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SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 17 June 2018

President U Win Myint attends 8th ACMECS Summit, 9th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Summit

PRESIDENT U Win Myint attended the opening ceremony of the 8th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit held at the Bangkok Shangri-La Hotel yesterday morning.

The 8th ACMECS Summit opening ceremony was attended by Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc and wife, Thai Prime Minister (retired General) Mr. Prayuth Chan-O-Cha and wife, Cambodia Prime Minister Mr. Samdech Hun Sen, Laos Prime Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith and wife, ministers, deputy ministers and high ranking officials from Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) from ACMECS member countries, business persons and officials.

Upon his arrival at the ACMECS Summit opening ceremony, President U Win Myint was welcomed by Thai Prime Minister Mr. Prayuth Chan-O-Cha after which they took a commemorative photo.

At the opening ceremony, the documentary video of the establishment of ACMECS, congratulatory messages of heads of governments of partner countries, ministers and heads of organizations were shown.

The opening ceremony came to a close after 8th ACMECS Summit Chairman Thai Prime



President U Win Myint (Left) poses for the photo together with Prime Ministers from ACMECS member countries and ASEAN Secretary-General in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister delivered an opening speech.

After the ceremony the President took commemorative photos with Prime Ministers of Viet Nam, Thailand, Cambodia and

Laos and viewed the exhibits of ACMECS member countries in the exhibition.

Next, the President attended the 8th ACMECS Summit held at Shangri-La Hotel under the

theme "Towards an integrated and connected Mekong Community." At the summit 8th ACMECS Summit Chairman Thai Prime Minister delivered an opening speech. Next, the results and

suggestions of ACMECS economic forum were submitted by Thai ACMECS Economic Council Chairman and Thai Chamber of Commerce Deputy Chairman Mr. Sanun Angubolkul.

Following this, speeches were delivered by Cambodia Prime Minister Mr. Samdech Hun Sen and Laos Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint delivered his speech.

Reviewing ACMECS Cooperation

The President said ACMECS Cooperation was born in Bagan, Myanmar 15 years ago and since then it has played a significant role in enhancing regional stability, promoting inclusive sustainable development, narrowing development gaps and strengthening bonds of amity among the peoples of the five Mekong countries based on the spirit of the existing friendship and good neighbourliness.

The Mekong Region occupies a strategic location and is blessed with an abundance of human and natural resources. This immense potential needed to be utilized effectively to transform the Mekong region into an integrated and connected community, as featured in the theme of today's meeting: "Towards an Integrated and Connected Mekong Community".

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Action to be taken against extortion, unlawful actions, wearing uniforms similar to state security organisations

THE Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a statement in the state media on 17 January 2018 saying that legal action would be taken against those who wear uniforms similar to State security organisations.

It was found that 12 complaints were filed by individuals and entities against reporters in states and regions for their unlawful actions, and legal action was taken against some 16 persons, including 15 reporters and one media member.

Some reporters under the guise of special reporters and crime reporters were found gambling, providing legal counsel works, involved in cases and extorting

money, collecting fees from people applying for (press) membership, involved in land matters and accepting monthly payments from illegal criminal works.

Crime reporters, as well as reporter associations are registered under the association registration law, and if they are found to not follow the rules enacted, the renewal of their registration will be rejected.

Reporter association members are informed that legal action will be taken against them if they wear uniforms similar to state security organisations, extort and conduct unlawful actions, the ministry said. — Ministry of Home Affairs ■



Former President of Timor-Leste Mr. Jose Ramos Horta arrives Yangon International Airport to leave for home. **PHOTO: MNA**

Former president of Timor-Leste leaves Yangon

A DELEGATION led by Mr. Jose Ramos Horta, senior minister and former president of Timor-Leste, left Yangon yesterday morning. The delegation was seen off by

Timor-Leste Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Joao Freitas de Camara and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Yangon International Airport. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Government Notification No. 61/2018

4th Waxing of First Waso 1380 ME
16 June 2018

Re-organization of Myanmar Investment Commission

In accordance with the powers granted under Section 7 of the Myanmar Investment Law, the Union Government has re-organized the Myanmar Investment Commission as shown below:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (a) U Thaung Tun
Union Minister
Ministry of the Office of the Union Government | Chairman |
| (b) Dr. Than Myint
Union Minister
Ministry of Commerce | Vice Chairman |
| (c) U Tun Tun Oo
Union Attorney General
Office of the Union Attorney General | Member |
| (d) U Set Aung
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Planning and Finance | Member |
| (e) Daw Nilar Kyaw
Minister
Yangon Region Government | Member |
| (f) Dr. Aung Tun Thet
Economist | Member |
| (g) U Khin Maung Yee
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation | Member |
| (h) U Toe Aung Myint
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Commerce | Member |
| (i) U Htein Lwin
Permanent Secretary (Retired)
Ministry of Electricity and Energy | Member |
| (j) U Htay Chun
Deputy Director-General (Retired)
Directorate of Investment and Company Administration | Member |
| (k) U Aye Lwin
Central Executive Committee Member
Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry | Member |
| (l) U Aung Naing Oo
Director-General
Directorate of Investment and Company Administration | Secretary |
| (m) Daw Mya Thuza
Deputy Director-General (Retired)
Directorate of Investment and Company Administration | Joint Secretary |
- Notification No. 20/2018 dated 29-1-2018 and Notification No. 59/2018 dated 5-6-2018 are hereby repealed and overruled by this Notification.

By order
Zaw Than Thin
Union Government

Govt sells power tillers to farmers through instalment system

OFFICIALS from the Agricultural Mechanisation Department are selling power tillers through the instalment payment system to farmers in Taungup, Minbya and Ponnagyun Chun townships, according to the Sittway Agricultural Mechanisation Department.

“We made this plan for farmers, as nowadays cattle and labourers are rare; so, we are selling the farm machines at cheap rates,” said U Tin Maung Kyi from Sittway

Agricultural Mechanisation Department.

On 15 June, 50 power tillers were sold to farmers in Sarr Pyin Village-tract in Taungup Township by the Kyaukphyu Agricultural Mechanisation Department, according to the Agricultural Mechanisation Department.

“We sold all the 50 power tillers to the village by giving them complete details about the installation system and signing contracts. Farmers

who bought the machines can save time, as they do not need to come to Kyaukphyu,” said U Tin Maung Kyi from the Sittway Agricultural Mechanisation Department.

Some 350 hand tractors were sold in Rakhine State by the Agricultural Mechanisation Department, and 50 more power tillers will be sold in Buthidaung Township, according to the Agricultural Mechanisation Department. —Min Thit (MNA) ■

President U Win Myint attends 8th ACMECS Summit, 9th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Summit

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The 7th ACMECS Summit agreed to carry forward ACMECS reforms aimed at improving its efficiency. Following that decision, today's meeting marks a transformative step for ACMECS by the adoption of the "ACMECS Master Plan 2019-2023" proposed by Thailand.

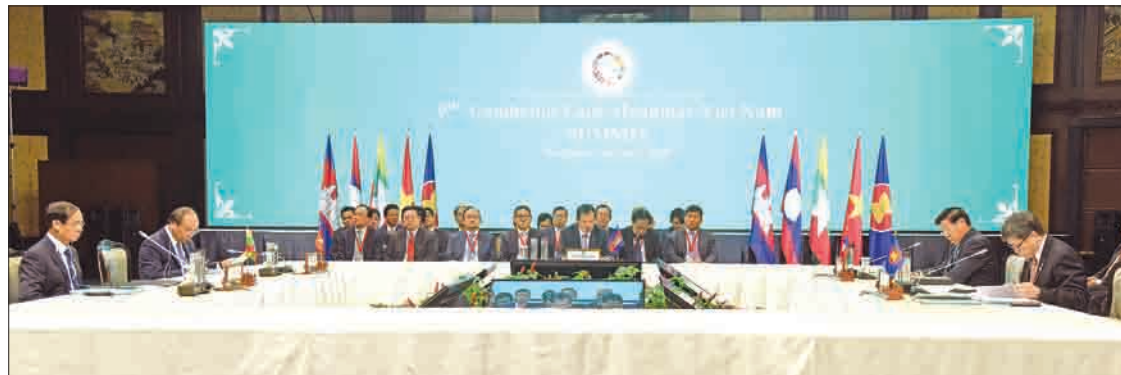
Future Direction of ACMECS

It was imperative to enhance the development of transport, energy and digital infrastructure, as featured under the first pillar of the ACMECS Master Plan.

Myanmar was focusing its efforts on doubling the production of electric energy as well as on speeding up the development of multi-modal transport infrastructures which would connect the missing links along the regional economic corridors, especially the East West Economic Corridor and the Southern Economic Corridor.

Myanmar was working towards the establishment of an effective e-government system while giving the same level of attention to the secure and efficient application of ICT technologies among her businesses and societies.

Institutional synchronization, harmonization and simplification of rules and regulations on trade and investment among our ACMECS countries play a crucial role in promoting regional trade and investment



President U Win Myint attends the 9th Cambodia-Lao-Myanmar-Viet Nam (9th CLMV) Summit in Bangkok on 16 June 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

facilitation.

Myanmar always welcomes responsible foreign investment. He believed that ACMECS cooperation would greatly contribute to an increase in investment from ACMECS countries in Myanmar.

Agriculture and Food

Agriculture played a significant part in fighting poverty and narrowing the regional development gap. Agricultural development of ACMECS countries should be empowered by sharing best agricultural practices, experiences, technological know-how and market information.

Tourism

Development of green and responsible tourism played a significant role in creating incomes and job opportunities for the people of ACMECS countries. He would like to encourage our member countries to implement the agreed concept

of "Five Countries, One Destination".

Public-Private Cooperation

As the private sector was the key driving force for the economic development of our countries in this region, resources from the private sector should be effectively utilized in regional cooperation programmes through PPP initiatives.

Social, Cultural and People-to-people Relations

As people-to-people connectivity is one of the key factors for creating an integrated and connected Mekong community, we need to identify opportunities that allow more people-to-people contacts through cultures, education and social perspectives.

ACMECS Master Plan 2019-2023 and Myanmar's Priorities and Needs

I would like to stress the fact that our ACMECS cooperation activities must be in line with our national development strategies, our needs and priorities, as well as with activities of other regional cooperation frameworks including ASEAN.

I am pleased to note that hardware infrastructure, software connectivity and human resources development, which are the main pillars of the ACMECS Master Plan, were in line with Myanmar's priorities and needs.

Relations with Development Partners

I would like to welcome Thailand's initiative of engaging development partners and international and regional organizations with a view to seeking potential funding and technical support for ACMECS cooperation.

In conclusion, as Myanmar

always attached great importance to cooperation with the countries in the Mekong sub-region, he would like to reiterate Myanmar's commitment to continue active cooperation with the member countries under the ACMECS cooperation framework, based on the spirit of existing friendship, good neighbourliness, mutual respect and mutual benefits said the President.

Following the speech of the President, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc and ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi delivered their speeches.

After this, the summit came to a close after the ACMECS Summit Chairmanship was transferred from Thai Prime Minister to Cambodia Prime Minister Mr. Samdech Hun Sen.

President U Win Myint attended the 9th Cambodia-Lao-Myanmar-Viet Nam (9th CLMV) Summit held at the Bangkok Shangri-La Hotel.

The summit was attended by Cambodia Prime Minister Mr. Samdech Hun Sen, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Lao Prime Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, ministers, deputy ministers and high ranking officials from Myanmar, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Lao and other officials.

The summit was chaired by Cambodia Prime Minister Mr. Samdech Hun Sen who delivered an opening speech.

Next, in his speech to the summit, the President said although CLMV countries possessed a great potential for further development, they were still encountering formidable challenges such as limited human resources, inadequate infrastructure, impact of climate change, and frequent changes in the global political and economic

paradigm.

Even though, CLMV countries are situated in a geographically important location and have the advantage of low labour costs, there still remained factors that prevented their businesses from integrating deeply into the Asian network of production, goods and services. The constraints are, in particular, poor logistic infrastructure and inadequacies in the creation of favourable investment environments. Therefore, they should focus on the upgrading of weak transport and logistics infrastructures in the Mekong Sub-region.

PPP and transport/logistic infrastructure

Several logistic infrastructure projects in the Mekong sub-region are being implemented by other mechanisms and organizations such as the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and the Asia Development Bank (ADB). Therefore, it is important to coordinate closely with these programmes in order to achieve maximum efficiency and benefits. We should also take into consideration the Private-Public-Partnership scheme as one of the more effective methods for the implementation of our infrastructure projects. The implementation of regional agreements such as the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit is crucial for greater economic integration and connectivity among CLMV countries.

Investment policy

It should be noted that trade facilitation through the construction or upgrading of logistic infrastructures is not enough to attract investments and industrial firms to our sub-region. Our governments need to launch specific policy measures to attract investment and industry to our region.

Trade policy

A favourable climate for trade promotion can only be established through the enactment of simple and harmonizing domestic trade laws, rules and regulation in each of our countries. This require us to work together more closely.



President U Win Myint and First Lady are welcomed by Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Draft Water Law completed, advice, comments sought from public

By May Thet Hnin

THE draft Water Law, drafted by the National Water Resources Committee (NWRC), has been completed and will soon be put up for public review.

"The draft Water Law is completed, and we will show it to the public to seek advice from them. Based on the comments and advice received, we will amend the law. Then, we will submit the draft Water Law to the Hluttaw. We want to enact the Water Law as soon as possible," said U Victor Ngun Kio, a member of the NWRC advisory team.

The draft Water Law will include 14 sections, including

maintaining water resources, protecting water resources, consequences of climate changes and water-related disaster/danger, water for the environment, implementation of water resources management, water research, information management, cross border water resources and international cooperation, monetary management for the water sector, prohibitions, regulations and punishment.

Work on the draft Water Law began in 2015, and has been amended several times. "We expect the draft Water Law to be approved by the Hluttaw in 2019," said U Victor Ngun Kio.

With the drafting of the Water Law, people will be able to use water systematically and not waste it, he added.

Recently, the NWRC advisory team conducted water resources maintenance educational activities in the Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa and Bago regions. The team will continue to conduct further educational activities in other states and regions, as well.

