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SPECIAL**



# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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A scale model of the school-cum-cyclone shelter to be constructed in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Rakhine's preparedness for disaster

### 26 cyclone shelters in the pipeline for Rakhine State

THE Rakhine State Disaster Management Department is planning to build 26 more cyclone shelters in Rakhine State during the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), according to State Disaster Management Department Director U Kyaw Min.

"Tenders were invited for the project. Now, we are selecting the tenders.

The duration of the construction may be five to six

months. After constructing these shelters, there will be a total of 52 cyclone shelters in Rakhine State," he added.

From April 2016 to February 2018, a total of 155 natural disasters occurred in Rakhine State. Of these, 62 were storms, 48 fires, 13 floods, seven lightning strikes, three river bank erosions, one earthquake and 21 other types of natural disasters.

"We are implementing pre-

ventative works, as Rakhine State is where disasters mostly happen. There were 22 cyclone shelters in Rakhine State. Four more cyclone shelters are under construction now with the help of Bangladesh and are targeted to be completed in June and July.

An additional 26 cyclone shelters are also planned to be constructed in this FY, with an aim to cover two thirds of the

state," U Kyaw Min said.

Storms and floods mostly occur in Rakhine State as Rakhine has a long coastline. Apart from the mountainous areas, strong winds used to occur in the plain area. A tsunami can also take place if an earthquake occurs in the Bay of Bengal.

Therefore, the disaster management department is carrying out preventive works in the region, in the two main

sectors of infrastructure and public awareness.

These two sectors are implemented together. Cyclone shelters are being constructed. Public talks, trainings, workshops and disaster drills are also being held since 2016 for public awareness. Rakhine State is accelerating the preventive works in order to respond quickly to disasters, he said.

— Zaw Thu Htet ■



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## Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye visits youth training schools

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye visited Kyaikwine Youth Training School in Yangon yesterday, where he met with young trainees and urged them to systematically learn vocational training.

He also told the officials to observe and record qualified youth and help them acquire jobs by contacting relevant officials and entities and coordinating with them. The union minister then went on to young women's training schools and urged the young trainees to learn vocational training, retain good habits and

try to stand on their own two feet. He then offered snacks to the youth and encouraged the young women answering the matriculation examination.

Next, the union minister went to Shwegondine Childcare Center and distributed snacks to the orphans in the center compound, after which he inspected the maintenance works being conducted. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is setting up new policies to rehabilitate those facing social problems with social protection methods, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye greets a child at Kyaikwine Youth Training School in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Indian diplomats inspect land to build homes for displaced persons

THE government of India is building homes for displaced people in Maungtaung Township, Shwezar, Kyeinchaung Taung and Nant Tha Taung villages. Deputy Chief of Mission B. Shyam, First Secretary Dr. Muthukumarasamy B and officials of the Embassy of India in Myanmar visited Maungtaung Township and Nant Tha Taung

village yesterday afternoon and inspected the land where the donated homes will be built. Later, the Deputy Chief of Mission and party officials met with officials of the General Administration Department office in Taungpyo Letwe town and then proceeded to Maungtaung Town, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Kyatsin Bridge on Minbya-Myebon road 68 per cent complete

THE under-construction Kyatsin Bridge over the Kyatsin River between milepost 22/4 and 23/1 of the road from Minbya to Myebon is learnt to be 68 per cent complete.

Construction of the bridge started on 1 July, 2014 and is expected to be completed in March 2019. Once the bridge is completed, the flow of commodities will increase and the social status of the people in the region will improve. "The bridge can be said to be 68 per cent complete. So far, commuting between Minbya and Myebon is possible by crossing

the Kyatsin River in a Z-craft (the local name for a landing craft), which is costly, as well as time consuming. Once the bridge is completed, locals and visitors can cross the river in less time and using less money," said the bridge project manager Deputy Director U Thein Naing of No. 8 Special Bridge Group.

Kyatsin Bridge is 1,920 ft. long and has a road width of 24 ft. and a 3 ft-wide pedestrian path on both sides. The bridge foundation is of reinforced bore piles. The bridge body is of reinforced concrete with an upper structure

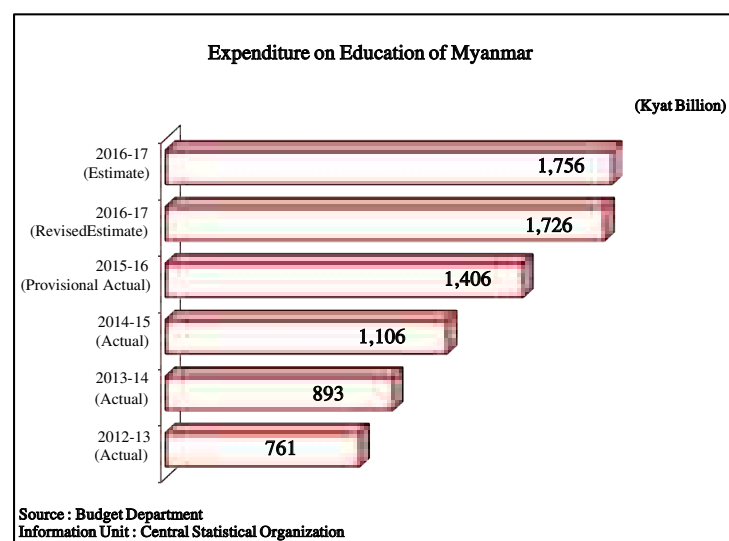
of a steel frame plate girder and a reinforced concrete floor.

The waterway under the Kyatsin Bridge is 215 ft. wide (65.53 metres) and the clearance between the water and bridge is 39 ft. 4 inches.

The bridge can accommodate vehicles weighing 75 tonnes and costs an estimated Ks11.145 billion. At present, commuting between Minbya and Myebon had to be done via the Z-craft and small crafts, which is especially difficult at night.—Han Lin Naing (Sittway sub-printing house) ■



The construction of Kyatsin Bridge expected to complete in 2019. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING (SITWAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**





## 8<sup>th</sup> Mekong regional workshop on assisting victims of trafficking held

The 8<sup>th</sup> Mekong regional workshop on the topic, “Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Building New Lives: Exploring Successful Social Reintegration for Victims of Trafficking and Good Initiatives to Promote It” was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7 to 9 March.

The workshop was held as per the project on “Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Countries”, jointly conducted by Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The workshop was attended by 36 government department representatives from the Mekong region countries of Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia and Japan, including Myanmar representatives, led by the Ministry of Social Wel-



Participants pose for the documentary photo at 8<sup>th</sup> Mekong regional workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

fare, Relief and Resettlement, Department of Rehabilitation, Director-General U Win Naing Tun. An additional 67 representatives that include representatives from China, which was attending the workshop for the

first time as an observer, and representatives of government departments from Thailand, UN agencies and civil societies also attended the workshop.

At the workshop, Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development

and Human Security Technical Advisor Suwaree Jaihar and JICA Thailand Chief Representative Hiroo Tanaka delivered the opening speeches.

Norms to be followed in reintegrating trafficked persons

back to society, legal assistance to trafficked persons, and policy and co-ordination works of attending countries were discussed at the workshop. Based on the outcome of the workshop, strengthening co-operation among the countries of the region against human trafficking will be implemented.

Starting from 2018, JICA will implement with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement a project on “Capacity Development and Promotion of Networking on Assisting Victims of Trafficking” in Myanmar.

The project will raise the capacity of those providing services to victims of trafficking, establish a network to increase the connection between service providers, set up an information-sharing centre and increase regional co-operation works, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Myanmar Scholars and Leaders Program MoU signed

A CEREMONY to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Education, Monitoring and Evaluation Team (Research) and the Burmese American Community Institute (BACI) on Myanmar Scholar and Leaders Program was held at the Yangon University yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said signing the MoU on Myanmar Scholars and Leaders Program MoU between the Burmese American Community Institute (BACI) indicates the ministry’s willingness to cooperate with international community. The ministry is implementing the National Education Strategic Plan aiming to raise the standard of education in Myanmar and to promote equal opportunities for education.

The ministry understands the importance of investing to develop the education of the students and is striving towards supporting the required resources that would help achieve the aim of the National Education Strategic Plan. Partner countries including America will be cooperated in order to establish Yangon University



Dr. Sai Kyaw Naing Oo (left) and BACI Executive Director Mr. Elaisa Vahnne exchange notes of MoU on Myanmar Scholars and Leaders Program. **PHOTO: MNA**

as Southeast Asia’s research center and the best university where learned persons are produced.

Partner organization from universities all over the world who want to work together are being invited. The cooperation with such organizations and universities will help toward setting up human resources and universities in Myanmar and will support sustainable development of democracy. The success of the program and beneficial results are being expected, said the Union Minister.

Next, United States of America Ambassador to Myan-

mar Mr. Scot Marciel delivered a speech. Afterwards, Ministry of Education, Monitoring and Evaluation Team (Research) acting Director General Dr. Sai Kyaw Naing Oo and BACI Executive Director Mr. Elaisa Vahnne signed the MoU on Myanmar Scholars and Leaders Program.

The MoU will allow coordination for outstanding youths from Myanmar to attend master and doctorate course on public policy, economics, law, engineering, water management, agriculture and other social science subjects in American universities. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Exhibition held at Community Centre

A TALK, as well as an exhibition of photographs, books and papers were held in Rakhine State, Sittway District, Information and Public Relations Department Community Centre, in the afternoon of 9 March.

Sittway District Information and Public Relations Department head Daw San San Aung said, “A photography exhibition titled ‘Tranquil and Peaceful Myanmar’, depicting images of stability and peace in Myanmar; beauty and development; Myanmar’s culture; the natural scenery of mountains, rivers and lands; the culture of ethnic nationals; traditional festivals; and award-winning photographs of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Independence Day photography competition was available for viewing and learn-

ing about photography. A book show and a talk on the services provided in the library, the value of books and the library were held for youth and students to gain knowledge and acquire the habit of reading.”

Furthermore, Rakhine State Libraries Foundation Chairman and member of Sittway District Book club, author, comedian, Baji Kyaw (Sittway) conducted a talk for the youths on the benefits of reading.

Some 53 photographs and more than 300 books displayed were viewed by departmental personnel, local photography enthusiasts, news media personnel, students, trainees from Wisdom City Computer Training and invited guests. The visitors also toured the library, it is learnt. — Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■



Visitors look at the displayed photos at photo exhibition at Community Centre in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

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# Walking Thingyan and Countryside Thingyan Night Market to ramp up Mandalay tourism

THE Mandalay City Development Committee is going to try to ramp up travel and tourism in Mandalay by celebrating this year's water festival with Mandalay Walking Thingyan and Countryside Thingyan Night Market.

At the first meeting of the Mandalay Regional government and its sub committees that was held yesterday evening, members of MCDC discussed how to organize the festival.

"We'd like to elevate tourism in Mandalay. We'd like all tourists to come here during Thingyan festival. We'd like to arrange trips for them to visit our three ancient cities Bagan, Innwa and Amarapura before they participate in the festival," Dr Zaw Myint Maung, chief minister for Mandalay Region said.

"We will have to promote the festival and excursion to the ancient cities through local tour companies by showing photos about the events and cities. We must arrange special promotion," he said.

Some experts suggested that it would be better if we reduce air ticket prices and discount hotel room rates, he added. To attract tourists and visitors, the MCDC has arranged the Countryside Thingyan Night Market to take place between 20<sup>th</sup> street and 25<sup>th</sup> street, at the eastern



Dance troupes perform during Traditional Mandalay Maha Thingyan festival 2017 in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

palace moat. The MCDC initially planned to allow building pandals from 12<sup>nd</sup> street to 20<sup>th</sup> street and opening stalls both day and night on 66<sup>th</sup> street for up to 450 feet at the 26<sup>th</sup> street at the eastern moat.

Just like last year, the walk way will be located at the southern moat along 26<sup>th</sup> street between 66<sup>th</sup> street and 78<sup>th</sup> street. The Union of Myanmar Travel Association will be given an area for the festival between 66<sup>th</sup> street and 69<sup>th</sup> street on the 26<sup>th</sup> street.

"Last year, we added the Walking Thingyan program in

the Mandalay Thingyan festival. A lot of foreigners participated in it. What they recommended was a place to experience Myanmar tradition and culture at night. Some people also suggested adding one more entertainment program this year. That's why we decided to arrange the Countryside Thingyan Night Market this year," said U Kyaw San Myint, a member of MCDC.

This year's Mandalay Thingyan will include food stalls selling traditional Myanmar food and Mandalay's popular local food as well as souvenir shops. For entertainment, there will be

games, movies on a projector screen, elephant dances, solo performances with cane balls, and more.

The MCDC has mapped out an area for throwing water from pandals between 66<sup>th</sup> street and 80<sup>th</sup> street at the northern moat, and between 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> street at the western moat. The pandals between 12<sup>nd</sup> street and 19<sup>th</sup> street are for families. The pandal at the Manaw Yaman athletic field is for youths.

It also allowed building pandals in downtown area and around Kandawgyi.—Myanmar Digital News ■

## Horse-drawn carriages will disappear in the future in Mandalay

FARES for the last remaining horse-drawn carriage station that is situated between 41<sup>st</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> streets is the cheapest for getting around Mandalay by horse-drawn carriage. However in the coming years horse-drawn carriages will slowly disappear according to the driver from the last remaining horse-drawn carriage station.

As the horse-drawn carriage station is situated between 41<sup>st</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> streets, most of the people from Moekaung Market, Seinpan Ward and Ayartun Ward used these carts. In addition, travellers from Sagaing, Shewbo, Monywa, ChaungU, YeU and

Tentse towns mostly used the carts to go to western wards in Mandalay, until now.

The fare is about Ks200 for one person from the horse-drawn carriage station to the Moekaung Market and a total of eight people can be carried on the cart. The carts usually run twice a day in the morning and in the evening. In the afternoon, the cart drivers and their horses take a rest. A horse for the horse-drawn carriage costs from between seven hundred thousand, Ks700,000 to 2.5 million and the cost of a cart is between two hundred thousand, Ks 200,000 and five hundred thousand, Ks500,000. Further-

more, if the carts have to be repaired they will be sent to Inwa and horse shoes are ordered from other regions.

Mandalay is a city where its residents mostly travel around by bicycles, motorbikes, trishaws and horse-drawn carriages.

Nowadays, motorcycle taxis, tricycles and other vehicles have replaced horse-drawn carriages; hence the demise of using horse-drawn carriages around Mandalay for transportation. However, the Inwa region that the foreigners mostly visit still has hundreds of horse-drawn carriages.—Myanmar Digital News ■

## Grass fire breaks out near Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge in Hpa-an

A fire broke out near Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, on Friday afternoon, according to a police report.

The blaze occurred at some 3 p.m. on 9 March in the area, which is some 500 yards from the west of the bridge. However, no persons and animals were reportedly injured during the incident.

According to an elderly resident, the dry weather condition and low humidity could have been the major causes of the grass fire. With the assistance of villagers and the police, firefighters put out the wildfire with the use of 1,600 gallons of water and two fire engines.—Min Thu/Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an) ■



## Businesspersons urge gov't to review gold import duty

May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) will request the government to revise the 15 per cent customs duty on imported gold very soon.

Since 22 January, the Ministry of Commerce has been allowing traders to import and

export gold, gold jewellery and accessories made of gold from all points of entry. Although the ministry has liberalised the gold trade, the current 15 per cent tax on gold imports is proving to be a major headache for traders.

U Ohn Myaing, secretary of the MGEA, said, "We are dissatisfied with the existing

import duty. It is unacceptable to carry out gold imports with a 15 per cent tax rate. Members of the MGEA are planning to submit a proposal to the government soon. Other difficulties associated with gold trading are expected to arise once we start trading. We will negotiate with the authorities to solve the problems."

The current tax rate is the main barrier for importers, although a majority of local gold traders are willing to import gold from overseas.

