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People observe Dhammacakka Day

Shwedagon Pagoda is crowded with devotees on Full Moon of Waso, or Dhammacakka Day, yesterday in Yangon.

PHOTO: GNLM/ PHOE KHWAH (NEWS ON PAGE-3)

Farming aid for Maungtaw farmers

Officials hands over power-tiller to villagers. **PHOTO: THAKKA**

THE Rakhine State Government delivered farming machinery and rice seeds to farmers in Rakhine State yesterday.

The move is aimed at assisting the farmers who have to hire draught cattle to plough the fields, said U Kyaw Lwin, Rakhine State Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Mining, at the ceremony to hand over the machinery and rice seeds held at Udaung Village

in southern Maungtaw.

At the ceremony, 800 baskets of rice seeds and 38 power tillers were delivered for 65 villages.

Meanwhile, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye visited internally displaced persons' camps in Rakhine State on Saturday, delivering aid and gifts.

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SUNDAY SPECIAL



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Foreign veterinary students visit Myingyan



Veterinary medicine students from 12 countries pose for a photo during a field trip in a village in Myingyan District. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU**

Following a field trip to five villages in Myingyan District, students of veterinary medicine from 12 countries volunteered their services at the University of Veterinary Science in Yezin, Pyinmana, yesterday.

"Myanmar and Thailand jointly conducted this three-week programme, two weeks in Thailand and one week in Myanmar.

During the visit to villages, apart from vaccinating cattle

and dogs, we raised awareness against animal-to-human infectious diseases and planted 100 trees in each village," said Dr Ye Thu Aung, the pro-rector of the University of Veterinary Science.

"In this programme, we found the differences of live-stock farming system between our country and theirs.

In Thailand, they practice two systems, one is for meat and another one for milk.

They focus more on live-stock farming than agriculture. The rate of giving vaccinations against rabies in other countries is higher than our country," said Win Myat Shwe Yi Tun, a fourth-year student of the University of Veterinary Science.

"Like in Myanmar, most farmers in Laos live in rural areas and they herd cattle in grazing lands and give them supplementary food at the farm.

Our livestock breeding in-



Veterinary medicine student vaccinates a cattle. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU**

dustry mainly focuses on producing meat rather than milk," said Ms Oneouma Phondamath, the student from the National University of Laos.

The programme is aimed at exchanging veterinary techniques and culture among the countries.

"In our study tour in Thailand, we found that they establish veterinary hospitals for cattle at the areas where the population of cattle is high and

carry out teaching and research there," said Prof Dr Win Ohmar Kyaw from the University of Veterinary Science.

The team comprised of 75 veterinary students from all the ASEAN nations except Singapore and Brunei, and from the United States, Canada, and Japan.

The programme is part of the ASEAN Veterinary Volunteer Project 2017.—Zin Oo, Wai Thu New ■

Farmers in Maungtaw get rice seeds, power-tillers

FROM PAGE 1

Accompanied by the Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs, the Union minister went to Saythamagyi Camp and Satyokya Camp, assisting in supplying power and presenting clothes to the women and toys to the children.

Yesterday morning, the Union Minister and party visited the Home for the Aged in Sittway and contributed cash to the fund of the Home for the Aged.

Dr Win Myat Aye also visited Tain Nyo village and Pauk Taw Pyin village in MraukU Township and Nayan village and Khaung Laung Ywar Thit village in Minbya Township

and met local residents.

At the meetings with residents, he fulfilled the immediate needs of the peoples, providing Ks2.4 million to build two toilets in the Tain Nyo Village primary school and the Pauk Taw Pyin Village sub high school, Ks500,000 to construct a concrete road in a monastery, Ks900,000 for school desks, Ks2.5 million for a well in Khaung Laung Ywar Thit Village and Ks1.2 million for a toilet in a school.

In addition, the Union Minister also provided clothes, school uniforms and warm clothes worth Ks18.8 million. —Myint Maung Soe, Aung Kyaw Oo ■

Indian Army Chief of Staff hosts dinner for Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party who were in India at the invitation of Armed Forces of India Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Admiral Sunil Lamba attended a dinner hosted by Chief of Staff (Army) of the Indian Army General Bipin Rawat in Officer Training Academy (OTA) yesterday evening.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hlaing and party were entertained with traditional Indian songs and dances and OTA military band in OTA dance hall.

Earlier in the day, the Tatmadaw delegation visited and paid homage at Mahabodhi Temple and Bodh Gaya Park.

Afterward, the Tatmadaw delegation visited the Myanmar Buddhist monastery in Gaya where Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife provided offerings, cash donations and



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts a gift from Chief of Staff (Army) of the Indian Army General Bipin Rawat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Waso robe to the head monk and Tatmadaw officials provided offerings, cash donations and Waso robes to sanghas after which merits were shared for

the good deed. Next the Senior General, wife and delegation provided soon to the Members of the Sangha.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Demand should be in accordance with rules and disciplines

Now is a time when political consciousness is emerging, with some wavering. Our government complies with demands as much as possible. Like the parents who acquiesce to their children and take action against them if they reach beyond disciplines, our government will take action against those who are undisciplined and take more opportunities than they should. Demand your needs in accordance with rules and disciplines. We will comply with them in accordance with the rules.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Bogyoke Aung San in Natmauk on 25th March 1947)



Monsoon tree planting event 2017 in Hlawga Lake area

THE 5th monsoon tree planting event 2017 at Hlawga Lake area jointly organized by the Yangon City Development Committee and the AEON Environmental Foundation was held yesterday in Hlawga Lake, Mingaladon Township, Yangon region, yesterday and Vice President U Myint Swe participated in it.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Yangon region government Ministers Col. Aung Soe Moe and U Han Tun, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, departmental officials, Minister Counselor of the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, officials from the AEON Environmental Foundation and invited guests.

At the event AEON Co., Ltd President Mr. Motoya Okada first gave a short welcome speech and Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun explained about the aim of the monsoon tree planting after which Minister Counselor of the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama said words of thanks.

Next, the Vice President and officials planted teak sap-



Vice President U Myint Swe inspects Hlawga Lake area during the 5th monsoon tree planting event 2017 in Hlawga Lake, Mingaladon Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

lings in designated places and viewed the planting of 1,200 plants; 550 plants from Japan side and 650 plants from Myanmar side.

In the day's tree planting event more than 13,000 saplings

consisting of Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), Pyinkadoe (*Xylia xylocarpa*) and Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) were planted in the 20 acres of the Hlawga Lake area.

The AEON Co., Ltd. of Japan has been annually planting trees in Myanmar since 2013 and a total of 47,000 trees had been planted while this is the fifth time the event was held. —Myanmar News Agency ■

YBS 55 bus line terminated after deadly crash

YBS 55 bus line which involved in the Friday-deadly crash would be terminated, said Dr Maung Aung, Secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority-YRTA.

The decision comes at the meeting between YRTA and YBS bus lines yesterday following the deadly accident. A public bus line will run on the route of the YBS 55 bus line, according to the meeting. A YBS 55 bus broke a tie rod and slammed into a YBS 37 bus on the other side of the road, resulting in the death of nine passengers and injuries to 19 others yesterday afternoon.

The accident occurred near the old Shwenyaungbin Bo Bo Gyi Nat shrine in Pyinmabin village tract on Yangon-Pyay Road. YRTA secretary Dr. Maung Aung confirmed most of the casualties were on the YBS 37 bus.

Twelve victims were treated in North Okkalapa Hospital and 7 were treated in Insein Hospital. Most of the dead and wounded passengers were on the YBS 37 as it was struck by the YBS 55," said Dr. Maung Aung.—001 ■

Yangon pagodas crowded with devotees on Full Moon Day of Waso

Yi Yi Myint

Buddhist devotees observed the Full Moon Day of Waso, or Dhammacakka Day, at pagodas across the country yesterday.

On this auspicious day for Buddhists, the pagodas in Yangon and across the country were teeming with worshippers. The Full moon Day of Waso is very significant for Buddhists because this is the day Buddha was conceived. Later in his life on this day, Buddha renounced worldly

pleasures. It was also on this day that he preached his first sermon of Dhammacakka and performed the miracles of supernatural powers. Starting from the early morning, a ceremony to donate Waso robes was held at designated places on the terrace of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

First the pagoda trustee led the offering of soon (food), water, fruits, oil lamps and scented water for Buddha at Ancient Buddha Images Hall near the southern stairway to start the

Dhammacakka Day event. Afterward, homage was paid by going around the pagoda and offering Waso robes to Buddha images in the shrines on the terrace of the pagoda. A Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta reciting contest was also held at the Ancient Buddha Images Hall of the Shwedagon Pagoda. At the Yaungtawpwin Hall, the devotees took precepts and offered soon, or food, to sayadaws.

During the three-month period of the Rain Retreat for

Buddhist monks, pagoda ova-dacariya (patron) sayadaws will administer sermons to devotees in Ancient Buddha Images Hall.

Trustee of Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda led the Myanmar Era 1379 Full Moon Day of Waso and Dhammacakka Day event yesterday afternoon at the upper floor of the worshiping hall in the pagoda, where members of 21 devotee teams recited the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta.

Afterwards, the pagoda trustees, devotee teams and people

paying homage to the pagoda circled the pagoda in a clockwise manner and offered Waso Robes to seven Buddha images.

Similarly, trustees of Botahtaung Pagoda conducted the Full Moon Day of Waso and Dhammacakka Day event at the pagoda starting in the morning as devotees filled the pagoda.

The same religious ceremony was also held yesterday at pagodas in Yangon including Shwe Bon Pwint Pagoda and Sule Pagoda. ■

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Only 1,030 vehicles imported with consignment system

ONLY 1,030 vehicles were imported using the consignment system, paying between Ks3 million and Ks6 million, depending on the type of vehicles, according to the vehicle import supervision committee.

Field inspections by car showroom owners and authorities from the vehicle import supervision committee has revealed the exact number of cars imported under the consignment system.

"It is difficult to know the exact number of the vehicles because the car showroom owners have the book balance only, and they have never taken stock on the ground, said a member of the supervisory committee.

Currently, only 28 out of 1030 vehicles have registered, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

There are only a few vehicles that have registered because most of the vehicles



There are more vehicles for busy traffic in Yangon. Only 28 out of 1,030 vehicles have registered because most of the vehicles are not permitted. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

are older models, which are not permitted.

Therefore, they are not willing to register them because their imported cars are not in accord with the pre-

scribed import rules and regulations. The committee has granted the import of 1995 to 2000 model cars for Ks3 million and 2000 to 2015 model cars for Ks6 million. But the license

would be only regional. The owners of the cars shall either register or sell them by 31st October. Otherwise, the government will confiscate them. —Min Thwe ■

Nobody injured in fiery incident in Yenangyaung Town

A KITCHEN fire occurred in Yenangyaung, a town in Magway Region, on Saturday morning, destroying a bamboo house worth approximately Ks400,000, according to the township fire service department.

The fire occurred at a house located on Ayegon Street in Shwekyangon Ward in the town at 12.30am on 8 July. Investigators say that the house

is owned by Daw Moe Moe, who suffers from mental illness and lives alone.

According to a preliminary investigation, the blaze started in the kitchen as the house owner forgot to turn off the stove after cooking. The flame then quickly spread to other parts of the bamboo house and destroyed it within minutes.

No injuries were reported, police say.

With the assistance of local police, firefighters brought the blaze under control within 10 minutes.

The township Fire Service Department used three fire engines and 2,800 gallons of water to fight the fire.

Action is being taken against the house owner who will face legal charges under the existing law.—Phyo Mon Kyaw ■

One dead, five injured in Friday morning crash

ONE person was killed and five others injured in a car accident that happened on Thantaunggyi-Taungoo Road in Thantaung District, Kayin State on 7 July, according to police.

Witnesses say that U Kyaw Kyaw lost control of his car and crashed into a Suzuki sedan with five people on board which was parked on the side of the road at around 8.30 a.m. on 7 July.

The accident killed U Saw Christopher, 36, who was standing near the Suzuki. Five people inside the car were injured and are receiving medical treatment at the general hospital in Thantaunggyi Township.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the reckless driver, who fled on the scene after the crash.—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD) ■

Sea books to be issued to fishery workers

THAILAND authorities have announced they will issue sea books to fishery workers, including Myanmar migrant workers, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on 7 July.

To receive the sea books that will allow them to work, the fishery workers have to provide the necessary documents. Thai authorities urged

the governments concerned to co-operate in their project.

The Ministry of Labour in Thailand and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Myanmar are discussing the matters relating to issue of the sea books to the Myanmar fishermen.

Thailand authorities have requested Myanmar authorities to provide necessary docu-

ments to Myanmar fishermen.

Thailand authorities have made arrangements to issue the seabooks for foreign fishermen to be able to work legally in Thailand.

The issue of the sea books can also be of help to finding out the number of migrant workers in Thailand, according to the Ministry of Labour in Thailand.—GNLM ■

Myanmar business persons invited to take part in 122nd Canton Fair

MAYNMAR business persons have been invited to participate in the 122nd session of the Canton Fair International Pavilion to be held in coming October in Guangzhou, China, according to the Myanmar Trade Center.

Held since 1957, this is the largest import and export trade fair in Guangzhou, the southern Chinese city once known as Canton. Co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the People's Government of Guangdong Province, and organised by the China Foreign Trade Centre, the event is due to take place from 31 October to 4 November at the China Import and Export Fair Pazhou Complex. The fair

will exhibit a wide range of Chinese products and overseas commodities of participant companies, with plans to feature electronic devices, kitchen ware, household utensils, hardware, machinery, food and beverage, handicrafts, clothing and many others.

One of the local coffee manufacturers said that plans are underway to participate in the fair as the fair is expected to be the best platform for the country's products to penetrate the global market. For further information, interested entrepreneurs may dial 01 254023 and 01 254024 of the Myanmar Trade Center in Yangon. Event details are also available through www.cantonfair.org.cn/international.—Shwe Khine ■

Over 1,000 tonnes of onions go to China, Thailand via borders in one week

MYANMAR exported more than 1,000 tonnes of onions to neighbouring China and Thailand through cross-border points within a week's time, according to a recent report of the Commerce Ministry.

The ministry's statistics show that the country sent a total of 1,145 tonnes of onion amounting to US\$0.496 million to China from Muse 105-mile trade zone and over 100 tonnes of onion worth over \$45,000 to Thailand from Myawady and Tachilek border gates in the third week of last month.

The current export figures for onions from those border trade stations were 762 tonnes



A farmer waters onions on a field in Padigon township, Bago Region. PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR

more than that of previous week. The country sold nearly 500 tonnes of the same crop to the two neighbours in the second week of this June.