The NWRC was established by the previous government, but was abolished in March 2013. It was re-formed by Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as chair of the NWRC. The NWRC usually holds meetings twice a month

with 26 advisors who conduct sustainable water resources management programmes. A water police group was established by the NWRC advisory team in 2015. The group is now coordinating to enforce water laws. Underground water will be used only as a reserve for emergencies, as of 2025. As a replacement, water from Kokkwar, Toe and Pun Hlaing rivers will be purified using Japanese technology. Recently, the authorities supplied nearly 200 gallons of water to 40 per cent of the Yangon population from Phugyi, Hlawga and Nga Moe Yeik dams. The remaining population has to rely on underground water. ■

More visitors turnout at Ayeyawady dolphin conservation area

THE number of local and foreign travellers visiting the Ayeyawady dolphin conservation area, between Mandalay Mingun region and Sein Pan Gon, has significantly increased. Visitors entering the area can bring in more local revenues, said U Han Win, in-charge of the Ayeyawady dolphin conservation team.

With the introduction of the dolphin show and community-based tourism in seven villages in the region, there has been an increase in local income and job opportunities.

"The community-based tourism project has been successful. The project will also create increased income opportunities for the fishermen and support the ongoing dolphin conservation project. In the past, tourists used to visit the Ayeyawady dolphin conservation area on their own arrangements, and only the boat owners and tourism companies would profit from them," he added.

The community-based tourism project was implemented in Hsin Kyaung, Aik Kyaung, Sein Pan Gon, Myay Hsaung Ywa in Madaya township, Mandalay Region, besides Hsethae, Myitkangyi in



Fishermen in the Ayeyawaddy River have been fishing cooperatively with dolphins. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Singu township, and Inn Daung Ywar in Shwebo district, Sagaing Region.

After the implementation of the community-based tourism project, there has been an annual increase in the number of tourists, resulting in increased benefits for local villagers.

"We have implemented the dolphin conservation and community-based tourism projects in seven villages, after conducting a survey. Earlier, we had no programmes to demonstrate fishing with the assistance of dolphins. Also, local people earn

extra income from cooking, selling souvenirs and showcasing the dolphins," he added.

According to travel data, some 73 foreign and 90 local travellers watched the Ayeyawady dolphin shows in 2016, while 95 foreign and 183 local travellers watched them in 2017. The numbers have increased to 183 foreign and 402 local travellers from January through May 2018. "Not only foreign travellers, but also more local travellers are visiting the area. This was possible through the efforts of the Fisheries Department, the Wildlife

Conservation Society (WCS) and the local people," said U Maung Lay, a village leader.

According to the February 2018 survey of the Fisheries Department, conducted in cooperation with the WCS, some 69 dolphins, including young calves, live in Ayeyarwady River.

Of note, some 30 dolphins in the Mandalay and Bhamo regions of the Ayeyawady River were found dead since 2011 to this day (13 June 2018). There were four dolphins born in Ayeyawady River since 2017. —Khine Set Wai ■



Workers unloading rice bags from the vehicle. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Border exports of rice increase by over 80,000 tonnes last month

THE volume of rice exports increased by more than 80,854 tonnes in May compared with the previous month, according to border trade authorities.

Some 158,735 tonnes of rice valued at US\$56.557 million were sent to neighbouring countries via cross-border points in May. Also, the country exported \$5.521 million worth of broken rice weighing some 18,300 tonnes to those countries, increasing by more than 15,000 tonnes

compared with April. China's imports of broken rice from Myanmar in May totalled 3,392 tonnes, which saw an increase in volume by 475 tonnes against the previous month. From 26 May through 1 June this year, Myanmar earned \$9.269 million from the exports of more than 26,300 tonnes of rice and sticky rice to China and Bangladesh through the four border trade camps.

During the period, China imported 26,050 tonnes of rice

and sticky rice through the Muse, Chinshwehaw and Lwejel border towns, whereas Bangladesh bought more than 267 tonnes through the Maunglaw border trade camp.

The country continues to export rice, parboiled rice, sticky rice and broken rice not only to neighbouring countries but also to countries such as Ivory Coast, Singapore, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Russia, and some European states.—Swe Nyein ■

Myanmar's external trade up by \$751 million in current FY

THE value of Myanmar's external trade in the current interim fiscal year rose by US\$751 million as against the same period last year, according to a statistical report issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Friday.

From 1 April through 8 June, the country's overseas trade was valued at \$6.554 billion, including \$2.711 billion in exports and \$3.842 billion in imports. Compared with last year, the current export value increased by \$333 million, while the value of imports rose by \$417 million.

Myanmar's imports are always greater than its exports, leading to a trade deficit. This

year, the trade deficit was recorded at \$1.131 billion, increasing by more than \$85 million compared with the same period last FY. Last year, the country's foreign trade value was \$5.802 billion, with a trade deficit of \$1.047 million.

The country predominately exports six groups of domestically produced products, including manufactured goods, agricultural commodities, forest products, marine products, minerals and animal-based products.

The country's imports cover intermediate goods, capital goods and consumer products. Its top overseas trade partners

are China, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, India, Indonesia and Malaysia.

During the first month of this financial year, the value of Myanmar's foreign trade with China reached \$395.44 million, whereas bilateral trade with Singapore was valued at \$358.067 million. Trade with Thailand was worth \$269.576 million and with Japan \$150.696 million. Myanmar's trade with India was valued at \$80.209 million, while with Indonesia it reached \$74.85 million.

Myanmar primarily uses marine routes to deliver its exports to international buyers.—Swe Nyein ■

Imports of consumer goods decrease slightly in current FY

THE imports of consumer goods in the current interim financial year showed a slight decrease in value by more than US\$2 million compared to the same period last year, according to the latest statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the first 69 days of this year, Myanmar imported a wide variety of consumer goods, including convenience, shopping and speciality products, amounting to \$832.66 million in value. The figures include \$14.13 million worth of imports by the private sector and \$818.53 million worth of imports by the public sector.

Although the private

sector's imports of consumer goods saw a slight increase by \$3.4 million during the period, the public sector's imports of the same decreased by \$5.5 million compared with the same period last year, when it exported \$19.62 million worth of consumer products.

Between 1 April and 8 June this year, the country's total import value exceeded \$3.8 billion, with capital goods worth \$1.413 billion and intermediate goods worth \$1.596 billion. Despite a decrease in the import value of consumer goods, the import of the remaining products rose by \$419.58 million.—Khine Khant ■

Myanmar-India trade exceeds \$80 million in April

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and India totalled US\$80.209 million in the first month of the current six-month interim fiscal year, according to the latest monthly statistical report released by the commerce ministry.

In April 2018, Myanmar's imports from India were greater than its exports. The total bilateral trade during the period included \$15.463 million in exports and \$64.745 million in imports.

The Myanmar-India trade figures decreased by more than \$55 million compared with last April, when trade between the two countries was valued at \$136.172 million, including \$70.4 million in exports and \$65.772 million in imports.

Myanmar's trade with India was \$1.371 billion in the

2011-2012 FY, \$1.32 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, \$1.636 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$1.34 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$1.711 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$1.943 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and \$1.377 billion in the 2017-2018 FY.

Trade between the two countries is conducted mainly through sea routes. Myanmar conducts border trade with India via the Tamu and Reed border trade camps.

India largely exports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials to Myanmar. Its imports from Myanmar include areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables, fishery, forest products and human hair.—Shwe Khine ■

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Press Release on official visit by President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho to Thailand from 14 to 16 June

AT the invitation of His Excellency General Prayut Chan-O-Cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Cho Cho paid an official visit to Thailand on 14 June 2018, and attended the 8th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit and 9th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Summit held in Bangkok from 15 to 16 June 2018.

On 14 June 2018, President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho were accorded a ceremonial welcome by His Excellency Prime Minister General Chan-O-Cha at the Government House. President U Win Myint held bilateral talks with the Prime Minister General Chan-O-Cha (Rtd.) at the Government House. During the meeting the two leaders had cordial discussions on strengthening of the existing traditional friendship and multi-faceted cooperation, providing assistance for the development of Rakhine state and peace process in Myanmar as well as cooperation for development of border areas. The Prime Minister of Thailand pledged his continued support to Myanmar Government's efforts for peace and national reconciliation, development and democratization process. They also discussed on matters relating to celebration of the commemorative activities in both countries, as this year marks the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic

relations between Myanmar and Thailand. They also exchanged views on upgrading the transport linkages between Myanmar and Thailand including cross-border linkage between Dawei Deep Sea Port and eastern coast of Thailand, promoting trade and investment, repatriation of displaced persons from Thailand to Myanmar and cooperation under ACMECS framework. The President also sought the assistance of the Royal Thai Government for protection of labour rights of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand and assuring their due entitlements. During the meeting, President U Win Myint expressed Myanmar's support to Thailand for its forthcoming Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2019. After the bilateral meeting, the two leaders made Joint Press Briefing at the Government House.

In the evening of 14 June 2018, Myanmar Delegation led by President U Win Myint attended the banquet hosted by Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-O-Cha (Rtd.) at the Government House.

In the morning of 15 June 2018, President U Win Myint attended the opening ceremony of the ACMECS CEO Forum which was held under the theme of "Connecting the Future: Enhancing ACMECS Cooperation and Integration". The Forum was organized with an aim to provide platform for the government, private sectors and financial institutions from ACMECS countries and development

partners to share information and experiences, exchange of views and to come up with recommendations and initiative for the enhancement of effective cooperation under ACMECS framework. At the Forum, the President delivered a vision statement, highlighting the importance of public-private sector and their participation in the implementation of the ACMECS cooperation programmes.

The President attended Gala Dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Thailand, on 15 June 2018, in honour of the visiting delegations to the ACMECS Summit and potential development partners.

In the Morning of 16 June 2018, Myanmar delegation led by the President attended the Opening Ceremony of the 8th ACMECS Summit and visited the ACMECS Exhibition, which features strengths and future prospects of each ACMECS member country.

President U Win Myint then attended the 8th ACMECS Summit held under the theme of "Towards an Integrated and Connected Mekong Community". The meeting was chaired by H.E. Gen. Prayut Chan-O-Cha (Rtd), Prime Minister of Thailand, and joined by H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of Lao PDR, and H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. At the meeting, President U Win Myint reviewed

the progress and challenges of ACMECS Cooperation and discussed future directions of cooperation, particularly regarding the implementation of projects and programmes related to hard and soft connectivity and human resources development under the ACMECS Master Plan (2019-2023). At the conclusion of the Summit, the leaders adopted two outcome documents: ACMECS Master Plan 2019-2023 and Bangkok Declaration. Some of the important projects to be implemented under the Master Plan include the improvement of road connectivity between Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, creation of environment enabling Mekong countries to increase intra-regional trade and facilitation of travel among the Mekong countries.

The President then attended the 9th CLMV Summit held under the theme of "For Greater Economic Integration and Connectivity" after the 8th ACMECS Summit. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, and joined by the Leaders of Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam. At the meeting, President U Win Myint reviewed progress of CLMV cooperation and discussed future directions including the promotion of trade, investment and development of infrastructures. The Leaders adopted Joint Statement of the 9th CLMV Summit. The projects approved by the Leaders include conducting feasibility study to construct a road linking Myan-

mar-Laos-Viet Nam.

President attended the Interactive Luncheon hosted by H.E. Gen. Prayut Chan-O-Cha (Rtd), Prime Minister of Thailand. The luncheon was organized with a view to strengthening the participation of the private sector in ACMECS Cooperation and providing a platform for interactive dialogues between ACMECS Leaders and top entrepreneurs from ACMECS member countries.

ACMECS (Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation) is a sub-regional economic cooperation mechanism established in 2003 at Bagan, Myanmar with five member countries; Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam.

CLMV (Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Cooperation) is another sub-regional cooperation mechanism established in 2004 at Vientiane, Lao PDR with four member countries; Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam.

President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho were accompanied by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo and Senior Officials.

Myanmar Delegation led by President U Win Myint arrived back Nay Pyi Taw by special flight in the evening of 16 June 2018.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated: 16 June 2018



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe and attendees pose for the photo at the ceremony to commemorate the World Blood Donor Day 2018 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

World Blood Donor Day 2018 commemorated in Yangon

A CEREMONY honoring World Blood Donor Day 2018 was held in the University of Nursing (Yangon) at Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe first delivered a greeting speech and Yangon Region minister for social affairs U Naing Ngan Lin delivered a speech in honor of the Day.

Next, World Health Organisation (WHO) representative Dr. Stephen Paul Jost read the WHO regional director's 2018 World Blood Donor Day message. Dr. Thida Aung of the National Blood

Bank introduced an Android Application for blood donation and the Ma Lin War War Zaw of the application design group explained about the application.

Afterwards, the Union Minister, the region minister and heads of departments presented document of honors to those who assisted in the creation of the application.

World Blood Donor Day 2018 was held throughout the world and the theme was "Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life" it is learnt.— Yi Yi Myint, Ohnma Thant ■

President U Win Myint attends 8th ACMECS Summit, 9th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Summit

FROM PAGE-3

Vocational training

One of the fundamental essentials for economic integration among our countries is human resources development. Most countries invest heavily in academic-oriented education while much less attention is paid to vocational training. The advantages of academic-oriented education are numerous but it is becoming increasingly clear that vocational training meets faster and more effectively the demands of the rapidly changing technological and economic panorama of our age. This was particularly time for developing countries. Therefore, I would like to suggest that we give priority to vocational training within the CLMV cooperation framework.

Capacity building for Public Administrators

To implement our economic and development policies effectively in a synchronized manner, and manage infrastructures efficiently in the CLMV countries, it is essential to understand the policies and working mechanism of our cooperation and to raise the administrative skills of our public administrators to the required level. We should, therefore, utilize our cooperation framework to build up the capacity of public administrators.

Inter Mekong-Cooperations Connectivity Mechanism

Although there are a number of cooperation mechanisms operating in our sub-region and the areas of cooperation between different countries differ slightly, I would like to suggest that it will be beneficial to both CLMV and other cooperation mechanisms if we were to create a mechanism that enable the effective synchronization of activities among all coopera-



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho seen off by Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak and wife before departure for Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

tion mechanisms in the Mekong Sub-region, and thus enables us to support and complement each other.

