Times Square and in the city’s subway, according to the office of Acting US Attorney Joon Kim in Manhattan.

One of the men, 19-year-old Canadian citizen Abdulrahman El Bahnasawy, has been in US custody since May 2016, when he was arrested in New Jersey. He pleaded guilty to terrorism charges in October 2016, the prosecutors said.

Talha Haroon, a 19-year-old US citizen, was arrested in Pakistan, where he lives, around September 2016, and Russell Salic, a 37-year-old citizen of the Philippines, was arrested in that country in April of this year, according to Kim’s office.

Prosecutors said they expected Haroon and Salic to be extradited to the United States to face the charges, which include

conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism and to support a terrorist organization.

If convicted of the most serious charges, they face a maximum sentence of life in prison. Lawyers for the three men could not immediately be identified. Prosecutors said El Bahnasawy bought bomb-making materials and helped secure a cabin near New York City from which to stage attacks. They said Haroon planned to travel from Pakistan to help El Bahnasawy carry out attacks, and that Salic helped fund the plot.

According to documents unsealed in federal court in Manhattan on Friday, El Bahnasawy and Haroon planned to carry out attacks during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ran from early June to early July.

El Bahnasawy told an undercover law enforcement officer posing as a supporter of Islamic State that he wanted to “create the next 9/11,” prosecutors said. El Bahnasawy told the officer of plans to detonate a car bomb in Times Square and “shoot up concerts,” according to prosecutors. — Reuters ■

Russia, Saudi Arabia favour continuing oil output cut

MOSCOW — Russia and Saudi Arabia support the oil output cut deal, and the deal’s future should be discussed closer to its expiry date, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said on Friday.

“We agreed that in principle we have such an option, and there are such opportunities regarding the extension,” No-

vak told Rossiya 24 television channel.

He also said the agreement would be extended unless the market became balanced. In November 2016, the 14-member Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to reduce oil production collectively by 1.2 million barrels per day.

A month later, 11 non-OPEC countries, including Russia, also agreed to cut their production by a total of 558,000 barrels per day.

Initially, the agreement was for the first half of 2017. In May, it was extended by another nine months and would now end in March 2018. — Xinhua ■

Pakistani forces foil major terrorist plot

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani security forces have foiled a major terrorism plot in southwestern Balochistan province, a statement from the army said on Saturday.

The paramilitary force Frontier Corps seized 1, 300 kilograms of explosives during an intelligence-based operation conducted in Grandani, Kohlu and Naseerabad areas of Balochistan, which was being

planned to be used for terrorist activities in the province, a statement from the army’s media wing the Inter-Services Public Relations said. Besides explosives, weapons and ammunition, including sub-machine guns, rockets, hand grenades, maps of important areas and communication equipment were also recovered, the statement said.

The intelligence-based

operation conducted in Balochistan is part of the on-going major operation codenamed “Radd-ul-Fasaad” or reject discord in English. The operation was launched in February this year after a series of terrorist attacks killed over 100 people.

The operation mainly focuses on what the security officials call as the sleeping cells of the terrorists and their facilitators. — Xinhua ■

Turkey-backed Syrian rebels ready to enter northwest Syria

BEIRUT — Free Syrian Army rebel groups are ready to enter insurgent-controlled areas of northwest Syria with the backing of Turkish forces, a senior official in the Liwa

al-Mutasem group, which is participating in the operation, said on Saturday.

However, the groups, which are part of the Euphrates Shield campaign waged since

last year further east on Turkey’s border with Syria, have not yet begun the operation, Mustafa Sejari, a senior official in the FSA’s Liwa al-Mutasem group, said. — Reuters ■



Voronezh-M class long-range missile warning radar. PHOTO: TASS

Russia to complete its missile warning radar network by 2019

MOSCOW — Russia will complete the creation of a network of the Voronezh early warning radars by 2019, the commander-in-chief of the Russian Space Forces, Col Gen Alexander Golovko, told reporters on Wednesday.

“Work continues to create new radars of the missile attack warning system in the Repub-

lic of Komi and the Murmansk Region,” the official said on the occasion of the Space Forces Day, celebrated in Russia on 4 October. “We plan to complete the network of the new Voronezh radar stations on the territory of the Russian Federation in 2019.”

He said the Russian Space Forces view the project as one

of its top priorities. Currently, the new-generation Voronezh radars are on combat duty in the Leningrad, Kaliningrad and Irkutsk Regions, as well as in the Krasnodar Territory.

State trials of similar radars in the Krasnoyarsk Territory, the Altai Territory and the Orenburg Region have been completed.

They will enter combat duty once their trial run period is over, which is expected by the end of the year.

The Russian Space Forces Day is celebrated in Russia annually on 4 October and marks the launch of the Earth’s first artificial satellite, carried out by the Soviet Union in 1957.—Tass ■

Danish divers find missing body parts of Swedish journalist

COPENHAGEN — Danish police said on Saturday divers had found the head and the legs of Swedish journalist Kim Wall, who died in mysterious circumstances on an inventor’s home-made submarine.

Peter Madsen has been charged with killing the Swedish journalist who disappeared after she went on a trip with him in his submarine on 10 August. He denies the charges.

Madsen, a Dane, was arrested after his submarine sank and he was rescued. His lawyer Betina Hald Engmark told Reuters that she had been informed of the development, but had not



A photo of Swedish journalist Kim Wall who was aboard a submarine “UC3 Nautilus” before it sank. PHOTO: REUTERS

received any material or documentation and decline further comment.

Police identified a headless female torso that washed ashore in Copenhagen later in August as Wall’s, but a cause of death has not been determined.

Madsen has said Wall died in an accident when she was hit by a heavy hatch cover on board his submarine.

On Saturday a police spokesman told reporters in Copenhagen that there were no fractures to Wall’s skull.

The body parts, a knife and some of Wall’s clothes in bags weighted down by bits of metal were found in Koge Bay on Friday by Danish navy divers who are assisting the police.

Police spokesman Jens Moller Jensen told reporters on Saturday that the body parts will be investigated further to try and determine a cause of death.

He said that the Madsen and his lawyers had not had time yet to react to the new evidence.

A police prosecutor said earlier this week that officers had found images “which we presume to be real” of women being strangled and decapitated on Peter Madsen’s computer in a laboratory he ran.

Madsen said the computer searched by police was not his but was used by everyone in the laboratory.—Reuters ■

Merkel, Juncker discuss Catalan crisis — EU official

BRUSSELS — German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker have discussed the Catalan crisis in a phone call, an EU official told Reuters on Saturday, in a sign of growing unease over potential disruption across Europe.

The call signals fresh concern over a possible declaration of independence next week by the Catalan regional parliament and the reaction of the Spanish government, which could exacerbate what is already Spain’s worst political crisis for decades.

Juncker spoke to Merkel from India on Friday on the sidelines of an EU-India summit. “They discussed the situation in Spain, among other things,” the EU official said, without adding details.

Concern is growing in EU capitals about the negative impact of the crisis on the Spanish economy, the fourth largest in the euro zone, and on possible spillovers to other economies of the bloc.

European finance ministers, gathering in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday for a regular meeting, could discuss the issue, although it is not formally on the agenda, EU officials said.

The EU Commission has repeatedly urged Catalan and Spanish leaders to find a political solution.

The support given in public statements by EU leaders to Spain’s Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is combined with concern expressed in private about how the Spanish government’s use of police to prevent Catalans from voting last week in an independence referendum could backfire.

The Spanish government apologised for the first time on Friday for the police use of violence. Some EU states are worried that talk of Catalan independence could fuel secessionist feelings in other parts of Europe.—Reuters ■

Trump to unveil new responses to Iranian 'bad behavior': White House

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will announce new US responses to Iran's missile tests, support for "terrorism" and cyber operations as part of his new Iran strategy, the White House said on Friday.

