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President U Win Myint urges administrative, legislative, judiciary sectors in Sagaing Region to speed up reforms

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met with officials from administrative, judiciary and legislative sectors in Sagaing Region yesterday as part of the Union Government efforts for speeding up the momentum of reforms.

Speaking at the meeting, President said the meeting became following monthly reports submitted by state and region governments to him.

During the trip, President U Win Myint was accompanied by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials left Nay Pyi Taw by a Tatmadaw special flight and arrived Monywa town, Sagaing Region.

The President and party were welcomed at Monywa airport by Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Than, Region Chief Justice U Win Myint, Region Advocate-General U Khin Maung Hla, region ministers, Hluttaw representatives and officials.

"The country is collectively working to transform from an old system of an old era to a new system of a new era. This can be quickly and successfully



President U Win Myint warmly greets officials and representatives at the meeting with officials from administrative, legislative and judicial sectors in Monywa, Sagaing Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

accomplished only if all citizens and relevant officials in legislative, administrative and judicial sectors work together," said the President.

"We lost democracy and the path towards democracy in our country more than half a century," he said adding that "now

at the beginning of this road, all need to work together for reform. Reform is inspired by the people."

All have responsibility to take part in reforms

The President also urged the representatives of the three

pillars to take their duty in carrying out reforms which are inspired by the people.

"Reform is not a thing to be worried about. Without going along the reform path, our country will not develop. Reform must be made. Change is eternal truth. Reform is not an enemy. It

is a good friend.

This needs to be well understood. Reform is a good opportunity and a good time for our country and people to achieve democracy and human rights, said the President.

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Ceremony to mark Mya Ganaing movie in UNESCO listing held

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivered a speech at a ceremony held at the Motion Picture Development Centre, Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday morning on the occasion of the listing Mya Ganaing (Emerald Jungle) movie in the UNESCO list (region level).

Union Minister said the ministry which is responsible for motion picture is striving toward the development of Myanmar motion picture. In foreign countries, new movies were produced while conserving of valuable old movies is also widely conducted.

Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) under Ministry of Information is establishing a "film library" despite many limitations and difficulties and is conducting film maintenance works, he said.

Due to cooperation with Save Myanmar Film (SMF) formed with youth and experts and related organisations in film maintenance work, Mya Ganaing movie was recognized and listed in the UNESCO list (region level). It is a happy oc-



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the ceremony to mark listing Mya Ganaing (Emerald Jungle) movie in UNESCO list in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

casion to achieve this success and recognition and would like to thank people and organisations who participated in the work process, said the Union Minister.

Next, a document recognizing Mya Ganaing movie's listing in UNESCO list (region level) was presented by UNESCO Myanmar national commission secretary Dr. Kyi Shwin of the Yangon University of Foreign Language and it was accepted by IPRD Director General U Ye Naing.

Afterwards, Director-General U Ye Naing explained about development of motion pictures after motion pictures production was changed from a film system to a digital system, reduction in numbers of motion pictures imported from abroad, arrangement made by the State to enable production of more motion pictures, status of establishing a motion picture training school and a movie studio, maintaining of old movies like Mya Ganaing and process of submitting Mya Ganaing

movie for listing in UNESCO list (region level) together with Save Myanmar Film (SMF) and thanked all persons and organisations who worked together for the listing.

IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing then presented a certificate of honor to the Save Myanmar Film project director U Okkar who assisted in achieving UNESCO list (region level).

Mya Ganaing movie was restored by the Embassy of France in Myanmar and Memory Film Festival. Ministry of

Information and the Save Myanmar Film (SMF) submitted the movie to be listed in Memory of the World during a Memory of the World workshop organized by UNESCO held at Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon in 2017. Two documents recognizing the listing in UNESCO list (region level) was presented to Save Myanmar Film (SMF) project director U Okkar on 6 June this year and it was now being transferred to the owner of the movie, the Ministry of Information —Myanmar News Agency ■

APTERR provides aid to flood victims in Mon, Kayin states

ACCORDING to the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) program 3, a donation ceremony of 50 tonnes of rice from Japan to flood victims affected by heavy torrential rains in Kayin State was held at the (Kayin) State Government Office on the morning of 17 August.

Attending the ceremony were Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, State Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, chief of APTERR Secretariat office in Thailand, and a donor representative from Japan.

At the ceremony, the Chief Minister presented certificate of honors to the donor.

Similarly in Mon State also affected by flood caused by heavy rain, a ceremony donating 36 tonnes of rice and 2,250 viss of onion from Japan, 1,000 baskets of paddy seeds from department of agriculture, water cleansing materials from



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint accepts donation to flood victims from Japanese representative at the Kayin State Government Office, Kayin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was held at the (Mon) State Government Office on the morning of 17 August. The ceremony was attended by Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, State

Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, chief of APTERR Secretariat office in Thailand, and a donor representative from Japan.

Mon State Chief Minister presented certificate of honors to the donors.

ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)

Agreement was signed by Myanmar at Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2011 with the aim of supporting sustainable food security in ASEAN countries and ASEAN Plus Three when unexpected natural disasters happens.

According to the agreement, Myanmar and other member states put up US\$

83,000 (endowment fund) for 5 years and US\$ 30,000 (operational cost) for 5 years.

According to the rotating ASEAN rice reserve storage system, 500 tonnes of rice provided by Korea was stored in Department of Agriculture warehouse in Thanlyin Township on 21 June 2017. 500 tonnes of rice provided by Japan was stored at warehouses in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw on 29 September to provide rice to ASEAN countries when natural disasters occurs in 2017-2018.

This 1,000 tonnes of rice will be stored in the warehouses for 12 months for distribution to natural disaster affected member states and if there were no natural disaster during this period, it will be proposed to APTERR Secretariat for use in poverty reduction and reducing nutrition deficiency project.

As natural disasters hit Myanmar impacting people in Myanmar, officials proposed to APTERR Secretariat to provide the rice to the flood victims. —MNA ■

Beans, pulses farmers urged to grow marketable crops to cope with market change

VICE President U Henry Van Thio has urged farmers, traders and authorities concerned to swift from current pulses and beans of Matpe and Toor Whole to another crops in preparation for future market stability.

He made the remark at the workshop on developing trade and export of Myanmar pulses, beans and sesame in Yangon yesterday.

Myanmar's beans and pulses growers turned to maize, sugarcane and jute this year after they were adversely affected by restrictions by India limiting the amount of pea products from Myanmar last year.

This year's beans and pulses growing season has seen over 500,000 acres decrease in Toor Whole acreage.

"We should seek ways to grow other crops which are favourable to the soil and climate instead of Matpe in this Matpe season," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio in his capacity as head of the Leading Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion.

The workshop was jointly organized by Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Seeds Merchants Association and Yangon Region Merchants and Industrialists Association (Bayintnaung agriculture commodities trading market) at the Mingalar Hall of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCI) in Minyekyawswa Road, Yangon yesterday morning.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the workshop on developing trade and export of Myanmar pulses, beans and sesame in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Myanmar is an agriculture nation and rice, pulses and beans are the main agriculture products.

Rice is the staple food of the country and is exported only after there is enough for local consumption. But only some pulses and beans are consumed locally and most are exported to foreign markets and up to fiscal year 2016-2017, it was the crops that earned the most foreign exchange.

In 2017-2018, prices of Matpe and Toor Whole declined drastically but were still the second highest export earning crops.

171 countries including Myanmar produces pulses and beans and in Myanmar about 21 percent of the cultivated areas were producing pulses and beans. When market economy was practiced in Myanmar, pulses and beans sector become the most rapidly developing sector.

Myanmar is the biggest exporter of pulses and beans in Asia and ranks second after Canada in

the world. This sector develops rapidly because the government provided agriculture inputs in terms of dams, irrigation system, agriculture technologies and better seed varieties.

Geographically, Myanmar is bordered with India, the world's biggest producer and importer of pulses and beans. Pulses and beans consumed in India were familiar for Myanmar pulses and beans farmers and this is a significant advantage for Myanmar pulses and beans.

For the pulses and beans sector to develop further trade should be properly conducted and all need to work together toward the stability of the market.

Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits Law was enacted as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 32/2013 and Leading Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion was formed.

The State is continuously striving toward enabling private

business to conduct manufacturing and trading works while giving priority to the farmers who are the majority, said the Vice President.

"Only when the farmers knew the situation of exporting Matpe and Toor Whole to India, can they plant alternative crops. Farmers also need to envision possible problems in planting replacement crops and find solution together with relevant ministries," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

For pulses and beans farmers to produce replacement crops, short term, mid-term and long term goals need to be set. Short term is the matter of selling off excess pulses and beans. Mid-term is providing seeds, agriculture technology and post-harvest technology and arranging to obtain a market. Long term is to setup a National Agriculture Master Plan in agriculture sector for the development of the country.

"It is believed that today's discussion will produce results that support the development of the farmers and the country," said the Vice President.

Present at the workshop were Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Hluttaw representatives from Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaw related to agriculture and livestock, UM-FCCI President U Zaw Min Win, Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, economic researchers, pulses, beans and sesame farmers from states and regions, chairmen and officials from Bayintnaung agriculture commodities trading

market, farmers, producers, traders, merchants and departmental officials.

Next, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, UM-FCCI President U Zaw Min Win, Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Seeds Merchants Association Chairman U Tun Lwin, economic researcher Dr. Zaw Oo explained about status of producing and exporting pulses and beans, technical support provided for good agriculture practice, establishing a good pulse and bean market in the future, replacement crops to pulses and beans, status of current pulse and bean market and field research findings.

