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Tuesday, 17 July 2018

President receives Special Advisor to Japanese Prime Minister



President U Win Myint welcomes Mr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint received a delegation led by Special Advisor to Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Hiroto Izumi at the diplomat hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Among the topics discussed were providing development assistance, development of investment, education, agriculture, livestock, transportation, electricity and construction sectors, Yangon urban

development affairs, stability, rule of law and development in Rakhine State, and bilateral cooperation.

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Soe Win, U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu and other officials. Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Ichiro Maruyama also attended the meeting together with the Japanese delegation.— Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech at the closing ceremony of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor: Main essence of conference is ability to continue political discussion process through mutual understanding

Following is an unofficial translation of a speech delivered by National Reconciliation and Peace Centre Chairperson State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the closing ceremony of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

Dear conference chairman, members of the chair, UPDJC (Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee) members and conference delegates,

By signing part two of the Union Accord, the Third Session of the Union

Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong held for six days has reached another milestone successfully. In part two, there were only fourteen basic principles but it is a happy and praiseworthy outcome for us, **SEE PAGE-5**

SWRR Union Minister receives Rakhine Advisory Board Chair

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet, and UEHRD Communications Director U Kyaw Myaing held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Advisory

Board of the Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, and his delegation at the meeting hall of the SWRR Ministry yesterday.

They openly discussed the ongoing development in Rakhine State, completed and ongoing implementation of recommendations regarding Rakhine State, implementation of Prof. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai's Ad-

visory Board recommendations, ongoing operations relating to the MoU signed between the Myanmar government, UNHCR and UNDP on the repatriation of returnees from Bangladesh, and long-term collaboration for development in Rakhine State.

In the evening, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu met with Prof. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai and his delegation at

Nay Pyi Taw's Thingaha Hotel.

They discussed the progress of implementation of peace, stability and development in Rakhine State, the repatriation process of returnees, the mutual co-existence of the two societies in Rakhine State, long-term development plans, closing down of IDP camps and issuing of NVCs (National Verification Cards).—MNA ■

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UPC-21st Century Panglong panel chairman Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win delivers closing speech

THE following is an unofficial translation of panel chairman Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win's closing speech delivered at the Third Session of the UPC – 21st Century Panglong yesterday.

Dear members of the panel of chair, the State Counsellor, leaders and delegates attending the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, Mingalarbar.

As a member of the panel of chair, I am honored to speak on the success of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong on its sixth and last day.

There was a time when we were all taking up arms and fighting each other, sacrificing many lives in our struggle for our own political beliefs and stances. But now, here we are, people from former conflicts, sitting face to face, discussing, negotiating and debating national issues on a same level. On behalf of all people, I would like to express my thanks to the wise leaders who made it possible for us to reach this stage.

We have successfully completed six days of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong.



Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win delivers speech at closing of the 3rd Session of Union Peace Conference. **PHOTO: MNA**

Let me specially thank all leaders and representatives from different groups actively engaged in all levels of dialogue, debating and coming to agreements.

Although the points agreed during this Third Session are not many in number, the essence is that they could lead to better results in establishing our future as a Union, based on democracy and federal system.

The points agreed at this Third Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong will be added as the second part of the Union Accord. This is one more step taken towards implementing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and one more accomplishment of the Union peace process.

This session of the 21st Century Panglong is beneficial to the

nation. It is a conference during which we write in harmony the future of our country. Our decisions today should leave behind a bright future and a worthwhile legacy for our coming generations. If we fail to do so, we shall be remembered as failures throughout history.

The peace, stability and development of the nation are in our hands. It depends on our

wisdom, compassion and sense of fairness. I believe our talks, discussions, debates and agreements are for the benefit of the nation and for all ethnic nationalities.

There are many lessons to be taken away from this Third Session. These lessons may be used to improve the work procedures for the next session of the UPC-21st Century Panglong to be held before the end of 2018.

We have different perspectives and opinions on our country's formation, its history and events. Consequently, these differences have led to armed conflicts and the deterioration of democracy and national unity.

The root causes of past and ongoing armed conflicts in the nation can be traced back to political conflicts resulting from ethnicity and nationality. Armed conflicts are especially rampant in ethnic regions and it is up to us to end them. We have to solve the issues behind these conflicts.

I implore everyone to uphold the Panglong spirit in working for the cause of the Union benefiting the whole nation. — Myanmar News Agency ■

UPC-21st Century Panglong panel member Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win delivers speech at closing ceremony

THE following is an unofficial translation of Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win's speech delivered at the closing ceremony of the Third Session of the UPC – 21st Century Panglong yesterday.

The successful Third Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong is a monumental step towards establishing a federal and democratic nation and passing on an era of peace to the next generation.

In the Second Session of the Union Peace Conference, we reached an agreement on 37 points in the political, economic, social, land and environment sectors. They were signed as the first part of the Union Accord.

Now, in our Third Session of the Union Peace Conference, we have agreed on four points in the political sector, one point in the economic sector, seven points in the social



Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win delivers speech at closing of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. **PHOTO: MNA**

sector and two points in the land and environment sector to reach a total of 14 points signed as the second part of the Union Accord.

If we examine closely the main causes for ongoing armed conflicts in our country, they can be traced back to the differences in political, ethnical and religious beliefs

caused by the British Colonialists' separatist administration.

The Tatmadaw has been involved in the country's struggle for peace, independence, sovereignty, ethnic solidarity and preservation of the nation through successive generations and government administrations.

It will continue to be in-

involved in future Union peace conferences to set the basic principles for democracy and federalism in the nation.

The strength of a nation comes from within. If we truly love our country and our people, then I implore you to swiftly eradicate the armed conflicts that are hindering the development of the nation. I also respectfully urge the non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to sign the agreement as soon as possible.

The Third Session of the UPC-21st Century Panglong has yielded good results from all of our hard work and our actions should be based on this for the future of the country and for the future generations, as we aim to successfully accomplish all operations related to the peace process in the 2020 Union Peace Conference.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

THE Union Supreme Court sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges to pass judgments on five special criminal appeal cases, and hear three special criminal appeal cases and two special civil appeal cases. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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We work everyday to govern an entire nation. So, we don't have leisure time. In governing an entire nation, it is impossible to focus at the same time on every issue affecting the people. But, in reality, our government is working against many difficulties; we saw success in some issues and did not in some others.

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at the meeting with journalists on 30 May 1947)

State Counsellor receives Special Advisor to Japanese Prime Minister

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received His Excellency Mr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, yesterday at 4 pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed on the matters related to over 60 prioritized development projects in Myanmar to be implemented with Japanese Official Development Assistance, such as Yangon Urban Development Project, projects for improvement of transporta-

tion in Yangon, including Yangon Circular Railways Project, setting up GPS control stations to reduce traffic congestion in Yangon, Hantharwady International Airport Construction Project, Japan-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute. Japan had committed a contribution of 800 billion yen to Myanmar in 5 years from FY2016 to FY2020 for the development of Government and private sectors.

Moreover, development projects for Rakhine State, to be implemented by Japan, were also discussed.—MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Mr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Third Session of Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong successfully concludes



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, third from left, attends the closing ceremony of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE sixth and final day of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC), State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, delivered a speech in which she expressed her gratitude. (Full text of her speech is covered on Page 1 and 3.)

Attending the ceremony were vice-chairs, members and secretaries of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPD-JC), Government group, Hluttaw group, Tatmadaw group, ethnic armed organisations (EAOs), leaders and members of political parties, groups relevant to the peace conference, observers,

invited guests and other officials.

The peace conference panel was led by Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, with panel members Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Daw Ni Shwe Lian and U Myint Soe. Also, Panel Chair Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win delivered the opening speech. (Full text of his speech is covered on Page 2.)

The peace conference commenced with the reading and submissions of basic principles concerning the political sector by Tatmadaw Group representative Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (retd), the economic sector by Government Group representative U Hla Maung Shwe, the social sector by Political Parties Group representative U Naing Ngan Lin, and the land and environment sector by EAO Group representative Khun Myint Tun. **SEE PAGE-4**

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ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Nyi Zaw Moe, Hnin Pwint,
Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
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able to publish "Letter to the Editor"
that do not exceed 500 words. Should
you submit a text longer than 500 words
please be aware that your letter will be
edited.

Declaration of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong

1. The Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong was held in Myanmar International Convention Centre II, Nay Pyi Taw from 11 to 16 July 2018. The conference was attended by 700 delegates from all groups, 29 specially invited guests, 204 observers, 27 facilitators and 152 support group members, and sector-wise and group-wise meetings were conducted in stages and proposals obtained were signed as Part Two of the Union Accord.
2. In addition to this, conference delegates attending the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong pledges to strive toward achieving the following aims.
 - (a) Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong meetings will be held according to political dialogue framework, once in 2018 and twice in 2019.
 - (b) Meetings at all levels leading toward the next conference will be held successfully and after the three conferences are held, the basic principles related to democracy and federal, which are the basic foundation of a Union based on democracy and federal system, are to be established.
 - (c) In the subsequent conferences, all groups are to strive toward setting up the basic principles related to democracy and federal as foundation.
 - (d) In 2020, Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong meetings are to be held as required.
3. Aiming toward non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice and in accordance with the Panglong spirit, the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong delegates will continue to strive toward establishing a Union based on democracy and federal system that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination rights, founded according to the outcomes of the political discussions.

Attendees seen at the closing of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Third Session of Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong successfully concludes

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This was followed by approvals and discussions on the 14-points by Government Group representative U Kyaw Kyaw Han, Hluttaw Group representative U Min Oo, Tatmadaw Group representative Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, EAO Group representative Naing Aung Ma Ngay and Political Parties Group representative Saw Tun Aung Myint.

Panel Chair Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win then announced the four points of the political sector; one in the economic sector; seven in the social sector; and two in the land and environment sector; which have been approved.

Additionally, UPDJC secretariat member U Myo Win read the UPDJC's reports to the conference, requesting they be put on record, and the panel chair announced the reports were placed on record.