Local growers in Minbu Township in Magway Region say that onion prices increased from Ks800 to Ks1,200 per viss, a unit equivalent to 3.6 pounds

or 1.6 kilograms, within a month, adding that the prices are expected to decline when fresh onion crops enter into the domestic market.—GNLM ■

Myanmar-China border trade rises by \$64 million

BORDER trade between Myanmar and China in the current fiscal year increased by more than US\$64 million matched against the same period last year, according to the latest figures issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the first three months of this FY, the bilateral border trade reached \$1.47 billion, while that of the 2016-2017 FY amounted to \$1.4 billion.

Myanmar's exports to its largest neighbour from border trade camps reached nearly \$1 billion, while imports from China totalled \$473.5 million this year.

Myanmar continues to trade with the world's most populous country through the five border stations of Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete and Kengtung.

Within three months, the export and import of border trade from the Lwejel, Kanpikete, and Kengtung cross-border points was less than \$60 million, while bilateral trade from the Chinshwehaw border gate was valued at more than \$140 million.

The Muse border point stands as the largest trade transaction zone between

the two countries with the highest volume and value of total border trade. Over the past three months of this FY, bilateral trade via Muse gate was \$1.228 billion in total.

From April to June of this year, the country's overall border trade value exceeded \$1.7 billion, including over \$1 billion from the export sector and \$710 million from the import sector.

Myanmar has 16 border trade camps with China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh, and plans to open more border gates in the future.—GNLM ■

Consumer goods imports exceed \$1 billion this FY

THE IMPORT of consumer goods between Myanmar and partner countries this financial year exceeded US\$1 billion, according to the official report of the Commerce Ministry.

When compared to the same period of last year, the current import figures for consumer goods increased by \$184 million. The country imported a wide variety of consumer products worth \$921 million in the previous year, with \$894

million from the private sector plus \$27 million from the government sector. Between April and May of this year, the private sector bought both durable and non-durable goods amounting to \$1.080 billion while the government sector imported similar products worth \$26 million.

The import of consumer goods continued to increase year after year. The import value was \$1.24 billion in FY2011-12 and it rose to \$1.4

billion in FY2012-13, \$2.3 billion in FY2013-14, \$2.9 billion in FY2014-15, \$3.5 billion in FY2015-16 and more than \$4 billion in FY2016-17.

Myanmar imports many different kinds of consumer products chiefly from neighbouring countries including China, India and Thailand. It continues external trade with other ASEAN member states, Asian, African and Western countries.—GNLM ■



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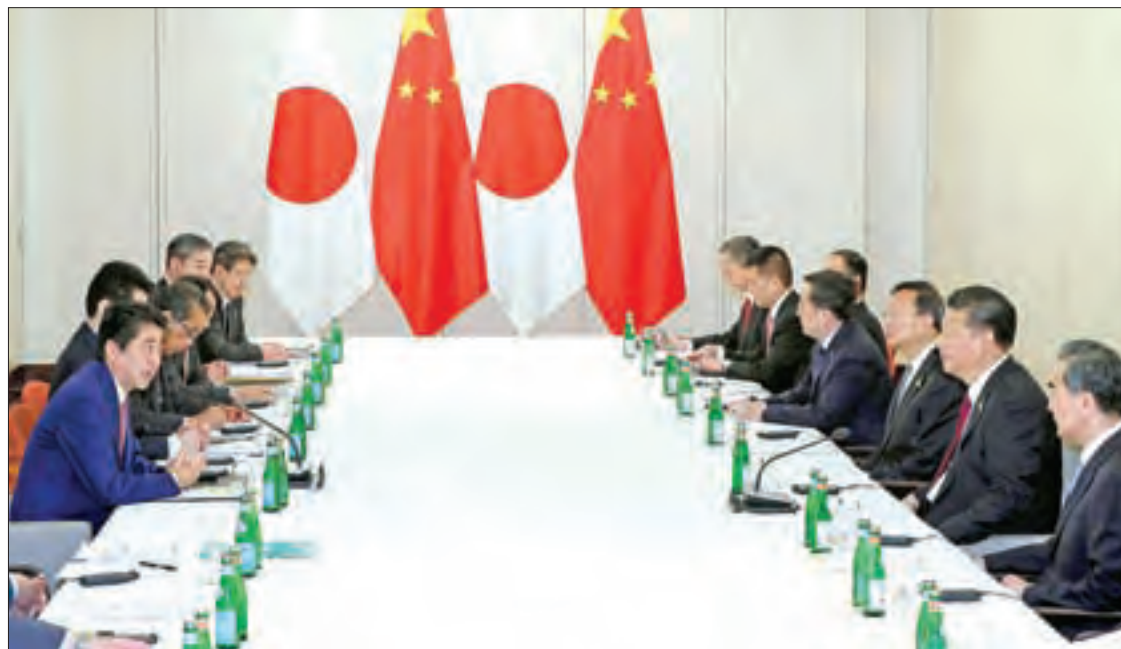
Abe, Xi agree to promote bilateral talks to improve Japan-China ties

HAMBURG — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on Saturday to strengthen their dialogue with the goal of improving bilateral relations, as they met on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Germany.

According to a senior Japanese official, Abe and Xi affirmed the importance of building “stable” relations between Asia’s two biggest economies, especially as this year marks the 45th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties, while next year sees the 40th anniversary of the Japan-China Treaty of Friendship and Peace.

The two leaders pressed North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions, affirming that Tokyo and Beijing share a common goal of achieving denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Given China’s influence and economic leverage over



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping hold talks in Hamburg, Germany on 8 July, 2017. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to curb North Korea’s nuclear ambitions. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

North Korea, Abe urged Xi to play a “more constructive role” in reining in Pyongyang, according to the official.

Now is the time to strength-

en pressure on North Korea to change its course, Abe reportedly said, just days after Pyongyang test-launched its first intercontinental ballistic

missile on Tuesday, heightening tensions.

In a joint statement issued after three-way talks Thursday in Hamburg, Abe, US President

Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae In “called on the nations that border the DPRK to make further efforts to convince the DPRK regime to abandon its current threatening and provocative path and immediately take steps to denuclearize and to halt its ballistic missile program.”

The statement was an effort to push China and Russia to step up efforts to constrain North Korea, whose formal name is the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

In Saturday’s meeting, Abe urged Xi to “improve the situation in the East China Sea,” the Japanese official said, in an apparent reference to Beijing’s assertive claims over the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands.

Xi was quoted by the official as saying that it is important to maintain peace and stability at sea.—Kyodo News ■

More heavy rain forecast for Japan as death toll rises to 16

ASAKURA — Japanese rescue crews took advantage of a break in the weather on Saturday to search for survivors of torrential rain, floods and landslides, as the death toll from several days of freak weather rose to 16, the NHK state broadcaster reported.

Authorities warned of more downpours over the weekend, compounding the misery that the summer storms have brought to southwest Japan since Wednesday.

Some neighbourhoods have been devastated by flooding and landslides, and rescue workers and residents have been picking their way through expanses of broken, water-logged trees, branches and mud.

“All the mud and debris is making the clean-up effort difficult,” said Susumu Higuchi, a resident of Asakura.

The city was pounded by

more than 600 mm (24 inches) of rain in the 24 hours to 5 am (2000 GMT) on Saturday, according to Japan’s weather agency.

Heavy machinery was working to clear almost knee-deep mud from streets while nearby, an uprooted tree was tangled in cables from an electricity power pole.

A police dog was hunting for victims in flooded homes, many now clogged with debris.

The weather agency said 150 mm of rain was forecast to fall in industrialised Northern Kyushu in the 24 hours to 6 am on Sunday. Some places have seen more rain in a matter of hours than they usually get in the whole month of July.

The rain has been caused by a low pressure over the Pacific that has been feeding into moist air into Japan’s seasonal rainy front.—Reuters ■

Indian authorities order probe after five injured in jet blast at Delhi airport

NEW DELHI — Indian civil aviation authorities on Saturday initiated a probe after five passengers sustained injuries when one of the windows of a bus carrying them to an aircraft shattered due to jet blast from another plane that was taxiing at Delhi airport.

Jet blast is the strong force of hot air that aircraft engines push behind, particularly on or before take-off.

The incident took place late Friday evening when a bus of low-cost private carrier Indigo ferrying passengers to a flight to Mumbai was hit by the jet blast

from another low-cost carrier SpiceJet that was taxiing after landing hit the vehicle.

“A probe has been ordered into the incident to ascertain how the bus came close to an aircraft that was taxiing after landing at the domestic terminal of Indira Gandhi International Airport,” an official of Directorate General of Civil Aviation said.

While Indigo has blamed SpiceJet for the incident, the latter said a probe will establish the exact cause.

“IndiGo Coach number 34 was parked at Bay 17 yes-

terday (Friday) for boarding of passengers on flight 6E-191 enroute Delhi-Mumbai. At the same time, an arriving aircraft of Spicejet SG-253 took a turn to park at the allocated bay. The jet blast from the aircraft broke the right front window glass of the coach,” IndiGo said in a statement.

On its part, SpiceJet said: “It is also too early to apportion responsibility as the pilots were following normal procedures ... In any case we have informed the regulator and the airline is closely cooperating with all assistance.”—Xinhua ■

Viet Nam arrests Interpol-wanted Russian drug dealer

HANOI — Police of Viet Nam’s central Nha Trang city have detained a 47-year-old Russian woman wanted by Interpol for making, possessing and selling drugs along with her husband in

their home country since 2015.

Bering Ekaterina fled to Viet Nam in late 2014, and then worked as a spa attendant in a four-star hotel in Nha Trang until her arrest, local online newspa-

per Tuoi Tre (Youth) reported on Saturday.

The Interpol National Central Bureau for Viet Nam is completing procedures to send her back to Russia.—Xinhua ■

Former martial arts star Battulga wins Mongolian presidential election

ULAANBAATAR — Populist former martial arts star and businessman Khaltmaa Battulga has won Mongolia's presidential run-off election, according to voter data from the General Election Commission released on Saturday.

The poll was seen as a referendum on the government's economic recovery plans and the role of southern neighbour China in the landlocked but resource-rich country known as the birthplace of Mongol emperor Genghis Khan.

Battulga, of the opposition Democratic Party, won with 50.6 per cent of the vote on a 60.9 per cent turnout, giving him the majority needed to overcome his opponent, parliament speaker Miyeegombo Enkhbold of the ruling Mongolian People's Party.

Election officials are still, however, waiting on a final count of votes from abroad.

The election campaign was marred by political mudslinging from all sides and the public perception that none of the candidates were fit for the job, according to Luvsanvandan Sumati, the head of polling group the Sant Maral Foundation.

"The worst election in Mongolian history," said Sumati.

Enkhbold's loss was definitive. He trailed far behind Battulga with 41.2 per cent of the vote due to the nearly 100,000 blank votes submitted in protest at the choice of candidates.



Khaltmaa Battulga, the presidential candidate of the opposition Democratic Party waves to reporters after addressing them in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, early 8 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Friday's run-off was scheduled after the 26 June vote failed to result in a outright winner.

Some investors have been wary of a Battulga presidency because of his calls for more state control of some mines and his suspicions of China, Mongolia's biggest trade partner.

Despite past protests, he has said he will stand behind plans to build a key railway to China from the enormous Tavan Tolgoi coal mine and has praised China's Belt and Road pan-Asian infrastructure initiative.

"He may push projects that are politically motivated but not economically justified," said a Mongolia-focused institutional investor who asked not to be named.

Battulga rose to fame as a Mongolian wrestler. His businesses include a hotel, a Genghis Khan-themed amusement park,

and food companies for baked goods and meats.

Tsakhia Elbegdorj will step down as president after finishing his second and final term.

Battulga's opponent Enkhbold has stood behind the current government and prime minister, pledging to stay the course for economic recovery following a \$5.5 billion rescue package from the International Monetary Fund and partners in May.

Battulga captured the attention of voters who feel Mongolia received a bad deal on investments, promising greater government control of strategic mines, such as Rio Tinto's, Oyu Tolgoi copper mine.

Mongolia is a parliamentary democracy. The government is run by a prime minister, but the president has powers to veto legislation and make judicial appointments.—Reuters ■

Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo seen by foreign cancer specialists

HONG KONG — Doctors from Germany and the United States examined Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo on Saturday, and confirmed his liver cancer had reached the terminal stage, news reports said, quoting a statement issued by the Chinese hospital where he is being treated.

The South China Morning Post reported that Markus Buechler, head of the University of Heidelberg's Department of Surgery, and Joseph Herman of the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas spent three hours with Liu, 61, at the hospital in Shenyang, Liaoning Province.

"The pair 'were given the patient's detailed treatment history, visited him in the ward, heard from his family and then discussed the matter,'" the newspaper said, quoting a statement issued by the First Hospital of China Medical University.

"The American and Ger-

man experts fully endorsed the treatment proposal and measures undertaken" by the Chinese doctors treating Liu, the statement also said.

A literary critic and university lecturer, Liu was sentenced to 11 years in prison in December 2009 for "inciting subversion of state power" by helping draft a blueprint for political change, known as Charter 08, calling for democracy, human rights and rule of law in China.

He was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize in absentia.

Liu was granted medical parole last month after being diagnosed with late state liver cancer in May.

Petitions from overseas, including foreign governments, more than 150 Nobel Prize laureates, cosignatories of the Charter and supporters, calling for Liu to be released and treated abroad were sent to Beijing. But China has maintained that Liu was too sick to travel.—Kyodo News ■

Two US bombers conduct bombing drill in S Korea in warning to North

SEOUL — Two US supersonic aircraft conducted a bombing drill in South Korea on Saturday, in a simulated attack on a North Korean missile launcher, the South Korean military said.

Two B-1B Lancer strategic bombers flew from Anderson Air Base in Guam to South Korea, and dropped weapons on a range in Gangwon province in a simulated attack intended as warning to North Korea, the South Korean air force reportedly said in a statement.

South Korean F-15 and F-16 fighter jets joined the two US bombers in the simulated attack on the North Korean targets, according to the air force.

The show of force — possibly the first exercise of its kind — follows the test launch Tuesday by North Korea of an intercontinental ballistic mis-

sile believed capable of hitting Alaska or Hawaii.

The first successful test by North Korea of an ICBM has raised tensions by demonstrating the progress being made by Pyongyang in developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of striking the US mainland. US President Donald Trump has vowed that he will stop North Korea from ever achieving that capability.

Afterwards, two Japanese F2 fighter aircraft conducted a training exercise with the two US bombers in airspace around the southwestern Japanese island of Kyushu, according to Japan's Air-Self Defence Force, which describe the drill as part of close co-operation between Japan, the United States and South Korea in responding to the threat posed by North Korea.—Kyodo News ■

Iran seizes big arms from militants in SE country

TEHRAN — Iranian police forces have seized large number of weapons, including an anti-aircraft gun, from a militant group in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday.

The Police raided an arms depot of the so-called Jaish al-Adl "terrorist" group in in Koohsefid region, near the city of Saravan, and confiscated assault rifles and ammunition, the provincial police commander Hossein Rahimi told Tasnim.

