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**SUNDAY
SPECIAL**



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 153, 12th Waning of Tawthalin 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 17 September 2017



Muslim people from Barizar Village, Buthidaung Township, carry aid including rice bags and food on Saturday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Displaced Rakhine residents return home

RESIDENTS of Taungpyo Letwe Town in northern Rakhine State began to return to their homes yesterday nearly a month after they were evacuated due to terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a terrorist group, on 25 August.

The villagers had been sheltered in rescue camps in Maung-taw, Buthidaung, Yathedaung and Sittway. As of 16 September, there were 1,686 local ethnics and Hindus displaced from Taungpyo Letwe Town. After stability was returned to the village, most have returned home, according to records made available by the TaungpyoLetwe Town administrative office.

On the way home, security forces, border police guards and staff from the General Administrative Department helped in transportation for elders, children and mothers by vehicle, said U Naing Lin Aung, acting township administrator in Taungpyo-Letwe Town. The returned people include ethnics from Ward 1, 2, 3, and 4 in TaungpyoLetwe, and local ethnics and Hindus from Nathataung, Metike, Thayagone and ThinbawHla villages. About 100 people from Thayagone village still remain in rescue camps and will be returned home soon.— Min Htet Aung & Tin Maung Lwin ■

Aid flows into N-Rakhine

Rakhine State government and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday morning provided food for local ethnic nationals and Muslim villagers in Buthidaung Township, Maungtaw District.

“Today, our department, together with state govern-

ment, is providing rice donated by some foreign countries and cooking oil, salt, and peas from the department to villages where local ethnic nationals were facing difficulties due to the ARSA extremist terrorists and to Muslim villagers who do not accept terrorist acts and

want to live peacefully. Our department had provided food aid to all marshalling areas and is continuing by providing to villages.

Next day, we will continue to provide food aid to Muslim villages”, said Director U Kyaw Min of the Rakhine State Social

Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department.

Local ethnic villages of Ywama and Donthein and Muslim villages of Thityin and Thayizar, which have a total population of more than 1,500 in over 230 households were provided

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Rakhine State Chief Minister provides food, utensils in Maungtaw and Buthidaung

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Chan Thar and officials went by Tatmadaw helicopter from Sit-tway to villages in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships yesterday and provided food and utensils to local people.

Rakhine State Chief Minister and officials also gave words of encouragement to the local people in

Sin PhyuTaung and Wah Net Yone villages.

"Villagers who fled are returning home. As the government is providing food, we don't need to worry about this. It is also convenient as there is security in the village.

Tatmadaw personnel are also taking care of us, including our health", said Daw Than Nu, a Khami ethnic national of Sin PhyuTaung

village.

In evening, the party gave words of encouragement and provided food and utensils to local people of Min KhaMaung village in Maungtaw Township.

Rice, cooking oil, salt, beans, chili, onions, fish paste, dried fish, solar lamps, soap, detergent powder and other supplies were provided.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu presents food assistance to villagers in Maungtaw and Buthidaung Townships, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

HK Chief Executive attends 14th WCEC

MRS. Carrie Lam, Hong Kong Chief Executive, attended and delivered the keynote speech at the 14th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangone Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

The Hong Kong Chief Executive and party then went to the former Secretariat Office on

Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township and toured the parliament building, Martyr's Monument, the flag pole used during the Myanmar Independence flag raising ceremony and buildings within the former Secretariat Office compound.

Afterwards, they observed the knitting of woolen clothes in the Prosperity Knitwear Factory in the Thilawa (Internal

Economic Zone and visited the new extension factory building under construction.

The Hong Kong Chief Executive and party then visited Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal (MITT), where officials explained trade conducted through the terminal, after which the visitors toured the terminal by car. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Hong Kong Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie Lam visits Prosperity Knitwear Factory Ltd, Myanmar Thilawa Terminal (MITT). **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio to attend UN General Assembly



Vice President U Henry Van Thio (C) seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Chief Minister (L) and US Ambassador (R). **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio left Yangon yesterday to attend the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

The Vice President and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo

Min Thein, regional ministers, the US Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.

The Vice President was accompanied by National Security Advisor U Thaug Tun, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Attorney-General attends prosecutor's conference

UNION Attorney-General U Htun Htun Oo attended the 22nd International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) Annual Conference held in Beijing, China on 11-15 September, 2017.

The annual conference was attended by more than 500 representatives from 98 countries and international organisations.

At the conference, matters relating to technical cooperation between prosecutor organisations, the effect of the internet and social media on society and the dangers of terrorism, acquiring digital evidence, mutual assistance between countries in criminal cases, government prosecutors from countries co-operating and sharing experiences in electronic crime, environmental crime, terrorism,

money laundering, corruption, human trafficking, transnational crime, training programmes, prosecution works to be conducted for the benefit of the people, rule of law in society and fairness of law sectors were discussed.

The Union Attorney-General met with H.E. Mr. Cao Jianming, the Prosecutor-General of the Supreme People's Procurate of the People's Republic of China on 12 September and cordially discussed increasing bilateral cooperation, development and improvement of the legal sector, increased cooperation on transnational crimes, the status of sending scholars and future works between the Union Attorney-General office and the Prosecutor General's office.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Attorney-General U Htun Htun Oo participates in 22nd International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) Annual Conference. **PHOTO: MNA**

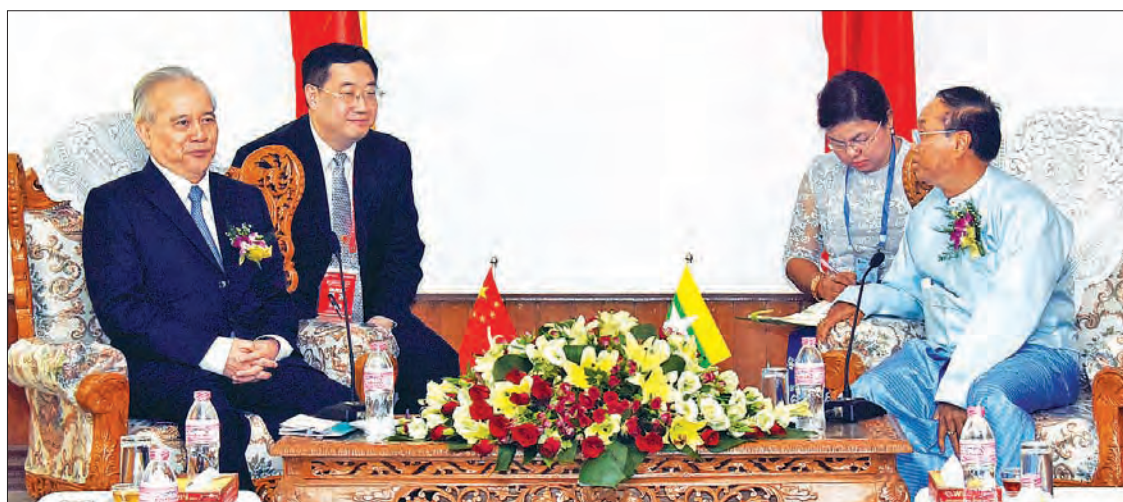
Vice President U Myint Swe receives Mr. Wang Qin Min

Vice President U Myint Swe received a delegation led by Mr. Wang Qin Min, Chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference yesterday morning, at the Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC) in Yangon.

Matters relating to the consolidation and promotion of the strategic and friendly relations that exists between the two countries, developing industrial and fishery sectors,

providing support in technology and good quality seeds, development of the construction, transport, communications and travel sectors, increasing agriculture, livestock breeding, trade promotion and investments on a wide basis were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers Dr Than Myint and U Kyaw Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Myo and U Aung Htoo, region ministers and officials.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Myint Swe holds talks with Chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce Mr. Wang Qin Min at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar encyclopedia to be republished for uplifting literature

A work coordination meeting to republish the Myanmar encyclopedia was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon.

At the meeting Union Minister for Information and Patron of the Myanmar Encyclopedia Republishing Steering Committee Dr Pe Myint delivered an opening speech.

Next, Tun Commercial Foundation Chairman and Patron of Myanmar Encyclopedia Republishing Steering Committee U Thein Tun and Vice Chairman 1 of Myanmar Encyclopedia Republishing Steering Committee Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min – Danubyu) discussed and suggested works that are completed and future works to be done.

Myanmar Encyclopedia Republishing Steering Committee member Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) Director General U Aung Myo Myint then explained the status of the work processes.

Afterwards, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, PPE Deputy Director General U Ko Ko Naing, writers Dr Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min – Danubyu), Dr Tin Hlaing (Bo Hlaing), U San Win (Archaeology), U Than Ohn (Maung Zeya) and U Aye Lwin (Maung Thway Thit) discussed and suggested by sector on the works completed.

Myanmar encyclopedias are being arranged to be republished with the aim of partly



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting to republish the Myanmar encyclopedia. **PHOTO: MNA**

supporting Myanmar literature development, to support and uplift development and growth of reference literature together with Myanmar literature, to update the Myanmar encyclopedia with appropriate modern facts and figures.

Republishing of the Myanmar encyclopedias is a joint effort of Sarpay Beikman and Tun Commercial Foundation.

Myanmar Encyclopedia Republishing Steering Committee secretary U San Win (Archaeology) said, “Three groups, a steering committee, consultation group and editorial group were formed and the editorial group was editing the previous encyclopedia series 1 and half of series 2 while appropriate subjects from World Book 2016 were selected and translated.

In order to support the republishing work, 24 subject groups and 18 subject specialists were writing manuscripts. 15 encyclopedias were pub-

lished from 1954 to 1976 and updating and amending outdated parts were being conducted.

Final manuscripts for series 1 will be completed by the end of December with the aim of printing a sample.”

Yesterday afternoon, the Union Minister met with literature experts for publishing the 100 Myanmar Books Series. At the meeting, U Than Ohn (Maung Zeya), Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Director General U Aung Myo Myint and Deputy Director General U Ko Ko Naing explained current work processes of publishing the 100 Myanmar Books Series and literature experts in attendance discussed the long story sector out of the short story, long story, poem, play, essay sectors that will be included in the 100 Myanmar Books Series.

The meeting ended with remarks for republishing the books and analysis of the books.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Body found, 16 suspects detained, IED found in Maungtau

On the afternoon of 10 September, security personnel in Kyikyun Police Post, Area 3, Maungtau Township saw two boats approaching toward the police post along the Ale creek. When the boats were hailed to stop, the boats continued to paddle away. Warning shots were fired and the boats were finally stopped.

Upon boarding one of the boats, the lifeless body of ZahatTusong, 50, was found with gunshot wounds to the head and right shoulder. Four men, including Mahmut Salam, also known as Siyu, 60, was arrested. Four swords found on board were confiscated. On the other boat was Ma Sannawara Baygon, 45, three other women, one man and eight children. Upon interrogation, they were found to be escaping from Area 5 Laungdon and had crossed the Naf River and had entered Ale creek near Kyikyun Police Post.

Of the 16, six including Mahmut Salam were charged

under the immigration law in Maungtau Township court on 15 September and were given a six-year jail sentence.

A death case has been opened on the death of Zahat Tusong of Bonenar Village in TaungpyoYar Police Station, Maungtau Township on 11 September and is under investigation.

Of the remaining, eight children including Nuralmut Arafat were handed over to ward elder U Myi Win Maung, also known as Rofi, of Myoma (South) Ward, Maungtau, while two others, including Zaumen Nara Baygon, were transferred to their parents, said local authorities. Five days later, security personnel from Kyaukpandu Camp were conducting area clearance operations along Maungtau-Angumaw Road found an improvised explosive device (IED) one foot long and six inches thick 50 yards from Kyaukpandu Village. The device was safely deactivated.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Aid flows to ...

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with over 100 bags of rice, 200 vissees of cooking oil, 200 vissees of pea and 50 vissees of salt. Furthermore, elders above the age of 90 in the villages were each provided with cash support.

“My village is very happy for being provided with rice, cooking oil, salt and peas during the time when we are facing a food shortage. Every household needs this. We want to work peacefully. Due to the recent happenings, families in the village who lived peacefully were facing difficulties. We dare

not go anywhere. Our villagers do not accept these terrorist acts”, said Ma Chawbica from Thityin Village, Ywama Group, Buthidaung Township. The state government and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement have been providing food with Tatmadaw helicopters and boats to persons displaced by the ARSA extremist terrorist attacks last month. After sufficient food was provided to all marshalling areas, the same agencies have started to provide food to villages. The efforts at providing aid and food will continue today.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer ceremony held

A CEREMONY to mark International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2017 was held yesterday morning at U Uttama Hall in Sittway.

In attendance at the ceremony were the state minister for agriculture, livestock, forestry and mines, the state advocate, departmental officials, the senior advisor from the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative, trainees and trainers for nursing and mid-wife training school.

During the ceremony, the state minister for agriculture, livestock, forestry and mines U Kyaw Lwin delivered an opening speech and Mr. Christopher Carter, senior advisor from UNDP Resident Representative read a message from UNDP.

State Minister U Kyaw Lwin also presented prizes to the winners for the competition of high-level composition to mark International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. —Tin Tun (IPRD)



Mr. Christopher Carter reads message at the ceremony to mark International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. **PHOTO: MNA**

Improved petroleum recovery contracts signed



The signing ceremony between Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) held in progress in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

SUPPLEMENTAL agreements for the Chauk and Yenangyaung oil fields was signed between Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, and Goldpetrol in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Zaw Aung, Director-General of Oil and Gas Planning Department, U Myo Myit Oo, Managing Director of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, Mr. Marcel Han Liong Tjia, Chief Executive Officer of Goldpetrol, and Mr. Zhaung Jianguo signed improved petroleum recovery

contracts for MOEI 1 (Yenangyaung) and IOR-2 (Chauk).

Under these contracts, the government will strengthen bilateral collaboration with Goldpetrol JOC Inc. to improve oil production during the extension period of 11 years.

Also present on the occasion were U Win Khaing, Union Minister for the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, and Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing, departmental heads and officials from the company.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Guns and bullets found in Yangon's Hmawby Township

TWO guns, including an M16 rifle with ammunition, have been found within the compound of an iron melting factory in Myaungdaga Industrial Zone, Hmawby Township, Yangon, on Friday evening.

The weapons were discovered by factory workers in a large pile of broken pieces of iron near the factory while they were classifying the met-

al before melting.

The factory owner immediately informed township police.

According to investigations, those pieces of iron were sent by a Cinta car with licence No. 4G/9461 on 14 September.

Police continue to investigate the case.—Tun Hlaing (Myaing) ■



Guns and bullets discovered within the compound of iron melting factory in Myaungdaga Industrial Zone. **PHOTO: TUN HLAING (MYAING)**

Drug treatment hospital in Myitkyina needs new building

THE Drug Dependency Treatment Hospital in Myitkyina, capital city of Kachin State, is now facing an increased number of patients and not enough rooms, said Dr Tint Naing, medical superintendent.

