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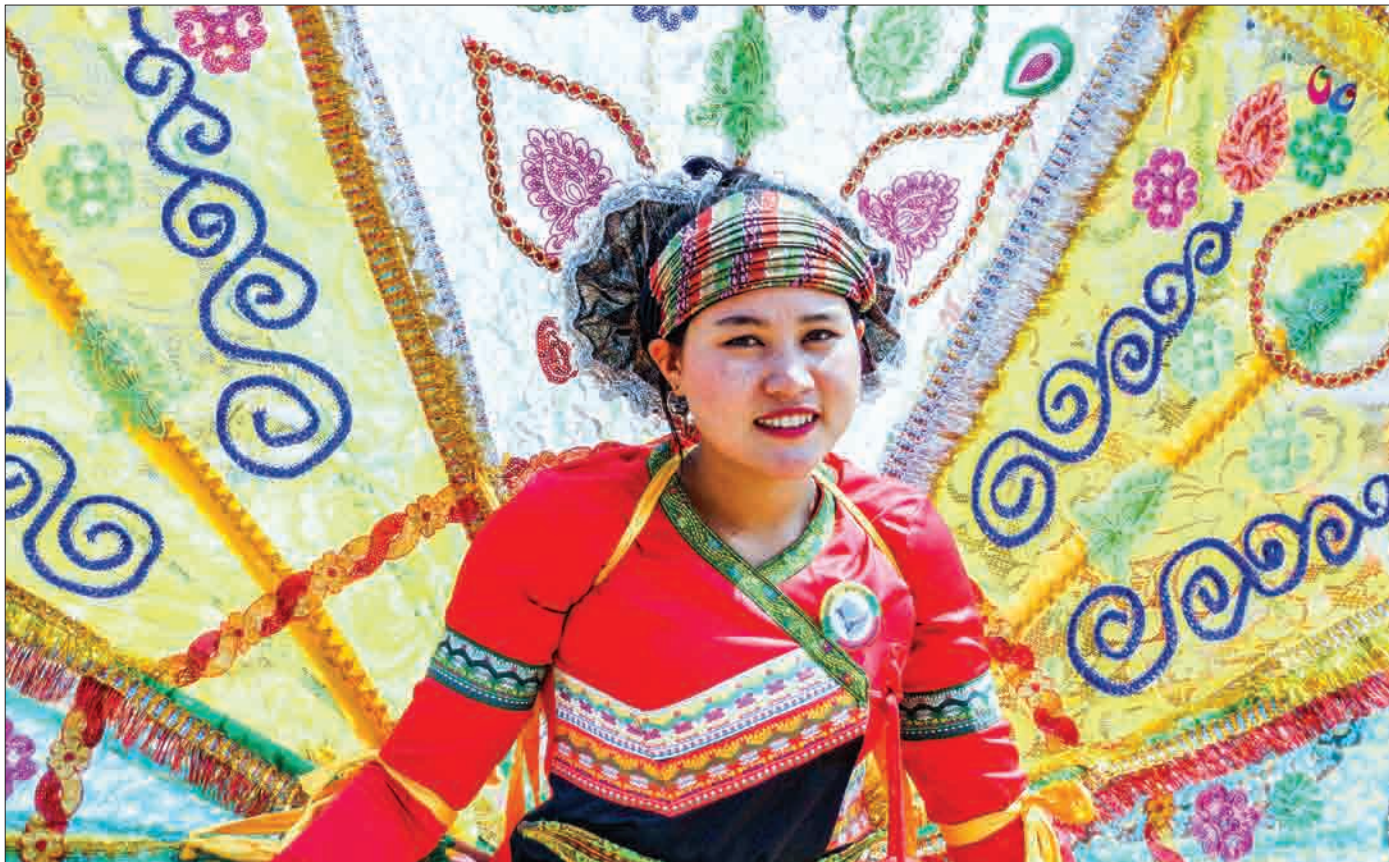


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**in
Picture**

Ethnic Literature & Culture Development Festival in Taunggyi

A Shan ethnic woman performs a traditional dance at the Ethnic Literature and Culture Development Festival in Taunggyi, Shan State yesterday. The five-day event organised by the Ministry of Information and the Shan State Government began on 21st March. Papers on literature and the culture of ethnic tribes were shared at the festival. **PHOTO: TAUNGGYI IPRD**

Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs visits Maungtaw

A delegation led by Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Iwao Horii, accompanied by Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Phone Tint and Rakhine State Government Secretary U Tin Maung

Swe, arrived in Maungtaw town yesterday afternoon and viewed the preparations being made for the redevelopment of the Maungtaw region to receive the returnees.

The delegation visited the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre

and inspected the status of the building being constructed to temporarily house the returnees, as well as the availability of water, electricity and sanitation facilities.

The construction of the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre is

more than 75 per cent complete and can house more than 25,000 persons. Once it is fully completed, it will accommodate more than 30,000, as well as provide housing, food, water, electricity and healthcare.

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Myanmar rejects draft resolution on human rights

THE draft resolution entitled "Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar" tabled by the European Union (EU) was considered for action on 23 March 2018 during the 37th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

During the discussion, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations Ambassador U Htin Lynn delivered a statement before taking action on the draft resolution, and categorically rejected the draft resolution highlighting paragraphs which are highly intrusive and directly challenging to the state sovereignty of Myanmar.

He also updated the meeting of the progress being made on the ground and underlined factually and technically flawed paragraphs in the draft resolution.

In his statement, the Permanent Representative stressed that Myanmar, as a young democracy, has been facing challenges in its march to a democratic society. However, such challenges will not derail the Government's efforts in national reconciliation, peace, development and promotion and protection of human rights.

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Coordination meeting held for port development

A COORDINATION meeting to discuss the development of ports in the country was held at the office of the Myanmar Port Authority on Pansodan Street in Yangon yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo, Director-General U Ni Aung, general manager, department heads, deputy heads, as well as other invited managing directors, chief executive officers, directors and personnel from international port companies.

In his speech, the union minister spoke about the develop-

ment of the nation's ports.

U Ni Aung, managing director of the Myanmar Port Authority, then explained matters related to the construction of buildings and jetties at Thilawa Port and Yangon Port.

Also, the attending managing directors, chief executive officers, directors and personnel from international port companies explained their company's capabilities and completed works.

In conclusion, the union minister and the deputy minister commented about the discussions and ended the meeting with a speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung discusses the port development at the coordination meeting in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**



Myanmar Workers Skills Competition held in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Workers Skills Competition held in Nay Pyi Taw

TO prepare Myanmar workers to compete in the 12th ASEAN Skills Competition to be hosted by Thailand, a three-day Myanmar Workers Skills Competition is being held at Tungapuri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw from 23 to 25 March. Competitions to test the workers' skills in coffee-making, napkin folding, drinks and beverage preparations, fruit decorations and buffet table decorations were held on 23 March, the first day.

On the second day, youths participated in a food preparation (luncheon/dinner) and hosting contest. The contest will continue today.

The competition aims to develop the basic skills of youths working in the hotel and tourism sector.

Three Myanmar workers participated in the ASEAN Skills Competition 2016, with one of them winning in the Restaurant

Service Skill Area category and another winning the Medallion of Excellence Award.

"We hope to win many medals this year, too," said U Ye Tun, executive committee member of the Myanmar Tourism Federation.

Two skilled youths will be selected during this competition, and after undergoing training, they will have the opportunity to compete in the 12th ASEAN Skills Competition in Thailand, he added.

Maung Than Kyaw, a contestant, said, "I am competing in the food preparation and decoration competitions. Yesterday, we displayed our talent in salad dressings, laying of table sheets and bartending. I learnt a lot by competing with people who are better than me. Participants have come from all over Myanmar to compete in the event." —Myo Thu Hein (MNA) ■

Fighting Tuberculosis begins in Kayin State with five-year plan

AS a part of movement to fight against the global Tuberculosis epidemic, the TB Programme in Kayin State is going to conduct activities that will initiate a five-year national strategic plan, Dr Hsan Hla Phyu, the head of Kayin State's National TB Programme, said at the ceremony commemorating the World Tuberculosis Day on 24 March.

"The WHO aims to reduce the number of new TB patients from 100,000 people to 10 in 2035. So, we will carry out activities

to combat TB in the State by conducting a five-year national strategic plan based on the WHO's End TB Strategy," Dr Hsan Hla Phyu said at the ceremony held at the nursing school in Hpa-An town.

Myanmar is one of the 30 countries listed as the highest number of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) patients.

According to a survey on TB and HIV, 8.5 percent of new TB patients are HIV positive and five percent of them are MDR-TB patients, the

doctor said.

In 2017, the department found 227 TB patients out of 100,000 people in Kayin State. The number of multidrug-resistant TB patients has increased to 48 in 2017 from 35 in 2016. TB patients are mostly between 15 and 55 years old.

The theme of World TB Day 2018 is "Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world". The commemoration the World Tuberculosis Day took place today across Myanmar.—Myanmar Digital News ■

YCDC to try to use public toilet free

WHEN the Yangon City Development Committee generates more income, it will allow people to use public toilets under its management for free, Mayor for the Yangon City Development Committee U Maung Maung Soe said at the Yangon Region Hluttaw's regular session held yesterday.

He added that the YCDC will also take into consideration public security in its public toilet facilities.

U Than Naing Oo, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative from Pabedan Township's No.1 constituency, raised a question in the parliamentary session relating to the

public toilets.

He asked if the YCDC has a plan to provide better restroom facilities in public areas such as in pagodas, markets and hospitals in Yangon Region and allow people to use them for free.

The YCDC directly manages only the public toilets opened in the areas under its supervision. It granted permits to investors under the B.O.T system to open public toilets at crowded areas and some main roads for the convenience of the people. But, these public toilets are pay toilets because investors have to use their money for construction,

maintenance and staff hiring, he explained.

At the moment, the YCDC cannot manage to afford the expenditures for maintaining and hiring staff in these public toilets, he said.

The toilets in private shopping malls, supermarket and government/private hospitals can be used free however, people have to pay money for the toilets in some pagodas, markets and hospitals.

These facilities are related to relevant ministries or organizations, and they are charging a fee under their own plans, he added.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Artist Dr. Lun Gywe donates oil painting to MRTV

ARTIST Dr. Lun Gywe donated an oil painting to Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) at the MRTV meeting hall on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday.

Dr. Lun Gywe painted a picture depicting the Myanmar song “Myittar Ingyin Ya Gone” (flower house of metta or loving-kindness), as a message of peace.

At the event, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint expressed thanks for the donation.

For his part, Dr. Lun Gywe said, “The painting was created to depict the ‘Myittar Ingyin Ya Gone’ song. I wanted to contribute through my professional

skills and did it out of love and for peace in the nation.”

Also, music composer Al-inkar Kyaw Swar Hinthada U Myint Ngwe said, “Artist Dr. Lun Gywe painted the picture depicting my composition, entitled, ‘Myittar Ingyin Ya Gone.’ I composed this song 52 years ago, based on an article about a deer, a tiger and an archer (hunter) living peacefully in a forest full of flowers. It is also based on my own experiences. This song will always be useful at a time when the country is striving towards peace. I composed this song in an artistically small way to help our nation. The message



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint accepts the oil painting from Dr. Lun Gywe. **PHOTO: MNA**

is that peace will prevail when people love each other and show kindness.”

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint accepted the oil painting and, in return,

presented Dr. U Lun Gywe with a certificate of honour.

Director-General of MRTV U Myint Htwe also expressed words of thanks.

Present at the meeting

were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, departmental officers and officials, artist Dr. Lun Gywe’s wife, artist Daw Lun Mya Mya, and artist U Hla Tin Tun. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Mr. Iwao Horii talks to officials as he witnesses reconstruction of houses in Pantawpyin village. **PHOTO: MNA**

Japan’s Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs visits Maungtaw

FROM PAGE-1

Vice-Minister Mr. Iwao Horii travelled to Shwezar Village and met with local villagers. Shwezar Village was not involved in terrorist acts, and people of various races and religions live here peacefully, while working primarily in the agriculture and fishery sectors.

Later, the vice-minister visited the Maungtaw District General Administration Department office and met with those

Hindu women who were reportedly abducted from the country and taken to Bangladesh.

Following this, the vice-minister visited Pantawpyin Village to view the reconstruction of houses there.