The 35 AK-47 machine guns, two SPG-9 guns, an anti-aircraft 14.5 mm gun with a range of sev-

en kilometres and tens of cartridges, as well as a huge amount of ammunition were among the arms seized in the police operation, Rahimi was quoted as saying.

"Members of Jaish al-Adl terrorist group had plans to use the weapons against civilians in Sistan and Baluchestan Province," the commander said but he did not specify the time of operation.

In 10 April, Iranian border guards were killed by the Sunni militants of Jaish al-Adl, or the Army of Justice, in a cross-border attack on the frontier with Pakistan.

The Sistan-Baluchestan province in southeast Iran has long been plagued by drug smuggling gangs and separatist militants. The population of the province is predominantly Sunni Muslim, while the majority of Iranians are Shias.

Jaish al-Adl has carried out several attacks on Iranian security forces with the aim of highlighting what they claim is "discrimination" against Sunni Muslims and the Baluch ethnic group in the province.

The militants has claimed responsibility for a number of other bloody attacks since 2013.—Xinhua ■

We are all responsible for our future!

By Khin Maung Oo

There is a well-known Myanmar saying, “No one but we ourselves shape our future.” All beings—undergo the process of change; living things in the plant kingdom also go through the process of change. However, the former ones need to strive harder for their survival. During our striving for our aim or goal, we have to face success or failure, gain or loss, approval or disapproval, applause or censure. In other words, these are results which come out of our efforts. Depending upon our results, we have to feel pleasure or pain, happiness or sorrow, encouragement or discouragement and euphoria or depression.

Outcomes which result from our performances affect us—the persons

concerned and their related ones. We feel happy and proud of our success. Contrariwise, we feel sad and depressed sometimes, tending to blame others for our failure. Nonsensical it is! In fact, we fail to recognize the actual truth of our daily, or rather all-time performances or activities. We are thinking that we earn our living or make money for the sake of our families only. As citizens associating with communities or societies, we always take part in communal activities by giving voluntary labor or by contributing donations such as money or other necessary things, like when it comes to helping victims of natural disasters. Then, can it be said to be for the wellbeing of the people what we are earning?

Inventions of inventors such as Thomas Alva Edison, Wright Brothers

and so on were not invented for their benefits only. Great poets and writers created works of excellence for us. Philosophers left us their invaluable doctrines. Our Lord Gautama Buddha himself tried hard for eons to attain Buddhahood to guide all beings to liberate themselves from the cycle of births and deaths, not for His own sake. Knowing these true situations, why are they desirous of finding faults with others?

Now we are marching towards a modern Democratic Federal Union under the leadership of our elected government. As known by all, the previous government left many problems and numerous unfinished tasks in many economic sectors. A heavy workload was waiting to be taken care of. Of them, many of these problems have been

solved. We should know that it would take us much time to deal with these in a short period of time. These will never ever disappear by just a chanting a magical mantra. We know that the present government is implementing many projects for the people and our younger generation. In fact, we are all responsible to join in these activities ourselves, instead of blaming or finding faults with the government. We are not dutiful just by electing our trusted representatives to form a government. We should monitor their activities closely and watch over them and give them proper feedback and good suggestions. It wholly depends upon us to bring about success or failure. As the saying goes “No one but we ourselves shape our future.” ■

Welcoming the Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan

Dr. Khine Khine Win

WITH support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Myanmar, the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) will host the launching ceremony of the Civil Service Reform (CSR) Strategic Action Plan and the Knowledge Forum on Public Service Motivation from 10 to 12 July 2017 at the Myanmar National Convention Center -2 (MICC2).

The CSR Strategic Action Plan aims at supporting the Government of Myanmar in formalizing a holistic vision for CSR in Myanmar and determining a result-oriented plan of action serving as a strategy document to establish a modern and competent Civil Service.

In developing and drafting the CSR Strategic Action plan, UCSB and UNDP have conducted four rounds of consultative workshops in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Yangon and Taunggyi; these took place from August 2016 to February 2017. The specific outcomes of the aforementioned workshops allowed UCSB to draft the Action Plan, which was later submitted for review to the public. UCSB is today ready to launch the CSR Strategic Action Plan, a plan well rooted in the principles of transparency and performance. The CSR Strategic Action Plan is a true milestone for all civil servants of Myanmar – No doubt!

Following the launching ceremony, the UCSB is organizing the 2017 Knowledge Forum on Public Service Motivation and will also launch the “Global Study on Intrinsic Motivation in Developing Countries”. Many international and national experts will lead the discussions and exchange of thoughts,

views and ideas on topic related to civil service reform and motivation.

The State Counselor H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will deliver the Key Note Address at this event. H.E. Vice President U Myint Swe, The Speakers of the Union Parliament, Members of Parliament and Staff, Union Ministers and Officials from Governmental Institutions/ Agencies, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chief Ministers, States and Regions Governments representatives, Chairmen from Self-Administrated Zones, Senior Officials, Academia and Think Tanks, civil society organizations, media Institutions, donors and development partners, ASEAN member states representatives, representatives of countries partaking in the Global Survey on Intrinsic Motivation, international experts and practitioners will participate in these events. Approximately 650 persons will attend the launch event. Being a civil servant myself, I feel proud that such a distinguished group of people is attending this event and I believe it would be a super day for all civil servants of Myanmar.

Since the civil service in Myanmar remains largely supply-driven and lacks a client-oriented and service culture, this is the time to promote the principles of meritocracy, fairness and accountability. The CSR Strategic Action Plan intends to do this. Moreover, the upcoming launch event and knowledge forum would present a great opportunity for civil servants of Myanmar to learn from the international experiences and best practices, to gain knowledge from experts, and to exchange views and ideas related to civil service transformation. This is not only the success of UCSB but

also the success of all civil servants of Myanmar. Such kind of event is rare to host and it would be a valuable chance not only for civil servants but also for all those who are interested in Myanmar’s Civil Service Transformation and Public Service Motivation.

Myanmar is in the midst of a democratic transition in which the civil service plays a profound role. If the civil servant is good, the nation will be in good shape. As we are on the way towards a democratic society, we need to promote better delivery of public goods and services with increased accountability. It is a required action and a direct contributor to strengthening the democratic character of the civil service. Indeed, as the pace of change increases with the civilian government, the civil service should be upgraded and empowered to perform the statutory duties imparted. The civil service is a key platform between the public and the state, we need to have a stronger platform that would be the basis for delivering services quickly and smoothly.

State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that “civil servants must strive to win the trust of public by being reliant and carried out their jobs in the interest of the people”. In order to assist the people effectively, civil servants need to understand the needs of the people and constantly strive to improve the services they provide and also need to understand what is required in their role and how this contributes to departmental priorities.

According to the UCSB-UNDP perception survey on Ethics, Meritocracy and Equal Opportunities in the Myanmar Civil Service, Myanmar’s

civil service today remains largely supply-driven and lacking a clear people-centered service culture. Despite an overall promotion of the principles of meritocracy, fairness and accountability through existing rules and regulations, these principles remain relatively limited in their practical application. Today, thanks to the efforts of UCSB, we have a CSR Strategic Action Plan which upholds the principles of merit, transparency, accountability, people-centered development, inclusivity and responsiveness.

If the civil servant is good enough, the nation will be in good shape. Civil servants have the heavy responsibility to build a good Nation, they must demonstrate the required skill and knowledge as well as the right values, spirit of public service.

The CSR Strategic Action Plan already engaged in identifying ways to transform and modernize the civil service, allowing it to embrace a new paradigm, dynamics and priorities. Bearing in mind that Civil Servants are the bedrock of the public administration, they need to assume a more important role in democratic development.

The CSR Strategic Action Plan is the plan that will help establish an efficient government which would work for the benefit of the people and strengthen rule of law and establish a society free of corruption.

I personally wish that civil servants in Myanmar would all work together to implement the CSR Strategic Action Plan successfully. I deeply appreciate the UCSB and UNDP for their tireless efforts and for making such an event a huge success. ■

LG Electronics second quarter profit likely to miss estimates on mobile unit woes

SEOUL — South Korea's LG Electronics Inc estimated that its second-quarter operating profit rose 14 per cent from a year ago, but fell short of expectations as the mobile division's struggles likely continued.

LG, the world's No 2 television maker by sales behind Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, reported a preliminary April-June profit of 664 billion won (\$574.49 million), versus a Thomson Reuters StarMine SmartEstimate of 755 billion won from a poll of 18 analysts.

Revenue likely rose 3.9 per cent to 14.6 trillion won, the firm said, also lower than the 15.1 trillion won SmartEstimate.

"It's likely that the mobile division's losses were well over 100 billion won, while profitability for both the television and appliances businesses were a bit weaker than what we had anticipated," Dongbu Securities analyst SR Kwon said.

The firm's shares extended their losses following the weaker-than-expected guidance and closed down 4.2 per cent, compared with a 0.3 per cent fall for the broader market.

While LG did not elaborate



LG Electronics smartphones seen inside the Class cellphone store in Beirut, Lebanon on 6 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

on its forecasts, analysts said its mobile business probably saw an operating loss for a ninth straight quarter due to subdued sales and increased marketing costs for its new G6 flagship smartphone launched in March.

Some analysts also said display panel prices have remained

elevated during the second quarter, undermining margins for the TV business.

Earlier in the day, Samsung reported its best-ever quarterly profit, beating expectations and putting it on track for record annual earnings on the back of a memory chip super-cycle.

Seasonally weaker sales of home appliances in the second half of the year could hurt LG's earnings, but year-on-year growth is expected in the third quarter, analysts said. LG's vehicle components business could turn to profit later this year, some added.—Reuters ■

Russia to keep cooperating with others to harmonise energy markets — Putin

HAMBURG — President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia planned to keep cooperating with other countries to harmonise global energy markets and reduce price volatility.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers led by Russia agreed to cut oil production by almost 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) from January this year to rein in inventories and support prices. The deal runs to March 2018.

Putin, speaking at an informal meeting of BRICS nations in Hamburg where a Group of 20 summit is underway, also said that Moscow viewed the Paris climate change agreement as a basis for long-term cooperation.

Putin said last month he believed there was still time to get a global climate change deal done despite US President Donald Trump saying he was pulling his country out of the Paris pact.

Russia has signed the Paris climate pact, but has not ratified it yet.—Reuters ■

Qualcomm accuses Apple of infringing six patents in iPhone, iPad

WASHINGTON — Chipmaker Qualcomm Inc (QCOM.O) will ask the US International Trade Commission to bar Apple Inc (AAPL.O) from selling some iPhones and iPads in the United States that use chips made by competitor Intel Corp (INTC.O) on the grounds that the devices infringe on six Qualcomm patents.

In a request that would broaden its legal battle with Apple, San Diego-based Qualcomm said it will ask the US ITC to ban imports of the infringing Apple devices. A related lawsuit was filed in federal court in California on Thursday to request monetary damages.

Qualcomm, which also supplies chips to Apple, said the six patents help devices perform well without draining the battery.

Apple referred reporters to its earlier comments on the dispute with Qualcomm, which accuse Qualcomm of unfairly

imposing what Apple calls a "tax" on Apple devices using Qualcomm chips.

In its complaint to the ITC, Qualcomm asked the body to ban "iPhones that use cellular baseband processors other than those supplied by Qualcomm's affiliates." Qualcomm did not name Intel, but Intel began supplying chips for some iPhones starting with the iPhone 7.

Qualcomm has not alleged that Intel chips violate its patents but claims that the way Apple implements them in the iPhone does. Intel declined comment.

Stacy Rasgon, an analyst with Bernstein, said ITC cases typically take 16 months to conclude and the case was unlikely to affect Apple's 10th anniversary iPhone launch expected this fall. "I doubt this puts a lot of immediate pressure on Apple," Rasgon said.

There has been long-run-



The audience assembles before the start of Apple's annual developer conference in San Jose, California, US on 5 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ning tension between Qualcomm and Apple over Qualcomm's practice of taking a cut of the total price of the phone in exchange for "modem" chips that help phones use wireless networks data plans.

The ITC is a popular venue for patent disputes because it

handles cases relatively quickly and can more easily bar an infringing product from the US market than federal courts.

Animosity between the two companies burst into the open in January, when the US Federal Trade Commission filed a lawsuit against Qualcomm and

accused it of using "anticompetitive" tactics to maintain its monopoly on a key semiconductor used in mobile phones.

The FTC, which enforces antitrust law along with the Justice Department, said that Qualcomm used its dominant position as a supplier of certain chips to impose "onerous" supply and licensing terms on cellphone manufacturers and to weaken competitors.

Days later, Apple sued Qualcomm for \$1 billion, accusing it of overcharging for chips and withholding promised rebates because of Apple's discussions with South Korea's antitrust regulators in their probe of Qualcomm.

Separately from this dispute, Qualcomm is a major supplier to both Apple and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) for modem chips that connect phones to wireless networks.—Reuters ■

WORLD
BRIEFS

Macron tells Putin tangible progress made in Russo-French relations

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron said he told Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin the two countries had made a “tangible” progress in bilateral relations, which could

move to a new phase.

The two presidents met for the first time on 29 May.

“On the subject of bilateral and regional issues, I welcome the quality and the

intensity of the work that has been established since then,” Macron, who kept Putin waiting for about 20 minutes, said ahead of their meeting behind closed doors.

“So I think now we can move on to a new phase because we both saw that we were doing what we were saying,” Macron added. —Reuters ■

Putin and Trump agree on ceasefire in Syria

HAMBURG — Russia and the United States have agreed on a ceasefire in the south of Syria from 12.00 Damascus time on 9 July, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday after the talks of Russian and US presidents, Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump.

“A ceasefire will come into force in that zone (Syria's south - Daraa and Quneitra) at 12.00 Damascus time on 9 July,” he said. “The United States has made a commitment that all the groups present there will observe the ceasefire.”

The security in the de-escalation zone in the south of Syria will be ensured by the Russian military police in coordination with the US and Jordan, he went on.

“At first, the security around this zone will be ensured with the use of the personnel and resources of the Russian military police,” Lavrov said. —Reuters ■

Trump says expects to do lots of trade deals with Indonesia

HAMBURG — US President Donald Trump said on Saturday the United States would do a lot of trade deals and business with Indonesia during a meeting with President Joko Widodo at the G20 gathering of the world's biggest economies. —Reuters ■

Eight people dead under collapsed building in Italy —fire brigade

ROME — Eight people were found dead on Saturday under the rubble of a collapsed apartment building close to the southern Italian town of Naples, after rescue workers searched for bodies throughout the night, a fire brigade spokesman said.

