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Vice President U Myint Swe receives Chinese Communist Party delegation



Vice President U Myint Swe, center, takes a documentary photo with Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the CPC Politburo, and his delegation, union ministers and deputy minister in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

VICE President U Myint Swe received a delegation led by Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat

and Head of the CPC Propaganda Department, at Shwe San Eain Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, talks were centred on the promotion of bilateral friendly relations

and cooperation between the two countries, assistance being rendered to the internal peace processes of Myanmar and the cooperation in the media, cultural and tourism sectors between Myanmar

and China.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Inter-

national Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun.

After the meeting, a dinner party was hosted for the delegation at Shwe San Eain Hotel. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing honours outstanding soldiers, youths

A ceremony to honour soldiers, children of the Tatmadaw families and war veteran families who passed the matriculation examination for 2017-2018 academic year with flying colours and all-round outstanding youths was held at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, afternoon, with an address delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

At the prize presentation ceremony, the Senior General presented prizes and certificates of honour to officers-in-charge from basic education high schools and Tatmadaw Education Schools under the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare—No 2 Basic Education High School (Mingaladon) Aung San Thuriya Hla Thaung School which stood first in the best pass rate of matriculation examination in 2017-2018 academic year, Basic Education High School (Shwenattaung), second and No 18 Basic Education High School (Mandalay), third,— and school heads from No 2 Tatmadaw Education School (Meiktila) which stood first in the best pass rate of matriculation examination, No 11 Tatmadaw Education School (Monywa) and No 3 Tatmadaw Education School (Aungpan) respectively.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the audience at a ceremony honouring soldiers and children of Tatmadaw families who passed the 2017-2018 matriculation examination held in Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Hla and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe presented prizes and certificates of honour to six-distinction winners in the matriculation examination, the first-prize winner in the State level essay contest to mark the 72nd UN Day, the second-prize winner in the 20th State level essay and poster contest to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the second-prize winner in the central level article, essay, poem and poster contest in commemoration of the World Teachers' Day 2017 and the bronze-award winner in Singapore and Asia Schools Math Olympiads 2018.

Union Minister for Home Af-

fairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and wife, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win and wife and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung and wife presented prizes and certificates of honour to 15 five-distinction winners. Then officials presented prizes and certificates of honour to five-distinction winners, four-distinction winners, three-distinction winners, two-distinction winners and one-distinction winners.

Gold medals, awards and certificates of honour were presented to three Tatmadaw basic education high schools and three Tatmadaw education schools which recorded highest pass rate in 2017-18 academic year, and 32 soldiers which won one and two distinctions, 50 six-distinction winners, 119 five-distinction winners, 156 four-distinction win-

ners, who are children of active and retired service personnel, and civilian staff appointed in place of military personnel; 34 national-level all-round outstanding students, four who won awards in state-level article and essay contests; and 84 children of active and retired service personnel, who won scholarships in higher education vocational universities, totaling 479. And with cash contributions from donors, Ks-60,000 was presented each for 1,138 one-distinction winners and 305 two-distinction winners, totaling 1,443, as well as gold medals for 221 three-distinction winners from families of active and retired service personnel who could not attend the ceremony.

Prize-presentation to distinction-winning matriculated

students of Tatmadaw families has been held since 2011-2012, and this is the seventh time. Gold medals and cash awards were awarded to 273 six-distinction winners, 555 five-distinction winners, 913 four-distinction winners, 1,064 three-distinction winners, 1,356 two-distinction winners and 4,710 one-distinction winners. As of 2014-15 academic year, scholarships for higher education vocational universities were awarded, and 72 were awarded in 2014, 86 in 2015, 82 in 2016, and 81 in 2017, and 84 this year, totalling 405 are provided with monthly stipends. Foreign trips have been arranged for outstanding soldiers and all-round outstanding youths since 2013, and foreign trips will also be arranged this year.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Scout delegates visit fellow scout associations in other countries

THE Myanmar Scout Association has sent delegations led by Chief Commissioner Dr. Tin Nyo and other representatives to the Philippines, Thailand, and South Korea in order to promote bilateral relations between scout associations, exchange experiences and practices, and to increase cooperation in scout operations.

The Asia-Pacific Scout Region held the APR-Workshop on Diversity and Inclusion in Manila, Philippines, from 22 to 27 June. Chief Commissioner Dr. Tin Nyo, Chief Scout U Min Htin and scout association representatives from 27 countries attended the workshop.

Dr. Tin Nyo and U Min Htin discussed how the Myanmar Scout Association recruits new members without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, social status, or gender. Attendants also met with scouts, rover scouts, and scoutmasters who rose to their positions from a state of homelessness after persevering for 10 years.

Dr. Tin Nyo also attended the 107th National Scout Day in Thailand on 1 July alongside Thailand's Princess, the Asia-Pacific Scout Region, officials from Thailand's Scout Association, ethnic representative

scout groups such as the Cub Scouts and Senior Scouts.

Dr. Tin Nyo met with Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Education, and scoutmasters from other countries. They discussed that a major reason the scout association in Thailand is well developed is because the Chief Scout of Thailand has always been its king. They also discussed adopting the Thai system of enrolling middle school students in the scout association. Thailand has 900,000 registered scouts and over a hundred years of scout experience.

Thai's Deputy Prime Min-



Myanmar Scout Association Chief Commissioner Dr. Tin Nyo seen with scout representatives from other countries at the 107th National Scout Day held in Thailand on 1 July. **PHOTO: MYANMAR SCOUT ASSOCIATION**

ister discussed sending scoutmasters to Myanmar to assist in opening Cub Scout programmes in Myanmar.

Elsewhere, Phyo Thura Win, Youth Coordinator of Myanmar Scout Association, attended the APR Seminar on Disaster Management held in Buan, Republic of Korea, from 22 to 24 June.

He engaged in discussions with 35 scout representatives from member countries in the Asia-Pacific Region to promote relations and cooperate in scout operations.

They also inspected the site for hosting the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in South Korea.—Myanmar News Agency ■

The meaning of independence

Independence does not mean an undisciplined way of life. Independence strictly dictates that we live a disciplined life. Independence can survive only with discipline. After we achieve independence, the people need to observe discipline more strictly.

(Excerpt from Bogoyoke Aung San's speech broadcast on radio on 5 April 1947)



Chinese Communist Party delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda



Mr. Huang Kunming offers a donation to the Shwedagon Pagoda, which is accepted by Board of Trustees member U Win Ti. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat and Head of the CPC Propaganda Department, and delegation visited Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon yesterday morning.

After paying obeisance to the Shwedagon, the Chinese guests

signed the visitors' book.

They then offered flowers, water, and lights to the images of Buddha, and donated cash for the pagoda through the Pagoda Board of Trustees, who presented them with a certificate of honour.

Later, the Chinese delegation paid homage to the Jade Buddha image and Sacred Buddha's Tooth Relic and later went



Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), center, and his delegation tour the Shwedagon Pagoda. **PHOTO: MNA**

around the photo exhibition hall. They paid their respects to the pagoda clockwise and visited the religious buildings on the pagoda premises.

Following this, Mr. Huang Kunming and delegation met with officials at the Shwethanlwin Media head office.

At the meeting, Chairman of Shwethanlwin Company U Kyaw

Win presented a report on the company's cooperation with the Chinese media and the Ministry of Information. Mr. Huang Kunming stressed the need to extend cooperation with China. The delegation then looked around the studio.

At the Myanmar International Radio, the delegation met with officials and studied the broad-

casting programmes.

In the afternoon, they went shopping at the Bogoyoke Aung San market. The guests flew from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw in the evening where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. —Myanmar News Agency ■



U Thiha Saw, Chairman of election committee, addresses attendants at the press meet on electing new members for the Myanmar Press Council, held in Summit Park View Hotel in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Media Council to elect new members in August

MYANMAR Press Council will elect members for the second term in August, according to a press meet held at Summit Park View Hotel in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

As the three-year term of the Myanmar Press Council ends in November under the Media Law, the council scheduled an election three months ahead of the expiry of the term.

Election committee secretary U Myo Ko Myo said, "Nor-

mally, we can elect 15 to 30 persons to the council. Under the law and rules, we can elect up to 30 members—22 from among media groups, individuals, writers and poets, and the other five from among technicians, including legal experts, and one each proposed by the President, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw."

Candidates to the council can download copies of the ap-

plication forms from the website of the council or from the Mm. presscouncil page.

They can submit their applications by email at mmpress-council@gmail.com or in person at the council office, not later than 4 pm on 20 July.

If the number of candidates from a specific field exceeds the fixed ratio, the candidates of that particular category can elect the winners.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Myanmar Retailers Association requests rules regulating e-commerce websites

By May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Retailers Association has requested the government to formulate clear rules and policies to regulate the e-commerce sector, said U Myo Min Aung, vice chairperson of the association.

"Multi national e-commerce websites, such as Alibaba, are reliable. But there are illegal trading sites. They lack a traceable background

whenever something goes wrong, and so, we requested a law to tackle this," he said at a recent meeting between Vice President U Myint Swe and the businessmen.

Rules and regulations concerning e-commerce websites should be incorporated into the Consumers Protection Law, he said.

"Some online shopping sites act as delivery services instead of shopping platforms,

by buying products from department stores and large shopping malls. Some imported goods skip the Food and Drug Administration's regulations," said U Myo Min Aung.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said it would take time to develop such a law. In a bid to tackle this problem prior to the legislation, directives and notifications will be issued, he

said.

Additionally, the retailers requested the government to incorporate the facts concerning online products into laws and by-laws on copyright and distributor rights.

Digital marketing online lacks business licences and does not pay taxes.

