

## NATIONAL

Children Art Exhibition Awarding Ceremony held

PAGE-7

## NATIONAL

10 Mins with the Chairman of MIC

PAGE-2

**SUNDAY SPECIAL**



Pull-out supplement

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## VP U Henry Van Thio addresses International Day of Cooperatives

**V**ICE President U Henry Van Thio has called for more participation of cooperative societies in agriculture, livestock and production sectors to develop the cooperative sector.

U Henry Van Thio made the remarks in his address at the the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives ceremony held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Department of Cooperatives, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Participation in and implementing in farm sector policy works support the economic development of the country. Successful and developed cooperative works are seen to be supporting socio-economic development in the countries of the world.

Seed producer cooperatives and farm support service cooperatives need to expand the work of farm input sales according to the wishes of the peasants and provide support and assistance throughout the farm products production chain. Myanmar cooperatives are urged to work cooperatively and step in tandem toward the sustained development of socio-economic life, said the Vice President.

The 2018 International Day of Cooperatives began with a market festival held in front of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock



Vice President U Henry Van Thio, second from right, observes a demonstration of Palaung traditional weaving, part of the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives celebration in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Irrigation, Department of Cooperatives office, where Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, Central Cooperatives Chairman U Khin Maung Aye and officials cut a ribbon to officially open the festival. U Henry Van Thio inspected the sales booths displayed in the market festival. Afterwards, a 2018 International

Day of Cooperatives ceremony was held in the meeting hall of the Department of Cooperatives, where the Vice President noted the event was being held for the 24<sup>th</sup> time in Myanmar.

"In today's world, people are facing socio-economic challenges including a growing gap between the rich and poor. In addition there are conflicts, food

shortages, devastation of the natural environment and effects of natural disasters, outbreaks of disease, human trafficking, racial conflicts, unemployment and cross border crimes. Cooperatives are to do their part in reducing conflicts, problems and inequalities", the Vice President said.

SEE PAGE-3

## 23<sup>rd</sup> UPDJC Secretariat meeting held

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat meeting was held at the national reconciliation and peace centre in Wunna Theikdi Quarter in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting discussed sector wise papers, political, economic, social, security, land and environment sectors, matters of the conference chair, setup of sector and group wise meetings in the conference, agreement of the third session of the Union Peace Conference — 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, the 16th UPDJC agenda and assigning of persons to submit the UPDJC agenda. Commenting on the meeting, Director General U Zaw Htay said one political point was agreed upon for the conference. The remaining six points came up as options and could not be decided in the secretariat, as the UPDJC meeting will make the decision.

Present at the meeting were UPDJC Secretariat members Lt-Gen (retired) Khin Zaw Oo, U Aung Soe, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, U Zaw Htay, U Hla Maung Shwe, Pado Saw Tar Doh Hmu, U Myo Win, U Sai Ngin, Saw Mra Yazar Lin, U Myint Soe, U Naing Ngan Lin, Sai Kyaw Nyunt and Min Kyaw Zeyar Oo.

SEE PAGE-6

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# 10 Mins with the Chairman of MIC

Myanmar is opening up and there is a window of immense opportunities for investors : MIC Chairman

By Shin Min

Following is the exclusive interview with U Thaung Tun, Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission and Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government and National Security Advisor.

**Q.** Union Minister, thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask a few questions soon after your return from abroad.

As Chairman of MIC who concurrently holds the posts of Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government and National Security Advisor, what measures do you intend to take to promote investment in Myanmar?

**A.** I wish to, first and foremost, underscore that the government is striving for sustainable economic development as a top priority. To ensure sustainable economic development, it is imperative to promote "responsible investment" as well as the practice of doing business in the "right way".

The current statistics indicate that investment flow has slowed down slightly this year. Myanmar has been undertaking a number of reforms. However, the country still needs to do more. According to the World Bank's latest rating on the ease of doing business, Myanmar is ranked 171 among 190 economies, second lowest among Asia-Pacific countries. That is why we would need to redouble efforts to further improve the country's investment environment.

The Myanmar Investment Law and its Rules as well as the Myanmar Companies Law create new opportunities and provide guarantees for investors. The new Companies Law will modernize company formation and management and, significantly change corporate governance. It allows foreign companies to hold up to 35% of shares in local companies and register online. I am sure these changes will result in ease of doing business in Myanmar.

In addition, we will continue procedural and institutional reforms as needed. With regard to investment procedures, I wish to stress that the MIC, under new management, will be transpar-



MIC Chairman U Thaung Tun participates in the Belt and Road Global Forum in Hong Kong. PHOTO: MNA



MIC Chairman U Thaung Tun (second from left) participates in the Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong. PHOTO: MNA

ent, efficient and investor-friendly. "Transparency" is an essential ingredient for the success of democratic transition.

MIC will take a more proactive approach. We will actively engage with countries in the region and beyond to let the world know that Myanmar is open for business and that time is ripe to invest in the country. We would like to see "responsible investment". We are committed to continuing our reforms and to building an atmosphere of trust. Without trust and confidence, investment will not flow to the country.

Likewise, we will simplify procedures. For example, strict time limits will be set for processing applications for both MIC permits and MIC endorsement. We will also coordinate closely with the state and regional governments to facilitate and speed up processing.

We will seek visible results and progress by promoting investment flows to our priority areas such as agro-based and livestock industries, labor-intensive

industries and infrastructure.

We believe that economic development goes hand in hand with national security. Economic security will contribute to national security. As Union Minister and MIC Chair, I will coordinate with state and regional governments and ensure that necessary reforms will be made to promote foreign direct investment in Myanmar.

**Q.** It is learnt that the Myanmar government is negotiating with China for the implementation of Kyaukphyu deep sea port project. There is growing concern at home and abroad over the burden of Chinese debt on Myanmar. What is your comment on that?

**A.** We are fully aware of the concerns expressed by observers and academics regarding debt issue, or "debt book diplomacy" or "debt trap".

Regarding Kyaukphyu deep sea port, progress has been made in the negotiations. I wish to repeat what I mentioned in Hong Kong last week that we do not have any concern regarding

"debt trap".

There are 3 reasons. First, this project is based on demand and not on supply b. Second, the size of the project will be tailored to the need for Myanmar. More importantly, the government will not borrow any funds and will not cede any sovereign authority.

We will not implement large-scale projects as in the case of the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka. The case in Sri Lanka provides us a lesson. I wish to assure you that we will start on a small-scale and expand gradually by phases according to the progress as well as income generation.

**Q.** Soon after you were appointed as the Chair of MIC, you visited Hong Kong and met with top government officials there. Your discussions were highlighted in Hong Kong government websites, newspapers, and social media. It is said that meeting hall was over flowing during your talk and your presence in Hong Kong drew the highest attention of investors to Myanmar. Could you please explain why you chose Hong Kong for investment promotion? What benefits did you get?

**A.** I attended the Belt and Road Summit held in Hong Kong from 27 to 29 June. I chose Hong Kong as my first port of call in my capacity as MIC Chair. This decision reflects the importance we attach to Hong Kong as one of the world's premier economies which can drive Myanmar's investment

Regarding Kyaukphyu deep sea port, progress has been made in the negotiations. I wish to repeat what I mentioned in Hong Kong last week that we do not have any concern regarding "debt trap".

promotion at the present time and also in the future.

Hong Kong is one of the world's freest economy and

gateway to China. With an extensive network of banks and financial institutions, Hong Kong is well-positioned to play a prominent role in facilitating trade and investment flows. Under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, Hong Kong has been an engine of growth for economic development of China. Once the Belt and Road Initiative is implemented, the role of Hong Kong will be even more significant. Myanmar can also expect increased investment flows from Hong Kong under this Initiative.

Besides, the Greater Bay Area development scheme, linking 11 cities: Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and 8 other cities in Guangdong (including Macao) into an integrated economic area and business hub indicates that the role of Hong Kong will be more prominent in the region. Now is the time for Myanmar to seize the opportunity as many businesses in Hong Kong are looking for new areas to invest. Thus, for Myanmar, it is imperative to create a more business-friendly environment. If we cannot create a more reliable environment for investors, the investment flow will head to other countries with favorable conditions.

Currently, Hong Kong is our fourth largest investor and one of the major trading partners. There are ample opportunities to strengthen cooperation in many areas including education, finance, tourism, etc.

We were able to deliver a message to the world, through Hong Kong, that Myanmar has taken significant steps to reform. We were also able to inform that Myanmar is opening up and there is a window of immense opportunities for investors.

During my discussion with the Chief Executive of Hong Kong and top government officials, I informed them that change and transformation are taking place in Myanmar and that the time is ripe for Hong Kong investors to bring their businesses to Myanmar for mutual benefit. I was able to reaffirm our desire to enhance our cooperation in all aspects.

**Q.** Thank you so much, Union Minister, for taking our questions in spite of your busy schedule.

**A.** I thank you too. ■  
Translated by Myo (IR)



## To Be Able To Live A Decent Life

What we are trying to do is not an insignificant endeavour. In short, we are striving for the independence of people so that they will be able to live a decent life. If time has to be wasted in protecting against seditious elements, then what is the use of gaining independence?

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San's speech broadcast on radio on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1947)



## VP U Henry Van Thio addresses International Day of Cooperatives

FROM PAGE-1

Each country in the world is implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set for 2030 by the United Nations. The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) is urging the cooperatives of the world to implement the 12th goal of SDG – Responsible consumption and production.

In implementing this 12th goal, priority is to be given toward setting framework for sustainable consumption and production in all countries, taking into consideration the capability and development of developing countries, using natural resources effectively in 2030, and making information available to all for sustainable development.

The ministry's Myanmar cooperative sector is to maintain the successful momentum so far achieved. Through cooperation at all levels of cooperatives and the Department of Cooperatives, peasant cooperative members were seen to be provided with small-scale loans.

For agriculture cooperatives that have repaid their loans, there is a 10th small-scale investment loan of K 542.782 billion, a Ks7.187 billion loan to upgrade 24,901.80 acres of farmland to a mechanized



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes agricultural machinery displayed at the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

farm system, and a Ks1.158 billion loan for seed producer cooperatives being provided through the central cooperative. These loans are to be systematically and speedily given out to cooperative members in states and regions.

Next, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu explained the history and aim of the 2018 International Day of

Cooperatives.

Afterwards, Central Co-operative Society Chairman U Khin Maung Aye read the message sent by International Co-operative Alliance.

Following this, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aye Maung Sein, Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee

Chairman U Yan Lin, Farmers and Workers Affairs Committee Chairman U Aung Kyi Nyunt, Amyotha Hluttaw Farmers Affairs Committee Chairman U Ba Myo Thein, Central Co-operative Society Chairman U Khin Maung Aye, Permanent Secretary Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Ngwe and Director General U Aung Phyu presented small-scale investment loans to states/re-

gions, support funds to upgrade farmlands, support funds for all-round development of townships, support funds for machinery, loan seed producer cooperatives and awards to the best performing cooperatives and best production/service/trade cooperatives.

After this, Vice President U Henry Van Thio posed for a commemorative group photo with ceremony attendees.

The International Co-operative Alliance was founded in 1895 with the aim of uniting, representing and serving cooperatives all over the world.

The 49<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly held in 1994 set the first Saturday of July as International Day of Cooperatives, and the International Cooperative Alliance set this year's theme as "Sustainable societies through cooperation".

The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, U Thein Swe, Nai Thet Lwin and U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, Hluttaw representatives, Permanent Secretaries, directors general, Central Cooperative Limited, state/region cooperatives chairmen and board of directors, INGOs, NGOs, cooperative members and officials.— Myanmar News Agency ■

## Chinese Communist Party delegation arrives in Yangon

A delegation led by Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat and Head of the CPC Propaganda Department, arrived in Yangon yesterday morning.

The delegation was welcomed by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and officials from the embassy, Minister for Security and Border Affairs of the Yangon Region Government Col Aung Soe Moe, Ministry of Foreign

Affairs Deputy Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department U Zaw Phyto Win, Deputy Director-General of Protocol Department U Zaw Tun Oo and officials at the Yangon International Airport. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Col Aung Soe Moe (R) welcomes Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China, at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



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# Myanmar Sterculia gum could earn over Ks 400,000 per viss if naturally grown

MYANMAR sterculia gum, locally called Saekalamat, could earn more than Ks400,000 per viss in Japanese markets if it is naturally grown without using chemical fertilizers, said Ko La Pyat, the owner of a 500 acre Myanmar sterculia gum farm in Pakokku town.

"The price of Myanmar sterculia gum is different in the Myanmar market and Japan market. Myanmar sterculia gum is sold for Ks 70,000 per viss in Myanmar, while Myanmar sterculia gum is sold for Ks 400,000 per viss. Japan is interested in buying Myanmar sterculia gum. But they demanded only natural sterculia gum, which is grown without using chemical fertilizers. Therefore, if we want to sell our sterculia gum to Japan, it should be naturally grown," said Ko La Pyat, who displayed Myanmar sterculia gum at the Myanmar exhibition held in Japan.

Sterculia gum is grown in many countries, but can only be used for industrial raw materials. However, Myanmar can grow sterculia gum which



Myanmar sterculia gum plantation. PHOTO: ZAYA TU (MAGWAY)

can be eaten. Therefore, there is a high demand for Myanmar sterculia gum. If farmers want to supply Myanmar sterculia gum to other countries which can earn high profits, local farmers need to assure its high quality, rather than quantity.

"We use chemical fertilizers to assure that sterculia gum trees grow rapidly. But Japan will not purchase such stercu-

lia gum, when they check our products. If it is not an organic product, we can only supply it to markets which do not see high profits. So that is why we better use natural fertilizers, such as cow manure or goat manure, instead of using chemical fertilizers," said Ko La Pyat.

Myanmar is planning to export one ton of Myanmar sterculia gum to Japan next October.

Therefore, the Japanese are going to purchase that Myanmar sterculia gums which has been naturally grown in Magway Region.

Mali, which is located in West Africa, is a rich country due to its growing sterculia gum in their country. Therefore, Myanmar should grow sterculia gum using natural fertilizer, he added.—Zaya Tu (Magway)■

## Myin Kin road to be upgraded for development of villages in southern Magway

THE Magway Region municipal committee will upgrade Myin Kin road and other sections for the development of villages in the southern part of Magway Town.