"The president isn't looking at one piece of this. He's looking at all of the bad behaviour of Iran," Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, told reporters.

"Not just the nuclear deal as bad behaviour, but the ballistic missile testing, destabilizing of the region, Number One state sponsor of terrorism, cyber attacks, illicit nuclear programme," Sanders continued.

Trump "wants to look for a broad strategy that addresses all of those problems, not just one-offing those," she said. "That's what his team is focused on and that's what he'll be rolling out to address that as a whole in the coming days." A senior administration official told Reuters on Thursday that Trump was expected to announce he will decertify the landmark international deal curbing Iran's nuclear programme, in a step that could cause the accord to unravel.

Trump on Friday declined to explain what he meant when he described a gathering of military leaders the evening before as "the calm before the storm," but the White



US President Donald Trump participates in a briefing with senior military leaders at the White House in Washington, US on 5 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

House said his remarks were not meant to be mischievous. The administration was considering on 12 October for Trump to give a speech on Iran, but no final decision had been made, an official said previously.

It was not clear to what illicit nuclear program Sanders was referring as the International Atomic Energy Agency says Iran is complying with the 2015 nuclear deal reached with the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France, Germany and the European Union.

The Trump administration also has acknowledged that Iran has not breached the accord's Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, which is designed to prevent Iran developing a nuclear weapon. The administration, however, contends that Tehran has violated the "spirit" of the deal.

The issue came up

during a telephone call on Friday between Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron. The pair discussed "ways to continue working together to deny Iran all paths to a nuclear weapon," according to a White House statement.

Macron has been a fierce defender of the JCPOA, denounced by Trump as "the worst deal ever negotiated." But the French leader also has suggested that restraints on Iran's nuclear programme that expire in 2025 could be bolstered, a senior French official said last month.

A senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Friday that steps Trump is reviewing as part of a broader strategy also include imposing targeted sanctions in response to Iran's ballistic missile tests, cyber espionage and backing of Lebanese Hezbollah and other groups on the US list

of foreign terrorist organizations.

The administration earlier this year considered, but then put on hold, adding the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Iran's most powerful internal and external security force, to the US list of foreign terrorist organizations.

The Quds Force, the IRGC's foreign espionage and paramilitary wing, and individuals and entities associated with the IRGC are on the list, but the organization as a whole is not.

Last month, current and former US officials told Reuters the broader strategy Trump is weighing is expected to allow more aggressive US actions to counter what the administration views as Iran's efforts to boost its military muscle and expand its regional influence through proxy forces. Under a 2015 US law, Trump has until 15 October to certify to Congress that Iran is complying with the JCPOA. If he decides to decertify, lawmakers would have 60 days in which to consider reimposing US sanctions on Iran lifted under the deal, an action that many experts warn could unhinge the accord. Knowledgeable sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, have said the administration is looking for ways to fix what it views as serious flaws without necessarily killing the deal.—Reuters ■

Police, FBI seek public's help in finding motive behind Las Vegas massacre

LAS VEGAS — Police and FBI agents, chasing down more than 1,000 dead-end leads since a gunman killed 58 people in Las Vegas, are seeking more help from the public in solving the central mystery of their investigation — the shooter's motive.

Clark County Under-sheriff Kevin McMahon said investigators remain largely in the dark about what drove retired real estate investor and high-stakes gambler Stephen Paddock to carry out the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

"We have looked at everything, literally, to include the suspect's personal life, any political affiliation, his social behaviours, economic situation, any potential radicalization," McMahon told reporters late on Friday.

"We have been down each and every single one of these paths, trying to determine why, to determine who else may have known of these plans."

McMahon acknowledged that Islamic State had repeatedly claimed responsibility for the attack, but said investigators had uncovered "no nexus" between the Midwest-based militant group and Paddock.

In an unusual bid to cast a wider net for tips,

the FBI and police have arranged with communications company Clear Channel to post billboards around Las Vegas urging citizens to come forward with any information they believe might help investigators.

The billboards will bear the slogan, "If you know something, say something," and carry a toll-free number to an FBI hotline, said Aaron Rouse, special agent in charge of the Las Vegas FBI office.

The public appeal came a day before US Vice President Mike Pence was slated to join Mayor Carolyn Goodman and other local leaders at a City Hall commemoration for victims of the shooting, following a prayer walk through the city. President Donald Trump paid a visit to Las Vegas earlier in the week.

Paddock, 64, unleashed a torrent of gunfire onto an outdoor music festival from the windows of his 32nd-floor hotel suite overlooking the concert on Sunday night, then shot himself to death before police stormed his room.

In addition to the 58 people who died, nearly 500 were injured, some by gunfire, some trampled or otherwise hurt while running for cover.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (156)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (156) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PACITA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACITA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
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Jackie Chan. PHOTO: PTI

I cannot continue to make action movies always: Jackie Chan

LOS ANGELES — Action star Jackie Chan says now that he is in his 60s he will need to change as a performer to continue working.

The 63-year-old star says he cannot stick to action roles always, reported GQ magazine.

“I know I’m not young anymore. I cannot continue to make Rush Hour 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. If I’m (to) continue on in the film industry. I have to change.

“Otherwise, you’re gone. You see in Japan. Korea. America. China. Hong Kong. How many

action stars are all gone? Only a few can stay around,” Chan says.

The star is unhappy that actors today opt for action doubles and do not perform the stunts on their own.

“The new action star doesn’t know how to fight. They can use

a special effect, like Spider-Man. Everyone can be Spider-Man.

“One of my team members (was) Wonder Woman’s double. They go, Pa, pa, pa, pa, pa. Then (Gal Gadot) came back, just pretty, just standing there. Ha! Easy,” he says.—PTI ■

James Woods announces retirement from acting

LOS ANGELES — Actor James Woods, best known for his roles in films “Casino,” “Videodrome,” “Salvador” and “Ghosts of Mississippi”, has announced his retirement from acting.

The actor broke the news through a press release for a property listing that was published by the Providence Journal, reported Variety.

According to real estate agent Allen Gammons, Woods “is retiring from the entertainment industry and hopes to simplify his life by selling his many real estate holdings on both coasts.” The statement from the agent said he wants to spend more time on photography, antiques and poker. Woods owns four homes in Rhode Island. The 70-year-old actor is also famous for his voice work on Disney’s “Hercules,” in which he voiced the villainous Hades. He later won a daytime Emmy for the role in the spin-off cartoon series.—PTI ■



Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem. PHOTO: PTI

My ego has gotten smaller over time: Penelope Cruz

LOS ANGELES — Actor Penelope Cruz says after motherhood her ego has “gotten smaller” and she does not care anymore about what people think of her.

The 43-year-old star says she may have stopped getting affected by people’s perception, but has developed new fears, reported Interview magazine.

“I’m happy to say, that my ego has gotten smaller over time. I used to be so afraid about what

people were going to think of me, if I was going to be accepted, if I was going to be loved. I put a lot of energy into the perception of myself. “When I became a mother — almost seven years ago — something very deep changed in me, where I really don’t care about a lot of the stuff I used to care about before. That’s part of growing up, and now I have to go through other tests that life will put in front of me. I have new fears now,” Cruz says.—PTI ■

Lin-Manuel Miranda, Latin stars sing for Puerto Rico relief

LOS ANGELES — “Hamilton” musical creator Lin-Manuel Miranda on Friday released a new song for hurricane relief charity efforts in Puerto Rico featuring many of the music industry’s biggest Latin stars.

Jennifer Lopez, Marc Anthony, Gloria Estefan, Rita Moreno, Luis Fonsi and many others sing on the English- and Spanish-language song “Almost Like Praying.” The song, a riff on the tune “Maria” from the Broadway musical “West Side Story,” lists the names of all 78 of Puerto Rico’s towns in its lyrics.