The four-storey apartment in the town of Torre Annunziata, built in the 1950s and overlooking the sea, crumbled at around 6:20 am local time on Friday. —Reuters ■

G20 communique agreed apart from climate issue — EU officials

HAMBURG — World leaders meeting for a summit in Germany have agreed every aspect of a joint statement apart from the section on climate where the United States is pushing for a reference to fossil fuels, European Union officials said on Saturday.

The officials said aides had worked until 2 am to finalise a communique for the Group of 20, overcoming differences on trade after US officials agreed to language on fighting protectionism.

“The outcome is good. We have a communique. There is one issue left, which is on climate, but I am hopeful we can find a compromise,” said one EU official, speaking on condition of anonymity. “We have all the fundamentals.

“We have a G20 communique, not a G19 communique,” he added.

The section that needs to be resolved by the leaders relates to the US insistence that there be a reference to fossil fuels, the official said.

With the final statement almost nailed down, the summit marked a diplomatic success for Chancellor Angela Merkel as she finessed differences with US President Donald Trump, who arrived at the two-day summit isolated on a host of issues.

Trump, who on Friday found chemistry in his first face-to-face meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, congratulated Merkel for her stewardship of the summit.

“You have been amazing and you have done a fantastic job. Thank you very much chancellor,” he said.

Trump and Putin on Friday discussed alleged Russian meddling in the US election but agreed to focus on future ties



General view of at the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany on 8 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

rather than dwell on the past, a result that was sharply criticised by leading Democrats in Congress.

For Merkel, the summit is an opportunity to show off her diplomatic skills ahead of a federal election in September, when she is seeking a fourth term in office.

She treated the leaders to a concert at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie on Friday night, where they listened to Beethoven while their aides began their all night slog to work out a consensus on trade that had eluded the leaders.

Trade policy has become more contentious since Trump entered the White House promising an “America First” approach.

The trade section in the statement the aides thrashed out read: “We will keep markets open noting the importance of reciprocal and mutually advantageous trade and investment frameworks and the principle

of non-discrimination, and continue to fight protectionism including all unfair trade practices and recognise the role of legitimate trade defence instruments in this regard.”

Climate change policy proved a sticking point, with the United States pressing for inclusion of wording about which other countries had reservations.

That passage read: “... the United States of America will endeavour to work closely with other partners to help their access to and use of fossil fuels more cleanly and efficiently ...”

The climate section took note of Trump's decision last month to withdraw the United States from the landmark Paris climate accord aimed at combating climate change, and reaffirmed the commitment of the other 19 members to the agreement.

Merkel chose to host the summit in Hamburg, the port city where she was born, to send

a signal about Germany's openness to the world, including its tolerance of peaceful protests.

As the leaders met on Saturday, police helicopters hovered overhead. Overnight, police clashed with anti-capitalist protesters seeking to disrupt the summit.

In the early morning, heavily armed police commandos moved in after activists had spent much of Friday attempting to wrest control of the streets from more than 15,000 police, setting fires, looting and building barricades.

The summit is being held only a few hundred metres from one of Germany's most potent symbols of left-wing resistance, a former theatre called the “Rote Flora” which was taken over by anti-capitalist squatters nearly three decades ago.

Police said 200 officers had been injured, 134 protesters temporarily detained and another 100 taken into custody. —Reuters ■

‘Victory’ over IS in Mosul imminent as insurgents lines collapse — Iraqi military

MOSUL/ERBIL, (Iraq) — Iraqi security forces expect to take full control of Mosul in the coming hours as Islamic State's defensive lines collapse in its former de facto capital in Iraq, state television reported on Saturday.

Air strikes and artillery salvoes pounded the jihadists' last bastion in the city as black smoke billowed over it, a Reuters correspondent said.

Some Iraqi soldiers celebrated, dancing with rifles and machineguns and waving the national flag as they reached their assigned targets, without waiting for a formal victory announcement to be made, a Reuters TV crew said.

The mood was less festive, however, among some of the nearly one million Mosul residents displaced by months of fighting, many of whom are living in camps outside the city.

"If there is no rebuilding and people don't return to their homes and regain their belongings, what is the meaning of liberation?" Mohammed Haji Ahmed, an elderly clothing trader, told Reuters in the Hassan Sham camp, east of Mosul.

"We are seeing now the last metres (yards) and then final victory will be announced," a television presenter said, citing



Iraqi Federal police celebrate in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq on 8 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

the channel's correspondents embedded with security forces battling in Islamic State's redoubt in the Old City of Mosul, by the Tigris river. "It's a matter of hours," she said.

A military spokesman cited by the TV said the insurgents' defence lines were collapsing. Iraqi commanders say the insurgents are fighting for every metre with snipers, grenades and suicide bombers, forcing

security forces to fight house-to-house in the densely populated maze of narrow alleyways.

A US-led international coalition is providing air and ground support to the eight-month offensive to wrest back Mosul.

"The battle has reached the phase of chasing the insurgents in remaining blocks," the Iraqi military media office said in a statement. "Some members of Daesh have surrendered," it

added, using an Arab acronym of Islamic State.

Months of urban warfare has displaced 900,000 people, about half the city's pre-war population, and killed thousands, according to aid organizations.

Mosul was by far the largest city seized by Islamic State in its offensive three years ago where the ultra-hardline group declared its "caliphate" over adjoining parts of Iraq and Syria.

Stripped of Mosul, Islamic State's dominion in Iraq will be reduced to mainly rural, desert areas west and south of the city where tens of thousands of people live. The militants are expected to keep up attacks on selected targets across Iraq.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared the end of Islamic State's "state of falsehood" a week ago, after security forces took Mosul's mediaeval Grand al-Nuri mosque — although only after retreating militants blew it up.

The United Nations predicts it will cost more than \$1 billion to repair basic infrastructure in Mosul. Iraq's regional Kurdish leader said on Thursday in a Reuters interview that the Baghdad central government had failed to prepare a post-battle political, security and governance plan.

The offensive has damaged thousands of structures in Mosul's Old City and destroyed nearly 500 buildings, satellite imagery released by the United Nations on Thursday showed.

In some of the worst affected areas, almost no buildings appear to have escaped damage and Mosul's dense construction means the extent of the devastation might be underestimated, UN officials said.—Reuters ■

Trump's voter fraud panel to meet as US states' refusals mount

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's commission to investigate possible election fraud will convene this month, a government notice said on Friday, as more US states have refused to hand over at least some voter data.

Trump created the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity in May, after claiming without evidence that millions of people voted illegally for his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, in the 2016 election.

US civil rights groups and Democratic lawmakers have called the panel a voter suppression tactic by Trump, a Republican who won the presidential election by securing a majority in the Electoral College tally of delegates even as he lost the popular vote to Clinton by some 3 million votes.

The Electronic Privacy Information Centre, a watch-

dog group, has filed a lawsuit to block the commission's data request until its privacy impact can be weighed. A hearing in the case was scheduled for Friday afternoon.

There is a wide consensus among state officials from both parties and election experts that voter fraud is rare. States rejecting the commission's attempts to gather voter information have called it unnecessary and a violation of privacy.

Most US states have rejected full compliance with the commission's requests. Republican Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, the commission's vice chairman, said in a statement sent by the White House that 14 states and Washington, DC, had rejected the request outright.

The commission will meet on 19 July to swear in members, formulate objectives and discuss next steps after asking

the 50 states to turn over potentially sensitive voter information, according to a General Services Administration (GSA) notice published in the Federal Register.

A 28 June letter from the election panel sought names, the last four digits of Social Security numbers, addresses, birth dates, political affiliations, felony convictions and voting histories.

Matthew Dunlap, Maine's Democratic secretary of state and a commission member, on Friday dismissed Trump's claim that millions of voters illegally cast ballots.

"We just don't see that," he told CNN. "People are incredibly law abiding."

Although Maine is one state that has pushed back at the commission's request, Dunlap said he hopes the panel can tackle voting issues including

ballot access and hacking.

A Republican commission member, former Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell, defended the panel, telling CNN on Thursday that fraud with even "one vote per precinct ... can change the course of history."

A court filing in the Electronic Privacy Information Center case also showed the panel plans to house data on White House computers rather than at the GSA. The Washington Post, which earlier reported the filing, noted GSA would be required to follow specific privacy requirements.

US intelligence agencies have concluded that Moscow tried to tilt the election in Trump's favour. Moscow has dismissed the accusations. Trump has denied any collusion and has questioned the agencies' conclusion as well as any Russian role.—Reuters ■

Italian police arrest Chechen suspected over Grozny attacks

ROME — Italian police said on Saturday they had arrested a Chechen man suspected of being a militant of Islamic State and involvement in attacks in the Chechen capital Grozny in 2014. The 38-year-old man is accused of crimes of international terrorism and is now in prison in the southern town of Foggia, a police statement said. The investigations started out of a collaboration with Belgium, where the man was part of a network of people who recruited foreign fighters. Some 450 people have left Belgium to fight in Syria and Iraq, the highest country contribution in Europe on a per capita basis. Returning Syria fighters have also been involved in militant attacks in Belgium, France and elsewhere in Europe.—Reuters ■

Putin-Trump first meeting round-up

HAMBURG — The conversation between Russian and US Presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump was very specific, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said following the meeting between the Russian and US presidents.

“That was a very lengthy, very specific conversation,” Russia’s top diplomat said. “My impression is that both presidents, the Russian and the American, are guided by the two countries’ interests.”

“[US Secretary of State] Rex Tillerson and I have been instructed to continue and expand cooperation between our ministries, both directly and at the United Nations Security Council, on the entire spectrum of the international agenda, including the Korean Peninsula,” he said.

“It was agreed to accelerate the procedures required for the appointment of the new ambassadors — the US ambassador to Russia and the Russian ambassador to the US,” the top diplomat said.

“The situation in Syria, in Ukraine, on the Korean Peninsula, problems of cyber security, and a range of other issues were discussed in detail,” he said, adding that the two leaders “agreed on a number of concrete things.”

Cyber Security

Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump, have agreed to set up a bilateral working group on cyber security, Russian Foreign

Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Friday after a personal meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of the Group of Twenty summit in Germany’s Hamburg.

“It was agreed that all of these issues, including anti-terrorism efforts, fight against organized crime and hacker activities in any of their manifestations will be in focus of bilateral Russian-US cooperation,” he said. “A bilateral working group will be set up for these ends.”

According to Lavrov, much attention was focused on cyber security matters as “this sphere is becoming more and more risky and generates threats, including threats of terrorism and of other types of organized crime and threats to normal functioning of society, in particular, children’s pornography, pedophilia, the so-called suicide networks.”

Ukrainian crisis

Western countries understand that it is necessary to exert pressure on the Kiev authorities to make them implement the Minsk agreements, according to Lavrov.

“All are interested to see the parties to the Minsk agreements, and Ukraine is a key party to them, implement what is written there,” he said. “Our Western partners, and we feel it, see the necessity of extra impetus to this process which has been stalled.”

“I don’t remember Presi-



Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. PHOTO TASS

dent Trump offering any other plan. And today’s lengthy conversation with [US Secretary of State] Rex Tillerson in the morning revealed no deviations from the Minsk agreements either,” Lavrov said when asked whether the US side had offered any new approaches to the Ukrainian settlement.

According to the Russian diplomat, there is common interest to continue movement along the path of the Minsk accords.

Russia hopes that the new US envoy for Ukraine will visit Moscow in the near future, Lavrov said. “While discussing Ukraine, the American side said that they appointed a special envoy for resolving the Ukrainian crisis,” the minister said. “We hope that he will arrive in Moscow in the near future.”

According to Lavrov, “it

was agreed to establish a channel between the Russian and US representatives to use the opportunities the US has to promote the settlement on the basis of the Minsk agreements taking into account and relying on the potential of the Contact Group and the ‘Normandy format.’”

Jailed Russians

Moscow hopes that Washington will make a right choice over the cases of jailed Russian nationals, Viktor Bout and Konstantin Yaroshenko, Lavrov said.

“We are continuing to work on this issue,” he said. “We expect our American counterparts to make a right choice.”

Russian diplomatic property

An issue of the Russian diplomatic property seized in the United States was tackled at the meeting, Lavrov said.

“[The issue] was raised,”

the minister said. “We will be seeking for justice.”

In late December 2016, the Barack Obama administration slapped new sanctions on Russia declaring 35 staff members of the Russian Embassy in Washington and the Consulate General in San Francisco persona-non-grata and closing two Russian compounds in the States of New York and Maryland. The Russian personnel’s access to these compounds was closed on 30 December. Washington linked these sanctions with cyber attacks against US political institutions, blaming Russia for carrying out these attacks.

Russia’s Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said earlier that these facilities had always had diplomatic immunity, so their seizure was a gross violation of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.— Tass ■

World Bank launches loan programme for women entrepreneurs

HAMBURG — The World Bank on Saturday launched a public-private loan programme aimed at providing over \$1 billion to support women entrepreneurs in developing countries, a project first initiated by US President Donald Trump’s daughter Ivanka Trump.

The event put a spotlight on the powerful political role Ivanka Trump plays in the White House, where she has a formal job as an adviser to her father, and has frequently met with world leaders, includ-

ing German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The World Bank said initial funding of \$325 million was coming from donors including Germany, the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and would be matched by hundreds of millions of dollars in additional private capital.

“This is going to be what we hope will be a multi-billion dollar fund to support women entrepreneurs,” World Bank

President Jim Yong Kim said at a launch attended by six of the 20 world leaders meeting at the G20 summit in Hamburg and IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde.

“This is not a cute little project. This is going to be a major driver of economic growth in the future ... and it’s going to drive gender equality at the same time,” he said.

The programme, which aims to start awarding loans before year end, will work with governments “to improve laws

and regulations that are stifling women entrepreneurs” and push banks to free up funds for female-owned businesses.

It will also create an online mentoring tool to match women business owners in developing countries with advisers such as Ivanka Trump, Kim said.

Women business owners at the event said it was important to tackle legal barriers that prevent women from owning property and limit their access to funds. “The empowerment

of women is absolutely essential,” United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres told participants, decrying what he called regression in women’s rights even in industrialised countries.

Merkel said she was impressed how quickly the bank had realised the project, which was first initiated five months ago. “If everything went as quickly at the World Bank ... then we would be much more efficient,” she said. — Reuters ■

Ka-52K shipborne helicopter to be tested in 2019

MOSCOW — The tests for the Ka-52K shipborne helicopter will be completed before the end of 2019 and then the deliveries to the Defence Ministry will start, Russian Helicopters (part of Rostech) told TASS on Thursday.

“The helicopter trials are planned to be completed before the end of 2019. So, the deliveries to the Defence Ministry will start right after the trials,” the company said.

In May, Russian Helicopters reported that the helicopter had successfully completed the first phase of testing. It was tested from late 2016 until early 2017. Earlier, the company’s Director General Andrey Boginsky said that Russian Helicopters planned to sign a contract with the Russian Defence Ministry to deliver the Ka-52K helicopters in 2019.