"The hospital is seeing a growing number of patients, more than before."

"The hospital's capacity is only 60 patients. But it has received more

than 120 people in the past few months. There is an urgent need for a building for female patients, plus more toilets and bathrooms," he said. "Sometimes, we invite donations from the patients as the hospital cannot survive on the insufficient allocation of the government."

"We are planning to demand to get more funds for healthcare from the government."—Min Min Oo ■

Cash assistance to displaced persons in Sittway

Kyel Ni U Hla Myint Farm Equipment and General Machinery Trading donated Ks 2 million and five 2 inch water pumps for displaced persons in Sittway yesterday morning to State Government Office Donation Receiving and Distributing Committee where U Kyaw Hla Tun, State Advocate and responsible officials accepted the donations and presented certificate of honors it is learnt. —Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■



Street vendor sells onions at the market. Onion prices have increased since July of this year due to dwindling stocks. **PHOTO: TAIN TA MAN**

Myittha onions sell well in Mandalay market

ONIONS from Myittha, a township in Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, have sold well in the domestic market, local merchants say.

Onions are mainly sold along Merchant Road in Mandalay and are popular among buyers from Shan State, Bhamo, Katha, Htigyaing, Indaw and Sagaing regions.

The market has seen more demand this month for this kind of kitchen crop. One pyi of small-sized onions (about 2.13 kg or 4.69 pounds) is currently sold for Ks3,000 in the market. The selling prices for a pyi of middle-sized onions is Ks2,500, while large-sized onions are worth Ks2,000 per pyi.

Onion prices have in-

creased since July of this year due to dwindling stocks. The price of onions has been on the rise because many onion plantations were destroyed by flooding in July, an onion merchant said.

Myanmar also exports onions to neighbouring China, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan.

—Tain Ta Man ■

Handmade baskets boost income in Mandalay

“WE, married women in Myitlaung Village near Myitnge Town, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, raise our income by weaving a wide range of plastic baskets,” said Ma Win Win, a basket maker.

“This is a home-based job opportunity for us. We buy raw materials from the plastic factory in Industrial Zone 1 in the region, paying Ks1,200 per kilo,” she added.

The majority of married women in the village mainly rely on production of handmade plastic woven baskets for their sur-

vival. In the region, this is a family business, with most married women working from home, she added. There is a regular demand for the handmade woven plastic baskets, which are available in different sizes, designs and colours. They have mostly been sent to Shwebo, Myitkyina and Mandalay markets. The wholesale price for a basket is Ks1,500. In the retail market, the prices rose to Ks2,000 from Ks1,500.

“We receive wages of Ks500-Ks600 per basket based on size,” a local basket maker said.—Tain Ta Man ■



A woman makes handmade plastic woven baskets for selling in Amarapura Township, Mandalay. **PHOTO: TAIN TA MAN**

Lime prices reach record low this year

FARMERS say that prices for lime have continued to decrease in the current fiscal year due to export barriers, although the industry saw more new growers this year, according to the Myawady Daily issued on Friday.

“Over the past few years,

the prices of lime fruits have decreased in the market. In the past, the price of a 40-viss bag of lime fruit was worth Ks30,000. Now, lime fruit prices reached a record low of Ks3,500 per bag,” said U Kyaw Han, a lime grower from Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

He added that farmers in the region have faced record low lime prices for the past three years in a row. Some of them stopped harvesting their fruits because of decreased foreign demand.

The majority of lime growers are currently preparing to

shift to other crops. The predicted decrease in the numbers of lime growers may likely to hurt the market in the future, said U Kyaw Han.

There is no difficulty in the cultivation of lime, but growers cannot reap a handsome profit from their plantation, said U Win

Tin from Shwekyin Township, Bago Region, a grower who is currently operating this kind of agribusiness at a loss. Growers and exporters are considering manufacturing finished goods from locally-produced lime fruits in anticipation of healthy export.—GNLM ■

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China, Laos agree to boost military exchanges, cooperation

VIENTIANE — China and Laos have vowed to deepen bilateral high-level military exchanges and cooperation during a visit by Chinese State Councilor and Defence Minister Chang Wanquan to Laos which concluded on Saturday.

During his four-day visit, Chang met with General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and Lao President Bounnhang Vorachit and held talks with Lao Defence Minister Chansamone Chanyalath.

Chang also co-chaired the first China-Laos high-level frontier meeting between the two armed forces with the Lao defence minister.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and two militaries, and promised to fully implement the



Lao President Bounnhang Vorachith (R), shakes hands with visiting Chinese State Councilor and Defence Minister Chang Wanquan, in Vientiane, Laos, on 14 September, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and two parties, according

to a joint statement issued on Saturday.

They agreed that the first

China-Laos high-level frontier meeting between the two armed forces was a full success, high-

lighting the unity and friendship between the two militaries and contributing to the building of peaceful, friendly, stable and prosperous borders between the two countries.

They also agreed to improve cooperation mechanism, deepen pragmatic cooperation, strengthen multilateral coordination, continue to conduct friendly border communication and cooperation, and organize regular activities of joint patrols and joint anti-terrorism.

The Chinese side expressed its readiness to support Laos' army building and development, and pledged to continue providing assistance to the Lao army within its capacity.

During his stay in Laos, Chang also visited the Kaysone Phomvihane National Defence Academy, and paid tribute to the Chinese martyrs cemetery in Laos.—Xinhua ■

Aussie FM to discuss challenges related to terrorism, modern slavery at UN General Assembly

CANBERRA — Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop on Saturday declared the changing face of terrorism and modern slavery to be two of her key talking points at the upcoming 72nd session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.

The UN General Assembly will take place in New York on 16-24 September. In a statement detailing her trip, Bishop said there were a number of talking points which Australia will seek to raise.

"The United Nations continues to be an important forum for maintaining the international rules-based order, which is vital for the pursuit of every nation's interest," Bishop said on Saturday.

"I will highlight Australia's leadership and experience in tackling important challenges, including modern slavery, malaria, climate change and terrorism. I will participate in the Global Counter Terrorism Forum and speak with partners about our joint efforts to



Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

counter (Islamic State) including in our region."

The minister said that in addition to speaking to the UN as a whole, she would also find time to hold a number of bilateral meetings with representatives of some of Australia's closest global partners. "Australia will

bring a pragmatic and principled approach to working with other nations to find real solutions to complex global challenges," she said. "In addition to multilateral meetings and forums, I will hold over 20 meetings with leaders, foreign ministers and UN agency heads.—Xinhua ■

China's Hong Kong, ASEAN to sign FTA, investment agreement soon: chief executive

YANGON — Chief Executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor said here on Saturday that Hong Kong SAR and ASEAN are about to sign a free trade agreement and a related investment agreement.

Lam made the remarks in her keynote speech at the opening of the 14th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC), which kicked off on Saturday.

The agreements will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technological cooperation, dispute settlement and other areas, she said.

Lam highlighted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for being an important trading partner of Hong Kong, saying that the region is Hong Kong's second largest partner in goods trade and the fourth largest in services trade.

Pointing out that ASEAN will undoubtedly be one of the focuses of the Belt and Road Initiative, she said many major cooperation projects, including railways,

roads, ports and electricity, are underway and will bring huge business opportunities and benefits to the Hong Kong SAR as well as Myanmar and other countries.

The WCEC brought together more than 2,000 overseas Chinese business leaders to discuss plans of business expansion.

Under the theme of "An Opening Economy in Myanmar, A New Epoch in History," the four-day convention is hosted by Myanmar Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Lam, who arrived in Myanmar on Thursday for the convention, met with Myanmar State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Vice President U Myint Swe in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

She had discussions with the two Myanmar leaders on promotion of education, health, investment and trade.

Held in various cities every two years since 1991, the WCEC aims to provide a platform for Chinese entrepreneurs and the business and industrial sector from around the world to enhance economic cooperation and understanding.—Xinhua ■

N Korea says "equilibrium" of force with US nearly complete

BEIJING — North Korea's final goal is achieving an "equilibrium" of military force with the United States and efforts to complete the development of nuclear arms have entered the final phase, leader Kim Jong Un was quoted by his country's official media as saying on Saturday, a day after its latest ballistic missile test.

The test of the intermediate-range Hwasong-12, aimed at "calming down the belligerence of the United States," was "successful" in accurately hitting the preset target waters in the Pacific Ocean, the Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim was quoted as saying that "our final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the United States and make the US rulers dare not talk about military options" for North Korea.

"We should clearly show the big power chauvinists how our state attain the goal of completing its nuclear force despite their limitless sanctions," Kim said, stressing the need to "put an end to them with the all-state efforts as it has nearly reached the terminal," according to KCNA.

The missile test-fired on Friday crossed over Japan into the northern Pacific Ocean and traveled about 3,700 kilometres, a distance capable of putting the US Pacific territory of Guam within range.

It flew a farther distance



People in Pyongyang watch a news report on a test of the intermediate-range Hwasong-12 on a large screen in front of a station on 16 September, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

than any other missile North Korea has fired, and was the country's second missile in less than a month to fly over the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

The launch came less than a week after the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution toughening sanctions on North Korea following its sixth nuclear test on 3 September.

The 15-member Security Council held a closed-door emergency meeting on Friday and in a statement "condemned" North Korea's launch of another ballistic missile, already the 14th this year, as a "highly provocative" act.

With the missile test, however, Kim said the work for boosting the combat power of the newly developed intermediate-range missile has been realized and that he is happy it has verified the Hwasong-12's reliability.

Kim signaled that more missile tests would be held down the road. Guiding by himself what North Korea called the "drill," he told scientists and technicians to put missiles on an "ultra modern basis and develop the operation level onto a higher stage."

Photos printed in North Korea's leading newspaper Rodong Sinmun showed the intermediate-range missile blasting off this time directly from a transporter

erector launcher, in an apparent bid to enhance its mobility.

The 29 August launch of the Hwasong-12 took a similar flight course from the district of Sunan, home to North Korea's international airport. But that kind of vehicle was then only used to transport the missile and stand it upright.

In the previous test, the missile was fired from the ground, according to photos released by North Korea's state media.

North Korea has made rapid progress this year on upgrading technologies necessary in its quest to develop a nuclear-tipped long-range missile capable of reaching the mainland

United States.

On 4 July, on the US Independence Day holiday, North Korea test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

The second test in late July of the long-range missile, which traveled nearly 1,000 km after reaching an altitude of about 3,700 km, was an eye-opener for defence officials and arms experts.

If the ICMB was not tested on a highly lofted trajectory, some experts said it would have a range of about 10,000 km and could have reached major US cities, including Los Angeles and Denver.

The sixth nuclear test, which North Korea claimed was of an ICBM mountable hydrogen bomb, was its most powerful to date.

Japan has estimated the explosive device detonated by North Korea had a yield of about 160 kilotons, 10 times the force of the world's first atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima in 1945.

North Korea's fast-paced development of weapons and flurry of tests, as well as its bellicose rhetoric, are seen by some experts as ultimately aimed at drawing the United States to the negotiating table.

North Korea has suggested it will continue arms development as long as Washington provides no security assurances to Pyongyang.—Kyodo News ■

Thailand denies Deputy PM Prawit's meeting with Thaksin in Britain

BANGKOK — Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan did not meet with former Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra during his recent visit to Britain, Defence Ministry spokesman Maj Gen Kongcheep Tantrawanich said on Saturday.

During his visit to Britain last Wednesday and Thursday, Prawit had not met with Thaksin anywhere in that country as rumored in some Thai media, said the defense spokesman, who accompanied the defence minister to Britain.

"What would (Prawit) meet with Thaksin for? Both being in Britain did not necessarily

mean they may have met over there. There was no reason for either one to meet with the other."

"The Britain visit (by Prawit) was irrelevant to former premier Yingluck (Shinawatra) allegedly seeking refuge or any deal to be done in that country," the spokesman said.

Yingluck has failed to appear in court to hear a final verdict on a criminal lawsuit filed against her and pertaining to a previous government's rice subsidy programme.

She was said to have slipped out of the country with the help of some unknown persons and finally found her way to Dubai where

her brother Thaksin had been residing in self-exile nearly a decade ago.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to read out the verdict in the likelihood of an absent Yingluck on 27 September.

Maj Gen Kongcheep said Prawit's schedules set by the Ministry of Defence for his two-day visit to Britain were so tight that he had no spare time to spend.

The Thai defence minister met with his British counterpart Sir Michael Fallon and British Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific Mark Field to discuss defence and international security issues.—Xinhua ■

Weakening Typhoon Talim brings heavy rain to southwestern Japan

TOKYO — Southwestern parts of Japan were bracing on Saturday for further heavy rain and high winds as Typhoon Talim moved closer to the country's main islands, having forced the evacuation of more than 200,000 people in China earlier this week.

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued the strongest warning of heavy rain for part of the southernmost main island of Kyushu, which was hit by a deluge in July that resulted in flooding. Some local authorities on the island ordered residents to evacuate, and there were also flight cancellations, NHK reported. At Kyushu's Miyazaki airport more rain has fallen in the last

48 hours than is typical for the whole of September, the broadcaster said.

On the smallest of Japan's four main islands Shikoku, where rainfall of 300 mm (nearly 12 inches) is forecast, statues were removed from their pedestals for safekeeping, NHK said. Talim, a Tagalog word meaning "Cutting Edge," may make landfall on Kyushu early on Sunday and then is likely to move northeast, soaking a wide swathe of the archipelago — including the capital, Tokyo — with heavy rain. The typhoon has weakened to tropical storm strength, according to international storm forecaster Tropical Storm Risk.com.—Reuters ■

We need to co-exist with genuine friends

Khin Maung Oo

IN life we can differentiate between true friends from false ones by considering whether they leave us in the lurch or not, at the time when we are in trouble. True or good friends bring virtues and well-being. Good friends can be categorized into four viz. true friends who bring about benefits to us; genuine ones who are always with us regardless of wealth or woe; teacher-like friends who are always willing and ready to show us the way to success; and kind friends who are always kind and take care of us when we are in need.

Now we have come to know who are genuine or false, good or bad towards us at such a time when our country is facing

difficulties and challenges. Especially, we have come to discover to our great surprise certain countries with whom Myanmar had good relations in the past, turn out to be hostile and aggressive. Moreover rapprochements are being seen with some countries, formerly known as aggressive ones.

Genuine friends tend to give us help when we unfortunately meet with difficulties and hardships. They will never abandon us at that time and they never have ill will towards their friends. Instead, they are always desirous of promoting the wellbeing of their friends. Besides, they always forbid someone from saying bad things about their friends. Contrariwise, they are not above praising their friends

provided that someone speaks out the virtues of their friends.

At the present time when Myanmar is experiencing challenges and difficulties, some remain silent while others are fanning the flames of fire to make the situation worse. In fact, they are not genuine friends. Genuine ones are practically helping and giving out relief aid and assistance, with a view to promoting rehabilitation and stability. They show their heart-felt wish for Myanmar to be free from sufferings.