The meeting program was then continued where farmers from Ayeyawady Region, Bago Region, Sagaing Region and Magway Region, Ministry of Commerce Permanent Secretary and Department of Agriculture Director General explained about growing and producing of pulses and beans and Matpe and Toor Whole market situation.

Following this, economic researcher Dr. Zaw Oo explained about matters to be discussed in group wise discussion and participants conducted group wise discussions simultaneously.

After the group wise discussions, representatives of each group discussed about the group discussion. Agriculture experts attached to each group also discussed their observations and views. A summary was then made and the findings were announced after which the event came to a close after Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Seeds Merchants Association Chairman delivered a concluding speech. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes varieties of pulses and beans displayed at the workshop on developing trade and export of Myanmar pulses, beans and sesame in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS

Zaw Min,

zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com

Win Ko Ko Aung,

kowink2aung@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Ye Htut Tin,

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),

nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

Hay Mar Tin Win,

Ei Myat Mon

Zaw Htet Oo

Kyaw Zin Lin

Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER

May Thet Hnin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

mayreporter.mm@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,

Nyi Zaw Moe, Hnin Pwint,

Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin

EDITORIAL SECTION

(+95) (01) 8604529,

Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,

Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,

Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com

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Women's club in Maese expected to bring opportunities for residents

A WOMEN'S Club was founded this Saturday at the Community Centre in Maese Township, Bawlake District, Kayah State, with the aim of empowering women of all ages there.

This is a part of the Information and Public Relations Department's efforts to promote

socio economic status of women, create employment and other opportunities, raise their awareness of Woman's rights, and protect them from domestic violence. The newly opened women's club will offer a wide range of development opportunities to the target group of residents.

Arrangements are being made by the department to conduct effective livelihood training for female residents to raise their daily income. The department is also planning to provide them with other training opportunities to help them find a job easily. Under the Ministry of Information,

the Information and Public Relations Department accelerates its work to establish book clubs to raise reading habits of people, youth clubs to improve the lives of young people and women's club to help women have equal rights, at the community centres nationwide.—Wit Yee (IPRD) ■

Young man in Mogaung charged with possession of raw opium

A 23-year-old man in Mogaung Township, Kachin State, has been arrested and accused of smuggling opium after he was found possessing a cache of raw opium on Saturday morning, according to a police report.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising police and member of the local battalion, stopped a suspected motorbike being driven by Nay Myo Tun on Myitkyina-Tanai Road near Marangahtaung Village

at around 9 a.m. on 18 August. Police found raw opium weighing 4.5 kilos hidden in motorbike seat and confiscated it.

Township police continue investigating the case in an effort to arrest oth-

ers in connection with drug trafficking.

The suspect has been charged under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Win Naing (Kachinmyae) ■

About 338,000 foreigners tours Myanmar through Tachilek border this year

TACHILEK, a border between Myanmar and Thailand, hosted a total of 337,966 international visitors between April and mid-August this year, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Thanks to the government's attempts to boost border tourism, the arrival of international tourists entering Myanmar through Tachilek has risen month by month. The majority

of visitors are from Thailand.

Between 10 and 16 August this year, the town hosted 24,937 day-trippers, 100 foreigners joined Mongphyat-Kengtung trip and 122 entered the town by air, totalling 25,159 globetrotters, in which, Thai tourists made up the majority.

Those holidaymakers visited the town's well-known destinations, including Talaw market, Bayintnaung statue, Myoma market in Wunkaung



Foreigners waiting at Tachilek border gate for their entry into Myanmar.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Ward, Koemyosin spirit house, the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, Padaung Village, Koet Waterfall, Chinese temples and some other Buddhist monasteries.

The Ministry of Hotels and

Tourism is working to raise the country's earnings from eco-tourism projects, implementing not only border tourism but also community-based projects in potential tourism destinations.—GNLM ■

Indian Naval Ship Khanjar visits Yangon

To further strengthen close and strong bilateral relations between India and Myanmar, Indian Naval Ship Khanjar has called into Yangon, Myanmar

from 18-20 August, 2018.

INS Khanjar (P-47) is a Khukri-class Missile Corvette and was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 22 October,

1991. The Ship has a displacement of 1350 tones, length of 91 meters and is capable of doing speeds in excess of 25 knots. Khanjar is equipped with various armaments, radars and sensors and is also designed to embark one Helicopter. The ship was designed and built indigenously by M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.

INS Khanjar is part of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam. The ship derives its name from a curved

Indian dagger that is sharpened on both edges and has been used effectively by many able warriors in the past.

The Commanding Officer of INS Khanjar is Cdr V Shirdikant who heads a crew of over 120 personnel, including officers and sailors. Major activities during stay in Yangon include courtesy calls, interaction with personnel from the Myanmar Navy and visit to places of interest including the famous Shwedagon Pagoda. — GNLM ■



PHOTO: INDIA EMBASSY

Bilateral trade with Brazil down by \$70 million this year

TRADE between Myanmar and Brazil, the largest country in South America, in the first half of the current six-month interim fiscal period went down by US\$70 million compared to the same time last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's monthly report.

Myanmar's exports to the Federative Republic of Brazil is usually lower than its imports. Between April and June this year,

Myanmar-Brazil trade totalled \$28.698 million, covering \$26.609 million in the imports and \$1.089 million in the exports. This time last fiscal year 2017-2018, the bilateral trade was \$96.454 million, with \$0.554 million in exports and \$97.9 million in imports.

Compared with last year, this year saw a slight increase in Myanmar's export of goods to Brazil by \$0.535 million, however, the country's imports decreased

in value by over \$71 million.

Myanmar-Brazil trade has yearly increased since 2013-2014 FY. The bilateral trade reached its peak of \$205 million in the last 2017-2018 FY. The ministry's annual statistics show that the trade between the two countries was \$10.863 million in 2013-2014 FY. It increased to \$18.331 million in 2014-2015 FY, \$36.418 million in 2015-2016 FY and \$160.060 million in 2016-2017 FY.—Shwe Khine ■

Dragon fruit growers reap healthy profits this season



Dragon fruits are seen at a farm in Mongpan, Shan State. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

DEMAND for dragon fruits have been on the rise in the domestic market this season that financially benefits small-scale farmers, according to dragon fruit growers in Mongpan Township, Langkho District, Southern Shan State.

"Dragon fruits growers who got a good yield this harvest time and reaped a handsome profit thank to growing local demands," said farmers in Nalaw Village where the majority of growers

cultivate dragon fruits on a manageable scale. A female grower in the same village said that she planted mainly two kinds of dragon fruits in her plantation. There are around 100 plants on her farm. White dragon fruits are cultivated in the east of the farm while red dragon fruits are in the west of the farm. These days, dragon fruits are sold for Ks500-Ks1,000 per fruit depending on size and freshness. Growers currently sold

three small-sized fruits at Ks1,000 only. Another grower said that she started dragon fruit cultivation the last two years, growing plants native to Thailand. A sapling was worth Ks 5,000. If the fruit is cultivated in April it can be harvested in July and August. Farmers in the village say, "A grower earns annually between Ks500,000 and Ks1 million from the supply of dragon fruits." —Saing Zaw Latt (IPRD) ■

Mineral exports up nearly 50 % in current FY

MYANMAR'S exports of mineral products in the present financial year exceeded US\$660 million, up by \$301 million or a nearly 50-percent increase compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 April through 3 August this year, the private sector exported \$402.346 million worth of minerals and the public sector exported the same worth \$262.638 million, totalling \$664.984 million.

At this time last year, the country's exports of minerals

were \$363.588 million in total, combining \$24.003 million by the government and \$339.585 million by the private exporters.

When compared with the same time last FY, this year saw a significant increase in value of mineral exports from both sectors. The public sector's exports of minerals rose by \$238 million, while the private sector saw an increase in value by \$62.761 million against last year.

According to the ministry's trade data, the country earned

almost \$5.7 billion from overall exports of domestic products within the past four months, an increase of \$1.1 billion from this time last year.

Myanmar exports seven major groups of products, including agricultural, forest, marine and animal products, minerals, manufactured goods and other miscellaneous products. It predominately imports capital goods, semi-finished products and consumer goods. —Swe Nyein ■

MIC notifications on local and foreign investments

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) approved 12 local and foreign investments on 14 August.

During last week, five foreign investment proposals and three foreign investments were approved by MIC. Five investment proposals and a foreign investment were approved by MIC. One foreign investment was approved by Yangon Region investment committee and another foreign investment was approved by Taninthayi Region investment committee. The eight investments are worth US\$ 92.816 million and will create job opportunities for 565 persons. Existing foreign investments increase their workforce by 132 new employees bringing the total number of jobs created at 697. Of the eight foreign investments, six were in industrial sector, one in livestock breeding sector and one in hotel sector.

During the six months period of April to September 2018, as of 10 August 61 foreign investments were permitted/approved with an investment amount of US\$ 535.525 million. Total investment including increase in investment was US\$ 966.575 million.

Total investments permitted under Special Economic Zone Law during the six months period of April to September 2018 up to August were US\$ 171.1 million.

The total foreign investments during the six months period of April to September 2018 up to August were US\$ 1,137.675 million.

During the week, including meeting 12/2018, MIC approved four local investments worth Ks 57.575 billion and US\$ 2.58 million. The four local investments created 384 new jobs. The local investments were one in industrial sector and three in the hotel sector. MIC approved two investments, Shan State investment committee approved one investment and Taninthayi Region investment committee approved one investment.

The total local investments permitted during the six months period of April to September includes 69 local investments with an investment amount of Ks 840 billion including US\$ 169.88 million. In accordance with the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Law, the flow of investment in the same period reached US\$ 171.71 million. —GNLM ■

Lablab bean price rises in Mandalay market due to high demand

THE price of lablab bean (Pegyi) was stable in Mandalay market in July but increased during the past few days because of high demand from local and foreign market.