The 14-points approved at the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong were then signed, as the second part of the Union Accord, by Dr. Tin Myo Win from the Government Group, U Aung Soe of the Hluttaw Group, Maj-Gen San Myint of the Tatmadaw Group, Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong of the EAO Group, and U Thu Wai of the Political Parties Group.

Signing as witnesses to the

second part of the Union Accord were U Htone Phoo Dagon, ethnic representative of the Government Group, Nan Say Awa, ethnic representative of the EAO Group, Tar Myint Kyaw, relevant representative of the Political Parties Group, U Kyaw Win, relevant representative of the Government Group, U Hla Kyaw Aung, relevant representative of the EAO Group, and Nan Kham Ohn, ethnic representative of the Political Parties Group.

The panel chair then read the Declaration of the Third Session of the UPC – 21st Century Panglong to the assembly.

Afterwards, NRPC Chairperson State Counsellor Daw

Aung San Suu Kyi delivered her speech of gratitude.

This was followed by member of the panel of chairmen Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win delivering the closing speech. (Full text of his speech is covered on page 2)

The Third Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong then officially ended.

The Third Session of the UPC – 21st Century Panglong signed 14-points as part of the Union Accord, the previous Second Session of the UPC – 21st Century Panglong signed 37-points, resulting in the Union Accord now containing 51-points.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor: Main essence of conference is ability to continue political discussion process through mutual understanding

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as it was obtained through thorough discussions at UPDJC meetings and the conference based on papers submitted from national level political dialogues and groups. It is believed that all realize their own situation after reaching a common agreement through discussion with mutual respect and understanding during the six-day period of the conference.

Recognizing the result of the Third Session of the conference

Chairman and conference delegates,

In our Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, agreements were reached on a total of fourteen points. Four were in political sector, one in economic sector, seven in social sector and two in land sector. We were unable to reach an agreement in the security sector this time.

Two things can be made out of this. One is the fact that although the Constitution contains the desires of the ethnic nationals, they want to include words that are more exact. Another is including matters not included in the Constitution in the Union Accord. The agreed points are part of the Union Accord. These are new steps taken toward signing a complete Union Accord the next time.

Some think the agreements reached were few in numbers. Looking back, all know that more than a year had passed between the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong Second and Third sessions. Much negotiations and discussions were conducted to hold the Third Session. It is a sign that our peace process is progressing with such good results despite facing many difficulties and disagreements. Agreements may be few in numbers. But the main essence of this conference is the ability to continuing the political discussion process through mutual understanding and effort. Today's signing of Part II agreements is an indication that our conference had not stopped or turned back, but progressing forward with difficulties.

At the same time, ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) that didn't sign the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) but attended the conference



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with a leader of an ethnic armed group at the closing ceremony of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. **PHOTO: MNA**

at our invitation were able to see first-hand discussions and negotiations made at the conference. Their representatives also met separately with the Government and the Tatmadaw. In these meetings, we were able to discuss openly and cordially, and many good possibilities of participating in the peace process were obtained. This also is one of the positive results of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

Together with this, we were able to discuss and issue a Declaration of the Conference, so that hopes of the ethnic nationals and people who are waiting and watching the 21st Century Panglong Conference were not dimmed. The main points of this declaration are to hold a total of three conferences, one in 2018 and two more in 2019; setting up basic principles related to democracy and federalism as a basic foundation; and each group is to strive towards setting up these basic principles in the conferences that will be held. These main points, these aims are set as the resolve of the conference. The declaration is an official announcement made to the ethnic nationals and people by the conference of the future work. Whatever may happen and whatever the difficulties may be, we were showing that, we, as a single body and mind, will not give up and took firm steps to walk on. We are very much pleased and happy to make this declaration, a political resolve that is full of essence politically, as the outlook of the conference.

Difficulties and the way forward

Chairman and conference delegates,

In the discussions and negotiations for peace conducted in this conference, there were points in which everyone was in agreement and there were points where it was difficult for everyone to agree on. Groups participating in the discussions had different backgrounds as well as difference in envisioning the future. As negotiations and discussions were held under such differences, much time and patience is required to achieve good results and there's bound to be many challenges.

When the security sector was negotiated, all were seen to be very cautious. For the peace process, it is very important to have good results in the security sector. A complete Union Accord needs to have agreements in security sector. To resolve this difficulty, the construction and design of our political discussion framework is to be reviewed courageously and we must strive toward making a better work process.

To conduct required reforms for a smooth future, to accomplish the conference declaration, weaknesses need to be amended and strengths reinforced. We need much closer cooperation among our groups. To overcome the difficulties, it is important for the main forces to have a common aim for the future. The common aim for the future has been issued today as the conference declaration. To implement

the common aim for the future would require the formulation of a peace strategy. Based on this strategy, it is required to change the political framework to a better and more appropriate one. As UPDJC has already formed necessary groups, this is to be urged to be conducted as soon as possible.

The main reason for armed conflicts in our country is mistrust and suspicion among one another and from this difference, hostility and hatred came about. To build trust, leaders of the (different) forces need to meet and exchange views. Common views are to be achieved from among the different views. In meeting with leaders of EAOs that had signed the NCA, we agreed for the leaders or representatives delegated by the leaders to meet frequently. All are informed that the Government is giving priority toward conducting such meetings with the leaders.

Similarly, while conducting political discussions, when the requirements and demands are not met, hard feelings and stumbling blocks can form. These must not go beyond the peace table and contaminate the relevant public and societies. When these contaminate the public, it could generate more dissatisfaction and as dissatisfaction increases, it will turn into loathing and hatred. Unique and positive transformations that people at the grassroots level could see and feel need to occur in peace. The voices of the people from relevant regions need to be listened to by our 21st Century Panglong

Conference. Each group needs to strive toward reconciliation trickling down to the grassroots level. Our government will strive towards developing the social life of ethnic nationals and people in the conflict areas and all are urged to cooperate in this.

We are not approaching peace through our government formulating the peace process or playing the lead role. We are approaching it by supporting and mediating the creation of good results among the forces. Our belief is constructing peace through trust and understanding. The approach of our government is strengthening trust and finding solution through understanding.

Conclusion

Chairman and conference delegates,

In conclusion, we are glad to hear that the conference delegates were able to discuss in detail this time. All had coordinated for those participating in the political discussion to have deeper understanding, discussed in detail to have the same future aim, established a setting where thoughts can be exchanged, and there was sufficient time. During the time between conferences, reviews and preparations were made, resulting in a better conference setup, but we need to continue our endeavor to achieve a better situation.

When we strive towards taking steps forward, it is very important to make sure that the steps taken are firm. What we are doing now is laying the foundation stones for a democratic federal union that will come into being in the future. Only when the foundation is strong, can the upper structure be solid and durable. Whether there are more or less agreement is not important. It is more important that we have good understanding among one another and have common acceptance. These are more important for a robust future. It is believed that all will strive toward setting up more complete and better basic principles in the next conference.

Heartfelt thanks to UPDJC secretaries and committee members, conference delegates, facilitators and support groups that worked tirelessly during the six-day conference. May all continue to work in good health and good spirits for successful conferences in the future. Thank you.

14 points signed as Part II of Union Accord

14 points approved by the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong were signed as a Part II of the Union Accord. Following are the 14 points, and signatures of the leaders of the respective groups and witnesses.

Union Accord Part II

1. Aiming toward non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice and in accordance with the Panglong spirit, the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 11 to 16 July 2018 to establish a Union based on democracy and federal system that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination rights, founded according to the outcomes of the political discussions.
2. At this conference, sector-wise and group-wise meetings were conducted in stages on policy proposals submitted by Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) and the proposals obtained were agreed as Part II of the Union Accord.
3. The Part II of the Union Accord signed at this conference and all other agreed sections obtained at the subsequent conferences will be compiled and signed as Union Accord.
4. The Union Accord Part II signed in this conference are –
 - (a) Four agreements in political sector basic principle
 - (b) One agreement in economic sector basic principle
 - (c) Seven agreements in social sector basic principle
 - (d) Two agreements in land & environment sector basic principle totaling fourteen which are shown in addenda (a), (b), (c) and (d).
5. The above agreements are signed by heads of each group at the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong and witnessed as Union Accord Part II, according to Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Section 20 (e).

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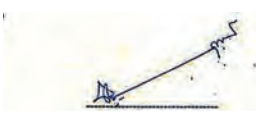
1. Dr. Tin Myo Win
Representative of the Government Group



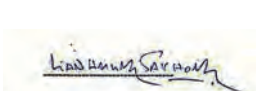
2. U Aung Soe
Representative of the Hluttaw Group



3. Maj-Gen San Myint
Representative of the Tatmadaw Group



4. Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong
Representative of the Ethnic Armed Organisations Group



5. U Thu Wai
Representative of the Political Parties Group

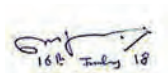


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U Htone Phoo Dagon
Ethnic Representative,
Government Group



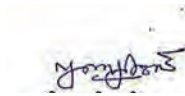
U Kyaw Win
Relevant Representative of the
Government Group



Nan Say Awa
Ethnic representative
Ethnic Armed Organisations Group



U Hla Kyaw Aung
Relevant Representative of the
Ethnic Armed Organisations Group



Nan Kham Ohn
Ethnic representative
Political Parties Group



Tar Myint Kyaw
Relevant Representative of the
Political Parties Group



Addendum (a) Political sector basic principle agreement (16 July 2018) Gender equality

1. In establishing a Union based on democracy and federal system, no citizen of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar must be treated differently based on gender difference and policy must be established for equality.
2. A minimum of 30 percent involvement of women in each sector is to be encouraged.
3. In establishing a Union based on democracy and federal system, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is to establish and implement policies that prevent gender-based violence.
4. Increase the capability of women to support gender equality.

Addendum (b) Economic sector basic principle agreement (16 July 2018)

Region/State governments have the right to draw up and implement economic projects that benefit the people. In drawing up the projects, it is to be in accord with the Union economic development policies and projects, and consideration must be made toward not adversely affect the adjacent states and regions.