During his Maungtaw trip, Vice-Minister Mr. Iwao Horii said Japan will help in the resettlement processes and support both Myanmar and Bangladesh in assisting the returnees. — Kyaw Thu Htat ■

Spokesman: No speech made by Acting President U Myint Swe

U ZAW HTAY, the spokesperson for the President’s Office, said yesterday that Acting President U Myint Swe didn’t deliver a message or speech, as was stated widely on social media, terming the claim “fake news”.

“In the social media network, it was titled as the first message to the people by the Acting President. The message was also said to contain the assertion of what sort of people ought to be selected as a President. The message was reportedly said to have been delivered during the time when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was preparing to select the President. The Acting President returned from Morocco last week and didn’t meet with the

public nor deliver a speech. There is no announcement in state-owned media about the Acting President delivering a speech to the public. As this news was reported widely in the social media, I’m denying this in order to prevent the people from having any doubt about it”, said Director General U Zaw Htay, the spokesperson for the President’s Office.

According to the 2008 Constitution, the first Vice President becomes the Acting President whenever the President’s position becomes vacant due to death, when the President is permanently unable to perform his duties or when he resigns before the expiry of his term. The first Vice President is the

person who received the second highest number of votes during the presidential election. Vice President U Myint Swe is currently serving as Acting President after the resignation last week of U Htin Kyaw. The constitution dictates that a new president should be selected by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in seven days time.

Investigations are being conducted to expose who disseminated the false news and appropriate action will be taken according to the law, it was learnt.

“We are investigating the (social media) account owner who spread this news”, U Zaw Htay said. — Myanmar News Agency ■

BGB holds coordination meeting at MRTV

A COORDINATION meeting of the Ministry of Information’s Broadcasting Governing Body (BGB) was held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Radio and Television’s (MRTV’s) office in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said MRTV will work with radio and television broadcasting entities to con-

tinue developing the sector in Myanmar.

Also, Ministry of Information’s BGB Chairman Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, MRTV Director-General U Myint Htwe and other departmental officials explained the work being done by MRTV.

Later, officials from radio and television broadcasting explained their work require-

ments with the Union Minister.

Later in the afternoon Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint together with Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun met with News and Periodicals Enterprise Managing Director, chief editors and editorial department members to discuss about raising the quality of State owned newspapers. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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please be aware that your letter will be
edited.

Metered taxi service to be launched on 1 April

METERED taxi services will be introduced in Yangon on 1 April, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

"The metered taxis will charge Ks300 per kilometre and an additional Ks1,300 as service fees. The time spent in traffic jams and at traffic signals will not be considered while calculating the fare," said Ko Lin, founder of Kilo-metre Taxi.

"We have launched the service to set a fair price rate for both cab drivers and passengers. We have been running the service on a trial basis, since the second week of March. By 1 April, Kilometre Taxi stickers will be pasted on member taxi cabs. The fare list will be available in the cabin. For the security of passengers, every taxi will be registered," said Ko Lin.

The group has 127 taxis



Taxis run in downtown Yangon. Metered taxi service will be launched on 1 April. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

and has planned to launch the service on 1 April with 150 taxis.

"Cabbies registered with the

group have to present copies of their national identity cards, household registration certi-

ates, wheel tax certificates and driving licences," said Ko Lin.—GNLM ■

Hydrogeology, groundwater exploration, groundwater management workshop held in Yangon

May Thet Hnin

A workshop on hydrogeology, groundwater exploration and groundwater management was held at the International Business Centre, Yangon, on 23 March.

Lecturers from the geological departments of universities, retired professionals from the groundwater department, representatives from non-governmental organisations concerned with water resources, professionals from other departments, as well as

officials from the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department, attended the workshop.

The workshop was held with the aim of exchanging a geological measurement system, which is important while digging for underground water; experiences in using the well-digging machinery; use of advanced technology in underground water research; and experiences in underground water management, besides establishing future processes

for the sustainable development of underground water resources.

Some 14 papers were submitted at the workshop on topics such as underground water quality, rural water distribution, well digging with machinery, geological research and underground water research using advanced technology.

The Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department will implement an underground water resource

development management project using tips from the discussion's outcome and the reading of the papers.

The underground water department, operating under the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department, will fulfil public requirements by conducting groundwater explorations, hydrogeological surveys, groundwater management for sustainable development and groundwater monitoring. ■

WWF donates over 200 solar panels to Dawei to mark Earth Hour

THE World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has donated solar panels to 235 households in three villages of Dawei Township to mark Earth Hour, which will be observed on 24 March.

The programme was supported jointly by DANIDA, India Technical and Economic Cooperation and Energy and Environment Partnership (EEEP Mekong), in cooperation with Barefoot College and Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation (MWCFD).

WWF donated one solar panel to each household. To ensure that maintenance services can be conducted in the villages annually, WWF-Myanmar supported five women from three villages in the Taninthayi Region to study at the Barefoot College in India to become solar engineers. "This programme is not only helping the villages access electricity but also promoting the empowerment of Myanmar women," said U Shoon So Oo, energy manager

of WWF-Myanmar.

Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. Since then, it has grown to engage more than 180 countries annually. Myanmar has been celebrating the Earth Hour programme since last year. Myanmar celebrated the event with the lighting of 10,000 oil lamps at the Shwedagon Pagoda by monks, climate change officials and ordinary citizens, as a mark of respect for those who lost

their lives in environmental disasters in the country.

This year, Chattrium Hotel, International School Yangon, Junction City and Junction Square will turn off their lights for an hour to mark Earth Hour.

The world's largest grassroots movement for the environment aims to mobilise individuals, businesses and the government to be part of the conversation and solution needed to build a healthy, sustainable future and planet—GNLM ■



Myanmar's major international trading partners include China, Thailand, Singapore, India, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Germany, Indonesia, the United States and the United Kingdom.—Khine Khant■

This FY, the country exported agro products worth nearly \$2.929 billion, animal products worth \$51 million, marine products worth \$666 million, minerals valued at \$1.701 billion, manufactured goods worth \$6.297 billion and other products with an estimated value of \$2 billion.—Khine Khant ■

The country's import value is always greater than its exports, causing a trade deficit. To reduce the trade gap, the government is seeking to implement the best available solutions, in collaboration with private businesspersons.—
Shwe Khine■

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Golden umbrella hoisted atop Kyaikpaung Pagoda in Paung, Mon State

A CEREMONY to hoist the diamond bud, vane and golden umbrella onto the Kyaikpaung Pagoda in Paung Town, Mon State, was held yesterday morning, with Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko in attendance.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister and members of the public took the Nine Precepts from Mon State Sanghanayaka Committee trustee and leading patron Sayadaw of Mawlamyine

Town, Phet Tan ward Abaya Thuta monastery Maha Saddhamma Jotika Gandawasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Sasana.

Also, Mon State, Paung Township Sanghanayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Phayagyi, monastery leading patron Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandaw Batha delivered a sermon and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Mani

Jotadara Dr. Khin Shwe explained about Sasana matters.

Afterwards, Mon State, Bili Township, Kyaikhtihsaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaja Dr. Bhaddanta Naganeda gave a sermon for donations and the audience shared merit through the pouring of water.

Following this, donations of dried rations (including rice) were made to 108 sanghas by Union Minister for Religious

Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, State government member minister for social affairs Dr. Htein Lin, Department of Religious Affairs Director General U Myint Oo, the Buddhist Association for the Promotion of Theravada Buddhism in Border Regions Chairman Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr. Khin Shwe, regional administrative organisations, related officials and guests.

Union Minister and officials then paid homage to Paung Town, Phayagyi monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandaw Batha and donated offerings. From Paung Towns, the Union Minister and officials went on to Mawlamyine Town, Pariyatti Beikman to pay homage to sanghas sitting for the Dhamma Cariya examination and made cash donations to the exam center. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister witnesses repatriation readiness

A DELEGATION led by Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Iwao Horii toured the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre and met with local people here yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Iwao Horii had a meeting with the Rakhine ethnic people, as well as Hindus and Muslims in Maungdaw, and asked them about the progress being made to provide them with accommodations.

Along with the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre, the delegation also viewed the construction project undertaken to assist the Mro race.

While speaking with journalists, Mr. Iwao Horii said, "I have come here to witness the situation in the Maungdaw region and assess what kind of assistance can be provided by the Japanese government.

I learnt that people belonging to various races, including

the Rakhine ethnic people, Hindus and Muslims, are living peacefully in this region. Therefore, peaceful coexistence is of great importance to maintain stability in the region."

Being a friendly nation, the Japanese government will provide assistance, wherever necessary, to both Myanmar and Bangladesh, and will assist in the process of repatriation, while creating employment opportunities and providing education to the returnees. "Moreover, we will help restore peace and stability in the region and try to assist in the regional development," he said. The Japanese government will offer emergency assistance and also help in the repatriation and resettlement of people who fled the country.

Further, Japan will help the Myanmar government carry out a variety of proposals for the Rakhine State. —Kyaw Thu Win ■



Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Iwao Horii meets local people at the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre in Maungdaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: AYE MIN THU**

New buildings for Shan State Hluttaw and government opened

THE new buildings for the Shan State parliament and government office were opened yesterday at Eaindaw Street, Thit Taw ward in Taunggyi, Shan State.

Dr. Lin Htut, Chief Minister for Shan State, and U Sai Lone Seng, Speaker of the Shan State Hluttaw, opened the ceremony by pressing a button to unveil the sign board of the buildings.

Six other top senior officials from the parliament and the cabinet cut a ribbon for the opening ceremony of the building.

As a separate ceremony,

six ministers for ethnic affairs cut ribbons for the opening ceremony of the building of Shan State government.

Then, they sprinkled ceremonial water on the sign boards of the parliament and the cabinet, and the memorial inscription for the buildings.

The construction of the new buildings was started in January 2017, and they are not far from the old buildings that are located on Bogyoke Aung San Road in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State. —Shan State IPRD ■



The opening ceremony of the Shan State parliament and government's Office held in Taunggyi, Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**



Dignitaries attend the dinner in honour the winners of the 2017 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun attends dinner honouring 2017 Academy Awards winners

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun attended a dinner hosted in honour of the 2017 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards winners at the Lotte Hotel and Resorts on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday.

Present at the event were patrons and executives of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation, judges of the 2017 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards, winners of the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards, officials from organisations that sponsored the awards presentation

ceremony, Forever Group, the Ministry of Information and other invited guests.

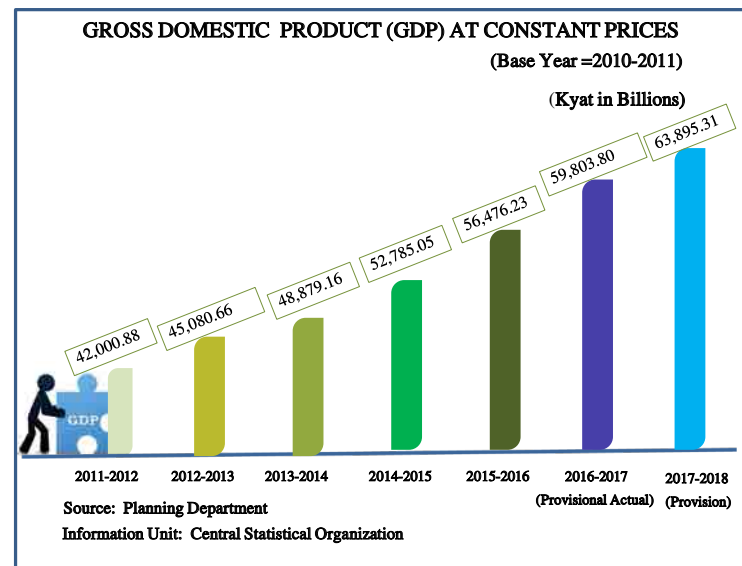
At the event, Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation Chairman U Zin Wine and Forever Group CEO U Win Maw delivered words of thanks.

Officials then presented certificates of honour to the judges of the 2017 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards, Forever Group Co. Ltd, ENERVON-C, Life Cosmetic, Aung Thamardi Gold and Jewellery Shop and Gold Refinery, Automotive Partner GAC Motor, Shwe Nan Taw,

Mandalay Shwe Kadipar Shoe and other sponsors.