The price of lablab bean (small), mainly consumed in the local market was Ks 85,000 per bag (one bag is three baskets of lablab bean) in July. On 14 August, the price of lablab bean increased to Ks 105,000 per bag in the market. The price of lablab bean (big), exported to China also increased to Ks 116,000 per bag on 14 August from Ks 102,000 per bag in July, said U Soe Win Myint, the owner of Soe Win Myint brokerage.

"The price of lablab bean (small) increased because this bean is one of the essential dish in donation ceremonies and the demand from the fried bean makers. The price of lablab

bean (big) also increased because of demand from China. The price of lablab bean is likely to continue to rise in the following months," he added.

Previously, lablab bean was used for local consumption. Since the past five years, lablab bean was exported to China. Chinese consume more Myanmar lablab bean year by year while India and Japan also has demand for lablab bean, he added.

Lablab bean is cultivated mainly in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions as a winter crop and was harvested in July.

The price of other beans had declined in Mandalay market these days. The price of green bean has also declined significantly. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house) ■

Coordination meeting held to promote literature and culture

A COORDINATION meeting to promote literature and culture was held at the Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) in Theinbyu Road, Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information invited literary person attending the meeting to discuss their ideas openly. Despite budget limitation, Ministry of Information is responsible for news media development and is doing the

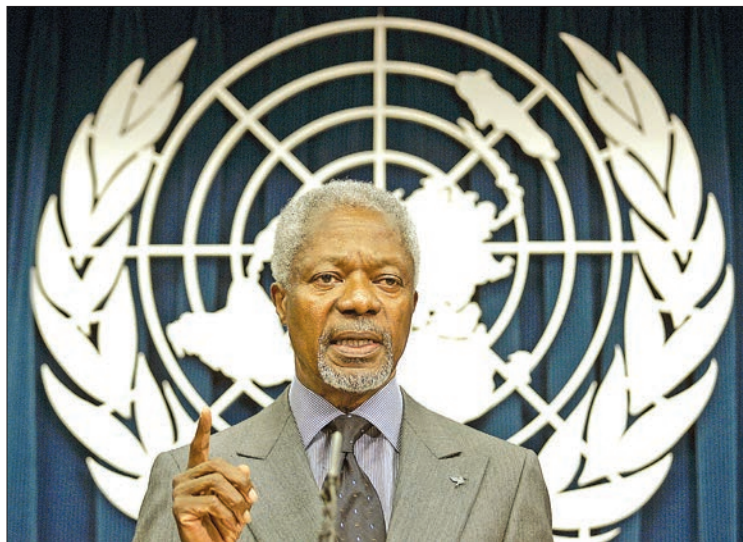
best toward this end, said the Union Minister. Afterwards, meeting attendees discussed about the status of literature and culture works, difficulties faced and suggestions on future works and the Union Minister and officials discussed and coordinated on the discussions made.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the coordination meeting promote literature and culture in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Kofi Annan, former UNSG, chairman of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, passes away



In this file photo taken on March 29, 2005 United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan holds a press conference at UN headquarters in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE former UN secretary general and chairman of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, Dr. Kofi Annan, has died at the age of 80 after a short illness in Geneva, his family and foundation announced on Saturday.

The Ghanaian was the seventh secretary general and served for two terms between 1997 and 2006. He was awarded the Nobel peace prize for his humanitarian work jointly with the UN as an organisation in 2001.

He led the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State which was formed in August 2016. The commission submitted its final report to the Myanmar Government in August, 2017 one year af-

ter formation of the commission.

He died in hospital in Bern, Switzerland in the early hours of Saturday with his wife, Nane, and three children Ama, Kojo and Nina, by his side. He had retired to Geneva and later lived in a Swiss village.

Annan's foundation issued a statement on his Twitter account on Saturday that described him as a "global statesman and deeply committed internationalist who fought throughout his life for a fairer and more peaceful world".

The statement added that Annan, who succeeded Boutros Boutros-Ghali as UN leader, was a "son of Ghana and felt a special

responsibility towards Africa".

The current UN secretary general, António Guterres, whom Annan appointed to lead its refugee agency, said: "In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations. He rose through the ranks to lead the organisation into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination."

Annan was chair of The Elders, an independent group of global leaders working for peace and human rights founded by Nelson Mandela. Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former prime minister of Norway and the body's deputy chair, said she and her colleagues were devastated by Annan's death.

"Kofi was a strong and inspiring presence to us all, and The Elders would not be where it is today without his leadership. Throughout his life, Kofi worked unceasingly to improve the lives of millions of people around the world," she said.

Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty International's secretary general, said the world had lost a great leader: "Kofi's dedication and drive for a more peaceful and just world, his lifelong championing of human rights, and the dignity and grace with which he led will be sorely missed in a world which needs these characteristics more than ever."—GNLM ■

Yaba worth Ks8 billion seized in Maungtaw Township

RAKHINE State anti-narcotic police seized 2,766,000 Yaba tablets worth Ks 8,298 million near Shwe Zar Bridge, Maungtaw Township on 17 August.

Acting on a tip off, the police approached a vehicle near ShweZar Bridge, Maungtaw Township.

As they approached, the driver and the assistant of the vehicle fled into nearby ShweZar village. The police searched the vehicle and found 55 packs, each pack contain-

ing 50,000 Yaba tablets and one pack of Yaba containing 16,000 tablets. The police seized a total of 2,766,000 Yaba tablets worth Ks 8.3 billion.

According to the police investigation, the suspects were identified as driver Ah Bu Kaw and assistant Ar Zee, who lives in MyomaTaung ward, Maungtaw town. The police are still searching for the suspects, Ah Bu Kaw and Ar Zee who managed to escape from the scene.—Tin Tun (IPRD) ■



A total of 2,766,000 Yaba tablets worth Ks 8.3 billion seized in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State is seen. **PHOTO: MNA**

Drug seized from passenger at Yangon International Airport

A TOTAL of 15,584 pink colour stimulant tablets were seized at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

YIA multi-level security

screening system at Terminal 1 Gate 3 checked all departing baggage on international flights and detected the stimulant tablets in the luggage of a passenger

Aung Ko Ko Lin @ Ye Lay, aged 35 from Pabedan Township who was bound for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Action has been taken

against Aung Ko Ko Lin @ Ye Lay under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Win Myint urges administrative, legislative, ...

FROM PAGE-1

Reform need not be forced but must be made. And in conducting reform, lesson of the past are taken to setup policies to establish a future democracy federal union. There are aims in setting policies to establish a democracy federal union and there are our belief and firm stands. Policies were set for legislative, administration and judicial matters too.

There should be political, economic and social fairness in administration. Arrangement is also made for equal opportunities, equality in status and equality in law. As it is arranged in such way region government need to implement according to the State policies, work processes and instructions. It is also required to conduct the duties assigned occasionally by the Union Government.

Administrative machinery should not be one to oppress people

The President said the regional government has the responsibility to instruct, manage, to carry out check and balance and scrutinize departments in the region. The administration system should be of such that support rule of law. It must not be administrative machinery that oppresses the people. It should be a management that provides service to the people. It should be an administration that is fair and unbiased. Fairness strengthens democracy. Fairness strengthens the society. Administrative



Deputy Director General U Tin Maung Aye Htoo reports on the Ayadaw (2) river water pumping project to President U Win Myint at Ayadaw Township Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

and legislative pillars should be balanced. In conducting regional development works, region government need to discuss and coordinate with Hluttaw representatives. Discussing and coordinating is not in the form of interfering and check and balance should be encouraged, he said.

Judiciary sector must free from corruption

Judicial matters should be conducted in accordance to the law. It should abide by the Union Judiciary Law and must be unbiased. All need to be equal in law. Officials must not interfere in judicial matters. Region High Court judges must inspect high court detention centers, and prisons, to ensure that there are no violation of human rights and judiciary is free of corruption.

Myanmar set its goal of establishing a democracy federal union. States and regions are to have a balanced development. Peaceful, stable and long term

existence of a Union is aimed for.

Corruption is becoming a habit in our country. That is why Anti-Corruption Commission was reformed. Plans are underway to form ministry wise Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs).

Achievement in fighting drug trafficking

Success had been achieved in narcotic eradication by working with Ministry of Home Affairs. Officials from each departments of administrative, legislative and judicial need to cooperate in drug matter.

Public servants enjoy the salary and benefits provided by the state. They have their rights and responsibility. They are to properly enjoy the benefits while performing the duties assigned for the public. Public servants must work for the long term benefit of the future generation instead of easing own temporary sufferings and inconveniences.

The President urged all to do

the best in performing historical responsibilities resting on their shoulders, saying that future generations will evaluate their conducts

Next, Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing, explained about the status of government's oversight in regional development works, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Than and Region Chief Judge U Win Myint explained about region government's oversight in regional development works, Hluttaw's legislative works and the judiciary works.

After hearing reports, the President said the government is striving toward straightening the judicial sector. Judgments on cases should be correctly made. Crimes and sentences need to be appropriate.

Confiscated farm lands are being reviewed reassessed according to policies set by the State. 70 per cent of the people in our country is working in agriculture sector and if the farmlands

are returned to them, there'll be more job opportunities.

In security and rule of law part, Sagaing Region need to emphasis on border entry/exit points. More care need to be taken in preventing illegal export of timbers, illegal mining of gold and in conducting drug eradication works, said the President.

