

**SUNDAY SPECIAL**



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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 181, 5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 14 October 2018

## Int'l Day for Natural Disaster Reduction observed

2,500 disasters occurred in 2017-2018 in Myanmar, affecting 500,000 people



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the opening speech at the ceremony commemorating the 2018 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

**M**YANMAR has suffered more than 2,500 natural disasters in the year 2017-2018, and five hundred thousand people were severely affected by it, said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

He made the remark at the ceremony to observe the 2018 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Government has spend Ks 5.585 billion in assistance and sustainable disaster reduction projects in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, he added.

The theme of the 2018 International Day for Disaster Reduction is “Reducing Economic

Losses from Disaster Has the Power to Transform Lives”, and highlights the importance of reducing economic losses brought about by natural and manmade disasters.

The Vice President, who is also Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), said the annual international event was first designated at the UN General Assembly on 21 December 2009 with written order No.64/200. He said Myanmar began celebrating this day in 2010 in line with the themes set by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

He said the effects from glob-

If every individual actively participates in disaster risk reduction processes then society will become more resilient to natural disasters...

al warming and climate change can be felt around the world, with a study in 2014 revealing that 50 per cent of deaths caused by natural disasters in that year occurred in the ASEAN region.

The Vice President said eco-

nomical loss from natural disasters in 2017 rose by 63 per cent from 2016. He said global economic losses between 1990 to 2018 saw the highest loss of USD 400 billion in 2011. According to the World Bank, the ASEAN region suffers an annual economic loss of USD 4.4 billion which is 0.2 per cent higher than the GDP of the region's nations, he said.

The Vice President said that with the aim to promote cooperation between regional countries and speed up disaster management operations, the 24th ASEAN Summit held in Nay Pyi Taw issued the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration which agreed on adopting the ASEAN Agreement on Dis-

aster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) of the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) as the region's policy framework for One ASEAN, One Response.

He mentioned that Myanmar had formulated the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction 2017 to be in accord with both the basic principles and projects related to disaster management and the sustainable development goals included in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

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# Union Government, NCA-S EAOs hold preliminary meeting

THE Union Government and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatories Ethnic Armed Organizations-NCA-S EAOs held a preliminary meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the government side was represented by Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Secretary of the Peace Commission U Khin Zaw Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyai, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win, Maj-Gen San Myint, U Aung Soe, U Aung Kyi Nyunt and U Zaw Htay while the ethnic armed organizations side was comprised of Vice Chairman of the Karen National Union-KNU Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, Vice Chairman of the Chin National Front-CNF Dr. Salai Hlyan Hmon Sar Khaung and General Secretary Salai Htalar Hay, Member of the Central Executive Committee of



Representatives from the Union Government and Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement signatories of the ethnic armed organizations convene at a preliminary meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Daw Saw Mya Yarzar Lin, Vice Chairman of the Pao National Liberation Organization-PNLO Khun Myint Tun, Vice Chairman of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front-ABSDF U Myo Win, Secretary of the Restora-

tion Council Shan State-RCSS U Sai Ngnin, Member of the Central Committee of the New Mon State Party-NMSP Nai Aung Ma Ngay and Vice Chairman of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Kyar Saw Lamon.

Speaking at the meeting,

Chairman of the PC Dr. Tin Myo Win expressed delight for seeing the friendship between the two sides as the participants met each other frequently, urging both sides to give suggestions at the meeting to produce good results in upcoming meeting.

On behalf of the EAOs, Vice Chairman of the KNU Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win called for negotiation between them on preparation for tackling challenges ahead and make preparations for coming meeting through discussion and understanding.

The preliminary meeting also discussed issues related with democracy and basic principles and other issues including time table and processes, self-determination and non-secession from the Union, unified army, making political dialogues easy and clear, agreements reached between leaders at political dialogues, inclusiveness of all EAOs, strengthening the ceasefire agreement and general issues.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the leader of the NCA-S EAO leader Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win.—Myo Myint and Han Lin Naing ■

## Leaders, representatives from EAOs arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

THE top leaders and representatives from the 10 ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to attend an exclusive meeting between them and the Union Government.

The leaders and representatives of the EAOs include Saw Hae Sey from Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), Salai Yanku Kyone from Chin National Front (CNF), Chairman of Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) Khun Okkar, Central Committee member of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)

Khaing Kyaw Hlaing, Chairperson of Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) Kyar Khun Sar and Vice Chairman of New Mon State Party (NMSP) Nai Hanthar, Karen National Union (KNU) Chairman Saw Mutu Say Poe, Secretary of Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army – Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC) Dr. Naw Ka Paw Htoo, chairman of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) Saw Mo Shay and Vice chairperson of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Khaing Soe Naing Aung. They were welcomed by officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA ■



Vice Chairman of the New Mon State party Nai Han Thar arrives at a hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Chairman of Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) Khun Okkar arrives at a hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Karen National Union (KNU) Chairman Saw Mutu Say Poe arrives at a hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Traffic congestion occurs in Mohnyin Township

TRAFFIC came to a halt at the corner of Mt Hlwekhan near Mawham village on Shwebo-Myitkyina road due to heavy rains on 13 October and local people helped ease the difficulties of travelers.

“Due to relentless rains, the road becomes slippery, muddy and full of holes. So it is difficult for heavy vehicles to climb up and climb down the road and traffic interruption happened three times today.

“The situation is dangerous for travellers and local people are helping them”, said U Aung Kyaw Soe of Mawham village.

Vehicles frequently overturned at that corner causing deaths and injuries to the travelers as well as frequent traffic blockages.

As a result, local people want the road to be upgraded to the one which is easily accessible in all weathers.—Ni Toe/MDN ■

## Nation Building

In the process of establishing a peaceful, prosperous and resilient nation, we must take account of the need to strengthen the mechanisms and institutions of government. It is of paramount importance to uphold rule of law, ensure the mental and physical wellbeing of our citizens, provide for equality of taxation, deliver basic services to our people, including education, health and social services, transportation, communication and infrastructure development, and to strengthen the administrative mechanisms of government.

(Excerpted from the report on the current work of the Union Government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

# Int'l Day for Natural Disaster Reduction observed

### FROM PAGE-1

The Vice President said laws and bylaws related to natural disaster management have been enacted and are being led by the National Disaster Management Committee and further facilitated by the subcommittees in the regions, states, districts and townships.

He also mentioned the various accomplishments and ongoing processes carried out by relevant authorities, including conducting seminars to raise awareness on natural disasters, capacity building workshops, public roleplaying rehearsals, building cyclone shelters, roads and bridges for evacuation, multipurpose buildings, and acquiring various vehicles for use in rescue operations.

The Vice President said natural disasters are a major hinderance to a nation's sustainable development and thus disaster risk reduction action points should be included in all master strategies and project

schemes that we devise.

He said the economic loss from natural disasters need to be reduced as the theme for this year suggests, to allow a more disaster-resilient society to emerge that created opportunities for all citizens to participate in, regardless of age or social class.

The Vice President said disaster risk reduction is something every relevant government department, domestic and international organization, and humanitarian agency should consider as an indispensable operation to their organization. He said if every individual actively participates in disaster risk reduction processes then society will become more resilient to natural disasters while simultaneously reducing losses from natural disasters and developing the economy.

Next, UNFPA representative Ms. Janet E. Jackson read the UN Secretary-General's correspondence which was followed by a viewing of a documentary on



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes the picture gallery exhibited at the 2018 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction event held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Afterwards, the Vice President took a documentary photo with the invited guest and then toured around the commemorative exhibitions for 2018 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Attending the ceremony

were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Win Myat Aye and Nai Thet Lwin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers U Win Maw Tun and U Soe Aung, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Development Committee Dr. Win

Myint, Permanent Secretaries, directors-general, deputy directors-general, ambassadors and chargé d'affaires of foreign embassies based in Myanmar, invited guests from UN agencies, international organizations, INGOs and NGOs, members of the media, and other officials. —MNA ■

## Steps closer to publishing Myanmar encyclopedic series, 100 Myanmar classic series

A DRAFT of the first volume of the Myanmar encyclopedia is having its finishing touches done by experts and is expected to be finalized in the second week of December.

The Ministry of Information and experts are working on publishing the encyclopedic series and 100 Myanmar Classics series.

At the coordination meeting to publish the Myanmar Encyclopedic series and a series of 100 Myanmar classics, held at the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended to the needs for finishing the work

after discussing the issue with attendees of the meeting. The meeting also focused on speedy publishing and distribution of the books.

The work on re-publishing the Myanmar Encyclopedia started in 2017.

Meanwhile, the first volume of a series of 100 Myanmar classics is expected to complete its binding by October and Sarpay Lawka Publishing House will be publishing the first volume.

The second volume is being prepared by the Sarpay Beikman and it is expected to come out at the end of this month.

Sarpay Beikman is also



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint visits the Mirror Daily's Advertising Department on Mahabandoola Road in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

putting finishing touches on the third volume and will print it in early November. The 100 Myanmar Classics series will include novels, short stories, poems, essays, plays and many literature sectors; a group of experts was

formed to arrange its publication. Following the meeting, the Union Minister inspected preparations including sound system and broadcasting for holding paper reading sessions and forums at the Head Office of the News

and Periodicals Enterprise on Theinbyu Road.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint also visited the Advertising Department of the Mirror Daily and inspected the department's public services.— MNA ■

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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.

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

# Five-year project targets persons with vision impairment nationwide

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region government is currently implementing a five-year project from 2017 to 2021 to help people who are blind and visually impaired on a national scale, said U Naing Ngan Lynn, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs at the celebration event of the World Sight Day held on 11 October at the National Eye Bank of the Yangon Eye Hospital.

The World Sight Day is annually celebrated on the second Thursday in October in all member countries of the World Health Organization. This year's motto of the day is "Universal Eye Health: Eye Care Everywhere". The first ever celebration of the day was held in Myanmar in 2000.

"The national project aims to offer necessary cares to persons with vision disabilities throughout the nation between 2017 and 2021, raising helping hands for the target population", U Naing Ngan Lynn said. He told the gathering that the most common eye diseases in Myanmar are cataract, glaucoma, poor eyesight, injuries, eye diseases caused by diabetes and hypertension. The cataract is responsible for about 60% of the total eye problems. Thus, providing effective care and treatment for cataract is expected to protect people from vision loss.

Moreover, there are about 350 eye specialists in Myan-



Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Lynn looks at documentary photos displayed at the celebration event of the World Sight Day held on 11 October at the Yangon Eye Hospital. **PHOTO: YANGON REGION GOVERNMENT**

mar, providing eye cares and the ratio of eye patients and doctors is 150,000 to 1. Continuous efforts have yearly been made by the authorities so as to achieve universal coverage in primary eye care, including offering eye care at schools, field trips to cure rural people with eye diseases and giving primary eye care trainings, he added.

U Naing Ngan Lynn said "The 150-bed Yangon Eye Hospital was opened since 1993, offering healthcare services to patients with 216 staff, where the majority of eye patients are suffering from cataract, glaucoma, retinal detachment, corneal diseases and injuries. On weekdays, the hospital's out-patient department provides eye care to roughly

400 patients on a daily basis. Extensive services have also been provided to patients through the hospital's eight specialist departments, including Department of Hepatology, Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery, Department of Nephrology, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Department of Rheumatology, Department of Thoracic Surgery, Department of Urology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Unit. In addition, between 85 and 100 patients are daily undergone eye surgeries at the hospital on five days a week. Also, emergency eye care is given by the hospital daily."

With the permission of the Ministry of Health, the Yangon Eye Hospital continues to make field trips to offer eye care to peo-

ple in need in cooperation with related ministries and well-wishers. In their field trips in the last year, eye specialists offered free surgical and medical treatment to people in Danubyu, Labutta, Gyobingauk, Moenyo and Sittway towns. To offer better eye care to local patients, the hospital made collaboration with international bodies from Japan, Singapore, Australia, the U.S. and the Netherlands.

Also present on the celebration of the World Sight Day were officials from the Department of Health, the Medical Superintendent of the Yangon Eye Hospital and officials from the WTO and international non-governmental organizations as well as invited guests. ■

## Online applications for public services available

By Nyein Nyein

APPLICATIONS for land management in some townships in urban municipalities of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) can be made through an online system, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe in reply to a question raised by U Tin Tun Naing of Dagon Myothit (North) Township at the seventh regular session of Second Yangon Region Hluttaw on 9 October.

U Tin Tun Naing was asking whether there is a plan to provide public services on matters such as paying tax, land issues, construction permit at township and district government offices

within a day or a few days.

Yangon mayor said YCDC has been providing one-stop services to those who apply for land management matters since 2013-2014 fiscal year at the ground floor of Yangon City Hall, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during office hours. YCDC has also started an online system to 18 townships in YCDC area beginning from 2 January 2015. YCDC was accepting land management application online from the applicants' homes or by related YCDC Township office head, said the Yangon Mayor.

The relevant 18 townships are sDagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon

Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit, Kyimyindine, Thakayta, Dawbon, Dala, Seikkyi Khanaungto, Mingala Taungnyunt, Tamway, Yankin, Insein, Mingaladon, Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya and Mayangon townships.

