

NATIONAL

Vice President U Myint Swe recounts history, special benefits of Waso-robe offering

PAGE-2

OPINION

Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport project will not become a debt trap

PAGE-8

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 85, 13th Waning of First Waso 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 10 July 2018

President U Win Myint: Rare opportunity to transform from old to new system being realized

PRESIDENT U Win Myint, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Aung Thu, U Thein Swe and officials, left Nay Pyi Taw by air and was welcomed upon arrival at Shan State (south) Heho airport by Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Linn Htut, Shan State Hluttaw Speaker U Sai Long Hseng, Kayah Sate Hluttaw Speaker U Hla Htwe, High Court of Kayah State Chief Judge U Kywe Kywe, state ministers, Hluttaw representatives, dance troupes and officials yesterday morning.

After a brief stop at Taunggyi Hotel, President U Win Myint attended a meeting with officials from the state government, state high court, members of Self-Administered Division and Zone, state Hluttaw and state/district/township departmental officials at the Shan State government of-office meeting hall. At the meeting, the President said the visit was conducted to realistically understand the reform work conducted and progress achieved by the government and to increase the momentum of the reform work.

A rare opportunity to change and transform from an old to a new system is being realized. Only when relevant and responsible officials transform, can the transformation succeed. Officials from departmental organizations are the ones who are implement-



President U Win Myint visits Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi during his visit to Shan State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

ing the transformation. Public servants enjoy the salary and benefits provided by the State. They have their rights and responsibilities. They are to properly enjoy the benefits, while performing the duties assigned for the public. They are to follow the policies set by the government.

These policies are being implemented by departmental officials and officials in the administrative, judicial and legislative sectors. All should know and see that they are at their assigned posts to serve the public and not to misuse their rights. They are to serve the people, be loyal to the State

and follow the laws, rules, procedures and instructions. At the same time, they will have to follow the rules and regulations of their respective entities. Care must be taken so that whatever they do benefit the State and the people. Care must also be taken so that State funds are not wasted or lost.

It should also be noted that there should be no misuse of State property. They must be people-centered and orient themselves towards the public interest. They should not be part of a machine that oppresses and harms the people.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

LOCAL NEWS

Anti-trafficking police: Do not spread fake news about missing children

PAGE-4

BUSINESS

Group processing needed to enhance rubber sector, MRPPA official says

PAGE-5

UPDJC holds meeting in preparation for Peace Conference

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) held its 16th meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by UPDJC Vice-Chairmen Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U

Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Tin Myo Win, Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, and U Thu Wai; UPDJC members consisting of members from the government, the Hluttaw, Tatmadaw groups, ethnic armed organisations (EAOs), representatives from political parties, and officials.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe

UPDJC Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Tint Swe addressed the meeting and said that the meeting is important for the future of the nation's reconciliation and peace process, as it will discuss which basic policies and points will be submitted at the upcoming

peace conference.

He said papers submitted in accordance with the UPDJC's set framework for political discussions, guidelines and regulations were approved at the previous 15th UPDJC meeting. The present meeting is also important,

SEE PAGE-6

Vice President U Myint Swe recounts history, special benefits of Waso-robe offering

VICE President U Myint Swe, patron of the Waso-robe Offering Ceremony Convening Committee of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, addressed a coordination meeting held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture yesterday afternoon.

Present at the meeting were Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and Chairman of the Waso-robe Offering Ceremony Convening Committee, committee members Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Maung Maung, officials and committee members of work committees and ten sub-committees.

At the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe said the 11-member Waso-robe Offering Ceremony Convening Committee was formed in accordance with Notification 44/2018, dated 11 June 2018, issued by the Office of the President and the Waso-robe Offering Ceremony Convening Work Committee was formed with 17 members and four work duties assigned to it.

In order to successfully implement the guidelines set by the committee and to coordinate among departments, the



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers a speech at the coordination meeting to hold Waso-robe offering ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

committee formed ten sub-committees and assigned work and duties.

It is learnt that a coordination meeting of the Waso-robe Offering Ceremony Convening Work Committee was held on 26 June 2018 where 24 decisions were made and work implemented, said the Vice President.

At the very advent of the Buddha Sasana, the Gautama Buddha allowed Sanghas to use only three robes during the rainy season. Visakha, the lady who donated the Pubbaryon Monastery in the land of Savatthi asked the Buddha for permission to donate extra robes to monks. At the request of Visakha, the Gautama Buddha allowed monks to accept robes in accord with reli-

gious code of conduct. The Waso robe was named after the event of offering in the month of Waso and Waso-robe offering became one of the Myanmar festivals during Waso.

Being a robe offered in accordance with strict codes set by Buddha, the Waso robe offering is a noble donation and donors may get special benefits according to Buddhist scriptures.

In this year's Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Waso-robe Offering Ceremony, a total of 69 Sayadaws, including 47 State Sangha Mahanayaka Sayadaws and ten Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, were being invited.

All necessary arrangements for these Sayadaws need

to be made as in past years. Healthy and hygienic foods for the Sayadaws and accompanying laymen need to be prepared and the health sub-committee needs to check the health of the Sayadaws, too.

LED boards are to be installed as in the past years to show the ceremony in process and committee and sub-committees are to do their best, based on past years' experiences.

As the Waso-robe Offering Ceremony of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a Union-level ceremony, relevant sub-committees are to systematically manage and coordinate their work, said the Vice President.

Next, Thura U Aung Ko, Un-

ion Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and Chairman of the Waso-robe Offering Ceremony Convening Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, explained about preparations made and work remaining to be done.

Afterwards, various sub-committees explained about their sector wise work. Vice President U Myint Swe, patron of the Waso-robe Offering Ceremony Convening Committee of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, then gave detailed comments to ensure proper coordination on the discussions made, and the meeting came to a close after a concluding speech by the Vice President. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein look around the opening ceremony venue of Singapore Biennial Urban Sustainability Week in Singapore yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Than Myint attends Singapore Biennial Urban Sustainability Week opening ceremony

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint led a party consisting of Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein and left Yangon by air for Singapore on 7 July to attend the Singapore Biennial Urban Sustainability Week that is being held from 8 to 12 July in Singapore.

On the afternoon of 8 July, the Union Minister and party, accompanied by officials from the World Cities Summit organising committee, went to study the Tampines Hub, which opened in

2017. Twelve construction companies spent over US\$500 million to construct high-end apartment buildings at Tampines Hub on 5.7 hectares of land where 220,000 people are now living.

On the morning of 9 July, the Union Minister and party attended the opening ceremony of the Singapore Biennial Urban Sustainability Week (World Cities Summit, Singapore International Water Week, Clean Environment Summit) at Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands Hotel.

At the opening ceremony,

Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador-At-Large Prof. Tommy Koh and Sri Lanka Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe delivered opening speeches. The ceremony was attended by mayors from all over the world, regional prime ministers, chief administrators, ministers from construction, urban and trade ministries, senior officials, experts and invited guests. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Only working in unison can benefit all

If you wish for the country to be developed and prosperous, all of the country's resources – financial, natural and human – have to be used together for the equal development of all races.

If the Bamar does what they want, if the Kachin does what they want, if the Shan, Kachin and Chin all do not cooperate, there will be no benefits for anyone. Only when you try working in unison will you know its benefits.

(Excerpt from a speech made by Bogyoke Aung San at the Panglong Dinner on February 11, 1947)



President U Win Myint: Rare opportunity to transform from old to new system being realized



President U Win Myint meeting with officials from the administrative, legislative and judicial sectors in Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-1

They are to respect and value the people and conduct with fairness and according to law. They should be fair in the political, economic and social domains, as well as having equal opportunities and having equality in the face of law.

In the judicial sector, every matter is being conducted under the management of Union Chief Justice down to all levels of judges. The judicial sector should be free from corruption. Only when it is free from corruption and bias, can there be rule of law and equality in the face of law. All need to work and control together to reach this stage. If relevant departmental organizations did not participate in the reform, the reform will be stalled. If reform-minded people are afraid to reform, there wouldn't be development. In the changing world, if changes are not implemented accordingly, the reform goal would not be

reached. Our ability to reform must be reviewed. In creating our country's future, reform must not be sluggish. Depending upon the budget of the State, salaries of the public servants were being increased. All need to participate with a will to reform.

Public servants are to perform their assigned duties. Conducting their assigned duties raise their dignity. Opportunities wait for dutiful public servants. Instead of asking the State for what the State can do for them, they should ask what they can do for the State. All are urged to explain the true situation of their region openly and transparently, said the President.

Next, State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut, State Hluttaw Speaker U Sai Long Hseng and State Chief Judge U Kywe Kywe explained about regional development work conducted by the Shan State government, Hluttaw affairs work and judicial

work respectively.

In his concluding remarks, the President said eradication and elimination of drugs is being conducted as a national duty, while attempts are being made to effectively eliminate corruption. Policies were being established on how to release confiscated lands. These policies are to be followed and implemented. Fairness is the basis to strengthen a society. Achieving fairness is establishing a democratic country. Tenders are to be called according to tender rules.

People and the country should be served for the benefit of the majority and the country and must not be for self-interest. All of us are responsible to be fair. Only when fairness is implemented can there be unity, peace and development in the country. If a federal democracy union is to be established, all have to give the light of federal democracy in their assigned sectors. Only then can the light

of the country shine brightly, and the country develop. Those who are responsible for the development of the country must strive towards proving themselves, said the President.

Afterwards, the President and party arrived at the construction site of the Taunggyi women and children four-storey hospital where Department of Buildings Deputy Director General (Construction) U Myint Zaw explained about the hospital construction project and work completed in the briefing hall.

Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win and State Department of Road Director (Civil) U Kyaw Thiha also provided additional explanation about the hospital construction project.