U Ohn Myaing added that an arrangement would be made by the trade authorities to offer one-stop services to gold traders, as gold prices can change within a few hours.

U Myo Myint, chair of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association, said, "Almost all members of the association take an interest in gold imports. However, it is not acceptable to us to carry out gold imports at a 15 per cent tax rate. In international countries, there is no customs duty on gold imports. We discussed this issue with officials from the ministry at an informal meeting. The trade authorities said a decision on import duty will be taken only after the proposal has been submitted to the union government."

Most gold traders are planning to import gold from neighbouring Thailand and China, and export finished gold jewellery to overseas countries.

Now, gold, gold jewellery and accessories made from gold can be traded legally through

air and sea routes, as well as cross-borders with the use of L/C or TT system. Exporters and importers need to apply for export/import registration, export volume, standard, price and valuation, and export/import licences. Entrepreneurs also need to seek a recommendation from the Myanmar Gems Enterprise and Department of Mines, and permission from the Yangon City Development Committee for the registration process.

Export/import volume, standard, prices and value of gold will be fixed by the steering committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Education, the Department of Research and Innovation and the Myanmar Gold Center Market Development Committee.

According to the commerce ministry's notification, the move is expected to eliminate illegal gold trading, stabilize the market and raise the country's revenue. It is also aimed at penetrating the world market with domestically produced gold. ■



A view shows jeweleries displayed in glass cabinets at the shop of jeweleries. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Myanmar-Italy trade reaches \$160 million in current FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and Italy, a member of the European Union (EU), topped US\$160 million in the current fiscal year (FY), according to the official monthly figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between April and December this FY, bilateral exports of the two countries amounted to

\$83.774 million, while imports were worth \$77.012 million.

In the 2016-2017 FY, bilateral trade was worth \$136.774 million, compared with \$73.132 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$113.556 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$124.699 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$27.819 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$23.522 million in the 2011-2012

FY. Since 2011, the EU has progressively re-engaged with Myanmar, including in its trade and investment relations.

According to the commerce ministry, Myanmar's trade with the EU in the first nine months of this FY totalled \$1.741 billion, including \$1.151 billion in exports and \$589 million in imports.

European countries usually import garments, coffee, tea leaves, agricultural products and aquaculture products from Myanmar, and export machinery, transport equipment, chemicals, food and beverages and cosmetics, among other things.

Since April, Germany was ranked first among the EU

countries, followed by Britain with more than \$250 million and France with \$199 million. Investments from EU member states mostly went to petroleum and natural gas enterprises, hotels and tourism firms, manufacturing and transport sectors, and livestock businesses. — Khine Khant ■

## Foreign traders offer to import Myanmar's toddy palm furniture

FOREIGN companies have offered to import domestically produced furniture made of toddy palm, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on Saturday.

U San Win, production manager of Pakokku Industrial Zone in Magway Region, said that South Korea and neighbouring India have offered to purchase toddy palm furniture from My-

anmar. The factory frequently hosts foreign businesspersons wishing to observe the production of toddy palm furniture.

The demand for toddy palm products is high in the domestic market, while international companies have also shown their interest in purchasing furniture and traditional kitchen utensils.

Efforts are being made to

extend the imports of toddy palm furniture to overseas buyers through the sea route, U San Win said. Toddy palm trees grow abundantly in central Myanmar. The factory uses all the parts of the toddy palm to make furniture, including living room and bedroom furniture, vases, parquets, sculptures and other decorative materials. —GNLM ■

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# Acquiring a bright future through education

News – Ye Gaung and  
Zaw Gyi  
Photo – Phoe Zaw

THE 2018 matriculation examination began at 9 a.m. on 7 March all over the country, and among the 844,358 students who appeared for the examination, some were visually impaired.

Thirteen visually impaired students registered to sit for the Yangon Region matriculation examination. Of these, six sat at Kyimyindine Basic Education High School No. (2) examination centre, and seven were at Insein Basic Education High School No. (8) examination centre.

Headmistress Daw Zina Dun of Yangon School for the Blind (Kha We Chan), Mayangon Township, said, “This year, our school has seven students sitting for the matriculation examination. Students in our school attend school at Mayangon Basic Education Middle School No. (3) up to 9th grade. Starting from high school, they attend school at Insein Basic Education High School No. (2). Before sitting for the matriculation examination, they are tested at Insein Basic Education High School No. (2). For this test, they were assisted by 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, who are studying in one grade lower than they are. The 10<sup>th</sup> graders read the questions to them and then write down the answers provided orally by them.”

Daw Zina Dun added that in the past, students from Yangon School for the Blind (Kha We Chan), Mayangon Township, passed the matriculation, coming second overall one year, and third overall another year in the art combination subject among all the matriculation students of the Yangon region.

Maung Bya Yay Rami, a visually impaired student, who sat at Insein Basic Education High School No. (8) examination centre, said, “I’m satisfied after sitting for three subjects in the first three days. I’ve been trying hard since the start of the (education) year. I take time to prepare and the school also helped me. Teachers taught us well. I’m very satisfied with the Myanmar subject test, but I was a bit weak in mathematics. I was not sure of some symbols



Visually impaired students together with their helpers after the maths exam in Insein Basic Education High School No. (8) examination centre on 9 March.

in the mathematics test and I had to check with a teacher overseeing the test through my helper who helped me sit for the test. Once I pass the matriculation examination and obtain a degree, I’ll teach in our school for the blind. I want people to help us, so that despite my impaired vision, I can prove my capability.”

Another visually impaired student Ma Khun Nan, sitting at Insein Basic Education High School No. (3) examination centre, also expressed a similar sentiment, of hoping to acquire a degree upon matriculation and then teaching in the school for the blind.

Ma Khun Nan said, “Throughout the year, I listened attentively to what the teachers had taught and so far, I’m doing fine in the examination. Being blind, we are a bit weak in English and mathematics. As we can’t see, someone has to write on behalf of us. As I’m an ethnic national, the person who helped me write down the answer, sometimes, couldn’t understand what I was saying. This is a small difficulty I faced, but I’m confident I’ll pass. Of course, there are difficulties in everything, but everything can be overcome by facing difficulties without fear.”

Maung Htin Lin Aung from Pauk Town, Pakokku District, Magway Region, who was attending Kyimyindine School for the Blind since 2008 and sitting for the matriculation examination at Kyimyindine Basic

Education High School No. (2) examination centre, revealed his ultimate wish. “I want to educate the blind by becoming a teacher. I also want to become an audio engineer.”

In Kyimyindine School for the Blind, there are many teachers similar to Maung Htin Lin Aung, who have studied in the school and then gone on to become teachers.

Maung Htin Lin Aung said, “I’m now 22 years old. I’m sitting for the matriculation examination this year. We sit for the exam with the help of 10<sup>th</sup> graders who are studying in one grade below us. The difficulty is the symbols in mathematics that I’m worried about. In English, there can be mistakes in the letters T and D and L, M and N. But the 10<sup>th</sup> grader who helped me write was quite good. Today, was mathematics. Of the three days so far, I’m satisfied with the Myanmar subject. English was a bit difficult but I was able to do well. Mathematics questions were easy. Although I didn’t complete them all, I finished most of the questions.”

Deputy Headmaster of Kyimyindine School for the Blind U Aung Soe Win said that 10<sup>th</sup> graders who volunteer to help the visually impaired students sit for the matriculation examinations are systematically trained.

U Aung Soe Win said, “The Basic Education Department selects the volunteers. The volunteers who sat for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade examinations will attend

the matriculation class the next year. They were trained so that there are no errors in symbols and to listen carefully to English spellings.”

Volunteer Maung Nyan Aung Lin, who wrote the 10<sup>th</sup> grade examination at Insein Basic Education High School No. (2), said, “The difficulties stem from the symbols that we are not yet taught (in 10<sup>th</sup> grade). But the teachers taught us in advance and I was able to help out well.

If they don’t understand the question that we read to them, we can ask the teachers to read out the question to them again. A maths teacher was among the teachers overseeing the examination. I’m proud to be able to help. It is also a good experience for my own matric-

ulation examination.”

Ma Wai Zar Khaing of Kyimyindine School for the Blind, who was sitting at Kyimyindine Basic Education High School No. (2) examination centre, said, “I’m from Natmauk. I’ve been here (Kyimyindine) for only three years. Back home, my vision was impaired and I didn’t know I could attend school (such as Kyimyindine). Because of this school, I attended school again and only when I was here, I learnt that there are students who are totally blind also attending school. Before that I didn’t know there was any education for the blind.”

In the 2017 academic year, eight students from Kyimyindine School for the Blind sat for the matriculation examination and six passed, of which, one passed with one distinction and another passed with two distinctions. Similarly, seven students from Mayangon School for the Blind (Kha We Chan) sat for the 2017 matriculation examination. Of the three that passed, one passed with a distinction.

Talking about the teachers he admires, Maung Htin Lin Aung said, “The persons I admire the most here are two teachers Saya Sein Ba Htway and Saya Zaw Htway. They were the first who passed the matriculation examination from our Kyimyindine School for the Blind.” He then went back to Kyimyindine School for the Blind to prepare for the following day’s subject.

Despite their impaired visions, these youngsters are acquiring a bright future through education. ■



Maung Htin Lin Aung and Ma Wai Zar Khaing at Kyimyindine School for the Blind after the maths exam.



# EU, Japan seek clarity from crunch US trade talks

BRUSSELS — The EU and Japan held crunch talks with their US counterparts in Brussels on Saturday hoping to get “clarity” on President Donald Trump’s controversial new steel and aluminium tariffs.

Trump’s announcement of duties of 25 per cent on imported steel and 10 per cent on aluminium has stung the European Union and triggered warnings of an all-out international trade war.

Brussels has prepared a list of US products to hit with countermeasures if its exports are affected by the tariffs, but says it hopes to join Canada and Mexico in being exempted. Japan has decried the “grave impact” the Trump measures could have on the world economy.

The EU’s top trade official Cecilia Malmstroem and Japanese Economy Minister Hiroshige Seko began preliminary talks in Brussels ahead of the sitdown with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

The talks, initially set to address China’s over-supply of steel, have long been in the diary but after Trump’s dramatic announcement they are now a de facto crisis meeting.

“Dialogue is always the prime option of the European Union,” Malmstroem told reporters on Friday, saying Brussels was



Japan’s Economy Minister Hiroshige Seko was also in Brussels for the talks. PHOTO: AFP

“counting on being excluded” from the new duties.

She predicted a “long day” of talks on Saturday, while European Commission Vice President Jyrki Katainen sought to play down expectations, saying it was “a meeting, not THE meeting”.

Katainen said Brussels wanted “clarity” on how the tariffs will be implemented and was ready to enforce retaliatory measures to protect European interests if needed.

“We are prepared and will be prepared if need be to use rebalancing measures,” Katainen said. - US ‘affront’ -

Along with a huge range of steel products, the EU’s hit list of flagship American products lined up for counter measures includes peanut butter, bourbon whiskey and denim jeans.

Germany — singled out for particular criticism by Trump — accused Washington of protectionism, calling the tariffs an

“affront to close partners”.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged dialogue and warned that “no one can win in such a race to the bottom”.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday warned his US counterpart Trump against forging ahead with the planned tariffs, saying they risked provoking a mutually destructive “trade war”.

Trump said the tariffs, which will come into effect after 15 days,

will not initially apply to Canada and Mexico. He also added Australia to the list of likely carve-outs.

Complicating matters, Trump indicated on Friday that Australia’s carveout was linked to an unspecified “security agreement” outside of trade policy.

This shed some light on the tycoon’s specific barbs against Germany — the biggest economy in the European Union — that have finger-pointed Berlin for contributing much less than the US towards the funding of NATO.

The EU exports around five billion euros’ (\$4 billion) worth of steel and a billion euros’ worth of aluminium to the US each year; and the European Commission, the bloc’s executive arm, estimates Trump’s tariffs could cost some 2.8 billion euros.

Brussels is also looking at “safeguard” measures to protect its industry — restricting the bloc’s imports of steel and aluminium to stop foreign supplies flooding the European market, which is allowed under World Trade Organization rules.

The EU and Japan last year formally agreed the broad outlines of a landmark trade deal that was announced as a direct challenge to the protectionism championed by Trump.—AFP ■

## HK pan-democracy camp hopeful of victory in Sunday by-election

HONG KONG — Hong Kong’s pro-democracy camp on Saturday voiced hope of winning a weekend by-election being held to fill four of six seats vacated by opposition lawmakers who were disqualified by controversial court decisions.

Some 2.1 million eligible voters in three geographical constituencies and a trade-based functional constituency will on Sunday choose from 15 candidates standing in the Legislative Council by-election.

“As long as the people come

to vote, we will not lose. As long as there is an election, there is a democratic movement,” said veteran democracy advocate Martin Lee. In the Hong Kong Island geographical constituency, Au Nok-hin, a district councillor and university lecturer, is run-

ning against Judy Chan, who has vast support from the pro-establishment camp and heavyweight politicians, as well as two independent candidates — Edward Yim and Ng Dick-hay.

“Our political rights to be nominated for election and to be elected are under threat. All that is left is the right to vote,” Au said on the campaign. “Use that right tomorrow and show our strongest will.”

Edward Yiu, one of the six lawmakers expelled from the legislature, is running for the seat in the Kowloon West geographical constituency against pro-establishment favorite Vincent Cheng and independent Jonathan Choi.

Running in a two-horse race in the architectural sector are Paul Zimmerman and Tony Tse. Six candidates, namely Wong Sing-chi, Christine Fong, Chan Yuk-ngor, Tang Ka-piu, Joyce Chiu and Gary Fan, are fighting for the New Territories East constituency seat. Voting results

could come as soon as early Monday. The six disqualified candidates backing independence or greater self-determination were elected to the Legislative Council in September 2016.

Two of them — Sixtus Leung and Yau Wai-ching from pro-independence group Youngspiration — were in November that year striped of their seats for altering their oaths. The remaining four were in July last year expelled in a separate court ruling over their oath-taking. Two of those four are appealing the decision, with a by-election of their seats to be held at a later date.

The rulings came after the National People’s Congress Standing Committee made an interpretation of the Basic Law, the mini-constitution in effect since the former British colony was returned to Chinese rule in 1997, which effectively bars anti-China advocates from holding public office in the territory.—Kyodo News ■



Hong Kong pro-democracy candidates (from L) Paul Zimmerman, Au Nok-hin, Gary Fan and Edward Yiu are pictured campaigning on 10 March, 2018, ahead of the following day’s legislative assembly by-election triggered by the government’s disqualification of four lawmakers. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



## Earthquake awareness crucial for natural disaster mitigation

**M**YANMAR is exposed to multiple natural hazards including cyclones, earthquakes, floods and fire, all of which have caused catastrophic disasters. Owing to the aftermaths of global warming, the effect of climate change can be seen progressively in the world. Myanmar has faced natural disasters in the past which resulted in many deaths and damage. Due to the threats of these natural disasters, we should take into consideration the geographical location of our country in preparing for the future.

We should not neglect the danger of earthquakes and tsunamis, which can claim many lives. Geographically, Myanmar is prone to earthquakes as it is located on major fault lines. The country witnessed devastating earthquakes in the recent past, which led to loss of life, assets, livelihoods and heritage buildings.

Moreover, plans should be under way to lay down systematic measures and procedures at the National, State/Region, District, Township, Wards and Village Tract levels for Disaster Management.

People who live in the coastal areas need to be aware of the danger of tsunamis that could occur along with an earthquake. But it is still difficult to predict when an earthquake will occur and how much damage it could cause.

Whenever unpredictable disasters occur, there will be damage, loss of life and casualties, as a rule. Though physical damage can be seen easily, other damages such as health, education and cultural heritages also need to be calculated.

To be on the safe side, efforts should be made to give early warnings to the public so that they can be able to take necessary precautions for the impending disaster.