Moreover, YCDC extended the online registration system to Thingangyun, South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Hline and Kamayut townships beginning from September 2017, he added. Systematic relaxation of processes in applying for land management matters were conducted step by step in related townships while assessment period of the applications were

being shortened and were also being informed to the public on the website said the Mayor.

At the moment the procedure is such that even though works were conducted in townships, districts and region level but most were still being controlled by the head office. As such if matters such as construction permits, tax and land matters etc. are delegated to township level, things could be done more speedily, said U Tin Tun Naing.

Those who would like to apply for any land related matters can check for information and details about application at the YCDC website [www.ycdc.gov.mm](http://www.ycdc.gov.mm), it is learnt. ■

## International trade scores big win in mini-budget period

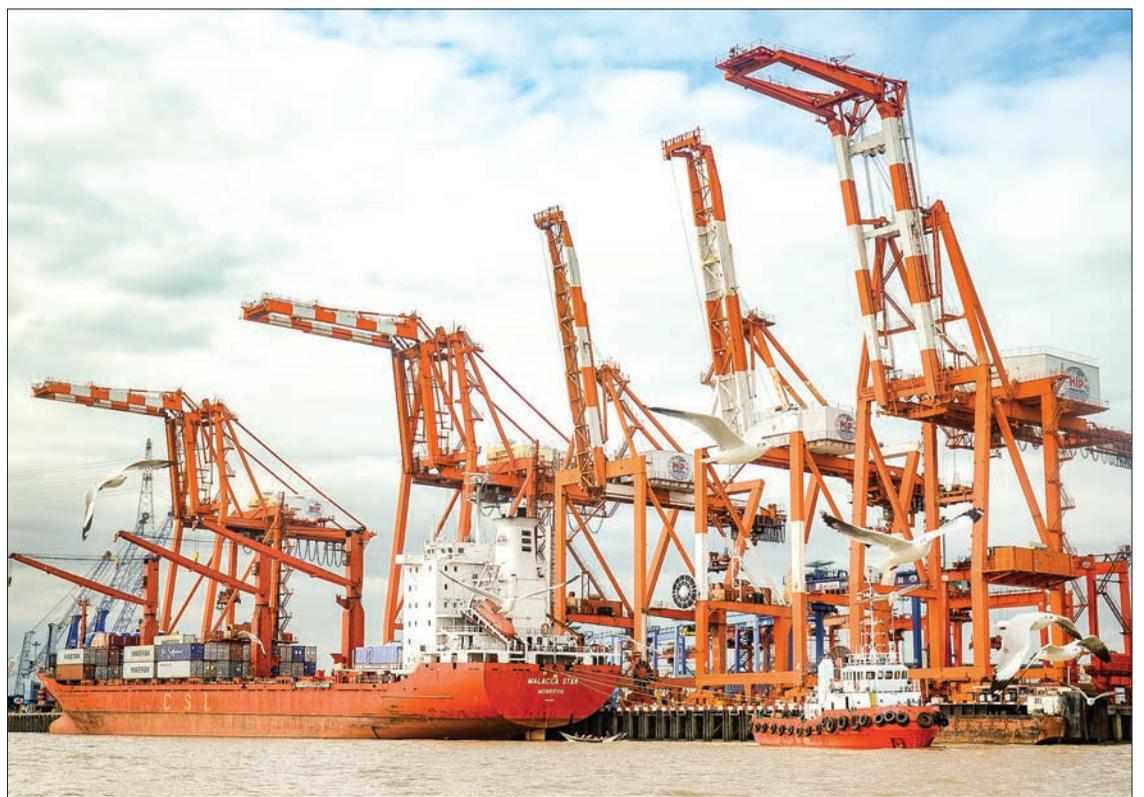
MYANMAR'S external trade with foreign countries from 1 April to 30 September of the past mini-budget period showed a significant increase of US\$2 billion compared to the same period last fiscal year 2017-2018.

External trade in the past six months amounted to \$18.34 billion, which increases from \$16.3 billion of last FY. This includes an estimated \$8.5 billion in exports and \$9.8 billion in imports. The trade deficit narrows to \$1.3 billion from 1.86 billion of last FY.

Myanmar exported agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods whereas

capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer goods were imported into the country.

The country's export sector is more depending on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. Export earning from the CMP (cutting, making and packaging) garment businesses are rising while lessening its reliance on natural resources such as natural gas, jade. The government is trying to reduce trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting export. Trade via the sea route brought in \$14.1 billion, whereas border trade earned \$4.2 billion, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. — GNLM ■



Value of external trade increases \$18.34 billion in the past six months this year. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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## Trade with Singapore increases by \$368 million in five months

MYANMAR-Singapore bilateral trade from April to August this year totalled US\$1.633 billion, up by \$368 million from the same time last year, according to the latest monthly statistics from the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period, Myanmar imported a wide range of commodities amounting to \$175 million from the Republic of Singapore, whereas its exports to the city-state were valued at \$1.458 billion.

When compared with the same period in the last year, the current value of bilateral exports rose by \$46.6 million, while the bilateral import value increased by \$415 million.

Myanmar's exports to

Singapore include agricultural products, footwear, textile and clothing, minerals, animal products and other miscellaneous items.

Its imports from Singapore consist of food, rubber and plastics, fuel, capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer products, metals and chemicals, along with other products.

According to the ministry's data, the trade between the two countries was \$3.8 billion in the last 2017-2018 financial year, which saw an increase in value by over \$870 million matched against the 2016-2017 FY.

In bilateral trade with Singapore, Myanmar delivers its

goods mainly by sea.

The bilateral trade was at its peak in the 2014-2015 FY, reaching almost \$4.9 billion. Trade between the two countries was \$3.7 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$3.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$2.8 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and \$3 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

Singapore is one of top investors in Myanmar, having invested \$2.163 billion in the country during the last financial year. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Myanmar has approved Singapore's eight new investment projects, worth \$637.8 million this year. — Shwe Khine ■

## Myanmar's external trade totals \$565 million in first week of current FY

OVERSEAS trade between Myanmar and international countries reached US\$565.5 million in the first week of the present 2018-2019 fiscal year, registering a trade deficit of more than \$133 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce's weekly report issued this Friday.

The current external trade value rose by \$277 million in comparison with the same period last year when the trade

deficit was \$46.6 million.

Between 1 and 5 August this year, the country's imports exceeded \$349 million whereas its exports hit \$216 million.

At this time last year, the external trade was \$288.4 million, including \$167.5 million in the imports and \$120.9 million in the exports.

Myanmar conducts overseas trade with international trade partners, mainly through

sea ports. The value of the nation's trade included \$484.7 million via non-border trade and \$80 million through border trade.

The country chiefly imports capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer products.

Its exports include agricultural products, animal products, minerals and forest products. — Swe Nyein ■

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# Commander-in-Chief visits Wat Phu Temple, famous waterfalls, returns from Laos

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visited the historic Wat Phu temple complex in Champasak Province in Laos on 12 October.

The Senior General is leading a Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation to Laos at the invitation of the Laotian Minister of National Defence Lt-Gen Chansamone Chanyalath.

The Wat Phu temple complex is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and lies on the bank of the Mekong directly east of Mt. Phou Khao. The temple boasts architecture and unique structure from the 11th to 13 centuries during the time of Khmer kings, according to archaeologists. Nowadays, the site is a centre of Theravada

Buddhist worship.

The Senior General and his delegation were later entertained with a banquet dinner in the evening by Champasak Province military commander Brig-Gen Sukai Phimmasan at the Champasak Grand Hotel.

Yesterday, the Senior General and his delegation visited the Khone Phapheng Falls located in Patsay District in the Champasak Province and observed the 2,000-year old Manikhot tree.

The Khone Phapheng Falls are the largest in Southeast Asia and is located on the part of the Mekong River in southern Laos, near the border with Cambodia. The falls are characterized by over 4,000 islands and is known as Si Phan Don in the local dialect. The highest falls reach to 69 ft.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing seen off by Lao military officers at Pakse International Airport in Laos yesterday. **PHOTO: THE OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

The Senior General and his delegation left Laos in the evening and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. —MNA ■



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko addresses the coordination meeting for holding Interfaith Dialogue in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Coordination meeting for holding Interfaith Dialogue held in Yangon

MINISTRY of Religious Affairs and Culture held a coordination meeting in Yangon yesterday to prepare for an interfaith dialogue organized by New York-based Religions for Peace-RfP. The interfaith dialogue is aimed at supporting the national reconciliation and promotion of peace in Myanmar.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko called for leading committee, work

committee and sub-committees to work hard for the success of the dialogue.

Representatives from the Union Government, the Tatmadaw, political parties, ASEAN, International Committee for Red Cross, NGOs, religious leaders and experts will participate in the interfaith dialogue which is slated to be held from 21 to 22 November, 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the dialogue, they

will seek ways for overcoming challenges of the democratic transition in Myanmar; challenges found on the road to peace building, establishing market oriented system, benefits of the religions, long lasting solution for issues of development, human rights and security in Rakhine State. Divided into five working groups, the participants will discuss the title 'Our Common Future' during the dialogue.

—MNA ■

## Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol in Naf River

A troop of Myanmar border guard force led by Police Superintendent Tin Hlaing, commander of Yet Nyo Taung Police Outpost and Bangladeshi border guard force carried out coordinated patrol in the Naf River yesterday.

Myanmar security forces on two water crafts met with Bangladeshi troops on

two watercrafts led by Subedar Abdul Razzak Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB-2) near the at 8 nautical mile in the middle of the Naf River.

Then, they conducted the coordinated patrol in the river reaching 11 nautical mile point near Oo Shae Kya creek at 10:00 a.m. local time. —GNLM



**PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE**

## UNSG Special Envoy on Myanmar arrives in Sittway, Rakhine State

A DELEGATION led by the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, arrived in Sittway from Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The Special Envoy and her delegation were welcomed by Rakhine State Ministers U Aung Kyaw Zan and Dr. Chan Thar, and responsible officials.

The delegation will visit Buthidaung and Maungtaw, meet with civil societies and will observe the ongoing activities in the regions.—Kyaw Thu Win, Aung Kyaw Oo ■



UNSG's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener arrives at Sittway Airport, Rakhine. **PHOTO: AUNG YE THWIN**

# World stock markets attempt rebound from rout

NEW YORK — Global stock markets attempted to rebound Friday with mixed results one day after ferocious losses sparked by worries over rising US interest rates and the fallout from trade fights.

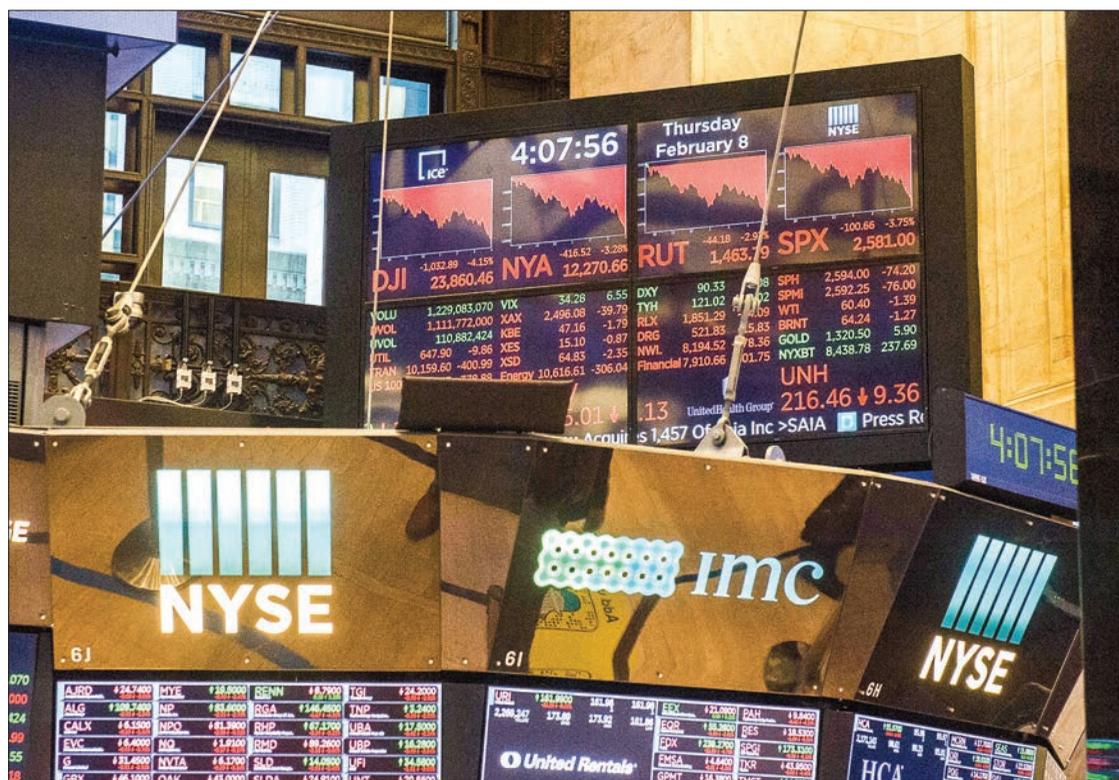
Wall Street stocks finished a gloomy week on a high note, with the S&P 500 advancing 1.4 percent. But the session was hardly drama-free and included a midday swoon that briefly took the Dow into negative territory.