Addendum (c) Social sector basic principle agreement (16 July 2018)

1. In the decision-making stages of conducting resettlement, redevelopment and social development matters, attempts must be made towards having women participation of at least 30 per cent.
2. Establish an education system that is accessible by all and is all-inclusive.
3. Establish a universal health coverage system that is accessible by all and is all-inclusive.
4. Enact laws that provide rights of the handicapped persons, children, elders, expecting mothers.
5. To widely consider and include the concept of social cohesion in conducting social development matters.
6. Establish and conduct effective policies against harm reduction, treatment and reintegration of drugs and psychotropic substances usage.
7. Set up and conduct programs to ensure children's rights, abide by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child for all-round development of children and eliminate Six Grave Violations against children.

Addendum (d) Land and environment sector basic principle agreement (16 July 2018)

- Preventive arrangements
1. Only citizens can own land in the country, and foreigners and illegal settlers must not own it directly or indirectly.
 2. In conducting and implementing land-use project work, assessments must be made not to damage the natural environment, not to have social effect, not to have health effect and to conduct coordination work with the local people. ■

Corrigendum

An article on Page 7 of the 16 July edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained an error. In the article with the headline "U Ohn Maung, leaving family for the country", the name of the youngest son of Martyr U Ohn Maung should be read U Min Myint instead of U Min Myat. Writer

Yebaw Ko Htwe, an Arzarni adhering to duty

By Zaw Gyi

PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

“MACHINE gun fire could be heard from Bogyoke’s meeting room, but he decided to fight back armed only with a six-cylinder revolver. He knew he might die, but even if he could get one shot he would take it. That’s the reason he was also martyred,” said Yebaw Ko Htwe’s nephew Lt-Col Aung Ko Ko (retd) (second son of Yebaw Ko Htwe’s third elder brother U Thar Cho).

He continued, “Six days after I was born, the martyred leaders were gunned down. I only became aware of these things when I was older. I was very sad when I found out about it.”

Yebaw Ko Htwe was born in Mandalay to U Ko Ko Kalay, a retired officer at the Department of Agriculture, and his wife Daw Min Yi, a school teacher. He was their sixth son. He attended school till the ninth grade, and then at the age of 18 he served as a bodyguard to U Razak, the Minister for Education and National Planning. He was shot and killed along with Bogyoke Aung San and the national leaders.

U Aung Ko Ko said, “Yebaw Ko Htwe is unusual among the martyred leaders. He was the youngest, only finishing the ninth grade, and it was only three to four months since he began his duty. He was a people’s comrade when he was in school, and that was his only experience. His uniqueness is being a martyr, despite his education and limited experience.”

He continued, “The other eight martyrs were targeted and shot at the meeting room. But Yebaw Ko Htwe was not on their list. He left his post in U Razak’s room and waited for the assailants at the foot of the stairs. He only had a .32 six-cylinder revolver and was well aware he would be shot if he opened fire. He was brave and courageous, but he didn’t get to fire a single shot.” While Bogyoke Aung San and the other leaders were in the meeting, Yebaw Ko Htwe was in Minister U Razak’s office, across Bogyoke Aung San’s office. In the room next to Bogyoke’s were Bo Htun Hla (Tetkatho Nay Win) and Bo Than Win (English General’s bodyguard). U Aung Ko Ko thinks the two officers did not have a chance to intervene when the assassination happened.

“When Bo Than Win was running down the stairs, he ran into four of the gunmen. When they yelled at him to stop, he stayed put and they left him unharmed. Likewise, when reporter Maung Than was trying to escape the gunmen yelled at him. He ducked himself and they left him untouched. This showed that the gunmen had a plan only to specifically target Bogyoke and the people in the meeting room. They weren’t interested in anyone else. But Ko Htwe was unlucky. The door was a western saloon door and it made a noise when he opened it. It alerted the assailants and they shot him before he had time to react,” said U Aung Ko Ko.

Yebaw Ko Htwe’s death was heartbreaking. One of the assailants (Yan Gyi Aung) shot him with a Sten gun. He suffered four shots in the abdomen and passed away at the hospital at 2:15pm on the same day.

Yebaw Ko Htwe was fond of playing at fighting at a young age and detested the colonial British. He was kind-hearted but harbored a strong sense of nationalism. He enjoyed swimming and growing plants but would want to throw stones at the British when he saw them. His father himself entrusted him to U Razak to mentor him.

U Aung Ko Ko said, “U Chit Swe was with Yebaw Ko Htwe in U Razak’s office on that day. U Chit Swe told him to go take his police uniform and revolver. At that time, Ko Htwe was wearing a people’s

comrade uniform and armed with a .32 six-cylinder revolver. He had been officially given a two-star police uniform and .38 six-cylinder revolver, but he hadn’t taken them yet. U Chit Swe himself, later, wrote that Ko Htwe didn’t go withdraw his uniform and firearm as he wanted to be ready for when U Razak needed him.” He continued, “There are written documents from U Razak’s family, too, from which we can deduce that Ko Htwe had a strong sense of duty. A little while later, U Razak came out and told them that Bogyoke will be present at the upper and lower Myanmar boxing match that evening at Myoma school. He asked U Chit Swe to go help set up the venue, since there was only an adult, Ba Nyein, there.

U Chit Swe left for Myoma school and Ko Htwe was left alone reading a newspaper in U Razak’s office.” A little known fact about Yebaw Ko Htwe is that even though he was a bodyguard he wasn’t a commissioned officer. While he was attending U Razak’s Mandalay National High School, he became a people’s comrade and learnt some military warfare. He was politically active as well. At the time of his death he had earned a Naypyitaw two-star officer position, but he never had the chance to take his uniform.

“Yebaw Ko Htwe lived with his elder sister Daw Kyi Kyi Kalay at

No. 72, 31st Street Lower Block, Yangon, while he was serving U Razak. The rest of his family were in Mandalay. When the news of the assassination spread, his elder brother U Aung Than Sein and his brother-in-law U Saw Pe rushed to the hospital. Yebaw Ko Htwe tried to smile when he saw them and asked them where U Razak was. He was wounded, but he seemed to be contented with fulfilling his duty.”

The families of the martyrs were given export/import permits from the government and gas stations from the BOC company, and Yebaw Ko Htwe’s family received Ks 5,000 from the public fund for Bogyoke. His family received a monthly grant of Ks 300 but they donated it to national development projects. U Aung Ko Ko said Ko Htwe’s parents were offered a store at Bogalay Zay market but they refused to take it, as their son had paid for it with his life.

When asked about the Secretariat, U Aung Ko Ko said, “The remaining families of the martyrs were invited in 2016 to view the Martyrs’ Day exhibit at the Secretariat. It had

just been renovated. I had thought it would be completed by 2017. When I visited it last year, I saw a new wall was built between Bo Htun Hla’s and Bogyoke’s rooms. There used to be a door connecting their rooms, but now it’s gone. I wish they could have preserved the original designs and layout. I also wish the exhibit would be completed soon.”

When asked what the younger generation should look up to in Yebaw Ko Htwe, U Aung Ko Ko said, “Ko Htwe was born on 5 December 1929 but the date at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum mentions his birth date as 3 March. This was done so that he could be registered as 18 years old. But really, he was only 17 years and eight months old when he passed away.

He was very young. So young that on normal circumstances there is no reason for him to be listed as a martyr. But his strong sense of duty and habit of carrying out what was on his mind earned him his place among the respected martyrs. Young people don’t need to feel undermined because of their age or inexperience. The country will laud you if you do what needs to be done for your country and its people. When he passed away, Yebaw Ko Htwe left behind his parents, three elder brothers and two elder sisters, but now all of them have passed away and only his nieces and nephews are alive and settled in Yangon and Mandalay. ■



Yebaw Ko Htwe
(3 March 1929 - 19 July 1947)

* Yebaw Ko Htwe was born in Mandalay to U Ko Ko Kalay, a retired officer at the Department of Agriculture, and his wife Daw Min Yi, a school teacher, on 3 March 1929. He was their sixth son.

* He attended school till the ninth grade, and then at the age of 18 he served as a bodyguard to U Razak, the Minister for Education and National Planning during the pre-independence government.

* Yebaw Ko Htwe was fond of playing at fighting at a young age and detested the colonial British. He was kind-hearted but harbored a strong sense of nationalism. He enjoyed swimming and growing plants. His father himself entrusted him to U Razak to mentor him.

* A little known fact about Yebaw Ko Htwe is that even though he was a bodyguard he wasn’t a commissioned officer. While he was attending U Razak’s Mandalay National High School, he became a people’s comrade and learnt some military warfare. He was politically active as well. At the time of his death he had earned a Naypyitaw two-star officer position, but he never had the chance to take his uniform.

* He was shot along with Bogyoke Aung San and other national leaders, at 10:37am on 19 July 1947. He died at 2:15pm the same day.



Understanding, unity more important than the number of agreements achieved

WITH the signing of Part II of the Union Accord, the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong came to a successful end yesterday, becoming a milestone in our history.

Fourteen points were reached for Union Accord Part II during the six days of the conference. Agreements were reached after days of debate that was sometimes intense, but always conducted with mutual respect and understanding.

The 14 points included four points in the political sector, one in the economic sector, seven in the social sector and two in the farmland sector. No agreement was reached in the security sector during this session.

More than a year passed after the Second Session and before the Third Session of the conference was held. But the wait was worth it, because the recently completed Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong ended with fruitful results.

The Third Session shows that our peacemaking efforts are going forward. Maybe the number of agreements reached at the conference was low, but we have witnessed that our collective efforts conducted with mutual respect can bring about positive results, which will continue to move the process forward. This is the essence of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

Further progress can be seen with the attendance of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) non-signatories to the Third Session at the invitation of the Union Government. The non-signatories held talks with the government and the Tatmadaw separately. Their participation in the conference can only be seen as significant progress.