Following this, the Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation and businesspersons presented additional cash awards to Lifetime Achievement Award winner Sithu Bogale Tint Aung, academy award winners and judges of the 2017 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards.

Lastly, Academy member Zin Yaw Mg Mg thanked the audience on behalf of the 2017 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards winners. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Myanmar rejects draft resolution on human rights at HRC

FROM PAGE-1

While welcoming the constructive criticism by the international community, the Government will not accept any attempt infringing on the state sovereignty of Myanmar. Meanwhile, Myanmar is ready to work with the international community in their constructive approaches that would help Myanmar to overcome national reconciliation, peace, development and humanitarian challenges of the country.

The Chinese Representative, exercising its right as a member of the Council, called for a vote stating that the draft reso-

lution will not be helpful to Myanmar to overcome its challenges, but even worsen the situation.

The draft resolution was put to a vote at the 47-member Human Rights Council, and adopted with a vote of 32 in favour, 5 against, and 10 abstentions. China, Burundi, Cuba, the Philippines and Venezuela voted against the resolution in support of Myanmar.

The other 10 countries (Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Japan, Kenya, Mongolia, Nepal, Senegal and South Africa) did not support the EU's resolution and abstained in the voting.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends ceremony to provide aid to persons with disabilities and matriarchies

Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, attended a ceremony in support of persons with disabilities and matriarchies held yesterday in the meeting hall of the Administration Department in Thayawady Township, Bago Region.

During the ceremony, cash was presented to persons with disabilities by the Union Minister and local authorities.

A total sum of Ks12,550,000 for 251 persons with disabilities, Ks26,325,000 for 1,755 matriarchies, Ks45,800,000 for 916 persons with disabilities and Ks40,715,000 for 2,781 matriarchies were presented.

On behalf of the people, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Myint gave words of

thanks to the Union Minister.

The Union Minister and party then inspected the building which is being built for flood victims during the rainy season. On completion of this building, it can accommodate up to 660 people from Tat Swear, Htan Pin Gone, Nga Kyee and Htan Pin Lay Ywar villages. When not in use during the rainy season, this building can be used as a library, youth centre and healthcare centre.

Afterwards, the Union Minister attended a ceremony held in the meeting hall of the Administration Department in Moe Nyo Township and presented Ks92,450,000 for 1,849 persons with disabilities and Ks89,805,000 for 5,987 matriarchies.



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye talks to matriarchies. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the ceremony, a total amount of Ks308,645,000 was received as donations. Members

of Parliament, departmental heads and local people attended the ceremony, at which Dr.

Win Myat Aye spoke words of thanks on behalf of the donors. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Eradicate bribery and wipe out corruption

THE corruption perception index, conducted annually, is an indication of how the world looks at a certain country. In the latest available index, Myanmar ranks toward the bottom -- 130 out of 180 countries -- in terms of how we are perceived by experts and businesspeople. Total eradication of bribery and corruption must be our national goal. Corruption can severely damage the dignity and image of every individual involved, as well as the national image.

The Anti-Corruption Commission held a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw two days ago to discuss an investigation manual as part of the effort to fight corruption in the country.

Our country is now in transition to a democracy. In going towards democracy, there are good as well as bad things. There are many ways to control bad deeds.

The mission of the commission is to prevent corruption across the nation. Complaints received will be investigated by the commission and preventive works will also be carried out across the country. The work of the commission must be implemented ethically, with accountability and transparency. The making of rules and regulations for investigation is essential for the commission to be able to implement its works with accountability.

There are many steps which need to be adopted to combat corruption. Corruption is a cause of poverty in a country. All citizens desire to eliminate the corruption. We are making efforts to satisfy the people and to fulfill their demands as much as we can. I would like to urge all our citizens not to neglect and forgive the act of taking bribery. We do need to operate with all of you to combat these malpractices together. Anti-corruption is the duty of every citizen.

The drawing up of rules and regulations by the commission began in December 2017, and has now reached the final stage; it will soon be released to the public, according to the commission.

The Anti-Corruption Commission produced an investigation manual at a workshop held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday. We welcome the efforts, believing that this will play a part in fighting the bad deeds.

The establishment of rules and regulations needs to be in accordance with Myanmar's current laws and international standards, and to be practically carried out.

I would like to urge all businessmen not to become involved in corruption. There are three stages -- the State level, the private sector and CSOs. All of them need to avoid these malpractices. Everyone should change their mindset and perform their tasks dutifully. We need to make concerted efforts to wipe out this corruption in our society. ■

Ethnic Nationalities and Cultural heritage of Myanmar

Min Than Naing (Mudon)

THERE are more than 135 different ethnic races in Myanmar, each with its own unique history, culture and language. The minority ethnic nationalities are Bamar, Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Kayah, Mon, Rakhine and Shan respectively. The "major national ethnic races" are grouped primarily according to region rather than linguistic or ethnic affiliation.

Location and Geography

Myanmar has an area of 261,789 square miles (678,034 square kilometers) and is bordered by Bangladesh to the west, India and China to the north, and Laos and Thailand to the east. The southern portion faces the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. The middle portion centers on the Ayeyarwady River where majority of the population and agricultural lands are thrived along the river. The western, northern, and eastern regions have mountains and high valleys and plateaus.

A Land of Ethnic Affinity

Research has established the theory that the native place of the Tibeto-Myanmar group was somewhere in the Eastern portion of the Central Asian Tableland. From there this group sent out its off shoots, century after century, along the valleys and mountain ranges into Indo-China and Myanmar.

In the course of their long and difficult journey they diverged into two ways the one taking the western route and the other the eastern route. The parting point was at the foot of "a crescent of mountains" in the extreme north of Myanmar "which forms the watershed between the Salween and the Bhamraputra, from the southern edge of which spring the sister streams, the N'maikha and the Malikha, which combine to form the Ayeyarwady". That crescent of mountains is practically an impassable barrier preventing a line penetration into straight Myanmar.

Therefore the Tibeto-My-



Ethnic literature festival.

anmar immigrants had either to come out east and follow the Salween River to continue their outward movement, or to turn west and take a circuit towards Assam and the Bhamraputra and from there to proceed pursuing their southerly course. They took both alternatives some following the east-turn and others the west-turn route. The present distributions of the Tibeto-Myanmar and the linguistic study have proved it.

History and Ethnic Relations

Myanmar is a multiethnic, multilingual, and multicultural society with strong family ties and usually thinks in terms of the community rather than the individual. Generally, a traditional Myanmar family includes grandparents, aunts and uncles as well as distant cousins. Close friends can also be considered as part of the family, and it is common for friends to introduce each other as brothers or sisters.

Family is possibly the most important pillar of Myanmar culture. In a typical family, the father is considered the spiritual head of the household. He always hands his monthly salary over to the mother, who manages family expenses. Traditionally, children are taught to love and take care of their grandparents when they

are old. They also believe that supporting their parents and grandparents in their old age is an important way to show their gratitude for raising them. Myanmar people generally do not leave the parents household until they get married, although this attitude is beginning to see some change. Throughout the country, marriage is a strongly respected institution and marriages are love-based. Children usually live with their parents until they marry, but often continue to obey and listen to their parents' advice even after marriage.

Common Characteristics and Literature

Other common characteristics include a high level of hierarchy as well as respect for elders including teachers and parents. Myanmar literature has been greatly influenced by Buddhism, notably the Jataka Stories and its literature is rich in several forms of poetry unique to Myanmar literature.

Myanmar Dancing and Music

Myanmar dances can be divided into dramatic, folk and village, and Nat dances, each having distinct characteristics and features. Myanmar dance has unique qualities that dis-

tinguish it from other countries.

Moreover various types of Myanmar music use an array of traditional musical instruments, assembled in an orchestra known as 'hsaing waing' and traditional folk music is characterized by sudden shifts in rhythm and melody as well as change in texture and timbre.

Myanmar Beliefs and Customs

Although there are many religions present in Myanmar, more than 80% of people are believe in Buddhism. In Buddhism, there are five main precepts that should be practiced daily by believers: not to kill, steal, commit adultery, lie and take narcotic drugs.

The ultimate aim in life according to Buddhist belief is to escape the cycle of rebirth and reach Nirvana. Besides Buddhism, astrology, palmistry and clairvoyance still play a major part in the lives of Myanmar people, especially during the decision making for marriage, business, naming babies and other important issues.

Traditional Myanmar House

The traditional house is made largely of bamboo and flattened pieces of bamboo made into large plaited sections are used to make the walls. Also,

the floors are made of bamboo planks or wood and the frame of the house is made of wood, with hard and durable wood being used for the house posts. Roof coverings are made of a variety of materials, including thatch made from broad-leafed grass or palm fronds. Roofs may be covered with tiles, wooden shingles, or zinc sheets. The front of the house usually has a veranda that is raised a few feet off the ground. The center of the house is the living area for the family. Behind it is a covered cooking area where rice is stored. Especially in urban areas, these houses are being replaced by more generic ones made from cement.

Constitutional Guarantees

According to the 2008 constitution's Article 22, the Union shall assist: (a) to develop language, literature, fine arts and culture of the national races; (b) to promote solidarity, mutual amity and respect and mutual assistance among the national races; (c) to promote socio-economic development, through education, health, economy, transport, communication, and so forth, of less-developed national races.

Ethnic Literature and Cultural Development

Due to literature, there is progress in political, social and economic sectors by knowing more about life and the world through aesthetic literary works. That is why literature plays a vital role in making progress in the country.

Although every ethnic tribe in the country has its own literature and cultural heritage, it is of vital importance to promote ethnic languages and culture as much as we can. Some ethnic races have their own languages, yet they need support to develop their literature and custom. Myanmar is an ethnically diverse nation of various ethnic races; therefore, all are duty-bound to preserve their own language, literature, culture and customs. ■

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung

Corruption, Mismanagement And Malfeasance

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

Introduction

1. Corruption is widespread in our daily lives. So, I would like to say that corruption is a fact of life, but let us all not make it our way of life. And then the question is, what does it tend to corrupt? From the collection of my memories, I would like to mention an essential quotation. It reads, power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

2. And in our current anti corruption law, the following additions shall be made to the original law, section 9. So, section 9 shall be amended by adding sub sections (O) and (P) to its subsection lb(n) as follows:

(A)(p) Investigation shall be made, if necessary into the damage, loss and grievance caused to the state fund, finance, property and possessions.

(q) Office orders shall be issued to any private enterprises and organizations whatsoever, to implement solid, strong and fundamental measures in order to prevent and protect from corruption.

(B) The original, subsection (O) shall be treated as subsection (q) of the same section. In this context, I would like to submit my views on laws and amendments. As regards, anti-corruption, the name of earlier law was suppression of bribery and corruption act. Our native land, the Union of Myanmar, is "a member in the family of nations". Thanks to the Information and Communication Technology -- I.C.T, the world is rapidly changing. With the changing world, our nation must go along with it. At present, we all are "striving hard to draw up a constitution suitable for the union in accordance with democratic principles and norms for the emergence of a "Democratic Federal Union".

3. Well, from every point of view, rule of law is a necessity for making democracy secure in our lives. Here, please allow me to quote U Nu, the first Prime Minister in our Union. U Nu said, in his address to the parliament, "the first essential condition for making democracy secure in our lives is to base all our activities firmly on the rule of law".

Laws are made for the benefit of the people, and the people not for the sake, not for the benefit of the laws. So, laws must be living, laws must be serving the needs of the people, as our internationally famous legal giant Dr. Maung Maung had pointed out. "All that is clear is that law is not, or must not be reduced to mere words in statute books and legal decisions, but is or should be an active, ceaseless social process that runs like a nerve system in the living society. Living laws are needed for a living society, and the blood stream of law needs to be constantly renewed and nourished so that it may accommodate change in its continuity, youth in its age".