Even with Friday's gains, the S&P 500 lost 4.1 percent for the week, its worst since March.

Asia enjoyed healthy gains, with Hong Kong surging 2.1 percent, Shanghai up 0.9 percent and Tokyo adding 0.5 percent, at the end of a bruising week for investors worldwide.

Europe initially chased Asia higher but gave up gains as the closing bell approached. London and Paris ended the day down 0.2 percent, while Frankfurt gave up 0.1 percent.

"Markets appeared to re-



The closing numbers are displayed after the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street in New York. PHOTO: AFP

main skittish regarding the recent rise in bond yields and resurfaced worries that the US Fed could be

heading toward a policy mistake," said a note from Schwab.

Other analysts saw at least

some signs of improvement.

"The brutal selloff that engulfed global stocks this week

took a pause on Friday as risk sentiment slightly improved across financial markets," said analyst Lukman Otunuga at trading firm FXTM.

## Efforts at reassurance

This week's pullback was sparked by a jump in US Treasury yields, along with worries about trade conflicts and high valuations. But markets appeared reassured by comments from US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who said Friday the sell-off was not surprising.

"I think the fundamentals are still very strong. The US economy is strong, US earnings are strong," Mnuchin told CNBC. "So I see this as just a natural correction after the markets were up a lot." Mnuchin also downplayed concerns about US President Donald Trump's repeated and aggressive attacks on the US Federal Reserve this week, saying Trump "respects the independence of the Fed." — AFP ■

## China's export container transport gains momentum in September

BEIJING — China's container transport for export purposes gained momentum in September, according to new data from the Shanghai Shipping Exchange.

The average China Export Containerized Freight Index stood at 853.97 points in September, up 2.9 percent from a month earlier, as the market was still in peak season, the exchange said in a statement.

Since the beginning of this year, the index has averaged 808.63, lower than last year's average of 820.47.

In September, the sub-in-

dices of the United States, South Africa, the Republic of Korea, Southeast Asia and Japan all rose to different extents, the data showed.

The China Export Containerized Freight Index was first released by the Shanghai Shipping Exchange in April 1998 as a barometer of the export shipping market.

China's exports of goods rose 17 percent year on year in September, higher than August's increase of 7.3 percent. Total exports in the first nine months of this year rose 6.5 percent, customs data showed Friday. — Xinhua ■

## Window of opportunity narrowing' on global growth: IMF

NUSA DUA (INDONESIA) — The window of opportunity to keep global growth on track is "narrowing" amid trade disputes and emerging markets crises, the IMF said Saturday, and cautioned against currency wars as a US-China spat threatens to boil over.

The warning from the International Monetary Fund came at its annual meeting with the World Bank in Bali, after it cut its outlook for global GDP growth this week by 0.2 percentage points to 3.7 percent for 2018 and 2019.

And the Fund further cautioned that "everyone is going to suffer" from a trade-and-currency clash between the United States and China, the world's two biggest economies.

"Risks are increasingly skewed to the downside amid heightened trade tensions and ongoing geopolitical concerns, with tighter financial conditions particularly affecting many emerging market and developing countries," the IMF said in a communique.

It added that historically high public debt was also among the red flags that "could further

undermine confidence and growth prospects".

"With the window of opportunity narrowing, we will act promptly to advance policies and reforms to protect the expansion, mitigate risks, rebuild policy space, enhance resilience, and raise medium-term growth prospects for the benefit of all," the statement said.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin this week said he had told the head of China's central bank about his concerns over the weakness of its currency.

However, he declined to comment on whether Washington would declare Beijing a "currency manipulator" in a

Treasury report due out next week.

That designation would be a first for China and would trigger a process that could lead to punitive steps after a series of talks.

The IMF appeared to take aim at the two powerhouse economies which are also locked in an increasingly bitter tit-for-tat tariff battle.

"We will refrain from competitive devaluations and will not target our exchange rates for competitive purposes," the communique said.

"We acknowledge that free, fair, and mutually beneficial goods and services trade and investment are key engines for growth and job creation." — AFP

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  
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The IMF has warned that 'everyone is going to suffer' from the US-China trade clash. PHOTO: AFP

# Stop the rise of tobacco consumption in Myanmar

**T**HE tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats in Myanmar, killing about 65,000 every year due to the result of direct tobacco use, according to the World Health Organization's statistics in 2018.

Myanmar has experienced falls in life expectancy as death tolls from tobacco related diseases has gone higher. For males and females in Myanmar, life expectancy has declined to 63.9 years and 69.9 years respectively according to the 2014 Myanmar census, and the figures show that Myanmar has lower life expectancy in comparison with neighboring countries.

The burden of tobacco-related illnesses and death is heaviest in the country. Although Myanmar has tried her best to reduce tobacco

use for many years, it is found that the number of smokers and smoke-related diseases are on the increase.

For the people of the world, especially in least developed countries, non-contagious diseases together with contagious diseases are a big threat to their lives as well as being a huge health burden.

This is the biggest health threat the world has ever

faced, killing more than 7 million people a year. More than 6 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while around 890,000 are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke, according to WHO.

According to research data, 44 per cent of men in Myanmar consumed tobacco, while quid with tobacco is consumed by 62 per cent of the men.

Within Southeast Asia's ASEAN countries, Myanmar is seen to have the highest percentage of quid consumption with tobacco leaf products. This is becoming the main challenge for our people's health.

Smoking cigarettes and daily continuous consumption of tobacco leaf products including quid are seen to be widely increasing among the people, both among men and women.

Besides, exposure to second-hand smoke can cause many of the same diseases as active smoking. Just as preventive and treatment of contagious diseases are being made, preventing and controlling of non-contagious diseases from consuming quid and tobacco leaf products need to be done.

Especially among students and children under 13 who have not used quid, they should be prevented from starting to use it and to stop the dangerous usage if already started.

Not only teachers but also the people in the country and media are requested to participate in the nationwide campaign at schools as a national duty while the government is conducting the campaign through mass media to prevent use of tobacco because the work of preventing NCDs and tobacco control couldn't be conducted solely by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

# Formulating health care services for better health of ageing population in rural area of Myanmar

Dr. Than Lwin Tun, Dr. Nang Naing Naing Shein, Dr. Nyein Aye Tun, Dr. Zaw Win Myint (Ministry of Health and Sports)

**M**YANMAR, like other developing countries, is facing the emerging issue of increasing number of ageing population. Myanmar Elderly People Law (2016) has defined those 60 years and above as elderly people.

Myanmar's 2014 Census revealed that there are about 4.5 millions of ageing population which accounts for 8.7% of total population. Among them, 40 % are male and 60% are female. Seventy percent of them is residing in rural area and 30% in urban area. By 2050, the proportion is expected to reach nearly 20% of the total population. With significant increase in ageing population, the increased number of people with disabilities and chronic illnesses became recognized.

According to the hospital statistics report (2014 - 2016), the leading causes of morbidity and mortality of ageing population are non-communicable diseases such as Hypertension, Diabetes, Ischemic Heart Disease and Cerebrovascular diseases.

Therefore, the health care



services should be formulated according to the needs of ageing population. With the aim of achieving active and healthy ageing and improving the quality of life of them, the Ministry of Health and Sports is providing comprehensive health care services including promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services.

"Elderly Health Care Program" has been launched in Myanmar since 1994 with the support of World Health Organization. As the basic health staff are main service providers at primary care centers, they are trained on health care for ageing population using manuals. The local community including NGOs and CBOs has also involved as social mobilizers and health promoters.

Recently, the Union Minister for Ministry of Health and Sports has highlighted the concept of Community Health Clinic (CHC) model for strengthening community health services to meet the changing health needs of the community and to utilize resources efficiently. The operational definition of the CHC is the action oriented public health care activity providing health care services focusing on screening and treatment of uncomplicated Diabetes and Hypertension and health care for ageing population

on every Wednesday at Rural Health Center (RHC) and Urban Health Center (UHC). Those primary health centers promote health status of ageing population through health literacy promotion and lifestyle modification such as encouraging eating healthy diet, promoting physical activity, cessation of tobacco use and reducing harmful use of alcohol. It also provides curative services

for minor illnesses and makes timely referral to the respective higher centers for further necessary management.

While the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing social support for senior citizens and the Ministry of Health and Sports is formulating health care services in order to meet their health care needs, the active involvement of local community is critical for improving quality of life of ageing population especially in rural area.

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## A sketch of English language and Myanmar

By Myint Htun Aung (KGN)

**P**EOPLE often talk about English as a global language or lingua franca. With more than 350 million people around the world speaking English as a first language and more than 430 million people speaking as a second language, there are many more English speakers in most countries around the world. It is the most commonly spoken language in the UK, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and widely spoken in some areas of Caribbean, Africa and South Asia. It is a co-official language of the UN, the EU and many other world and international organizations. According to a survey published in 2006, 13% of EU citizens speak English as their native language and another 38% of EU citizens state that they have sufficient skills in English to have a conversation, so the total reach of English in the EU is 51%. That is why English has become the most useful language to connect different language groups in Europe. The impact of Brexit on language policy remains to be seen, but it is possible that the EU will retain English as a key working language without the dominant presence of British English speakers.

In 1755, Samuel Johnson published "A Dictionary of the English Language", which was introduced as a standard set of spelling conventions and usage norms. In 1828, Noah Webster published the

"American Dictionary of the English Language" in an effort to establish a norm for speaking and writing American English that was independent from the British Standard. By the late century, the British Empire has facilitated the spread of English through its colonies and geographical dominance. Commerce, science and technology, diplomacy, art and formal education, all contributed to English as the first truly global language.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the growing economic and cultural influence of the United States and its status as a superpower following the Second World War has, along with worldwide broadcasting in English by the BBC, the VOA and other broadcasters, significantly accelerated the spread of English language across the planet. British English is now undergoing change under the influence of American English, fueled by the strong presence of American English in the media and the prestige associated with the United States as a world power. A working knowledge of English has become a requirement in a number of occupations and professions, such as medicine and computing.

Thus, English has grown in worldwide use much more than any other living languages. By the 21st century, English was more widely spoken and written than any other language has ever been. English has become so important in scientific publishing that more

than 80% of all scientific journal articles indexed by Chemical Abstracts in 1998 were written in English. The increased use of English globally has had an effect on other languages, leading to some English words being assimilated into the vocabularies of other languages. English is easy to learn but hard to master because it is a living language. Several skills – listening, speaking, reading, writing, learning and teaching, grammar and pronunciation – are required to be able to speak, read and write well.

Myanmar gained her independence from the British in 1948. Myanmar expelled the British and its language English, prioritizing Myanmar as our first language and diminishing the use of English in the educational institutions. In fact, Myanmar was under British rules for many decades. Therefore, the standard of English language of Myanmar people should be impressed by many other countries. Wrong and testing system in education atmosphere made countless numbers of students weak in English.

After independence, English was first stated to teach in Grade V. At that time, the level of English language of a student was not so bad. However, during military administration beyond 1990, English was first started to teach in KG. The age of a child in KG was about six each. A scientific study says that children should learn the second language at the age of

ten i.e. they are able to absorb the second language at that age. Before the age of ten, one's intellect cannot accept the burden of second language. The result we are facing now is that students are weak in English and even graduates are unable to write a resume or a report. Most matriculation students cannot write an own sentence although they have already studied English for eleven years starting from KG to Grade X. In this context, India which gained independence a year earlier than Myanmar retained English as a second language, producing a world-class group of writers such as VS Naipaul, Salmon Rushdie, Vikram Seth and Arundhati Roy.

In conclusion, I would like to urge education authorities concerned to focus on the teaching and learning of English as the top priority in the school syllabuses and curricula. At the same time, proficiency courses for teachers from all levels from across the country must be conducted during summer holidays. Outstanding teachers should be sent to the US, UK and Australia for further studies as a sort of incentive.

Moreover, I would also like to urge the students of all Grades not to focus just on one's prescribed texts. As English language is a very wide field of study, students should learn what are available within their reaches and what can be obtained as much as they can. Reference: Wikipedia



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 13th October, 2018)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over West Bengal (India) and adjoining Bangladesh and North Bay of Bengal still persists. Weather is cloudy over the North and East Central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 14th October, 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Magway Region, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6 - 9) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (4-5) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of likelihood of decrease of rain in Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions. **FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th October, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th October, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th October, 2018:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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# Community fears grow as DR Congo Ebola death toll climbs

GENEVA (Switzerland)—Humanitarian workers are struggling to calm community fears in strife-torn eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where 125 people have died of Ebola, and cases of the virus are spreading fast.