Some pretend not to have noticed Myanmar's efforts in developing the country but they obviously laid bare their inner feelings wishing us more suffering and destruction when we met hardships. It

is like the case of the ogre in disguise of a prince when the mask comes off and the face of the ogre suddenly appears. It is understandable for some people with different beliefs to feel a grudge for us like a foe. Sorrowfully enough, some were found to have made disgusting and despicable deeds.

Whatever it is, Myanmar must express her thanks toward genuine friends in recognition of their virtues and faithfulness. We must associate with anyone in friendly terms, even though they are evil-minded. We are committed to build up a peaceful nation, by making concerted efforts with our own abilities to overcome difficulties and hardships we are now experiencing. ■

Dazed and Confused: The Future of Yangon's Urban Direction

Alex Aung Khant muses on Yangon's drainage and infrastructure challenges.

By Alex Aung Khant

JOURNEY across Yangon on any given day at this time of year, and it is a sure bet to stumble upon a renovation site by the side of the road. During the dry-season, city authorities and private citizens alike spend most of their time and effort to repair as workers clear out the debris and blockage out of the drains.

This past weekend, I stumbled upon such a site on Thanlwin road, in Yangon's glitzy Golden Valley area. Aptly named and full of lush gardens and palatial houses, the valley is surrounded by a confusing branch of roads that lie in a state of drastic disparity to the homes of its residents. The roads are so full of potholes that have been there for so long, they seem to be some form of ironic contrast to the neighbourhood name; golden valley is colloquially teased as golden "rocks" valley for its bumpy roads as a reference to the golden rock pagoda, or in Burmese as "water valley" yay-taung-gyar, for its frequent floods and overflowing drains.

Yangon, like most Southeast Asian cities, is no stranger to the torrential monsoon downpours and dry summer spells. Yet, for a city that has historically faced the same weather challenges again and again each year, both private developers and city planners of Yangon have been terrible at managing this key element. Sunshine and rain alike are treated as nature's challenges, and of-

ten neglected are the actual potential advantages that they bring to the city; essentially free water, heat and solar energy. Despite the presence of several solar companies, they are not yet very visible, and efforts to use heat-capture technology are mere school science-fair mockups at the moment. The city's management of the monsoon waters, which should have been solved long ago since the rain is not a surprise, is unbelievably still a continued battle against nature. The engineers of the infamous YCDC (Yangon City Development Committee) municipal departments have spent decades trying to build a proper drainage system, only to have their efforts be in vain due to the lack of proper technical expertise and management. On Thanlwin road, workers toiled hard on construction, and yet it was a sad sight to see that the engineers responsible for overseeing this had not consulted a proper design for V-shaped drains. Rather, they stuck to the old tested and failed rectangular shapes, that would collect sediment as fast as they could be built, and are a sure shot to get clogged by the next monsoon.

For years, the YCDC has been caught in a stagnant quagmire on this issue of creating and managing a well-functioning public infrastructure. In their defence, having only manpower and simple bricks and mortar, meant that they lacked the proper equipment, yet it does bring to question if they have indeed learned an-

anything at all after this time of trial and error.

Most of the city's drainage systems and underground water pipelines date back to 1888 during the colonial era, and many have fallen apart after years of neglect and rising usage. Originally designed by British engineers to cater to just six townships of around 40,000 inhabitants, the sewers now serve about 350,000 or 9 times more than its original capacity. Because of repeated mistakes, the YCDC is continuously having to deal with repairs to patch up the tattered system, rather than implement actual improvements. In the face of the city's growth and rising number of residents, it is simply not viable to keep relying on these old sewers and pipes. There have already been casualties from old, faulty and neglected public infrastructure such as electrocution in downtown streets.

To add further headache to this issue, much of the city's natural landscape was artificially altered by the previous military government, who failed to properly consult the geographical topography in Yangon before issuing drastic changes. Many of the natural ponds, streams, reservoirs and waterways that were key in directing and evacuating excess water during the monsoons, were victims of imposed landfills by the junta administration, and this is one of the primary reasons why Golden Valley and other areas throughout the city keep flooding

with every rain. Most of these alterations most likely involved heaps of corruption that we may never hear about, and yet the blame goes to natural phenomena as is the usual scapegoating.

Many of the traffic intersections in Burma have also been undergoing some confusing changes, with some having multiple traffic lights that are not only confusing for road users, but also highly unsafe. The city has also had multiple traffic islands being built and taken off repeatedly, a process that is costly and damaging to the city's shifting facades. A clear, comprehensive, well thought-out urban plan that can hold valid through the test of time, is told to be in the works but has yet to be released by the public administration.

Private developers too, have been overly keen on bringing the latest touch of contemporary, cosmopolitan designs, and the most recent fashion has been to imitate high-rises in cities of the likes of Manhattan, complete with immense floor-to-ceiling glass windows. Not only are the design ideas for these buildings imported, the same goes quite often for the costly building materials as well. By totally neglecting the natural conditions of strong sun and heavy rain, the developers are faced with a constant battle against the tides of nature and are forced to install costly and environmentally unfriendly air-conditioning units.

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World Chinese Entrepreneurs meet in Yangon

THE 14th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) kicked off in Yangon yesterday, with an opening address by Vice President U Myint Swe.

The convention attracted more than 2,000 overseas Chinese business leaders to discuss plans for business expansion.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, U Myint Swe invited investment from China at the Thilawa, Dawei and Kyaukpadaung special economic zones, expressing delight at seeing the overseas Chinese entrepreneurs in Myanmar linking with business contacts from various countries around the world and contributing to the economic development of Myanmar.

"We hope that we can create investment opportunities for win-win situations between the overseas Chinese entrepreneurs and local business people," said Vice President U Myint Swe.

"The long-lasting socio-economic life of China and Myanmar can be established through mutual understanding, respect and friendship built step by step, and I want to urge the attendees of this conference to work together with the Myanmar government to promote investment with accountability and responsibility,"



Participants pose for documentary photo at the 14th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

said the Vice President.

He also said that Myanmar's new investment law ensures a level playing field for overseas investors, saying that the government is also working hard to ensure reliability and transparency in the labour, tax, public management and administration sectors.

Noting that Myanmar is participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, U Myint Swe said the strategic location of Myanmar will contribute to the success of

the initiative.

Vice President of the China Overseas Exchange Association Xu Yousheng read out a congratulatory message from Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Myanmar, located along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, is linked with China by mountains and rivers, and has forged the "paukphaw" or brotherly friendship, with China, Yu said in the

message.

Under the theme of "Let us all join hands to ensure a bright future for Myanmar", the four-day convention is hosted by the Myanmar Chinese Chamber of Commerce with Wu Jiyuan (U Myint Shwe) as general chair.

With strong support from the Myanmar government, the WCEC is aimed at pushing for regional economic development in line with the world's changing economy and bridging with the world's Chinese entrepreneurs

for cooperation.

It is also set to make use of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative to jointly explore the future development trends of Chinese businessmen as well as the world and Myanmar's economy.

General Chair of the WCEC and Chairman of the Myanmar Chinese Chamber of Commerce Wu Jiyuan (U Myint Shwe) highlighted Myanmar's remarkable transformation in recent years, saying that the government has done a terrific job in boosting the country's economic growth, improving people's livelihood, and rolling out policies, laws and regulations to advance the economic reform. He believed that as these policies and regulations take effect, they will surely serve as a strong impetus for economic and social progress by increasing foreign investment and jobs to benefit people with economic growth and political stability.

He pledged to work with the Myanmar government in investment promotion for a number of sectors and provide incentives for Chinese investors from around the world in a bid to deliver tangible results through the convention.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Dazed and Confused:

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Health-wise for the residents, heatstrokes and colds are often induced from the extreme temperature differences between indoors and outdoors. Most ironic of all is to see thick curtains being installed to block out the sun. After all that effort, the residents who have paid an arm and a leg cannot even properly enjoy the view.

By marketing these imported concepts and emulating development in the westernised sense, private developers end up offering unrealistic and costly housing options. The design language itself has not been an organic evolution from our traditions and techniques, and thereby fail to adhere to the local conditions. These costly consumptions lead to a larger impact throughout the country as well, where smaller towns and communities are left without functioning access to elec-

tricity because of the city's big appetite for it, roughly half of the country's available output.

By comparison, many of the old and historic buildings that are scattered around town have managed to navigate around these problems through very old-school techniques. Old monasteries, for example, are often just two or three stories high, with very high ceilings and louvers installed for natural ventilation. This keeps the space inside under cover and shade, creating a flowing current of natural air and minimising temperature fluctuations through the day. The use of wood as the primary material for the future helps mitigate the heat by absorbing temperature and regulating humidity levels.

These two cases are just a few of the many examples of bad architectural approaches and poor city planning that have plagued Yangon in recent years. Any architect, engineer, urban

planner or city authority that has some common sense will see that the city needs some serious urban realignment before properly moving forward. Efforts to truly modernise the city have been impeded by the constant failure of existing infrastructure against the test of time and nature. With each monsoon season, Yangon goes through a period of destruction and repair. With each new step in building anew, we take two steps back in degradation after the monsoons.

This article only captures a small fragment of the larger problem of the lack of a comprehensive outlook for urban development. It is because of this root cause that not only are the roads of Golden Valley littered with potholes, so are the main roads and highways all over the city and beyond. These challenges are very basic issues, but nonetheless must be overcome, for any effort towards progress will

otherwise just be the equivalent of running in quicksand, or perhaps more fittingly in Buddhist terms, a vicious cycle of repeated repairs and not a lot of real progress. With the escalation of global climate change, the situation can only become more dire.

A first step to tackling this issue is to embrace nature as a welcome advantage, not as a hindrance, in our progress towards development. The YCDC's battles with nature can simply never be won, and city planning should fully take this into account, incorporate both elements of the dry-season and the monsoon, with a clear objective to utilise and harness the potential advantages to the full extent. Yangon should steer away from the mistakes of other South-East Asian cities that have sacrificed their greenery to become vast concrete jungles. Attempts like those led by FRED (Forest Resource Environment

Development and Conservation Association) that launched last year with plans to plant around 50,000 trees in the Yangon region should have further reach into the heart of the city center as well.

All efforts for Yangon's development will rely on the rigidity of the public infrastructure and private projects of today, thus it is in the interest of everyone to rightfully correct this flimsy balance. If the foundations of the city are not secured, its future will not be either. ■

Aung Khant is from Yangon, Myanmar, and holds a Masters degree in Urban Studies and Public Policy from Sciences Po in Paris, France. He obtained his B.A. in Political Science and Asian Studies, also from Sciences Po Paris. Interested readers are invited to contact him for further discussion at alex.aungkhant@sciencespo.fr

WORLD
BRIEFS

President of France Emmanuel Macron and President of Russia Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: TASS

Putin, Macron call for resumption of direct talks on North Korea

MOSCOW — Presidents of Russia and France, Vladimir Putin and Emmanuel Macron, have agreed in a phone conversation that the crisis around North Korea should be solved exclusively in a political and diplomatic manner, the Kremlin press service said on Friday.

“The heads of state have shared an opinion that further escalation, fraught with irrevocable repercussions, on the Korean Peninsula is inadmissi-

ble and that this utterly knotty situation needs to be solved by exclusively diplomatic and political means, through the resumption of direct talks,” the Kremlin said.

“The leaders resolutely slammed North Korea’s provocations that grossly violate the UN Security Council’s relevant resolutions,” it said. “These steps contravene non-proliferation principles and create a severe threat to regional peace

and security.”

Both Putin and Macron emphasized in their conversation that “Resolution 2375 of the UN Security Council, which was unanimously passed on 11 September, has become the world’s appropriate response to Pyongyang’s irresponsible steps.”

On Friday, North Korea fired another ballistic missile that flew over northern Japan’s Hokkaido Island towards the

Pacific Ocean and fell some 2,200 km to the east of Cape Erimo. This is the sixth time since 1998 when a North Korean missile or its fragments fly over Japan’s territory.

According to South Korea’s military, the launch was conducted from Pyongyang’s area. The test was made four days after the UN Security Council adopted a resolution on tougher sanctions against Pyongyang.—Tass ■

UK’s Boris Johnson reignites leadership speculation with Brexit plan

LONDON — British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson set out his plans for a “glorious” Brexit in a lengthy newspaper article on Saturday that angered colleagues and reignited speculation he would challenge Prime Minister Theresa May for the leadership of the Conservative party.

With May due to set out her vision for Brexit in a speech in

the Italian city of Florence on Friday, Johnson published a 4,300-word article that roamed well beyond his ministerial brief and, in some cases, went beyond the approach set out by the government.

Britain, he said, would not pay to access European markets in the future. Once out of the European Union, the country should borrow to invest in

infrastructure, reform the tax code and set immigration levels as it sees fit.

A prominent Brexit campaigner in last year’s referendum, Johnson also repeated the controversial claim that the government would be 350 million pounds better off per week once outside the EU.

“My friends, I must report that there are at least some

people who are woefully underestimating this country,” Johnson wrote in the Daily Telegraph.

“They think Brexit isn’t going to happen.

“I am here to tell you that this country will succeed in our new national enterprise, and will succeed mightily.

“We have a glorious future.”—Reuters ■

East US coast watches for tropical storms as Jose approaches

MIAMA, (Florida) — Authorities may have to issue tropical storm alerts along parts of the US east coast on Saturday as Hurricane Jose moves northwest, the National Hurricane Centre said.

Hurricane Jose, a Category 1 storm, was about 515 miles (830 km) southwest of Bermuda with winds of 80 mph (130 kph), the centre said.

The storm was forecast to turn north with a slight decrease in forward speed later on Saturday, the centre said.—Reuters ■

Iceland president accepts request for early vote, 4 November possible date — PM

REYKJAVIK — Iceland’s prime minister said on Saturday the president had accepted his request for a snap parliamentary election, and 4 November had been discussed as a possible date.

Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson called on Friday for the snap vote after one party in the ruling coalition quit.—Reuters ■

Zimbabwe’s Tsvangirai ill after meeting, airlifted to hospital — party source

HARARE — Zimbabwe opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai suffering severe vomiting after a party meeting and was airlifted from Harare to a Johannesburg hospital on Friday, a senior party source said on Saturday.

Tsvangirai’s condition was currently stable, the source said, adding that the sudden illness did not relate to Tsvangirai’s ongoing cancer treatment.—Reuters ■



Iraqi soldiers are seen over an army vehicle in Al Karma north of Basra, Iraq on 8 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Iraqi forces attack Islamic State in Syria border area

BAGHDAD — Iraqi armed forces said on Saturday they had started an offensive to dislodge Islamic State from a border area holding some of the militants' last towns in the country.

The offensive in the Akashat region, which has natural gas reserves and borders Syria, is meant to pave the way for the recapture of urban centres in the Euphrates river valley, including the border post of al-Qaim, military statements said.