4. So, I hope with all my heart that the new anti-corruption law will tackle with the problems arising from corruption. And in my opinion, corruption and bribery are the two sides of the same coin. The first prime minister of our union, U Nu had said, "corruption is immorality: whoever may have broken the law, or the moral principles, you must not be included therein"1. U Nu had also said, "he who seeks justice, justice will protect him.2 MR. Ban Ki-moon, a former United Nations Secretary-general had also pointed out that "corruption" is a global shame and a sin against good manners and character." Edmund Burke, a prominent British politician, had also said, in his speech, delivered to the House of Commons of the parliament "the greater the power, the greater dangerous the abuse." A famous writer in his book "Corruption and the destiny of Asia" has written that corruption has inflicted suffering upon human society from time immemorial. From the ancient Near-East, Greece, Rome, China and India, we have ample evidence of the prevalence of corruption. Ancient China and the Roman Empire provide striking materials of it. Corruption affected their history in no small way.3

5. Then, the question is "what is corruption? Does it mean only bribe taking? Well, I am afraid, I don't think so. From the legal point of view corruption also means, malfeasance, maladministration of justice, mismanagement

of affairs, prejudice, bias, and wrong-doing, etc. And mismanagement, in a sense, means failure to do something that ought to be done and committing an act which ought not to be done.

6. Under the old administration system, we, the B.C.S (Burma Civil Service) personnel were entrusted and honoured with magisterial powers, by virtue of our posts and by virtue of experience and expertise. While I was serving as a subdivisional officer (S.D.O) I was empowered and entrusted with special magisterial powers. Our superior officers, such as, the district magistrates and the district and sessions judges frequently advised and guided all the subordinate magistrates and judges not to meet or talk exclusively with a client or a party to a dispute, in his or her chamber, or in any place privately. Our superior judges and magistrates explained to all of us that the other client or the other party might misunderstand us. We were taught and guided that a magistrate or a judge should bear in mind that "it is not enough that justice is done, but justice must be seen to have been done". And to win the hearts and minds of the people we are serving, we, a judge or a magistrate should always go on learning, so as to be entitled to be addressed as the learned judge", "the learned magistrate." Learning, in this context, means laws, supreme court's rulings, supreme court's instructions must be read and studied in earnest, and also learning anything that is worth it for the improvement and expansion of legal education. After all, no educative process, legal or whatsoever, is ever the end; it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living." What do you say, sir?

Reference:

1. တပ်သို့တရားမျှတမှုကိုတုံ့ပြန်ရန်အတွက်
2. မေ့ဉာဏ်၊ မေ့လျော့မှု၊ မေ့ဉာဏ်
3. "တရားစောင့်သောသူတို့တရားကိုစောင့်မိမိ"
4. Law and custom in Burma and the Burmese Family, Dr. Maung Maung.
5. Book of essential quotations.
6. Word power made easy, Norman Lewis
7. Corruption and the destiny of Asia, Syed Hussein Alatas

Tough talk on global trade escalates as Trump claims results

BEIJING — The US and China's top economic officials agreed by phone on Saturday to "continue to communicate" on trade issues, Chinese state media said, as President Donald Trump pledged his escalating trade showdown would get results despite push-back from Europe and Beijing.

In his latest jolt to the prevailing global order, Trump on Thursday authorised tariffs on as much as \$60 billion of Chinese imports, targeting sectors in which Washington says China has stolen American technology.

Liu He, the Chinese vice premier in charge of the economy, told US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Saturday that Beijing was "ready to defend its national interests" but hoped that "both sides will remain rational and work together," according to China's official Xinhua news agency.

He also accused a US probe into Chinese intellectual property practices of violating international trade rules.

China had warned the United States on Friday that it was "not afraid of a trade war" as it threatened tariffs on \$3 billion worth of US goods in retaliation. And French President Emmanuel Macron said Europe would respond "without weakness" to Washington's threats of tariffs on steel and aluminium.

"Nothing should be addressed when it is with a gun to your head," he said at the end of

an EU summit in Brussels.

Global stocks have plummeted as fears rise that the confrontation could provoke a damaging trade war. Meanwhile, World Trade Organization Director-General Roberto Azevedo called for cooler heads to prevail, saying in a statement that new trade barriers would "jeopardise the global economy".

But speaking to reporters on Friday as he signed new budget legislation, Trump said his efforts were beginning to bear fruit.

Washington this week said it would temporarily exempt Europe as well as countries including Brazil, Argentina, South Korea and Australia from the steep new steel and aluminium tariffs that Trump unveiled this month and which took effect on Friday. **'Fair trade deals'**

European and US trade officials said this week they were beginning talks to reach a compromise. "Many other countries are now negotiating fair trade deals with us," Trump said Friday.

"Part of the reason, frankly, that we're able to do that is the fact that we have the tariffs on steel and the tariffs on aluminium."

Meanwhile, US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Friday that US and South Korean officials were "relatively close" to reaching a deal on the steel and aluminium tariffs, with an announcement possible as early as next week. But Beijing on

US-China goods trade



US-China bilateral trade. PHOTO: AFP

Friday also unveiled a hit list of products that could face duties of up to 25 per cent, from fresh fruit to pork and wine, though it stopped short of pulling the trigger as it indicated its readiness to negotiate an agreement.

China's commerce ministry warned that a 15 per cent tariff on 120 goods worth almost \$1 billion — including fresh fruit, nuts and wine — would be imposed if the US fails to reach a "trade compensation agreement" within an unspecified time frame.

In a second step, a 25 per cent tariff would be imposed on eight goods totalling nearly \$2 billion, including pork and aluminium scrap, after "further evaluating the impact of the US measures on China," the statement said.

The list noticeably does not include soybeans, a key US export from Trump-voting states that Chinese state-run newspaper the Global Times had suggested should be targeted by

Beijing. On Saturday, the deputy director of China's International Economic Exchange Centre and former vice minister of commerce Wei Jianguo told the China Daily newspaper that Beijing was already preparing two more such lists, potentially set to include other products like aircraft and microchips.

Tourism and other sectors besides commodities might also be hit, he added.

The United States had a record \$375.2 billion goods trade deficit with China last year.

Change China's behaviour

Senior White House economic advisor Everett Eissenstat said Thursday the new US import duties would target sectors where "China has sought to acquire an advantage through the unfair acquisition or forced technology transfer from US companies." US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer indicated the industries could include aerospace, maritime and rail transport

equipment, and new energy vehicles. Trump's order also directs the US Treasury to develop new proposals to increase safeguards against Chinese investments in the US that could compromise national security.

In addition, the United States launched a challenge at the World Trade Organization on Friday, saying in a statement that China appears to be breaking WTO rules by denying foreign patent holders rights "to stop a Chinese entity from using the technology after a licensing contract ends." White House officials said the actions came after years of efforts failed to convince China to change its behaviour.

American industry, agriculture in particular, as well as members of the president's own Republican party have voiced strident opposition to his recent trade moves — but the latest actions against China did receive some support on Capitol Hill. —AFP ■

First direct Australia-Europe passenger service takes off

PERTH — The "Kangaroo Route" from Australia to Britain became a shorter hop on Saturday when the first direct passenger service left Perth for London, with the 17-hour flight set to break aviation records.

Qantas' 14,498 kilometre (9,009-mile) journey from the southwestern city to London is the world's third-longest passenger flight, the Australian carrier said, and the first ever regular service to connect the two continents directly.

Captained by Lisa Norman, it will also be the longest Boeing

Dreamliner flight in the world.

The new link is part of Qantas' ambitious plans, unveiled over the past two years, to add ultra long-haul flights to its global schedules.

This will eventually include non-stop flights from Australia's eastern seaboard to Europe in an effort dubbed "Project Sunrise".

Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce last year said such flights were "the last frontier of global aviation ... the antidote to the tyranny of distance and a revolution for air travel in Australia".

The world's second-oldest

airline operated its first "Kangaroo Route" service, from Sydney to London, in 1947, when it took four days and nine stops.

Joyce called the new Perth-London service a "game-changing route". Tourism officials hope the shortened travelling time will open up Australia's less-populated west coast to more domestic and international visitors. A key concern for the Australian airliner has been beefing up comfort levels for the ultra-long journey, with passengers set to enjoy improved air quality, lower cabin noise and

reduced turbulence.

Some passengers will also wear special monitors and devices so researchers from the University of Sydney can collect data on their sleeping and activity patterns, mental state, eating patterns and hydration before, during and after their long flight, Sydney's Daily Telegraph reported. It is not the first time Qantas has undertaken a direct flight from Australia to Europe.

The carrier in 2015 flew a one-off charter service from Perth to Istanbul to take Australians to Turkey's Gallipoli to mark a cen-

tenary since troops from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) fought there in World War I. Qantas also flew one non-stop passenger flight from London to Sydney in 1989 with a Boeing 747.

Some of the world's longest non-stop international flights include Qatar Airways' 14,535-kilometre Doha-Auckland service, Emirates' Dubai-Auckland 14,200-kilometre service, United Airlines' 14,000-kilometre Los Angeles-Singapore journey and Qantas' 13,800-kilometre Sydney-Dallas route.—AFP ■

US steps up threat to quit UN rights council

UNITED NATIONS — The United States warned on Friday that it was losing patience and again threatened to quit the UN Human Rights Council after the Geneva-based body adopted five resolutions condemning Israel.

US Ambassador Nikki Haley said in a statement that the council was “grossly biased against Israel,” noting that it had adopted only three resolutions separately targeting North Korea, Iran and Syria.

“When the Human Rights Council treats Israel worse than North Korea, Iran, and Syria, it is the council itself that is foolish and unworthy of its name,” said Haley.

“Our patience is not unlimited. Today’s actions make clear that the organization lacks the



US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, says the UN Human Rights Council treats Israel worse than North Korea, Iran and Syria. **PHOTO: AFP**

credibility needed to be a true advocate for human rights,” she said.

Haley has over the past year repeatedly warned that the United States was ready to

walk away from the 47-member body established in 2006 to promote and protect human

rights worldwide. The five resolutions were presented by the countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation under the council’s “agenda item 7” which concerns Israel.

Israel is the only country that has a dedicated agenda item at the council, a mechanism that the United States and some European countries view as inappropriate.

The latest threat to quit the council came after President Donald Trump appointed UN-skeptic John Bolton as his national security adviser.

Since Trump took over at the White House, the United States has quit the UN cultural agency UNESCO, cut UN funding and announced plans to quit the UN-backed Paris climate agreement.—AFP ■

Hero French policeman dies after jihadist shooting spree

TRÈBES — A French policeman who was shot and stabbed after swapping himself for a hostage in a rampage and siege President Emmanuel Macron branded “an Islamist terrorist attack” died of his wounds on Saturday, becoming the gunman’s fourth victim.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaud Beltrame, 45, was among a group of officers who rushed to the scene in the town of Trebes in southwest France on Friday after the attacker, who claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group, stormed a supermarket and fired at shoppers and staff.

Beltrame offered to take the place of a woman the gunman had taken hostage and was shot and badly wounded before anti-terror police moved in to kill the attacker and end the siege.

“Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaud Beltrame has passed away. He died for his country. France will never forget his heroism,” Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said on his Twitter account.

Macron earlier paid tribute to the bravery of the police officer. “He saved lives and honoured his colleagues and his country,” Macron said.

With the death of the officer, the assailant, identified as 25-year-old Radouane Lakdim,

killed a total of four people in France’s first major jihadist attack since October.

“Our country has suffered an Islamist terrorist attack,” Macron said in a televised address following the rampage in the medieval town of Carcassonne and nearby Trebes.

The Islamic State group claimed the attack was in response to its call to target Western enemies — as is customary when the assailant has pledged allegiance to the jihadists.

The shootings come as France remains on high alert following a string of deadly attacks that have killed more than

240 people since 2015.

Top anti-terror prosecutor Francois Molins said the gunman had convictions for carrying a banned weapon and for drug use. “He had been on a watchlist for his radicalisation and links to the Salafist movement,” Molins told reporters in Carcassonne, adding that Lakdim had been tracked for his online contacts with extremists.

Security sources said Lakdim was born in Taza in northern Morocco and held French nationality. His partner, who lived with him in Carcassonne, has been detained, Molins said.—AFP ■



French elite anti-terror police gather outside the Super U supermarket in Trebes where the gunman killed a customer and an employee. **PHOTO: AFP**

Times journalist expelled from Egypt: paper

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM — A British journalist for The Times has been expelled from Egypt, the newspaper said on Saturday, in a move it said reflected the “oppressive environment” created there for the press.

Bel Trew was driven to the airport and forced to board a flight in February, but the London-based paper held off commenting publicly as it sought to negotiate her return to cover elections starting on Monday. This had proved fruitless, and a spokeswoman said: “The Times deplores this attempt to intimidate and suppress our coverage.”

“This is sadly in line with the oppressive environment that President (Abdel Fattah) al-Sisi has created for the press.”