The World Health Organization said on Friday that 200 cases of the deadly virus have been registered in the outbreak first detected on 1 August, with 165 of them laboratory confirmed and 35 considered probable. The UN agency voiced concern over the swelling number of cases in recent weeks, especially in the town of Beni, near the Ugandan border.

“Insecurity that has increased in the city is one of the reasons why we are seeing these new cases coming up,” WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told reporters in Geneva. The latest outbreak—the 10<sup>th</sup> in DR Congo since Ebola was first detected there in 1976—emerged in the highly-restive northeastern region of North Kivu, which is home to a clutch of armed groups.

The authorities in Beni have announced measures to protect health workers after a number of incidents where response teams were assaulted. Fears and misconceptions about the virus have led to widespread mistrust and resistance to Ebola response work-



Fear is growing of Ebola response workers in strife-torn regions of DR Congo—including when workers enter communities wearing hazmat suits. PHOTO: AFP

ers, including those who come into communities wearing hazmat suits to orchestrate burials.

## UN employee taken ill

A staff member of the UN mission MONUSCO was among the latest victims of the virus, the UN and health ministry said on Friday. The employee was exposed in Beni where the health ministry said it was concerned by a “significant increase in the number of confirmed cases”. Two Red Cross volunteers were also

last week seriously injured when they were attacked during the burial of a suspected Ebola victim.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) told AFP Friday that it was doing everything it could to minimise the risk to its volunteers on the ground.

But IFRC Secretary-General Elhadj As Sy stressed that the organisation would never resort to using armed escorts in the areas.

“We never use military or armed group protection to do our

work... That is not part of our modus operandi,” he told AFP.

He said it was not surprising that people living in an area affected by armed conflict would be “totally overwhelmed with another shock like the Ebola crisis,” and might have “wrong reactions”.

“It is not unusual for us to experience these kind of difficulties,” he told AFP, adding that much of his organisation’s work involved engaging with community members to build acceptance of the Ebola response work. —AFP ■

# Saudi rejects ‘baseless’ murder claims over missing journalist

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates)—Saudi Arabia dismissed on Saturday accusations that Jamal Khashoggi was ordered murdered by a hit squad inside its Istanbul consulate as “lies and baseless allegations”, as Riyadh and Ankara spar over the missing journalist’s fate.

A Saudi delegation was in Turkey for talks on the case, which threatens not only to harm fragile relations between the two countries but also to do serious damage to the reformist credentials of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the kingdom’s ties to the West.

As the controversy intensified, the Washington Post reported Turkish officials had recordings made from inside the building that allegedly proved their claims Khashoggi was tor-

tured and killed at the consulate.

Big names from media and business have already cancelled appearances at a major conference in Riyadh this month and both the IMF chief and the US treasury secretary made their attendance conditional on the findings in the case.

In the first Saudi ministerial reaction to Turkish accusations that Khashoggi was killed, Interior Minister Prince Abdel Aziz bin Saud bin Nayef condemned “what has been reported in certain media concerning false accusations against Saudi Arabia... in the case of the disappearance of citizen Khashoggi”.

“What has been reported on the matter of orders to kill him is a lie and a baseless allegation,” the minister said in comments carried by the official Saudi Press

Agency.

he added the kingdom was “in compliance with international laws and conventions”. Saudi journalist and Washington Post contributor Khashoggi vanished on 2 October after entering the consulate to obtain documents for his upcoming marriage.

## Working group

The Saudi delegation, whose composition was not immediately clear, is expected to meet with Turkish officials in Ankara at the weekend, state media said on Friday.

It is likely that they will take part in a joint working group on the case, whose creation was announced on Thursday by Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin following a request by Saudi Arabia.

A Saudi official source quoted by SPA news agency said it was “a positive move” Turkey had agreed to the creation of what it described as a “joint action team”.

The Turkish leadership has so far stopped short of accusing Saudi Arabia, although pro-government media have published sensational claims, including that an “assassination team” was sent to Istanbul to kill Khashoggi.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has challenged Saudi Arabia to provide CCTV images to back up its account that Khashoggi left the consulate safely.

Khashoggi, a Saudi national living in the US since September 2017 fearing arrest, criticised some policies of Mohammed bin Salman and Riyadh’s intervention in the war in Yemen. —AFP ■

# Morocco justifies 2015 extradition of Saudi official

RABAT (Morocco)—Morocco confirmed on Friday that in 2015 it arrested a Saudi official, wanted by Interpol, and extradited him to Riyadh, denying that this was a “disappearance”. The comments came as the diplomatic fallout continued over the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who has not been seen since he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October.

Turki bin Bandar bin Mohamed bin Abderrahmane al-Saud was arrested at Casablanca Airport on 11 November, 2015 on his way to Paris on an “international warrant issued (the same day) by Riyadh for disrupting public order via the internet and financial crimes”, a Moroccan diplomatic source told AFP. Bin Bandar, a former high-ranking Saudi police officer, was extradited to Saudi Arabia the next day “in compliance with legal provisions”, the same Moroccan diplomatic source said, requesting anonymity.

“This wasn’t a disappearance, as some in the media have described it, but a normal procedure, Morocco’s Justice Minister Mohamed Aujjar told AFP.

“The two phases, administrative and judicial were respected after his arrest made on the basis of an international arrest warrant,” he added.

His comments came after French newspaper Le Monde on Thursday published an article entitled “the disappearance of Saudi dissidents” in which it described the deportation three years ago as an extradition of convenience. The article said bin Bandar had come into conflict with the Saudi royal family over a land dispute and that he had “posted videos on YouTube calling for reforms”. The former police official was “discreetly arrested in Morocco by local authorities, then transferred to Saudi Arabia”, the newspaper said.

Britain’s Guardian newspaper has reported that bin Bandar had requested asylum in France. It cited friends as saying he had disappeared in 2015.

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Friday that journalist Khashoggi’s disappearance was “very serious”, and called for an investigation to establish “complete clarity” on what happened to him. —AFP ■

# Jetliner lands in US after world's longest flight

NEWYORK (United States)—An Airbus jetliner arrived in Newark on Friday after a nearly 18-hour trip from Singapore, completing the world's longest commercial flight. It marked the revival of a route that had been eliminated in 2013.

Singapore Airlines Flight SQ22 arrived at 5:29 am (0929 GMT), having left Singapore's Changi airport at 11:23 pm, the Newark Liberty International Airport website said. That made for a flight of 17 hours and 52 minutes. The flight had been scheduled to take 18 hours and 25 minutes. The plane was carrying 150 passengers and 17 crew members as it traveled 10,250 miles (16,500 kilometers).

"I feel perfectly well rested," said Kristopher Alladin, a 37-year-old Canadian. "I'm lucky because

I'm able to sleep on the plane."

Flying from New York to Singapore would be a longer journey, lasting an estimated 18 hours and 45 minutes. The first flight in that direction took off from Newark at 11:10 am Friday. Singapore Airlines only offers premium economy and business seats on the flight—no regular economy seats.

"Although you're in premium eco, you feel like you're in first class," said Alladin, adding that he had taken the same flight in 2008. "The flight was very smooth, very quiet."

## 'Ended too fast!'

"The flight was great, smooth, enjoyable and ended too fast!" said Danny Ong, an engineer and flight enthusiast from Singapore, after landing in Newark.



Pier Messaggio (4<sup>th</sup>-l), Italian electronics designer poses with other passengers of flight SQ22, Singapore Airlines' inaugural non-stop flight to New York with airport staff after checking in at Changi International Airport in Singapore on 11 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP



The world's longest direct flight has touched down in New York after almost 18 hours in the sky. PHOTO: AFP

"We were served a supper of three choices after takeoff. I slept soundly, woke up and realized [there were] around eight hours left," said Ong, who took the first flight back to Singapore, straight after landing in Newark. "The crews were attentive, professional and responded promptly. Highly recommended if you are flying from Singapore to NYC in future." A one-way ticket from Singapore to New York on this flight costs about \$2,150 in pre-

mium economy and \$3,500 for a roundtrip itinerary, according to the Singapore Airlines website.

Singapore Airlines originally flew the route for nine years using the gas-guzzling, four-engine A340-500 plane before abandoning it in 2013 because high oil prices made the service unprofitable.

This trip was made with the new, more fuel efficient Airbus A350-900ULR, which consumes 25 percent less fuel than its pre-

decessor. It topped the previous longest direct air link between cities—Qatar Airways Flight 921 from Auckland to Doha, which takes 17 hours 40 minutes.

The A350 is these days considered the go-to plane for long-haul flights, nudging out the A380, which was previously the flagship for such long distance journeys, and which carries up to 850 passengers, more than twice the number of the A350.— AFP ■

## US-China trade row not a threat to world economy: Mnuchin

NUSA DUA (Indonesia)—US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pushed back on Saturday against warnings that the Washington's trade fight with China imperils the world economy, saying that pushing Beijing to open up will be good for all.

The IMF has warned this week at annual meetings in Bali that the escalating US-China trade confrontation would hobble global economic growth, as the fund lowered its forecasts for this year and next. But Mnuchin told reporters on the Indonesian resort island that President Donald Trump's drive to punish China with tariffs to encourage it to adopt fairer trade practices would have the opposite affect.

"Our objective with China is very clear: it's to have a more balanced trading relationship," Mnuchin said.

"I think that if we are successful, this is very good for US companies, US workers, Europeans, Japan, all of our other allies, and good for China." Mnuchin



US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. PHOTO: AFP

said, however that the IMF's warnings were "all the more reason for China to be incited to address these issues with us".

The IMF Tuesday cut its outlook for global GDP growth by 0.2 percentage points to 3.7 per cent for 2018 and 2019, saying that "everyone is going to suffer" from a clash between the world's two biggest economies. Tensions have soared in recent months with Donald Trump's administra-

tion rolling out billions of dollars in tariffs against China in a bid to tackle its trade deficit and rein in what Washington views as unacceptable trade practices by the Asian giant.

"Our objective is to increase exports and have a more balanced, fair relationship where our companies can do business there on terms that are similar to how they can do business (in the US)," Mnuchin said.— AFP ■

## Guadeloupe author wins alternative prize in Nobel absence

STOCKHOLM (Sweden)—Guadeloupean author Maryse Conde on Friday won an alternative award formed in protest to the Nobel Literature Prize, postponed this year over a rape scandal that came to light as part of the #MeToo movement.

The New Academy Prize in Literature was formed in protest to denounce what its founders called the "bias, arrogance and sexism" of the venerable Swedish Academy, which selects Nobel laureates. The Swedish Academy was plunged into turmoil in 2017 over its ties to Frenchman Jean-Claude Arnault, who was jailed for two years in early October for rape. Conde "describes the ravages of colonialism and post-colonial chaos in a language which is both precise and overwhelming," the New Academy—founded by more than 100 Swedish writers, artists and journalists—said more than a week after the Nobel Literature Prize would have been announced. Swedish librarians nominated 47 authors who were

later voted on by nearly 33,000 people from around the world, leaving four authors—two women and two men—on the short list. A jury then picked Conde from the list, which also included Vietnamese-Canadian writer Kim Thuy, British author Neil Gaiman and Japan's Haruki Murakami. Murakami withdrew his nomination last month, telling organisers he wanted to focus on work and avoid the spotlight.

"I'm very happy and proud of this prize... Please allow me to share it with my family, my friends and above all with the people of Guadeloupe, who will be thrilled and touched seeing me receive this prize," the 81-year-old Conde, who is often among authors tipped for the Nobel prize, said in a video message. Part of France, Guadeloupe is "only mentioned when there are hurricanes or earthquakes," added the writer whose work explores racial, gender and cultural issues in a historical context.— AFP ■



Anwar Ibrahim is expected to easily take the seat in Port Dickson. PHOTO:AFP

## Malaysia begins by-election vote to pave Anwar's return

PORT DICKSON (Malaysia) — Anwar Ibrahim set his sights on a return to frontline Malaysian politics on Saturday as voting began in a by-election poll likely to seal the once jailed opposition figure's remarkable political resurrection. Winning the seat is a key requirement for Anwar to succeed 93-year-old Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who jailed his former protege and heir apparent on sodomy and corruption charges in 1998 when their relationship soured. Mahathir returned to the premiership this year after a shock election win, saying he would stay in power for only two years before handing the reins to Anwar.

Anwar was in prison when he forged an unlikely alliance with Mahathir in a bid to unseat then prime minister Najib Razak, who had called elections for May amid massive corruption allegations.

Underscoring the drama of Saturday's vote, one of Anwar's six challengers is a former aide who also accused the then-opposition leader of sodomy, landing the 71-year-old in jail for a second time in 2014. But the charismatic politician is expected to eke out an easy win in the seat, which was vacated after a member of the ruling coalition stepped down to pave Anwar's return.

Polls opened under cloudy skies at 8:00 am (0000 GMT) in the sleepy southern coastal town of Port Dickson, home to a sizeable ethnic Chinese community that across the country has traditionally been one of Anwar's pillars of support.

"We are voting for the next premier. We need an influential leader to bring long-overdue progress to Port Dickson," said 60-year-old voter Lee Tian Hock.

