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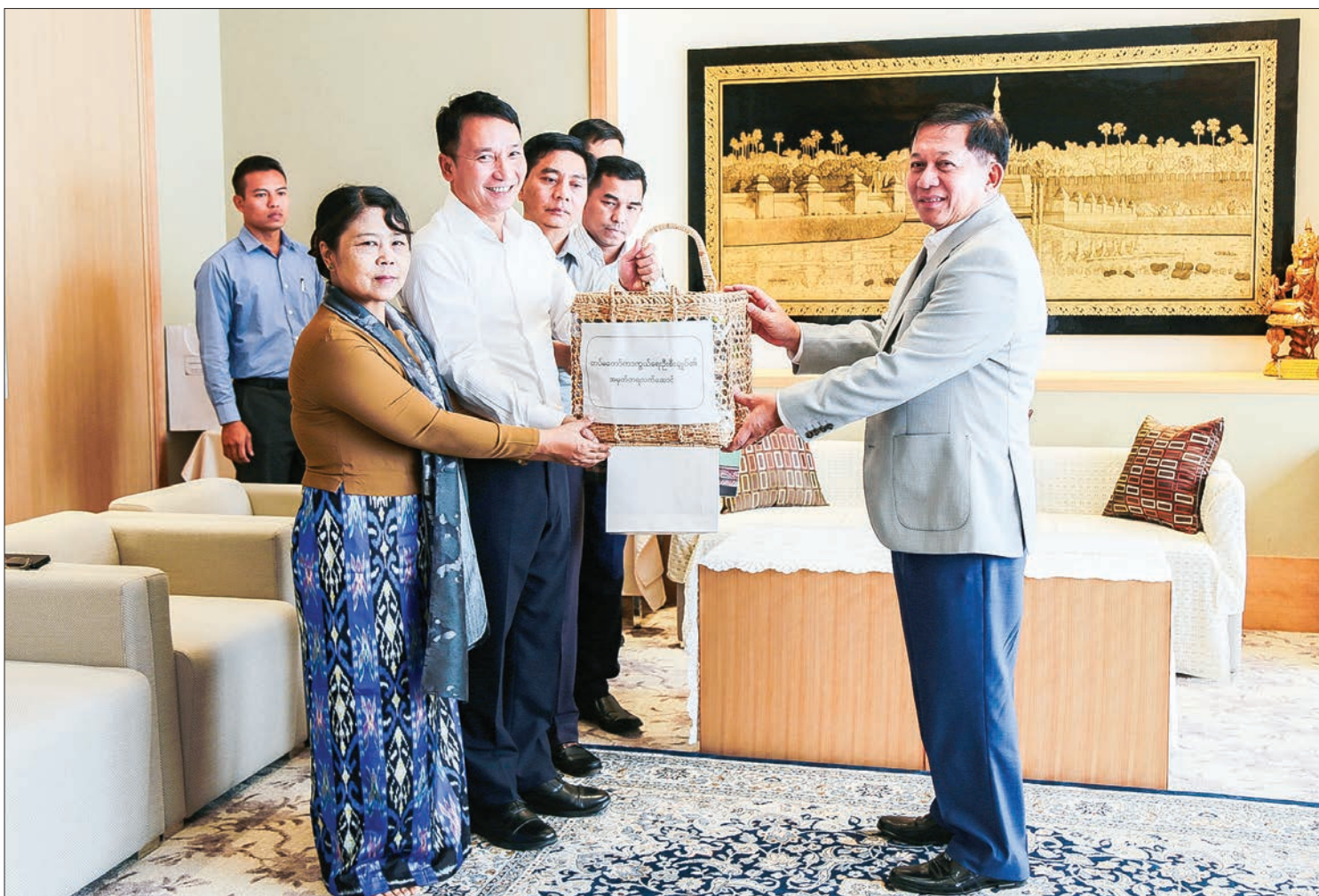
# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 15 October 2019

## Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation arrives back home from Japan



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents foodstuffs to families of embassy in Japan on 13 October. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who is leading a Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation in Japan went to the Myanmar Embassy and met with the staff of embassy and military attaché and their families on 13 October afternoon. The Senior General presented foodstuffs, gifts and cash presents for staff members and families of the embassy and mil-

itary attaché office and state scholars. The Senior General and party were then hosted to a dinner by families of the embassy and military attaché office. Afterwards the Tatmadaw goodwill delegation visited the Tokyo Tower, the Imperial Palace and Asakusa Temple to observe urban development and ancient cultural heritages. The Myanmar Tatmadaw

goodwill delegation left Tokyo by air yesterday morning and was seen off at Narita Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Myint Thu, Colonel Ishiwata of the Japanese Defence Ministry, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air Force) Col Tin Soe and officials. The Tatmadaw goodwill delegation arrived back in Yangon in the evening. They were welcomed by Lt-Gen Min

Naung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior Tatmadaw officers, Yangon Command commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Japanese Military Attaché Col. Takashi Komatsu and officials at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Min)

## K500,000 set as basic price for 100 baskets of paddy

THE leading farmers' rights body of Myanmar has announced K500,000 as the basic price for 100 baskets of monsoon paddy grown in 2019 and summer paddy cultivated in 2020.

In its announcement, the farmers' body said that the basic price has been set in order to realize a fair market and implement a sustainable price for rice farmers, in accordance with the Law of Protection of Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits.

The base price of 100 baskets of paddy, each basket weighing 49 lbs, will be K500,000 if the grains have moisture content of 14 per cent, are free of dust, sand, gravel, and meet the set standards, the farmers' body stated.

If the market price is above the floor price, then purchases may be made at the market price. If the market price is below the floor price, then purchases should be made with the floor price.

The farmers' body stated that farmers facing difficulties selling their produce at the floor price can contact the township representatives of the Myanmar Rice Federation, or call its headquarters at 01-2301128, 01-2301129, 01-218266.—GNLM

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# Nay Pyi Taw attractions remain packed with holidaymakers



Ma Thara Phe Soe.



Daw San Myint.

A LARGE number of people came to visit the National Landmark Garden and the Hlay Kwin Taung in Nay Pyi Taw until the third and last day of Thadingyut Festival.

Ko Min Aung, the photographer at National Landmark Garden, said, "I have been working as a professional photographer at the National Ethnic Villages for eight years. Many visitors had the photos taken during the holidays in the past. However, most of them are now using the mobile phone cameras. Only few visitors posed for the photos in traditional costume of ethnic people."

Daw San Myint from Ottwin Township said, "I am 71 years old. I have visited the National Landmark Garden two times. It is happier this time as I come here with my family members including my grandchildren. We have visited significant pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw. I want to visit the capital again."

Ma Thara Phe Soe, a matriculation student from Thalkawgyi

village of Lewe Township said, "This is my first time to the National Landmark Garden. I am happy to get the photos in the costume of national races. I have got knowledge from this trip. I am considering to bring my friends next time to here."

Daw Khin Mi Mi Theint, the teacher from Zeyarthiri Township, said, "I am leading my students to visit the National Landmark Park. They like very much seeing the traditions and customs of ethnic people. They could expand their knowledge."

Visitors can go around the garden by foot or by car, although it is crowded with holidaymakers.

Those who love to enjoy swimming visited the Hlay Kwin Taung. Ko Phoe Htoo Kyaw, the owner of Hnin Kaung Kyaw restaurant, said, "We are very busy in holiday periods. Most of the visitors are from other regions."

U Tin Hla from Yangon said, "This is my first visit to Hlay Kwin Taung. I have visited other attractions in Nay Pyi Taw, and come



People visit National Landmark Garden in Nay Pyi Taw during their Thadingyut Holiday. **PHOTO: AYE THAN/ HTAN PHON**

here for taking a rest around noon before visiting other places."

U Hla Oo from Swa Township of Bago region, said, "I frequently arrived here as I was hired with my car. It is less expensive for

the people around Nay Pyi Taw area to visit here than the trips to Ngwesaung or Chaungthar beaches."

A large number of visitors were also found in Zoological Gar-

dens, Safari Park and Nga Laik Elephant Camp. Moreover, the Water Fountain Garden is seen with the visitors from morning to night. — Myo Myint

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*



People in traditional dress of ethnic races have the photo taken at National Landmark Garden in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AYE THAN/ HTAN PHON**



Bodhi Ta Htaung elephant camp in Monywa Township. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

## Fewer people visiting Bodhi Ta Htaung elephant camp during Thadingyut Holiday

ALTHOUGH many people are visiting the Maha Bodhi Ta Htaung pagoda in Monywa Township, only a few people have come to the elephant camp during the Thadingyut holiday, according to an entrance ticket collector at the elephant camp gate.

"There have been only one or two foreign travelers. There have also been only a few local travelers. Some local travelers do not know about the elephant

camp. The elephants are waiting for guests, to take them for a ride," he added.

The entry fee for the Bodhi Ta Htaung elephant camp is K10,000 for foreigners and K1,000 for locals. The camp charges K5,000 from locals and K10,000 from foreigners for the elephant ride.

"We don't want to look around the elephant camp because they charge an admission fee of K1,000. We attended the

opening ceremony of the camp. It was a memorable experience for us," said a local traveler in front of the elephant camp.

"Actually, the charges for foreign travelers are steep. Both the admission fee and the rate for elephant rides are high. So, only a few foreign travelers are visiting the elephant camp," said a local resident from Monywa township. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Myitsone becomes popular destination for holidaymakers

MYISTONE can be reached in less than one-hour drive from Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State. The confluence of the Maykha and Malikha rivers that formed Ayeyawady River has attracted many visitors with its natural beauties.

