National Security Advisor explains the Government’s short and long-term plans for the development of Rakhine State

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At the invitation of the co-host, former UN Secretary-General and Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State Dr. Kofi Annan briefed the meeting on the situation in the Rakhine State. Representatives of the members states of the Security Council, UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA, regional organizations, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, OIC and EU participated in the meeting.

At the meeting, U Thaung Tun, Special Envoy of the State Counsellor and National Security Advisor of Myanmar, briefed the meeting that recommendations of the Advisory Commission are based on widely consulted, thorough research; the recommendations provide us with a viable roadmap to lasting peace and development in Rakhine State; Mr. Kofi Annan’s today briefing stands in stark contrast to the less than objective statements that we have repeatedly heard; short and long-term plans have been established for repatriation and provision of humanitarian assistance, resettlement and rehabilitation of all displaced communities, and socio-economic development with the collaboration of the international community.

Full text of statement (English + Myanmar) of NSA U Thaung Tun, was placed separately.

SEE PAGE-3

Rebuilding houses in Maungtaw

Department of Development of Border Areas and National Races has been constructing houses for ethnic nationals in Maungtaw region and there are plans for more construction it is learnt.

“For now all houses of entire Khonedine Village numbering 47 that was burnt during the terrorist events of 25 August will be rebuilt in a more safe and secure site. Stakes will be driven on 16 October. Approval has been given to rebuild 50 houses in Nanyakaing Village and 50 houses in Ziton Village, Buthidaung Township during this year and lands were already allocated for it” said U Khin Maung Htwe of Department of Development of Border Areas and National Races.

SEE PAGE-9

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SEE PAGE-9
People holds rally in support of State Counsellor’s leadership

A group of people held a rally in downtown Yangon yesterday in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s handling Rakhine issue and in protest against the terrorists attacks in northern Rakhine.

“We conducted this rally to show our support to our government and the Tatmadaw for their security measures taken in the northern Rakhine State to provide security to civilians,” said U Aung Myaing, a writer, who led the rally.

During the rally, the people sang the national anthem and observed one minute silence praying for those who were killed by ARSA terrorists in northern Rakhine.

“No terrorist attack should not be occurred in Myanmar. We are very sorry for the ethnic people and Hindus who were brutally killed by ARSA extremist terrorists,” said Comedian U Htet Htet.

The people, holding the portraits of Indian Prime Minister Mr Modi, Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, expressing their thanks to the leaders for their support to Myanmar.

Rallies in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were held nationwide.—Zaw Gyi (Panita)

Mon State High Court to get new building

A foundation laying ceremony for the Mon State High Court building was held at the construction site of the building on 14 October on State High Court Road, Mandalay Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State and was attended by Chief Justice of the Union U Hunn Hunn Oo.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said the event shows the mutual understanding, trust, firm cooperation and unity among countries in the ASEAN region.

Red Cross movement was started in the first week of September in order to provide relief fairly and equally to people in need. ASEAN countries are believed to stand together and help resolve any difficulties faced by any member country as a single family and this event proves it said the Union Minister.

The value of the day’s assistance is more than US$ 400,000 and the government of Japan is also thanked for Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) participating in the assistance.

The humanitarian aid will be distributed without discrimination to all those who are in need in Rakhine State and this assistance show unity of the ASEAN countries unity and being a good friend indicating the ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE concept added the Union Minister.

The humanitarian assistance provided by AHA Centre at the event includes 580 family size tents, 1,200 cartons of family appliances, 6,000 cartons of personal hygiene accessories, 1,200 cartons of kitchen utensils, two 16KVA generators, a set of electricity distribution implement, two 5KVA and related items.

The ceremony was attended by ambassadors from Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Philippines, Laos and Britain, representatives from embassies of Thailand, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Viet Nam and European Union, AHA Centre Executive Director, invited guests and officials. — Myanmar News Agency

Mon State Chief Judge, Kayin State Chief Judge, Mon State Minister for Municipal Affairs and Construction and Mon State constituency 2 Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Nwe Nwe Aung drove the ceremonial stakes into the ground and sprinkled scented water at the site.

Chief Justice of the Union U Hunn Hunn Oo also participated in the ceremonial stake driving, according to tradition.

The State High Court building is a three-storey reinforced concrete building that measures 240-feet in length and 240-feet in width, built on a five-acre plot of land. The courthouse will be constructed by Ministry of Construction, Building Department, Construction 3, Special Group 13, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

SWRR Minister accepts assistance from AHA Centre

ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) handed over aid for people in Rakhine State to the authorities.

The ceremony was held at Natural Disaster Management Centre (Yangon) yesterday morning where.

At the ceremony, AHA Centre Executive Director Ms. Adelina Kamal explained about the reason for donating the assistance.

Next, in his speech at the event, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said the event shows the mutual understanding, trust, firm cooperation and unity among countries in the ASEAN region.

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Statement by His Excellency U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor to the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the ARRIA Formula Meeting of the Security Council on the Situation in Myanmar Co-hosted by France and the United Kingdom

(13 October 2017)

Mr. President,

I would like to join other speakers in thanking H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan for his comprehensive briefing.

Over the past 12 months, he has worked tirelessly to try to cut the Gordian knot in Rakhine State. He and members of his commission have consulted widely with all stake-holders in the country, the region and beyond to find the best path to sustainable peace and development in the state.

Mr. Annan’s briefing today is based on firsthand information and thorough research. It stands in stark contrast to the less than objective statements that we have repeatedly heard.

It reflects his deep insight on the complex and challenging situation of Rakhine, the reason why it has become the subject of international focus, and the most constructive way to move forward.

The challenges that Myanmar faces are legion. They have been further complicated by recent events.

As underlined by Mr. Annan, these challenges cannot be overcome overnight and by Myanmar alone. Myanmar’s efforts must be buttressed by understanding and support of the international community.

The government of Myanmar firmly believes that the recommendations of the Commission provide us with a viable roadmap to lasting peace in Rakhine. We have embraced the final report of the Commission.

A Ministerial-level committee has been set up to ensure that the recommendations are implemented expeditiously.

The government has identified three main tasks to be undertaken promptly:

1. Repatriation and provision of humanitarian assistance to returnees;
2. Resettlement and rehabilitation of all displaced communities; and
3. Establishment of sustainable peace, stability and development in Rakhine State.

A new mechanism, the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine, chaired by the State Counsellor herself, has been established.

It is a partnership among the government, people, private sector, local non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, development partners, UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations.

The work program will begin on 15 October.

Here, I can do no better than to reiterate what the State Counsellor stressed yesterday. We will answer the call of the international community with deeds and actions rather than words.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, I would like to assure the concerns expressed by the members of Security Council when we last met.

First, with regard to violence, I would like to reaffirm that violence has subsided in northern Rakhine and operations by security forces have ceased since 5 September.

In light of the improved security situation, the diplomatic corps in Yangon accompanied by the media were able to visit the affected areas in Northern Rakhine on 2 October. Subsequently, a delegation of Myanmar Ministers and diplomats from five neighboring countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Thailand, visited the border areas between Myanmar and Bangladesh on 10 October.

Second, humanitarian assistance is being provided to all affected communities without discrimination. Myanmar government is partnering the Red Cross Movement to distribute the aid. With the participation of WFP, FAO, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management and private donors, more aid is expected to flow to the displaced communities in the coming days.

Third, bilateral talks between Myanmar and Bangladesh regarding repatriation have been initiated. The Minister for the State Counsellor’s Office visited Dhaka from 1 to 3 October. Both sides have agreed to form a Joint Working Group on repatriation process. The Foreign Minister and Home Minister of Bangladesh have been invited to Nay Pyi Taw to continue the dialogue.

Fourth, Myanmar shares the view of the international community that the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine provide a viable road map.

Fifth, with regard to accountability, let me reaffirm that we stand for the rule of law. No one is above the law. Where there is clear evidence, those who breach the law will be brought to justice.

Mr. President,

The government of Myanmar has been accused of indifference to the plight of the people in Rakhine.

Far from ignoring the situation, the government has made it a priority to find a sustainable solution to problems which have existed for decades. We feel deeply for the suffering and plight of the innocents who have been displaced from their homes.

While we all feel sympathy for those who have had to flee their homes and seek shelter elsewhere, we cannot ignore the fact that there are different narratives on what transpired in northern Rakhine State. We must winnow “the wheat from the chaff.”

Myanmar is committed to finding a way forward in Rakhine and in the rest of the country. As a fledgling democracy, we are aware that the road ahead will be long. We are resolved to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

Thank you.

National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun.

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National Security Advisor explains the Government’s short and long-term plans for the development of Rakhine State

FROM PAGE 1

Arria-Formula is named after Ambassador Diego Arria, Permanent Representative of Venezuela, who, as the representative of Venezuela on the Council (1992-1993), initiated the practice in 1992. The “Arria-formula meetings” are very informal, confidential gatherings which enable Security Council members to have a frank and private exchange of views with persons from invited UN member states, organizations and individuals. No media is invited. No meeting record is taken.
Over 400,000 foreign day-trippers visit Myanmar via Tachilek border this year

THE number of day-trippers who entered Myanmar from Tachilek border between April and second week of October exceeded 400,000, according to the official figures released by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Those holidaymakers visited the town’s famous destinations for same day return visit and overnight trip. Popular destinations cover Kalaw Market, Mahamamatu Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, National Races village and Chinese temples. Between 29 September and 12 October, 292 international visitors comprising 178 day-trippers entered the country through Tachilek cross-border point. Most of the foreign travellers are from Thailand.

International visitors continue to enter the country from all points of entries to enjoy beautiful landscapes and natural scenic views of the country along the mountain ranges, archeological and historical sites as well as to observe a diverse range of customs, traditions and lifestyle of ethnic people.

To enhance the country’s tourism industry, the Hotels and Tourism Ministry is cooperating with the related ministries, tourism organization and non-govern mental organizations, implementing community-based tourism, eco-tourism, marine tourism, etc. The ministry is also promoting cross-border trip plans as a popular trend.—Khine Khant

State authorities target to spend Ks5 bn on building ponds in Falam Township

CHIN State Development Committee said a plan to build four ponds which will have a mass storage capacity of 100,000 gallons in Falam Township, spending Ks5 billion on this project. The new plan mainly aims to distribute sufficient amount of drinking water to town dwellers.

The Ks5 bn development project will also cover the construction of pipe lines between the town and Laiva Dam which is located about 22 miles from the town. The director of the committee said efforts have been made to finalise the current water supply project for Hakha Town at the end of this month.

There are more than 16,000 people residing in four wards in Falam Town. Town dwellers obtain drinking water from 12 natural springs. One of residents said that the town faces shortage of drinking water in summer after the natural disaster happened in 2015.—Chin

Nobody killed in head-on crash on Thandwe-Ngapali road

NO one was killed in a head-on collision between a car and motorcycle on Thandwe-Ngapali road on Friday morning, according to a police report.

In this case, a Toyota Hi lux driven by Htet Thu, 22, en route to Ngapali collided with a motorbike without a liability plate driven by U Aung Si Hein, 41, when the latter entered the wrong side of the road at about 9 am.

The crash happened near a bridge in the middle of Naungchaung Village in Thandwe Township, leaving the motorcyclist with minor injuries and damaging the front side of the car.