Visit to River Water Pumping Project in Ayadaw Tsp

After the meeting, the President and party went to Ayadaw Township Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department Ayadaw (2) river water pumping project where Deputy Director General U Tin Maung Aye Htoo explained about the project. President urged officials to follow the rules and regulations set by the State in calling tenders. Later, the President and party left Monywa by a Tatmadaw special flight and arrive back Nay Pyi Taw later in the afternoon. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol along border



A 15-member troop led by Police Lt-Superintendent Aung Kyaw Soe of No-1 Border Guard Police in Region-2 of the Maung-taw Township and a 15-member troop of Bangladeshi Border Guard Police led by Officer Subedar Md. Habibur Rahman of No.

34 Border Guard Police Force conducted a coordinated patrol along the border yesterday. They conducted the patrol from Mile Post No. 41 to 41-1/2, according to the Information Department of the Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM ■

60 receive vocational skills in Maungtaw

A vocational training conducted by the Technical, Vocational Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Education opened in Maungtaw yesterday.

A total of 60 trainees are attending the 10-day training to receive skills for masonry, welding and mechanic for motorcycles.

"Being a border town, there is a scarcity of jobs in Maungtaw and human resource development should be encouraged in this area," said Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr. Chan Thar in his opening address at the training.

He continued to say that lack of skillful workers has caused hindrances to construction of houses and in industries, adding that the training is opened to fulfil



Vocational trainees learning welding techniques at vocational training course in Maungtaw. PHOTO: YAMANYA

that needs of the region.

He urged the trainees to receive the vocational skills and to contribute to development of the Rakhine State.

Director-General of the Technical, Vocational Education and Training Department Dr. Aye Myint pledged to improve the

quality of the vocational trainings and to invite more number of trainees year by year.

The training is the first of its kind in Maungtaw and it will promote vocational skills of the local people as part of efforts for creating job opportunities. — Myo Thu Hein ■

We can save our endangered elephants before it is not too late

OVER the past two decades, the population of elephants in Myanmar has declined because of poaching, habitat loss caused by human encroachment.

The Asian elephant could become extinct in half of the areas where it now ranges in the region if the problem escalates.

Rising demand for products made from elephant skin is driving poaching and posing an even greater threat to Asia's wild herds than the ivory trade, according to a report by a British-based conservation group. The Asian elephant could become extinct in half of the areas where it now ranges in the region if the problem escalates.

At a time when Myanmar's elephants are facing the greatest threat, a volunteer from Ayeyawady Region was selected for the State Counsellor's monthly award of gratitude for his relentless efforts for saving wild elephants in Ayeyawady Region.

U Kyaw Myint, the Head of Administration of the Village of Tin Chaung in Ayeyawady Region, has been working, since he was assigned as the head, together with departments concerned and organizations to protect and conserve the wild elephants from being killed.

His efforts led to exposing and apprehending two poachers in 2016 with arms used to poach wild elephants and to confiscating four flintlock guns and accessories used to kill elephants in 2017.

He was also honored by head of Ayeyawady Police Force. He was jointly accorded by WWF and FOW the "Hero of elephant conservation" award.

There are a total of about 150 elephants living in the six forest reserves in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region. Due to the illegal trade of elephant trunks, and tusks, starting from about 2011, wild elephants were being killed by poachers. The number of wild elephants killed increases in 2013 and now, not only the trunks and tusks but the skins of the elephants were being traded illegally. To prevent the wild elephants from being killed by poachers, protection and conservation works were jointly conducted by Myanmar Police Force, Forest Department, Wildlife Conservation Society Myanmar (WCS-Myanmar), Friends of Wildlife (FOW) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The award not only recognizes U Kyaw Myint for his contributions to fighting against elephant poaching but also brings the country's attention to the cause of animal conservation and the brave, talented and dedicated conservationists who spend their lives saving the country's endangered animal species.

Our elephants are in crisis. These intelligent, caring animals can't save themselves from poachers' guns and poisons, but we can save them before it is not too late. And, there is no better time than right now.

Our elephants are in crisis. These intelligent, caring animals can't save themselves from poachers' guns and poisons, but we can save them before it is not too late.

TOURISM is an economy in terms of travelling for pleasure and business to the places of interest. Diplomacy is the negotiation in which the international actors seek a way through negotiation for their national interests. Public diplomacy is the communication with and dissemination of propaganda to the foreign public by the state actors and non-state actors to the national branding. Public diplomacy is an open and plural diplomacy. In the public diplomacy, non-state actors and the individual play an important role to brand the state and persuade foreign people for a good image of the country.

In the 21st century, tourism and public diplomacy are important ideologies and they are related to each other for the potential and prosperous economy. Every person must be a diplomat for the success of the public diplomacy. The hard work of only the official diplomat cannot be successful for persuading the foreign public.

To see the good points of the country by the foreign public is essential to brand the state. The national branding is very important in the public diplomacy. In this case, the reliable media plays an important role in drawing the hearts and souls of the foreign general public.



Tourism and public diplomacy in Myanmar

By: Htay Win

In terms of the globalization and the fourth industrial revolution, the writers, journalists and bloggers are also leading the main roles for the success of the public diplomacy.

Tourism drops by 20 percent in Myanmar during these years in terms of the failure of the public diplomacy. China

is very successful in public diplomacy even though it is not a democratic state in terms of qualified human resources and the strong ancient civilization. In this case, millions of tourists visit China every year. Every country has lovely things. Those lovely things can influence on the hearts of the foreign public.

If we say from the commercial point of view, the demand of the product is high if it is a well known brand. The state also has a brand to draw the minds of the foreign public. Tourism started booming in 2012 and 2013 when the then opposition party was invited to take part in the by-election and president

Obama visited Myanmar. That was one of the successes of public diplomacy in Myanmar.

Successful marketing is also doing the public diplomacy and the successful public diplomacy is also a successful marketing in return. They are intertwined and related to each other for the successful

WaterAid: Wet yet thirsty - in these five countries with high rainfall millions lack access to clean water

By: Water Aid

IT has been the driest start to a summer in over 45 years in the UK. Yet, much of the country had water in reserve when it began, ensuring a continued safe supply for drinking and washing. Millions around the world are not that lucky: despite high rainfall, they go thirsty.

In some of the wettest countries in the world - where rainy days bring a lot more water than the 1248mm average that falls yearly in the UK, according to World Bank data - clean water is extremely hard to get, especially for those living in poverty.

Unlike the UK where it rains all year round, many of these countries face heavy rainfall in one season and severe drought

in the next - both exacerbated by climate change - putting water resources under heavy strain. In some regions, climate change is making water sources increasingly unreliable as flooding contaminates previously drinkable water. Yet, the problem is often not a physical lack of water: some places have significant underground reserves - known as 'groundwater' - because of abundant rainfall. Here, thirsty communities cannot get sufficient clean water because of a lack of investment in the infrastructure needed to deliver a reliable supply, indicating a lack of political prioritisation.

Jonathan Farr, senior policy analyst on water security and climate change at WaterAid, said:

"Not having clean water to

drink is not, for most people, due to a lack of rain. For the one in nine people around the world - 844 million - who do not have clean water close to home it is usually because there is not enough investment in systems to ensure rainwater is captured, stored, treated and piped effectively."

"WaterAid calls for governments to prioritise the provision

of safe water, and works with decision makers to provide lasting services that ensure that no one is left behind."

"In 2015, world leaders pledged to bring safe water and toilets to everyone, everywhere by 2030. In July, during a high-level meeting in New York, they renewed this promise and now it is time to act."

Countries where rainfall is higher than in the UK, yet access to clean water is low include:

Papua New Guinea. The impacts of climate change - rising seas and extreme weather - have tainted groundwater, meaning that even though an average of 3055mm of rain falls

each year, most of the water is unsafe to drink. The number of people with access to clean water close to home is decreasing: 4.83 million people (or 63 percent of the population) do not have clean water available within a half hour trip.

Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is twice as wet as the UK with 2427mm of rain on average each year, yet, 4 out of 10 people (42%) lack basic access to clean water. The Ebola outbreak was aided by a lack of clean water as health centres and communities struggled to maintain the high hygiene standards needed to halt the spread of the virus.

Liberia. High on the list of the world's wettest countries with 2421mm of rainfall on average each year, a third of the population remains without access to clean water, or 1.36 million people. Liberia is still recovering from two devastating civil wars that wiped out much of the country's infrastructure and the 2014 Ebola outbreak demonstrates the urgency to rebuild. 8 in 10 people don't have toilets and go out in the open, risking

and sustainable tourism. Recently, rescuing the wild boars football team who trapped in the flooding cave in Thailand is a good example of the successful public diplomacy. They could draw the foreign public attention to eye Thailand for travelling. They showed their sympathy, cooperation and humanity to the foreign public. They could shake the hearts of the foreign public.

If tourists visit the country, they can see lovely things of the country such as friendliness and beautiful landscapes in Myanmar to be successful in the public diplomacy. Myanmar also could draw the attention of the foreign public even before 2010 because of the successful public diplomacy on the other hand even though the state was not democratic. If the public diplomacy is successful, the foreign public will like our culture, our people and our country. To sustain the successful public diplomacy in the long run, the state needs qualified human resources.

There are two terms in the international relation. They are cooperation and conflict. To get cooperation from the foreign public, everybody should involve in the public diplomacy telling and writing good stories to the foreign public and showing honesty in the politics.





Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons

Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

The entire public needs to participate, Trafficking in persons to eliminate...

2018 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives

- ❖ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- ❖ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ❖ To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ❖ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders – government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 18th August, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19th AUGUST, 2018: Rain will be fairly widespread in Sagaing Region, Northern Shan and Chin states and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyarwady regions, (Eastern and Southern) Shan, Chin and Kayah states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th AUGUST, 2018: Some rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th AUGUST, 2018: Some rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th AUGUST, 2018: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) celebrates his 100th book

WRITER Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) marked his 100th published book at the Myanmar Department of the University of Yangon yesterday.

