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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 175, 4th Waning of Thadingyut 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 9 October 2017



Artists drawing the portraits of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANNITA)**

Mum's peace process hailed with portraits

As a show of solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her peace process, artists in Yangon are working hard in creating her portraits.

"The first thing is we hail the path to peace paved by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi whom we

dearly refer to as "Mother or Mum". Moreover, as artists we as feel that the removal of her painting at the Oxford University is a matter of outright concern for us to deal with. Our heartfelt trust in our Mum is always irrevocable. People in many parts of

the country are showing their solidarity with our Mum at the rallies. So we are doing this activity as our show of solidarity with our Mother Daw Aung San Suu Kyi," said U Nay Aung Shu, treasurer of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association (Central) the main sponsor of the activity in which about 100 artists took part in drawing the Mum's portraits from 10 am to 4 pm at the art gallery of the association yesterday.

Artists also created the replicas of the painting the Oxford University has removed.

"State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has sacrificed her whole life in the service of her countrymen. Additionally, we honour her love and goodwill towards our country.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Rakhine State Chief Minister tours Maungtaw region

DURING the 6-8 October tour of Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party, cash assistances, Ks49.33 million were provided to 4,933 families in the villages of Maungtaw for all sector development in Maungtaw region.

Rakhine State Chief Minister and members of the state government met with the local residents of Taung Bazar and Khamaung Seik villages yesterday and gave words of encouragements to them by explaining the current performances of the government.

Ks 10,000 per family were also provided to the families remained in their villages, Taung Bazar and Khamaung Seik, despite attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists.

The State Chief Minister and party fulfilled the current needs of the businesses which are requested by the local ethnic



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu hands over cash assistance to villagers in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

people. For the development of businesses in the region, electricity access and transportation, healthcare, social, education, agriculture and livestock and businesses developments will also

be carried out as short term and long term works by cooperating with the committees. As there is no worry for security, the local ethnic people must try to farm the long term crops and if there is any

difficulties, to report to the state government. Regarding resettlement works, the needs of the local people were inquired and explained back by the officials. — Naing Linn Kyi/ Thant Zin Win ■

Mum's peace process hailed with portraits

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So we are always together with her. We support her endeavours with honour and respect. We take part in this activity to paint pictures of Mum who is always in our hearts," said U Aung Lin, a consultant of the association.

The artists presented their artistic works on the Mum's portraits as souvenirs to every visitor witnessing the activity at the gallery.

Artists also exchanged their works among them. Together with the professional artists, amateurs and invited guest were also present. —Zaw Gyi (Pannita) ■

The growing interest of Yangon's water bus

THE Yangon Water Bus system was opened to the public on 6 October and began operating on 8 October amid a large number of interested citizens.

At the opening ceremony of the YWB, Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said the water bus system will slightly decrease the congested traffic in Yangon by providing an alternate means of public transportation. The YWB project was led by the Union Government and handled by Tint Tint Myanmar Company.

Daw Tint Tint Lwin, the CEO of Tint Tint Myanmar Company, said the water bus system has a control center, set up with technology from Hungary, to address issues caused by people, machine malfunctions or the weather. She said the captains of the water bus were all required to have license of at least 10 years of experience with water vessels. The YWB will also issue prepaid cards linked with Anypay card system that can be loaded with a minimum of Ks500.

Thiha Htun rode a route from Insein to downtown on the new YWB system and commented on the water bus. "The



A water bus docked at the jetty. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

water bus are good for people living near the coastal area and it doesn't interfere with the people working in the river.

The YBS has to deal with traffic jams and you need to switch buses to get to most destinations.

The water bus doesn't has those problems and if in the future they put more bus stops and increase the number of vessels then I think it will become more convenient," he said.

The current operating bus route starts at Insein port, trav-

els through Shwe Padauk port in Hlaing, The night market port in Kyee Myint Daing, Lan Thit Port near the Mawtin overpass in Latha, Nan Thida Port in Pansodan and finally arrive at Botahtaung Port.

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Cash assistance provided to the staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics in Maungtaw

THE ceremony for providing cash assistance to the families of the staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics in Maungtaw Township, northern Rakhine State by U Thet Naing Oo, Director General and staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics was held yesterday at the hall of Maungtaw District General Administration Department.

On behalf of Director General U Thet Naing Oo, Commissioner of the State General Administration Department U Kyaw Nyein provided the cash assistance, Ks17.184 million and received by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and state ministers on behalf of the staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics in Maungtaw. —Naing Linn Kyi/ Thant Zin Win ■

Student population increases to 9.1m from 8m

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi attended the opening of an upgraded village school in Ayeyawady Region on 7 October.

Together with MPs U Win Htut and U Thein Swe and Director-General Dr Aung Naing Soe of Basic Education Department, the Union minister formally opened the facility upgraded into an high school at Kan village, Pyapon Township of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union minister said the Education Ministry opened 46493 primary, middle and high schools in academic year 2017-2018, up from 41361 in academic year 2011-2012. As regards the appointment of more teachers, he said the country has 369,661

teachers in the current academic year, up from 277,584 in 2011-2012. Student population increased to over 9.1 million at present from eight million in 2011-2012 thanks to the fair school admission system conducted by teachers, arrangement to provide assistance for student's facing various difficulties to attend school and the teachers doing their job well in a corruption environment. Now the country is moving towards KG+12 education system leaving behind 11-grade system. The ministry is drawing curriculum and syllabus for primary schools in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA, and those of the middle and high schools with Asia Development Bank-ADB.



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi presents gift of honour to a teacher. PHOTO: MNA

The school headmistress and the village administrator spoke words of thanks.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and officials met education officers, principals and teachers in Pyapon and visited

the schools in the town.

They attended the ceremony to honour students who passed the matriculation examination with distinctions and teachers in Pathein and distance education students of the education college

in Bogale.

After attending a ceremony to honour outstanding students in Dedaye, the Union minister met with education staff in Kawhmu Township, Yangon Region. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Chief minister urges inclusive ideas for regional interest

RAKHINE State cabinet discussed field trips for restoring stability and development in Maung-taw region hit by ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in August.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said there cannot be excuse for any future mistakes. All-inclusive coordination must be made through the ground situation and the remedial action by the regional departments concerned in finding the best answer. There must also be unity and goodwill for durable peace and progress. All must prioritize the affairs of Rakhine State, the nation and the people. As the future task becomes more important careful and proper



Chief Minister U Nyi Pu delivering address at the meeting. PHOTO: MNA

measures are required.

Officials at all levels of the state presented accomplish-

ments, difficulties and future programs in connection with multiple fields including security, peace,

stability, reconstruction, health, education, economy, transport, communication, electricity, housing and rural development.

Cabinet members explained long- and short-term departmental programs.

In response, the Chief Minister said difficulties can be overcome through individual and group-wise coordination. There must be the conviction that all are in the service of the people. Cooperation is required in every tasks including data collection, resettlement and lasting progress. There must be inclusive ideas for regional interest. —Naing Linn Kyi/ Thant Zin Win (Myanmar News Agency) ■

Sittway selects social representatives

SITTFWAY selected seven representatives including two intellectuals for the meeting of all Rakhine State social organizations yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony held at Khaingthazin Hall in Sittway was attended by members of the social organizations of Sittway and the representatives to the meeting.

Social organizations presented their annual and financial reports. Well-wishers who made donations for social activities were also honoured. —IPRD ■

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Printed 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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China, Cambodia offer to import Myanmar's avocados

CHINA and Cambodia have offered to import avocados produced in Myanmar, according to a report of the Myawady Daily's Saturday edition.

U Kyaw Thu, secretary of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association, said that those countries showed interest in purchasing naturally cultivated avocados from the country, adding that China was offered fresh avocados to examine their quality. Price will be based on quality, officials said.

For the time being, avocados can be harvested in some plantations in Chin and Shan states, with local traders planning to export the fruits starting this November.

U Kyaw Thu said that systematically run avocado



Fresh green avocado in the basket. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

plantations have been developed in the country, hoping to get a healthy export.

More than 30 avocado varieties are traditionally grown in

Shan and Chin states. Domestic exporters are trying to boost export demand from international countries, targeting the United States, Europe, Japan and Can-

ada.

Myanmar continues its export of watermelons, muskmelons, mangos and plums, largely to China.—GNLM ■

AMYAR coffee facotry in Ywangan slated to run in December

WITH a view to bolstering coffee production, AMAYAR coffee factory is currently being built by YWANGAN AMAYAR Company and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is slated to start its operation in December, according to a report of

Myawady Daily last Saturday.

This coffee factory is planned to produce 30 tons of Arabica coffee in 2018 and 50 tons in 2019, targeting America market and local market. The production rate will be boosted depending on market's demand.

There are only small number of coffee mills in the country and so, AMAYAR coffee factory is established.