Another achievement is that all peacemakers issued a declaration after the Third Session that they would hold the next conference in 2018 and two in 2019, and that they are committed to working towards laying down the principles for a democracy and a federal system as a foundation for our future democratic federal Union.

This declaration of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong has shown our commitment to the country that we will not reduce our diligence and will take more firm steps. Our future is in our hands, and we must continue.

Agreements in the security sector play an important role in the peacemaking process. To break the deadlock in the security sector, we will need to boldly review our political framework and structure.

Meanwhile, to overcome our challenges, a peace strategy is required to implement our common goal, which was declared on the last day of the Third Session. Based on that strategy, we need to reform the political framework as soon as possible.

At the same time, the Union Government is stepping up efforts for promoting the socio-economic status of the ethnic people in conflict areas so that our national reconciliation efforts can positively impact their lives. It is important for the people to see that the peace process is not just meetings among the Government, Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organisations, but also a way to improve the lives of all citizens.

The Union Government is not approaching the peace process as a leader but as a facilitator among the stakeholders in order to bring about good results. We believe the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong has been very successful, showing that understanding, unity in a common goal, lasting strength are more important than the number of agreements achieved. ■

Bogyoke, the architect of freedom for modern Myanmar

By Dr. Thein

IT has been seventy years since our beloved Bogyoke Aung San was cut down at his prime and met a martyr's death at the hands of a few power-hungry degenerates. His untimely death at a youthful age of 32 was a great blow to the then emerging nationhood of Myanmar, because he alone epitomized the hope and the spirit of the Myanmar people at that time. As Donnison wrote in 1947, "He alone was able to unite his people, speak for them, and give expression to their spirit as no one else had done since the day of Alaungpaya, two hundred years ago."

Without having had any first-hand knowledge of the life and times of Bogyoke Aung San, the present younger generation and even the middle-aged generation may be unable to see and feel what Bogyoke really stood for and embodied. To many of them, Bogyoke is rather a distant, though highly venerated figure. It is about time to realize that Bogyoke Aung San has been the very embodiment of Goodness, Justice, and Truth. His exemplary life and his high ideas have been a constant source of inspiration to our aspiring youth.

Little Aung San was born on February 13, 1915 at Natmauk in central Myanmar. He was originally named Htain Linn, but the name was later changed to Aung San, it was said. Just to rhyme with Aung Than, the name of his older brother. He came from a family of rural gentry and patriots. His maternal granduncle U Min Yaung, an outstanding freedom fighter, was caught and executed by British imperialists after their blatant and unjustified annexation of Upper Myanmar in 1885. U Aung Than remembered that even as a boy Aung San was honest and trustful; he never lied, and when he was afraid of something he openly said so. He was also inquisitive and industrious. He attended the National High School at Yenangyaung. His destiny as a national liberator may have been moulded in part by his patriotic lineage and his National School upbringing. He went to the University of Rangoon in 1932 and took an arts degree there, and also read law for a time. As a student, he was a voracious reader, well-read in history and political science. He did not bother about his appearance and dress; nor did he care about idle formalities and courtesies. He scorned the Anglophile social values of the day. However, he tried hard to acquire a good command of English, which he later used so effectively in promoting Myanmar's cause for freedom. He was a leader of the 1936 Rangoon University Student's Strike that shook the British colonialism. In fact, his expulsion from the University for his refusal to submit to the high-handed authorities touched off that strike that propelled him to national leadership. He wrote in his self-portrait in 1946: "I won scholarships and prizes and a bright academic career seemed to be open to me. But politics called me away." So in 1938, he left the law classes, entered politics, became Thakhin Aung San, and served as General Secretary of the Dohbama Asiayone (Burmese Nationalist League). He carried out anti-British activities, enduring hardships, often going hungry for lack of funds.

By 1940, realizing that the time had come to strike, Thakhin Aung San and Thakhin Hla Myaing (later Bo Yan Aung) slipped out of Myanmar and with much difficulty arranged for a group of young patriots to undergo an intensive military training on Hainan Island given by the Minami Kikan, a secret ad hoc Japanese organization. Thakhin Aung San emerged as the undisputed leader of these selfless young patriots who later became renowned as the "Thirty Comrades". In early 1942, as Bo Teza, he marched into Myanmar as the head of the newly-formed Burma Independence Army (BIA). The BIA and the Japanese Army drove the British out of the country. In September 1942, he married a comely nurse Ma Khin Kyi who bore him two sons and two daughters. In 1943, he became a major-general (Bogyoke) and served as the War Minister. He was outspoken about the sham nature of the so-called independence granted by the Japanese in August 1943. Not long afterwards, as the Japanese fascists began to show their true

colours. Bogyoke Aung San secretly helped found the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) and organized the resistance movement against the Japanese oppressors. The resistance broke out with full force on March 27, 1945.

In August 1945, just after the war, he was elected President of AFPFL, a truly united national organization at that time. He was then the leading spirit and chief spokesman for the Myanmar people. The year 1946 saw him tirelessly striving for Myanmar's independence -- organizing, inspiring, uniting and demanding. He went to London in early 1947 to press for an agreement with Prime Minister Attlee for Myanmar's independence. Barely two weeks after his return from London, he was able to overcome some serious obstacles and successfully forged the historic Panglong Agreement on national unity and solidarity on 12 February 1947. He did it by the combined force of his personality and his patriotism. "Panglong was his coup de grace, raising him to the height of Anawrahta, Bayinnaung and Alaungpaya", as a contemporary put it. Myanmar's independence had been established, all but in name, when he was assassinated on 19 July 1947 -- the saddest day in the history of Modern Myanmar.

Like all human beings, Bogyoke Aung San must have had some shortcomings. The obvious one was that he was rather reckless of his own safety, and was too trusting, even with his political rivals. But his virtues decidedly far outweighed his shortcomings. It would be merely superfluous to say that he was intelligent, industrious, able, decisive, disciplined and courageous because such qualities are more or less indifferent in many true leaders. What made Bogyoke Aung San a great man, and why is he still enduring and endearing to us? The answer lies in his other outstanding qualities -- his honesty, forthrightness, incorruptibility, selflessness, and love of truth.

In short, he had character -- a quality that may be woefully lacking even in some great leaders. He once said to Bo Tun Hla, his personal assistant: "The most important thing in a person is character and love of truth." Indeed, he practiced what he preached.

Bogyoke Aung San was a simple man who possessed and cherished homely virtues. As Dr. Maung Maung observed in his well-known book, Aung San of Burma, "People remember what he stood for: honesty and hard work, unity and discipline, and such homely virtues." In fact, he expounded at length the need of hard work, discipline, and above all unity in building New Myanmar in his farewell speech (as it turned out to be) only six days before that fateful day, the 19th of July, 1947.

The late Lord Attlee, himself a great statesman, assessed that "Aung San was a statesman of considerable capacity and wisdom." Major-General Suzuki (Bo Mogyoe), none other than the 'Father of BIA', judged that, "Aung San was absolutely honest. He was a good military leader too, brave and skillful. He was a patriot, and his patriotism and honesty won respect from all of us in Japan." Bogyoke Aung San, therefore, was a soldier-statesman in the tradition of Kyansittha and Bayinnaung. It may be said that he ranked with Anawrahta, Bayinnaung and Alaungpaya -- three previous maker-unifiers of Myanmar.

Writer Dagon Taya's portrait of Bogyoke Aung San as 'the Wild One' apparently was a hyperbole. Perhaps he was also merely rhetorical. Bogyoke's seemingly crude and unsocial ways arose out of his disregard for idle formalities, superficial courtesies and pretensions. Bogyoke's close friends and associates spoke of a man who was a considerate leader, a loyal friend, a respectful son, an affectionate husband and a loving father. Sometimes, he may even become a little romantic, humming a tune or two.

Bogyoke was a devoted family man who loved his wife and his three surviving children dearly. (The last child, a daughter, had died in infancy.) His favourite was the toddler Aung San Suu Kyi ('Ma Ma Suu' in the household parlance), the youngest and household darling, who is now a charismatic national leader in her own right. He spent what little time left after very busy and hectic days, with his family. Sadly, his happy family life was cut short.

Bogyoke said on more than one occasion that after gaining independence for Myanmar, he would like to retire from the public life, become a writer, and personally supervise the education and raising of his children.

Bogyoke Aung San may have been odd blunt, and sloppy in his manners and habit, but he was never pretty arrogant, high-handed and self-serving. His disregard for power and money was well known. He was simple in his tastes, unpretentious in his dealings, ever truthful in his words and deeds. That is why he was liked and respected by all who came to know him. His one-line note to Daw Khin Kyi from a meeting room, "Dear Kyi: If available, I want to eat pebyoke and nanpya", tells of a very simple and unpretentious man. There was also the story of his attending a formal luncheon in the war years with a tattered vest under his uniform which, at the host's urging, he had to remove due to the oppressive summer heat. He did not feel the least embarrassed in his tattered vest.

Bogyoke was willing to forgo even his personal prestige if it served the common cause. In 1946, as the undisputed supreme leader of Myanmar, he had every right to summon U Saw, no longer a major political figure, for talks concerning Myanmar's struggle for independence. Instead, to promote better rapport, he chose to go to U Saw's house where U Saw, in his own petty way, purposely made Bogyoke wait for some time. Bogyoke did not feel the least slighted or offended because he had a larger goal in mind -- that of united struggle for independence.

Bogyoke Aung San spoke or acted in a forthright way. The following anecdote, recounted by Thakhin Tin Maung (of Kyone-ma-ngay), was revealing in this respect. It was in early 1940 that Bogyoke (then Thakhin Aung San) met Sir Stafford Cripps, a Labour leader, who was on a short visit to Myanmar. At one point, Thakhin Aung San was expounding Myanmar's right to the use of force in trying to regain her freedom. He said that supposing the fountain pen in the breast pocket of Cripps' coat had been the one taken away from him on a false pretext, first he would ask Cripps to give it back to him. If Cripps refused, then what would he do? As he spoke, suddenly he snatched away the pen from Cripps' coat pocket, thereby tearing apart the stylish pocket to the amazement of all those present. Thankin Aung San did not appear the least concerned as his point was thus forcefully made. And poor Cripps could only mutter, "Oh, dear Aung San, dear Aung San!"