This year, his 100th book, "Min Thu Wun Tika (composition about Myanmar's National Poet Min Thu Wun) rolled off the presses.

The ceremony conducted by his former students of the Myanmar Department of the University of Yangon was also attended by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, the Rector of the University of Yangon, professors, heads of department, faculty members and alumni of Myanmar.

The ceremony opened with greetings by Head of the Myanmar Department Prof. Dr. Aung Myint Oo and U Htin Kyaw (Writer Dalaban), son of Min Thu Wun. "It took five years to complete this book in honour our Father of Myanmar. In this



U Htin Kyaw (Writer Dalaban) delivers the speech at the ceremony to mark for 100th published book of Writer Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) at the Myanmar Department of the University of Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**



book, I wrote about the childhood of Sayargyi Min Thu Wun and his efforts for promoting Myanmar," said Maung Khin Min.

Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) graduated from the University of

Yangon in 1963, completed the Master of Arts in 1969. He was conferred on the D.Lt by the university in 2002. He started his career as the lecturer of Myanmar at the Patheon College

in 1963. He retired in 2006 while working for the University of Yangon as the head of Myanmar Department.

Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) also worked at the Osaka Univer-

sity of Foreign Languages as the guest professor.

His first book was published in 1979. He wrote over 2,000 articles and 40 research papers.

— Nandar Win ■



A discussion on producing and distribution history movies at the workshop held in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Workshop on producing and distributing history movies

A workshop on producing and distributing history movies was held at Myanmar Film Development Centre at No. 50 Golden Valley, Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

At the workshop Film Development Centre management member director Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Phyt) led the discussion and director Kyi Soe Tun discussed about difficulties and challenges faced by a director in producing movies based on history. Saya Chit Oo Nyo said it is good to produce high quality movies based on history

because there are many events, happenings, persons, personalities etc. during Bagan, Pinya, Innwa, Konbaung, Taungoo, Pyu and Yadanabon era.

Academy Daw Swe Zin Htike discussed about past experience on producing history based movies, dresses used in such movies and on supporting production of history based movies.

Next, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the aim of producing history based movies is for Myanmar to know about Myanmar as well as for the world to know

about Myanmar. The aim must also include distributing history based movies to the countries in the region through dubbing or sub-titling in English,

The workshop was attended by Myanmar Motion Picture Organization patron, chairman and members, movie and video censor members, Myanmar Film Development Centre management members, movie technicians, students from Culture University, trainees from movie training school and interested persons.—Myanmar News Agency ■

SEI, MEI jointly conduct socioeconomic, biodiversity survey

STOCKHOLM Environment Institute (SEI) and Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI) jointly conducted socioeconomic survey at Aung Thabyay and Yaeyin villages, Kani Township, Sagaing Region and biodiversity survey at Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park on 17 August.

"In the survey project, we also conducted the economic, social, health, education and communication survey of the residents who lived in Chindwinbasin area, the biodiversity, pasture and forests near the villages. We conducted the survey because we would like to know

how they conserve the environment, how they go through their daily livelihood, how they want to change their career, their voices and wishes. Two groups conducted the survey for socioeconomic and biodiversity, said Dr. Win Maung, chairman of MEI. The Chindwinbasin area has 11 places that should be conserved for biodiversity and it has 38 species, which are nearly extinct in the world. Sagaing Region government is conducting the survey in cooperation with SEI and MEI for the sustained existence of Chindwin River basin it is learnt. —Win Oo (Zeya Tine) ■

Three cows killed by lightning strike in Kyunhla Township

THREE cows were killed by lightning strike at Taungyar-seik village, Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region.

According to the investigation, the lightning hit the electric board at the cow hut as the rain fell. Two cows and an ox kept in cow hut were killed.

Two cows cost Ks 300,000 each and the ox costs Ks 200,000, according to the township police office.

Dr. Myo Naing Win from Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department inspected the case.—Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla) ■



Russia's state hi-tech corporation Rostec is developing stronger individual protection for soldiers. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russian hi-tech corporation developing next-generation body armour for soldiers

KOVROV — Russia's state hi-tech corporation Rostec is developing stronger individual protection for soldiers, Rostec CEO Sergei Chemezov told TASS on the sidelines of a conference on diversification on Friday.

"We are developing new technology of forming aramid fibers for developing the next-generation armour. The research shows already now that the use of this technology helps increase the armor reliability by 12-15% compared to foreign

analogs, with its weight remaining the same," Chemezov said.

As the Rostec press office said, the new material can be used in the promising Ratnik 'Soldier of the Future' combat gear.

Modern small arms developed by leading countries feature high armour-piercing capabilities even with the small caliber. In view of this, Russia and other countries are developing individual protection gear included in the so-called 'Soldier

of the Future' outfit.

Currently, the Russian troops are receiving the second-generation Ratnik outfit whose body armor withstands 7.62mm bullets fired from the SVD sniper rifle from a distance of 10m.

The Ratnik features well-developed fragmentation protection and weighs 24 kg. The third-generation Ratnik-3 outfit is expected to keep the protection level and simultaneously reduce the gear's weight. —Tass ■

Ex-CIA directors issue unprecedented Trump condemnation

WASHINGTON — Former CIA directors and another half dozen of America's most senior spies have issued an unprecedented condemnation of President Donald Trump, after his decision to blacklist their colleague John Brennan.

In a statement, ex-CIA bosses appointed by Republican and Democratic presidents — including Robert Gates, George Tenet, Porter Goss, Leon Panetta and David Petraeus — denounced Trump's decision to strip Brennan of his security clearance.

Dozens of other former spies signaled their support for the statement.

"The president's action regarding John Brennan and the threats of similar action against other former officials has nothing to do with who should and should not hold security clearances — and everything to do with an attempt to stifle free speech," the statement read.

Describing Trump's move as "inappropriate and deeply regrettable," they insisted "we have never before seen the approval or removal of security clearances used as a political tool, as was done in this case."

Two of those who signed the statement — former director of national intelligence James Clapper and former CIA director Michael Hayden — are, according to Trump, on a list of people who could lose their clearance.

Former officials often retain security clearance after leaving office to allow their successors to consult them on issues of the day.

The White House said Brennan — a notable Trump critic — had been stripped of clearance due to his "erratic" behavior.

But in an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Trump admitted his decision

on Brennan's clearance was linked to the ongoing federal probe into possible collusion between his campaign and Russia to influence the 2016 election.

"I call it the rigged witch hunt, (it) is a sham," Trump was quoted as saying in the interview. "And these people led it!"

"So I think it's something that had to be done," he added.

Trump's actions have been widely condemned, including by respected former admiral William McRaven, the commander of the US Navy SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

"Through your actions, you have embarrassed us in the eyes of our children, humiliated us on the world stage and, worst of all, divided us as a nation," he said.

But most of Trump's Republican allies have defended the move or refused to condemn it publicly.

On Friday, Trump said he would likely remove the security clearance of Justice Department official Bruce Ohr, who has been targeted by Trump supporters, in part because his wife worked for a company that produced a dossier alleging Russia had incriminating evidence against the now president.

"Bruce Ohr is a disgrace. I suspect I'll be taking it away very quickly," Trump told journalists.

The Washington Post, citing senior administration officials, reported that the White House has drafted documents revoking the clearances of officials, both current and former, who have criticized Trump or been involved in the Russia probe.

The newspaper added that aides have also discussed the best times to release them in order to distract attention from negative news. —AFP ■

Venezuela court seeks extradition of Maduro opponents

CARACAS (Venezuela) — Venezuela's highest court on Friday authorized the government to demand the extradition of exiled former state prosecutor Luisa Ortega and former oil chief Rafael Ramirez — both opponents of President Nicolas Maduro.

The move follows a similar decision on Thursday by the Supreme Court to seek to extradite opposition leader Julio Borges, who is accused of being involved in an alleged attempt to assassinate President Nicolas Maduro last month.

Like Ortega before him, Borges has taken refuge in neighbouring Colombia. Ramirez, the former head of state oil company PDVSA and a powerful opponent of Maduro, has fled to Spain.

The opposition has dismissed the court as a tool of Maduro, who it says has used

his power to wrest control of state institutions.

Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza earlier this week accused Ortega of being an "accomplice" in the 4 August incident, in which Maduro was seen reacting on live television to the first of two explosions as he addressed a military parade in Caracas.

Maduro said the blasts were from explosives-laden drones sent to assassinate him, though opposition figures accuse him of fabricating the incident to step up repression.

Ortega, an unwavering opponent of Maduro, denied any involvement.

"My struggle against tyranny is only with weapons that the law gives me," she replied in a tweet. "But you and Nicolas Maduro well know that when I plan things, I do them well. If I

had been behind this plan, the country would be celebrating its freedom."

Ortega participated in a symbolic trial of the exiled opposition-run supreme court in Colombia which sentenced Maduro to 18 years for corruption on Thursday.

Ramirez, meanwhile, is accused of fraudulent embezzlement as part of a "web of corruption" for which 90 ex-employees have been arrested, part of a crackdown on opponents by Maduro.

Venezuela has arrested 14 people over the attack, including an opposition politician, a general and a colonel.

The United States on Friday condemned alleged arbitrary detentions and forced confessions by Caracas in its investigation into the failed August 4 drone "attack". —AFP ■

Trade
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Cambodian king appoints Hun Sen prime minister for new 5-year term

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni on Friday appointed incumbent Prime Minister Hun Sen to another five year term in office following his party's victory in last month's election that lacked any serious challengers.

The appointment was made following a request from the Cambodian People's Party, which won all 125 seats in the National Assembly in the 29 July general election.