The government loses revenue from this, and so, it should prioritise this issue, they said. ■

Giant whale found dead on Rakhine beach

A giant whale was found dead on a beach near Kanpauk Village in Kyeintali Town, Rakhine State, on 7 July.

The whale measures around 33 feet in length and 9 ft in circumference, said an official from the Department of Fisheries.

Fishery officials are attempting to extract all the bones from the whale.

Local fishermen worry this could lead to water pollution in the area, according to a source from the Information and Public Relations Department.—MDN ■

Photo shows the gigantic dead whale on the beach. **PHOTO: MDN**

Flood preparedness mock drill conducted in Khamti

THE Department of Disaster Management (DDM) organised a mock drill on flood preparedness in the houses and schools of the low-lying area in Pawmine Ward, Khamti Town, Sagaing Region, yesterday morning.

Floods in Khamti Township mainly occur during the monsoon season. Local people, firefighters, members of the Myanmar Red Cross, policemen, regional lawmakers and departmental officials were actively involved in the drill.

Officials from the DDM provided relief supplies, such as construction materials and food, to the families of Thazi Village, who had to be relocated due to erosion after severe rains struck Khamti Township.—Chan Law/MDN ■

Banning small-scale gold mines increases illegal gold miners

AN increasing number of illegal gold miners have recently been reported in Homalin District, Sagaing Region. This has been attributed to the suspension of permission to small-scale processing units, said U Moe Swe, director of Sagaing Region Department of Mines.

"The temporary banning of small-scale gold mines leads to a rise in the number of illegal gold mines. Therefore, we are making efforts to grant permits to them in accordance with the prescribed rules and

regulations. New gold mining blocks were permitted in Homalin district by the mining department from June 2006. There are only 40 authorised miners left in Homalin district. Previously, small-scale operating permits were designated for 20 acres.

After a by-law of the Mines Law was instituted, 20-acre blocks turned to a medium-scale level. Small-scale operations are set on 4 acres. Inspection tours are being conducted, but illegal miners

escape from the mining blocks, as news about the inspection is often leaked. The machines were seized," said U Moe Swe.

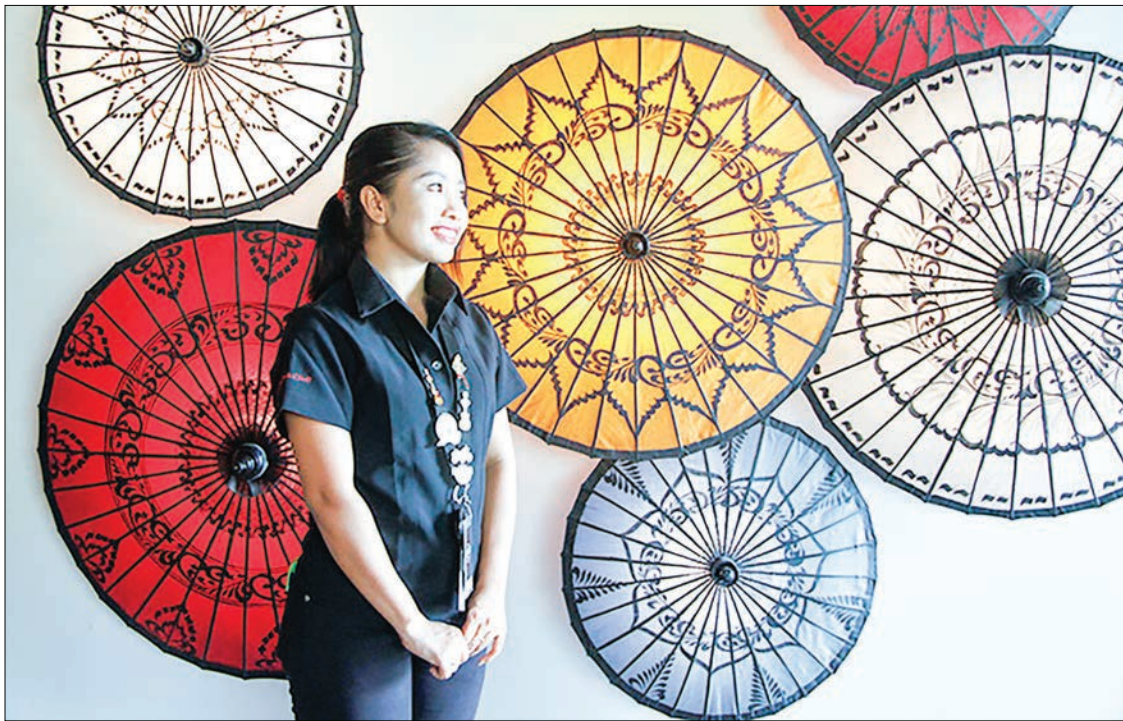
The Sagaing Region small-scale mining operations screening team, which was recently formed, is negotiating with the regional government in order to grant permits to small-scale miners and gold diggers on a manageable scale.

The Sagaing Region government wants to tackle illegal gold mining in Homalin Township and submitted com-

plaints in this regard to the Union government, which then allowed the regional mines department to inspect the illegal gold mines.

There are a number of gold miners in Homalin. Some sell machines for gold mining. The increasing number of complaints with regard to increasing illegal gold mining damages the reputation of the related department and increases the department's accountability. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

Bilateral trade with the Netherlands exceeds \$61 million in two months



Patheingyi umbrellas decorate a cafe in Yangon. The traditional umbrellas are being exported to the Netherlands. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

THE value of trade between Myanmar and the Netherlands reached US\$61.98 million in the first two months of the six-month period (April to September) prior to the 2018-2019 fiscal year, while exports outdid imports in Myanmar's bilateral trade with the Netherlands, according to figures of the commerce ministry.

Exports are worth \$57.25 million, while imports from the Netherlands are valued at \$4.73 million.

Myanmar exports agro products such as oil seeds and vegetable oil and men's and women's shirts, parasols (traditional Patheingyi umbrellas), and fishery products, while dairy products, consumer goods and raw industrial materials are im-

ported from the Netherlands.

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

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

Multinational corporations headquartered in the Netherlands—Shell, Unilever and Philips—are also doing business in Myanmar. —Ko Khant ■

Unstable global situation leads to drop of rubber prices

By May Thet Hnin

RUBBER prices are decreasing following the instability in the global political and economic climate.

The prevailing prices of rubber range from US\$1,550 to \$1,600 per ton for Ribbed Smoke Sheets RSS3 and it fetches Ks750 per pound in the local market.

The economic climate of the European Union member countries, the United States, China and Japan, market equilibrium, global crude oil price, the US exchange rate and political turbulence are contributing factors to the drop in rubber prices.

"Surprisingly this year, the rubber market is abnormal, as rubber prices in the global market are closely connected with crude oil prices. Another reason for the fall in the rubber price is the trade war between the United States and China. In addition, there is a mismatch between supply and demand as supply exceeds consumption by around 350,000 tons," said U Khaing Myint of the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Rubber fetched above

Ks800 per pound this time last year.

Since the end of last year, rubber prices have been gradually declining to the lowest rate of Ks680 per pound in June.

The current market price of rice increased a little following the strengthening of the dollar exchange rate, said U Khaing Myint.

The rubber planters cannot make profits after the fall in price due to input costs, including labour wages, said Daw Lin Lin Tun, rubber farm owner from Hlinebwe Township in Kayah State.

"We cannot get healthy profits with the current market price. That's why we are stockpiling it," said Daw Lin Lin Tun.

China accounts for 70 per cent of Myanmar's rubber exports and the remaining is shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, India, Japan and Germany.

Rubber is primarily planted in Mon, Kayah and Shan states and Tanintharyi, Yangon and Bago regions. There are over 1,627,000 acres of rubber farms, 750,000 of which can produce rubber latex. ■

MACA calls upon government to establish handicrafts centre



A worker creates a traditional floral design for a religious edifice. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

THE Myanmar Arts and Crafts Association (MACA) requested the government to set up a handicrafts centre or construct a handicraft village so that shops and workshops can all be arranged in one place, said U Thardu, chair of the association, at a recent meeting between Vice President U Myint Swe and the businessmen.

Also, MACA requested the government to boost Myanmar's

handicrafts market with an aim to penetrate the European Union and the US markets.

Additionally, the association mentioned that it would also like to meet with the respective region and state governments to report the strengths and weaknesses of Myanmar's arts and crafts.

MACA called upon the government to lift or waive tax imposed on small-scale business-

men, working with less than 10 labourers. As the handicrafts market has been cooling, the burden of taxation has risen. It requested the government to grant a temporary tax exemption or tax waivers before the market recovers.

At present, Myanmar's arts and crafts industry is threatened almost to extinction, as a result of shortage of skilled labourers and lower demand. —GNLM ■

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects regional development operations in Mon State, Taninthayi Region



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung instructs requirements to the officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung travelled to Mon State on 5 July and was welcomed by Mon State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Win Naing Oo.

The union minister inspected the Mon State Development Supervision Office in Mawlamyine and was given a presentation by the Mon State director on the progress of regional development and administration. The union minister gave advice as necessary and then met with staff before inspecting the gunpowder warehouse and staff accommodation.

The union minister then travelled to the Women's Domestic Skills Training School in Mudon Township and inspected the basic domestic course, modern sewing classes, dormitories, and dining hall.

The union minister then inspected the site for low-cost housing being built for teachers from Tadar Oo post primary school and Phar Thein (B.E.H.S-branch school) in Kyaikmaraw Township using funds from the Ministry of Border Affairs' six-month budget period for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

In the evening, the union

minister travelled to the (34/6) milepost on the Mawtikanin-Belamu-Besaing-Kuntheetaw Road in Ye Township and inspected the milepost (2/0) gravel road paved with the Ministry of Border Affairs' budget from the 2017-2018 FY and milepost (1/4) gravel road in the paving process with funds from the ministry's first 6-month budget for the 2018-2019 FY.