Responding to the explanations made, the President remarked on working without causing wastage to public funds, conduct work according to financial regulations and rules, coor-

dinate more with the Ministry of Health and Sports, complete work within the set time frame and conduct quality assurance of the building transparently with foreign experts.

From there, the President and party went to inspect cancer radiation treatment ward in the 500-bed Sao San Tun Hospital, Taunggyi, and provided cash support to patients taking treatment.

The President then met with hospital staff in the meeting hall of the hospital. During the meeting Sao San Tun Hospital superintendent Dr. Aung Ngwe San explained about the hospital and treatments provided. Pyawwa Khaing Mar Company engineer U Myo Min Tun explained about constructing a five-storey patient ward.

President U Win Myint commented on the explanations made and signed the Sao San Tun Hospital guest book.— Myanmar News Agency ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowiink2aung@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw,
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/
globalnewlightofmyanmar**Write for us**We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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

Anti-trafficking police: Do not spread fake news about missing children

By Nyein Nyein

THE anti-trafficking police have requested people to avoid spreading fake news about missing people to their guardians.

Our responsibility is to find the missing children. Whenever we call up their guardians, they are always crying because they worry about their children. So, we cannot ask them for any information. Some of the guardians post their children's photos and contact numbers on social media. We have to say thanks to the people who share the photos of missing children. But some people contact the mentioned number and share misinformation, such as claim-

ing to have seen the child and that the child was being followed by a man on a motorbike, and things like that. When we attempt to find these witnesses, we discover their addresses are wrong and their phones are switched off. Therefore, we want to tell them that if they don't want to help us, it is fine, but please do not mislead us, said the anti-trafficking press release, issued on 5 July.

The anti-trafficking police came across information on social media concerning two high school students who live in Kayin Ahmyothar Ward, Kyimyindine Township, and went missing on 2 July. The students were found in Nan Taw Yar Ward, Bago Township,

on 8 July according to the anti-trafficking police.

The anti-trafficking police are conducting awareness education in states and regions to reduce the number of human trafficking cases. A total of 176 persons were trafficked in 107 cases reported from January to June this year.

According to the 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report, there are seven types of trafficking crimes, with 69.7 per cent of trafficking caused by forced marriage, 13.6 per cent by the sex trade, 10 per cent by labour exploitation and forced labour, 4.8 per cent by child trafficking, 1.4 per cent by slavery, 0.3 per cent by forced fostering and 0.2 per cent by sexual exploitation.

According to reports on transnational human trafficking, 80 per cent of victims are sent to China, 10 per cent to Thailand and 6 per cent to Malaysia. Domestically, there is a 4 per cent occurrence of human trafficking. Women account for 85 per cent of trafficking victims, including mostly minors. Child trafficking constitutes 4.38 per cent of the crimes.

According to the 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Person Law, people who traffic women and children shall be given a minimum 10-year imprisonment or maximum life imprisonment or fined. Money or property received from trafficking will be confiscated by the government. ■

Fingerlings released into Reed Lake, saplings planted in border town

A ceremony to release fingerlings into Reed Lake was held at the lake's beach in Reedhorda, a border town in Chin State, in conjunction with a tree-planting event yesterday morning.

The ceremony was organised by the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Forestry, under the leadership of Chin State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Breeding, Forestry and Mining U Mang Hen Dal, Chin State Minister for Municipality, Electricity and Industry U Soe Htet and Chin State cabinet secretary U Kyaw Soe.

A total of 50,000 fingerlings were released into Reed Lake by the attendees and staff from the Department of



Departmental officials plant saplings in Reedhorda, a border town in Chin State. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Fisheries. The department also released 100,000 fingerlings into the lake during similar ceremonies held in 2017. Later, a tree

planting ceremony followed. Approximately 300 saplings, such as cherry and eucalyptus, were planted during the event.

Departmental officials, local authorities and residents were involved in the activity.—Township IPRD/MDN ■



Marijuana seized in Ponnagyun

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Ponnagyun Myoma police station seized marijuana weighing 10 grams from a motorbike rider on Kin Chaung Bridge, which is the entrance to Ponnagyun Town, on 8 July, according to the Ponnagyun Myoma police station.

According to the investigation, the combined team stopped the motorbike heading for Ponnagyun town from Sitway, driven by Win Soe, 22, with Zaw Win

Tun, 28, from San Pya Ward in Ponnagyun Town riding, and found black plastic bags in the latter's hand. Zaw Win Tun tried to discard the plastic bags into the creek. When the police recovered the bags, they found marijuana weighing 10 grams and worth Ks10,000 inside them.

Police have filed charges against both suspects under Section 16(C)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Ni Ni (IPRD) ■

Group processing needed to enhance rubber sector, MRPPA official says

By May Thet Hnin

Group processing, an essential component of cooperative learning, is required to ensure the development of the rubber industry, said U Khaing Myint, secretary of the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA).

Myanmar's rubber producers are not consistent enough in assessing the quality of their products; it varies across farms. Therefore, Myanmar's rubber is always sold at a price lower than the actual market price. To remedy this situation, we need to adopt the group processing system, he added.

"Thailand has many small-scale rubber farms like us. However, they organise manufacturing by group processing and setting up a factory on 300-400 acres. It results in consistency and quality. The rubber farms here produce individually, not assuring the quality of the product. Meanwhile, different qualities can result in difficulties in the manufacturing process, such as chemical formulation. Therefore, our rubber does not fetch a good price," said U Khaing Myint.

To implement group processing, rubber sellers are conducting a series of discussions, as it cannot happen with their sole efforts and they need the participation of rubber associa-



Workers inspect the quality of rubber sheets at a processing plant. PHOTO: MMAL

tions and related departments, he continued.

"We need to set up cooperatives for this. Small-scale farms should be organised to establish cooperatives by arranging set land areas of 300 to 500 acres, in cooperation with the cooperatives department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the commerce ministry. With the government's support and contribution, the

rubber industry will surely improve if quality ribbed smoked sheets are produced," said U Khaing Myint.

Group processing will result in quality consistency if rubber latex is sent to the respective rubber sheet smoking and rubber latex production factories.

At present, the ethnic-owned Rubber Smoked Sheet Factory established in Taninthayi Region is purchasing and pro-

cessing rubber. With the Mon State government's loan, rubber producers are planning to set up 28 standard rubber sheet factories. Kayin State has four similar ones.

As Myanmar rubber is of inferior quality, it is sold at US\$350-400 lower than the global market price. If 92 per cent of rubber farms pursue this cooperative system, rubber quality will improve and it will scale up

pricing, U Khaing Myint maintained.

After improving the quality control process, pedigree rubber trees should be grown. Myanmar has many rubber varieties, which produce an annual average yield of 500, 700, 1,000, 1,600 and 1,800 pounds per acre. Most of them choose a rubber variety, which produces 700 pounds of latex. The yield differs from farm to farm. The neighbouring countries produce 1,600 pounds on an average per acre, while India produces 1,800 pounds. Myanmar needs to select pedigree varieties, which produce 1,600-1,800 pounds per acre, he noted.

However, rubber farm owners can face difficulties from replanting new rubber varieties with increased capital. Also, they have to wait for a period of time for latex production.

The world's leading rubber producing countries, such as Thailand, Malaysia and India, have set up a self fund to assist rubber replanting and researching, contributing input costs, including cultivation cost, rubber plants, and fertilisers, financed primarily by some per cent of the export earnings, said U Khaing Myint.

Currently, a Rubber Law has been drafted to promote the rubber sector, with the emergence of a rubber central market and other development activities incorporated into it. ■

Magway Region CCI reports difficulties in cattle export

By May Thet Hnin

Magway Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MRC-CI) submitted a report to the government, citing difficulties in cattle export.

The MRCCI report, submitted during a meeting between Vice President U Myint Swe and businessmen held on 6 July, related to health certificates from relevant departments and ear tagging or ear notching for vaccine status in cattle export. Additionally, the number of cattle exported is submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and its processing usually takes two or three

months. They also requested the government to cut down the processing time and government procedures to ensure smooth transportation and transaction.

Later, to satisfy the market demand of foreign traders, the government should link local cattle export companies with foreign ones through a government-to-government (G to G) agreement, said U Sein Aye Maung, chair of MRCCI.

Currently, live cattle export is undertaken through the Muse trade route. Prior to their purchase by Chinese merchants, traders have to feed the cattle, which adds to the cost. Besides, Chinese merchants manipulate

and lower the price while observing the market. A G to G agreement can save the additional cost and regulate the price manipulation, he added.

U Cho Aye Maung, vice chair of Magway Region Livestock Association, suggested setting up of a temporary shelter for live cattle on a particular land area, as some exporters need to buy property in Muse to keep live cattle before trading.

In addition, he requested the government to set up a livestock breeding zone on grazing lands due to the shortage of feed stuff. The state should provide virgin and vacant land areas in every township and region, he said.

Farming zones should have specific places for chicken and pigs, which are prone to diseases, while cattle, cows, goats and sheep breeding areas should be set up in other places. The organised farming could help boost exports and control animal diseases, said the breeders.

Cattle breeding companies need to come together. Manageable breeders and companies

are also required to get access to loan plans with cheaper interest rates. The government should conduct awareness campaigns about vaccination and supplementary feeding programmes. The participation of breeders is also needed, said U Cho Aye Maung.

There are 147 cattle exporting companies in Magway Region. ■

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ကြော်ငြာရောင်းချခြင်းနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအရောင်းစီမံရေးအဖွဲ့နှင့် ကြော်ငြာ
ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်သွေးငွေနှုန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

Advertise with us.