Framework for Economic development

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Economic Ministers for the progress that has been made on the CLMV Framework for Economic Development. I hoped this would be finalized speedily as I believe it would serve as a roadmap for the implementation of our meeting's theme: 'For Greater Economic Integration and Connectivity.'

Agriculture

Poverty eradication and food security still posed a big challenge for CLMV countries. The increased cooperation on the facilitation of the agriculture sector will generate more income for farmers and businesses, and also provide a sustainable food supply as well as satisfactory nutrition for the peoples of Mekong countries. At this point, we need to enhance their cooperation on agricultural data and information sharing, exchange of best practices, joint research and policy coordina-

tion. I believe that the contract farming system represented one of the best potentials for benefit sharing among our countries.

Energy

The essential element for achieving development in the Mekong countries is sustainable energy supply. We should therefore enhance cross-border power trade in the region: it could fulfill regional energy demands and be mutually beneficial to both parties.

Although today's price of fossil fuel based energy was far lower than that of renewable green energy, we CLMV governments must do our best to increase investment in the wider use of renewable energy, technical cooperation, research and development, and cooperation in renewable green energy strategy as a long-term gift for their future generations.

Funding

A sustained and predictable funding system was the key to the success of every cooperation mechanism. In this regard, I welcome the proposal that the alternate/rotating chair of CLMV will seek the funding

for CLMV projects through the ASEAN Secretariat.

Today, countries throughout the world are facing complicated challenges in various sectors and challenges which cannot be overcome by a single country alone. Countries of similar cultures, historical backgrounds and ideologies must unite to confront these challenges under the CLMV framework. This is the best way of converting global challenges into regional opportunities for inclusive sustainable development.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Myanmar is committed to the enhancement of the momentum of cooperation not only with the CLMV, but also with other regional cooperation mechanisms, said the President.

After the speech of the President, the Vietnamese Prime Minister and Laotian Prime Minister discussed about policy matters on cooperation.

The summit then came to a close after the CLMV chairmanship was transferred from Cambodia Prime Minister to Laotian Prime Minister.

After the summit and before the luncheon, the Presi-

dent, Prime Ministers of Viet Nam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Lao took commemorative group photo with CEOs from ACMECS member countries who attended the ACMECS CEO Forum.

After this, the President attended the luncheon hosted by Thai Prime Minister.

Later in the afternoon, President U Win Myint met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Shangri-La Hotel guest hall and discussed increasing bilateral relations and cooperation, increasing cooperation in ASEAN and the international arena.

President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and party left Thailand for Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at local standard time 3:30 p.m.

The President and First Lady was seen off by Dr. Chirayu, Lord Chamberlain of the Household, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak and wife, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Mr. Suwapan Tanyu-wattana and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than and wife, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Jukr Boon-Long and wife, Myanmar Military Attache (Army, Navy, Air) to Thailand Brig-Gen Khin Zaw and officials from Myanmar Embassy at the Royal Thai Air Force Wing 6, Bangkok, Thailand.

The President, First Lady and party arrived to Nay Pyi Taw at 5 p.m. and were welcomed by Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Nay Pyi Taw Command commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Thailand to Myanmar and other officials in Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Water overflowing from spillways in 38 dams and reservoirs throughout the country

DUE to heavy rain throughout the country, water is overflowing from spillways in 38 dams and reservoirs as the water level is above the maximum storage point.

Those dams and reser-

voirs are Ngwetaung, Libar, Thikir, Maha Nanda, North Yamar, Kandaunt, Yazagyo, South Nawin, Nyaung Kaing, Khawa, Mokha, Wun Chaung (Kazunma), Salin, Mon Chaung, Man Chaung,

Yinshay, Myi On Gyi Wa, Made, Wunlo, Nyaung Kone, Letkotepin, Lunwin, Chaung Kauk, North Pinle, South Pinle, Pyaing Chaung, Yahaing Kwin, Mintha, Gringyine, Kyet Tet, Shauk Chaung, Tamandu,

Khami Kyein Chaung, Kwin Chaung, Ma Mya, Nankathu and Kanyin.

The public is urged not to believe in rumors about the effect of heavy rains, floods and inundation on dams and

reservoirs as Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department officials and personnel are conducting timely monitoring and observation of the situation. — Myanmar News Agency ■

We welcome responsible investment from ACMECS countries

SINCE it was born in Myanmar's Bagan 15 years ago, the Ayeyarwady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Co-operation Strategy (ACMECS) has played a significant role in enhancing regional stability, promoting inclusive sustainable development, narrowing development gaps and strengthening the bonds of amity among the people of our five Mekong countries, based on the spirit of existing friendship and good neighbourliness.

The Mekong countries have witnessed weaknesses and challenges in their efforts to achieve the anticipated level of progress.

It is a big challenge for developing countries, such as the members of ACMECS, to achieve success in all eight pillars of ACMECS. The lack of predictable funding mechanisms also hampers the ACMECS from fully accomplishing its projects and programmes.

ACMECS countries need to make more concerted efforts to narrow the development gaps and enhance regional socio-economic development by exploiting the positive aspects of the global economic situation.

- Myanmar, a member of the ACMECS, is focusing its efforts on doubling the production of electric energy, as well as on speeding up the development of multi-modal transport infrastructure, which will connect the missing links along the regional economic corridors, especially the East West Economic Corridor and the Southern Economic Corridor.
- Improvement in Myanmar's transport infrastructure and greater access to electricity can contribute significantly to the creation of job opportunities and the socio-economic development.
- Meanwhile, Myanmar will now accelerate the enhancement of its digital infrastructure. We are working towards the establishment of an effective e-government system, while giving the same level of attention to secure and ensure the efficient application of ICT technologies in our businesses and societies.
- We are fully confident that the ACMECS Master Plan 2019-23, the first of its kind endorsed by the leaders of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam, will complement the realization of our goals through positive contributions for the people of our region.

At the same time, we need to work together closely to promote regional trade and investment facilitation through institutional synchronization, harmonization and simplification of rules and regulations on trade and investment.

Myanmar always welcomes responsible foreign investment. We do not want to be a resource-exporting country. The only resource that we want to truly develop is human resources.

We must join hands with the private sector, an important partner and the most reliable engine for growth. It is in this way that we have been creating a business environment conducive to mutually beneficial investments by simplifying business rules and regulations, welcoming all forms of responsible investment: public and private, national and global, in the form of both capital and capacity.

More than 17 per cent of the foreign investment in Myanmar comes from ACMECS member countries.

We believe that ACMECS cooperation will greatly contribute to an increase in investment from ACMECS countries in Myanmar. ■

Corruption : Remains a Problem

By Dr. Khine Khine Win

CORRUPTION has several manifestations and affects people's lives in different ways. It is difficult to measure and difficult to spot. But there is no doubt that it remains a problem worldwide. Furthermore it is attracting a lot of attention around the world. Even poor countries have highly visible corruption forms of corruption in rich countries are more sophisticated. No country, region or community is immune. Transparency International (TI) has found that a majority of countries in the world can be called corrupt, with a clear link between high levels of corruption and little protection of the media and civil society groups.

Corruption has been defined in many different ways. The most popular and simplest definition of corruption I like is that "it is the abuse of public power for private benefit" which is used by World Bank. In many countries especially developing countries, the role of the State is often carried out through the use of many rules or regulations. In these countries licenses, permits, and authorizations of various sorts are required to engage or to continue to be engaged in many activities. For instance, opening a shop, borrowing money, investing, owning a car, building a house, engaging in foreign trade and so on require specific documents. The existence of these regulations and authorizations gives a kind of monopoly



power to the officials who must authorize or inspect the activities. These officials may refuse the authorizations or may simply sit on the decision for months. Thus, they can use their public power to extract bribes from those who need permits. Bribery is just one form of corruption and corruption involves more than just accepting bribes.

According to the United Nations, every year \$ 1 trillion is

Corruption remains a serious problem in the world. Corruption fawns corruption an injustice. It is a vicious circle that must be stopped. Corruption hurts the public and undermines human development and government.

paid in bribes while an estimated \$ 2.6 trillion are stolen annually through corruption. Now a day, many people agreeing that corruption is one of the biggest impediments to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs. If we want to achieve the SDGs, we have to eradicate corruption as soon as possible. Many Nations need to be strong, transparent and inclusive insti-

tution based on the rule of law and good governance. As you all well know, corruption has a corrosive effect on trust and on good governance and on the reputation of the civil service and its staff.

Corruption remains a serious problem in the world. Corruption fawns corruption an injustice. It is a vicious circle that must be stopped. Corrup-

tion into their lives, there will be no opportunity for the corrupt. So you are the one can make a difference by breaking the chain of corruption in your life. Everybody can fight corruption, only if they want to.

If we serious about anti-corruption, we need to change we think about it, we need to change behavior, we need to change ethic, we need to cut the red tape, we need to promote awareness on anti-corruption and so on. Bear in mind that, considering the aspects of corruption, government and anticorruption commission alone cannot eradicate corruption. Lack of awareness is one of the key obstacles in the anti-corruption movements. We need to raise awareness of corruption and its negative impact on societies.

Let me say again, corruption weakens the foundation of rule of law, economic life and fragile democracy and feeds on a wide range of health, education, politics, etc. So if we can fight against corruption successfully, we can get many benefits from it. What do you think what would the world look like without corruption? Honestly, it is difficult to imagine what the world would like if there were no corruption but I suspect it would be vastly different to the way it is today.

To conclude, in order to achieve peaceful mind and peaceful life, everybody should reflect and reject and despise unequivocally any corrupt practice. Everybody must say No to Corruption. ■

Remember, if people refuse to allow corruption into their lives, there will be no opportunity for the corrupt. So you are the one can make a difference by breaking the chain of corruption in your life. Everybody can fight corruption, only if they want to.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 16th June, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 17th JUNE, 2018: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (10 - 12) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (6 - 8) feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Vigorous monsoon over Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th JUNE, 2018: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th JUNE, 2018: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Downpours wash out monastery near Mt Popa

TORRENTIAL rains flattened a refectory of Shwekuchaung Monastery beside the road to the Mt Popa in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region according to the Mount Popa Lovers group yesterday afternoon.

The downpours caused some cracks on 30 May and the authorities concerned made it public that these cracks can be dangerous.

"Members of parliament, township administrator and officials from the Township Development Committee rushed to the scene three days ago and made arrangement to relocate people nearby. This can prevent casualties" said secretary of the Mount Popa Lovers group U Aung Hein. The cracked area has something to do with the landslides which occurred in the years 1999, 2006, 2017 due to heavy rains.

Mt Popa is an inactive volcano and earth around the Mount Popa is in poor quality because of ashes and lava from the volcano, said geologist Dr. Soe Moe Kyaw Win during the previous landslide. —Ei Moh Moh Khaing/MDN ■

Bogalay bridges to be refurbished

Bridges on the 420 mile long Bogalay-Kyeingchaung-Kadonkani road in Bogalay Township, Pyabon District, Ayeyarwady Region were constructed after the Nargis cyclone had hit the area. The bridges were built for the purpose of convenience for locals, if a forceful storm hits the region.

The road has 25 under 180-foot long and 12 over 180-foot long bridges. Out of these, bridges such as Panphoo, Yekyaw Gyauk, Autoo and Danone will be repaired with the funds from the 2018 fiscal year. Costs for the large-scale maintenance and long term preservation of the bridges will be submitted to the Union Maintenance Fund in the 2018-2019 fiscal year according to U Min Theik, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Bogalay Constituency. —Moesat (Myaungmya IPRD)/MDN ■

The Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State

Report to the People on the Progress of the Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State
(January to April 2018)

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)

A delegation composed of permanent representatives to the United Nations, representatives from Myanmar's neighboring countries and Member States of United Nations Security Council visited Myanmar from 30 April to 1 May 2018. During the visit, the delegation met various key stakeholders including the State Counsellor, the Commander in Chief of Defense Services, Union Ministers, the Advisory Board for the Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, and Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group.



Implementation of the Commission's Recommendations

A 9-member Advisory Board for the Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State was set up in December 2017. This advisory board is chaired by H.E. Prof. Surakiart Sathirathai - former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand; and comprised of 4 international members and 5 national members. The Committee for Implementation

of the Recommendations on Rakhine State met and discussed with this Advisory Board for more effective implementation of activities in Rakhine State.



H.E. Prof. Surakiart Sathirathai, the Chair of the Advisory Board, and other members made a visit to Myanmar from 22 to 25 January 2018; and met the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe, and officials from the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State. They also made site visits to Maungdaw Township and Kyaukpyu Township, observed the ground situations and gave some necessary advice. The second visit of Chair and board members took place from 31 March 2018 to 2 April 2018. The Advisory Board went to Singapore after that visit and met the Singapore Foreign Minister on 3 April 2018. A debriefing session was also provided by the board for heads of ASEAN diplomatic missions.



The first report to the people by the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was released in state-owned newspapers in February 2018, to update the people on the progress of implementation works.

The staff members of the Secretariat of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State met and discussed with the communities regularly throughout the period; and reported back to the committee on community needs and updated information for further actions.

Conclusion

Promoting peace, stability and development in Rakhine State is a long-term work. Efforts are increased to implement recommendations that could be beneficial in practice as priority, as well as other necessary tasks. And with this report, we humbly present these substantial progresses to the people. ■

5th CSA Expo, 25th China Kunming Import and Export Fair kicks off

News: Ye Khaung Nyunt
Photo: Phoe Htaung

THE opening ceremony of the fifth China-South Asia Expo (5th CSA Expo) and 25th China Kunming Import and Export Fair kicked off on the morning of 14 June at the Kunming Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China.

Over 80 countries, including Myanmar, exhibited their products at the CSA Expo through more than 8,500 booths.

The theme of the 5th CSA Expo is "Integrating into the Belt and Road for Win-win Co-operation."

The master of ceremony at this event, Yunnan Provincial administrator, introduced

China's relations with foreign countries.

Next, the deputy prime minister of the People's Republic of China (PRC), minister for commerce of PRC and Communist Party secretary of Yunnan delivered speeches.

Later, the deputy prime ministers of Afghanistan, Laos and Viet Nam gave their opinions on the expo, after which Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, who was attending as a representative of Myanmar, the country of honour at the expo, explained Myanmar's view.

