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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 16 September 2017

We stand with the State Counsellor

Myanmar community in UK holds peaceful demonstration outside Foreign Office

MEMBERS of the Myanmar community in London held a peaceful demonstration outside the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the Westminster section of capital of the United Kingdom in support of the Myanmar government.

The protesters urged the British government to stand up for the Myanmar government in its efforts to deal with the Rakhine issue. The demonstration was in apparent response to comments made Thursday by the Foreign Secretary the Rt. Honourable Boris Johnson, who called on the State Counsellor to condemn the attacks on members of Rakhine's Muslim community.

The protesters said they were also demonstrating against the proliferation of false news on the situation in Rakhine State, where dozens of border police outposts were attacked on 25 August. The attacks and the subsequent efforts by the Tatmadaw to restore order prompted thousands of Muslims to flee to the Bangladesh border and thousands of ethnic people to take shelter in southern Rakhine State.

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Members of the Myanmar community in the United Kingdom hold signs of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at a demonstration outside the Foreign Office in London urging the British government to support the State Counsellor in dealing with the issues in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: KHINE MORRIS**

Some basic education schools in Maungtaw to reopen

By Min Htat Aung and Tin Maung Lwin

Some of the basic education schools in Maungtaw, northern Rakhine State that were closed due to terrorist attacks by ARSA extremists on 25 August will reopen by the third week of September, according to Maungtaw Township Head of Education

Office. Under the guidance of Rakhine State government, the state education department informed teachers that they could return to their assigned schools by 17 September. There are some who have already reported for duty, said U Khin Aung, Maungtaw Township Head of Education Office.

"Currently, eight basic edu-

cation schools in Maungtaw will be reopened where the security is good. Afterwards, schools in ethnic national villages will be reopened. There are more than 1,300 teachers teaching in Maungtaw Township. Some were already back (in schools) while some were staying in towns and villages in the region and thus schools can be reopened. We

don't know how many students will come. Once there are students, teaching will start," said U Khin Aung.

Fearing terrorists attacks, ethnic nationals in Maungtaw Township and some villages had left for relief camps in Sittway, Buthidaung and Yathedaung.

The list of students in these camps were being collected, add-

ed U Khin Aung.

Of the temporary areas setup in Maungtaw town for displaced persons, the Myoma Monastery area had 375 students attending fifth to tenth standards in Nantataung free education monastic school, Taungpyoletwe and they were being given education by teachers who came together with volunteers, it is learnt. ■



Vice President U Myint Swe and Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region hold talks in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Myint Swe receives Hong Kong Chief Executive

VICE President U Myint Swe received Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and party at Shwe San Eain Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw at 11:00 yesterday morning.

During the meeting, matters relating to promoting trade and investment between Myanmar and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,

cooperating on development of industry, service sector, construction, hotels and tourism, investment on transport and electricity and energy and exporting high quality foods and fruits from Myanmar to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region were discussed.

Union Ministers Dr. Than Myint, U Kyaw Win, U Ohn Maung and officials attended

the meeting.

After the meeting, the Vice President hosted a luncheon for Hong Kong Chief Executive and party at Shwe San Eain Hotel. Present at the luncheon were Union Ministers Dr. Than Myint, U Kyaw Win and U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Democracy Film Festival opens in Nay Pyi Taw

By Myo Thu Hein

The opening ceremony of the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival at Aung Thabyay Cineplex in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, one of the many Myanmar Democracy Festivals under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Information, was held yesterday.

Present at the ceremony were Nay Pyi Taw Council members U Aung Myin Tun and U Aye Maung Sein, Nay Pyi Taw Council development committee members, U Kyaw Soe, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, Hluttaw representatives and departmental officials.

At the ceremony, U Aung Myin Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member, U Phyo Zayar Thaw, Hluttaw representative and U Kyaw Soe, MD of NPE, Ministry of Information opened the ceremony by cutting a ribbon, followed by an opening address from U Aung Myin Tun.



The opening ceremony of the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival being held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW**

Afterward, those present at the ceremony watched the film, "Myanmar, a Nation of Grandeur in the World."

Five films will be screened at Aung Thabyay and Nay Pyi Taw Junction Cineplex until 15th September, include "Glittering with Gold in the Sunlight", "Thara Sawhti", "Myanmar, a Nation of Grandeur in the World", "Blue-Sky Days to Come" and "Demo Civilian Community".

"The MDFF was held with a view to share knowledge as to which systems they are moving towards as democratic nations for the development of moral and morality included

in democratic practices and on which their performances are based. Here I would like to say that the government will surely go to the democratic goal, how many difficulties they found on the way, in moving forward through the transitional way. It is firmly believed that film is the best media in making people who do not read or know policies and principles", U Aung Myin Tun said.

An audience member who came to see the movies agreed.

"We gained knowledge, as the films screened are concerned with democracy. In the following days, I will come again." ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives UN Coordinator Ms. Renata Dessallien

Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received United Nations Coordinator Ms. Renata Dessallien yesterday morning at Hluttaw Affairs Building I-1 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, mat-

ters relating to Rakhine region stability and peace, status of conducting for correct understanding of Rakhine affairs locally and internationally, rule of law and domination of administration in Rakhine State were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talk with United Nations Coordinator Ms. Renata Dessallien in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

UN rights office wants charges dropped against Myanmar migrants

The UN Human Rights Office for South-East Asia yesterday welcomed a Thai court's decision on Thursday to award Ks71 million to 14 Myanmar migrant workers who were subjected to rights abuses, and called on authorities in Thailand to immediately drop criminal charges filed against the workers.

The migrants alleged that they had to work up to 20 hours a day, that deductions were unlawfully taken from their salaries, that their identity documents were confiscated and that their movements were restricted. The Supreme Court dismissed an appeal by their employer, Thammakaset poultry farm in Lopburi Province, and ruled the workers should be paid their due wages.

The 14 workers, who took their case to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) for investigation, still face criminal defamation charges brought against them by their employer. Two of the workers have also been charged with stealing their work time cards.

"Our office welcomes the compensation ruling, and we would now expect that the crim-

inal defamation charges be dropped in this case," said Cynthia Veliko, the South-East Asia Regional Representative for the UN Human Rights Office. "It's very concerning that the criminal charges were levelled after the workers had taken their case to the NHRCT, the very body meant to assist with such cases," she said, urging the Commission to investigate this case in an impartial manner.

"Migrant workers continue to be exploited in Thailand, particularly in the food processing industry, and we reiterate that all companies must abide by the international standards and obligations which Thailand has agreed to."

The UN Human Rights Office also called on the Government to drop the criminal defamation charges brought against British activist Andy Hall by the Thammakaset poultry farm. Mr. Hall was sentenced to three years jail in 2016 on defamation charges in a separate case related to migrant workers from Myanmar. Mr. Hall left Thailand last November, stating he did not feel safe to stay in the country.—GNLM ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Hong Kong Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie Lam in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Hong Kong Chief Executive

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Hong Kong Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie Lam and party yesterday morning at Presidential Palace diplomatic hall. During the meeting education, health, trade, travel and tour, investment, status of ethnic

nationals and peace process in Myanmar were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Than Myint, U Kyaw Win and U Ohn Maung and Deputy Minister U Kyaw Tin and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Mr Michael Martin, Specialist in Asian Affairs, Congressional Research Service, the United States of America in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor holds talks with US Specialist in Asian Affairs

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Michael Martin,

Specialist in Asian Affairs, Congressional Research Service of the United States of America, at the Ministry yesterday.

During the meeting, they

cordially discussed matters relating to promoting cooperation between Myanmar and the United States.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Democracy Film Festival kicks off nationwide

Opening ceremonies for the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival that included a ribbon cutting were held yesterday at the Thamada Cinema in Yangon with Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Region, U Myo Myint Maung, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information and Bogalay Tint Aung, patron of the Myanmar Film Association in attendance.

Dr. Pe Myint, in his opening remarks, stressed the significance of the event.

“Today being World Democracy Day, the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival convenes for one week. As Myanmar is making concerted efforts to build up a democratic nation, we would like our people to keep democratic spirits in their minds, so an arrangement had been made with the help of artists to produce a film which can spread the democratic spirit among the people, in consultation with reliable artists. September 15 is World Democracy Day, and September 21 World Peace Day.



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivers an opening speech at the ceremony for the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival at the Thamada Cinema in Yangon on 15 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

Being UN-designated days, starting from September 15, the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival has been arranged for one week. Five films will be screened at 47 cinema houses across the nation.”

“On September 18 and 19, a variety concert consisting of film stars, vocalists and entertainers will perform at the National Theater. On September 20 and 21, 8 Anyeint troupes will contest for a championship,” Dr. Pe

Myint said.

U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Region, Sithu Bogalay Tint Aung, patron of Myanmar Film Association, U Lu Min, chairman of Myanmar Film Association and U Zaw Min, managing director of Mingalar Company also made speeches.

The Union Minister and party watched trailers of the five films.

“Glittering With Gold in the Sunlight”, designed for teaching

world; “Thara Saw Hti”, “The Great Myanmar”, “The Day with Blue-Sky” and “Demo Yat-kwet (Ward) and ”.