The area has seen a large number of visitors during the Thadingyut holidays this year.

### Ko Bran Aung (Sone Wine Restaurant)

Before Myitsone resting camp was set up, there was only a little bamboo shop here. When the arrival of visitors has increased, more shops haven been found. The area also becomes well-known for its controversial issues. Some people visited here with curiosity about Myitsone. Many of the visitors were on vacation here. As there are no more shops in downstream areas, the shops on high lands have been busy this year. The sale



Ko Bran Aung (Sone Wine Restaurant).

is up only during six months of high season.

### Daw Win Win (Yangyiaung Ward, Myitkyina)

As I am a local of Myitkyina, I frequently visit Myitsone during public holidays. I used to bring my guests to here. This is a real resting place with magnificent sceneries which are be-



Daw Win Win (Yangyiaung Ward, Myitkyina).

lieved to wipe out all the stress and tiredness of visitors. In the past, the water was so clear that the stones at the bottom of rivers can be seen. The climate has also changed, and the clarity of water has declined. Although the river becomes narrow, a lot of natural beauties can still be seen. I hope this area to develop into an attraction of local and



Ma Ohn Mar Myint (Monywa).

foreign visitors.

### Ma Ohn Mar Myint (Monywa)

This is my first visit to Myitsone. The natural sceneries have caused relaxation although we got tired of a long journey by car. This environment is totally different from our central zone of the country. There are also some other places worth visiting in this area.

### Ko Myo San Aung (Photographer, Myitsone Resting Camp)

A professional photographer needs to have good public relations with visitors. We also have to give information about some interesting places of this area in attracting them to visit here again. Many of them like to pose for photos with the costumes of ethnic people. We give advice on the costume shops. I am satisfied with taking photos for them.

### Daw Aye Myint (Yangon)

This is my first visit to Myitsone. This environment has refreshed me as we got stressful in city life. I come here



Shun Lei Physo (Student, Mandalay)

with my family members. As I become older, I have preferred natural places. I will try to visit here again.

### Shun Lei Physo (Student, Mandalay)

My dream has come true to visit Myitsone. I just passed the matriculation exam this year. I come here with my parents and friends. I had the photos taken in the dress of ethnic traditional costumes. The pleasant environment has refreshed me although I was so tired of taking a long journey by car. I will come here again with my friends.

### Daw Jar Nu (Mali Inmai Kachin Traditional Restaurant)

We sell Kachin foods at the resting camp, and the business was expanded with hiring Kachin traditional costumes. We also sell local souvenirs. The hiring rate for each dress is K2,000. Demand in this Thadingyut Festival is higher along with the increasing number of visitors. — Kay Kay

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Visitors taking photos along the riverbank at the Myitsone in Kachin State. PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW

## Myitkyina recreation centres bustle with domestic travelers

MYITKYINA'S Bamboo Forest Recreation Centre was filled with holiday makers from morning to evening throughout the public holidays.

Daw Win Win Khine is from ChaungU Township and one of many travelers during the Thadingyut holidays. She calls Myitkyina quaint with many places to explore. Her impression of the bamboo forest is peaceful and lush and she notes the creek can be used to soak up natural water.

There are a few eateries near the creek and in the bam-

boo forest and Sone Naing Kwint is one of those restaurants. An employee from there, Ma Zar Zar, tells us the restaurant has been open since 2014 when there were fewer restaurants and only 40 to 50 people came to visit.

However, ever since the roads had been upgraded there has been a constant stream of visitors, said Ma Zar Zar. She said the shops nearby are mostly opened by locals. She said the recreation centre helps with employing the local people and boosting the local economy.

Another popular destination in Myitkyina is Kareinnaw Recreation Centre in Shwe Sett Ward. U Than Tun from Pamtee Village in Myitkyina Township is here for a visit. He said he often uses his free time to visit the centre, which he says is located in the urban part of town. He said beautiful natural rock formations are exposed when the water level of the Ayeyawady River recedes in the summer. —Kay Kay

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



People enjoy their Thadingyut holiday at the creek in Aung Myin Thar Sanpya village. PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW



The delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint has a documentary photo taken together with officials before departing for Republic of Korea at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Information Minister to attend “ASEAN-Korea Train” programme in ROK

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint left for the Republic of Korea to attend the ‘ASEAN-Korea Train’ programme that marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-ROK dialogue relations. The programme is jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ROK and the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC).

The Union Minister was seen off by the officials from Ministry of Information at the Yangon International Airport.

During the visit, the Union

Minister is accompanied by Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myint Kyaw, Head of International Relations Department of Yangon University Professor Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Actor Myo Htut Naing (a) Khar Yar from Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Member of Ayeyawady Region Youth Affairs Committee U Myo Thura Ko Ko and Mandalay Region Youth Affairs Committee Thant Lwin Oo (a) Su Sha Shin Thant.

— MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Thadingyut Holidaymakers fill PyinOoLwin pagodas, gardens

MANDALAY Region once again finds crowds of people visiting its holy pagodas in PyinOoLwin and taking in its natural scenery during the Thadingyut holidays.

Maha Ant Htoo Kan Thar Pagoda is one of the more famous sites in PyinOoLwin and saw devotees offering offertories and enjoying the ambience in the pagoda’s compounds.

Nearby, there is the Pwe Kauk Waterfall that attracted tourists to play in its water and take photos. Business was good for the local vendors as well, as people bought local fruits, grape and plum wine, and wool sweaters.

Daw Khine Nwe San from

Ayeyarwady Bank was visiting with her family from Yangon and said, “I came to attend donations hosted by my relatives in Mandalay during the Thadingyut holidays and relax as well. After paying homage to the pagodas in PyinOoLwin, we will visit Peik Chin Myaung and Pwe Kauk Waterfall. We’ll travel to Bagan tomorrow. After being flooded with work the whole year, the long holiday is a welcome opportunity to unwind and spend time with family.” The National Kandawgyi Garden was also thronging with tourists visiting for its iconic flower arrangements and variety. Ma Mya Myitzu from the Ministry of Construction and her friends are

some of these tourists. She said she popped in on PyinOoLwin while visiting Kata, a town she was formerly assigned to.

In her words, she says PyinOoLwin is always coming with innovative attractions and is a great place to relax. She also said the workload accumulated over the year has dissipated since arriving here.

Long public holidays such as Thadingyut are a perfect time for families all over Myanmar to come together and travel, and the numbers seem to be increasing with each passing year. — Min Htet Aung (Man Sub-printing House), Aung Phyo Kyaw (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



People are sightseeing around the Kandawgyi National Garden in PyinOoLwin during their Thadingyut Holiday. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

## Floating lamps shine on Shwekyin River in Bago Region



People release paper lamps with candle to float on the Shwekyin River in Shwekyin. **PHOTO: YE THEIN**

WITH boat rowing contests and spectacles, such as dance performances by troupes on boats, the 168th annual festival of floating of the lamps, was held yesterday on the Shwekyin River in eastern Bago Region.

The traditional light festival is usually observed one day after the Full Moon of Thadingyut in October, marking the end of the Buddhist rains retreat.

The main event of the festival is the tour of a decorative barge with the image of the Ashin Uppa Gutta along

the river for public obeisance before it is floated to the Sitoung River, which flows into the sea.

The boat rowing contests and traditional dance performances this year attracted local visitors from afar.

People floated lamps on the Shwekyin River after the sun set. Locals believe that the festival began in the Konboug era and the annual traditional festival has been held every year since. This year marks the 168th year of the festival. — GNLM

(Translated by KZT)

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## Mandalay celebrates 20 years of aikido with int'l seminar



Aikido practitioners demonstrating the techniques of Aikido at Mandala Thiri multipurpose stadium in Mandalay yesterday.  
**PHOTO: TIN MAUNG MAHN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE**

An aikido seminar and international demonstration of the art was held at Mandalay's Mandala Thiri multipurpose stadium yesterday to commemorate the 20th anniversary of aikido dojos in the former royal capital.

Aikido practitioners from Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Scotland, France, Guam joined their Myanmar peers in demonstrating techniques to the public audience. They also exchanged gifts with

one another.

"This event will bring us lots of international perspectives," said U Kyaw Thiha, an instructor and Secretary of Myanmar Aikido Association. He continued, "The benefits would be being able to exchange culture and aikido skills from all over the world. We are spreading aikido in Mandalay with two branches." —Tin Maung Mahn Sub-printing House (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Mekong literary awards graced with dinner reception

A dinner reception to honor the 10th Mekong River Literature Awards was held at Karaweik Palace, Yangon, on the evening of 13 October and Regional Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein was seen supporting the event.

The ceremony was opened with an inaugural speech by U Kyaw Win (Sayar Manutha Kyaw Win), Chairman of the Myanmar Writers Association (MWA).

Next, the Mekong River Literature Award Flag was handed over to Khmer Writers Association (KMA) as Cambodia will be hosting the 11th awards.

This was followed by an address from KMA Chairman Mr Proeung Pranit, after which MWA handed over souvenirs to writer associations from the Mekong Region.

The guests were then treated to the dinner recep-



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein presents books to writer at the dinner to honour the 10th Mekong River Literature Awards in Yangon. **PHOTO: AUNG MYINT (IPRD)**

tion, hosted by the Working Committee for Cooperating on Mekong Literature.