The 5th CSA Expo and 25th China Kunming Import and Export Fair covers an area of 190,000 square metres. It will be held until 20 June. ■



Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint visits booth at the opening ceremony of the fifth China-South Asia Expo and 25th China Kunming Import and Export Fair in Kunming on 14 June.

Outstanding matriculation students honoured in Zeyathiri

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann attended a ceremony to honour outstanding students and schools of the 2017-2018 Academic Year matriculation examination at a monastery in Sein Sar Pin Village, Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The awards were presented by Mahn Aung Nyein foundation.

In his speech, Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann said the country has been promoting education in the country and required laws to implement systemic works on promoting the education system was discussed and enacted in the first Pyithu Hluttaw. In whatever way the education system had changed, the roles of the students, teachers, parents and school caretakers are still of vital importance.

In addition to awarding outstanding students who passed with distinctions, students who fail need to be encouraged. Teachers and officials need to support these students to



Thura U Shwe Mann presents award to outstanding students at the award presenting ceremony for 2017-2018 Academic Year in Zeyathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

continue with vocational study for their livelihood. Outstanding students on the other hand need to continue with their higher education for their personal benefit as well as the benefit of the others.

Although officials had tried to improve the success rate, the passing percentage decreased slightly by one per cent compared to last year. Therefore, parents, teachers, school and

all responsible persons need to continue their joint efforts to raise the success rate said the Commission Chairman.

Afterward, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myint Tun and officials presented awards to a total of 67 outstanding students including four students who received four distinctions, seven who received three distinctions, 15 who got two distinctions and 67 students



Thura U Shwe Mann presents award to outstanding students at the award presenting ceremony for 2017-2018 Academic Year in Zeyathiri, Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

who obtained one distinction.

Then, head of the district education department U Kyi Shwin presented awards to BEHS No.1 Nay Pyi Taw for best passing-rate prize in Zeyathiri Township, BEHS (Yezin) for second best passing-rate prize and BEHS No.16 (Kyi Taung) for third prize after which head of township education department U Tun Oo presented awards of honor to the headmasters and

headmistresses in Zayathiri Township.

Kaung Set Hein from BEHS No.1 who got four distinctions expressed his gratitude on behalf of the outstanding students.

The Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann then cordially greeted the teachers, students, parents and elders of the townships, wards and villages. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Meeting held to aid flood-hit areas in Magway Region

NATIONAL Disaster Management Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye held a meeting on 15 June with Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo and Magway region ministers to discuss co-operative counter measures to respond to the floods in the Magway Region.

At the meeting, the union minister said the National Disaster Management Committee was not only conducting counter measures against the natural disaster but also doing preventive works.

The flooding damaged roads, bridges, houses, farmlands and crops in the region.

The affected people were evacuated to safe places, but some lost their lives owing to electrocution and from being swept away by the water. Preventive measures such as maintaining the retaining walls, dams and dikes, improving the water flow in creeks

and rivers, placing sandbags in vulnerable places and the installation of drainage pipes, were conducted, and supports such as motor boats, life jackets, as well as multi-purpose piers were provided.

Information via short stories and articles was disseminated through television/radio programmes, journals and magazines, in addition to the holding of drills and practices for natural disasters in states and regions. Whenever there is a natural disaster, the ministry is ready to cooperate and take necessary measures, along with the state/region governments.

Rehabilitation works will be conducted under the supervision of the National Disaster Management Committee, in cooperation with the region government, said the union minister.

Next, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo said owing to heavy rainfall in the second week of June,



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and officials inspect river bank erosion in Magway Region. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

water levels in six main dams rose above the full water mark and water in the Mone, Mann and Mindon creeks and rivers overflowed their banks, flooding some villages in Minbu and Thayet districts. Damage to roads, bridges and farmlands and loss of crops, as well as five fatalities, were reported. The region government will submit details to the National Disaster Management Committee and

follow up accordingly, said the chief minister.

Later, departmental officials reported on the works conducted and the difficulties faced. The union minister coordinated and resolved the matters reported.

Earlier in the day, the union minister went to a monastery in Muyokone Village, Pwintbyu Township, where people were evacuated to

avoid the danger of river bank erosion. The union minister met and encouraged the evacuated people and provided each household among the 75 affected cash support of Ks100,000 and food support worth Ks638,400.

The total support provided amounted to Ks8.1384 million. The union minister also inspected the place where the current river bank erosion is occurring.

From there, the union minister went to Shwepanmyaing Pagoda in Pwintbyu town and provided Ks18.4296 million worth of urgent relief supplies to 2,330 households sheltering there temporarily. According to the preliminary estimate, the recent floods in the Magway region caused damages worth Ks2,272 million to roads, bridges, dams, dikes, houses, buildings, schools, monasteries and farmlands in Ngaphe, Kanma, Saku, Mindon, Pwintbyu and Sedoktara townships. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Trump to meet with Putin in Europe in July — newspaper

WASHINGTON—US President Donald Trump is expected to hold a meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Europe in July, The Washington Post said, citing “a senior administration official and two diplomats familiar with his schedule.”

“President Trump is expected to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin next month while he is in Europe for a NATO summit,” the newspaper wrote. “In a nod to those plans, Trump told reporters on Friday that ‘it’s possible’ he would meet with Putin this summer,” The Washington Post added. NATO is expected to hold a summit in Brussels on 11-12 July.

According to the newspaper, Trump’s “interest in a meeting with Putin became public in March after the Kremlin disclosed that Trump extended an invitation in a phone call with the Russian leader. But US officials say Trump privately has been asking his aides for a bilateral meeting ever since he met with Putin in Viet Nam in November on the sidelines of a multilateral economic summit.” “After



US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: TASS

that meeting, the president said he wanted to invite Putin to the White House,” a US official said as cited by The Washington Post. “We ignored it,” the official added.

The newspaper also said that “at the time, top aides in the National Security Council opposed the idea of a meeting and

said they didn’t view Trump’s interest in a summit as an order to set one up.” “They decided: Let’s wait and see if he raises it again,” said the official.

Resistance from aides

“The push for engagement with the Kremlin follows months of prodding by Trump, who has faced resistance from senior po-

litical aides and diplomats questioning the value of meeting with Putin and worry that the tete-a-tete could cast a shadow over the NATO summit in Brussels,” The Washington Post went on to say.

“Senior officials at the State Department have acknowledged that a meeting between the two leaders could, in theory, help re-

solve long-standing differences on Ukraine, Syria, cybersecurity issues and interference in foreign elections. But some of those officials have said a summit between the two leaders is premature given the lack of progress on resolving minor issues, such as the return of Russian dachas on the East Coast, which were seized as punishment for Moscow’s interference in the election,” the newspaper noted.

In late December 2016, the Obama administration introduced a new round of sanctions against some Russian companies, the Federal Security Service and the Main Intelligence Agency of Russia’s General Staff. Besides that, US authorities expelled 35 Russian diplomats and shut down two Russian compounds in New York and Maryland.

Washington attributed these sanctions to cyber attacks against US political institutions, accusing Russia of being involved. However, Moscow fully rejected all allegations and refrained from giving a tit-for-tat response at the time.—TASS■

Glasgow blaze guts one of world’s top art schools — again

GLASGOW, United Kingdom —Fire devastated one of the world’s top art schools once again on Saturday, destroying four years of restoration work after a previous blaze ripped through the historic Glasgow School of Art.

The famed Mackintosh Building in Scotland’s biggest city has been “extensively damaged”, fire chiefs said.

A restoration project, set to cost between £20 million and £35 million (\$26.5 million and \$46.5 million; 23 and 40 million euros), had been returning the world-renowned institution to its former glory following a fire in 2014.

But much of that work has been wrecked, firefighters confirmed, after rushing to tackle the inferno which broke out at around 11:20 pm (2220 GMT) on Friday.

No casualties were reported.

“This is a devastating loss for Glasgow,” deputy assistant chief fire officer Peter Heath told a press conference.

He said firefighters who had

battled to save the building four years ago were distraught to be back at the scene after it went up in flames again.

“The fire has had a good grip of this building and it’s extensively damaged it, but the emotional attachment — there is a sense of loss not just amongst the firefighters but I am sure the citizens of Glasgow.”

Asked if any of the restoration work had been destroyed, Heath replied: “Given the extent of the fire, that would be a fair comment.” Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said her heart “breaks for Glasgow’s beloved” art school, which is housed in one of Britain’s most cherished buildings.

“It is hard to find words to convey the utter devastation felt here and around the world for the iconic Mackintosh building,” she said. Local residents were evacuated from their homes with the glow from the blaze visible across the city centre.

The fire affected all floors of the art school and spread to a nearby campus and a nightclub.

Writing on Twitter, Paul Sweeney, a Glasgow MP, said: “It looks like the entire interior space is now fully alight. The best we can probably hope for is structural facade retention and a complete rebuild of the interior.”

Britain’s Scotland Secretary David Mundell said he was at the school only a fortnight ago to see the restoration work.

He said the government “stands ready to help, financially or otherwise”.

Protected landmark

The previous blaze was in May 2014, badly damaging the building designed by the architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

A Glasgow-born architect and designer, Mackintosh (1868-1928) was a leading exponent of Art Nouveau, whose distinctive lines and lettering remain influential.

He won a competition to design the building in 1897 and it took around 10 years to complete. It is now a landmark in the city with special government-protected status.—AFP■

Trump threatened to send 25 million Mexicans to Japan: report

WASHINGTON—Donald Trump threatened Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe he would ship 25 million Mexicans to his country, one of a series of bizarre missives that jarred fellow leaders at last week’s acrimonious G7 meet, according to a report on Friday.

The Group of Seven summit gathering of top industrialized democracies finished in disarray after the US president abruptly rejected its consensus statement and bitterly attacked Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Behind the scenes, Trump’s counterparts were dismayed by verbal jabs on topics ranging from trade to terrorism and migration, The Wall Street Journal said, quoting European officials who were present.

At one point he described migration as a big problem for Europe then said to Abe: “Shinzo, you don’t have this problem, but I can send you 25 million Mexicans and you’ll be out of office very soon,” creating a sense of irritation in the room, according to an EU official. The source added that when the topic turned to Iran

and terrorism, Trump took aim at French President Emmanuel Macron, saying: “You must know about this, Emmanuel, because all the terrorists are in Paris.”

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker also came under fire and was repeatedly described by Trump as a “brutal killer” in reference to the bloc’s antitrust and tax fines against US tech companies that have run into billions of dollars.

Bitter differences over trade dominated the summit hosted by Canada, with leaders of the world’s largest economies lining up against Trump’s threats to impose stiff tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

After rejecting the joint statement, Trump and his top aides assailed Trudeau, accusing him of dishonesty and betrayal.

Trump on Friday rejected reports of discord, blaming the “Fake News Media” on Twitter for portraying a false picture while posting several photos of himself appearing to get along well with fellow G7 leaders.—AFP■

Thai king granted full ownership of crown billions

BANGKOK — Thailand's king has been granted full ownership of the palace's multi-billion dollar assets under a law passed last year, according to a rare "explanatory note" published by the financial arm of the powerful but secretive monarchy.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn inherited one of the world's great fortunes when he ascended the Thai throne following the October 2016 death of his father, who ruled for seven decades.

Analysts say the Chakris are one of the world's richest royal dynasties, with estimates varying between \$30-60 billion, although the mon-



Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn. PHOTO: AFP

archy does not publicly declare its wealth and is shielded from scrutiny by a draconian lese majeste law.

Most of the money is controlled by the opaque Crown Property Bureau (CPB), a vast portfolio that includes massive

property ownership and investments in major companies.

But last July the Thai junta amended a royal property law for the first time in 69 years to give Vajiralongkorn full control over the CPB.

It is one of several

steps taken by Vajiralongkorn to increase his personal control over the palace bureaucracy and its wealth since taking the throne.

The amendment means "all 'Crown Property Assets' are to be transferred and revert to the ownership of His Majesty, so that they may be administered and managed at His Majesty's discretion," according to a note featured prominently on the front page of the CPB's website.

The document was not dated and the CPB, which rarely grants interviews, could not be reached for further comment.—AFP ■

Viet Nam launches probe into American detained for 'public disorder'

HANOI — Viet Nam police have launched a formal criminal investigation into an American man who was among dozens arrested last week during rare protests that erupted across the authoritarian state. American citizen William Anh Nguyen, 32, was detained in Ho Chi Minh City on Sunday during a massive rally protesting a government proposal to grant lengthy land leases in new special economic zones. Many protesters expressed fear the land would be handed to China, and thousands gathered in several cities across the country to demand the government not lease land to Beijing for "even one day".

At least 40 people are still in detention after the rallies, according to an AFP tally using official figures

and state media reports. The protests turned violent in several spots including southern Binh Thuan province where demonstrators torched police buses and damaged government property. Ho Chi Minh City police said late Friday that Nguyen was being investigated "for acts of disturbing public order" and accused him of inciting protesters and trying to damage public property.

"After seeing people trying to flip a police pickup truck to clear the way for the protesters, William Anh tried to help them flip the vehicles," said a report from Ho Chi Minh City's official police newspaper. The investigation could lead to formal charges and means Nguyen is likely to remain in detention until the probe is closed.—AFP ■

China hates to be engaged in trade war but will firmly defend national interests

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Friday unveiled plans to impose additional 25 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods worth around 50 billion US dollars, the latest unilateral move to risk provoking a trade war between the world's top two economies that could damage the global economy and trading system.

The move drew immediate opposition from the US business community, farm groups, technology associations and pro-trade lawmakers of Trump's Republican party. "American companies want solutions, not sanctions. Tariffs will not solve these problems, but will harm American economic interests and jobs," US-China Business Council President John Frisbie said in a statement. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch also warned that "tariffs will harm American and Chinese businesses and consumers, and will put economic growth in both countries at risk."

Since early May, China and the United States have conducted three rounds of economic and trade consultations, trying to settle disputes for a

win-win result, and have made positive and concrete progress. However, the chaos and division in the Trump administration have sent mixed messages and demonstrated flip-flops on major trade issues with China. Hardliners in the Trump administration might want to use tariffs to bully China into unilateral trade concessions, in disregard of the consensus recently reached by the two sides. But trade is not a zero-sum game and China will not negotiate with a gun held to its head.