The party then departed for JCGV (Junction City), where the Union Minister, Chief Minister, U Myint Htwe, Director-General of MRTV, U Lu Min, Myanmar Film Association chairman and Mr. Ryu Seong Soo, CEO of JCGV, opened the ceremony by cutting a ribbon.

“Films, music and perform-

ing arts are generally enjoyed by most people. Performance artists will survive for ever, in some form.

At this opening ceremony, I would like to express my thanks to the cast and the makers of the films. We value their capabilities.

Simultaneously, we want to express our acknowledgement to the entrepreneurs who systematically developed the industry.”

U Phyo Min Thein, artist Soe Moe, patron of the Myanmar Film Association and Daw Sandar Htun, CEO of JCGV, then gave words of thanks.

In the afternoon, Dr Pe Myint, U Phyo Min Thein, Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, Yangon Region Minister for Kayin ethnic affairs, U Myo Myint Maung, Permanent Secretary and responsible person from Nawaday Cinema House opened the ceremony held at the Nawaday Cinema.

At 47 cinemas across the nation, including Yangon, five movies will be screened five times per day.

On September 20 and 21, eight Anyeint troupes will compete for a championship.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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

Fire engulfs wooden houses in Dagon Myothit (North) Township



People look at the outbreak of fire in Dagon Myothit (North), Yangon. **PHOTO: IPRD**

A LEVEL-1 fire that broke out in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon East District, on Friday destroyed three wooden houses, according to the township fire services department.

According to an investigation, the fire started in the kitchen of the home of U Thein Myo Min on Airmondra Street in Ward-38 at around 10:50 a.m. on Friday. The blaze then quickly spread to neighbouring houses, destroying approximately more than Ks65.250 million worth of properties.

The investigators say that it took firefighters 20 minutes to put out the fire with the use of 10 fire engines.

Action is being taken against U Thein Myo Min for his negligence under Section 285 of the Penal Code.—Township IPRD ■

Motor vehicle and third-party insurance compensation paid

Myanma Insurance, which is under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, is offering 48 types of insurance. They are paying compensation in a timely manner to the people who buy the insurance policies. Currently, Myanma Insurance paid compensation amounting to Ks249.1million for 197 vehicles from 1st April to 31 August 2017. A ceremony to pay compensation for the comprehensive

motor vehicle insurance and third-party insurance was held on 14 September. The ceremony was held in the Vehicle Supervision Committee Meeting Hall in Chanayetharsan Township, Mandalay Region. At the ceremony, Myanma Insurance Managing Director Dr. Sandar Oo delivered an opening speech, then paid compensations for the comprehensive motor vehicle insurance and

third-party insurance amounting to Ks47.04 million to U Hla Moe Aung, the owner of Man-Shwe Pyi cargo transportation, Ks20 million to U Tun Min Aung, the owner of Hercules Logistics Co, Ks40 million to Daw Thapay Ya from Arkartha Vehicles Association and Ks1 million each to 11 families of those who were killed in traffic accidents. — Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Students with impaired eyesight need stipend

STUDENTS over 18 with impaired eyesight face difficulties by not receiving stipends that could be used for helping increase their learning, officials said. There are a total of 38 students with impaired eyesight from Khawe Chan School for the Blind in Mayangon township in Yangon Region, said U Thein Lwin, the chairman of the administrative committee at Yangon school for the Blind (Khawe Chan).

"The Department of Social Welfare has provided stipends for blind children for the academic year. But this year, they were not allowed to submit a proposal for children above the age of 18. This means they will not support those children," he added.

Khawe Chan School for the Blind is ranked third by the Department of Social Welfare. The department has already supported Ks8.6 million for 113 students who are under 18 years old in Khawe Chan School. But 38 students who are above 18 do not receive the stipend.— 200 ■

Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No. 3 to be constructed next year

TO PROVIDE better transportation and resolve traffic problems in the commercial hub of Yangon, city authorities plan to build a new bridge connecting Yangon and Thanlyin across the Bago River in fiscal year 2018-2019, according to a report of the Myawady Daily's Thursday edition.

The existing Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No.1 on the river has been proving inadequate to handle the increasing bridge users and related traffic.

The span is also getting old and is thus not appropriate for heavy trucks, officials said.

For this reason, the Road Department under the Ministry of Construction decided to implement a new Yangon-Thanlyin bridge project with a Ks323.205 million loan from the Japanese government.

The site along the river to build the new bridge is about 125 metres from the existing

bridge. Upon completion of the project, a new four-lane bridge will be 1,928 metres long and 24 metres wide, but it will not include a railway like the existing bridge, which is more than 20 years old and has only two lanes.

The project would contribute toward improved transport infrastructure, supporting both local and foreign businesses from the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon South District. — GNLM ■

FDI hits US\$3 billion in hotel and tourism sector

Foreign direct investment (FDI) reached US\$3 billion in the hotel and tourism sector as of August this fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

There are currently 71 hotel projects in Myanmar, both FDI and joint ventures. The hotel and tourism sector is ranked sixth in FDI with 4.06 per cent, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has permitted FDI of over \$22.41 billion in 154 projects in the oil and gas sector, over US\$20.71 billion in 14 projects in the electric power sector, over US\$8.94 billion in 801 projects in the manufacturing sector, over US\$8.57 billion in 52 projects in the transportation sector and over US\$4.64 billion in 47 real estate projects in the construction sector. The MIC has



Tourists take the photo at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.
PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

started to enforce the Myanmar Investment Law for facilitation of local and foreign investors. Among the foreign investors, Singapore-based companies are

most numerous, with Chinese companies in second place. Hong Kong occupies third place followed by Thailand and Japan, according to the MIC.—Zwe ■

Trade with South Asian countries hit over \$753 million this FY

TRADE between Myanmar and South Asian countries amounted to more than US\$753 million in the current fiscal year, comprising about \$430 million from exports and over \$323 million from imports, according to the latest report of the Ministry of Commerce.

From April to July of this year, India, one of largest neighbouring countries of Myanmar, has ranked first on the list of top trading partners in South Asian countries, followed by Pakistan,

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

In the first four months of this FY, trade with India exceeded \$640 million, including \$623 million through sea routes and \$22.796 million from the borders. Myanmar exported \$372 million worth of goods to India, while its imports from the neighbouring country was \$274 million.

Bilateral trade with Pakistan totalled \$66.903 million, while trade with Sri Lanka was only over \$11 million in total.

The value of Myanmar-Bangladesh trade amounted to over \$29 million this FY. The majority of trade with the neighbouring country was conducted through shipping.

Trade between Myanmar and South Asian nations was \$1.487 billion in the 2011-2012 FY, \$1.396 billion in FY2012-13, \$1.744 billion in FY2013-14, \$1.412 billion in FY2014-15, \$1.792 billion in FY2015-16 and \$2.091 billion in FY2016-17.—Khine Khant ■

Price of betel leaves likely to increase during Thidingyut Festival

THE PRICE of betel products is estimated to increase in the domestic market during Thidingyut, the traditional lighting festival, due to a decline in the inflow of betel leaves into Yangon market, said Khin Maung Htwe, a wholesaler at Yangon's Thirimingala Market.

According to a report of the Myawady Daily, the price of be-

tel leaves usually increases at the time when producers in the countryside stop harvesting the leaves within the days around the full moon of next month, he added.

The prices of betel leaves dropped from Ks4,000 to Ks2,000 per viss (3.6 pounds) at Thirimingala Market last month. At the present time,

the price rose from Ks3,000 to Ks6,500 per viss in the market. The betel leaf prices reached a record high of Ks12,000 per viss in June owing to flooding in betel growing areas.

Currently, the Thirimingala Market sells betel leaf sent from Kyaunggon, Nyaungdon and Pantanaw townships in Ayeyawady Region.—GNLM ■

Sawdust to be exported

The Myanmar Plastic Industries Association is planning to export sawdust in the form of plastic pellets, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"We are planning to submit a proposal to receive permission to export the sawdust legally. If we receive permission, we will start to export. We just need to get the recommendations from authorities that the sawdust is not a forestry product," said U

Tun, the chairman of Myanmar Plastic Industries Association.

We have planned to export the plastic pellets made of sawdust to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and China, he added.

The plastic pellets made of sawdust weighing 100 tons will be exported. If we have permission to export them legally, we can earn the revenue from abroad.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SUNDAY SPECIAL

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungdaw Tsp

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြည်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသိမ်မြို့နယ်၊ ခရိုင်လမ်းမ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀ ၆၀၄၄၇၂၊ ၀၉၅၄၄၄၄၄၄၄၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ခွေ ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၀ ၂၁၂၁၁၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၄၄၄

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၇၃၁၂

ကချင်ပြည်
မြို့သစ် (၃ - ၈) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းဆွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကချင်တိုင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၇၂၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြောက်ဧရာ
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရောင်ရမ်းကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြောက်ဧရာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

ဝင်္က
ရခိုင်တပ်မတော်နှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးဆက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဝင်္ကမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာတိုင်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့ အဝေးရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

မြတ်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ မြတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

ပုသိမ်
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်မတော်အနီး၊ ပုသိမ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၃၂၆၅၃၃

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Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye separately receives ambassadors from Japan and India

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye separately received the Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Tateshi Higuchi on 14 September and the Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri yesterday.