As Myanmar's Arabica coffee has already earned good reputation and fetched good price in export market, businessmen should invest in

coffee factories, said Ma Su Su Aung, Managing Director of this Company.

Nearly Ks400 million has been spent on building of this factory. USAID provided mills to crush fresh coffee bean and dried coffee beans and generators.—GNLM ■

CB to loan fisheries businessmen for aquatic feedstuff without mortgage

Co-operative Bank is planning to lend a fish farmer up to Ks2 million for aquatic feedstuff without mortgage, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

This plan aims to help

solve fish farmers' difficulties as fish farming enterprises are usually faced with financial difficulty.

Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) and CB Bank will cooperate for this to cover

the whole country.

Those who wish to get access to this loan plan need to seek recommendation from MFF to prove that they are running fish farming businesses.

Officials from MFF and CB Bank will go inspection tour to the applicants and fish farming enterprises which are in line with set rules will be granted loan by CB Bank. —GNLM ■

Rattan and bamboo handiwork to be replaced with high-tech machines

Machine-made techniques will replace handicrafts for making rattan and bamboo, said U Kyaw Thu, the chairperson of Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association.

Efforts are being exerted for rattan and bamboo handicrafts to be listed on export strategy which helps boost

production. In a bid to upgrade quality of arts product, high-tech machines work is required. The aforementioned association has given five machines in Yekyi township to facilitate splitting bamboo, said he added.

The said association will order 20 more machines and continue to give them to the

places in need.

The machines are ordered from China and Malaysia. Those businessmen from Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions will be favoured for those machines.

Currently, production of art products is found less and price is pretty high compared to that of other countries. We might

have bigger market if we can manufacture them more at a reasonable price.

Tourists highly demand souvenirs and art products worth US\$5. Viet Nam and Indonesia can offer art products with estimated value of \$5 but Myanmar sells them around \$20, said U Kyaw Thu. —GNLM ■

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Sea trade this FY shows increase of about US\$2.7 billion against last FY

VALUE of external trade via sea route in first half of this FY increases about US\$2.7 billion more than that in the similar period of last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Between 1 April and 22 September in current FY, sea trade hit about \$11.8 billion, comprising export worth \$4.4 billion and import worth \$7.39 billion.

Eighty per cent of foreign trade is conducted through sea route whereas the remaining is carried out via border gates.

In the similar period, trade worth of about \$15.2 billion went to and from Myanmar's border gates. Unlike sea trade, export surpassed import at border gates, with estimated export value of \$2 billion and import value of \$1.3 billion. Myanmar exports agriculture products, livestock, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other products. Capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported into the country. —Ko Khant ■



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

News of 2018 car import policy shakes Yangon auto mobile market

NEWS of 2018 car import policy in the automobile market shakes Yangon car market, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

Prices of cars with right-

hand drive are likely to rise as cars with left-hand drive will be imported next year.

If only cars with left-hand drive are permitted to import under new policy next year, slip

price is likely to hike up around Ks14 million, said Managing Director Yan Myo Aung of Bagan Automotive Center. The prices of Toyota Land Cruiser, Mark II, Honda Fit Shuttle, Honda Fit

GK3, Honda Insight increase and Toyota Vitz, Toyota Belta, Toyota Vanguard and Toyota bB remained steady. 2018 car import policy will be released in the last week of October, thereafter, the

import permit will be granted under existing policy by the end of year. At present, import of cars with right-hand drive has risen and slip price reached the high of Ks12 million. —GNLM ■



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A Slew of Visitors to Study Teak Posts Exhibited in Kanbawza Thardi Palace, Bago

ANCIENT teak posts found in excavating the royal ground palace of Kanbawza Thardi Palace built by King Alaung Phaya are being exhibited for the public to study at the ground place site.

The said teak posts were the ones used in building up the Kanbawza Thardi palace in 1553 during the reign of King Alaung Phaya. In 1599, the palace was

burnt down to the ground. The posts remained under the ground for over 400 years.

In excavating the royal ground place on December 13, 1993 a total of 222 posts—176 teak posts including stump posts underground were found out.

According to the descriptions written at the bottoms



Ancient teak posts. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)**

of the posts, it was learnt that these posts were donated from the regions under the vast land of the king, due to the organization of the ruler.

Out of 176 teak posts, descriptions written in Mon and Myanmar languages— names of towns such as Mawlamyaing Thit, Moekaung Thit, Pyi Thit,

Thayawady Thit and etc., noble men such as Naymyo Kyaw Htin and Letya Nandathu were seen on the 136 teak posts.

Those teak posts and planks were exhibited intact as discovered for the public to observe.

In examining tree-rings of the posts, dendrochronological experts estimate teak trees at

180 years at least to grow up to the stages.

Here is the good news for people across the nation to come to the Kanbawza Thardi Palace's royal ground place for observation, situated nearby Nandawyar ward, south of Shwe Maw Daw Pagoda. —Phyo Ko Lin (Nyaung Waing) ■

Modernized Express-Car Ground in Myeik Opened

OPENING ceremony for Myeik Express Car Ground built by Myeik-public owned company was opened by Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Cabinet and responsible officials, at 9 am on October 7 in Kone Phauk ward, Myeik south village-tract, Myeik in Taninthayi Region.

In the express-car ground, there had been buildings for arrival and departure built for 24 motor vehicles to arrive and depart simultaneously. According to U Tun Tun Win, project manager, CCTVs had been installed for the security of passengers and vehicles are allowed one month free pass in and out of the ground in commemoration of the opening ceremony. It can be one of the high-quality grounds in Myanmar. It includes places for arrival, departure and eateries, with 24 ticket selling depots and 40 shop houses included. Previously there were only 13 transport lines whereas there are presently more than 70 lines and over 600 vehicles transporting passengers and commodities, it was learnt.—Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD) ■

Excavation to be conducted in Kalay Township

EXCAVATION of ancient brick wall that emerged due to recent river erosion in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, will be carried out by respective organizations in cooperation with archeologists, according to the History Department of Kalay University.

The 30-foot long and five-feet wide old brick wall emerged after erosion of the bank of Myittha River due to heavy rain that hit TaungU Village in the township on 13 September. An official of the History Department said that an old brick is 15-inch long and 7-inch wide.

With the assistance of experts, a systematic excavation will be performed in the site through stage by stage approaches as there are some barriers to carry out excavation in the rainy season.

One of residents said even the elders of the village cannot tell about the existence of old brick wall in the area. Some parts of the wall collapsed when the water level of Myittha River increased.

According to the team of the aforementioned department led by its Associated Professor Dr Tin Maung Htwe, some pieces of pot and jar that are believed to be made in the post Bagan period or Ava period. Based on these findings, it is estimated that the wall was

established between the past 700 years and 1,000 years.

A local collector of ancient object said his view that the wall is expected this will be the evidence to resolve a dispute about the establishment of the town. According to a word-of-mouth communication, Kalay

Town has been established since over the past 1,050 years.

The four-foot high and 100-feet long ancient brick wall also appeared in the township in mid-2016. Almost all parts of the wall fell down the river during this rainy season, residents say.—Chindwin Thar ■



Photo shows ancient brick wall in Kalay Township. **PHOTO: CHINDWIN THAR**

International Arya Samaj Hindu Conference held, pray for world peace

International Arya Samaj Hindu Conference was held at Sri Ambikar Temple between 22nd road, 82nd and 83rd streets, Aungmyaethazan Township, Mandalay Region on 7 October morning.

The conference was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung and ministers, regional hluttaw representative deputy speaker Dr Khin Maung Htay and hluttaw representatives, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Shri Vickram Misri, Mr. Shri Nandan Singh Bhaisora, the Consul General of the Republic of India to Myanmar with residence in Mandalay,

the chairman of International Arya Central Committee, the chairman of Arya Hindu Association to Myanmar, Hindu religious and social members and Arya Hindu ethnics through the whole country.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung said delightful words and prayed for the world's peacefulness with Hindu families.

Then, the Region Chief Minister and ministers, Hindu families hoisted the National Flag of Myanmar and saluted singing the National anthem. After that, Arya youths put up the Hindu Dhamma Flag and sang Dhamma song.



International Arya Samaj Hindu Conference in progress. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MDY)

The Chief Minister, Indian Ambassador and responsible personnel offered the lighting candles and presented sash of honor. Continuously the chair-

man of Arya Association, the Indian Ambassador and the Consul General delivered the remarks.

Development Hindu Dham-

ma, submitting the Veda Dhamma, singing Dhamma song and praying for peace were made together till 8 October. —Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Consent to move vendors to Latpatan Myoma market

A coordination meeting to move vendors without permanent places to a designated market place was held at Latpatan Township municipal office, Thayawady District, Bago Region on 6 October noon.

In the coordination meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Min, regional hluttaw representative U Myo Aung, Township general administrative officer U Zaw Moe Aung, committee members of the Township municipal committee, market committee members and 50 vendors negotiated and discussed the matters.



PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

Under the negotiation, it is agreed that the vendors will start to move to the designat-

ed market place at the western part of Myoma Market on 5 January 2018. —Shwe Win (Pyay)

Weather Report

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (15:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the North Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Bangladesh still persists. Weather is cloudy over the North Bay and East Central Bay and monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 9th OCTOBER, 2017: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Eastern Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Regions, (Northern and Southern)Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in Taninthayi Region, Chin, Kayin and Mon 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 in along Myanmar Coast. **FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th OCTOBER, 2017:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

Three killed in two traffic accidents in Meiktila Township

THREE people including two motorcyclists were killed in two different road accidents happened within the same day in Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region on Saturday, police say.

The first case occurred between mile post Nos 0/6 and 0/7 on Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung Road at around 9.25 am on that day. In this case, a red motorcycle being driven by 69-year-old man with his teenage daughter fell off the left side of the road as another motorbike being driven by an unknown man attempted to overtake the red bike.

The 69-year-old U Khin Maung Sein crashed to death under the left wheel of a car.

Police say that the second case occurred between mile post Nos. 334/5 and 334/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Road on Saturday evening. Motorcyclist and his passenger died after a head-on-collision with a car heading from Pyawbwe from Meiktila. Police are still investigating the cases.

The reckless drivers from the two cases have been charged under Section 304 (a) and 338 of the Penal Code.—Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Woman died after falling off motorcycle

A 52-YEAR-OLD woman in Hlinebwe Township in Kayin State died after she fell off a speeding motorcycle on Hlinebwe-Paingkyon Road under Paingkyon police area on Friday afternoon, according to a police report issued today.

According to investigators, Daw Ye Aye was riding on the motorbike being driven by Phyo Lynn (also known as Zin Bo), the 20-year-old motorbike taxi driver, together with other two people on board, when she fell down from the two-wheeler.

The victim sustained serious head injuries in the accident and was rushed to nearby



The sense of fatal accident. PHOTO: MIN THU (HPA-AN)

hospital, where she died during treatment, police say.

Action is being taken

against the motorbike taxi driver for his careless driving.—Min Thu (Hpa-an)

Didactic Teachers among those who deserve our infinite gratitude

Khin Maung Oo

IT is not an exaggeration in such a claim that teachers are of great importance for the future of our youths and our nation. Teachers play an important role not only in teaching but also in guiding their children to become well-behaved and ebullient ones. According to Myanmar tradition, teachers are placed on the same level as our parents who deserve our infinite gratitude.

Even careless negligence of gratitude towards our teachers should not be made on the assumption that they are only concerned with us in teaching. A teacher, in fact, is endowed with a teacher's virtues, nurturing their pupils as if caring for a flower till the day it becomes full bloom or shaping a gem to become a

precious and flawless gem. By dedicating their whole lives to teaching and the welfare of their pupils, teachers motivated by their deep-rooted desire to impart knowledge, are ready to give their time, energy and knowledge for their pupils. It is for this reason that the pupils need to reciprocate and pay due respects to their teacher in return.

Pupils rely upon their teachers. Therefore, teachers and pupils are required to abide by their respective duties to each other. As included in five duties of a teacher according to Myanmar traditional saying, a teacher performs the duties of giving academic teaching, guiding and reprimanding, if ever, sharing pupils with knowledge as far as one knows, preventing students from imminent dangers and referring

pupils to their betters who can be more beneficial to pupils.

Pupils on the other hand should observe the duties of pupils. They are, listening to teachers and their teachings attentively, welcoming teachers with respect upon their arrival, helping teachers with their daily chores as needed, and learning what teachers teach by contemplating or committing lessons to memory, if needed.

These are social ethics which are auspicious, included in "Senga Lawvada Sutta" that we Myanmar people follow for generations. For saying so, essentially we need to assess as to whether teachers and pupils are still performing their respective duties at the present time. With the developed and modernized world, these duties must be said to

have weakened more and more.

In reality, it is difficult to eke out one's living by following the teaching profession. They have to teach children day in and day out, prepare for lessons to be ready for teaching in class-rooms and try their best to become ideal lecturers who will comply with teachers' ethics. Therefore, it is important for students to perform their five duties towards their teachers while it is the duty of teachers to perform their five duties towards their pupils in return. This is in accordance with Burmese Buddhist tradition.

Accordingly, we hereby urge our students to respectfully and attentively acquire the academic teachings from our pure-minded teachers by paying due respects to them. ■

AFTER reading a very informative article written in Myanmar language by Lu Lay Wine, titled the "Pointing Fingers", though the article was based on an article in the Asian Times by Bertil Lintner, I see it as being written from the Myanmar's perspectives. I thought the author's views and analysis should be made available to the English speakers, so I will attempt to relate his views and opinions without trying to translate it as to the letter, as I may inject some of my on views and analysis wherever necessary. I will take great care not to miss the original author's messages that he wants to give the readers.

The international reactions concerning the Rakhine crises are mainly based on the plights of the over 500,000 Bengalis who took flight to Bangladesh. They are falsely labeling that exodus as an unprecedented refugee crisis, acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, which infringe on the human rights, using the harshest of terms found in the dictionaries. It's true that those refugees are suffering hardships in the cramped squalid refugee camps in the neighbouring country, without sufficient food or water. However, it would be necessary to know the truth who are the real culprits behind the hardships they are being subjected to.

The international media are painting a false image of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). They are portraying the terrorists as ordinary angry and desperate innocent villagers who took up whatever arms they could lay their hands on, to revolt against the Myanmar government, as they couldn't tolerate the racial discriminations and persecutions by the majority Myanmar any more. Such simultaneous coordinated

Who are the real culprits

Khin Maung Myint

attacks on the 30 Border Police outposts at around (0100) hours on the 25 August were very difficult tasks for a ragtag collection of ordinary villagers to carry out by themselves. Only well-trained and seasoned fighters could plan and execute such assaults of that scale. Thus it is quite questionable, why the international media are playing down the significance of those incidents. Are they trying to hide the foreign involvements?

Try as they might, the truths are gradually emerging. According to some reliable sources, there were some 150 trained and experienced militants, most of whom were Bangladeshis and 8 militants from Pakistan, and smaller numbers from Indonesia, Malaysia and separatists from Southern Thailand were amongst the attackers. According to Bertil Lintner, even two militants from Uzbekistan too were involved.

The mentor of the ARSA terrorist group is one "Abdus Qadoos Burmi", who is effectively running the propaganda machine that is far-reaching. He had appeared in numerous propaganda video clips that were widely distributed to instigate a jihad style campaigns in Myanmar. He was born in the impoverished suburb of Karachi, where there are thousands of second and third generation Ben-

gali people who are mostly stateless and do not enjoy the privileges of the Pakistani citizenship, although they had lived there for many years and now some were even born there. He is linked to a Pakistan based militant group called the "Lahkar-e-Taiba". That group is said to be the largest and most active one in the South Asia region. Also, video clips of the would-be jihadists undergoing military trainings in Aceh, Indonesia are also being widely distributed.

As the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are losing footholds in Iraq and Syria, concrete reports that they are intending to turn the South East Asia as their battle grounds are emerging. At such a time, the fact that some world powers, especially the US and the UK, and the international media are ignoring the significance of the threats of the ARSA and blaming everything on Myanmar. Those people should be viewed as ones who had lost their rationality all of a sudden.

The military leader of the ARSA is "Emir Attulah Abu Ammar Jun-juni", also known by another name as "Hafiz Tohar".

He was born in Karachi and educated at a madrasa in Saudi Arabia. According to Bertil Lintner, the former name of the ARSA was "Harakah

al-Yaqin", which meant "The Faith Movement", which had clear religious connotations. Later that name was changed to a more ethnically oriented one—"ARSA". The second in command of the ARSA is "Sharif" who is from Chittagong in Southern Bangladesh. He never appears in any of the ARSA propaganda videos. He speaks in Udru, the Pakistani language. Thus none of the leaders are from Rakhine, Myanmar. Thus the involvement of foreign terrorists is undeniable, a fact, which some Western leaders and the international media and the authorities at the UN are trying to downplay or ignore.

One noteworthy fact is that, the ARSA terrorists never wear any kind of uniform, but are attired in everyday clothes like the common Bengali men of Rakhine. They mingled among the ordinary villagers, which provided them very good covers, so they are difficult to be identified or differentiated from the innocent villagers. That is a big problem for the Myanmar military and security personnels, who are performing law enforcements duties and maintaining stability.

They took advantage of the opportunities provided by their covers to mount surprise attacks. If the security personnels mistook them for innocent villagers they will have to pay with their lives and if some were killed by the security forces, even if they were terrorists, the security forces would be accused of killing innocent people by their lobbyists and advocates.

They could also cross freely into the neighbouring country after mounting assaults on the security forces. These are very difficult situations that our military and the police forces are facing.