The paper said Trew, who had lived in Cairo for seven years and had been reporting for The Times since 2013, was held after interviewing a relative of a man who died on a migrant boat to Europe.

“In late February, Bel Trew was arrested and forced to leave. Her detention and

the threats made against her were sufficiently outlandish to suggest a mistake had been made,” the spokeswoman said.

“We have been trying to ensure her safe return to Cairo to cover the presidential election. It is now clear that the authorities have no intention of allowing her to return.”

A spokesman for the British embassy in Cairo told the paper that Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson “has raised the case directly with the Egyptian foreign minister”.

“The Egyptian authorities have not shared any evidence of wrongdoing. We will continue to press them on this,” the spokesman said.

AFP sought a response from the Egyptian foreign ministry but it was not immediately available.

The media in Egypt have been under close scrutiny in the lead-up to the elections, in which Sisi is the main choice on the ballot paper.

There has been an increase in the number of cases of journalists being arrested and websites blocked.—AFP ■

All terrorists receive arms, finances from abroad — Chief of Russia's General Staff

MOSCOW — All illegal armed groups in Syria receive weapons, finances and are guided from abroad, Chief of Russia's General Staff and First Deputy Defence Minister Valery Gerasimov said.

"Take Syria as an example. Prior to Russia's involvement in

the conflict on the government's side, the country had been actually pursuing an undeclared war advocating for its right to exist. It is still unclear when this struggle transformed from local unrest to a military conflict. No state has openly declared a war with Syria, but all illegal armed groups re-

ceive weapons, finances and are guided from abroad," he said.

The number of participants of military conflicts is rising there as time goes by, Gerasimov added. "Regular troops are coupled with the local revolt potential, as well as terrorist and extremist groups," he explained.—Tass ■



The chief of the Russian General Staff, Army General Valery Gerasimov. **PHOTO: TASS**

Potential breakthrough in Italy's battle for parliament speakers

ROME (Italy) — Politicians in Italy appeared to reach an agreement on Saturday in the battle for speakers in both houses of parliament, which could lay the ground for the fight over who will lead a new government.

Following a stalemate in a second round of voting on Friday, the newly-elected Chamber of Deputies and the Senate gathered again on Saturday morning.

Leaders of the right-wing coalition, which won 37 per cent of the vote in the 4 March elections, made a breakthrough after tense negotiations to pick Elisabetta Alberti Casellati for the presidency of the Senate.

Meanwhile, the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5s) which garnered 33 per cent of the national vote announced that party heavyweight Roberto Fico would be its candidate for

the Chamber of Deputies.

The positions are important because until both speakers are chosen consultations between Italian President Sergio Mattarella and those competing to form a new government cannot begin. Both Luigi Di Maio's M5s and the right-wing alliance, led by Matteo Salvini, are hoping for a chance to lead the country.

The two sides had been working on a deal that would let the right have the Senate speaker and see M5S take the lower house.

The right-wing coalition had been fielding Paolo Romani, economy minister in Silvio Berlusconi's last government and a member of the media mogul's Forza Italia party, for the post of Senate speaker, but M5S said it could not vote for Romani due to his 2014 conviction for embezzlement.

Saturday's announcements follow a strained few days as cracks widened within the right-wing coalition.

Salvini, the leader of the League which heads the right-wing alliance, enraged former prime minister Berlusconi by backing a candidate without consulting the veteran.

Berlusconi, currently banned from public office, branded Salvini's support for Anna Maria Bernini an "act of hostility" designed to fracture the coalition and push the League closer to M5S. M5S and the right both say they are ready to work with any party that would be willing to adopt their programme, although the centre-left Democratic Party (PD), whose coalition came third with 23 per cent, has refused to form an alliance with either of the two top groups.—AFP ■



Former Italy's Prime Minister and Democratic Party (PD) secretary Matteo Renzi (R) talks with Lega leader Matteo Salvini during the second session at the Senate in Rome on 24 March, 2018 following the 4 March vote. **PHOTO: AFP**

UK regulators search Cambridge Analytica offices

LONDON (United Kingdom) — British regulators on Friday began searching the London offices of Cambridge Analytica (CA), the scandal-hit communications firm at the heart of the Facebook data scandal, shortly after a judge approved a search warrant.

Around 18 enforcement agents from the office of Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham entered the company's London headquarters to execute the warrant.

Britain's High Court granted the raid request just hours earlier, as Denham investigates claims that Cambridge Analytica may have illegally harvested Facebook data for political ends.

A full explanation of the legal ruling will be issued on Tuesday, according to the court.

"We're pleased with the decision of the judge," Denham's office said on Twitter following the decision, noting it planned to begin searching "shortly."

"This is just one part of a larger investigation into the use of personal data and analytics for political purposes," it added in a statement.

"As you will expect, we will now need to collect, assess and consider the evidence before coming to any conclusions."

The data watchdog's probe comes amid whistleblower accusations that CA, hired by Donald Trump during his primary campaign, illegally mined tens of millions of users' Facebook data and then used it to target potential voters.

Its chief executive Alexander Nix has been suspended following the revelations and a further sting by Britain's Channel 4 News in which he boasts about entrapping politicians and

secretly operating in elections around the world through shadowy front companies. He has been called to reappear before British lawmakers to explain "inconsistencies" in past testimony about the firm's use of the data. Meanwhile Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been forced to issue a statement outlining his firm's role in the scandal and apologized Wednesday to its billions of users for the breach.

The company has seen its stock market value plunge by around \$75 million this week, as shares closed Friday down 13 per cent — its worst week since July 2012.

Cambridge Analytica denies any wrongdoing, and said Friday it was undertaking an independent third-party audit to verify that it no longer holds any of the mined data.

"As anyone who is familiar with our staff and work can testify, we in no way resemble the politically-motivated and unethical company that some have sought to portray," acting CEO Alexander Tayler said in a statement.

He apologized for the firm's involvement, but said it had licensed the data from a research company that "had not received consent from most respondents." "The company (CA) believed that the data had been obtained in line with Facebook's terms of service and data protection laws," Tayler said.

Aleksandr Kogan, a University of Cambridge psychologist, created a personality prediction app that harvested the data of 270,000 people who had downloaded it — as well as scooping up the information of their friends.—AFP ■

Sydney goes dark as global Earth Hour climate campaign kicks off

SYDNEY — The Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge went dark for an hour on Saturday to kick off a global campaign raising awareness about the impacts of climate change.

Earth Hour, which started in Australia in 2007, is set to be observed by millions of supporters in 187 countries, who will turn off their lights at 8.30pm local time in what organizers describe as the world's "largest grassroots movement for climate change".

"It aims to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and wildlife," Earth Hour organiser WWF Australia chief Dermot O'Gorman told AFP.

Other global landmarks that will take part include Beijing's Bird's Nest Olympic stadium, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Pyramids of Egypt and New York's Empire State Building. With global temperatures the highest on record, O'Gorman said this year's theme was the



Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House went dark for an hour on Saturday to kick off a global campaign to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change. PHOTO: AFP

impact of climate change on biodiversity and plant and animal species.

"More than half of plant and animal species face local extinction in some of the world's most naturally rich areas in biodiversity by the turn of this century if we continue along the current path that we are trending in terms of global warming," he said.

Species at risk in-

clude Australia's green turtles, black-flanked rock wallabies and koalas, as well as the Adelie penguin colonies in Antarctica, the conservation group said in a report it commissioned that was published in the science journal Climatic Change.

The analysis, released last week, said key biodiverse sites around the world projected to be most affected by localised

extinction include the Amazon, the plant's largest tropical rainforest, and southern Africa's Miombo Woodlands.

While the lights-off event is a symbolic gesture, Earth Hour has led successful campaigns over the past decade to ban plastics in the Galapagos Islands and plant 17 million trees in Kazakhstan. Sydneysider Diana Ali, who was having

dinner with family as the lights went off in the city, said the initiative had made her more aware of the impact of her lifestyle on the planet's health. "Since Earth Hour started, it's made me more conscious of how much power I'm using," she told AFP.

"I think ... about how much one individual can make a difference." —AFP ■

Imperial Palace grounds reopen to public for cherry blossom season

TOKYO — A normally restricted section of the Imperial Palace grounds in Tokyo opened to the public on Saturday, allowing people to stroll through the blooming cherry blossoms there for the first time since 2016. About 3,700 people lined up for their chance to walk the 750-metre Inui Street, which runs from the Sakashita gate to the Inui gate. The section is open to visitors through 1 April from 10 am to 3:30 pm.

During the cherry blossom and autumn foliage seasons, public access to the street is normally permitted just twice a year. But it had been closed from spring 2016 to fall 2017 to allow for work to be carried out on the trees.

The palace drew an estimated 500,000 visitors over 10 days during the cherry blossom viewing season in spring 2016. —Kyodo News ■

Facebook crisis prompts Silicon Valley soul-searching

SAN FRANCISCO — With Facebook mired in its worst-ever crisis, the rest of Silicon Valley is looking to come to terms with the dark side of its data-driven business model where tech titans have mined fortunes from what people reveal online.

There are signs the crisis could spread to other internet firms that have made no secret about using what they glean from digital data for targeted advertising. That same personal data can be used effectively by those with malicious intent when it comes to influencing people. "It is Facebook this week, but it could be oth-

ers," tech industry analyst Rob Enderle said of the crisis of confidence laying siege to the social network.

"At the very least, this is the common problem across the tech industry."

The tumultuous week ended with Facebook losing 14 percent of its market value, wiping out more than \$50 billion from one of the biggest and most powerful companies. A public apology by Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg failed to quell outrage over the hijacking of personal data from millions of people by Cambridge Analytica. Belatedly speaking out about the harvesting of

Facebook user data by the British firm linked to President Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign, Zuckerberg admitted to betraying the trust of its more than two billion users, and promised to "step up." But some point out that Facebook is just one of many firms which mine data for profit — albeit the most successful, along with Google — as digital lifestyles take root around the world. "Phones, apps, and the web are so indispensable to our daily lives — a testament to the benefits they give us — that we've become a captive audience," the nonprofit Center for Humane Technology said. —AFP ■

Invitation for Bids

Myanmar

National Electrification Project

DRD Funding

Contract Title: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV System for Households and Public Facilities

Reference No. S&I-DRD-1 (5 lots)

1. The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply, installation and maintenance of one or more of the 5 lots of solar PV for households in 7 States/Regions/Territory (Yangon, Bago, Naypyitaw, Mandalay, Magway, Rakhine, Ayeyarwaddy). These contracts will be financed by the Government of Myanmar.

2. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include:

- The average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years should be USD 2,000,000 or higher which varies by lot and is cumulative if bidding for multiple lots.
- The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying, installing, supervising, commissioning and/or maintaining off-grid solar PV systems with batteries, in any year over the last five (5) years, and at least one of the two contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 50% of the value of the corrected Bid Price.

The details of the qualification requirements are seen in the bidding documents.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's [Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 \(revised July 2014\)](#) ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **Monday April 9, 2018** at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Rural Development, Office No. 14 (Main Conference Room, ground floor), Nay Pyi Taw in order to answer any questions that potential bidders might have.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. (10:00 to 16:00 hours) Myanmar time at the address given below.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through e-mail only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director
Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Office No. 14,
Naypyitaw, Country: Myanmar.
Fax +95 67 409529, Email: neppmo.drd@gmail.com; ksaung@gmail.com

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Tuesday May 8, 2018, 10:00 hrs.** (10:00 a.m.) Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **Tuesday May 8, 2018, 10:00 hrs. (10:00 a.m.)** Myanmar time.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1- Bidding Data Sheet of the bidding document.

9. The address referred to above is:

Attention: Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director, Project Manager of National Electrification Project
National Electrification Project, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Office No. 14, Naypyitaw, Country: Myanmar
Tel/Fax: +95 67 409529, ksaung@gmail.com, dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com

On manic new album, Jack White dares you to rein him in

NEWYORK — Jack White really doesn't want to be known just as that sometimes abrasive guy who plays high-decibel guitar.

On a sprawling and unapologetically weird new album, White dabbles with UFO-esque synthesizer effects, sings gleefully about robbing banks and covers a tune by that lesser-known songwriter Al Capone.

"Boarding House Reach," the former White Stripes frontman's first album in four years, veers into funk, electro, gospel and blues as White defiantly demonstrates his range.