—Aung Myint (IPRD)  
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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## U Bein Bridge sees increased visitors during long holiday



Visitors enjoy a walk on the U Bein Bridge over Taungthaman Lake in Mandalay.  
**PHOTO: PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW**

THE Thadingyut festival is accompanied by a set of holidays perfect for the general public to spend time with loved ones and travel to all places. Mandalay Region is receiving its fair share of visitors this year as crowds

visit the famous U Bein Bridge and Taungthaman Lake it's situated on, in Amarapura.

While both the lake and the bridge draw in foreign and domestic visitors, the public holidays for Thadingyut has

noticeably increased the number of people coming to see the cultural heritage.

U Kyaw Shwe from the Department of Health is visiting with his family and colleagues from Yangon. He says the long

holiday is a perfect time to plan a trip with everyone together and they have visited PyinOoLwin the other day, another popular destination in Mandalay.

The lake offers boat rides while the bridge offers majes-

tic backdrops for photography. The increased tourism also helps local businesses. — Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-printing House)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Visitors looks around the market near Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township, Mandalay. **PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW**

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**Bagan-NyaungU filled with pilgrims on 4<sup>th</sup> day of Thadingyut holiday**

AS Bagan-NyaungU in Mandalay Region is home to important archaeological sites, a number of visitors thronged the area on the morning of 14 October, according to a resident from Bagan Town.

There are many pagodas, temples, and monuments in Bagan-NyaungU region, including Shwegigone, Tanti-kyitaung, Tuywintaung, Lawkananda, Alodawpyae, Htilominlo temple, Ananda, Buu Phaya, Thatbyinnyu, Shwesandaw, Katotpalin, Dhammayangyi, Sulamani Temple, Soemngyi Phaya, Pyathetgyi, and the old Bagan museum. These and other significant destinations have been crowded with visitors.

During the five-day Thadingyut holiday, the Township Police Force and the Fire Services Department have been looking into resolving traffic problems for the convenience of civil service personnel, company staff, workers, international

Travellers visit famous pagodas in Bagan during Thadingyut Holiday. **PHOTO: YE WIN NAING (NYAUNGU)**

visitors, and other pilgrims. Car parking is also being systematically managed, according to the pagoda trustee boards. "A large number of visitors have flocked to the ancient pagodas and famous destinations in Bagan-NyaungU region since the

first day of the Thadingyut holiday. Therefore, travelers have experienced traffic problems on the last day. At present, the traffic systems are under the control of the Traffic Police and the Fire Services Department. Additionally, hotels, motels, res-

taurants, souvenir shops, horse carts, and motorcycle taxis are getting more opportunities to earn an income in this high season," said a local from Bagan Town. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)

*(Translated by La Wonn)***Htamsan cave packed with pilgrims during Thadingyut holidays**

THE Htamsan cave in Hopong Township, Pa'O Self-administered zone, southern Shan State has attracted a large crowd of visitors, who are flocking to the spot with family and friends, during the Thadingyut holidays, which started on 11 October and end on 15 October.

"I have come from Hsihseng Township with my family in order to pay my respects at the pagodas for the Thadingyut vacation," said a visitor.

Most visitors are taking

Tourists and local visitors are seen Htan San Cave in Hopong Township, Pa'O Self-administered zone, southern Shan State. **PHOTO: KHUN YE HTWATY (HSIHSENG)**

photos and exploring the cave. Monks residing at the Htamsan cave monastery usually serve vegetarian lunches to pilgrims,

and most visitors leave after lunch. Meanwhile, the Hopong dam is also crowded with visitors interested in swimming and oth-

er recreational activities during the holiday. —Khun Ye Htwaty (Hsihseng)

*(Translated by La Wonn)***RTD earns threefold charges at No. 3 Highway Toll Gate during Thadingyut Holiday**

THE income earned at the No. 3 toll gate on the Yangon-Mandalay highway rose threefold during the Thadingyut holiday, according to the Road Transport Department.

With many people traveling during the Thadingyut holiday, the toll collected was three times higher compared to normal

days.

"On 12 October, 2019, the No.3 Highway toll gate earned over K50 million from cars crossing the road. Normally, the toll gate earns only K16-17 million per day," said an official from the Road Transport Department.

Highway tolls are collected

by the District Administration Office under the Road Transport Department. The road use tax at the No. 3 highway toll gate is collected by the Northern District Road Transport Department.

Normally, only 50 or 100 cars run on the highway per hour. During the Thadingyut holiday, more than 800 cars were

running per hour on the Yangon-Mandalay highway.

Moreover, one person was killed and nine were injured in about 10 accidents on three days during the Thadingyut holiday. The road accidents also happened on the Yangon-Pathein road.—Aye Maung

*(Translated by Hay Mar)***Write for us**

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## 1.6 mln tons of pulses exported in previous fiscal



Merchants evaluate quality of pulses at the Mandalay wholesale market. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

ALTHOUGH India's policy change on the import of pulses has had a detrimental effect on the Myanmar beans and pulses market, more than 1.6 million tons of various pulses were shipped to foreign markets in the last fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019FY, the export volume rose by 400,000 tons compared with the year-ago period.

At present, mung beans are priced at K845,000 per ton for FAQ (fair average quality), while Special Quality mung beans are fetching K995,000 per ton in the Yangon market.

At the 4th ASEAN-India Expo and Summit held last February, a Myanmar delegation, led by the Union Minister for Commerce and comprising pulses and beans merchants,

had forwarded a request to the Indian government to purchase 400,000 tons of mung beans from Myanmar. But, there has been no response to the request, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

India, the main buyer of Myanmar pulses, has announced an import quota of 150,000 tons for mung beans and 200,000 tons for pigeon peas for exporter countries. The import deadline has been set for the end of this month.

Besides India, Myanmar beans are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Dubai, Malaysia, Indonesia, China (Taipei), Japan, some ASEAN, and European countries. But, the volume of demand is small, according to the domestic pulses market.

The Ministry of Commerce has been conducting discussions to sell Myanmar beans through government-to-government (G2G) pacts. In addition, the ministry has been exploring more external markets, said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

India's move to restrict importation of pulses in August, 2017 severely affected growers in Myanmar. The price of pulses also plummeted drastically.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, over one million tons of mung beans, pigeon peas, and green grams were shipped to foreign countries. But, the earnings were registered at just \$713 million owing to the price drop, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce. — GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Imports fall \$1.38 bln in 2018-2019 FY

THE value of Myanmar's imports between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019 fiscal year stood at US\$18 billion, a decline of \$1.388 billion from \$19.4 billion registered in the year-ago period, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of consumer, capital, and intermediate goods imports fell significantly in the last fiscal.

Capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and airplane parts were

brought into the country, with the import value estimated at \$5.74 billion. The figure was more than \$900 million lower compared to the same period in the 2017-2018 FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products worth \$3.29 billion, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. Both private and public sector imports of consumer products showed a decline of \$562 million compared with the same period of the previous FY.

Intermediate goods make up a large share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. In the last fiscal, imports of raw materials declined by \$307 million from the year-ago period to reach an estimated \$6.96 billion.

During the same period, raw materials worth \$2.37 billion were also imported for the cut-make-pack (CMP) garment sector. — GNLM ■  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Myanmar FDI likely to touch \$5.8 bln in current fiscal

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR is likely to reach its FDI target of US\$5.8 billion in the current financial year, said U Thant Sin Lwin, the director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"Myanmar will climb on the Ease of Doing Business ranking this year. Company registration fees have also been reduced. In addition, the Asian Development Bank's report has also showed Myanmar's economic potential. Therefore, we expect the country will reach its FDI target in the 2019-2020FY," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

Moreover, investment promotion events will be held in December to meet the FDI target, according to the DICA.

The country fell short of the FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the 2018-2019 financial year, registering FDI inflows of only \$4.5

billion, according to data from the DICA.

Tighter scrutiny of large businesses prepping to enter the country has been attributed as the reason behind Myanmar missing its FDI target, he added.

The businesses are related to basic infrastructure and electricity, he said.

Between 1988 and 30 September, 2019, 1,837 businesses from 50 countries have brought in investments of \$81.8 billion into 12 sectors. Singapore has emerged as the top investor country, followed by China and Thailand.

Oil and gas, power, and manufacturing sectors have pulled in the largest investments so far.

FDI inflows into Myanmar stood at \$9.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$6.6 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$5.7 billion in the 2017-2018FY. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Natural gas exports exceed \$3.8 bln in 2018-2019 fiscal

MYANMAR'S exports of natural gas in the previous financial year amounted to US\$3.88 billion, an increase of \$370 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 fiscal, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The increase in the value of exports is linked to the rise in the price of natural gas in the global markets, according to an expert.

Natural gas is included in the list of major export items of Myanmar. Over 20 per cent of the country's total export earnings comes from the sale of natural gas.

Total natural gas production from inland blocks and offshore blocks in the third year of the incumbent government's rule is estimated at 623.838 billion cubic feet, according to a press statement on the Ministry of Electricity and Energy's third-year performance.

The Shwe natural gas field, located offshore from Rakhine State, was discovered in 2014. Natural gas extracted from the field is exported to China.

The Yadana natural gas project is being carried out by the TOTAL Company, with its pipeline supplying natural gas to Thailand. Natural gas is also extracted in Yedagon, located offshore from Taninthayi and discovered in 1992. The Zawtika Project in the Gulf of Moattama mainly supplies natural gas to neighboring Thailand.