Hurricane Maria, the worst hurricane to hit the US territory in more than 90 years, killed at least 34 people last month and left most of the island without power or access to clean running water.

Miranda, 37, whose parents migrated to the United States from Puerto Rico, said the song



Actor and composer Lin-Manuel Miranda poses at the world premiere of Walt Disney Animation Studios’ “Moana” as a part of AFI Fest in Hollywood, California, US on 14 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

was inspired by his own desperate attempts to contact family members after Hurricane Maria, and his frustrations about the pace of aid reaching the island.

“I thought I could work all 78 towns in Puerto Rico into the lyrics of this song and if we did our job right, these towns will never be forgotten again,” the musician

told Billboard.

The success of the Tony Award-winning musical “Hamilton” has made Miranda one of America’s most influential Latin celebrities. He made headlines last week for saying on Twitter that US President Donald Trump was “going straight to hell” for criticizing Puerto Ricans for not doing enough to help themselves.

Miranda on Friday said he had no regrets about his comments.

“I’ve never seen the president of the United States attack the victims of a natural disaster,” he told “CBS This Morning” in an interview. “That has no precedent for me and so those words coming out of me also have no precedent.”

“Almost Like Praying” will benefit the Hispanic Federation’s UNIDOS Disaster Relief Fund for Puerto Rico.—Reuters ■

Exhibition on Japan's oldest English daily opens in Yokohama

YOKOHAMA — A retrospective exhibition on The Japan Times' reporting of key events in modern and contemporary Japan opened on Saturday in Yokohama to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the country's oldest English daily.

Panels showcasing over 330 pages of the newspaper are on display, including front pages reporting the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, Japan's attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941, the opening of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and ensuing Fukushima nuclear disaster. The exhibition, titled "Japan Through the Lens of an Eng-

lish-language Newspaper — 120 years of The Japan Times" and running through 24 December at the Japan Newspaper Museum, also shows how the paper introduced Japanese lifestyles and aspects of the country's culture to foreign readers.

"It is fascinating to see the changes in the way my country has been portrayed through time," visitor Mamoru Nakazato, 46, said.

The daily, which also has an online edition, began printing on 22 March, 1897, as the first English-language newspaper founded by and run under Japanese management. — Kyodo News ■



A retrospective exhibition on The Japan Times' reporting of key events in modern and contemporary Japan opens in Yokohama, near Tokyo on 7 October, 2017, commemorating the 120th anniversary of the country's oldest English daily. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival 2017 launched

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival 2017 will offer more than 100 fun-filled activities from October to December to promote the rich biodiversity of Hong Kong.

The "Nature Around Us" Art Exhibition, which is being held on 7-8 October, served to launch the Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival 2017.

Officiating at the launching ceremony, Secretary for the Environment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government Wong Kam-sing

said that Hong Kong is gifted with nature as it is just a stone's throw from urban areas.

"It is easy to find elements of nature in our surroundings even though many of us live in the city," he said. He hoped that the Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival will help enhance public awareness of local biodiversity and conserve natural resources in their daily lives.

With the support of some 40 partners, including government departments, universities, community organizations

and public and private sectors, the three-month Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival 2017 is again organized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department this year in various locations under the theme "Nature Around Us."

To promote biodiversity and foster a sense of nature appreciation, a series of activities including workshops, exhibitions, seminars, training, volunteer programs and family days will be organized. —Reuters ■

Lisbon Fashion Week opens

LISBON—Lisbon Fashion Week began on Friday with a number of catwalk shows in the Carlos Lopes Pavilion.

The 49th edition of the festival, known as ModaLisboa, takes "Light" as a theme and will showcase fashion collections for spring and summer of 2018.

The first two shows are by Patrick de Padua and Ana Duarte and will take place in the garden that surrounds the pavilion.

First up on the inside catwalk will be collections from up-and-coming designers, part of the New Blood strand of the festival. They will be followed by the more established names of Kolovrat,

Valentim Quaresma and Ricardo Preto. ModaLisboa takes place twice a year, every spring and fall. It is the premier showcase for Portuguese fashion designers, as well as for local fashion photographers, graphic and set designers.

Besides the catwalk shows, there will be a Wonder Room pop-up store, open to the public and displaying the latest in Portuguese-made handicrafts, textiles, jewelry and accessories, and an exhibition entitled "Portuguese Footwear". Shoe production is one of Portugal's major growth industries.

ModaLisboa runs until 8 October. —Xinhua ■

Los Angeles exhibit explores rise of Tiki culture in America

LOS ANGELES — The rise of Tiki culture in 1950s America in the aftermath of World War Two is explored in a new exhibit that opened Friday in Los Angeles.

"The Art of Tiki" exhibition, at the La Luz de Jesus Gallery in the Los Angeles neighbourhood of Los Feliz, is showcasing everything from Tiki-style furniture and totems to modern art, based on cultural artifacts from Polynesia and Melanesia.

"Some of the pieces have elements of sci-fi. Some pieces have elements of other mid-cen-

tury that aren't really Tiki but because they come from that same era, seem somehow familiar and they're really good neighbors," gallery director Matt Kennedy told Reuters.

For twenty years, Tiki items first brought over to the US by American soldiers that served in the South Pacific, found their way into American houses until it was deemed culturally insensitive, Kennedy said. It re-emerged in pop culture through Tiki-themed bars. The exhibition runs until 29 October. —Reuters ■



PHOTO: REUTERS

MFF, MHS discuss Youth Development Plan

Kyaw Zin Tun

IN an effort to develop the football sector in Myanmar, U Zaw Zaw, chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and officials presented and explained their Youth Development Plan to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and officials from Ministry of Health and Sports (MHS) yesterday afternoon.

The Union Minister analysed the Youth Development Plan drawn up by the MFF. He then said that, in the triangle cooperative of the MFF, MHS and MOE (Ministry of Education) the Youth Development Plan has much satisfaction and will provide opportunities for Myanmar's youths. How to implement the triangle cooperation effort at its best was also discussed at the meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Youth

Development Plan, which included holding youth football festivals, youth football competitions and coach classes, was also agreed upon before the plan was signed.

The MFF and MHS discussed details to hold academy-based youth competitions, to conduct coaching classes at the state and regional institutes of Sport and Physical Education, to develop the nutrition and fitness and to systematically nurture the potential of the youth players.

According to the discussion, the MHS and MOE will cooperate with the MFF to form the townships' football federations.

Moreover, the coaching classes will also be conducted continuously and the youth competitions involving the members of academies of MFF and Tatmadaw will also be held continuously. ■



MFF's chairman U Zaw Zaw explains the Youth Development Plan at the coordination meeting with Ministry of Health and Sports on 7 October, 2017. PHOTO: MFF



Japan's Mai Murakami fell from a balance beam during the artistic gymnastics world championships on 6 October, 2017, in Montreal. Murakami narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing fourth in the women's all-around final. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japan's Murakami 4th in women's all-around final at world c'ships

MONTREAL — Japan's Mai Murakami narrowly missed out on a medal at the artistic gymnastics world championships on Friday, finishing fourth in the women's all-around final.

Murakami, who topped the qualifying round, scored 54.699 points to finish just 0.100 behind bronze medal winner Elena Ermina of Russia. American Morgan Hurd captured the gold medal for the first time with 55.232 and Canada's Elisabeth Black took the silver with 55.132. Japan's Aiko Sugihara was sixth with 53.965.

Murakami was in position to give Japan a first women's all-around medal since Koko Tsurumi won bronze at the 2009 worlds in London, when she scored 14.666 to place second after the vault, the first rotation.

The 21-year-old was solid on the uneven bars but lost ground after she could only manage 12.000 points following a fall on the balance beam. Murakami won the final rotation on the floor with 14.233 but it was not enough for a place on the podium.