In the meeting, the Ambassador of Japan said Japan had provided poverty reduction and development aid for Rakhine State and humanitarian assistances directly to Myanmar or via international organisations. Japan strongly condemns the terrorist acts in Maungdaw region on 25 August causing loss of lives and injuries to people. Most important is to regain complete security and they recognize the departmental organisations' efforts toward this. It is expected that everything will be conducted according with the law. Japan would like to provide reconstruction and redevelopment assistances and assist in implementing the recommendations of Rakhine State Advisory Com-

mission said the ambassador.

The Union Minister said after the incumbent government took office a central committee led by the State Counsellor and four other related work committees were formed to implement stability and development of Rakhine State while the Union Minister himself took the duty of Chariman of the work committee for resettlement and socio economic development in the region. To resolve the long running Rakhine State affair, the Rakhine State Advisory Commission was formed and after the terrorist attack on 9 October 2016, the Maungdaw Region Investigation Commission was formed. On the morning of 25 August, the day after Rakhine State Advisory Commission submitted its final report, 30 police posts came under terrorist attack. The majority of those affected by the attacks were ethnic nationals who were the minority (in the region). Clearance operations conducted were according to international

norms and practices. It is important to fence the border. The minority ethnic nationals dare not live on in their towns and villages and were temporarily sheltering in Sittway and other big towns. Before the incidents of 25 August, ethnic Mro nationals were killed on 3 August. Due to this event, the government delivered two-months ration to those villages. After the attack of 25 August, road and river transports were inconvenient and the Union Minister himself went to the terrorism affected villages by a civilian helicopter to meet with the villagers and start providing necessary assistance. Arrangements were made with Red Cross Movement to provide humanitarian assistance to all affected civilians. A committee was formed to implement the advice related to Rakhine state and ground situation will be carefully assessed and practically effective measures will be carried and first. What is right will be done and the implemen-

tation will be transparent, said the Union Minister.

In the meeting with the ambassador of India, the ambassador said India is a close friend of Myanmar and was the first nation to condemn the terrorist attacks in Maungdaw region as soon as it occurs. With regards to this event, (India) stands together with Myanmar government and will continue to do so. India understands that there are three subjects in the Maungdaw event. First is security. (India) fully understands that Myanmar had the right to defend itself in security matter. Second is humanitarian assistance. In this, (India) would like to assist what Myanmar government is doing. He would like to know in what way the assistance should be directed. Third is long term development. For long term development of Rakhine State, (India) would like to cooperate by signing a bilateral memorandum of understanding.

There were cooperation in the past for Rakhine State in-

frastructure development and development of Chin State and Sagaing Region said the ambassador.

Next, on behalf of the Myanmar government the Union Minister thanks (India) for standing as a good friend with Myanmar on the Maungdaw events during the India Prime Minister's goodwill visit. With regards to humanitarian assistance Myanmar government is providing this without discrimination. International assistance were also accepted and received and will cooperate with India too. Government had formed a committee to implement suggestions on Rakhine State and had started the implementation works. Based on the ground situation, suggestions will be implemented accordingly for long term benefit. Security, humanitarian assistance and long term development will be conducted in cooperation with related ministries said the Union Minister.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Viet Nam National Day and ceremony commemorating Viet Nam-Myanmar bilateral cooperation held



Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong greets Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi at the ceremony of Viet Nam National Day and to commemorate Viet Nam-Myanmar bilateral cooperation. **PHOTO: MNA**

A ceremony to mark the 72nd Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and to commemorate Viet Nam – Myanmar bilateral cooperation was held at Melia Hotel, Yangon yesterday evening which was opened with the national anthem of Myanmar and Viet Nam.

H.E. Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar and Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivered opening speeches. Myanmar-Viet Nam traditional

dance troupes then performed traditional dances.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and wife Daw San San Yu, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and wife Daw Khaing Nwe Oo, Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Army), Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and invited guests attended the event.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General meets Tatmadaw officers attending Law Diploma Officer Course

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Tatmadaw officers attending Law Diploma Officer Course in Yangyiaung Hall, Tatmadaw Command School, Pyin Oo Lwin cantonment yesterday morning.

In his speech to the course attendees, the Senior General said there is drawing up a law, enacting a law and doing according to the law. In doing according to the law, Tatmadaw personnel need to do according to the military conduct, regulation and law and follow

the Geneva Convention. In the constitution, there is a check and balance between administrative, legislative and judicial sectors.

All need to know and understand the reason for enacting the law, following the law and doing according to the law and ensure your subordinate also understand and follow the law. With regards to the events in Rakhine region, from 25 August, there were 93 engagements with ARSA extremist terrorists. This is a prearranged terrorist act and was conducted with an

aim to establish a secure area for them in Buthidaung-Maungdaw region. Participation of all local ethnic nationals in the redevelopment of Rakhine region is required. We all need to assist in this as well as providing security for the locals said the Senior General.

The course was attended by 21 colonel and major general level Tatmadaw officers. It is a six month course and after succeeded completion of the course, the Diploma in Law will be conferred.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Decision (Order) on 2017 by-election electoral complaint case number 2017/5

UNION Election Commission (UEC) accepted a 2017 by-election electoral complaint case number 2017/5 filed by State Hluttaw Representative Candidate U San Shwe (Union Solidarity and Development Party) who contested in 2017 by-election Shan State Nyaungshwe Township

Constituency 1 complained against the elected State Hluttaw Representative U Khin Maung Win (National League for Democracy) in accordance with State Hluttaw Election Law Section 67, 68.

UEC Tribunal 1 made up of UEC member U Soe Rae as Chairman with U Khin

Maung Than and U Than Win as members heard the case and gave a decision (order) confirming the election of U Khin Maung Win as State Hluttaw Representative of Shan State Nyaungshwe Township Constituency 1 and rejected the complaint of U San Shwe.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Illegal immigrant arrested in Maungtaw

SECURITY forces arrested a illegal immigrant in Maungtaw yesterday and handed over him to a local police for further interrogation.

The suspect is identified as Nur Hussein, son of Abdu Dawdein of Sharpawtat Village, Chittagong, Bangladesh, in a farm near a destroyed Duchi-atan (middle) village.

Information committee stated that action will be taken against him in accordance with the law. —Myanmar News Agency ■

H.E. Daw Ei Ei Khin Aye Presents Credentials to President of Indonesia

Daw Ei Ei Khin Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Indonesia, presented her Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia on 12 September 2017, in Jakarta.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Secure resettlement and development for local nationals discussed

HLUTTAW representatives, businesspersons, representatives from political parties and experts held talks in Sittway yesterday over secure resettlement and development of displaced people in Maungtaw.

In the meeting, matters relating to providing mental and physical security of displaced local ethnic nationals from Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships and support for socio development and sovereignty of the land were discussed. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Fire destroys about 30 houses in Nyaungchaung Village, Maungtaw

A fire yesterday evening in Nyaungchaung Village, Maungtaw Township destroys about 30 houses, according to local authorities.

The fire was put under control in more than one and half hour by firemen and volunteers.

“As soon as we heard of the fire, we went immediately with relevant security forces and fire brigade personnel. Transport connection with Nyaungchaung Village was not good and the fire engine

could not enter the village. We use pumps to draw water from nearby wells in order to extinguish the fire difficultly” said U Ye Htut, Maungtaw Township Commissioner.

About 30 houses were destroyed by the fire. Investigation is under way about the fire incident. Nyaungchaung village is a village where Bengalis lived but while the fire burns, security forces check the un-burnt houses and found no one inside.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Firefighters extinguish the fire in Maungtaw, Rakhine. PHOTO: MNA

Utensils for displaced local ethnics in Maungtaw

By Tin Maung Lwin and Min Htat Aung

The department of Maungtaw District Relief and Resettlement provided 98 sets of utensils for families, each containing 9 items, to local displaced persons who were temporarily sheltering at Aloetawpyae

monastery and Sasana Beikman in Maungtaw, yesterday morning.

Similarly on 12 September, 135 sets of utensils for families which contained 10 items each were provided to 135 households who were sheltering in 3 miles monastery and Sasana Beikman.

According to records made by Maungtaw District General Administrative Department, as of 13 September, there are a total of 6421 persons, 3336 women and 3085 men from 1310 households were sheltering at 21 rescue camps including monasteries in Maungtaw. ■

Food aid for displaced persons and ethnic nationals

Displaced persons from Maungtaw, Yathedaung and Buthidaung Townships were provided with aid and uten-

sils by Red Cross Movement (RCM) and from 26 August to 14 September.

A total of 19,092 persons

were provided with 302 rice bags, 2,986 cans of canned fish, 128 mosquito nets, 403 blankets and utensils.—MNA ■



Red Cross members provide aid and utensils to displaced persons from Maungtaw, Yathedaung and Buthidaung Townships. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar community in UK holds peaceful demonstration outside Foreign Office

FROM PAGE-1

“Most western news media portray the Myanmar issue as if the Myanmar government has neglected those issues. But in reality, there have been attacks on Myanmar government forces by the ARSA extremist terrorist group, who is trained by IS,” said a protestor, referring to the Islamic State terrorist group.

The protestors also said they opposed campaigners, lobbyists and the media for turning what they see as a migration issue into a refugee and religious crisis.

The Myanmar government has said it has been working on the issue as a top priority and have formed a dedicated committee to implement Dr Kofi Annan’s recommendations. Kofi Annan chaired a Rakhine Commission that submitted its recommendations last month.