China, a responsible and reliable major trading nation, hates to be engaged in a trade war with the United States, knowing that it would be a lose-lose game for both. But this does not mean that Beijing is going to sit quietly in the face of Washington's planned unilateral tariffs. China has to fight back forcefully so as to safeguard the interests of the nation and its people. This is also a clear-cut demonstration of China's firm stance to uphold the rules-based multilateral trading system. In fact, Beijing has been ready for a volatile Washington. In a statement issued in

the wake of their most recent trade negotiations in Beijing earlier this month, China made it clear that all outcomes of the economic and trade talks would not take effect if the US side imposed any trade sanctions including raising tariffs. China always means what it says. Shortly after Washington's announcement on Friday, China decided to impose additional duties on US products with the same scale and intensity, as the US latest move violates the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Earlier this year, the Trump administration had unilaterally imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports as well as imported solar panels and washing machines, based on outdated US trade laws put in place during the Cold War era. These measures sparked strong opposition from America's domestic business community and major trading partners. The European Union (EU), Canada, Mexico and several other countries have recently announced retaliatory measures against US steel and aluminum tariffs.

The International

Monetary Fund (IMF) has also warned that the new US tariffs against imports could interrupt global supply chains and damage a range of countries as well as the operations of US multinational companies, putting the rules-based global trading system in serious jeopardy. The "America First" doctrine and unilateralism seem to be the mantra of the Trump administration's trade policy. Unfortunately, with a zero-sum mentality and a fickle approach to policy, it is hard to see how the United States, with an ever evaporating credibility, can negotiate better trade deals with other countries. For free traders worldwide, it is never an option to accommodate Washington's unilateral and protectionist measures with further concessions as it would only prompt the trade hawks in Washington to demand an even higher price.

Now it is time for China, the EU, Canada and other countries to jointly safeguard the multilateral trading system with WTO at its center and to defend the common interests of the wider international community.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OLYMPIA VOY.NO. (1815-1816)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (1815-1816) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T/TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY.NO. (1091N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY.NO. (1091N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA
SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Disco titans Chic boogie all night in return

NEW YORK — Disco-era titans Chic are returning with their first album in more than 25 years, with its songwriter, the producer extraordinaire Nile Rodgers, set to draw an all-star cast.

The group, now formally called Nile Rodgers & Chic, announced that it is readying an album appropriately called “It’s About Time,” with a cover featuring two models that mirrors the original “Chic” album from 1977.

“Not only is the cover a reboot of the beginning of Chic, this period feels like a reboot of my life. Music is the most powerful force in my life,” the 65-year-old Rodgers wrote on Facebook.

The group did not immediately reveal a release date or tracklist but offered a preview by performing a first song, “Boogie

All Night,” this week on BBC television.

Centered on Rodgers’ guitar riffs with a synthesized woodwind counter-melody running through it, the song is driven by an infectious retro funk beat but brings in a fresh cast of contributors — British soul singer Nao and Mura Masa, who has been winning critical acclaim as an electronic musician but plays guitar on the track.

Rodgers has written or produced music for a who’s who of top stars including Madonna, David Bowie and Daft Punk. In an interview last month with AFP, Rodgers said he was also scoring an upcoming autobiographical runway show by fashion legend Jean Paul Gaultier.

Speaking about the upcoming

album to fashion magazine V, Rodgers said he has been in the studio recently with the mega-stars Bruno Mars and Black Eyed Peas, Michael Jackson producer Teddy Riley and experimental hip-hop artist Anderson .Paak, without specifying whether the music would go on “It’s About Time.”

Nile Rodgers & Chic have been touring extensively in recent years, bringing crowds to their feet with disco anthem “Le Freak” as well as Rodgers’ tracks for other artists.

“It’s About Time” would be the first Chic album since 1992 and the first without bassist Bernard Edwards, who founded the group with Rodgers and died in 1996 after falling ill while playing in Japan.—AFP ■



Oprah Winfrey, seen addressing the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism commencement ceremony in May, has agreed to produce original shows for Apple’s new online platform. **PHOTO: AFP**

Oprah Winfrey to produce shows for Apple

NEW YORK — Television personality Oprah Winfrey has agreed to produce shows for Apple as the iPhone maker prepares to make a push into original content.

An Apple statement on Friday offered few details about the role for Winfrey, who hosted a hugely popular talk show before leaving to start her own production company and devote time to philanthropic efforts.

“Together, Winfrey and Apple will create original programmes that embrace her incomparable ability to connect with audiences around the world,” the statement said.

Terms of the deal were not announced.

The news suggested Apple — which reportedly is investing \$1 billion in content — is pushing forward as part of its effort to create a platform to challenge rivals like Netflix and Amazon

in internet-based video.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the deal includes films, television shows, smartphone applications and books that can be distributed through Apple.

Apple has deals with other stars including director Steven Spielberg and actresses Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon.

The move comes after Netflix signed a deal with former US president Barack Obama and his wife Michelle to produce shows for that platform. It also comes as traditional TV operators scramble to bolster their position against an expected online onslaught.

AT&T on Thursday closed an \$85 billion deal for media-entertainment giant Time Warner, giving the telecom-broadband group a strong position in both content and delivery.—AFP ■



American musician Nile Rodgers (R) and the Chic band perform at the Rock in Rio Festival in the Olympic Park, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 17 September, 2017; the group is set to release their first album in more than 25 years. **PHOTO: AFP**

US network apologizes for Robbie Williams World Cup gesture

NEW YORK — US broadcaster Fox has apologized after it showed pop star Robbie Williams giving the middle finger to viewers during the World Cup opening ceremony.

The former frontman of English boy band Take That raised his finger after singing his track “Rock DJ” before the global audience on Thursday in Moscow. The 44-year-old did not explain his gesture but he appeared to mouth the phrase “I did this for free” — a response to criticism for gracing an event dear to Russian President Vladimir Putin. “The 2018 FIFA World Cup opening cere-

mony was a newsworthy event produced by a third party and carried live on Fox,” Fox Sports said in a statement.

“As it was broadcast live, we did not know what would happen during Robbie Williams’ performance and we apologize,” it said.

The middle finger, while innocent by the standards of pop star antics on stage, prompted a deluge of upset comments on social media, many from parents saying the gesture was inappropriate for children.

After repeated incidents, US networks routinely broadcast domestic events with a short delay to allow time to cut out incidents



English musician Robbie Williams (L) and Russian soprano Aida Garifullina perform during the World Cup opening ceremony. **PHOTO: AFP**

that may offend viewers.

Networks have become even more fastidious since the 2004 Super Bowl, the most watched event on US television, when Justin Timberlake accidentally bared Janet Jackson’s nipple while dancing, scandalizing audiences. Hip-hop star MIA nonetheless gave a middle finger during the 2012 Super Bowl, leading the National Football League to take legal action against her for violation of its contract.

Williams sang in Moscow alongside Russian soprano Aida Garifullina, with the two singing a duet of his hit solo song “Angels.”—AFP ■

Is it Napoleon's? Battlefield hat for sale in France

PARIS — A two-cornered military dress hat said to belong to Napoleon and purportedly picked off the battlefield after his defeat at Waterloo will go under the hammer on Monday at an auction in France.

It is the latest sale looking to capitalise on the seemingly insatiable appetite for items belonging to the former French emperor, who remains a source of fascination nearly two hundred years after his death.

Napoleon insisted on wearing the hats sideways — rather than with points at the front and back — so he could easily be spotted on the battlefield.

During his 15 years in power he reportedly went through about 120 of the black felted beaver fur “bicorne” hats, most of them made by French hat-makers Poupard, though only a handful of confirmed examples still exist.

“They must correspond in terms of dates, and the size of



A “bicorne” hat thought to have belonged to Napoleon will be sold at auction in Lyon, France, on Monday.- PHOTO: AFP

his head,” Etienne De Baecque, the auctioneer leading the sale in the eastern city of Lyon, told AFP.

While the hat’s provenance

cannot be confirmed without a doubt, it has traditionally been attributed to the emperor, with records confirming its ownership

since a Dutch captain took it as a war trophy at Waterloo in 1815.

“There are also other little details: he hated the trimming

and always had it removed; he requested reinforcements at certain points where he always held it,” De Baecque said.

“But as always with historical souvenirs, there’s an element of fascination as well as doubt.”

Four years ago a similar bicorne, part of a collection owned by Monaco’s royal family, sold at auction for 1.9 million euros (\$2.2 million at current rates) to the owner of the South Korean food and agriculture giant Harim.

The hat being sold on Monday is expected to fetch just 30,000 to 40,000 euros, in part because it has not been as well preserved, with the leather dried out and cracking in several places. Yet demand for all things Napoleon has often sent prices spiralling well above estimates.

Last November a fragile gold laurel leaf from the crown made for Napoleon’s coronation in 1804, weighing just 10 grams, was sold for 625,000 euros. —AFP ■

Judge denies request for Stormy Daniels gag order

LOS ANGELES — An American federal judge rejected on Friday a request by President Donald Trump’s former personal lawyer for a gag order to stop the attorney for adult film actress Stormy Daniels insulting him and talking about the case in media appearances.

US District Judge S James Otero said Michael Cohen had failed to provide evidence that he would suffer “irreparable injury” without an immediate restraining

order against Michael Avenatti.

Cohen filed his bid for a restraining order against Avenatti on Thursday, asking that he be stopped from giving interviews about Cohen and Daniels’s lawsuit.

Daniels — real name Stephanie Clifford — is suing Trump and Cohen, to nullify a 2016 non-disclosure agreement preventing her from speaking out about her alleged affair with Trump. Cohen paid Daniels \$130,000 in exchange

for her silence. She is hoping to invalidate the non-disclosure agreement she signed days before the presidential election because, she argues, Trump never signed it.

Through White House officials, Trump has denied the affair, although Cohen has admitted paying Daniels \$130,000 as part of the agreement. He initially said he used his own money to pay Daniels and was not reimbursed by Trump.

However, Trump — who initially denied knowledge of the payment — subsequently conceded that Cohen was reimbursed.

The lawsuit also accuses Cohen of defamation over comments he made about Daniels’s truthfulness.

Daniels filed a separate defamation suit against Trump in New York, alleging the president libeled her by saying she lied about a man who allegedly threatened her to keep her quiet about her alleged relationship with Trump.

The Los Angeles case is due back in court on 21 June. —AFP ■



Adult film star Stormy Daniels is suing President Donald Trump and his one-time personal lawyer Michael Cohen, to nullify a 2016 non-disclosure agreement preventing her from speaking out about her alleged affair with Trump. PHOTO: AFP

Paris open-air booksellers seek UNESCO status

PARIS — After baguettes and bistros, second-hand booksellers along the banks of the Seine River in Paris are pushing to be recognised as one of the world’s cultural treasures on UNESCO’s list of “intangible heritage”.

Calling themselves “the biggest open-air bookshop in the world”, the “bouquinistes” and their dark green stalls have been a fixture of the French capital since the 17th century.

Nearly 1,000 stalls belonging to 226 registered booksellers stretch along both sides of the riverbanks — which have already been on UNESCO’s heritage list since 1991.

“We are spreaders of knowledge, with phenomenal diversity, incredible personalities — we play almost a philosophical role in the city,” said Gildas Bouillaud as he dusted off his collection in the shadow of Notre-Dame cathedral.

Even Francois Mitterrand continued to visit the stands during his 1981-1995 presidency, strolling with two of his bodyguards in tow.

Yet despite paying no rent for their spots, making a living has become increasingly difficult, with some earning more money from tourist trinkets than hard-to-

find tomes from France’s literary giants.

“Faced with the crisis among booksellers, the competition from multimedia and this increasing lack of education, we’re hoping to put the spotlight on us,” said Jerome Callais, president of the Bouquinistes association.

“We’re as important for tourists as the Eiffel Tower.”

‘Antiques of the city’

“City Hall should pay us, we’re a sort of spectacle,” says Mathias Grandis de Portefaux, 67.

He points out his peers: Bernard who “only does detective stories”, while another further along deals only in books about Algeria. Mathias himself does “only history”, in particular the Napoleonic period.

On a recent sunny day tourists were stopping to look, but most left empty-handed. “Out of 100 clients, only two or three buy something”, he says.

The city only allows one of a seller’s four allotted stalls to be stacked with keychains, miniature Eiffel Towers and other tourist favourites. And for every pleasant day spent outdoors, there are others where the rain doesn’t ever seem to stop. —AFP ■

Shan United beat Magwe 2-0 in MNL

TAUNGGYI-based Shan United beat Magwe FC 2-0 at Taunggyi Stadium yesterday in their Week-16 match of the Myanmar National League (MNL).

Defending champions Shan United took a cautious approach to push for a win in the match.

Shan United's line-up included goalkeeper Thaha Sithu, Htike Htike Aung, Lee Hankuk, Nay Lin Tun, Yan Naing Oo, Hlaing Myo Aung, Zaw Lin, David Htan, Nyakwe William, Chizoba Christopher and Dway Ko Ko Chit.

Magwe FC comprised goalkeeper Aung Wai Phyto, Win Moe Kyaw, Captain Nanda Kyaw, Sat Phyto Wai, Soe Min Aung, Mg Mg Soe, Kyaw Zin Lwin, Naing Naing Kyaw, Aung Myint Tun and Myat Tun Thit.

Shan United started the match with a stable performance through quick passes. Shan United gained the icebreaker in the



PHOTO: SUFC

18th minute through a header from defender William over a free kick. Shan led the match 1-0 at the end of the first half.

At the 50th-minute mark, Magwe's defender touched the ball with his hand in the penalty area, for which Shan got a penalty kick.

The ball was kicked in successfully by Shan's attacker

Chizoba Christopher, earning them their second goal.

Shan United continued to attack Magwe's defence in the final minutes, and the match ended with a 2-0 win for Shan.

With the win, Shan United leads the table with 33 points, while Magwe is in third place with 25 points.— Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Football competition held to commemorate Olympic Day

TO commemorate Olympic Day that falls on 20 June, a football match was played between the Myanmar women footballers' red and white teams at Aung San Stadium in Yangon on 15 June.

The white team beat the red team 5-1. The winning goals for the white team were scored by Lin Le Oo in the 6th minute, Moe Moe Than in the 20th, 58th and 86th

minutes and Nwe Ni Win in the 81st minute.