"This morning, I prayed to Allah for a big win for Anwar," retired truck driver Mat Taib, a member of the country's ethnic Malay majority, told AFP.

"I want him to be our eighth prime minister."

About 100 supporters greeted Anwar with shouts of "Reformasi" — his battlecry while in opposition — as he arrived at a polling station. "Voter turnout is too slow. Hopefully, more will come out to cast their votes after they finish their work in hotels and factories," he said.

"I will see you in parliament on Monday," he told an AFP reporter, smiling broadly.

### Charismatic politician

Anwar campaigned hard over the past two weeks to secure a mandate in the multi-racial constituency, promising voters development, clean government and a boost to local tourism.

He has not discussed the accusations of sodomy — an act that is still illegal in largely Muslim Malaysia — while on the campaign trail. He has always maintained the charges were trumped up to derail his political career.

But he has campaigned doggedly on the multi-billion-dollar graft scandal at state fund 1MDB, over which former leader Najib and his wife Rosmah Mansor facing dozens of corruption charges.

Both face the prospect of spending the rest of their lives in jail in a scandal that saw Najib's coalition lose office for the first time since the country declared independence from Britain in 1957. Political heavyweights including Mahathir have campaigned for Anwar in a road back to office that was unthinkable even six months ago.

The duo went onstage together at one campaign event, prompting wild cheers from supporters. After he was dumped as finance minister and jailed in the 1990s, Anwar led a reformist opposition movement while fighting to overturn his convictions.

Mahathir, his mentor turned tormentor and now ally, came back from retirement to lead the Alliance of Hope coalition that won power in May. —AFP ■

## Snowstorm kills at least eight climbers on Nepal peak: officials

KATHMANDU (Nepal) — At least eight climbers from a South Korean expedition have died on Nepal's Mount Gurja after their camp was devastated by a violent snowstorm, officials said on Saturday. The bodies of eight climbers — four South Koreans and four Nepali guides — were spotted among the wreckage of their camp by a rescue team early Saturday morning, but unstable and icy conditions were hampering the search effort.

"We assume the incident happened because of a snowstorm because trees are broken and the tents. Even the dead bodies are scattered," police spokesman Sailesh Thapa told AFP.

Thapa said a ninth climber may also be missing.

A helicopter reached the site and managed to land just above the expedition team's camp, but were unable to retrieve any of the bodies. "Everything is gone, all the tents are blown apart. The conditions were too icy to continue the search," pilot Siddhartha Gurung told AFP.

Gurung said a rescue team

would hopefully return to the camp on Sunday, if conditions improved. Wangchu Sherpa, managing director of Trekking Camp Nepal, who organized the expedition, said they raised the alarm after they had not heard from the team for nearly 24 hours.

"After they (the climbers) were out of contact since yesterday we sent people from the village and a helicopter to search for them," he said.

The group of South Korean climbers and their Nepali guides had been camped at the foot of 7,193 metre (23,599 foot) Mount Gurja since early October, waiting for a window of good weather so they could attempt to reach the summit. Feted South Korean climber Kim Chang-ho, who in 2013 became the fastest person to summit the world's 14 highest mountains without using supplemental oxygen, was leading the expedition, according to a government-issued climbing permit seen by AFP.

Kim is believed to be among the dead, officials said.

The climbing permit listed

four South Korean climbers, but a fifth member had joined the team later, according to Suresh Dakal of Trekking Camp Nepal.

Dakal said they were still struggling to confirm if the fifth South Korean had reached the base camp when the powerful storm tore through the area on Friday. Rarely-climbed Gurja lies in Nepal's Annapurna region, next to avalanche-prone Dhaulagiri — the world's seventh highest mountain.

Gurja was first summited in 1969 by a Japanese team but no one has stood on its summit for 22 years, according to the Himalayan Database. Four climbers have perished on its flanks and a total of 30 have successfully reached its peak — a fraction of the more than 8,000 people who have summited the world's highest mountain, Everest.

Thousands of climbers flock to Nepal each year — home to eight of the world's 14 highest peaks — creating a lucrative mountain tourism industry that is a vital source of cash for the impoverished country. —AFP ■



Mount Gurja lies next to the avalanche prone Dhaulagiri range. PHOTO:AFP

## Livestock farmers in drought-hit Aussie state bogged down by dead kangaroos

SYDNEY — Many livestock farmers in Australia's New South Wales are struggling to cope with a growing number of wild kangaroos dying from the latest drought, with the carcasses at risk of contaminating precious water supplies in the state, according to local media.

The iconic Australian animals are getting stuck in muddy dams drying out in the heat across the state's far west, the ABC news channel reported on Saturday.

The dams "become boggy, and as they do, kangaroos go in for a drink and get bogged and die," farmer Lachlan Gall, who is also president of the local pastoralists' association, was quoted as saying.

"There are hundreds, if not thousands of dead kangaroos around" and the marsupials "have to be removed before they putrefy and pollute the water supply," said Gall, adding that the authorities need to better manage the animals' "impact

on the environment and on farming families." One of Australia's most severe droughts has hit large swathes of its major eastern agricultural states in recent months, with authorities increasing aid for farmers dealing with low crop production and livestock losses. The New South Wales government alone has since rolled out measures to rein in the number of kangaroos competing with local livestock in grazing areas, according to the news channel. —Xinhua ■

## Grim search underway for victims of Hurricane Michael

PANAMA CITY — Rescue teams using sniffer dogs carried out a grim search for victims of Hurricane Michael on Friday amid fears that the death toll from the monster storm — which currently stands at 11 — could rise.

“When you have that type of damage it takes some time to get in and actually go through and do the search and rescue,” said Brock Long, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“We hope to have 100 per cent of the initial search and rescue done in Florida today,” Long told reporters.

The Florida Panhandle town of Mexico Beach was pulverized by the Category 4 storm which crashed ashore on Wednesday, razing many homes to their foundations with 155 miles per hour (250 kph) winds and several feet of

storm surge.

A mandatory evacuation was issued for the town of 1,000 on the Gulf of Mexico coast, but how many residents actually heeded the warning is unknown.

“You hope that somehow at the last minute a bunch of people got up and left or went somewhere else,” Florida Senator Marco Rubio told CNN.

But judging from the number of homes reduced to “sticks,” he said “my sense is they are going to find more victims.”

Rubio added: “I truly pray I’m wrong, but common sense tells you that if you were in that house when that happened you did not make it.” Search-and-rescue teams were using sniffer dogs as they sifted through the rubble looking for victims.

### ‘I can’t sell it now’

Bob Tenbrunson, a

Mexico Beach retiree, rode out the storm at his daughter’s house in nearby Panama City and returned to survey the damage to his home.

“I was going to stay here until it turned to a Cat 4,” he said. “So I followed the mandatory evacuation order and left with my wife.

“Luckily we did not get a surge,” Tenbrunson said of his home. “I’ve got two trees on the roof and a couple of holes on the roof. I have been trying to patch it up the best I can.”

The rest of Mexico Beach did not fare as well, and most of the beachfront homes, restaurants and stores were obliterated by the storm. “I spent my life savings and retirement to stay here so I can’t sell it now,” Tenbrunson said. “I just have to be hopeful that (the town) will be rebuilt and fixed.” —AFP ■



Indian women collect coconuts after heavy winds brought by Cyclone Titli, as humanitarians warned that the number of climate-related disasters around the world is growing rapidly. PHOTO: AFP

## Humanitarians see surge in climate-related disasters

GENEVA (Switzerland) — The number of climate-related disasters around the world is growing rapidly, humanitarians warned Friday, urging more efforts to prepare and build resilience to looming changes on a warming planet.

Climate shocks are already driving displacement, causing many to go hungry and are sparking or exacerbating conflicts around the globe, humanitarian workers said, cautioning that the situation is quickly deteriorating.

“With climate change, the shocks and hazards are multiplying,” Elhadj As Sy, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), told AFP in an interview.

Speaking on the sidelines of a conference in Geneva on the impact of climate change on humanitarian situations around the globe, he cautioned that such “shocks” were

“getting more frequent and more severe.” Friday’s conference was aimed at unpacking the humanitarian implications of the findings in a landmark UN climate report this week, which warned drastic action was needed to prevent Earth from hurtling towards an unbearable rise in temperature. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) said the globe’s surface has already warmed one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) — enough to lift oceans and unleash a crescendo of deadly storms, floods and droughts — and is on track toward an unliveable 3°C or 4°C rise.

### ‘Pressure cooker’

Gernot Laganda, who heads the World Food Programme’s climate and disaster risk reduction division, pointed out that climate shocks are already “significant drivers of displacement”, forcing 22.5

million people to leave their homes each year.

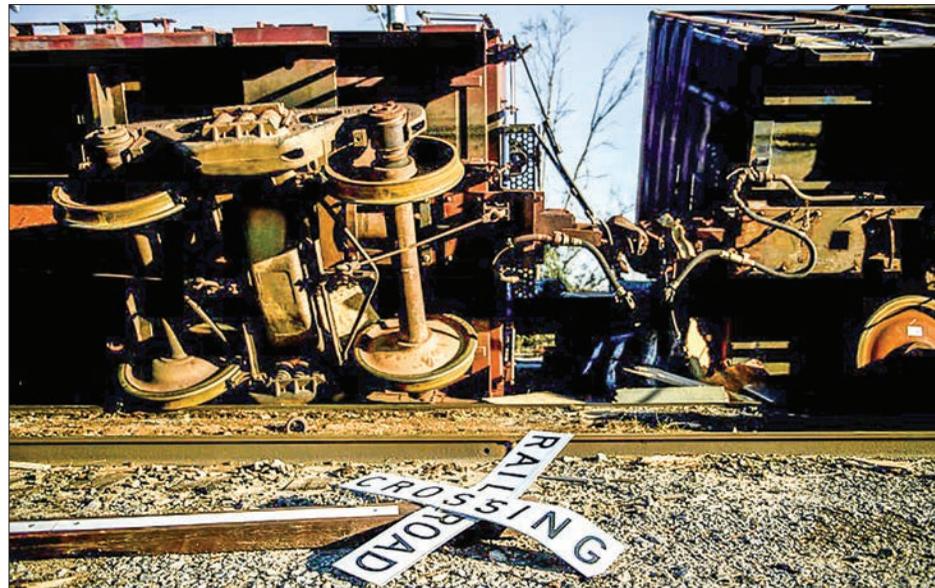
Speaking to journalists in Geneva, he also decried the “increasingly distracting interplay between conflict and climate disasters.”

He pointed out that the world’s 10 most conflict-affected countries, including Syria, Yemen and the Democratic Republic of Congo, are also impacted by extreme weather events, creating a so-called “pressure-cooker” effect.

Laganda pointed to projections that if the planet warms just 2°C, 189 million more people than today will become food insecure.

“And if it is a four-degree warmer world ... we’re looking beyond one billion more,” he said, adding that this “is a very, very strong argument for early and decisive climate action.”

Sy meanwhile said humanitarians had already seen a dramatic increase in climate and weather-related crises. —AFP ■



A train is tipped over by storm winds in Panama City, Florida, which was among the hardest hit by Hurricane Michael. PHOTO: AFP

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1109W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1109W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (111N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (111N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE  
LTD

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FRIDA VOY. NO. (006N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS FRIDA VOY. NO. (006N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185



Devotees of the Loem Hu Thai Su shrine parade during the annual Vegetarian Festival in Phuket on 12 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

## Ouch! Thailand's cheek-piercing vegetarian festival

BANGKOK — As burning incense fills the air, devotees in trances force skewers and swords through their cheeks in ritualistic acts underpinning southern Thailand's colourful — and seemingly painful — vegetarian festival.

The Taoist “Nine Emperor Gods” event held on the holiday island of Phuket, began on 9 October and coincides with observances of Chinese communities across the region who refrain from meat and other indulgences such as drinking and gambling.

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Participants on the island — which has a sizeable Chinese population — go above and beyond, piercing cheeks and tongues with an assortment of blades, spikes, skewers and other, more exotic items — including petrol pumps.

The festival, did not take place last year because of a lengthy mourning period following the death of the Thai king in October 2016.

But on Friday it was back in

full swing.

One man stuck two wrenches through his right cheek, while another shook his head side to side and cut his tongue with an axe blade, blood dripping down his chest.

A fishing rod, anchor and part of a palm leaf were also put to use, as festival-goers marched in processions with the items poking out of their mouths.

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“The pierced men are the deities who descend down to Earth to show their miracles, and the piercing means that the deities suffer so that people's sins are cleansed,” said Pathompong Reanthong, 24, one of the organisers.

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ligious precepts, and rid themselves of meat consumption. It's actually a festival to ward off bad luck,” he added.

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Participants are expected not to eat meat during the festival.

The celebration dates back to 1825, according to local folklore, when a visiting Chinese opera troupe fell ill.

They are believed to have adopted a vegetarian diet and carried out Taoist rituals in an effort to improve their health.