The protestors also sent a letter to Mr. Johnson, urging him to maintain existing support to the Myanmar government and increase the support to areas where it’s needed.

In the letter, they pointed out that the opinion of the Foreign Secretary does not represent a fair view of the Rakhine issue and diminishes the Arakanese people who have suffered equally in the same environment, the demonstrators said.—GNLM ■

Our Union based on unity

By Khin Maung Oo

National races—Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Myanmar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and many other national ethnic people had collectively settled down in Myanmar, our country, for several thousand years. The community consisting of national races and ethnic people is called Myanmar as a whole. In the same way, the whole region in which all these national races and ethnic groups are collectively living is called “The Union of Myanmar.”

In fact, since time immemorial prior to the emergence of the words, “Union” and “Nation” in the field of our everyday expressions, we—our national races and ethnic groups settled down here. Only if our social lives, cultural characteristics and historical

background of that community have been thoroughly known, will Our Union, Our Nation be able to survive till thousands of years to come, with our valued national spirit unharmed.

Now is the time of great importance for the Union affairs, Union Peace and security of the Union. Especially, due to the results of former colonization and lack of regional security in later time throughout the history the country had passed, Union affairs and the affairs of the nationals became the most important matter for the country. At the present time, destructive elements are trying to put it on the front burner placing this issue prominently before the international community, creating a big problem to harm the Union and its sovereignty.

Based on the breach of Myanmar’s western gate and feebleness in nationalism, attacks of destructive elements inside and outside the country have been found to become greater and greater. In these attempts which are designed to destroy peace, stability and national security, some countries have provided advice as well as political and moral support.

It can be implemented to strengthen and repair the breach of security in bordering areas and to rehabilitate national affairs in the short term, but we will find it difficult to uplift and revitalize our nationalistic spirit, as if trying to repair the hole in the ozone layer. It will take us much time to do so. At the time when the State is making its concerted efforts for breach of security not to occur, the whole populace

as well must try its best to revitalize nationalism.

Myanmar affairs were based on its historical background, so we must try to study and understand our historical background. As said by our Myanmar historians that a person without historical knowledge is totally naïve, being easily deceived, we are required to delve into our histories so that we can ascertain that our Union and our Nationals have a long and substantive historical background, which has lasted for thousands of years.

Accordingly, no matter how much effort have been made to harm our national affairs, we can get rid of these potential risks provided that we, the whole populace living in this country, will fight against them, hand in hand in unity. ■

Virtual World, Fake News and Responsible Second Chance

By Zar Chi Nyein

News is the reports or noteworthy information about recent or important events. In the past, newspaper and journal were the only source we could reach out, read it seriously, regarded as trustworthy. As the technology gets advanced, every online user can be a citizen journalist nowadays. They have their own platform where they can update it, copy and share any news they encountered and improve it if they feel like it, regardless of boundary with assistance of advanced tools available online. This has encouraged wider circulation of fake news and mis-information and sow the seeds of dilemma too.

Nowadays the most popular online media in Myanmar is said to be facebook. Everyone is allowed to create a virtual life; share their opinion freely; portray their identity generously; pass on information explicitly. It’s one characteristics of citizen journalism, everyone can be a journalist meaning collecting and dissemination of information and photos of their surrounding handily. The flow of information is as unstoppable as a wild mountain stream.

As one sided news reporting has been deep rooted in our society, media pluralism is still weak, propaganda can not be differentiated from news, all those facts cumulated and produced genuine effects on our people. That impact can be summarised into one word, “low news literacy” to reflect the current situation of our people. Most people rely mainly on social media as their news source. They wait for update information and opinion for current affairs on



social media, constantly checking their newsfeed, not hesitating to click like and share any news from Facebook celebrities and news pages. There are 5 sources identified as the most quickest flow of news and information:

- 1) news pages and blogs
- 2) personal pages and blog of celebrities
- 3) Official facebook pages of the Government bodies
- 4) popular public figures
- 5) Newspaper and Journal pages

Those sources are usually recognized as the most popular places where people look for their information. Moreover, specific individual can become the main source of information based on current issues, for example in a time of natural disaster, many regions were suffered from flood and rumours about destruction of dams had been widely spread online in 2015. One local officer from the Dam project constantly

uploaded update photos of the dam he was working on to console people’s fear. The number of followers to his account immediately reached to tens of thousand in a couple of days. People had been watching his account for update news and that was the start of media platform changes in Myanmar. Facebook has become the most effective media platform to respond emergency situations.

Local people who has access to current affairs take photos and post it on Facebook with a few lines of description. Sometimes, the news is totally fake and sometimes it is right but described from biased perspectives and generated adverse effect. sometimes the news has been reflected partially which opens more different interpretations. In a time like this, news literacy level of the audience has portrayed the consequences. As the news has been reported by untrained citizen journalist who has no or limited knowledge of media ethics, facts

and opinion in his news open to mis-interpretation, and then low news literacy rate, and free to share button fanned the flame within a minute.

If the comments are to be made based on the history of Myanmar from the time when internet is widely available for public and social media has become the most popular platform, Myanmar people are soft, kind-hearted, sensitive and EMOTIONAL. Anger and sympathy are different faces of a coin. The more sympathized on one side, blaming on another side was escalated, led to hatred and sometimes they even wanted to justify the situation.

For example, once the photo of middle-aged man sleeping on a bus went viral with a short description of a stalker who harassed a girl on a bus and pretended to be asleep when the girl complained. The photo was widely shared on facebook with angry comments. Later the true story was revealed, that guy was a normal citizen who fell asleep on the bus without committing any wrong deed. He and his family was humiliated and dare not go out of their house for weeks. His reputation was hurt but no remedy for such grievance was paid off. After a week, the case was forgotten in virtual world but still affected in reality. That case can be assumed as defamation and the person who created such a harmful story was a citizen who was keen on attaining many followers and wants to be Facebook celebrity. This kind of incident was usually created by people who wants fame (15 minutes of fame as we named it).

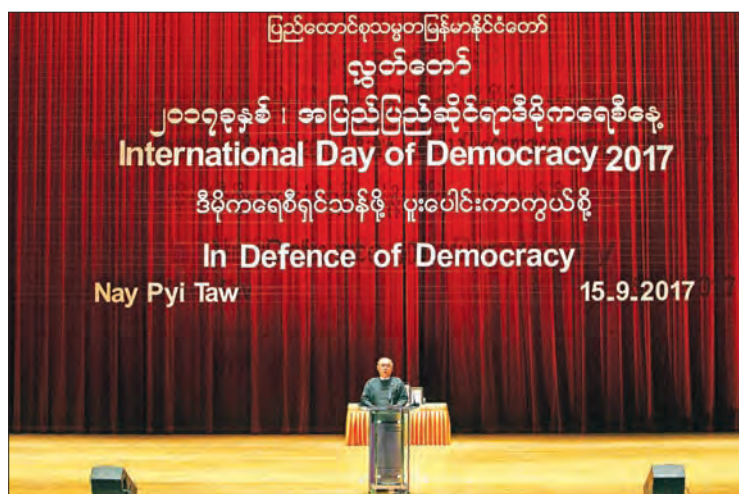
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Hluttaw celebrates International Day of Democracy 2017

A ceremony for the International Day of Democracy 2017 was held yesterday at the Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

Mahn Win Khaing Than, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and of Amyotha Hluttaw said, “Our country is exercising a multi-party democratic system, controlling the sovereignty of the State—legislative power, executive power and judiciary powers under the principle of checks and balances among the President, Congress and the Supreme Court. Our Hluttaw has to exercise the legislative power, so it can be said to be a major panel of the reform. With the strengthening capacities of Hluttaws, the democratic system will become firm, so Hluttaw representatives are required to constantly try their best to upgrade their capacities. Only if the legislative Hluttaw will become strong, will democracy become strengthened. In doing so as well people play a major role. People-oriented democratic system which complies with our country and the actual situations must be exercised. Especially, by transforming differences into driving forces, we can overcome distrust, doubts and disagreements with the strength of unity.”

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw added, “Hluttaw representatives must present questions and motions concerning needs and difficulties of the people in your regions, at Hluttaw, trying yourselves to assimilate people’s desires to their lives, so that the Union Government can implement tasks for regional development with changing times, for the socio-economic development of the people. Then, with the momentum of multi-development in the economy, health and education sectors, our people will be



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than addresses at the ceremony of International Day of Democracy 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

able to march happily on towards the democratic way.

For security for the people’s lives, for no one to be above the law, for every individual to acquire equal rights and for rules and laws to comply with the democratic system, it is incumbent upon our Hluttaws to compile and promulgate laws in accordance with the current situations, concerning amendment, cancellation of the laws. We must strive ourselves to implement promulgate laws that will bring about peace, rule of law and national reconciliation.”

Afterward, Dr May Win Myint, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee for Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings, read out the message sent by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for International Democracy Day with the message sent by the UN Secretary General read out by Ms. Renata Nicola Lok—Dessalien, the UNDP representative.

Following that, paper reading programmes continued to be held. In these paper-reading sessions, Papers on Student Youths, Civic Societies, Kachin State Democracy Party, Kokant Democracy and Unity Party, Na-

tional Unity Party, Wa Democratic Party, Tatmadaw representatives, Lisu National Development Party, Zomi Democratic League, Paoh National Organization (PNO), Ta’ang (Palaung) National Party, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, Union Solidarity and Development Party and National League for Democracy were read by representatives.