SEE PAGE 9



Annually held Phaungdaw U Pagoda of Inlay Lake in progress. PHOTO: SAI ALBE (NYAUNG SHWE)

Inlay Phaungdaw U Pagoda festival concludes

THE 4 Buddha Images of Inlay Phaungdaw U Pagoda of Inlay Lake, Nyaung Shwe township, Southern Shan State started the tour to 21 places in Inlay Lake on the 1st Waxing of Thadingyut and on 3rd Waxing of Thadingyut the Buddha Images returned to their original residing Nanhu Yadana abode from Yetha village. The ceremony of Buddha Images entering the Nanhu Yadana residing abode was celebrated at the entrance gate to Nanhu Yadana residing abode at 9am of 8 September.

In the ceremony the 1st

Buddha Image was carried by Chief Minister of the State Dr Lin Htut and State Ministers, the 2nd Image by Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Win Min Tun and other military officials, the 3rd Image by Minister for Bamar Ethnic Affairs of Shan State Government, Dr Aung Than Maung and State level department officials, the 4th Image by Minister for Intha Ethnic Affairs, Dr Htun Hlaing and Hluttaw representatives to the Yadana residing abode and offered rice, flowers and drinking water to the monks.

Afterwards, the Chief

Minister and the guests paid homage to State Ovadacariya Bhaddanta Veponla Bhivuntha and sanghas and offered offertories followed by libation ceremony.

Then, Intha traditional boat race including single-oared men event, 26-oared women event, 46 oared event and over hundred-oared event were held as part of the ceremony and the winners were awarded prizes by Chief Minister, Dr Lin Htut, Commander Maj-Gen Win Min Tun and responsible personnel.—Sai Albe (Nyaung Shwe)

Value-added products of palm fruits produced in Kachin State

VALUE-ADDED products using palm fruits have been produced not to waste its fruits at Anyartha Gyi small scaled enterprise in Min Tan ward, Waing Maw Town, Kachin State, according to Kachin State small-scaled enterprise department.

"Kachin State has no plenty of palm fruits as central part of Myanmar. In the central Myanmar, palm fruits have fallen naturally, but nobody ever thought of food production from palm fruits. Now, I tried to produce food from palm fruits and it is

successful. Later, the business will be expanded in central Myanmar," said U Okka Doe, a businessman.

As value-added products, jelly, soft drinks, and palm wine are produced from liquors acquired by grinding husks of palm fruits. Soft drinks from solid white flesh (kernel), pillows and bed sheets from dried fibers of palm fruits and palm fruits alternative fuels were produced. All these products were distributed in the market. —Sein Win (IPRD)



Value-added palm fruit products on displays. PHOTO: SEIN WIN (IPRD)

Who are the real culprits

FROM PAGE 8

The terrorists had established an efficient communication network. According to the eye-witness reports of those who were permitted to travel to those areas, they are equipped with the state of the art Satellite phones. Thus it's no wonder they were getting informations about our security forces movements before hand, which gave them great advantages. If we analyze the developments, since the next day after the report by Mr. Kofi Annan was made public, which were the simultaneous coordinated attacks on our security outposts, the exodus of over 500,000 refugees to Bangladesh, the discovery of

the mass graves of Hindus, the still ongoing fleeing of people, should be seen as important facts to ponder. Those with rationale and unbiased minds could see that none of those atrocities were done by our security forces.

Then, how come the international communities and organizations and the media could not see the truth, but drew the conclusions randomly without any concrete evidence to support them, that they were done by our security forces? Also, even if the United States of America couldn't receive all of the over 4,000,000 Syrian refugees, in whose displacements they had a hand in, except for about only 1500 persons to take refuge in the US,

why should we accept all the people who are saying they will not accept nothing less than the recognition by the name of their choice and will not undergo the verification process if their demands are not met? The United Nations should not bully us to bow to the international pressures again, as in the mid 1970s, to agree to their unreasonable demands. The State Counselor had publicly stated that our side will abide by the bilateral agreement of 1993, reached between Bangladesh and Myanmar, in verifying the returnees. Those who satisfy the requirements set in that agreement to be deemed as eligible for citizenships and will be accordingly granted. What could be more fair than

that?

In conclusion allow me to voice my opinions. The stateless people from Pakistan are definitely the descendants of the Bengali people who happened to be living there at the time of the separation of Pakistan from India on receiving their Independence and were left unrecognized as citizens for some reasons since then. They definitely were not from Myanmar and for that matter they were neither from Bangladesh. If I may further voice my views, the fact that the not properly trained and inexperienced, hastily recruited or conscripted villagers were let to spearhead the attacks were the most irresponsible and inhumane act by their leaders.

They were being treated as expendable pawns in a game of chess. They were purposely sacrificed as a ruse to deceive the world at large that the Myanmar law enforcement units used undue excessive force. The primitive weapons such as the machetes, home-made guns, and catapults etc, left behind after the skirmishes, too, were also part of their cunning tricks. I must say their plans worked. Nearly the whole world was deceived to believe that Myanmar security forces handled the situation high-handedly, by using excessive force in ordinary villagers armed with primitive weapons. In fact it is the ARSA terrorists who are the real culprits.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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 works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real 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 news office

Let the world knows the burning of Mro villages

The leader of Kone Tine Village and the villagers gaze mournfully at the remains of their village. U Maung Hla, the village leader, and the villagers had arrived to talk with the foreign diplomats who came to assess the situation in Rakhine.

"I don't want to come back here, it hurts my heart," says U Maung Hla.

Foreign Diplomats comprising of Ambassadors to Myanmar, members of UNRC, UNHCR, WFP, World Bank (Myanmar) and UNODC visited Maungtau Region on 2 October, a visit arranged by the Union Government.

The Mro people were farmers living peacefully in the hilly region where their Kone Tine Village was located until ARSA terrorists burned the area. Now their home is barren and destroyed, and devoid of people.

The attack on their village happened, four days after ARSA's attack in the Maungtau Region on 25 August, and displaced the 247 villagers. About 500 terrorists armed with guns, blades and sticks raided the village, killing villagers and burning their homes.

"Most of the villagers were able to escape because the village sentry sounded the alarm on time," U Maung Hla said in a hoarse voice filled with sorrow. "The ones who couldn't flee in time were killed by the terrorists."

U Maung Hla said he will never forget the images of his



Ethnic people of Rakhine State recount their horrible experiences to diplomats.



Photos show the burnt-out villages of ethnic people. PHOTO- NAY LIN

villagers beaten and killed as the terrorists surrounded their village and cut off all ways to escape. Three elderly people, two men and a five year old boy were killed and seven people received

incised wounds.

The Kone Tine villagers say they fled towards the east of Mayu Mountain and arrived at Pansay Village (Mro ethnic residence) in Buthidaung Township around

8pm. They stayed in Pansay for twenty days and arrived in Laungdone Village (another Mro ethnic residence) in Maungtau Township on 17 September.

"There was no time to gather

our belongings when we had to run for our lives," said U Maung Hla. "We had to leave behind our livestock too and who knows what happened to our crops."

The main source of income for the Mro people living in Maungtau and Buthidaung is agriculture. A Mro villager said that to reach Maungtau City from their village it takes an hour by foot to reach the main road and then two hours by car to Maungtau. Their village is located far from any Rakhine village and is closer to Bengali villages thus prompting villagers to refuse to return to their homes unless they were given proper security.

The diplomats met with survivors and remaining family members of the terrorist attacks who told them their firsthand account of the incidents.

The terrorist attacks in August killed 84 people who were Hindu, Rakhine, Mro, Dainet, civil servants, security officers and civilians and 54 people are reportedly missing and there is a suspicion they were kidnapped by the terrorists. The fire had burned and twisted the scythes in the fields, there were pieces of broken pots and plates scattered across the area and villagers searching for what remained of their belongings. As we gazed at this scene, U Maung Hla said in a sorrowful tone, "I want the world to know that Kone Tine was burned and its villagers were attacked and killed." —Thi Thi Min, Min Thit (MNA)

The growing interest of Yangon's water bus

FROM PAGE-2

Ko Htun Naing Lin, the project manager of Tin Tin Myanmar Company, said they are careful of overloading on the water buses. "The passengers have to get off the buses at the end of the journey regardless of which bus stop they had got on from. We will not accept even one person over the passenger limit since this form of transport is conducted on water and not on land so we will not overload the water buses. There is also a plan to set up a bus stop near Pun Hlaing estate as well," said Ko Htun Naing Lin. He also said the Insein route will be expanded to Shwe Pyithar in the future.

Dr. Maung Aung, the Secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority, said the Botahtaung-Insein route is the

first of three planned routes and the other two will be from Nyaungdan to North Dagon and in Star City Thanlyin. The ticket price for the water buss is Ks300.