The Magway university education zone, departmental offices, and the traditional medicine hospital, are located in the

southern part of Magway town. Therefore, Myin Kin road is one of the main transportation roads for local people needing to reach those sites.

"It is essential that we upgrade the Myin Kin road. We have planned to upgrade it with an asphalt road, which is 18 feet wide and 9 inches thick,

between Taungdwingyi Street to Myin Kin village's entrance. We are also planning to upgrade the concrete road in Aung Myitha (D) ward," said U Pho Ni, chairman of Magway township municipal committee. According to the Magway township municipal committee record, the total upgrading of concrete roads will

be 2920 feet in length, including 2260 feet for Awaiyar road.

The road will be upgraded, with funding of Ks400 million from regional government budget allocations. The Magway township municipal committee will permit the tender after scrutinizing the tendered companies.—Zaya Tu (Magway)■

## Young mountaineers to climb Hsin Mountain in Kalaw

MEMBERS of the Meiktila Hiking and Mountaineering Association schedule to climb Hsin Mountain, a 6,280 feet mountain located in Kalaw Town, Shan State, in mid-July.

U Aung Kyaing from the association said that young mountaineers in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, target to climb the Hsin Mountain on 15 July this year. Also, they plan to climb Kalaw's Myinmahti

Mountain with 5,800 feet next month, Mandalay's Mount Popa with 4,981 feet in September and Chin State's Natma Mountain with 10,200 feet in November when the mountain will be covered with Taungzalet (Rhododendron), the symbolic flower of Chin State.

Mountaineers will continue their hiking tour to Ashemyin-Anoukmyin Mountain with a high of 7,793 feet in Shan State

in January 2019. The association has a plan to reach the summit of the 22,920-ft-high snow-capped Mount Phonekanrazi in Kachin State.

The members of the association successfully climbed 6,280-ft-high Hsin Mountain in last July. Last year, they climbed Mt Popa, Myinmahti Mountain, Pyakhatshwe Mountain and Ashemyin-Anoukmyin. The association climbed the ice-

capped Mt Phonekanrazi this year for the very first time.

The Meiktila Hiking and Mountaineering Association has been established since past five years with the aim of turning out a new generation in hiking and mountaineering. The association seeks to empower young people to develop a healthy and happy lifestyle. Currently, it has more than 130 members.—Pan Hlaing Tha ■



## UMFCCI requests review of tax system for domestic producers

By May Thet Hnin

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) submitted suggestions during a meeting between the Vice President and businessmen held at UMFCCI on 6<sup>th</sup> July to review the tax system, customs duties and office procedures, which add burdens onto domestic procedures.

The matters requested by UMFCCI in the meeting with the Vice President, under the private sector development initiative, are meant to waive the 2% withholding tax imposed on exporters and some selective importers of fuel oil and essential goods.

This withholding tax is an advance tax paid to the government on corporate incomes. The advanced tax causes excess payments, and the refund process usually takes longer periods. Businessmen seek to lift or waive the advance tax, which affects cash flow in the

private sector.

Secondly, UMFCCI also advises that the tax amnesty be reconsidered at least one final time to create a larger taxpayer base and in order to clear the past and move forward with better compliance.

Third, UMFCCI also requests reductions in the stamp duty by 0.5% on loan agreements. As the country needs foreign loans in large amounts for infrastructure building, 0.5% of stamp duty is too high for borrowers to pay.

Fourthly, UMFCCI highlights that local manufacturers, SMEs and foreign industries are facing with difficulties in keeping pace with imported goods. In a bid to compete, commercial tax and custom duties need to be lowered for local factories operating in industrial zones.

Finally, as local growers are facing greater losses due to imported potatoes and flowers through illegal trade

channels, UMFCCI urges the government to tighten border areas and take drastic action on illegal smuggling, said U Ye Min Aung, vice president of UMFCCI.

Additionally, UMFCCI reported suggestions from the B4B insight forum held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May.

The Myanmar Business Sentiment Survey 2018 was collected from 1,464 businessmen in May.

The poor economic climate is mostly attributed to the tax and custom duties on import/export businesses. Capital investment requirements and banking operations, such as loan plans, Kyat depreciation against the US dollar, instable rules and regulations, demand, import/export procedures, illegal trade flow, high consumer prices and inflation, foreign firms, the small skilled labour force and weakness in infrastructure, such as transportation, are contributing factors that slow the economy. ■

## Special taskforces established to combat illegal trade

May Thet Hnin

SPECIAL taskforces are being set up to control illicit trade, said Vice President U Myint Swe.

It was revealed at yesterday meeting of Vice President U Myint Swe, chairman of private sector development committee with the businessmen from private sector at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office. "The small and medium enterprises (SMEs) suffered from illicit trading while paying tax as they cannot keep up with non-competitive import practices whereby foreign companies undercut Myanmar's domestic producers by flooding the market with cheap surplus goods. This is why we are conducting surprise check with mobile team at the main gates. However, the control is limited as some trucks are avoiding them by passing the town. Illicit trade flow affects even Korea's factories investing in Myanmar. The government is trying to tackle with them", said U Myint Swe. With a move to control illicit

trade flow, special mobile teams start operation in Kachin, Shan, Kayin, Mon states and Taninthayi Region. Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for the Commerce Ministry encourage private sectors to participate in combating activities against trafficking in its long run. The SME is a key player to driven up the country's economy as it accounts for over 90 per cent of enterprises. This is why the government will focus on dealing with the matters which can slow development of SMEs.

Last fiscal year 2017-2018, external trade was worth US\$33.52 billion, with private sector performing \$27.24 billion worth of trade, which is over 81 per cent of total trade value. Between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018, Myanmar traded \$7.98 billion worth of goods with the foreign counties. Private sector performed 87 per cent of that external trade, with estimated trade value of \$6.92 billion. This being so, the government is prioritizing the development of private sector, said Vice President. ■

## Commerce Minister says Myanmar will not fall into China's debt trap for strategic port project

By May Thet Hnin

THE Union Minister for Commerce said there is no debt trap to be concerned about as part of the strategic Kyaukphyu deep sea port project.

The Commerce Ministry is negotiating with Chinese state-owned China International Trust Investment Corporation-CITIC group to carry out the Kyaukphyu deep sea project. It is hoped an agreement will be reached soon, he said.

"We agreed to construct the port in stages. Otherwise, the construction will be carried out step by step under the management of the Commerce Ministry, with participation of our local businessmen and residents, in cooperation with China. This being so, Myanmar will not walk into a debt trap", said the Union Minister.

The Kyaukphyu deep sea



An artist's impression of the Kyaukphyu deep sea port project. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

port project is part of the economic corridor of China's Belt and Road Initiative. The two countries will approach this in a way to assure it becomes a win-win situation all round.

"Kayukphyu deep sea port project will bring about the development of Rakhine State, the

emergence of job opportunities for local people, the development of the country and benefits linking the Yunnan highland and other provinces", said Dr Than Myint.

To carry out this project, we are mindful of the difficulties and crises in other countries.

The experts are welcome

to submit their suggestions concerning this project.

The government appreciates every judgment about this, he added. Also, Myanmar is preparing to operate some businesses as part of the Belt and Road Initiatives.

When the monsoon season

ends, the country will begin building the Dawei Special Economic Zone by construction of road links, with the help of Thailand's loans.

Simultaneously, the sea port, under Myanmar-Thai-Japan co-operation and industrial zones, will be built. ■



## 23<sup>rd</sup> UPDJC Secretariat meeting held

### FROM PAGE-1

It was the same in economic matters, as there are many options, and only one was agreed upon. Those will be decided in the UPDJC. Some agreements were reached in land concerns, but here, too, there are some options. For the peace conference, the main decisions will be presented before the UPDJC on Monday, and again on the fifth day of the conference. After this, participants will continue towards signing two parts of the union agreement.

Similarly, Sai Kyaw Nyunt said that in the policy proposals, there are seven in political, 11 in economic, nine in social, and five in land and environment. Security is still under discussion and has not reached the policy proposal stage. Of these proposals, some were agreed by all groups, while some remained options of Tatmadaw, ethnic armed groups and political parties. As per the guidelines of the work committee, it is not for the work committee to make the final decision. Differing points will be submitted to UPDJC, where approval will be



The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee held in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

obtained. In the UPDJC meeting on the 9th, the security sector will submit their works, while the remaining four sectors will submit their proposals.

In the same way, U Min Kyaw Zeyar Oo said all agreed on drawing up economic projects that will benefit the states. If the UPDJC approves, policies will be drawn

up for the states under the Principle. Everyone agreed to draw up and have the right to draw up economic projects that benefit the people.—Myo Myint (MNA) ■

## Secretariat Office to become museum of martyrs

UPON completion of renovations in the secretariat office, the office will become the museum of martyrs and opened to the public, said Dr. Maung Maung Thein, chairman of the Secretariats of office renovation committee during a news conference.

The media conference, which is related to the preparation of the Martyrs' Day, was held at the secretariat office, which is located on the Thein Phyu Road (middle block) in Yangon.

“Upon completion of renovations, we are going to keep the secretariat office as the museum of martyrs to honor the sacrifice of the martyrs. Also, we are going to give the name of Hluttaw, which is the first Hluttaw office,

as the Hluttaw museum. Then, we are going to operate the gallery related to Myanmar culture, which will include ethnic dress and accessories. It will be a private museum and an entrance fee will be collected. We want local and foreigners to visit this secretariat office. We want them to know our country's history and the martyrs' history,” he added.

The secretariat office compound is 16 acres wide. Currently, the renovation of the secretariat office is 30 per cent completed. The renovation will be finished in March, 2019. The estimated cost for the project is more than US\$20 million. The type of building can be found only in Myanmar and India. Therefore, the building

will be opened as the museum of martyrs in order to display the history for future generations, he added.

“This year on Martyrs' Day we will be allowed to visit the room, where Bogyoke Aung San was assassinated. We are going to display 28 items which were owned by martyrs. We constructed the stairs with the assistance of Austrian engineers.

But, many people visited the secretariat office last year. So, we have to repair the stairs in the secretariat office. This year, we are not allowing visitors to go upstairs. We are going to display much with LED boards, said Dr. Maung Maung Thein. —Zar Ni Maung ■

## Yangon and Natmauk Bogyoke Museum, Secretariat Office open to public for three days from 19 July

MARTYRS Mausoleum, Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon), Bogyoke Aung San Residence Museum (Natmauk) and the Secretariat Office (formerly the ministers' office) will be opened to the public on 19 July 2018, the 71st Martyrs Day.

The Martyrs Mausoleum will be opened to the public from 12 noon to 6 p.m., while

Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) and Bogyoke Aung San Residence Museum (Natmauk) will be opened from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Secretariat Office will be opened to the public from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Those locations will also be open on 20 and 21 July for the public to visit. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## 1,200 apartments for govt employees to be completed in 2018

Nyein Nyein

The Ministry of Health and Sports is giving priority to the construction of more than 1,200 apartments for government employees. The apartments are expected to be completed between April and September, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. The Ministry of Health and Sports decided that 2018 will be the year of housing. The Ministry is building apartments for the convenience of government employees and making their construction a priority, depending on the government's allocation of funding.

The current plans of the Ministry call for construction of 3,576 rooms in 381 housing developments. Out of these, about 1,266 rooms in 180 developments are expected to be completed between April and September. The remaining housing will continue to be built in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Ministry will suspend construction of new hospitals for one year except for needed hospitals, clinics and those already under construction.

The Ministry will construct government employees' apartments across states and regions, officials said. ■



Workers renovating the secretariat building in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAR NI MAUNG**



# Children Art Exhibition Awarding Ceremony held

A ceremony to present prizes for the Arzani Image Art Contest of the Children Art Exhibition organized by the Secretariat Conservation Group was held in the Office of the Ministers (former Secretariat building), Theinbyu Street (middle block), Yangon yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and officials, family members of the martyred leaders, Secretariat Conservation Group Chairman and officials, award winning

students and their parents. At the ceremony, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe delivered a speech and Secretariat Conservation Group Chairman Dr. Maung Maung Thein explained about the art contest.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and family members of the martyred leaders presented prizes to award winning students and mementos to the judges of the art contest.

More than 380 students from basic education schools in Yan-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than presents prize to the award winning student at the Arzani Image Art Contest of the Children Art Exhibition in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZARNI MAUNG**

gon competed in the art contest and 20 were selected as winners

by experts from the arts circle and officials from education

organizations.—Aye Min Thu, Zarni Maung ■

## Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attends 6<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting on law enforcement and security cooperation

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and party attended the sixth ministerial meeting on law enforcement and security cooperation in Beijing, China, at the invitation of Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Mr. Zhao Kezhi.

The Myanmar delegation returned to Yangon by air yesterday morning.

The delegation attended the sixth ministerial meeting on law enforcement and security cooperation with Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Mr. Zhao Kezhi on 3 July at the meeting hall in the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing.

During the meeting, matters relating to combating terrorism, production and transport of drugs and precursors were discussed. Also, human trafficking, gambling and cyber-crime, controlling entry and exit along borders, and exchanging information between the two countries were also reviewed.

After the meeting, the two ministers signed a memo that includes eleven points agreed upon in the meeting, and a memorandum of understanding on cooperating in anti-terrorism efforts.

On 4 July, the Union Minister met with Mr. Guo Sheng Kun, Secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of

the Communist Party of China and discussed outcomes of the meeting, the status of cooperation, increasing bilateral cooperation and strengthening bilateral friendships.

During the visit, the delegation, led by Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, went to Kunming, Yunnan Province and Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, where they discussed with officials how to effectively implement those matters agreed upon during the ministerial meeting, including closer provincial and state level cooperation on sharing Myanmar-China border information, and combating drugs and terrorism.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Mr. Zhao Kezhi signing MoU on cooperating in anti-terrorism efforts in Beijing. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Myanmar apprentice workers to be allowed in Japan to care for elderly

Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar government is planning to send apprentice workers to Japan very soon to care for the elderly, a segment of the country that is rapidly growing and in critical need of caregivers, said U Win Shein, the director-general of the Labour Administration Department.