"(As top qualifier) I was the

most nervous I have ever been in my gymnastics career," said Murakami. "I could have gone for gold if I hadn't messed up on the beam."

"I figure I haven't practiced enough. Hopefully I can win gold in the apparatus finals," added Murakami, who is scheduled to compete on the beam and in the floor exercise in Saturday's finals.

American Ragan Smith was second after the all-around qualifying round but pulled out of the final with an ankle injury.

—Kyodo News ■

Media invited to press conference for Myanmar-Kyrgyzstan AFC Championship qualification match

Journalists are invited to a press conference for the Myanmar-Kyrgyzstan AFC championship

qualification match that will be held in the Ruby Room of Inya Lake Hotel at 2pm on Monday.

The qualification match will be played on Tuesday at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.—GNLM ■

Lethwei event this evening at Mandalay Thiri Stadium

Great Tiger Group's GTG-5 traditional lethwei challenge event will be held at Mandalay Thiri Stadium, Mandalay at 6pm today, according to the Great Tiger Group's Facebook page.

A total of 10 matches will be contested in this event, and

all are challenge matches. Each match will consist of five rounds. The key matches are between Thway Thit Win Hlaing (Adventure) and Saw Gaw Mu Do (That-ti) and the matches of Thein Soe (Aphyu Yaung Thwe Thit) and Thabyay Aung (Thone Pan Hla),

Daung Phyu Lay (Adventure) and Zwe Shwe (T&T), Ye Man Hein (Htun Htun Min) and Saw Dar Weik (Taung Kalay), Sein Lone Chaw (Bama Thwe) and Hlwan Chaing (Adventure), Saw Htoo Zaw (Thone Pan Hla) and Pat Kyaw Linn Naing (Ti-

ger), Ba Htoo Maung (Yadana-bon) and Htun Naing Oo (STL), Htun Lwin Moe (Ngar Man) and Saw Min Min (T&T), Yan Naing Tun (Thone Pan Hla) and Meik Yaing (Shwe Phoo), and Saw Ba Oo (Taung Kalay) and Phoe La Pyae (Shwe Phoo) will also

be included. Tickets for the event are priced at Ks5,000 and Ks10,000 and will begin at 6pm. The GTG-5 event will be aired live only on Channel 9, although it was arranged previously to be broadcast live from MRTV-4 and MWD.—Kyaw Zin Tun ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

8 OCTOBER 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University

THADINGYUT Full Moon Day, Abhidhamma Day, made me happy, excited, horrible and consider. That is the reason: I did good virtues as much as I can, I paid a visit to the heart of Mandalay, MAHAMYATMUNI Pagoda and offered a thousand lights to the pagoda located on the top of the Mandalay Hill, paid homage my grandparents, parents, teachers, aunts and uncles. And I got a lot of pocket money. These experiences made me happy and gave me good feelings for doing good deeds. I got, however, excited because of a horrible experience.

To reveal the experience, I have to tell about my doings on the Full Moon Day. When I waked up that morning, I immediately felt that "Today is the Thadingyut Full Moon Day" and I knew that my family would plan to go somewhere and so, I had to wake up earlier than the previous days. After we had prepared to go out, we visited Mahamyatmuni Pagoda and offered flowers, water, lights and gold leaves in the morning. Moreover, we visited YADANABON ZOO, one of the popular places in Mandalay. We also created unforgettable memories, feeding the animals, taking photos and watching "Elephants and Snakes Dance Show". When we finished our visit in the morning, we came back home for having lunch. As we did not content with our visit, we hiked the Mandalay Hill and took part in the ceremony of offering a thousand lights to "Pagodas of Mandalay Hill" at night. We came back home at about 08:00 PM. And we lit the lights in front of our house aiming the Lord Buddha. Our family dinner was full of laughter and the sounds of recalling those experiences. And we watched many sizes of "Hot air balloon" flying in the velvet sky.

After we had had our dinner, we could not stand our sleepy feeling. So, we all slept at about 09:00 PM. When I almost slept soundly, I heard the noises that seemed calling my father's name.



And so, I awaked and walked to the verandah to watch what was happening. And I see that many people were gathering in front of our house and calling our names and pointing our house's roof. I thought it was a little strange. And I thought "What is happening on our house's roof?". I waked my Dad and Mom up and told them that there was a crowd in front of our house. My parents got up immediately and unlocked the door and checked the roof. Not I but my family saw a flame of a small hot air balloon what was catching fire. As our house is made up of wood and bamboo, it can become engulfed easily. So, we immediately looked for a long stick of bamboo and pulled down that hot air balloon. Other people carried the brackets of water and put out the fire as much as they can. Like the saying, "UNITY is STRENGTH", we could extinguish the flame totally together.

After we had put out the fire, we all heard the sound of siren of a

fire-engine. Firstly, we thought that it was coming to us. I thought "Who has called the fire station?". But we all misunderstood. The fire-engine was going to U POKE TAW quarter next to our quarter. We again heard the sounds of siren of many fire-engines. We generalised that the fire was killing many houses. We could see the flame from our quarter. So, we took and packed the important things and tried to run away. As we thought, eight houses of U POKE TAW quarter and many ornaments were destroyed by blaze. We had known that the fire started because of the fire of a mosquito coil. Fortunately, the fire didn't kill our quarter.

According to these incidents, I reflect that we, human beings should not be alive with unawareness. As long as we live carelessly, almost everything in the world will kill us and our properties. Moreover, we should survive by helping each other and sharing our feelings. Everyone can live oneself, however, he or she cannot be

alive alone. Although the Thadingyut full moon day is a very precious day for Buddhists, some of the Buddhists spend the time of the day with wrong ideas (playing with firecrackers, drinking alcohol). Moreover, some want to be happy by releasing small hot air balloons in the quarter. In my opinion, the hot air balloons should be released in the open fields. If so, they can fly freely and highly. If they released in the small quarters, there would be dangerous and the hot air balloons would be the fire-raisers. THADINGYUT FULL MOON DAY of this year really made me feel various feelings. Moreover, the day has taught me many precious things or precious ideas. I have made up mind that I am going to survive along my life by reflecting myself and helping others and do everything what I want and what I must by holding awareness in my heart.

Besides, I think everybody will know what he or she must aware by experiencing some horrible experiences.

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 Kye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to 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 22: Verbs — Tenses(4)

Hello, dear Students!

Concerning Tenses, we have already studied a lot. We have studied: ..

- (1) All Simple Tenses:.. Simple Present , Simple Past , Simple Future
- (2) All Continuous Tenses:.. Present Continuous, Past Continuous , Future Continuous
- (3) All Perfect Tenses:..Present Perfect , Past Perfect, Future Perfect
- (4) All Perfect Continuous Tenses:.. Present Perfect Continuous , Past Perfect Continuous , Future Perfect Continuous

Today, we are going to study “Near Future Tense”. As the name goes, it is the Tense that will happen in the Future, but very very near Future and it is sure that it will happen .

For this Tense, we use “going to” with the Verb 1 (i.e. the Present of the Verb)
e.g .

- (1) It is going to rain, we can see the dark clouds in the sky.
It means, it is sure that it will rain, because we can see the dark rain clouds in the sky.
- (2) He is going to pass the examination with flying colours, for he has worked the whole year.
It means, it is so sure that he will pass the exami-

nation with flying colours, because he has worked the whole year.

(3) We are going to be late for school , as the bus stops every now and then on the way.

It means, it is so sure that we will be late for school, because the bus stops every now and then on the way to school.

So to form the “Near Future Tense”, we use “am / is/ are” + going to + Present Form of the Verb”.

Note that it shows something that will happen in the near Future and it is sure to happen.

Exercise 22.