Ka-52K helicopter. PHOTO: TASS

In his turn, Chief Designer of the Kamov Design Bureau Sergey Mikheev reported that the Ka-52K tests would be carried out during the next three years on board ships of four various types.

Compared to the

land-based Ka-52, the Ka-52K has shorter folding wings which have been redesigned to carry heavy weapons and a blade-folding mechanism for stowage in the hold. Minimized dimensions of the KA-52K will allow more helicop-

ters to be placed on board.

The armoured helicopter cabin and the ejection system allow pilots to leave the aircraft safely. Besides, the shipborne Ka-52 has maritime rescue equipment to help those in distress.—Tass ■

Hamburg police fear further violence on final day of G20 summit

HAMBURG — German police braced for a third day of violent clashes with anti-capitalist protesters bent on disrupting the G20 summit of global leaders in Hamburg port, after radicals torched cars, smashed shops and injured officers overnight.

While around 100,000 protesters have staged peaceful marches since Thursday, a hard core of the Black Bloc militants from across Europe have looted stores, set fire to street barricades and hurled bottles and paving slabs.

The head of Hamburg police said he was shocked by the “wave of destructive anger”, riots and arson committed by demonstrators since Thursday.

“We have clear indications it is highly likely

that these violent perpetrators will mix in with today’s demonstration ‘G20 — not welcome!’ said Ralf Martin Meyer. “It is to be expected that again, no peaceful protest will be possible.”

The anti-globalisation Attac movement plans a demonstration of up to 100,000 people on the final day of the summit. Police said some 21,000 people had already gathered.

“Today we will bring our criticism of the G20 and our alternatives for fair global policies onto the streets,” said Attac’s Thomas Eberhardt-Koester.

“We want to respond to the police violence and senseless destruction of last night,” he added.

In the last three days, more than 200 police of-

ficers have been injured. Some 143 people have been arrested and 122 taken into custody. The number of injured protestors was not available. On Friday night, special armed police had been deployed with sub-machine guns.

World leaders and officials are putting the final touches to a joint statement on issues ranging from trade to climate change on Saturday, the final day of the summit.

Merkel had wanted to show her commitment to free speech by hosting G20 leaders in Hamburg, a port city with a strong radical tradition, but images of burning cars and shops and streets awash with debris have raised questions about that strategy.

Hamburg residents inspected the destruction

on Saturday and said they were angry the summit was taking place there.

“Merkel underestimated the protests. The least she can do now is come visit (the district of) Sternschanze and see the damage for herself,” said Kai Mertens, a 50-year-old programmer.

“We are a very liberal district. But what they did here has nothing to do with the G20 or opposition to politics. They were hooligans and many were foreigners,” added Mertens.

Police from across Germany have been brought to Hamburg to reinforce the local force. A 27-year old German suspected of attempted murder after pointing a laser pointer at a police helicopter was due to face a judge on Saturday, said police.—Reuters ■

US man charged with forcing Delta flight to return to airport

SAN FRANCISCO — A man whose actions aboard a Delta Air Lines flight prompted the plane to return was identified Friday as Joseph Daniel Hudek, from Florida.

Appearing Friday afternoon in the US District Court in Seattle, Hudek faced one count of interference with flight crew members Thursday evening for allegedly assaulting flight attendants on Delta Flight 129 traveling from Seattle to Beijing.

If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison and a penalty of 250,000 US dollars.

According to a federal complaint, the 23-year-old man used the lavatory twice one hour into the flight and lurched toward an exit door after leaving the lavatory the second time, grabbing the handle and attempting to open the door. At the time, the plane was over the North Pacific Ocean, northwest of Vancouver Island, Canada. The suspect was initially seated in the first-class cabin.

A flight attendant asked for assistance from other passengers and notified the cockpit of the situation, and the pilot decided to divert the flight back to Seattle. As two attendants struggled with Hudek, the suspect punched one of them twice in the face and hit a passenger who was trying to assist the atten-

dant in the head with a wine bottle, and then again tried to open the exit door.

A passenger who tried to pull Hudek away from the door was punched multiple times.

Eventually, the man was subdued by flight attendants and passengers and later taken into police custody after the plane returned to Seattle’s Tacoma International Airport.

Delta Flight 129 was back in the air Friday morning, heading to Beijing.

Local TV station KIRO 7 affiliated with Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) reported that Hudek’s mother is a Delta employee.

Dustin Jones, who was seated directly behind the curtains separating first class from the rest of the plane, told KIRO 7 that he could tell a scuffle was going on: “One of the flight attendants ran back and said there was a Code 3. There was a serious fight up front.”

Once back at the airport, being handcuffed and zip-tied to a wheelchair as he was rolled out of the terminal, Hudek appeared to remain combative. “He started yelling for help,” Jones said. “And so he turned the wheelchair over in the middle of the airport, screaming for people to help him, just being belligerent.”—Xinhua ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Ringo Starr celebrates birthday, talks McCartney reunion on new album

LOS ANGELES — Former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr celebrated his 77th birthday on Friday by announcing a new album that will feature former bandmate Paul McCartney.

Starr's 19th solo album "Give More Love" will be released on 15 September and will include McCartney on two tracks — "We're on the Road Again" and "Show Me the Way," which is dedicated to Starr's wife, Barbara Bach.

"We are still mates," Starr told Reuters of his former bandmate. "He's out on the road, he's got his own life. I'm out on the road a lot making records and he was in town so I called him and I said, 'I've got this track for you to play on.'"

Starr called McCartney "the most melodic bass player in the world."

"I love the way he plays," he said. Starr holds his birthday celebrations in public every year, raising awareness of his peace-and-love message. On Friday he



Musician Ringo Starr blows candles on a cake at a 'Peace & Love' event to celebrate Starr's 77th birthday in Los Angeles, California, US on 7 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

led a crowd gathered on the sunny, hot streets of Hollywood in a "peace and love" chant, joined on stage by guests including guitarist Joe Walsh, who is a member of Starr's band and also his brother-in-law, as well as "Twin Peaks" director David Lynch.

"There is a lot of trouble in the world, a lot of violence in the

world and a lot of starvation and a lot of people without water," Starr said. "I'm a big supporter of Water Aid because everyone should at least have water ... It's not all bombs and guns."

Starr and McCartney made musical history as members of seminal 1960s English band the Beatles, along with the late

George Harrison and John Lennon. The "Fab Four" led the British invasion into US pop music and became one of the most successful bands in the world.

All four Beatles have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame both as part of the band and as solo artists. —Reuters ■

Paul Rudd returns as Ant-Man in new 'Avengers' movie

LOS ANGELES — Paul Rudd's Scott Lang, aka Ant-Man, was photographed on the sets of "Avengers: Infinity War".

Rudd is the latest actor, who has been spotted filming for the upcoming Marvel movie, after pictures of Robert Downey Jr (Iron Man), Benedict Cumberbatch (Doctor Strange), Mark Ruffalo (Hulk) and Benedict Wong (Wong) from the set in Atlanta surfaced online, reported Ace Showbiz.

Rudd, in Scott Lang's daily outfit, was seen running with all his might from someone or something unseen in the images. His character was last seen in "Captain America: Civil War" being freed by Captain America from The Raft, a prison meant to keep those who refused to sign the Sokovia Accords in check. This storyline has made Scott once again a fugitive.

"Avengers: Infinity War" will also bring back Chris Evans as Captain America, Chadwick Boseman as Black Panther, Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow, Sebastian Stan as Winter Soldier, Chris Hemsworth as Thor, Tom Holland as Spider-Man, Jeremy Renner as Hawkeye, Elizabeth Olsen as Scarlet Witch, and Paul Bettany as Vision. Josh Brolin as well as "Guardians of the Galaxy" cast including Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista, Bradley Cooper and Vin Diesel are also set to star in it. Anthony and Joe Russo are directing the movie, which is slated to open in theatres on 4 May, 2018. —PTI ■

US actress Annette Bening to chair Venice Film Fest jury

ROME — US actress Annette Bening will chair the international jury of the competition at the 74th Venice International Film Festival, organizers announced on Wednesday.

On the final night of the festival running from 30 August to 9 September, the jury composed of nine international celebrities will assign the Golden Lion for best film and the top prizes for best director, actress, actor, and screenplay.

"It was time to break with a long list of male presidents and invite a brilliant, talented and inspiring woman to chair our international competition jury," said festival director Alberto Barbera.

He called Bening "a sophisticated and instinctive actress, able to portray complex shadings of character" whose "career is marked by always interesting, often daring choices."

"I look forward to seeing the movies and working with my fel-

low jury members to celebrate the best of this year's cinema from all over the world," said Bening, a four-time Academy Award nominee and two-time Golden Globe winner.

She was last seen in 20th Century Women directed by Mike Mills, for which she received her eighth Golden Globe nomination, opposite Elle Fanning, Greta Gerwig and Billy Crudup.

Upcoming for Bening is Michael Mayer's adaptation of An-

ton Chekhov's play The Seagull opposite Saoirse Ronan, Paul McGuigan's Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool with Jamie Bell, and Dan Fogelman's drama Life, Itself with Olivia Wilde, Oscar Isaac, Samuel L Jackson and Antonio Banderas.

Bening received Oscar nominations for her roles in The Grifters, 1991; American Beauty, 1999; Being Julia, 2004; and The Kids Are All Right, 2010. —Xinhua ■

Jeremy Renner fractured both arms in stunt accident

LOS ANGELES — Actor Jeremy Renner has broken both his arms in a stunt that went wrong while filming for an upcoming project.

Ahead of a Karlovy Vary film festival screening of Taylor Sheridan's "Wind River," Renner said he fractured his right elbow and left wrist in an on-set accident, reported Variety.

"It's part of the job. There will be an effect to it, but it won't stop me from doing things that I need to be doing ...

I'll heal fast. I'm doing

everything I can to heal faster," Renner said.

"I am doing a comedy ('Tag') that has a few stunts in it.

It won't really affect my job. It affects how I get dressed in the morning I cannot tie my shoes," he added. Renner said visual effects in his movies like Marvel's "Captain America: Civil War", leave him surprised.

"Visual effects has become a huge part of filmmaking nowadays, and it is also done so well. I remember watching the first

'Avengers.'... It was so big and there were so many characters and so many things going on, you can't really understand from the script what the hell you are really doing...

"And then the effects take over. Once we're done with principal photography, it goes into editing and the effects are added... So it is always a surprise when it comes to films like 'Avengers' and the whole Marvel universe to see (the finished movie)," he said. —PTI ■



Jeremy Renner. **PHOTO: PTI**

Swiss museum readies for Nazi-era art trove show, seeks works' heirs

BERN — A Swiss museum director preparing for a Nazi-era art collection's long-awaited public unveiling later this year said Friday that her goal remains finding heirs to any works that may have been looted from Jewish owners.

Bern Museum of Fine Arts head Nina Zimmer, who took ownership of 150 drawings, lithographs and paintings this week ahead of an exhibition slated to begin in November, said research shows none of these were stolen by National Socialists.

But questions linger over the provenance of some of the collection's pieces still in Germany, where a 2012 raid by authorities on a Munich apartment produced a sensation: 1,500 long-lost works by

modern masters, including Pablo Picasso, Otto Dix and Henri Matisse. "Every restitution is a victory for us," Zimmer said in an interview, while acknowledging such provenance sleuthing remains unpredictable. "I cannot make any promises."

In addition to Zimmer's exhibition in Bern, the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn, Germany, is also planning to display items from the collection, which to date has produced only five works confirmed to have been stolen by the Nazis.

Four have been returned to heirs, so far, including a Matisse portrait, "Sitting Woman," that belonged to Paris-based collector Paul Rosenberg.

Before its discovery five years ago, the massive



Media takes pictures during a news conference after the arrival of the first artworks from the Dossier Gurlitt in Bern, Switzerland on 7 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

trove was hidden for years in the German and Austrian homes of Cornelius Gurlitt.

His art-dealer father, Hildebrand, amassed it after being enlisted by the Nazis to sell so-called "degenerate" modern art they

had seized from German museums.

Though original estimates for the collection's value topping \$1 billion were likely exaggerated, experts said, the find is still spectacular.

"It is the most important cache of art from the Nazi era to be found in private hands since the immediate postwar period," said Jonathan Petropoulos, a Claremont McKenna College history professor

in California. When Cornelius Gurlitt died aged 81 in 2014, he named the Bern museum as benefactor. It accepted, on the condition works whose lineage was unclear must remain in Germany.

The Bern museum is now working with the German Lost Art Foundation, which tracks Nazi era art thefts, to unravel the collection's murky past, though not everyone is pleased with the progress.

Christopher Marinello, a lawyer who helped Rosenberg's heirs recover their lost Matisse in 2015, said the pace of research has been glacial — even after he provided German researchers with "full and complete provenance on a silver platter," he said. —Reuters ■



Runners fall alongside Cebada Gago bulls during the first running of the bulls at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, northern Spain on 7 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Three men gored in opening run at Spain's Pamplona

PAMPLONA (Spain) — Three men were gored during the opening run of Pamplona's bull-running festival, the Red Cross said on Friday, with one other reported injury during the 875-metre run through the northern Spanish city.

One of the men was caught by a bull's horns in the thorax and one in the

scrotum, the Red Cross said. All three were taken to hospital for treatment.

Two of those gored were from the United States, aged 29 and 35, while the other was a 46-year-old from Navarra in Spain. A man from Ireland, 39, was also hurt.

The sprint, which typically attracts about 2,000 runners, lasts just under

three minutes as participants dressed in white and wearing red neck scarves run from a dozen bulls.

The animals were from cattle breeder Cebada Gago in Andalusia, renowned for rearing dangerous bulls responsible for the most injuries in the history of the week-long San Fermin festival. —Reuters ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(9-7-2017 07:00am ~ 10-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Gold: King of All Metals
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Strong Infrastructures Through Enhancing Ties
08:54	Am	Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Man and The Elephant
09:55	Am	Kid's Home
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Trend of Kachin Dress
10:51	Am	Orchid Lover

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-1)
07:43	Pm	Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
07:48	Pm	Dances of Myanmar "Lisu Traditional Dance"
07:53	Pm	Today Myanmar: Water Hyacinths
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part-2)
08:56	Pm	Goldsmith

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Snack on some culture with a vending machine that sells art

LONDON — A group of artists in the southern English coastal town of Brighton are taking their works off the gallery wall and offering them to the public via an unusual channel, through a vending machine.

The machine, located in a club in the center of the city, offers prospective buyers prints from emerging artists for prices ranging from 20 pounds (\$25.75) to 50 pounds.

Much like the cans of drinks that normally inhabit such machines, the prints are delivered to buyers rolled up in a tin. Buyers can select their choice after browsing a menu of the pictures inside affixed to the machine.