According to a statement from the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF), U Win Shein held talks on workers to be sent to Japan and the on-shore fishing industry at the Yuzana Hotel in Yangon on Monday.

At the discussion, The Labour Administration Department and MOEAF refined the policies regarding the official sending of Myanmar workers to Japan to care for the elderly.

“Currently, we are going to send Myanmar workers to Japan with an apprentice workers system via the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies.

According to the ministry's regulations, those who seek to

work in Japan caring for the elderly must be 18 or older, pass the N4-level for proficiency in the Japanese language, and have taken 320 hours of training in taking care of the elderly,” said U Win Tun, deputy chairman of MOEAF.

The discussion was attended by U Win Shine, the director-general of the Labour Administration Department, the executives from MOEAF, the members from the Overseas Employment Agencies and officials from Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Workers who care for the elderly are in high demand in Japan, which has the highest percentage of elderly citizens of any country in the world. According to the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, Japan currently has about 1.8 million care workers qualified to provide care for the elderly.

The ministry estimates that, barring some major change, the nation will need an additional 380,000 care workers by the year 2025, when the products of the postwar baby boom will be 75 or older. ■



# Time is ripe to invest in Myanmar

**W**ITH new management of the Myanmar Investment Commission, Myanmar has opened up immense opportunities for investors.

Therefore, we are committed to making it easier for investors to do business in Myanmar.

The current statistics indicate that investment flow has slowed down slightly this year.

According to the World Bank's latest rating on the ease of doing business, Myanmar is ranked 171 among 190 economies, second lowest among Asia-Pacific countries.

That is why we would need to redouble efforts to further improve the country's investment environment.

As part of efforts for making it easier to do business in the country, the new Companies Law will modernize company formation and management and significantly change corporate governance.

If we have better regulations, we believe that the country will have better enforcement, less corruption, and the investors will enjoy better, more responsible business dealings. This is the best the country can do to encourage business.

It allows foreign companies to hold up to 35 per cent of shares in local companies and register online.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar Investment Law and its rules, as well as the Myanmar Companies Law, create new opportunities and provide guarantees for investors.

Strict time limits will be set for processing applications for both MIC permits and the MIC endorsement. The investment process in states and regions will also be speeded up.

The new management of the MIC will be transparent, efficient and investor friendly. They will be responsible for creating situations for investors to enter the country. If there is more transparency, investors will have more information to hold them to account, and more trust will be built.

Without trust and confidence, investments will not flow into a country.

We have opened a new chapter for business, and the time is ripe to invest in Myanmar.

We believe that these changes will ensure ease of doing business in Myanmar. If we have better regulations, we believe that the country will have better enforcement, less corruption, and the investors will enjoy better, more responsible business dealings. This is the best the country can do to encourage business.

By simplifying business rules and regulations, we welcome all forms of responsible investment: public and private, national and global, in the form of both capital and capacity.

We need to promote responsible investment and ensure that the business is done in the right way to ensure sustainable economic development.

The time is ripe for investors to bring their responsible investments to Myanmar. ■

# Time goes by, but memories of Martyrs are forever

By Maung Thaung Win  
(former diplomat)

**E**VERY July, the feeling of sadness overwhelms the entire country. Myanmar has a saying that goes, "Time will erase the memories", but till now people cannot forget the day on which martyrs fell while in the line of duty for the State. Those martyrs, our national leaders, will always be in the hearts of all Myanmar citizens. The tragic event occurred 71 years ago on 19 July 1947.

## Martyrs

Like most July days, the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 71 years ago was drizzly. At 10:37 am on that day, the national leaders were assassinated by the colonialist cohorts. The assassins murdered Bogyoke Aung San, the architect of national independence, and other leaders, leaving the whole country in chaos and sorrow. It was an unprecedented loss of the country which dashed the public's hopes.

Without any self-interest, Bogyoke Aung San sacrificed his life in bringing back independence to our country amidst the disturbances of the colonialist stooges. But he would not see the Myanmar flag flown again at the Independence Day celebrations. We are now enjoying the fruits of independence because of the sacrifices made by Bogyoke Aung San and other national leaders. It is the responsibility of all the people to safeguard independence, which can be lost all too quickly. We all should realise the gratitude they owe to us.

## Honouring the Martyrs

Thankfully, the democratically elected government has been observing Martyrs Day with the reverence it deserves. Memorial services were conducted for the fallen leaders, and State officials laid wreaths at the Mausoleum, and public attendance was welcomed. Despite the inevitable rain, the Martyrs Mausoleum is always packed with people coming to pay respects to the fallen leaders on Martyr's Day, an encouraging scene for everyone.

The Day sees the lowering of the State Flag to half-mast at 10:37 am in honour of the fallen leaders. State radio and TV air a siren sound, and the pedestrians and the traffic come to a standstill. It is a day of deep sadness and pain for the entire country.

## Unity is important

The country would have forged closer bonds among the national races if Bogyoke Aung San had not been assassinated. A united country can succeed more fully. Although Bogyoke Aung San



passed away 71 years ago, to this day the country still cannot achieve.

Bogyoke Aung San often reminded the people of the importance of national unity.

"Benefits will be achieved only if we all make all-out efforts in harmony through manpower, financial power and material power for develop-

ment of the whole nation. If Bamar, Kayin, Shan, Kachin, Chin are going their own specific way, there will be no results at all. Only collective efforts will bear benefits. And we can see the benefits only if we make collective efforts really," he said at a dinner hosted by Shan chieftains in Panglong on 11 February 1947.

We should show our admiration for the martyrs with deeds. Although the country regained independence over 71 years ago, it still lags behind in development, because national unity has not been fully restored.

## A lump of brick, a grain of sand

We should show our admiration for the martyrs with deeds. Although the country regained independence over 71 years ago, it still lags behind in development, because national unity has not been fully restored. Even if we do not have the abilities like those of our martyrs, we can still contribute to national development in the same way as a single brick can be part of a grand building and a grain of sand can be part of a beautiful beach.

## Time goes by

The sacrificing spirit of the Martyrs is a noble example for the whole country. It is the duty of all the nationalities of the Union to safeguard independence for its perpetuation. National unity is required to reach this end.

The national brethren can achieve unity only after forgiving and forgetting the doubts and resentments of the past. Only then will we be able to restore eternal peace for the entire nation. From that stage we can build a democratic federal state. From this 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Martyrs Day, we must all start making ardent efforts to restore national peace through endeavours towards eternal peace, which was the goal of Bogyoke Aung San. Now 71 years have passed the day on which Bogyoke Aung San and other martyrs fell. Time flies, but Bogyoke Aung San and other martyrs will never leave our hearts. ■

Translation: TMT  
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# UNHCR and UNDP complete joint visit to Rakhine State

"A joint UNHCR and UNDP delegation led by the visiting UNHCR Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific and accompanied by the UNDP Country Director for Myanmar, travelled to Rakhine State from 2 to 4 July. It was the first visit to the area since the conclusion of the tripartite MOU between the Government of Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR. The MOU is aimed at creating conducive conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees to Rakhine State, Myanmar.

The delegation met with Senior Government Officials in both Sittwe and Maungdaw Town, and also visited several villages representing all communities in both Maungdaw and

Buthidaung townships. The purpose of the visits was to have initial consultations with different communities regarding their situation and discuss ways in which the government could improve their situation and resolve their underlying problems, including in terms of livelihoods, access to services, safety and security and how the agencies could support those efforts.

During his visit to Myanmar, the UNHCR Regional Director also held discussions with senior government officials in Nay Pyi Taw. All parties agreed on the urgency of rapidly moving forward with the implementation of the tripartite MOU and to thereby make tangible progress on the ground." — GNLM

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2018)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure over the Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 8th JULY, 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Naypyitaw, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Southern Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7 - 10)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



# Centenarian historian Sayamagyi Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) honoured

A ceremony to honour historian Sayamagyi Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday was held in Sarpay Beikman hall at the corner of Merchant Street and 37<sup>th</sup> Street in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At yesterday's ceremony, U Aye Cho (Maha Weizya) explained the reasons for holding the ceremony. Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Myanmar Historical Commission Vice Chairman U Than Swe (Maung Than Swe – Dawei), Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt and Dr. Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min – Danubyu) also delivered speeches honouring the historian's birthday.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and ceremony attendees paid respects to Sayamagyi Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) and she later gave words of blessing in return.

Sayamagyi Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) cut the birthday cake and ceremony attendees sang a birth-



Sayamagyi Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) cut the birthday cake on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

day song in her honour and concluded the ceremony.

Daw Kyan is the foremost Myanmar historian of the post-Independence era. She was born on Monday, 1 July 1919 in Taungup Township, Thandwe District, Rakhine State. She matriculated in 1935 and worked as a middle school teacher in Thandwe and

later as an Upper Division Clerk in Thandwe post office, Rakhine State. In 1951, she continued her education at the University of Yangon as a Special Class student and obtained her B.A. degree in 1954 and Master of Arts (History) degree in 1959. While studying as a M.A. candidate, she worked as a tutor in the English

Department of Yangon University. In 1956 she was appointed as a Research Officer in the Burma Historical Commission and promoted to Senior Research Officer in 1963. She went on a study tour of major cities in Australia under a Cultural Award Scheme in 1977. She retired in 1978, but continued serving as an advisor for about four years in the history research department.

From 1986 to 1991, she worked as a consultant in the Ministry of Industry (1) and compiled six volumes of the history of Myanmar industrial enterprises. Since 1991, she has been working as a full-time member of the Myanmar Language Commission. She is also a member of the Myanmar Literary Awards Selection Committee and U Ohn Pe Literary Awards Selection Committee. She achieved numerous literary awards and was honored with the title Sithu by the President in 2012.—Yi Yi Myint ■

## MIC issues three investment permits, three endorsements

THE Myanmar Investment Commission MIC held 9 / 2018 meeting in Yangon yesterday, 2018 and issued three investment permits, three endorsements in relation with the investment proposals.

The meeting was attended by U Thaug Tun, Chairman of MIC and (8) members of MIC.

At the meeting, they reviewed investment proposals consistent with the Myanmar Investment Law.

The submission of proposals and endorsement applications from investors and post-permit activities of MIC-permitted companies were discussed in the meeting.—GNLM ■

## Chinese Cultural Center opens in Yangon

AN opening ceremony was held at the Chinese Cultural Center on Min Ye Kyaw Swar Road, Ahlon Township, Yangon, yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony Vice Minister of the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism, H.E. Mr. Li Jinzao, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Ambassador of China to Myanmar, H.E. Mr. Hong Liang, delivered speeches.

Also, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat and Head of CPC Propaganda Department, H.E. Mr. Huang Kunming, and officials unveiled the sign board commemorating the opening of the Chinese Cultural Center.

Afterwards, entertainment programs jointly conducted by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Yunnan Province were performed.

Following this, guests attending the ceremony toured the displays in the Chinese Cultural Center.

The Chinese Cultural Center was established with an aim to increase China-Myanmar bilateral cultural exchanges and



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang and guests observe the Chinese Cultural Center in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

cooperation, expand understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries, and strengthen the continued development of friendly bilateral relationship.

The center is located at No. (39), second floor, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Road, Ahlon Township and has training rooms and a library where entertainment, shows, trainings, exchanges of information between researchers from the two countries, movies, and cultural movements can be held, in addition to introducing Myanmar and its culture to the people of China.

The ceremony was attended by member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Secretary of Central Committee Secretariat and Head of CPC Propaganda Department H.E. Mr. Huang Kunming and officials, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Ambassador of China to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Hong Liang, representatives of Myanmar Chinese and invited guests.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Bilateral trade with China exceeds US\$1.8 billion within two months

THE value of Myanmar's trade with its main trade partner China reached US\$1.89 billion in the first two months of the interim period, prior to the next fiscal year of 2018-2019, with \$749 million worth of exports and \$1.09 billion valued imports, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries was the highest, closely followed by bilateral trade with its most populous neighbour, China.

The value of bilateral trade with China was \$5 billion in 2017-2018 FY, \$10.8 billion in 2016-2017 FY, \$10.9 billion in

2015-16 FY, \$9.7 billion in 2014-2015 FY, \$7 billion in 2013-2014 FY, \$4.95 billion in 2012-2013 FY and \$5 billion in 2011-2012 FY.

It was noted that border trade with China performed better than maritime trade. Sino-Myanmar checkpoints include Muse, Lweijel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete and Keng Tung.

Rice, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, vegetables and fruits, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar. — Ko Htet ■

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## Thousands head home in south Syria after ceasefire deal: monitor

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Thousands of displaced Syrians were heading home on Saturday after rebels and the government reached a ceasefire deal in the south following more than two weeks of deadly bombardment, a monitor said.

Under the agreement announced on Friday after talks between rebels and regime ally Moscow, opposition fighters will hand over territory and heavy weapons in Daraa province near the Jordanian border.

The Russia-backed regime offensive has displaced around 320,000 people since 19 June, the United Nations says, including tens of thousands who fled south to the sealed border with Jordan.

Calm reigned over the region on Saturday as the two sides finalised the ceasefire deal, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said.

“People have started to return to their homes since yesterday, taking advantage of the calm,” Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.



Syrians prepare to leave their refugee camp in the city of Aarsal in Lebanon's Bekaa valley on the eastern border with Syria, on 7 July, 2018, as they return to their homes in Syria's Qalamoun region. **PHOTO: AFP**

“More than 20,000 people have set off for home so far, heading to areas for which an accord has been reached in the south-eastern Daraa countryside,” he said.

But others “are scared to return to regime-controlled areas, fearing their children will be arrested,” Abdel Rahman said.

The accord follows a string of similar deals with rebels for other

areas of Syria, which have seen the regime retake more than 60 per cent of the country, according to the Observatory.

A government takeover of Daraa would be a symbolic victory

for President Bashar al-Assad as the province was the cradle of the uprising against him seven years ago that led to civil war.

More than 150 civilians have been killed in the regime bombing campaign on Daraa since 19 June, the Observatory says.

Under Friday's deal, rebels are expected to hand over their heavy weapons, while those who reject the agreement will be bused with their families to the rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib, state media has said.