As for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, concerted efforts are being made to mitigate the disaster risks and take systematic preparedness measures for the disasters which can occur from time to time in the country. It is crucial to undertake quick and effective activities for relief and support during the disaster.

Moreover, plans should be under way to lay down systematic measures and procedures at the National, State/Region, District, Township, Wards and Village Tract levels for Disaster Management.

Preparedness and mitigation are an integral part of the development plans which should include prior arrangements for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities when the next natural disaster occurs. ■

## “One Belt-One Road Initiative and MYANMAR” Connectivity: Synergy Issue and Potentialities

THAN ZAW OO

**I**N September 2013 at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, Chinese president Xi Jinping announced that China would fund a New Silk Road Economic Belt across Eurasia to connect China with Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia. Chinese officials subsequently revealed ambitious plans to invest hundreds of billions of dollars in new infrastructure investments and upgrades including highways, pipelines, railroads, and power grids, along with related port and logistics upgrades in maritime partner countries. Together, the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and the New Silk Road Economic Belt, both of which were proposed in 2013. One Belt, One Road (OBOR) or the “Belt and Road.” Media estimates investment in OBOR at between \$800 billion and \$1 trillion, covering 890 projects in over 60 partner countries.

The ‘Belt and Road Initiative’ (BRI) or ‘One Belt, One Road’ (OBOR) is a project launched by China to develop

countries and improve global connectivity. The initiative is focused on creating networks that will allow for a more efficient and productive free flow of trade as well as further integration of international markets both physically and digitally.

Silk Road economic belt is the land-based Silk Road Economic Belt begins in Xi'an, China, and linking up with the rest of Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Russia. The Silk Road Economic Belt focuses on connecting China to Europe through Central Asia and Russia, the Persian Gulf through Central Asia and South East Asia, South Asia and the Indian Ocean.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road is the Maritime Silk Road will complement the Silk Road Economic Belt, focusing on utilizing sea routes and Chinese coastal ports to link China with Europe via the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean, and the South Pacific Ocean through the South China Sea. Inside China: The “Silk Road Economic Belt” includes 12 provinces and one municipal-

ity, namely Xinjiang, Shaanxi, Gansu, Ningxia, Qinghai, Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Guangxi, Yunnan, Tibet and Chongqing. The “21st Century Maritime Silk Road” includes four provinces and one municipality, namely Fujian, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Hainan and Shanghai. Outside of China, over 50 countries are along the “belt” and the “road.” They include: Asia: Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Maldives, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, Israel and Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan. Africa: Kenya, Sudan, Egypt and Djibouti. Europe: Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Romania, Moldova, Germany, the Netherlands. BIR (One belt One road Initiative) Key Port Cities are

I. Kuantan (Malaysia)

II. Kyaukpyu (Myanmar)  
III. Jakarta and Batam Island (Indonesia)  
IV. Colombo and Hambantota (Sri Lanka)  
V. Gwadar (Pakistan)  
VI. Djibouti (near red sea)  
VII. Mombasa (Kenya)  
VIII. Piraeus (Greece)

BRI is comprised of the ‘21st Century Maritime Silk Road’ and the ‘Silk Road Economic Belt’ together they will connect more than 65 countries making up over 62% of the world’s population, around 35% of the world’s trade and over 31% of the world’s GDP. It will take the form of a series of highways, railways and ports as well as facilities for energy, telecommunications, healthcare and education.

The initiative includes 6 international ‘corridors’. These include: (1) ‘The new Eurasia land Bridge’, (2) ‘The China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor’, (3) ‘China-Central Asia-West Asia economic corridor’, (4) ‘China-Indochina Peninsular Economic Corridor’, (5) ‘China-Pakistan Economic Corridor’, (6) ‘Bangladesh-Chi-

na-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor’ (BCIM), this corridor is a hybrid (BCIM) or amphibious route.

Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor is the economic link connecting the Ganges River of India, the Ayeyarwady River of Myanmar, and the Mekong River of Indo-China. It is the lead bridge connecting the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean. It is a market focus point for China, South and South East Asia. Therefore, building of the BCIM Economic Corridor conforms to the common interest requirements of the sub regional countries’ economic and social development.

Economic Corridor (BCIM) is one of the 6 International corridors of Belt and Road Initiative. The Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar corridor is a multi-modal corridor made up of both land routes mainly via the Kolkata and Kunming (K2K) highway passing through Bangladesh and Myanmar, spans 2,800km, and is almost ready to operate. The sea routes start from Mandalay (In land water way) and end in Kolkata, India. The land routes begin from Kunming, China’s Yunnan regional capital, passing through Myanmar cities such as Mandalay and then Bangladesh through to Kolkata.

The maritime side of routes, connecting Myanmar to India, is a transport loop which aims to provide maritime access of goods from Kolkata, via Myanmar’s port of Sittwe, to Paletwa by inland water transport along the Myanmar River, Kaladan, and back via highway to Mizoram in northeast India.

This sea route in which Myanmar plays an essential part is in fact highly competitive: compared with the land route, access via sea from Sittwe to Kolkata reduces the distance covered by land by 1,328km to a 539km.

This corridor will cover 9% of the planet’s land mass and 440 million people. The main part of the corridor is a 2,800-



km route running as follows; Kolkata-Dhaka-Mandalay-Kunming. It will take the form of a series of railways, motorways, airways, waterways and telecom networks. Myanmar has a key strategic role in terms of energy supply, in maritime access to the Bay of Bengal, as a land connector to the Road, and in development plans for the underdeveloped Yunnan province.

Myanmar Here there is a large twin gas and oil pipeline project from the port of Kyaukpyu to Guangxi and Yunnan. The gas pipeline is already in use and the oil pipeline opened in April 2017. China is highly invested in Kyaukpyu and has developed the ‘Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone’ including a deep-sea port at Kyaukpyu which is under development led by Chinese CITI Group Corporation. China led power and energy projects across Myanmar are already in action as is demonstrated by the £2.4 billion refinery in the South East which was granted approval in 2016.

Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port could be taken as to circumvent the Malacca Straits, while the Kyaukpyu Economic Zone could be a key to the Myanmar, Bangladesh and North East India Economic Corridor.

It is good that through the Kaladan River one could easily reach North East India via Mizoram. As at now, the Chinese Province of Yunnan is connected to the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean and also North

East India using Kyaukpyu as a transport centre.

Myanmar occupies a rather unique position in the Belt and Road Initiative. Most notably, Myanmar is seen as a link that connects both the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road and the Silk Road Economic Belt, making it an integral component of both. From a strategic perspective, Myanmar is one of the two direct access points to the Indian Ocean for China. Theoretically, Myanmar should be a priority country in China’s Belt and Road Initiative, given its unique location.

Therefore Myanmar becomes a key BRI terrestrial-maritime corridor connector; has allowed China to diversify its energy import over land and has found itself in a complex, simultaneous political transition and peace process, where China has a key but shifting role. Since 1988, China becomes a major investor and in the wake of Myanmar’s isolation from rest of the world, China and Myanmar came closer to each other.

In conclusion, the concrete implementation of BRI projects has raised the stakes for China in Myanmar, translating into multi-level engagement, including infrastructure and industrial cooperation, support for the government’s peace process. Regarding the core issue of achieving sustainable agreements between the government and the multiple ethnic armed groups (EAGs), China is the key external actor and BRI engagements are currently con-

tributing to China’s active role. For Myanmar, the BRI holds the promise of much needed connectivity and industrial development.

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## Putin says will not change constitution to cling to power

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is expected to be reelected for a fourth term in an upcoming ballot, said on Saturday he had no plans to change the constitution to stay in the Kremlin beyond 2024.

Asked by the US television network NBC whether he would follow in the footsteps of China's Xi Jinping, who is eyeing a limitless tenure, Putin insisted he had no such intentions.

"I never changed the constitution, I did not do it to suit myself and I have no such plans to do so today," he said in an interview whose transcript was released by the Kremlin on Saturday.

Critics accuse Putin, who was first elected president in 2000 and is running for a fourth term in 18 March polls, of harbouring ambitions to stay in power indefinitely.

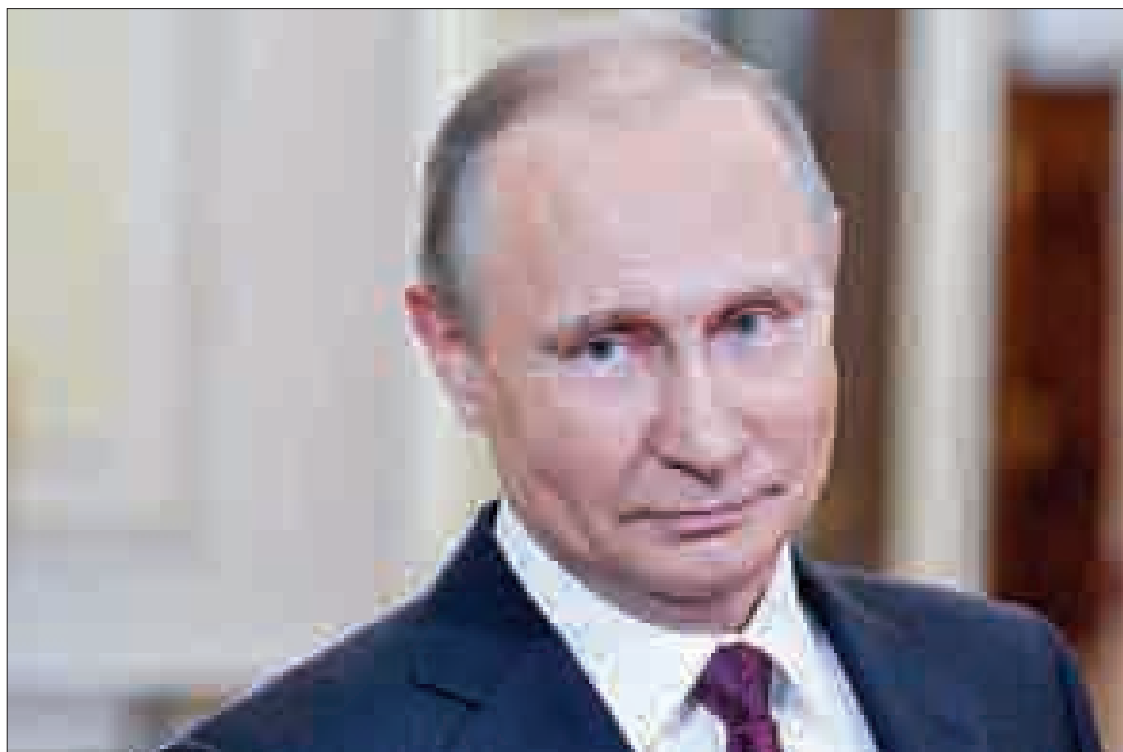
Putin has always prided himself on respecting the constitution, which bars him from serving more than two presidential terms in a row.

In 2008, Putin became prime minister but maintained his grip on power, with his protege Dmitry Medvedev serving as president until 2012 when Putin returned to the Kremlin in the face of huge opposition protests.

He rejected suggestions that he could not quit power because it would put him in danger, saying he heard "a lot of ravings on this subject".

"Why do you think after me power in Russia will be necessarily taken over by people who are ready to destroy everything that I have done over the past years?" Putin said.

He said he had been thinking about his potential successor since 2000.



Russian President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: AFP

"It never hurts to think but at the end of the day it will be the Russian people who will decide that," he added.

Putin will run against a motley crew of seven challengers, with his top critic Alexei Navalny barred from contesting the poll because of a criminal conviction his supporters call punishment for challenging the strongman.

Putin declined to say whether he could pardon Navalny.

"Any man can be pardoned if he deserves this," said Putin.

The Russian president, who never called Navalny by his name in public, referred to the 41-year-old opposition politician as "certain political forces".

"What do I like in principle? It's that they expose problems

and this is good, indeed it's right," Putin said.

"But it's not enough for the country's positive development. Absolutely not enough. Because concentrating one's attention on problems, it's not only insufficient, it's even dangerous because it could lead to certain destruction and we need creation."—AFP ■

## An affront to allies: US partners blast Trump trade tariffs

BERLIN — Key US trading partners on Friday condemned President Donald Trump's decision to slap punitive tariffs on foreign steel and aluminium as "protectionism" and an affront to allies, as fears grew of a global trade war.

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Europe's biggest economy and NATO ally, urged dialogue and warned that "no one can win in such a race to the bottom".

Berlin backs the European Union in "seeking dialogue with the United States, but also with countries that could be affected, like China," she said.

Earlier, German Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries said: "This protectionism is an affront to close partners like the European Union and Germany and limits free trade."

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed his "deep concerns" in a telephone call with Trump, saying the tariffs "risk triggering a trade war, in which all affected countries



US President Donald Trump signs off on tariffs of 25 per cent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum. PHOTO: AFP

would be losers", his office said.

The EU has threatened retaliatory tariffs on items from steel to peanut butter, bourbon and denim — most of which are produced in states that Trump needs to win to be re-elected.

"We are prepared and will be prepared if need be to use rebalancing measures," European Commission Vice President Jyrki Katainen told reporters

in Brussels.

The top EU trade official Cecilia Malmstroem said the entire bloc, as a "close ally" of the US, "should be excluded" from the tariffs, and vowed to "seek more clarity" from Washington.

Condemnation also rained in from elsewhere, with the world's second-biggest economy China deriding the tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel

and 10 per cent on aluminium as "a serious attack on normal international trade order".

Close US ally Japan warned the levies "could have a grave impact on the economic relationship" between the world's top and third-largest economies.

### - 'Real friends' -

In a sharp reversal from decades of a US-led drive towards more open trade, Trump declared on Thursday that America had been "ravaged by aggressive foreign trade practices".

"It's really an assault on our country," he blasted, announcing the tariffs on the metals used in everything from cars to construction, roads to railways.

Trump said the tariffs — which will come into effect after 15 days — will not initially apply to Canada and Mexico, and that close partners on security and trade could negotiate exemptions.

Canada was the largest US source of steel last year,

followed by Brazil, South Korea, Russia, Mexico, Japan and Germany.

The US neighbour to the north was also by far the largest supplier of alumina and aluminium, followed by China, Russia and the United Arab Emirates.

Trump had indicated he would be flexible towards "real friends," and during the signing confirmed Canada and Mexico would be exempted permanently if the ongoing renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement is successful.

But both Mexico and Canada rejected Trump's linkage of the levies to ongoing NAFTA talks.

Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland termed the two things "separate issues" while Mexico's economy ministry said "the negotiation of the NAFTA should not be subject to conditions outside the process".

The US leader had also added Australia to a list of likely carve-outs, describing it as a "great country".—AFP ■

# Turkey releases two more journalists in newspaper trial

SILIVRI (Turkey) — Two Turkish journalists walked free from prison on Friday after over a year behind bars in the trial on terror-related charges of staff from the opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper, seen as a test of press freedom under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Cumhuriyet's editor-in-chief Murat Sabuncu and investigative reporter Ahmet Sik were ordered to be freed by the judge after a marathon day-long hearing and later walked free from jail.

However, they remain under charge and on trial. One more detained suspect, the paper's chairman Akin Atalay, was ordered to stay in jail.

The three were the last remaining suspects in the case to be held behind bars ahead of a final verdict, leaving Atalay the sole suspect still behind bars.