Action has been taken against the reckless motorcyclist under existing laws.—District IPRD

Lower-cost housing project for squatters

A lower-cost housing project will be implemented on a 500-acre plot of land in Twayant Township for squatters, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Over 160,000 households of squatters are living in 37 townships in the Yangon Region. Currently, the Rural Area Development Department is planning to construct low-cost housing to relocate these squatters. Construction of the low-cost housing will start at the end of this year with foreign assistance.

The department also issued smart cards to these squatters after identifying that they truly do not have a place to live.

The department is surveying the squatters at their shanty houses these days, it is learnt.—GNLM

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports, please email co@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Bilateral trade with US hit nearly $350 mln since April

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the US reached almost US$350 million between April and August of this fiscal year, according to a report of the Ministry of Commerce this Friday.

According to official statistics, Myanmar-US trade totalled $349.1 mln in the first 153 days of this FY. Of the total, Myanmar’s export to the US amounted to $137 mln and imports from the US were $231 mln. Myanmar exports marine products, clothing, beans and pulses, forestry products and some agriculture products to the American market. Its imports from the US are medicine and related equipment, industrial products, transportation products, dairy products, and other commodities. The total value of trade between the two countries reached a record high of $600 mln in FY2016-17 FY. The trade of both countries was $196.902 mln in FY2015-16, $544.640 mln in FY2014-15, $104.440 mln in FY2013-14, $122.791 mln in FY2012-13 and $293.071 mln in FY2011-12.—Khine Khant

Myanmar Gems Emporium to be held from 12-21 December

UNDER the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the central committee for the Myanmar Gems Emporium will hold a mid-year gems emporium in Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 December to 21 December, it was learnt.

Myanmar citizens who run gem and jewellery businesses are required to tender applications between 17-26 October to the committee for jade enterprises to be able to bid on lots of jade for sale.

As regards the lots of jade and jewellery to be sold at the emporium, examination, acceptance, negotiation of reserve prices and exhibition at the locations where gems are to be shown will be made from 1 November to 24 November.

National gems entrepreneurs who are running businesses of exploring gems by getting licenses, national gems and jewellery entrepreneurs who run the businesses of production, sale and purchase of refined works and citizens who belong to the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs’ Association are to be allowed to attend the emporium, in accord with restrictions, with those who have obtained licenses and permits in accord with rules and regulations of Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Law.

Local merchants who would like to purchase gems at the emporium are required to pay surety and entrance fees.

From 18 to 24 November, administration and management office branches will be opened in Yangon, Mandalay and Mogok to perform the tasks of attendance and purchase in combination with gems and jewellery entrepreneurs’ associations in respective townships.

Starting 29 November, tasks for local and foreign entrepreneurs to attend and purchase at the emporium will be carried out at the Jewellery businessmen registration building at Maniyadana Jade Hall.

As of 18 November, for the convenience of local and foreign merchants, registration forms can be accessed at www.gov.mm and www.mge.gov.mm. For those who would like to register online, the website www.mge.gov.mm is the location for the online pre-registration system.

For further information, enquiries can be made at the following places: Myanmar gems and jewellery emporium central committee, Headquarter of Myanmar Gems and jewellery enterprises (Nay Pyi Taw), Myanmar gems and jewellery museum (Yangon), Jade Mining department (Lone Khinn), Gems and jewellery exploration (Mandalay, Mogok and Maingshu), Myitkyina, Khamti, Moe Hnyin based jade mining locations, according to the information of Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Emporium Central Committee. —Khine Khant

Merchants evaluate raw ruby stones at Myanmar Jade Fair at the Maniyadana Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

You can now advertise, at a low cost, in the exclusive Sunday special edition which includes a Youth Panel featuring articles by the up-and-coming generation, English language lessons, and interesting news on Myanmar’s economy, comic strips, featured articles and an interview section covering politics, the economy and modern society.

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Cash donation to fulfill needs of people in Rakhine State

Cash donations were made yesterday at Natural Disaster Management Centre (Yangon office) to fulfill the immediate requirement of people in Rakhine State who were facing difficulties after ARSA extremist terrorist attacks,

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye accepted Ks 2 million donated on the sixth anniversary of passing away of Dr. Kaung Myat and Ks 1 million donated by Future Green philanthropic youth group and presented back certificate of honor to the donors.

On 13 October, U Win Myint and Daw Htay Htay family from Yangon donated Ks 500,000 at the meeting room of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—Myanmar News Agency

Isolated rain expected over big cities

Sandar Soe

Isolated rain or thundershowers are expected over Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon regions with 100% degree certainly today, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH).

The weather department said Lower Sagaing and Magway regions will have isolated rain, Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay regions with scattering thundershowers, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah states fairly widespread rain are forecasted for today.

Thunder showers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavy rain falls is still likely in Taninthayi Region, the weather bureau said.

Mon-Tanimthayi coast and offshore areas will see light to moderate wave with height of (4-7) feet, Dr. Tun Lwin posted on his Facebook yesterday.

The meteorologist Dr Tun Lwin said that the tropical storm Khun in South China Sea has finally turned into a severe tropical storm with increasing strength and is moving in a west-northwest direction at 4 mph.

In the central area of the tropical storm, winds speed can reach up to 60 miles per hour according to the observation of the prominent weather expert of Myanmar made at (6:30) a.m. Myanmar Standard Time on Saturday.

According to flood warning issued at 2:00 hr observation, Sittoung River’s water level has exceeded the danger level of Toungoo by about (1/2) foot and will remain there for the next (1) day. Residents living near the river bank and low lying area at Toungoo Township of Sittoung River should be alerted to possible flood, the DMH warned.

Cash and provisions for displaced ethnic people

Officials from Social Welfare Department provide aid to ethnic people from IDP camps. PHOTO: MNA

The Social Welfare department went to temporary relief camps in Sittway and presented provisions to displaced ethnic nationals from Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships on Friday morning.

The department went to Danyawady playground relief camp and Hindu temple relief camp in Kyaung Tat Road, Sittway and provided cash assistance, utensils and women’s accessories. Afterward four elders above the age of 60 were each provided with Ks 20,000 totaling Ks 80,000 while Ks. 60,000 for three handicapped persons, Ks 20,000 for a pregnant woman and Ks 100,000 for an injured person was also provided.

Furthermore, toys for children and psychological support were provided while play stations were also created for children.—Win Min Soe (IPRD)

HPCL to sell lubricants in Myanmar

NEW DELHI — Public sector undertaking Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has become the first Indian company to sell lubricants in Myanmar. A company statement said the products were launched in Yangon and Mandalay.

HPCL’s lubricants were launched on October 1 in the commercial hub of Yangon. The second launch was held on October 3 in Mandalay. Participants from segments covering OEM dealers, industrial houses, retailers and transporters of Myanmar attended the launch.—GNLM

Elephant dance attracts people at the Children’s Literature Festival. PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE 9)

Children participate in the outdoor game at the second day of Children’s Literature Festival. PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE 9)
Volcano in southwestern Japan erupts again

MIYAZAKI, Japan — A volcano on the southwestern main island of Kyushu that erupted earlier this week for the first time in six years erupted again on Saturday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Mt Shinmoe, straddling Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, spat ash around 2,300 meters above its crater shortly after an eruption in the morning. There were no immediate reports of injury or property damage. The agency issued a warning for flying rocks and pyroclastic flows covering areas within 2 kilometers of the crater of the 1,421-meter volcano. The weather agency had said Friday that it was likely the volcano had ceased erupting.

Since the volcano began erupting on Wednesday, ash falls have occurred in the two prefectures, while the agency has also said ash could fall in neighboring Kumamoto Prefecture. —Kyodo News

DPRK slams Australia for following US moves against Pyongyang

PYONGYANG — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) Saturday slammed as “foolish moves” the military option of the United States against the DPRK.

“The reckless remarks and conduct by the Australian government officials in support of the military option of the US against the DPRK, acts of allowing themselves to be exploited by Trump’s selfish ‘America First Policy’ at the cost of their own national interests,” the spokesman said. —Xinhua

Asian Development Bank to allocate 1.2 bln USD for Mongolia in 2017-2020

ULAN BATOR — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decided to allocate 1.2 billion US dollars to support Mongolia’s development in 2017-2020, said the member of the ADB Board of Directors responsible for Mongolia.

The fund aims to help with the country’s economy, infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, renewable energy, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as to support employment for people with disabilities, the ADB director, Muhammad Sami Saeed, said at a meeting with Mongolian Prime Minister Khurelsukh Ukhnaa.

Ukhnaa, for his part, stressed that his country will continue to implement the Government’s Action Plan for 2016-2020 and the Programme for the Restoration of the Mongolian Economy, noting that the political situation will remain stable regardless of the formation of a new cabinet of ministers.

The prime minister also expressed his gratitude to the ADB for the decision to grant Mongolia a loan of 900 million dollars and for the allocation of the first part of the loan totaling 250 million dollars as part of the IMF’s programme.

Having agreed with the policy of the prime minister on Mongolia’s economic diversification, the ADB official expressed his hope that Mongolia would maintain its achievements in the field of budgetary discipline and ensure macroeconomic stability.

Over the past 25 years, the ADB has implemented in Mongolia about 280 projects and programs in such areas as health, social protection, infrastructure and urban planning for a total of 1.9 billion dollars. —Xinhua
May You Distinguish Truth From Falsity!

Khin Maung Myint

ANYONE with some knowledge of such matters knew full well that the simultaneous assaults of the 25 August, on 30 police outposts and stations and the massacring and the acts of arson in the Rakhine state are being well planned. Such undertakings are not the kind of task that any ragtag band of inexperienced civilians could carry out on their own. This incident clearly indicated that there are some masterminds behind those actions and what their intentions were, can be clearly anticipated. The most immediate intention of theirs’ could be to get more attentions for their cause. However, we should not ignore the fact that their ultimate objectives could be much more ambitious than that. If so, that would pose a threat to the sovereignty of the country and should be dealt with accordingly. By now, the international organizations and the communities should realize who the real villains are. The latest spate of assaults on the security forces and the gruesome killings of innocent villagers and widespread cases of arson in the towns and villages in the Maungtaw, Buthitaung and Rathetaung townships are concrete evidences of atrocities committed by the illegal immigrants. These acts of terrorism are in fact instigated, either intentionally or unintentionally by outsiders—international communities, media, opportunist NGOs, extremist elements from abroad and in part by the UN rapporteur. Their supports embodied some of those people who are, in fact, meek, humble and non-aggressive by nature in the past, to turn into terrorists. Here, one should note the word “unintentionally” in the above paragraph. Some international organizations, communities, NGOs, media and the UN rapporteur are advocating for the illegal immigrants by demanding, in the beginning, to recognize them as a national or an ethnic race of Myanmar, without knowing their real backgrounds or their intentions. When that failed, they changed their demands that we must grant them citizenships. Such actions are among the reasons that led the illegal immigrants to believe that they are fighting for a “right cause”. As for some of the NGOs, both local and international, it’s no wonder they are biased as they are being paid to do so by some sponsors of those people. Now that the situations got out of control, those NGOs had fled. They are similar to the mad scientists who created a monster; which they are unable to control and thus flee for their dear lives. They shouldn’t be allowed to return to those places or anywhere else in the country in the future. However, the UN rapporteur should be neutral in her stand on this issue.