Government forces will also take over “all observation posts along the Syrian-Jordanian border”, it said on Friday, hours after the regime regained control of the vital Nassib border crossing with Jordan.

On Saturday, “regime forces sent more reinforcements to the border crossing”, Abdel Rahman said.

More than 350,000 people have been killed and millions displaced since Syria's war started in 2011 with a brutal crackdown on anti-government protests.—AFP ■

## French policeman charged with manslaughter as shooting sparks riots

NANTES, (France) — A French policeman who shot dead a young black man in western France earlier this week, sparking four nights of rioting, has been charged with manslaughter, his lawyer said as fresh clashes erupted between youths and police early Saturday.

The unrest has again highlighted tensions in deprived urban areas of France, where local youths often complain about heavy-handed policing and brutality. The officer had initially claimed he acted in self-defence while trying to arrest the 22-year-old in the city of Nantes on Tuesday, but later told investigators he had fired his weapon by accident.

“He recognizes he made a statement that did not conform with the truth,” his lawyer Laurent-Franck Lienard told AFP.

The victim, identified as Aboubakar Fofana, died from a single bullet wound to the neck on Tuesday evening after police stopped him in his car in the Breil neighbourhood of Nantes — home to a large public housing estate with a history of gang violence. Police initially said that Aboubakar, who was under surveillance for suspected drug trafficking, had resisted arrest and



Firefighters work to put out a fire as cars burn in the Le Breil neighborhood of Nantes early on 7 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

tried to reverse his car into an officer. But a witness who spoke to AFP said the car was stationary when the policeman opened fire. The policeman, who has been granted conditional release, told the IGPN police oversight body under questioning that “it was an accidental shot” that killed Aboubakar.

### Tensions

More cars were torched in

Nantes the early hours of Saturday in a fourth night of rioting over the killing, after gangs of youths set fire to 52 cars — including the mayor's personal vehicle — and several buildings overnight on Thursday-Friday.

There have been more than a dozen arrests over the violence, including in Garges-les-Gonesse, the Paris suburb where Aboubakar grew up.

In a separate development,

two off-duty officers, a husband and wife, were attacked Wednesday night in front of their three-year-old daughter in a northeastern suburb of Paris shortly after leaving a dinner party.

French security forces are frequently treated as targets and they struggle to combat violent drug-dealing gangs. A police source said the attackers recognised the policewoman because she had recently stopped them

for an ID check in the crime-ridden area of Aulnay-sous-Bois.

President Emmanuel Macron denounced the attack as an “appalling and cowardly act” and vowed the suspects would be “found and punished”.

One of them has been arrested while the second remains on the run.

### ‘Justice for Abou’

In a bid to defuse tensions, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe visited Nantes on Thursday where he promised “the fullest transparency” about the circumstances of the young man's death.

On Thursday evening, around 1,000 people marched in Nantes calling for “justice for Abou” and demanding clarity about the circumstances of his death. There are fears that the unrest could spread.

In 2005, riots erupted across the country following the deaths of two black teenagers who were electrocuted in a Paris suburb while hiding from the police.

Anger over policing bubbled over again last year when a young black man in another Paris suburb suffered severe anal injuries caused by a truncheon during his arrest.—AFP ■



# China eyes eastern Europe investment as US trade war sizzles

SOFIA, (Bulgaria) — As a trade war rages between China and the US, Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang is meeting leaders from central and eastern Europe in Bulgaria on Saturday to discuss investment opportunities.

Road and rail projects funded by China will be high on the agenda at the summit, which has raised concerns in Brussels and richer Western European countries about growing Chinese influence in the region.

At the seventh annual gathering of the so-called “16+1 co-operation”, Li will meet leaders and firms from 11 EU member states and five Balkan nations hoping to join the bloc.

Their talks will focus on joint ventures in industry and the high-tech sector as well as infrastructure, agriculture and tourism, the Bulgarian hosts said in a statement.

But there are fears the summit could be an attempt by China to vie with EU projects and aid by funding infrastructure under its global Belt and Road initiative and thus divide the bloc.

“The meetings have prompted considerable speculation in Brussels and other European capitals that they are a Chinese effort to ‘divide and rule’ Europeans,” a December 2017 report by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) said.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang speaks during a joint news conference with Bulgarian Prime minister Boyko Borisov part of the seventh meeting of heads of government of China and 16 Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) in Sofia on 7 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Waning enthusiasm

Li hurried to downplay Brussels’ concerns on Friday.

“The 16+1 cooperation is by no means a geopolitical platform. Same may say that such cooperation may separate the EU but this is not true,” he said after talks with Bulgarian premier Boyko Borisov.

“China supports European integration and a united EU because we understand that the EU is an important force for global prosperity and peace.”

Borisov added that China

was not seeking to compete with but rather complement EU aid in the region.

Enthusiasm among participants has waned through the years as the flood of Chinese cash — including a promised \$10 billion credit line and \$3 billion investment fund — has largely failed to materialise.

“Eastern Europeans are disappointed (by) the actual level of investments... and lack of interest for the loans,” ECFR researcher Francois Godement told journalists in Sofia via video

link on Thursday.

The dropping of several big infrastructure and energy projects has led to scepticism in Poland and Romania while the enthusiasm of Hungary and Serbia, which have managed to attract some investment, is now “much more low-key”, he added.

## Trump tariffs

The Sofia summit comes the day after a tariff spat between China and the US escalated into a full-blown trade war as 25-per cent US duties came into

force Friday on \$34 billion of Chinese goods.

Li slammed the tariffs, saying China will retaliate while committing itself to “further opening... our markets to ease market access to foreign companies” — something the EU has long pressed for.

US President Donald Trump’s offensive has led to a major shift in China’s attitude towards Europe and the Asian giant is now “sweet-talking to the EU” on trade matters, Godement said. Meanwhile Li stressed China’s “huge market and potential for growth” Friday, adding that “the international environment might change”.

However, small markets in central and eastern Europe seem an unlikely target for China’s efforts to compensate for lost revenues.

Adrian Nikolov from the Sofia Institute for Market Economics pointed to markets in Asia as a more likely target.

Li will travel next to Germany, which has been particularly reticent on the 16+1 format, to seek common ground with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The EU is also locked in a trade row with Trump, who has threatened to impose similar 20-percent import taxes on EU cars. The bloc will hold its own summit with China in Beijing in mid-July.—AFP ■

# After cabinet Brexit deal, May must persuade MPs and Brussels

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa has persuaded her eurosceptic ministers to back a plan for closer ties with the EU after Brexit, but some MPs expressed alarm — and she must still sell it to Brussels.

After marathon talks at her country retreat on Friday, May secured the agreement of her divided cabinet for a new “free trade area” where Britain would accept EU rules for goods in order to provide “frictionless” trade.

There had been talk of resignations over the plan by ministers who want a clean break with the bloc, such as Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

But they failed to materialise and May now has something to offer Brussels, which has warned time is running out to secure a deal before Brexit in March.

The EU’s chief negotiator Michel Barnier said the bloc would assess the plans when they are fleshed out in a policy paper next week, to “see if they are workable and realistic.”

Uniting her cabinet was a big win for May, after two years of very public splits.

In a letter to members of her Conservative party, she said she had allowed ministers to speak out before but “collective responsibility is now fully restored”.

Several eurosceptic ministers on Saturday publicly backed the premier, including leader of the House of Commons Andrea Leadsom and Transport Secretary Chris Grayling.

Pro-European MPs who had previously rebelled against May also offered their support for the plan, with Anna Soubry saying it “delivers a business friendly Brexit”.

Perhaps surprisingly, Douglas Carswell, who co-founded the official Brexit campaign in the 2016 EU referendum, gave his backing.

“Read the detail and ask if this allows us to take back control. It does. Incrementally,” he tweeted. “A deal that guarantees us access to the (EU’s single market) until such time as we chose regulatory divergence?... Sounds ok to me.”

## Brexit in all but name

But Nigel Farage, the founder of the UK Independence Party (UKIP) and a key player in the Brexit vote, dismissed the plan as a “sell-out”.

“Brexit did not mean keeping the 90 per cent of our economy that does not export to the EU trapped by their laws,” he tweeted. Taking aim at eurosceptic ministers, he said: “No resignations means that the so-

called Brexiteers in cabinet don’t have a principle between them.”

Veteran eurosceptic MP Bill Cash also told the BBC he was “deeply disappointed”.

Jacob Rees-Mogg, the leader of the eurosceptic European Research Group (ERG) of Conservative MPs, refused to condemn the plan outright.

But he told the BBC: “If, when we get the detailed legislation, it turns out that it is a punishment Brexit, that it is keeping us in the European Union in all but name, I... will not vote for it.”

## Cherry-picking?

Any final deal must be agreed in the House of Commons, where May has only a slim majority dependent on the pro-Brexit Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

But before that, it must be agreed with the European Union, which has repeatedly warned it

will not accept “cherry-picking” elements of its single market.

Britain’s plan would maintain EU rules on goods but adopt greater flexibility on services and end free movement of people.

May met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel the day before the cabinet talks, where she reportedly showed her a draft of the proposal.

She has also held talks in recent days with EU president Donald Tusk and Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, who said he was also briefed on the plans.

Ireland is important because May has promised to avoid border checks between that country and British Northern Ireland, to protect the peace process. Deputy prime minister Simon Coveney tweeted that the plan “deserves detailed consideration”, adding: “Lots of work ahead.”—AFP ■





An emergency crew works at the site after a train derailed due to landslides caused by heavy rain in Karatsu city, Saga prefecture on 7 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

## At least 37 dead, over 50 missing as heavy rain continues to lash Japan

OSAKA—Heavy rain continued to lash a wide area of western Japan on Saturday, leaving at least 37 people dead and more than 50 missing in landslides and flooding that destroyed homes and swept away cars.

Evacuation orders or advisories were issued for 4.72 million people at one point due to continued downpours. Around 48,000 members of the Self-Defence Forces, police and firefighting service were mobilized to search for trapped, wounded or dead people. Emergency warnings issued from Friday to Saturday were in place in Kyoto and Gifu prefectures but were lifted in Nagasaki, Saga, Fukuoka, Tottori, Hiroshima, Okayama and Hyogo prefectures.

Despite emergency warnings issued by the Japan Meteorological Agency cautioning about flooding, many people lost their lives or went missing.

As the weather agency only issues such warnings when it anticipates extreme conditions that could result in major dis-

asters that only occur once or twice in a half-century, the issuance of the special warnings suggests people should remain on high alert and take shelter if necessary.

Still, many people in Japan tend to remain in their homes, even in mountainous areas, as such warnings are not compulsory evacuation orders. As a result, many people died in landslides.

Hiroshima Prefecture was hit the hardest with numerous landslides that claimed 15 lives, local authorities said. Nine were killed in Ehime Prefecture, with the rest killed in Osaka, Shiga, Hyogo, Okayama, Yamaguchi and Fukuoka prefectures.

In Seijo, Ehime Prefecture, five were confirmed dead due to the torrential rain, including people swept away in a car.

In Hiroshima, a woman in her 40s died in a landslide and a man found in a swollen river was confirmed dead, while another man died after he called a fire station to report that a mudslide had struck his home.

Hiroshima was also hit hard by torrential rain in August 2014, when 77 people were killed as massive landslides destroyed homes.

In Kasaoka, Okayama Prefecture, six workers were buried after a landslide crashed into their factory early Saturday morning, with one person confirmed dead.

Also in Okayama, a nursing home for elderly people was inundated and about 80 people were temporarily stranded on the second floor, while more than 10 people climbed onto the roofs of their homes as water surged in the prefecture.

In Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, a woman in her 30s and her two children were feared dead after a mudslide hit their home.

In a wide area from southwestern Japan to western Japan, rivers were swollen and overflowing, and bridges were washed away, while transportation was disrupted, with shinkansen bullet train services suspended in most parts of western Japan.

The heavy rain also affected business operations, with major manufacturers and retailers suspending production and sales as their supply chains were disrupted.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said it had halted operations at its plant in Okayama Prefecture as it was unable to procure parts, while Daihatsu Motor Co, a minivan maker, said it had suspended production at two plants in Osaka and Kyoto as parts had not arrived.

The government set up a liaison unit in the crisis management centre of the prime minister's office to gather information.

At a meeting with ministers, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe directed them to "prioritize lifesaving and send rescue crews without delay," according to Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

Since the downpour began on Thursday, the weather agency has forecast record amounts of rain through Sunday, warning of flooding, mudslides and lightning strikes.—Kyodo News ■

## One dead as western US heat wave stunts firefighting efforts

LOS ANGELES—The western US was in the midst of a record heat wave on Friday, with one dead in California as massive fires forced hundreds to evacuate.

"Large fire activity is spread across the country from Florida to Alaska," the National Interagency Fire Center announced, as temperatures spiked above 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius) in some places.

"Currently 60 large fires have burned more than 823,000 acres in 13 states," the centre added. Twenty fires burned in Alaska, with seven others in New Mexico, four in California, eight in Colorado and others in Nevada, Arizona, and elsewhere in the southern US.

California's fire agency, Cal Fire, said on Twitter that one

person had died as a result of the "Klamathon" fire in Siskiyou County, near the border with Oregon.

Mandatory evacuations were in place, including in the Napa Valley wine region and in southern California near San Diego, where state Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency Friday night due to the "West Fire."

That fire has already destroyed homes and forced road closures, the governor's statement said.

Authorities' efforts to tackle the fires have been complicated by record-breaking hot weather, with temperatures reaching 113 degrees Fahrenheit in Palm Springs — two hours east of Los Angeles — and 111 degrees Fahrenheit in Phoenix, Arizona.—AFP ■



Authorities' efforts to tackle fires have been complicated by record-breaking hot weather. **PHOTO: AFP**

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V LE LI VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LE LI VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING  
SPECIALIZE CARRIER PTE LTD

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## Elvis Costello reveals cancer diagnosis but plans return

NEW YORK—Pop icon Elvis Costello revealed on Friday that he has been treated for cancer but expected a full recovery and announced plans to release his first album in five years.

The 63-year-old singer and guitarist, who emerged from London's post-punk scene through erudite songs packed with wordplay, said he was canceling the remaining dates on his European tour this month.