Tint Tit Myanmar won the tender bidding. Two companies competed for the tender, however the other one was found having no experience. Tint Tint Myanmar had experience with water. So, Tint Tint Myanmar was selected. "A set of strict regulation had been imposed. We had emphasized on the regulation as it was a business in the water, hence more risks naturally," said responsible person from the company.

"The disciplines set included no chewing betel quid, no smoking, sitting on the seat while driving, no standing allowed and people were requested to follow the

discipline" said Ko Tun Naing Lin.

Currently five water vehicles are used and more will be added depending on the increasing number of users.

"Local people of grass root level got jobs as the wharf for water bus was built in Insein. There were a lot of commuters when water bus started. Most people in this area are hand to mouth workers and so they want to sell something at the wharf. However the place is of international standard and we don't know what will happen. We have to watch the place all the time to make sure no body is invading the area and sell something. I like to suggest to allow the vendors, but in a systematic and disciplined way," commented an administrator of west strand ward Insein township.

"Previously I was working as sewer. But the income was not sufficient and started selling. It is not allowed for the time being and we are running here and there for selling foods. Water Bus system helps the people in commuting conveniently to their works. We wish a place just outside the wharf area are designated for us to sell," said Daw Mya Mya Khin of that area. The schedule of the departure and arrival time are pasted on board for the commuters to know the schedule. "My family come and take ride the Water Bus as today is holiday. It is inconvenient to wait to get the seat as there are many people waiting. It is better to run more water bus to be able to accommodate the commuters. It takes one hour from Kyimyindine to Insein. The YBS buses are packed with

passengers but water bus is convenient" explained U Nay Win Aung of Sangyaung.

Yangon Road Transport Authority (YRTA) take no charge from Tint Tint Myanmar Co. for the time being. It is learnt that the case will be coordinated later.

Dr Maung Aung said, "currently YRTA has not discussed about the income sharing as their investment is so huge and the fare 300 kt per person is also very cheap. The expanded service will depend on the increasing number of the passengers."

Over 6 million people are living in Yangon Region and most people have to rely on Bus cars. Yangon water bus system under the arrangement of Yangon Region Government is hoped to be the convenient service for the passengers. —Zaw Gyi (Pannita)

Kim Jong Un praises nuclear programme, promotes sister to centre of power

SEOUL — North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un said his nuclear weapons were a "powerful deterrent" that guaranteed its sovereignty, state media reported on Sunday, hours after US President Donald Trump said "only one thing will work" in dealing with the isolated country.

Trump did not make clear to what he was referring, but his comments seemed to be a further suggestion that military action was on his mind.

In a speech to a meeting of the powerful Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party on Saturday, a day before Trump's most recent comments, state media said Kim had addressed the "complicated international situation".

North Korea's nuclear weapons are a "powerful deterrent firmly safeguarding the peace and security in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia," Kim said, referring to the "protracted nuclear threats of the US imperialists." In recent weeks, North Korea has launched two missiles over Japan and conducted its sixth nuclear test, and may be fast advancing toward its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the US mainland.

North Korea is preparing to test-launch such a missile, a Russian lawmaker who had just



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during the Second Plenum of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 8 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

returned from a visit to Pyongyang was quoted as saying on Friday.

Donald Trump has previously said the United States would "totally destroy" North Korea if necessary to protect itself and its allies. The situation proved that North Korea's policy of "byung-jin", meaning the parallel development of nuclear weapons and the economy was "absolutely right", Kim Jong Un said in the speech. "The national economy has grown on their strength this year, despite the escalating sanctions," said Kim, referring to UN Security Council resolutions put in place to curb Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes.

The meeting also handled

some personnel changes inside North Korea's secretive and opaque ruling centre of power, state media said. Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo Jong, was made an alternate member of the politburo — the top decision-making body over which Kim Jong Un presides.

Alongside Kim Jong Un himself, the promotion makes Kim Yo Jong the only other millennial member of the influential body.

Her new position indicates the 28-year-old has become a replacement for Kim Jong Un's aunt, Kim Kyong Hui, who had been a key decision maker when former leader Kim Jong Il was alive.—Reuters ■

New Zealand parties hold talks to form coalition government

WELLINGTON — New Zealand's small nationalist party which holds the balance of power after an inconclusive election held talks on Sunday with Prime Minister Bill English and separately with the opposition Labour leader as both try to form a coalition government.

New Zealand First leader Winston Peters has said he would only make a decision on which party to back after the results of the 23 September election become official next Thursday. Peters remained tight-lipped after talks with the prime minister, saying the meeting was "fine", and later met Labour Party leader Jacinda Ardern.

"I can say that we've had an excellent, productive meeting," Ardern told reporters after coming out of the two-hour meeting.

"Negotiations will continue for Labour with the parties that we are looking to form a stable, durable, coalition government with." Ardern has brought Labour within reach of forming government since becoming party leader in August, with a Labour-Green bloc winning 54 seats, two seats short of the ruling National's 56.

New Zealand First holds

the nine seats needed to meet the 61 seat majority in parliament. A final vote count on Saturday showed National lost some ground to the Labour-Green bloc from a preliminary tally, even though it still held the largest number of seats in parliament. "It did pay to wait, didn't it?," Peters said, referring to the final vote count. Peters has previously served in both National and Labour governments. English said on Saturday that negotiations would now likely focus on the economy.

Both Labour and New Zealand First have said they want to curb immigration, renegotiate certain trade deals and adjust the role of the central bank albeit in different ways. Analysts expected the political uncertainty to have little impact on financial markets and the New Zealand dollar. "I think on Monday the market is going to be a little bit subdued because basically nothing has changed," said Stuart Ive, private client manager at OM Financial. "You could say that the policies are probably more aligned to a Labour-Green-NZ First partnership but a three-way coalition is a lot harder to manage than a two-way coalition."—Reuters ■



Winston Peters, leader of the New Zealand First Party, speaks during a media conference in Wellington, New Zealand, on 27 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Train trips surge on final day of the National Day holiday

BEIJING — China saw a significant increase in train travel on Sunday as millions of Chinese people traveled back from their vacation destinations on the final day of the National Day holiday to return to work and school.

An estimated 14 million passengers are expected to make train journeys on Sunday, according to the China Railway Corporation (CRC).

Railway authorities put an

extra 920 trains in service on Sunday to cope with the surging demand, said the CRC.

People in China have made about 105 million trips by railway since the holiday travel rush started on 28 September, the CRC said Saturday.

On Saturday, about 12.9 million trips were made, up 3.7 per cent year on year, making it the eighth day in a row with more than 10 million railway trips, said

the company.

Chinese railways set a new record in daily passenger traffic as more than 15 million trips were made on 1 October, or National Day, the first day of the eight-day holiday.

The National Day holiday has been extended to eight days this year to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Cake Festival, which fell on 4 October.—Xinhua ■

Philippine police to impose gun ban during ASEAN summit in November

MANILA — The Philippine police will impose a gun ban starting 1 November to 15 November as part of the security steps to ensure the safety of world leaders who will gather here for the

annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit, a news report said Saturday.

The 10 ASEAN leaders and their counterparts from seven ASEAN dialogue partners plus

thousands of delegates and journalists will attend or cover the summit. After the ASEAN leaders summit, the 10 Southeast Asian leaders will also meet leaders from Australia, China, India, Ja-

pan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States. Quoting national capital region police chief director Oscar Albayalde, the Philippine Star reported that police checkpoints will be set

up around the capital as part of the security measures. Albayalde said the police will continue to intensify its campaign to rid (Manila's) streets of criminals for the ASEAN summit.—Xinhua ■

Eleven injured in car crash near London museum, terrorism ruled out

LONDON — Eleven people were injured on Saturday when a car collided with pedestrians near London's Natural History Museum, in one of the capital's busiest tourist areas, but police doused concerns it was a terrorist attack, saying it was a road traffic incident.

Police said it was believed the car had mounted the pavement outside the popular attraction in west London and collided with a number of pedestrians.

Officers had arrested a man aged in his 40s at the scene and he was now being questioned on suspicion of dangerous driving after being taken to hospital for treatment.

Britain has suffered five attacks blamed on terrorism so far this year, three of which involved vehicles, and the incident in an area packed with tourists at the weekend had prompted concerns that the collision had been a deliberate act.

"The incident is entirely a road traffic investigation and is not a terrorist-related incident," a police statement said.

London's ambulance service said they had treated 11



Police officers stand in the road near the Natural History Museum, after a car mounted the pavement injuring a number of pedestrians, police said, in London, Britain, on 7 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

people, mostly for head and leg injuries, with nine taken to hospital. Police said none of the injuries were life-threatening or life-changing and the majority of those hospitalized had now been discharged.

Unverified footage from the scene showed a man being pinned to the ground near a

crashed black Toyota car.

Oliver Cheshire, a model who is the fiancé of British pop singer Pixie Lott, told the Daily Mail newspaper he was one of those who had helped detain the man. He said three female passengers in the car told him it was a private-hire taxi.