I. Make 5 sentences of your own to show the “Near Future Tense”.

II. Make the following sentences to get Near Future Tense.

- (a) I become ill, for I am wet all over because of the heavy rain.
- (b) Shefind her friends, as she walks down the market lane.
- (c) Theytell it to the teacher, because they are so angry .
- (d) We play football tomorrow as tomorrow is a holiday.

- (e) Hesee her mother as she has come from a far far away place.
- (f) Are you see your fiance at the airport ?
- (g) Mya Myareturn home this weekend.
- (h) Mg Mgreply his friend’s letter.
- (i) I watch my favourite programme on the TV.
- (j) My friends visit me in Pyin Oo Lwin.

III. Change the following sentences into Near Future Tenses.

- (a) I (return) home tonight.
- (b) She (comes) back this evening.
- (c) Ni Ni (swims) tomorrow.
- (d) I (will write) the letter now.
- (e) Father (will buy) this car tomorrow morning.
- (f) (Will) you (marry) him next month ?
- (g) Mother (bakes) chocolate cakes today.
- (h) Daphne (plays) tennis at the Stadium this afternoon.
- (i) Thinzar (reads) this book this Sunday.
- (j) Nyi Nyi (stays) here for the weekend .

Hope that you can do these very well !

Bye for now class! See you next week !

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

Email : drnunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

Here comes the Answers for the last week’s Exercise.
Exercise 21.

I. Five Example Sentences in the Present Perfect Continuous Tense

- (a) I have been staying in this apartment for more than two years.
- (b) He has been playing in this team for about 5 years.
- (c) They have been attending this school since they were young.
- (d) Our teacher has been teaching English for more than thirty years.
- (e) Have you been playing with these friends for long years?

II. Five Example Sentences in the Past Perfect Continuous Tense.

- (a) I had been staying in this apartment for more than two years up till 2015.
- (b) He has been playing in this team till last year.
- (c) They had been attending this school till they passed their Matriculation Examination.

- (d) Our teacher had been teaching English till last two years.
- (e) Had you been playing with these friends for long years?

III. Five Example Sentences in the Future Perfect Continuous Tense.

- (a) I will have been staying in this apartment for more than two years in the coming April.
- (b) He will have been playing in this team next year too.
- (c) They will have been attending this school for ten years in 2019.
- (d) Our teacher will have been teaching English for thirty years in the coming semester.
- (e) Will you have been playing with these friends for long years?

IV. Fill in the blank spaces.

- (a) have been seeing
- (b) have been singing
- (c) had been teaching
- (d) will have been staying
- (e) has been working
- (f) will have been
- (g) has been showing off
- (h) has been buying
- (i) has been loving
- (j) had been taking
- (k) will have been being
- (l) has been drinking
- (m) have been being
- (n) had been being
- (o) has been ringing

That’s all for today’s lesson.
I believe that you can do all the exercises well.
Bye Bye Class! See you next week !

Some Different Attitudes and Opinions by Different Stakeholders on the Present Education System(4)

Dr. Nu Nu Win
(Retired Professor and Head of Department)

In today's article, the writer wants to discuss a very important issue pointed out by the responses of the present day Basic Education students.

The writer wants to highlight it and wants to discuss this issue in depth.

It happened to be the opinions on the Arts subjects such as History and Geography by the Basic Education students and the writer wants to discuss about it as a special and important issue that we need to solve as soon as possible.

Most of the Basic Education students from Primary to the Matriculation class, do not like to study History and Geography. They do not have good opinions on these subjects and even some of them said they hate to study these subjects. It is really a sorrowful finding for the writer, as she believes that these subjects may lead the students to have love for the country and the nation and lead to patriotism in their future.

But, they have no good opinions on these subjects. Some said, "It is really very dull indeed to study (or to learn by heart) about all things that happened in the past. What's the use of learning all these past events here at the present? Whatever happened had been in the past. We cannot change them. So let them stay as they were and we only want to study what is going on at the present."

Their opinions on Geography were the same. Some said, "What's the use of studying all these long, long, paragraphs about all these states and regions all the time? We have to learn by heart all these long lessons and we become dull after all and where can we use it when we finish school?"

The writer trembled a lot after reading such kinds of responses. For the writer, she believes that these two subjects can lead the children since young to have love for their own country and nation, to acquire patriotism when they become older and have the courage and strength to defend their country and her sovereignty.

It is regrettable that all these young people have such kinds of opinions on these subjects. So, the writer wanted to find out the causes which has been leading to such a kind of conditions and how it has become more and more serious during these days.

After some serious thinking, she has found the following causes which may be considered as the Basic Cause of this issue: ..

- (1) The System that discriminates Arts and Science Combinations to take in the Basic Education Level
- (2) The Inferiority Complex of being Arts Students according to the System
- (3) Lack of Encouragement both from Teachers and Parents on these Subjects
- (4) Lack of Job Opportunities for these Arts Combinations
- (5) Lack of Interests and Capacity on these Subjects by Teachers
- (6) Shortage of Teachers who can point out the Importance and Usefulness of these Subjects

Let's discuss one by one:-

(1) The System that discriminate Arts and Science Combinations to take in the Basic Education Level

It happened a long time ago, starting about the New



System in Education in the Socialist Era , round about 1970's, when the System to discriminate the students who had passed the Eighth Standard Examination (the Government Examination that showed the end of Lower Secondary Level) , who should take the Science combination and who should take the Arts combination . Prior to this, all had to study all subjects, both Arts and Science. (Starting in 1964, all matriculates were categorized to which Institute they should go according to their matriculation examination marks. The higher marks they got the higher Institutes (the Professional Institutes such as Medical, Technology, Education, Economics etc. from which graduates can easily get decent jobs after their graduation.)

So, the ones who got the lower marks in their matriculation examinations had to attend the Arts and Science Universities from which graduates were not sure to get a decent job after their first degree. (It has been like this up to the present and, some students in the research field, who are from these Universities, especially with the combination of History and Geography, said they were not sure whether they would get a job or so and even some have stress and worries for getting decent jobs after their graduation. And even some were not sure whether their studies on History and Geography were valuable or useful in their lives. The situation was really bad.)

It also happened that all students who passed the Eighth Standard Government Examination were also discriminated and the authorities decided which combination they would have to take starting from the ninth standard. As the New Education System in the Socialist Era encouraged the Science subjects, which are very useful for modern technology to build a modern state, so it was naturally decided that those who got higher marks should take the Science combination, and the others who got lower marks should take the Arts combination.

The writer thinks it was the very First Error of that day which led to the present situation as worse as it is now.

(Even Mathematics was not in very high favour indeed. But it is lucky enough that all these Science subjects cannot go on without using Mathematics.)

As a Senior Assistant Teacher (SAT) since 1971 after the first degree B.Ed., the writer taught Geography, Mathematics and English in the High Schools during these years of 1970s. So, she cannot forget that

all teachers had to encourage all the Arts students who reached to the ninth standard during these days to continue to study well in their Arts subjects. They had lost their will to learn as if they had lost all their whole lives without any good chance. And for the Science Students these days we, all teachers had to press them down from their opinions as if they were all going to become doctors and engineers in their future. They were so proud that some did not study very well and even failed in their Matriculation Exam. The conditions were like this in those days.

After long long years of such experiences, all students, parents and teachers were all so used to be in favour of Science combinations which can lead to good chance for the students' professions.

So, during the present day, the bursting out conditions become like that.

This is the first cause for the present conditions.

(2) The Inferiority Complex of being Arts Students according to the System

After long long years in such a kind of system, when students got the Arts combination , most of the people looked down on them as if they were useless even with the idea that they will not get any decent job after graduating from this combination. It made the students very stressed out, sometimes even with their own capacity and at last most of them suffered from Inferiority Complex. They even do not want to say among people, what their combination was. They became more and more stressed when graduation day became near.

That is the second cause, but it is also serious.