"Sometimes art can feel like, a bit pretentious or a bit unattainable", said illustrator Helen Heitt, one of the artists whose works is for sale in the machine. —Reuters ■

Ex-Villarreal striker Nilmar joins Santos

RIO DE JANEIRO — Former Villarreal striker Nilmar has joined Brazilian Serie A club Santos as he attempts to revive his stalled career.

Nilmar, who has not played for more than a year, signed an 18-month contract after passing a medical examination at Santos' Rei Pele training base.

Santos midfielder Renato confirmed the 32-year-old had agreed to personal terms with Santos, who are expected to confirm the signing on Monday.

"I've already met him and told him that he is welcome," Renato told reporters. "We hope that he can be successful with us."

Nilmar's career peaked during an impressive three-year spell with Spanish club Villarreal, but he has since suffered serious injuries to both knees.

He has been capped 24 times for Brazil's national team, scoring nine goals. —Xinhua ■

29th SEA Games football grouping

WOMAN and man football groupings were drawn for 29th SEA Games hosted by Malaysia.

ASEAN countries are competing in the man football competition and Myanmar is in Group A together with host Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Brunei.

Compared to Group B containing champion Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and the Philippines, Myanmar is seemed to have no challenges to reach a semi-final. In order to reach the semi-final, Myanmar needs to overcome Malaysia and Singapore.

It is the second consecutive time for Myanmar to meet Singapore, and Myanmar defeated Singapore 2-1 in the 2015 competition.

Only five teams are competing in woman football competition and all will play against each other in a round robin system.

As Singapore withdrew, there would be only five teams including host Malaysia, Thai-



Myanmar's Shine Thura (left) vies for the ball with Singapore's striker in 2015. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

land, Myanmar, Vietnam and the Philippines. The top two teams of the round robin plays will compete in the final while third and fourth positioned teams will play for the third place. Myanmar

woman team hasn't achieved the gold prize in SEA Games yet having obtained silver as a highest prize so far.

Myanmar man team won gold for the last time in 1973 SEA

Games. Although it reached the final in 2015, it had to be contented with silver only. In the man football competition Thai team won the highest number of gold.—Nyi Myat Thawda ■

Manchester United agree fee for Everton's Lukaku

LONDON — Manchester United have agreed a fee with Everton for the transfer of Belgian international striker Romelu Lukaku subject to medical and personal terms, the Premier League side said on Saturday.

"#MUFC is delighted to an-

nounce a fee has been agreed with Everton for the transfer of Romelu Lukaku, subject to a medical & personal terms," the club said on its verified Twitter feed.

"A further announcement will be made in due course," it

added. British media reported that the fee for the 24-year-old would be around 75 million pounds (\$96.68 million), making him the club's second most expensive signing after last year's world record deal for French midfielder Paul Pogba.

Lukaku, who also attracted interest from former club Chelsea, scored 25 league goals in 37 matches for Everton in the last campaign, four behind Tottenham Hotspur's Golden Boot-winning striker Harry Kane. —Reuters ■

Murray overcomes brutal tussle with Fognini to reach last 16



Great Britain's Andy Murray celebrates winning the third round match against Italy's Fabio Fognini in London, Britain on 7 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Andy Murray came through a thrilling encounter against Italian showman Fabio Fognini to book his spot in the fourth round of Wimbledon with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 victory on Friday.

The Wimbledon champion looked almost certain to be dragged into a fifth set by Fognini when he trailed 5-2 in the fourth, but he showed his mettle to save five set points and win five straight games to wrap up victory in two hours 39 minutes.

The momentum in the match swung dramatically from one player to the other with Murray breaking twice to clinch

the first set before the Italian battled back in the second to level.

Britain's world number one regained the initiative as Fognini appeared to be struggling with an ankle injury, but the top seed's hopes of an easy route into the last 16 were smashed as the Italian came out firing in the fourth.

Fognini broke Murray in the fifth game and then had a series of set points both on his serve and the Briton's.

Yet, with the Centre Court crowd willing Murray on, he fought back, breaking twice before serving out with an ace. —Reuters ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

9 JULY 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

A Poor Baby Cattle



U Thuriya
Mandalay Region

He was nine years old and the youngest son then in a farmer-family. One day his parents and the elder sister went to the monastery to observe special precepts because it was a Sabbath day. His two sibling-elder brothers, too, left the house with their respective unknown matters. At home was he alone, with a duty assigned by his parents. His duty was to feed on the already-mowed grass the baby cattle, which had been recently bought to be used for the purposes of cultivation and transportation at that time.

The baby cattle was tied to a woodshed's post near the house gate. When the time came, he approached it and tried to do what he was asked by his parents, the grass-feeding duty. As he fed so, the new cattle attacked him in a sudden with its small horns. Much possibly, it happened because the cattle arrived at their house very recently and accordingly it was still rather unfamiliar with or strange to the family and to him as well. Luckily, he was not hit with its horns, but the unexpected attack infuriated him, so much so that he

lost his temper. The violent temper forced him to look for a cane with a pointed nail dug at its base end. He grasped that cane tightly in his hand shaking. He started to beat the baby cattle up and stabbed it with the pointed nail of the cane mercilessly, on many parts of its body such as sides of stomach, legs, neck and head. Also he shouted loudly and abusively at it with fury at the same time. Frightened, the baby cattle tried its utmost to be released and moved here and there with the rope tied tightly to the post. The storm of his anger took about half an hour. Then, he became tired gradually with beating, stabbing and shouting, and his wild anger began to subside.

In the meantime, he happened to take a long close look at the baby cattle. The thing he saw on the cattle, especially in its eyes was—tears. It is true that the poor baby cattle was crying in silence, and shedding the hot tears out of its beautiful eyes. It is his frank admission that he had never seen any animal weep tears before. The tears were hanging and rolling over its two cheeks and nose. It looked so sad for being violently treated by its furious owner boy. The sight of the tears of the baby cattle touched the boy so deeply that he would never and ever forget the tragic or traumatic event. No matter when he

recalls, the past sad scene has been used to making him feel sad often in the similar way that the poor cattle had experienced. It is believed that it will be remaining intact in his mind as long as he is breathing in this world.

This is a true heartbreaking story of the writer himself. One of the human beings, the writer committed such a tragic event out of ignorance. In spite of being an event that took place since his childhood, it has been following him wherever he is as if a life-threatening murderer whenever it comes into his mind. Then his mind is lacking peace. According to Buddhism, the action that we make intentionally, good or bad, leaves its potentiality in our mental process. Invisible as it is, it follows us like our shadow and yields its similar results in the future when it meets with some supportive causes. It is also said to be by no means destroyable by ordinary people of us. The way of remedy is nothing to do with prayers, but to perform much more good actions, like charity, observing moral precepts and meditations, that prevent bad results from producing to us in this life and next. Good actions can be likened to much more water that may prevent small amount of fire from going on burning.

Buddhism teaches human beings not to kill even animals beginning with in-

sects like ants, mosquitos, etc., in purpose, not to mention human beings. Here is the Lord Buddha's word 'Thatbe tathan-ti dandattha'. It means that all beings, human beings, gods or animals—other than non-returner (anagami-puggala) and arahant (arahanta-puggala)—are frightened of punishments or tortures in their any forms.

However, nowadays people in the world are becoming more and more intolerant and merciless so that the incidents of torturing and murdering living beings in various ways have been being heard every day. The potentiality left by such evil actions follows those evil doers. Consequently, there will be no peace in them as well as in the societies pertaining to them, thereby the entire world resulting in physical and mental sufferings because of conflicts, battles, genocides, wars and so on.

Bearing these in mind profoundly, let all of us yearning for global peace avoid torturing and killing human beings as well as animals out of compassion. Each government is also expected to try their best for incidents of killing masses of people at least, not to break out any more on our mother earth.

May all living beings be long-lived and peaceful. ■

The Day I was Sick



Raymond Hein Aung
@ Raymond
Grade 3 (Y.I.S)

"Ring! Ring! Ring! The alarm clock shouted continuously. I was trying to open my eyes and to stop the alarm. The blazing sunlight dabbling through the curtains of my room window pricked my eyes. That made me feel dizzy and throbbing in my head.

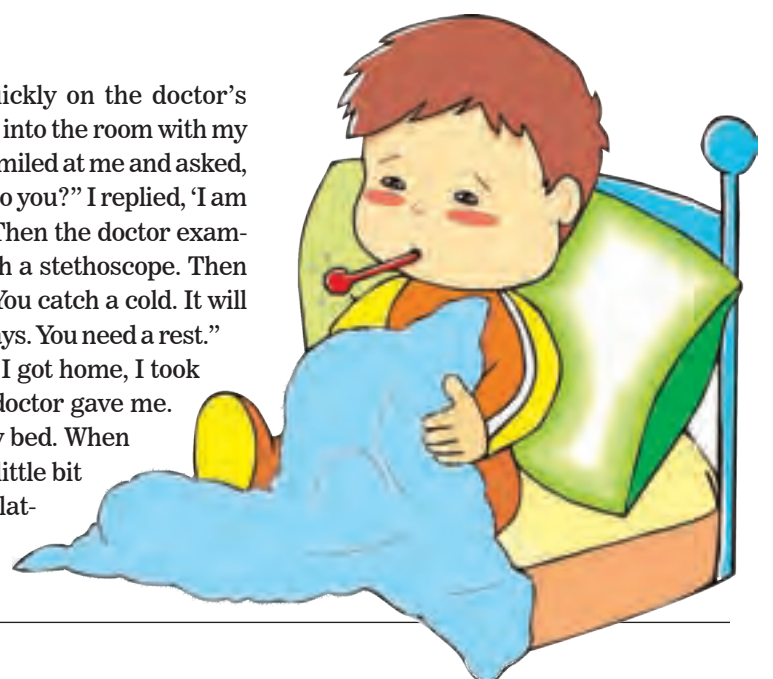
My mom came into my room and said, "Time to wake up. You have school

today." "I am not feeling well, mom" I replied. I staggered to the bathroom to brush my teeth. While I was brushing my teeth, my mom contacted my teacher that I couldn't come to school.

After that, my mom drove me to the hospital just like a man who is late for his job. When I got to the hospital, the whole hospital was full of ashen-faced patients. My mom registered quickly and got number 80. I felt more uncomfortable when I heard some kids coughing and sneezing and the television on the wall was humming at inaudible volume. I waited so long to get my turn. At last my turn came.

I knocked quickly on the doctor's door. When I went into the room with my mom, the doctor smiled at me and asked, "What happened to you?" I replied, "I am dizzy and tired." Then the doctor examined my chest with a stethoscope. Then the doctor said, "You catch a cold. It will be gone in a few days. You need a rest."

Finally, when I got home, I took the pills that the doctor gave me. Then I slept in my bed. When I woke up, I felt a little bit better. Two days later the cold was gone. ■



Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 10: Adjectives

Hello, dear students !
Today, we are going to study about “Adjectives”
“Adjectives” are words that tell us something about Nouns.”
e.g . Mi Mi is a pretty girl.
Here, the word “pretty” tells about the Noun “girl”. It tells what kind of a girl she is .
Let’s see another example.
Ko Ko is a tall boy.
Here, in this sentence, the word “tall” tells about the Noun “boy”. It tells what kind of a boy he is.
e.g. We have ten chickens.
Here also, the word “ten” tells how many chickens (Nouns) we have . It shows the number of chickens.
e.g. I like this book.
Here, the word “this” shows which book (Noun) you like. It tells something about the book.
e.g. She has finished her dinner .
Here, the word “her” shows whose dinner (Noun) she has finished. It shows possession.
All these words tell something about the Nouns. They are called “Adjectives”.

So, in the above examples, all these words “pretty, tall, ten , this and her” are the words that tell something about the Nouns . They are “Adjectives”.

Exercise 10

- I. Write down ten adjectives you know.
- II. Underline the Adjectives in the following sentences.
- (a) The graceful lady can speak five languages.
 - (b) She puts much sugar in her coffee.
 - (c) He can play the Chinese checkers.
 - (d) I think this poem is the best.
 - (e) The little boys are playing with their rocking horses.
 - (f) Who wants a big salary?
 - (g) We can do our homework in our exercise books.
 - (h) Mg Mg is a smart boy in his class.
 - (i) Do you like my beautiful jacket?
 - (j) I want to buy this expensive handbag.

Now, let’s see how many kinds of Adjectives we have .

(A) Adjective of Quality
When an Adjective shows what kind of a Noun it is, it is the “Adjective of Quality” .
It shows the Noun’s quality.
e.g. a long journey
Here, “long” shows what kind of journey it is.
e.g. a smart boy
Here, “smart” shows what kind of boy he is .
e.g. a different country
Here, “different” shows what kind of country it is.

(B) Adjective of Quantity
When an Adjective shows how many or how much about the Noun, it is called Ad-jective of Quantity.
e.g. ten trees

The Adjective “ten” shows how many trees.
e.g. much money
The Adjective “much” shows how much it is.
e.g. many cakes
The Adjective “many” tells how many “cakes” there are.
Like these the following words are also Adjectives of Quantity,
much, many , more, most, little , less, least , a little, a few
are all Adjectives too.

(C) Possessive Adjective
It shows the possession or the ownership of the Nouns.
e.g . her book
It shows that the book is owned or possessed by her.
e.g . their house
It shows that the house is owned or possessed by them.
All Adjectives like “my, our; his, her, their, our” are all Possessive Adjectives.

(D) Demonstrative Adjective
It shows where the Noun is and whether it is far or near.
e.g. this table
It shows that the table is near the speaker.
e.g. those books
It shows that the books are far away from the speaker.
All the words “this, that, these, those” are all Demonstrative Adjectives.
The words “this and that” are used for Singular Number and the words
“these and those” are used for Plural Number.
The words “this and these” are used for the Nouns near to the speaker and the words
“that and those” are used for the Nouns far from the speaker.

Now let’s do some Exercises.

Exercise 10

- III. Write down 5 examples each for Adjectives of Quality, Adjectives of Quantity, Possessive Adjectives and Demonstrative Adjectives together with Nouns.
- IV. Underline the Adjectives in the following sentences and tell what kind of Adjec-tives they are.
- (a) There are ten green bottles on the front wall.
 - (b) Have you seen many boys and girls on the narrow street?
 - (c) You can have your early breakfast now.
 - (d) Will you go to that hilly region?
 - (e) I cannot understand this difficult lesson.
 - (f) Mg Mg can solve this unseen problem.
 - (g) Aye Aye and Mi Mi are old friends.
 - (h) The little girl wants to pluck many flowers from that green bush.
 - (i) These pink roses are sweet-smelling flowers.
 - (j) That naughty little boy wants to fight the other young boys.