Bogyoke Aung San was not a totally political man as some like to characterize him. Bo Let Ya, a close comrade-in-arms, related an incident during their Thakhin days. Bogyoke's mother, Daw Su, came from Natmauk to see her youngest and dearest son in Yangon. He appeared to be unconcerned and uncommunicative. Later, he sent her off at the railway station on her return to Natmauk. As the train started, suddenly he knelt down on the platform and gave the shikho (homage gesture) towards his mother on the departing train. That incident succinctly tells of a man who was only too human.

His honesty, his sincerity, and his forthrightness came out naturally and spontaneously whether he was addressing a mass meeting at Naythuyein Hall, or a gathering of leaders from the frontier areas at Panglong. His message for national unity and solidarity won the day, because he was not only a charismatic leader, but also a genuine patriot. His dedication to Myanmar's freedom was total. His sole mission in life was that of achieving freedom for his motherland. In fact, he succeeded in this noble mission; though, sadly, he was not there to witness his crowning achievement. He was truly the architect of freedom for Modern Myanmar; hence the Founder of Modern Myanmar.

(First published in the 60th Anniversary Magazine of Geology Department of Mandalay University in November 2013. Now reprinted with the author's permission. Author's note in the original article is not included here as it was written expressly for that magazine.)

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization transferred

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Professor Dr Khin Zaw, Rector of University of Medicine, Magway, Department of Human Resource for Health under the Ministry of Health and Sports, as Director-General of the Department of Food and Drug Administration, from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 16th July, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 17th JULY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, Scattered in Mandalay and Magway regions and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in (Eastern and Southern)Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7 – 11)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th JULY, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th JULY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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)** Own name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/ College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Obama visits Kenyan family, to launch youth centre

KOGELO (Kenya) — Former US president Barack Obama paid a visit to his extended family in Kenya Monday, on his first trip to the country since 2015 during which he will open a youth centre.

Obama arrived in his father's native Kenya on Sunday, where he paid courtesy calls on President Uhuru Kenyatta and main opposition leader Raila Odinga.

On Monday he flew to the west of the country, where under extremely tight security he paid a visit to the home of his step-grandmother Sarah Obama in the village of Kogelo, an AFP reporter said.

He was expected to meet a number of members of his ex-

tended family, before launching the Sauti Kuu (Swahili for "Strong Voices") centre set up by his half-sister Auma Obama.

Addressing the media last week, Auma said the state-of-the-art centre would give local youth access to books, internet and sporting activities.

They will also be able to benefit from classes on work ethics, civic education, environmental conservation and financial literacy.

The centre includes an international standard size football pitch sponsored by the German ministry of development cooperation, a basketball court funded by the Giants of Africa Foundation, and a volleyball/netball court and other facilities,



Former US President, Barack Obama (C) with his step-grandmother Sarah (2R) and half-sister, Auma (L) arrive to unveil a plaque on July 16, 2018 during the opening of the Sauti Kuu Resource Centre, founded by his half-sister, Auma Obama at Kogelo in Siaya county, western Kenya. **PHOTO: AFP**

including a library and IT lab.

The centre is set to also offer adult education.

When Obama visited Kenya in 2015, he was unable to visit his

father's village due to security concerns, and vowed to return when he was no longer "wearing a suit" and contribute to the development of young people.

After his visit to Kenya, Obama will fly to South Africa where he will deliver the annual Nelson Mandela lecture. —AFP ■

Iran's Khamenei seeks better ties with the world, apart from US

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei has called for better ties with the world — though not with the United States, according to his official website on Monday.

Khamenei met President Hassan Rouhani and his cabinet on Sunday and spoke of the "necessity of developing diplomacy and relations with foreign countries," according to a transcript published in English.

"Except for a few cases — such as the United States — Iran's relations with other countries, including with the West and the East, must expand and further develop."

Tehran's diplomats have been scrambling to shore up trade ties with both European and Asian powers since the US announced in May that it was abandoning the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposing sanctions on Iran.

Khamenei's statement recalls a famous slogan from the early days of the 1979 revolution: "Neither East nor West, Islamic republic", echoing a

desire to strike a path independently from the major Cold War powers.

In February, Khamenei surprised observers by saying that Iran now prioritised ties with the East over the West — reflecting the much stronger ties it has developed with Russia and China in recent years.

Even before the US withdrawal, Iran had already been disappointed with the economic benefits of the nuclear deal as it emerged that a raft of remaining US sanctions were preventing the country from establishing international banking ties and other trade links.

He has called on Europe to give "real guarantees" that they can sustain trade with Iran despite US nuclear-related sanctions that will be fully reimposed by 8 November.

On Sunday, he called for "courage and determination" from the government as it faced down the threats from the US, and said economic officials were now key to maintaining "hope and morale in people". —AFP ■

Emirati prince flees to Qatar, criticises Abu Dhabi

LONDON — An Emirati prince is seeking asylum in Qatar after fleeing the UAE saying he feared for his life because of a dispute with the rulers of oil-rich Abu Dhabi, the *New York Times* reported on Sunday.

Sheikh Rashid bin Hamad al-Sharqi, 31, is the second son of the emir of Fujairah, one of the seven monarchies making up the United Arab Emirates.

He arrived in Doha on 16 May, the report said.

Abu Dhabi is the capital and richest emirate of the UAE.

Speaking to the *New York Times*, Sheikh Rashid accused Emirati rulers of blackmail and

money laundering but did not offer evidence to back up his claims.

He also spoke of tensions within Emirati elites over the UAE's commitment of troops in the war in Yemen.

Sheikh Rashid said there had been more UAE war deaths than the 100 that have been reported publicly and said "there have been more deaths from Fujairah than anywhere else".

An Emirati official contacted by AFP declined to comment, but UAE minister for foreign affairs Anwar Gargash made a veiled reference on Twitter to "conspiracy against this or that ruling family by those who lack courage and

instead resort to leaks and interviews".

Along with Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates cut all ties with Qatar in June 2017, accusing Doha of supporting Islamist groups and being too close to Gulf archrival Iran.

Qatar, the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, denies the accusations.

The *New York Times* report said that Sheikh Rashid appeared to be the first time in the UAE's nearly 47-year history that a member of one of its seven royal families had publicly criticised its rulers. —AFP ■

Five killed in S Africa mine fire

JOHANNESBURG — At least five miners in South Africa were killed on Sunday following an underground fire, the government said, while a rescue operation was ongoing for the sole survivor.

A conveyor belt at a mine operated by Palabora Copper in northeastern Limpopo province caught fire, trapping the six staff underground, the company said in a statement.

"Five employees have now been confirmed dead at Palabora Mining. The search for one

employee continues," wrote South Africa's Department of Mineral Resources on its Twitter account.

"An investigation will commence once the last remaining employee is found and the fire underground has been contained and the area declared safe."

In its statement, Palabora Copper said that "mine management, officials from the Department of Mineral Resources and organised labour are currently on the mine investigating the cause

of the incident".

South Africa has been rocked by several fatal accidents at its economically vital mines since the beginning of the year.

Four miners were killed following an incident at a gold mine operated by Sibanye Stillwater last month.

Earlier this year, 955 workers at another Sibanye gold mine were trapped underground for more than a day after a power outage caused by storm. They were rescued unharmed. —AFP ■

Trump vows 'extraordinary relationship' with Putin as summit opens

HELSINKI, Finland—Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin began an historic summit on Monday vowing their determination to forge a reset of troubled relations between the world's greatest nuclear powers.

Trump, bent on forging a personal bond with the Kremlin chief despite allegations of Russian meddling in US politics, went into the summit blaming "stupidity" by his predecessors for plunging ties to their present low.

Looking sombre, the two leaders exchanged a few opening remarks in front of the press at the start of their summit in Helsinki.

Putin, basking in congratulations from Trump and other world leaders for the successful staging of the World Cup in Russia, said: "The time has come to talk in a substantive way about our relations and problem areas of the world."

Before the two leaders went into a first session between just themselves and their interpreters, Trump said the summit would cover "everything from trade to military to missiles to nuclear to China".

"Frankly, we have not been getting along for the last number of years. And I really think the world wants to see us get along. We are the two great nuclear powers," he said.

"I've not been here too long (as president), it's getting close to two years, but we'll be having an extraordinary relationship, I hope so."

'We'll do fine'

Shortly before the summit opened, Trump was asked if he would press Putin over Russia's alleged manipulation of the 2016 election that brought the mercurial property tycoon to power. He said only: "We'll do just fine."



US President Donald Trump (c) shakes hands with Russia's President Vladimir Putin next to US First Lady Melania Trump (l) ahead a meeting in Helsinki on 16 July, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Many US critics had called for the summit's cancellation after new revelations surrounding the alleged election meddling.

But Trump has insisted it is "a good thing to meet", as he attempts to replicate with Putin the sort of personal rapport he proclaims with the autocratic leaders of China and North Korea.

If the pair do find common ground, the summit may take the heat out of some of the world's most dangerous conflicts, including Syria.

But there are many points of friction that could yet spoil Trump's hoped-for friendship with the former KGB spymaster.

Trump began the day by firing a Twitter broadside at his domestic opponents, blaming the diplomatic chill on the investigation into alleged Russian election meddling.

"Our relationship with Russia has NEVER been worse thanks to many years of US foolishness and stupidity and

now, the Rigged Witch Hunt!" Trump tweeted.

Russia's foreign ministry tweeted in response: "We agree."

Trump's US opponents tried, in turn, to gain traction for the hashtag #BAF (Blame America First).

'Fake news'

After a stormy NATO summit in Brussels last week, Trump was accused by critics of cosying up to Putin while undermining the transatlantic alliance.

But over breakfast with Finland's President Sauli Niinisto, he insisted NATO "has never been stronger" and "never been more together" thanks to his insistence on all allies paying their fair share.