A single consolation goal for the red team was scored by Cho Cho Myint at the 11th-minute mark. The prize-giving ceremony was conducted after the match, with the winner receiving Ks200,000 and the runners-up receiving Ks100,000.— Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Ronaldo named best player of FIFA World Cup match between Portugal, Spain

SOCHI — Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo has been named the best player of the FIFA World Cup match between Portugal and Spain, the International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA) said.

The match, which took place in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi on Friday, end-

ed in a 3-3 draw with Ronaldo scoring a hat-trick.

Spain and Portugal have gained a point each, while Iran is leading Group B with three points after defeating Morocco 1-0. On June 20, Portugal will play against Morocco at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium, while Iran and Spain will meet in Kazan.

2018 FIFA World Cup

The 2018 FIFA World Cup, the first-ever hosted by Russia, is taking place between 14 June and 15 July, 2018, in 11 Russian cities — Moscow, St Petersburg, Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod, Saransk, Kaliningrad, Volgograd, Yekaterinburg, Samara, Sochi and Rostov-on-Don.—AFP ■

VAR makes World Cup history as France beat Australia

MOSCOW — France launched their World Cup campaign with victory against Australia on Saturday as the Video Assistant Referee system was used for the first time in World Cup history.

The Group C match in Kazan was goalless when Antoine Griezmann went down after a tackle in the second half. Uruguayan referee Andres Cunha did not award a penalty but after viewing the VAR footage, ruled it was a spot-kick and Griezmann gave France a 1-0 lead. Minutes later the Socceroos drew level through a penalty of their own, although this time it was awarded by the referee, with Mile Jedinak

coolly beating Hugo Lloris. But Paul Pogba won a tight match for the 1998 champions when his shot bounced over the line off the crossbar in the 81st minute.

VAR has been used to varying degrees of success in Serie A and the German Bundesliga, while FIFA used the system at the Confederations Cup in Russia last year. The technology is used in what are considered "game-changing" situations, such as a goal, penalty or red card, and can also be used to help referees with cases of mistaken identity. Atmosphere we felt already arriving in Russia was very good," he said.—AFP ■



France forward Antoine Griezmann scores a penalty against Australia in Kazan. PHOTO: AFP

 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018		
18:30 MST (17.6.2018)		
Costa Rica		Serbia
21:30 MST (17.6.2018)		
Germany		Mexico
00:30 MST (18.6.2018)		
Brazil		Switzerland
World Cup 2018 Results		
France	2 - 1	Australia
Argentina	1 - 1	Iceland
Peru	0 - 1	Denmark

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

17 JUNE 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

On the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda



Thit Thit Zaw
Grade-11 (I.S.M)

There are a million wonderful to see and do in Myanmar but your holiday simply won't be complete without taking time to check out the fascinating historical site that is the Shwedagon Pagoda. A visit to Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar, is a must for every tourist who plans to visit Myanmar. The pagoda is the best well-known landmark of Yangon and one of the main tourist destinations in Myanmar.

The Shwedagon Pagoda, the main site in Yangon is a huge golden pagoda, which rises above the city and hosts tourists and citizens all day. It is very interesting, however, in the evening when locals arrive after work, filling every corner of the golden dome to pray. Some people wait and listen to the peaceful murmur of humming. Bright glided vertical structures are visually stunning to the eye. Since the cameras are permitted at the pagoda, some people can't help but capture the calming atmosphere around them.

What makes it so fascinating is the fact that there are so many people, yet it still feels so relaxing. A steady stream of people walks slowly around the central pagoda in the conventional clockwise direction. Occasionally, tourists would stop to take photos of the complex designs and the local monks walking around. But for the people of Myanmar, it is the most sacred Buddhist site they could ever visit.

It is very wonderful to be able to have



Photo: Phoe Khwar

different national races such as Kachin, Kayin, Kayar, Chin, Myanmar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan gathered together on the platform of the Shwedagon. We can find out various kinds of their colorful national dresses, their sweet and pure smiles and their lovely and simple lifestyles. Moreover, a number of foreigners from the east as well as the west, though they have accepted several religions, can set food and enjoy truly peaceful emotion on the platform of the pagoda. All their faces, eyes and smiles are full of content

and pleasure. Therefore, different their nationals, beliefs, skin-color, customs, cultures their figures and motions are the same here, looking very warm and gentle. Their intensity of emotion seems very cool and calm and covers all over the surroundings.

Next, the platform of the pagoda stands still as the great viewpoint center in many ways for the local pilgrims and other people. For artists, scientists, engineers, archaeologists, historians and other technicians can learn, study and

observe several fields in only one place, the Shwedagon. As a Myanmar citizen, the traditional arts and crafts can be seen collectively on the platform of the pagoda. Very wonderful and remarkably valuable for all.

Thus, more and more times we arrives at the platform of the Shwedagon, more and more things we have to enjoy. And, all can feel deeply pleased and satisfied with themselves physically and mentally on the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

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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CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

(B) အောက်ပါတို့မှာ နောက်ဆုံးနှစ်လုံးတူသော ကြိယများဖြစ်သည်။

meet	met	met	တွေ့သည်
sweep	swept	swept	လှဲကျင်းသည်
weep	wept	wept	ငိုသည်
creep	crept	crept	တွားသွားသည်
bleed	bled	bled	သွေးထွက်သည်
feed	fed	fed	ကျွေးသည်
lead	led	led	ဦးဆောင်သည်၊ ဆွဲခေါ်သည်

keep	kept	kept	သိမ်းဆည်းသည်
leave	left	left	ထွက်ခွာသည်၊ ထားပစ်ခဲ့သည်
breed	bred	bred	မွေးမြူသည်
flee	fled	fled	ထွက်ပြေးသည်
find	found	found	တွေ့သည်
bind	bound	bound	ချည်နှောင်သည်
wind	wound	wound	ရစ်ပတ်သည်၊ ကွေ့ကောက်သည်

grind	ground	ground	ကြိတ်သည်
learn	learnt	learnt	သင်ယူသည်
lean	leant	leant	မှီသည်၊ ထောင်သည်
mean	meant	meant	ရည်ရွယ်သည်၊ အဓိပ္ပာယ်ရသည်

buy	bought	bought	ဝယ်သည်
bring	brought	brought	ယူလာသည်
think	thought	thought	ထင်သည်၊ တွေးတောသည်
fight	fought	fought	တိုက်ခိုက်သည်
feel	felt	felt	ခံစားသည်
kneel	knelt	knelt	ခွဲထောက်သည်
hang	hung	hung	ချိတ်ဆွဲသည်
dig	dug	dug	တွားသည်
sit	sat	sat	ထိုင်သည်
say	said	said	ပြောသည်
lay	laid	laid	ဥသည်၊ ချမှတ်သည်
pay	paid	paid	ပေးသည်
make	made	made	ပြုလုပ်သည်
sell	sold	sold	ရောင်းသည်
tell	told	told	ပြောသည်
hold	held	held	ကျင်းပသည်၊ ကိုင်သည်
hear	heard	heard	ကြားသည်
shine	shone	shone	တောက်ပသည်
send	sent	sent	ပို့သည်၊ စေလွှတ်သည်
lend	lent	lent	ငှားသည်
bend	bent	bent	ကိုင်းသည်
spend	spent	spent	ကုန်ဆုံးစေသည်၊ သုံးသည်

shoot	shot	shot	ပစ်သည်
seek	sought	sought	ရှာဖွေသည်
teach	taught	taught	သင်ပေးသည်
win	won	won	နိုင်သည်
lose	lost	lost	ပျောက်ဆုံးသည်၊ ဆုံးရှုံးသည်

stick	stuck	stuck	စိုက်သည်၊ ကပ်သည်
strike	struck	struck	ရိုက်နှက်သည်၊ သပိတ်မှောက်သည်

(C) အောက်ပါတို့မှာ ရှေ့ဆုံးနှင့် နောက်ဆုံးစာလုံးတူသော ကြိယများ ဖြစ်သည်။

come	came	come	လာသည်
become	became	become	ဖြစ်လာသည်
run	ran	run	ပြေးသည်

(D) အောက်ပါတို့မှာ ရှေ့နှစ်လုံး တူသည့်ကြိယဖြစ်သည်။

beat	beat	beaten	ရိုက်သည်၊ နိုင်သည်
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(E) အောက်ပါတို့မှာ သုံးလုံးစလုံးတူသောကြိယများဖြစ်သည်။

cut	cut	cut	ဖြတ်သည်
shut	shut	shut	ပိတ်သည်
put	put	put	ထားသည်
hurt	hurt	hurt	နာကျင်စေသည်
spread	spread	spread	ပျံ့နှံ့သည်၊ ဖြန့်သည်
hit	hit	hit	ထိသည်၊ မှန်သည်
burst	burst	burst	ပေါက်ကွဲသည်

(F) ကျန်ကြိယများကို Present Tense ကို d, ed, ied သင့်လျော်သလို ထည့်ပေးခြင်းဖြင့် Past Tense နှင့် Past Participle များအဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

ဥပမာ -

hate	hated	hated	မုန်းသည်
intend	intended	intended	ရည်ရွယ်သည်
occupy	occupied	occupied	သိမ်းပိုက်သည်၊ နေရာယူသည်
dry	dried	dried	ခြောက်သွေ့သည်
try	tried	tried	ကြိုးစားသည်
cry	cried	cried	ငိုသည်၊ အော်သည်
fry	fried	fried	ကြော်သည်
carry	carried	carried	သယ်ဆောင်သည်
marry	married	married	လက်ထပ်သည်

Lesson 4

ဤ Lesson (4) တွင် Verb Form (ကြိယပုံစံ)နှင့် စာစီစာကုံး ရေးသားခြင်းကို တင်ပြပါမည်။

Tenses (အချိန်ကာလ) သည် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် အလွန်အရေး ကြီးသဖြင့် ပိုင်ပိုင်နိုင်နိုင်နားလည် သုံးစွဲနိုင်သည့်တိုင်အောင် ဂရုတစိုက် လေ့လာရန်လိုပါသည်။ ဆရာက ကျောင်းသားတစ်ယောက်ကို Who is your father? ဟုမေးလိုက်သောအခါ ကျောင်းသားက My father was U Myint Tun Thein ဟုဖြေပါသည်။ ထိုကျောင်းသား၏ အဖေ ယခုမရှိတော့မှန်း ဆရာကချက်ချင်းသိသည်။ အဖြေတွင် was သုံးထား၍ဖြစ်သည်။ ဤဥပမာကိုကြည့်လျှင် Tenses များမည်မျှအရေးကြီးကြောင်းသိနိုင်ပါသည်။

ထို့ကြောင့် Tenses များနှင့် ပတ်သက်၍သဒ္ဒါအချက် အလက်များ သုံးနှုန်းပုံများကိုလွယ်လွယ်နှင့် နားလည်အောင်တင်ပြသွား ပါမည်။

အောက်တွင် တည်ဆောက်ပုံကို ပထမပေးထားပါသည်။

(S) မှာ Simple Present Tense, (P) မှာ Present Perfect Tense, (F) မှာ Future Tense, (C) မှာ Continuous Tense အတွက်ဖြစ်သည်။ လေ့လာပါ။

(S) He plays the piano.

သူစန္ဒယားတီးလေ့ရှိသည်။

(P) He has played the piano.

သူစန္ဒယားတီးပြီးပြီ။

(F) He will play the piano.

သူစန္ဒယားတီးလိမ့်မည်။

(C) He is playing the piano.

သူ စန္ဒယားတီးနေသည်။

(PC) He has been playing the piano.

သူ စန္ဒယားတစ်လျှောက်လုံးတီးလာသည်။

(ယခုလည်း တီးဆဲ၊ ဆက်၍လည်း တီးဦးမည်)

(F.C) He will be playing the piano.

သူ စန္ဒယားတီးနေလိမ့်မည်။

(F.P) He will have played the piano.

သူ စန္ဒယားတီးပြီးသား ဖြစ်လိမ့်မည်။

(F.P.C) He will have been playing the piano.

(ဤနောက်ဆုံးပုံစံမှာ သုံးခဲလှသဖြင့် Verb Form တွင် ချိန်ထားခဲ့ပါမည်။ ရှိသည်ဟုသိနေလျှင် လုံလောက်ပြီ။)

Verb Form (Tenses)

(A) Simple Present Tense

(ရိုးရိုးပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကာလ)

(a) ထာဝရအမှန်တရား (Universal Truth)

(b) ယေဘုယျအမှန်တရား (General Truth)

(c) ရှိယင်းစွဲအခြေအနေ (State of Affairs)

(d) အမိန့်ပေးစကား၊ တောင်းပန်စကား (Order of Request)

(e) အကျင့်၊ ဓလေ့၊ စရိုက် (Habitual Action)

စသည်တို့ ဖော်ပြလိုသောအခါ ဤကာလကိုသုံးရသည်။

(a) ထာဝရအမှန်တရား (Universal Truth)

1. The earth is round.

ကမ္ဘာမြေကြီးသည် လုံးသည်။

2. In every country the sun rises in the east.

နိုင်ငံတိုင်းတွင် နေသည်အရှေ့မှထွက်သည်။

(b) ယေဘုယျအမှန်တရား (General Truth)

1. Cows eat grass.

နွားများသည် မြက်စားသည်။

2. Boys are stronger than girls.

ယောက်ျားလေးများသည် မိန်းကလေးများထက် သန်မာသည်။

(c) ရှိရင်းစွဲအခြေအနေ (State of Affairs)

1. Yangon is the capital of Myanmar.

ရန်ကုန်သည် မြန်မာပြည်၏မြို့တော်ဖြစ်သည်။

2. I am 18.

ကျွန်တော် (၁၈)နှစ်ရှိပြီ။

(d) အမိန့်ပေးစကား၊ တောင်းပန်စကား (Order or Request)

1. Come here.

ဒီကိုလာပါ။

2. Don't talk.

စကားမပြောပါနဲ့။

3. Be quiet.

ငြိမ်ငြိမ်နေပါ။

4. Don't be angry.

စိတ်မဆိုးပါနဲ့။

Quiet နှင့် angry တို့မှာ နာမဝိသေသန (adj) များဖြစ်၍ရှေ့တွင် be ထည့်ရခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

ဤအင်္ဂလိပ်စာသင်ခန်းစာများသည် ၁၉၈၁-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လမှ ၁၉၈၃-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလအထိ ဂါးဒီးယန်း မဂ္ဂဇင်းတွင် ဖော်ပြခဲ့သော သင်ခန်းစာများဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ကျောင်းသားကျောင်းသူများနှင့် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာကို လေ့လာလိုက်စားသူများ လက်မလွှတ်သင့်သော သင်ခန်းစာများဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အပတ်စဉ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း အပိုင်းလိုက် ဖော်ပြပေးသွားပါမည်။

Love and Happiness for All Children and Youth (1)

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

IN our Education field, there is a saying which is always important and true for any time. It is, "Love and Happiness come first, and then other things follow.