Hun Sen, who has been in power for 33 years, said earlier this week that the new government will be installed on 6 September, one day after the first post-election National Assembly session convenes.

It will be the first time since 1993 that lawmakers in the parliament come from only one party.

However, the country has effectively been a one-party state since the dissolution last year of the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party in a move seen by many as aimed at eliminating any viable opposition ahead of the election.—Kyodo News ■



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (C) smiles after casting his vote in the general election in Kandal Province on 29 July, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Australian PM abandons plan to embed emission reduction target in law

CANBERRA — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has bowed to pressure from his own party and abandoned plans to legislate a carbon emission target.

Turnbull on Friday night made key changes to his signature energy policy, the national energy guarantee (NEG), so that a proposed 26-per cent emission-reduction target would not be embedded in law.

The move came after Turnbull faced a revolt from conservative members of his own Liberal National Party (LNP) who were not only preparing to vote against the bill but also to mount a leadership challenge against the prime minister over the target.

Turnbull will instead propose setting the emission reduction target, which has been criticized by environmentalists as not being ambitious enough, via regulations that do not require a vote.

The prime minister defended coupling the emission reduction target with the NEG as late as Tuesday, saying to do otherwise would deny the parliament's voice on the issue.

"Now, we believe in democracy," he told the parliament on Tuesday.

"We believe the parliament should have a say in this and so if we legislate that, then a subsequent government, whether it's of our side of politics or the other, would have to persuade both Houses of Parliament to make any change to it, and that is a great security."

However, with dissent and speculation over his leadership growing as the week went on, Turnbull backed down.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton, the most senior conservative member of the government and the man considered most likely to challenge Turnbull for leadership, on Saturday said Turnbull had his full support.

"Just to make very clear, the prime minister has my support and I support the policies of the government," Dutton wrote on social media. The revised NEG will likely be debated by the LNP party room in Canberra on Tuesday, paving the way for the policy to be taken to the parliament for a vote.—Xinhua ■

Heavily-damaged plane removed from Manila Airport runway

MANILA — Philippine airport authorities have removed the heavily-damaged Xiamen Airlines passenger plane that skidded off the runway of Manila International Airport on Thursday, authorities said on Saturday.

However, a staff from the operation centre of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) told Xinhua that the runway will not be opened until noon on Saturday.

Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Ed Monreal confirmed that the affected runway will remain closed until noon.

"A final extension of runway closure until 12 noon today is necessary to give way for the demobilization of heavy equipment used to lift the aircraft. Simultaneously, clearing the runway of debris and other foreign objects will also be done," Monreal said in a statement early Saturday.

Thousands of passengers

were stranded in various airports across the country following the cancellation and delay of more than 130 flights in all four terminals on Friday. Several incoming flights were also diverted to Clark airport, north of Manila, and Cebu in the central Philippines.

A Xiamen Airlines flight number MF8667 from Xiamen, China suffered "runway excursion" after landing at the Manila International Airport at 11:55 pm on Thursday. The plane then swerved off the runway and onto a grass safety patch a few meters from the main runway after a "missed approach" due to "heavy downpour".

All passengers and crew were declared safe.

It took more than 24 hours for authorities to remove the plane from the soggy grassy area where it got stuck, causing the closure of the runway and the disruption of the operation of the Philippines' main airport.—Xinhua ■

More than 320 dead in India flood crisis

KERALA — Pressure intensified on Saturday to save thousands still trapped by devastating floods that have killed more than 300 in the Indian state of Kerala, triggering landslides and sending torrents sweeping through villages in the region's worst inundation crisis in a century.

Authorities warned of more torrential rain and strong winds over the weekend, as hundreds of troops and local fishermen staged desperate rescue attempts in helicopters and boats across the southern state.

Kerala, popular among international tourists for its tropical hills and beaches, has been battered by record monsoon rainfall this year.

The state is "facing the worst floods in 100 years", chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Twitter, adding that at least 324 lives have been lost

so far.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in the stricken state on Friday night, Vijayan's office tweeted, with media reports saying the premier would undertake an aerial survey of the worst-affected areas on Saturday.

People all over the state of 33 million have made panicked appeals on social media for help, saying they cannot make contact with rescue services as power and communication lines are down.

"My family and neighbouring families are in trouble," wrote Ajo Varghese, a resident of the coastal city of Alappuzha, in a Facebook post that quickly went viral.

"No water and food. Not able to communicate from afternoon. Mobile phones are not reachable... Please help," he added.

Other distressed messag-

es were shared online from people trapped inside temples and hospitals as well as their homes.

More than 30 military helicopters and 320 boats are attempting rescues across Kerala after some areas were engulfed by overflowing rivers, with residents seen swimming and wading through chest-high waters past partially submerged houses.

Authorities said thousands of people have been taken to safety so far but 6,000 more are still waiting for rescue.

"We are deploying more boats and the army to ramp up rescue operations," senior state government official P.H. Kurian told AFP.

Helicopters have also been dropping emergency food and water supplies, while special trains carrying drinking water have been sent to Kerala.—AFP ■

Arctic lakes speed up permafrost thawing, global warming: study

WASHINGTON — A new study found that a relatively known process called abrupt thawing might speed up Arctic permafrost's expected gradual thawing and then the release of greenhouse gases.

The abrupt thawing takes place under a certain type of Arctic lake, known as a thermokarst lake that forms as permafrost thaws, according to the study published on Friday in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Its impact on the climate is an influx of permafrost-derived methane into the atmosphere in the mid-21st century, which is not currently accounted for in climate projections.

The Arctic landscape stores one of the largest natural reservoirs of organic carbon in the world in its frozen soils. Once thawed, soil microbes in the permafrost can turn that carbon into the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane. American and German researchers found that abrupt thawing more than doubles previous estimates of permafrost-derived greenhouse warming.

"We don't have to wait 200 or 300 years to get these large releases of permafrost carbon. Within my lifetime, my children's lifetime, it should be ramping up. It's already happening but it's not happening at a really fast rate right now, but within a few dec-

ades, it should peak," said the paper's first author Katey Walter Anthony at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

They found that the abrupt thaw process increased the release of ancient carbon stored in the soil 125 to 190 per cent compared to gradual thawing alone and even in the scenario where humans reduced their global carbon emissions, large methane releases from abrupt thawing are still likely to occur.

The gradual thaw process was thought to have minimal effect as thawed ground would stimulate the growth of plants, which counterbalance the carbon released into the atmosphere by consuming it during photosynthesis.

However, in the presence of thermokarst lakes, permafrost thaws deeper and more quickly. The researchers captured methane bubbling out of 72 locations in 11 thermokarst lakes in Alaska and Siberia.

They found that thermokarst lakes formed when substantial amounts of ice in the deep soil melts to liquid water.

Because the same amount of ice takes up more volume than water, the land surface slumps and subsides, creating a small depression that then fills with water from rain, snow melt and ground ice melt, according to the study. —Xinhua ■

Snow leopard protection project launched in Xinjiang

URUMQI — A pilot snow leopard protection project was launched on Thursday in the eastern Tianshan mountains, a major habitat of the species in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Beijing office of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the local forest and wildlife administration.

According to He Bing, snow leopard project manager at WWF's Beijing office, the pilot project in Xinjiang involves installing more infrared cameras in the region, training staff on snow leopard protection, strengthening patrols, preserving habitats, and increasing public aware-



File photo shows a snow leopard in a forest in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ness through forums, seminars, and documentaries.

The snow leopard is a Class-A protected animal in China and the International Union for Conservation of Nature classifies it as vulnerable.

The global population of snow leopards has been decreasing due to factors such as poaching, habitat fragmentation, and less prey.

"The snow leopard is a species on the top of the protection agenda for

WWF. We have launched programmes in most countries where snow leopards are distributed, such as Russia, Mongolia, and Nepal," said He. In 2016, the snow leopard protection programme started in China. —Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MUROTO VOY. NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MUROTO VOY. NO. (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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 MITSUI O.S.K KIN KAI
LTD-JAPAN**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BANI BHUM VOY. NO. (797W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANI BHUM VOY. NO. (797W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT/MITT 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (1823)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (1823) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T / MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (006 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (006 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIALINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (097N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (097N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Nick Jonas, parents in Mumbai to meet Priyanka Chopra's family

MUMBAI—Actor Priyanka Chopra's boyfriend Nick Jonas and his parents—Denise Miller-Jonas and Paul Kevin Jonas—are in the city amid reports the couple will throw a bash to celebrate their engagement with family and close friends.

Clad in black pants and a full-sleeve T-shirt, the 25-year-old American singer and his parents were received by Priyanka, 36, at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport here. Nick's brother Kevin, Joe and Frankie Jonas have also arrived in the city.

The couple will reportedly be throwing a party for their friends and family at Priyanka's residence in suburban Juhu to celebrate their July engagement.

At the airport, Jonas senior was holding a Tiffany & Co bag, the famous jewellery brand from whose London store the



Actress Priyanka Chopra. PHOTO: PTI

American singer bought the engagement ring. Priyanka, who is currently in Mumbai to shoot for Shonali Bose's film "The Sky is Pink", was spotted wearing the ring at designer Manish Malhotra's party recently.

Nick had met Priyanka's family in June and even spent

quality time with her family in Goa. The couple had also posed for the shutterbugs during the engagement party of Mukesh Ambani's son Akash.

But it is for the first time that parents from both the sides are meeting.

Nick has already introduced

the actor to his family members when she attended the wedding of his cousin in the US.

The duo sparked dating speculations early in June when they were photographed enjoying multiple dates over Memorial Day weekend.