A total of 17 staff from Cum-

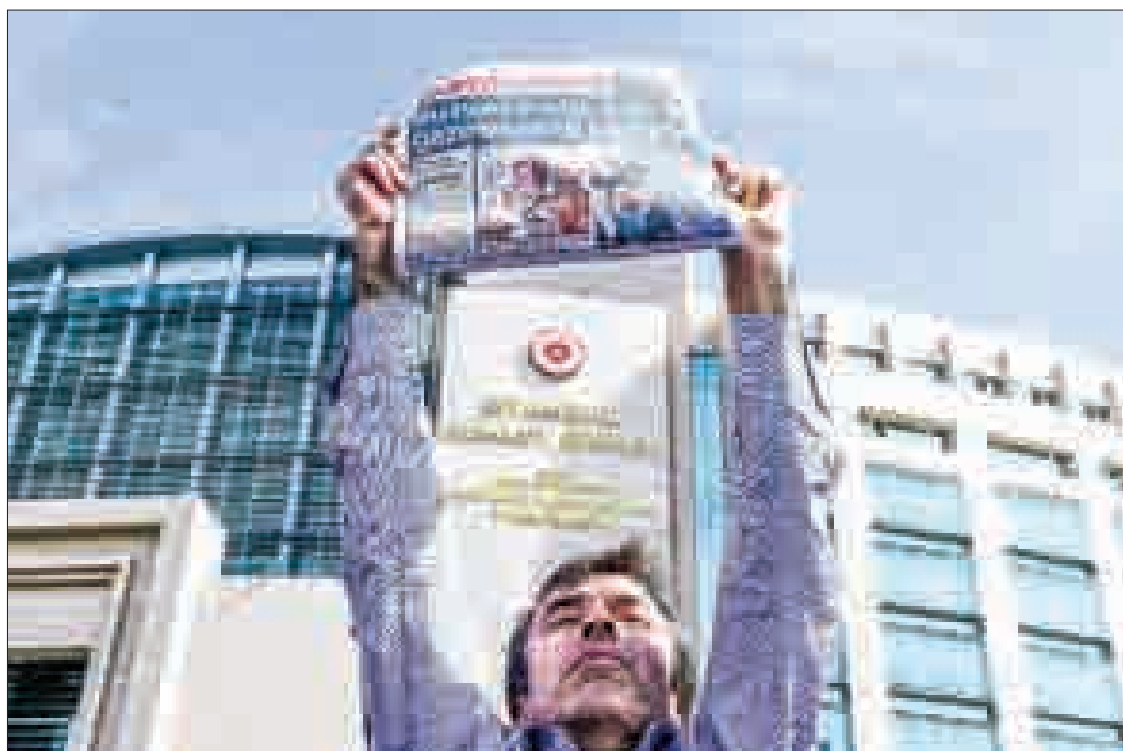
huriyet (Republic) face terror charges in the trial, which opened on 24 July. Others have been gradually freed over the last year. It is still not clear when the final verdict will be announced.

The next hearing in the trial was set for 16 March and the suspects still face up to 43 years in prison if convicted.

Sabuncu and Atalay have spent the last 495 days in jail and Sik, who was detained a little after the initial wave of arrests, 434 days.

The decision to release Sabuncu and Sik, delivered in the courthouse in Silivri outside Istanbul — part of a complex that also contains the prison where they are held — was greeted with cheers from supporters in the courtroom. Sik could be seen weeping with emotion.

Also present were the defendants who were released last



A protester holds a copy of the Cumhuriyet daily during a demonstration against a lack of press freedom in Istanbul on 25 September, 2017. **PHOTO: AFP**

year after long stints in jail but also remain charged, including cartoonist Musa Kart and columnist Kadri Gursel.

- 'Not a day to be happy' -

Sik, a staunch critic of Erdogan, said after walking free from Silivri jail there could be no celebration as Atalay remained in jail.

"I prefer you to be frustrated

because frustration will help us stand tall ... today is not a day to be happy."

Taking aim at the government, he added: "I assure you that day will come when this Mafia sultanate comes to an end."

Sabuncu added: "Turkey's problems are not resolved just because we are set free.

"As journalists, our mission is to do our job fearlessly as we did before."

Amnesty International's Europe Director, Gauri van Gulik said the releases were "long-overdue" and provided a "glimmer of hope" in a country she described as the "biggest jailer of journalists in the world".—AFP ■

## Protesters held after scaling Iran embassy in London

LONDON — Four protesters were arrested after gaining access to the balcony of the Iranian embassy in London on Friday, police said, prompting a complaint from Tehran about security at the building.

"We were called at 4.20 pm (1620 GMT) to reports of

four protesters on the balcony of the Iranian embassy in Princes Gate, Knightsbridge," a spokeswoman for London's Metropolitan Police said.

At around 6.40 pm (1840 GMT) all four men were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and being unlawfully

on diplomatic premises.

"All four people have been taken to a central London police station. They remain there in custody," the spokeswoman said.

It is understood the protesters did not manage to get inside the building.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said Tehran had lodged a strong protest with the British government over the incident, according to the IRNA state news agency.

The report said supporters of an "extreme cult" living in Britain were responsible.

Iran's deputy foreign minister Abbas Araghchi made his protest known to the British ambassador in Tehran, demanding "absolute protection of our diplomats in London and immediate dealing of the police with the attackers", IRNA said.

In a statement, a Foreign Office spokesman said: "The safety and security of diplomats and diplomatic missions in the UK is of paramount importance to us."

In 1980, six gunmen who supported a dissident Iranian group took over the Iranian embassy in London, taking more than two dozen hostages.

After a six-day siege, British special forces raided the building, killing five of the gunmen and arrested another. Two of the hostages also died.—AFP



Tehran lodged complaint about security at the Iranian embassy after protestors gained access to the building. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Turkish Airlines to buy at least 50 Airbus, Boeing jets

ISTANBUL — Turkish Airlines is targetting passenger numbers of 74 million this year and hopes to expand its fleet from 329 aircraft at present to 424 by 2023.

Turkish Airlines is targetting passenger numbers of 74 million this year and hopes to expand its fleet from 329 aircraft at present to 424 by 2023.

Turkish Airlines has confirmed plans to buy at least 50 wide-body aircraft from Airbus and Boeing as the flag carrier ramps up its ambitions ahead of a move to a new Istanbul airport.

The company said in a statement late Friday that it had agreed to buy 25 Boeing B787-9 aircraft, known as the Dreamliner, and 25 Airbus A350-900 aircraft. In addition, it has the option to buy five more of each aircraft from both suppliers, meaning the eventual purchase could total 60 planes. It said six would be delivered in 2019, 14 in 2020, 10 in 2021, 12 in 2022, 11 in 2023 and 7 in the year 2024.—AFP ■



## Russia has always stood out for further dialogue on strategic stability with US — Lavrov



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. PHOTO: TASS

ADDIS ABABA — Moscow has always supported efforts to continue the dialogue on strategic stability with Washington, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Friday when commenting the call of several US senators for talks with Russia on strategic issues and extension of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty).

"We have always stood out for further dialogue on strategic stability between Russia and the United States," he said, adding that "such a dialogue should be developed on the base of mutu-

al respect, balance of interests and should not go together with preliminary conditions."

"The treaty itself is based on cooperation mechanisms on implementation of the document, they are used in the context of the work of the commission that has been established to monitor its implementation," Lavrov explained.

Four American senators submitted a letter addressed to US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Thursday, urging him to hold talks with Russia on strategic issues and extension of the New START Treaty following President Putin's statements.—Tass ■

## France's far-right party now 'adult' and needs name change: Le Pen

PARIS — France's far-right leader Marine Le Pen said on Friday her National Front party needs a name change because it has become "adult" and ready to govern.

As FN president, she said she would propose a new name for the party at its conference on Sunday.

"The National Front has become adult... its nature has changed. It has gone from a party first of protest in its youth, then an opposition party to a party of government," Le Pen said on French television.

The FN "must acquire the culture of alliances... the culture of a governing party and changing its name is one of the ways to let it be known," she said.

Le Pen last year made it to the run-off in the French presidential election which she then lost to Emmanuel Macron, whose policies she said were "putting down the middle and lower classes."

She also defended her far-right party's stance against immigration and in defence of French culture and security.

Le Pen is assured of being re-elected party leader at the FN conference at the weekend in Lille as there is no competition.—AFP ■

## UK deploys military in Russia spy attack probe

LONDON — British soldiers were deployed on Friday to help a counter-terrorism investigation into a nerve agent attack on a former Russian spy as speculation mounted over how London could retaliate if the Russian state is found to be responsible.

The defence ministry said 180 soldiers were being dispatched to the normally quiet city of Salisbury in southwestern England, initially to remove "a number of vehicles and objects from the scene".

"The public should not be alarmed and the public health advice remains the same.

"Military assistance will continue as necessary during this investigation," a police spokesman said.

Police also extended the cordon around the modest suburban home of Sergei Skripal in Salisbury, as Home Secretary Amber Rudd visited the city, calling the attack "outrageous".

### - Son's grave investigated -

Former double agent Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found slumped on a bench in the city on Sunday and are in a critical but stable condition at a local hospital.

Nick Bailey, one of the first officers on the scene, is also being treated but is sitting up and talking after initially being admitted to intensive care.

Around 21 people have been treated, according to

Kier Pritchard, chief constable for Wiltshire Police.

At the cemetery, a forensic tent was placed over a memorial stone for Skripal's son, Alexander, who was cremated last year after reportedly dying of liver problems at the age of 43.

The grave of Skripal's wife, Liudmila, who died in 2012 from cancer, was also sealed off.

Police have also cordoned off an Italian restaurant and a pub they visited before their collapse.

The Times newspaper said police were probing whether Skripal's daughter, who arrived in Britain from Moscow last week, may have inadvertently brought in the nerve agent as a gift.

Authorities are racing to find the source of the nerve agent used against 66-year-old Skripal, who came to Britain in 2010 as part of a spy swap, as politicians warned it bore the hallmarks of an attack by Russia.

Skripal was a former colonel in Russian military intelligence who was jailed in his country for betraying agents to Britain's MI6 secret service.

He was pardoned in 2010 before being flown to Britain.

In response to questions over Russia's possible involvement, May has said that "if action needs to be taken then the government will do that".

Possible responses in-

clude the expulsion of some of Russia's 58 diplomats, some kind of boycott of the 2018 football World Cup or an increased British military presence in eastern Europe.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson floated the idea of deepening sanctions against Russian officials, but Britain would have to persuade its international partners.

It could also choose to impose sanctions of its own against the many Kremlin-linked officials with investments or family ties in London.

### - Battle between the elites? -

Moscow has reacted angrily to the accusations it was involved, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday dismissing them as baseless "propaganda".

On Wednesday, however,

Russian state TV presenter Kirill Kleimyonov had appeared to deliver a veiled warning, saying: "Don't choose England as your future country of residence... whether you are a professional traitor to the motherland or whether you hate your country in your spare time."

Analyst Mathieu Boulegue of the Chatham House think tank said it would be "extremely difficult" to pinpoint who committed the attack, and that the response could be a lot more complicated if it turned out that internal factions were responsible.

"It is possible that it is related to the elections in Russia or that it is part of a battle between the elites within the security services, to send messages either to the English or to the Russian elites," he said.—AFP ■



British police have cordoned off a branch of the Italian restaurant chain Zizzi where the pair ate before their collapse. PHOTO: AFP

# Mahara elected speaker of lower house in Nepal

KATHMANDU — Krishna Bahadur Mahara, a leader of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center), was elected as the speaker of the House of Representatives, or the lower house of the parliament, on Saturday.

A parliament meeting held on Saturday afternoon elected Mahara as the speaker of the lower house of the Nepalese Federal Parliament.

Mahara was elected unopposed as he was the only candidate to file nomination for the post, a

spokesman at the Federal Parliament said.

The new parliament speaker will be sworn in on Sunday.

Mahara served as the country's deputy prime minister with the in-charge of foreign affairs in 2016. Last week, the first session of the Federal Parliament was held, more than three months after the Himalayan nation held provincial and federal parliament elections simultaneously in two phases in November and December last year.—Xinhua ■

# China welcomes foreign enterprises in SOE mixed-ownership reform: regulator

BEIJING — China welcomes all types of enterprises, including foreign ones, to participate in mixed-ownership reform of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), the state assets regulator said here Saturday. “We’ll be delighted to see foreign enterprises taking part in the mixed-ownership reform,” Xiao Yaqing, head of State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, said at a press conference on the sidelines of the annual legislative session.

China is firm in opening up and pushing forward the mixed-ownership reform, Xiao said. The reform diversifies the ownership structure of SOEs and is considered an important part of SOE reform.

He pledged that the



Xiao Yaqing, head of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), answers questions at a press conference on reform and development of state-owned enterprises on the sidelines of the first session of the 13<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress in Beijing, capital of China on 10 March 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

rights and interests of all investors participating in the mixed-ownership reform would be protected.

China has had three rounds of mixed-ownership reform, including one covering telecom giant China Unicom to bring in private investment mainly by issuing shares.—Xinhua ■



Explosive eruptions continue at Mt Shinmoe, a 1,421-meter high volcano straddling Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures in southwestern Japan on 10 March, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

# Warning area expanded as Mt Shimmoe continues powerful eruptions

FUKUOKA — Powerful eruptions continued at Mt Shimmoe in southwestern Japan on Saturday, with the weather agency expanding the area possibly affected by flying rocks.

Two explosive eruptions were observed at around 1:55 am and 4:25 am at the 1,421-metre

high volcano straddling Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Huge rocks flew about 1.8 kilometres from the crater, with ash spewed up to 4,500 metres above it, the highest since the recent series

of eruptions started on 1 March, according to the agency.

While continuing to restrict access to the mountain, the agency expanded the area possibly affected by large flying rocks to 4 km from the crater, up from 3 km.—Kyodo News ■

# DPRK says it won't buckle under military pressure, sanctions

PYONGYANG — The official media of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Saturday said neither military pressure nor sanctions from the United States would work on the DPRK, amid reports that Pyongyang and Washington could start a top-level dialogue soon.

The official Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary that the United States recently declared that it would impose sanctions on 56 designations under the pretext of preventing the DPRK from “attempting at evasion of sanctions.”

Calling this “an open violation of international laws and an encroachment upon the sovereignty of the DPRK,” the commentary said the United States tries to “isolate and stifle the DPRK through sanctions and blockade and weaken it in a bid to bring it under control with ease.” “It is now making desperate efforts to stifle the DPRK while getting keen on the racket for sanctions and military pressure on the DPRK. But the army and the people of the DPRK will never be browbeaten,” said the daily of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea.

The DPRK has not yet responded to the announcement made by South Korea and the United States that it has proposed to hold a DPRK-US summit meeting by May.—Xinhua ■

**Transferring Distributor for Registered Products**

Distribution of following pesticides registered by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch) to Uni Crop Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyugone, Insein within 14-days.

Sr	Trade Name	A.i	Type of Registration	Reg No
1	Diligent 0.3 GR	Fipronil 3g/kg	Prov	2014 - 2173
2	Endow	Imidacloprid 20% + Metolaxyl 20% WP	Prov	2014 - 1882
3	Restore 500 SC	Iprodione 50%g/l	Prov	2014 - 2163

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch),  
Rangoun Business Center, Room 209, No.97, West Shwe Gon Daing Road,  
Tele :01-8600042, 09-5143328



# Thousand artists to perform at African festival

ABIDJAN, (Ivory Coast) — A thousand artists from over 50 countries will gather in Ivory Coast on Saturday for a week-

long festival of African music, theatre, dance, comedy, slam poetry and storytelling.

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the bi-

annual Market for African Performing Arts, known by its French initials as MASA, will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

event.

This year's crop of artists come from all over Africa and the African diaspora in Japan, Haiti and Canada, performing in the economic capital Abidjan and five other cities, the organizers said.

Artists include Ivorian jazz fusion drummer Paco Sery, traditionalist Malian singers P-Pentatonique and Cape Verde's Maria de Barros.

MASA was launched in 1993 by the International Organisation of La Francophonie, which represents French-speaking countries. It also offers African artists training for reaching an international market.

The festival was badly affected by political crises that struck Ivory Coast between 2002 and 2011. It was relaunched in 2014.