"He was driving down the

pavement and hit 11 to 12 people. Then the guy was screaming," he told the paper. "He looked at me and I was really in shock. I got out of my car and grabbed him — three of us grabbed him — and someone phoned the police."

Cheshire later wrote on Twitter: "Thanks for messaging

everybody. I'm ok. Thank you to the men who helped me pin him down and the police for coming so quickly."

Neither police nor Transport for London, which runs most of the city's transport system, would comment on the status of the vehicle.

"My thanks to the first responders at this incident this afternoon and the actions of members of the public. My thoughts are with the injured," Prime Minister Theresa May said on Twitter.

Britain is on its second highest security alert level, meaning an attack by militants is considered highly likely.

In March, a man drove a car into pedestrians on London's Westminster Bridge killing four before stabbing a police officer to death in the grounds of parliament. Three Islamist militants drove into people on London Bridge in June before stabbing people at nearby restaurants and bars, killing eight. The same month, a van was driven into worshippers near a mosque in north London which left one man dead.—Reuters ■

New US helicopters mark major change for Afghan air force

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan) — Senior Afghan and American officials welcomed the arrival of new US-made military helicopters on Saturday, beginning a process that will radically transform the young Afghan air force. While the plan for new UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters has been in the works for some time, it forms a major part of the US-led military coalition's training efforts, which were expanded under proposals approved by President Donald Trump in August.

"It's a modernization of their program that will allow them to project power throughout Afghanistan," said Lieutenant Colonel Trent Alexander, a US military adviser to the Afghan air force.

"While transitioning to the Black Hawk will not be a quick task, it will not be a difficult task."

At a ceremony at Kandahar



A Blackhawk helicopter flies above a parked A-29 Super Tucano aircraft, during a handover ceremony of Blackhawk helicopters from US to the Afghan forces, at the Kandahar Air base, Afghanistan, on 7 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Airfield in southern Afghanistan, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani formally accepted the first new helicopters, calling it a "historic day" that would allow the air force to better respond to the demands on the security forces.

The Russian-designed Mi-17 helicopters that currently form

the backbone of the Afghan air force worked well for crews used to Russian equipment, but deteriorating relations between Moscow and Washington meant that the Americans were unable to provide new parts and aircraft to replace the overworked aircraft.—Reuters ■

Pence offers solace as Las Vegas police puzzle over shooter's motive

LAS VEGAS — US Vice President Mike Pence visited Las Vegas on Saturday stressing unity and offering solace as police appealed to the public for help in uncovering a wealthy retiree's motive for massacring 58 people at an outdoor concert this week.

"We are united in our grief, in our support for those who have suffered and united in our resolve to end such evil in our time," Pence said, joining Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman and other local leaders at a City Hall commemoration for victims of the shooting.

Participants trod seven miles (11 km) along four separate paths to the event amid tight security.

President Donald Trump

paid a visit to Las Vegas earlier in the week.

Las Vegas' Democratic Congresswoman Dina Titus was the only speaker who touched on the subject of gun violence and politics, saying, "Let us also pray for those who have power that they will have the wisdom, the courage, and the resolve to find ways to end the gun violence that plagues our nation."

The commemoration came as Clark County Under-sheriff Kevin McMahon said investigators remain largely in the dark about what drove retired real estate investor and high-stakes gambler Stephen Paddock to carry out the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.—Reuters ■

Solar cars begin 3,000 km journey through centre of Australia

DARWIN (Australia) — Four Japanese teams were among 38 solar cars that set out Sunday from the northern Australian city of Darwin on a 3,000-kilometer endurance race through the center of continent.

Teams from 19 countries and regions have entered this year's World Solar Challenge, vying to be first across the finish line in the southern city of Adelaide.

They departed Darwin in order of their performance in time trials held Saturday, with Nagoya Institute of Technology's car, "Horizon 17," the second to take off behind Belgian entrant "Punch Two."

Nagoya Institute of Technology team director Hiroki Tanaka told Kyodo News they have made a variety of design changes to this year's racer and hope to improve on their previous performance in 2015, when they placed 16th.

"Compared to our previous



A Nagoya Institute of Technology team's solar car stands at the start in Darwin on 8 October 2017 of the World Solar Challenge, a 3,000-kilometer endurance race through Australia. The institute and three other Japanese teams were among 38 solar car developers that entered the race to Adelaide. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

cars, we've taken aerodynamics and energy loss into consideration (this year), and I really believe we can do well," 20-year-old Tanaka said.

The second Japanese team

to depart Darwin was Tokai University's "Tokai Challenger" car. The Tokyo-area university is one of this year's favorites, having won the World Solar Challenge in 2009 and 2011. Team general

manager Hideki Kimura showed Kyodo News the communication satellite imagery they will be using to track the car, as well as weather patterns, in real time in order to predict conditions for the race. "We can see that towards Alice Springs (in central Australia) there is a lot of cloud cover," Kimura, a 53-year-old professor, said, suggesting the team may have to change their plans to accommodate suboptimal conditions. World Solar Challenge event director Chris Selwood said the number of considerations each team must take into account make for a challenging competition.

"Race' is such a nasty, short word for something so complex," Selwood, 69, told Kyodo News.

"Strategy is key because the main goal for teams is to manage their energy efficiency...I don't expect more than 10-15 percent of teams to finish the challenge

on their own power."

Now in its 30th year, the World Solar Challenge has become one of the world's leading trials for innovations in solar technology, with talent scouts from companies like Tesla Inc. and Google Inc. and organizations like the National Aeronautics and Space Administration keeping a close eye on teams. One design that is sure to catch the attention of onlookers is that of Tokyo-based Kogakuin University's car "Wing."

The team's director Hiroto Hamane, a 44-year-old associate professor, told Kyodo News the car's unusual design has been inspired by nature, with the shape of the specially-designed, curved solar panels mimicking the flow of air as it passes over the vehicle.

"With this car, we can actually say 'we didn't design this, nature designed this'," Hamane said.—Kyodo News ■

Gas trucks boom in China as government curbs diesel in war on smog

YUTIAN (China) — On a recent morning in Yutian, a dusty town bisected by the highway that connects Beijing to the sea, Su Meiquan strolled into a dealership packed with hulking trucks and prepared to drive off with a brand new rig.

After years of driving a diesel truck for a trucking company, he had decided to buy his own vehicle — a bright red rig fueled with liquefied natural gas, capable of hauling as much as 40 tonnes of loads like steel or slabs of marble.

Su hopes the LNG truck — less polluting and cheaper to

operate than diesel ones — will be the cornerstone of his own business, plying the route to the western fringes of China.

"Everybody says gas is cleaner with nearly no emissions," he said after signing a stack of paperwork in the dealer's office. In front of him, photos of proud drivers posing in front of their own new LNG trucks had been taped to the wall.

Sales of large LNG trucks are expected to hit record levels in China this year as the government steps up an anti-pollution campaign that includes curbs

on heavy-duty diesel vehicles.

LNG trucks account for about four percent of the more than six million heavy vehicles able to haul 40 to 49 tonnes of goods that are currently on China's roads. The vast majority of the 43 billion tonnes of freight transported across China last year was by highway.

But demand for LNG trucks is soaring as companies and manufacturers shift to vehicles that run on the gas that Beijing sees as a key part of its war against smog. Sales of LNG heavy trucks surged 540 percent to nearly 39,000 in the first seven months of the year, according to Cassie Liu, a truck analyst with the IHS Markit consultancy.

That was partly fueled by a ban this year on the use of diesel trucks to transport coal at northern ports in provinces like Hebei and Shandong, and in the city of Tianjin.

"We are seeing a blowout in LNG trucks this year, thanks to the government's policy push," said Mu Lei, marketing manager for China National Heavy Duty Truck Group [CNHTC. UL], known as Sinotruk, the country's largest manufacturer of heavy-duty trucks. —Reuters ■



Pictures show customers with their new liquefied natural gas (LNG) trucks at a heavy-duty truck shop in Yutian county, China's Hebei province on 29 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Hurricane Nate floods streets as it slams US Gulf Coast

NEW ORLEANS — Hurricane Nate slammed into the Mississippi coast on Sunday with destructive winds and torrential rains that flooded streets and highways throughout the region as the fast-moving Category 1 storm made landfall.

The fourth major storm to strike the United States in less than two months, Nate killed at least 30 people in Central America before entering the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and bearing down on the U.S. South. It has also shut down most oil and gas production in the Gulf.