U Win Myint, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, then delivered a speech highlighting the aspects of the International Day of Democracy.

U Win Myint said he is thankful for the opportunity to deliver a speech at the ceremony in accord with the motto of “Unity for Democracy to survive”. “Our national martyr, the architect of freedom and father of the Tatmadaw, General Aung San, had spoken of democracy before,” said U Win Myint.

He then quoted General Aung San saying, “Democracy is in tandem with freedom. Only this system promotes peace, which is why we must aim for it.”

U Win Myint continued his speech saying that the democracy in the country right now is the achievement of the heroes

and martyrs of the past. He said that democracy encompasses fairness, freedom and equality, which are part of the laws of nature. Democracy aims for the development and welfare of the people of the country and also for union peace, said U Win Myint.

“Democracy gives equal opportunities in business and legal rights to people based on their skill and contributions,” he continued, and then quoted the German philosopher Immanuel Kant, saying “Democratic countries do not war with each other,” and “If all the world’s countries were democratic, then we would have an era of peace.”

The Speaker then said that since 1988, the public, including the monks and students, have struggled for attaining democracy and the country has just taken its first steps towards it. Since it is still in its infancy, the country has to deal with the shifting political climate in the country, so if we want our democracy to survive then we must respect the law and follow the rules and regulations laid out for us, said the Speaker.

He said that democracy includes compromises and negotiations between the diverse people. He said we need to promote the development of private organisations and the media sector as well, saying that the media is an important institution of democracy.

The Speaker then said that in a democracy, the government is the foundational organisation that works alongside the political parties, private and public sectors and the media. He then said, “There is one thing we must be careful of and that is the semblance of democracy that those who aim for dictatorship use as a disguise to further their goals. There are those who will use

whatever means necessary to secure power instead of securing the trust of the people through lawful and fair means.” He ended his speech by saying that the people need to unite to get rid of the dangers to democracy.

Afterwards, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw conferred flower garlands and cash prizes to the participants of the entertainment programme from the Department of Fine Arts.

The ceremony concluded with a viewing of “Naychi Mhar Shwe Yi Laung”, one of the movies that will be shown at the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival in accord with the 2017 International Day of Democracy.

This year’s motto for International Day of Democracy is “In Defence of Democracy”.

Present at the ceremony were U Htun Htun Oo, Chief Justice of the Union, U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal, U Hla Thein, Chairman of Union Election Commission, U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, Union Ministers, Union Auditor General, Governor of Myanmar Central Bank, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Hluttaw Speakers of Regions and States, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw Affairs Committee Chairmen, departmental heads, representatives from political parties, diplomats, World Parliamentary Association, Inter-Parliamentary Union, representatives UN Organizations, prize-winner students and invited guests.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Virtual World, ...

FROM PAGE-8

And it is effective indeed by generating thousands of followers within a few days.

The current statistic indicates that there are 15 millions facebook users in Myanmar and 70% of them are from rural areas who believe everything on internet is true. It is important for those people to have access to true and reliable information in timely manner. Additionally, those people should be taught news literacy skill. Thereafter, I’d like to provide a few suggestions on how to verify the news online in a short period and how to respond it. If you find an unusual

news (yes, many news are unusual but it is always right to have doubt);

1) how many reliable news pages have reported this news?

2) Do you know there are many fake news pages online? (Reliable news pages have blue mark next to their logo (it doesn’t mean the news is always true but it presents some credibility as blue marked medias are more likely to follow media ethics and have their in-house regulations to respect). How many blue marked news media pages have covered the news?

3) Read the comments. Some users who know the truth likely to share their comments and link of sources in comments.

4) Read the whole paragraph

not just the title and decide whether you should share it or not after you have read it. Don’t believe everything on internet including the post shared by your friends, person you know and trust. Bare in mind that those people may sometimes be naive like you, share the news based on personal ties not on critical thinking.

5) Beware of responsibility and accountability for the post you created, shared and supported rest on your shoulder. You are the source of information for others who trust your judgement and redistributed your idea and belief. Your carelessness may generate further misunderstanding that may have consequences. If you share a fake news or mis-information unintentionally, please

make sure that you share the rightful information to turn the wrong into right. There is no one who has not done wrong in his/her life. There are only people who deny their wrongful deeds and insist on it to protect their ego. But it is not a question for a good citizen who adhere the truth to undo their mis-deed. Please prove that you are a good citizen, a person of truth, the one who are trustworthy by correcting your mistakes.

A virtual world allow us to create a life of our desire and to delete a life that failed to meet our expectation. It is our opportunity to create a beautiful life full of responsibility and accountability, a second chance may be. Be cautious not to harm our perfect virtual lives by our clumsy clicks.■

North Korea fires another missile over Japan, deepening regional tensions

SEOUL/TOKYO — North Korea fired a missile that flew over Japan's northern Hokkaido far out into the Pacific Ocean on Friday, South Korean and Japanese officials said, deepening tensions after Pyongyang's recent test of its most powerful nuclear bomb.

The missile flew over Japan and landed in the Pacific about 2,000 km (1,240 miles) east of Hokkaido, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

Warning announcements about the missile blared around 7 am (2200 GMT Thursday) in parts of northern Japan, while many residents received alerts on their mobile phones or saw warnings on TV telling them to seek refuge.

US Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis said the launch "put millions of Japanese into duck and cover", although residents in northern Japan appeared calm and went about their business as normal after the second such launch in less than a month.

The missile reached an altitude of about 770 km (480 miles) and flew for about 19 minutes over a distance of about 3,700 km (2,300 miles), according to South Korea's military — far enough to reach the US Pacific territory of Guam.

The US military said soon after the launch it had detected a single intermediate range ballistic missile but the missile did not pose a threat to North America or



A man watches a television broadcasting a news report on North Korea firing a missile that flew over Japan's northern Hokkaido far out into the Pacific Ocean, in Seoul, South Korea, on 15 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the US Pacific territory of Guam, which lies 3,400 km (2,110 miles) from North Korea. Pyongyang had previously threatened to launch missiles towards Guam.

"The range of this test was significant since North Korea demonstrated that it could reach Guam with this missile," the Union of Concerned Scientists said in a statement.

However, it said the accuracy of the missile, still at an early stage of development, was low so it would be difficult to destroy the US Andersen Air Force Base on Guam. US officials repeated Washington's "ironclad" com-

mitments to the defence of its allies. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called for "new measures" against North Korea and said the "continued provocations only deepen North Korea's diplomatic and economic isolation".

South Korean President Moon Jae-in echoed that view and said dialogue with the North was impossible at this point. He ordered officials to analyse and prepare for possible new North Korean threats, including electro-magnetic pulse and biochemical attacks, a spokesman said.

The United Nations Security Council was to meet at 3 p.m.

EDT (1900 GMT) on Friday at the request of the United States and Japan, diplomats said, just days after the 15-member council unanimously stepped up sanctions against North Korea over its 3 September nuclear test.

Those sanctions imposed a ban on North Korea's textile exports and capping imports of crude oil.

"The international community needs to come together and send a clear message to North Korea that it is threatening world peace with its actions," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters in Tokyo, describing

the launch as "unacceptable".

North Korea has launched dozens of missiles under young leader Kim Jong Un as it accelerates a weapons programme designed to give it the ability to target the United States with a powerful, nuclear-tipped missile. Two tests in July were for long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching at least parts of the US mainland.

"This rocket has meaning in that North Korea is pushing towards technological completion of its missiles and that North Korea may be feeling some pressure that they need to show the international community something," said Yang Uk, a senior research fellow at the Korea Defence and Security Forum.

Last month, North Korea fired an intermediate range missile from a similar area near the capital Pyongyang that also flew over Hokkaido into the ocean and said more would follow.

"The first time was unexpected, but I think people are getting used to this as the new normal," said Andrew Kaz, who teaches English in Kushiro City in Hokkaido. "The most it seemed to disrupt was my coffee."

South Korea said it had fired a missile test into the sea to coincide with North Korea's launch and the presidential Blue House has called an urgent National Security Council meeting. Japan also convened a National Security Council meeting.—Reuters ■

South Korea, US agree on strong, resolute measures over North Korea

SEOUL — South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson agreed Friday to take "strong and resolute measures" in response to North Korea's latest launch of a ballistic missile that flew over Japan in the morning, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said.

During their "in-depth discussion" by telephone, the two top diplomats agreed to take "strong and resolute measures" through the faithful implementation of UN Security Council resolutions to make North Korea halt its provocative acts and take the

path of denuclearization.

They also agreed that their two countries would maintain thorough readiness in the face of North Korea's military threats, based on the alliance between Seoul and Washington.

Tillerson for his part reaffirmed the US commitment to the defence of South Korea and Japan.

Meanwhile, Kim Hong Kyun, South Korea's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, spoke separately by phone on Friday with Kenji Kanasugi, director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian

and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and with Joseph Yun, US special representative for North Korea policy, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said.

The top nuclear envoys strongly condemned the North's missile launch and agreed to make strong responses to the North's provocative behavior, based on close cooperation among South Korea, the United States and Japan, it said.