HOTLINE

09-974424848

UPDJC holds meeting in preparation for Peace Conference

FROM PAGE-1

as it will discuss the submitted points from the working committee meetings, which would then be submitted to the peace conference, said the Vice-Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman said UPDJC leaders are given the responsibility of ensuring the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong is conducted smoothly and yields substantial results. He added that there have been debates, disagreements and agreements during the political dialogues, which have culminated into a moment for building understanding and rapport.

The Vice-Chairman said everyone has treaded together on the path of the UPDJC, with mutual understanding and sympathy, so that the political dialogue will be successful and the nation will be closer to achieving the peace every citizen in the country wishes for.

He said there have been previous attempts to achieve union peace but none of those political dialogues had the framework or guidelines for systematic meetings that the UPDJC has. He added that UPDJC leaders have set firm guidelines for political dialogues to take place with little difficulty. The Vice-Chairman said the most important part of the political dialogue is setting the basic democratic and federal

principles, which will serve as the foundation for a democratic federal union. This task and goal is the UPDJC's objective as well, he said.

It doesn't matter what diverse group we come from because we are operating as one under the UPDJC, and it will be remembered as a milestone in history as something we all worked on together.

The Vice-Chairman pointed out that the instigators behind the armed conflicts within the nation are not the people sitting at the meeting. He said it is important we do not carry over the animosity from these conflicts, as we are working to root out the underlying political issues that are the cause for these conflicts. Blaming and pointing fingers will not resolve conflicts.

The Vice-Chairman said internal armed conflicts are still ongoing in the country and we are working to quell them. The UPDJC is not for creating additional problems but for resolving existing ones. He said reliving the past makes it impossible to break free from its grasp and requested everyone to take the past as a lesson and to look forward to the future when they enter the UPDJC meeting hall.

He said it is important to have a political mindset that



Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee holds the meeting in preparation for the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

truly wishes for peace. He said the democratic federal union will not be the same with every vision of every group but will be composed of similar elements taken from these visions.

He said it is important for every respective leader to put forth several suggestions over basic principles. With this in mind, everyone needs to know when to compromise and show restraint during the political dialogue, he added.

Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong

Afterwards, Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, Vice-Chairman of the UPDJC, called on all members of the committee to work hard to complete scrutinizing suggestions and proposals submitted by the work committees, as today's meeting is in prepa-

ration for the third session of the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong.

“We need to work hard to scrutinize the proposals to make them the best and to reach agreements, as far as possible, over the proposals before submitting them to the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong,” said Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong.

“Let's take the approach of working together to find a solution to the country's problem and let's discuss with patience and find answers to peace,” he said.

U Thu Wai

U Thu Wai, Vice-Chairman of the UPDJC, also expressed his delight over the formation of the UPDJC, which comprises representatives of the government, the Tatmadaw, the Hluttaw, signatories to the NCA and

political parties, to work together to achieve peace in the country.

With patience, tolerance, understanding and farsightedness, the UPDJC needs to overcome challenges when it works towards peace and national reconciliation, he added.

“Only when UPDJC shows such kind of achievement, will the country's people gain confidence over peace and participate in the peace process,” said U Thu Wai.

As UPDJC is making all-out efforts to achieve peace, UPDJC would make its own history when the country achieves peace, he added.

The meeting discussed a wide range of issues over the political, economic, social, land and environmental conservation and security sectors.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Chinese cartoon series, The Governance of China Volume I, introduced

A ceremony to commence the broadcasting of the Chinese cartoon series, jointly organised by Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and Guangxi People's Broadcasting Station, was held at Nay Pyi Taw MRTV in Tatkon yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended and opened by member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat and Head of the CPC Propaganda Department Mr. Huang Kunming, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, and Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun.

Next, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, guest Mr. Huang Kunming, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, other officials and attendee guests took a commemorative group photo.

The cartoon series will be



CPC Politburo member Mr. Huang Kunming and Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint attend the ceremony to launch Chinese cartoon series. **PHOTO: MNA**

broadcast every Sunday at 9.30 am on MRTV, starting from August this year.

Later, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint met with Mr. Huang Kunming in the guest hall of MRTV and discussed matters relating to increasing cooperation in the media, culture and travel sectors

of the two countries, literature development and cooperation over the construction of a movie studio in Nay Pyi Taw.

After the meeting, the Union Minister and the visiting Chinese delegation, led by Mr. Huang Kunming, inspected the work conducted in cooperation between

MRTV and Guangxi People's Broadcasting Station.

“The Governance of China” written by Chinese President Xi Jinping launched

Later in the afternoon, a ceremony to introduce the Myanmar language version of ‘The Governance of China’ written by the People's Republic of China President Xi Jinping and a China-Myanmar discussion on political governance was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw, which was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and U Ohn Win, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, other officials and invited guests.

At the book introduction ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy

Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, member of the Politburo of the CPC, Secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat and Head of the CPC Propaganda Department Mr. Huang Kunming and Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang delivered messages of greetings.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and Mr. Huang Kunming then launched the book.

Later, Mr. Huang Kunming presented the books to Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and officials and took a commemorative group photo.

After the book introduction ceremony, a China-Myanmar discussion on political governance was held.—MNA ■

Thakhin Mya, a leader bequeathing priceless legacies



၁၉၂၀ တက္ကသိုလ်သပိတ်ကာလအတွင်း ထူထောင်ခဲ့သော ကြည့်မြင်တိုင်အမျိုးသား (နေရှင်နယ်) အထက်တန်းကျောင်း၏ ဆရာများအဖွဲ့ (ထိုင်နေသော အလယ်တန်းလက်ဝဲဘက် ဒုတိယလူမှာ ဆရာမြဖြစ်သည်)

By Thi Thi Min

“THE saying, ‘The dead are forgotten in due time’ is a bit incorrect. We even have more memories of them as the Martyrs’ Day approaches. I always offer *soon* (meals) to the Sangha on Martyrs’ Day every year, and I’ve never missed one,” said U Ye Myint Aung, a family member of the martyred leader Thakhin Mya.

Thakhin Mya, along with Bogyoke Aung San and other martyred leaders, was assassinated inside the Secretariat Building in Yangon on 19 July 1947.

It was a sorrowful day and one that can never be forgotten for the family members of the nine fallen martyrs and for the entire country.

“Ba Ba (a term affectionately given to an elderly person) Mya was 50 when he passed away. He could have lived longer. He was the most senior among the nine Arzarni (martyred) leaders in terms of age and political experience. This explains why he’s always calm and composed when making decisions. He was kind, too,” said Thakhin Mya’s son U Ye Myint Aung as he recollects anecdotes from his mother and from books he’s read about his father.

Thakhin Mya married Daw Khin Nyunt in 1926, but they did not have any children of their own. Wishing to live in a family atmosphere, they lived together with Thakhin Mya’s confidante Thakhin Khin Aung and his family. Daw Khin Nyunt would take Thakhin Khin Aung’s son U Ye Myint Aung everywhere she went.

Thakhin Mya was a man of few words and calm demeanor, devoid of greed or avarice. It was said that Bogyoke Aung San, himself, would discuss with Thakhin Mya on certain issues before making any decisions.

In 1927, Thakhin Mya passed the BL (Law) examination and returned to Thayawady to work as a lawyer. He would take cases pro bono for clients with financial difficulties. He represented the poor during the Sayar San Uprising.

“Sayar San only had the poor and farmers supporting him. They were called ‘rebels’ by the British. Thakhin Mya felt sympathy for them and represented the farmers without asking for any pay. That trait is something to aspire to,” U Ye Myint Aung said proudly of his father.

On 27 March 1945, Thakhin Mya was assigned to beguile the Japanese and free his fellow revolutionaries from captivity. In September of the same year, the People’s Revolutionary Party was reformed into the Burma Socialist Party with Thakhin Mya as Chairman.

“He (Thakhin Mya) and Bogyoke Aung San were congruent in political matters, sometimes as mentors and other times as brothers. Only in dead, did they part,” said U Ye Myint Aung.

“The State gave each family of the Arzarni leaders a store in the Scott Market (now Bogyoke Aung San Market). The BOC Company also gave a permit each to open a gas station. But it was all lost when General Ne Win nationalized the economy. My mother received Ks1,000 a month, but we stopped receiving anything after she passed away,” said U Ye Myint Aung.



U Ye Myint Aung.

General Ne Win would attend the Martyrs’ Day ceremonies, complete with military bands, alongside the families of the fallen Arzarni leaders and offer flower wreaths and pay his respects. However, after the bomb explosion at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in 1983, all ceremonies were discontinued and families of the Arzarni leaders were forbidden to attend any Martyrs’ Day events.

Martyrs’ Day ceremonies were held again across the country after the democratic government took office. Also, on 7 October 2017, the Dobama Asiayone (New Generation) were given permission to lead the celebrations for the 120th Birthday event of Thakhin Mya at Thakhin Mya Park in Ahlon Township, Yangon.

When asked about his current political views U Ye Myint Aung replied, “I’m not going to be a hinderance in the way of the government we elected to office. I consider this a political service to the country.”