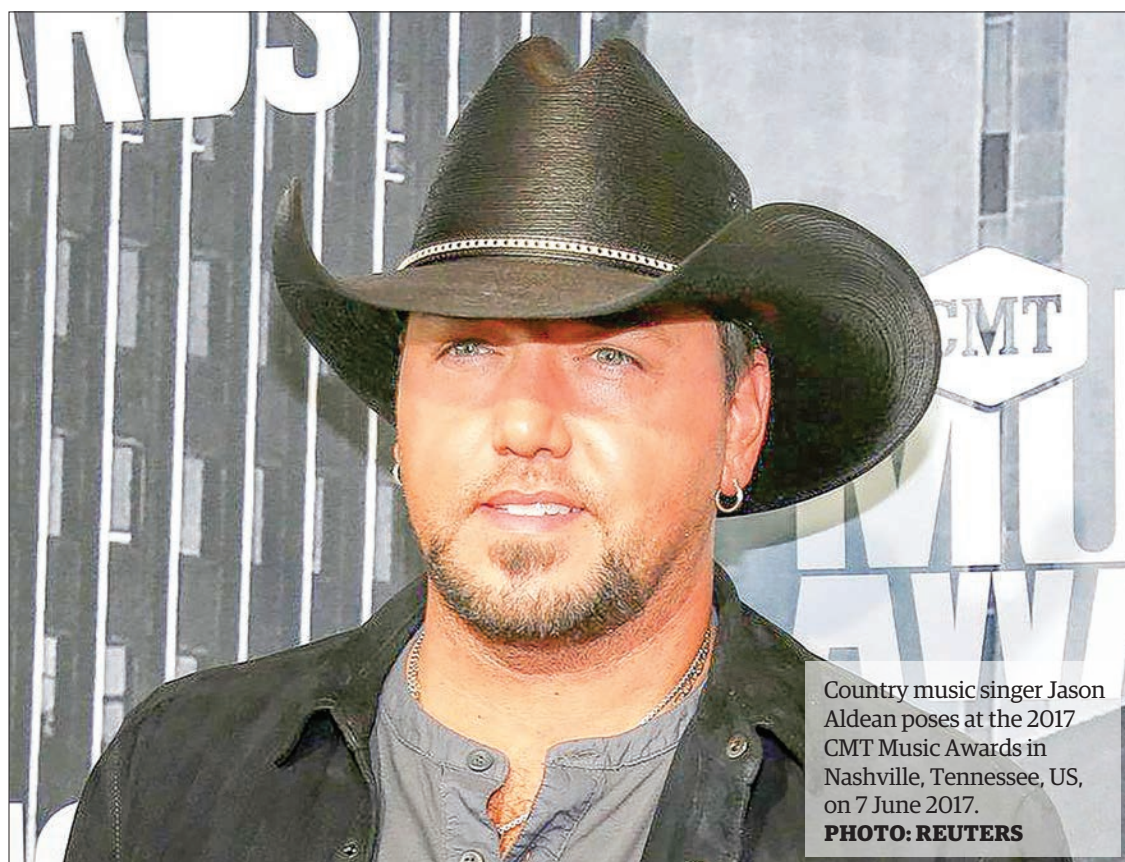
Nate comes on the heels of three other major storms, Harvey, Irma and Maria, which devastated Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, respectively. However, with winds of 85 miles per hour (135 km per hour), which make it a Category 1 storm, the weakest in the five-category ranking used by meteorologists, Nate appeared to lack the devastating punch of its predecessors.

"The only thing you can do is prepare," said Gulfport, Mississippi, resident Emmett Bryant. "Here there's nothing really you can do when the storm comes unless you're going to leave. And I don't plan on leaving."

Hurricane Nate is expected to weaken as it moves further inland on Sunday and is likely to become a tropical storm later in the day. The storm's centre will move inland over Mississippi and across the deep south, Tennessee Valley and Central Appalachian Mountains through Monday, the National Hurricane Center said. Before then storm surges of up to 11 feet (3.4 m) on the Mississippi-Alabama border were possible, the NHC said.

Nate made its initial landfall near the mouth of the Mississippi river on Saturday evening and then made a second landfall early on Sunday near Biloxi, Mississippi, where its 46,000 residents were warned that the highest storm surge could reach 11 to 12 feet.

The storm surge brought flood waters over Highway 90 and up to oceanside casinos in Biloxi, while flood waters swept over streets in communities across Mississippi and Alabama, according to reports on social media. "We have a restaurant and one of our main bars open so they have been ok so far," said Chett Harrison, the general manager at the Golden Nugget hotel and casino in Biloxi where 300 guests were hunkered down. —Reuters ■



Country music singer Jason Aldean poses at the 2017 CMT Music Awards in Nashville, Tennessee, US, on 7 June 2017.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Jason Aldean opens 'Saturday Night Live' with tribute to Las Vegas victims

NEW YORK — Jason Aldean, who was performing on stage when a gunman fired down on a Las Vegas concert killing 58 people, made a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live," paying tribute to the victims of the worst-ever US mass shooting with a song by the late Tom Petty.

"Like everyone, I'm struggling to understand what happened that night, and how to pick up the pieces and start to heal," Aldean said as he opened the late-night comedy sketch show.

"So many people are hurting," Aldean said in his first public performance since the

shootings nearly a week ago at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival.

"They're all part of our family. So I want to say to them, we hurt for you, and we hurt with you," he said before performing Petty's "I Won't Back Down." The 66-year-old rock star died on Monday, the day after the Las Vegas shootings in which some 500 people were injured.

Earlier this week Aldean cancelled three shows to honour the victims of the shooting. The "They Don't Know Tour" will resume in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on 12 October.—Reuters ■

Weinstein on indefinite leave as company investigates allegations

LOS ANGELES — Co-chairman Harvey Weinstein was taking an indefinite leave from the Weinstein Co, the film production company said on Friday, adding it will conduct an internal investigation into the New York Times' report of sexual harassment allegations against one of the most powerful men in Hollywood.

The Weinstein Company board of representatives said in a statement that it takes "extremely seriously" the accusations made in the Times story that said Weinstein had made eight settlements with women who had accused him of unwanted physical contact and sexual harassment over three decades.

Meanwhile, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and several Democratic politicians including Senators Kamala Harris, Cory Booker and Chuck Schumer said Friday they will re-route Weinstein's political donations to women's rights groups.

Weinstein Co board repre-



Producer Harvey Weinstein speaks at the ceremony for the unveiling of the star for Italian composer Ennio Morricone on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California in 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

sentatives called it "essential" to company culture "that all women who work for it or have any dealings with it or any of our executives are treated with respect and have no experience of harassment or discrimination."

The company said it has retained an outside legal firm to conduct an independent investigation into the allegations.

Weinstein, 65, will take an indefinite leave of absence, the company said. His brother Bob, a co-chairman, and chief operating officer David Glasser will lead the company.

"As Harvey has said, it is important for him to get professional help for the problems he has acknowledged. Next steps will depend on Harvey's ther-

apeutic progress, the outcome of the Board's independent investigation, and Harvey's own personal decisions," the board representatives added.

Weinstein initially responded to the Times story on Thursday by apologising for causing anyone pain, and saying he was taking a leave of absence.

His lawyer later threatened to sue the New York Times.

Weinstein, one of Hollywood's best-known figures, has produced or distributed Oscar-winning movies including "Shakespeare in Love" and "Chicago." He was a prominent donor to Democrats during the 2016 general election campaign.

"The DNC will donate over \$30,000 in contributions from Weinstein to EMILY's List, Emerge America and Higher Heights because what we need is more women in power," DNC communications director Xochitl Hinojosa said in a statement.—Reuters ■

APEC Film Week to open in Viet Nam

HANOI — APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Film Week will take place on Oct. 11-16 in Viet Nam's Hanoi capital and on 12-16 October in central Da Nang city.

Nine feature films and two documentaries made by 11 APEC member economies, including China, China's Taiwan, Viet Nam, Peru, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Russia, the United States, Chile and Australia, will be screened in the week, the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism said on Saturday. The biggest event of APEC Year 2017 themed "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future" is the APEC Leaders' Week slated for 6-11 November in Da Nang.—Xinhua ■

Ben Stiller advises to laugh when 'things are bad'

LONDON — Actor Ben Stiller believes it is important to laugh when things are not going good. The 51-year-old actor says people should use their experiences to stay strong, according to Fem-

lefirst. "You laugh! When real life stuff happens to you, that's really not good, then it gives you some perspective. Real life stuff. That's when you go, 'Oh actually that's bad.' "The movie not doing great,

well, it's not great - but this person's gone or you have cancer or whatever. These are scary things that do give you perspective," says Stiller.

Stiller believes humour is

necessary and everyone should use it to help them "navigate this crazy life".

"Humour is necessary in life for everybody to get through. I'm not talking about professional hu-

mour; just how we all as human beings figure out how to navigate this crazy life that we all are living that we don't understand really, ultimately. For me, that helps me get through it.—PTI ■

Ks50 million to be spend to hold 12th PyinOoLwin flower festival



PHOTO: GNLM

THE 12th anniversary of Pyin Oo Lwin flower festival is due to take place in December, with festival organisers planning to display more than 30 species, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

U Kyaw Lin Htoo, manager of Pyin Oo Lwin National Kandawgyi Garden, said the organising body targets to spend more than 50 million kyats to hold this year's flower festival, planning to use nearly 150,000 colourful flowers.