The three officials are their respective countries' head delegates to the long-stalled six-party talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programme.—Kyodo News ■

China opposes DPRK's missile launch: FM spokesperson

BEIJING — China on Friday said it opposes ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) against UN Security Council resolutions.

The DPRK reportedly fired a missile over Japan's northern island Hokkaido and into the Pacific Ocean on Friday.

"China opposes DPRK ballistic missile launches against

the UN Security Council resolutions," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

"Currently the situation on the Korean Peninsula is complex, sensitive and serious. All parties concerned should exercise restraint and avoid any acts that may escalate tensions," Hua said.—Xinhua ■

Brazil's Temer faces new graft charges over JBS testimony

BRASILIA — Brazilian President Michel Temer was charged with obstruction of justice and racketeering on Thursday, according to a statement posted on the prosecutor general's office website, threatening to delay the government's economic reform agenda in Congress. It is the second set of criminal charges filed against the president based on the plea-bargain testimony of the owners of the world's largest meatpacker, JBS SA.

They accused Temer of taking bribes in return for political favors and of conspiring to buy the silence of a witness who could implicate the leader.

In a statement on Thursday, Temer strongly rejected all allegations of wrongdoing.

Temer's earlier corruption charge, that he took bribes from JBS officials, was blocked in August by Temer's allies in the lower house of Congress, which has the power to decide whether a president should stand trial by

the Supreme Court.

Despite the lower house's move to block the charges, they remain valid and can be pursued by prosecutors once Temer leaves office. His term ends on 1 January, 2019.

Brazil's top public prosecutor Rodrigo Janot has also filed charges against Joesley Batista, the billionaire former chairman of JBS who implicated Temer. Batista was arrested on Sunday for concealing other crimes in his plea bargain deal.

Batista's lawyer Antonio Carlos Kakay rejected the charges brought by Janot, arguing in a statement that the prosecutor had violated the rules of plea bargains by using his client's testimony to incriminate him. On Wednesday, Batista's brother Wesley, the chief executive officer of JBS SA, was also arrested for alleged insider trading to avoid hefty losses related to the May plea deal.—Reuters ■

Lack of clear UK stance making Brexit talks tough -French PM

BERLIN — French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said during a visit to Berlin on Friday that Britain had still not clearly defined its positions on Brexit and that this was making negotiations with the EU-27 more difficult.

Answering questions from an audience in Berlin after a speech on the French government's reform drive, Philippe rejected a suggestion that other European countries were being "tough" on Britain and said it bore blame for difficulties in the talks.

"Our aim is not to be tough with the British. What is true is that these are difficult negotiations," Philippe said.

"And they are difficult, they have been made difficult, because the initial positions of British diplomats still need to be clearly defined to a certain extent," he added, before heading to the chancellery for a meeting with Germany's Angela Merkel.

Nearly three months into talks on the terms of Britain's departure from the European



French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe leaves the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, following the weekly cabinet meeting, on 6 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Union, the two sides have made little progress on the issues that Brussels wants resolved before talks on a future trading relationship begin. These include expatriate citizens' rights, the Irish border and the bill that London should pay its EU partners to settle existing financial commitments. Philippe said he regretted Britain's decision to leave the EU

and, coming from Normandy, felt like he was among cousins when he travelled to the United Kingdom. But he said it was important for the EU-27 and its lead negotiator, Frenchman Michel Barnier, to ensure that the interests of citizens on the continent were protected. For that, the bloc had to stick to its sequencing plan.—Reuters ■

Latin American nations seek Venezuela crisis mediation

SANTO DOMINGO/CARACAS — Various Latin American nations will join an attempt to mediate Venezuela's political crisis in new talks later this month, the president of the Dominican Republic said on Thursday.

Danilo Medina hosted high-level delegations from Venezuela's feuding government and opposition for two days in the latest foreign-led effort to ease a standoff alarming the world.

"We advanced definition of an agenda on Venezuela's big problems. A commission of friendly countries was agreed," the Dominican leader told reporters, saying Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, Nicaragua would join the process with others to be announced.

The next talks would be held on 27 September, again in the Dominican capital Santo Domingo, he added.

Mexico and Chile have been bitterly critical of President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government over rights and democracy issues, while fellow leftist-led Bolivia and Nicaragua are staunch allies.

Venezuelan's government



The Chancellor of the Dominican Republic Miguel Vargas (L), the President of Dominican Republic Danilo Medina (C) and Former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero (R) talk to the media, after participating in a meeting to resume brokered talks between Venezuelan government's and the opposition in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 13 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

is eager to ease foreign censure of and its delegates came out of Thursday's talks smiling.

"A dialogue of peace is being installed so that Venezuela can resolve its affairs among Venezuelans," senior Socialist

Party official Jorge Rodriguez told reporters.

Earlier, opposition leaders, who faced a backlash from supporters after failed talks with Maduro last year, insisted they had only travelled to push long-stand-

ing demands, including a presidential election and the release of jailed activists.

Decrying Maduro as a "dictator" who has wrecked the OPEC member's once-prosperous economy, Venezuelan oppo-

sition leaders led street protests earlier this year seeking his removal that led to the deaths of at least 125 people.

Maduro says they were seeking a coup with US connivance.

Though both sides met the Dominican president this week, it was unclear if they had also sat down and talked together.

In a statement after Thursday's meetings, the opposition Democratic Unity coalition said it had accepted an invitation by Medina and the United Nations to an "exploratory meeting" in the hope of advancing Maduro's exit by constitutional means.

"Only through democratic and non-violent change will it be possible to overcome the current social and economic tragedy afflicting all Venezuelans," it said.

The coalition said six countries would be acting as guarantors, and any final accord must include a date for a presidential vote, reform of the national electoral board, release of political prisoners, and emergency humanitarian aid. Any agreement should go to a referendum, it added. — Reuters ■

Improvised 'terrorist' bomb on packed London commuter train injures 22

LONDON — A home-made bomb on a packed rush-hour commuter train in London engulfed a carriage in flames and injured 22 people on Friday in what police said was Britain's fifth terrorism incident this year, but apparently failed to fully explode.

Passengers on board a train heading into the capital fled in panic as the fire erupted at Parsons Green underground station in West London at 8.20 am (0720 GMT).

Some suffered burns while others were injured in a stampede to escape. The National Health Service said 22 people had been taken to London hospitals, most believed to be suffering flash burns. None were thought to be in a serious condition, the ambulance service said.

"We now assess that this was a detonation of an improvised explosive device," Britain's top counter-terrorism officer Mark Rowley told reporters.

Police said officers were



An injured woman reacts outside Parsons Green tube station in London, Britain, on 15 September 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

making urgent inquiries involving hundreds of detectives backed by the intelligence services to find out who was responsible.

Rowley declined to say if the suspected bomber had been on the train, saying it was a live investigation.

Pictures taken at the scene showed a slightly-charred white bucket with a supermarket freezer bag on the floor of one train

carriage. The bucket, still intact, was in flames and there appeared to be wires coming out of the top.

"I was on second carriage from the back. I just heard a kind of whoosh. I looked up and saw the whole carriage engulfed in flames making its way towards me," Ola Fayankinnu, who was on the train, told Reuters.

"There were phones, hats, bags all over the place and when I looked back I saw a bag with flames," Charlie Craven said he had just got on the train when the device exploded.

"Literally within three seconds of putting your bag down, the doors just closing, we hear a loud explosion," he told Reuters. "I looked around and saw this massive fireball ... coming down the carriage."

He said terrified passengers fled, fearing a second explosion or a gunman, with people being knocked to the ground and crushed in the stampede to escape.—Reuters ■

No. of Japanese centenarians hits record 67,824 amid medical advances

TOKYO — Japan's centenarian population increased by 2,132 from a year earlier to a record 67,824 in September, boosted by medical advances and greater health consciousness, the welfare ministry said Friday.

The figure rose for the 47th consecutive year, with women accounting for 87.9 per cent of the total, according to the population estimate for 15 September, based on resident registry data as of 1 September, the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry said.

The number of male centenarians was 8,197, up 30 from the previous year while females reached 59,627, up 2,102. By the end of current fiscal year through March, up to 32,097 more people could reach 100, up 350 from a year earlier.

Nabi Tajima, 117, born in August 1900, is Japan's oldest woman, hailing from the town of Kikai, Kagoshima Prefecture in southwestern Japan. The oldest man is Masazo Nonaka, 112, born in July 1905, a resident of Ashoro, in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

Following the death of a 113-year-old man in Israel who had been recognized by Guinness World Records as the



Sumie Tsuna (R) receives a grip strength tester from health worker Chiharu Yoshida during a medical check for those aged 100 or older in the city of Kyotango in Kyoto Prefecture on 25 October 2016. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

world's oldest man, Nonaka could become the next record holder.

The biggest number of centenarians lived in Tokyo at 5,835, followed by Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo at 3,737 and Osaka at 3,559, according to the ministry.

The ratio of centenarians in the overall population was 53.43 per 100,000. Shimane Prefecture in western Japan on the Sea of Japan coast had the highest ratio

for the fifth straight year at 97.54, followed by neighboring Tottori at 92.11 and Kochi in the main island of Shikoku at 91.26.

Saitama Prefecture near Tokyo logged the lowest ratio at 32.09, followed by Aichi in central Japan at 35.01 and Chiba, also near the capital, at 37.83.