For that matter; some of our kind should also be blamed. While the authorities were trying to find out the situations under control after the 2012 incidents in those areas, the hate speeches directed at other race and religion, which are un-called for, had made the situations to worsen.

Now, the latest rampages by those terrorists had revealed their true colours. Those who are blindly backing them should come to their senses and realize who the real villains are and stop blaming us. Those terrorists are killing even some of their own kind who cooperated or suspected of cooperating with the authorities. Gradually emerging news of the mass graves of the innocent Bengali Hindus were the latest testimonies to their atrocities. Those people were killed with the intentions of putting the blame on our authorities and at the same time create reign of terror in those areas and threatening away the residents to flee across the borders.

Their latest tactics are to entice or lure the people of foreign origins of other faith to join those who had fled to the neighbouring country, giving them false promises and informations. They even went far to falsely labeling the Hindus of Bengali origins as Rohingya Hindus to turn them against the Myanmar. That’s the most outrageous and treacherous stance. Though the Hindu nation of Myanmar rejected their stance and condemned their acts of atrocities, the terrorists had already managed to attract some Hindus to the other country, where they are now living in the refugee camps.

Although there were no more fighting and the situations are coming back to normal in those areas the exodus continued until today. Why these are continuing can be none other than the results of false promises of aids and opportunities they can receive in the other country as refugees. At the same time these situations are purposely being created to deceive the world to grant them more funds and at the same time discredit our country of persecutions and discriminations against the minorities.

The “cause of the illegal immigrants”, that they and the international organizations, communities and the media are vociferously advocating for, is just a ploy to deceive the world. It was a well planned tactics to pave their exodus to migrate to other countries from their country of origin, where there is an un-controlable population explosion and riddled with poverty and starvation. At first their plan worked as the UNHCR managed to resettle them in some countries. However, that plan failed as other countries wouldn’t accept them anymore and that changed their tactics.

They started to create unrest in the country by waging simultaneous assaults on the border police outposts for the first time back in 2014 and when the authorities retaliated, the international organizations, including the UN rapporteur, international communities and the international media came to their support, which made the situations worse. The latest attacks are the second of the major offensives waged by the extremist terrorists.

I would like to request the international organizations, communities and the media and the peoples on both sides to refrain from instigating further divide and hatreds. Please don’t add fuel to the fire. Let the authorities do what is necessary to bring stability to those areas and provide security and safety to the citizens. Please be mindful that your actions could jeopardize those efforts.
Children's Literature Festival crowded with visitors

Aung Min Han

Crowds of visitors flock ed to the Multi-Purpose Hall of Monywa University where Children's Literature Festival and book fair continued its second day yesterday.

Students, teachers, parents and children from basic education schools, private schools, monastery education schools visited the Children Literature Festival individually, in a group or with family and bought books from the book shops. A room showing Sayagyi Min Thu Wun's child poem and arts, 3D showroom, face painting, Team Building Game and many other games, paper folding, coloring and painting contests were teeming with students.

50 performances by students from basic education schools in Sagaing Region, puppet shows by Myanmar Marionettes Organization (MMOrg), magic shows, and Kyaukse traditional elephant dances were also viewed enthusiastically by visitors.

In the morning literary talk event, writer U Ye Lwin (Ye Shan) spoke under the title “journey and destination” and writer U Zaw Naung Hein (Zaw Naung Hein – Guitar) spoke under the title “job and aim”. In the afternoon event writers conducted a workshop on “Benefit of reading” where visitors that includes librarians, literature enthusiasts, fans and writers join the discussion.

Media registration for ASEM FMM13

13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM13) and related meetings will be held from 17 to 21 November 2017 in Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 (MICC-1), Nay Pyi Taw.

National and international media who want to attend are to visit Ministry of Information website www.moi.gov.mm, click 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM13), fill in Media Registration Form, submit and register before 4 p.m. 7 November. Entrance cards will be issued from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 14 to 16 November at Ministry of Information office number 7.

Details about registration can be enquired at News and Periodicals Enterprise phone 067-412002, 067-412187, 067-412125, 067-412126, 09-420723244 and 09-5055053.—Ministry of Information

Land to be sought from gov't for central wastewater treatment plant

Ko Moe

Entrepreneurs would request the government to grant land required for central wastewater treatment plant in industrial zones, said Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) President U Zaw Min Win.

The decision was made in a workshop held at UMFCCI on 12 and 13 October to reduce effect on surrounding environment from discharging of production works wastewater.

U Zaw Min Win said “The decision made at the workshop will be submitted to the government. Monitoring and evaluation group, committees consisting of experts will be formed and discussion will be continued.” Four points, including businesses drawing up an Environmental Management Plan in a year will be submitted to the government and factories outside of industrial zone will also have to follow fully the National Guideline it is learnt. Furthermore, in addition to acquiring the required technology, a monitoring group consisting of experts, non-government organizations (NGOs) and related organizations will be formed.

“A decision was made to prevent environmental damage to the surrounding not only from wastewater but also smokes, smell and noises discharged from the factories" said Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association Vice Chairman U Sein Thaung Oo.

This decision will be informed not only to the government but also to related ministries it is learnt.

The workshop held in UMFCCI from 12 to 13 October was organized by Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association and related government departments.

Rebuilding houses in villages in Maungtaw

FROM PAGE 1

Currently 100 houses were under construction in Kyaukpyu Village while a total of 504 houses, including 36 in Kaingyi Village, 50 in Shwe Baho Village, 74 in Taunggyo Letwe Town, 30 in A Hlat Pyu Ma Village, 12 in Taunggyo Letwe Town, 35 in Thayokekaung Village, 50 in Nanyakaung Village, 25 in Myaungthit Village, 40 in Laungdon Village, 43 in Anghthaya Village, 4 in Aungmingalar Village, 5 in Gawrakha Village in Maungtaw Township were already rebuilt and ethnic nationals resettled it is learnt.

“Na Ta La Model villages were established and houses were built by budget year. Furthermore, Rakhine State government allocated two acres each of land for farm to ease the livelihood situation. A total of 60 houses in Buthidaung Township and a total of 100 houses in Yathedaung Townships were built” added U Khin Maung Hwe.

Department of Development of Border Areas and National Races had been establishing Na Ta La Model villages in Maungtaw region since 1990-91 and a total of 39 villages, 28 in Maungtaw Township, 9 in Buthidaung and two in Yathedaung Townships were established it is learnt.—Naing Lin Kyi, Thant Zin Win
Danger of war, Germany warns after Trump’s move on Iran nuclear deal

BERLIN — If the United States terminates the Iran nuclear deal or reimposes sanctions on Tehran it could result in Iran developing nuclear weapons and raise the danger of war close to Europe, Germany’s foreign minister said on Saturday.

US President Donald Trump refused on Friday to formally certify that Tehran was complying with the 2015 accord even though international inspectors say it is. He warned he might ultimately terminate the agreement.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel told Deutschlandfunk radio that Trump had sent a “difficult and dangerous signal” when the US administration was also dealing with the North Korea nuclear crisis.

“My big concern is that what is happening in Iran or with Iran from the US perspective will not remain an Iranian issue but many others in the world will consider whether they themselves should acquire nuclear weapons too given that such agreements are being destroyed,” Gabriel said.

“And then our children and grandchildren will grow up in a very dangerous world,” he said.

He said if the United States terminated the deal or if sanctions were reimposed on Tehran, it would give Iranian hardliners, who are against negotiations with the West, the upper hand.

“Then they might revert to developing nuclear weapons,” Gabriel said, adding Israel would not tolerate that and “then we will be back where we were 10, 12 years ago with the danger of war relatively close to Europe”.

He urged the United States not to endanger the security of its allies and its own people for domestic policy reasons.

Hailed by Trump’s predecessor Barack Obama as key to stopping Iran from building a nuclear bomb, the deal was also signed by China, France, Russia, Britain, Germany and the European Union.

European allies have warned of a split with Washington over the nuclear agreement and say that putting it in limbo undermines US credibility abroad.

Trump has given the US Congress 60 days to decide whether to reinstate economic sanctions on Iran that were lifted as a reprimand of Mexican presidents and challenges faced by many of the country’s women.

MEXICO CITY — Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday urged Mexican lawmakers to improve women’s rights, delivering a sharp rebuke to a key trading partner that has struggled to curb years of femicide, drug violence and rights abuses.

In a visit to the Mexican capital amid tense talks in the United States to save the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Trudeau met human rights organizations that briefed him on the violence and challenges faced by many of the country’s women.

In an address at the Mexican Senate, Trudeau told lawmakers that the stories he had heard from the rights groups about the treatment of women were “unacceptable,” and pressed for gender imbalances to be addressed in an updated NAFTA.

“I challenge you to use your position and power to strongly push for the rights of women and girls in Mexico,” Trudeau said. “We must move the needle forward on gender inequality."

Trudeau’s comments serve as a reprimand of Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto’s failure to tackle years of drug crime. Violence against women in Mexico has risen dramatically since the previous administration declared war on organized drug trafficking about a decade ago.

“Mexico and Canada share values, and that certainly includes gender equality and enhancing women’s rights,” Pena Nieto’s office said in a statement after a request for comment on Trudeau’s remarks.

The National Citizen Observatory of Femicide (OCNF), which uses government statistics, reported that 2,735 women were murdered in Mexico last year up sharply from 2,383 the year before.

UN Women, a branch of the United Nations, says on its website that Mexico has taken steps in recent years to improve gender equality, but has struggled to fully implement and enforce its own regulations.

Trudeau and his wife arrived in Mexico City on Thursday and attended roundtable discussions with non-governmental organizations to discuss violence against women, human rights, free speech as well as the risks faced by journalists and activists.

Canada’s Trudeau calls treatment of women in Mexico ‘unacceptable’
Islamic State loses al-Mayadeen in eastern Syria — military source

BEIRUT — Syrian government and allied forces have taken the eastern town of al-Mayadeen from Islamic State, a Syrian military source said on Saturday, further weakening the militants’ diminishing presence in Syria.

Al-Mayadeen, near the Iraqi border in Deir al Zor province, had become a major base for Islamic State militants as they were being driven out of their de facto Syrian capital in Raqqa city by a US-backed offensive.

Over the past few months many of the individuals which the US-led coalition against Islamic State has targeted have come from al-Mayadeen, coalition spokesman Ryan Dillon told Reuters.

The Syrian government campaign to take al-Mayadeen has been supported by heavy Russian air strikes. The US-led coalition has also previously struck in the vicinity of the town.

Al-Mayadeen lies south of the provincial capital Deir al-Zor city, where Syrian and allied forces are also trying to oust the militants from a small pocket they still control. The Syrian military source said the jihadists in al-Mayadeen had suffered a “collapse” in their ranks. — Reuters

French army charter plane crashes in Ivory Coast, four Moldovans killed

ABIDJAN — Four Moldovan citizens were killed and two others were injured when a cargo plane chartered by the French military crashed into the sea near the airport in Ivory Coast’s main city, Abidjan, on Saturday. Ivorian and French officials said.

Four French citizens survived the crash but were injured, Ivory Coast’s Security Minister Sidiki Diakite told reporters at the scene. Several Ivorian security sources said French soldiers were among the wounded.

“What we can say for the time being is that this morning around 8:30 (0830 GMT), an Antonov plane crashed...with 10 on board including the crew members,” he said.