On 6 July, the union minister visited the Women's Domestic Skills Training School and the Border Ethnic Youth Development Training School in Ye Town and met with the respective principals and students. He then inspected the basic domestic skills courses, dining hall, and dormitories.

Next, the union minister travelled to Yebyu Township and inspected the (1/4) milepost on the Pautpinkwin-Malwetaung Village gravel road and the (1/4) milepost on the Pharchaung-Taung Yin Inn-Sel Eain Su Village gravel road being paved with funds from the first 6-month budget of the 2018-2019 FY union budget.

In the afternoon, the union minister visited the Border Ethnic Youth Development Training

School in Dawei and met with the principal, instructors and students. He then inspected the basic mechanic course, electrical and soldering course, basic automobile repair course, and basic mobile hardware repair course being taught at the training school.

On 7 July, the union minister travelled to Taninthayi Region and arrived at the Development Supervision Office, where he was given a presentation on regional development operations and administrative progress by the director. He then inspected the under-construction Border Ethnic Youth Development Training School in Dawei with funds from the 6-month budget period for the 2018-2019 FY.

Later, the union minister inspected the asphalt reinforcement at milepost (4/0) along Samhlan Village in Laung Lone Township using funds from the Ministry of Border Affairs' 6-month budget period for the 2018-2019 FY. The union minister then travelled to Samhlan Village's Basic Education Middle School and donated exercise books and school uniforms to the students. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Digital marketing to be set up at JATA Tourism Expo 2018

THE tourism and travel booth to be exhibited at the JATA Tourism Expo 2018 will be promoted through digital marketing, according to a coordination meeting held at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Myanmar Tourism Federation, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar Travels Association Committee, and Myanmar Tourism Marketing public societies, who are in charge of the digital marketing.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Ohn Maung delivered the opening speech. In his speech, he focused on promoting Myanmar to Japanese tourists, how booths exhibited at international travel fairs should convince the world's travelers and that the Best Booth Operation Award was won by My-

anmar at the 33rd Korea World Travel Fair. He also spoke about the need for cooperation between the government and the private sector to promote Myanmar, ease of visa policies so more foreigners would come to Myanmar and more funds for Myanmar's tourism.

Next, Vice Chairman U Maung Maung Swe of the Myanmar Tourism Federation stressed the need for Myanmar's participation in the Japan Tourism Road Show and Myanmar Festival 2018.

Later, Chairperson of Myanmar Tourism Marketing Committee Dr May Myat Mon Win spoke about the agenda and preparation for the JATA Tourism Expo 2018. The meeting concluded with advice about digital marketing.— Myanmar News Agency



Officials discuss at the coordination meeting for tourism held at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Visitors throng Sittway Beach

SITTWAY Beach in the capital of Rakhine State is emerging popular among tourists and locals alike as a place to rest and exercise.

"I am a Yangonite, but now, I am a government staff assigned in Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State. Every weekend, I go to the beach and play football with my friends. We get a lot of fresh air from the sea," said Ko Kaung Myat, a visitor.

Ma Aye Aye Khine who is visiting the beach also said, "People usually take a stroll

along the strand road to get fresh air. The beach is a nice place to exercise. Local and foreign visitors love going to the traditional food stalls at the beach. We must all discard garbage systematically to keep the beach clean and pleasant."

Along the strand road and beach in Sittway Township, thousands of people exercise, walk and run in the mornings. They also play football in the evenings, especially on weekends and public holidays. — Aung Thura/ Han Lin Naing



Sittway Beach. **PHOTO: AUNG THURA**

International Cooperative Day

A Trade Fair, marking the International Cooperative Day 2018, sold goods worth over Ks120 million in four days—5 July until 8 July.

As always, the trade fair

at the Ministry of Agricultural, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw was crowded with visitors yesterday.

Various kinds of commodities, including clothes

and foodstuff manufactured by cooperatives from states and regions, were available at the fair, which continues today.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pompeo brushes off N Korea 'gangster' tag, says sanctions to stay

TOKYO — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday shrugged off North Korean accusations of “gangster-like” behaviour and said sanctions on Pyongyang would only be lifted with “final” denuclearisation.

Speaking in Tokyo after two days of intense discussions in Pyongyang, Pompeo insisted the talks were making progress and were being conducted in “good faith.”

In stark contrast, Pyongyang’s take was overwhelmingly negative, with the North warning that the future of the peace process was being jeopardised by overbearing US demands for its unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Speaking privately, US officials suggested the harshly-worded North Korean reaction was a negotiating tactic. But after two days of theatrical amity in Pyongyang it illustrated the gulf that remains between the two sides.

In Tokyo, Pompeo briefed his Japanese and South Korean counterparts on the talks, and sought to reassure them that the dialogue with North Korea would continue.

His trip to Pyongyang had been aimed at fleshing out denuclearisation commitments made during last month’s historic summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korea has long trum-



Pompeo briefed his Japanese and South Korean counterparts on the talks, and sought to reassure them that the dialogue with North Korea would continue. **PHOTO: AFP**

peted a denuclearisation goal, but one that it sees as a lengthy process of undefined multilateral disarmament on the entire Korean peninsula, rather than a unilateral dismantlement of its nuclear arsenal.

Speaking in Tokyo, Pompeo said his efforts to push the North on disarmament had the backing of the entire international community.

“If those requests were gangster-like, the world is a gangster, because there was a unanimous decision at the UN Security Council about what needs to be achieved,” he said.

While insisting again that the talks were moving forward, he stressed that nothing had

happened to merit a relaxation of the tough sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear missile programme.

“Sanctions will remain in place until final, fully verified denuclearisation, as agreed to by Chairman Kim (Jong Un) occurs,” Pompeo said, adding that the US would seek to smooth the path by providing security guarantees requested by Pyongyang. **‘No-one walked away’**

In practical terms, Pompeo mentioned only that officials from both sides would meet on 12 July to discuss the repatriation of the remains of some US soldiers killed during the 1950-1953 Korean War.

North Korea’s angry reac-

tion to the talks with Pompeo came in a Foreign Ministry statement that berated the Secretary over his “unilateral and gangster-like” demands and for offering no constructive steps on the US side. “It seems the US misunderstood our goodwill and patience,” the statement said.

Pyongyang noted that it had already destroyed a nuclear test site — a concession that Trump has publicly hailed as a victory for peace — and lamented that Pompeo had proved unwilling to match this with US concessions.

It dismissed Trump’s unilateral order to suspend joint US and South Korean war games as a cosmetic and “highly reversible” measure and criticised

US negotiators who “never mentioned” the subject of bringing the 1953 Korean War to a formal end with a peace treaty.

“We thought that the US side would come with a constructive proposal... But this expectation and hope of ours was so naive as to be gullible,” the statement said.

Professor Yang Moo-Jin at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul said Pyongyang’s criticism was aimed at driving a wedge between Trump and his top officials.

“The North is trying to get an upper hand in further negotiations,” Yang said.

And Pompeo was adamant that those further negotiations would go ahead.

“We talked about what the North Koreans are continuing to do and how it’s the case that we can get our arms around achieving what Chairman Kim and President Trump both agreed to,” he said.

“No-one walked away from that.” And he said some progress had been made towards agreeing “the modalities” of North Korea’s destruction of a missile facility. Pompeo, who has now made three visits to Pyongyang, began the outreach when he was still Trump’s CIA director and remained the pointman on negotiations after the process became public and he became secretary of state. —AFP ■

UK police officer given all clear after Novichok test

LONDON — A police officer was tested for possible exposure to the nerve agent Novichok in connection with the poisoning of a couple in southwest England on Saturday but was given the all clear, the local force said.

“Pleased to confirm that the police officer who sought precautionary medical advice at Salisbury District Hospital in connection with the incident in Amesbury has been assessed & given the all-clear,” Wiltshire Police said on Twitter.

A couple named locally as Dawn Sturgess, 44, and Charlie Rowley, 45, fell ill last weekend in the town of Amesbury, following what tests later confirmed was exposure to Novichok.

Amesbury is not far from the city of Salisbury where a former Russian spy, Sergei Skripal, and his daughter were poisoned by the same type of nerve agent in



A police officer stands guard at a cordon near Rollestone Street in Salisbury, southern England. **PHOTO: AFP**

March. The British government accused Russia of trying to kill the Skripals, a charge Moscow angrily denied, sparking an international crisis.

The British couple were exposed to the nerve agent after handling a contaminated item,

police have said. Ministers said this week that a link between the two cases is a main line of inquiry, and has asked Moscow to help provide answers about what has happened.

Several sites in both Amesbury and Salisbury have been

cordoned off by emergency services. Salisbury hospital said it had seen “a number of members of the public who have come to the hospital with health concerns since this incident started and none have required any treatment”.

“We would like to reiterate the advice from Public Health England that the risk to the wider public remains low,” it said. Novichok is a military-grade nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Around 100 counter-terrorism officers are helping in the investigation into the latest poisoning, which police said Friday could “take weeks and months to complete”. So far, there is no evidence that the British couple visited any of the sites involved in the Skripal case. —AFP ■

China to improve legal assistance for migrant workers, disabled

BEIJING — China will provide more legal assistance for migrant workers and the disabled, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Justice. Authorities must make more efforts to promote law awareness to prevent and reduce disputes over migrant workers’ labor rights and interests, the statement said. The ministry said that legal assistance must be accessible to all migrant workers, to ensure that by 2020, no migrant workers will have their wage payment delayed, a major dispute between migrant workers and employers at present. The statement also requires legal assistance personnel to provide door-to-door services to the disabled and offer convenient communication channels through messaging-app WeChat. —Xinhua

Freedom forged with discipline

BOGYOKE Aung San, national leader and architect of independence, spoke much about freedom and rebuilding the nation during his campaign for independence. An important fact he highlighted in these speeches to the public and to politicians is that freedom and reconciliation requires every citizen to be involved.