The regional gap is believed to be due to the continued inflow of people into big cities, boosting the ratio of elderly in certain areas.—Kyodo News ■

China green car pivot will need state support, GM chief says

SHANGHAI — China's big push towards new-energy vehicles (NEV) will require government backing to win over consumers, Mary Barra, chief executive of General Motors Co, said on Friday, amid broader industry concerns over tough NEV quotas in the market.

China, the world's largest auto market, is pushing hard to develop its own green car market, with stringent quotas planned for carmakers and a longer-term aim to ban the production and sale of cars that use traditional fuels.

Carmakers, however, worry that targets for electric and hybrid cars may be tough to meet, especially as the government plans to roll back by 2020 subsidies that have supported the market's rapid growth.

"While we are exploring all channels to boost NEV sales, building raw consumer acceptance of NEVs will depend on continued joint effort between the government and automakers," Barra said at a company event in Shanghai.

She added that China's push

did create an opportunity for the US firm, which plans to introduce at least 10 new NEVs for the China market by 2020 and open a battery plant this year with domestic partner SAIC Motor Corp Ltd.

Asked about China's long-term plans to ban traditional gasoline cars — similar to moves in Britain and France — Barra said the shift was pushing GM to invest more in the area: "That's why we're investing so heavy in electrification."

China has set goals for electric and plug-in hybrid cars to make up at least a fifth of auto sales by 2025, as it combats air pollution and aims to close a competitive gap between newer domestic automakers and global rivals.

In July, Reuters reported global makers were urging China to delay and soften planned quotas for NEVs, which they said would be impossible to meet and would hit their business. Barra added the firm would work to "the timetable of governments", but consumers also needed to be convinced.—Reuters ■



The spacecraft Cassini is pictured above Saturn's northern hemisphere prior to making one of its Grand Finale dives in this NASA handout illustration obtained by Reuters 29 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Fiery farewell to cap Cassini spacecraft's 13-year Saturn mission

WASHINGTON — US space agency NASA's Cassini spacecraft will end its groundbreaking 13-year mission to Saturn on Friday with a meteor-like plunge into the ringed planet's atmosphere, transmitting data until the final fiery moment.

Cassini, the first spacecraft to orbit Saturn, is expected to lose contact with Earth at 7:55 a.m. EDT (1155 GMT) shortly after it enters the gas giant's crushing at-

mosphere at about 70,000 miles per hour (113,000 km per hour), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said.

Cassini's final transmissions are expected to include unprecedented data from the atmosphere's upper fringe about 1,190 miles (1,915 km) above Saturn's cloud tops. The data will take 86 minutes to reach NASA antennas in Canberra, Australia.

"Not only do we have an environment that just is overwhelming with an abundance of scientific mysteries and puzzles, but we've had a spacecraft that's been able to exploit it," Earl Maize, Cassini project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, said at a briefing on Wednesday.

Cassini's final dive will end a mission that gave scientists a ringside seat to the sixth planet

from the Sun. The craft's discoveries included seasonal changes on Saturn, a hexagon-shaped pattern on the north pole and the moon Titan's resemblance to a primordial Earth.

Cassini also found a global ocean on the moon Enceladus, with ice plumes spouting from its surface.

Enceladus has become a promising lead in the search for places where life could exist outside Earth.—Reuters ■

US, Asian shares dip after North Korean missile launch

TOKYO — US and European stock futures and Asian shares dipped slightly on Friday after North Korea fired another missile over Japan on Friday, demonstrating Pyongyang's defiance against intensifying UN sanctions.

US stock futures ESc1 fell as much as 0.3 per cent earlier but last stood down just 0.1 per cent while MS-CI's Asia-Pacific share index excluding Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS shed 0.1 per cent, though it was still up 0.7 per cent on the week.

Japan's Nikkei .N225 erased earlier gains to end 0.5 per cent higher.

European stock futures dipped slightly, with Euro Stoxx 50 futures STX-Ec1 down 0.15 per cent.

North Korea fired a missile that flew over Japan's northern island of Hokkaido far out into the Pacific Ocean, travel-

ling about 3,700 km (2,300 miles), far enough to reach the US Pacific territory of Guam.

The launch took place just days after the UN Security Council approved new sanctions against Pyongyang for its 3 September nuclear test, but markets are growing accustomed to North Korea's sabre-rattling.

"There have been reports suggesting North Korea is preparing a missile launch, so this was by no means a surprise," said Hirokazu Kabeya, chief global strategist at Daiwa Securities. "Also, in the past, markets have stabilised within a few days after a North Korean missile launch. So in a way this seems like something markets have already experienced before, thus producing a limited reaction," he added.—Reuters ■

Typhoon tears across Viet Nam, skirting key coffee region

HA TINH, (Viet Nam) — Typhoon Doksuri tore a destructive path across central Viet Nam on Friday, flooding hundreds of thousands of homes, whipping off roofs and knocking out power in the country's most powerful storm in years.

One man was killed when he slipped as he was trying to shore up his restaurant, media said. Another drowned in heavy rain that preceded the arrival of the storm on Thursday.

Nearly 80,000 people had been evacuated from Viet Nam's densely populated coastal strip in preparation for Doksuri. Winds exceeded 130 km (80 miles) per hour, according to Viet Nam's meteorological agency. "It looks terrible, worse than war time," said



Palm trees are seen while the Doksuri storm hits in Ha Tinh province, Viet Nam, on 15 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Tran Thi Hong, principal of the Ky Xuan kindergarten in Ha Tinh province, which lost its entire roof in the storm. "I could just cry, it took us so long to build this school," she said.

Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces bore the brunt of the storm and power cuts were widespread af-

ter the wind brought down electricity poles along with trees and billboards.

In Quang Binh, some 200,000 houses had been flooded or submerged, 5,000 had lost their roofs and 20 had collapsed, Le Minh Ngan, the vice chairman of the local People's Committee, told state tele-

vision. Four fishing boats sank as they were making their way back to land, state radio said. Many fishermen had dragged their small wooden boats into the streets of coastal towns to try to stop them from being carried away.

Around 40 flights were canceled between the capital, Hanoi, in northern Viet Nam and Ho Chi Minh City, the commercial hub in the south.

The eye of the storm skirted Viet Nam's most important coffee growing areas and the rains it brought were largely seen as beneficial to the trees, coffee traders said. Rice farmers had rushed to gather in what they could before Doksuri struck.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 GLODEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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

Queens, nerds, and feel-good families vie for Emmy crown

LOS ANGELES — A British queen, a group of nerdy kids, a defiant handmaiden and a heart-tugging trio of siblings vie for the top prize on Sunday when the Primetime Emmy Awards will crown the best in a booming era of television.

The television industry, already disrupted by streaming platforms Netflix Inc and Amazon.com Inc, is on edge.

A drama series Emmy for Netflix's supernatural mystery "Stranger Things" or its royal series "The Crown," or Hulu's terrifying "The Handmaid's Tale," would mark the biggest breakthrough in the television industry so far for a streaming service.

Holding out hope for traditional broadcasters is Comcast-owned NBC's emotional family drama "This Is Us," which would be the first drama series from one of the four main US broadcasters to take home the Emmy since thriller "24" in 2006.

"It's like the last gasp of broadcasting in the top Emmy race," said veteran awards watcher Tom O'Neil, founder of gold-derby.com.

"This Is Us" also has acting nods for stars Sterling K. Brown,

Chrissy Metz and Milo Ventimiglia.

Elisabeth Moss looks a sure bet for playing a woman forced into sexual servitude in "The Handmaid's Tale," which would mark the first big award for Hulu, a joint venture between Time Warner Inc, Walt Disney Co, Fox and Comcast Corp.

HBO's two-time Emmy champ "Game of Thrones" is out of the running this year because of a later broadcast date for its seventh

season.

Sunday's ceremony in Los Angeles is also likely to feature a slew of familiar faces on the winner's podium as A-list stars flock to the creative freedom offered by streaming and cable television.

Robert De Niro is competing for his first Emmy for his role as disgraced financier Bernard Madoff in HBO's "The Wizard of Lies." Nicole Kidman's battered wife in HBO's "Big Little Lies" is seen as leading the field in the limited series category that features three other Oscar winners: Reese Witherspoon (also for "Big Little Lies"), and "Feud" stars Susan Sarandon and Jessica Lange.

"This is the battle of the Oscar queens," said O'Neil.

Several records are up for grabs on Sunday. Julia Louis-Dreyfus looks headed for a sixth win as a self-absorbed presidential loser in HBO's "Veep," which is also favourite to win best comedy series for a third year. At 13 years old, Millie Bobby Brown, the breakout supporting star of the young cast of "Stranger Things," could become the youngest person to win a Primetime Emmy for acting.

—Reuters ■



PHOTO: REUTERS

Selena Gomez gets kidney transplant to treat lupus

LOS ANGELES — Selena Gomez said on Thursday that she has had a kidney transplant to treat the lupus that has derailed her life for more than three years.

In an Instagram posting, the 25-year-old singer showed a photo of herself in the hospital lying next to her best friend, actress Francia Raisa, who she said made the "ultimate gift" of donating her kidney.