They first came together when they posed for photos on the red carpet together in Ralph Lauren designs at the 2017 Met Gala. Priyanka has not commented on her relationship, saying her personal life is not for "public consumption".

The first clue about their rumoured engagement came after filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar tweeted about Priyanka's exit from Salman Khan starrer film "Bharat". He had said that the actor opted out from the film in the 'Nick of the time', a reference that everybody knows about by now.—PTI ■

Scarlett Johansson is the highest paid actress with USD 40.5 million: Forbes

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson has become the best-paid actress in the world, according to Forbes magazine.

Johansson, 33, made USD 40.5 million in pre-tax earnings from 1 June, 2017, to 1 June, 2018, quadrupling her income from the previous year.

She played Black Widow in this year's hit Marvel movie "Avengers: Infinity War" and will return to the role in the 2019 installment from Walt Disney Co's Marvel Studios.

Johansson beat out Angelina Jolie, who ranked second with USD 28 million thanks mainly to her upfront pay for "Maleficent 2".—PTI ■

Hairdresser, manicurist remember down-to-earth Aretha

SOUTH FIELD (UNITED STATES)—Jacqueline Robinson was a hairdresser to Aretha Franklin, invited to lavish Christmas parties, whisked off to meet Oprah Winfrey or joining the likes of Stevie Wonder at dinner.

The hair stylist, who trained in Europe and runs an upmarket salon near Detroit, was heartbroken when the woman she called an "inspiration" died on Thursday, after a long battle with cancer.

"I had a headache. I had a stomachache. I cried all day," Robinson told AFP, finding comfort by listening to radio stations that honored the "Queen of Soul" by playing Aretha songs until midnight.

It was the late 1990s when the music icon telephoned for the first time, asking Jacqueline to style her hair. When her limousine pulled out front, people from neighboring businesses stopped to stare.

But the 18-times Grammy winner, hailed the greatest singer of all time by Rolling Stone magazine, was never one for airs and graces, taking her seat in the salon alongside any other customer.

"She would lay back in the shampoo bowl just like everybody else," Robinson said Friday, perched on her hairdresser's stool, grey hair swept back, lipstick perfectly applied and elegantly dressed in black.

"She never tried to project herself as 'being Aretha' or 'get out of my way.' Never, never, never."

The soul legend had several, if not many hairdressers in Michigan, but Robinson was the one she chose to style her hair for appearances on the Oprah Winfrey Show and the BET Awards.

"I would hear her singing in the bathroom when I was traveling with her," she recalled. "You never heard somebody singing and it sounds like a full orchestra behind them? That's Aretha. Beautiful voice." "She loved it when I did her hair," Robinson said. "She said 'Jacqueline you're very special, you have a wonderful touch.'"

Robinson's brain is packed with indelible memories, such as chatting backstage with Winfrey and Mary J Blige, or not a dry eye in the house after Aretha's performance of "Amazing Grace."

"I mean, there were so many tears, so many tears. She's so wonderful. Oprah was crying. It was great."—AFP ■

Saudi Arabia tests Japan-inspired 'nap pods' for hajj

RIYADH—Mansour al-Amer swipes a card to reveal a narrow sleep pod, reminiscent of Japan's famed capsule hotels. But this pod is in Saudi Arabia, where the Muslim hajj pilgrimage begins on Sunday. The kingdom has plans to introduce capsule rooms in the western city of Mina in the coming days, as an estimated two million Muslim faithful gather for the six-day hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam.

The free nap pods are part of new measures Saudi Arabia is rolling out this year in a bid to modernise the centuries-old practice of hajj. The government has also introduced apps for on-the-spot translation and emergency medical care.

Amer is the head of a Saudi charity, the Haji and Mutamer Gift Charitable Association, which is offering between 18 and 24 capsule for pilgrims to nap in for free in the coming days.

Each fibreglass pod—less than three metres long and just over one metre high—features a mattress, clean sheets, air conditioning and a large, well-lit mirror.

The pods can be lined up horizontally or stacked vertically to save on space.

"We are always thinking about pilgrims and how to make



The fibreglass nap pods feature a mattress, clean sheets, air conditioning and a well-lit mirror. PHOTO: AFP

them more comfortable during the rituals of hajj," Amer told AFP.

'Nap-share economy'

The nap pods provide a solution for pilgrims of limited means who cannot afford to book hotels on site but need a quick rest during hajj. Each napper will have three hours of access to the pods, which are imported from Japan at cost of around \$1,114 (1,000 euros) each.

When the pilgrim wakes for prayer time—five times daily in Islam—workers will sterilise the pod before handing it over to the next pilgrim.

"The idea already exists

globally, in Japan for example, and in several cities across the world," Amer said.

"We believe it's extremely well-suited for crowded places in our holy sites and in Mecca."

But for hajj, which takes pilgrims across Mecca and Mina—two cities in western Saudi Arabia home to the holiest sites of Islam—the pods were also inspired by the rising popularity of car- and bike-sharing.

"The capsules work through a share economy, like bicycles that you can rent for an hour and then leave for someone else," said Amer.—AFP ■

Bones of two fossils reptiles who lives 260 mln years ago found in Russia

KIROV — Paleontologists in the Kirov Region, some 900 kilometres to the northeast of Moscow, have discovered fossils of two Pareiasaurs, reptiles who roamed the Earth some 260 million years ago, a local museum official said on Thursday.

The discovery was made at the Kotelnich fossil site on the right bank of the Vyatka river.

“The second skeleton is not as well preserved as the first one found during this season,” said Leonid Kavardakov of the Vyatka paleontological museum. “Both discoveries were brought to the museum’s laboratory.”

The first two skeletons of the ancient reptiles were unearthed at the fossil site in 1933 by a local hydrogeologist who was drilling for water wells. Excavation

work has never stopped on the Vyatka river since the 1990s. The work is carried out here from May to October when the water level declines. Therocephalians, cynodonts, gorgonopsians, anodonts, dicynodonts, a Mastodonsaurus, Tarbosaurus and Ankylosaurus — all of these fossils were discovered at the Kotelnich site.

Pareiasaurs were large and awkward herbivores who measured to 2.5 metres in length, who most likely lived in damp lowlands. Sometimes they got trapped in mud and slowly died.

The Vyatka paleontological museum founded in 1994 houses some 3,000 items. The team of local paleontologists discovered over 20 new species of fossil animals in 25 years.—Tass ■



Paleontologists have discovered fossils of two Pareiasaurs, reptiles who roamed the Earth some 260 million years ago. **PHOTO: TASS**

Both low and high carbohydrates in diet could lead to early death: study

WASHINGTON — Both low-carb diet and high-carb diet could raise the risk of an early death, a recent study revealed. Published in the *Lancet Public Health* on Thursday, the study followed eating habits of 15,400 people from the United States for 25 years, indicating that those who got 50-55% of their energy from carbohydrates had a slightly lower risk of death compared with other groups.

According to the research, 50-year-olds with a moderate carb diet are expected to live for another 33 years, which is

2.3 years more than low-carb group (got 30-40% of energy from carbs) and 1.1 years more than high-carb group (65% or more).

Scientists also compared low-carb diets in which proteins and fats came from animals and those from plants. They found that replacing carbohydrates with beef, lamb, pork, chicken and cheese could slightly increase the risk of death while eating more plant-based proteins and fats could reduce the risk. “Low-carb diets that replace carbohydrates with protein or fat are gaining wide-

spread popularity as a health and weight-loss strategy,” said Dr Sara Seidelmann, clinical and research fellow in cardiovascular medicine from Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and leader of the study.

“However, our data suggests that animal-based low carbohydrate diets, which are prevalent in North America and Europe, might be associated with shorter overall life span and should be discouraged,” she added. “The more plant-based [the diet was], the lower the mortality.”—Xinhua ■

China completes 1st test on propulsion system for space experiment module

XI’AN — Chinese researchers have successfully completed the first test of the propulsion system for the experiment module of the country’s planned space station. The test consisted of eight procedures that covered all working conditions of an in-orbit experiment module. It also simulated possible errors the module may encounter in space, according to a research institute affiliated with China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC). The test proved that the

design of the propulsion system was scientific and its parameters setting was correct, according to the institute.

Two experiment modules of China’s planned space station will be sent into space in 2021 and 2022, according to Yang Liwei, director of the China Manned Space Engineering Office and the country’s first astronaut. China is accelerating its timetable for a space station, with the core capsule expected to be launched in 2020, said Yang.—Xinhua ■

Arctic lakes speed up permafrost thawing, global warming: study



PHOTO: XINHUA

WASHINGTON — A new study found that a relatively known process called abrupt thawing might speed up Arctic permafrost’s expected gradual thawing and then the release of greenhouse gases.

The abrupt thawing takes place under a certain type of Arctic

lake, known as a thermokarst lake that forms as permafrost thaws, according to the study published on Friday in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Its impact on the climate is an influx of permafrost-derived methane into the atmosphere in

the mid-21st century, which is not currently accounted for in climate projections.

The Arctic landscape stores one of the largest natural reservoirs of organic carbon in the world in its frozen soils. Once thawed, soil microbes in the permafrost can turn that carbon into the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane.

American and German researchers found that abrupt thawing more than doubles previous estimates of permafrost-derived greenhouse warming.

“We don’t have to wait 200 or 300 years to get these large releases of permafrost carbon. Within my lifetime, my children’s lifetime, it should be ramping up. It’s already happening but it’s not happening at a really fast rate

right now, but within a few decades, it should peak,” said the paper’s first author Katey Walter Anthony at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

They found that the abrupt thaw process increased the release of ancient carbon stored in the soil 125 to 190 per cent compared to gradual thawing alone and even in the scenario where humans reduced their global carbon emissions, large methane releases from abrupt thawing are still likely to occur.