"Six weeks ago my specialist called me and said, 'You should start playing the Lotto.' He had rarely, if ever, seen such a small but very aggressive cancerous malignancy that could be defeated by a single surgery," Costello said in a statement on his website.

He did not specify the type of cancer affecting him.

But the singer of hits such as "Alison" and "Veronica" said that he needed three to four weeks to recover and had reluctantly concluded, after going ahead with initial dates, that he should not be touring.

"But I would rather disappoint our friends there by not appearing than in pressing on with a show that is compromised and eventually puts my



Pop star Elvis Costello, seen here playing at a 2016 songwriters awards ceremony in New York, has announced he has cancer but is planning a quick comeback. **PHOTO: AFP**

health at risk," he said.

Costello also announced that he had finished a "magnificent new record" with his back-up band, The Imposters, and unspecified other collaborators which he expected to be released in October.

The album would be his first since 2013's "Wise Up Ghost," on which he worked with the jazz-infused Philadelphia hip-hop ensemble The Roots.

Costello is scheduled to

play in September in Chicago at Riot Fest, which focuses on punk and alternative rock, before a wider North American tour in November.

Costello in 2015 released a nearly 700-page memoir, "Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink," in which the singer with nerdy glasses and a gap in his teeth — whose Elvis stage-name was initially a self-deprecating joke — related his surprise over his rise to stardom.—AFP ■

## Alexandra Shipp calls out critics of 'X-Men' Storm casting

LOS ANGELES— Alexandra Shipp, actress who plays young Storm in the "X-Men" film franchise, has addressed the criticism surrounding her casting in the role, saying people have no right to tell her that her skintone "doesn't match a Crayola from 1970".

Shipp first starred as the character in 2016's "X-Men: Apocalypse" and was slammed for not having a dark enough skin. Halle Berry played the adult version of the role in "X-Men" (2000), "X2" (2003) "X-Men: The Last Stand" (2006) and "X-Men: Days of Future Past" (2014).

Shipp, 26, who reprises her role in the upcoming "Dark Phoenix", said as a child devouring the Marvel Comics, she could always relate with the weather-controlling mutant.

"(I tweeted back) at people who criticised me for not having dark enough skin for my role in X-Men because we're not going to have this conversation about a cartoon character. You're not going to tell me that my skin colour doesn't match a Crayola from 1970.

"Growing up, when I was

reading the comics, I pictured her looking like me. For any black girl, for there to be a black superhero, we picture them looking like us," Shipp told Glamour magazine.

Following criticisms that her skin was too light to play Storm in the X-Men franchise, she tweeted, "This conversation about Storm is so stupid, I'm out... If I lose my job to another actress, I hope it's for her talent and grace, not her skin (colour)."

The actor further explains she seized the opportunity of playing the iconic character the moment it came knocking, never doubting herself.

"When I auditioned for the role, I wasn't like, 'Oh man, I'm not dark enough.' I was like, 'Finally, this is my moment'. I'm not playing Harriet Tubman with a prosthetic nose and darkening my skin tone. I would never do that," Shipp said.

"Dark Phoenix" releases on 14 February next year. —PTI ■



Alexandra Shipp. **PHOTO: PTI**

## Stephen Ditko, Spider-Man co-creator, dies at 90

NEW YORK—US comics artist Stephen Ditko, co-creator of Marvel superheroes Spider-Man and Doctor Strange, has died. He was 90.

Police in New York said he was found in his apartment on 29 June, according to the Hollywood Reporter. No cause of death has been confirmed.

Born in 1927 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Ditko worked alongside the then-future Marvel Comics CEO Stan Lee in the early 1960s. It was Ditko who came up with Spider-Man's iconic red and blue suit, complete with web-shooters.

"Today, the Marvel family mourns the loss of Steve Ditko. Steve transformed the industry and the Marvel Universe, and his legacy will never be forgotten," Marvel Entertainment President Dan Buckley said in a statement



on Saturday.

Ditko, a reclusive figure who is thought to have never married, had left Marvel by 1966, reportedly due to a disagreement with Lee.

He went on to work for other publishers — including DC Comics, where he created characters such as The Creeper — but did draw for Marvel again from in 1979.

"Of course, he is best known for co-creating Spider-Man but he also ushered in a slew of unique, very personal and eclectic characters for DC such as the Question, Blue Beetle, Hawk

and Dove and more," said DC Entertainment Chief Creative Officer Jim Lee on Twitter.

"Polite and unassuming — he never sought attention or the limelight but in many ways represented the hidden hero he saw in all of us," he added.

Elsewhere on social media, fans paid tribute to Ditko alongside images of his work — hailed by many for its unique, zany style.

"RIP to comic book legend Steve Ditko, beyond influential on countless planes of existence.", wrote film director Edgar Wright, whose works include Shaun of the Dead (2004).

Meanwhile, author Neil Gaiman reflected: "Steve Ditko was true to his own ideals. He saw things his own way, and he gave us ways of seeing that were unique. Often copied. Never equalled."—AFP ■



# Visa teams up with banks and merchants to launch the ultimate football campaign for Myanmar fans

VISA, the official payment services partner for FIFA, launched the ultimate football program on 3 July to enhance the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ experience for Visa account holders.

During 3 – 8 July, at Myanmar Plaza, Visa is teaming up with six partnering banks and merchants to offer fans new ways to immerse themselves into the game and enhance

their experience through football-themed activities.

Arturo Planell, Country Manager of Visa Myanmar said the campaign presents an ideal opportunity to introduce and connect Myanmar's football fans with a new mode of payment.

"Visa is committed to enhancing the FIFA World Cup experience for passionate foot-

ball fans in Myanmar through a unique integrated marketing campaign that celebrates 'the beautiful game'.

We are delighted to partner with all six Visa credit card issuing banks and merchants to offer a unique program that will lead to further adoption of electronic payments in the country."

The campaign sees Visa

bringing together all six Visa credit card issuing banks for the first time to introduce Myanmar football fans and consumers to a new way to pay.

Fans can apply for credit cards on-site and immediately use their new mode of payment to reap benefits and discounts.

With a minimum of 50,000 MMK spend on Visa cards at

Myanmar Plaza, Visa cardholders stand a chance to win free FIFA World Cup official merchandise, such as umbrellas, shirts and bags during this six-day extravaganza.

In addition, Visa cardholders are eligible for up to XX% discount at selected stores in Myanmar Plaza when paying with their Visa cards.

—GNLM ■

## Profits from Mothers' Day sales donated to hospitals, training schools for youths



City Love & Hope Foundation of the City Mart Holdings Ltd has donated profits gained during the special sales marking the Mothers' Day to hospitals, training schools for youths and needy peoples. The 17th ceremony was held at the head of the CMHL on 5 July. The sale was held from 26 April to 16 May. **PHOTO: GNLM**

## Spanish chef Ruscallea to close famed Sant Pau restaurant

BARCELONA — Spanish chef Carme Ruscallea on Friday announced he will close his celebrated San Pau restaurant, in the northeastern Catalonia region, which has been awarded three Michelin stars since 2006.

Describing it as a "natural" decision, the 66-year-old Ruscallea told Catalan radio Rac1 "I don't want to do this work without passion and energy".

The restaurant will close its doors for the last time on 27 October. This year Ruscallea celebrated 30 years at the helm of San Pau, situated in the coastal town of Sant Pol de Mar, turning the restaurant into the only one in Spain with three Michelin stars.

The first of the coveted stars was awarded in 1991, the second five years later.



Spanish chef Carme Ruscallea said that it was a "natural" decision to retire after 30 years at the helm of the three Michelin-star San Pau restaurant, located in the coastal town of Sant Pol de Mar. **PHOTO: AFP**

After it is closed, Sant Pau will be transformed into a bar run by his daughter with an area dedicated to the study of cuisine, where Ruscallea will dedicate himself to gastronomic innovations. "This isn't a farewell or retirement, It's a reinvention," Ruscallea assured.

His two-starred restaurant in Tokyo will remain open. —AFP ■

## A whimsical white house exhibit beckons the imagination in Washington

WASHINGTON — A massive interactive installation that opened this week fills the US National Building Museum's cavernous Great Hall with an all-white house, pool and pavilion designed by New York-based design firm Snarkitecture.

The idiosyncratic group — which sees itself as creating neither art nor architecture, but rather something in between — invites Washingtonians to immerse themselves in a tactile show that captivates with a sprinkling of whimsy.

"We are looking to make architecture accessible and engaging. Part of doing that is to integrate this concept of play," said Alex Mustonen, who co-founded Snarkitecture with Daniel Arsham. Ben Porto joined the pair in 2014.

"We like people to experience architecture and environments in ways that children might experience them," he said. "Ideally to let your guard down to approach something in a new way."

Visitors enter the free-standing structure filled with interactive pieces through what looks like a primitive cavern entrance, created by hammering and chiseling away at a solid piece of EPS (expanded polystyrene) architectural foam.

A carved out skylight appears after clambering through one of the openings, the tightly packed foam beads crunching beneath your feet.

Forced perspective — an optical illusion that makes objects appear a different size than they actually are — gives an impression of depth in "Playhouse" (2017), scaled for adults

in front and growing increasingly smaller for children.

In the larger house, wall shelves emerge from excavated forms, a tilted white oak chair becomes usable thanks to a tapered black marble stone and a cabinet that looks cracked open at the center is completely functional.

"People could take home that the most normal and simple things can be looked at in different ways. This is a sign of (creative) freedom and freedom is the seed of the future," said Milan-based curator Maria Cristina Didero.

### 'Tabula rasa'

Working mostly in monochrome tones is "like a tabula rasa where you are open to everything," said Didero.

The main structure looks like a typical American house, complete with white picket fence — except this one was built with EPS foam.

The precisely milled siding, gutters and roof eventually

dissolve in an irregular pattern — as though chomped off by some large, hungry animal — to reveal the frame and rafters beneath.

It's a "balance between precision and looseness," Mustonen explained.

One of the highlights of "Fun House" — the fifth in the museum's annual Summer Block Party installations that runs through September 3 — is a kidney-shaped pool.

After dipping in some 175,000 translucent balls, visitors can lounge on beach chairs under parasols, white astro turf mimicking sand all around.

It's a new take on Snarkitecture's uber-popular 2015 installation at the museum, "The Beach."

While "Fun House" is sure to be an Instagram hit, Mustonen encouraged people to also lift their eyes from their tiny screens to "appreciate the moment and have a more physical, tangible, tactical, memorable experience." —AFP ■



In the open living room of the house, Snarkitecture's "Pillow Fort" (2016) encourages play and relaxation, the pillows in various gray hues that can be arranged in various configurations. **PHOTO: AFP**



## Tactical masterstroke as De Bruyne keeps Belgian World Cup dream alive

MOSCOW — A tactical change proved decisive as Kevin De Bruyne hit the winner that sent five-time champions Brazil sensationally crashing out on Wednesday and kept underdogs Belgium's World Cup hopes alive.

As Brazil become the last south American country to exit the tournament before the semi-finals, Roberto Martinez's Belgium ended a 32-year wait to reach the final four.

The Red Devils will now play France, who eliminated Uruguay 2-0 earlier in the day, in an enticing semi-final between the European neighbours.

"When you play Brazil you need a tactical advantage," explained Martinez.

"Brazil bring that psychological barrier, they've won five World Cups. We had to be brave tactically.

"But today wasn't about the tactics, it was about the execution of those tactics. If you execute it like the players did, it makes it difficult for them."

### 'Test of character'

Although Martinez was credited with shifting the tactics that meant Belgium posed a threat to Neymar's Brazil throughout an exhilarating quarter-final in Kazan, his players,



Belgium's midfielder Kevin De Bruyne controls the ball during the Russia 2018 World Cup quarter-final football match between Brazil and Belgium at the Kazan Arena in Kazan on 6 July, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

and De Bruyne in particular, rose to the challenge magnificently.

"It was a test of character, and I think we did really well," said De Bruyne, who started on the right side of a three-pronged attack alongside centre-forward Romelu Lukaku and playmaker Eden Hazard.

Usually deployed in a more central role in the 3-4-2-1 used

by Martinez in the last-gasp 3-2 win over Japan in the last 16, De Bruyne responded positively when the wily Spanish coach called for changes.

"I don't care where I play. Wherever I play, I have to contribute," De Bruyne said.

"I did what I had to do, making sure the team is calm in difficult situations. Making sure we relax on the ball and not take too

many risks.

"Sometimes we try to go too quick, but I try to manage the team in any way I can. And I will be the first to fight till the last minutes and I hope my teammates follow my example."

Martinez's switch to a 3-4-3 was a masterstroke, but De Bruyne's man-of-the-match award did not come for nothing.

After taking a shock 13<sup>th</sup>

minute lead when Hazard's curling corner came off Fernandinho's arm, it was the Brazilian's Manchester City teammate De Bruyne who struck hardest.

A devastating counter-attack launched by Manchester United striker Lukaku caused panic, leaving De Bruyne in space and with time to send a powerful drive past Alisson on 31 minutes.

In the end, it proved decisive.

Although Brazil fought their way back into the match thanks to Renato Augusto's 76<sup>th</sup> minute header, they paid the price for missing late chances.

It was the fourth successive World Cup that Brazil's involvement was ended by a European side, four years after a humiliating 7-1 defeat to Germany in the semi-finals.

Belgium will now meet Didier Deschamps' France, and De Bruyne added: "It will be a different match. Now we have the time so see how we're going to approach it.

"It's the semi-finals, it will be extraordinary. But the whole world will be watching us.

"This only happens once or twice in your career as a footballer. We'll do what we can to win it."—AFP ■

## Myanmar secures semifinal berth in AFC Championship

IN a group play at the AFF Women's Championship 2018, the Myanmar national women's football team scored a big win over Singapore women's football team with a 7-0 shutout at Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia and advanced to the semifinal yesterday.

The Myanmar team lined up

with keeper May Zin Nwe, Khin Than Wai, Khin Myo Winn, Aye Aye Moe, Ei Yadanar Phyto, Captain Than Than Htwe, Thandar Moe, Khin Moe Wai, Nilar Myint, Yee Yee Oo and Win Theingi Tun.