U Ye Myint Aung, family member of Thakhin Mya, the Minister of Home Affairs in Bogyoke Aung San’s government and the national leader who risked his life for independence, said, “I take pride in being his family member. His patriotism, love for his country and honesty are the priceless legacies he’s left behind for us.” ■



Thakhin Mya

(7 October 1897 - 19 July 1947)

- * He served as the Minister of Home Affairs in General Aung San’s Cabinet. He was born on Thursday, 7 October 1897 at 19:36 in Htone Bo, Pyay District. His parents were U Boe Chun and Daw Thet Lai. His childhood name was Maung Mya Shwe and his younger sister Ma Mya Ngwe became a nun called Daw Khaemarwaddy.
- * Thakhin Mya attended the third to seventh grades at Thayawady ABM (Anglican Board of Mission) school and up to the tenth grade at Yangon’s Baptist High School. In 1916, he continued his ISC course at Yangon College, graduating in 1918 with distinction in ISC Chemistry from Yangon College and the University of Calcutta.
- * Thakhin Mya was a member of the National Education Council and led the 1920-1921 Yangon College boycott. He also served as the Vice Chairman of the twenty-four-member Boycott Council. He held the position of Amyotha (National) School principal in Kyimyindine from 1922-1923. However, after getting to know that national schools received funding from the government, he resigned from the National Education Council. In 1924, he received a BSc in Chemistry with distinction.
- * 1926 – He married Daw Khin Nyunt. In 1927, Thakhin Mya passed the BL (Law) examination and returned to Thayawady to work as a lawyer.
- * In 1936, he received his Thakhin title and in 1937 became an executive member of Dobama Asiayone. He was soon elected as an MP for southern Thayawady in the Legislative Hluttaw but quit the post after protesting against the British government’s bloodshed handling of the student movement on 20 December 1938.
- * In 1939, he was elected to take the chairman position at the Burma Peasants Association. In the same year he played a major role in the formation of the People’s Revolutionary Party. While Bogyoke Aung San assumed leadership from abroad, Thakhin Mya held leadership within the country. Thakhin Mya also served as a government minister and then as deputy prime minister during times of war.
- * In 1944, he helped form the Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League to drive out the Japanese.
- * Then in 1946, he became a cabinet member in Bogyoke Aung San’s government and was subsequently assassinated with the other national leaders at 10:37 am on 19 July 1947.

Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport project will not become a debt trap

THE progress of economic zones is of great importance to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. It can also create job opportunities in areas where the zones are set up.

Hence, we need to ensure our projects are a success for our people to be able to enjoy a good socio-economic life.

While setting up special economic zones in the country, concerns are rising over the Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport and Myanmar being at risk of walking into a debt trap as a result of the seaport, which includes the Kyaukpyu SEZ in Rakhine State.

We are fully aware of the concerns expressed by observers and academics regarding the debt issue, or "debt book diplomacy" or the "debt trap".

Both agreed to construct the port in stages and that the construction would be carried out step by step under the management of the Ministry of Commerce, with participation from local businessmen and residents, in cooperation with China.

The economic corridor of China's Belt and Road Initiative and the two countries will approach this in a way to ensure it becomes a win-win situation for both.

Myanmar and China have made progress during negotiations over the Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport. Both agreed to construct the port in stages and that the construction would be carried out step by step under the management of the Ministry of Commerce, with participation from local businessmen and residents, in cooperation with China.

We can rest assured that we will start on a small scale and expand gradually in phases according to its progress as well as income generation.

Hence, we can say that Myanmar is not walking into a debt trap.

The chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission brushed off the concern last week in Hong Kong saying, "We do not have any concerns regarding the 'debt trap'."

Why? There are three reasons: First, this project is based on demand and not on supply. Second, the size of the project will be tailored to Myanmar's needs. More importantly, the government will not borrow any funds and will not cede to any sovereign authority.

The case of Hambantota port in Sri Lanka has provided us with a textbook example of how to implement the deep sea port. Myanmar will not implement large-scale project such as the Hambantota Port.

To implement the project, Myanmar is mindful of similar patterns and has taken lessons from other countries. The Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport project is a part of the

What have we achieved in our 71-year journey?

By Kyi Zin Hnin

SEEING the deep red petals of the gold mohur (*sein bann*) flowers beautifully blanketing on the grounds during the early monsoon season, my memory rushes back to and lingers on the Shwe Nat Taung High School (Mawlamyaing), where the author had the short opportunity to enjoy schooling in white and green school uniforms.

Those were memorable days, when there were no paid tuitions. All the students had to do was to regularly attend the normal school hours during which the teachers poured their hearts out in teaching us with all kindness.

Not only taught from the prescribed syllabus from our text books, we underwent a methodical and systematic educational system that left us equipped with a solid foundation of what the school had to offer. Therefore, we were sailing with ease and comfort in our further studies at respective universities and higher education.

Educational talks, extempore competitions, and debates, together with funfairs, were held in conjunction with special celebrations at Shwe Nat Taung High School, and they were participated by students with much delight and fun. Such kinds of experience was a motivation for students, making them ready for futures tasks and activities coming along the way in their lives.

As a young girl student from grade five, I had my first taste of listening to an educational talk on the events surrounding Arzani Day (Martyrs' Day), the title of the talk being, 'Unforgettable Arzani Day'. Gratitude is due to my parents and grandparents who talked to us about Arzani Day, Arzani leaders and background events, during our bedtime. Moreover, I have had the privilege of reading in-depth on these subjects. Therefore, I knew in detail what Arzani Day was all about, and I have the full confidence and courage to talk about it at any place or at any time.

Another memorable and happy day for me in my life was when I was attending my first year university, I was awarded the first prize for university-level article writing competition for Arzani Day.

According to Myanmar dictionary, 'martyr' is defined as (1) a person who knows whether their sacrifice was for a cause or not; (2) a person with higher physical and mental level and who is daring enough to give one's life for other people. [Generally, Martyrs' Day is an annual day observed by nations to salute the martyrdom of soldiers who lost their lives defending the sovereignty of the nation.]

In the past, Myanmar was under colonial rule for 124 years, and all national races fought against the colonialists and imperialists for many decades to regain the independence.

In history, a colony is a territory under the immediate complete political control of a state, distinct



Portrait of members of the Thirty Comrades

from the home territory of the sovereign. For colonies in antiquity, city-states would often found their own colonies.

Indonesia was under Dutch colony for 350 years. Angola was under Portugal colony, since the 16th century.

In the past, a colony is a group of people who settled in a new place but kept ties to their homeland. The people who founded the United States first came to America to live as part of a British colony. The word 'colony' comes from the Latin 'colonia', meaning 'settled land, farm.'

The colonialists used the term '3 M' in their colonization campaigns. The ways and means were as follows:

- (1) **Missionary:** They influenced with missionary persuasion over natives who had no religious faith in the past.
- (2) **Merchandise:** In the newly found territories, the colonialists bought the resources cheap and established their trading business and settled down there.
- (3) **Military:** A weak country having only fragile forces was attacked and the land annexed and colonized.

Myanmar was under colonial rule and being subjugated. Therefore, the national races fought against the colonialists with all possible means, including the peasants' revolt and the workers' revolt.

There were many revolts and revolutions, and out of them the secret military training of the Thirty Comrades was the most remarkable and

want to remain inexperienced and naive. If we just remain in the cycle of past events, we would never be able to move forward.

Now we are witnessing modern structures, such as that of eight-layer highway roads in Kunming in Yunnan Province, China, or that of sky trains, double highways and triple highways, and world-class hospitals in neighboring Thailand, or Singapore becoming from scratch structure of a fishing village into the world's top ranking nation. If we want to move towards prosperity and wealth, we should have similar aspiration and goals.

We have regained our independence, now for 70 years. If we count from the day when Bogyoke was assassinated, it is now 71 years.

What have we achieved so far?

We have to uphold our national interest.

Unlike the olden days when the '3 M' method was instrumental, it is now the 'PPT' age. PPT stands for:

- (1) **Pop culture:** penetration of music and alien culture.
- (2) **Popular gadgets and modern conveniences:** penetration of modern devices, smart phones, spy cameras, drones, minute but powerful innovations.
- (3) **Trendy mindset:** penetration of foreign styles; inclination to western culture; imitation of Korean style; preference of new culture which might result in the loss of own national identity.

Mostly, we were going in circles in the past with an unending and useless criticism. Count Lyov Nikolayevich Tolstoy, usually known to the English as Leo Tolstoy, was a Russian writer who is regarded as one of the greatest authors of all time. He wrote, "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."

The author would like to take the liberty in giving an example of human weakness. A responsible team has built a concrete drainage along the main road, but even before the concrete drainage was completed, some irresponsible people come and litter and throw all their trash in the drain. Is the drain meant for trash? This is just one example on one's fault of mindset, among hundreds of gaffes.

We have crossed the line of 71 years with all the blunders which could not be reversed. However, the present period is the most important moment to make a change for a better future.

The author of this article would like to convey the message that Bogyoke Aung San had urged us to change all our former bad characters once and for all. Let us pledge ourselves and vow to work hard in uplifting the image of our people and the prestige of our nation among the nations on this planet.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Opening ceremony of third session of 21st Century Panglong Conference to be broadcast live

THE opening ceremony of the third session of the 21st century Panglong Conference will be broadcast live on 11 July morning by MRTV, MITV, mntv, Sky Net Up to Date, Sky Net (ethnic races), Sky Net Hluttaw, MWD, MWD (Variety), Myanmar Radio Programme, MIR (Radio), MOI Web Portal Myanmar Facebook, MRTV

Facebook, Myanmar Digital News Facebook, President's Office, Myanmar State Counsellor's Office and Information Committee's Facebook.

The conference will commence at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw and the live broadcast will begin at 9.45 a.m. — Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Press Council member selection board gives directives to candidates

The Myanmar Press Council has urged candidates who will compete in the election for new members of the Myanmar Press Council to get the documents related to the election, which will be carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Myanmar Press Council and personal forms at www.myanmarpresscouncil.org and Mm.presscouncil (Facebook).

The forms and documents are also available at the office of the Myanmar Press Council at No. 136, 138 (A+C), 35th Street (Middle Block), Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Ph. 09-448026326.