It means that if we can give "Love and Happiness" first to children and youth, all the other good things, such as success, good learning, ethics, morality, good manners, and so on, will automatically follow. It shows that how "Love and Happiness" take the important leading role for children and youth.

Why?

Cause, these are the most important in an individual's life. Think that whether there is anybody who does not want to love and to be loved, to be happy and want to make others happy.

That's why we need to give and train children to love and to be loved; and to be happy and to make others happy.

If a child has gained enough amount of love from his parents, his siblings, his relatives, his friends, his teachers, his companions and so on, he is quite satisfied with all amount of this love and then he is ready to be

happy and ready to make his surroundings (his parents, his siblings, his relatives, his friends, his teachers, his companions) to be happy. That will be followed by all his success and his industry to make better of everything.

He will obey the words of his parents, teachers and his elders. Then he will try to be the best in his good manners, he will try his best to master his studies, he will try his best to do all the good things and to have all good wills and wishes for everyone and everything.

And there is another saying by the Psychologists, "Those who do not get enough love from others since young, do not know how to show their love for others. They used to become cruel and have no sympathy or empathy to others and used to become criminals, especially war criminals.

And another thing is the individual's love for studying something he prefers. If an individual loves to do something or love to study something, he will try his best to become super in such matter and he will try his best and very industrious to master that subject matter.

So, it is important to make a child love what he is going to study and

then it will automatically become to be industrious and happy and absorbed in his own study. If a child has love and interest on what he is going to study, it is very easy for him to become industrious for his study.

That's why "Love" for anything comes first to have a push or enthusiasm to do anything.

Then comes the job for parents and teachers to let their children love anything they should study.

It is followed by "Happiness" everywhere.

If an individual loves to do something or to study anything, he will have "Happiness" in doing it or studying it.

That's why "Happiness" always follows "Love".

A child who loves painting never feel boring in his painting practise and love and is happy to do so. Always in his mind, he is thinking all the time how he should modify his painting skills or how he should create to make his painting better and better, as the children poem says,

"Good, Better, Best ;
Never let it rest;
Till your Good is Better ;
And your Better, Best."

That is the power of "Happiness". And that is why we teachers have to modify our lessons again and again so that our students will have "Happiness" in our lessons, will have more interest and will try to do their efficiency better and better till they reach to the summit.

If a person does not find any "Happiness" in a study, it will be a burden for him to go on studying this subject matter. Although he has to go on studying or practicing, his interest, his soul, his concentrations are far far away from his studying self. It will make worse for his study too.

So as the saying goes, "Love and Happiness come first, and then other things follow", we parents and teachers try our best to have "love", "loving kindness" and "fairness" in our dealings with our children and youth and we have to try our best to make our children and youth to become happy in everything what they are going to do so.

Dr. Nu Nu Win, Retired Professor and Head of Department, Department of Educational Psychology, Sagaing University of Education.





Mae Nu Brick Monastery in Innwa (Ava), Mandalay Region. Photo: Nyi Zaw Moe



Ava seen in the Twilight. Photo: Nyi Zaw Moe



Bargayar wooden monastery in Innwa (Ava), Mandalay Region. Photo: Nyi Zaw Moe

Ava seen in the Twilight

Our team comprised of people from different fields such as various kinds of people from different subjects though we have a limited number in the participants.

In our group, there are artists, a law-maker and experts for stone inscriptions. And a person who is always gazing and thinking about this and that is also a part of us. Although the participants are in different natures and from diverse works, their aim to visit Ava, the ancient capital, is in common. It has been nearly six hundred years ago that Ava was founded. Besides, Ava had been chosen as a royal capital for four times though ancient Myanmar monarchs used to shift the royal capital from one place to another place according to astrological predictions. So, after hearing this glorious name "Ava" repeatedly in our ears, at one eventide, we left Mandalay (where we put up at) for Ava by jeep.

We passed Amarapura first. Then, after taking the route where lettpans (red silk cotton trees) are growing in a row for some minutes, we come to see the forepart of Ava Bridge. This bridge is built crossing the Ayeyawady River and it is heading to Sagaing. The confluence of Ayeyarwady River and Myitnge River is where Ava is located. The poem

"The Golden Ava, our land is so prosperous that it is at the top of the island of Jabudipa" illustrates the location and form of Ava.

As we are approaching the bridge, we take a turn to the left side and go down to the sandbank area. There, we take a ferry across the river to the other bank. When we reach there, the sun is already setting. When we look back the way we took, two fading whitewashed pagodas which ornamentals are leaning are seen on the left bank. In the backyard of these two pagodas, there are an old monastery and a palm tree growing beside it. Boats are being harbored at water's edge in front of those two pagodas. Boats are paddling calmly in the river. We are gazing this scenario in the background of sunset. After awhile, the painters who join with us said they would prefer to leave behind there and only the rest of us continue our journey to get to "the place where the Ava palace once situated" before the setting down of the sun.

I said it is "the place where Ava palace once situated" because the signs of a royal capital can hardly be seen there as it had been a very long time it was established. After following a small track slowly, an old moat, old walls, an old tower, and an old brick

monastery come to appear in our sights. These are symbols which could prove only Ava was once a prosperous royal capital. But, now, no water in the moat, the wall is ruined; some parts of it are being buried beneath the ground, the tower is leaning to the other side because of earthquake. No monks are dwelling at Oat-Kyaung (the brick monastery) any more.

King Thadoeminphyar was the very first King to choose Ava as the royal capital. It might be because of the fact that Ava was surrounded by lakes and rivers, the natural protections for the capital at that time. Another two reasons might be that Ava was close to 11 districts of agriculture where staple grains and crops were prosperous and the weather was fine. Every dynasty having strong and good foundation managed to mend Ava. Only because of them, Ava was complete with the characteristics of a royal capital. Food supplies were sufficient. Celebrations were unanimously held. Literary festivals were popular both in the court and in countryside. Civilizations improved in every sector. Among them, the palace, built during the reign of King Shwenankyawtshin, the descendent of Thadoeminphyar is the most prominent one.

Outside of the compound of the brick monastery, a monument can be found. It is about the founding of the Golden palace. It provides us strong evidence that King Shwenankyawtshin had this place established here. That monument is now being looked after by the department of Archeology. But the stone inscription is so ruined that it is difficult for our archeologist to read all the facts on it. Because of the readable facts, we came know a little bit about the arrangements, used in founding the palace; devotion to spirits, sprinkling water endowed with power through recitation, applying a kind of earth mixing with muck, milk, butter, and molasses, playing pipes and bugles, and driving in a golden stake and a silver stake to the foundation of the palace.

Then, we enter the brick monastery. Its benefactor is Mae Nu, the Chief Queen. That monastery is suffering from the effects of earthquake and bad weather. However, seeing from the pavilion of jorana (gateway), the monastery with its three leveled spire-like roof can be seen without any changes among tamarind trees. This monastery still looks impressive with its structures; pinnacles, vertical ornamental embellishments,

and flamboyant ornamentals on its roof and arches in the same way of seeing impressively the characteristics of youth which are still left with an old man who was once well built and handsome but is now suffering from getting old, pains and social misery.

We sightsee every parts of that monastery as if there is nothing left to look round. The MP who is with us comments "It had to use a lot of mass participations." nodding his head. To continue his opinion, ancient monarchs had many palaces built and donated extensively for Sasana. There were times for Ava, when its territories were limited and when clashes between Ava and its neighbor tribes happened. But, when Ava's domination was all over Myanmar, many rulers could occupy the Ava's throne. On that throne of Ava, both Myanmar and Shan sat on in turn. At that time, those rulers had to rely very much on people or peasants.

Of course, when we see there, bushes, banyan trees, fields of corns, peppers and peas, and small thatches can be seen. Beyond that, groves of toddy-palm, farmlands and paddy fields can also be perceived indistinctly. People who rely on those fields are farmers and peasants whose ancestors were also cultivators. They earn a living by plowing, trading salt and fish paste, climbing palm-tree to tap the sap. They also gave levies on what they could do business. Besides, if someone was a single atheta (merchant), he had to tribute

twelve royal measurements; gum of neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*), plant fiber, bael fruit (*Aegle marmelos*), Oun-toun-khau (a kind of vine which gives us glutinous gum) etc. When someone was from a section of a certain race or occupation settle, he had just to serve the duty of his section. Because of those men of wealth and members of sections, Ava was magnificent. Only because of their colors, Ava was bright.

It's getting dark. Glinting light now appears at Sagaing Hill. When we take the route we walked over, we notice the artists are finishing their works. They are full with great happiness for they could be able to paint the scenery which appears in their Katina view (circular spot to concentrate on) on their sketch pads. They don't look sorry for missing the chance to see the place where Ava palace once situated. Whether Ava palace is glorious or not, for them, they feel there is nothing to do with in its home affairs. They just concentrate on such delightful scenery which will be seen in every evenings of the winter.

"Ava Seen in the Twilight" which was originally in Myanmar by Saya Thaik Soe.

Translated by Nwe Phyo (Cherry land), a third year Honours, Student, specializing in English at Yadana-bon University



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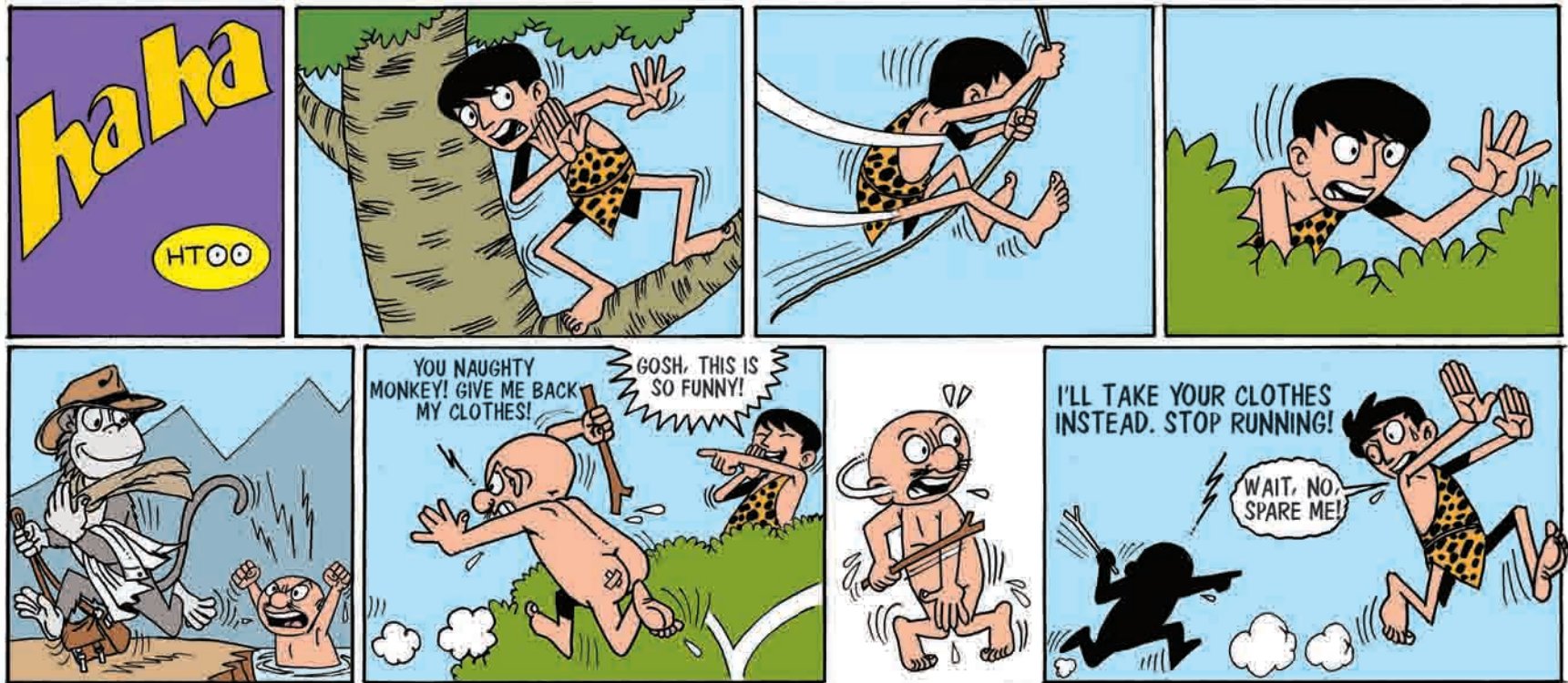