Walking across hot coals is also incorporated into the final stages of the event, which is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of people. —AFP ■

## Johnny Depp opens about ‘Fantastic Beasts’ casting row

LOS ANGELES — Actor Johnny Depp has broken silence over his casting in the film “Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald”, saying he felt bad for author JK Rowling who had to defend him.

Depp's casting as Gellert Grindelwald in the franchise had led to a huge uproar as he was accused of domestic violence by his ex-wife Amber Heard. In an interview with Entertainment Weekly, the 55-year-old actor said he was “falsely accused” and Rowling understood him.

“I'll be honest with you, I felt bad for JK having to field all these various feelings from people out there. I felt bad that she

had to take that. But ultimately, there is real controversy,” Depp said.

“The fact remains I was falsely accused, which is why I'm suing The Sun newspaper for defamation for repeating false accusations. JK has seen the evidence and therefore knows I was falsely accused, and that's why she has publicly supported me. She doesn't take things lightly. She would not stand up if she didn't know the truth. So that's really it,” he added.

According to EW, the “evidence” noted by Depp will be presented in court proceedings next month during The Sun defamation case. —PTI ■



Actor Johnny Depp. PHOTO: PTI

## Selena Gomez seeking treatment after suffering emotional breakdown

LOS ANGELES — Singer Selena Gomez seeking treatment after emotional breakdown in hospital following “tough” few weeks. According to the People magazine, the 26-year-old former Disney star was hospitalised twice within the last few weeks, both times for a low white blood cell count, which can be a side effect for kidney transplant patients.

“She has had a tough few weeks and the panic attack in the hospital was the tipping point. She realised she needed

to seek additional help for her ongoing emotional issues. She's surrounded by close family and has a lot of support. She's doing better now and is seeking treatment on the East Coast,” a source said. Gomez is undergoing dialectical behaviour therapy, a therapy method designed to help try to identify, and then change, negative thinking and behavioral patterns, the source added. The news comes a few weeks after Gomez announced that she is taking a break from social media. —PTI ■



Singer Selena Gomez. PHOTO: AFP

## NASA says will use Russia's Soyuz despite rocket failure

MOSCOW (Russia) — NASA chief Jim Bridenstine on Friday praised the Russian space programme and said he expected a new crew to go to the International Space Station in December despite a rocket failure.

"I fully anticipate that we will fly again on a Soyuz rocket and I have no reason to believe at this point that it will not be on schedule," he told reporters.

The NASA administrator spoke to reporters at the US embassy in Moscow a day after a Soyuz rocket failure forced Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin and US astronaut Nick Hague to make an emergency

landing shortly after takeoff in Kazakhstan. The pair escaped unharmed.

It was the first such incident in Russia's post-Soviet history — an unprecedented setback for the country's space industry.

The Soviet-designed Soyuz rocket is currently the world's only lifeline to the International Space Station and the accident will affect both NASA and the work of the orbiting laboratory.

Bridenstine, who is visiting Russia and Kazakhstan for the first time since his appointment as NASA chief this year, observed the launch from Baikonur cosmodrome with his Russian counter-

part Dmitry Rogozin.

Appearing at times emotional, he said he was "confident" a new manned mission to the ISS would go ahead as planned in December, praising the "wonderful relationship" between the Russian and US space agencies.

"Not every mission that fails, ends up so successful," he said.

The next Soyuz launch had been scheduled to take a new crew to the ISS on 20 December.

Russia said earlier Friday it was likely to bring forward the flight of a new manned space mission but postpone the launch of a cargo ship scheduled for 31 October.

"We will try to bring forward the launch of a new crew," said Sergei Krikalyov, executive director of the Russian space agency and veteran cosmonaut.

He did not provide further details and a Roscosmos spokeswoman told AFP that the space agency currently does not have a new schedule of launches.

All manned launches have been suspended and a criminal probe has been launched.

When asked about the accident, US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he was "not at all worried" that Americans had to rely on Russians to go to space. —AFP ■



NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin were greeted by family members and officials after landing in Kazakhstan. PHOTO: AFP



Female pairs of mice produced viable babies, whose offspring went on to have their own progeny. PHOTO: AFP

## Of mice and men: scientists produce babies from same-sex mice pairs

TOKYO (Japan) — A team of researchers has produced viable offspring from same-sex pairs of mice, using a novel technology that involves stem cells altered to remove certain genes. While the applications of the research are largely theoretical for now, they could include improving existing cloning methods for mammals and even eventually fertility treatments for same-sex couples.

The study, published Thursday in *Cell Stem Cell* journal, is the first time the method has been successfully implemented, though previous research has looked at other ways to produce babies from same-sex pairs.

But while the team was able to produce viable babies from female pairs of mice, whose offspring went on to have their own progeny, the mice produced from male pairs fared less well.

They survived only 48 hours after birth, despite a complicated process of gene manipulation intended to eliminate abnormalities resulting from the same-sex reproductive process. While same-sex reproduction might seem an unusual avenue for research, many species are able to reproduce via methods that do not involve a male-female pairing. Species including reptiles, amphibians and fish can reproduce with just a single parent, but the process is more complicated for mammals. "We were interested in the question of why mammals can only undergo sexual reproduction," co-senior author Qi Zhou of the Chinese Academy of Sciences told the journal.

This field of research treads on tricky ethical ground, with previous studies involving genetic editing and novel methods of reproduction prompting fears

about the implications if similar processes were eventually applied to humans.

### 'Imprinting regions'

During the reproduction process, mammals mostly inherit two sets of each gene, one from their mother and one from their father.

But a small subset of genes, known as "imprinted" genes, are inherited from only one parent.

For these genes, the set produced by the other parent is effectively inactive, having been "shut off" when it is transmitted.

If this "shutting off" process does not function correctly, the offspring could suffer from abnormalities or even die.

Mixing genetic material from same-sex couples runs the risk of the babies receiving two sets of "imprinted" genes. So the study used haploid embryonic stem cells, which resemble "primordial germ cells, the precursors of eggs and sperm," said co-senior author Baoyang Hu.

They then altered the genetic makeup of the cells, deleting "imprinting regions" to effectively mimic the "shutting off" process in normal reproduction.

In the case of the female mice, three "imprinting regions" were deleted from the stem cells, which were then injected into the eggs of another mouse.

In the case of the male mice, seven "imprinting regions" were deleted and the cells were injected into a mouse egg along with sperm from a second mouse "father."

The nucleus of the mouse egg was removed, meaning there was no female genetic material left and the fertilised egg was placed in a surrogate mouse. —AFP ■

## Tough CO2 targets 'could cost 100,000 jobs': VW chief

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (Germany) — Setting European Union targets for reducing cars' greenhouse gas output that are too ambitious could backfire with the loss of 100,000 jobs, Volkswagen chief executive Herbert Diess said on Thursday.

If ministers aimed to slash carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) output by 40 percent between 2020 and 2030, "around a quarter of the jobs in our factories would have to go in the space of 10 years — a total of 100,000 posts," Diess told daily *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*.

EU governments agreed on Tuesday to aim for a 35-per cent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> output by 2030 rather than the 30 per cent hoped for by manufacturers, Berlin and eastern European governments.

While Chancellor Angela Merkel called the compromise "acceptable", the head of the

VDA German carmakers' federation Bernhard Mattes labelled it "overambitious" and "gambling with jobs". Diess went into more detail, saying that a more gradual reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would make for a slower ramping-up of electric cars — which take many fewer man-hours to build than comparable vehicles powered by internal combustion.

A faster decrease, by contrast, would be "barely manageable" as "by 2030 more than half of vehicles would have to be all-electric" with knock-on effects on jobs, he said. "Such a drastic reduction means a painful revolution rather than a manageable transition," he warned, adding that "there would no longer be affordable small cars built in Germany".

Efforts to fight climate change are in stronger focus this week, after UN experts warned

drastic measures are needed to avoid global temperatures rising more than the average two degrees Centigrade targeted under the 2015 Paris accords.

Meanwhile the German car industry continues to suffer from the reputational damage of the "dieselgate" scandal, which revealed vehicles worldwide were being manipulated to appear less polluting.

Despite years spent battling the fallout from such cheating on 11 million vehicles, Volkswagen reported profits of 11.3 billion euros (\$13.1 billion) in 2017 on revenues of 230.7 billion.

In July, the European Commission uncovered a new trick by car companies, accusing them of inflating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions figures in current models to make it easier to hit future targets for reducing output of the gas. —AFP ■



Hanthawady (red) and Yadanabon (blue) vie for the ball in a match of Myanmar National League. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Hanthawady United to take part in Invitational Four-Country's Club Football Tournament in China

HANTHAWADY United FC that stood at the fourth place on the chart of Myanmar National League in the previous football season is going to participate in Invitational Four-Country's Club Competition to be held in China, said a source close to Hanthawady United FC.

The professional football clubs from Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia will take part in the invitational football tournament of four countries. China will be the host, but won't participate in the tournament.

The invitational football tournament

of four countries will be held in China from 12 to 18 November. Hanthawady United FC from Myanmar, Police Tero from Thailand, Ammy from Cambodia and Than Quang Ninh from Viet Nam will meet in the invitational football tournament.

The fixtures of the invitational football tournament will be released soon. Hanthawady United FC will begin practice activities starting on 22 October. It has planned to hire foreign footballers to be added to the team in the upcoming football season. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

## Myanmar to host Group-F of 2019 Asian U-19 Women's Football Qualification

MYANMAR will host Group-F in 2019 Asian U-19 Women's Football Qualification in Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon from 24 to 28 October.

Palestine withdrew from Group-F in 2019 Asian U-19 Women's Football Qualification. Only three teams including host Myanmar have been left in the Group-F due to the withdrawal of Palestine. Changes took place in group match schedule. The group matches will be held for three days. There will be a match in a day. Host Myanmar will play last two matches consecutively.

The qualifier matches of the Group-F are scheduled at 6 pm. When the situations of the teams in the group are reviewed, Myanmar has been the best status to advance the second round of the qualification process.

Myanmar U-19 women's football

squad has begun practice activities starting June and the current squad is made up of 26 players.

Myanmar U-19 women's demonstrated three international warm-up matches before the first round of the 2019 Asian U-19 Women's Football Qualification, hammering Singapore with a large margin of 7-0 and losing to Thailand with a narrow margin of 0-1 in the first friendly and 3-4 in the second. It also played against Myanmar national women's football team in Thuwunna Stadium.

The first round qualification will be held with teams divided into six groups. Six top teams from each group and two best second-placed ones will advance the second round of 2019 Asian U-19 Women's Football Qualification. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



Myanmar U-19 women's football team. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



Bolivia (green) attempts to head butt the ball while Myanmar (red) holds him back in yesterday's international friendly match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MFF**

## Bolivia beat Myanmar in International football friendly

MYANMAR national football team and Bolivia, South American national football team played a friendly match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The South American star, Bolivia beat Myanmar 3-0 in the friendly match.

Myanmar lined up with Goal Keeper Kyaw Zin Htet, David Htan, Soe Moe Kyaw, Htike Htike Aung, Thein Than Win, Captain Hlaing Bo Bo, Myo Ko Tun, Ye Ko Oo, Si Thu Aung, Maung Maung Lwin and Kaung Set Naing.

Bolivia possessed better skills and was physically superior.

Myanmar team tried their best with a mix of slow and fast football play along with massive blocking at

the backside.

Bolivia scored their opening goal even at 5 minutes mark. The icebreaker was scored by Luis Haquin upon his speedy play style.

Again, Bolivia made their second goal by Bolivia star Marcelo Martins at 25 minute.

The first half ends in 2-0.

Myanmar were much better in the second half with steady play and ball delivery toward its strikers via midfielders and defenders.

But Bolivia were too strong and scored their third goal at 68 minute by Henry Vaca.

The match ended with 3-0 score, as both teams appeared exhausted in later minutes.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

**T**HE difference between human beings and machines is, humans have hearts, but, machines do not. Having a heart means to show kindness to others without discrimination. If a human being does not have a heart, they will die with no breathing. And, this person would be like a computer. A computer can do various things, but it does not have a heart.

A person with a humanitarian heart thinks "Human is human." I agree with this idea. Because, the origin of humans is the same. Thus we are brothers and sisters. We should solve conflicts by discussions. We should not solve them by wars.

I think that "War is a race of egos using lives and abilities of human beings. If we use abilities in other places, they would bring advantages for human beings, such as health, education and more. If we can do this, our world's future will be bright.

Every intelligent person cannot be a good person. In this matter, the heart has an important role to play. The heart can decide how to use intelligence that brings advantages or disadvantages to people.

Nuclear energy can be used to produce enough electricity as well as

# A humanitarian heart

atomic bombs that can stop many people from breathing. We should accept and protect the rights of humans, women and children if we have a humanitarian heart. Everyone should be able to receive education without any discrimination.

And we should protect the rights of women for a lot of women are being discriminated in many places today. I think that women have the abilities to do good for the world and "All of us are the same." If a nation practices many discriminations, it cannot develop. In other words, equality is the beginning of development.

And then, children should be protected from extreme punishment and working in dangerous conditions by governments or communities. Because, children are the light of the future world. If we can pass on our humanitarian heart to our children, our world will become peaceful.