The Iraqi air force dropped thousands of leaflets overnight

on Akashat south of the Euphrates river as well as al-Qaim and the towns of Ana and Rawa, telling the militants to surrender or face death, the statements said.

Two different alliances are also advancing on Islamic State position on the Syrian side of the border there — Syrian government forces supported by Russian air strikes and Iran-backed militias, and a US-backed alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters.

The cross-border "caliphate" declared by Islamic State in 2014 effectively collapsed in

July, when a US-backed Iraqi offensive captured Mosul, the militants' capital in Iraq.

The towns in the border region with Syria and Hawija, a northern province close to the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, are the only urban centres still under Islamic State control in Iraq.

The group overran about a third of Iraq in 2014 in a sweeping offensive that allowed the militants to grab hundreds of millions of dollars worth of weaponry and vehicles left by the fleeing Iraqi forces.

— Reuters ■

Iran says it has infiltrated US military systems to gain documents

TEHRAN — Iran has been able to infiltrate into the US military's command and control centres in recent years and gain documents, the country's state-run television quoted a high-ranking military commander as saying on Friday.

"We have documents which, if published, the Americans' (activities) will be revealed and they will be disgraced more than ever before," Brig Gen Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' aerospace forces, was quoted as saying. The documents include those on US actions in Syria and Iraq and contain ones showing the United States "supported" the Islamic State militants, he said, according to the report.

"We know how they had supported ISIS terrorists, we watched what they see and where they attack," he said.

Hajizadeh also said Iran has produced a 10-ton "father of bombs" that is more powerful than any US conventional weapon. "If the US has the mother of bombs we have the father of bombs. Based on our order, Iran's defence ministry has produced bombs with a weight of 10 tons which can be dropped from Ilyushin airplanes and cause huge damage."

Tensions between Iran and US have been soaring since US President Donald Trump took office in January and threatened to tear up the nuclear deal with Iran.

"Surrender doesn't work in front of US pressures because they don't believe in negotiation and deal. Obeying the Supreme Leader (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei)'s orders is the only solution for problems," Hajizadeh said. —Kyodo News

Egypt court sentences seven IS affiliates to death

CAIRO — An Egyptian court on Saturday has sentenced seven members of the Islamic State (IS) to death over charges of murder and violence, official news agency MENA reported.

The defendants were accused of joining IS military training camps in Libya and Syria and the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians working in Libya.

The crime of slaughtering

the Egyptian workers was filmed by the group and released in February 2015.

Explosive devices as well as CDs featuring military training of IS militants were seized in their possession. The court has referred the case to Grand Mufti, the country's highest Islamic official who will give the religious judgment of all preliminary death sentences. —Xinhua ■

Jets strike US-backed forces in Syrian border zone — SDF

BEIRUT — US-backed militias said they came under attack on Saturday from Russian jets and Syrian government forces in Syria's Deir al-Zor border province, a focus of an increasingly complex conflict.

The strikes wounded six fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), according to the alliance of mostly Kurdish and Arab militias fighting alongside a US-led military coalition.

The United States and Russia are backing separate offensives in Syria's multi-sided conflict — with both sides advancing against the Islamic State militant group in the eastern region that borders Iraq.

The separate assaults by the Russian-supported Syrian



A fighter of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) is seen in the eastern part of Deir al Zor, Syria on 12 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

government and the US-supported SDF have raised fears that clashes that could stoke tensions between the competing world powers.

"Our forces east of the Euphrates were hit with an attack from the Russian aircraft and Syrian regime forces, targeting our units in the industrial zone,"

the SDF said in a statement.

Such attacks "waste energies that should be used against terrorism, threaten the security of the region, and open the door to side conflicts," it said.

There was no immediate comment from the Syrian government or from Moscow.

Both offensives are converging on Islamic State from opposite sides of the Euphrates river — the Syrian army with allied forces from the west and the SDF from the east.

The Russian and US-backed offensives against Islamic State in Syria have mostly stayed out of each other's way as the two states seek to avoid conflict, with the Euphrates often acting as a dividing line between them.

On Friday, Ahmed Abu Khawla, who heads the SDF's Deir al-Zor military council, said his forces would not let government forces cross.

A senior aide to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said the government would fight any force, including the US-backed militias, in efforts to recapture the entire country.

Islamic State is also coming under attack by US-backed Iraqi government forces just over the border from Syria's Deir al-Zor inside Iraq.

Islamic State's declaration in 2014 of a "caliphate" spanning both countries effectively collapsed in July, when an Iraqi offensive captured Mosul, the militants' capital in Iraq. —Reuters ■

Iskander-M system gets new types of missiles — manufacturer

KOLOMNA — New types of missiles have been created for the tactical missile system Iskander-M, the general designer of the Kolomna Engineering Design Bureau KBM, Valery Kashin, told the media on Thursday.

"We are going ahead with further research and development to create new missiles for the Iskander system. It keeps developing. Several types of missiles have been created. They look alike, but internally they are fundamentally different

from each other. Now we have seven types of missiles, or possibly more," said Kashin, who on Thursday turned 70.

The system's software has to be upgraded, because the technical means are expected "to identify the new missiles and work with them."

Kashin said the creation of new types of missiles by no means contradicted the INF treaty. In 2015, the KBM's general designer told TASS Iskander-M might be equipped with five types of ballistic mis-



The system's software has to be upgraded, because the technical means are expected "to identify the new missiles and work with them". **PHOTO: TASS**

siles and one cruise missile.

Iskander-M is capable of eliminating such targets as

multiple rocket launchers, long-range artillery, command and communication centers and

planes and helicopters on the ground within a range of 500 kilometres.—Tass ■

British police arrest man in hunt for London bombers

LONDON — British police arrested an 18-year-old man in the southern port of Dover on Saturday in a "significant" development in the hunt for the people behind a London commuter train bombing that injured 30 people a day earlier.

Prime Minister Theresa May put Britain on the highest security level of "critical" late on Friday, meaning an attack may be imminent, and soldiers and armed police deployed to secure strategic sites and hunt down the perpetrators.

The home-made bomb shot flames through a packed commuter train during the Friday morning rush hour in west London but apparently failed to detonate fully.

"We have made a significant arrest in our investigation this morning," said Neil Basu, Senior National Co-ordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing.

"Although we are pleased with the progress made, this investigation continues and the threat level remains at critical."

The arrest was made in the port area of Dover, where passenger ferries sail to France.

The blast on the London tube train at the Parsons Green underground station was the fifth major terrorism attack in Britain this year and was claimed by Islamic State. Britain deployed hundreds

of soldiers at strategic sites such as nuclear power plants and ministry of defence sites on Saturday to free up armed police to help in the hunt for those behind the bombing.

The last time Britain was put on "critical" alert was after a man killed 22 people at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester in May. Prior to that it had not been triggered since 2007.

"For this period, military personnel will replace police officers on guard duties at certain protected sites," May said in a televised statement. "The public will see more armed police on the transport network and on our streets providing extra

protection. This is a proportionate and sensible step which will provide extra reassurance and protection while the investigation progresses."

The bomb struck as passengers were travelling to the centre of the British capital. Some suffered burns and others were injured in a stampede to escape from the station, one of the above-ground stops on the underground network. Health officials said none was thought to be in a serious condition.

Pictures taken at the scene showed a slightly charred white plastic bucket with wires coming out of the top in a supermarket shopping bag on the floor of a

train carriage. "I was on the second carriage from the back. I just heard a kind of 'whoosh'. I looked up and saw the whole carriage engulfed in flames making its way towards me," Ola Fayankinnu, who was on the train, told Reuters. "There were phones, hats, bags all over the place and when I looked back I saw a bag with flames." The Islamic State militant group have claimed other attacks in Britain this year, including two in London and the pop concert in Manchester. It was not immediately possible to verify the claim about Parsons Green, for which Islamic State's news agency Amaq offered no evidence.—Reuters ■



Armed police officers patrol along walk from Horse Guards Parade on to Whitehall in London, Britain on 16 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Defence for Brazil's Temer asks Supreme Court to send back new charges

BRASILIA — Lawyers defending Brazilian President Michel Temer on Friday asked Supreme Court Justice Edson Fachin to send back to the prosecutor's general office the new graft charges that were presented against Temer on Thursday.

Temer's defence said in the request that the new charges are irregular because they cite events that presumably happened before he became president.

Under the Brazilian Constitution, a sitting president cannot be charged for possible crimes committed by him before he took office. Those charges would have to wait until he leaves to be taken to the courts.

The corruption charges presented on Thursday were the second Temer could face.

A first set of criminal charges saying that Temer took bribes from meatpacker JBS SA was blocked in August by his allies in the lower house of Congress, which has the power to decide whether a president should stand trial by the Supreme Court.—Reuters ■

Trump to 'slap' foes, embrace friends in first UN speech: envoy

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will pummel foes and embrace friends in his first speech to the United Nations General Assembly next week, keeping pressure on Washington's adversaries North Korea and Iran, US Ambassador Nikki Haley said on Friday.

Briefing reporters ahead of the annual UN meeting, Haley and White House national security adviser HR McMaster took a tough line on North Korea, warning that a military option to deal with its nuclear threats was available.

Trump will meet with leaders from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America throughout the week, but his remarks, scheduled for Tuesday morning, will be the president's highest profile opportunity to explain his foreign policy vision couched in his "America first" agenda.



US Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley attends the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, US on 15 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

da. "I personally think he slaps the right people, he hugs the right people, and he comes out with (the) US being very strong, in the end," Haley, speaking

at the White House, said of Trump's speech. Haley declined to say whether Trump would commit Washington to maintaining its current level of funding

for the 193-nation body. Trump has complained that the United States funds 22 per cent of the UN budget and nearly 30 per cent of UN peacekeeping duties.

Trump will kick off the week with a meeting about UN reform on Monday. He will then have meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron and Is-

raeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that will focus on Iran, McMaster said. Trump has dinner scheduled with Latin American leaders.

On Tuesday, he will meet Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. Trump said last week he would be willing to mediate the worst dispute in decades between Qatar and US-allied Arab states.

On Wednesday, he will meet with leaders from Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Britain and Egypt and on Thursday there are talks scheduled with leaders from Turkey, Afghanistan and Ukraine before holding a lunch with the leaders of South Korea and Japan. McMaster said it was unlikely that Trump would speak to Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, whom the White House has sanctioned and called a dictator.—Reuters ■

Merkel vows to restrict trade with Turkey over arrests

BERLIN — Germany will have no choice but to restrict its economic ties with Turkey to pressure its NATO partner into releasing German citizens it imprisoned on political grounds, Chancellor Angela Merkel said in remarks published on Saturday.

Relations between the two countries are strained by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's crackdown on opponents after a failed coup last year. Germany and its partners in the European Union say the crackdown undermines democracy.

Turkey and Germany are also at odds over Berlin's refusal to extradite asylum seekers Erdogan accuses of involvement in the botched coup against him.

"We will have to further cut back our joint economic cooperation with Turkey and scrutinise projects," Merkel told the Passauer Neuen Presse

newspaper in an interview when asked how she wants to secure the release of Germans held in Turkey.

The simmering tensions have seeped into campaigning for a federal election in Germany, especially after Erdogan urged German Turks to boycott the main parties in the vote on 24 September.

Home to some 3 million people of Turkish descent, Germany has traditionally had good relations with Turkey, which is also a major trade partner and tourist destination for German sun-seekers.

German officials have been enraged by Turkey's arrest of around a dozen German citizens, including the German-Turkish journalist Deniz Yücel, who has been held for more than 200 days.

Merkel, whose conservatives are expected to win the election and secure her a fourth term



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, a top candidate of the Christian Democratic Union Party (CDU) for the upcoming general elections, speaks during an election rally in Binz, Germany on 16 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

in office, said on Tuesday Germany would restrict some arms sales to Turkey.

Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel of the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) who are trailing the conservatives in opinion polls, had earlier said that all major arms exports to Turkey had been put on hold.

Merkel said during a

televised debate earlier this month that Turkey should not become a member of the European Union — Turkey's largest trading partner with which it has a customs union.

She said she would talk to Germany's EU partners to reach a compromise on ending Turkey's accession talks with the bloc.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK AVON VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK AVON VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Salman Khan receives Global Diversity Award

LONDON — Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has been honoured with the Global Diversity Award 2017 in the British Parliament House.

The actor was honoured for his contribution to the Indian film industry as an actor, producer, television personality, singer and philanthropist.

Presenting the award, Keith Vaz, the longest serving Indian-origin MP in Parliament, said, "Salman Khan is a role model and a hero to millions of people worldwide."

"Besides his Indian cinema success, Salman is a well-known philanthropist and his NGO Being Human has done life changing work supporting the underprivileged in India."

It is a tremendous honour to present him with the award. I am proud that young Asians worldwide have role models like Salman Khan."

Calling the award a tre-



Salman Khan with the Global Diversity Award 2017 in the British Parliament House. PHOTO: PTI

mendous honour, Salman said, "My father would never have believed that I would make it here."

I would like to thank the fans for the respect that they have shown me.

"Although I have received many film awards, this is the first I have received personally so I am incredibly humbled."

Previous recipients of the award include Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan,

actor Aishwarya Rai, Chinese action icon Jackie Chan, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, American Civil Rights leader Jesse Jackson and Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton. —PTI ■

Ben Schwartz to star in Night School

LOS ANGELES — "House of Lies" star Ben Schwartz has joined the cast of comedy "Night School" alongside the likes of Kevin Hart and Taran Killam.

The cast will also feature "Girls Trip" actress Tiffany Haddish, Rob Riggle and Yvonne Orji, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Filmmaker Malcolm D Lee will direct the movie, which is based on a story by Hart, following a group of misfits who have been forced to attend adult classes with the aim of passing the GED exam. Schwartz has been cast as Hart's best friend - an investment adviser who can't give his mate a job until he passes the test. The comic will produce the film via his Hartbeat Productions company, alongside Will Packer. —PTI ■

'The Wolf of Wall Street' producer settles US suit linked to Malaysian fund

KUALA LUMPUR — The movie company that made "The Wolf of Wall Street", and was co-founded by the Malaysian prime minister's step son, has settled a civil lawsuit brought by the US government to seize assets allegedly bought with money stolen from a Malaysian state fund.

Red Granite Pictures announced the settlement in a filing at the federal Los Angeles court on Friday, without revealing any sum.

US prosecutors, pursuing a kleptocracy asset recovery initiative, had claimed the 2013 film, directed by Martin Scorsese and starring Leonardo DiCaprio, was financed by Red Granite using funds stolen from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

"The parties are pleased to inform the court that Red Granite and the government have reached a settlement in principle," the filing stated.

Red Granite has said previously that neither it, or its co-founder Riza Aziz, had done anything wrong.