Myanmar was united against colonialism and fascism, but when independence was just within grasp, the people, especially the politicians, allowed themselves to be divided. It was like picking up dispersed rice grains for Bogoyoke Aung San and his temporary government.

Eventually people split into different factions and a national treason culminated in Bogoyoke Aung San and other national leaders being assassinated.

Whether you are working for your personal benefit or the benefit of your community, you must be cautious so that you do not harm the rights of others or destroy the integrity of the nation.

What Bogoyoke Aung San said when he was alive about the type of dignity and mindset every citizen should have is still relevant to the present day. This foresight he possessed is one of the reasons why people today still hold Bogoyoke Aung San in high regard. Among his speeches, the one he delivered at the Shwedagon Pagoda clearly reflects modern times. Bogoyoke Aung San said at the time that we would have independence within a year but warned us that it can just as quickly be lost if we did not have unity, discipline, the drive to protect our freedom and pre-planning to prevent our freedom from being lost.

In that same address, he said, freedom does not sprout magically out of the ground. He also warned us that there are people who will do nothing but wish for freedom to grow out of a tree-people with a lazy mindset. He added that impeding another's freedom is nothing more than an act of rowdiness. Over in Hinthada, people were drying tobacco leaves on the streets, thinking they were free to do as they please.

Whether you are working for your personal benefit or the benefit of your community, you must be cautious so that you do not harm the rights of others or destroy the integrity of the nation. It has been 70 years since we've gained independence, and we need to reflect upon ourselves whether or not we have the unity and discipline that Bogoyoke Aung San spoke of, as we move forward for the greater good of the country. ■

By Khin Cho Cho Han
(Mann Myay)

WITH tragic, disastrous and gloomy event, Bogoyoke Aung San and seven other Arzarni leaders were assassinated on 19 July 1947 and it has now reached 71 years.

Martyrs' Day is a Myanmar national holiday observed on 19 July to commemorate Bogoyoke and other leaders, namely, Thakin Mya, U Ba Cho, U Abdul Razak, U Ba Win, U Mahn Ba Khaing, U Sao San Tun, and U Ohn Maung who were gunned down.

Although it was raining lightly on the morning of 6 June 2018, the author could not suppress the urge to visit and have a look at the Bogoyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon).

Looking at the direction guide, I saw all the detailed markers leading to the museum.

On the green and shady Natmauk Road, there is a lane direction marked with "Bogoyoke Pya Tike Lann", where I walked briskly with rain drops hitting my umbrella. Finally, I arrived at the two-story museum, Bogoyoke's last residence before his assassination in July 1947. It is a colonial-era villa, built in 1921. The time was ten minutes past twelve.

Entrance to museum

At the entrance, the opening and closing time of the museum is written in English and Myanmar language. It is free entry for Myanmar citizens and the admission for a foreigner costs Ks 5,000. A large beautiful teak board welcomed me with the words "BOGYOKE AUNG SAN MUSEUM".

I slowly strolled on the concrete pavement towards the hill-top villa in a leafy neighborhood, just a few hundred meters from the Shwedagon Pagoda.

My heart leaped up with joy and sorrow in viewing Bogoyoke Museum from a distance, marking an unforgettable memory.

I took off my footwear at the portico of the museum, which is customary for all the visitors. First, I noticed 'all the restrictions to be complied by visitors' written in red signs.

For ease and convenience



of the visitors, the direction signs are displayed, such as maps for ground floor and upper floor. A large teak board marked that Bogoyoke had stayed at the residence until July 1945, which I made a snapshot with my camera.

Ground floor displays

The majority of the displays are located at the family room, dining room and living room on the ground floor.

- Photos of his youth at Natmauk, including those of the Buddhist monastery where he received primary education and other certificates of educational achievements
- Photos at various political activities and during travels abroad
- Displays of his famous speeches
- Family photos
- Other personal mementos such as handwritten notes to his wife Daw Khin Kyi, personal lighter engraved (Bogoyoke) 'Aung San' and ash tray, etc.

- Car used for official transport until the day of his assassination

With much surprise and admiration on his simplicity, I witnessed the words written to his wife saying he wanted to enjoy boiled beans and Indian naan bread. It shows the empathy and humanitarian outlooks of Bogoyoke.

Moreover, memorabilia and records between 6 September 1942 to 22 September 1946 are displayed at the museum.

Historical records are also displayed, such as that of the independence struggle; that of proceeding to Amoy of China, and then to Japan, along with Thirty Comrades; that of entering Myanmar with the BIA forces; and that of the retreat of the British forces.

Some other chronicles are displayed, such as that of anti-fascist struggle; that of visiting Britain to sign the Aung San - Atlee Agreement; that of signing Panglong Agreement; that of AFPFL victory at Hluttaw; and that of the gloomy day assassination of Bogoyoke and Arzarni leaders.

I have met some students

from Thailand at the museum who came to study the life of Bogoyoke, considering him as the youngest leader who fought for the country's independence and with the intent to emulate his morale. A man from India also came to study the life of Bogoyoke to include in a primary class school curriculum.

All the information is displayed on the ground floor.

Upper floor displays

- Bedroom of Bogoyoke Aung San and Daw Khin Kyi
- Bedrooms of their children
- Library
- Meeting room

In the garden

In the garden of the house, there is a bronze statue of Bogoyoke Aung San doing gardening work, and also the swimming pool, where his second son Ko Aung San Lin drowned.

With slow and soft pace, I climbed through the colonial era stairways to the upper floor.

There are three verandahs on the upper floor, and the western verandah was inaccessible.

I entered the bedroom of Bogoyoke and saw a prayer room there.

The museum boasts a host of Bogoyoke Aung San's personal belongings, ranging from a British-built black motor vehicle to an overcoat given to him by the first Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, during a trip to England in the early 1940s.

A collection of 246 books on a variety of subjects written in English are displayed—from applied mechanics and air defense to political economy and selected short stories by D.H. Lawrence—possibly the delights for book worms.

Surprisingly, I saw a bed there with safety covers on the side, written with the word (Daw) Aung San Suu Kyi. There are family photographs in the room. In the book almirah or free standing cupboard, there are children's books written in English and printed in an era when the education status of the kids was impressive.

All the displays were being arranged by Daw Khin Kyi.

Adjacent to the bedroom, there exists a special meeting room with relevant furniture

and other related objects.

As I was desirous to view the kitchen, I stepped down from the inside stairways and landed in the kitchen.

All simple household utensils

All the items displayed at the museum are plain, unsophisticated and simple. The most attractive part of the museum is the living room of Bogoyoke. This residence has an atmosphere of simplicity and is devoid of any trace of flamboyance.

I took a snapshot of the vehicle on display which was used by Bogoyoke.

Past and present

On my way back home, my mind rushed back to a poem composed by Sayar Gyi Minn Thu Wun about Bogoyoke entitled "Past and Present", praising his extraordinary characteristics.

Our nation is composed of different national races into a Union who love and cherish independence. Each and every citizen embraces tranquility and peace, and are desirous and determined to step towards a modern and developed peaceful union.

We regained our independence through hard struggle since 1885, in unity with the participation of people from highland and plains from every nook and cranny of the country. We all have the responsibility to prevent and defend the nation which was liberated by Bogoyoke, Arzarni leaders and the leaders of national races.

Special arrangement is made for the crowded visitors to study only the ground floor of the Bogoyoke Museum from 19 to 21 July 2018, with the aim and objective to maintain and preserve it, and that the normal opening time will continue beginning 22 July 2018.

In conclusion, the writer of this article paid tribute to show gratitude and respect to Bogoyoke and Arzarni leaders on the eve of 71st Anniversary Arzarni Day. ■

Translated by UMT (HK)

Public talk held in Lanmadaw, Yangon

RESOURCE personnel shared their knowledge on the dangers of narcotic drugs with youth in downtown Yangon yesterday.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Maung Maung delivered the opening speech at the talk jointly organised by Yangon western District Information and Public Relations Department, Township General Administration Department and Township Education Department, under the title "Youth and the dangers of narcotic drugs" at a high school in Lanmadaw.

Laws and rules in connection with drugs were explained

by U Wunna Tun, administrator of township GAD. Regional hluttaw representatives Daw Aye Mar and U Kyaw Tun, Dr Daw Than Than Chit from the township public health department, township law officer Daw Zin Mar Lwin and head of township education department also joined in the discussions.

Officials answered the questions raised by attendees. Authorities from Lanmadaw Township, civil social organisations, guests and students attended the talk. — Aung Myint(IPRD) ■



Knowledge being shared on the dangers of narcotic drugs. **PHOTO: AUNG MYINT (IPRD)**

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Sunday 8th July, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 9th JULY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Aye-yarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7 - 10)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States. **FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th JULY, 2018:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th JULY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Death toll from heavy rain in western Japan tops 70

OSAKA — Seventy-two people have died and over 40 remain missing on Sunday after torrential rains triggered massive flooding and landslides in western Japan, with rescue operations continuing in disaster-hit areas.

Rescuers expanded their search for those still missing and stranded, with 54,000 personnel from the police, fire departments, the Self-Defense Forces and the Japan Coast Guard now involved.