To wind up the Lesson for today, we have studied about “Adjectives” today.
Adjectives are words that tell us something about Nouns.
They tell us what kind of Nouns (Quality), how many or how much the Nouns are (Quantity), the ownership or the possession of Nouns (Possessive) and whether the Nouns are far or near to the speaker (Demonstrative) .
I hope that you can do your exercises very well dear!
Bye for now ! See you next week !
Your English Teacher (GNLM)
Email : dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

Here are the answers for the last week’s Exercises. (Exercise 9)

I. The 5 examples of Masculine Gender are: man, boy, father, drake, prince and ox.
The 5 examples of Feminine Gender are: lady, girl, aunty, Queen and bitch .
The 5 examples of Neuter Gender are: table, chair, chalk, sun, town and pencil.

(You should note that in French, all these things are also classified into Masculine and Feminine.) (So , also in German not only into 2 , but into 3 Genders.)

II. Masculine	Feminine
King	Queen
prince	princess
duke	duchess

son	daughter
uncle	aunt
actor	actress
singer	singer
steward	stewardess
pilot	pilot
driver	driver

III. Feminine	Masculine
Nurse	Male-nurse
Hen-sparrow	cock-sparrow
she-cat	he-cat
writer	writer
authoress	author
women	men
lady	gentleman
princess	prince
witch	wizard
professor	professor

IV. To change the Nouns
(a) The Queen and the princess came on the horses.
(b) Grandma wanted to see her grand-daugh-ter.
(c) My mother and my aunt will go to Europe.
(d) Will the lady-doctor come with us ?
(e) The Duchess and her daughter will come to our dinner party.
(f) She did not like to roast the ducks.
(g) How many cows have they in their farm?
(h) The teacher and her students are preparing for the sports to be held tomorrow.
(i) The Aunt has never seen her niece.
(j) That lady loved her she-cat.

V. To Change into Masculine.
(a) The rich man feeds his dog very well.
(b) Does he really like his sports-car?

(c) You all gentlemen, I’m happy to see you all here in the meeting.
(d) Have you ever seen the tigers in the zoo?
(e) He and his father like to buy jewelries.
(f) The man and his son will come to work at our house.
(g) The Duke likes his man-servant.
(h) The old man was looking for his billy-goat.
(i) He owns fifty oxen.
(j) Can the little boy sing sweetly?

VI. To fill in the blanks
(a) girls, (b) drakes’, (c) she’s, (d) baby-boy
(e) lioness (may be in the cave), (f) nanny-goat
(g) cows, (h) husband, (i) mother, (j) lady

I believe that you have done well my dear!
Bye for now! See you next week!
Your English Teacher (GNLM).



Myat Thu Aung(NZ)
University of Otago
3rd Year Maths Student (2017)

International Tourism: Its Pros and Cons



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

At the present time, more and more people are getting interested in travelling and hence tourism industry becomes increasingly widespread throughout the world. Tourism can be defined as the business activity connected with providing accommodation, services and entertainment for people who are visiting a place for pleasure (Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary 2014). Whether or not international tourism has negative repercussions is under debate. First of all, on the positive side, popular countries will be at the definite advantage in the development of economic and infrastructural sectors. In addition, tourism can be a reason to ease tensions between nations or countries, to preserve cultural heritage and to help poverty alleviation. However, some may argue that tourism has the high possibility of damage to the environment. Finally, the disappearance of traditions, the reduction of cultural values, cultural clashes and unlawful child labour may occur due to international tourism.

Firstly, international tourism is highly beneficial to the development of tourist targeted countries in various sectors, especially in economy and infrastructure. It generally brings substantial economic development by offering a wide range of job opportunities for residents to be employed directly within the tourism industry or indirectly in the small business activities such as retailing and private transport.

Earning a tremendous amount of annual foreign income, international tourism can be extolled as an invisible export. There will be development in economic, infrastructure, society, recreation, transportation and communication when revenue is re-injected into public projects. This is called the double multiplier effect of international tourism as tourist dollar earned is brought back into local economy regularly. Consequently, new infrastructure will be getting appealing to foreign enterprises to invest in private sectors. The more tourism industry develops, the greater the advantageous development. Statistically, world GDP reached USD 2 trillion and more than 101 million jobs, which is equal to 3.4 per cent of total employment, were occupied by tourism in 2012. The World Travel & Tourism Council anticipated that tourism industry tends to directly employ over 126 million people in the tourism industry by the year 2024. For example, in New Zealand, tourism industry is successful in economic sector. In 2005, New Zealand earned over USD 17 billion and 424 million as foreign income (Statistics Satellite Account 2007). In 2006, it was increased by 3.2 per cent of the last year and the total became over 18 billion (Statistics Satellite

Account 2007). Therefore, international tourism acts as a catalyst for economic growth and physical development of tourism-dependent countries.

Additionally, tourism can be a motive for the ease of international tensions, the preservation of cultural heritage and poverty alleviation. The spread of tourism originated from the long-haul travel between countries. This brings not only direct contact with different nationalities but also interchange of contrasting lifestyles and their cultures. As a result, it is politically easy to collaborate and negotiate between countries with high tourism as they have gained a better understanding from international tourism. Thus, tourism is the medium of peace and understanding.

Moreover, patriotically social advantages are brought together with the growth of tourism. It encourages patriotic residents to prolong cultural heritage as well as preserve historic old buildings and regional histories that are highly potential to varnish in the future. Global Heritage Fund, a non-profit organization, pointed out that global heritage sites in developing countries have a great potential to earn far over

USD 100 billion per annum by 2025. Thus, preservation and maintenance are critically necessary for continual conservation of local heritage sites as well as protecting cultures and traditional values from cultural diversity. For example, in Laos, there were around twelve thousand visitors per year in 2007 and it rose to 250 thousand visitors annually in 2012 after the project called the Millennium Development Goals had launched with the aim to preserve cultural heritage sites in some of the poorest countries in the world (Morgen 2012). This leads to poverty alleviation as those countries become financially sustainable by injecting money into local community from time to time. Therefore, tourism plays an important role as being a catalyst not only for protection of cultural heritage but also for poverty alleviation as well as international tensions.

On the other hand, developing tourism has negative implications for the environment due to activities performed by human beings. The increasing use of land for recreation, the extension of hotel area zones, the construction of gener-

al infrastructure and transportation are major causes of environmental pollution by tourism. Apart from transportation, all of these lead to deforestation, which in turn causes natural disasters through the increasing level of air pollution. For instance, the Andaman and

Nicobar Islands of India where the tourism industry was thriving, suffered poorly from the Tsunami in 2004. A site with widespread popularity has a higher potential to be degraded as more and more people visit (Hillery 2001). Money uncontrollably earned from tourism industry is not worth the destruction of cities (Mitchell 1974).

Such was one of the cruel impacts of tourism that there was the decrease in the number of visitors after devastation. Consequently, the yearly profit from tourism industry becomes less and less. In addition to consequent problems of pollution, it may also lead to cause water shortage and degradation of water supplies. The scarcity of water resource can be a serious environmental concern for Mediterranean countries because there is a great tendency for tourists to consume water more than as usual due to hot and dry climate. The required amount for a day can go up to 440 litres which is almost double the average amount used in Spanish cities. The country where residents have lost their opportunities to use their natural and to feel the beauty of nature is no longer a country (Mitchell 1974). This indicates that some countries have been suffering from adverse impacts of tourism for several years. Therefore, tourism brings environmental degradation to environments to great extent.

Lastly, international tourism is a contributing factor for the disappearance of traditions, the reduction in traditional values, cultural clashes and illegal child labour. It enhances modernisation and globalisation to die out conventional handicrafts and traditional methods of cooking. As the marketplace is globalised owing to the requirements of tourists for familiarity, there is less chance for conventionally handmade handicrafts and traditional food

to be sold. Due to the consequence of global standardisation, traditions can lose credibility and its value may fade.

Moreover, some casual manners of tourists may lead to cultural clashes with local people. For example, female tourists wearing indecent dress such as short cocktail dress, sundress and fancy dress can irritate women who strictly follow their rules of dressing in some countries. Disrespecting customs, traditions and cultures, not following the manners of local people and not taking off shoes in religious regions in some countries can sometimes be serious enough – for some reason – to be causing problems for cultural conflicts. Furthermore, unauthorised child labour in tourism industry is getting widespread with the increasing number of children working under unpleasant conditions (International Labour Organization 2010). Based on Maggie

Black's research done in 1995, it is estimated that about thirteen to nineteen million children being under the age of 18 are working for formal tourism market in the range of ten to fifteen per cent. Sadly, some of those children even involve in sex tourism under the influence of growing tourism industry (The National Child Protection

Authority 2011). Statistically, in Sri Lanka, around 40 thousand children work as prostitutes (Senanayake n.d.). Therefore, international tourism is perilous due to its unpredictable socio-cultural impacts.

In summary, international tourism has been performing miracles for the development of most countries in the sectors of economy and infrastructure. Tourism is also useful for easing political tensions as well as poverty and for motivating natives to preserve cultural heritage. Conversely, the people who are the most at risk are those living in developing countries where local economy excessively relies upon tourism. This is because natural disasters, such as cyclone and hurricane, can happen due to deforestation as well as the natural environment which has been degenerating by tourism for several years. Moreover, varnishing traditions as well as reducing cultural values, occurring clashes of cultures and illicitly employing child workers are brought together with the development of tourism as not every tourist loves the natural environment of other countries nor respects local people's cultures nor travels with good intention. Hence, most visited countries should always stay alert to the possibility of potential problems.

In conclusion, as presented by the evidence, the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages. Therefore, as for countries depending upon tourism, they are suffering from not only environmental effect but also socio-cultural impacts to a certain degree.

Some of those disadvantages can be offset by educating tourists to be responsible. It is recommended that governments around the world should legislate on the protection of the natural environment to be sustained so that the possibility of natural disasters to occur can be lowered to some extent. ■

Creating job opportunities, saving wildlife in Chin State

By Aye Min Soe



A Chin woman with hand-made traditional ear-plugs and beads. PHOTO: TIN WIN

Left, Great hornbill is the state bird of Chin State in Myanmar. Right, the white-browed nuthatch (*Sitta victoriae*) is a species of bird in the nuthatch family. It is endemic to Myanmar.



A village in mountains in Chin State. PHOTO: TIN WIN



Taungzalat flowers, which is the state flower, which blossom in February.



WITH its unspoiled forests and cooler weather even during the summer months, Chin State is considered the next opportunity for tourism development in Myanmar.

The state recently welcomed a group of travellers comprising of two artists and their wives once their car drove uphill to Chin State after passing the plain of Pakokku located in Myanmar's dry zone.

Malaysian artist Simon Tan travelled here for the first time because he wanted to capture the unspoiled scenic beauty of the hilly region in Chin State, he said.

Part of the scenic beauty were the unique houses built on the hillside using long stilts for support. But the visitors were not able to see the colourful Taungzalat flowers, which is the state flower, which blossom in February, when Chin State Day is celebrated.

The tourists were also not able to see the great pied hornbills, which are a proud symbol of the state, though their numbers are rapidly declining due to hunting.

Conservationists have warned that hunting, which is considered part of the traditional culture of the Chin people, is driving several species of wildlife into extinction, including the hornbills, which are hunted for food.

"We found wildlife curry at every local restaurant. We noticed that hunting is being relied on by many people for their livelihood," said Daw Sandar, the wife of artist U Tin Win, also known as Tin Win (Beikthano).

Visitors said that tourism can be developed in Chin State, which desperately needs jobs for its locals, but it must be done responsibly.

"As far as we saw during our trip, I can tell you that there are few business opportunities for locals. If tourism is developed there, jobs can be created for local people," said Daw Sandar.

Jobs have been created in recent years in traditional weaving and home-made artifacts, which are purchased by the slowly increasing numbers of visitors.

The visitors found a set of traditional ornamental ear-plugs on sale for Ks60,000. A set can be completed in one or two days.

"Actually, Chin State possesses good prospects for tourism. The weather is okay. But the ideas should be sound," said U Tin Win, a well-known artist of Myanmar.

"We found the road to Chin State is being expanded. If this hilly area is easily accessible someday, it would be developed. But I fear that development would destroy the natural environment," said the artist.

Unspoiled rainforests and cool weath-

er even in summer have slowly attracted an increasing number of both local and foreign visitors. Simon Tan, the Malaysian artist, said he chose Chin State for his holiday because of the stunning unspoiled beauty of the region.

"Most attractive to me is when we take a motorcycle ride up to the Natmataung Mountain, and on the way I can see very nice rainforest scenery," said Simon.

"Also, on the way up, we met a native boy hunting for birds using a bow and arrow and a knife," said Simon.

But traditional culture is hurting the region's wildlife. The great hornbill, the state bird, is mostly found in the southern part of Chin State. In a survey conducted in March last year, conservationists found the birds in only a few remaining spots.

"Thirty years ago, we could see hornbills at many areas in the southern part of Chin State. But, today, we can spot them in only five areas," said Thet Zaw Naing, a conservationist from the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar).

The main reasons why the hornbills are being brought to the brink of extinction is because they are hunted for food and also for trophies.

"The worst is that the heads of hornbills are used for decorating the guest rooms of homes," he added.

The fate of the white-browed nuthatch (*Sitta victoriae*), which can be found only in Myanmar

Another species at risk is the white-browed nuthatch (*Sitta victoriae*), mostly found in mountains of Chin State. The nuthatch is considered an endangered species.

"The situation is at its worst," said U Thet Zaw Naing, "The number of white-browed nuthatches have dramatically decreased within the past two or three years."

U Thet Zaw Naing used to be a tour guide and visited Chin State several times a year. When he visited the mountains with tourists in 2002, the bird's population was still high.

The endangered white-browed nuthatch is known to exist only in the Mount Victoria area of Myanmar, where forests have been cut down and cleared, destroying the habitat of the rare bird. There are only about two hundred white-browed nuthatches left, with the population decreasing due to hunting and destruction of their habitat.

"At markets, we can see birds are on sale for food," he added.