The US Justice Department has lodged dozens of lawsuits in the past two years related to the alleged misappropriation of \$4.5 billion from the investment



Producer Riza Aziz (L-R), cast members Leonardo DiCaprio, Margot Robbie, Jonah Hill and producer Joey McFarland arrive for the UK Premiere of "The Wolf of Wall Street" at Leicester Square, in London on 9 January, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

fund, 1MDB.

The United States is seeking to seize some \$1.7 billion in assets, making it the largest action brought by the department under its kleptocracy asset recovery initiative.

The scandal has dogged Prime Minister Najib Razak, who had chaired 1MDB's advisory board until it was dismantled last year, but he has consistently denied any wrongdoing related to the fund.

While Najib has not been the subject of any of the lawsuits, a number of his close associates, including step son Riza Aziz, have been named by US investigators.

Both US and Malaysian of-

ficials have confirmed however, that Najib is the "Malaysian Official Number 1" referred to in Federal Bureau of Investigation reports.

Red Granite Pictures provided no details of the settlement, which the filing said remains subject to final documentation and necessary approvals within the government.

The settlement also covers claims against Red Granite's rights and interests in two other pictures, "Daddy's Home" and "Dumb and Dumber To."

Potential witnesses in 1MDB cases are afraid to speak with US investigators as they fear for their safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said earlier this month.

The US lawsuits have also sought to seize a Picasso painting given to American movie star Leonardo DiCaprio and millions of dollars worth of jewelry give to Australian model and actress Miranda Kerr, all allegedly from 1MDB funds.

Najib met US President Donald Trump at the White House earlier this week, but both leaders steered clear of addressing the American investigation into the 1MDB scandal. — Reuters ■

Koala survives 16 km drive trapped under 4WD

SYDNEY — A koala survived a 16-kilometre (10-mile) road trip in Australia clinging to the axle of a four wheel drive vehicle, before the driver stopped and heard the cries of the traumatized animal.

The female koala had crawled into the wheel arch while the car was parked in the hills on the outskirts of Adelaide, the state capital of South Australia.

The fire brigade was eventually called to take the wheel off in order to help a wildlife rescue worker free the animal.

“I could smell her burnt fur,” Jane Brister, from Fauna Rescue, told Reuters in a phone interview on Saturday. “It would have been hot in there.”

Sadly, although the koala was uninjured, Brister said the animal was a lactating mother which meant her joey — the term for infant marsupials — was missing.

“I searched that night and the next day, and the next, but I never found it,” she said. After a couple of days of feeding in captivity, Brister released the koala back into the wild.

Koalas, often inaccurately described

as “bears”, are marsupials, an order of mammals whose young are suckled in a pouch.

The koala was listed as a “vulnerable” species under an Australian conservation law in 2012. There are fewer than 100,000 of the animals left in the wild, perhaps even as few as 43,000, according to Australian Koala Foundation estimates. —Reuters ■



A koala sits trapped behind the wheel of a car prior to being rescued in Adelaide, South Australia on 9 September, 2017 in this handout picture distributed to Reuters on 16 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Two first-time authors make Man Booker Prize shortlist

LONDON — Two first-time female authors feature on the 2017 Man Booker Prize fiction shortlist which comprises three women and three men including best-selling US writer Paul Auster.

Subjects this year range from the struggle of a family trying to retain its self-sufficiency in rural England to a love story between two refugees fleeing civil war. In the fourth year that the 50,000-pound (\$66,400) prize has been open to writers of any nationality, the shortlist is made up of two British, one British-Pakistani and three American writers.

Auster’s “4321” offers four versions of one young man’s life while fellow US author Emily Fridlund’s debut novel “History of Wolves” is a coming-of-age tale of a teenage girl seeking a place to belong.

“Elmet,” the first book by British author Fiona Mozley, tells the story of a father and his two children who clash with landowners after they build a home for themselves. —Reuters ■

Daw Sein, a traditional salad seller, flinched at the shouting of a female customer, “Don’t put monosodium glutamate.” She said, **“There are some customers not preferring monosodium glutamate, but we cannot avoid using the substance because this can reduce other ingredients in preparing a plate of salad. As we have consumed the substance for a long time we got very much used to it.”**

Myanmar community has been fond of consuming monosodium glutamate (MSG) but why new generation became aware of such a substance? Why they are afraid of consuming it?

The name of its brand is “AJI-NO-MOTO®”, which is the most famous Japanese brand in Myanmar. The brand is famous as Pot Brand in the market and almost everyone both the seller and the buyer know the red pot mark means “AJI-NO-MOTO®” and all the customers prefer this brand.

Daw Kyin Aye, Owner of a shop specializing in MSG in Nyaungbinlay Market, recommended the authentication of the brand known as Ohsit meaning Real Pot i.e. “AJI-NO-MOTO®” because the brand directly comes from the company and she said that it is a reliable and saleable brand.

Myanmar’s kitchens have been occupied by “AJI-NO-MOTO®” for decades and there are endless rumor about MSG in Myanmar, however “AJI-NO-MOTO®” currently seen in the market is manufactured at a factory established in Thailand from sugarcane or tapioca. It is positively safe. You don’t need to be afraid to have “AJI-NO-MOTO®”.

MSG has been consumed for over a century. Thus it is not wrong to say the food is safe. In the United States of America FDA approved the substance in 1970. During the times, a lot of researches were made. According to studies made both in Japan

“Danger of Fake “AJI-NO-MOTO”

and international community, it can be said generally that it is safe. As posted in the Blog of Dr Tint Swe, one of the well-known Medical blogs and social media.

Myanmar Food and Drug Administration has recognized “AJI-NO-MOTO®” as harmless to the consumers. Myanmar FDA Director Dr Tun Zaw said, ““AJI-NO-MOTO®” can be imported legally and the company has a permission to invest in Thilawa special industrial zone.”

It is the nature of market that if a product becomes famous and its market demand becomes high, there may appear fake ones. As there is numerous fakes in abundance in this age, quality assurance and consumer safety become vital.

Ko Aung Zaw Thet, a merchant, expressed his opinion on fake “AJI-NO-MOTO®” brand in the market, saying that fake goods can be produced by oneself in the market with the fake packs printed “AJI-NO-MOTO®” brand logo that these fake packs come from northern areas, near China and that there are some local manufacturer in Mandalay or Yangon putting MSG made in China into these packs and sealed by hand or by machines.



Fake “AJI-NO-MOTO” is packed nationwide including small shops.

Some MSG products in the market are not approved by Myanmar FDA presently. These unapproved MSG products are mainly repacked in Myanmar and used Chinese MSG. Some products are fakes of branded products and some products are local brand products which mislead consumer that MSG inside is not made in China by the words Thailand Technology or printing Thailand or Japanese language on the packaging materials.

Fake products may be packed in the market under the unhygienic environment or mixed the other materials like salt or sugar to cover lack of weight. These products may not only cheat consumer, but also may damage consumer health by some extraneous material. Weight of the fake “AJI-NO-MOTO®” packets is less than the authentic “AJI-NO-MOTO®” and MSG inside the package is also cheaper than authentic one, thus the fake products can be sold out at a reduced price.

“Our product “AJI-NO-MOTO®” is produced with raw materials from Thailand such as sugar cane and tapioca. “AJI-NO-MOTO®” is the only one MSG brand in Myanmar which is made in Thailand from Thai natural raw materials and repacked in Myanmar with Japanese technology.

Some people may misunderstand that the cheaper “AJI-NO-MOTO” in the market is made by Ajinomoto Company officially in China, but it is not true and they are the fake ones. We Ajinomoto group don’t produce MSG in China.” said Mr. Satoshi Ogawa, Managing Director of Myanmar Ajinomoto Foods Co., Ltd.

When Ajinomoto Company examined the fake ones, it is found that they are mixed with pieces of woods, dust and small stones; and although the packets are stuck with halal, it is not the real halal.

Ajinomoto Company patiently takes ac-

tion to eliminate fake ones from the markets. It puts advertisement in the state-owned newspapers describing its registered brand claiming only the advertised brand in the real one” said MAF.

Currently, FDA is making checks on chilly-powder, fish paste, pickled tea, tofu and noodles in the market, and takes action against those who are not up to the standard, but they are not in a position yet to make a check on MSGs, this situation creates a big chance for fakers and those who turn over fake products. As a result, side effects caused by unqualified, and products with lack of guarantee have increased becoming notorious for creating health problems.

Therefore, it is up to the consumers to choose safe food. If one prefers it may be



“AJI-NO-MOTO®” production in new plant of Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

hazardous to health and as a consequence time and money will be wasted.

The wise and smart housewife having high concern to family health will choose genuine one; that is “AJI-NO-MOTO®” which is the most reliable and safe MSG.



Myanmar football fans are supporting Myanmar U-18 football players at Thuwanna Stadium. PHOTO: MFF

Final and Third place matches of AFF Youth Championship today

Kyaw Zin Tun

Thailand will play Malaysia tonight at 6pm at Thuwanna Stadium in the match that will decide the winner of the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Youth Championship at Thuwanna Stadium. Both teams have extensive experience in championship matches.

The match between the two highly regarded teams will take place after the 3 pm match between Myanmar and Indonesia

that will decide third place.

The Thailand U-18 football team has advanced six times to the final and emerged as champions four times, whereas Malaysia has advanced four times to the final and never come away as champion. This is the first time Thailand and Malaysia have met at the knockout stage of the AFF Youth Championship.

The Myanmar Youth Football team has advanced eight times to the knockout stage and

won four championships and one silver medal, whereas Indonesia has advanced one time and claimed one title at the AFF Youth Championship. This is the first time for Myanmar and Indonesia to meet at the knockout stage of the AFF Youth Championship.

According to AFF Youth championship records, Thailand and Australia have each won four championships, Myanmar has won two championships and Viet Nam, Iran, Indonesia and

Japan have won one championship each. In last year's 2016 AFF Youth Championship, Australia won the title by beating Thailand 5-1 at Hang Day Stadium in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

The AFF Youth Championship is an annual international football competition that started in 2002. Participating in the competition are the national teams of the ASEAN Football Federation. The games have taken place annually except for 2004. ■

Zidane wants more from Bale as Madrid face soaring Sociedad

MADRID — Real Madrid need their record signing Gareth Bale to improve, with the Welsh winger having suffered criticism from supporters and Spanish media, coach Zinedine Zidane said on Saturday.

Bale scored in the first Liga game of the season at Deportivo La Coruna but has not found the net since and was whistled by Madrid fans on Wednesday during the 3-0 Champions League win over Apoel Nicosia.

"We want and need him to do more on the pitch, and he does too," Zidane told a news conference. "But we are calm because he will do it soon."

Real Madrid face high-flying Real Sociedad at Anoeta on Sunday and, with Cristiano Ronaldo serving the final match of his five-game suspension and Karim Benzema injured, the onus will be on Bale to make the difference.

However, Zidane said the winger does not have to be the team's leader in the clash against Eusebio Sacristan's second-placed side, who have won all three of their opening games and are level on nine points at the top with Barcelona.

"He will do his job," said Zidane. "Each day he feels better. I said that he has had four months out of the team (injured) and to return to his level he needs at least four months.—Reuters ■

Bournemouth's Defoe strikes to seal comeback win over Brighton

LONDON — Bournemouth's Jermain Defoe scored his first goal in his second spell at the club in a 2-1 win over promoted Brighton & Hove Albion on Friday as Eddie Howe's side grabbed a vital first Premier League victory of the season.

The south coast side went into the game second bottom in the league, having lost their first four fixtures and scored only once.

Their miserable run looked like it might continue as, after a

goalless first half at the Vitality Stadium, the visitors took a surprise lead 10 minutes after the break when Solly March headed in his first Premier League goal from Pascal Gross's cross.

Chris Hughton's side were ahead for 12 minutes before Bournemouth's Jordon Ibe changed the game. The influential former Liverpool attacker found South African midfielder Andrew Surman in the middle of the box, who finished in the far left corner of the Brighton goal.

Ibe turned provider again little more than five minutes later, showing good control outside the area to hold onto the ball and play it through to veteran Defoe.

The 34-year-old did not need to take a touch as he span quickly and struck the ball low past goalkeeper Mathew Ryan to score his first goal in a Bournemouth shirt since he lined up alongside his now manager 16 years ago.

"He's an unbelievable professional. He sets the example. He wants to train every day, he

doesn't want to be treated as a special case, he really wants to muck in and be one of the boys... He's got the finishing ability to score lots of goals for us," Howe told Sky Sports.

After securing their first ever Premier League win last week over West Bromwich Albion, Brighton found they relaxed too much after going in front against the run of play.

"(I am) incredibly disappointed. They have a lot of quality and move the ball well but

we handled it well for a lot of the game," Hughton told reporters.

"It was two poor goals we conceded. We never looked like conceding before then. I thought it was a really good period for us just before we scored."

The two sides meet again at the same venue on Tuesday in the third round of the League Cup.

Following that, Bournemouth travel to Everton in the league next weekend while 14th-placed Brighton host Newcastle United.—Reuters ■

Roads to success



Nann Htet Hnin Htwe
Public speaking course of JC

LIFE is short. Within that short time, we have to face many difficulties, solve many problems and overcome many challenges. It is true that difficulties, problems and challenges are the things that make us successful persons. These are the things that can make our life beautiful. However, we, people, are afraid to face problems, challenges and difficulties. We usually prefer easy ways. In my opinion, there is no easy way in life. If there is, it will not last long. But there are ways to change difficulties to success, problems to solution and challenges to ambitions. And to find that way, we must have perseverance, industry, diligence and intelligence. Some people may say that "Although a person is industrious and outstanding, he needs good luck." I would like to say that it is not true. I believe that fortune depends on us. We do not depend on fortune.

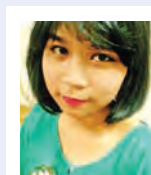
There is a saying "God helps who help themselves". Of course, although we are trying and hard-working, we may have problems and gain failure as a result. But one thing we should know is that failures are not obstacles that stop us to achieve our success. Instead, failures are the roads to success. The roads may be long. While we are on the roads, we may fall down by stones. As soon as we fall down, we have to stand up and continue our journey so that we can reach our goal. Besides, being a human, we all make mistakes knowingly or without knowing. In fact, mistakes teach us a lot. A man who doesn't make any mistake is like a man who is sleeping all day. But, there is no same mistake. If we make the same mistake for the second time, it is not an accident mistake. It is because we like that mistake to do again although we know that it is not a good mistake. By the time, we make mistakes, some people around us may blame and criticize us.