Production at Yadana and Yedagon is declining, and those projects will be halted in the coming years.

According to the second five-year National Development Plan (from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021), the Yadana, Yedagon, Zawtika, and Shwe gas projects are expected to collectively produce over 630 billion cubic feet of natural gas in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

As per data from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, there are over 104 oil and gas blocks in Myanmar, including over 51 offshore blocks and 53 inland blocks. —Ko Htet ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Freedom of expression does not mean discarding common sense

**F**REEDOM of expression and rule of law go hand in hand with democratic rights and human rights. If we are to move toward a new period with new systems, then we must give greater relevance to literary freedom, media freedom, individual freedom of expression, and so on.

The literature censorship system was abandoned when the democratic transition began. It was done to pave the way for free literary expression and was done so with a national policy in mind. Regardless, it was a necessary step to amend the need for literary and information freedom, a basic right for every citizen, and the

scrutinizing and censorship process was discarded almost immediately.

The first wave of feelings that first overcame the public and literary circle was one of intense freedom. Artists were free to create to the limits of their imagination and the public could view them with no fear of backlash. Some artists were said to be overwhelmed with the newfound freedom and didn't know how to contain their own ideas.

However, this also gave rise to writers who couldn't spell correctly, unequipped with proper grammar, or lack the skills to write compelling articles which would provide them with an opening to come up onto the literary stage.

These same people got a taste of success and riding on the small amount of recognition they received, they began to view themselves as top experts and attempt to give guidance to society.

They began to believe whatever they say is correct and infallible. They proliferate onto social media and speak as though they are leading the fields of politics, economy, society and culture for the entire nation.

Similarly, they reach a point where they do not judge whether a topic of content is rude, gross or should not be made public in such sectors as the arts and films. Naturally, when people receive freedom, they do not know how to pace themselves and lose control. This can lead to public revelations of private matters or matters unsuitable for public viewing.

Even countries with years of experience living under democratic forms of government have a system in place that categorizes media content on its level of appropriateness for different age groups. Thus, they have the 'PG-13' and 'Restricted' ratings. However, freedom is relatively unbridled in Myanmar, causing explicit content to surface in the eye of the public.

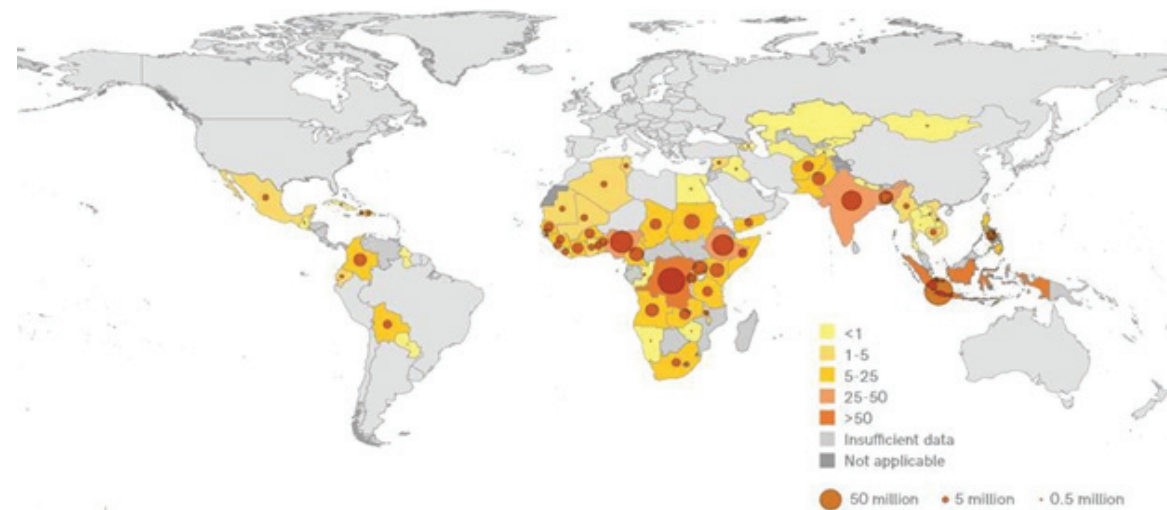
Freedom is essential for driving all sorts of developments in a country. But it should be taken with a sense of accountability, common sense, humility and decency so that no one gets hurt and everyone is benefitted.

Even countries with years of experience living under democratic forms of government have a system in place that categorizes media content on its level of appropriateness for different age groups.

# Global Handwashing Day 2019: Focus on "Clean Hands for All"

By Dr Aung Tun

**G**LOBAL Handwashing Day takes place on 15 October every year and is the Global Handwashing partnership's and the worlds biggest platform for raising awareness about the importance of hand washing with soap as fundamental to good health and development. In 2019. The Global Handwashing Day theme is "Clean Hands for All." The theme focus on the importance of handwashing equity. It implies that individuals in all areas of all nations have opportunities to approach essential handwashing facilities with soap and water.



10 million people had no handwashing facility at home in 2017. SOURCE: WHO/UNICEF JMP.

## The State of Global Handwashing

The Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) run by UNICEF and WHO define a "basic handwashing facility as the availability of a handwashing facility on the premises with soap and water." Handwashing facilities can be 'fixed' or 'mobile.' 'Fixed' facilities include sinks with taps, buckets with taps, and tippy-taps, while, mobile facilities include jugs or basins designated for handwashing. The term soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powder detergent, or soapy water.

According to Global Handwashing Partnerships 2019 Global Handwashing Day Fact Sheet, The state of global handwashing can be summarized as follows:

- Only 60% of the worlds population has access to a basic

handwashing facility.

- In the worlds least developed countries, only 28% of people have access to basic handwashing facilities. Currently, there are 17 countries where more than 10 million people lack handwashing facilities. The availability of soap and water at handwashing facilities varies substantially.

- Geographic disparities often exist among rural and urban areas, with handwashing infrastructure lacking for many rural populations.

- Currently, only 34% of people living in rural areas have access to a basic handwashing facility.

- People in rural areas are less likely to have access to soap and water.

Globally, basic handwashing coverage among the richest wealth quintile was at least twice as high as coverage among the poorest quintile. Overall, wealth-

ier individuals are more likely to practice handwashing with soap, as they can afford basic handwashing facilities with soap more readily.

For vulnerable groups, it is particularly important that soap and water are kept at a handwashing facility, as it can be more challenging for them to access these materials independently.

- Approximately 15% of the worlds population has a disability. For people with disabilities, accessing WASH facilities is often their most significant challenge of daily life.

- When hygiene and sanitation facilities are not well adapted, people with disabilities must touch sanitation surfaces that others do not - putting them at greater risk for disease.

Marginalized groups, such as displaced populations and indigenous groups, do not have equal access to handwashing facilities or soap. This makes them more susceptible to diarrheal diseases and other related illnesses.

- In conflict-affected settings, children under the age of 5 years old are 20 times more likely to die from diarrhea than they are from violence. This is, in part, due to insufficient functional handwashing facilities. In these circumstances, displaced individuals are often unable to buy their own soap or build their own facilities due to lack of finances and access to markets.

- When people are displaced, they frequently share handwashing facilities. Sharing can cause people to worry about soap being stolen or wasted, which often results in people keeping their soap inside the house..

- Indigenous populations

often do not have equal access to handwashing facilities or soap. This is because indigenous populations often live in geographically remote areas and are more likely to live in crowded or informal housing environments, making it hard to maintain facilities.

Only 53% of the worlds schools provide 'basic handwash-

ing facilities' for their students.

## Handwashing situation in Myanmar

According to Myanmar Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS) 2016, overall, 7.0% of high school students never or rarely washed their hands before eating during the past 30 days. Male students (8.0%) are significantly more likely than female students (4.9%) to never or rarely wash their hands after using the toilet or latrine during the past 30 days. Male students (11.7%) are significantly more likely than female students (6.7%) to never or rarely wash their hands after using the toilet or latrine. Overall, 6.9% of high school students never or rarely used soap when washing their hands during the past 30 days. Male students (7.3%) are signif-

cantly more likely than female students (4.8%) to never or rarely use soap when washing their hands. According to the 2015-16 Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey (2015-16 MDHS), just under half (48%) of households have an improved sanitation facility including handwashing facilities. Ten percent have a facility that would be considered improved if it were not shared. Overall, 42% of households in Myanmar have an unimproved facility. This includes 11% that have no facility at all.

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## Importance of Handwashing and Best Practices

Indeed! Handwashing with soap is considerably more effective at cleaning our hands than handwashing with water alone. However, washing hands with

water is desirable over not handwashing by any means. Proper hand washing requires soap and running water. A study in Bangladesh found that while utilization of water alone helps decrease the danger of diarrhoea, utilization of soap is substantially more effective. Where soap is not available or difficult to obtain for handwashing, soap water is an effective low-cost alternative. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be used instead of handwashing with soap, particularly in health care setting and for times where access to soap and water is challenging.

Handwashing with soap helps prevent gastrointestinal diseases like diarrhea; respiratory diseases like pneumonia and influenza; and other infections such as Ebola and healthcare-associated infections. Handwashing with soap may also reduce soil-transmitted helminth infections, which infect over 1.5 billion people. Handwashing with soap is also an important part of food hygiene, a set of hygienic practice that keep food safe and prevent food-related illness. In addition to its impact on health, handwashing also benefits nutrition, education, equity, and the economic development of countries.