(3) Lack of Encouragement both from Teachers and Parents on these Subjects

As it was so embedded like that for years, both Teachers and Parents ran out of ideas how to encourage the children and youths to study or to value these subjects. They also lost their idea that these subjects are so useful to build the country, to have love and patriotism for their country and nation, and their usefulness even in military matters.

That's the loss we get from that system for years.

All parents and teachers want to take pride in their young ones to become doctors and engineers.

SEE SUPPLEMENT-H

15 new gecko species discovered in Myanmar



Cyrtodactylus sp. Credit: Dr L. Lee Grismer

By Noa Leach, phys.org

WITH support from Fauna & Flora International (FFI), 15 karst-adapted gecko species were recently found in Myanmar within the space of just two weeks, highlighting the outstanding biodiversity of limestone ecosystems.

A team of scientists has found an astonishing fifteen new gecko species within Myanmar's karst (limestone) landscapes. The discoveries were made over a two-week period in October 2016, and included 12 new species of bent-toed gecko from the genus *Cyrtodactylus* and three dwarf geckos from the genus *Hemiphyllodactylus*.

All of the newly discovered species come from isolated limestone habitats in east-central and southern Myanmar

and are thought to be restricted to the individual limestone blocks where they were found. Karst landscapes are composed of limestone, and characterised by caves, towers, and hills and high levels of endemism, with many unusual species that are found nowhere else in the world.

"Although we already knew that some less mobile cave species such as snails and fish were restricted to just one cave or limestone hill, we now know that the same applies to some geckos," says Dr Tony Whitten, FFI's Senior Adviser.

Documenting the findings

These exciting discoveries are due to be reported in three upcoming journal articles over the coming

weeks.

The first, in the *Journal of Natural History*, describes the three new dwarf geckos while the second, due to be published on 6th October in the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, describes the 12 new bent-toed geckos.

A third paper based on subsequent discoveries in May 2017 is currently being written and describes four more species of bent-toed geckos.

According to one of the papers these discoveries demonstrate "high localised diversity and unprecedented micro-endemism."

Dr L. Lee Grismer of La Sierra University in California, who is the senior author of all three papers, led an international team comprising

karst conservationists from FFI's Myanmar team, scientists from the Universiti Sains Malaysia and Brigham Young University, and researchers from the Myanmar Forest Department. Dr Grismer's work was supported with funding from FFI, the Helmsley Charitable Trust, La Sierra University, and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

According to Dr Grismer, this discovery is particularly significant because all 15 new species come from an endangered microhabitat in a country that, until only recently, was cut off from the world due to civil conflict and which has only a nascent conservation sector. Some of these species were found in rebel-held territory, making effective conservation

even more challenging.

A special name for one gecko species...

One of the species, *Hemiphyllodactylus tonywhitteni*, was named after FFI's Dr Tony Whitten, who has been a passionate advocate for the conservation of karst landscapes and their remarkable biodiversity. *H. tonywhitteni* is known only from one cave in the Taunggyi District. The other species are named after the local areas where they were found.

According to the paper, this epithet "honours Dr Tony Whitten who has championed a broad range of conservation efforts in Indonesia and Asia-Pacific for well over a quarter of a century. His tireless efforts to

conserve and help manage karst ecosystems have been a great inspiration to the senior author [Dr Grismer]."

The discovery of the karst forest-adapted species "further emphasises the unrealised herpetological diversity endemic to karst ecosystems and the need for increased field work throughout such habitats in Southeast Asia," the paper argues.

"Managing and conserving these ecosystems should be given greater priority"

Dr Grismer has also supported FFI's wider Asia-Pacific programme by conducting biodiversity and reptile surveys of karst landscapes, which — despite increasing recognition of

their importance for biodiversity—are highly threatened as a result of quarrying by the cement industry.

Drawing attention to this issue, the researchers write: "In an age of biodiversity crisis, managing and conserving these karst ecosystems throughout Southeast Asia should be given greater priority."

Dr Grismer notes the sad irony that Myanmar has some of the most extensive areas of karst in all of Southeast Asia, yet it is the least protected. "Hundreds of new species could face extinction without proper management," he says, "but this [management] cannot happen unless these species are discovered and described — hence why we are ramping up our efforts in these regions."