"We are doing better now than before the crisis," said the festival's communications chief, Chantal N'Cho Nabalema.—AFP ■



Contemporary dancers from Burkina Faso's "Les clameurs des arenes" company, perform during the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the MASA festival in Abidjan. **PHOTO: AFP**



Russell Crowe. **PHOTO: PTI**

## Russell Crowe to hold a 'divorce' auction

MELBOURNE — Russell Crowe is selling off items that he collected while working on films such as "Gladiator" and "Cinderella Man" in a new auction.

The auction, titled "The Art of Divorce", will be held on 7 April, which marks the actor's birthday as well as wedding anniversary with ex-wife Danielle Spencer, according to Sotheby Australia.

"The sale represents the dispersal of a highly personal collection that was assembled by Crowe over many years, including those shared with his former wife," said Sotheby's.

Crowe and Spencer had separated five years ago and their divorce will soon be finalised.

"We've been separated over five years now, our divorce should be finalised around the time of the auction. Just as we collaborate on the upbringing of our kids, it's easy for us to work together on something like this," Crowe told Australia's Daily Telegraph.

"I think she feels the same way I do in regards to just moving on things that help create space for the future," he added.

A total of 225 items will be up for grabs that includes fine art, antique vehicles, furniture, jewellery, musical instruments, and film paraphernalia.

An important stunt cuirass that Crowe wore in Ridley Scott's "Gladiator" is expected to fetch between USD 20,000 to 30,000.

A pair of black leather wrist cuffs and a wooden training sword from the film has also been put up for auction.

From "Cinderella Man", a blue satin robe and a pair of Everlast blue satin trunks, worn by Crowe as the character 'James J Braddock' will also be up for grabs.—PTI ■

## Movie star Sharlto Copley and the other Black Panther

LOS ANGELES — There's a new "Black Panther" in town, but this one is not much given to serving humanity, improving racial representation or hollering "Wakanda Forever" whenever his onesie gets creased.

La Pantera Negra, it turns out, is the ruthless, Beatles-loving Mexican cartel kingpin in "Gringo," a comedy crime caper starring David Oyelowo, Joel Edgerton, Charlize Theron and Sharlto Copley. "People were saying, 'Are you worried that you called the villain Black Panther?'" Seriously, we made the movie like two years ago and I was like, 'Um, no,'" laughs Copley, 44. "And even if we were, it's still funny to me. I mean, what? Do we not laugh at anything anymore?" "Gringo" — part comedy, part white-knuckle actioner — follows businessman Harold Soyinka (Oyelowo) as he finds himself crossing the line from law-abiding citizen to wanted criminal. The mild-mannered pharmaceutical executive takes a business trip from Chicago to Mexico with his cutthroat bosses Richard (Edgerton) and Elaine, played by a deliciously Cruella de Vil-esque Theron. There are numerous twists and turns along the way to Harold sounding the alarm that he has been abduct-



Sharlto Copley plays Mitch, a mercenary-turned-humanitarian tasked with extracting an abducted pharmaceutical executive, in comedy crime caper "Gringo". **PHOTO: AFP**

ed — and coming face-to-face with the Black Panther. Rather than pay a \$5 million ransom, Richard dispatches his mercenary-turned-humanitarian brother Mitch, played by Copley, to extract Harold. "It seemed to me to be a great set-up for a comedic character — a guy who is a former mercenary and is now trying to turn his life around in Haiti by helping people in need," Copley told AFP. "And then he gets drawn into this whole mess, kind of like an alcoholic going back into a bar." "Gringo" is helmed by Edgerton's brother Nash, who made his feature-length directorial debut in 2008 with the acclaimed

Australian thriller "The Square." Rude and despicable

Production began in March 2016 in a subdued, gray Chicago before cast and crew pumped up the colour palette in Mexico City and Veracruz. The director pushes Theron and Edgerton to be more rude and despicable than they've ever been on screen before — and bear in mind Theron has an Oscar for playing a serial killer in "Monster" (2003).

"Charlize has some of my favourite lines in the film and it's kind of fun to see her and Joel, who are such likeable people and actors normally, just have a bit of fun," says Copley.

The South African actor burst onto the scene with an acclaimed performance as Wikus van de Merwe in 2009 sci-fi thriller "District 9," before taking on Howling Mad Murdock in "The A-Team" (2010). He was Agent Kruger in "Elysium" (2013) and King Stefan in "Maleficent" (2014), as well as the eponymous CGI robot in "Chappie" (2015).

"I like projects that push the envelope and do something different. Those projects may or may not pay off from a financial or audience point of view," he says.

"But I prefer doing that than something that will just go down the middle, that will just be like people watch it and forget about it." Copley never bases his many diverse characters on specific individuals, but he borrows — consciously or otherwise, he says — from aspects of acquaintances' personalities. "In this case I do know a couple of mercenary guys and special forces guys and have a sense of that world, I guess," he reveals. Copley also had a starring role in Ilya Naishuller's low-budget Russian-American sci-fi actioner "Hardcore Henry" (2016), a live-action movie about a cyborg soldier that looks more like a photo-real shoot-'em-up video game.—AFP ■

# Tokyo marks 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of US air raids in WWII

TOKYO — Tokyo on Saturday marked the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of US air raids during World War II that killed over 80,000, with some 600 people including families of the victims commemorating those lost in the bombing.

Prince Akishino, the younger son of Emperor Akihito, his wife Princess Kiko and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike also attended the memorial service at a hall in the capital's Sumida Ward where the remains of many of the unidentified victims were placed.

Among other participants were Hideo Yoshida, 83, from the northeastern Japanese city of Fukushima, who has been attending the annual ceremony over the past 30 years.

"I still think today that if there had been no war, everyone could have had different lives,"



Prince Akishino (C), the younger son of Emperor Akihito, burns incense at a ceremony to mark the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of US air raids during World War II, held at a hall in Tokyo on 10 March, 2018. **KYODO NEWS**

he said. Yoshida's father went missing in the bombing and his older sister suffered burns and

died two years later.

Koike said at the service, "It is our responsibility to pass on

our knowledge (of the air raids) to the next generation so that the tragedy of war will not be for-

gotten, as well as to protect the peace and safety of the world."

In the early hours of 10 March, 1945, some 300 US B-29 bombers dropped incendiary bombs on parts of Tokyo, particularly on densely populated areas.

The number of air raid victims registered on the Tokyo government's list totaled 81,058.

During the war, Tokyo was exposed to more than 100 bombing raids and 60 per cent of the city was destroyed, according to the Centre of the Tokyo Raids and War Damage.

After the 10 March raids, the United States attacked other cities and towns across Japan, and dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima on 6 August and on Nagasaki on 9 August, 1945. The war ended on 15 August that year.—Kyodo News ■

## Women-only members club taps London feminist tradition

LONDON — A refuge for gentlemen over centuries, British women can now enjoy private members clubs, continuing the country's tradition of female activism amid the #MeToo movement.

A short walk from Oxford Street, in the heart of London's West End, sits an elegant five-storey brick Georgian mansion.

It houses The AllBright, a newly-opened private club and the latest in the British capital to cater exclusively to women's needs — both personal and professional.

Founded by Debbie Wosskow, 43, a start-up entrepreneur, and Anna Jones, formerly of the Hearst Media Group, the club —

dedicated to "working women" — already has 400 members and a long waiting list.

"It's by women, for women, and we think that has been missing up to now," Jones told AFP.

Wosskow said the duo had tried to empower women throughout the venture.

"Everything in the building... the art on the wall, to the wine that we serve, is by women for women and showcasing female talents," she added.

Although Britain currently has its second woman prime minister — Theresa May — in power, gender equality is still far from assured, according to the club founders.

The pair want women to spend their days working, and

their evenings unwinding in The AllBright. "The objective is to try to make the UK the best place in the world to be a working woman," said Wosskow, pitching the club as "a combination of networking alongside great food, cocktails and events." **Smoke-free and chic**

There are no smoke-filled cigar rooms, or Chesterfield leather armchairs — staples of many men-only equivalents.

Instead the decor is cozy, refined and warm, fusing British chic and Scandinavian design.

Members can relax in deep sofas or work at shared tables.

There is a dining area on the ground floor and an art deco bar on the top level, while other floors host more studios rooms

for working and holding meetings during the day. When AFP visited, a backdrop of jazz music competed with the constant hum of laptop keyboards.

New member Le'Nise Brothers, a nutritionist, joined "to be around like-minded women" and for networking.

"It's just a different atmosphere when you're around women," she said.

"(I'm) not saying that if men were here it would be a negative thing, because it's not, but naturally women's spaces just tend to be warmer and more welcoming and just very inclusive."

The founders said although the club is female-centric, men were still welcome inside its doors. "It's definitely not anti-men," said Jones. "Members can invite men in as guests."

### "Room of her own"

The AllBright follows in the footsteps of other new London establishments aimed at women, like We Heart Mondays which opened last year as "a diverse creative space for female entrepreneurs".

Although they cannot match their male counterparts' histories, female clubs in fact have a long history in the British capital. The Pioneer Club was among the most famous, founded in 1892 by Emily Massingberd, considered an avant-garde and feminist in the cultural circles of her time.—AFP ■



Members use the facilities at London's first women-only private members' club, The AllBright, in central London on 28 February, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Exhibition on clothing culture of China's 56 ethnic groups opens in US

SAN FRANCISCO — An exhibition on clothing culture of the 56 Chinese ethnic groups opened on Saturday at the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) in the western US state of California.

The garment exhibition, which runs from 3 March through 3 July, is the first of its kind that the SFPL has introduced, offering a chance for those in the San Francisco Bay Area to get a glimpse of the colorful and diverse Chinese folk art, with each costume on display reflecting a unique pattern and style of some Chinese ethnic group.

All exhibits were donated by Yi Chen Wu Yue Clothing and Accessories Company — a Beijing-based manufacturer that specializes in Chinese national costumes — to Dasen American Academy, a non-profit program established by Xiebing Cauthen in California in 2002.

At the opening ceremony, a dozen models wearing part of the collection gave a short fashion show to demonstrate the traditions of China's ethnic wear.

Zha Liyou, deputy consul general of China in San Francisco, said that China is a country of great civilization with diversified ethnic cultures.—Xinhua ■



## Yangon and Shan play to a draw in U-21 MNL tourney

YANGON United battled Shan United to a 1-1 draw at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon yesterday evening in one of the Week 8 matches of the U-21 MPT Myanmar National League.

Yangon United U-21 team lined up with Thura Kyaw at the goalie position along with Nay Oo Lwin, Hlwan Moe Oo, Wai Yan Htike, Naing Ko Ko, Nyein Chan Soe, Kyaw Swar Win, Aung Bala, Naing Min Thu, Tay Zaw Lin and Saw Aung Myo Tun.

Shan United lined up with Aung Myint Myat in goal along with Myat Min Thu, Thura San, Htun Htein Lin, Htet Phyo Wai, Thurein Tun, Thaw Zin Oo, Thet Paing Htwe, Zwe Thet Paing, Thiha Tun Kyaw and Hein Phyo Win.

Players from both teams made sweaty efforts to score the icebreaker, but the first half ended with a score of 0-0.

In the second half, both teams changed tactics in an effort to score the opening goal.

Although Shan was very good in controlling the football, with only one mistake in their defence, Yangon scored first at 55 minutes with a goal by Naing Min Thu after Hlwan Moe Oo kick bounced back from the keeper.

Ten minutes later, Shan equalised when Thurein Tun scored with a header at 65 minutes.

Shan's youth players gained more chances to score in the last minute, but their efforts were negated by the opponent's blockings.

Yangon United (U-21) has attained 14 points from 8 plays, 3 wins and 5 draws.

Shan United (U-21) gains 16 points from 8 plays, 5 wins, 2 losses and 1 draw. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■



Youth players from Yangon and Shan vie for the ball in yesterday's U-21 MNL tourney at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO:YUFC**

## Federer hopes to avenge loss to Delbonis

INDIAN WELLS — Roger Federer will be looking for pay-back when he opens the defence of his ATP Indian Wells title with a second-round match against Argentina's Federico Delbonis on Saturday. There aren't many players who can say they have a winning record over 20-time Grand Slam winner Federer but Delbonis is one of them.

In their only other ATP meeting in 2013, Delbonis won on clay in Hamburg 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (7/4). Delbonis, who is ranked 67th in the world, is no stranger to upsets in Indian Wells.

In 2016 he shocked world number two Andy Murray to reach the fourth round. He reached the second round here this week by saving two match points to defeat another American Ryan Harrison in three sets. Federer, who regained the world number one ranking last month, is on a quest to make history in the California desert by winning an unprecedented sixth Indian Wells title.

The 36-year-old Swiss marvel continues to defy the ageing



Roger Federer, who regained the world number one ranking last month, is on a quest to make history by winning an unprecedented sixth Indian Wells title. **PHOTO: AFP**

process, claiming his 20<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam title and sixth Australian Open crown in January.

He has enjoyed a perfect start to 2018 by winning both events he has competed in and taking his career singles title tally to 97. Federer told reporters

on Thursday that he won't be taking anyone for granted in this draw.

"I didn't come here to lose in the first round two and two," he said. "I care about the moment. I care about the results." —AFP ■

## Myanmar traditional Lethwei to be held in Bangkok

FOR the first time, a Myanmar traditional Lethwei event titled "Lethwei in Thailand (Maha Chai)" will be held at Samut Sakhon Gymnasium in Mahachai, near Bangkok, on 25 March, according to Myanmar Lethwei World Championship (MLWC).

In preserving Myanmar Lethwei in the ASEAN region, the event was jointly organised by Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports and Myanmar Media Group.

The event will feature seven bouts, all of which will be conducted using Myanmar traditional Lethwei rules, which dictate a five round fight, knock out only, and supervised by Myanmar traditional Lethwei referees.

There will be both male and female bouts in a number of weight classes. All the bouts will feature a Thai versus a Myanmar fighter.

In 70-kilo category, Myanmar's Saw Gaw Mu Do will fight against Thailand's Samut in the

main event.

Another match will feature Myanmar newcomer Tun Lwin Moe. In one of the female bouts, Veronica, a young ethnic Kayan from Myanmar, will fight against Thailand's Jar Phang.

Lethwei dates back to the 2nd Century BCE and has fewer rules than other forms of organised fighting.

Back then, fights were held in sand pits and there were no draws. The fighters would battle until one was no longer standing. As the time passed, a few rules were put in place.

Bouts now feature five rounds with a two-minute rest in between each round.

If a fighter is knocked down three times in one round, then the fight is stopped, if they are knocked down four times over the course of an entire fight, then it is stopped. If a fighter needs to take an injury time out, it counts as one knock down, but the injury time out can't be used in the fifth and final round. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

# SUNDAY SPECIAL

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

### NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

11 MARCH 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Kyaw Orwell

**R**ECENTLY, I read a book on the path of purification which is written based on Buddhist canon. After that, I was in thought of meaningful life.

What is meaningful life? Meaningful life is overcoming the suffering and attachment, living free from craving and gaining good Karma and wisdom, being calm and peaceful.

The book showed the threefold trainings of Buddha, moral virtue, concentration and wisdom that are essential and core practice for every Buddhists. Nowadays, people are very busy, wired and restless.

Most feel depress, frustrate, shake, shock, sear and upset as a result of untrained mind amid the busy lives. People are hard to fully live in a meaningful way.

We can see people who lacking in self-awareness, understanding and diligence, wasting their time by hanging around all day. They are those who going to be poor the quality of their life. They will not have the courage to do what needs to be done to discover their potential.

We should have high ambition to have courage to do what is necessary, prosperous and successful. I don't want anyone to sit around, getting depressed over the things that have not happened and will not happen. We must forget the things beyond our control and we need to concentrate on what we can do. Actually, we have no time to waste and

no reason to waste our time.

Therefore, to save our time and to be meaningful our life, we should follow the path of purification.

Moral virtue, *Sila* is expressed first at the threefold trainings of Buddha. What is moral virtue? It can be plainly said as honesty. As a saying goes, "Without honesty, there can be no real growth." Moral virtue is essential practice for meaningful life.