White's third solo album starts off in comparatively tame territory with "Connected by Love," a sure crowd-pleaser with his signature fuzzy guitar empowered by a gospel back-drop.

White quickly finds a fresh portal in his mind with "Why Walk a Dog?," a rumination on humans' relationship with their proverbial best friends.

"Corporation" opens with a distant echo of the White Stripes' now-classic "Seven Nation Army" riff before turning funky with conga drums in the back as White vows, with tongue-in-cheek gusto, to aspire to the capitalist dream.

Soon White seems to be daring to be reined in. On "Hyper-misophonia," White explores his distaste for someone's dental



Singer Jack White has released his first album in four years, "Boarding House Reach". PHOTO: AFP

noises as trippy, space-like synthesizers swing back and forth like a yo-yo.

White's guitar then kicks in over piano as he sings with nonchalance, "Ain't nowhere to run / When you're robbin' the bank."

New artistic freedom

The 42-year-old Detroit native, identifiable for his chin-length swoop of black hair that belies his fair complexion and infamous for off-stage flarings of temper, in the late 1990s led

the revival of garage rock with its raw, rough-around-the-edges energy.

On "Boarding House Reach," White offers hints that he knows he will be accused of self-indulgence. One track, recited in spoken word by Australian blues artist C.W. Stoneking, is entitled "Abulia and Akrasia," the latter a classical Greek term for lack of self-control.

After two decades of success, White apparently can afford artistic freedom. He has

founded his own label, Third Man Records, with a headquarters in Nashville and a major new vinyl pressing plant in Detroit.

For a five-month tour in support of the album, White — annoyed, like so many, at the constant distractions in modern-day concerts — will require fans to leave their phones at the door.

In an interview in the latest issue of Rolling Stone, White seemed to fantasize about a long-dead music industry in

which powerful executives could stop his ideas.

"Hey, the label won't let you do that," he told the magazine, adding, "What cool problems to have!"

Softer side to Scarface

White closes "Boarding House Reach" with a song written by none other than Al Capone when the notorious gangster was imprisoned on Alcatraz.

Showing an unexpectedly sentimental side to the Chicago crime boss nicknamed Scarface, "Humoresque" reminisces about lighter moments outside of prison.

"If the children are dancing / Lovers are all romancing / Is it any wonder everyone is singing?" White sings to a gentle jazz arrangement.

Capone was said to have performed the song on banjo as part of an inmate band, taking a melody of Dvorak. The sheet music was sold at an auction last year — to an anonymous bidder.

White seems to sum up his manic new musical mishmash of an album on "Ice Station Zebra," a funky track on which he gives nearly a rap delivery as he bemoans the need to classify the world with labels. "If Joe Blow says, 'Yo, you paint like Caravaggio' / You'll respond, 'No, that's an insult, Joe / I live in a vacuum / I ain't coppin' no one.'"—AFP ■



Guests take selfies on the red carpet at last year's Cannes — possibly the final festival they will be allowed to do so. PHOTO: AFP

Selfies banned on red carpet at Cannes film festival

PARIS — The head of the Cannes film festival said on Friday he was banning selfies on the red carpet, claiming they caused "unwanted disorder" before premieres.

Thierry Fremaux tried once before to ban the "ridiculous and grotesque" practice at the world's most prestigious film festival in 2015, before backing down.

Instead he pleaded with filmgoers, who are usually dressed to the nines in tuxedos and evening gowns, to contain themselves as much as they could. But this time there would be no reprieve, he said.

"Selfies will be banned for spectators on the red carpet," Fremaux told the Film Francais magazine. But it was unclear whether the ban will also apply

to the cast and crew of the films being shown.

"The triviality and slowdown caused by the unwanted disorder created by the practice of selfies harms the quality of the climb up the steps, and so the entire festival," he added.

Hollywood stars have also been known to take selfies of themselves on the Cannes red carpet.

Critics revolt

Fremaux also raised the hackles of some film critics with major changes to the timings of press screenings, which were traditionally held before the gala red carpet premieres in the evenings.

But critics will now have to wait for the next morning to

see half of the films in the main competition, while others will be shown at the same time.

The Guardian's critic Peter Bradshaw led the revolt against the move, tweeting, "Whoa! Why not just have an embargo? Is it that hard to enforce? 'I can't help thinking Cannes is saving up grief for itself with this!'" Variety's Guy Lodge warned that some critics would inevitably be shut out of the evening screening. He said that the rival Berlin film festival "successfully enforces an embargo between morning press screenings and evening premieres. Critics get more time to write more considered reviews, and the films don't get their buzz stomped on. Everybody wins. Why can't Cannes do this?"—AFP ■

Royal Caribbean picks up world's largest cruise ship

PARIS—French shipbuilder STX handed over the world's biggest cruiseliner, the Symphony of the Seas, to US giant Royal Caribbean International on Friday ahead of its maiden voyage in the Mediterranean.

The ship, which weighs 228,000 tonnes, is at 362 metres (1,188 feet) long just 20 metres shy of the length of the Empire State Building.

It is marginally bigger than its sister ship, the Harmony of the Seas, which STX France delivered to Royal Caribbean in 2016.

It holds an ice rink, water park and full-size basketball court along with 2,700 cabins.

"We said thank you in a fairly tangible way. We actually said it a billion times and each one was one euro," joked Royal Caribbean boss Richard Fain, referring to the ship's pricetag.

"The Symphony of the Seas is the biggest liner in the world by less than one percent," STX boss Laurent Castaing told a hand-



The Symphony of the Seas, the largest passenger ship ever to be constructed by gross tonnage, pictured last month as finishing touches were being made at the STX shipyard in the French port of Saint-Nazaire. **PHOTO: AFP**

over ceremony in the western French port of Saint-Nazaire.

"That one percent extra shows that together we can always make our ships better."

Built over two years, the

Symphony can hold up to 8,000 people including 2,200 staff and is billed as faster and quieter than the Harmony.

The Symphony will start its maiden voyage on Saturday

morning, heading to Malaga in Spain and spending its first season in the Mediterranean before heading to its home port of Miami.

The Symphony is the 13th

ship that STX has built for Royal Caribbean and comes as the French manufacturer returns to good times, with orders for two ships a year until 2020 — a rate it has not enjoyed for 15 years.

STX, which has a staff of 8,000 and also builds warships, is currently also building the Celebrity Edge, the first of a series of smaller and more luxurious liners for Royal Caribbean.

In February, Italian company Fincantieri announced it had reached an agreement to buy 50 percent of FTX, after a bitter row between Paris and Rome over the shipyard last year.

French President Emmanuel Macron temporarily nationalised STX last July despite a sales deal his predecessor Francois Hollande had struck with Italy.

The French government said it was ready to seek other buyers if Italy refused a 50-50 split — a proposal angrily rebuffed by Rome, but which it has since accepted.—AFP ■

Super Kids Contests held in Yangon, Mandalay

SUPER Kids Contests 2018, organised by City Mart Supermarket, was held at the City Mart in Mandalay on 18 March and the City Mart in Myaynigone Township on 24 March.

The contests are aimed at helping children to enjoy happy holidays this summer and to gain knowledge by getting involved in other activities,

according to City Mart Supermarket.

Participants from the ages of 8 to 10 years tested their skills in colouring and general knowledge.

The eight winners of the Super Kid Contest will be selected and announced at City Mart Supermarket in Yangon and Mandalay on 4 April.—GNLM ■



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Cezanne's maverick side explored in first-ever US portrait show

WASHINGTON — What happens when an artist who devoted most of his career to painting landscapes and still lifes turns to the people he knows best?

That is the central premise of an international show of 59 portraits by France's Paul Cezanne opening on Sunday at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the first ever dedicated to this aspect of his oeuvre.

Of the 1,000 paintings the 19th century Provencal painter created during his lifetime, only about 160 are portraits, mostly of his close friends, family and domestic servants. But it is perhaps in that collection that the evolution of Cezanne's individualistic, revolutionary vision is clearest, as he deconstructs space by boldly painting his wife with vanishing lips or applying layer upon layer of thick paint with a palette knife. He may have studied Old Master works, but Cezanne "exploded" traditional ways of representing space and volume on a picture plane, said Mary Morton, co-curator of the show and head of the National Gallery's department of French



Paul Cezanne's "The Artist's Father, Reading 'L'Evenement'" (1866) paid tribute to his major sources of support as a then-fledgling artist — his father Louis-Auguste Cezanne and novelist Emile Zola, who was also a literary critic at "L'Evenement". **PHOTO: AFP**

paintings. Cezanne in many ways paved the way to modernism: even the pioneering Cubist Pablo Picasso, born 42 years after the French painter, called him the "father of us all." He relies on a "modernist understanding about how visual perception works... It's not stable, it's not linear, it's not from a single point, it's not coherent," Morton told AFP.

Texture was also key. In "Antony Valabregue" (1866), the artist's submission to the

official Salon art exhibition in Paris critical for launching careers, Cezanne's rough-hewn style is on full display. The jury took the coarsely layered paint and the poet-sitter's defiant and inelegant pose, fists clenched on his thighs, as a slap in the face — and rejected it. So roughly had Cezanne treated both the surface and the subject that one jury member commented he had painted not just with a knife but with a pistol.—AFP ■

MFF Futsal Open Cup group stages conclude

Kyaw Zin Lin

SHWE Myawaddy notched a big win as the last matches of the MFF Futsal Open Cup Group Stages, Group (I) and (J) matches were played yesterday at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

There were tremendous efforts made by many amateur Futsal teams in yesterday's matches.

In Group (I) matches, ShweKhayan futsal team narrowly won over VUC Youth by a score of 4-3, while KWC played

to a 5-5 draw with the Sport Idiot futsal team. In Group (J) matches, ShweMyawaddy team trounced Gandamar GB by a convincing score of 17-2, while Myo Chit Youth beat Myoma by a score of 7-5. Officials also recognised the standout play of individual players from each game played yesterday.

The man of the match performance awards were garnered by Min Chit Thu from ShweKhayan, Bo Bo Zaw from KWC, Thura Aung from ShweMyawaddy, and Naing Lin Htun from Myo Chit Youth.

GV Athletic and MyomaHlathida team from Group A, Zombie and Best Friends team from Group B, RDZ and UPT from Group C, Bothahtaung and MIC Legend team from Group D, Comrade and UM teams from Group E,

Titans XII and MMU Exclamation from Group F, MIC and Dala United from Group G, VUC and Winner teams from Group H, Shwe Kayan and VUC Youth teams from Group I, Shwe Myawady and Myo Chit Youth teams from Group J reached the quarterfinals. ■

Sagaing United to hold tryouts for new players in Monywa

IN order to increase the numbers of talented local players for the upcoming season of the Myanmar National League, Sagaing United is going to host tryouts for their team on 1 and 2 April at the Public Sports Ground in Monywa, according to the MNL.

Any interested youths with confidence and strong football skills can join in the selection event.

The player selection ceremony will be conducted under the supervision of experienced football coaches across the Sagaing

Region and coaches from the Sagaing United FC.

The player selection will take place between 8 am to 5 pm over a two-day period.

Sagian United is a newly formed football club in the MNL representing the Sagaing Region.

The club was founded in 2015 and played in the 2016 MNL-2 season. Due to a promotion in transition to the MNL, the team's name was changed from "Mahar United" to "Sagaing United". Its home pitch is at Monywa Stadium.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Lingard strike sees new-look England enjoy Dutch friendly success

AMSTERDAM — Jesse Lingard scored his first England goal as a reshaped side beat the Netherlands 1-0 in an Amsterdam friendly on Friday.

This was England's last away match before they travel to Russia for this year's World Cup finals and they were rewarded with a well-deserved win against a Dutch side who will be one of the major absentees from the showpiece tournament.

The result gave England their first win over the Netherlands since manager Gareth Southgate was a member of the side that triumphed 4-1 at Wembley during Euro 96.

It also condemned Dutch great Ronald Koeman to defeat in his first match as manager of the Oranje.

Several England players advanced their case for World Cup selection, with just next week's friendly at home to Italy to come before Southgate picks his squad.

"It was a good test for us, we came away from home and controlled the game," Southgate told ITV Sport.

'Delighted for Jesse'

Turning to Lingard, he added: "I'm delighted for Jesse, he's a player we've worked with for three or four years from the Under-21s and this year he is starting to finish the chances."