The winning goals for Myanmar were scored by Yi Yi Oo at the 12 and 22 minute mark, Nilar Winn at the 40 minute mark, Ni

Lar Myint at the 54 minute mark, Khin Moe Wai at the 70 minute mark, July Kyaw at the 76 minute mark and substitute Khin Mho Mho Htun at the 89 minute mark.

There were no goals scored by Singapore, as Myanmar's defense remained very strong.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Win marks Sagaing United's satisfaction in MNL

At a match in the Week 19 MPT Myanmar National League, Sagaing United beat Ayeyawady United by a score of 4-1 at Monywa Stadium yesterday, with the win resulting in enough points to likely prevent the relegation to the MNL II for Sagaing United.

Also, a win for the big team,

Ayeyawady FC, showed they had enough energy to transform their relegation from their current condition. Sagaing FC played energetically from the start, as Ayeyawady was also a major team in the MNL. The winning goals for Sagiang United were scored by Bamber at

the 36 minute mark, 45 minute mark and 90 minute mark, while Aung Hlaing Win scored at 43 the minute mark.

A single consolation goal for Ayeyawady FC was scored by its active player, Aung Hein Kyaw, at the 88 minute mark.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

## Ibrahimovic, Beckham make friendly bet on Sweden-England

LOS ANGELES — Zlatan Ibrahimovic and David Beckham have agreed on the terms of a friendly wager ahead of the England v Sweden World Cup quarter-final on Saturday.

Ibrahimovic, Sweden's all-time top scorer with 62 goals, has been vocal in support of his homeland from his vantage point with his Major League Soccer club Los Angeles Galaxy — former England captain Beckham's onetime MLS club.

Ibrahim took to Twitter to challenge Beckham on the eve of the showdown in Samara, Russia.

"Yo @davidbeckham if @england wins I buy you dinner where ever you want in the world, but if @swemnt wins you buy me what ever I want from @ikeasverige ok?" Ibrahimovic wrote. Beckham responded via Instagram: "@iamzlatanibrahimovic if @swemnt win I will personally take you to @ikeasverige and buy you what ever you need for the new mansion in LA @lagalaxy, but when @england win I want you to come watch an @england game at Wembley wearing an England shirt and enjoy fish & chips at half time ..." —AFP ■

### World Cup 2018 Results

Brazil	1 - 2	Belgium
Sweden	0 - 2	England



# SUNDAY SPECIAL

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

### NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

8 JULY 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Daniel  
Technological University  
(Hmawbi)

It was 10 pm., and a man in his early thirties was lying on a bed in a big room in a great house that was probably 20 miles outside of town. He seemed afraid of something, but he remained calm. Suddenly, he saw a shadow cross his room. And then, with the sound of creaking hinges, the door opened. But there appeared to be no one at the door. He was about to shout out, but he didn't, owing to the appearance of a 10-year old girl carrying a glass of milk at the door. She was not seen at first because she was too short to reach to the door handle. So she had to put the glass down on the floor and after that she opened the door.

I brought a glass of milk for you, father", she said. "When will mother come home, father? Where's she going?"

He took the glass with trembling hands and drank the milk nervously without responding to her questions.

"What's wrong with your hands, Father?" she said after seeing his dirty hands when he took the glass of milk.

"It's nothing," he said. Now, you go back to your bed. Thank you for the milk."

She dutifully went back to her bedroom.

He went to the sink to rinse his hands off because the girl saw his hands were dirty. He knew that he needed to wash right away because it might be a bad excuse for him tomorrow. As he was washing his hands at the sink, he looked in the mirror and saw the girl. The girl who called him "father". But this time, she was holding a knife tightly in her hand and looking very angrily at him. Her look was so tough that it scared him. He turned around quickly, but saw nothing.

He was so surprised about what he had seen, and could not control what was going on in his mind.

"Ko Aung...Ko Aung, please help me, come back to me. Ko Maung...don't you love me?..."

A voice was going wild in his head. He was frightened by the voice because it was that of Mya Mar Lar, the mother of the girl. He and Mya Mar Lar married two years ago, but it was not a happy marriage because he married her only because of her wealth. She had a daughter from her first marriage, but he accepted the

girl so that he could be rich. So now he was a stepfather. Their marriage was a nightmare to the girl, Nway Nway. She did not like him, she even hated him, but she could not deny her mother's will, so she pretended as if she was alright with him as her stepfather. Mya Mar Lar could devote much time to her daughter because she was a great businesswoman. She could not even show her love to her daughter, Nway Nway. And she was depressed about her second marriage. Ko Aung was a lazybones who did not know anything, except spending money. She fell in love

only with his good looks, and now she was in trouble. She never knew what he thought about her, but she trusted him. But Ko Aung was evil. He was thinking about how to take more of her possessions forcibly, even though he was already using her money inappropriately. Between Mya Mar Lar and Ko Aung, Nway Nway was a victim, because they both had rows every night during these days after her mother refused to give him more money.

But one night in June, her mother did not come back. Nway Nway waited, looking through the window in her room through the curtain. When Ko Aung came to her room to check on her, Nway Nway switched off the light and pretended like she was falling asleep. Then he went into the garden in the back of their home. He dug a hole and buried Mya Mar Lar, who he had killed for her money. As he smoothed the dirt over the place where he buried the body, he thought, "Everything is over, and this is his time from now on." But what he did not know was that Nway Nway saw everything he had done.

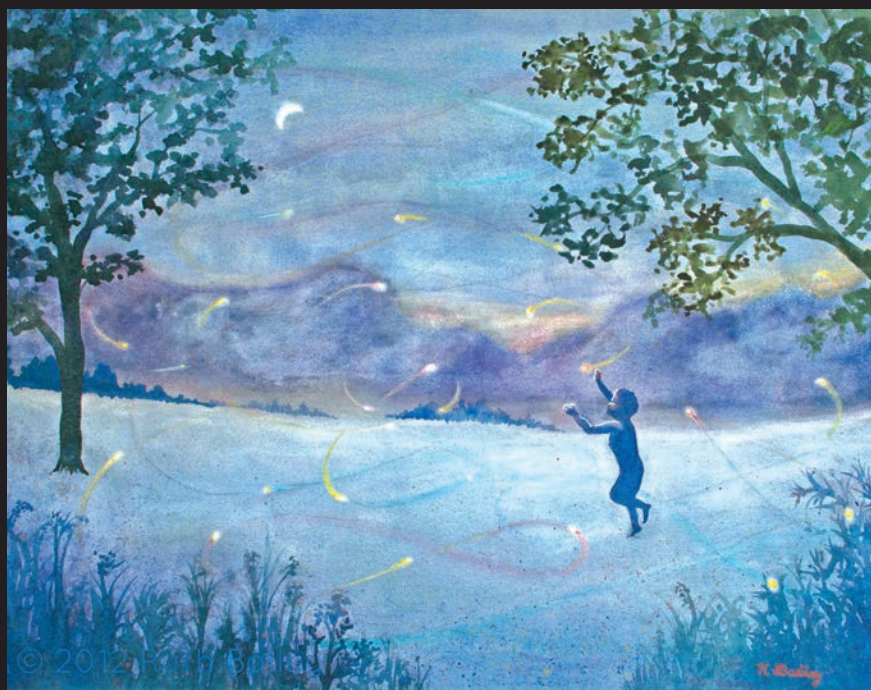
Then he rushed into his bedroom, because Mya Mar Lar's voice scared him off. He even forgot to finish washing his hands. Then Nway Nway came into his room after a few minutes.

Later, a newspaperman can be heard promoting his newspaper, and at the same time a girl can be seen eating things from the dustbin, a very messy and nasty scene.

"There's incredible news. A rich woman was murdered last night. Her husband was found dead due to poison in his bedroom and their daughter is missing. There were no witnesses. If you want to know the news, just grab them now or never, only for two hundred kyats."

The girl eating from the dustbin stops and smiles upon hearing the newspaperman's voice. She resumes eating her filthy meal and whispers, "After all, it's just a summer evening..."

## ONE SUMMER NIGHT



### Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

### GET YOUR CITY HERO KIT NOW!



City Hero Kit provided by City Mart Holding Co., Ltd is available free of charge at The Global New Light of Myanmar for those who contributed their works to our Next Generation Platform of the Sunday Special Pull-out of The Global New Light of Myanmar.







# ENGLISH LESSON (4)

By C. T. O

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

အထက်ပါ if, the more the/er ပုံစံတို့ဖြင့်ဆက် သော စာကြောင်းများကို ၉-တန်း၊ ၁၀တန်းနှင့် ကောလိပ်ကျောင်းသားများ ရေးတတ်ပါသည်။ **Grammer and Composition** တွင်သင်ပြဖြစ်၍ ကျောင်းသား တိုင်းလိုလို ပေးထားသောပုံစံတွင်မှန်အောင် ထည့်နိုင် ကြပါသည်။ အရေးကြီးသည်မှာ အထက်ပါကဲ့သို့မိမိ ကိုယ်တိုင် ရေးတတ်၊ အသုံးချတတ်လာအောင် လေ့ကျင့်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

ထိုကဲ့သို့ပင် **Trees** ဟူသော စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးတွင် အောက်ပါ ကဲ့သို့ရေးနိုင်သည်။

"There are many kinds of trees in the world. Some are tall and some are short. Some are big and some are small. Some are hard and some are soft. They are useful to man. They give us food."

ကမ္ဘာပေါ်တွင် သစ်ပင်အမျိုးမျိုးရှိပါသည်။ အချို့မှာမြင့်၍ အချို့မှာနိမ့်သည်။ အချို့မှာကြီး၍ အချို့မှာငယ်သည်။ အချို့မှာ မာ၍အချို့မှာပျော့သည်။ သူတို့သည် လူအတွက် အသုံးဝင်သည်။ (to သုံးသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။) သူတို့သည် ကျွန်တော်တို့ကိုအစားအစာပေးသည်။

ရှေ့ဆက်ရေးရမည်ကို စဉ်းစားနိုင်လောက်ပြီ။ အထက်ပါ အတွေးလမ်းကြောင်းမျိုးလိုက်၍ အခြား များစွာသော စာစီစာကုံးများကို ရေးနိုင်သည်။

ထိုကဲ့သို့ပင် **Books** ဟူသော စာစီစာကုံးမျိုး၌ **Books are our friends. They are our companions. They are our guides. They give us knowledge. They give us pleasure. They take us everywhere. They introduce us to all kinds of people.**

စာအုပ်များသည် ငါတို့၏ မိတ်ဆွေများဖြစ်သည်။ ငါတို့၏ အပေါင်းအဖော်များဖြစ်သည်။ ငါတို့၏ လမ်းပြများလည်း ဖြစ်သည်။ သူတို့သည် ငါတို့ကို ဗဟုသုတပေးသည်။ ပျော်ရွှင်မှုလည်းပေါ်သည်။ သူတို့သည် ငါတို့ကို နေရာတကာခေါ်သွားသည်။ လူမျိုးစုံနှင့် မိတ်ဆက်ပေးသည်။

**Essay** ရေးခြင်းနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ စဉ်းစားတတ်ရန် လမ်းစ ဖွင့်ပေးခြင်းသာဖြစ်ပါသည်။

**Essay** ၏အဓိပ္ပါယ်မှာ “ကြိုးပမ်းခြင်း” ဖြစ်သည်။ မိမိရေးလိုသည်တို့ကို ရေးသားနိုင်သော အတိုင်းအတာတွင်းမှ ကြိုးပမ်း ရေးသားကြရန်လိုပါသည်။

လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းအဖြေ

- (1) goes (2) is picking (3) knows (4) visited (5) did not go (6) has not yet returned (7) have not seen (8) has been (9) are repairing (10) does she live (11) is he doing (12) never goes (13) has never seen. ရှေ့လတွင် **Verb Form** ကို ဆက်လက်တင်ပြပါမည်။ **Essay** များနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍လည်း ဆက်လက်ဆွေးနွေးပါမည်။

For Study

လေ့လာ ကျက်မှတ်ရန်အတွက် **Verbs** (ကြိယာများ) နှင့် **Adjectives** (နာမဝိသေသန) များကို **Noun** (နာမ်) များအဖြစ် ပြောင်းလဲပုံအောက်တွင် ပေးထားပါသည်။ ကျန်သည်တို့ကို ရှေ့လတွင် ဆက်လက်ပေးသွား ပါမည်။

(A) အချို့သော Verb များကို **Ment** နောက်မှကပ်ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်များအဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

move	movement	လှုပ်ရှားမှု
pay	payment	ပေးခြင်း
enjoy	enjoyment	ပျော်ရွှင်မှု

state	statement	ဖော်ပြခြင်း၊ ကြေညာချက်
agree	agreement	သဘောတူညီချက်
disagree	disagreement	သဘောကွဲလွဲချက်
treat	treatment	ကုသမှု၊ ပြုပြင်မှု
manage	management	စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှု
announce	announcement	ကြေညာချက်
arrange	arrangement	အစီအစဉ်
advertise	advertisement	ကြော်ငြာ
govern	government	အစိုးရ၊ အုပ်ချုပ်ခြင်း
equip	equipment	ကိရိယာတန်ဆာပလာ
settle	settlement	ဖြေရှင်းခြင်း၊ အခြေချသည့်နေရာ
achieve	achievement	အောင်မြင်ရရှိမှု
measure	measurement	အတိုင်းအတာ
punish	punishment	အပြစ်ပေးခြင်း
excite	excitement	စိတ်လှုပ်ရှားမှု
employ	employment	အလုပ်ပေးခြင်း၊ အလုပ်
develop	development	ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှု
encourage	encouragement	အားပေးခြင်း
amuse	amusement	ရွှင်မြူးစေခြင်း
disappoint	disappointment	စိတ်ပျက်ခြင်း
appoint	appointment	ခန့်အပ်ခြင်း
entertain	entertainment	ဖြေဖျော်ခြင်း
advance	advancement	တိုးတက်မှု
require	requirement	လိုအပ်ချက်