The candidates are urged to submit their forms to mmpresscouncil@gmail.com by 4 pm, 20 July, 2018, Friday, or to the office of the Myanmar Press Council. — Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 9th July, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 10th JULY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing Region, 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: Continuations of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th JULY, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th JULY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

UK police rush to solve Novichok nerve agent death

SALISBURY (United Kingdom) — British police rushed to solve a murder mystery on Monday after a woman died following exposure to the nerve agent Novichok, four months after the same toxin nearly killed a former Russian spy in an attack that Britain blamed on Moscow.

Prime Minister Theresa May said she was “appalled and shocked” by the death of Dawn Sturgess, a 44-year-old mother of three who had been living in a homeless hostel in Salisbury in southwest England.

Sturgess and Charlie Rowley, 45, fell ill last weekend in the town of Amesbury, near Salisbury, the city where former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were attacked with Novichok in March. They have since recovered.

The British government has called a meeting of its COBRA emergencies committee for 1:00pm (1200 GMT).

The Kremlin said it would be “absurd” to suggest Russia was involved in the death of Sturgess.

“We don’t know that Russia has been mentioned or associated with this,” President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

“We consider that in any case it would be quite absurd.”

Russia is “deeply concerned by the continuing appearance of these poisonous substances on British territory,” which “present a danger not just for the British but for all Europeans,” Peskov added.

Britain and its allies accused Russia of trying to kill the Skripals, prompting angry denials and sparking an international diplomatic crisis.

‘No guarantees’

Police said they could not yet say whether the nerve agent



Pedestrians walk past police officers standing guard near barriers across Rolleston Street, outside the John Baker House Sanctuary Supported Living in Salisbury, southern England, on 8 July, 2018. PHOTO: AFP.

in the Amesbury case was linked to the Salisbury attack — but it was their main line of inquiry.

The head of Britain’s counter-terror police also said he could not rule out further contaminations.

“I simply cannot offer any guarantees,” said Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, who is leading the investigation.

He said people in Salisbury should not pick up strange items such as needles, syringes or unusual containers.

Whilst 21 other people have come forward with health concerns, they have been screened and “all been given the all-clear”, he said.

Police and public health officials insist the risk to the wider public remains low.

Police said that given the deadly dose, the British couple

were believed to have become exposed to Novichok by handling a “contaminated item”, with speculation that it could have been the container used to administer the nerve agent to the Skripals.

Christine Blanshard, medical director at Salisbury District Hospital, where Sturgess and Rowley were being treated and where the Skripals were hospitalised, told The Daily Telegraph newspaper that staff had “worked tirelessly to save Dawn”.

“This latest, horrendous turn of events has only served to strengthen the resolve of our investigation team as we work to identify those responsible for this outrageous, reckless and barbaric act,” said Basu.

He said Rowley remained critically ill in hospital.

‘Praying for Charlie’

Residents of the homeless hostel in Salisbury where Sturgess lived, which was evacuated after the couple fell ill, expressed their devastation at the news of her death.

“It could easily have happened to anyone, to me or my partner,” 27-year-old Ben Jordan told AFP. “We are really, really sad. I am praying for Charlie.”

Around 100 counter-terrorism officers are helping in the investigation, which police said Friday could take “weeks and months”.

So far, there is no evidence that the couple visited any of the sites involved in the Skripal case.

“Detectives will continue with their painstaking and meticulous work to gather all the available evidence so that we

can understand how two citizens came to be exposed with such a deadly substance that tragically cost Dawn her life,” Basu said.

Sturgess collapsed on the morning of 30 June and was taken to hospital. That afternoon, Rowley fell ill at the same address in Amesbury and was also hospitalised.

On Wednesday, the government’s Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down confirmed their exposure to Novichok.

Police said Sunday they were not yet able to say whether the nerve agent was from the same batch that the Skripals were exposed to.

The Skripals have been released from hospital but the investigation into the attack on them continues. No arrests have been made.—AFP ■

Trump slams NATO spending on eve of departure for summit

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Monday criticized NATO member states’ military spending and said it benefits Europe more than America, setting the stage for a potentially-acrimonious summit with leaders of the alliance.

“The United States is

spending far more on NATO than any other country. This is not fair, nor is it acceptable,” Trump tweeted a day before he departs for the summit, which will take place on 11-12 July in Brussels.

“While these countries have been increasing their contribu-

tions since I took office, they must do much more,” he wrote, adding that NATO benefits “Europe far more than it does the US.”

Trump has repeatedly criticized NATO states for allegedly not pulling their financial weight, and has been reach-

ing out to Russian President Vladimir Putin even as his ties with some of his western allies have become strained.

Diplomats fear a rancorous meeting in Brussels could undermine efforts to show unity in the face of the growing threat on the alliance’s eastern flank,

particularly with Trump set to meet Putin in Helsinki a few days later.

Trump has insisted that he will be “totally prepared” for the summit with Putin, saying that he “might even end up having a good relationship” with the Russian strongman.—AFP ■

Philippines' Duterte could extend rule under draft constitution

MANILA— The draft of a new Philippine constitution submitted to President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday would grant him new powers and a chance to extend his stay in office by up to eight years.

Under the current law Duterte will have to step down in 2022, when his six-year term is up. But the proposed shift to a federal system laid out in the draft would allow him to run for two additional terms of four years each.

“The adoption of a new constitution... effectively results in a fresh start for all,” said a statement from the committee that crafted the draft on the president’s orders.

The draft constitution has several obstacles to clear before it can become law, including a congressional debate and a public referendum.

The latest polls — surveying around 1,200 people — show only 37 per cent of Filipinos back changing the constitution while 29 per cent are against it

According to the draft the country would be divided under

a federal system into 18 regions which would have a greater degree of control over their own affairs.

Duterte says the reforms would shift power away from Manila elites and help seal long-stymied peace agreements with insurgent groups fighting for greater regional autonomy.

‘Lawless violence’

However critics fear the 73-year-old president is aiming to hold on to power past constitutional limits which were put in place after the fall of the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship.

Duterte said over the weekend that he would not seek to stay in office beyond his term’s end in 2022.

Christian Monsod, one of the framers of the Philippines’ current constitution, said the reforms are the only legal way to get around term limits.

“In other words, the question is... is federalism a Trojan horse to stay in power?” he asked at a policy forum last week.

The draft also allows the president to use “lawless vio-



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: AFP

lence” as a justification for imposing military rule. Under the current constitution, “invasion or rebellion” are the only two legitimate reasons for declaring martial law.

Military rule has a dark past in the Philippines, where it was used by Marcos to jail thousands

of political foes, with thousands of others allegedly killed by the security forces.

Duterte has made law and order a centrepiece of his administration, in particular his deadly drugs war that has killed thousands and prompted allegations of crimes against humanity.

“Despite my best efforts to believe in this process, I find it difficult to believe we can effectively introduce a new constitution given the present political landscape,” said political expert Ronald Mendoza at Ateneo de Manila University School of Government. —AFP ■

Taiwan issues warning as Typhoon Maria approaches

TAIPEI, (China) — Ferries were suspended and farmers rushed for last-minute harvests on Monday as Taiwan braced for Typhoon Maria, with warnings of possible mudslides and flooding as the storm nears.

Maria was 1,100 kilometres (684 miles) east-southeast of the capital Taipei with gusts of up to 200 kilometres an hour as of 2:30 pm local time (0630 GMT).

Waves were starting to pound the island’s north and east coasts with the weather bureau predicting the typhoon’s impact would be strongest on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

“We urge the public to be vigilant and to cooperate with any preventative evacuation,” interior minister Yeh Jiunn-rong said.

No evacuations have taken place so far but Yeh warned that heavy rains posed the risk of floodwaters and mudslides.

An official announced more than 30,000 soldiers would be on standby to help with disaster prevention.

The typhoon would not make a direct hit if it continued on its current trajectory, which would see it skim Taiwan’s northern tip, according to the weather bureau.

The bureau urged the public to avoid water activities and warned fishing boats to take precautions in a Monday afternoon sea warning.

Dozens of ferry services to offshore islands were suspended on Monday. Local television footage also showed farmers rushing to harvest fruit and vegetables ahead of the typhoon. Taiwan is frequently hit by typhoons in the summer. Last year, more than 100 people were injured when Typhoon Nesat battered the island, causing flooding and widespread power outages.—AFP ■

N Korea talks sidelining human rights: UN rapporteur

SEOUL (South Korea) — The North Korean talks process with the US and the South is sidelining the human rights of Pyongyang’s oppressed citizens, the UN’s top official on the issue said on Monday.

In a whirlwind of diplomacy, the leader of the isolated, nuclear-armed North Kim Jong Un held an unprecedented summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore last month, after two earlier meetings with the South’s Moon Jae-in.

It was a marked contrast to the mutual threats and mounting fears of last year, instead raising hopes of reaching a deal over North Korea’s arsenal, which include nuclear bombs and missiles capable of reaching the US mainland.

But Pyongyang remains accused by many — including the UN — of a litany of rights abuses against its population.

Neither the joint statement issued by Trump and Kim in Singapore, nor the earlier Panmunjom Declaration signed by Kim and Moon, mentioned the

issue of human rights.

“It seems that those who are negotiating are losing sight of this important thing, which is would this process benefit at the end the people living in North Korea,” said Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on human rights in the North.

Instead Washington and Seoul were prioritising their own concerns, he said.

“In principle the interests that the president of the United States has shown is that they want to denuclearise North Korea so their territory is not in danger, and that of course is something that has to do with their own interests,” Ojea Quintana told AFP in Seoul.

“I’m still trying to understand to what extent human rights was raised” by Trump in Singapore, the Argentinian lawyer added.

“It seems that it was not comprehensively addressed.”

He was particularly concerned, he said, by Trump’s remarks that the focus should be on the future rather than

the past.