How to practice moral virtue training? There are three parts in moral virtue, right speech, right action and right livelihood. The basic practice for moral virtue in Buddhism is to abstain from killing, stealing, drinking, lying and committing sexual misconduct, they are also known as five precepts. If we follow moral virtue path, we can gross purify our unclear mind.

To moderately purify our unclear mind, we need to follow concentration, *Sammadi* paths, right effort, right mind-

fulness and right concentration.

Our life is like a camera, if we can't focus or concentrate the resolution of photo or the meaning of our life is not better. When we develop concentration, *Samadi*, our life will go to advance. Therefore, training for concentration plays an important role for our life meaningful.

The definition of concentration is the action or power of focusing all one's attention or the profitable unification of the mind on a sense object, and the harmony of consciousness and its concomitants is focusing on a single sense object. Concentration is mostly practiced by meditating.

To fully purify our mind, we need to practice wisdom, *Panna* training, which include right view or right understanding and right thought.

What is wisdom? Wisdom is the fact of being based on sensible or wise thinking in dictionary and the in-

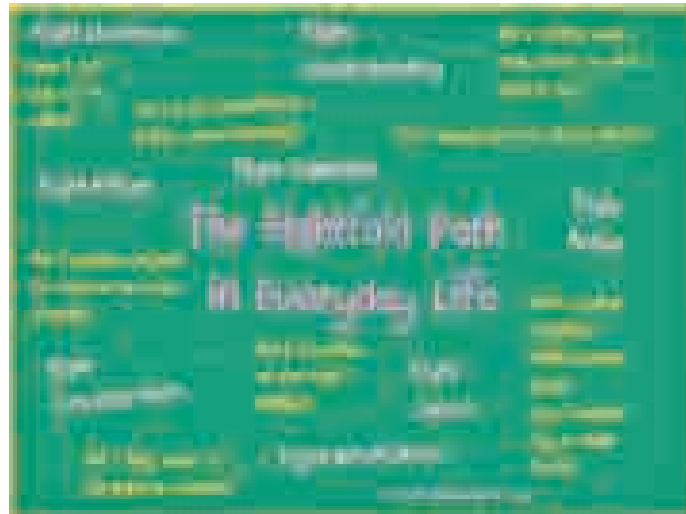
sight knowledge associated with moral, wholesome consciousness. It has the characteristic of understanding penetratively and analytically in various ways in a book.

The right understanding means understanding of cause and effect, Karma and its results, seeing and knowing things as they really are, understanding the nature of impermanence, suffering and not-self and understanding the four noble truths.

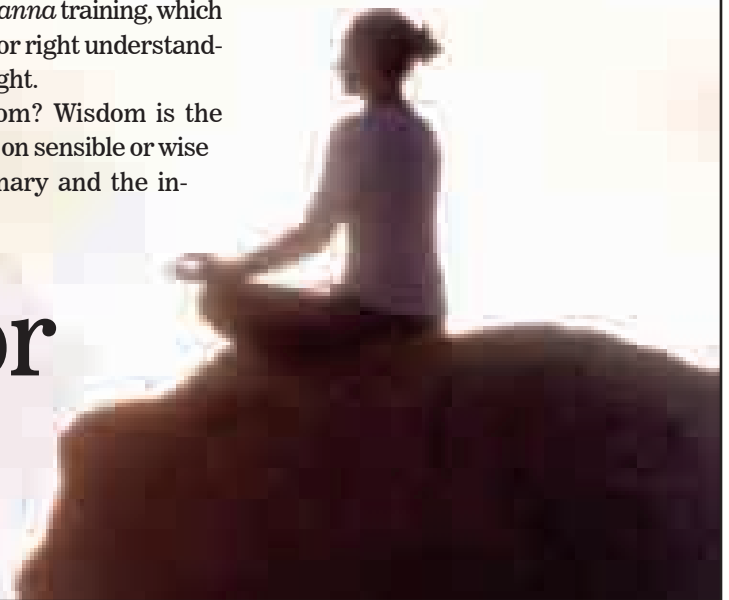
Right thought means thought free from lust, thought free from ill will and thought free from cruelty.

The path of purification consists of eight ways of thinking, speaking and behaving under threefold division that the Buddha said people should follow if they want to reach Nirvana, the end of suffering or the state of being perfect. Some would complain that it may be too difficult to follow but it is indeed we can follow and create meaningful life.

People ask what the single most important one for creating meaningful life is. That may be thousand answers. But, the single answer for me is to make your own progress with these paths. When your progress becomes your habit, you no longer need to concern for meaningful life. It is sure your life will be meaningful.



## An introductory guide for creating meaningful life



### 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](mailto: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

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# Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

## Lesson 43: Different Kinds of Sentences (3)

### Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences

Hello Class!

We have already studied about three different kinds of sentences : Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences.

Today let's study how we can join Simple Sentences, Simple Sentences and Phrases, and Simple Sentences and Clauses together to form Compound and Complex Sentences.

A group of words which has Complete Sense is called "a Sentence".

Every Sentence has at least "a Verb".

A group of words which has not Complete Sense (without a Verb) is called "a Phrase".

A group of words which has not Complete Sense (with a Verb) is called "a Clause".

So to form Compound and Complex Sentences we need to join "Simple Sentences and Simple Sentences" or "Simple Sentences and Phrases" or "Simple Sentences and Clauses".

When we form these sentences into one sentence, we need joining words, such as "and, but, for, or, nor, both and, either or, neither nor, still, else, because".

And to form Complex sentences, we need some words like "who, which, whom, where, when, why, as, since".

#### Examples

(1) Mg Mg likes chocolates. Mi Mi likes chocolates.  
Both Mg Mg and Mi Mi like chocolates. (Simple Sentence)

(2) She can sing sweetly. Her sister cannot.  
She can sing sweetly, but her sister cannot. (Compound Sentence)

(3) He did not go to school. He was ill.  
He did not go to school, because he was ill. (Compound Sentence)

(4) He did not go to school. As he was ill yesterday.  
As he was ill yesterday, he did not go to school. (Complex Sentence)

(5) I see my watch. on the table  
I see my watch on the table. (Simple Sentence.)  
(6) I see my watch. which is on the table  
I see my watch which is on the table. (Complex Sentence)

(7) I gave money to the boy. on the street  
I gave money to the boy, on the street. (Simple Sentence)

(8) I gave money to the boy. who was on the street  
I gave money to the boy who was on the street. (Complex Sentence)

(9) I gave money to the boy. He was running on the street.

I gave money to the boy who was running on the street. (Complex Sentence)

(10) I gave money to the boy. He was running on the street.

I gave money to the boy when he was running on the street. (Complex Sentence)

(11) I gave money to the boy. He was running on the street.

I gave money to the boy as he was running on the

street. (Complex Sentence)

(12) I gave money to the boy. He will be running on the street.

I gave money to the boy or else, he will be running on the street. (Compound Sentence)

As you all see, we can join Sentence and Sentence, Sentence and Phrase, Sentence and Clause, into Simple, Compound or Complex Sentences. The only differences are how we join these and with which joining words.

We can see the differences as follows ..

(a) When a sentence has only one Verb, it is "a Simple Sentence".

(b) When a sentence has two Clauses which are in the same power, we call it "a Compound Sentence".

(c) When a sentence has two Clauses, which are not in the same power, (one is the Main Clause and the other is the Subordinate Clause, which has a lower power than the other one) is a "Complex Sentence".

(d) Usually, these Subordinate Clauses can be "Adjective or Adjectival Clause" (which is doing the work of Adjective, modifying the Noun) (can be quality or quantity) ;

"Adverb Clause or Abverbial Clause" (which is doing the work of Adverbs, modifying the Verbs) (can be Adverbs of Time, Place, Reason, Cause etc.)

(e) And one more point is sometimes these Clauses or Phrases can be Nouns when they take the place of Subject or the Object.

(will be explained more in the coming lessons)

#### Example.

(a) Both Mg Mg and Mi Mi like chocolates. (Simple Sentence) (with only one Verb "like")

(b) She can sing sweetly, but her sister cannot. (Compound Sentence) (She can sing sweetly and her sister cannot are two Clauses which are in the same power. And they do not need to depend on each other. Each can stand on its own feet. Each has its own meaning.)

(c) I see the watch. The watch is on the table.  
I see my watch on the table. (Simple Sentence) (with only one Verb "see") ("on the table" is just a Phrase.)

(d) I see my watch which is on the table. (Complex Sentence) (Here the two Clauses, "I see my watch" and "which is on the table" are not in the same power. The Clause "I see my watch" is the main Clause which can stand alone, but the Clause "which is on the table" cannot stand alone. It has to depend on the main Clause "I see my watch". So it is called a "Subordinate Clause". A Sentence can have only one Main Clause, but can have many Subordinate Clauses.

e.g. I see my watch which is on the table, near the window, on the left side of my dictionary.

Here, if we divide or analyze this sentence, we can have ..

I see my watch. The watch is on the table. The table is near the window. The watch is on the left side of my dictionary.

Here we can see all these can be Phrases as well as Clauses.

I hope you can come to have an idea how all these come to happen like this.

So, try to make sentences of your own for Simple Sentence, Compound Sentence and Complex Sentence.

Here comes the exercises.

### Exercise 43.

I. Make three Simple Sentences of your own.

II. Make three Compound Sentences of your own.

III. Make three Complex Sentences of your own.

IV. Join the following sentences and then say whether your new Sentence is Simple, Compound or Complex.

- I lost my bicycle. The bicycle is on the street.
- I lost my bicycle. I left it on the street last night.
- He will go to the office. He has a fever.
- You may go home. You may stay late in the library.
- John walked home. His car had some problems.
- Mi Mi has to cook more. His father has invited some important guests for dinner.
- He will come up on Sunday. Sunday is a holiday. He does not need to go to work on Sunday.
- The dog will bite the cat. The cat eats from the dog's bowl.
- I like to take a photo in front of the statue. I have never seen this statue before.
- She is going to Hawaii. It is a very beautiful place.

That's all for today Class !

I hope you can do your exercises very well.

Bye Bye Class ! 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, Exercise 42.

Exercise 42.

I. State which are Simple, Compound or Complex.

- Simple Sentence
- Complex Sentence
- Compound Sentence
- Complex Sentence
- Complex Sentence
- Simple Sentence
- Compound Sentence
- Simple Sentence
- Complex Sentence
- Complex Sentence

II. For this number, I think you can do by yourselves very easily. I will not write down the answers here.

That's all for today Class !

Hope that you all have done well!

Bye Bye Class !

See you next week !

# Introduction to CYBERNETICS in Education

By Dr. Khin Zaw  
Retired Rector, Yangon University of Education

## (Continued from the last week)

Cybernetics is the new science whose primary categories include...

- (i) Information,
- (ii) Control,
- (iii) Feedback and
- (iv) Homeostasis.

As a discipline which sees structural-functional parallels in all systems, animate or inanimate, it has profound theoretical implications which cannot be isolated or separated from the science itself.

Conscious attempts to introduce the concepts, methodology, and techniques of cybernetics has, of necessity, resulted in the raising of fundamental philosophical / psychological questions.

The first problem of Cybernetics concerns the implication that, with an increase in memory components, a Cybernetic machine or a computer may change, or transforms itself, from a lower form of organized matter to a higher form that "thinks" ..... a viewpoint welcomed by most Cyberneticians and implied by the "qualitative leap" philosophers.

The advent of computing machines encouraged learned men to ask a question they are still asking ..... Can machines think? To many people, the whole idea of a thinking machine or advanced super-computer challenges their firm belief in the superiority of human.

When faced with chess-playing computers, machines that are learning to perceive letters of the alphabet, and other strange electronic marvels, many people of both lay and learned backgrounds are chilled at the thought of a whole generation of thinking machines or advanced super computers coming up. The late British logician A.M. Turing, who has said that machines certainly are

capable of thought, mentions a memoir by a contemporary which said : "The analytical engine or ... computer has no pretensions to originate anything.. it can do whatever (programmers) know how to order it to perform ...".

People still feel that this distinction between creative thought.. originating an idea and following it through to a conclusion.. and "thinking" along the lines of a completely instructed programme is a safe one to make and exclude computers from the realm of thought, the highest form of organized activity or matter.

On the other hand, there is the statement of another inventor-engineer, Leonardo Torres y Quevedo, who said, "The limits within which thought is really necessary need to be better defined.. The automaton or the Cybernated machine can do many things that are popularly classified as thought."

The second problem of Cybernetics is that of the age-old position that the general can only be known by a process which proceeds from the individual through the particular to the general. This position is denied by Cyberneticians insisting on the use of analogies.

Computers are actually machines, operated electrically, mechanically, or by air pressure or even by hot gases, which do all kinds of calculating, recording, or storing of data with phenomenal speed and accuracy. There are basically two kinds of computers.. Analog and Digital: the one measures and the other counts, and the two different modes indicate the logically different usages. A digital computer deals with discrete number quantities, and therefore gives one total; an analog computer, like a temperature gauge or a speedometer, measures continuous quantities, and converts these into a mathematical scale.

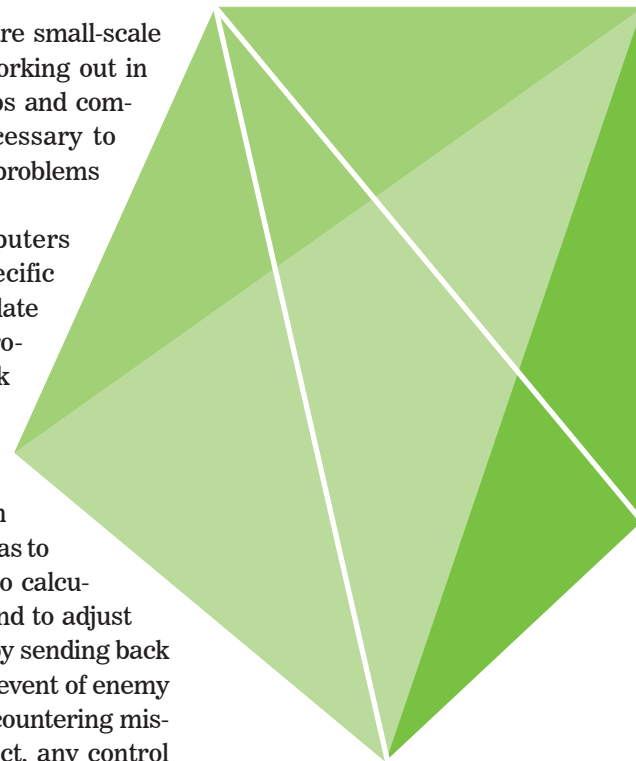
In effect, analogs are small-scale models of a system, working out in quick order all the steps and computations that are necessary to measure and solve the problems at hand.

Most analog computers are designed for a specific purpose, either to simulate an octane mix in a petroleum refinery, or to track missiles or spacecraft (by radio signals converted to magnetic tape) in real time (i.e. in simultaneous order) so as to allow space scientists to calculate speed and orbits and to adjust the course of the craft by sending back radio signals, or, in the event of enemy projectiles, to send up countering missiles on course. In effect, any control processes which require continuous readjustments, whether they be power generators, chemical flow plants, or ballistics computations, use analog computers.

The analog computers, thus, operated in simulating or approximating measurements ; though it is not completely accurate, the analog computer is much faster than its digital counterpart. Thus Cyberneticians will say that the general can be known not by a process which proceeds from the individual through the particular to the general, but simply by the use of appropriate functional simulators or analogies.

The third problem is the old metaphysical one concerning the very nature of reality: dualism and traditional pluralism versus Cybernetic theories.

Cybernetics regards information as a separate, independent entity, neither matter nor energy.