"It we don't prevent the hunting, they will be surely become extinct," said U Thet Zaw Naing. ■



The house built on the hillside using long stilts for support. PHOTO: TIN WIN

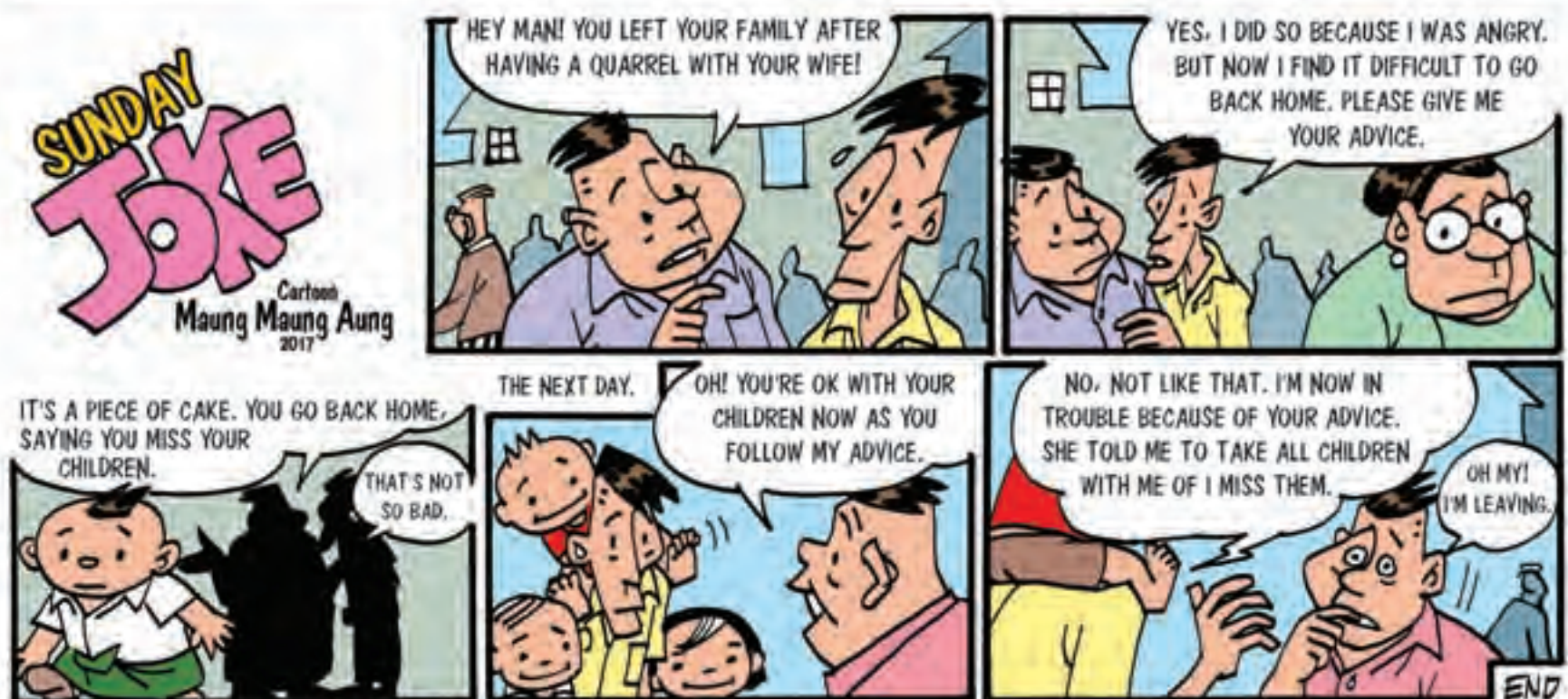


A Chin woman smokes with the use of traditional pipe. PHOTO: TIN WIN



Skulls, skin and bones of wildlife are displayed at the house of a hunter in Mindat, Chin State. PHOTO: TIN WIN

SUNDAY COMICS



Well-being of Myanmar workers in Thailand is the most important issue for Thai-Myanmar relations

A wide-ranging interview with Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Jukr Boon-long by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Thailand and Myanmar.

Q: Thailand and Myanmar are neighbors and also ASEAN members, so can you please share your reflection on Thai-Myanmar diplomatic relations?

A: I think our relation here is at an excellent stage and politically we are very close with both the government and defense military. We've quite a number of high level exchange of visits. If any issue arises, we have a joint-committee and several venues of mechanism where we can discuss navy-navy talk, township committees to promote bilateral relations. There is an issue of development along the border areas. There is an issue of human capacity building and exchange of experiences and knowledge we can share with Myanmar and Myanmar can share with us. We also have Thai investments and trade here but one thing I would like to inform you are that the Thai government and our private sector is determined to invest and do business in Myanmar. Not only doing business but we are determined to give back to the people and to the community so you can see that all Thai companies have their own CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). PTTEP Oil & Gas Company has CSR under education and SCT Cement Company in Mon State also has CSR on eye operation cataract, that already operated 48. All the banking companies have CSR projects too. The Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) has a finance academy and K Bank has training on SME and Bangkok Bank has scholarships and everything so all the banks here, even if they don't have license and just only representatives, but they will not stop in doing the CSR. There is a long list of CSR projects provided by Thai private sector and this branding of doing business in Myanmar. This is very important politically and people-to-people. We are so close as there are a lot of exchange of visits and a lot of tourists back and forth. Now a lot of Thai people visit Myanmar.

You won't say any day that you visit Shwedagon without seeing a Thai. That has happened that Thai is there every day. They're always there at Bogyoke Market buying everything. I'm happy with the excellent stage of relations here and next year we are going to celebrate 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Myanmar. So, we plan to work together between our two governments and two embassies. We will probably have an aca-



Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Jukr Boon-long speaks during the interview at the Embassy of Thailand in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH**

But don't worry about the new regulation and the enforcement because now they are already settled and they are finding a solution to exercise leniency and give a flexible time for Myanmar workers to come back into the system, to get registered.

demic seminar in Thailand, maybe about consolidation of cultural ties, lifestyle, or textile weaving, or Buddhism. And here in Myanmar we will have some kind of cultural performance with Myanmar friends, maybe exhibitions of paintings between the two countries.

Q: Based on Thai experience please share your opinion on Myanmar's transition to democracy and Myanmar's endeavors for peace process.

A: I think all countries have difficulties in the process of democratization, more or less. It depends on the socio-cultural context at the particular point in time during the transition process. Since the new administration led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi came to power, we see the political and economic development that is based on openness and inclusiveness of all groups of people, listen to all differences. This is the great sign, promising sign for development and success and this is the key for democratization process. I think the peace process and the resumption of the 21st Century Panglong

reflects the strong determination by the government to have all the stakeholders come into the negotiation table and that the government tried to accommodate all the differences. I think this is a promising sign especially that the second session has come to pass and I'm happy to hear that they came to agree on at least 37 points. I think participation for agreed 37 points is equality and the exercise of sovereignty. I think that the key success of the peace process is that we have to promote trust and confidence among all the stakeholders because let's say that you are the leader and you lead the whole group into the tunnel. They have to have the trust and confidence in the leader on what will happen at the end of the tunnel. You have to give them signs along the way, along the negotiation process, give them trust and confidence and they have the feeling that, "Okay, I will go along with you no matter what happens at the end of the tunnel."

Q: It's a good example. Myanmar regards cooperation as important with all neighboring countries for mutual de-

velopment. So please share Thailand's connectivity projects and development programs in Myanmar to promote the wellbeing of two peoples.

A: We have the policy, the government and the private sector, that we have to share with our Myanmar friends, the experience and anything that should be benefit of the Myanmar people. So we have to have human capacity building for the Myanmar people in any area so that when Myanmar is ready for all the change and all the new issues that lead to development. Then, we also in parallel can talk about connectivity as well. We've tried so hard to connect Myanmar. Now, we've only four international entry points and we try to make more entry points into Myanmar. When we talk about connectivity, we already have East-West Economic Corridor all the way from Da Nang in Vietnam through Thailand, and then we have Maesott and Myawady. We understand fully well that construction of the road and connectivity is the key success for economic development, so we also help and give assistance to the Myanmar government for upgrading, building the road from Myawady to Kawkaeik. After completion of the 2nd bridge, we can have free flow of commodities, investment and tourism. This is just a sample and then we try looking for other points of entry as well.

Q: Myanmar is striving for political and economic reform in parallel. So we want to know Thailand's cooperation on trade and investment as you mentioned about the Asian Highway, East-West Corridor.

A: I think at the moment we have quite a number of Thai business people invest and trade in Myanmar. But we have to admit that there is still room for improvement before economic development that to develop to the fullest. Because we all know that improvement is still needed in infrastructure, road and bridge constructions, electricity and many other areas. So that's why the Thai investors try to fill in these missing links improving roads: Myawady-Kawkaeik, Thaton in Mon State and the 2nd Friendship Bridge.

Electricity is a key because any economic development without electricity is not possible so that's why Thai business invests in electrical power plants for more electricity. We have a strong team called the Thai Business Association of Myanmar that helps all Thai business people and gives them information about doing business in Myanmar. They monitor new regulations and provide information and share experience to Thai business people. But again we cannot just do business alone but we must give back to the people in Myanmar. We have to grow together, we cannot just do business here, get the money and go back home.

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It will be no more way of doing business. We have to grow together doing business and Myanmar people must also get benefit along the line as well.

Q: What other challenges are there for investors working for investment in Myanmar? We also learned that there will be a second Thailand-Myanmar friendship bridge crossing Thaungyin River, so what will be the prospect for border trade?

A: If we have a venue when we connect all the roads and we connect all the bridge, then the prospect of trade and investment will of course be increased tremendously. Because what's happening now is that we have only a few outlets from where we can trade among each other. And when we talk about investment along the border, you have to cross the border and you have only a few international entry points. That is an obstacle for economic development and that's why the two governments are trying to work closely to come up with a new international entry point. You need to have a new bridge to accommodate the big load of the trucks because this is a very important road from Maesott, Myawady, Kawkareik, Thaton and Mawlamyine and all the way up to Yangon and then Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay. And if the path from Mandalay and Kalay completes then you will see the complete link to India: from Infal, Moray, Tamu and Kalay to Bhamo, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, all the way back to Maesott. Do you see the prospect of trade along this road? This will pass through all the big cities and will bring development into Myanmar. So, I think this is something that we will have to work on together to try to improve the entire road and bridge construction to complete all the connectivity. Apart from infrastructures, Thai investors are doing to improve water supply and electricity supply.

Q: So the challenges will be electricity and supply and better transportation?

A: Yes, infrastructure is not only for Thai but I think all foreign investors are looking for the improvement in electricity, water supply, internet, etc. I know that the



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (L) shakes hands with Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha during a MoU ceremony at the government house in Bangkok, Thailand on 24 June 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Myanmar government is working very hard in improving all of these areas and coming up with the new laws and regulations to attract the foreign investors. They just passed the foreign investment law and I learned that there will be intellectual property rights coming and insurance as well. This is very important for foreign investors to come do business and trade because it is the basic kind of law and regulations they would be looking for in any country.

Q: ASEAN is going to celebrate the 50th anniversary in this August 2017 so what is your inspiration for being ASEAN members?

A: I think first of all we now have an ASEAN economic community and then we have to work together to offer the international community a new market for investment. In terms of economics this is something very important for the West to come, trade and invest in ASEAN. If we strive together politically then we speak in one voice and we can take care of any problem, any issue in the region and we can have a strong advocating voice to anyone outside the region. We go together and we strong together to listen to the ASEAN and this is the message that ASEAN should put across to

the other regions. We must go together because there are differences in terms of economic and political development but as we've been here together, our ten countries, we have to accommodate each other. We have to try to find a way to settle our differences and I think we have to keep in mind that we cannot just leave any country behind. We have to bring all members to go together and be strong together in the future.

Q: There will be challenges like trans-border crimes, human trafficking and drug trafficking. How can we tackle these challenges?

A: I think that especially for Thai and Myanmar, since we are very close and share a border, the problem of one country can easily cross into the other country. That is why we should have a forum or working group meeting between authorities concerned whether in human trafficking, narcotics suppression, financial crimes or things like that. So if you have a forum then you have a mechanism and you can share information. Information sharing is a key to tackle this problem because the people will cross back and forth but if you share information, I think you can stop this kind of illegal activity. We encourage more information sharing

meetings that can serve as the model in ASEAN in regular basis, like any other country as well.

Q: Do you want to say anything about Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand?

A: I think recently there have been issues about migrant workers and I think now the Thai side has tried to come up with the measures to tackle with the problem and we will apply leniency in dealing with this. The thing is that we don't have any bad intentions in coming up with this kind of law but what we really what we want to do is just put things in a systematic manner so we can take care of our Myanmar friends who work in Thailand in a better and more efficient way if they all register. If they are not registered then it is very difficult for us to get into the system, reach out and help them. If they're in the system, Ministry of Myanmar can help them in case if they're in problem. Because Thai government and Prime Minister see that the issue of well-being of Myanmar workers in Thailand is the most important issue for Thai-Myanmar relations. So all the ministries concerned from labour and the Director-General of Worker Welfare all know fully well the policy of the Thai government so that's why they come up with this law to make sure everything is in order. When everything's in order then you can tackle the problem of human trafficking otherwise if you're not in the system then you can be a victim of human trafficking easily. We can take care of Myanmar friends much better and more efficient. But don't worry about the new regulation and the enforcement because now they are already settled and they are finding a solution to exercise leniency and give a flexible time for Myanmar workers to come back into the system, to get registered.

So, Myanmar migrant workers will know more and understand the real situation.

About this issue, H.E. Prime Minister of Thailand called the Ministry of Labour, we've to find the solution to help Myanmar workers in Thailand who affect by the new law and regulation.■

A TALE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10

How Robin bird migrates to the south at night

By Khin Maung Phone Ko

Robin bird is a small tiny bird with pot-belly and red colour chest. Both male and female robin sing a sweet song. They migrate to the south to avoid the severe winter of the north. There are many species of robin bird, most commonly well-known are the British and European robin bird.

The male robin chirping and singing beautifully and it is present to hear. Their singing is like sing praise to God of the creation. Usually male robin starts singing an hour before sun rise, as if morning worship to the creator God. Then during day time is spent finding food. In the evening after sunset robin sings, again. They are known to be only bird that sing praises to

the creator God, two times morning and evening. That is the reason that the God of creation gives robin birds a special gift. Let us find out what it is?

There live in England a family who loved the birds especially Robins birds. The parent and children both love to keep them. Children like robins' chirping and sweetly singing. But parent warned them to release them when winter came. During winter, many birds migrated to the south by flying thousands of miles. They do it by gliding into the gravity waves that flow from the north to the south.

However, the children knowing, but worry that robins are too small to avoid being victim of food to other big birds. The children's father being a scientist who

study the robins asked them to released robins from the cage. Thus, during day the children do open the cage and let robin to fly to south. But when night came the closed the cage to protect robins from cats. Father still find robins in the cage and know that children close the cage at night.

The he asked children to open the cage at night and watch against the cats. The children obeyed to do so. When the next day at dawn there were no robin birds inside the cage. The children are happy and know robin birds went to the south.

But they are still wondering how the birds can fly south? When asked the father he explained that that robins sing praise to creator God before sun rise and after sunset, twice a day. Therefore, the God of

creation give robin bird a third eye that can see the gravity wave going from the north to south. This third eye is on the right side of robin face. If robin which is tiny birds migrate in the day light many big birds will attack them before they arrive the south.

[P.S. This is a scientific study published by scientist to explain "how robin birds migrated to the south at night"]

Bible verses:

"I will be glad and rejoice in your name, I will sing the praises of your name, O most

High". (Psalm 9:2, NIV)

Therefore, I will praise you, Lord among the nations, I will sing the praises of your name. (2 Samuel,22:50, NIV)