Evacuation orders or advisories were issued for up to 5.9 million people in 19 prefectures at one point, while over 30,000 people were staying at evacuation centers as of 3 pm Sunday, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Many people are also believed to be stranded in their homes due to a lack of access roads because of flooding.

In Okayama Prefecture, one of the hardest-hit areas, about 1,850 people, mostly trapped on the roofs of buildings sub-



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 7 July 2018 shows a town in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture, with extensive flooding following torrential rains that hit a wide area of western Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

merged by floods following the bursting of dikes on a river, were rescued by boats or helicopters.

The land ministry plans to mobilize around 20 pumper

trucks around the clock to drain the inundated area but it is likely to take about two weeks to complete the drainage.

At Mabi Memorial Hospital,

about 160 patients and medical staff took shelter on the second floor of the building as the first floor was partly submerged and rescue workers, including SDF

personnel, moved them into boats.

Since the downpour began Thursday, when the weather agency forecast record amounts of rain through Sunday, 31 people have died in Hiroshima, 19 in Ehime and 10 in Okayama.

The 12 other casualties were from Yamaguchi, Kyoto, Gifu, Shiga, Osaka, Hyogo, Kochi and Fukuoka prefectures.

At an emergency meeting to deal with the disaster at his office in Tokyo, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called for all-out search and rescue efforts.

It is the first time the government has convened an emergency disaster meeting since 2016 when strong earthquakes hit Kumamoto and Oita prefectures in southwestern Japan.

Abe also urged support for relevant local governments in ensuring the provision of necessary supplies and countermeasures against the summer heat at evacuation centers in the flood-hit areas.—Kyodo News ■

Three out of four South Sudanese children know nothing but war: UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS — Since South Sudan became the world's youngest country in 2011, 2.6 million of its 3.4 million babies, or three quarters of them, have been born in war, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Saturday.

"As South Sudan turns seven, a seemingly endless war continues to devastate the lives of millions of children," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF's executive director who visited the war-ravaged country earlier this year.

Conflict and underdevelopment have plagued the area for decades, leaving its children out of school, malnourished and vulnerable to disease, abuse and exploitation.

"Warring parties can and must do more to bring back peace," Fore said, adding that "the children of South Sudan deserve better."

Although South Sudan's independence in 2011 once gave a gleam of hope for a

bright future, the civil war that erupted in 2013 rendered that short-lived.

Although 800 children have been released by armed groups since the beginning of the year, an estimated 19,000 others continue to serve as fighters, porters and messengers. The children also suffered from sporadic sexual abuse.

The proportion of people who do not know where their next meal will come from jumped from 35 percent in 2014 to nearly 60 percent at present, with some areas of the country just one step away from famine, especially during the lean season. Malnutrition rates are at critical levels, as more than 1 million children are malnourished, including 300,000 on the brink of death. With one third of the schools destroyed, occupied or closed since 2013, the conflict has deprived some 2 million children of education. The country now

has the highest proportion of out-of-school children in the world.

Moreover, efforts to aid those in greatest need are being hampered.

Since 2013, more than 100 aid workers have been killed in violence, among them a UNICEF driver who was killed last week.

While a large number of refugees returned to South Sudan when the country gained independence, more than 2.5 million, including over 1 million children, have again fled the country since 2013. On a brighter note, the signing of a permanent cease-fire between the two main warring parties in Khartoum last month was a positive step in what has been a faltering peace process.

"We now count on the leadership and commanders to respect it while ensuring that aid workers are given unrestricted access to those in need," Fore said.—Xinhua ■

M6.0 quake jolts eastern Japan, no tsunami warning issued



People face train delays at JR Chiba Station on 7 July 2018 following an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 that rattled eastern Japan, including Tokyo, earlier in the day. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 rattled eastern Japan, including Tokyo, on Saturday evening, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. No tsunami warning was issued. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 8:23 pm quake, which registered lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in eastern Chiba Prefecture and caused some buildings in central

Tokyo to sway slightly.

The focus of the quake was about 66 kilometers underground in the Pacific Ocean off Chiba Prefecture. The agency revised the depth of epicenter from 50 km.

After the jolt, two runways at Narita airport east of Tokyo were briefly closed to check for possible damage but soon resumed operations, the airport operator said.—Kyodo News ■

Rescue efforts for boys trapped in Thai cave begin

MAE SAI — Six boys among a group of 13 trapped in a flooded Thai cave for more than a fortnight were rescued on Sunday, authorities said, raising hopes elite divers would also quickly save the others.

The first two boys emerged about nightfall from the Tham Luang cave complex after navigating a treacherous escape route of more than four kilometres (2.5 miles) through twisting, narrow and jagged passageways.

They were followed shortly afterwards by four others, leading to an explosion of jubilation on social media in Thailand and around the world as the rescued boys were rushed to hospital.

“Six of them came out,” a defence ministry official, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

Foreign elite divers and Thai Navy SEALs on Sunday morning began the complex operation to extract the 12 boys and their football coach as they raced against time, with imminent monsoon rains threatening more flooding that would doom the mission.

“Today is the D-day. The boys are ready to face any challenges,” rescue chief Narongsak Osottanakorn told reporters near the cave site on Sunday morning.

The group became trapped in a cramped chamber deep in



The first six boys trapped in a flooded Thai cave have been rescued. **PHOTO: AFP**

side Tham Luang in a mountainous area of northern Thailand on 23 June, when they went in after football practice and got caught behind rising waters.

Their plight transfixed Thailand and the rest of the world, as authorities struggled to devise a plan to get the boys — aged between 11 and 16 — and their 25-year-old coach out.

‘Mission Impossible’

The rescue of the first six was a stunning victory in an operation Narongsak had earlier dubbed “Mission Impossible”, and led to cautious optimism that the others would also be saved.

Another official involved in the rescue operation said the initial six who had been saved

formed a first group.

A second group made up of the others had also begun the journey from the chamber where they had been trapped, a rescue worker told AFP.

The quick extraction came as a surprise after one of the operation commanders said on Sunday morning the rescue efforts could take several days to complete.

The group was found dishevelled and hungry by British cave diving specialists nine days after they ventured in.

Initial euphoria over finding the boys alive quickly turned into deep anxiety as rescuers struggled to find a way to get them out.

The death of a former Thai Navy SEAL diver who ran out

of oxygen in the cave on Friday underscored the danger of the journey even for professionals.

After a short deluge of rain on Saturday night and with more bad weather forecast, Narongsak on Sunday said authorities had to act immediately.

“There is no other day that we are more ready than today,” he said. “Otherwise we will lose the opportunity.”

Between the base camp inside the cave and the trapped boys were twisting, turning cave passageways with torrents of water gushing through.

The water in the cave was muddy and unclear, with one diver comparing it to a cafe latte. Ropes were installed to help guide the boys through the darkness.

Narongsak said Sunday morning two divers would escort each of the boys out of the cave.

Rescue efforts

Officials had looked at many different ways to save the boys and their coach.

One early potential plan was to leave them there for months until the monsoon season ended and the floods subsided completely, but that idea was scrapped over concerns about falling oxygen levels and waters rising too high.

More than 100 exploratory

holes were also bored — some shallow, but the longest 400 metres deep — into the mountainside in an attempt to open a second evacuation route and avoid forcing the boys into the dangerous dive.

American technology entrepreneur Elon Musk even deployed engineers from his private space exploration firm SpaceX and Boring Co. to help.

Meanwhile rescuers fed a kilometres-long air pipe into the cave to restore oxygen levels in the chamber where the team was sheltering with medics and divers.

Emotional notes

On Saturday, Thai Navy SEALs published touching notes scrawled by the trapped footballers to their families, who had been waiting for them agonisingly close by outside the cave entrance.

The boys urged relatives “not to worry” and asked for their favourite food once they were safely evacuated, in notes handed to divers.

In one, Pheerapat, nicknamed “Night”, whose 16th birthday the group were celebrating in the cave when they became stuck on June 23, said: “I love you, Dad, Mum and my sister. You don’t need to be worried about me.”—AFP ■

Relatives identify victims of deadly Thai tourist boat sinking

PHUKET — Distraught relatives descended on a Thai hospital Sunday as many waited for news of missing family members who disappeared when a tourist boat sank in rough weather, killing dozens of Chinese passengers.

Recovery divers have pulled 42 bodies from the sea off the resort island of Phuket, but authorities have said 14 other passengers remain unaccounted for.

The Phoenix was carrying 105 people — mostly Chinese tourists — when it sank on the way back from a popular snorkeling spot on Thursday.

The latest victim was found Sunday, officials said.

Relatives have been asked to identify their next-of-kin through photographs and to provide DNA samples.

The ashen-faced families



Recovery divers have pulled 42 bodies from the sea off the resort island of Phuket, but authorities have said 14 other passengers remain unaccounted for. **PHOTO: AFP**

wiped back tears in a waiting area of the Vachira Hospital on Sunday while several got increasingly agitated when asked for further information.

“I’ve already told you the name, why can’t you take me there now?” a man was heard shouting at hospital staff.

A Chinese woman who only wanted to be identified by her family name, Su, said she was

still waiting to claim the body of her sister, Su Jiao Min.

“There should definitely be compensation (for the accident),” she told AFP while waiting to be signed into the hospital.

“But I don’t want to talk about that right now. All I want is to identify and claim (my sister’s) body and return home.”

Some have called for legal action to be taken after the boat was among three that ignored a bad weather warning against day trips to the islands surrounding the tourist magnet of Phuket.

Search ongoing

Gao Kai, who arrived in Phuket on Saturday, said the bodies of his eight-year-old daughter and seven-year-old nephew were identified on Saturday, but he was still waiting for news of his wife, sister and brother-in-law.