Cyrtodactylus sp. Credit: Dr L. Lee Grismer



Credit: Fauna & Flora International



Hemiphyllodactylus montawaensis. Credit: Dr L. Lee Grismer

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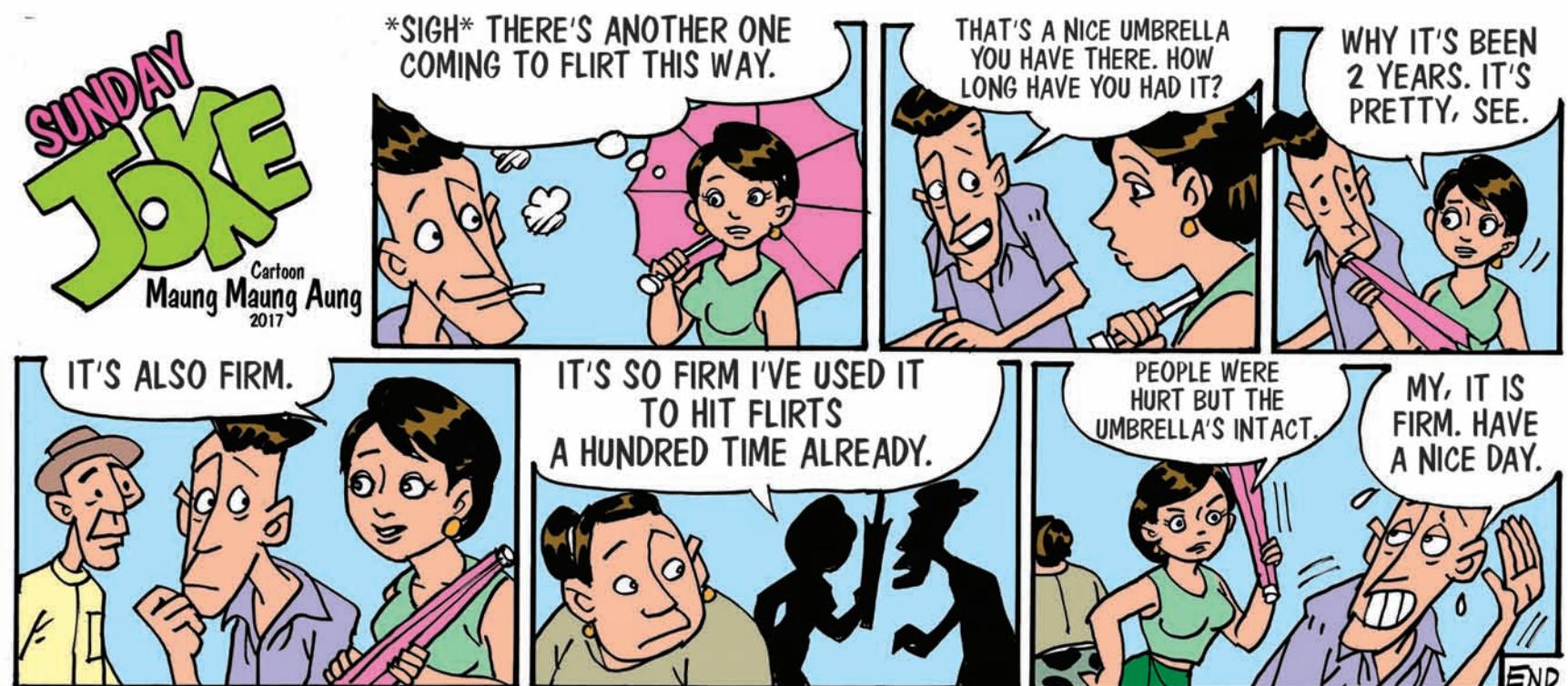
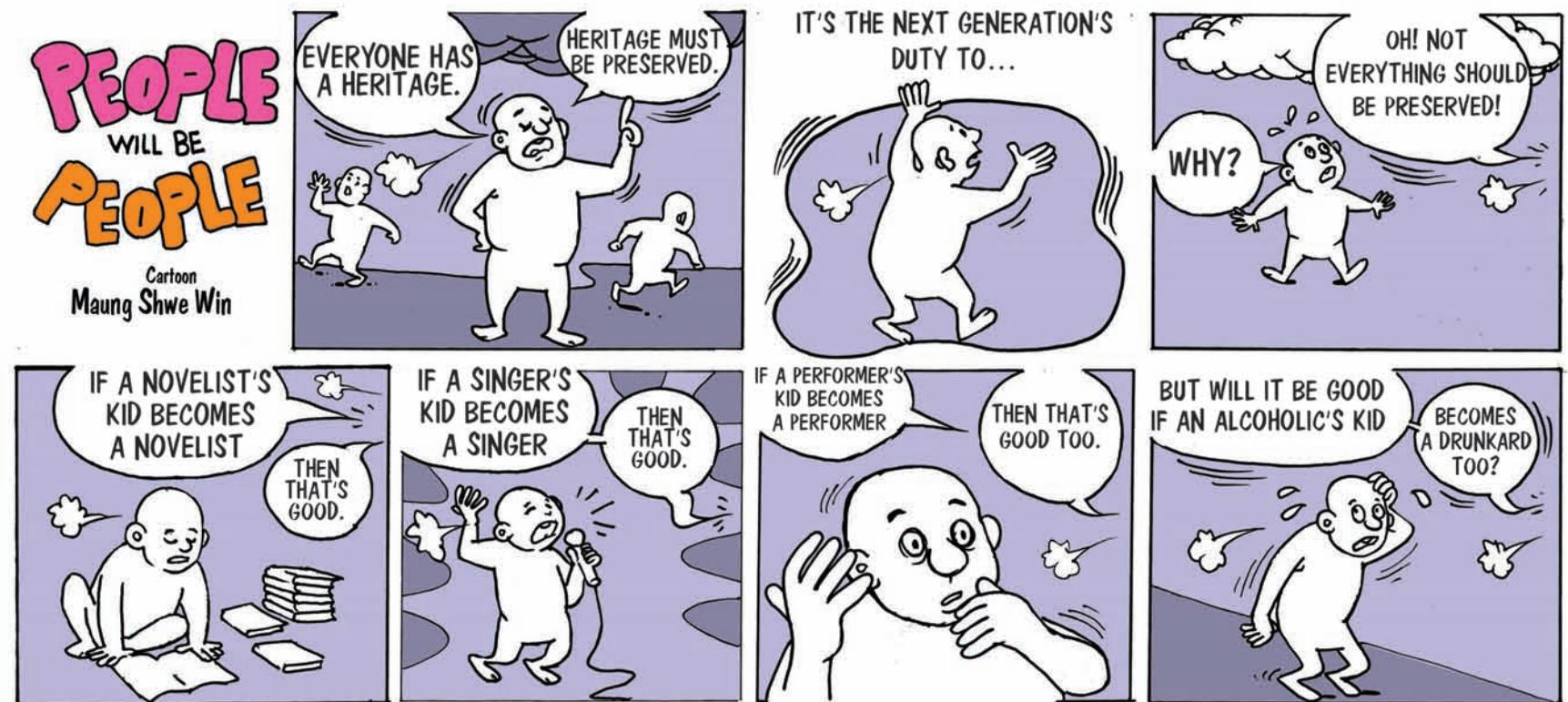
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SUNDAY COMICS



Three communities still live peacefully in two of the villages we visited: Robert Chua

A wide-ranging interview with Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar Robert Chua by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Singapore and Myanmar.

Q: Singapore and Myanmar started diplomatic relations in 1966 so please tell us how there will be strengthening ties between Singapore and Myanmar.

A: I think our two countries' relationship reflects a relationship between neighbors and old friends. Our founding Prime Minister Mr. Lee Kuan Yew visited your beautiful country to see Myanmar's development and to build close relations at the leaders' level and economic cooperation.

We are always confident in the calibre of the Myanmar people. So we have concentrated on supporting Myanmar in capacity building of your civil servants through training programmes and study visits in Singapore as well as setting up here the Myanmar-Singapore Training Centre in 2001 in support of Myanmar as a new member of ASEAN. I'm glad through all these years of training programmes, we have been able to contribute to the training of over 15,000 civil servants across all fields. When people say that Myanmar lacks capacity, I say "no", as countries like Singapore have been contributing to Myanmar's human resource development. The other areas we are helping in this field are scholarships for your talented students to study in Singapore and our Prime Minister Lee Hsien Long opened the Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI) in Yangon last year. It offers training in electronics and electrical work, facilities management, engineering services, and hospitality and tourism. We believe these areas are needed in Myanmar's opening economy. The courses are designed in consultation with the Myanmar government. I'm happy that three batches have graduated so far. SMVTI will contribute 800 trained workers yearly for the Myanmar economy. I'm confident that Singapore will continue to support Myanmar in its journey to become a middle-income country and a democracy in the years to come.

Q: Can you tell us your impression about Myanmar's democratization process?

A: When I first visited your beautiful country as a young diplomat in August 1980, I got a glimpse into your country at that time when it was under socialism. I've



Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar Robert Chua speaks during the interview with GNLM and MRTV at the Embassy of Singapore in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

But I was heartened that in two of the villages we visited amid all these conflicts and tensions, three communities could still live peacefully - Muslims, Rakhines, and Hindus. I asked them "why is it you can still live peacefully after so many years" and they said they learned to live together with common interests.

seen three governments' governance since I came back and started my diplomatic posting in 2006. It's challenging as Myanmar has a big geographical size and 135 different races. I think for any government and any leader of the day, to bring together such diverse peoples is a challenge. Your leaders since independence led by General Aung San have grappled with this challenge. I ask myself as a political science student, what does it take for a country that has all the resources that a country needs, to succeed in democracy? I think it is the challenge of nation building and bringing all the States and Regions together in the spirit of moving forward together. It is like a football team which I call "Myanmar United" where all players learn to work together to succeed.

I see the wisdom of the Myanmar people in a time of the euphoria about what's happening in the world of the 'Arab Spring'. The Myanmar people have been wise to want a 'Myanmar Summer' of warmth, reconciliation and finding a way forward after so many years of civil conflicts. This can be done with love and forgiveness as practised in all the religions in

this country. It is now a time of great hope and enthusiasm but some critics say "Is Myanmar ready for democracy?" I believe this transition started off with great hope and at times has become messy, and it is at an important turning point now. After the unfortunate events in Rakhine State, it is a critical time for the people and the government to come together in unity to preserve this process of creating a democracy that is appropriate for Myanmar. As a political science student, I understand that democracy is a concept that each country can fashion within its own circumstances. Singapore's democracy has been different because we've borne in mind that we are multi-racial too and we chose a path of political accommodation where all our races are accommodated within the principles of the rule of law and meritocracy under a policy of integration so that all our citizens can live, study and work together harmoniously.

Q: What do you think will be the challenges in the transition from war to peace?

A: I think the first step is how to stop the

fighting and you need a workable concept of a ceasefire that all parties must honour and implement. Then you can move to political dialogue to discuss the current proposal of a federal system. Federalism will mean some form of political, economic and administrative autonomy for each State and Region, and at the same time, addressing key issues like national security, sharing of resources and an education framework using a national language. All are touchy nation-building issues that Singapore also went through. The critical issue now is "what is a workable ceasefire"? If you have the current situation of "talk, talk, fight, fight", then of course mutual suspicion and trust deficit will continue. I think it is a tragedy for any country that protracted fighting is going on and will affect future generations, when peace can be restored and development can follow.