English player Jesse Lingard (R) celebrates with English player Kieran Trippier during a friendly football match between the Netherlands and England at the Amsterdam Arena in Amsterdam on 23 March, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Meanwhile former Southampton and Everton manager Koeman said: "Defensively we played quite well, but didn't create many chances. And we made some mistakes as well."

Shortly after England were denied what seemed a clear penalty, Manchester United midfielder Lingard scored the only goal of the game in the 59th minute.

It was a goal that had been coming, with England's midfield starting to find their onrushing forwards with through balls ear-

ly in the second half.

England faced early disruption when Liverpool's Joe Gomez went off injured just minutes into the game, his place taken by Harry Maguire.

Everton's Jordan Pickford, bidding to be England's first-choice goalkeeper, dealt easily with Matthijs de Ligt's shot before coming quickly off his line to deny Quincy Promes.

"Jordan played excellently. We saw all the attributes he has, he was tidy with his feet and good with decision-making,"

said Southgate.

Most of the action was at the other end, England retaining possession neatly only for much of their play to lack a final ball of consequence, although captain Jordan Henderson headed wide, while Raheem Sterling was thwarted by advancing goalkeeper Jeroen Zoet.

In the second half, England thought they should have had a penalty when Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford went down in the box under challenge from De Ligt and Zoet.

But it was his Old Trafford team-mate who finally broke the deadlock just shy of the hour-mark when Lingard scored with a first-time finish that Zoet got a hand to, but could not stop, following a deflected cross from Danny Rose.

Several substitutions by both managers reduced the fluency of the game, with Memphis Depay seeing a free-kick saved comfortably by Pickford while Kieran Trippier had a shot blocked at the other end.

Away from the pitch there were worrying scenes, with some 90 England fans arrested by Amsterdam police ahead of the game.

Videos posted online showed crowds of English fans packing the narrow streets and bridges in the canal city.

"The number of arrests of England supporters has now climbed to close to 90," the Amsterdam police said in a tweet. The men were mainly accused of disrupting public order.

One video on the Dutch public broadcaster NOS showed police wielding truncheons, and backed by horseback officers, wading into the crowds to restore order in the city's Red Light district.

In another video, hordes of fans were seen tossing a bike off a bridge onto a passing canal boat.—AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

25 MARCH 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

MIND has a nature of change and a willing mind can do everything and also finish all things. But, sometimes we need to manage and control our mind in order to carry it everywhere we want to go. Different people have different minds, it is important to have a good mind and to control it from doing bad things. Mind is not just one thing but it can do good things and bad things at the same time. Thus, we need to watch it so that we can correctly give guidance to the direction of our mind by ourselves.

Since our mind is usually enjoy in nemesis and it is also bored in learning something and doing efforts, we must prohibit that kinds of mind from enjoying in nemesis and then encourage our mind to do efforts to improve

our life. We all want to be successful in life, don't we? However, we ever forget the key to success, Preparing. In reality, the more we have preparation time, the more we can sure to get success in life. Some people do not pay attention and try when they have time, their mind is scattering without any definite direction. They regret only when other people get success. This is the saddest end and regret for them who can't control their mind in time.

There is no one who does not want to get success in life. So we find ways of achieving success. One of the best ways to get success is controlling our mind. It is related to everything. The people who can control their mind are the successful persons in life. Controlling our mind is very difficult but we must do if we are willing to get success.

I heard one saying. It is "be brave when you fail, be patient while you are trying and be calm when you get success." It is quite true for me and hopes it also true for you. We need to be brave when we face

failures so that we can learn lessons from those failures and try again to get success. Moreover, we also cultivate patience while we are trying. Sometimes, we, the young people want to get quick the success and they don't like waiting long for something. So, some young people use easy way to reach to the success. Truly, there is no easy way to success. Just because they choose

ind Control & Success

Mg Kyaw Ye Aung
(B.Econ (Economics)Q)

the wrong way, they encounter the failures. In fact, we should realize not to find wrong ways as a window of our mind. Often, we need to stay calm when we get success. If so, we can avoid hatred and jealousy from pessimist.

I remember my past. When I got a bachelor from University of Economics, I was looking for a government job. I was really depressed because I was jobless. To own a permanent government job is not easy. We take an exam for that and we also make an interview when we pass the writing exam. Sometimes, we do not sure to pass the interview although we pass the writing exam. My mind is scattering from here to there. I even thought to go Yangon and work something but my great teacher told me "Dear son, you'll get one job when it is time and so don't worry for that." I obeyed her good speech and I tried to control my mind. Now, I have already got a government job. I got a job or success because of controlling my mind in time and not finding window of the mind wrongly.

Controlling our mind and getting success are directly related with each other. The more we control our mind the more we get success in life. As a master student, he or she may think to give up long learning periods since the lessons he or she is learning are so much. In fact, he or she can achieve his or her goal by trying hard and controlling the scattering minds.

SEE PAGE S-2

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

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Mind Control and Success

FROM PAGE S-1

To reach higher and higher standard of lives, we set aims and ambitions step by step. We organize our mind first and then we will implement them. Here, we need to understand that we cannot achieve any congratulatory success easily without worthy perseverance, diligence, and efforts. Therefore, we must face and pass through many problems, difficulties, disturbances, barriers and challenges, etc. Besides, we should think that it is possible for us to reach our goal or destination and we need not to stop or give up our aims when we are in the troubles.

By the time before I started using the computer, I embarrassingly thought it might be very difficult for me. I am not familiar with the computer since I live in the countryside. That is why I thought it by that way. When I also started using the computer, I thought that I will not be able to use keyboard well because it is typed quickly with ten fingers. But now, my thoughts became jokes for me. In fact, to succeed in our works, we look for the ways and then we need to do by that ways. Afterwards, we could enjoy the fruits and flowers of success.

I have read in books how to get success and how to set our attitude and so on. In essence, success is directly related to the situation of our mind or attitude type. In these days, many job opportunities for University graduates are found in the government newspapers. New government is creating various jobs for everyone. And, I have many friends; some friends of mine have already got a good job respectively because they applied those government jobs. But the rest ones of mine are still jobless because they give so many reasons for about applying those jobs, i.e., it is very difficult for them and it is impossible for them and so on. Here, we can review compare with those two kinds of friends, one kinds of friend is very eager to own a job or success but the other one is not active to own a job or success. This is not blaming on them, just compare the two minds of those friends. So, attitude types are of vital for any success in life.

To sum up, success and attitude are two in one. To say it accordingly to economics term, they are just complement goods. They are related each other, they assist each other and they support each other in trying to get success. So, the persons who have willing mind to own a success always succeed in the end but it is opposite in results those who do not really want to own a success. Now, I would like to say "If you want to own successes in life, try hard by controlling your minds and do not forget to also change your attitudes."

The importance of English for our children



By Kyaw Orwell

ENGLISH plays an important role in our everyday life. There is a great use of English in modern world. Therefore, the learning of English should be continued along with our regional languages.

No one denies today the importance of English in our daily lives. We need to speak English to improve ourselves when we visit other countries and work in a global environment, which requires us to consider it as our second language. English as a second language is the use of English by speakers with different native languages.

Global demanding for English is growing. Governments growingly recognize the importance of English to their economies and societies, and individuals see English as a tool that can help them to make their personal development.

But, many parents do not yet have a general awareness that promotes learning and English proficiency as part of the education to their children. They still not valued as a necessity and ability that children should develop from its earliest days.

Begin to study English since childhood is the best time. Children have a great ability to absorb the language and imitation of sounds. They are extremely spontaneous and have no sense of the ridiculous to feel older, which makes them not feel inhibited when to speak and practice English. Thus, by imitation, children are able to learn English faster.

Effective communication involves the use of proper pronunciation and grammar. The sooner children learn this, the better. For younger children, learning this language as soon as they can will help them with developing communication

skills, basic math and basic reading. For older kids, having proper skills in English enables them to write more effectively and understand more complex literary pieces. Encouraging kids to study English will help them do well in school, particularly in the English subject.

Also, English is very important for the career development. In an article of The Economist noted that more and more international companies have adopted English as their main language. It is also worth noting that English is being adopted by global companies from countries that don't speak English to become the official language, replacing their own native language, according to an internet source.

Research also shows that English as key to development. A study into the economic impact of learning English in developing countries like Myanmar has concluded that the language can make increasing the earning power of individuals by around 25 per cent.

One of the ways we want to do this is to use mobile phone well. Mobile phone penetration around the world is hugely increasing and we can use the technology to learn lessons through the educational websites.

There are many important reasons to learn English such as English is still the universal language and internet is in English language. Estimates vary about how many people speak English worldwide but some believe English-speakers are likely to number in the billions and about half of homepages on the internet are in English.

There are many benefits of learning English. Most people are hard to avoid it because it is necessary for today world. The other regional languages of the nations are very good, but the English language is more necessary and important for our development.

WE have a lot of sayings concerning “Learning” and “Life” such as ..

Where there is Life, there is Hope,
Learn to Live and Live to Learn, and so on.

And as the time changes through history, there come more and more changes in the concept of “Learning”.

Some important Pillars of Learning are ..

“To Learn to Know”,
“To Learn to Do”,
“To Learn to Think”,
“To Learn to Learn”,
“To Learn to Create”,
“To Learn to Live together peacefully”,

and so on.

As time passes, the concept and function of Learning change according to the needs and conditions of the time.

When we look at all these changes, we can see the steps of changes one after the other according to time and conditions.

First of all, we all learn just because we need to have “Knowledge”. So, we learn books, history, experiences in history, writings of old wise men, and so on.

But, after this, not only we need to learn from others’ experiences, but we come to know we need to do by ourselves. In other words, we need to come to know or learn by

our own experiences. From that time onwards, we learn not only from books and writings of others’ experiences, but also try to do and learn by ourselves.

Then come the sayings such as “Learning by Doing”, “Trial Error ... Trial Success” etc.

That means “If one wants to learn, one needs to learn by doing by oneself” which shows plainly that not only the knowledge of others from their books and their writings, but also one need to do practically by oneself to get the experience. That is why we have the saying “Trial- Error ... Trial – Success” Method of Learning. It points out that one has to try by oneself and if it is not successful in the first time, it needs to try again and again and one day we will reach the destination or we will learn.

During these days, the practical work in different Sciences became more popular and so also we gained different findings in the field of Science and Education.

We came to the time when we said, “Children are not empty vessels into which we need to fill with knowledge” or “Children are not blank slates on which we need to fill with writings of knowledge.” Instead, we need to draw out from the children on what they have already known and from this step onwards we need to teach the children according to their individual conditions.

In this way, the different concepts and ways of teaching and learning change day after day.

And then, not only “Learning to Know” and “Learning to Do”, we came to the condition that one needs to “think” by oneself to gain what one wants to know. That’s the time when “Learning to Think” came into the field of Education.

As we think and think and think, we came to the conditions that we can create something of our own original creations..

That’s the point where we got the idea “Learning to Create”. In this way we change and change our ways of thinking on “Learning” in the field of Education.

Then came the time when we came to realize the Very Good Foundations for Learning and Urges to Learn from the side of the Learners. If a child was given a very good foundation in Education, and if we could let him get the thirst to learn, then he will continue to learn by himself with nobody’s order to do so. This is the best condition in Learning.

That is “Learning to Learn”.

When we came to have more civilizations and more communications among different peoples, different countries, different races with different cultures, different origins, different beliefs, different traditions and so on, we need to “Learn to live together peacefully among all these different people with so many many differences, instead of fighting among one another.

That is “Learn to live together peacefully among the differences”

In this way, as even the concepts of Learning and Ways of Thinking changed and changed according to the time and needs.

So also, we have our own ways of thinking concerning “Learning” and “Education”.

It is well-known that the Philosophy of Education or the Ways and Means of Learning by the famous Venerable Poet Ashin Maha Silavamsa, which says “Thu- Si- Pu-Bar- Wi- Li- Thi-Dar” and shows the Best way to Learn step by step. (It will be explained later.)

That is how the Concept of Learning changes through History and so also the Changes in the ways and means of Learning change day after day.

Life-long Learning

Dr. Nu Nu Win
(Retired Professor and Head of Department)

1



Photo: Phoe Khwar

(To be continued.)