“The adults still haven’t been found. We’re waiting for them to return so we can take them home,” he told AFP, breaking down several times during the interview.

The Thai navy has said it will coordinate the continuing search with a fishermen’s network.

“Navy is preparing personnel and equipment to dive to check on the sunken boat for possible more victims trapped inside the boat,” it said in a statement, adding that 25 of the bodies retrieved so far were found on the vessel, which is submerged over 40 metres below the surface of the Andaman Sea.

Seventeen Chinese divers joined the operation on Saturday to recover bodies.

On Sunday the Chinese Ambassador to Thailand said in a briefing that investigators would also arrive to probe the cause of

the accident. Some 48 people — passengers and crew — were rescued on Thursday, while a Chinese woman was plucked from the churning waters Friday and rushed to hospital in Phuket after spending the night in the water.

It is one of the worst boating disasters in recent history in Thailand, a nation with a poor health and safety track record despite being heavily dependent on tourism.

Thailand is already in the global spotlight for a dramatic diving rescue mission that started Sunday in the north of the country for 12 boys and their football coach who are trapped in a flooded cave complex.

Last year 9.8 million Chinese tourists visited Thailand, with five million more arriving between January and May this year.—AFP ■

Plastic is light, versatile and here to stay — for now

PARIS — Because of their role in global pollution, plastics are hugely controversial.

But the resilient, supple, light and malleable materials play a key role in our lives and, according to experts, will remain crucial for a long time to come.

Here are a few things to know about the world of plastic.



Despite the war on plastic bags, they are still a huge problem for the environment. **PHOTO: AFP**

How it's made

The classic production process involves the distillation and refining of fuel or natural gas, breaking down hydrocarbons.

Various raw materials make up the building blocks of the resulting plastic. Monomers build more complex molecules called polymers — the scientific name for plastics.

There are two families of polymers.

Thermoplastics, accounting for some 80 percent of global plastics consumption, melt when they are heated and then harden when cooled.

Then there are thermosets, which do not soften after moulding.

How it's used

Five polymers account for the majority — 71 per cent — of global plas-

tics consumption.

First, there is polyethylene, found above all in single-use packaging, then polypropylene, used in car bumpers, dashboards and drinking straws. Next up is polystyrene, used for packaging, insulation panels and yoghurt pots. There is also polyvinyl chloride — better known as PVC — used in windows and drains — and then poly-

ethylene terephthalate (PET), commonly used for synthetic fibres or bottles.

Lighter is better

There is much innovation in conventional plastics, with new properties being added to maximise performance.

Lighter is better, and slimming the volume of plastic is a constant challenge, not least to reduce the amount of plastic clogging the oceans and to wage war on waste.

But lighter plastic also means lighter finished products, including in transport.

“The need for (greater) lightness in auto transport is a massive innovation factor,” Christophe Cabarry, founder and president of SpecialChem, an online platform connecting sellers and buyers of

chemicals and materials, told AFP.

A few grams a year are being shaved down, even on products as mundane as plastic bottles.

What about the environment?

The wait is on for the breakthrough of bioplastics — plastics made using biodegradable materials or natural recyclable materials. “There is much innovation in the sector,” says Cabarry.

But of the 2.05 million tonnes of bioplastics produced worldwide last year less than half was actually biodegradable, according to European Bioplastics, an industry association.

The association put their market penetration at barely 0.75 per cent in 2017, owing to bioplastic’s much higher costs.

But we recycle, right?

Europe managed to re-use around 31 percent of 26 million tonnes of plastics waste in 2016.

“Europe has initiated a transition from a linear towards a circular and resource efficient society”, says the PlasticsEurope association of manufacturers.

But the rate in the United States is much lower, at 10 per cent, and across the world, only 9 percent of the nine billion tonnes of plastic produced to date has been recycled, a recent UN report said.

Some 12 million tonnes per year, mostly in the form of single-use packaging, are dumped into the world’s oceans, creating an ecological nightmare, according to Greenpeace.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1009W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1009W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (1811-1812)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (1811-1812) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/MIP 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 MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

No rescue for Dakar's homeless and mentally ill

Dakar (SENEGAL) — On Dakar's sunny avenues, troubled souls wander aimlessly alongside busy traffic, often muttering to themselves, sometimes begging, as the rest of the city ignores them.

Clad in an electric-blue woolly hat and traditional white robes, looking deep in thought, a man walks around in circles across the Senegalese capital's main square, day in, day out. By the end of the afternoon, his sporadic, piercing howls have silenced the calls of street vendors offering residents newspapers, fake designer sunglasses and alarm clocks. Passers-by have stopped paying attention.

There are “no official numbers” of abandoned, mentally-ill Senegalese roaming the streets, Papa Mamadou Diagne, a sociologist who wrote an academic paper on the issue, told AFP. But, he wrote, “the number of mentally-ill people on the streets of Dakar is on the rise.”

“Every morning they meet up, go through bins

for food and then scatter across the capital, alone. For those who have a family, the lack of money is the main reason why the ill person is left on the street.” There are only five settings in the country to address mental health problems, including two large psychiatric units in Dakar. In a country of 14 million, there are only 30 or so psychiatrists, says an expert. Across the African continent, mental health issues mostly go untreated, experts say.

Researchers in South Africa found three-quarters of mentally-ill people there failed to get help. In separate studies in Ethiopia and Nigeria, the figures rose to 90 percent.

Senegal is one of the region's economic heavyweights and a hub for foreign investment and tourism. Yet a booming economy has not resulted in rising investment in mental health, as resources are inevitably concentrated on physical diseases such as malaria and HIV.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (002 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (002 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-7-2018 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Myanma Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.40 feet to 21.20 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of July 12th to July 17th, 2018.

Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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Candidate AIDS vaccine passes key early test

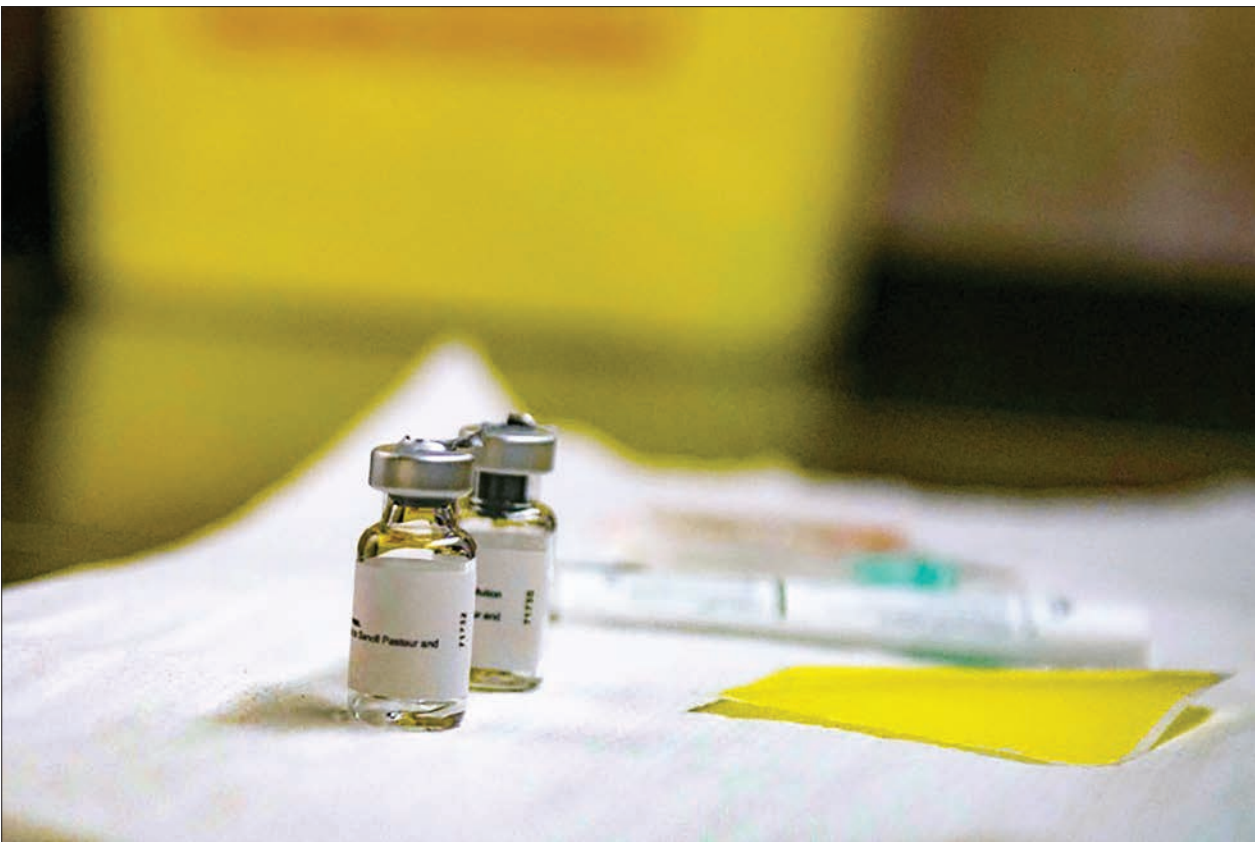
PARIS — The near 40-year quest for an AIDS vaccine received a hopeful boost Saturday when scientists announced that a trial drug triggered an immune response in humans and shielded monkeys from infection.

Shown to be safe in humans, the candidate vaccine has now advanced to the next phase of the pre-approval trial process, and will be tested in 2,600 women in southern Africa to see whether it prevents HIV infection.