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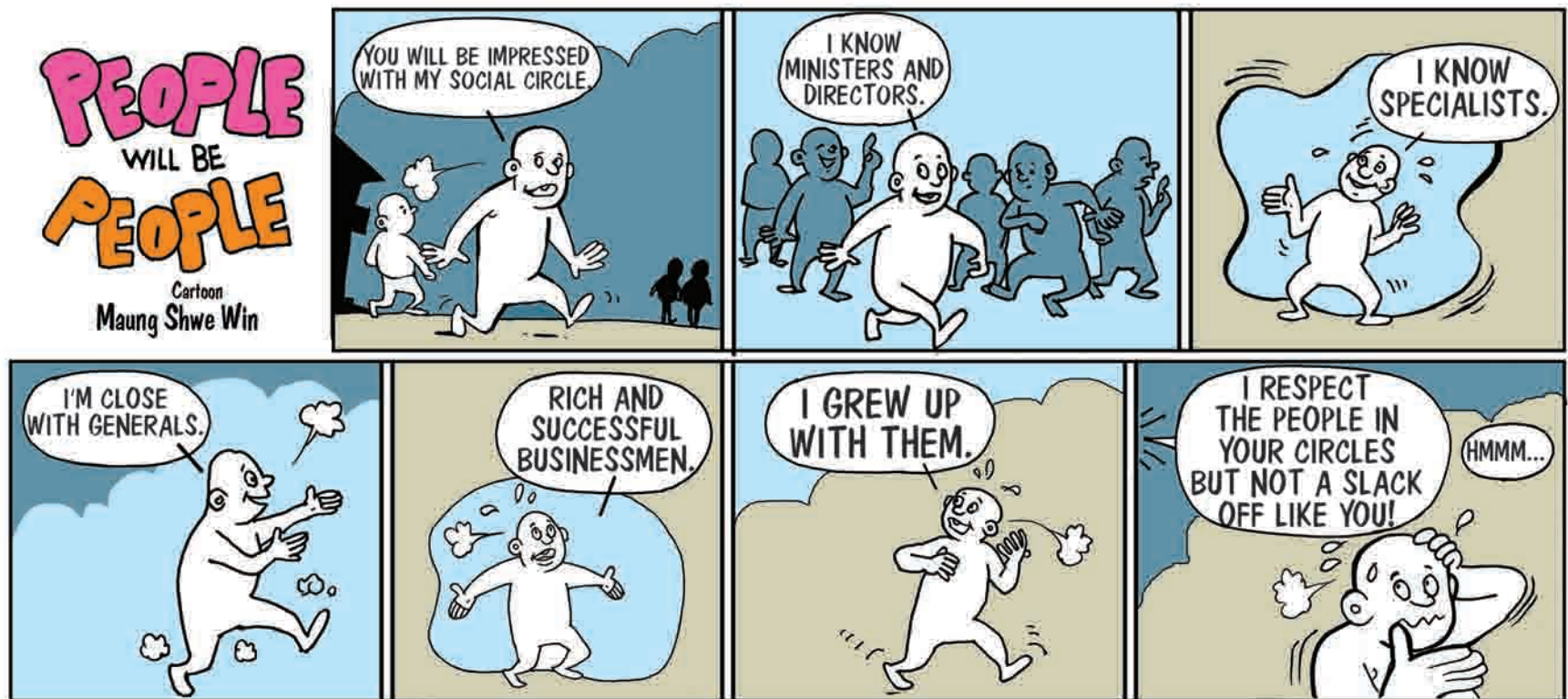
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SUNDAY COMICS



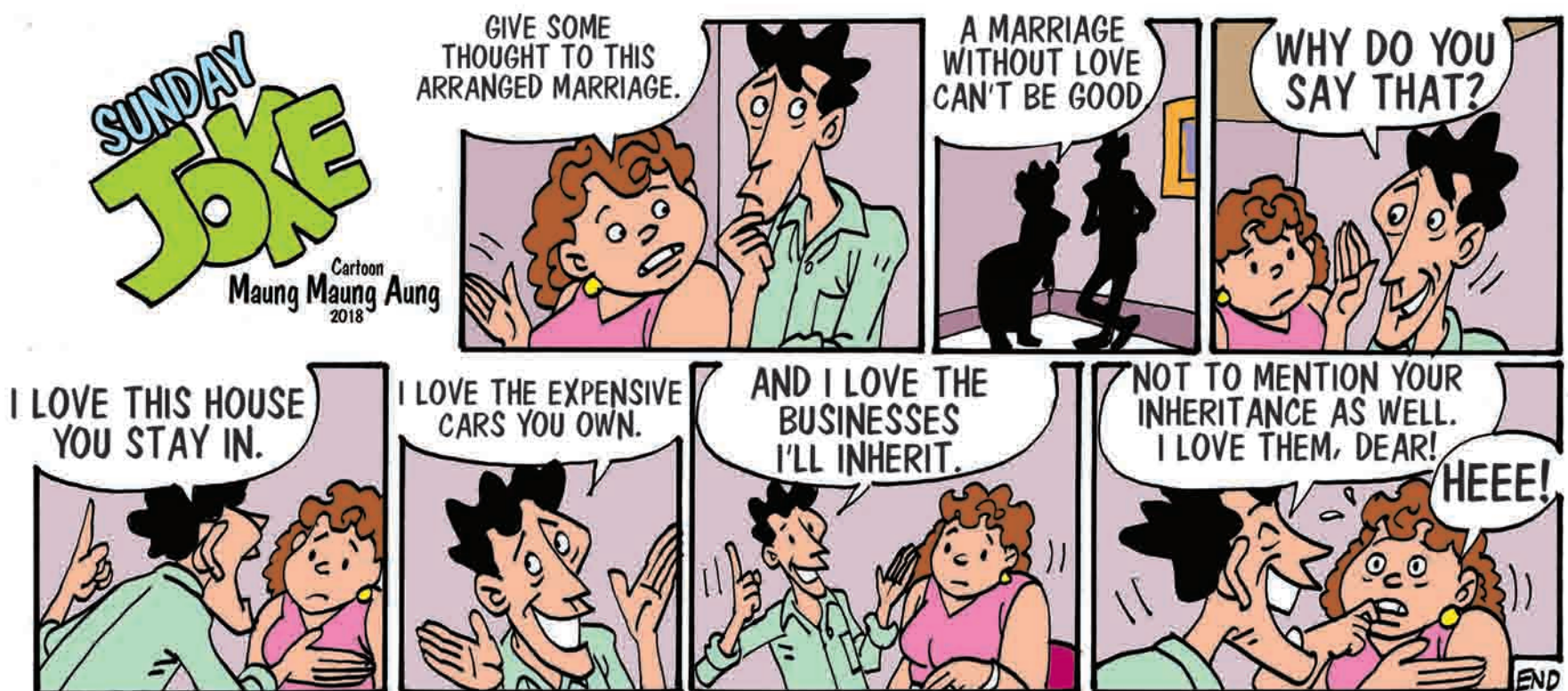
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



MY APOLOGY

My mind was restless through the hours,
I did not have much time to listen to his chatter.
Also the little run-errands he wished from me,
I never did as much as he needed.
He gladly welcomed my short visits, every time,
But I saw the secret wish in his feeble eyes.
Whenever he asked me to stay longer,
My usual reply was, "I will visit you again later".
Sometimes, I forgot my promise,
While swimming in the Life's ocean.

Time flies so fast and no longer replaced,
The old man passed away and rests in a peaceful place.
Now my restless mind becomes calm,
And my to-do-list, once full, is almost blank.
My children fly away from me and my health declines,
I am feeling lonely for no one to confide.
Days are too long and hours are hard to spend,
Now, I start to sympathize with the old man,
I heartily wish to go back for his precious words to listen,
And willing to do the little things he expected from me.
My heart is full of regret now as I whisper,
"Father, please forgive me."
Whenever I think about it,
My eyes are wet with tears...

Meiji Soe

(Dedicated to my father who passed away on August 13, 2015.)



My Experience in 2018 Ngwe Saung LYC Camp



Zaw Lu Htet
Sittwe.

Lu Yee Chuns are outstanding students who are regarded as the leaders of tomorrow land by Myanmar Government. They are chosen from Grade(8), Grade(9) and Grade(10). Each Grade has 176-Lu Yee Chuns from different regions every year. There is a saying, "Once LYC, EverLYC". This means that if you won LYC once, you would be Lu Yee Chun for all your life. I won LYC thrice and I have become a triple Lu Yee Chun.

Last month, I went on a trip to NgweSaung Beach as a Lu Yee Chun. My matriculation examination was over and I could relax my body and my mind with freedom. On 27th April, other 29 Lu Yee Chuns from Rakhine State and I got a flight to Yangon by Mann-Yadanarbon Airlines. When we arrived Yangon, we had to stay in B.E.H.S(1), Lanmadaw Township for two days. After two days, other 175 - Lu Yee Chuns and I continued our trip to Ngwe Saung Beach, one of the most beautiful beaches in Myanmar. It is situated in Ayeyawady Region. Teachers who



supervise us were also involved in the trip. Before going to NgweSaung, we also visited to Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. The platform of the pagoda was filled with blue colour of Lu Yee Chuns' uniforms. In that afternoon, we had our lunch with Prime Minister of Ayeyawady Region at Pathein Hotel. When we reached Ngwe Saung, we had to stay at Pearl Ngwe Saung Hotel for five days. It is not a grand hotel, but in my opinion, it was a grand hotel because of the attachment and smiles of Lu Yee Chuns. There were 176 - Lu Yee Chuns

divided into 18 teams in the camp. But the girls had to stay at Yuzana Hotel which is situated at the other side of Pearl Ngwe Saung Hotel. I confess that it is better than our hotel. We all could stay comfortably as we had a fantastic view of the sea. We could also breathe the fresh breeze coming from the sea and play in the sea. My team's leader was Saya U Min Min Oo who we all regarded as a joke teller. We had PT time every morning and after that, we had our breakfast. I was used to sing Lu Yee Chun's song in the opening ceremony. We also

went to Pathein as an excursion. There, we visited Shwe Mu Dawr Pagoda and Shwe Myin Pyan to study Halawa, sweet dessert of Pathein. Besides, we visited Thazin village to study fish and prawn farming. We also visited Royal Park in Pathein and five stars and three stars hotels. We also had a meeting with old Lu Yee Chuns and they managed a puzzle competition for us. That competition was participated by teams and it showed our unity. My team did not win a prize, but we got good marks. We also had a chance to eat sea food as well as and coconut juice with great delight. There were many performances on the stage every night. At the last night of the trip, we had to participate at bonfire celebration. We all played parcel game and it was so funny. There, we walked around the bonfire and performed a dance. After that, we exchanged presents among boys and girls. Finally, our last night in Ngwe Saung was over.

In the next morning, we all went to Yangon and then, returned to Sittwe by bus. I gained a lot of knowledge and it is the most wonderful trip I have never been before. For these events, my experience on that trip cannot be replaced by anything and it is one of the most valuable events in my life.

MAHA JANAKA

(Based on the Sixth of the Ten Great Jatakas)

By Ye Dway

In the opening scene, King Arihta Janaka is holding court. He says that he succeeded his father as the King of Kashi and that he made his younger brother Pawla Janaka heir to the throne.

Now, Pawla Janaka has a mentor who shares his life in all events of weal or woe. The mentor believes that although he tries his utmost to curry the favor with the prince, he does not succeed. He is thus resentful against the prince and expresses his apprehension to the king that Pawla Janaka might try to usurp the throne. The king, lending his ears to the mentor orders that Pawla Janaka has thrown into the dungeon at once.

In the next scene, Pawla Janaka succeeds in escaping from the dungeon. He goes to a distant populous village in the kingdom. He arrives there at dawn and easily succeeds in winning the villagers to his side. He and his men march to Kashi and they soon lay siege to the city. The two brothers, both on horsebacks, meet face to face and start to fight in single combat and in the scuffle that ensues, Pawla Janaka is victorious.

Inasmuch as that time, the queen of Arihta Janaka, who is pregnant escapes, with grief in her heart, from the city. Her legs, unaccustomed to walking long distances become painful, are overcome by fatigue, she collapses on the ground.

Meanwhile the Thagyamin, King of the Celestial Being sees from his heavenly throne the sad plight of the queen and, realizing that the babe in her womb is destined to become a great king someday, decides to help her. He thus transforms himself into an old man and, riding a horse drawn carriage, approaches the queen and offers his help. They all set forth on a long journey leading to a great city and eventually arrive at the house of a great teacher. The great teacher takes a pity on



the queen and gives her food and shelter.

In the following scene, we learnt that many years have elapsed and the queen has given birth to a son called Maha Janaka. Young Maha Janaka has been brought up in ignorance of the fact that he is a prince. He excels his friends in learning and playing. The other pupils of the great teacher thus bear a grudge against Maha Janaka and call him the fatherless son.

The young Maha Janaka bewails his fate and, weeping, sings a ngo-chin. The queen mother arrives on the scene, notices the serious countenance of the prince and asks him why he looks so sad. Maha Janaka begs his mother to relate the story of his birth. As he is now old enough, the mother tells him about his birth in detail. Later, the great teacher also enters the scene.

Maha Janaka now wishes to buy a sailing ship and

undertake sea journeys and he asks his mother to fulfill his wish. The queen at first evades his request but as the young prince is persistent, she grants her permission. The great teacher, the queen mother and Maha Janaka weep and the mother and son bid farewell to each other by singing songs of great tenderness.

In the next scene, we find the ship of Maha Janaka embarking on sea journey. The ship sails on and on for days but is caught up in a storm and soon springs a leak through which the water rushes in. All the men, knowing that their end is near, cry in fear. However, Maha Janaka eats excellent food, rubs his body and clothes with the choicest butter, climbs up to the top of the highest mast and dives into the sea. The ship gradually founders and the men become easy prey of terrible sea monsters. Maha Janaka, however, has swum to safety

and is determined to carry on swimming.

Mekhala, goddess of the seas, appears and sees Maha Janaka swimming and admires his resolution. Mekhala asks Maha Janaka whether his effort is to prove fruitful or not. Maha Janaka replies that, being a man he does not wish to die without trying to stay alive as long as possible, however, should help be offered to him by someone, somehow, he may not die. Mekhala, determined to save Maha Janaka, casts a spell in order to make him sleep, carries him in her arms and goes to Kashi and places him gently on a huge marble slab in the palace garden. She then goes away.

Now, Pawla Janaka has died about a month ago and there is no king to rule the kingdom. The soothsayers have foretold that a man destined to become their king will be found sleeping on a huge marble slab. The ministers

hold a counsel together and decide to send a magic horse-drawn carriage. The person before whom the carriage comes to rest is the kingly candidate. The carriage is duly sent to roam about on its accord, that is, without a driver. The charmed carriage comes to rest near the huge marble slab on which sleeps Maha Janaka. The ministers order the soldiers to fire a cannon and Maha Janaka turns to the other side. Another loud report is made and the prince turns to the former side. This time, the court musicians play a pleasant music and the prince sits up. The ministers request Maha Janaka to accept the throne of Kashi as they have no kings to rule the kingdom. Maha Janaka is crowned as the new king. He is also offered the daughter of the former king of Kashi. The mother and the great teacher are sent for, arrive, and the drama comes to a happy ending.