We should never be depressed because of other people's words. It is the nature of humans. But we all should know that it is those people who praise us when we are successful. Furthermore, if successful

people, leaders and scientists like Thomas Edison, Einstein, Bill Gate and Abraham Lincoln were afraid to make mistakes, were afraid of other people's words and criticism and didn't dare to continue, the world would never be a better place to live in. Also, everyone has its own quality. We can't call a man "stupid" because of his failures and mistakes. But a man who doesn't know how to use his wisdom and abilities to show his personal qualities can be called a "stupid" man. Besides, no one is normal. Only their performances are normal. In this case, being successful doesn't mean only being wealthy, being well-known and being powerful. It means we are able to get what we want and we can be anything what we want to be. Success is the other words of "Anything is possible". Look at famous people like Daw Aung San Su Kyi, Obama, Jack Ma and Bill Gate. They are humans like us. Then, why can they lead the world? Why can they do big things? Why can they make the world a better place? The answer is they have shown their talents, abilities, intelligence and wisdom in the right situation without wasting time. Don't they have problems, difficulties and challenges? Of course, they have problems and difficulties more than us. They have thousands of challenges. But they are not afraid to fall. They are not afraid to do what they think is right. By the time they fail, they keep going to their targets by replacing the wrongs with the rights. They use their intelligence, knowledge and wisdom with industry, diligence and perseverance. So, fortune favors them. We don't have to be famous to show our success. We just have to accomplish what we have decided to do. We just have to try our best to become what we want to be. Besides, we don't have to fight with our rivals, we don't have to bully the weak, we don't have to push the others to the danger to get our success. What I mean is that we don't have to be cruel. We need to be honest. Success without honesty and truth is not precious. In fact, people are afraid to know the truth. They think that only the cruel, the liars and the unfair people win. This is wrong. If we look at the end, the truth and honesty always win.

To sum up, difficulties, problems, challenges and failures are roads to success. Industry, perseverance, diligence, truth and honesty are our weapons to protect from obstacles and danger. Actually, if we can use our intelligence, wisdom and knowledge with industry, diligence and perseverance without idling, if we learn from our mistakes, find solution from our problems, we all will be successful people.

Scars In The Eyes



A.W Khin Myat
Phone Grade 9 (A),
BEHS-4 (Botahtaung)

IT was raining cats and dogs. The rain drops were pouring from the grey sky with a high velocity onto the hard muddy ground. I walked down the block with my red umbrella under

the no-mercy-showing raining sky. The sounds of angry thunder came into my ears by surprise and made my heart skip a beat. There were puddles everywhere. As I walked through the dark streets, I started to feel cold and insecure by myself. However, there were some cars running on the road beside me. I just kept on walking instead of hitch hiking. I felt so guilty for not buying a car to go with an ease in that kind of bizarre weather.

The rain did not stop as it became heavier and heavier. I would love to ask the sky why he was being so cruel on us. Was he getting a revenge on someone or showing his selfish manners? No idea. My house was still far from the place I was and my feet were killing me. Despite of that, I did not give up and carried on walking. "Life is not fair", I thought. "This world is only good for the people who are rich, not for the normal people like us. I should have come from a royal family!", I told to myself. While I was thinking like that, I heard a cry. A little cry behind me. Who was it? A creature, I thought. But as soon as I turned and looked, my eyes proved that my thoughts were wrong. It was a little child in the rain. He had no umbrella to hide from the bad-tempered sky. He had no shoes to protect himself from the rocky ground.

SEE SUPPLEMENT-H

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 19: Verbs — Tenses(2)

Hello, dear students,

We have studied Simple Tenses (the Simple Present, the Simple Past, and the Simple Future.

All these Simple Tenses simply show when an action or an event happens ... in the Present, in the Past or in the Future.

Here, we need to note one thing. That is if an action or the event refers to the Universal Truth (always true or correct) we always use “Simple Present”.

For example :

- (1) The sun rises in the East .
- (2) The sun sets in the West.
- (3) We get rain when the Monsoon comes .
- (4) She is as lovely as ever .
- (5) Sunday is a holiday.

Today, let's study about the “Continuous Tenses”. These are, “the Present Continuous Tense, the Past Continuous Tense, and the Future Continuous Tense.”

As the name shows , these tenses show the “Continuation” of an action or an event.

If it is continuous in the Present, it is “Present Continuous Tense”,

if it is continuous in the Past, it is “Past Continuous Tense” and

if it is continuous in the Future, it is “Future Continuous Tense”.

Does it sound very simple?

Look at the following example sentences.

Present Continuous

- (1) The little bird is singing on the tree.
- (2) The players are still playing their football match.
- (3) I am reading this thick novel.

We form the Verb by using am, is, are (am for 1st person, Singular, is for 3rd person, Singular, and are for 1st person Plural, 2nd person Plural and 3rd person Plural.) + Present Participle (which means V+ing).

You can note down like this: ..

I am, We are, You are, You are, he is, she is, they are .

Here comes the Exercise.

Exercise 19.

- I. Write down any 5 sentences of Present Continuous Tense.
- II. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable words to make Present Continuous Tenses.
 - (a) The boy sleeping in his room.
 - (b) I studying my lessons now.
 - (c) The ladydelivering a speech on TV.
 - (d) They playing football against the other school.
 - (e) We ----- dancing all night.
 - (f) I have to run to my class, for the bell ringing.
 - (g) You finishing your painting.
 - (h) you doing your homework now ?
 - (i) Mi Mi cooking lunch in the kitchen.
 - (j) He telling the truth this time.

Past Continuous

Here are the example sentences.

- (1) I was not staying at home that night.
- (2) We were working with our Maths exercises yesterday.
- (3) They were cleaning the room at that time.

Note that to form a Past Continuous Tense , we use was (for 1st and 3rd persons Singular) or were (for all persons Plural and for the 2nd person Singular) + Present Participle (V+ing)

Note : I was, You were, He was, She was, We were, You were , They were.

(all these Verbs am, is , are, was , were are called Verbs to be).

The Past Continuous Tense shows the actions or events that are continuing in the Past.)

Here come the exercises .

Exercise 19.1

- III. Write down 5 sentences of your own in Past Continuous Tense.
- IV. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable words to form Past Continuous Tense.
 - (a) Nyi Nyi sitting down to do homework last night.
 - (b) Ko Ko Playing games at that time.
 - (c) Babies crying when mothers were not near them.
 - (d) I looking at my dictionary when you asked me.
 - (e) He looking for his pen which was not in his bag.
 - (f) You eating dinner when I came home.
 - (g) Hla Hlawashing her clothes yesterday.
 - (h) We playing tennis last evening.
 - (i) You all reading in the library when the thief came in .
 - (j) The birds flying away last Winter.

Future Continuous

Look at the following example sentences.

- (1) She will be working in the office tomorrow.
- (2) He will be walking down the street in the evening.
- (3) I will be helping my mother in the kitchen on coming Sunday.

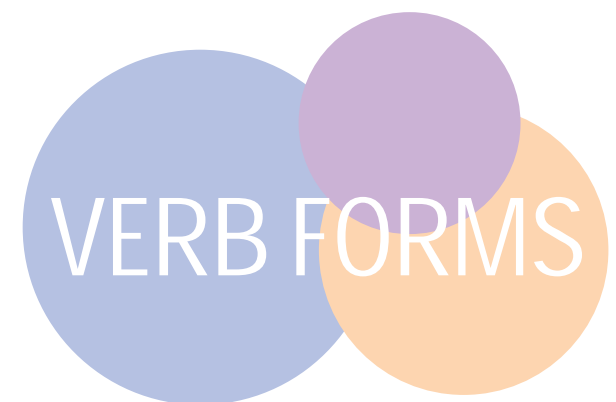
To form the Future Continuous Tense, we use will be (for all persons in all numbers) + Present Participle (V+ing)

They all shows the actions or events which will be continuous in the Future.

Now, do the following exercises.

Exercise 19.2

- V. Write down 5 sentences of your own in Future Continuous Tense.
- VI. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable words to form the Future Continuous Tense .



- (a) I flying to America by this time tomorrow.
- (b) Wesitting in the class tomorrow morning.
- (c) She staying next door to me and will become my neighbor next month.
- (d) Heworking as our headmaster next year.
- (e) Theystudying in the University in the coming December.
- (f) Myo Myo giving birth a new baby next week.
- (g) My son and my nephew travelling to Bangkok on coming Monday.
- (h) You will be alone at home tomorrow evening.
- (i) I will bethe title role in the school concert.
- (j) Ko Ko will behis car by himself this evening.

Note: Sometimes we use “shall be” instead of “will be”, but these are exceptional cases. It will be explained later.

Hope that you all understand what you have learnt today.

Bye Bye students! See you next week !

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

Email : dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

Here are the answers for the last week's Exercise 18.

- I. 5 Sentences of Simple Present Tense
 - (1) She writes the letter today.
 - (2) The birds sing on the tree.
 - (3) The little baby cries when she does not see her mother.
 - (4) The dog barks at the thief .
 - (5) We play football today.
- III. To fill in the blanks
 - (a) eats, (b) wrote, (c) get, (d) came, (e) shall go, (f) sat, (g) will go, (h) shall give, (i) sing, (j) play.

*I'm sure you all have done well !
Bye Bye Class ! See you next week !*

The Best Regional University

By Dr. Myo Win
Yangon University of Education

SUMMIT of Leaders, Oxford was held in Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford, the UK on 19 December, 2016. It is the branding forum of members and partners of Europe Business Assembly from 50 countries. It is a traditional annual gathering of academics and scientists, rectors of leading Universities and educational institutions, regional businesses, and decision makers from the corporate sector, along with selected representatives from public sector. The summit highlighted modern integration trends in science, education and business aiming at innovative development, sufficient economic growth and improvement of learning process and educational management tools and practices.

At that summit, Yangon University of Education was awarded the 'Best regional University' due to successful work of the university in professional, scientific and educational directions as well as high level of its alumni. These key factors together with stainless reputation, dynamic growth, sustainable scientific achievements and Europe Business Assembly partners' recommendations let the Socrates committee nominee Yangon University of Education to the Best regional University. The head of educational institution, Dr. Aye Aye Myint, was also presented the title 'Best Manager of the Year' in science and education sphere and personal certificate. The award presentation ceremony took place on December 20, 2016 in the world science and education capital - Oxford, the UK. The acting rector of Yangon University of Education was invited as an honorable guest to the International Socrates Gala Ceremony held on 20 December in Oxford, UK. We should be proud of our university for being awarded the BEST regional University. It was also a significant milestone in the history of Yangon University of Education.

Yangon University of Education (YUOE) is one of the 171 tertiary level universities in Myanmar. In fact, it has a long history. Yangon University was opened in 1920. After that, the Teacher's Training College was opened as a constituent college of Yangon University on Pyi Road, Kamayut in 1926. The first Principal was Dr. G. F. Clark, Professor of Education. When he died in 1936, Professor U Ba succeeded until 1942. Since then, two year Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) courses for graduates and two year University Trained Teacher's Certificate (UTTC) courses for the secondary teachers were offered. A training department was also opened in the Teacher's Training College. After the Second World War, the Yangon University was reopened in 1946. Then, Teacher's Training College became the Faculty of Education. In 1964, universities and colleges were reformed because of a new system. As a result, the Faculty of Education became Yangon In-



Yangon University. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

stitute of Education. Since then, it was the only one institute that produced Senior Assistant Teachers in Myanmar. Later, it became Yangon University of Education (YUOE) in 2014. YUOE is a medium organization comprising about 3,000 day students and more than 3,000 in-service teachers as correspondence students, 7,500 students from Practising School, 210 university teaching staff (almost all of them are Master Degree holders), and 175 Practising School teachers. The vision of YUOE is to train teachers, researchers and educationists capable of producing lifelong learners who can generate able citizens to create a learning society. Its mission is to bring up innovative academicians who can render excellent and dynamic service to society with upmost sincerity and loyalty (IDEALS). Its motto is All for All.

YUOE is the leading university of teacher education sector in Myanmar, taking the prime responsibility in producing secondary school teachers, chairing the Board of Studies of three education universities: YUOE, SUOE and UDNR. YUOE is also in charge of curriculum design in all 25 Education Colleges in the country, for their implementation of the two-year diploma courses and four-year degree courses. The pre-service undergraduate B Ed course was introduced in 1964. The two-year in-service BEd correspondence course was offered in 1968. The M Ed two-year course was launched in 1970. Doctoral course (PhD - Education) started in 2000. The duration of the PhD Course is five academic years. In the first year, the candidates have to attend the Preliminary Course offered by three respective education departments. In the rest of the years, the candidates need to conduct the research to submit PhD dissertation for the requirement of PhD Degree. The university also offers courses under the department of Human Resource Development such as Post-graduate Diploma in Multimedia Arts, Diploma in English Language Teaching Methodology, MPhil

(Education), and MA (TEFL). In near future, to fulfill the needs of social community, a diploma course: Early Childhood Care and Development, will be offered.

The university runs harmoniously with the support of the main education departments: Department of Educational Psychology, Department of Educational Theory, Methodology Department, and Department of Physical Education and School Health, and that of other faculties/departments: Department of Myanmar Language, Department of English, Department of Mathematics, Department of Chemistry, Department of Physics, Department of Biology, Department of Geography, and Department of Economics. To produce qualified teachers who are skillful in teaching, the Practising School is affiliated to the university. Apart from the main academic programmes, other programmes such as the induction programmes for the newly appointed tutors, Continuous Professional Development courses and Training of Trainers (TOT) courses for the teachers are also conducted.

The university jointly conducts other academic functions with Department of Basic Education, Department of Planning, Research and Training, Education Colleges, Technological Universities, Military Nursing and Paramedical Institute. YUOE forms linkages and collaborations with some international higher education institutions and research organizations in order to promote the skills, capabilities and creativities of the students. YUOE jointly carries out different tasks such as seminars and round-table discussions with Nagoya University, joint research and exchange programmes with Kwansei Gakuin University, Ritsumeikan University, and AsTEN (Association of Asian Teacher Education Network) Member-Universities, educational workshops with Burapha University, Teacher Competency Project with Voluntary Service Organization, teacher-upgrading English courses with

British Council, English language proficiency courses with East-West Centre, Early Childhood Development Scale Project with UNICEF and Hong Kong University, Tuning Asia Project with EU, and Development of Teacher Competency Framework Project with UNESCO, ELT Development with the British Council through MmTESOL (Myanmar - Teaching of English for the Speakers of Other Languages) workshop, and proficiency development workshops on e-learning and media technology with Myanmar Wave (Singapore) and DAAD from (Germany).

The research activities fall into the fields of learning psychology, cognitive psychology, test and measurement, assessment, management and leadership, educational administration, instructional aids, teaching methods, ICT, teacher education, early childhood education and English language teaching. Academic theses and dissertations are regularly published and widely disseminated in YUOE journal, Universities Research Journal and Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science Journal, AsTEN journal, and some international journals.

For the development of students' cognitive process, talks delivered by educators and famous writers, impromptu talks, debate and essay competitions and round-table-discussions are conducted. The students who are enthusiastic in developing the four language skills of English establish English Club and do activities in coordination with teachers from English Department, foreign experts from Voluntary Service Organization (VSO) and British Council (BC), and other local experts. YUOE offers authentic tasks for students so that they can learn by gathering information from excursion. Both cooperative and collaborative approaches are applied for undergraduate students to work together on research-based projects.