While the results so far have been encouraging, the research team and outside experts warn there are no guarantees it will actually work in the next trial phase dubbed HVTN705 or “Imbokodo” — the isiZulu word for “rock”. “Although these data are promising, we need to remain cautious,” study leader Dan Barouch, a Harvard Medical School professor, told AFP.

Just because it protected two-thirds of monkeys in a lab trial doesn’t mean the drug will protect humans, “and thus we need to await the results of the... study before we know whether or not this vaccine will protect humans against HIV infection,” he said. The results of the Imbokodo trial are expected in 2021/22.—AFP ■

“This is only the fifth HIV vaccine concept that



Scientists announced that a trial drug against the AIDS vaccine has yielded encouraging results and has advanced to the next phase of the pre-approval trial process. PHOTO: AFP

will be tested for efficacy in humans in the 35+ year history of the global HIV epidemic,” added Barouch.

Only one so far, RV144, yielded some protection. RV144 was reported in 2009 to reduce the risk of HIV infection among 16,000 Thai volunteers by 31.2 percent — deemed insufficient for the drug to be pursued.

For the latest study, published in The Lancet medical journal, Barouch and a team tested the candidate drug on 393 healthy, HIV-free adults aged 18 to

50 in east Africa, South Africa, Thailand, and the United States.

The participants were randomly given one of seven vaccine combinations or a placebo “dummy” alternative. They received four shots each over 48 weeks.

Needed ‘badly’

The study used so-called “mosaic” vaccine combinations.

These combine pieces of different HIV virus types to elicit an immune response — when the body attacks intruder germs

— against virus strains from different regions of the world. The vaccine “induced robust (high levels of) immune responses in humans,” said Barouch.

The tests also showed the vaccine was safe. Five participants reported side-effects such as stomach pain and diarrhoea, dizziness, or back pain.

In a separate study, the same vaccine offered complete protection from infection in two-thirds of 72 trial monkeys each given six injections with an HIV-like virus.

“I cannot emphasise

how badly we need to have a vaccine... to get rid of HIV in the next generation altogether,” said Francois Venter of the University of the Witwatersrand Reproductive Health and HIV Institute in South Africa.

Approached for comment on the study, which he was not involved in, Venter urged caution.

“We have been here before, with promising candidate vaccines that haven’t panned out,” he told AFP. “This one is novel in many ways so it is exciting, but we have a long way to go.”

Could be ‘phenomenal’

Jean-Daniel Leclerc of France’s Vaccine Research Institute said the vaccine was likely not the “definitive” version, but may represent “a phenomenal advance.”

An estimated 37 million people live with HIV/AIDS, according to the World Health Organization.

There are about 1.8 million new infections and a million deaths every year. Almost 80 million people are estimated to have been infected since the virus was first diagnosed in the early 1980s.

About 35 million have died. A vaccine has proven elusive as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) mutates easily and can hide away in cells, evading the immune system, only to reemerge and spread years later.

For now, people infected with HIV rely on lifelong virus-suppressing anti-retroviral treatment (ART) to stay healthy.

Condoms are still at the frontline of efforts to prevent infection — mainly through sex and blood contact — though more and more people use ART as prophylaxis.

The latest results come ahead of the International Aids Conference to be held in Amsterdam from 23 to 27 July.—AFP ■

West African states in joint fight against root crop ‘Ebola’

PARIS — Researchers from half a dozen states in West Africa have joined together in a battle against what one expert calls a root crop “Ebola” — a viral disease that could wreck the region’s staple food and condemn millions to hunger. Their enemy: cassava brown streak disease (CBSD), a virus that strikes cassava, also called manioc, which in some of the region’s countries is consumed by as many as 80 percent of the population.

The root-rotting disease was first discovered in Tanzania eight decades ago and is steadily moving westward. “In outbreaks in central Africa, it has wiped out between 90 and 100 percent of cassava production — it’s now heading towards West Africa,” Justin Pita, in charge of the research programme, told AFP. “It is a very big threat. It has to be taken very seriously.” In Uganda, 3,000 people died of hunger in the 1990s after the dreaded disease

showed up, striking small farmers in particular. “You can call it the Ebola of cassava,” said Pita. The West African Virus Epidemiology (WAVE) project, a multi-million-dollar scheme funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to shield the region from the advancing peril. Headquartered at Bingerville, on the edges of the Ivorian economic capital Abidjan, it gathers six countries from West Africa. —AFP ■

Announcement of Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of the following Pesticides registered by Jiangsu Ruidong Pesticide Co.,Ltd is transferring from 7 Star Agropower Co.,Ltd to Diamond Light International Trading Co.,Ltd. Any objection regarding this transfer can notify at Joint. Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, west Gyogone, Insein within two weeks.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration	Registration
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2.	Ruidong Fist 70WDG	Imidacloprid 70% WDG	Provisional	P 2017-4058
3.	Ruidong Kongfu 2.5 EC	Lambda-Cyhalothrin 25g/l EC	Provisional	P 2017-4059
4.	Ruidong Water Cleaner 10 WP	Pyrazosulfuron-Ethyl 10% WP	Provisional	P 2017-4060
5.	Ruidong Killer 10EC	Quizalofop-P-Ethyl 10% EC	Provisional	P 2017-4061
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As UK ban looms, gay ‘conversion therapy’ still haunts subjects

LIVERPOOL — Peter Price was 18 when he underwent conversion therapy, which was intended to “cure” his homosexuality but instead left him deeply damaged.

“I thought I was going mental. I wasn’t worried about getting cured, I was worried about getting out alive,” he told AFP.

The British government this week announced its intention to ban the practice, as part of a new action plan to tackle discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities.

But Price, now 72 and a radio presenter in Liverpool, northwest England, is astonished it has taken so long.

For many years he refused to talk about his experience, but broke his silence in the hope that no one else need endure what he called “torture”.

Aversion therapy

Price agreed to treatment at the Diva Hospital, a psychiatric institution in the state-run National Health Service (NHS), under pressure from his mother.

She had been “distracted” when he told her he was gay — it was 1964 and homosexuality was illegal in England.

“We went to the doctor and the doctor told me there was



Prime Minister Theresa May has vowed to ban the practice of conversion therapy in an announcement timed with this weekend’s Pride events. **PHOTO: AFP**

a cure, aversion therapy,” he recalled.

This consisted of five days of treatment, intended to create a negative response to sexual stimulation by men.

Hour after hour in a windowless room, Price listened to a tape recording of someone describing sexual acts in explicit detail.

At the same time he was shown photos of men in swimming trunks and regularly in-

jected by a substance that made him vomit and gave him diarrhoea. “I was puking, I was lying in shit, I was in a terrible state,” he recalled. After three days, he could not handle it any more.

“I was a basket case. I then said to them, I want to get out. I volunteered, and I want to get out,” he said.

Against the wishes of the psychiatrist supervising the treatment, he avoided the final stage, which would have seen

him receive electric shocks when he became aroused.

“I decided after that that I was going to change my life, and be who I was,” he said.

Price was never able to tell his mother what happened, and only began speaking out when conversion therapy entered the national debate in the late 1990s.

Several soldiers launched a high-profile court case against their expulsion from the army for being gay, one of whom had

undergone the treatment.

Hearing for the first time that someone else had suffered in a similar way gave Price the courage to tell his own story.

‘50 years too late’

“It has done something to my mind which I can’t explain,” Price said.

“I had a great life, a very successful career, I had wonderful time, but I had some very very dark thoughts, and some terrible depression because of it.” Prime Minister Theresa May has called conversion therapies an “abhorrent practice” and in an announcement timed with this weekend’s Pride events, vowed to ban it.

Her government released the results of an online survey that found two percent of LGBT people in Britain had received some kind of conversion therapy, while another five percent had had it offered but refused.

Just over half of those who received it said it was conducted by a faith group, 19 percent by a healthcare professional and 16 percent by a family member.

Price said of the proposed ban: “It’s 50 years too late.

“I am a strong person, so I survived, but I don’t know how many people have not survived.” —AFP ■

Polanski’s wife rejects invitation to join Oscars body

PARIS — The wife of Roman Polanski, French actress Emmanuelle Seigner, said Sunday she had rejected an invitation to join the body that awards the Oscars in protest at its decision to expel her husband over his historic statutory rape conviction in the US.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences last month announced that it had swelled its ranks by more than 900 members, as part of its drive for a more inclusive Hollywood.

The Oscar-awarding body announces a round of invitations every year, and has been bolstering its ethnic and female rep-

resentation following criticism over its predominantly white, male membership.

But in an open letter published by France’s Journal du Dimanche, Seigner said: “How can I pretend to ignore that the Academy a few weeks ago kicked out my husband, Roman Polanski, to satisfy the zeitgeist. The same Academy that rewarded him with the Oscar for best director for “The Pianist” in 2003. Curious amnesia!

“This Academy probably thinks that I am an actress sufficiently arriviste, without character to forget that she has been married for 29 years to one of the

greatest directors,” she added.

The 84-year-old director of “Rosemary’s Baby” and “Chinatown” was accused of drugging a 13-year-old girl before raping her at the film star Jack Nicholson’s house in Los Angeles in 1977.

He admitted statutory rape after a number of more serious charges were dropped, and spent 48 days in custody to undergo psychiatric evaluation before being released.

According to court documents, Polanski was promised by the judge overseeing the case that the seven weeks he spent in custody would be the only time he would serve.



French actress and singer Emmanuelle Seigner rejected an invitation to join the body that awards the Oscars in protest at its decision to expel her husband Roman Polanski. **PHOTO: AFP**

But in 1978, convinced the judge was going to scrap his plea deal and send him to prison — possibly for decades — to avoid a public backlash, he left

for France.