Trump, a brash 72-year-old billionaire, has been president for 18 months while Putin, 65, has run Russia for the past 18 years.

In a weekend interview with CBS News, Trump admitted that Russia remains a foe, but he put Moscow on a par

with China and the European Union as economic and diplomatic rivals.

The Kremlin has also played down hopes that the odd couple will emerge from their first formal one-on-one summit with a breakthrough.

On Friday Putin's adviser Yuri Ushakov said: "The state of bilateral relations is very bad.... We have to start to set them right."

Indeed, after the bad-tempered NATO summit and a contentious trip by Trump to Britain, anxious European leaders may be relieved if not much comes out of the Helsinki meeting.

Those leaders are already fuming over Trump's imposition of trade tariffs on various countries, including Russia.

Turning the tables, European Union President Donald Tusk said Trump was guilty of "spreading fake news" with his remark about foes, and warned that the trade tensions could spiral into violent "conflict and chaos".

"Europe and China, America and Russia, today in Beijing and in Helsinki, are jointly responsible for improving the world order, not for destroying it," he tweeted.

"I hope this message reaches Helsinki."

Protesters have been on the streets of Helsinki to denounce the policies of both Trump and Putin. Greenpeace draped a giant banner down a church tower urging: "Warm our hearts not our planet."

Giving up ground?

Trump is also under pressure from Britain to press Putin over the nerve agent poisoning of four people in southern England.

One of the victims, Dawn Sturgess, has died and her 19-year-old son Ewan Hope told the *Sunday Mirror* newspaper: "We need to get justice for my mum."

Many fear that Trump—in his eagerness to prove he was right to seek the summit despite US political opposition—may give up too much ground.

Trump has refused to personally commit to the US refusal to recognise Russia's annexation of Crimea, leaving open the possibility of a climbdown linked to a promise by Putin to somehow rein in Iranian influence in Syria.

If Washington were to acquiesce in Russia's 2014 land-grab, this would break with decades of US policy and send tremors through NATO's exposed eastern flank.

And there will be outrage at home if Trump does not confront Putin over the election scandal.

But the US leader would not say whether he would demand the extradition of 12 Russian intelligence officers who were indicted last week by US special prosecutor Robert Mueller.—AFP ■

Mexican president-elect plans to slash salary of high-level officials

MEXICO CITY—Mexican President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Sunday announced that he would be slashing the salaries of high-level officials, including himself, as part of an austerity push by the government.

Meanwhile, Lopez Obrador told reporters outside his

campaign headquarters that he would raise the national minimum wage in order to "make the budget reach everybody."

He met with members of his future cabinet there earlier.

His monthly base salary would be 108,000 pesos (about 5,700 US dollars), 40 per cent of

what President Enrique Pena Nieto currently earns, said Lopez Obrador, who will take over the Mexican presidency on 1 December.

The president-elect recently announced that he was canceling the generous pensions paid to former presidents, all of whom are wealthy, and a slew of bonuses

and fringe benefits provided to lawmakers and other officials.

The austerity plan aims to redirect some 500 billion pesos (about 26.4 billion dollars) a year towards welfare and development programmes.

In addition to public-sector belt tightening, Lopez Obrador seeks to pass laws to combat graft.

Mexico ranks 135 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index.

Lopez Obrador's left-of-centre National Regeneration Movement (Morena) won a majority in Congress, so proposed bills are virtually ensured congressional approval.—Xinhua ■



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May. PHOTO: AFP

Ex-minister backs new Brexit vote as eurosceptics pressure May

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May drew fire from all sides Monday over her Brexit on strategy as a former minister described it as a “fudge” and called for a second EU referendum, and eurosceptics readied a parliamentary challenge.

Former education secretary Justine Greening, who opposed Brexit, said May's plan to follow European Union rules on trade in goods without being able to influence them was “the worst of both worlds”.

Noting the deep divisions in government and parliament on the way forward, Greening said the decision must be put to voters — becoming the most senior member of May's Conservative party to back the idea. “The only solution is to take the final Brexit decision out of the hands of deadlocked politicians, away from the backroom deals, and give it back to the people,” she wrote in an article in *The Times*.

May has repeatedly ruled out a second referendum, after Britons voted by 52 per cent for Brexit in 2016, but Greening's support for a so-called People's Vote will give the campaign a huge boost.

Her intervention is also another blow for May's plan for close ties with the EU, which had already come under fire from Conservatives who want a clean break.

Two top ministers, Boris Johnson and David Davis, quit in protest last

week followed by a string of junior walkouts, including another on Monday.

Eurosceptics will have a chance to show their strength in the House of Commons late Monday by voting on amendments to a bill setting up a new customs regime after Brexit, which would effectively wreck May's plan.

They are not expected to pass, as the opposition Labour party will not support them, but will show how many MPs are prepared to publicly oppose the prime minister.

Meanwhile May will also test her plan with the EU this week, with Brexit negotiations due to resume in Brussels on Monday and the other 27 leaders due to hold their first talks on the proposal on Friday.

Split the party

The prime minister this weekend defended her plan, saying there was no alternative that protected trade in goods with the EU and avoided border checks in Ireland.

She insisted it would allow Britain to control migration, end the jurisdiction of EU courts and forge its own trade policy — despite US President Donald Trump saying it could “kill” a US-UK trade deal. But eurosceptics believe it keeps Britain too close to the EU, and Davis, the former Brexit secretary, warned in the *Financial Times* on Monday it would deny the government the “freedom to run our own economy”. —AFP ■

Russia targeted by almost 25 million cyber-attacks during World Cup: Putin

MOSCOW — Russia was the target of almost 25 million cyber-attacks during the World Cup, President Vladimir Putin said, though he did not indicate who may have been behind the attacks.

“During the period of the World Cup, almost 25 million cyber-attacks and other criminal acts on the information structures in Russia, linked in one way or another to the World

Cup, were neutralised,” Putin said during a meeting on Sunday with security services.

The president, whose comments were reported by the Kremlin on Monday, gave no information on the nature or possible origins of the cyber-attacks.

“Behind this (World Cup) success lies huge preparatory, operational, analytical and information work, we operated at maxi-

mum capacity and concentration,” said Putin.

Russia, which hosted the World Cup from 14 June to 15 July in 11 cities and 12 stadiums, has been repeatedly accused by Western countries of conducting cyber-attacks.

On 12 Friday, Russian military intelligence officers were charged with hacking Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign and the Democratic Party

in a stunning indictment three days before President Donald Trump meets with Putin in Helsinki on Monday.

The charges were drawn up by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, the former FBI director who is looking into Russian interference in the November 2016 vote and whether any members of Trump's campaign team colluded with Moscow. —AFP ■

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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.

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Indonesia invites Korean leaders Moon, Kim to Asian Games

JAKARTA — The leaders of the two Koreas have been invited to next month's Asian Games in Indonesia, Jakarta said on Monday, after the neighbours agreed to field several joint teams at the event.

Indonesian president Joko Widodo sent a formal invitation on Friday to South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong

Un, Widodo's spokesman said, but it was not immediately clear if either has responded.

"The invitation letters have been sent to the leaders," spokesman Johan Budi told AFP.

Last month, Asian Games organizers announced that North and South Korea will field joint teams in three sports — canoeing, rowing and women's basketball — in a sign

of thawing tensions.

The two countries — which are technically still at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice instead of a peace treaty — will also march together at the opening and closing ceremonies for the showpiece event from 18 August 2 September.

The two Koreas formed their first-ever unified Olympic team — a joint women's ice hockey squad

— for last February's Winter Games in the South, with the North's participation kicking off a thaw between the two neighbours.

The diplomatic detente also triggered a rapid improvement in relations between Pyongyang and Washington, culminating in last month's summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump in Singapore. The Asian



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un poses with South Korean President Moon Jae-in for a photo inside the Peace House at the border village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone on 27 April, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Games, to be held in Jakarta and Palembang on Sumatra island, will feature some 11,000 athletes competing in 40 sports — the second-biggest multi-sport event behind the Olympics.—AFP ■

Huge drugs haul intercepted in Bali: Indonesia police

DENPASAR— Bali police said on Monday they had intercepted a huge haul of Australia-bound cold relief tablets that contained a key ingredient for making illicit drugs.

Some 600,000 pseudoephedrine tablets being sent from South Korea to Australia were found during a stopover on the Indonesian resort island, they said.

The bust happened in January but was announced on Monday.

Indonesian authori-

ties said they were tipped off by their counterparts in Australia.

Bottles of the pills, weighing nearly 140 kilograms (310 pounds) in total, were labelled as health food, authorities said. Lab tests done on the seized drugs confirmed they contained pseudoephedrine, a precursor for making methamphetamine and other illegal drugs, said Indonesian customs director general Heru Pambudi.

A resident of Australia, who was not iden-

tified, had been arrested by Australian police over the haul, Pambudi added.

Indonesia has some of the toughest drug laws in the world. Foreigners are regularly caught trying to bring drugs into Bali and some have been sentenced to death.

In the first half of 2018 alone Bali's customs office said it had seized 3.9 tonnes of drugs and ingredients used as methamphetamine precursors that were being smuggled through the island.—AFP ■

Over 20 injured in tent collapse at Modi's rally in India

NEW DELHI — Over 20 people have been injured after a tent collapsed at Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in West Bengal state Monday, police said.

Fortunately, the Indian prime minister escaped unhurt from the mishap that took place in the eastern state's Mid-

napore district, a senior police official said.