Research has shown that the two primary times to wash hands are after contact with feces (such as using the toilet or cleaning a child) and before contact with food (preparing food, eating, feeding a child, and so on). The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends washing hands:

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

SEE PAGE-10



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2019)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 15 October, 2019:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing and Magway Regions and Chin State and scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Tanintayi Regions ,Rakhine, Kayah , Kayin and Mon States and Fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of continuation of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Chin States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 October, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 October, 2019:** Isolated 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 Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@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



## Souvenir store in capital bursts in flames

A fire broke out at a souvenir shop in Nay Pyi Taw's township market around 9:45 pm yesterday. Fortunately, the fire was quickly extinguished at 10:22 p.m. before it spread any further.

The fire originated from a Nan Sein cake and souvenir shop called Thu Htet, although the cause of the incident is still under investigation.

U Hlaing Win Aung, Deputy Director of Myanmar Fire Ser-

vices Department, said they deployed 15 Level-1 fire engines and 30 Level-2 fire engines when they heard the report of the fire. He said the strength of 300 firefighters was able to put out the flames and prevent it from spreading to anywhere else. He said a quick observation shows the fire destroyed only the products inside Thu Htet store. — Myo Thu Hein

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Products inside the interior of the souvenir shop at Nay Pyi Taw market are completely burned. PHOTO: MNA



Locals look on as firefighters race to put out the burning souvenir shop 'Thu Htet'. PHOTO: MNA

## Hospital offering free cleft lip, palate surgery to 100 kids



Surgeries from Alliance for Smiles Organization introduce at the event at Victoria Hospital in Yangon.

PHOTO: THAN SOE

THE Victoria Health Support Foundation (VHSF), in collaboration with the Alliance for Smiles Organization from the United States of America, yesterday announced its plans to conduct free surgeries on over 100 children with cleft lip and palate at the Victoria Hospital in Yangon.

Specialists from the ASO and the Victoria Hospital will perform the operations until 25 October.

The program, which started in March, 2014, has brought smiles to nearly 550 children through free surgical operations.

"I brought 6 children with cleft lip and palate from Thibaw, Shan State. The children were collected by midwives in Thibaw Township to undergo surgical operations at Victoria Hospital for their defects. Parents also

came to Yangon from 400 miles away to brighten the futures of their children even though they can't speak in Burmese," said Daw Nyein Nyein, a local midwife from the Village of Hsaungkyae, Thibaw Township.

Children from Shan, Chin, Kayin, Mon, Yangon, Ayawaddy, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing, and Taninthayi will undergo surgical operations.

Daw Aye Aye San, the chairman of the VHSF, said: "We are inviting children with cleft lips and palates from all over Myanmar. We will accept 10 weeks old children for cleft lip repair and 10 months old children for cleft palate.

We have to call the children to Yangon because fever season is currently on, and it can affect lung capacity and blood pres-

sure. The needed medical services are served by pediatricians. For children and parents who can't afford the trip, the hospital will bear the responsibility for the trip and stay costs."

Children can be registered for the surgeries via the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Department of Public Health, and public organizations.

The Alliance for Smile Organization repairs cleft lip and palate for kids across the world without profit. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> time such a surgery is being conducted by a US-based organization, and over 120 children and surgeons have come down from several countries for the operations.

— Than Htike ■

(Translated by Ba Htoo Kyaw)

## Global Handwashing Day 2019: Focus on "Clean Hands for All"

FROM PAGE-9

**To wash your hands properly, follow these five steps every time.**

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.

4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.

5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

### Clean Hands for All

Handwashing has multiple benefits for overall health and well-being. This year's theme, "Clean hands for All reminds us that we must be inclusive when addressing handwashing disparities. On Global Handwashing Day and every day, here are some ways you can help everyone enjoy the benefits of handwashing with soap:

- Wash your hands with soap at critical times, especially before eating, cooking, or feeding others.
- Model good handwash-

ing behavior and remind or help others to always wash their hands before eating.

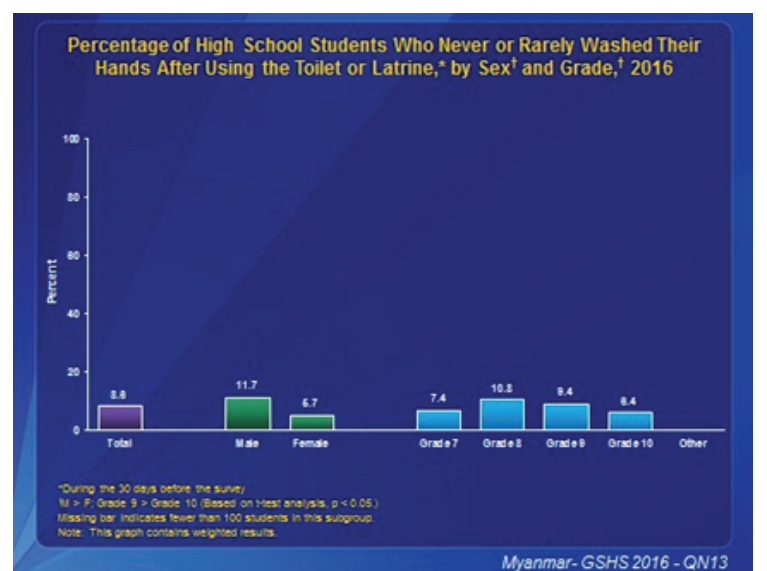
- Make handwashing a routine part of your family meals.

- Establish places to wash your hands in the household, in your community, in schools, workplaces, and in health facilities.

- Promote effective handwashing behavior change in research, policy, programs, and advocacy.

Ref:

- Global Handwashing Day 2019 Toolkit, Global Handwashing Partnership, 2019



- Global Handwashing Day 2018 Report, Global Handwashing Partnership, 2018
- Global School-based Student Health Survey 2016, SH, DOPH, MOHS 2016
- Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives, CDC, USA, 2018

- Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey 2015-2016, MOHS, 2016
- The State of Handwashing in 2017: Annual Research Summary, Global Handwashing Partnership, May 2018



## Philippines begins mass vaccinations after polio returns

MANILA (Philippines) — Parents lined up from sunrise holding sleeping infants as the Philippines launched a campaign on Monday to vaccinate millions of children against polio, which has re-emerged nearly two decades after the nation's last cases.

Years of falling vaccination rates, made worse by the botched rollout of a dengue vaccine, culminated in an outbreak of the preventable disease in September.

"This is for the welfare of my child," Ruth Miranda told AFP after the vaccine was squirted into her child's mouth at the Manila slum they call home.

Miranda's child is among scores who are unprotected in the capital of about 13 million people, where vaccination rates of young children plunged from 77 percent in 2016 to a mere 24 percent in June.

The atmosphere at the event in Manila was festive — with ice cream vendors and music — but the stakes for the campaign are



A mother watches as a health worker (R) administers polio vaccine on her child during a vaccination drive in Manila on 14 October 2019. PHOTO: AFP

high.

Polio, which can cause paralysis and can be fatal in rare cases, has no cure and can only

be prevented with several doses of oral and injectable vaccines.

Two cases were detected in September; the first polio infec-

tions in the Philippines since 2001, adding to the woes of a country already hit by deadly measles and dengue epidemic.

The risk of the disease spreading within the Philippines is high, according to World Health Organization, due to low immunisation coverage partly blamed to a dengue vaccine scandal.

The Philippines was the first nation to use Dengvaxia in a mass programme in 2016, but a botched rollout led to claims that children had died after being vaccinated.

A dramatic drop in vaccine confidence followed, with trust plunging from 93 per cent in 2015 to 32 percent in 2018, according to a study led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The Philippines polio outbreak has been traced back to the weakened form of the virus used in vaccines, which is excreted by people for a time after they receive it.

According to the WHO, that form can mutate and spread in the surrounding community when immunisation rates get too low.—AFP ■

## US 'medical tourists' seek cheap health care abroad

TIJUANA (Mexico) — When Veronica Merrill decided to undergo stomach surgery for weight loss, she found two options: pay \$12,000 at home in the United States, or have it done in Mexico for \$4,000.

She packed her suitcase.

Her insurance would only cover the operation if she was morbidly obese and suffering from diabetes and hypertension.

This was not the case for the 50-year-old, who weighs 210 pounds (95 kilos) but aspires to slim down to 160 — precisely because she wants to avoid ending up with those medical conditions.

"It's sad that I have to come to another country" for the procedure, said Merrill, who drives a school bus in rural Arizona and is highly critical of the US health system — the most expensive in the world. "We shouldn't have to do that. That's crazy. And we're the only ones (with this system), and that is depressing."

After researching medical tourism options, she saved up the money and contacted a specialist agency to organize her trip over the border to Tijuana, where weight-loss operations and dental treatments are popular. Others travel to the Mexican city for treatment of cardiovascular conditions or cancer, orthopedic

work and fertility care, as well as to buy medications.

"If I only could have done it in the US... (but) I can't pay that much money," she told AFP. "I just want to be healthy."

### No price regulation

Each year, an estimated 20 million "medical tourists" seek treatment around the world, according to Patients Beyond Borders. About 1.9 million of those people are Americans.

Mexico and Colombia — which many Americans associate more with drug trafficking than health care — are among the most popular destinations, along with Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

They all offer lower costs and high-quality infrastructure.

Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, two prominent Democratic candidates for the 2020 presidential election, have proposed universal health coverage — an idea that Merrill considers "logical." For now, Merrill turned to a company called Medical Tourism Corporation to organize every detail of her trip — including her flight from Phoenix to San Diego, the driver who took her across the border and a luxury hotel.—AFP ■

## Gait analysis helps monitor sleep quality: study

BEIJING — Chinese researchers said people's manner of walking, or gait, can help monitor their sleep quality with the aid of machine learning models, according to a study recently published in the journal PLOS ONE.

A man spends almost one-third of his lifetime sleeping. To improve sleep quality, one needs to know the exact condition of his sleep.

People's gaits convey unique personal traits including mental and physical health. It has been confirmed in previous studies that the way people walk, such as pace, can indicate the length and quality of their sleep.

Compared with existing sleep monitoring methods like smart bracelets, polysomnography and questionnaires, gait analysis is accurate, noninvasive,

low-cost, and easy to use.

Aided by Kinect, a line of motion sensing input devices, the research team with the Institute of Psychology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences collected sleep quality scores and gait data from 56 participants and analyzed the connection between the two, coming to an conclusion that gait can reveal sleep quality quite well. —Xinhua

## Air pollution linked to 'missed' miscarriages in China: study

BEIJING (China) — Exposure to airborne pollutants increases the risk of "missed" miscarriages in which a fetus dies without a pregnant woman experiencing any noticeable symptoms, researchers said Monday. Previous studies have shown a correlation between air pollution and pregnancy complications, but the new research — published in Nature Sustainability journal by a team of researchers from Chinese universities — sheds light on a little-studied impact of pollution.

The study found that exposure to higher concentrations of

airborne particulate matter, as well as sulfur dioxide, ozone and carbon monoxide, was associated with a higher risk of missed miscarriage in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Additionally, "the risk increase is not linear but becomes more severe the higher the pollutant concentration", the study said. Missed miscarriages occur when a fetus dies or stops growing in early pregnancy while remaining in the uterus, and are often detected during routine ultrasound tests weeks later.

Researchers from four uni-

versities as well as the Chinese Academy of Sciences tracked the pregnancies of over 250,000 women in Beijing from 2009 to 2017, including 17,497 who experienced missed miscarriages. Researchers used measurements from air monitoring stations near the women's homes and workplaces to gauge subjects' exposure to pollution. "China is an aging society and our study provides an additional motivation for the country to reduce ambient air pollution for the sake of enhancing the birth rate," the paper's authors said.—AFP

# US trio win Nobel Economics Prize for work on poverty

STOCKHOLM (Sweden) — A trio of American economists on Monday won the Nobel Economics Prize for their work in the fight against poverty, including with new approaches in education and healthcare, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Indian-born Abhijit Banerjee of the US, his French-American wife Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer of the US were honoured “for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty,” the jury said.

“This year’s laureates have introduced a new approach to obtaining reliable answers about the best ways to fight global poverty,” the jury said.

The three found efficient ways of combatting poverty by breaking down difficult issues



A new approach in the fight against global poverty. PHOTO: AFP

into smaller, more manageable questions, which can then be answered through field experiments, the jury said.

“They have shown that

these smaller, more precise questions are often best answered via carefully designed experiments among the people who are most affected,” it said.

“As a direct result of one of their studies, more than five million Indian children have benefitted from effective programmes of remedial tutoring

in schools. Another example is the heavy subsidies for preventive healthcare that have been introduced in many countries,” the jury said.

Duflo is only the second woman to win the Nobel Economics Prize in its 50-year existence, following Elinor Ostrom in 2009.

Duflo, 46, told the Nobel committee by video link the honour was “incredibly humbling”.

“I didn’t think it was possible to win the Nobel Prize in Economics before being significantly older than any of the three of us,” she added.

Banerjee, born in 1961, and Duflo are both professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US, while Kremer, 54, is a professor at Harvard University.—AFP ■

## Japan home to 3 of world’s 10 best largest cities: US magazine

TOKYO — Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka rank among the world’s best 10 large cities — with the Japanese capital topping the list for a fourth successive year — according to US luxury and lifestyle travel magazine Conde Nast Traveler.

It is the first time three Japanese cities have made the top 10, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.

Kyoto ranked second for the second year in a row, while Osaka moved up to fifth from 12th, according to the magazine.

Singapore came third and

Vienna was fourth. Copenhagen ranked sixth, followed by Amsterdam, Barcelona, Taipei and Sydney.

More than 600,000 readers cast votes, which excludes cities in the United States, for which there is a separate list.

Tokyo was described as “a fever dream you don’t want to wake up from” with its combination of the modern and traditional, and having the most Michelin-starred restaurants in the world. It has 230 such establishments, of which 13 have three stars.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike said

she was “delighted and honored” that the capital was chosen as the best large city in the world, ahead of it hosting the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics.

“As we look to next year’s Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and beyond, we are looking forward to welcoming even more travelers to our city, one of the world’s leading tourist destinations, by continuing to improve and spread awareness about the many attractions of Tokyo, where tradition and innovation coexist,” Koike said in a statement. —Kyodo News ■



People walk across a large intersection in front of Tokyo’s Shibuya Station on 7 August 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Viet Nam to post economic growth of 6.6 pct in 2019: WB

HANOI — Viet Nam’s gross domestic product (GDP) expansion is projected to decelerate from 7.1 per cent in 2018 to 6.6 per cent in 2019, due to slower export growth and weaker agricultural production growth, according to the World Bank’s latest report in economies in East Asia.

Viet Nam’s medium-term outlook remains broadly positive despite persistent downside risks, with its economic growth expected to moderate in 2020 and 2021 to a more sustainable pace of 6.5 per cent, local daily newspaper Viet Nam News quoted the bank’s East Asia and Pacific Economic Update as reporting on Friday.

The growth forecast is unchanged from World Bank’s April report.

Inflation this year is projected to be 3 per cent, below the government’s 4 per cent target. However, Viet Nam remains heavily exposed to global economic sentiments given its high trade openness and limited fiscal and monetary policy buffers.

With a trade to GDP ratio of close to 200 per cent in 2018, Viet

Nam is exposed to heightened uncertainty and potential disruptions to global supply chains, the bank said.

It also forecast growth in developing East Asian and Pacific economies to slow from 6.3 percent in 2018 to 5.8 per cent in 2019 and to 5.7 and 5.6 per cent in 2020 and 2021, respectively, reflecting a broad-based decline in export growth and manufacturing activity.

Despite a weaker external environment, Viet Nam is projected to maintain economic growth this year and next year at 6.8 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively, the Asian Development Bank said in an update of its flagship annual economic publication released late September.

Viet Nam made GDP growth of 7.08 per cent in 2018, the highest rate over the past 10 years, up from the annualized target of 6.5-6.7 per cent, according to its General Statistics Office.

The country’s top legislature has set a target of attaining GDP growth of 6.6-6.8 per cent in 2019. —Xinhua

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## Attempts to split China risk 'smashed' bodies: Xi

**BELJING (China)** — President Xi Jinping has warned that any attempts to split China would result in “bodies smashed and bones ground to powder”, amid four months of anti-Beijing unrest in Hong Kong.

Xi issued the dire message during a weekend visit to Nepal, according to a foreign ministry statement released on Sunday.

“Anyone who attempts to split any region from China will perish, with their bodies smashed and bones ground to powder,” Xi said, according to the ministry.

“Any external forces that support the splitting of China can only be regarded as delusional by the Chinese people,” he said.

While Xi did not mention any region by name, his comments came as riot police and pro-democracy protesters clashed again in Hong Kong on Sunday and amid tensions with self-ruled Taiwan.

Rallies erupted in multiple neighbourhoods of Hong Kong, with some protesters blocking roads, sabotaging train tracks, and trashing pro-China businesses in the financial hub. China has accused “external forces” of fuelling unrest in the semi-autonomous city, a former British colony that enjoys rights unheard of in the mainland, such as freedom of speech.



President Xi Jinping warned that any attempts to split China would result in 'bodies smashed and bones ground to powder'. **PHOTO: AFP**

The protests were sparked by opposition to a now-scraped proposal to allow extraditions to mainland China, but have since morphed into a larger movement for democracy and police accountability.

There have been concerns that China could send in troops to put an end to the unrest, but Beijing has so far said it believes Hong Kong's police force is capable of handling the protests.

Few analysts believe Beijing would risk international condemnation by repeating its 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, when it deployed tanks and troops to quash the uprising, leaving hun-

dreds, perhaps more than 1,000, dead. Beijing has also hardened its stance with democratic Taipei since President Tsai Ing-wen was elected in 2016, as her government refuses to acknowledge that Taiwan is part of “one China”.

Taiwan has ruled itself since the end of a civil war in 1949, but China views the island as its territory and has vowed to seize it — by force if necessary.

Another sovereignty flashpoint is Tibet. Nepal is home to around 20,000 exiled Tibetans, but under pressure from Beijing the current communist government has taken an increasingly hardline stance on their activities.

Nepalese Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli told Xi that his country, which borders Tibet, would “never allow any forces to use Nepalese territory for anti-China separatist activities”, according to the foreign ministry statement.

Yet another source of tension is US criticism of Beijing's security crackdown in the northwest region of Xinjiang, where more than one million mostly Muslim minorities are believed to be held in internment camps.

China defends the camps as “vocational education centres” aimed at combating separatism and religious extremism. —AFP ■

## South Korean minister quits as education row swirls

**SEOUL (South Korea)** — Embattled South Korean justice minister Cho Kuk resigned Monday as a scandal swirled over academic privileges allegedly given to his children.