During the annual festival, the garden will be decorated with a wide variety of local flower species, imported foreign

flower species and artificial flowers.

Musical concert and market festivals will also be held during the festival period.

The organizers are expected that the number of visitors to the flower festival at the gardens is likely to increase this year than previous years.

Arrangements are being made for public safety during the festival, according to the organisers.

The 437-acre Pyin Oo Lwin National Kandawgyi Garden is lease out of Htoo Company under a long-term contract since 2008. — GNLM ■

Interesting and lovely tradition of placing the big grinding stone slab at the pagodas in Sagaing in order to gain merit

There were thousands of pilgrims visiting to Mandalay and Sagaing this year as people got a long Thadingyut holidays. Sagaing, Mingun, Amarapura were the favourite spots for the holiday pilgrims. Swan-U Ponnaya Shin pagoda, U Min Thonse, Shin Phyu Shin Hla Pagoda, Kaunghmudaw are much frequented places of sagaing.

People used to visit Sagaing pagodas in day time and Jade pagoda in the late afternoon and evening. Pilgrims usually buy Thanakha (a kind of wood, bark of which is used for cosmetics

to protect the skin from sunlight and to give fragrance) and grinding stone usually in circular shape (locally called as Kyaukpyin) from Sagaing for use at home and for giving other as gift.

The grinding stones are produced from mini size (toys) to large one. The fine-grained sandstone occurred at Kyauka village are used in producing the grinding stones. The making of a grinding stone slabs is actually a sort of stone carving.

Large grinding stones and sometimes looking glass are placed in Sagaing pagodas to be

used by visitors free of charge. So also at Jade Pagoda the large grinding stone slab and large looking glass are placed for the users. Thanakhas are also donated for the whole year to be used by visitors. Some pilgrims in group are merrily grinding Thanakha and smearing on the face.

Nowadays, lovely tradition of donating Thanakha and Kyaukpyin (grinding circular stone slab) in many of the pagodas in Sagaing appears to the delight of the pilgrims. —Tain Ta Man ■



Pilgrims using a large grindstone to make thanakha.

PHOTO: TAIN TA MAN

Natural areas to be established in states, region

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is planning to set up natural areas in Sagaing Region as well as Kayah and Mon states, according to a report of the Myawady Daily's Sunday edition.

Arrangements have been made by relevant authorities to set up natural areas on 224,861 acres of land, including 53,760 acres in Zalontaung National Park in Sagaing Region, 57,775 acres in Panthetaung National Park in Kayah State and 113,326 acres in Mon State.

There are seven kinds of

natural areas in the country, comprising forest reserve, national park and wildlife sanctuary. About 30 wildlife sanctuaries have been established by the government in regions and states.

The well-known national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in states and regions are Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park and Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary in Sagaing Region, Hlawga National Park in Yangon Region, Lampi Island Marine National Park in Mergui Archipelago, Loimwe National Park and Inlay Lake Wetland

Sanctuary in Shan State, Mt Victoria National Park in Chin State and Popa Mountain National Park in Mandalay Region.

The country's famous natural areas only in Kachin State include a wildlife Sanctuary near Pitaung area, Khakaborazi National Park in Naungmon Township and Phonkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary in PutaO, the northernmost town of the state, Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in Mohnyin Township, Bumhpbum Wildlife Sanctuary in Sonparabon and Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Tanai Township. —GNLM ■

Night market along Yangon's 52nd Street this month

EFFORTS have been made to open a night market along 52nd Street in Pazundaung Township in downtown Yangon within this month, said the township's MP U Tint Lwin.

With the aim of reducing traffic congestions and public interest, authorities are arranging to open stalls in a night market.

Authorities are facing a delay on opening the night market due to taxation problem between donor of big-sized umbrellas for shops and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) which

is still at the negotiation stage.

Currently, the exact date to launch the night market has not yet been set, with the city authorities planning to open it only after negotiations. The new night market will have approximately 130 stalls. Selected vendors selling products along the downtown streets including Anawrahta Road, Maha Bandoola Road, Botahtaung Pagoda Road and Bo Myat Tun Road will be moved to the new night market, which will be opened between 6 am and 11 pm daily. —GNLM ■

Myanmar lethwei advanced coaching course launched in Yangon

With the aim of emerging qualified Myanmar lethwei (a traditional boxing) coaches, Myanmar lethwei advanced coaching course no. (1/2017) was conducted started from 18 September to 7 October in Yangon.

A total of 32 lethwei coaches from different lethwei clubs across Myanmar attended.

During the course, the attendees were trained by well-known Myanmar lethwei teachers; Myanmar traditional boxing federation CEO U Maung Win, Dr U Ye Tint Lwin, Sayagyi U

Dawn Nhi, Sayagyi Yangon Aung Dhin, Sayar U Ye Htut Tin and Sayagyi Naung Lone Phyan.

Special lethwei lessons about Myanmar lethwei rules and laws, physical fitness training methods, head hitting and head attacking methods, pulling and grabbing methods, systematic kneel hitting and kicking methods in lethwei were shown by the teachers at the course. The course conclusion ceremony was also celebrated yesterday according to Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Hamilton shows Verstappen that he's still the man

SUZUKA, (Japan) — Lewis Hamilton showed the young pretender who was boss on Sunday by fending off Max Verstappen in the closing laps of the Japanese Grand Prix.

The Formula One championship leader, whose Ferrari rival Sebastian Vettel retired with an engine issue on the fourth lap, had enjoyed a straightforward Sunday afternoon from pole position.

But just when the 32-year-old seemed set for a trouble-free run to the 61st win of his career, his pace suddenly dropped and he complained of tyre vibrations following a period under a virtual safety car.

For a moment it seemed as if Verstappen, the Dutch driver who turned 20 last week and won for Red Bull in Malaysia a day later, would steal an unlikely second successive win.—Reuters ■



Myanmar and Thai players vying for the ball at yesterday's friendly match. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar beat Thai club 3-1 in friendly futsal

Myanmar national futsal team played a friendly against Thai futsal club Kasen Bundit yesterday in Thailand.

Myanmar won the Thai club Kasem Bundit by a score of 3-1.

The result showed Myanmar's best efforts along the

match and the goals were scored by Myanmar star players Kaung Chit Thu, Kyaw Soe Moe and Kyaw Kyaw Tun.

Myanmar team stayed in Thailand recently and played a total of four friendly matches with an effort to grab success in 2017 AFF futsal championship that will be hosted by Ho Chi

Minh City in Vietnam from 24 October to 3 November. In all friendlies, Myanmar won two matches and lost other two. Myanmar is grouped in Group A together with host Vietnam, Brunei, the Philippines and Indonesia in the upcoming 2017 AFF futsal championship.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Dominant Nadal thrashes Kyrgios to win China Open title

BEIJING — World number one Rafael Nadal produced a ruthless performance to win his 75th singles title, beating Australian Nick Kyrgios 6-2, 6-1 in the China Open final on Sunday.

The Spaniard, appearing in the 110th final of his career, cruised to his first China Open title since 2005 as eighth-seeded Kyrgios was hindered by his own inconsistency and rarely troubled the top seed.

World number 19 Kyrgios, who was looking for his first title of the year, held his opening two service games, but faded as Nadal broke twice to grab the first set.

The 31-year-old almost shut out Kyrgios in the second set and took a 5-0 lead before the Australian won his solitary game to slightly delay the inevitable as Nadal sauntered to his 12th consecutive win.

The victory marks the first time since 2013 that Nadal has won at least six titles in a year and puts him ahead of Roger Federer and Alexander Zverev, who have both won five each this season.

The loss dented Kyrgios's chances of making it to the season-ending ATP finals as he stands 20th in the Race to London standings.—Reuters ■



Caroline Garcia.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Garcia pulls off Halep upset to win China Open final

BEIJING — Unseeded Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia won the biggest singles title of her career with a 6-4, 7-6(3) victory over soon-to-be world number one Simona Halep in the China Open final in Beijing on Sunday.

Garcia extended her winning streak to 11 matches and added to her Wuhan Open triumph last week. The current world number 15 will climb to ninth in the rankings on Monday, marking her Top 10 debut.

Halep, who will take over as number one in the next rankings, broke Garcia's serve in the first game of the match but the 23-year-old hit back immediately, breaking the Romanian twice to

win the first set.

With the score tied at 3-3 in the second set, Garcia saved nine consecutive break points in the seventh game, before taking a 4-3 lead but Halep recovered to force a tiebreak.

The Frenchwoman became the first to complete the Wuhan and Beijing double and is now on track to qualify for the season-ending WTA finals, as her win took her past Briton Johanna Konta to number eight in the Race to Singapore rankings.

Halep's record at finals this year is underwhelming, with the 26-year-old winning just one of her five finals so far - the Madrid Open in May.—Reuters ■