"A canopy to prevent people attending the rally from getting drenched in rains, collapsed suddenly as some attempted to climb the supporting poles to get a glimpse of Modi," he said. Modi's security personnel and local police immediately rushed

all the injured to a nearby government hospital. Reports said his official ambulance was also used to ferry the injured. Though it seemed that rains had weakened the canopy structure, a probe has been ordered into what's being billed as a "major security lapse," the official added.—Xinhua ■

Tyco Electronic Singapore Pte Ltd (Myanmar Representative Office) Notice of Closure of Myanmar Representative Office

It is hereby notified that in pursuance of Head Office's Board of Directors' Resolution dated 28th June, 2018 the above Myanmar Representative Office has been closed down with effect from 30th June, 2018 since the existence of Myanmar Representative Office was no more required in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Notice to Creditors

The creditors of the above-named Myanmar Representative Office are required to send their names, addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their attorneys, if any, to the undersigned Liquidator in person or by their attorneys to come in and prove their said debts or claims on or before 31st August, 2018 or in default thereof they will be excluded from the settlement of such debts or claims.

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (12/ 2018)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

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(2)	DMP/L-048(18-19)	Magna Dewax PT-2066 Parafin Solvent & Demulsifier (2) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-049(18-19)	Steel Wire Ropes (2) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-050(18-19)	PAC-R (50) MT	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-051(18-19)	Spares for D-375 Pump Ex Card Well and GEFCO Drilling Rig (12) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-052(18-19)	Chrome Lignite (XP-20) (200) Tons	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-053(18-19)	Assorted Kinds of Engineering Workshop Tools (7) Groups	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-054(18-19)	Spares for FLC 504 Derrick Shaker Unit (7) Items	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-055(18-19)	Spares for Komatsu Dozer (D 155A-1) (19) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-056(18-19)	Spares for Komatsu Dozer (D 85 ESS-2) (37) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-057(18-19)	Spares for Zoom Lion Crane (54) Items	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-058(18-19)	Spares for C-18 Marine Engine Ex MTBN-5 River Craft (24) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from 16 July 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 15 August 2018.**

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Can never feel 100 per cent secure in showbiz, says Katrina Kaif

MUMBAI— With films such as “Rajneeti”, “Ek Tha Tiger”, “Dhoom 3” and “Tiger Zinda Hai” to her credit, she may have become one of the biggest female stars in Bollywood, but Katrina Kaif says it is tough to feel completely “secure” in movie business.

Katrina believes film industry is changing rapidly and to stay relevant one needs to explore new arenas in the showbiz.

“I don’t think you can ever feel 100 per cent accomplished and secure in your career because it is a rapidly changing industry. Things are changing so quickly. But now I do feel comfortable and confident here,” Katrina told PTI, over phone from London, where she will be celebrating her birthday tomorrow.

“I have had a career that

has been successful. Going ahead, you have to put in that much hardwork, keep performing and keep doing films in new spaces that are not only challenging but also interesting to audience,” she adds.

Katrina reveals she is working on few original concepts and scripts.

“I am also working on few concepts, which have been on my mind. I am working and developing these ideas.”

Her last release “Tiger Zinda Hai”, opposite Salman Khan, was a blockbuster and earned over Rs 545 crore worldwide.

In her next two films, “Zero” and “Thugs of Hindostan”, the actor has teamed up one again with Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan, respectively.

Looking back at the year, Katrina says, it has been “ful-



filling and gratifying for me”.

“This year has been really good for me, ‘Tiger Zinda Hai’ did very well and it was a new film for the audience and people appreciated it. It feels great that ‘Tiger’ franchise continues to be a success.”

“Aanand L Rai’s ‘Zero’ is something on which I had a very

fulfilling experience. He really helps you. It was a good learning experience. And then I have ‘Thugs of Hindostan’ with Aamir, Yash Raj Films and Victor with whom I have worked on ‘Dhoom 3’. There is a definite possibility that both the films will step up... be the next level (in visual effects),” she adds.

There have been rumours that Katrina will be seen in “Rajneeti 2”, “Krrish 4”, Aditya Dhar’s film with Akshay Kumar, but according to her, she has not been approached for any of these projects.

“The only film I will be working on next is the dance film by Remo D’Souza and there are few ongoing discussions but things are not finalised.”

The dance drama also stars Varun Dhawan and the duo will soon start preparing for the project.

“It is a film on dance so the preparation and the kind of dance forms that we are planning to achieve it is not going to be easy. There will be lot of training. We will start training in the next few months and the shooting would begun by the end of the year,” she says.—PTI

‘Hotel Transylvania’ books spot at top of box office

LOS ANGELES—Sony’s “Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation” booked a stay at the top of the North American box office, taking \$44.1 million in ticket sales, according to industry estimates on Sunday.

The animated fantasy comedy, whose voice cast includes Adam Sandler and Selena Gomez, follows Count Dracula and his family as they get away from their hotel for their own vacation.

It swatted away last week’s number one, “Ant-Man and the Wasp,” in at second with takings of \$28.8 million over the three-day weekend, according to industry tracker Exhibitor Relations.

The 20th release in Disney’s Marvel Cinematic Universe sees ex-con Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) languishing under house arrest in San Francisco after being caught, as his shrinkable superhero alter-ego, fighting some of the other Avengers in “Captain America: Civil War” (2016).

Struggling to balance home life and Ant-Man duties, he’s confronted by old flame Hope van Dyne (Evangeline Lilly), alias the Wasp, with an urgent new mission.

Third place went to Universal’s new release “Skyscraper,” with earnings of \$25.5 million.

Packed with action, it sees Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson star as an ex-FBI agent who has to rescue his family from the newly built tallest skyscraper in the world, after terrorists set it ablaze.

In at fourth was “Incredibles 2,” dropping one place with takings of \$16.2 million. After earning \$28.4 million last week, it pushed past Pixar stablemate “Finding Dory” (2016) as the top-grossing animated film of all time in North America.

Disney’s “Frozen” still holds the global box office record for animated films.

Ranking fifth was Universal’s



“Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation” took an estimated \$44.1 million in ticket sales during its first weekend in North American theaters. **PHOTO: AFP**

“Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom,” taking \$15.5 million.

The movie, which has raked in more than \$1 billion globally, sees Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard struggle to contain dinosaurs rescued from a tropical Pacific island and sheltered temporarily at a California mansion.

Rounding out the top 10

were:

“The First Purge” (\$9.1 million)
“Sorry To Bother You” (\$4.3 million)
“Sicario: Day of the Soldado” (\$3.9 million)
“Uncle Drew” (\$3.2 million)
“Ocean’s 8” (\$2.9 million).—
AFP

New documentary exploring David Bowie’s early career in works

LONDON— Legendary singer David Bowie’s early career is set to be the focus of a new documentary titled, “The First Five Years”.

The new film will act as a prequel to “David Bowie: Five Years” and “David Bowie: The Last Five Years”, which both aired on the BBC.

According to David Bowie News website, the documentary will air next year.

The late rock icon tragically passed away in 2016, aged 69, following a secret battle with cancer.—PTI



Legendary singer David Bowie. **PHOTO: PTI**



English actor Ben Whishaw. **PHOTO: PTI**

Ben Whishaw game for more ‘Paddington’ movies

LOS ANGELES— English actor Ben Whishaw, who voices Peruvian bear Paddington, says he wants more films in the live-action franchise.

“Paddington 2”, which released earlier this year, has been termed as one of the best live-action movies of 2018 by critics and audiences across the globe. “I absolutely love doing Paddington. It takes a lot of time, and

each time I’ve done it, it’s taken the better part of a year. But I would love to do another one,” Whishaw told *Entertainment Weekly*.

The 37-year-old actor, however, will only return to the duffel-coat-wearing bear, if writer-director Paul King is on board.

“I can’t imagine what it would be like without him, so I think it’s really down to whether he wants to or not,” he said.—PTI

Products of omega-3 fatty acid metabolism may have anticancer effects

CHICAGO — A class of molecules formed when the body metabolizes omega-3 fatty acids could inhibit cancer's growth and spread, a study in mice by researchers at the University of Illinois (UI) found.

The molecules, called endocannabinoids, are made naturally by the body and have similar properties to cannabinoids found in marijuana, but without the psychotropic effects, the study shows.

In 2017, UI researchers identified a new group of omega-3 fatty acid metabolites called endocannabinoid epoxides, or

EDP-EAs. They found that these molecules had anti-inflammatory properties and targeted the same receptor in the body that cannabis does.

As cannabis has been proven to have some anti-cancer properties, the researchers investigated whether EDP-EAs also affect cancer cells.

In mice with tumours of osteosarcoma, a bone cancer that is notoriously painful and difficult to treat, EDP-EAs slowed the growth of tumors and blood vessels, inhibited the cancer cells from migrating and caused can-

cer cell death.

The researchers found that in higher concentrations, EDP-EAs did kill cancer cells, but not as effectively as other chemotherapeutic drugs on the market. Meanwhile, the compounds also combated the osteosarcoma in other ways: they slowed tumor growth by inhibiting new blood vessels from forming to supply the tumor with nutrients; prevented interactions between the cells; and most significantly, appeared to stop cancerous cells from migrating.

The researchers isolated

the most potent of the molecules and are working to develop derivatives that bind better to the cannabinoid receptor, which is plentiful on the surface on cancer cells.

"Dietary consumption of omega-3 fatty acids can lead to the formation of these substances in the body and may have some beneficial effects," said study leader Aditi Das, a professor of comparative biosciences and an affiliate of biochemistry at UI. "If you have cancer, you want something concentrated and fast acting, that's where the endocannabinoid epox-

ide derivatives come into play. You could make a concentrated dose of the exact compound that's most effective against the cancer. You could also mix this with other drugs such as chemotherapies."

In the next step, the researchers plan to perform pre-clinical studies in dogs, since dogs develop osteosarcoma spontaneously, similarly to humans. They also plan to study the effects of EDP-EAs derived from omega-3 fatty acids in other cancer types.

The study has been published in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*.—Xinhua ■

Vitamin supplements do not improve heart health

WASHINGTON — Taking multivitamin and mineral supplements does not prevent heart attacks, strokes or cardiovascular death, according to a new analysis published in the latest issue of *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, an American Heart Association journal.

The research team put together the results from 18 individual published studies, including randomized controlled trials and prospective cohort studies, totaling more than 2 million participants and having an average of 12 years of follow-up.

They found no association between taking multivitamin and mineral supplements and a lower risk of death from cardiovascular diseases.