Learned people have not been slow to recognize the obvious fact that a large part of organized behaviour is concerned with sending, transmitting, or receiving messages or information. In order to survive in a fluctuating environment, an organism must have some capacity to collect, process, and use information. This capacity is greatest in man, so that he is able to learn elaborate coding systems and to organize his social behaviour by communicating with his fellow men.

(To be continued next week.)

## References

1. Dr. Khin Zaw, "Cybernetics in Education", 1975.
2. Dr. Khin Zaw, "Cybernetics, Computers and Communication of Information in Pedagogic Practice", UDNR, July, 1994.



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The above two trademarks are in respect of: - "Ground and whole bean coffee; coffee-based beverages; coffee-based beverage mix" Class: 30  
"Financial services, namely, stored-value card services; charitable fund raising services; financing services; financial sponsorship" Class: 36  
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(Reg: No. IV/13659/2017)

The above two trademarks are in respect of: - Ground and whole bean coffee; coffee-based beverages; cocoa; chocolate-based beverages; tea and herbal tea; tea and herbal tea-based beverages; coffee-based beverage mix; espresso-based beverage mix; chocolate-based beverage mix; tea-based beverage mix; herbal tea-based beverage mix; frozen confections, namely, ice cream, ice milk, frozen yogurt, frozen confections with tea, herbal tea and/or fruit flavoring; flavorings, other than essential oils, for beverages; powdered chocolate; vanilla flavoring; chocolate and candy confections; baked goods, namely, muffins, scones, biscuits, cookies, pies, cakes, pastries, quiches and breads; sandwiches; pizzas; prepared meals consisting primarily of pasta; prepared meals consisting primarily of rice; prepared meals consisting primarily of grains; chocolate-based spreads; processed cereal-derived food product to be used as a breakfast cereal; oatmeal; grain-based snack foods; crackers; popcorn; sugar; honey; agave syrup; sauces, namely condiments to add to beverages; salad dressings." - Class: 30  
"Restaurant, cafe, cafeteria, snack bar, coffee bar, tea bar, tea house, and carry out restaurant services; bar services; catering services; preparation of food and beverages; contract beverage services; restaurant services featuring a customer loyalty program that provides restaurant benefits to reward repeat customers." - Class: 43

**EVOLUTION FRESH**  
(Reg: No. IV/13646/2017)

in respect of:- "Herbal tea for medicinal purposes; vitamin drinks" Class: 5  
"Milk; flavored milk; milkshakes; milk-based food beverages, excluding milkshakes; milk-based beverages containing coffee; milk-based beverages containing fruit juice; milk-based beverages containing fruit; milk-based beverages containing chocolate; milk-based beverages containing tea; soy-based food beverage used as a milk substitute; milk-based energy drinks; soy milk; yogurt-based beverages." Class: 29

**TAZO**  
(Reg: No. IV/13647/2017)

In respect of : - "Fruit drinks, fruit juices, and fruit-based beverages; vegetable drinks, vegetable juices, and vegetable-based beverages; non-alcoholic beverages, namely carbonated beverages, soft drinks; energy drinks, isotonic beverages; liquid mixes for making soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; powders used in the preparation of soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; syrups for beverages; flavored and unflavored bottled drinking water, mineral water, aerated waters; soy-based beverages not being milk substitutes; fruit concentrates and purees used for making beverages; nutritionally fortified beverages, vitamin fortified beverages." - Class: 32  
"Business administration; business management assistance; franchising, namely providing commercial assistance in the establishment and/or operation of restaurants, cafes, coffee house, tea house, and snack bars; retail store services in the field of coffee, tea, food, beverages, coffee and espresso makers, tea makers, tableware, kitchenware, books, musical recordings, wallets, travelling bags, shopping bags, handbags, jewelry, clothing and hats, toys, including stuffed toys; wholesale distribution (excluding the transport thereof) of food, beverage, housewares, and kitchenware; on-line retail store services featuring food, beverage, housewares, and kitchenware; administration of incentive award program through the issuance and processing of discounts in the nature of loyalty points for purchase of a company's goods or services." Class: 35  
"Restaurant, cafe, cafeteria, snack bar, coffee bar, tea bar, tea house, and carry out restaurant services; bar services; catering services; preparation of food and beverages; contract beverage services; restaurant services featuring a customer loyalty program that provides restaurant benefits to reward repeat customers." - Class: 43

**PERFECTEA**  
(Reg: No. IV/13648/2017)

"Electrical appliance, namely, espresso makers, coffee makers, kettles, teapots, tea makers, beverage steamers, and water dispensers for domestic and commercial use; water filters; water filtration and purification units and replacement cartridges and filters therefor." Class: 11  
"Non-electric drip coffee makers; non-electric plunger-style coffee makers; non-electric kettles; tea infusers not of precious metal; tea pots not of precious metal; tea strainers; non-electric tea warmers consisting of a teapot stand with candle holder; thermal insulated containers for beverages; cups; saucers; mugs; beverage glassware; non-paper reusable coffee filters; coasters, not of paper and other than table linen; tea services not of precious metal; trays for domestic purposes; dishes; plates; bowls; pitchers; trivets; containers for household and kitchen use; tea cosies; candle holder not of precious metal; candlesticks not of precious metal; figurines of porcelain, ceramic, earthenware, or glass; porcelain decorative ornaments; scoops (tableware) for kitchen use; non-electric whisks for household purposes." Class: 21

**EMPEROR'S CLOUDS & MIST**  
(Reg: No. IV/13649/2017)

**YOUTHBERRY**  
(Reg: No. IV/13650/2017)

The above two trademarks are in respect of: - "Tea and herbal tea; tea and herbal tea-based beverages; tea-based beverage mix; herbal tea-based beverage mix; frozen confections with tea, herbal tea and/or fruit flavoring." - Class: 30

**HACIENDA ALSACIA**  
(Reg: No. IV/13651/2017)

**KAPE VINTA BLEND**  
(Reg: No. IV/13655/2017)



(Reg: No. IV/13656/2017)

**KATI KATI BLEND**  
(Reg: No. IV/13657/2017)

**MUAN JAI**  
(Reg: No. IV/13658/2017)

**SOUTH OF THE CLOUDS BLEND**  
(Reg: No. IV/13660/2017)

**NEVER BE WITHOUT GREAT COFFEE**  
(Reg: No. IV/13669/2017)

**KITAMU**  
(Reg: No. IV/13673/2017)

**BREZZA BLEND**  
(Reg: No. IV/13674/2017)

**AUTUMN BLEND**  
(Reg: No. IV/13675/2017)

**TRIBUTE BLEND**  
(Reg: No. IV/13664/2017)

The above (11) trademarks are in respect of: - "Ground and whole bean coffee; coffee-based beverages; coffee-based beverage mix." - Class: 30

**TEAVANA**  
(Reg: No. IV/13652/2017)

In respect of: - "Herbal tea for medicinal purpose; vitamin drinks." - Class: 05  
"Electrical appliances, namely, espresso makers, coffee makers, kettles, teapots, tea makers, beverage steamers, and water dispensers for domestic and commercial use; water filters; water filtration and purification units and replacement cartridges and filters therefor." - Class: 11  
"Non-electric drip coffee makers; non-electric plunger-style coffee makers; non-electric kettles; tea infusers not of precious metal; tea pots not of precious metal; tea strainers; non-electric tea warmers consisting of a teapot stand with candle holder; thermal insulated containers for beverages; cups; saucers; mugs; beverage glassware; non-paper reusable coffee filters; coasters, not of paper and other than table linen; tea services not of precious metal; trays for domestic purposes; dishes; plates; bowls; pitchers; trivets; containers for household and kitchen use; tea cosies; candle holder not of precious metal; candlesticks not of precious metal; figurines of porcelain, ceramic, earthenware, or glass; porcelain decorative ornaments; scoops (tableware) for kitchen use; non-electric whisks for household purposes." - Class: 21  
"Milk; flavored milk; milkshakes; milk-based food beverages, excluding milkshakes; milk-based beverages containing coffee; milk-based beverages containing fruit juice; milk-based beverages containing chocolate; milk-based beverages containing tea; soy-based food beverage used as a milk substitute; milk-based energy drinks; dried milk powder; dairy-based beverage mixes; soy milk; fruit-based snack foods; fruit jams, compote, jellies; meat-based spread, fish-based spread, poultry-based spread, fruit-based spread, nut-based spread, vegetable-based spread, dairy-based spread; cooked vegetables; dried vegetables; preserved vegetables;

vegetable salads; dried fruit; preserved fruit; fruit salads; meat; fish; poultry; game; charcuterie; meat extracts; prepared meals consisting primarily of meat, soy, poultry, seafood, vegetables, fruits, tofu, and/or cheese; soups; yogurt, yogurt-based beverages; whipping cream; cheese; eggs; prepared seeds; prepared nuts, seasoned nuts, roasted nuts, nut-based snack foods; edible oils and fats." - Class: 29



(Reg: No. IV/13653/2017)

In respect of: - "Electric coffee grinders for domestic or commercial use; aerated beverage-making machines; electric kitchen machines, namely, electric milk frother machines; automatic vending machines." Class: 7  
"Electrical appliance, namely, espresso makers, coffee makers, kettles, teapots, tea makers, beverage steamers, and water dispensers for domestic and commercial use; water filters; water filtration and purification units and replacement cartridges and filters therefor." Class: 11  
"Publications, namely, general feature newsletters and magazines; instructional booklets; paper coffee filters; photo albums, art paper, artists' brushes, pens, pencils, bookmarks, stationery boxes, pen cases, pencil cases, stationery, posters; paper napkins, paper coasters, paper bags; cup sleeves of paper, paperboard, or cardboard; cardboard boxes." Class: 16  
"Wallets, handbags, shopping bags, travelling bags, briefcases, card cases, umbrellas." Class: 18  
"Non-electric drip coffee makers; non-electric plunger-style coffee makers; non-electric kettles; tea infusers not of precious metal; tea pots not of precious metal; tea strainers; non-electric tea warmers consisting of a teapot stand with candle holder; thermal insulated containers for beverages; cups; saucers; mugs; beverage glassware; non-paper reusable coffee filters; coasters, not of paper and other than table linen; tea services not of precious metal; trays for domestic purposes; dishes; plates; bowls; pitchers; trivets; containers for household and kitchen use; tea cosies; candle holder not of precious metal; candlesticks not of precious metal; figurines of porcelain, ceramic, earthenware, or glass; porcelain decorative ornaments; scoops (tableware) for kitchen use; non-electric whisks for household purposes." Class: 21  
"Shirts, pullovers, caps and hats, jackets, trousers, aprons." Class: 25  
"Ground and whole bean coffee; coffee-based beverages; cocoa; chocolate-based beverages; tea and herbal tea; tea and herbal tea-based beverages; coffee-based beverage mix; espresso-based beverage mix; chocolate-based beverage mix; tea-based beverage mix; herbal tea-based beverage mix; frozen confections, namely, ice cream, ice milk, frozen yogurt, frozen confections with tea, herbal tea and/or fruit flavoring; flavorings, other than essential oils, for beverages; powdered chocolate; vanilla flavoring; chocolate and candy confections; baked goods, namely, muffins, scones, biscuits, cookies, pies, cakes, pastries, quiches and breads; sandwiches; pizzas; prepared meals consisting primarily of pasta; prepared meals consisting primarily of rice; prepared meals consisting primarily of grains; chocolate-based spreads; processed cereal-derived food product to be used as a breakfast cereal; oatmeal; grain-based snack foods; crackers; popcorn; sugar; honey; agave syrup; sauces, namely condiments to add to beverages; salad dressings." - Class: 30

"Fruit drinks, fruit juices, and fruit-based beverages; vegetable drinks, vegetable juices, and vegetable-based beverages; non-alcoholic beverages, namely carbonated beverages, soft drinks; energy drinks, isotonic beverages; liquid mixes for making soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; powders used in the preparation of soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; syrups for beverages; flavored and unflavored bottled drinking water, mineral water, aerated waters; soy-based beverages not being milk substitutes; fruit concentrates and purees used for making beverages; nutritionally fortified beverages, vitamin fortified beverages." - Class: 32  
"Business administration; business management assistance; franchising, namely providing commercial assistance in the establishment and/or operation of restaurants, cafes, coffee house, tea house, and snack bars; retail store services in the field of coffee, tea, food, beverages, coffee and espresso makers, tea makers, tableware, kitchenware, books, musical recordings, wallets, travelling bags, shopping bags, handbags, jewelry, clothing and hats, toys, including stuffed toys; wholesale distribution (excluding the transport thereof) of food, beverage, housewares, and kitchenware; on-line retail store services featuring food, beverage, housewares, and kitchenware; administration of incentive award program through the issuance and processing of discounts in the nature of loyalty points for purchase of a company's goods or services." Class: 35  
"Restaurant, cafe, cafeteria, snack bar, coffee bar, tea bar, tea house, and carry out restaurant services; bar services; catering services; preparation of food and beverages; contract beverage services; restaurant services featuring a customer loyalty program that provides restaurant benefits to reward repeat customers." - Class: 43



(Reg: No. IV/13654/2017)

In respect of: - "Herbal tea for medicinal purposes; vitamin drinks" Class: 5  
"Communication services, namely, transmitting streamed and downloadable audio and video entertainment programming via computer satellite and communications networks; providing access to on-line chat rooms, bulletin boards and Internet forums for the transmission of messages among computer users in the fields of entertainment, music, food, beverage, merchandise, and general interest; providing telecommunications

connections to a global computer network; electronic transmission of gift cards, greeting cards, and messages." Class: 38

**STARBUCKS**  
(Reg: No. IV/13661/2017)

In respect of: - "Herbal tea for medicinal purposes; vitamin drinks" Class: 5  
"Financial services, namely, stored-value card services; charitable fund raising services; financing services; financial sponsorship." - Class: 36



(Reg: No. IV/13662/2017)

In respect of: - "Herbal tea for medicinal purpose; vitamin drinks" - Class: 5  
"Alcoholic beverages, except beer." - Class: 33

**STARBUCKS RESERVE**  
(Reg: No. IV/13663/2017)

In respect of: - "Non-electric drip coffee makers; non-electric plunger-style coffee makers; non-electric kettles; tea infusers not of precious metal; tea pots not of precious metal; tea strainers; non-electric tea warmers consisting of a teapot stand with candle holder; thermal insulated containers for beverages; cups; saucers; mugs; beverage glassware; non-paper reusable coffee filters; coasters, not of paper and other than table linen; tea services not of precious metal; trays for domestic purposes; dishes; plates; bowls; pitchers; trivets; containers for household and kitchen use; tea cosies; candle holder not of precious metal; candlesticks not of precious metal; figurines of porcelain, ceramic, earthenware, or glass; porcelain decorative ornaments; scoops (tableware) for kitchen use; non-electric whisks for household purposes." Class: 21  
"Ground and whole bean coffee; coffee-based beverages; cocoa; chocolate-based beverages; tea and herbal tea; tea and herbal tea-based beverages; coffee-based beverage mix; espresso-based beverage mix; chocolate-based beverage mix; tea-based beverage mix; herbal tea-based beverage mix; frozen confections, namely, ice cream, ice milk, frozen yogurt, frozen confections with tea, herbal tea and/or fruit flavoring; flavorings, other than essential oils, for beverages; powdered chocolate; vanilla flavoring; chocolate and candy confections; baked goods, namely, muffins, scones, biscuits, cookies, pies, cakes, pastries, quiches and breads; sandwiches; pizzas; prepared meals consisting primarily of pasta; prepared meals consisting primarily of rice; prepared meals consisting primarily of grains; chocolate-based spreads; processed cereal-derived food product to be used as a breakfast cereal; oatmeal; grain-based snack foods; crackers; popcorn; sugar; honey; agave syrup; sauces, namely condiments to add to beverages; salad dressings." - Class: 30  
"Business administration; business management assistance; franchising, namely providing commercial assistance in the establishment and/or operation of restaurants, cafes, coffee houses, tea houses, and snack bars; retail store services in the field of coffee, tea, food, beverages, coffee and espresso makers, tea makers, tableware, kitchenware, books, musical recordings, wallets, travelling bags, shopping bags, handbags, jewelry, clothing and hats, toys, including stuffed toys; wholesale distribution (excluding the transport thereof) of food, beverage, housewares, and kitchenware; on-line retail store services featuring food, beverage, housewares, and kitchenware; administration of incentive award program through the issuance and processing of discounts in the nature of loyalty points for purchase of a company's goods or services." Class: 35  
"Restaurant, cafe, cafeteria, snack bar, coffee bar, tea bar, tea house, and carry out restaurant services; bar services; catering services; preparation of food and beverages; contract beverage services; restaurant services featuring a customer loyalty program that provides restaurant benefits to reward repeat customers." - Class: 43