Huge crowds have taken to the streets recently — both against and in support of the former law professor — following his appointment by liberal President Moon Jae-in.

Cho's relatives have been at the centre of probes involving educational privileges allegedly granted to his children, and also investments in an equity fund suspected of dubious operations.

Cho's wife Chung Kyung-sim, a university professor, has been indicted for allegedly forging a college award for their daughter, with a trial slated to begin on Friday.

His two children have also been questioned by prosecutors.

Supporters say Cho's family has been unfairly targeted by prosecutors because of his promise to reform the investigative agency.

“I have endured day after day trying to fulfil my duty to reform the prosecution,” Cho said

in a statement, noting his “heavy heart”.

President Moon accepted Cho's resignation and said he was “sorry for division” his appointment had caused.

But he noted Cho had dutifully carried out his mission during his 35-day stint and stressed the importance of following up on Cho's unfinished work.

“His whole-hearted reform drive... has sparked consensus on its needs,” he said.

Education is South Korea is intensely competitive and top schools are frequently criticised for elitism — including by Cho, who said they create an “unfair society”.

He was accused of hypocrisy when it emerged he had sent his daughter to an elite institution, and that she had appeared to have benefitted from family connections.

Analysts say the scandal has laid bare worsening class divisions in South Korea, the world's 11th largest economy.

Cho made a note of this Monday, saying he was “deeply sorry” for disappointing young people. —AFP ■

## Oil, Iran top agenda as Putin visits Saudi Arabia

**RIYADH (Saudi Arabia)** — Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Saudi Arabia on Monday, where he was set to seal oil agreements and try to use his influence to defuse tensions boiling in the Gulf.

King Salman and his son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, welcomed Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at Al-Yamama Palace in Riyadh with full military honours.

Putin's visit follows attacks on Saudi oil installations that Riyadh and Washington have blamed on Moscow ally Tehran.

Oil will be “the main topic of discussion”, Rus-

sian political analyst Fyodor Lukyanov said, as a deal between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Moscow is due to expire next spring.

Moscow is not a member of OPEC, but it has worked closely with the group to limit supply and push up prices after a 2014 slump that wreaked havoc on the economies of Russia and cartel heavyweight Saudi Arabia.

Traditional US ally Riyadh and Moscow have made a striking rapprochement in recent years, marked in particular by King Salman's first visit to Russia in October 2017.

A year later, when the Saudi crown prince, known as MBS, was under fire over the assassination of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul, Putin went out of his way to shake his hand at a G20 summit, to much comment.

In an interview with Arabic-language television channels ahead of his visit, Putin praised his good relations with the Saudi royals.

“We will absolutely work with Saudi Arabia and our other partners and friends in the Arab world... to reduce to zero any attempt to destabilise the oil market,” he said in the interview broadcast

Sunday. **‘Role of peacemaker’**

Analyst Lukyanov said that Moscow, with its older ties to Iran and new links with Saudi, could “play the role of peacemaker” as tensions soar between Tehran and Riyadh.

These tensions spiked last month after the attacks on Saudi oil facilities that halved the kingdom's crude output and set oil markets alight.

Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels claimed responsibility. But US officials blamed Tehran, charging that the rebels did not have the range or sophistication to target the facilities. —AFP ■

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# Britain, EU enter make-or-break Brexit week

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Prime Minister Boris Johnson repeated Monday that Britain must leave the EU on October 31, as divorce talks resumed in Brussels in a pivotal week that could define how and when Brexit finally happens.

In an elaborate ceremony in parliament in London, Queen Elizabeth II set out Johnson's legislative programme for the coming year, with leaving the EU top of the agenda.

"My government's priority has always been to secure the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union on October 31," she said in a speech to robed peers from a gilded throne in the upper House of Lords.

"My government intends to work towards a new partnership with the European Union, based

on free trade and friendly cooperation."

But this depends on the outcome of closed-door discussions in Brussels, where officials are racing to reach a deal on Britain's exit terms before a summit of EU leaders starting on Thursday.

If he cannot get a deal by Saturday, Johnson will fall foul of a British law demanding he ask the EU to delay Brexit for a third time rather than risk a potentially disastrous "no deal" departure.

"A deal is possible and it's possible this month," Irish Deputy Prime Minister Simon Coveney said as he arrived for talks with EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

"It may even be possible this week but we're not there yet."

Michel Barnier, the bloc's chief Brexit negotiator, briefed

EU ambassadors late Sunday after a weekend of talks between officials described as "intense" and "constructive".

After weeks of gloom, the last few days have given a glimmer of hope that an agreement can be reached but there has so far been no decisive breakthrough.

Barnier warned on Sunday that "a lot of work remains to be done". This message echoed by Johnson's spokesman in London, who said on Monday: "The talks are constructive but there is a lot of work still to do."

More than three years after the 2016 referendum vote to leave the EU, divorce talks remain stuck on how to avoid customs checks between British Northern Ireland and Ireland.

After British MPs rejected a previous plan, Johnson put forward

fresh proposals earlier this month — but they have been met with a cool response in Brussels.

## 'Release the chutzpah'

Johnson took over from his predecessor Theresa May in July vowing no more delays, after she postponed Brexit twice in a failed attempt to get her own divorce deal through the British parliament. But he has no majority in the House of Commons, leaving him powerless even to call an election without the support of opposition parties.

In a statement issued alongside Queen Elizabeth II's speech, Johnson said the British public were "tired of stasis, gridlock and waiting for change".

It was time to leave the EU and seize new opportunities, "to tear away that bureaucratic red



EU leaders will meet on Thursday and Friday for a summit held under the pressures of the October 31 Brexit deadline just two weeks away. **PHOTO: AFP**

tape, to set our own rules, and to release the talent, creativity, innovation and chutzpah that exists in every corner of our United Kingdom". As well as a commitment to Brexit, the Queen's Speech included a raft of domestic measures, from tackling domestic violence to plastic pollution. — AFP ■

# Syria regime steps in to halt Turkish assault on Kurds

TALL TAMR (Syria) — The Syrian regime sent troops towards the Turkish border on Monday to contain Ankara's deadly offensive against the Kurds, stepping in for US forces due to begin a controversial withdrawal.

Outgunned and without US protection, the autonomous Kurds in northeastern Syria had few other options to stop the rapid advance of Turkish troops and their Syrian proxies.

Turkey wants to create a roughly 30-kilometre (20-mile) buffer zone along its border to keep Kurdish forces at bay and also to send back some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees it hosts.

The United States and its partners — who spent years fighting the Islamic State group in Syria before deserting them — have condemned the Turkish

invasion but their threats of sanctions have failed to stop it.

The chaos in the areas targeted in the six-day-old Turkish assault has already led to the escape of around 800 foreign women and children linked to IS from a Kurdish-run camp, Kurdish authorities said.

The Kurds had repeatedly warned of that scenario when Western countries refused to repatriate their IS-linked nationals and when US President Donald Trump made it clear he wanted to end US military presence.

Wasting no time to fill the void, Moscow — already the top broker in Syria — clinched a deal between the Kurds and Damascus, whose ties had been icy since the minority threw its lot with Washington and unilaterally declared self-rule.

"In order to prevent and confront this aggression, an agreement has been reached with the Syrian government," the Kurdish administration said in a statement late Sunday.

## Averting 'genocide'

In an editorial published in Foreign Policy magazine, the head of the main Kurdish force wrote: "If we have to choose between compromises and the genocide of our people, we will surely choose life for our people."

By Monday morning, Syrian government forces were already moving to within several kilometres (miles) of the border, AFP correspondents on the ground said.

Residents around the town of Tall Tamr welcomed regime forces with cheers and Syrian state television showed some of them waving national flags and portraits of President Bashar al-Assad.

According to a newspaper close to the Damascus regime, Syrian forces were also expected to deploy in the areas of Manbij and the border town of Kobane.

The main remaining flashpoint along the border was the town of Ras al-Ain, where Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have been putting up stiff resistance against Turkish air strikes and shelling for almost a week. — AFP ■



A Syrian regime soldier waves the national flag in the town of Tal Tamr as Damascus deploys forces towards the Turkish border. **PHOTO: AFP**



The sentence has provoked an angry response from Catalan separatists. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Spain jails Catalan separatist leaders for independence bid

BARCELONA (Spain) — Thousands of angry protesters took to the streets of Barcelona on Monday after Spain's Supreme Court sentenced nine Catalan separatist leaders to between nine and 13 years in jail for sedition over the failed 2017 independence bid.

As the news broke, demonstrators turned out en masse, blocking streets in Barcelona and elsewhere as police braced for what activists said would be a mass response of civil disobedience.

The long-awaited ruling capped weeks of rising tension, and puts the Catalan question at the heart of the political debate less than a month before Spain heads into its fourth general election in as many years.

Ahead of the ruling, Barcelona had woken up to a heavy police presence, with forces noticeably

visible around the regional high court, the main Sants train station and El Prat, Spain's second busiest airport. "I feel very affected by the sentence even though I expected it. I feel fury and a sense of powerlessness," said Joan Guich, a 19-year-old maths student who was protesting on Gran Via.

"They have been convicted for an ideology which I agree with." The 12 defendants were put on trial in February for their role in the banned October 1, 2017 referendum and the short-lived independence declaration that followed it. The harshest sentence of 13 years was handed to former Catalan vice president Oriol Junqueras who served as the main defendant in absence of Carles Puigdemont, the region's leader who fled Spain to avoid prosecution. — AFP ■

## Japan searches for survivors as Typhoon Hagibis death toll hits 56

TOKYO (Japan) — Tens of thousands of rescuers worked into the night Monday to find survivors of a powerful typhoon in Japan that killed at least 56 people, as fresh rain threatened to hamper their efforts.