The "Good For You" singer explained in the post that she had been lying low this summer because "I found out I needed to get a kidney transplant due to my Lupus and was recovering. It was what I needed to do for my overall health."

The singer, who has the biggest following on Instagram with 126 million followers, also posted images of a post-operative scar on her lower abdomen.

Gomez, who came to fame in Disney Channel's "Wizards of Waverly Place" and dated singer Justin Bieber for several years, revealed in 2015

that she had been diagnosed with the auto-immune disease lupus and undergone chemotherapy to treat it.

The announcement followed two career breaks and a canceled tour. In 2016 she again canceled part of her tour, saying she was suffering from anxiety and panic attacks caused by lupus.

The cause of lupus is not clear and symptoms can include swollen joints, fatigue, rashes and fever.

"Lupus continues to be very misunderstood but progress is being made," Gomez said in Thursday's Instagram post.

She thanked Raisa, best known for TV series "The Secret Life of the American Teenager," for donating the kidney.

"There aren't words to describe how I can possibly thank my beautiful friend," she said. "She gave me the ultimate gift and sacrifice by donating her kidney to me. I am incredibly blessed. I love you so much sis." —Reuters ■

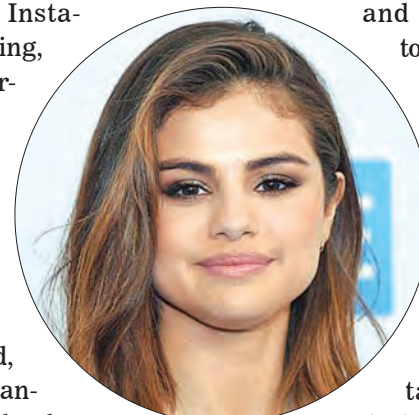


PHOTO: REUTERS

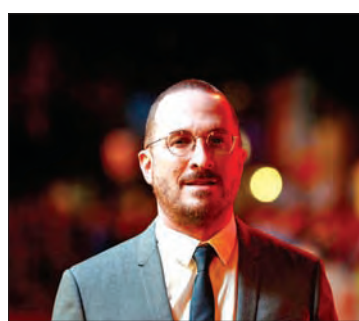
Darren Aronofsky on 'mother!': 'We want to shake audiences'

NEW YORK — Darren Aronofsky does not just want audiences to watch his new film "mother!". He wants to shake them up and leave them thinking about his genre-defying, surreal apocalyptic thriller.

"It's very much a scary film. It's very much a film that we want to shake audiences," Aronofsky told Reuters.

"This is definitely a film that we want people to be talking about and giggling about and analyzing and thinking about for times to come," he added.

Aronofsky, 48, mined the depths and descent of the human psyche in films such as "Requiem for a Dream" and "Black Swan."



Director Darren Aronofsky. PHOTO: REUTERS

With "mother!", released in US theaters on Friday, Aronofsky channels his fury with the state of the world into an allegorical story that reflects mankind's selfish relationship with nature, gender, politics and religion.

The film centers on Jennif-

er Lawrence, a beautiful, naive young woman newly married to an older writer (Javier Bardem) suffering from writer's block, and the two settle down into the writer's secluded home.

As Lawrence's character, an embodiment of Mother Nature, slowly renovates the property, two strangers, played by Michelle Pfeiffer and Ed Harris, turn up at their doorstep and kick off a series of events that blur the lines of reality and escalate into chaos.

"I was interested in the home invasion genre - the kind of feeling of people coming into your home that won't leave," the director said. —Reuters ■

Carrie Fisher's annotated 'Empire Strikes Back' script up for auction

LOS ANGELES — Carrie Fisher's hand-annotated script for her "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back" movie is expected to fetch up to \$50,000 at an auction next month of her personal property.

California auctioneers Profiles in History said on Thursday that the 158-page shooting script is marked and underlined in pencil by Fisher for every page with dialogue for her character Princess Leia. The three-day auction in Los Angeles, starting 7 October, will also include bound presentation scripts signed by movie director George Lucas for the 1977 first

"Star Wars" movie, and sequels "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi."

Those three are expected to fetch \$20-\$30,000 each.

"To Carrie May the force be with you. George," reads the inscription on the "Empire Strikes Back" script.

Fisher, 60, died suddenly in December 2016 after suffering a heart attack on a flight to Los Angeles just as she was enjoying a career revival with the re-invigorated "Star Wars" movie franchise that reunited her with Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." —Reuters ■

Film Festival in honour of Democracy Day kicks off nationwide

The Myanmar Democracy Film Festival was launched yesterday on the International Democracy Day, showing five films at 47 cinemas nationwide,

The festival is scheduled from 15 to 21 September.

People can enjoy the films free of charge on 15th September. The festival is held in honour of the International Democracy Day and is designed for developing spirits and habits of the democratic society in youths.—GNLM ■



Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Daw Le Le Maw formally opens the film festival in Dawei.



Officials gather at Shwe Pyi Taw Cinema in Patheingyi to attend the opening of the Democracy Film Festival.



Aungthabyay Cinema in Nay Pyi Taw is crowded with people on first day of the film festival.



Dignitaries formally open the Democracy Film Festival in Myawady.



Officials open the Democracy Film Festival in Taunggyi.



People enjoy the films on the first day of the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival which will be held through 21 September. The festival is scheduled from 15 to 21 September.

Myanmar misses final in penalty shootout at AFF U-18 semifinal

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar lost the chance to advance to the finals of the AFF Championship after they missed two opportunities at the penalty shootout in the second semi-final match played yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium.

As it was in the semi-final, the score at the end of regulation was 0-0, with both teams putting up a highly entertaining match in front of more than 20,000 enthusiastic fans.

It was decided that the penalty shootout would decide the winner of the match without playing overtime.

Myanmar played well yesterday, but luck did not seem to be on their side. Myanmar got several chances at goals throughout the match but could not convert.

In the first half, the two evenly matched teams battled to a scoreless draw, although Myanmar ended the half with a string of attempts.

Although Myanmar's star Paye Sone Naing got several great chances, none of them resulted in goals.

Just before the end of the first half, a stinging freekick from Myat Kaung Khant was rebuffed by Malaysian goal keeper Muhammad Azmi Abdil Ghani.

In the second half, Myanmar



Myanmar and Malaysia footballers are struggling to head-off the ball at yesterday's semifinal match at Thuwunna Stadium. **PHOTO: MFF**

forced more than they did in the first half. A stinging shot on goal by Myanmar's Win Naing Tun was blocked, but the effort ruffled Malaysian defenders Aung Wunna Soe's free kick at the end was also saved by the Malaysia keeper, ensuring the 0-0 result at

the end of regulation time.

In the penalty shootouts, it was Muhammad Azmi again who was the hero when he blocked attempts from Than Htike Zin and Aung Wunna Soe to give Malaysia a 5-4 win.

Myanmar players tried val-

iantly for the win in order to give the Myanmar people a reason to celebrate, but could not do it last night.

The win for Malaysia was not only due to the goalkeeper who saved two penalty shots, but also to the other players on the

team who fought hard.

Malaysia will take on Thailand in the final of the AFF Under-18 Championship. Thailand also won over Indonesia in a penalty shootout that resulted in the final score of 3-2 in the other semifinal match. ■

UEFA charges Arsenal and Cologne over crowd problems

LONDON — Premier League club Arsenal blamed the selling of tickets by touts for the crowd problems at their Europa League game against German side FC Cologne as UEFA began disciplinary proceedings on Friday.

Cologne and Arsenal have been charged with various offences at the match which was delayed by an hour after large numbers of German fans descended on the Emirates Stadium, the majority of them without tickets.

Many bought tickets for areas of the stadium occupied by Arsenal supporters, causing segregation issues, although there were only isolated incidents of trouble once the game started.

Arsenal said they had worked with the Metropolitan Po-

lice and UEFA in deciding whether the game, which the English team won 3-1, went ahead.

"Following last night's match we would like to stress that fan safety was always our paramount concern and informed all decisions made," Arsenal said in a statement.

"The 3,000 tickets issued to Cologne fans was in line with competition rules but it is clear many more visiting fans arrived, causing significant congestion and disturbance outside the stadium before kickoff.

"Many tickets were sold through touts and this is very disappointing," the club added.

"We worked in full consultation with police and UEFA officials on the night and in advance of the game and had taken extensive steps in advance



FC Cologne fans celebrate their first goal by letting off flares at Emirates Stadium, London, Britain, on 14 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

to prevent tickets being sold to visiting supporters."

UEFA said Cologne had been charged with crowd disturbances, the setting off of fireworks, throwing objects and acts of damage to the stadium.

Arsenal were charged with

a breach of safety and security regulations because of a blocked stairway in the away end, European soccer's ruling body said in a statement.

Arsenal have launched a full review into the circumstances surrounding the game.

They denied claims that some Cologne fans had acquired tickets by joining Arsenal's membership scheme.

"No red memberships purchased after the draw were able to be used to get tickets in the home end for this match," Arsenal said. "We also worked with our colleagues at Cologne to stop supporters travelling without match tickets."

Bundesliga club Cologne were playing in Europe for the first time for 25 years and an estimated 20,000 of their fans marched through the streets of London earlier in the day.

Police said five people had been arrested, all on suspicion of public order offences.

UEFA's Ethics and Disciplinary Body will deal with the case on Thursday.—Reuters ■