The director has since refused to return without assurances that he would not serve additional time in prison.—AFP ■

Neil Young finally finds Quebec in an under-the-radar mega-festival

QUEBEC CITY — It took him 72 years but Neil Young finally made it to Quebec City.

The rock legend, who after the death of Leonard Cohen is perhaps Canada's most emblematic musician, on Friday night played a high-powered, two-hour set before tens of thousands on the vast and historic Plains of Abraham park that extends westward from Quebec City.

Young — who was born just an eight-hour drive away in Toronto — headed to the French-speaking province for Quebec City's summer festival, the Festival d'été de Québec, a rare public concert with low-priced tickets and a community feel.

"It's my first time here! I can't believe it, or I can't remember," Young exclaimed at the end of his set with his energetic back-up band, the Promise of the Real, which features Willie Nelson's rocker son Lukas.

A day after the festival opened with another major Canadian star, The Weeknd, amid an unusually brutal heat wave, temperatures plunged sharply for Young, who took the stage in his trademark Stetson hat with a black T-shirt under a thick plaid shirt.

He kicked off with his 1982 song "Like an Inca," with 10 minutes' worth of crackling guitars setting the tone for the evening.



The crowd at Quebec's Festival d'été de Québec watching rocker Kurt Vile on the huge stage in the Plains of Abraham park. **PHOTO: AFP**

He ramped up the energy further on "Fuckin' Up," a track off his hard-charging 1990 album "Ragged Glory" that turned the onetime folk rocker into a godfather of the nascent grunge scene.

Young didn't wait long before ripping into his possibly best-known song, "Rockin' in the Free World," which the left-leaning transplant to the United States released in 1989 as a critique of then president George H.W. Bush.

Battling his guitar strings

nearly to the point of breaking them, the former Buffalo Springfield rocker offered a grandiose take on "Down by the River" before a climax on "Hey Hey, My My." He returned for an encore before the open-air sea of people, playing the exquisite "Harvest Moon" before ending on "Roll Another Number (For the Road)."

Historic battleground

The Festival d'été de Québec, in its 51st season, is drawing a slew of major acts including

Foo Fighters, Lorde, Beck, Future, Camila Cabello and the Dave Matthews Band.

The organizers said it took some work to bring Young.

"It was difficult to persuade him. We had to tell him about the Plains of Abraham, our philosophy, our economic model and, finally, I succeeded," Louis Bellavance, the programming director, said with a smile.

The Plains of Abraham was the scene of the 1759 battle in which Britain decisively defeated France for domination

of Canada. For the festival, the historic site becomes one of the largest stages in North America, able to accommodate crowds of nearly 100,000.

For a festival with its lineup, tickets are incredibly inexpensive. A pass that costs 100 Canadian dollars (US\$76) gives access to all 250 shows, big and small, around the city.

A 'far-fetched' success

And, unlike big festivals such as Coachella where security guards rigorously check wristband passes to avoid resale, the Quebec festival not only allows but encourages fans to share their tickets. Drink sales help recoup costs as does support from the Quebec government, which sees the festival as a way to encourage tourism.

"It's a system that's far-fetched because we eat ourselves alive when it comes to revenue," Bellavance said. "But it works marvelously if we sell 120,000 passes."

Launched initially as a neighborhood block party, the festival has grown to draw mega-stars including the Rolling Stones, The Who and Metallica. But Bellavance acknowledged that the festival is still not well-known internationally — or even in western Canada. "For many, we're classified as 'the most extraordinary festival that you've never heard of,'" he said.—AFP ■

Metropolitan Museum of Art welcomes record visitors in 2018 fiscal year

NEW YORK — The Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met) in New York City welcomed a record number of 7.35 million visitors in its 2018 fiscal year that began on July 1, 2017.

According to the renowned museum, more than 7.35 million visitors went to its three locations - The Met Fifth Avenue, The Met Cloisters and The Met Breuer - during the fiscal year ending on June 30.

The number marked the highest fiscal year attendance in the museum's history. While international visitors made up 34 percent

of The Met's attendees, New Yorkers accounted for 32 percent.

The high attendance could be partly attributed to the acclaimed exhibit Michelangelo: Divine Draftsman and Designer, which ran from Nov. 13, 2017 to Feb. 12, 2018 and ushered in 702,516 visitors. It was the 10th most visited exhibit ever at the Met.

In addition to the record attendance, the Met had one of its best recent years for other income: 250 million U.S. dollars from donations, memberships and city funds.—Xinhua ■

Romanian film wins top prize at Czech festival

Prague, (Czech Republic) — "I Do Not Care If We Go Down in History as Barbarians", a film by Romanian director Radu Jude, won the top prize at the Karlovy Vary film festival which ended on Saturday. The Crystal Globe award winner tells the story of an ethnic massacre committed by the Romanian Army in 1941.

"Rain Man" director Barry Levinson and "Shawshank Redemption" star Tim Robbins also received Crystal Globes for outstanding contribution to world of cinema at the 53rd edition of the Czech festival. "Twilight" star Robert Pattinson received the Festival President's Award.

The festival in the spa town of Karlovy Vary, around 120 kilometres (75 miles) west



Romanian Film director Radu Jude and Ada Solomon pose with the Crystal Globe Award for best film "I Do Not Care If We Go Down in History as Barbarians" during the closing ceremony at the 53rd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (KVIFF) in Karlovy Vary on July 7, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

of Prague, ran from June 29 to July 7 and attracted 140,135

cinemagoers, roughly the same number as in 2017. — AFP ■



Ye Thway Ni, left, in blue trunks, lands a left jab to the head of Shue Klane Minn during their semifinal bout at Thein Phyu Stadium in Yangon. The bout was one of several held yesterday as part of the Lethwei Nation 50th Media Championship 2018. The matches were broadcast live on Canal+, a pay TV channel that launched in Myanmar in January. **PHOTO: MARK ANGELES**

Ye Thway Ni wins bout at Lethwei Nation Championship

YE Thway Ni won his semifinal boxing match in convincing fashion yesterday at Thein Phyu Stadium, one of several fights in the semifinal round of the Lethwei Nation 50th Media Championship 2018. Ye Thway Ni defeated his taller opponent, Shue Klane Minn, with his aggressive style, landing repeated jabs to the

head. By the third round of the five-round match in the 57-61 kg weight class, Shue Klane Minn's right eye was swollen shut.

Other winners included Saw Phoe Tun, who won his 57-61 kg semifinal fight against Khun Phit of Thailand, despite a cut to the head that bled heavily throughout the match, and Ye

Ta Gon, who won his 62-66 kg bout against Saw Min Aung. Yesterday's matches were broadcast live on the Action Channel of Canal+, a pay TV channel based in France that launched in Myanmar in February in collaboration with Myanmar media company Forever Group.

Lethwei is a traditional

Myanmar style of boxing. The fighting is done bare-knuckled and barefooted.

The hands and ankles of the fighters are allowed to be taped, but without padding. All the winners of yesterday's matches advance to the finals, which will be held on 29 July. —Mark Angeles ■

Myanmar beat Brunei in AFF U-19 Championship

Lynn Thit(Tgi)

IN a Group B game of the AFF U-19 Championship held at Joko Samudro Stadium in Gresik, Indonesia, the Myanmar U-19 boys' national football team beat the Brunei U-19 team with an incredible score of 7-1.

Myanmar's line up comprised Captain Myat Kaung Khant, Nyein Chan Aung, Pyae Sone Naing, Soe Moe Kyaw, Win Naing Tun, Si Thu Moe Khant, Ye Lin Htet, Keeper Zin Nyi Nyi Aung, Nan Htike Zaw, Htet Phyo Wai and Hein Htet Aung.

Myanmar played very well, attacking throughout the match and using nearly every chance to score goals.

Goals were scored for Myanmar by Myat Kaung Khant at the 13- and 24-minute marks, Pyae Sone Naing at the 24- and 40-minute marks, Win Naing Tun at the 42- and 57-minute marks and Hlwan Moe Oo at the 81-minute mark.

A single goal for Brunei was scored by its young and strong player, Rahimin, at the 87-minute mark.

As Myanmar won, they are still in the first place after earning 7 points from 2 wins and 1 draw of 3 games played. ■

Russia's fairytale World Cup run ends in tears

SOCHI (RUSSIA) — The impassioned shouts of “Ros-si-ya” died away on the streets and tears filled the stadium as Russia bowed out of their home World Cup in the cruellest fashion: on penalties.

The men in red exceeded the wildest expectations by coming within a penalty kick and a save against Croatia of making it into the semi-finals for the first time since 1966.

They lost the quarter-final shootout 4-3 after extra-time ended with the sides deadlocked at 2-2 in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

It was that close — and it all ended just as the nation was starting to believe. “We leave the tournament with tears in our eyes but our heads held high,” the team tweeted as the stadium emptied of the 45,000 or so who had lost their voices cheering them on. They had reason to be proud. Russia were the lowest-ranked team entering the tournament and many in the sceptical media thought they would be lucky to win a game. They trudged off the pitch after making it to the quarter-final for the first time in 48 years. A semi-final was within grasp and

the loss stung. But the Russian team showed heart and won what seemed like the entire nation's gratitude. “The champions of our hearts,” the popular Sport Express daily said in a headline.

Then it paid them the highest compliment possible by declaring: “Russia knows how to play football.”

Empty feeling

Fans who had been dancing in the streets after a heart-pounding shootout win over 2010 champions Spain in the last 16 last Sunday were gloomy but grateful.—AFP ■



**FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018**

00:30 MST (11.7.2018)

France



Belgium



00:30 MST (12.7.2018)

Croatia



England