Deer figure on the Carnelian bead in tiger shape.



Flower figure is painted on a stone bead.



Carnelian beads of Pyu.

Painted beads of PYU

SEVERAL shapes and types of beads made during the Pyu era have been found lately and a lot are still discovering till now. Among them, some were painted in unique design and different shapes.

People in the Pyu era painted on different types of beads such as red and orange carnelian, black, gray and white agate and exquisitely painted the shapes of straight and curve lines, circle shape, patterns and dots on them.

Here, I would like to come with the story of beads, rarely found and painted as the way of paintings. They were painted with white paint on the red carnelian. Sometimes, they are painted with black on the white agate.

The sizes are not that big and only made on the small skill such as 1 or 2 centimeter. The Shapes are found in circle, oval and square. The paint on the beads is very much astonishing. The paint put on the very hard bead is soaked into the inner layers of beads and long lasting for thousands of years.

The figures of the beads have been found till now are scorpion figure, fish, oxen, human, tree, flowers and unknown animals, letters and deer.

Scorpion and fish figures are hardly found and there is only one piece of each found. The rest are fairly found and the most are tree and deer figures.

In 1995, a white agate bead, painted the figure of deer on both sides with black paint has found once in Hmaw Zar.

As the special finding, a red carnelian bead in tiger shape with the drawing of deer on both sides of the bead has found nearby Pyawbwe in 2000.

It would not just for beauty to paint and draw the figures of animals, trees and other mysterious figures with very neat and specific lines on very small skill of beads. They must be made with the deep and very specific meaning and belief.

The ornaments and utensils made of stone, bronze, iron, gold and earth excavated from the ancient cities show that the Pyu people possessed high professional artistic skills that are now extinct.

The artifacts can tell their high-level culture. Just a bead of Pyu can tell us their high culture, high skills for arts and engineering.

Different designs of carnelian, rock crystal, agate and chalcedony beads with white lines were used as ornaments and the designs are related to Buddhism and its customs.

It is surprising to see that the colour of the beads are still bright even though the beads had been buried around 10,000 years. It shows that the technique they used to paint stone beads was very high.

It is found that designs on earthen pots with dancers, soldiers, birds and floral designs are more artistic than that of earthen utensils today.

Besides, beads, stone seals, which flourished in Egypt and the Roman Empire, were also used in the Pyu era and after the Pyu era, the culture of stone seals have been extinct, according to the artifacts discovered in the ancient cities.

By Tin Win (Beikthano)



People in the Pyu era painted on different types of beads such as red and orange carnelian, black, gray and white agate.



Flower figure on the Carnelian bead.



Deer figure on Carnelian beads.



Scorpion figure on the Carnelian bead.



Human figure on the Carnelian bead.

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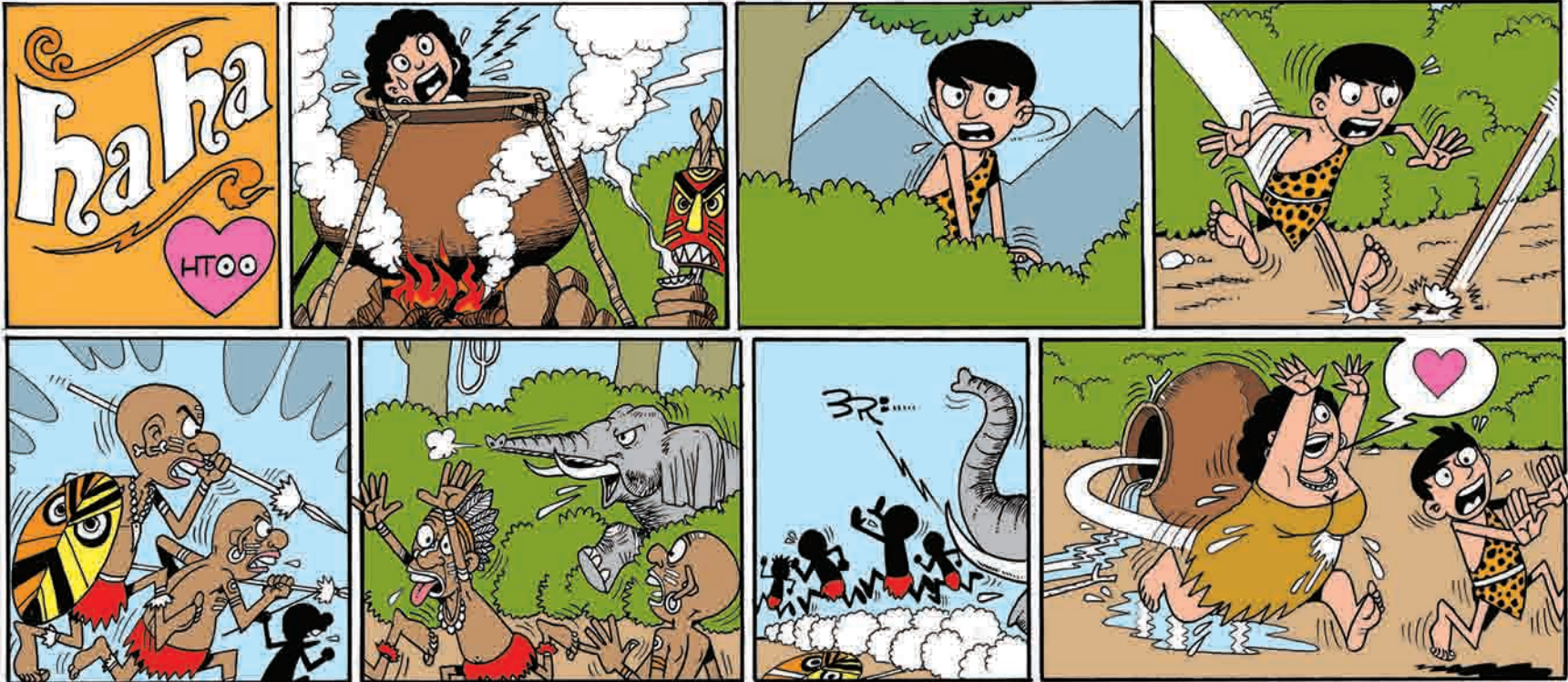
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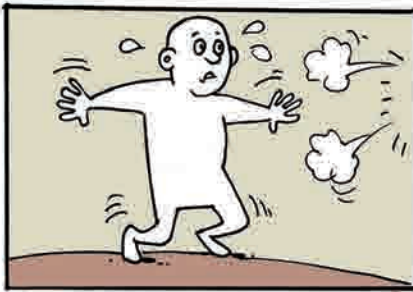
SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE
WILL BE
PEOPLE
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



DON'T BE AFRAID OF MISTAKES.



SUNDAY
JOKE
Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018

EXCUSE ME, I BOUGHT
THIS UMBRELLA
TEN DAYS AGO.



WELL, WHEN I OPENED IT,
IT BROKE.



HOW WILL YOU
SOLVE THIS?



WELL, UM, THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN DO.



WHAT DID YOU SAY?



WHEN I BOUGHT THIS
YOU SAID THERE WAS A
SIX MONTH GUARANTEE!



YES! THE UMBRELLA'S BEEN
HERE FOR FIVE MONTHS AND
TWENTY DAYS WHEN YOU
BOUGHT IT.



HEY!

END



Green tarps were installed above Sanchaung Street in Myaynigone yesterday. PHOTO: MARK ANGELES

In hot season, use sunblock, umbrella, Thanaka

By Mark Angeles

MYANMAR'S hottest weather is just around the corner, a time when getting doused by a Thingyan water thrower will seem like a relief rather than an irritation.

While Myanmar's brutal weather in mid-April might be uncomfortable, experts warn that it is also potentially dangerous.

Over-exposure to sun and ultraviolet radiation can cause premature aging and reduce the skin's immune function, making it more susceptible to skin cancers such as basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma, a type of skin cancer that, left untreated, can be fatal.

In anticipation of the warmer weather, shades were seen being installed above Sanchaung Street in Myaynigone, an annual effort to provide shade to pedestrians.

Dermatologists at skin care centres say they see an increase in sun-related skin conditions as the temperatures rise.

"Those with suspected melanoma will have

to go to a hospital, but here I see more patients with melasma, freckles, and hyperpigmentation at this time of the year", said Dr. Win MarLar Moe, a dermatologist at Nitipon, the luxury skin care centre on Inya Road in Kamaryut, Yangon.

Dr. Win MarLar Moe and her colleague and fellow dermatologist Dr. Pyi Thein Kyaw offer the following suggestions for protecting your skin during Myanmar's hot season.

1) Use sunblock that has an SPF rating of at least 50, and apply it every four hours.

"After the SPF50 label, look for 'PA+++', a designation that indicates the product can block more types of ultraviolet light", Dr. Pyi Thein Kyaw said.

2) Clothing and cover is essential to shade yourself from the sun.

"Use an umbrella when walking during the day, or wear a hat with a large brim", Dr. Pyi Thein Kyaw said. Dr. Win

MarLar Moe agreed with covering up when outside. "You will see farmers working in the field, they use a big hat and long-sleeved shirt", she said.

3) For those who cannot afford luxury skin care clinics and expensive sunblock, Myanmar's traditional thanaka cosmetic paste can provide a measure of protection against the sun.

Thanaka, made by grinding the bark of certain trees and adding water to form a paste, has been used by the country's women, children and sometimes men for thousands of years, and has numerous benefits, especially during the hot season.

"Good quality sunblock is expensive, so thanaka can be used. It acts as

a barrier from the sun, absorbs oil and also has cooling qualities", Dr. Pyi Thein said.



The Hpa-an bat cave by the Thanlyin River

A place where tourists flock to see hundreds of thousands of bats fly across the Thanlyin River

By Min Thu/ Tun Tun Htwe
(Hpa-an)

THERE are many natural limestone caves within Kayin State but there is one cave that attracts the most visitors with its millions of winged mammals filling the sky. The appropriately named Bat Cave (Lin-no Guu in Burmese pronunciation) is located within the compound of the Hpaket Monastery by the Thanlyin river in Hpa-An township.

There are four species of bats found among the millions residing within the cave. One of these species is the cave nectar bat (*onycteris spelaea*) and its estimated over one hundred thousand live in the cave. Another species is the wrinkle-lipped free-tailed bat (*chaerephon plicatus*) which is estimated to have a population of over three hundred thousand living in the bat cave. These millions of bats provide an abundant supply of feces that is used as a natural fertilizer as well as contributing to the cave's ecosystem.

Bats also help local farmers by eating pests in the fields. U Sein Win, caretaker of the bat cave, said they auction of the collected bat droppings once



Millions of bats come out of the Bat Cave in Hpa-an, Kayin State. **PHOTO: TUN TUN HTWE**

a year. "We use the money collected from the auctions to fund the monastery, maintenance of the bat cave, and environmental conservation," said U Sein Win. He said they manage to collect over a thousand Burmese tins (approx. 90 lbs per tin) annually, and they sell a tin

for up to Ks7,000.

The bat cave is a natural lime stone cave with two floors inside it. The bottom floor is around 200 feet long and 80 feet wide. A steel staircase connecting the bottom floor to the upper floor. The upper floor is about 40 feet wide and in the

rainy season is quite humid. During the dry season, depending on the situation, the caretakers might clean the cave for bat droppings once a week or once every five days.

As dusk falls, the denizens of the bat cave flood out of their lair to fly hundreds of miles in

search of food, some even say all the way to Mawlamyine. The spectacle as they fill the sky is breathtaking and the major tourist attraction. The bats return home before sunrise having fed themselves.

A member of the pagoda trustee said the bats usually leave their cave around 5:30pm. "But now it's their mating season and some (of the bats) are expecting young and the days are long in this season so they leave the cave around 6pm," he said. Consequently, the number of tourists and pilgrims who come to view this phenomenon are low compared to other seasons. Foreign tourists who come to observe the bat cave have to pay Ks1,000 tourist fees. The collected fees are used to maintain the cave and the five small stupas and thirteen images of the Buddha, as well as for funding the religious activities of the monastery. Local pilgrims do not have to pay a fee for the bat cave.

A sign in both English and Burmese is displayed near the bat cave urging visitors to be mindful of the environment and avoid littering as the ecosystem of the bat cave and the surrounding area is fragile and can be easily destroyed.

Translated by Chris



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