The crash occurred during a storm with heavy rain and lightning and rescuers were hampered by rough seas. Though Abidjan’s airport is located in a heavily populated area, it did not appear that anyone was hurt on the ground. The French military operates a logistics base next to the airport in support of its Barkhane operation, combating Islamist militants in West Africa’s Sahel region.

“This was a plane chartered by the French army in the framework of the Barkhane force in order to carry out logistical missions,” French army spokesman Colonel Patrick Steiger said.

It was not immediately clear what caused the plane to crash, he said, adding that the four injured French citizens were being treated at the French military base adjacent to the airport.

France’s ambassador to Ivory Coast along with French gendarmes and soldiers quickly arrived at the crash site.

Hundreds of residents of the heavily populated neighbourhood of Port Bouet, which surrounds the airport, crowded around the crash site. Some of them assisted firefighters and rescue divers who freed the bodies of the dead from the wreckage, which had broken into several large pieces.

French soldiers and Ivorian security forces later sealed off the area and French and Ivorian military vessels patrolled waters surrounding the crash site.

The name of the company operating the aircraft was not immediately known. — Reuters

Somalia’s al Shabaab takes over town near capital after troops withdraw

MOGADISHU — Somalia’s al Shabaab militants took over a town close to the capital Mogadishu on Saturday, officials said, after government troops withdrew from the area.

Barire, in Lower Shabelle, is about 50 km (30 miles) from Mogadishu. In late August, Somali — including three children — were shot dead there during a botched raid by Somali forces backed by US troops.

“We captured it this morning without any resistance. The soldiers left when we advanced towards the town,” said Abdi- asis Abu Musab, al Shabaab’s military operation spokesman. — Reuters

Soccer legend, VP maintain early leads in Liberia election

MONROVIA — Former soccer star George Weah maintained his lead over Liberian Vice President Joseph Boakai as more provisional results from the West African country’s presidential election were announced on Friday.

If current trends hold, the rivals would contest a runoff next month to decide who will succeed Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in what would be Liberia’s first democratic transfer of power in decades.

Based on returns from about a third of the country’s more than 5,000 polling stations, Weah has received 39.6 per cent of votes cast, with Boakai of the ruling Unity Party (UP) at 31.1 per cent, the elections commission said.

“We are still confident that there are places that we believe are our strong support... We are very optimistic that with reports coming in, UP is going to take the lead,” Boakai told Reuters after Friday’s results announcement.

Charles Brumskine, a lawyer, was running third with 9.3 per cent of the vote.

The final certified results from Tuesday’s poll must be announced by 25 October, although the provisional first-round winner is expected to be known in the coming days. Weah, a star striker for Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan who won FIFA’s World Player of the Year in 1995, came in second behind Johnson Sirleaf in a 2005 election that drew a line under years of civil war that killed hundreds of thousands of civilians. He has served in the senate since 2014 for the Congress for Democratic Change opposition party. Boakai, the former head of Liberia’s petroleum refinery company and agriculture minister, has served as Liberia’s vice president since 2006. — Reuters
Iran was behind cyber attack on British lawmakers in June — The Times

LONDON — Iran carried out a cyber attack on British lawmakers earlier this year, The Times newspaper reported on Saturday, citing an intelligence assessment of the incident.

The report came the day after Britain joined other European countries in warning the United States against harming a nuclear deal with Iran.

Britain’s parliament was hit by a “sustained and determined” cyber attack in June, designed to identify weak email passwords, just over a month after a ransomware worm crippled parts of the country’s health service.

The Times said that the attack was Iran’s first significant cyber attack on a British target after the hack was initially blamed on Russia.

Britain’s National Cyber Security Centre was not immediately available for comment.

The Iranian government had no immediate comment.

While the motive for the attack has not yet been established, the hackers were not seeking simple financial profit, The Times said.—Reuters

Republican Senator Corker blasts Trump for ‘castrating’ Tillerson

WASHINGTON — US Republican Bob Corker stepped up his public feud with Donald Trump on Friday, saying the US president’s undermining of his top diplomat was like castrating him in public.

Corker told the Washington Post in an interview that Trump had undercut Secretary of State Rex Tillerson’s efforts to enlist China in reinining North Korea’s nuclear programme by denigrating the diplomat.

“You cannot publicly castrate your own secretary of state” without limiting the options for dealing with North Korea, Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, told the Post.

Tillerson told a news conference in Beijing two weeks ago that the United States was directly communicating with North Korea on its nuclear and missile programmes but it had shown no interest in dialogue.

Trump took to Twitter the next day, saying Tillerson was “wasting his time” trying to negotiate with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

“The greatest diplomatic activities we have are with China, and the most important, and they have come a long, long way,” Corker said.

“Some of the things we are talking about are phenomenal.”

“When you jack the legs out from under your chief diplomat, you cause all that to fall apart,” Corker told the Post, adding that working with China was the key to reaching a peaceful settlement with North Korea.

“When you publicly castrate your secretary of state, you take that off the table.”

—Reuters

Spanish Maritime Rescue Services save over 100 in the Mediterranean

MADRID — Spanish Maritime Rescue Services have saved a total of 138 immigrants who were attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa to the country in the previous 24 hours.

The Maritime Service tweeted on Friday that Thursday had been a “very intense day,” which began with the rescue of 38 adults and a child by the rescue vessel “Guardamar Polimina” from two dinghies located 62 nautical miles southeast of Cabo de Gata, close to the city of Almeria.

Shortly afterwards the Salaman Mimosa, which is based in the port of Cartagena, on the southeast coast of Spain, rescued a further ten immigrants, while a Civil Guard vessel saved a further 23 people who were travelling in two different dinghies.

Later in the evening, 55 more immigrants were taken off a single dinghy which was located 15 nautical miles south of Rincon the la Victoria, which is slightly to the east of Malaga by the rescue vessel Salvamar Alnitak. These 55 immigrants were taken to port in Malaga before the day ended with the Guardamar Polimina saving a further 11 immigrants from a dinghy 17 nautical miles south-east of the Spanish coast and taking them to Almeria.

The continued high-pressure weather system over Spain and north Africa means the area is in the middle of an extended spell of warm and calm weather, which presents an opportunity to make the dangerous sea crossing before conditions deteriorate with the onset of autumn and winter.—Reuters
G-20 upbeat on world economy, affirms coordination over risks

WASHINGTON — Finance chiefs from the Group of 20 major economies agreed on Friday to step up coordination in better coping with risk factors to the world economy such as North Korea, amid signs that 2017 will be the best year for global growth in a decade.

“The world economy is in good condition, with growth picking up in the United States, Europe, Japan, China and other emerging economies,” Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said after a two-day meeting of the G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors in Washington. “But G-20 members referred to risks... We should not fall into complacency.”

Several G-20 members cited “geopolitical risks,” with North Korea’s growing nuclear threat to security in Asia, the world’s growth center, in mind, Kuroda told reporters. Kuroda also quoted the International Monetary Fund as saying that faster-than-expected credit tightening in the United States — which could trigger reversals in capital and investment flows to emerging economies — and insufficient structural reform in China would pose risks to otherwise solid global growth. The G-20 finance chiefs did not discuss exchange rates in the meeting, according to a Japanese delegation source.

Underscoring Kuroda’s view, Jens Weidmann, president of German central bank Bundesbank, said global growth “has become more balanced across countries,” and called on the G-20 to “use the recovery as an opportunity” to achieve sustainable growth and public finance. The IMF has forecast the world economy will grow 3.6 per cent in 2017 and 3.7 per cent in 2018, up 0.1 percentage point, respectively, from its estimate in July, as the “broad-based” global recovery has gathered steam. Despite rolbacks of monetary easing in the United States and Europe, Kuroda said he told his G-20 peers that the BOJ will continue “powerful” credit easing measures as inflation rates in Japan have hovered far below the central bank’s 2 per cent target. No G-20 member criticized Japan’s monetary policy, he added.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble urged the G-20 not to adopt inward-looking policy, saying the temptation to pursue countries’ own interests could pose yet another risk factor to the world economy.

“There is consensus among us that multilateral cooperation is the only way to achieve global stability and inclusiveness,” he told journalists, taking aim at US President Donald Trump’s “America First” agenda. Asked about Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s plan to put off the country’s goal of achieving a primary balance surplus in fiscal 2019, Schaeuble declined to comment, opting to remain neutral ahead of Japan’s general election slated for 22 October. Given that Abe and Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso are campaigning for the election, Schaeuble said, “I think it would be wise not to comment on Japanese politics at this time.”

On the first day of the G-20 meeting, Kuroda said Abe’s election pledge to boost spending on child care and education would make it virtually impossible for the government to achieve the goal, but Japan remains committed to restoring its debt-ridden finances. Aso skipped the meeting, and his deputy, Masatsugu Asakawa, vice finance minister for international affairs, and Kuroda represented Japan at the gathering on the sidelines of annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF. “I was very sad that I couldn’t meet my good friend Taro Aso because he has to campaign,” said Schaeuble, who is set to step down as finance minister to become speaker of Bundestag, the lower chamber of the German parliament. Among other issues, the G-20 finance chiefs discussed digitalization of the economy, increased private investment in Africa, as well as financial regulations, labor reform and cybersecurity, according to delegates. The G-20 groups Argen-

tina, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the European Union — Kyodo News

Fierce winds stir deadly California wildfires as teams search for victims

SONOMA, California — Fierce winds were expected to stir wildfires and test firefighters on Saturday in Northern California where the most lethal outbreak of wildfires in state history has killed 35 people and forced more than 90,000 residents from their homes.

The wind-driven blazes, which erupted on Sunday night in the heart of California’s renowned wine country, north of San Francisco, have destroyed an estimated 5,700 homes.

A total of 17 major wildfires — some encompassing several smaller blazes merged together — had consumed nearly 222,000 acres of dry brush, grassland and trees across eight counties. Ground crews on Friday gained ground on the wildfires on Friday as they raced to clear drought- parched vegetation along the southern flanks of fires, removing highly combustible fuels adjacent to populated areas before extreme heat and winds were forecast to revive over the weekend.

Winds were to intensify overnight and into Saturday with gusts of up to 55 mph (90 kph) along with 10 per cent humidity; the service warned.—Reuters

Indian court orders killing of man-eating tigress

NEW DELHI — A tigress in the western Indian state of Maharashtra has ordered the killing of a two-year-old tigress responsible for mauling four people to death. The Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court, in fact, upheld the shoot-to-kill order on Thursday that was issued initially by the state forest department, which was challenged by wildlife activists. The tigress, named Kala, was first captured in July after it killed two men and injured four others in Maharashtra’s Brahmapuri town, and subsequently released in a tiger reserve. But since her release on 29 July, the tigress undertook an extraordinary 500-km journey that was tracked through her radio collar and killed two more people.

“We issued the shoot-to-kill order as she killed two more people since her release. We are now trying to track the tigress down,” a senior forest department official said Saturday. A century ago, India had some 100,000 tigers, but their numbers have declined sharply since then, due to poaching and rapidly shrinking habitats. Currently, there are an estimated 1,700 tigers left in the wild in India. But the big cats often compete with humans for resources, with increasing human encroachment into their reserves.—Xinhua

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Andy Serkis refused play the iconic character, Gollum, from the popular ‘Lord Of The Rings’ films. **PHOTO: PTI**

**We compliment each other in a beautiful way: Lopez on Alex**

LOS ANGELES — Singer-actor Jennifer Lopez says her boyfriend Alex Rodriguez are perfectly in sync with each other.