To make the students become teachers as community leaders, there are Social and Community Engagement Activities such as Religious Activities, Literacy Campaign, Sports and Games, Traditional Competitions (e.g. Making Sticky Rice), Voluntary Services (blood donation, donation to the needy from hazardous places or disaster-hit areas), University Training Corps (UTC), and Scouting. The students' all-round-development can be raised through the above activities. Very recently, Yangon University of Education is recognized as the 3rd best university in Myanmar by the Ministry of Education.

Up to now, the university has tried to extend academic programmes and to widen the field and sphere of academic areas so that it can make stronger international relationship and collaborations. In brief, Yangon University of Education is a unique place that can produce good, efficient and qualified teachers, teacher-educators and experts in education for the whole country.

The Discovery Of The Biggest Teak Trees



The teak tree with girdle size 26ft and 8in in Bamauk Township of Sagaing Region.

By Maung Thit Taw

Sagaing Region can be called as precious land as 47.04% of its area has been covered by 11 million acres of various types of forest and trees of high value especially Myanmar Teak trees according to Forest Resource Assessment – 2015 (FRA-2015) of FAO.

The teak tree that was found in 1997 in plot no.63, Nant Kyin Reserve, Bamauk Township of Sagaing Region was known to have girdle size 26 ft. 8 in. when it was measured again in 2017.

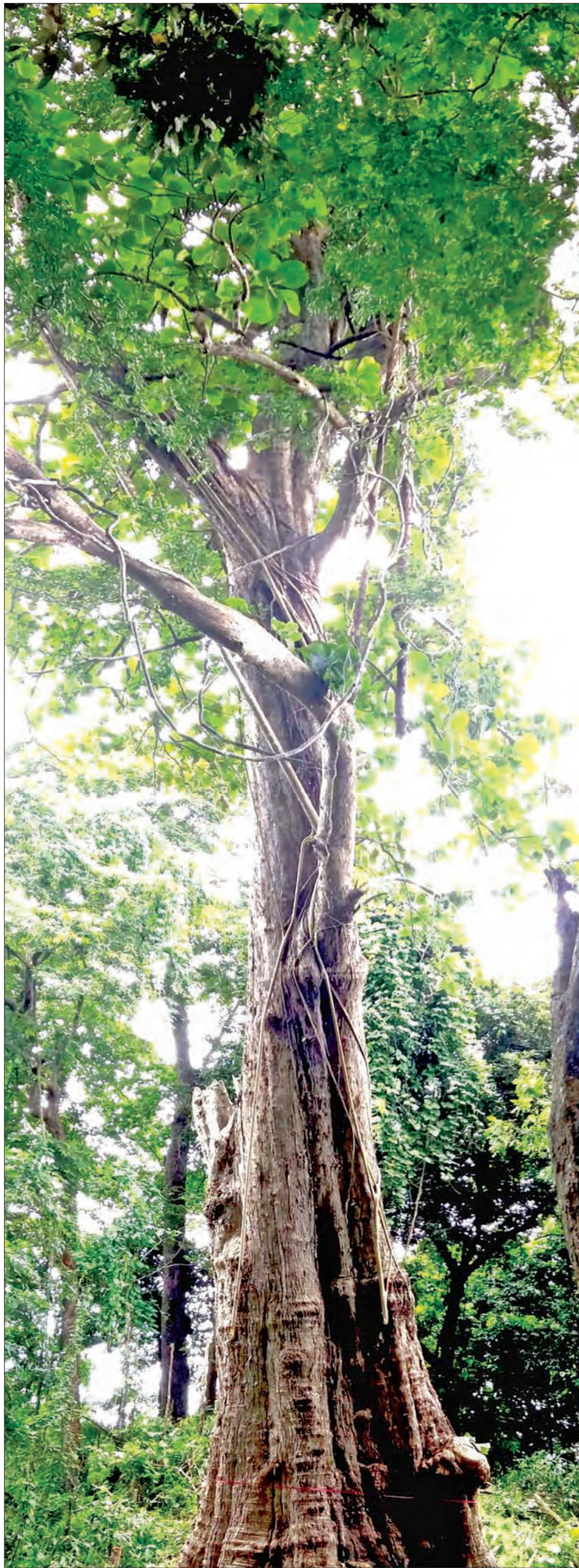
U Myo Myint, a junior officer of Bamauk forest department got the news that someone had ever seen the teak tree bigger than the tree of Nant Kyin reserve in the forest along the border area between Bamauk and Homalin townships. That information led to the search of that teak tree.

Thanks to the effort of U Nyi Nyi , a Hluttaw representative of Bamauk township of Sagaing Region and administrative personnel the contact with U Tin Shwe who had found the bigger teak tree was procured. U Tin Shwe, after making a foray into the forest accompanied by some villagers, confirmed the presence and place of that big teak tree. U Tin Shwe found that big tree while he was wandering in the Homalin forest in search of the herbal plants.

Organizing the field group and setting out to the place

The team led by the director of forest department of Sagaing Region was formed by the Chief Minister of Sagaing Region comprising the personnel suggested by Sagaing Region government , staffs of Homalin forest department , personnel from Myanmar Police Force and villagers. The team consisted of 32 members.

The field group left Monywa for Homalin by plane on 24.8.2017 to meet U Tin Shwe. After meeting with U Tin Shwe the team prepared a draft map and



planned the trip in detail. Then the team set out to Uru Reserve forest where the big tree occurred on 25.8.2017. After making the trips between Homalin and Nantaw by car, from Nantaw to Nantaw by motor boat along Uru river, from Nantaw to Tonesagar by motor boat along the Nantaw stream, on foot from Tonesagar to Uru Reserve passing through the Thaphanbin camp and Wapa camp and finally reached the reserve plot (79) where the teak tree had grown. The team found the trees and made the necessary recording on 28.8.2017. The team arrived back at Monywa on 31.8.2017.

Location of the tree and Uru Forest Reserve

The big teak trees were found in Uru Reserve in Homalin township near the junction of Homalin township, Bamauk township and Monyin township of Kachin State. According to the records, Uru Reserve was established in 1896 by Order 481/9.11.1896. The areal extent was 59183 acres consisting of 99 plots. Teak and Kanyin trees (*Dipterocarpus alatus*) were most abundantly found in that reserve. However there were also *Dipterocarpus tuberculatus*, Sal tree (*Pentacme suavis*), Iron Wood (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Protium serratum, Mirobalan tree (*Terminalia chebula*), Mountain Neem trees and etc. *Amherstia nobilis* were found along the bank of the streams. Various types of bamboos and rattans were also abundantly present in that reserve. Teak extraction had not been done since colonial time in the Plot No.78 and 79 except some other hard wood extraction.

The two teak trees has been named as Homalin (1) and Homalin (2). The girdle size of Homalin (1) is 27.5 ft. and Homalin (2) IS 27 FT. Those two teak trees are a mile apart from each other with No (1) existing at one end of a mountain spur which is high about 1900 ft. above sea level and No. (2) is growing at the other end of the same spur.

Other big trees of Teak and Kanyin

In plot (78) and (79) of Uru Reserve Teak trees of girdle size 10 ft. and above and Kanyin trees (*Dipterocarpus alatus*) of 20 ft. girdle size were abundantly found.

Present condition of the teak trees

1. Homalin (1)

The girdle size of the Homalin (1) is 27 ft. 5 in. and the height of the tree is 110 ft. It is recorded as the world biggest teak tree. At about 17 ft. above the ground branching occur and the smaller branch

has been cut at about 5 ft. above the forking point. The other bigger branch is found healthy. The teak tree has been found wrapped up by two strong climbers having 20 inches in circumference. The leaf coverage occurs as mixture of small and closely spaced leaves of climbers and large leaves of the teak trees. There is a bulbous growth on the stem just above 4 ft. level of the tree giving the impression that the girdle is greater than the normal one that has been measured. This teak tree is slanting about 15 degree to one side as there are Linlun tree (*Buchanania latifolia*) on the other side. The leaves are as healthy as those of other young and healthy teak trees.

The team has fixed the alluminium plate with figures of measured girdle and



date inscribed on the the Homalin (1), cut the roots of creepers, climbers and banyan trees that wrapped up the teak tree, clearing the bushes and shrubs at the base of the teak tree to protect the tree from bush fire and encompass the tree with wooden poles so as to notify that this teak tree is a protected one.

2. Homalin (2)

Its girdle size is 27 ft. and the height is about 100 ft. It is the second largest teak tree in the world. It looks perfect on one side, but big holes due to burning is present on other side. The branches shoot out in all directions from the point 25 ft. above the ground. The hole created after being burnt is large enough to accommodate 6 people. Despite the

presence of that burnt hole, the tree is healthy and it can stand living for many years more if it is properly cared.

It has healthy branches, buds and flowers. There were no other parallel growths of big trees in close vicinity of Homalin (2). Dense bushes and shrubs at the base of the teak tree were cleared in the mission to protect from bush fire. Many teak trees having girdle 10 ft. and above and abundant Kanyin (*Dipterocarpus alatus*) tree having girdle about 20 ft. also occur in the forest.

Challenges for the continuous growth of the teak tree

Most of the teak trees were found grappled by large creepers and roots of banyan trees. Though the big teak trees were profusely found, the young generation teak trees were found to be sparse. Therefore it needs to carry out the natural reproduction and planting the saplings to upgrade the quality of forest.

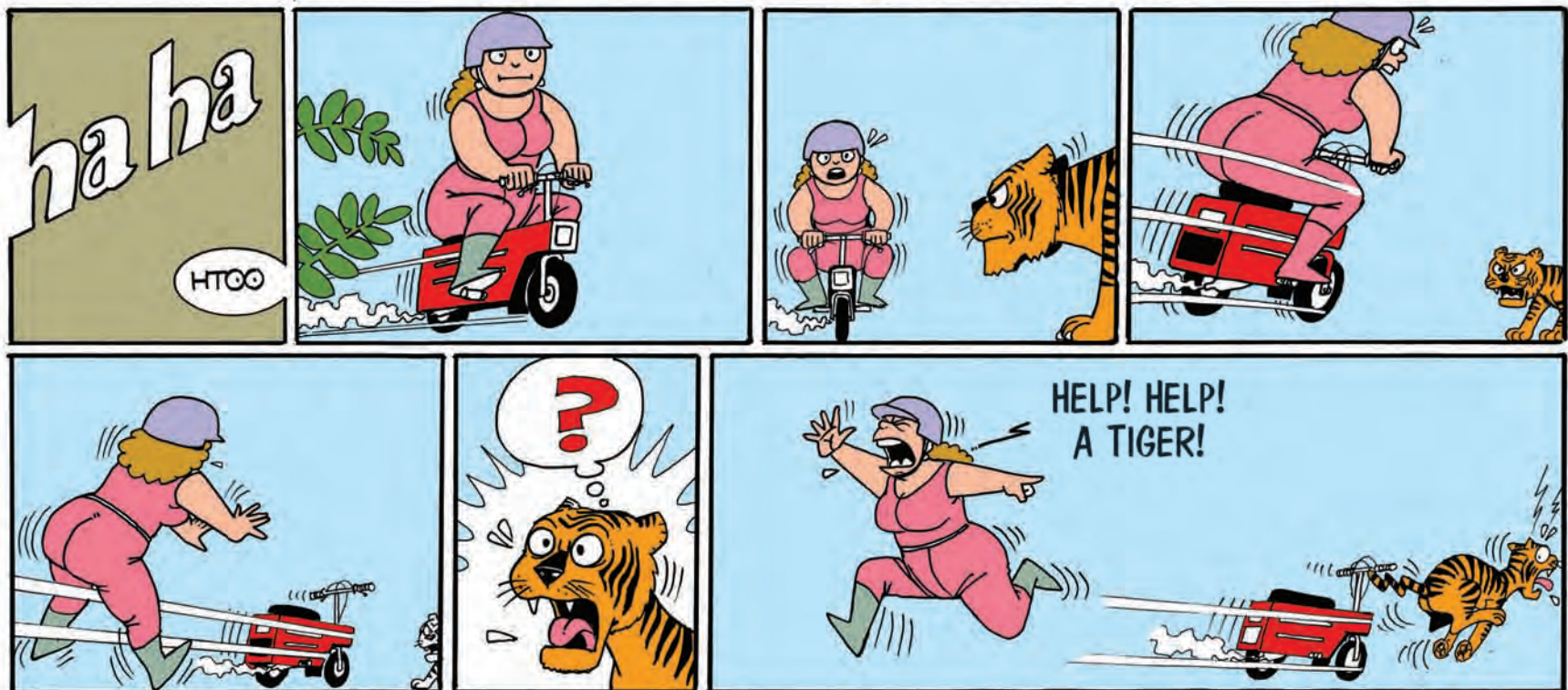
Programs to be continued

The forest department will carry out the following works mentioned below to retain the biodiversity of the forest and to support the long life of the largest teak tree.

- To clear wrapping climbers and creepers and roots of Banyan tree and keep monitoring on those teak tree to be free from the growth of harmful plants.
- To make stronger and tidier fence around the teak trees.
- To make updated record of the teak trees and to take great care to keep the teak trees healthy.
- To clear the climbers, creepers and banyan trees on the teak trees that grew around the two biggest teak trees.
- To plant new teak trees to upgrade the value of the forest.
- To do awareness campaigns among the local people not to do excessive hunting and unconventional fishing so as to conserve the wild life of the forest.
- To organize more educative campaigns to inspire the local people to love the forest and trees and take pride in having the famous big teak trees.
- To protect the forests by taking serious actions on violators according to the Forest law.
- To strive to be able to register the Uru Forest Reserve as Land of Nature.