“Those are not the kind of statements that we those who advocate for human rights would like to hear,” he said, “especially from someone who is negotiating with the leadership” of North Korea.

In the Singapore statement, Kim signed up to a vague commitment to work towards “complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula”, but Pyongyang has long seen that as a lengthy process of undefined multilateral disarmament, rather than a unilateral dismantling of its own weapons.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was in Pyongyang at the weekend to try to flesh out the process, only for the North to warn that it was being jeopardised by overbearing “gangster-like” US demands.

Pompeo shrugged off the accusations, insisting the talks were being conducted in “good faith” and making progress, and adding sanctions would only be lifted with “final” denuclearisation.— AFP ■

Pompeo makes surprise visit to Kabul: Afghan official

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a surprise visit to Kabul Monday for talks with Afghan leaders, an Afghan official said, amid renewed optimism for peace in the war-weary country.



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. PHOTO: AFP

Pompeo's first official visit to Afghanistan since he was sworn in as America's top diplomat in April follows an unprecedented ceasefire during Eid last month.

The Islamic holiday was marked by spontaneous street celebrations involving Afghan security forces and Taliban militants. The official confirmed Pompeo's arrival on the condition of anonymity. A joint press

conference with President Ashraf Ghani is due to start shortly.

Fighters on both sides have expressed a deep fatigue with the grinding conflict, raising hopes that an end to hostilities was possible after 17 years of

war that began with the US-led invasion in 2001 that ousted the Taliban from power.

But the insurgents refused the government's request to extend their three-day ceasefire, launching attacks that

have seen scores killed or injured.

A security official told AFP that the number of Taliban attacks across the country had fallen since the ceasefire, but the claim could not be verified.

US-backed President Ashraf Ghani, who is under international pressure to ensure credible parliamentary elections are held in October ahead of next year's presidential vote, has been leading the push for peace talks.

The Taliban have so far ignored Ghani's offer of negotiations. Instead, they have insisted on direct talks with the United States, which Washington has repeatedly refused.

One of the Taliban's

key demands for engaging in talks has been the complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, but observers say they now appear amenable to a timetable for their pullout.

Currently, there are about 14,000 US troops in Afghanistan, providing the main component of the NATO mission there to support and train local forces.

A Western official told reporters in Kabul recently that there was increasing debate within the Taliban leadership over how to respond to growing pressure to take part in negotiations.

But the renewed violence and the Taliban's recent vow to continue

their bloody fight against the government and their foreign backers, has dampened optimism that the truce would provide a clear path to peace talks.

Pompeo's visit to Kabul comes almost a year since US President Donald Trump announced his much-vaunted South Asia strategy to tackle Afghanistan by including a broader regional approach.

The aim is to convince the Taliban through diplomatic, military and social pressure that it cannot win and must reconcile.

International Islamic scholars meeting in Saudi Arabia this week are expected to add their weight to stopping the Afghan conflict.—AFP ■

Britain's Brexit minister steps down in blow to May

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May faced a crisis in her cabinet on Monday after Brexit minister David Davis and one of his deputies resigned over a plan to retain strong economic ties to the EU even after leaving the bloc.

All eyes are on whether there will be further resignations by Brexit hardliners that could threaten May's leadership, after junior minister Steve Baker followed Davis out the door.

The Brexit ministry denied that junior min-

ister Suella Braverman had also quit, and Davis himself said it would be "wrong" for his departure to create a full-fledged rebellion.

"I wouldn't be encouraging people to do that," he said in an interview with BBC radio, adding that "of course" May would survive.

May will address parliament later to explain her proposal for Britain to adopt EU rules on goods after Brexit, which she persuaded her divided cabinet to support during marathon talks on Friday.

Even ministers who want a clean break with Brussels agreed to the plan, finally giving May a proposal to take to the EU in the hope of agreeing a deal before Brexit in March 2019.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, a leading Brexit campaigner, criticised the plan in private but has so far has refrained from public comment.

But the truce did not last long, and Davis quit late Sunday with a scathing letter to May.

"The general direc-

tion of policy will leave us in at best a weak negotiating position, and possibly an inescapable one," he said.

Speaking to the BBC, the long-time eurosceptic said he hoped his resignation would put pressure on May to make a stronger stand against the EU.

"It seems to me we're giving too much away too easily and that's a dangerous strategy," he said.

"Hopefully we will resist very strongly any attempt to get any further concessions."

He was later replaced

by Dominic Raab, a eurosceptic junior housing minister.

'Reluctant conscript'

In his letter, Davis said the deal agreed by the cabinet last week would "make the supposed control by parliament illusory rather than real".

He was particularly critical of the plan for a "common rulebook" to allow free trade in goods, saying this "hands control of large swathes of our economy to the EU".

He concluded that his post required "an enthusi-

astic believer in your approach, and not merely a reluctant conscript".

May replied in a letter rejecting "your characterisation of the policy we agreed", she said.

She said it would "undoubtedly mean the returning of powers from Brussels to the United Kingdom".

Davis was appointed two years ago to head up the newly created Department for Exiting the European Union after Britain voted to leave the bloc in a referendum.

—AFP ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာများပို့ခံရဖို့အတွက်သတင်းပို့ပါသည်။
Circulation order is in easier way. HOTLINE 09-974424114

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များ အား နိုင်ငံတကာအဆင့်ရှိ ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. Contact: 09-254435478

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
ကြော်ငြာရောင်းချမှုနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအလုပ်များအားဖြင့် ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်ပေးနိုင်ပါသည်။
Advertise with us. HOTLINE 09-974424848

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
M.V NORD SETOUCHI VOY. NO. (218023)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NORD SETOUCHI VOY. NO. (218023) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICE (S) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

Death toll from torrential rain in western Japan rises to 109

OSAKA — The death toll from widespread flooding and landslides in western Japan rose to 109 on Monday, with over 80 more people missing and tens of thousands displaced.

Rescue and search operations by Self-Defence Forces personnel and others were continuing in disaster-hit areas on Monday, while the Japan Meteorological Agency

warned the public of the dangers of more landslides and flooding.

The number of deaths is the highest among disasters caused by major typhoons or heavy rain in recent decades — much higher than the 77 during record rainfall in Hiroshima in 2014 and 40 in last year's torrential rain in some southwestern prefectures. The figure is ex-

pected to rise further as damage in affected areas unfolds.

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

At one point, evacuation orders or advisories were issued for up to 5.9 million people in 19 prefectures, while around 23,000 people were staying at

evacuation centres as of Monday morning, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a meeting of a disaster response unit set up to deal with the flooding that the number of police, SDF and rescue personnel dispatched to the scene has increased to 73,000 and that they are "making utmost efforts to save lives."

A senior member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said the prime minister will cancel his trip to Europe and the Middle East scheduled from Wednesday to deal with the disaster and visit areas affected.

In Okayama Prefecture, one of the hardest-hit areas, more than 1,000 people were temporarily trapped on the roofs of

buildings submerged by floods following the bursting of three dikes on the nearby Oda River. Most of them were rescued by boats or helicopters.

In the Mabicho district, about 1,200 hectares, or one-third of the district, was submerged. About 4,600 homes were inundated in the area, displacing about 3,000 to 5,000 residents.—Kyodo News ■

8th boy rescued from Thai cave, 5 people remain: military source

CHIANG RAI (Thailand) — Four more boys were brought out on Monday from a deep cave in Thailand where four others were rescued on Sunday, leaving just four boys and their soccer coach inside, a military source said.

The four boys emerged from Tham Luang Nang Non cave, in the northern province of Chiang Rai, after foreign and Thai divers resumed rescue work earlier in the day to extract those remaining in the cave after being stranded there for over two weeks.

The boys were being taken by helicopter to Chiangrai Prachanukroh Hospital in the provincial capital Chiang Rai.

Rescue operation commander Narongsak Osottanakorn earlier told a press conference that the operation resumed at 11 am after divers finished reinstalling oxygen tanks and doing rope checks along the exit route that includes flooded narrow passageways.

The former Chiang Rai governor declined to say how many people would be taken out Monday, but a Thai navy source said it was likely to be four or five.

The rescue team included both divers who participated in Sunday's operation and new divers to replace those exhausted from the previous day's mission, Narongsak said.

He cited favorable factors for a successful rescue, including the fact



A stretcher carrying what is believed to be a fifth boy rescued from a cave in northern Thailand is carried from an ambulance parked near the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in the northern province of Chiang Rai on 9 July 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

that water levels in the cave remain stable amid a break in the weather even as Thailand enters the monsoon season. "Everything is all good — weather, water and the boys' conditions," he said, adding, "We will speed up (the operation)." There was scattered rain in the area of the cave on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning, but no heavy rain as had been feared. Sustained rain could raise water levels inside the cave, potentially complicating the rescue operation. Regarding the four boys rescued Sunday, Narongsak said they are doing well and some already asked for solid food.

Interior Minister Anupong Paochinda told reporters separately that the boys are in hospital and are fine but require

thorough medical checks.

An army commander has said the extraction of all 13 could take up to four days.

In Sunday's rescue, which involved about 90 personnel, the first boy left the cave at 5:40 p.m. and the fourth before 8 p.m., according to the navy. Two divers were allocated for each boy to guide them through the exit route, one in front and one behind.

The rescue of the first four boys had brought joy and relief to the families and friends of the 13, with one school friend of some of the boys telling media that he is very happy and thanking the rescue team for bringing his friends out.

A relative of one of the 12 boys, speaking to Kyodo News, compared Sunday's rescue to a miracle, adding that she wishes to see the

remaining boys and coach get out soon.

Authorities have not identified the six rescued so far.