The 48-year-old artiste talks about teaming up with her beau for the first time on a project, One Voice: Somos Live! A Concert For Disaster Relief, in wake of destruction caused by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

“We compliment each other in a beautiful way, and I couldn’t have asked for a better partner in this. I mean the things that Alex did to help make this a success for the people of Puerto Rico and for all of disaster relief has been amazing,” Lopez tells Entertainment Tonight.

“The ‘Shades of Blue’ star adds the couple was initially unsure whether they would be able to pull the benefit together. “We never thought we’d be able to pull it off. I was like, can we do this? It seems soon. And then it just grew. Honestly, I feel like God helped us on this one a lot,” says Lopez. The show airs this weekend and the funds raised will be donated to charity.—PTI *

Simon Cowell asks dead parents for advice

LONDON — Media mogul Simon Cowell says he often turns to his deceased parents to seek help when he finds himself stuck in life.

The 58-year-old music producer’s father Eric passed away in 1999 and mother Julie died in 2015.

Cowell insists he still engages in a “mental conversation” with his parents as he is sure they will be able to help him get through, reports Daily Star newspaper.

“I still talk to my mum and dad in my mind now if I am having a difficult decision or I am struggling with something. “I have a mental conversation with the both of them and I absolutely know what the answer is — it is the weirdest thing,” says Cowell.—PTI *

**Nitesh Tiwari, Aamir Khan are very honest people: Aparshakti**

MUMBAI — Aparshakti Khurrana says he learnt to be honest as a person and an artiste from his “Dangal” co-star Aamir Khan.

The actor played a prominent role as Omkar, the cousin of Geeta Phogat and Babita Kumari in the Nitesh Tiwari-directed film.

Aparshakti says his takeaway from working on the hit 2016 film was that a jealous artiste stops growing over time.

“Nitesh Tiwari and Aamir Khan are very honest people. What I have learnt from them is that you don’t have to be a great artiste; you have to be a good human being to better your craft. If you are jealous and have a negative approach, you won’t grow.

“Honesty brings a lot of positivity, hence it helps you to enhance your performance. What I have taken away from ‘Dangal’ is honesty,” he tells PTI. Aparshakti says his life has changed drastically after playing Omkar in the movie but it is still a long way to go. “Earlier, I would wait for calls from production houses or stand in long queues to give an audition that I don’t need to do today.

“I won’t say that I have arrived just yet as there is more to achieve and I wish to do justice to my anchoring projects as well as future roles.”

He started his career working as an RJ and then switched to TV as an anchor and made his film debut with “Dangal”, which will air on &Pictures channel tomorrow.

The anchor-turned-actor says he is in touch with the “Dangal” team, including Aamir and praises the superstar for his simplicity.

“What I like the most about Aamir is his simplicity. Even after spending over 30 years in the film industry, he still behaves like a commoner. Many celebrities are arrogant and that’s evident with the way they carry themselves.”

Aparshakti is Ayushmann Khurrana’s brother and he says the “Shubh Mangal Savdhan” actor never helped him career wise.

“My brother’s approach towards life has been practical, simple and wise. After shooting to fame with ‘Vicky Donor’, he never offered to help me with my launch. Instead, he asked me to prepare myself by being active playing sports, singing jingles and performing in theatre. He always said, ‘prepare yourself, Mumbai will automatically invite you’.

“‘It has taken seven years to reach where I am today. It’s a natural thing that people will judge siblings and members from the same family,” he adds.—Reuters *
Copyright restored to poor family of Australian Aboriginal artist

SYDNEY — The impoverished family of Australia’s most famous Aboriginal artist, Albert Namatjira, has been given copyright to his works after years of fruitless campaigning triggered the intervention of a philanthropist.

Namatjira’s vibrant water colours are internationally celebrated for the way he captured the hues of the Western Desert in the centre of the country.

One of his paintings was given to Britain’s Queen Elizabeth in 1947 on her 21st birthday and he met the queen during her 1954 coronation tour in Canberra.

Dick Smith, the Australian businessman whose intervention secured the agreement, told Reuters it was the most satisfying philanthropic thing he had done.

“It’s a just cause,” Smith told Reuters in a telephone call on Saturday. Born in 1962 in Hermannsburg, a remote Aboriginal community in central Australia’s West MacDonnell ranges, Albert Namatjira rose to prominence as the first Aboriginal artist to master a Western tradition.

In 1957, he sold partial copyright for his works to a friend, John Brackenreg.

Two years later, Namatjira died and his will passed the copyright remainder to his widow, Robina, and their children. This gave his family a source of royalty income when reproductions of the images were used.

However, his estate executors gave the administration of his will to the public trustee of the state of the Northern Territory, which sold the copyright to Brackenreg’s company, Legend Press, in 1983 without consulting the family, ABC News reported. All royalty payments to Namatjira’s descendents ceased and when Brackenreg died, he passed copyright to his children.

Eight years ago, arts organization Big hART, began campaigning for the return of the copyright.

They put together a theatre show called “Namatjira” which toured Australia for three years before travelling to London where in 2013 Queen Elizabeth met two of Namatjira’s grandchildren.

News reports caught the eye of Smith, whose father once campaigned for the return of Namatjira’s copyrights.

In 1957, he sold partial copyright for his works to a friend, John Brackenreg.

Smith persuaded Brackenreg’s children to give copyright to the Namatjira Legacy Trust, which represents the family, for $1 on Friday. Smith also donated A$250,000 (148,449.26 pounds) to the trust.

It is the latest in Smith’s long list of charitable acts which included contributing to the ransom that freed Canadian journalist Amanda Lindhout and Australian photographer Nigel Brennan, taken hostage in Somalia in 2008.

Sophia Marinos, the chair of the Namatjira Legacy Trust, said the money would benefit the whole Aboriginal community with funds for language and cultural programmes.

— Reuters

French cabaret Crazy Horse returns to Singapore after a decade

SINGAPORE — Crazy Horse, a French cabaret known for its topless female dancers, has returned to Singapore a decade after a franchise club failed in the conservative Southeast Asian city-state.

A Parisian institution for 66 years, the cabaret theater opened a club in Singapore in 2005 when the city was trying to spice up its image in a tourism revamp, but closed its doors two years later because of poor ticket sales.

This week the cabaret was back with “Forever Crazy”, a compilation of memorable routines that recently played in Australia. The Singapore show was not censored by authorities, said Crazy Horse tour director Mark Brady.

“It’s the original production as we’ve just performed in Australia for nine weeks,” Brady said. “We’re not changing anything.”

Farah Nadia, a 29-year-old who attended the premiere at the Marina Bay Sands, said she was impressed watching the bare-breasted dancers going through their routines.

“As a woman, I believe that sensuality is a key to confidence and the ladies portrayed it really well,” she said. She planned to watch the show again next week, but doubted her hometown was ready for another permanent cabaret club. “We may have more expatriates, tourists or modern locals now, but people are still shy or conservative about shows like this,” she said. — Reuters

Crazy Horse tour director Mark Brady.

Tokyo hotels eager to attract guests from overseas

NEW YORK/TOKYO — As the 2020 Tokyo Olympics approach, hotels in the city are boosting capacity and investing in cultural activities to accommodate foreign visitors.

It is estimated that by 2020, there will be 23,000 new hotel rooms in Tokyo, an increase of some 26 per cent from 2016, according to real estate service provider CBRE.

At the same time, many hotels have prepared cultural experience programmes such as photo sessions with guests in kimono or yukata and classes in art forms like origami and tea ceremony. Most of these classes are available in English.

Visitors to Japan are going to shift their interest from shopping to looking for experiences that will become good memories, Keio Plaza Hotel President Mamoru Yamamoto told Kyodo News in New York.

Last week, Keio Plaza invited local travel writers and bloggers to a reception in Manhattan as part of efforts to promote the native brand to non-Japanese customers. In 2016, more than three quarters of the guests that stayed at Keio Plaza were from overseas.

“This is completely different from the tea we are used to having here,” said Robert Anthony, a travel and tech writer, sipping matcha freshly brewed by a tea master from Japan.

“Eventually, I’d like to write about this,” said Anthony, whose friends had stayed at Keio Plaza during a trip to Japan.

In addition to the cultural programs, the hotel is also known for its Hello Kitty-themed guest rooms. At Hotel Okura Tokyo, guests can enjoy lunch and an origami lesson for 7,000 yen (about $62). A Japanese traditional guest room with a lesson in Ikebana flower-arranging is available from 48,080 yen at Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa.— Kyodo News

Crazy Horse tour director Mark Brady.

A Parisian institution for 66 years, the cabaret theater opened a club in Singapore in 2005 when the city was trying to spice up its image in a tourism revamp, but closed its doors two years later because of poor ticket sales.

This week the cabaret was back with “Forever Crazy”, a compilation of memorable routines that recently played in Australia. The Singapore show was not censored by authorities, said Crazy Horse tour director Mark Brady.

“It’s the original production as we’ve just performed in Australia for nine weeks,” Brady said. “We’re not changing anything.”

Farah Nadia, a 29-year-old who attended the premiere at the Marina Bay Sands, said she was impressed watching the bare-breasted dancers going through their routines.

“As a woman, I believe that sensuality is a key to confidence and the ladies portrayed it really well,” she said. She planned to watch the show again next week, but doubted her hometown was ready for another permanent cabaret club. “We may have more expatriates, tourists or modern locals now, but people are still shy or conservative about shows like this,” she said. — Reuters

French cabaret Crazy Horse returns to Singapore after a decade

SINGAPORE — Crazy Horse, a French cabaret known for its topless female dancers, has returned to Singapore a decade after a franchise club failed in the conservative Southeast Asian city-state.

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Elbow knockout winners to be awarded Ks 2million extra bonus at WLC-3

ELBOW knockout winners of World Lethwei Championship, WLC-3: Legendary Championship will be awarded Ks 2million extra bonus, said U Zay Thiha, chairman of Myannya Lethka Maunge Company.

With the aim of to develop the means and techniques of Myanmar lethwei fighters and the fans to enjoy the WLC-3 games more, extra bonus were raised to Ks 2million, approximately 10 times of former extra bonus Ks100,000 and Ks200,000. As the raised extra bonus is for every match of WLC-3, I believe that all the lethwei fighters will compete at their best, said U Zay Thiha.

At the main bout event of WLC-3, Legendary Champions, middle weight class (75Kg) fighters, Myanmar fighter Toe Too will box against Australian fighter Michel Badato, a well known lethwei fighter and winner of WBC champions two times, IKBF Champion, WKBK Champion and CMT (Caged Muay Thai) champions four times.

At the co-main event of WLC-3, Australia fighter Eddie Farrell and Myanmar fighter Saw Nga Man will box as super middleweight class (75Kg-107Kg).

At the main card events, additional six main cards are featured. At light middle weight class (67to71Kg), Myanmar fighter Soe Lin Oo will fight against Ugandan fighter Umar Semata, Poland fighter Arutur Saladiak against Romania fighter Alex Bublea, Thway Thit Win Hlaing against Shan Ko (Win Tun) and Myanmar fighter Pheo La Pyae against Cambodian fighter Rin Saroth.