Q: Can you tell us about your recent visit to Rakhine State?

A: I will give my personal view on what I've seen. I looked back to my first visit to Rakhine State ten years ago in 2007 when a diplomatic tour was organized by the UN and the Myanmar government. When I look back at that visit and the recent one on 2 October 2017, I came back saddened. Ten years ago, I saw the different communities living side by side peacefully with some tensions. Today, I see destruction of homes, loss of lives, displaced people and the violence that started with the terrorist attacks last year. Violence starts a cycle of violence.

SEE SUPPLEMENT-H

Interview with Singapore Ambassador Robert Chua

FROM SUPPLEMENT-G

But I was heartened that in two of the villages we visited amid all these conflicts and tensions, three communities could still live peacefully - Muslims, Rakhines, and Hindus. I asked them "why is it you can still live peacefully after so many years" and they said they learned to live together with common interests. They do business together and respect each other, and if there is any concern, then it is a common concern for the whole village discussed in an inter-faith committee.

As your neighbours in the ASEAN family, we wish that urgent humanitarian assistance that will be delivered by the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre, can come in to support your government to help all the affected communities. The ASEAN family also shares the view that the violence must stop, and once stability is restored and the communities can come back to their villages, then it is time to look for a long-term political solution in this complex inter-communal situation with deep historical roots that will require reconciliation, dialogue and a peace process. Rakhine State has fertile soil and the rice is growing but because of the conflicts, the people cannot harvest the rice.

My personal view is that as the gov-

ernment work towards a recovery programme for all the communities, it can consider the integration approach that I saw in the two villages. Segregation can cause hatred and resentment.

Q: Singapore has so far been listed as the top investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone so what are the major challenges for Singaporean entrepreneurs making investments in Myanmar?

A: I'm glad that the data shows that cumulatively, Singapore is the second largest investor in Myanmar and consistently Myanmar's third largest trading partner. This shows Singapore's confidence in Myanmar's potential to grow as an economy and succeed. I've met Singaporeans who have been working and investing here for more than 20 years and that reflects their faith in the economic potential of your country. But for foreign investors, what gives them confidence for investing is political stability because investors don't like political risk. So the government of the day must create a stable political system. On the economic side, investors want certainty, rule of law, clear investment policies, rules and regulations, and also

a dispute mechanism to resolve business problems.

I've seen in the past five years from U Thein Sein's government till today, there has been a strong effort to open up the economy to welcome Foreign Direct Investment. But for a country that has been closed for quite some time, opening up requires confidence that FDI coming in will not swallow up local businesses.

Q: Could you explain more about law and order and clarity for investment policies?

A: I think investors that go to any country need clarity that there is clear and firm rule of law so that if there is any business dispute, they can seek recourse like arbitration or take it to the courts. Clarity is important when there are new policies. I understand from businessmen that whenever there is a new investment law, it is the implementing rules and regulations that give clarity on how their investments can be implemented.

Q: Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong held talks with President U Htin Kyaw over the development of SMEs, trade, invest-

ment. Could you tell us the current efforts of the bilateral achievements and challenges?

A: First, I'd like to backtrack that when Mr. Goh Chok Tong was our Prime Minister, he encouraged the first wave of investors to come in the 1990s and he had the wisdom to suggest to our businessman to help Myanmar's tourism given its beautiful scenery and rich cultural tapestry. He believed that if you grow your tourism sector, then it brings good revenue and creates jobs. Today we are looking at how other sectors can support Myanmar's economic development and for that, we have created the Singapore-Myanmar Joint Ministerial Working Committee that started over ten years ago. It focuses on three areas: financial cooperation, legal cooperation, and trade and investment. These are three areas that we believe from our economic development experience will support Myanmar's financial reforms and legal reforms which are important to underpin your foreign investment law and economic development. Both sides are now working to conclude a Bilateral Investment Treaty by the end of this year that will benefit our businessmen.

Some Different Attitudes and Opinions by Different Stakeholders on the Present Education System

FROM SUPPLEMENT-C

(4) Lack of Job Opportunities for these Arts Combination students

It is the most serious cause. After graduating with these Arts Combinations, they have lack of Job Opportunities except the chance of becoming tutors in their own departments, and as it is a very rare chance, they all have worries for their whole lives.

(5) Lack of Interests and Capacity on these Subjects by Teachers

It is also the important cause for this issue. As the System has been going on like that for many years since 1970s, all individuals who did not get higher marks forced to take the Arts Combinations, so many teachers on these subjects lacked higher levels of teaching skills. They all were so used to learn by heart whether they like it or not, whether they value it or not. But they study by heart just because they want to pass the examination. Their intention is just to pass the examination by hook or by crook.

These conditions cause to lower down the capacity of the teachers too.

(Here the researcher wants to say clearly that it does not mean all these graduates and teachers are lacking in capacity.) But most lack the ability to motivate their students and make the subjects interesting. They do not know how

to explain the bigger picture as they do not know themselves how these subjects are related to national development and fostering a love for the country and our different national races.

Imagine how these Arts teachers can encourage the whole Nation through their students to have patriotism and love for the country and the Nation during the time of fighting for our Independence. They can encourage the whole Nation indeed.

And even during our days as SATs in the High Schools, we had History and Geography Teachers who were the ideal persons for their students and all their classrooms were echoing with words of patriotism and love for the country and Nation.

But, it's a Great but too, after long, long years of these systems, people who value these Arts Combinations are becoming less and less. Teachers trained by Universities and Colleges are mostly with Science combinations, as they got higher marks to join the Institutes (now Universities) and Colleges of Education.

Sometimes there were no History or Geography teachers in a school. Most of the people come to believe that these are the subjects to learn by heart and then the principal asks any teacher to go and teach these subjects. As teachers who did not study these subjects in their University days had to go and teach

these subjects, they teach as if students have to learn by heart. They cannot get the real objectives of these subjects, for example, to study history is to learn what happened in the past, to take lessons from their mistakes and take examples from their victories. They lacked the capacity to teach these subjects well because they were not the persons who had studied these subjects in their University days. Far from encouraging patriotism and love for the country and the people, they could not even achieve the objectives of teaching arts subjects such as history and geography.

That is what is happening in our Basic Education Schools nowadays.

And one more thing is, as all parents think these subjects can be gained by their children only by learning by heart, they do not want to let their children go to tuitions for these subjects. So, these become non-tuition subjects and teachers do not have interest to teach them. When one was assigned to teach it, it means to let that teacher go into the dark corner, the teacher becomes down-hearted and antagonistic to the subjects, so it leads to the lack of capacity and interest by the teachers and it also leads to the lack of interests by the students. The students fail to see the value of these arts subjects.

It is really a very sorrowful condition not only for the subjects, but also for our country and our youth.

(6) Shortage of Teachers who can point out the Importance and Usefulness of these Subjects

As the writer has discussed in the above 6th cause, most of these subject teachers do not have the capacity and ability and even interest to point out the Value, Importance and Usefulness of these subjects, therefore the students also do not realize the value of these subjects. Sometimes, just because of the present conditions of being Exam-centered conditions of our country, the teachers do not bother to explain the value, importance and usefulness of these subjects.

What a sorrowful condition in our country. And what a sorrowful finding for the researcher when she had to read such attitudes and opinions submitted by the students.

So, it is a serious issue to solve as soon as we can for the sake of our country and for the sake of our youth.

Let's continue to discuss what we can do for these issues in the coming week. The writer will discuss as much as she can but it is a matter for the whole nation and our country.

So, the writer would like to invite all who are interested in this matter to please contact her at the email address given below: email: <dr.numuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com>