(B) အချို့သော ကြိယာများကို **ion, sion, tion** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်များအဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

protect	protection	ကာကွယ်ခြင်း
prevent	prevention	တားမြစ်ခြင်း
invent	invention	တီထွင်ခြင်း
act	action	လှုပ်ရှားမှုအလုပ်
attend	attention	အာရုံစိုက်ခြင်း
correct	correction	အမှားပြင်ခြင်း
collect	collection	စုဆောင်းခြင်း၊ အစုအဝေး
intend	intention	ရည်ရွယ်ချက်
edit	edition	တည်းဖြတ်ခြင်း
distribute	distribution	ဖြန့်ဝေခြင်း
produce	production	ထုတ်လုပ်ခြင်း
introduce	introduction	မိတ်ဆက်ခြင်း၊ နိဒါန်း
destroy	destruction	ဖျက်စီးခြင်း
reduce	reduction	လျှော့ခြင်း
construct	construction	တည်ဆောက်ခြင်း
add	addition	ပေါင်းခြင်း၊ အပို
recognize	recognition	မှတ်မိခြင်း၊ အသိအမှတ်ပြုခြင်း
extract	extraction	ထုတ်နုတ်ခြင်း
attract	attraction	ဆွဲဆောင်ခြင်း
instruct	instruction	ညွှန်ကြားချက်
direct	direction	ညွှန်ကြားပြသခြင်း၊ အရပ်မျက်နှာ
solve	solution	ဖြေရှင်းခြင်း
describe	description	ဖော်ပြခြင်း
absorb	absorption	စုပ်ယူခြင်း
consume	consumption	စားသုံးခြင်း၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါ
revolve	revolution	လှည့်ပတ်ခြင်း၊ တော်လှန်ရေး
receive	reception	လက်ခံခြင်း၊ ဧည့်ခံပွဲ
decide	decision	ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်
include	inclusion	ပါဝင်ခြင်း
conclude	conclusion	နိဂုံး၊ ကောက်ချက်ချခြင်း

express	expression	ဖော်ပြခြင်း
divide	division	ခွဲခြားခြင်း၊ တိုင်း၊ တပ်မ၊ စားခြင်း (သင်္ချာ)
provide	provision	ထောက်ပံ့ခြင်း၊ ရိက္ခာ
possess	possession	ပိုင်ဆိုင်မှု
expand	expansion	ပြန့်ကားခြင်း
extend	extension	ဆန့်တန်းခြင်း၊ အဆွယ်
admit	admission	ဝန်ခံခြင်း၊ လက်ခံခြင်း
permit	permission	ခွင့်ပြုချက်
prepare	preparation	ပြင်ဆင်မှု
declare	declaration	ကြေညာခြင်း
assassinate	assassination	လုပ်ကြံခြင်း
invite	invitation	ဖိတ်ခေါ်ခြင်း
determine	determination	စိတ်ပိုင်းဖြတ်ခြင်း
admire	admiration	မြတ်နိုးခြင်း၊ ကြည်ညိုခြင်း
imagine	imagination	စိတ်ကူးယဉ်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ကူး
separate	separation	ခွဲခြားခြင်း
organize	organization	စည်းရုံးရေး၊ အဖွဲ့အစည်း
educate	education	ပညာရေး
inform	information	သတင်း၊ အကြောင်းကြားခြင်း
decorate	decoration	မွမ်းမံခြင်း
communicate	communication	ဆက်သွယ်ရေး
transport	transportation	သယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ရေး
observe	observation	စူးစမ်းခြင်း၊ သေသေချာချာ ကြည့်ခြင်း
hesitate	hesitation	ချီတုံ့ချီတုံ့ဖြစ်ခြင်း
delegate	delegation	ကိုယ်စားလှယ်အဖွဲ့၊ ကိုယ်စားလှယ်ခြင်း
represent	representation	ကိုယ်စားပြုခြင်း
form	formation	ဖွဲ့စည်းခြင်း
oppose	opposition	ဆန့်ကျင်ခြင်း၊ အတိုက်အခံပြုခြင်း
consider	consideration	စဉ်းစားတွေးတောခြင်း
compete	competition	ယှဉ်ပြိုင်ခြင်း
relate	relation	ဆက်ဆံရေး၊ ဆက်သွယ်မှု၊ ဆွေမျိုး
translate	translation	ဘာသာပြန်ဆိုခြင်း
interpret	interpretation	အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖွင့်ဆိုခြင်း
investigate	investigation	စုံစမ်းခြင်း
administer	administration	အုပ်ချုပ်ရေး
define	definition	အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖွင့်ဆိုချက်
combine	combination	ပူးပေါင်းခြင်း၊ ဘာသာတွဲ
create	creation	ဖန်ဆင်းခြင်း၊ ဖန်တီးခြင်း
recreate	recreation	ပြန်လည် အားဖြည့်စေခြင်း
indicate	indication	ညွှန်ပြခြင်း
present	presentation	တင်ပြခြင်း၊ တင်ဆက်ခြင်း
examine	examination	စစ်ဆေးခြင်း၊ စာမေးပွဲ
inspect	inspection	စစ်ဆေးခြင်း
resign	resignation	နုတ်ထွက်ခြင်း

Lesson - 5

Lesson (4) တွင် Simple Present Tense, Present Continuous Tense, Simple Past Tense, နှင့် Present Perfect Tense (Simple) တို့ကို တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။

ထပ်မံလေ့လာပါ။

- (Simple Present Tense) He writes a short story in this magazine every month.  
သူ ဤမဂ္ဂဇင်းထဲတွင် လစဉ်ဝတ္ထုတို တစ်ပုဒ်ရေးလေ့ရှိသည်။
- (Present Continuous Tense) He is writing a play now.  
သူ ယခုပြဇာတ်တစ်ပုဒ် ရေးနေသည်။
- (Simple Past Tense) He wrote a novel last year.  
သူ မနှစ်က လုံးချင်းဝတ္ထု တစ်အုပ်ရေးခဲ့သည်။
- (Present Perfect Tense) He has written three novels and over 60 short stories since 1970.  
သူ ၁၉၇၀ ခုနှစ်မှစ၍ ယခုထိ လုံးချင်းဝတ္ထုသုံးနှင့် ဝတ္ထုတို ၆၀၀ ကျော်ရေးပြီးပြီ။

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK



# Further study for capacity building of teachers

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

**A**T the present time, we have different kinds of plans and projects to promote and upgrade the Quality of Education. Among all these plans and projects, some are successful and some are not. Then, why?

Some say that all the plans are well-planned, but just because of the low quality of teachers these are not successful. Is it correct? I don't think so.

For most of the teachers are qualified, well-trained by the Teacher Education institutions, more or less.

But, it's a great "But", for if we want to have Quality Teachers, we need to let them study life-long, to be in pace with the changing society and exploding of knowledge of the modern society. For these further studies, we should find out whether these teachers who are so eager to continue their further studies have the chance to do so without any harm or any difficulty.

During the earlier years, the promotions in the life of a teacher has its own way step by step from Primary Teachers up to Professors. There are TTCs (Teacher Training Colleges) and TTSs (Teacher Training Schools) for the training of Junior Assistant Teachers and Primary Assistant Teachers, and the Institute of Education where we train B.Ed. students to become Senior Assistant Teachers to teach in upper secondary classes and schools.

So, if a student who joined the TTS after their matriculation, they can study or be trained for one year, then they can become a Primary Teacher. Then after some years of teaching experience, he or she can study at the TTCs to be trained another year to become a Junior Assistant Teacher. All these are the same training in the present COEs (Colleges of Education), one year training to become a PAT and two years' training to become a JAT.

And at present, students who had passed their second year with flying colours from their COEs, can directly join the Universities of Education (YUOE and SUOE) starting from the third year B.Ed. class. They continue their study there for two years (now changed to three years) to get their B.Ed. degree and to become a Senior Assistant Teacher (SAT) to teach in High Schools.

The others who have already joined the service as PATs and JATs need to take some years of service and then join the trainings again to be promoted step by step. But, they need to get the B.Ed. degree, at least, to become SATs.

Again, since 2001, we have the Direct Intake B.Ed. students who re-



Photo: Phoe Khwar

cently matriculated and who got higher marks, such as a total of round about 480 marks.

We also have B.Ed. (Correspondence) Course for those JATs who were graduated and have a certain extent of service and experience to attend two years to get a B.Ed. degree and to be promoted to SATs.

And all B.Eds. can continue their study in two ways :..

(i) Those who passed B.Ed. with flying colours and qualified to attend M.Ed., can sit for the Entrance Exam. to M.Ed. Class, and if they passed, they can join the M.Ed. Class directly.

(ii) Those who passed with not very high marks and are not qualified for M.Ed. Class, have two options.

(a) To attend M.Ed. (Qualifying) Class for one year (need to sit for an Entrance Exam. ) and only after passing that class she or he can join the M.Ed. I Class.

(b) To attend M.Phil.(Education) Class after 7 years of service and sitting for an Entrance Exam. This is just to do practical work of doing researches on Education and write some Papers. Only after that they can join the M.Ed. I Class.

All these trainings show clearly that any teacher who is eager to continue their studies, their Education, has always the chance to upgrade their quality step by step.

After M.Ed., we have the chance to attend Ph.D. classes to continue their studies. We have not only direct way to Ph.D., but also there is Ph.D.

Although our teachers have the chance to continue their Education, their lifelong learning, there are still some barriers for them to go on with their studies.

(Research) Class for those with great experience and with certain years of service and designations.

So, what I mean here is, in our country we already have a chance of continuous Education for teachers (whether he or she is a PAT or JAT or SAT or Tutor or whatever their designations are) if he or she is eager to do so.

Here comes the most important part of my article. Although our teachers have the chance to continue their Education, their lifelong learning, there are still some barriers for them to go on with their studies as they wish.

Sometimes, persons in authority, try to stop or hesitate their chance to continue their study just because (what they said) their's no enough of teachers who are qualified to substitute in their place. So sorry for the young teachers, who are so eager to continue

their studies and their learning.

And moreover, there are also some corruption in some places, such as the ones in power who have the right to agree those young teachers to sit for the Entrance Exams., they tried to get black money from those young and eager who wish to continue their studies. They demand money that is equal to some years' salaries of the young teachers who are eager to continue their studies so that they can sign the permission to sit for the Entrance Exams. What a mess! What a serious corruption it is!

Then those who cannot afford to pay such kind of amount, do not get the chance to continue their learning. These really are the enemies to upgrade the Quality of Teachers indeed.

Without any further continuous study, it is not easy to get more and more Quality Teachers who can upgrade the Quality of Education day after day.

So, if we really want to upgrade our Quality of Education, we also need to upgrade the Quality of Teachers and for this purpose, here from my article, the author wants to request to those who have the responsibility and authority in the field of education to please let our enthusiastic young teachers have a chance to continue their learning, their study, for all teachers need to be life-long learners to make or upgrade our Education to be Quality Education.

May we all be a helping hand to our young teachers!





A couple offering water to the Buddha Statue as a man takes a photo at the Friday Corner, Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE



A bell seen at Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

# Some Mythical Images at Shwedagon Pagoda

By Meiji Soe  
(Culture & Beyond Myanmar)

(Continued from the previous Sunday Supplement)

## The meaning of 'Water dropping' (yay set cha) after donations

A great donation is not complete without 'yay set cha' (ရေစက်ချသောခြင်း), the donor pouring water from a cup, drop by drop, after the monks sermon to a group of people. We usually see it in Myanmar Buddhist donation ceremonies. It is very meaningful. Buddhists believe that nothing can be carried to the next life except their good deeds. Donation (dana) is one of the main things which can raise them up to higher existence. The people repeat after the monk: "The merit that we have done today will be shared to all the beings which could be seen or unseen by reciting, "A Hmya, A Hmya, A Hmya" and all the beings can gain our merit by reciting gladly, "Sadhu, Sadhu, Sadhu (well-done)". The donors continue, "If we forget this merit, the friendly witnessing nats will bear testimony by wringing the water out of their streaming hair".

After death, when they sit in the heavenly interview for the next existence, these water drops are the testimony for their donations, as man may be forgetful of all of the donations accumulated in his whole lifetime. At that time, "Wathone Daray Nat Min" (chief god of

the Earth's guardians) will appear and he will approve your donations by squeezing the water out of his long hairs without leaving a single drop. The water in his hair is that which he collected at all your 'yey set cha' water libations for donations. You can see this statue in some pagodas. So it is advisable not to forget to 'yey set cha' after any of your outstanding donations.

In Lord Buddha's history, just before He attained the enlightenment and while He was meditating under the Bo tree, 'Mara, the evil one, marched with a great army which was full of fierce animals and devils to deter from attaining the Buddhahood. At that time, Lord Buddha calmly made an asseveration to Wathone Daray Nat Min and all His 'yay-set cha' water from the previous lives flowed uncontrollably like a river and Mara and his followers were drowned and collapsed.

## The Bells

"Today I just made the merit in this pagoda by worshipping, putting some alms into the donation box, lighting the candles and incense sticks, offering the flowers and water. O, Wathone Daray Natmin (chief of the earth guardian), please hear my striking the bell like I strike the earth and I am pleased to share this merit to other people and everyone who hears the sound of my striking the bell, please say "Sadhu" to gain the same merit with me."

This is a prayer of a hermit which I heard

at Shwedagon Pagoda when I passed near a bell. Lay people seldom pray like that hermit, although they may pray in their mind. It is quite similar to the water dropping (yay-set-cha) in donation ceremonies. But, at pagodas, we can share our merit by striking the bells and the donor's merit will be multiplied, too. People usually strike the bell with a wooden stick, lying near it, three times, five times, or more as they wish, and some young people striking the bells according to the number of their age. Children enjoy striking the bells for their fine and loud echoing tone but the adults usually strike the bell with the noble intention of sharing merit to others, and at the same time, as a notice to holy beings for their merit. Bells are abundant in pagodas in many sizes. The biggest bell in Shwedagon Pagoda can be found at the north-east corner of pagoda platform. It was presented by King Tharrawaddy in 1841 and weighs 94,682 lbs. The diameter at the mouth is 78", with a height of 8 feet and a thickness of 1 1/2". It is the second largest bell in the whole country, as the largest bell in Myanmar is 'Mingun Bell' in Mandalay.