Typhoon Hagibis crashed into the country on Saturday night, unleashing high winds and torrential rain across 36 of the country's 47 prefectures, triggering landslides and catastrophic flooding.

The death toll from the disaster has risen steadily, with national broadcaster NHK saying Monday night that 56 people had been killed and 15 were still missing. It cited its own tally based on

local reporting. The government has given lower numbers but is still updating its information.

"Even now, many people are still unaccounted for in the disaster-hit area," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told an emergency disaster meeting on Monday.

"Units are trying their best to search for and rescue them, working day and night," Abe said.

Later in the day, he pledged to "do whatever the country can" for victims and survivors, ordering the defence ministry to call up to 1,000 reserve troops to join 31,000 active forces in search operations. But rescue work that was continuing into the night risked being hampered by

additional rain falling in central and eastern Japan that officials warned could cause fresh flooding and landslides.

"I would like to ask people to stay fully vigilant and continue watching for landslides and river flooding," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference. In Nagano, one of the worst-hit regions, officials said they were working cautiously.

"We are concerned about the impact of the latest rain on rescue and recovery efforts," local official Hiroki Yamaguchi told AFP.

"We will continue operations while watching out for secondary disasters due to the current rain."—AFP ■



More than 110,000 rescue workers have been deployed across Japan to help people affected by Typhoon Hagibis. PHOTO: AFP

## S Korea's Moon sends sympathy message in wake of Typhoon Hagibis

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae In on Monday sent a message of sympathy and support to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe over the devastation caused by Typhoon Hagibis, the presidential office said.

In the message Moon expressed hope that people affected by the disaster will be able to return to their peaceful ordinary lives as soon as possible, according to a presidential office

spokeswoman.

He offered "deep condolences and sympathy to the Japanese people" for the many lives lost in the typhoon, which lashed Tokyo and nearby prefectures on Saturday.

The death toll from Typhoon Hagibis rose to around 50 on Monday as search-and-rescue teams continued to operate in flood- and landslide-hit areas of central and eastern Japan. —Kyodo News ■

## China-Nepal youth cooperation conference seeks more engagement to achieve common progress

KATHMANDU — The China-Nepal Youth Cooperation Conference opened in Nepal on Monday with an aim of bringing the youths of the two countries together in a high-end platform for dialogue and exchange.

The one-day event was organized by Silk Road Youth Forum in coordination with different organizations.

Addressing the conference, Nepali Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Ishwor Pokhrel said that the youths can work as a bridge between the two countries and can contribute to strengthening the bilateral relations.

"Nepal and China have a very good political and diplomatic relationship. Now, we should focus on how to promote the people to people relationship in a more effective way," Pokhrel said.

Stating that Nepali youths want to learn from China and its development, the deputy prime minister said more exchange and interaction programs are required for sharing experiences, ideas and expertise.

"Nepali youths are brave, honest, laborious and creative, but we need to think about how to push them forward," Pokhrel said.—Xinhua ■

## Hong Kong violence prompts debate but no division among protesters

HONG KONG (China) — Hong Kong's more hardline pro-democracy protesters have embraced increased violence towards private property, businesses and even people, triggering some soul-searching within the movement. But few moderates are willing to abandon their more radical comrades.

Even by the standards of Hong Kong's summer of rage, the last fortnight has been brutal.

After months of focusing their anger towards police, local government and symbols of Beijing's rule, hardcore protesters went on an unprecedented city-wide vandalism spree after the city's leader invoked emergency powers to ban face masks.

The subway system -- viewed as an enemy for ferrying police and shuttering stations

-- was crippled, with some 2,400 ticketing machines and turnstiles vandalised alongside 900 CCTV cameras in 83 of the city's 94 metro stations.

Businesses perceived to be mainland-Chinese owned or Beijing loyalist were trashed with colour-coded lists detailing which companies were fair game and which should be left alone.

And multiple clashes showed demonstrators beating their ideological opponents.

### 'Red Guards'?

In one incident, a Chinese JP Morgan employee was punched in the face as a crowd shouted "Go home!". In another, a man who tried to stop protesters defacing a Chinese flag was repeatedly assaulted.

A movement initially founded on defending Hong Kong's

independent judiciary from the authoritarian mainland was now increasingly meting out street justice. The scenes have provoked debate on the online forums used to organise the largely leaderless protests.

One post -- which received more than 9,000 upvotes -- asked whether radicals were going after the wrong targets.

"Continuing to escalate vandalism will only help public opinions on the opposite side and lose our support from international community," the author wrote, fretting that radicals risked being seen as a new iteration of Mao's violent "Red Guards".

At a press conference on Friday night, anonymous protesters hinted at concerns some of the violence might be counter-productive.

"I hope fellow companions

will not be controlled by hatred," a spokesman said.

But there was little let up in the chaos Sunday with more vandalism and fights erupting across the city.

Meanwhile, China's leader Xi Jinping said during a state visit to Nepal that any attempts to split China would result in "bodies smashed and bones ground to powder".—AFP ■



A movement initially founded on defending Hong Kong's independent judiciary from the authoritarian mainland was now increasingly meting out street justice. PHOTO: AFP



Goalkeeper  
Phone Thitsar  
Min. PHOTO:  
MFF

## Goalkeeper Phone Thitsar Min may miss SEA Games due to knee injury

PHONE THITSAR MIN, who has preliminarily been selected as the goalkeeper of the Myanmar U-22 football team, may miss the SEA Games as he injured his right knee during Thursday's training session, according to the team's social media page.

Accompanied by the Myanmar Football Federation's

medical doctor, the goalkeeper underwent an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). According to the MRI result, released on Saturday (12 October), he would need a knee operation and would have to rest for a long time, so he may miss the SEA Games.

The MFF will bear the responsibility for the surgery. — Kyaw Khin

## Olympic gold lures Federer to Tokyo Games

PARIS (France)— Roger Federer announced Monday he will compete at next year's Tokyo Olympics in a bid to claim the men's singles gold medal, the only major prize he has yet to win.

"I've been debating with my team for a few weeks now, months actually, what I should do in the summer time (of 2020) after Wimbledon and before the US Open," he said at a promotional event.

"At the end of the day my heart decided to play the Olympic Games again."

Federer has won all four of the Grand Slam tournaments, as well as the ATP Tour Finals six times, but is still waiting to grab Olympic singles gold.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion did win a doubles gold alongside fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka at Beijing in 2008, but when he got to the London singles final in 2012 he was hammered 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 by an inspired Andy Murray.

Federer did not compete at Rio 2016, where Murray won

again, but has since twice won the Australian Open and took the 2017 Wimbledon title before losing an epic final in the grass-court Grand Slam to Novak Djokovic earlier this year.

Serbia's Djokovic, and Federer's eternal rival Rafael Nadal, have both already said they will compete at Tokyo, the trio setting the scene for a highly competitive tournament.

Nobody will be writing the ageing triumvirate off.

The 32-year-old Djokovic is world number one and the player poised to take top spot off him in the coming weeks is Nadal, 33.

The 38-year-old Federer is third in the world rankings, while Nadal and Djokovic won all four Grand Slams between them this year.

The two-time defending Olympic champion and three-time Grand Slam winner Murray, coming back from his January hip surgery, is yet to announce his intentions for Tokyo. — AFP

## Germany pair 'made mistake' by liking Turkish salute post



German FA boss Oliver Bierhoff says Emre Can (second from right) and Ilkay Gundogan (right) "made a mistake" by 'liking' a controversial Instagram post. — PHOTO: AFP

BERLIN (Germany) — German FA director Oliver Bierhoff on Monday defended Germany pair Ilkay Gundogan and Emre Can, but admitted they "made a mistake" by liking a post of Turkish footballers performing a military salute.

Gundogan and Can, who both have Turkish roots, became embroiled in a social media storm Sunday after clicking 'Like' on an Instagram picture of Turkey players saluting to celebrate a goal in Friday's 1-0 win over Albania.

Cenk Tosun, the goalscorer, posted the picture and wrote: "For our nation and especially for those who risk their lives for our country".

His post was seen as sup-

portive of Turkey's military offensive in Syria, but the Germany pair quickly removed their 'Likes' and issued apologies.

Bierhoff, director of the national team, told DFB.de that he and head coach Joachim Loew have spoken to the pair, who "know it was a mistake".

"They are role models, thousands look up to them and follow them on their social media channels," he added.

"They need to be aware of the great responsibility and impact that each of their statements and actions can have.

"They both came out and faced the media after the game.

"They assured us that they didn't want to make a political statement.

"We trust their explanations that they had no political intentions."

The German Football Association (DFB) posted a picture on Monday of the senior squad looking unified on their social media channels with the text, "against all forms of violence and discrimination."

Bierhoff said the German squad wanted to support the pair, who he says were "down" because of the Instagram incident, following Sunday's 3-0 win over Estonia in a Euro 2020 qualifier in Tallinn.

Gundogan scored two second-half goals, but Can was sent off after 14 minutes -- the fastest ever dismissal of a Germany player. — AFP



Roger Federer during his torrid defeat by Andy Murray in the 2012 Olympic final. PHOTO: AFP