The 12 boys, ranging in age between 11 and 16, and their 25-year-old coach, entered the cave on June 23 after soccer practice and were subsequently trapped by rising flood waters. Amid a frantic search effort by hundreds of rescuers and support personnel, divers found the group sheltering on a dry patch about 4 kilometers from the entrance of the cave on July 2.

Also Monday, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha visited the cave for the first time since the extraction operation began.

An army commander has said the extraction of all 13 could take up to four days.—Kyodo News ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Risis Pte Ltd., a corporation organized in Singapore, and having its registered office at 14 Kung Chong Road, #05-01 Lum Chang Building, Singapore 159150 is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:



Reg. No. 4/3652/2018 (18.4.2018)

In respect of "Precious metals and their alloys and goods in precious metals or coated therewith, not included in other classes; jewellery, precious stones; horological and chronometric instruments; Ornamental sculptures made of precious metal or coated therewith; Sculptures made of precious metal; free standing sculptures of precious metal" in International Class 14.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the said Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For Risis Pte Ltd.,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botataung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 10th July 2018

lmm@kcyangon.com

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Globeride, Inc., a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 14-16, Maesawa 3-chome, Higashi Kurume-shi, Tokyo 203-8511 Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:



Reg. No.4/5900/2018 (8.6.2018)



Reg. No.4/5901/2018 (8.6.2018)

All in respect of "Fishing tackle; Golf implements; Tennis rackets; Wax for skis; Amusement machines and apparatus for use in amusement parks (other than arcade video game machines); Toys for domestic pets; Toys; Dolls; Go games; Japanese paying cards [Utagaruta]; Japanese chess [Shogi games]; Dice; Japanese dice games [Sugoroku]; Dice cups; Diamond games; Chess games; Checkers [checker sets]; Conjuring apparatus; Dominoes; Playing cards; Japanese playing cards [Hanafuda]; Mah-jong; Game machines and apparatus; Billiard equipment; Insect collecting implements" included in International Class 28.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P

For Globeride, Inc., C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botataung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 10th July 2018

kmma@kcyangon.com

Beyonce leads S Africa anti-poverty festival for Mandela

NEWYORK—Beyonce and Jay-Z will lead an A-list lineup to mark 100 years since Nelson Mandela's birth in a Johannesburg festival by the Global Citizen movement to eradicate poverty.

The 2 December event, which will be internationally broadcast, will celebrate the late anti-apartheid icon and draw a number of leaders in an attempt to throw a spotlight on fledgling efforts to eradicate the world's worst poverty, Global Citizen announced on Monday.

Beyonce and her husband Jay-Z will headline the music at the FNB Stadium alongside several other stars: Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran, Pearl Jam singer Eddie Vedder, hit pop producer Pharrell Williams and R&B chart-topper Usher.

The festival will also feature some of the continent's most popular musicians including South African hip-hop producer Cassper Nyovest and Nigerian artists Wizkid, D'banj and Femi Kuti, who is the son of Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti.

Global Citizen said it hoped that the run-up to the festival would raise commitments of \$1 billion to help the world's poorest, with half of the amount aimed at women and girls.

Global Citizen has held festivals since 2012 in New York's Central Park on the sidelines of



Beyonce and her husband Jay Z, pictured with their daughter Blue Ivy Carter, will headline an anti-poverty music festival in Johannesburg, South Africa. PHOTO: AFP

the annual UN General Assembly to rally support, especially among young people, in the fight against poverty. The group has since branched out overseas with seminars and music in India, Germany and elsewhere.

Hugh Evans, the founder and CEO of the movement, said he expected the Johannesburg festival to be the biggest Global Citizen festival ever in terms of reach, symbolism and lineup.

"On every way that we measure outcomes — the number of

citizens engaged, the number of policy outcomes that are achieved, the number of lives that are affected as a result of those policy outcomes — we believe it has the potential to be the most significant campaign we've ever been part of," Evans told AFP.

Unlike traditional benefit concerts, Global Citizen distributes tickets for free to supporters who pledge to take actions such as writing their governments to support international development assistance.

For the Johannesburg edition, Global Citizen will also hand out tickets to people who are taking direct action for good including community health workers who conduct HIV tests or who instruct mothers on child nutrition as well as teachers and South Africans who recycle plastics.

Mandela as inspiration

Evans said that Mandela offered a model for the Global Citizen movement through his magnanimous efforts at racial reconciliation and democracy as

well as through his focus on tackling poverty and global health.

Beyonce previously performed in South Africa in 2003 at a concert hosted by Mandela to raise awareness on HIV and AIDS. Two years later Mandela delivered a landmark speech in London's Trafalgar Square urging concerted efforts to "make poverty history."

But Evans said that the world was falling behind on the UN Sustainable Development Goals which include ending hunger and ensuring educational opportunities to all children, regardless of gender, by 2030.

While Britain, Germany and Nordic countries are meeting the UN-backed goal of devoting 0.7 percent of gross domestic product to international aid, other major countries are lagging behind.

In the United States, President Donald Trump has called for slashing foreign assistance by one-third, although Congress has largely resisted his "America First" push on aid. "The truth is the world is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals unless there is greater political will," Evans said.

Global Citizen said that South African President Cyril Ramaphosa as well as the leaders of Norway and Ghana plan to attend the 2 December festival in honor of Mandela, who was born on 18 July, 1918.—AFP ■

Mick Jagger reacts to Walesa appeal in Poland judicial row

WARSAW—Rolling Stones legendary frontman Mick Jagger touched on Poland's controversial judicial reforms at a concert on Sunday in Warsaw, after anti-communist freedom icon Lech Walesa urged the rockers to support Poles "defending freedom" over court changes that critics say undermine democracy.

Thousands of Poles protested this past week against a controversial law passed by the nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) government that has forced dozens of senior judges to retire early.

"I'm too old to be a judge, but I'm young enough to sing," Jagger said, speaking in Polish, according to a Periscope recording of the concert posted by Poland's liberal Gazeta Wyborcza daily.

"You know we came to Poland a long time ago in 1967," Jagger then said in English, re-

ferring to the Stones' first concert in Poland that made them one of the first Western bands to perform behind the Iron Curtain.

"I hope you get to hang onto everything you've learned since then, God bless you!" he added.

The European Union has criticised the law forcing the early retirement of judges as a threat to the country's judicial independence and the separation of powers in a democracy.

Walesa, who won the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize as leader of the freedom-fighting Solidarity trade union, told the Stones in a Saturday Facebook post that "bad things are happening in Poland right now."

"Many people in Poland are defending freedom, but they need support. If you can say or do anything while in Poland, it would really mean something to them," Walesa, the country's first post-communist president,



British rock star Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones touched on Poland's controversial judicial reforms at a concert in Warsaw, after anti-communist freedom icon Lech Walesa urged the rockers to support Poles "defending freedom". PHOTO: AFP

said in the post addressed to "Mr. Mick Jagger and The Rolling Stones".

'Systemic threats'

Walesa's appeal followed turmoil over the forced early retirement of Poland Supreme

Court's chief justice Malgorzata Gersdorf, who has rejected the move that cuts short her six-year term as unconstitutional.

European judicial authorities backed Gersdorf on Friday, urging the ruling PiS party to restore judicial independence.

The European Union launched legal action against Poland last Monday over the dubious retirement rules that could end up in the European Court of Justice (ECJ), the bloc's top tribunal. But the PiS government has refused to back down despite the EU legal action, insisting the reforms are needed to tackle corruption and overhaul a judicial system still haunted by the communist era.

In December, the EU triggered Article Seven proceedings against Poland over "systemic threats" to the rule of law, which could eventually see Warsaw's EU voting rights suspended.

Tens of thousands of Poles have hit the streets since the PiS party came to power in 2015, protesting against its judicial reforms and attempts to tighten Poland's already strict abortion law, among other causes.—AFP ■

Kayin traditional curry cooking contest held in Hpa-an

ON the instructions of the Kayin State Government, the Myanmar Restaurant Association (Kayin Zone) and Myanmar Hotelier Association (Kayin Zone), the first Kayin traditional cooking contest was held at Hpa-an, Kayin State.

The opening ceremony of the contest was held at 9 am.

First, officials delivered speeches, and then, the awards ceremony was held. The first place was won by Mode Keith Dhi Village and they were awarded Ks200,000, the second

place went to Veelice, who won Ks150,000 and the third place was won by Sagaing restaurant with Ks100,000. The consolation prize winners won Ks20,000 each.

The ceremony concluded after the awarding ceremony. — Myo Minn San ■



Judge take some note in the cooking arena in Hpa-an. PHOTO: MYO MIN SAN

China chilli fest gets off to scorching start

NINGXIANGPU (China) — An annual chilli pepper festival kicked off on Monday in central China's spice-loving Hunan province with a chilli-eating contest in which the winner set a blistering pace by downing a gut-busting 50 peppers in just over a minute.

Local boy Tang Shuaihui took home a 3-gramme 24-karat gold coin for winning the competition, which is put on by a local theme park in the county of Ningxiang and is now in its second year.

With doctors on hand just in case, ten contestants each held plates heaped with 50 Tabasco chilli peppers, racing to be the first to finish off the red-hot fruits.

Tang cleared his plate in just 68 seconds in a contest held in nearly sweltering temperatures and as competitors sat in a shallow pool filled with water and three tonnes of floating chillies.

"He finished them at an amazing speed, barely after the emcee had finished speaking," said Sun Mingyong, an employee at the theme park, called the Tanhe Ancient City.

The Tabasco pepper has a rank of 30,000-50,000 on the Scoville Heat Scale that measures the piquancy of chillies, which puts it somewhere between a jalapeno and a habanero.