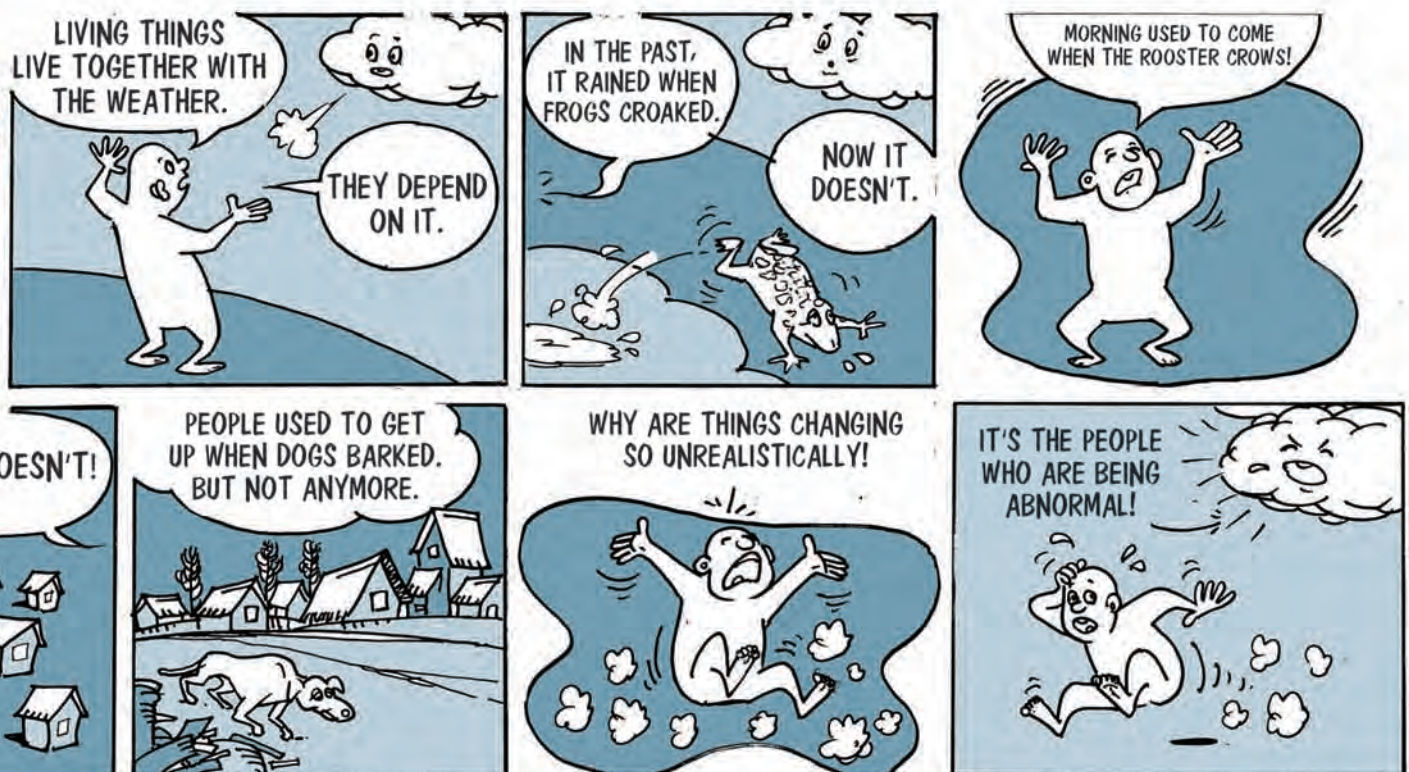
It is to take pride for Myanmar in finding the two world biggest teak trees and this expedition field trip could have familiarized the local people with the expedition team and also with the nature's legacy. The local people in cooperation with the department staffs gradually came to be ingrained with the spirit of loving the legacy of nature and taking value of them. Then they may cooperate with the department personnel in conserving the natural forest of Myanmar.—Translated by U Khin Maung Win ■

SUNDAY COMICS



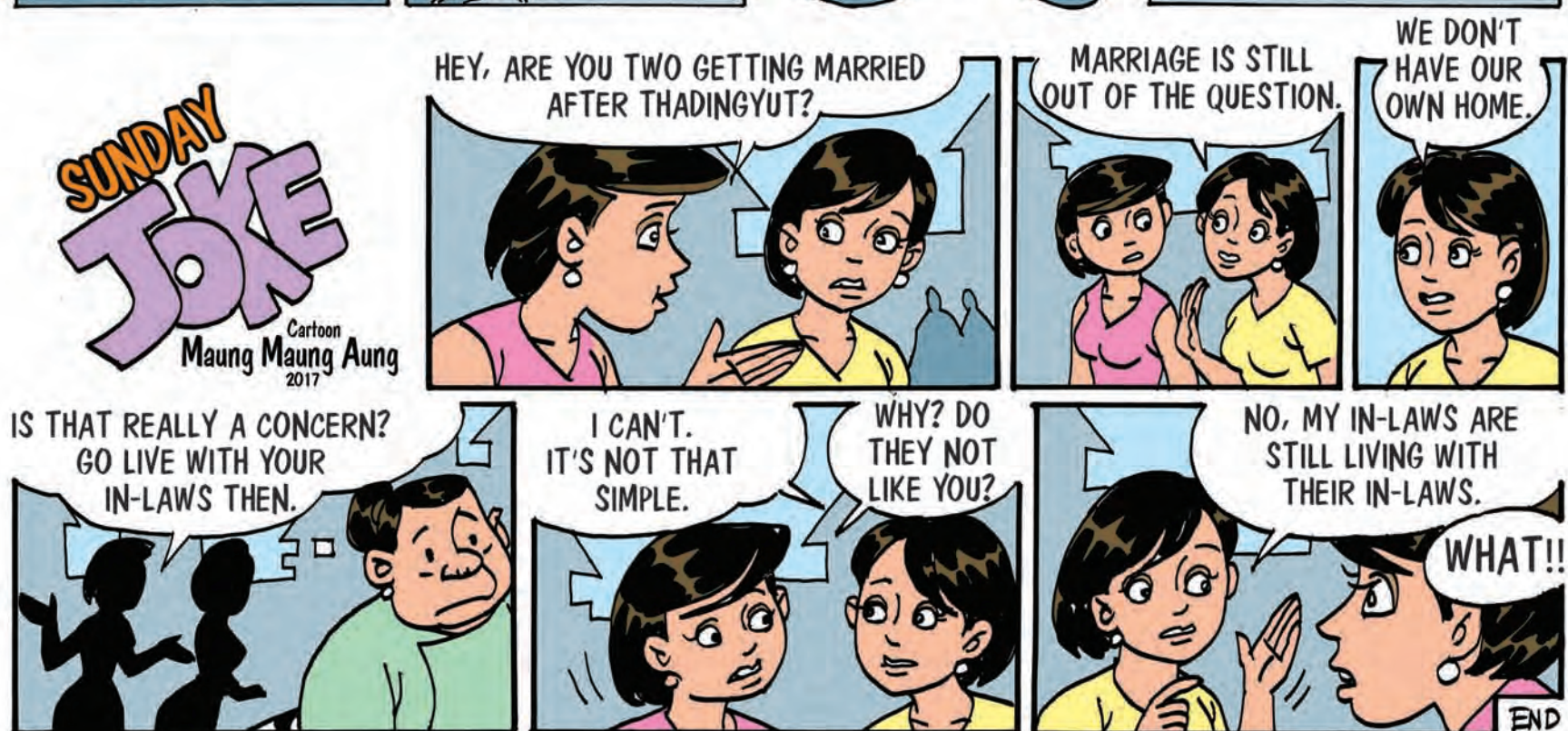
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2017



Former U.S. diplomat sides with Myanmar government

A former U.S. diplomat based in Myanmar said she sympathises with the difficult situation being faced by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and doesn't accept the narrative that is being spread worldwide about what is happening in northern Rakhine State, including accusations that the Tatmadaw is torching villages or planting landmines.

"I think the international community has to sort out the facts before making accusations", said Priscilla Clapp, senior adviser to the U.S. Institute of Peace.

Ms. Clapp was interviewed earlier this month by France 24, a television network based in Paris. The following is the complete text of her interview.

Q: You were on a mission in Burma from 1999 to 2002, at a time when Aung San Suu Kyi was described as an icon for peaceful resistance as she was put under house arrest while you were there. Has your perception of her changed in the past two weeks?

A: No, I simply don't accept the narrative that we just heard. There was indeed a terrorist attack in Rakhine. It came from outside and it was perpetrated by people in the Rohingya diaspora living in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, coming in through Bangladesh and they have killed a lot of security forces.

This started in October and the latest attack was timed to follow the presentation of the recommendations of the Kofi Annan International Commission on Rakhine, which Aung San Suu Kyi has accepted and agreed to implement. These recommenda-

I think the international community has to sort out the facts before making accusations.



This image captured from the France 24's interview with Priscilla Clapp, Senior Advisor, Asia Society.

tions call for a long-term solution there and she was already working on it when it was disrupted by this latest terrorist attack.

Their tactics are terrorists, no questions about it. She's not calling the entire Rohingya population terrorists. She is referring to a group of people who are going around with guns, machetes and IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) and killing their own people in addition to Buddhists, Hindus and others who get in their way.

They have killed a lot of se-

curity forces and they are wreaking havoc in the region. The people who are fleeing out into Bangladesh are not only fleeing in response to the security forces but they are fleeing their own radical groups because they have been attacking Rohingya, particularly the leadership who have been trying to work with the government on the citizenship process and other humanitarian efforts that were underway there. This has all been thrown in through a confusion that has

been sown by the latest attacks.

I think the international community has to sort out the facts before making accusations.

Q: So it was an attack by militants against the armed forces in northwest Burma that triggered this, that's undoubted. But the question is shouldn't Aung San Suu Kyi have at least a word of sympathy for the more than 125,000 refugees who fled to Bangladesh?

A: I'm sure she does have

sympathy for them, I don't know, but she has made a number of statements recently. And it is not clear how many have actually fled to Bangladesh. They have already told Bangladesh that they will work with them to return them safely to Rakhine State when the time comes.

Right now many of their villages have been torched and they were not torched by the military. The military has done some damage, I won't deny that, but the militants themselves have been going around torching these villages.

Q: Should Burma's authorities pick up on that call made by Norway to let in humanitarian aid groups?

A: They are letting them in but they can't let them into the area where there's so much violence going on because it's dangerous. There were many humanitarian aid groups in there already. But they have made their own decision to leave under the current circumstances. They're probably in Sittway or some other part of Rakhine State where it's safer now.

SEE SUPPLEMENT-H



Ethnic Mro Children look at boats near Buthidaung in the north of Rakhine state on 13 September 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Former U.S. diplomat sides with Myanmar government

FROM SUPPLEMENT-G

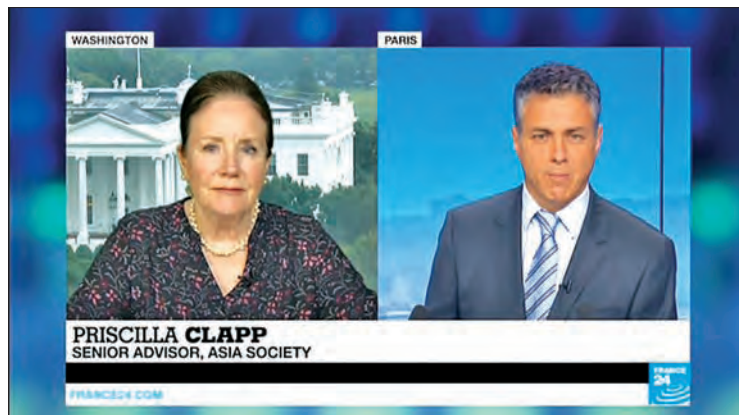
Q: You said earlier that Aung San Suu Kyi has sympathy with the Rohingyas, but why is it we're hearing reports of landmines being laid between the borders of Myanmar and Bangladesh? Does that show a lack of sympathy or is that to prevent the Rohingyas from returning to the country?

A: Who is laying the landmines? The landmines are also in the hands of the terrorists. We don't know who's doing that.

Q: Bangladesh squarely accuses the authorities of Myanmar of laying those landmines.

A: Well that may be so, they may be accusing the Burmese, but that's not necessarily who's doing it. Nobody really knows what the situation is on the ground.

Q: We've heard criticism from the likes of Desmond Tutu and other Nobel laureates asking Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to speak out more. What's your reaction to that?



And it is not clear how many have actually fled to Bangladesh. They have already told Bangladesh that they will work with them to return them safely to Rakhine State when the time comes.

A: I understand the situation she's in. I've lived there and it's a very divisive society. There are many different ethnic groups, many religions and with the transition that is going on, they have a lot of freedom now and some of them are abusing those

freedoms.

There are extremists on the Buddhist side who have become very political, including the main opposition party. They're using the anti-Muslim sentiment for their own political purposes. Rakhine politicians are doing the

same thing. So if she wades into the middle of this very volatile, internal political situation, with a lot of harsh words, one way or the other, against the military or against the Buddhists, she's going to be dead meat.

Q: So what should the international community be doing?

A: I think the international community is already on the job. You have to look at what the Kofi Annan commission did. They made a very thorough investigation of the whole situation. They came up with a very comprehensive set of recommendations pointing out to what would lead to a long-term solution, which involves changing the hearts and minds of people, in addition to economic development, to improve the conditions of everybody living there. It's a very poor state and there's competition for resources. And there are a lot of groups now arming themselves on both sides and acting as militias. All of this has to be dealt with comprehensively.

Now she has accepted those recommendations and she has

set up a government commission consisting of all of the concerned ministries who have the resources and means to address this.

She's also setting up an advisory board of international members so that the international community can participate in helping to implement these recommendations. So that's exactly what we should be doing.

The United States has already been on the ground in Rakhine State providing comprehensive assistance to health, economic development, human rights and education.

Q: But for the time being, no public statement from Aung San Suu Kyi expressing sympathy for the Rohingyas fleeing the fighting.

A: Well, that's one piece of a very, very large puzzle. You will hear from her in September when she comes to the UN.

I don't think you're going to see her speaking out loudly while she's still at home facing a very hostile public.

By France24.com

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

Scars In The Eyes

FROM SUPPLEMENT A

He had no one to talk about his breaking feelings to. All he had were a pair of small hands to beg for money and a torn shirt with ragged short pants. He was looking into my eyes and there, I saw those scars in his tiny and friendly cold eyes. "He may be wet, cold and afraid," I told myself. "Where is his mommy to hold him tight and make him feel alright? Where are his sisters to tell fairy tales before bed and where is his daddy to be a hero in his life?" Many questions came into my head.

I thought I was very unlucky to come from a middle class family but how about this little child? Who punished a little innocent child like this? I pitied on him. I took my steps towards him, bent down onto my knees and asked, "Are you alone?" He nodded. At the same

time, two drops of clear blue tears rolled down from his tiny eyes onto his sun burnt cheeks. He seemed starving and helpless. Maybe once he was so happy in his parents' warm arms. I took his tiny hand and headed into a warm cafe. There, I had a mug of warm mocha and the child drank a cup of sweet berry milk. Later he spoke out, "I miss my family."

I was surprised to hear his lovely words. It was obvious that he had a family. I wondered how he got to the present life. But before I asked he said, "A woman told me she would take me home one evening after school and now I never get home." He was telling his past stories. "I was sent to a bad family and they told me to work hard for them. They hit me with stick if I don't do the works. So, I ran away." His words proved that he

was sold to someone. So, after drinking, I went directly to the police station instead of my house. I told the officers to help this poor child.

It was a year ago and months later I heard the child was finally sent back home where his beloved family was waiting for him. I could not describe how I felt when I heard those news. Nowadays, there are many human and child traffickers around the globe. We all must hold hands in hands and stop these crimes. So that we can all make the world a better place. There are many people who are human trafficked by the nasty money hunters especially the innocent children. It is our responsibility to heal our world. Help the others and show mercy on the others. And one day we will get a good feedback for what we have done.

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
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