Thus, schools, parents, guardians and communities can teach children to see the idea that "Human is human". We can tell them that a humanitarian heart can transform the world to peace. ■



By Htet Myat Aung  
Grade(11)



The following is an excerpt from an interview with Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, in which the ambassador responds to questions concerning Japan's involvement in Myanmar's peace process and development efforts, in addition to bilateral cooperation.

## Interview with Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama

**Q: We understand you've worked at the Japanese embassy in Myanmar for twenty years before becoming ambassador. Can you tell us your opinion on Myanmar's reforms and transformation?**

**A:** Myanmar had armed conflicts before. After the 2015 elections, a government voted by the majority took office. The incumbent government is currently working for political, economic and social reforms. This is why Japan will support Myanmar in facing its challenges as much as we can.

**Q: What do you think of Myanmar's current situation?**

**A:** Myanmar is currently facing political and economic hardships and the Japanese government has a strong stance to support the Myanmar people and their government.

**Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges to Myanmar's democratic transition and do you have any advice on how to overcome them?**

**A:** First is political stability. It's very important. Only when we have political stability can we hope to have economic development. Second is developing the economy. Third, it is important to have peace within the country. Lastly, there's the international criticism on Myanmar concerning Rakhine State. I think these four facts are Myanmar's and the government's greatest challenges.

Myanmar's future development will be smoother when these challenges are resolved. It is the Japanese government's main objective to assist Myanmar in resolving these four challenges.

**Q: Japan has been actively supporting Myanmar's peace process. Can you tell us the nature of the support Japan has given?**

**A:** The peace process is of vital importance for Myanmar, which is why the Japanese government has appointed Nippon Foundation Chairman Mr. Yohei Sasakawa as their Special Envoy for National Reconciliation in Myanmar. Our Japanese government and Mr. Sasakawa will cooperate with the Myanmar government and the Tatmadaw in working for peace, once step at a time, especially in collaborating with the signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

**Q: Can you share some thoughts on Japanese investment in Myanmar, trade between Japan and Myanmar, and how you will promote bilateral cooperation?**

**A:** There are a lot of Japanese companies interested in Myanmar. The reason for the great interest can be contributed to the long years of close relationship between the two countries. There are a lot of accomplishments between our two governments in Thilawa Special Economic Zone and there is success in Japan and Myanmar's private sector too.

**Q: Myanmar has enacted a new Investment Law, which economists say gives Myanmar a lot of investment prospects compared to its neighbors. Can you elaborate on potential investments from Japan?**

**A:** The new Investment Law clearly defines in which sectors foreign investors can invest in. We have discussed with the Myanmar government and will invite interested Japanese companies to come invest in Myanmar.

Another important item for investors is good basic infrastructure such as roads and reliable electricity. For this, Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) is collaborating with the Myanmar government for basic infrastructure.

**Q: Have you been to Myanmar's prominent landmarks? What advice would you give to attract more tourists from Japan?**

**A:** I think the visa-free access the Myanmar government has given Korea and Japan will draw in more travelers from Japan. Myanmar is also initiating e-Visas which will attract more travelers. I think after visiting Myanmar and getting to know her people, Japanese people will think of Myanmar as if it were their own country and

will consider visiting twice or thrice again.

**Q: Can you tell us about your own travels around Myanmar?**

**A:** Bagan and Mandalay have an ancient resonance to them, similar to Kyoto in Japan. In Shan State, Taunggyi has exceptionally beautiful scenery. If we go towards the ocean, Ngapali beach has incredible scenery too. I think Japanese people will love every area of Myanmar.

**Q: Will flights from Japan be increased to ensure smoother travels?**

**A:** There's a direct flight from Tokyo to Yangon but there are no plans to expand flights yet. If there are more Japanese and Myanmar travelers to each other's countries then there is a chance flights may be increased.

**Q: We've heard from domestic job agencies that Japan will legally accept workers from Myanmar. How will you gather potential workers and what trainings and job opportunities are being offered?**

**A:** There are plans to enable Myanmar youths to come work in Japan. Japan's government and Myanmar's Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population have signed an MoU to send Myanmar youths for technical intern training in Japan.

**Q: Can you elaborate on the technical intern trainings?**

**A:** There are many sectors for them to receive technical intern training. For example, they could possibly go into the construction sector, agriculture sector, hospitals, or providing care to elderly people.

**Q: Japan is recognized as one of Myanmar's greatest donors. Are there any unique or special assistance given?**

**A:** State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi personally held discussions with Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe. Our Prime Minister has promised to provide US\$ 8 billion of assistance to the Myanmar government over a five-year period. We have three prioritized sectors. The first is roads and transportation. Second is economy and electricity. Third is the urban development of Yangon. We are collaborating with the Myanmar government to prioritize assistance to these three sectors.

**Q: Can you tell us what you like the most about Myanmar during your time here?**

**A:** Myanmar is a valuable country for Japan and the Japanese people because we gave a lot of hardships to Myanmar during World War II, especially to the Bamar people. But Myanmar was also the first Asian country to sign the peace treaty after World War II.

Myanmar also exported rice to Japan when we were suffering from extreme food shortage after WWII. It was from that time a lasting bond was created between not only the two countries' governments but also its people. That's why I feel Myanmar can be called Japan's benefactor.

**Q: Can you tell us what else you like about Myanmar? Such as the food, living, travel and what places do you have a fond memory of?**

**A:** With the support of the Japanese government, we are building basic education schools in Myanmar, I have attended the opening ceremonies of these schools. I've talked with the students there and I always ask them what they want to be when they grow up. Ten out of ten students always answer that they want to work for the country when they grow up. Myanmar doesn't need to worry about its future when it has such aspiring young children. I feel that there is always hope and it is a tremendous feeling.

**Q: Thank you very much for patiently answering our questions.**

**A:** I am grateful for the chance to explain about the stance the Japan government has taken.

Translated by GNLM



“MI Aye! Come here!” a loud voice appeared. I heard that voice even though I didn’t want to hear it. That voice came from our next door. Mi Aye was just a twenty-year-old girl. But she was married. She married a man she knew on social media. Her husband approached her online and he said that he would marry her well. The girl believed him and she went to the place where the man made an appointment. In fact, the man was not a good man. So, he took her to his house without marrying her. His mother and his siblings didn’t treat her well and they abused her. The girl could not defend herself when her husband beat her if she didn’t do what he asked. As the girl didn’t get any income, the man treated her with contempt. Although the girl asked for a permission to work, the man didn’t permit her. Although she would like to go back to her native town, they didn’t permit her. So, the girl’s life was like a bird in the cage.

One day, the girl was pregnant. When she went to the hospital and checked on her health, they found out that she was afflicted with HIV Virus. She didn’t know why she had this virus. Eventually, she knew that her husband was a drug addict. The man had HIV Virus transmitted by using the drug. Because of his cheating, his wife and their child’s lives were ruined. The girl’s life was very unlucky. Due to that situation, the neighborhood did not want to be intimate with her. Her fault was to be in love and to believe in someone she didn’t know well. However, she did not receive true love. And like the saying, “Misfortune never comes alone”, she could not defend the crucial matters of

her fate. Consequently, she died. I know that “Humans are mortal” but she was very young to be dead. Because she believed someone easily, she had to sacrifice her youth. She could not implement her dream.

If the girl had not believed the man easily, she could have her youthful feelings and she could have done whatever she wanted. If the man did not fall prey to drugs, he could have been a respected husband for his wife. If his mother and siblings treated her with warm-heartedness, they could have created a pleasant family. If the word “If” had really worked for them, their lives would have been great. There are many women who are victims of abuse and there are many men who are victims of drugs. We should not neglect their dangerous situation. Every person should try to eliminate those dangerous situations by cooperating whole-heartedly.



By Khin Moh Moh Aung  
Yadanabon University



By Orchid's Mom

I AM the mother of a child. Being a mother is more than giving birth to a child. As I am a working mom, balancing work and family is hard; even more than that, controlling the finance is harder for me.

My parents were government employees. Their salaries were low. But they could raise three children successfully. Now, my turn to raise my only daughter! When I think of long-term care for the family with monthly housing, grocery and utility cost, it really makes me crazy since my husband has stopped working because of his health. I began to be concerned about my finance. Then I realized that I need to set myself up with a financial plan, which then became my first priority. Before I came to know the keys how to manage my finance, needs and wants sometimes make me cry.

First, I looked back on how my parents managed their finance. They grew high-yield low-cost plants in their compound. But for me, I live in a small flat. How can I grow plants? So I buy just what I need to cut down on the waste and leftover. Kitchen waste is the most expensive out of all expenses. Making food at home is a kind of cutting the food budget. Luckily, my family does not have the habit of drinking alcohol, tea and coffee, which can take up a large portion of the budget quickly. Whew!

My second tip is ‘hand-me-downs’ like my parents practiced. They accepted ‘outgrown’ clothes from my cousin. I had to wear them until I got a job. Now my

# My tips to control my finances

daughter uses all clothes, toys, shoes, books that come from my friends. Giving away her clothes that she does not need anymore makes me feel like happy to be able to keep the circle going for giving.

Minimize shopping is my useful tip. The act of going shopping causes most of all the money leaks. In case if I need to shop, I try to stick to my list. I cut my habit of buying something that is not on my list. Staying away from fast fashion and luxury brands kind of helps me to support my financial plan.

My final tip is to cut the electricity bill down to size. Avoiding cooking and washing laundry at peak hours, switching off lights and electrical appliances when they are not used, and using LED light bulbs that consume 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs are useful tips. Phone and internet bills should be considered here. As a careful spender, I try not to use my phone pretty much to make calls. Instead of making calls, texting is better and lowers the cost and then downloading movies and music with Wi-Fi access can cost less.

Now my life is much easier when I practice these financial habits. In my opinion, life is too short. So it should be simple and not complicated with debt problems. What is your opinion?





Saw Wah Khu from Kayin State

owners. It is very difficult to get permission from the owners", tells Shwe Sin, academic coordinator at myME.

"And even when we do get permission, it is a challenge to motivate the children for the classes. They prefer to learn driving, fixing mobiles, skills getting them better jobs. Many also move from teashop to teashop for slightly better payments, disappearing from our classes after a few months."

It is obviously tough as well to, after 12 or more hours, not going to rest but sit in a classroom for another two hours. Tim: "It's a real challenge for them. And for our teachers, to teach at night, after dark, in places sometimes far from home, in unconventional and grimy places."

**Learner-centered**

Teachers and students in Myanmar are not used to the objective of myME: "delivering education in a creative, fun

Henry Braun: "We support sustainable solutions and innovative pilot projects that provide evidence for increased quality learning in education. With a special focus on teacher training, child protection, and linking learning to both earning and peace-building. The learner-centered approach puts the child at the center of education rather than the teacher. It requires the teacher to think about how she or he can make sure the student really learns and understands."

FCA coordinates the Finnish Teachers Without Borders program under which experienced Finnish teachers and education specialists volunteer to develop education where it's needed.

Education specialist Annika Nieminen volunteered during the summer of 2018, providing training to myME's teachers: "What I have tried to do these past three months is to help teachers

up with examples, activities, and questions challenging students to think for themselves."

**Refreshing**

The learner-centered approach definitely encourages the students: "My favorite subject is life skills, as that teaches you how to develop yourself and progress with your life", tells Aung Htay Than from Ayeyawady Region. He is 19 and has worked in a teashop since he was ten.

It even gives students new energy: "Going to school feels refreshing and even though the working days are long, the tiredness vanishes as the lesson starts", smiles Saw Wah Khu, 20, from Kayin State. He has been working in a teashop for seven years.

Both live above the shop with other young adults and children also working in the shop.

their feelings and ideas to people who listen and understand", says Shwe Sin.

"A girl, for example, once mentioned some male customers being very difficult to serve. So we talked about that and offered suggestions how to protect herself and solve such situations in a non-confrontational way."

**Highlight situation**

Despite the success of the program, myME and FCA realize it is not the solution for Myanmar.

"We cannot solve the problem of 2.7 million out-of-school children in this country, bring them all back to school or give them some sort of education. This is a government's responsibility. What we are doing is highlighting the situation and making these children visible, making people look at them, where they are and what they are missing. Look at what

"Students join myME not only to learn, but also because they feel safe talking about their difficulties in life"

By Arnold Marseille & KMM Aung PHOTOS: Supplied

# FCA supports Mobile Education for out-of-school children in Myanmar

"I get up at 4am and start working by 5am. Usually the teashop closes at 5.30pm, sometimes a bit later. I am ten years old." As dramatic as it sounds, this is not the story of just one child in Myanmar. Over 2.7 million Myanmar children do not go to school. At least half of them work instead. Up to seven days per week, 12 to 14 hours a day. Earning as little as 2 euros per day, usually paid straight to their parents, who sign their children up for 6 months or more contracts paid in advance. Without education, their lives continue to be futureless once grown up.

When Tim Aye-Hardy, after 25 years in the US, in 2013 for the first time returned to his home country and saw the many children in Yangon working all day, his first thought was: "This is wrong, they should be in school."