Mite Yine (Shwe Phyu) will box against Pha Kyaw Hae (Myawady) at featherweight class (54to57Kg), at lightweight class (57to60Kg), Chit Maung Maung (Tuang Kalay) will box against Doe Lay (Yoyear Bagan).

Total eight matches are featured and all the matches will play five rounds except the last event, lightweight class (57to60Kg) with fight four rounds.

The WLC-3 event will kick off at 6pm on 4 November at Thawanna National Indoor Stadium (1), Yangon.

The whole event will air live from SKY NET 4 channel and to broadcast live stream at Facebook is also under arrangement — Kyaw Zin Tun

Sharapova storms past Peng into Tianjin final

TIANJIN (China) — Former world number one Maria Sharapova eased past defending champion Peng Shuai 6-3, 6-1 at the Tianjin Open on Saturday to reach her first WTA final in almost two and a half years.

Sharapova, who is yet to drop a set in Tianjin, raced into a 3-0 lead at the start of the second but suffered a brief bout of nerves while serving for the fifth game, when she was forced to save three break points. The 39-year-old turned the tables on Peng in the very next game, breaking her opponent once again before closing out the contest in 78 minutes.

It will be Sharapova’s first WTA final since she defeated Spain’s Carla Suarez Navarro to win the Italian Open in May 2015. — Reuters

Sharapova, who is current ranked 86, broke her Chinese opponent in the opening game and rarely looked troubled on her own serve.

Peng, ranked number 25 in the world, had no answer to Sharapova’s power hitting from the baseline and gave up another break en route to conceding the first set.

Tycoon Business Group and social entrepreneur, Mr. Myo Myint, 56, who is also the owner of Maunge Company, purchased the rights of WLC-3: Legendary Champions and gave an additional six main cards to WLC-3: Legendary Champions.

“The means and techniques of lethwei fighters will be improved and the fans to enjoy the WLC-3 games more, extra bonus were raised to Ks2million, approximately 10 times of former extra bonus Ks100,000 and Ks200,000. As the raised extra bonus is for every match of WLC-3, I believe that all the lethwei fighters will compete at their best, said U Zay Thiha.

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Awarding ceremony for coaches and disabled athletes of 2017 ASEAN Para Games held

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE awarding ceremony for the medals winners of 2017 or 9th ASEAN Para Games was held yesterday morning at the union hall of Institute of Sports and Physical Education, Kyai-kasan Stadium, Yangon, according to the sports Yangon report.

Myanmar won total 43 medals including 11 gold medals, 15 silver medals and 17 bronze medals at 9th or 2017 ASEAN Para Games, a South-east Asian disabled multi-sport event which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 17 to 23 September.

Present at the meeting were U Myo Hlaing Director General of Sports and Physical Education Department and general secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee, U Kyaw Oo deputy permanent secretary of Sports and Physical Education Department, U Htun Myint Oo deputy director general (1) of Sports and Physical Education Department, U Khun Gyar Aung managing director general (1) of Sports and Physical Education Department, U Soe Aung deputy principal and director general of institute of sports and physical education, U Aung Din and officials from Myanmar sports federations, Daw Khin Lay chairwoman of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, U Myo Myint vice chairman of Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation and vice chairpersons, executives of the federation, outstanding disabled athletes and donors, officials of Than Myan Thu Construction and 100 Plus Co., Ltd.

U Myo Hlaing Director General of Sports and Physical Education Department and general secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee delivered the speech.

The medals winning disabled athletes were awarded by the officials. In the ceremony, Ks1million for each gold medal, Ks2million for each silver medal and Ks3million for each bronze medal were granted to the disabled athletes and coaches winning medals.

Total Ks188.4 million including Ks 5.4million donated from Than Myan Thu Construction and Ks10.2million donated from Than Myan Thu Construction and Ks10.2million donated from Than Myan Thu Construction and Ks200,000, 000, were granted at the meeting.

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HONESTY means being truthful and sincere. Nowadays, the rarest thing in people's life is honesty. People lie to their friends, colleagues, bosses, parents and teachers. Sometimes, they lie to themselves. They think lying or cheating can make them escape from their mistakes, sins and problems. They think only dishonesty can make them rich, famous and respectable. In fact, it is better to be a poor man who is honest than to be a rich man who is dishonest. If the citizens in a country are dishonest, that country can never be developed. Education, knowledge, money and job can be gained easily if they are lost. However, if we lose our honesty once, we are really hard to seek it back. If we want to live honestly, we must be truthful to others and to ourselves. We must do what is right regardless of who is around and we must be someone others can trust. Maybe some people are honest at first. But they become dishonest after facing a lot of difficulties and hard times. Why people cannot maintain their honesty? The answer is because of their livelihood. It is not good to cheat the others to live, to get the authority and to be famous. Living in the world without honesty is meaningless and shameful. Unfortunately, a person who values honesty, who works honestly and who lives honorably is like a fool or a chump man. Perhaps today’s world has changed a lot including technology and chump man. Perhaps today’s world has and who lives honorably is like a fool or a developed.


Honesty

Nann Htet Hnin Htwe
Public speaking course of J.C

Honesty

We should not be dishonest to get it easily and faster than others. If we are dishonest, our success will be no longer pure. Of course, today’s age is competitive. We try hard to achieve our success and to reach our goal. We want to be better than others. We want the fame, the respects of others and other people’s compliments. It is not easy to get those things. While we are trying, some people may get those things faster than us. So we may become jealous. And then we think many ways to get what we wanted. Some of our ways may be cruel and dishonest. But we could never lie ourselves and we always remember what we have done. When we do dishonest manners for the first time, we may be afraid. But when we do it again and again, it transferred into a habit. As you know, bad habits cannot be broken down easily. Some people may say that honesty can give nothing in real life. I don’t agree that. Of course, if we are honest, we are not recognized by most of the people. Only few people notice our honesty. We should not be dishonest because of that reason. People should try to be honest not to be recognized by others but to live honorably, happily and without guilty. Concerning with honesty, I would like to tell a story I have read. There was an honest lumberjack in a village. One day his saw fell down into the river. He couldn’t get it back as the river is deep. So he was mopping beside a river. Then a beautiful angel appeared and asked what happened. The lumberjack told her about his saw. Then the angel disappeared into the water. Later, she appeared with a golden saw and asked, “Is that yours?” The lumberjack replied, “No.” Then she appeared with a silver saw and asked again “Is that yours?” The lumberjack said, “No.” Finally, the angel appeared with a wood ordinary saw and asked, “Is that yours?” The lumberjack said, “Yes, it is mine.” The angel was very pleased with his honesty and gave both silver and golden saws. In my opinion, just like the story, even though we are not appreciated by people, God will appreciate and give us reward for our honesty one day. Sometimes, we might be bullied by dishonest people. But we should have enough strength to give our life for our honesty. Besides, we don’t have to lie or cheat to escape from our mistakes and our sins. In fact, mistakes are a great educator when one is honest enough to admit them willingly and learn from them. Furthermore, honesty maintains relationship. If a husband is honest on his wife and a wife is honest on her husband, their family will be happy and their love will be forever. If the students do not lie their teachers and do not cheat in exam, the school will be developed. If sons and daughters do not lie their parents, they will be successful. If each citizen is honest, there will be no bribe and the country will be developed. Some people said that although they are honest, nothing has changed. No one cares their honesty. They say dishonesty can give them more money than being honest. Maybe this is because they haven’t faced the danger of dishonesty. Everyone who is dishonest has to pay back what he has done and he will be punished one day. So, to be honest, we should avoid situations that we have to cheat or lie for others. If we make mistakes, we must try to face the consequences.

We must stop comparing ourselves to others. Moreover, honesty makes us faithful to someone else. For instance, if we are honest, we don’t lie or cheat. This is one kind of faith to our country. We will stand for our country no matter what happened. In conclusion, honesty is important in everyone’s life. Even if people around us are dishonest, we must be honest. We should live honestly so that we can be role models to our generations. Also, we should teach young people and children who will become the leaders of our country to be honest. As the bible verses say, “If you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater Responsibilities-Luke 16:10.” This is true. If we couldn’t be honest in little things like answering difficult questions in exam, how can we hope to be honest in big things. So, I would like to say that we should try to be honest in everything we do.
I. Look at the following examples with "It" and "There". As the names are mentioned, these two patterns start with "It" and "There".

The Second one is called "There …………." Pattern.
The First one is called "It …………………." Pattern.

Today, let us study two easy patterns of Sentences.

Both Patterns are very simple and very easy ones.

Now, here comes the Exercise.

Exercise 23.

I. Make 5 sample sentences of "It ……………." Pattern.
II. Make 5 sample sentences of “There ………….” Pattern.

III. Fill in the following blank space with suitable words.
(a) It is said that she ………….. a princess from a hilly country.
(b) It seems to …….. this evening.
(c) It ………….. only a cat at the door.
(d) It ………….. cats and dogs
(e) It ………….. better tomorrow morning, although we have floods today.

IV. Fill in the following blank spaces with “It” or “There”.
(a) ………….. will have strong wind this evening.
(b) ………….. can be some strange fellow.
(c) ………….. was a tall tree in that corner.
(d) ………….. was said that she was a witch.
(e) ………….. seems to be late today.
(f) ………….. were cows and sheep in the pasture.
(g) ………….. was only lie he told me.
(h) ………….. must be the gardener, not a thief.
(i) ………….. may be a reasonable cause for this matter.
(j) ………….. can be her own creation.

Hope that you can answer easily to all these exercises.

Bye Bye Class! See you next week!
Your English Teacher, GNLM.
Email : dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

Here comes the Answers for the last week’s Exercise. Exercise 22.

I. Five Sample sentences to show “Near Future Tense”
(a) I am going to write the letter tonight.
(b) She is going to bake cakes this evening.
(c) They are going to play tennis with their friends.
(d) We are going to return home.
(e) You are going to sing a song in this party. Aren’t you?

II. To make Near Future Tense
(a) am going to
(b) is going to
(c) are going to
(d) are going to
(e) is going to
(f) going to
(g) is going to
(h) is going to
(i) am going to
(j) are going to

III. Change into Near Future Tense.
(a) am going to return
(b) is going to come
(c) is going to swim
(d) am going to write
(e) is going to buy
(f) Are you going to marry
(g) is going to bake
(h) is going to play
(i) is going to read
(j) is going to stay

Hope that you have done well!
Bye for now Class! See you next week!
Your English Teacher (GNLM)

The Weapon

AS soon as you read the topic, you may think of a gun or a sword. But those are not the things I want to describe. There is another powerful weapon. In my point of view, learning a certain language is a weapon to fight for myself and to protect myself. In these days, learning languages are becoming popular.

We can learn our favourite languages very easily and freely today as there are various language schools and language centres. Furthermore, we can learn them from online too. Or buy a book and teach ourselves. However, we should be able to speak two or more languages. There are several languages which are dominating the world such as English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and etc. English is quite useful in today’s world and it is spoken as a global language. But in the countries like America and England, French and Spanish are also necessary. If we can speak in foreign languages we can make friends around the globe from east to west.

For me, learning a language is to share our cultures and custom to the foreigners and not to look down on ourselves. We don’t need to admire the others’ cultures and traditions but we all should give respect to them if we go and visit their countries so that they will value our traditions too. If we can’t speak a foreign language, we will be unable to protect our country from the others’ insult. And recently, our State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi fought for our country with one of the languages, English.