The peppers bobbing in the pool, however, were of a far

weaker variety, partly to avoid irritating the contestants' skin.

Smiling contestants wearing shorts and T-shirts — some armed with small bottles of water — waded into a vast pool of bright red peppers before attempting to clear their plates of chillies. One man floated on his back in the pool of chillies, chomping happily on the fiery fruits.

Hunan cuisine is marked by its spicy peppers and richly coloured dishes and is considered among China's eight great food traditions along with Sichuan, Cantonese and other cuisines. The festival lasts until the end of August, with a fresh chilli-eating contest held daily. —AFP ■



An annual chilli pepper festival kicked off Monday in central China's spice-loving Hunan province with a chilli-eating contest in which the winner set a blistering pace by downing a gut-busting 50 peppers in just over a minute. PHOTO: AFP

Environment related activities performed by students, parents and teachers in Dawbon Township



Students, parents and teachers from Dawbon Township, Yangon Region, plant various flora as commemoration of School Environment Day observed during the second week of July. PHOTO: DAWBON (IPRD)

China optimizes freight train service to Budapest

XIAMEN — A direct freight train service connecting east China's port city of Xiamen and Budapest, Hungary, started on Monday.

At about 10 am, a train with 41 containers of electric products, clothes, shoes and construction materials left Haicang station in Xiamen, marking the first trip of the new

route, said Zhao Liqiang, chief of the station.

Xiamen launched freight train services to Budapest via Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, in January, with the new direct route cutting travel time of the original Xiamen-Xi'an-Budapest route by two to three days to 17 days. — Xinhua ■

Six arrested in Vietnam over online betting ring

HANOI — Six people have been arrested in Vietnam for running an online betting ring based on a server in the Philippines that had attracted thousands of gamblers, state media reported on Monday.

The arrests came as authorities across Southeast Asia were on high alert for a betting spike linked to the ongoing World Cup, and followed a raid in Vietnam on an online football gambling operation last month.

The M88 ring "involved thousands of gamblers across the country" who collectively gambled up to \$87 million since 2015, Ministry of Public Security spokesman Cong An Nhan Dan said in the report.

"Its website is on a server based in the Philippines, (operates) in different languages and covered all sorts of gambling."

The report said the operation covered sports, although it did not state if the ring was involved in running World Cup bets.

Police arrested six Vietnamese people during raids in several cities across the country last week, confiscating three cars and hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, according to the report.

It did not give any further details on the extent of the gambling ring's operations in the Philippines.

Gambling is illegal in Vietnam apart from the state-run lottery and a few casinos which are only open to foreigners.

Betting or running illegal betting operations carries a maximum jail term of 10 years.

But the law is widely flouted, especially during top-tier sport competitions, when many punters head online or to illegal gambling dens to try their luck.

The government last year announced a pilot program that would allow citizens over the age of 21 with a monthly income of at least \$430 to gamble in local casinos. The move has yet to be implemented. —AFP ■

Belgium's Hazard spells World Cup danger for France

STPETERSBURG — Eden Hazard is one of the French academy system's finest exports in the past decade but he could be the man to end Didier Deschamps's bid for World Cup glory.

Born to two footballing parents in the Belgian municipality of Braine-le-Comte, Hazard's reputation spread across the border and saw him snapped up by Lille at the age of just 14.

Two years later Hazard made his professional debut in Ligue 1 and went on to become French football's brightest talent, twice winning the league's player of the year prize and leading Lille to a Ligue 1 and Cup double in 2010-11.

When a big-money move inevitably came, it was Chelsea who won the race in 2012 with a £32 million (\$43 million) capture that now seems like a bargain.

In six seasons in England, Hazard has won two more league titles and won plenty of admirers. But some doubt whether he has the desire to back up his immense talent and challenge Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi as the world's best player.

So far in Russia, Hazard looks like a man on a mission to ensure Belgium's so-called golden generation live up to their billing by bringing home the World Cup for the first time in the country's history.

Handed the armband by Roberto Martinez despite Vincent Kompany's return from injury, the Spaniard has drawn out Hazard's leadership qualities.

"I think Eden is in a great moment of his career," Martinez said before the tournament. "Look at his age, he is the captain, in terms of leadership — he never finds it difficult to show for the ball."

Leading by example

Hazard's willingness and ability to carry the ball under pressure, jinking past helpless defenders, was in evidence as Belgium claimed their greatest-ever World Cup scalp by beating Brazil in the quarter-finals.

With his side clinging onto a 2-1 lead, Hazard repeatedly carried the ball forward in the dying minutes, drawing fouls to offer the Belgian backline some



Fighting back: Eden Hazard (left) and Marouane Fellaini celebrate coming from 2-0 down to beat Japan in the World Cup last 16. PHOTO: AFP

respite.

His leadership was also in evidence with a man-of-the-match performance, including a wonderful assist for Marouane Fellaini's equaliser, as the Red Devils came from 2-0 down to beat Japan 3-2 in the last 16.

In outshining Brazil's Neymar in the last eight, Hazard may have put himself in the shop window.

At 27, he has not hidden his ambition to finally make an impact on the Champions League, which Chelsea missed out on after a disappointing fifth-placed

finish in the Premier League last season.

Long linked with a transfer to Real Madrid, a move to Spain looks more realistic this summer than at any time of his Chelsea career, with Madrid president Florentino Perez often influenced by outstanding World Cup performances and Ronaldo looking set to exit the Santiago Bernabeu.

Even if a move to Madrid does materialise, Hazard will be denied a self-confessed dream of working under another French influence on his formation as a

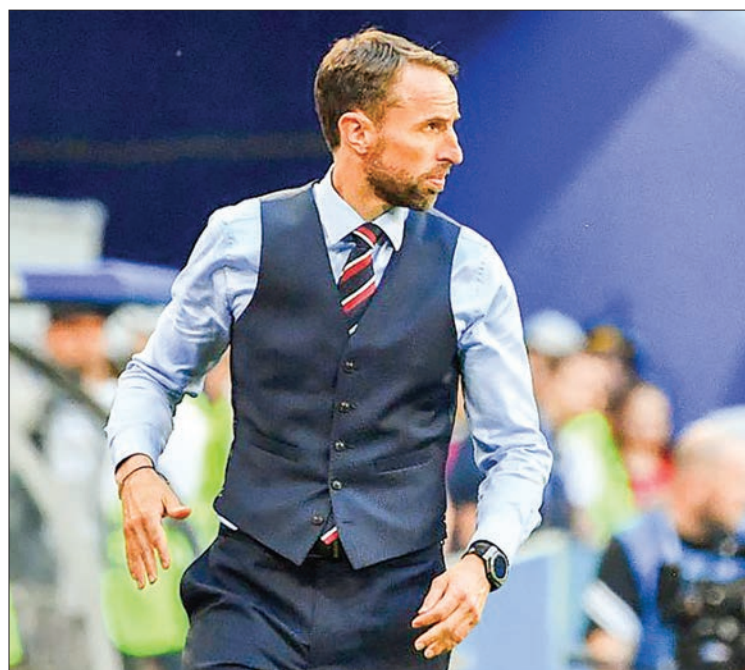
player, Zinedine Zidane.

As a child, Hazard used to study videos of the man who led France to the World Cup in 1998 — and stepped down as Real boss in May, to hone and copy his skills.

Twenty years on, he's just two games away from matching Zidane's feat.

To do so, though, he must prevent France's own talented crop of Paul Pogba, Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann from following in Zidane's footsteps in Saint Petersburg on Tuesday.—AFP ■

Wear your waistcoat with pride on Wednesday demands *The Sun* of England fans



England fans going to the World Cup semi-final with Croatia on Wednesday should wear a waistcoat as a tribute to manager Gareth Southgate, who has made them fashionable again, says *The Sun* newspaper. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON — Gareth Southgate's wearing of a waistcoat throughout England's run to the World Cup semi-final for the first time in 28 years has inspired a call from *The Sun* newspaper for fans to wear one on Wednesday as well.

#WAISTCOAT WEDNESDAY is the hashtag *The Sun* deploys in its headline and calls on fans to "Dress like Boss for Semi".

"*The Sun* today urges Three Lions fans everywhere to smarten up and follow our fashion leader into battle in Moscow," is its tub-thumping message.

Sister paper the *Sun* on Sunday — formerly the *News of the World* — had demanded people don't go to work on Wednesday with a headline "Cancel Wednesday!".

England fan Paul Seligson,

a 61-year-old teacher, told *The Sun* he will heed their call to wear a waistcoat although with Britain currently in the midst of a heatwave he could be in for an uncomfortable time.

"I think it's a great idea," said Seligson, who for the Sweden game on Saturday wore another traditional English apparel, a bowler hat.

"I may be going to the Croatia game as Henry VIII but I'll wear the waistcoat on top," he joked.

Seligson's friend Michael Dobres is also going but not dressed as a monarch but as one of his vassals, a beefeater.

"I'll be dressed as a beefeater but the waistcoat should complement it perfectly in honour of Gareth," he told *The Sun*.

"He appreciates the impor-

tance of an Englishman looking smart when he goes into battle and all fans should follow his lead." Southgate lookalike, airline pilot Neil Rowe, who attended the quarter-final win over Sweden on Saturday after changing his mind over boycotting the tournament, told the BBC it had been tough wearing it in the heat of Samara for the quarter-final.

Nevertheless Rowe, a devoted England fan who has spent around £50,000 (56,600 euros, \$66,500) to follow England over the past two decades, will wear his £65 Marks and Spencer waistcoat again on Wednesday.

Fans have demanded that Marks and Spencer reduce the price to a symbolic £19 and 66 pence — representing the one previous year when England won the World Cup.—AFP ■