(Reg: No. IV/13665/2017)

In respect of: - "Non-electric drip coffee makers; non-electric plunger-style coffee makers; non-electric kettles; tea infusers not of precious metal; tea pots not of precious metal; tea strainers; non-electric tea warmers consisting of a teapot stand with candle holder; thermal insulated containers for beverages; cups; saucers; mugs; beverage glassware; non-paper reusable coffee filters; coasters, not of paper and other than table linen; tea services not of precious metal; trays for domestic purposes; dishes; plates; bowls; pitchers; trivets; containers for household and kitchen use; tea cosies; candle holder not of precious metal; candlesticks not of precious metal; figurines of porcelain, ceramic, earthenware, or glass; porcelain decorative ornaments; scoops (tableware) for kitchen use; non-electric whisks for household purposes." Class: 21  
"Milk; flavored milk; milkshakes; milk-based food beverages, excluding milkshakes; milk-based beverages containing coffee; milk-based beverages containing fruit juice; milk-based beverages containing chocolate; milk-based beverages containing tea; soy-based food beverage used as a milk substitute; milk-based energy drinks; dried milk powder; dairy-based beverage mixes; soy milk; fruit-based snack foods; fruit jams, compote, jellies; meat-based spread, fish-based spread, poultry-based spread, fruit-based spread, nut-based spread, vegetable-based spread, dairy-based spread; cooked vegetables; dried vegetables; preserved vegetables; vegetable salads; dried fruit; preserved fruit; fruit salads; meat; fish; poultry; game; charcuterie; meat extracts; prepared meals consisting primarily of meat, soy, poultry, seafood, vegetables, fruits, tofu, and/or cheese; soups; yogurt, yogurt-based beverages; whipping cream; cheese; eggs; prepared seeds; prepared nuts, seasoned nuts, roasted nuts, nut-based snack foods; edible oils and fats." - Class: 29  
"Ground and whole bean coffee; coffee-based beverages; cocoa; chocolate-

**ETHOS**

(Reg: No. IV/13670/2017)

In respect of: - "Fruit drinks, fruit juices, and fruit-based beverages; vegetable drinks, vegetable juices, and vegetable-based beverages; non-alcoholic beverages, namely carbonated beverages, soft drinks; energy drinks, isotonic beverages; liquid mixes for making soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; powders used in the preparation of soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; syrups for beverages; flavored and unflavored bottled drinking water, mineral water, aerated waters; soy-based beverages not being milk substitutes; fruit concentrates and purees used for making beverages; nutritionally fortified beverages, vitamin fortified beverages." - Class: 32

**FRAPPUCCINO**

(Reg: No. IV/13671/2017)

In respect of: - "Wallets, handbags, shopping bags, travelling bags, briefcases, card cases, umbrellas." - Class: 18  
"Shirts, pullovers, caps and hats, jackets, trousers, aprons." - Class: 25

**STARBUCKS REFRESHERS**  
(Reg: No. IV/13677/2017)

In respect of: - "Coffee-based beverages; espresso-based beverages; chocolate-based beverages; tea-based beverages; herbal tea-based beverages; frozen confection with tea, herbal tea and/or fruit flavoring; flavorings, other than essential oils, for beverages." - Class: 30  
"Fruit drinks, fruit juices, and fruit-based beverages; vegetable drinks, vegetable juices, and vegetable-based beverages; non-alcoholic beverages, namely carbonated beverages, soft drinks; energy drinks, isotonic beverages; liquid mixes for making soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; powders used in the preparation of soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; syrups for beverages; flavored and unflavored bottled drinking water, mineral water, aerated waters; soy-based beverages not being milk substitutes; fruit concentrates and purees used for making beverages; nutritionally fortified beverages, vitamin fortified beverages." - Class: 32

**STARBUCKS VIA**

(Reg: No. IV/13678/2017)

In respect of: - "Electrical appliance, namely, espresso makers, coffee makers, kettles, teapots, tea makers, beverage steamers, and water dispensers for domestic and commercial use; water filters; water filtration and purification units and replacement cartridges and filters therefor." Class: 11  
"Non-electric drip coffee makers; non-electric plunger-style coffee makers; non-electric kettles; tea infusers not of precious metal; tea pots not of precious metal; tea strainers; non-electric tea warmers consisting of a teapot stand with candle holder; thermal insulated containers for beverages; cups; saucers; mugs; beverage glassware; non-paper reusable coffee filters; coasters, not of paper and other than table linen; tea services not of precious metal; trays for domestic purposes; dishes; plates; bowls; pitchers; trivets; containers for household and kitchen use; tea cosies; candle holder not of precious metal; candlesticks not of precious metal; figurines of porcelain, ceramic, earthenware, or glass; porcelain decorative ornaments; scoops (tableware) for kitchen use; non-electric whisks for household purposes." - Class: 21  
"Milk; flavored milk; milk-based food beverages, excluding milkshakes; milk-based beverages containing coffee; milk-based beverages containing fruit juice; milk-based beverages containing chocolate; milk-based beverages containing tea; dried milk powder; dairy-based beverage mixes." - Class: 29  
"Fruit drinks, fruit juices, and fruit-based beverages; vegetable drinks, vegetable juices, and vegetable-based beverages; non-alcoholic beverages, namely carbonated beverages, soft drinks; energy drinks, isotonic beverages; liquid mixes for making soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; powders used in the preparation of soft drinks and fruit-based beverages; syrups for beverages; flavored and unflavored bottled drinking water, mineral water, aerated waters; soy-based beverages not being milk substitutes; fruit concentrates and purees used for making beverages; nutritionally fortified beverages, vitamin fortified beverages." - Class: 32

**ORIGAMI**

(Reg: No. IV/13679/2017)

In respect of: - "Paper coffee filters." Class: 16  
"Ground and whole bean coffee; coffee-based beverages; coffee-based beverage mix." - Class: 30



(Reg: No. IV/13681/2017)

In respect of: - "Restaurant, cafe, cafeteria, snack bar, coffee bar, tea bar, tea house, and carry out restaurant services; bar services; catering services; preparation of food and beverages; contract beverage services; restaurant services featuring a customer loyalty program that provides restaurant benefits to reward repeat customers." - Class: 43

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

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# SUNDAY COMICS



## PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Comic  
Maung Shwe Win



## SUNDAY JOKE

Comic  
Maung Maung Aung





To fulfil the needs for electricity in Myanmar, which is the driving force for the development of the country's economy, Total from France and Siemens from Germany will jointly implement a project to generate electricity from Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in Kanbauk, Taninthayi Region. The project will involve installation of a 500 KV grid and sub-power stations. The following is an interview with Mr. Peter Bruder, General Manager of the Yangon Office of Siemens, regarding the investment in Myanmar.

# Siemens deepens investments in Myanmar

By Thi Thi Min (Kyemon Daily) and Min Thit (MNA)

**Q. It was learnt that Siemens will invest in the energy sector in Dawei, Taninthayi Region. May we know where in Dawei and when the investment will be started?**

**A.** Thank you for that question. Before talking about the project details, let us first have a look at the background and reasons for such development.

In 2015, Myanmar opened itself to the world and their political system to a democracy. The expectations from the society towards national growth are extremely challenging.

**Q. What is the basic requirement for growth in any Country?**

Ask any investor and he will answer that the most important driver for any country's growth is a sustainable and reliable power-supply.

With an electrification rate of approximately 35 per cent, the power demand in Myanmar is exorbitantly high and we will see it increasing year over year.

To cover the demand, the MOEE (Ministry of Electricity and Energy) plans to double the energy generation within the next two to three years. This is doable only with a new dimension of power generation. The MOEE is fully aware of this, and the recent signing of NTPs (Notice to Proceed) for four power plants is an important milestone to realise the plan of doubling the capacity to serve the growing demand of the country.

I am proud that Siemens is part of this development and we are committed to bring in all our expertise and capabilities to the benefit of the country. We always strive to be a trusted partner and solution provider to our customers. I am convinced that the signing of the NTP last month is a testimony of MOEE's trust in the capabilities and expertise of Siemens and our partner Total.

**Q. What is the project all about? What are the details?**

**A.** The project we are involved in is an integrated LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) to Power project, located in Kanbauk,



Mr. Peter Bruder, General Manager of the Yangon Office of Siemens. PHOTO: MIN THIT

Taninthayi Region. It is a completely new type of project for Myanmar and it is a totally new dimension of power plant. It will generate 1,230 MW of electric power, more than five times the size of Myingyan Combined Cycle Power Plant, with world-class efficiency and highest quality.

It integrates the fuel supply (LNG) for the power plant. For this, a jetty will be built, a floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) provided and the gas will be pumped via pipelines to the power plant.

The third portion of the project is the transmission system. A 450 km-long transmission line is being built which will transport power from the power plant to the load centres in Yangon.

The Notice to Proceed, which has been signed recently, is an important milestone of the project. It is the basis to proceed to further into areas like advancing of studies and permits, but

also to secure financing. We are also going to start PPA (power purchase agreement) negotiations soon and our goal is to sign the PPA within 2018.

I strongly believe that trust and faith in the partner is a mandatory prerequisite for the realisation of such an iconic project.

The combination of Siemens, a global powerhouse in energy, electricity and digitalisation, and Total, a major global player in the gas sector, provides strong confidence to MOEE that this project can be realised and will be delivered as required.

**Q. Let us know the purpose of the investment in Myanmar. Why are you doing that?**

**A.** Siemens has been present in Myanmar for 25 years. Hence, this is not our first contribution in Myanmar. Last year, we expanded our social office in

Yangon to establish a broader partner network as Myanmar has a potential growth in infrastructure, energy and industrial development.

Siemens is not simply a foreign investor who comes for one project and disappears again. We are part of the community of Myanmar and it is our commitment and effort to focus on creating value for the country and our customers. Supporting the country's development and growth with all our expertise and experience is our contribution to the community.

The demand for power in Myanmar is extremely high and fast growing. Being a global leader in power generation and transmission and being a part of Myanmar's community we always strive to use these qualities for the development of the country. This is why we develop such a mega-project.

**Q. We would like to know how much Siemens will invest in Myanmar and how profit/benefit would be shared between the company and the country.**

**A.** It is too early to mention figures at this moment in time. We have ideas, but shall not talk about at the moment.

Regarding benefits for the country, they are substantial.

First of all, thanks to the world-class efficiency of our turbines and state-of-the-art technology, we have been able to propose a very competitive tariff.

Secondly, besides providing a tremendous amount of eagerly needed, reliable power, we will also build a completely new 500kV transmission infrastructure. This transmission line ranges over 450km from Kanbauk up to Yangon and allows electrification of all regions along its way, benefiting not only Yangon but also local residents.

Lastly, the LNG facility is foremost designed to import LNG and convert it to gas which will be used in the power plant, which means it is designed for the need in Myanmar. However, at a later stage it can be involved in exports of re-gasified LNG as well.

# A wink from one in pink

By Mark Angeles

The young Buddhist nun saw me raise my camera to my eye and gave me a quick wink before she disappeared into a ramshackle home in Yangon to ask for alms.

While they are almost always serious and reverent, some of the young ones cannot help but be happy and playful. The Buddhist nuns in Yangon range from about nine years of age to approximately 90, according to the latest available census.

There are reportedly about 30,000 nuns in Myanmar, one of the largest concentrations in the world. They stand out in their pink habits, in contrast to the dark saffron robes of monks. They are not as well-supported as the monks, so virtually all of them rely on alms for their meals and daily existence.

The main reason for their lower status is that they are not allowed to be fully ordained. According to Buddhist history, the lineage of Theravada bhikkhunis (fully ordained female Buddhist monastics) died in 456 CE, and thus full ordination is almost impossible. The Buddhist nuns in Myanmar are known as thila shin (possessors of morality).

The ceremony that initiates women into the female religious order gives them a religious status equal to that of a pious laywomen who abides by sabbatical vows.

Nevertheless, some nunneries in Myanmar report that enrollment of young nuns is on the rise.



Young Buddhist nuns requesting provision on Za Lun Street in Sanchaung. Nuns in Myanmar range in age from 9 to 90. **PHOTO: MARK ANGELES**

## Siemens deepens investments in Myanmar

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**Q. In addition to the energy sector, does Siemens have any other investment in Myanmar? If so, we would like to know what they are.**

**A.** Of course, due to the huge need for power the energy sector is one of the focus sectors of Myanmar and Siemens. However, Siemens is a global powerhouse with expertise in energy, electricity and digitalisation. Our portfolio covers power generation, energy management including transmission and distribution, process industries and drives, mobility and transportation systems, building technologies and digitalisation. This broad portfolio is unique in the world and together with our customers, we develop solutions for the country's challenges.

With our local partners we have competent channels for distribution of our portfolio. This is one channel to investment. Of course the Kanbauk project is a lighthouse project for Siemens and Myanmar, and it is therefore the most important project we are working on at this time.

**Q. Are there any other companies which Siemens plans to cooperate for mutual benefits? May we know of any other projects to be implemented?**

**A.** For Siemens, partnership with local companies is a key enabler of growth and is one of our major business goals. Currently, Siemens has forged partnerships with more than 14 local companies. They cover a wide range of different technologies like automation, hardware for transmission and distribution system, meters and switches, fire suppression systems, building technologies and drives, and last but not least medical equipment for hospitals and laboratories.

The next further step is for example the collaboration which has been established with our partner KMN. KMN manufactures through license of Siemens complete medium-voltage switchgear systems called SIMO-PRIME. Being a licensed partner, they have to meet our highest quality standards in the same way as all other factories in the world. German quality, made in Myanmar. Regular audits are established to ensure the required

quality.

Co-operation and collaboration with local partners is beneficial for all parties. The local partners benefit from knowledge sharing and being trained. The train-the-trainer approach enables our partners to train their staff and staff of their customers. This keeps costs low and enhances the knowledge base of our partners, enabling them to create value add for our customers. Capacity building is one of the key needs in Myanmar and collaborating with local organisations is the first measure to increase knowledge and skills and create value for our customers.

**Q. Other projects?**

**A.** What Siemens can offer more from being a trusted partner for Myanmar is digitalisation. As the world becomes increasingly connected with digitalization is a major trend in this changing world, organisations in the public and private sectors need to embrace digitalisation.

This mega-trend is having an impact all over the world, including Myanmar. It doesn't stop at borders and whoever ignores it will finally be left

behind.

How crucial digitalisation is can easily be seen from the benefits it creates. Digitalisation can help business enterprises and the public to become more efficient, sustainable and secure. It promises lower costs, improves production quality, flexibility and efficiency as well as shorten response times to customers and market demand.

The German industry and Siemens has long been amongst the leaders of digitalisation and particularly, the wide-ranging Siemens Digital Portfolio offers enhancements to the entire value chain of customers. i.e. from engineering and design via production and operation up to maintenance and service. Siemens digital portfolio can help organisations to digitally adapt and enhance legacy systems and identify where digital technologies can help increase efficiency, sustainability and security.

Digitalisation is all around and it will also enter Myanmar. The future will show how this subject will drive Myanmar but with Siemens at its side, the country can be well positioned to benefit from it.