She told the truth to the world and let them know what exactly is happening in our country, Myanmar.

So, to inform the real information to the world, we should learn foreign languages for three reasons which are to become a skillful person, to share our cultures and make the world know our country well and to study abroad for better education. All in all being able to speak our mother tongue language and as well as the foreign language is as useful as a weapon, in my opinion. So that we can become skillful citizens of Myanmar.
In September 2015, the global community (including Myanmar) convened at the United Nations headquarters to set the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its Goal 4 is to ensure inclusive quality education. Within this goal, some challenging themes are equity of educational opportunity, effectiveness of teaching and learning, and the role and status of teachers. These themes are as pertinent to Myanmar as to other countries. One of the related issues to the themes is supplementary private tutoring. It is a complex issue with implications for students’ learning, for social equity, for teachers’ incomes, and for interpersonal dynamics within classrooms, schools and wider communities, and social cohesion.

According to Myanmar’s Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) in 2014, it is learnt that households make considerable payments for basic education even in a school system that is officially free of charge. The CESR (2015) also recognized the prominence of private tutoring in preparation of students for matriculation examination and stated that there is a need to address private tuition as a critical policy issue. Private tutoring has long been a major issue in Myanmar. At various times, the Myanmar government has sought to regulate the situation. However, effective action has proved difficult. In fact, Myanmar is not alone in facing challenges arising from the expansion of private tutoring. Such tutoring has long been widespread in both high-income and low-income parts of Asia. Many researchers have conducted on the private tutoring in other countries.

In the case of supplementary private tutoring, the first question we should ask is if it is necessary for the students to receive supplementary teaching. In fact, it is not easy to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to this question. Depending on different influencing factors, it may have positive and negative impact on education. From educational point of view, it depends on students’ intelligence. In a common class, there are three types of students: fast learners, average learners and slow learners. The teacher’s focus is on average learners. Therefore, the teacher’s teaching rate may be slow for fast learners while it may be too fast for the slow learners. This classroom atmosphere proves that slow learners need supplementary teaching. The important question here is how they should be provided this supplementary teaching. Free of charge or charge? In special classes at school or in private tuition classes? If the slow learner cannot afford to pay for tuition fees, should he be left educational opportunity? Should the teacher neglect such a student? In the same way, another question we should ask is if the teacher should provide students with supplementary teaching? This question is the same as the previous one. The teacher should provide slow learners with supplementary teaching. But another question is how he should provide it - taking fees or not for his supplementary teaching. These questions are not simple enough to give ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answers. In fact, private tutoring is a complex social issue involving educational, economic, social and ethical aspects, among others.

To be able to solve the problems of private tutoring, the first thing to be done is to find out the drivers that encourage private tutoring. In general, it should be seen from two sides: demand side and supply side. In demand side, the basic education system of Myanmar itself may have its own weaknesses. The system itself places too much emphasis on academic achievement of the students though the objective of education is to produce all-round development students. High scores in Matriculation examination are the only criteria for the admission of best universities. This system encourages students to have desire to get high scores. Thus, they find other ways for their better academic achievement. One of these ways is receiving private tutoring. More and more students and their parents want to receive private tutoring, hoping for better academic achievement which is the key to unlock the best universities. This creates more chances for private tuitions to develop. Such issue can be seen in China. In China, one of the most important reasons for taking shadow education is to improve test scores, especially in contexts where such scores are crucial for access to better institutions and subsequent employment (Bray & Lykins 2012, pp23-25). Will the importance of matriculation marks become less to some extent if other alternative ways can be found out for the admission of university? There have been plans to practise university entrance examination system conducted by respective universities. If this system is carried out, it is hoped the importance of matriculation exam marks will be degraded. As a result, will the role of private tuition for Grade Ten students be degraded?

Another driver for private tutoring is the policy of denying accessibility of schooling. If a high school student fails the examination twice at the same grade, he has no chance of schooling. In such a situation, private tutoring should be said to be helpful. In the same way, there may be some students who cannot pursue their formal education for various reasons. Tuition is one of the sources for them to pursue their education.

Private tutoring is carried out by school teachers and private teachers. One of the reasons for providing tutoring by school teachers is their low salaries. Teachers’ income is one of the components of policy influences on private supplementary tutoring. Teachers’ salaries have been low. Dawson (2009) argued that the inadequacy of these salaries led to “forced corruption” as teachers had to rely on tutoring income in order to survive.

Students receive private tutoring for various reasons such as overloaded curriculum, large class size, perceptions of inadequate quality schooling, external examinations, pressure and persuasion by teachers. Scarcity of old experienced teachers in some subjects encourages students to depend on private tuition. Some qualified teachers in state schools have transferred to private schools because of their low salary in state schools. Should they leave their state schools? It may depend on their beliefs on professional ethics and practical needs for survival. Will they be still in their profession if they are provided with their needs? Which will they place more emphasis - on professional ethic or on their survival needs? To get reliable data, it is a research question to investigate why students receive private tutoring. The reasons may point out what action should be taken to overcome the problems of private tutoring.

From supply side, supplementary private tutoring is provided by school teachers and private teachers and some private schools section. The main reason for providing tuition by school teachers may be financial problem which is rooted in low salaries. Such a situation can be seen in Cambodia. Many Cambodian teachers who have to support families and single salaries live in poverty. Low-paid teachers have a stronger incentive to drive up demand for private tutoring by limiting the depth and breadth of instruction during the official school day. According to the responses of the students in the research, it is learnt that students who do not receive private tutoring have significantly lower chances of scoring well on the examinations. Thus, reliance on private tutoring may have consequences for equity and quality in the main stream school system.

In fact, private tutoring has its own strengths and weaknesses. As mentioned earlier, it is a positive for those students who cannot access to schooling and it is the source for school teachers to earn extra money whose salaries are very low. However, private tutoring also has many disadvantages in the context of educational, financial, ethical and social problems.

First, in 21st century skills, students are expected to depend on their own in studying their lessons. Schools are expected to train students to have critical thinking, meaningful knowledge and problem-solving skills. To be able to do so, students must have their own time for self-study. On the contrary, most students’ time is spent for tuition and “guide”. These practices are spoon-feed teaching, which is bitterly denounced in 21st century.
Maliwan Waterfall, hotspring, Pulon Tonton in Kawthoung

By Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Maliwan Waterfall is one of the most touted attractions of Kawthoung. Maliwan means wild flower which is in blossom in June. The pretty spot lies around 25 miles north of Kawthoung. Maliwan Village where Maliwan Waterfall and a hotspring were located has a population of more than 3,700 with about 850 houses.

Some 10 kilometres further north are the Maliwan hot springs. The springs, with some bathing pools, are nothing special and would make for a total 100 kilometre round trip, so it’s possibly not worth the effort. During the colonial period, electricity was generated from a hydropower plant built over the waterfall and supplied to a local mining. In those days, the waterfall is not easily accessible for local people. Today, it is hugely popular at weekends with local visitors.

If you have your own transport, then simply head up the highway north for 40 kilometres and Maliwan is clearly signposted in English. A very bad dirt track takes you the last couple of kilometres through rubber plantations to the car park and entrance.

Unexpectedly, the stream flows from the west. It had plenty of water when we visited in January, and while rainy season must get dramatic by March/April it’s probably not worth the trip. During the colonial period, electricity was generated from a hydropower plant built over the waterfall and supplied to a local mining. In those days, the waterfall is not easily accessible for local people. Today, it is hugely popular at weekends with local visitors.

The stream performs a series of drops with a pool and water park created close to the entrance.

Some 10 kilometres further north are the Maliwan hot springs. The springs, with some bathing pools, are nothing special and would make for a total 100 kilometre round trip, so it’s possibly not worth the effort. More interesting would be a slight detour to Pulon Tonton on the way back. If you’re really smart, time your trip to have a sunset cocktail at Victoria Cliff before returning to Kawthoung.

If you have your own transport, then simply head up the highway north for 40 kilometres and Maliwan is clearly signposted in English. A very bad dirt track takes you the last couple of kilometres through rubber plantations to the car park and entrance.

Pulon Tonton, a nearby island connected to the mainland by a very long wooden bridge. On the island, the locals lived in utter squalor, in wooden shacks propped up on stilts, above the brackish tides below; garbage washing in and out with the waves. Despite their destitution, people were surprisingly friendly. The kids ran out to the street to say hello, and the locals pointed us in the direction of the “beach”, no doubt the only thing on the island that foreigners come to see. The beach, as it turns out, is little better. There are a few derelict restaurants lining the shores, and again, garbage littering heavily. More ominous, however, were the concrete statues of mermaids and octopi, their paint chipping from decades of wear.
Cinnamon: the amazing spice

By Yay Thuyae

SINCE the days of the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt, over 4000 years ago, the cinnamon was a very popular healthy spice for the Egyptians. The cinnamon was also a luxury in Europe in the old days. During those days, this herbal spice was very rare in those parts of the world as it didn’t grow there and was more expensive than silver. This spice also played an important role in the history of Asia as it was one of the coveted spices found only in most parts of Asia. A fact that led to the colonization of most of the countries in South and South East Asia by some European maritime superpowers. Even wars that were called the “Spice Wars” were fought between the maritime superpowers of those days, such as Spain, Portugal, Dutch, and Britain, for the possession of the lucrative spice trades, among which, cinnamon was at the top of the list. These wars lasted for about 200 years, spanning a period from the 15th to the 17th centuries.

The cinnamon spice is the inner bulk of the cinnamon tree. Such trees are primarily found in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and a few other places around the world, especially in the tropical climes, including ours. They grew wild in the rain forests in the old days, but today they are being systematically cultivated. It was because of the cinnamon, Ceylon was colonized by the Portuguese. As the latter could not compete for the favours of the Ceylonese cinnamon merchants with the earlier customers, the Arabs, who had already monopolized the spice trade in the region, the Portuguese resolved to colonizing that country. Later the British fought the Portuguese and gained control of Ceylon and the cinnamon trade.

It was in fact the Arab sea-farers and traders who first came to know that the spices, such as: cinnamon, cloves, nutmegs, black peppers, cummin and a variety of other spices that didn’t grow elsewhere in those days were abundant in these regions. The European maritime superpowers followed in the wake of the Arabs in search of the spices. As the Arabs had monopolized the spice trades of the region, the only option for the late-comers, the Europeans, was to colonize the sources. Furthermore, it wouldn’t be wrong to say that the American continent was accidentally discovered by Columbus and some other European adventurers after him, while searching for a new sea route to the spice-producing regions in the East, the only option for the late-comers, the Europeans, was to colonize the sources.

Health Benefits

Apart from the culinary uses, the cinnamon is also widely used in a variety of other ways— as a health booster, preserving meats and foods and embalming the dead bodies or mummiﬁying, since thou-sand of years ago. For the purpose of this article I’ll be discussing the health beneﬁts only. This wonderful spice is packed with nutrients and helps improve your overall health. Studies show that the cinnamon is the most nutritious of all the spices that are considered to be full of nutrients. Though there are many literatures related to cinnamon, which can be found on the Internet today, I’ll be quoting only the credible and proven ones in describing it’s health beneﬁts. They are as follows—

1. High Source of Antioxidant. As the cinnamon is packed with a variety of antioxidants, it could slow down the aging process. The health beneﬁts of cinnamon are attributed to the type of antioxidants called polyphenol, phenolic acid and flavonoids. These compounds work to ﬁght oxidative stress in the body. They also help to repair damaged tissues and prevent it from uncontrolled, as we age.