Asking around, he soon realized families depend on their children for survival and that a more creative solution was needed. "I asked myself: how can we bring the classroom to them?" Tim Aye-Hardy says.

The question resulted in the founding of myME: Myanmar Mobile Education.

"We bought old buses and trucks and made them look like classrooms with desks, chairs, whiteboards. We put solar panels on the roof for electricity and started going around teashops in Yangon, major city in Myanmar. We ran a pilot with 60 kids in two teashops in early 2014. Now we serve more than 3,000 students from various teashops, restaurants, monastic schools, and underprivileged communities in townships of Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Mawlamyine, Myingyan and Kyaukse. Around 10,000 out-of-school children and young adults benefited since we started the project."

**Challenge**

Naturally myME can't simply park a bus in front of one of



myME mobile classroom

the thousands of teashops and start teaching. "We have to visit a shop several times and sometimes need to wait two or three hours for a brief first conversation with the

and learner-centered environment." That's where Finn Church Aid (FCA) came in, late 2017.

FCA Myanmar Country Director

to develop a deeper understanding of what a learner-centered approach really means. That instead of telling students what to do and not to do, teachers come



Tim Aye-Hardy, Founder of myME



Aung Htay Than from Ayeyawady

"Students join myME not only to learn, but also because they, often for the first time in their lives, feel safe to talk about their difficulties in life. To express

we can do for them. And be mindful that if we are building a country, a society, a community, we cannot leave these kids alone. Without these millions of children, what are we going to do in the future?" Tim Aye-Hardy says.

A recent law stipulates children under 16 in Myanmar are no longer allowed to work fulltime and children younger than 14 are not allowed to work in factories. A law banning child labor altogether would protect the children better.

One could argue that a program, such as myME, condones a continuation of child labor.

"We have to make a compromise when we look at Myanmar's specific situation", explains Ei Thu Zar, FCA Senior Program Officer leading the education program. "We can't neglect the children simply based on rules and regulations. We need to support them to join the human capital this country needs to fulfil its reform process."

FCA therefore plans to continue its work in this area, says Henry Braun: "Social child protection and social responsibility standards reach more and more businesses like teashops worldwide. Working children not having access to education is a serious problem in other developing countries as well. FCA will explore ways to work with teashop owners to establish social responsibility standards."



By C. T. O

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

- (15) 'မှ' (ထွက်ခွာရာပုဒ်) အတွက် from နှင့် 'သို့' (ဆိုက်ရောက်ရာပုဒ်) အတွက် to သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
(a) I borrowed the book from Su Su.
(b) We must prevent wars from breaking out.
(c) I wrote to her last month.
(d) from town to town.
from head to toe.
from top to bottom.
from start to finish.
from the cradle to the grave.
from womb to tomb.
from birth to death.
from sunrise to sunset.
form dawn to dusk.

- give way အလျှော့ပေးသည်။
set out ထွက်ခွာသည်။
set up တည်ထောင်သည်။
break out ဖြစ်ပွားသည်။
break down ပျက်ပြားသည်။
pass away ကွယ်လွန်သည်။
pass through အောင်မြင်သည်။
run into ရင်ဆိုင်တိုးသည်။
turn out ထုတ်လုပ်သည်။
break into ချိုးဖောက်၊ ဝင်ရောက်သည်။
turn down ပယ်ချသည်။
turn up ပေါ်လာသည်။
work out တွက်ချက်သည်။
carry out ဆောင်ရွက်သည်။
call on (persons) အလည်သွားသည်။
call on (places) တိုက်တွန်းသည်။
call at (places) အလည်သွားသည်။
live on မှီဝဲသည်။
get away with ထွက်ပြေး၊ လွတ်မြောက်သည်။
get on with အဆင်ပြေသည်။
make out ကွဲပြားခြားနားမှု၊ သိသည်။
make up one's mind စိတ်ပိုင်းဖြတ်သည်။

LESSON 9

- 16. 'အတွက်' for သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
(a) These flowers are for you.
(b) This kind of paper is not good for printing on.
(a) She has not eaten meat for five years.
(b) He has been waiting for her for a long time.
(c) He will stay in Yangon for a few days.
17. 'အတောအတွင်း' အတွက် during သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
18. 'အနီးအနား' အတွက် near သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
19. 'ရှေ့မှာ' အတွက် in front of သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- (b) He never smokes in front of elders.
(a) He stood before the teacher with his head bowed.
20. 'နောက်၊ နောက်သို့' အတွက် after ကိုသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
21. 'အပြင်သို့' အတွက် out ကိုသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
22. 'အကြောင်း' အတွက် about ကို သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
(a) He explained the plan to the workers.
(b) We discussed economic matters.
(c) They discussed the Union Day.
(a) She is about 25.
(b) There are about 20,000 books in our library.
23. 'ပတ်ပတ်လည်' အတွက် around ကို သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

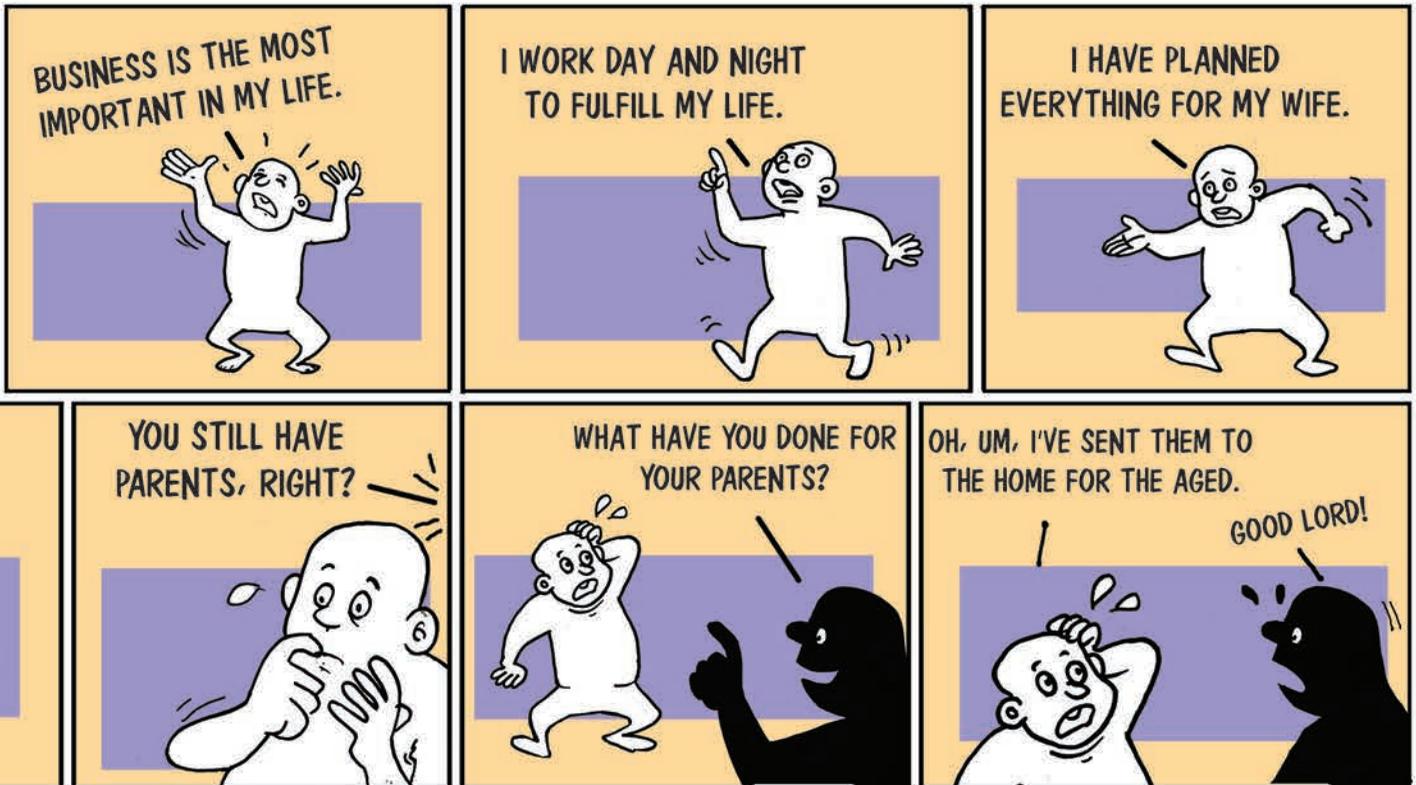
(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

# SUNDAY COMICS



## PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon  
Maung Shwe Win



## SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon  
Maung Maung Aung  
2018



# October sky

**G**OODBYE September. The sun takes a step back. The leaves lull themselves to sleep. And now autumn has awakened.

September is the doorway to my favourite month, October. The wind direction changes as the night change. The smell of October wind is telling the new story. The sky. It's colour turns orange from blue. And the trees. They'll tell us how it's lovely to let the dead things go. They all release the old crispy leaves to make way for the new young ones. Oh... Life starts all over again, my friend. Just take a look around you.

Now that the little birds start to search for perfect place to make their home sweet home. The place to stick each other during winter. The place to have fun sleeping together with their families. Just like you and me, isn't it? It seems like rain has left to tour around the globe again.

The artists of this month's masterpiece are just those tall trees and their orange leaves. "If there is life, there is death as well", the trees teach us this lesson every time of this month. The branches holding their long-term friends, the green leaves, finally let go of them when they become orange. The slight October breeze mildly carries the old leaves onto the earth's surface. There, they are now. Laying on the hard ground, glazing up again to see how their branches get fun with upcoming young green ones. Sad story though. The October's ground is covered with those weeping old yam-coloured leaves that it somehow looks like the endless ocean of orange. This reflects on the sky above us. And that's why the sky takes off its blue shirt and wears the new orange one. The whole environment is getting new like someone hit the 'restart' button of our earth.

The October harp starts playing the tunes of October. This melody gives support to the changing world around us. It's so divine that even the leaves fall for it. The sign of the times let us know that everyone is going to face up October's challenges which are coming ahead.

The word 'October' actually means the eighth month in the old Roman calendar, just before the other two months were inserted. However, in our Julian and Gregorian calendars, it means the tenth. What's more, it's the sixth of seven months to have altogether 31 days. In our Burmese calendar, it's when we have our Thadingyut festival. Likewise, there is also the Halloween festival in the other countries.

During Thadingyut, our country is so classy with colourful lights. People do good things and have fun during this festival. Children in foreign countries look forward to a very chilly party called Halloween. It's somehow a kind of a great fun too. Dressing up in spooky costumes and enjoying the trick-or-treat thing.

Additionally, there is a favourite party of beer lovers that takes place in this month. And it's named, Oktoberfest. It's been for beer lovers since 1810. It originates from Munich, Germany. So, we can say that October is a very festive month for everybody.

Well, the seasonal atmosphere changes the shade of our surroundings. And in the northern hemisphere, that means the days are all flush with falling leaves. The scene of raindrops falling from heaven is now replaced with the scene of falling leaves from the grand trees. What makes this month special is that we can see both the sun and the moon in the evening sky.

I believe that everybody in this planet is welcoming October. I wish that it brings more love, positivity, happiness and prosperity. I'm glad that I live in this world that has Octobers. So, let's all say, "Hello October".

*"Leaves flutter on the trees  
Wind releases breezes free.  
Glancing up above of me  
There's an orange piece of sky, I see  
Life is starting all over again  
Beautiful maples in our hands  
Festivals are waiting all ahead  
It's the 'October', O' my friend.*



By AW Khin Myat Phone  
Grade 11 A, BEHS 4,  
Botahtaung



By Laura Htet  
UDE English

**O**CTOBER is here, and in the northern hemisphere that often means the days are flush with falling leaves, chilling weather, and growing anticipation for the holiday season. The tenth month by our Gregorian calendar, October shares a root with octopus and octothorpe -- the Latin octo-, meaning "eight."

So, how did October become the 10th month?

In the Roman calendar, which had only ten months, October was the 8th month, as January and February hadn't been added to the calendar year yet! Like its neighboring months September, November, and December, the numerical name stuck; even after Julius Caesar expanded the calendar year from ten months to twelve. October entered Old English through Old French, replacing the English vernacular term Winterfylleð.

What happens in October?

Children may look forward to October for Halloween, which falls at the month's close, but beer-lovers may be more excited for what's happening at the beginning of the month—Oktoberfest. This long-standing beer festival has gained popularity around the world, but the true Oktoberfest is located in Munich, Germany, where the festival has been held since 1810. The Oktoberfest celebration marks the beginning of a new beer-brewing season, as cooler temperatures bring optimal beer-brewing months—the colder weather keeps beer from spoiling. It has long been a tradition to polish off the remaining beer from the year to prepare the casks for a new brew in autumn.

Munich's Oktoberfest now begins in late September, and although the seasonal climate is less relevant to breweries today, the beer festival of Oktoberfest remains a vibrant tradition!

Reference: Thesaurus

## Where does the name **October** come from?