Myanmar people believe that after they pass away, nothing can be carried along and only their good deeds will remain sweet for the next existence. So, whenever you hear the tolling sound of the bell, please do not hesitate to whisper (even in your mind) "Sadhu, Sadhu, Sadhu..."

## Thar Pike Kotaw (baby holding Brahma)

If you are longing to get a baby, you can go to Shwedagon and pray in front of the Brahma (higher celestial being) who is holding a baby boy (ဗြဟ္မသားပိုင်စုံတုံ). It is situated between the Tuesday and Wednesday corner of the pagoda. Married couples who do not get a baby or who want a baby boy, come here and pray to that statue. Some couples have gilded that baby with gold leaf. At the right side of the Brahma, there is another standing Brahma holding flowers in his hand. If you want a baby girl, you can pray to the flower-holding Brahma. Twins? If you pray form the middle of those two Brahmas, you will get twin babies (a boy and a girl). Somebody said, if you pray for a baby there, your coming baby's birthday will be on the 7th day (starting from your praying day). For example, if you pray on a Sunday, you will get a Saturday-born baby, because the Brahma has to present your wish at the angels' conference and a one-week time is needed to get approval and obtain the grant.

Not only that, if your children are disobedient or out of control, the parents can come and pray to "Thar Pike Kotaw". If your baby is disturbed by spirits, you can also come and pray for their welfare here.

(This article is from "Culture and Beyond Myanmar" book by Meiji Soe)



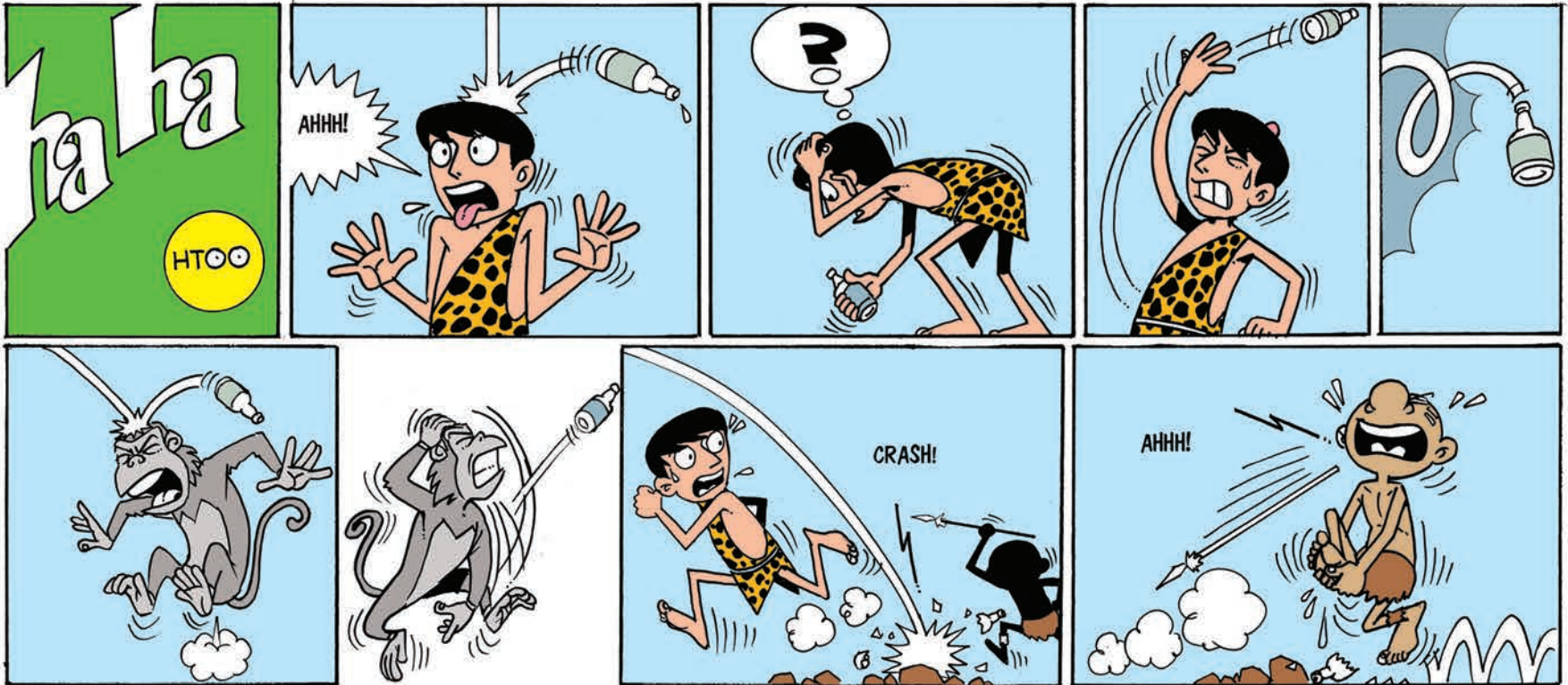
Wathone Daray Natmin (chief god of the Earth's guardians) seen next to a lion statue at Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE



A couple with their child pray in front of the Thar Pike Kotaw (baby holding Brahma), as a security guard helps them at Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

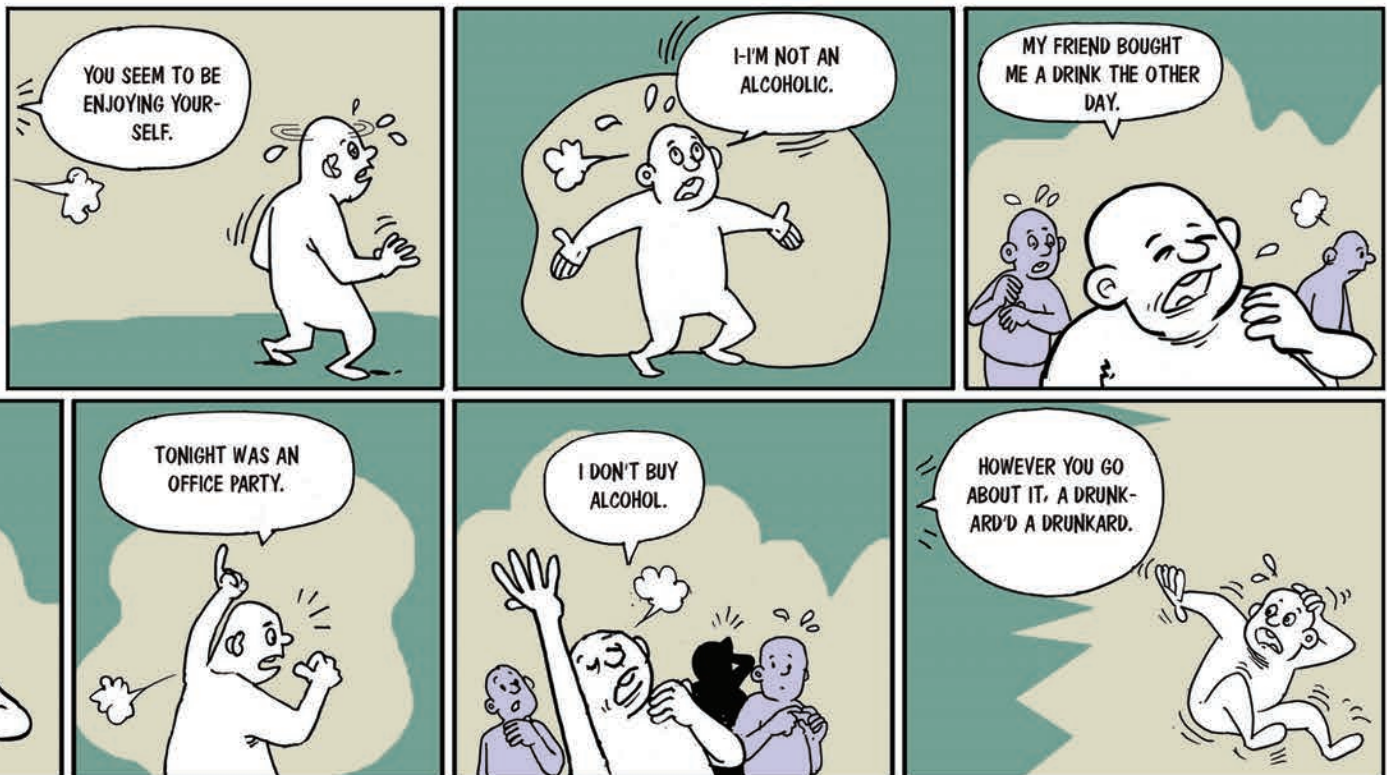


# SUNDAY COMICS



## PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon  
Maung Shwe Win



## SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon  
Maung Maung Aung  
2018





(BASED ON A FICTITIOUS STORY)

Brahmadatta, King of Baranasi, is holding court. The king relates that he made his son, Dosa Kumma, heir to the throne and also that he has adopted Pyinnya Bala, son of the Chief Minister, Maha Bala, as his own son. He further says that he sent Dosa Kumma and Pyinnya Bala to Tekkathila (Taxila), the university kingdom, to be educated.

Dosa Kumma and Pyinnya Bala, on reaching Tekkathila, agreed to learn separately under the two great teachers. Dosa Kumma, being a mere charlatan, learnt absolutely nothing and squandered all his money and valuable possessions on gambling. Pyinnya Bala, on the other hand, was pronounced as perfect in knowledge by his Great Teacher and he offered his daughter in marriage to him.

The two brothers, Mai Pyinsa (the consort of Pyinnya Bala) and the two attendants meet at a rendezvous just outside the city gates.

Dosa Kumma, on meeting Mai Pyinsa, suddenly falls greatly in love with her and, jealous of Pyinnya Bala in many ways, plans to kill him. Dosa Kumma tells Pyinnya Bala that, before leaving their kingdom for Tekkathila, he was told by his father the king to study the flora and fauna of the mountainous terrain on the Kelatha Mountain on their return journey.

Dosa Kumma and Pyinnya Bala climb up the mountain and soon reach the mountain top. Dosa Kumma tells Pyinnya Bala to prepare to die as he is going to hack off his head with his sword. Pyinnya Bala carries no weap-

# The Five ALPHABETS

YE DWAY  
(STORIES FROM THE MYANMAR  
CLASSICAL THEATRE)

ons at that time and blames himself because he could not defend himself. Pyinnya Bala begs Dosa Kumma to take a message of only five alphabets to his father. The unsuspecting Dosa Kumma agrees. Pyinnya Bala, using a long thorn, scratches five alphabets on a piece of palm leaf and gives it to Dasa Kumma.

Dosa Kumma, saying that he does not wish his sword to be stained with blood, pushes Pyinnya Bala down the hillside; but, the guardian-spirit of the forest catches him in his arms and saves his life. The spirit, carrying Pyinnya Bala in his arms, goes to the palace garden in Baranasi and placing him on huge marble slab, goes back to his forest.

Dosa Kumma, believing that Pyinnya Bala is dead, goes back to Mai

Pyinsa and the two attendants and he lies that his brother, while climbing up the mountain, slipped and fell into the precipice and died. Mai Pyinsa, weeping, sings a pathetic song. Then Dosa Kumma proposes marriage to which she stoutly refuses! Dosa Kumma scolds her, abuses her and beats her with no mercy. Mai Pyinsa is greatly overwhelmed with grief and, weeping, breaks into a ngo-chin (weeping song). Mai Pyinsa finally says that she in fact accepts his love but, as she is practicing extreme austerities, they can marry about ten days later.

Eventually, they all reach back to Baranasi.

Dosa Kumma pays a visit to Maha Bala and tells him the same lies about the supposed death of his son. He pretends to weep violently to make Maha Bala believe him. It is a common practice for the villainous characters to make the audience laugh also.

Maha Bala goes to the palace and tells the king that Dosa Kumma has murdered Pyinnya Bala in the forest. Dosa Kuma is brought into the presence of the king and he is tired for killing his own brother. Dosa Kumma denies the assertion of the Chief Minister.

Then the palace gardener enters the scene bringing Pyinnya Bala with him. Pyinnya Bala says that Dosa Kumma did try to kill him by pushing him down the hillside and that a Nat saved his life.

In a fit of anger, the king orders that Dosa Kumma be killed at once. Here, Pyinnya Bala intervenes, saying that men and women without learning are liable to commit crime and begs the king to pardon Dosa Kumma. The king replied that he would spare the life of his son only if he obediently, diligently and respectfully learns from Pyinnya Bala. Pyinnya Bala agrees to teach Dosa Kumma and the former promises to learn from the latter.

Finally, the king declares that from now on, Pyinnya is to serve as the crown prince of the kingdom and the drama closes.

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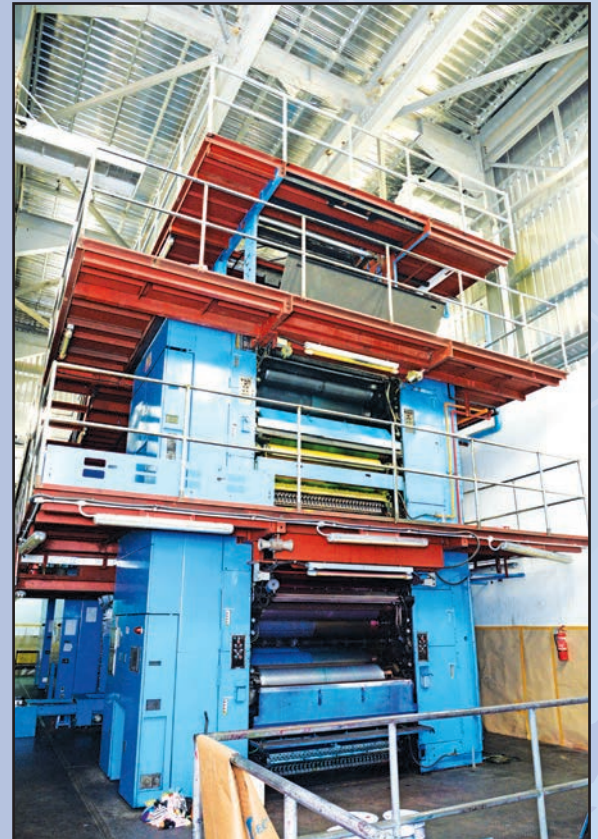


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