2. Contains Anti-inﬂammatory Properties. The antioxidants present in cinnamon have the abilities to inhibit cancer tumors, while encouraging cancerous cell to self-destruct. This is especially true in cancer, as studies show that cinnamon can improve the health of colon, thereby reduc-ing the risk of colon cancer. Because of it’s strong antioxidant abilities, in future it may be useful to supplement with cinnamon extract for those who are at higher risks from cancer. Extensive researches are ongoing and hopefully positive results will emerge soon.

3. Protects Heart Health. Another health beneﬁt of cinnamon is that it re-duces several of the most common risk factors of heart disease, including high cholesterol levels, high triglyceride levels, and high blood pressure, which are threats for causing heart disease or a stroke. Cinnamon is also a helpful coagulant and prevents bleeding by helping the body to form blood clots. It also increases blood circulation and advances bodily tissues to repair itself after being damaged. This includes heart tissues that are in need of regeneration in order to be able to ﬁght heart attack, heart disease, and stroke.

4. Fights Diabetes. Studies show that cinnamon has an anti-diabetic effects. It aids in lowering blood sugar levels and can also improve sensitivity to hormone insulin, which is the vital hormone needed to keep to blood sugar levels balanced. People with type 2 diabetes can experience signiﬁcant positive effects on sugar markers by taking cinnamon extracts as supplements. Another beneﬁt for people with diabetes is that this spice helped ﬁght heart disease and lowers the bad LDL cholesterol levels, which they are more at risk of developing.

5. Defends Against Cognitive Decline and Protects Brain Functions. Another health beneﬁt of cinnamon is that it protects against Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases. The fact that cinnamon contains many antioxidants and anti-inﬂammatory compounds that reduce the effects of aging on the body and brain. We may see it being used as natural therapeutic treatment or prevention for age-related neurodegenerative diseases in the near future.

6. May Help Lower Cancer Risks. The antioxidants present in cinnamon have the abilities to inhibit cancer tumors, while encouraging cancerous cell to self-destruct. This is especially true in cancer, as studies show that cinnamon can improve the health of colon, thereby reduc-ing the risk of colon cancer. Because of it’s strong antioxidant abilities, in future it may be useful to supplement with cinnamon extract for those who are at higher risks from cancer. Extensive researches are ongoing and hopefully positive results will emerge soon.

7. Fights Infections and Viruses. Being a natural anti-microbial, anti-biot- ic, anti-fungal, and anti-viral agent it has many beneﬁts, when it comes to protecting the body from illness. It is used in many cultures as a natural ﬁghter of infections and viruses.

8. Protects Dental Health and Freshens Breath Naturally. The ex-tracts present in cinnamon are found to protect against bacteria living in the mouth that could cause bad breath, tooth decay, cavities, or mouth infections. The essential oil from cinnamon are found to be more potent than other plant extracts and thus, can be used as a natural anti-bacterial mouth wash to fight bacteria in the mouth. Peppermint found in cinnamon has the ability to naturally remove bad breath without adding any chemicals to the body. Thus peppermint is used as a natural ﬂavoring in chewing gums due to its mouth refreshing abilities. It is also traditionally used as tooth powder and also to treat tooth aches, dental problems and mouth odor.

9. Can Help Prevent or Cure Can-dida. Cinnamon’s powerful anti-fungal properties may be effective in stopping or curing Candida over-growth in the di-gestive tract. Candida is a type of fungus, which is caused by a form of yeast. Another health beneﬁts of cinnamon is that it helps to control the blood sugar levels, and too much sugar within the digestive tract is associated with increased Candida risks.

10. Benefits Skin Health. The anti-biotic and anti-microbial properties of cinnamon protect skin from irritations, rashes, allergic reactions and infections. cinnamon essential oil can be directly applied to the skin to help reduce inﬂam-mation, swelling, pain, and redness. Honey, which is also an anti-microbial ingredient can be used together with cinnamon to boost skin health.

11. Helps Fight Allergies. The compo-nents in the cinnamon can bring relief to people suffering from allergies. It is help- ful in ﬁghting common allergy symptoms because it reduces the inﬂammation and can also help to reduce asthma attacks. Cinnamon also have immune boosting abilities and is beneﬁcial for digestive health.

12. Can be Used to Sweeten Reci-pes without Added Sugar. The natural sweet taste of cinnamon can cut down the amount of sugar added to foods. As cinnamon already has anti-diabet- ic effects that slow sugar from releasing into the blood streams can help manage food cravings and weight gains. One of the beneﬁts of cinnamon over sugar is that it contains no sugar or calories, thus it is helpful in ﬁghting weight gains and prevents candida, and diabetes.
Cinnamon: the amazing spice

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FROM SUPPLEMENT-C
13. Can be used as a Natural Food Preservative. Because cinnamon has antiseptic and bactericidal properties and acts as an antioxidant, it can be used to preserve many kinds of food without the need for chemicals or artificial ingredients.

11. Cinnamon May Help Fight the HIV Virus. HIV is a virus that slowly breaks down the immune system, which can eventually lead to AIDS if untreated. Cinnamon extracts from Cassia variety is thought to help fight against HIV-1, the most common strain of HIV virus in humans. Studies are also being carried out on the Ceylon variety too, and hopefully it would also be as effective as the Cassia.

Side Effects
After mentioning the health benefits of cinnamon, it would only be proper and necessary to mention its side effects. Though it is customarily assumed that it does not have any severe side effects, caution should be taken in consuming it. The reasons that most people don’t believe in the herbal medicines are because most of our local writers would recommend certain herbal medicines with much exaggerations, but will, most of the times never mention the precise dosage or the side effects, or even give a precautionary note. Which in my opinion is very wrong.

The side effect in cinnamon is caused by a compound called “coumarin”. Both Ceylon and Cassia cinnamon contain coumarin, but the latter type contains more. Consuming the coumarin in extremely high doses may cause dangerous side effects. As Ceylon cinnamon contains less coumarin, it is less toxic than the Cassia cinnamon, and so more amount of Ceylon cinnamon can be consumed safely than the Cassia cinnamon.

The amount of cinnamon consumed as condiments in foods will not have any significant adverse effect, but if supplements in the form of extracts taken in excessive amount or in interaction with other medications may cause allergic reactions. Thus my advice to the readers is to use your discretion and not to over indulge in the use of cinnamon supplements. The safe daily amount of coumarin to be consumed is 0.1mg per kilogram of body weight or 5mg for a body weight of 50kg, which is equivalent to approximately 50mg of Ceylon cinnamon. For Cassia cinnamon that amount should be lesser.

How to Consume Cinnamon
The cinnamon can be consumed in many different ways. It can be used as a condiment in cooking foods, bakery products such as breads, cakes, cookies etc, as a supplement in extract form, health drink mixed with other ingredients such as, apple cider vinegar, honey, lemon etc. The most easiest way to consume it is by sprinkling some ground cinnamon powder in the coffee, tea, chocolate drinks, milk, yogurt, or breakfast cereals etc. Here I would like to share the health drink, which I had been taking for quite a while since I learned about the health benefits of cinnamon.

The Recipe for Cinnamon Detox Drink
- 1 glass of water (12-16 oz.)
- 2 table spoon apple cider vinegar
- 2 table spoon lemon juice
- 1 tea spoon cinnamon powder
- 1 dash of cayenne or chili powder
- stevia sugar or artificial sweetener to taste. (If use pure honey)

To prepare the cinnamon detox drink, mix the ingredients mentioned above in a blender. It is best taken early in the morning. There are many other drinks using cinnamon as the main ingredient, but as I haven’t tried them I will not be sharing them. As for this one, I must say, it had been proven to be beneficial to me as it definitely helped me to reduce weight and lowers my bad LDL cholesterol level after consuming it oft and on for the past one year or so. This drink is also purported to detoxify your body.

However, if you don’t have time to prepare the drink, the easiest way will be to sprinkle some cinnamon powder in your beverage drinks such as coffee, tea, or milk etc. Today in most countries, coffee shops have either cinnamon sticks or bottles of ground cinnamon powder readily available for the customers’ use.

Conclusion
It is quite evident from the above mentioned health benefits of cinnamon, it deserved to be called the “amazing spice”. In the past, most people tend to rely much on the western medicines that are manufactured by using chemicals. Today, more and more people around the world are coming to realize the health benefits of herbs and spices and are turning to them for a variety of ailments. However, I would like to caution the believers of herbal medicines to also seek the advice of the medical doctors concerning serious diseases, such ad cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and HIV. Though studies has shown that cinnamon may be able to stop or cure those diseases, self-administering of the treatment is not advisable.

FROM SUPPLEMENT-G
14. Cinnamon May Help Prevent the Colds. From Supplement-C we have read that cinnamon can deliver what it promises to do. As a result, the gap of academic achievement between tutored and non-tutored students may not have positive working relationships between teachers and students. Students whose parents are rich can take tuition and poor students cannot do so. As a result, the gap of academic achievement between tutored and non-tutored students becomes larger. From ethical point of view, should private tutoring cause unequal educational opportunities of students? Do the teachers see private tutoring create partial treatment on the students? Partial treatment is the violation of professional ethics.

In fact, private tutoring is global threat to the society. It has long been widespread in both high-income and low-income parties of the world. For instance, in Japan, a 2007 survey found that tutoring institutions (juku) served 16% of Grade 1 children, that proportion rose steadily in larger grades, and that it reached 65% in Grade 9.Japan 2008, p.13, cited in Researching Private Supplementary Tutoring. In Republic of Korea, in 2014, 81.1% of elementary school pupils were estimated to be receiving tutoring. In middle school the proportion was 69.1%; and in general high school it was 56.2% (KOSIS2015, cited in Researching Private Supplementary Tutoring). In Egypt, an official study noted by Sobby (2012,p.49) indicated that 81% of households had children who received private tutoring at the secondary stage, and that proportion was 50% at the primary stage. It is surprising to learn that in Hong Kong, major tutoring companies offer classes in lecture theatres with overflow rooms served by video links (Kwo & Bray 2011;Yang 2011; Koh 2014).

However, private tutoring has positive and negative impact on education. Therefore, it is necessary to find ways how to improve it for its positive effect and how to overcome its negative effect. It may be a good idea to study international context on this concept. For example, in Malaysia, the Ministry of Education permits school teachers to tutor outside school hours if they have secured a permit from the Ministry (Malaysia, Ministry of Education 2006). But teachers are limited to four hours of tutoring per week. They can tutor students who attend their own classes. Teachers are only permitted to undertake private tutoring if their annual performance scores are 80 percent or more for the previous year. In addition, they should ensure that tutoring does not interfere with their duties as teachers. They are also allowed to tutor in private tuition centres.

In fact, supplementary private tutoring is a highly controversial issue in education. To be able to find appropriate solutions, it is necessary to conduct a research on this issue. The most important participants may be teachers, students and their parents. First, it is necessary to investigate the drivers of demand and supply of private tutoring, as mentioned above. After that, policy implications should be considered.

Ref: Mark Bray, Ora Kwo & Boris Jolic (eds.) (2015): Researching Private Supplementary Tutoring: Methodological Lessons from Diverse Cultures