"We found no clinical benefit of multivitamin and mineral use to prevent heart attacks, strokes or cardiovascular death," said the study's lead author Joonseok Kim, assistant professor of cardiology in the Department of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

As many as 30 per cent of Americans use multivitamin and mineral supplements,

with the global nutritional supplement industry expected to reach 278 billion dollars by 2024.

"Although multivitamin and mineral supplements taken in moderation rarely cause direct harm, we urge people to protect their heart health by understanding their individual risk for heart disease and stroke and working with a healthcare provider to create a plan that uses proven measures to reduce risk," said Kim.

These include a heart-healthy diet, exercise, tobacco cessation, controlling blood pressure and unhealthy cholesterol levels, and when needed, medical treatment, according to Kim.

"Eat a healthy diet for a healthy heart and a long, healthy life," said Eduardo Sanchez, the American Heart Association's chief medical officer for prevention and chief of the Association's Centers for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

"There's just no substitute for a balanced, nutritious diet with more fruits and vegetables that limits excess calories, saturated fat, trans-fat, sodium, sugar and dietary cholesterol," said Sanchez.—Xinhua ■

Aussie scientist wants to create clouds to protect the Great Barrier Reef

SYDNEY — Australian oceanographer Daniel Harrison told Xinhua on Monday about his technology designed to increase cloud covering over the Great Barrier Reef to protect it from coral bleaching.

Harrison's strategy, called "Marine cloud brightening" will be presented to 200 experts on Tuesday as they meet in the Australian State of Queensland to discuss the protection of the critically damaged reef.

The method involves spraying seawater to assist in the formation of clouds and is being developed by Harrison and colleagues at the Marine Studies Institute at the University of Sydney and the National Marine Science Centre at Southern Cross University in Coffs Harbour.

Harrison explained, in a cloud, every single droplet needs a little tiny speck of dust in the atmosphere to condense onto.

"Over the land there's a lot from dust and everything. Over the ocean they're largely formed by sea salt. The idea is that we'd take sea water and we'd spray it out as these nano-sized droplets and they



Coral bleaching at Lizard Island off the coast of Queensland. Damage to parts of the Great Barrier Reef has worsened. **PHOTO: AFP**

evaporate leaving the sea salt crystal behind."

Specifically designed nozzles spray a fine mist of 3 trillion droplets per second which is then mixed into the atmosphere and carried to around a kilometer above the ocean.

Harrison said the process will "brighten" the clouds over the reef so that when the clouds form they will reflect more sunlight back into space. Coral reefs bleach from a combination of warmer water and sunlight.

"So if you shade corals, even if they're warmer they won't bleach," Harrison said.

This strategy aims at protecting the reef from the damage already being done by climate change, rather than attempt to

stop climate change itself.

Pressures on the reef are reaching a critical point in history, according to Harrison.

"The amount of climate change that's locked in now, even if we were able to suddenly and drastically cut emissions, means that the waters on the reef are going to keep warming over the next decade or two no matter what."

Coral reefs cover less than 0.1 per cent of the ocean surface, yet up to 25 per cent of all marine life spends at least part of its life cycle using coral reefs as a habitat.

"If we lose the coral reefs we don't really know the flow on effects that's going to have on marine life in the ocean in general," Harrison said.—Xinhua ■

Scotland chosen as site for first British space port

LONDON — The UK Space agency said Sunday that it had chosen a peninsula on Scotland's north coast as the site of the country's first space port.

"Scotland is the best place

in the UK to reach in-demand satellite orbits with vertically launched rockets," the agency said in a statement.

According to the head of the agency, Graham Turnock, the

new space port will "help kick-start an exciting new era for the UK space industry".

The choice of Sutherland for the new space port confirms Scotland's ambitions in the sec-

tor. According to industry experts, Glasgow is the city, outside of the United States, which produces the most satellites, specialising in small devices which can be used for weather forecasts,

like GPS systems.

The UK is seeking to develop its own space industry after its role in European space projects was called into question by Brexit.—AFP ■

‘Thank you, heroes’ - press hail Croatia squad



Croatia's midfielder Luka Modric attempts a shot during the Russia 2018 World Cup semi-final football match between Croatia and England at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow on 11 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

ZAGREB—Croatian media on Monday hailed their team as heroes after the small country's historic success in reaching the World Cup final where France beat them 4-2.

“Thank you, heroes! —You gave us everything!” read the *Sportske Novosti* frontpage.

“Vatreni” (the “Fiery Ones” in Croatian), you are the biggest, you are our pride, your names will remain written in gold forever!” the newspaper said.

It showed a photo of captain Luka Modric who was awarded the Golden Ball for the best player at the tournament, holding a trophy, although with a sad face

after the defeat.

“Brave hearts — You made us proud,” said *Jutarnji List* daily. “Croatia celebrates you, you are our gold!” echoed the *Vecernji List*. It noted that for the past month coach Zlatko Dalic's team “made Croatia better”.

“They restored pride, pulled it out of the pessimism” reigning in the country whose economy remains among the weakest in the European Union.

More than 100,000 red-and-white-painted Croatian fans were expected to welcome the squad home later Monday in the capital Zagreb.—AFP ■

Djokovic back in top 10 after Wimbledon exploits

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Novak Djokovic's fourth Wimbledon win propelled him back into the top 10 of the latest ATP rankings released on Monday.

Djokovic beat Kevin Anderson 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) to claim his fourth Wimbledon men's singles crown on Sunday, launching him 11 places to 10th in the rankings, ending an eight months top 10 exile.

South African surprise finalist Anderson, 32, moved up three places to fifth in the rankings.

Serb Djokovic, whose last stay in the top 10 dates back to October 2017, is hoping his 13th grand slam title will mark a turning point after a difficult two years marked by loss of motivation, personal issues and niggling injuries.

Spain's Rafael Nadal remains top of the table and has widened the gap over number two Roger Federer, who was eliminated by Anderson in a marathon quarter final.

Latest ATP rankings:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 9310 pts | 11. David Goffin (BEL) 3120 (-2) | 20. Kei Nishikori (JPN) 1800 (+8)—AFP ■ |
| 2. Roger Federer (SUI) 7080 | 12. Diego Schwartzman (ARG) 2470 (-1) | |
| 3. Alexander Zverev (GER) 5665 | 13. Pablo Carreño (ESP) 2155 (-1) | |
| 4. Juan Martín Del Potro (ARG) 5395 | 14. Jack Sock (USA) 2075 (+1) | |
| 5. Kevin Anderson (RSA) 4655 (+3) | 15. Fabio Fognini (ITA) 2030 (+1) | |
| 6. Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) 4610 | 16. Kyle Edmund (GBR) 1995 (+1) | |
| 7. Marin Cilic (CRO) 3905 (-2) | 17. Roberto Bautista (ESP) 1940 (-3) | |
| 8. John Isner (USA) 3720 (+2) | 18. Nick Kyrgios (AUS) 1935 | |
| 9. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 3665 (-2) | 19. Lucas Pouille (FRA) 1835 | |
| 10. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 3355 (+11) | | |



Novak Djokovic celebrates after beating Kevin Anderson. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sink Floyd! Resurgent Pacquiao wants second crack at Mayweather

KUALA LUMPUR—Manny Pacquiao called for a rematch against Floyd Mayweather after his win over Argentina's Lucas Matthisse.

Manny Pacquiao has called on Floyd Mayweather to come out of retirement for a rematch, saying “let's do a second one” after powering to his first KO win in nine years.

The fighting Philippines senator known as “Pac-Man” took on the dangerous Argentine WBA welterweight champion Lucas Matthisse in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday knowing a defeat could have lowered the curtain on one of the greatest careers in boxing history.

Instead he opened a glorious new act in a 23-year story that has seen him become the only man to move up through eight weight divisions and win world titles in all of them.

Despite racing towards his 40th birthday, Pacquiao looks like he is back to being the dev-

astatingly quick and ruthless power-puncher who earned the sobriquet of world's “best pound-for-pound fighter” between 2000 and 2010.

In 2015 Pacquiao, with a win-loss-draw record of 60-7-2, lost a unanimous points decision to the unbeaten Mayweather (50-0) in one of the richest fights in boxing history, but then needed surgery on a damaged shoulder that he claimed had restricted his movement and punching power.

After rolling back the years to pummel Matthisse into seventh-round submission, the Filipino legend is already considering the options for his next fight, which could take place as early as November or December.

“Mayweather? If he decides to go back to boxing then that is the time we are going to call the shots,” an effervescent Pacquiao told reporters at the Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur after his stunning win.

“I have the belt, so it's up to



Manny Pacquiao called for a rematch against Floyd Mayweather after his win over Argentina's Lucas Matthisse. **PHOTO: AFP**

him. If he wants to come back in boxing let's do a second one,” he grinned.

‘Addicted to boxing’

Pacquiao also highlighted British former light welterweight world champion Amir Khan as a potential opponent.

“My next fight, I want to defend my belt,” Pacquiao said.

He also said he would carry

on fighting past his 40th birthday in December, despite the demands of juggling life in the ring with a political career outside it.

“If boxing is not my passion, I would not fight again,” Pacquiao said.

“It's like I'm addicted to boxing and I really love to fight and bring honour to my country.”

Manny Pacquiao is hoping

to open a new chapter in his long career.

Three-weight world champion Terence Crawford is another possible money-spinning bout, as is a rematch with Jeff Horn, who wrested the WBO belt from Pacquiao in an ugly contest in Brisbane a year ago.

Veteran promoter Bob Arum has also talked up a superfight with his Top Rank stable's three-belt lightweight champion Vasyl Lomachenko, but that would necessitate Pacquiao dropping back down from 147 to 140 or 135 pounds, weight divisions he has not fought at for 10 years. But for now, the man who one day may run for president in the Philippines — where he is worshipped — will return to his day job in the senate's legislative department where his inbox has been filling up while he was away in training camp.

“There's going to be a lot of work in the office,” he said with a grin.—AFP ■