The gradual thaw process was thought to have minimal effect as thawed ground would stimulate the growth of plants, which counterbalance the carbon released into the atmosphere by consuming it during photosynthesis. However, in the presence

of thermokarst lakes, permafrost thaws deeper and more quickly. The researchers captured methane bubbling out of 72 locations in 11 thermokarst lakes in Alaska and Siberia.

They found that thermokarst lakes formed when substantial amounts of ice in the deep soil melts to liquid water.

Because the same amount of ice takes up more volume than water, the land surface slumps and subsides, creating a small depression that then fills with water from rain, snow melt and ground ice melt, according to the study.

The water in the lakes speeds up the thawing of the frozen soil along their shores and expands the lake size and depth at a much faster pace than gradual thawing, according to the study.—Xinhua ■

Djokovic to face Cilic as Cincinnati title dream draws closer

CINCINNATI — Former world number one Novak Djokovic won his second match of the day on Friday to set up a semi-final clash at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters with Marin Cilic.

Djokovic, a five-time finalist here who has never broken through, is aiming to lift the trophy at the only one of the Masters 1000 series events that he has never won. The Serb tenth seed followed up a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 third-round defeat of holder Grigor Dimitrov earlier in the day of a rainy week by beating Milos Raonic 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

It was the ninth win without a loss for Djokovic in the series with the Canadian.

"I've played five finals here, so that's pretty OK," Djokovic said. "But I do wish to win the title, without a doubt. 'I'm here to enjoy a sport that I love, I've got plenty of motivation. 'I'm in a good position, so I'll take it step by step.' Djokovic had to come from



Things are looking up: Novak Djokovic celebrates his win over Grigor Dimitrov. **PHOTO: AFP**

behind in the first and third sets, and helped seal the victory with a break for 5-3 in the third.

"Milos is one of the best servers in the game," Djokovic said.

"Just a few points decided the winner.

"It's tough to play against someone serving so big. 'I was fortunate to read his serve on

several occasions. I must be very pleased with fighting spirit and staying mentally tough to overcome deficits in both matches.'- Cilic put out Spanish 13th seed

Pablo Carreno Busta 7-6 (9/7), 6-4.

"I haven't played any matches on the centre court. I feel and I heard that it's completely different. It's much faster," Cilic said.

"Definitely Novak is playing really well. His level was definitely high and he's in definitely really good form.

"We played tough match in Queen's, but that's grass and definitely different. So I have to get ready and give it a full shot."

Women's top seed Simona Halep recovered from 1-4 down in the opening set, reversing her losing momentum to defeat Lesia Tsurenko 6-4, 6-1.

It was the second fightback of the day for Halep, who came from a break down in each set to overhaul Australian 16th seed Ashleigh Barty 7-5, 6-4 several hours earlier in the third round.

Double Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova reached the final four over Belgian Elise Mertens 7-5, 5-7, 6-3. —AFP ■

Messi left out of Argentina squad for friendlies

BUENOS AIRES — Barcelona star Lionel Messi was left out of the first post-World Cup Argentina squad announced on Friday ahead of four upcoming friendlies.

The move was widely

expected following media reports earlier in the week claiming the five-time Ballon d'Or winner had asked to be excused from the country's four remaining friendlies in 2018.

Also absent from interim coach Lionel Scaloni's squad are Manchester City's Sergio Aguero, Angel Di Maria of Paris Saint-Germain and new AC Milan loan signing Gonzalo Higuain.—AFP ■



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (c) challenges Boca Juniors' Uruguayan midfielder Nahitan Nandez (l) and Boca Juniors' Argentinian defender Paolo Goltz during the 53rd Joan Gamper Trophy friendly football match between Barcelona and Boca Juniors at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 15 August, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

MFF Futsal League 2018 to be launched today

UNDER the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), an opening ceremony of the MFF Futsal League 2018, a top-tier professional Futsal league of Myanmar will open today morning at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1) in Yangon.

Week 1 matches of the tourney will play after the opening ceremony.

As an opening match, VUC

FC will play against Aung Moe Myint FC at 8 am.

Another matches to be played today include MIC FC Vs Comrade FC at 9:30 am, White Colour FC Vs Myoma YTD FC at 11 am, Titan XII FC Vs GV Athletic at 12:30 pm, UPT FC Vs MFF U-19 team at 2 pm and Pyay United FC Vs Shwe Myawady at 3:30 pm respectively.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar to participate in Japan's youth sports exchange program

BY the invitation of Japan Football Association (JFA), Myanmar U-17 national football team will participate in Japan-Mekong Youth Sports Exchange in Fukushima, Japan from 3 to 10 November according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The sports exchange program will hold cooperatively with in JENESYS 2018 Inbound Program 5th Batch of Japan.

The program aims to invite young and emerging artists, designers, and athletes in the

creative field from 13 Asia Pacific countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, India, Australia, New Zealand) every year, to stay in different residency programs and institutions across Japan.

The sports exchange program will be held at J-Village national soccer center which has 10 soccer pitches, a hotel and a conference center on a site of 49 hectares in Fukushima, Japan.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

19 AUGUST 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Unlike Yesterday



By Min Zaw Thit
Grade 9, ISM

IT is natural that time is fast changing or moving forward. There are three distinct stages, such as Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. Really, Yesterday is the spruce of Today, and also today is the source of Tomorrow. Every man or matter changes a little or much in the process of time. Therefore, the events, figures or conditions today are unlike yesterday. In the same way, the ideas, thoughts or views today are very different tomorrow or unlike yesterday.

Everyday, people change little by little. Unlike yesterday, you don't act the same way and you don't do the same things constantly, changing little by little. As time is moving at its own pace, you are also growing older and older. Soon, your birthday will arrive and you are one year older! Yesterday, you had to prepare for today, just like today is the preparation for tomorrow. You cannot find anyone whose knowledge or work stays as a straight line. It occurs either as a decrease or an increase. It will never stay the same. For example, yesterday you did one thing and today, you do another. Through your mistakes, you may judge new things correctly.

In the past, our lives originated bare-handed. We had to play on the ground as bare-foot children. Then, we came to know how to live well and suitably in a society. Next, we had to move outside the world in several ways and develop our lifestyle step by step.

Now, some of us have reached the adult stage and others have become adolescents. The people in our country have been longing for 'Peace' since many decades ago. In spite of the longest civil wars yesterday, today the light of true peace comes to dawn on us all in our country.

Just as a person may become more and more prosperous, the people of a country may also progress from undeveloped conditions to developed ones through several problems, difficulties and challenges. However, any person, any people or any country never stays still at the same level. They are all unlike yesterday.





အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် **Active and Passive Voice** ကိုနားလည်ရန်နှင့် မှန်မှန်ကန်ကန်သုံးတတ်ရန် လိုပါသည်။

He killed သူသတ်ခဲ့သည်။

He was killed သူ အသတ်ခံရသည်ဟု အဓိပ္ပာယ်လွှဲသွားနိုင်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ဂရုတစိုက်လေ့လာရန်နှင့် နိုင်နိုင်နင်းနင်းသုံးနိုင်အောင် လေ့ကျင့်ရန် လိုပါသည်။

Active and Passive Voice

(A) ပြုလုပ်သူ **subject** ကို ဦးစားပေး၍ ရှေ့ဆုံးမှထားကာခံရသူ **(object)** ကို နောက်ဆုံးမှထားသော စာကြောင်းများသည် **Active Voice** ဖြစ်သည်။

ဥပမာ -

1. **King Anawrahta founded the Pagan dynasty.**
ဘုရင်အနော်ရထာသည် ပုဂံမင်းဆက်ကို တည်ထောင်ခဲ့သည်။

2. **U Ponnya wrote "The Water Seller".**

ဦးပုညသည် ရေသည်ပြဇာတ်ကို ရေးခဲ့သည်။

3. **Khin Khin will announce the news.**

ခင်ခင်သတင်းကို ကြေညာလိမ့်မည်။

(B) ခံရသူ **(object)** ကို ဦးစားပေး၍ ရှေ့ဆုံးမှထားကာ ပြုလုပ်သူ **(subject)** ကို နောက်ဆုံးမှထားသောစာကြောင်းများသည် **Passive Voice** ဖြစ်သည်။

ဥပမာ-

1. **The Pagan dynasty was founded by King Anawrahta.**

ပုဂံမင်းဆက်ကို ဘုရင်အနော်ရထာ တည်ထောင်ခဲ့သည်။

2. **"The Water Seller" was written by U Ponnya.**

ရေသည်ပြဇာတ်ကို ဦးပုညရေးခဲ့သည်။

3. **The news will be announced by Khin Khin.**

သတင်းကို ခင်ခင်ကြေညာလိမ့်မည်။

(C) ထို့ကြောင့် ပြုလုပ်သူကို ဦးစားပေးလိုလျှင် **active voice** ဖြင့် ရေး၍ ခံရသူကို ဦးစားပေးလိုလျှင် **passive voice** ဖြင့်ရေးရသည်။ အဓိပ္ပာယ်မှာ အတူတူပင်ဖြစ်သည်။

(D) ပြုလုပ်သူကို မဖော်ပြဘဲနှင့်သိနိုင်သော အကြောင်းအရာများကို **Passive Voice** နှင့်သာ ရေးသားလေ့ရှိသည်။

ဥပမာ-

1. **Football is played all over Myanmar: (by the people)**
ဘောလုံးကို မြန်မာတစ်ပြည်လုံးတွင် ကစားသည်။

2. **U Mya was arrested last night (by the police).**
ဦးမြ ညက အဖမ်းခံရသည်။

3. **The road is being repaired now (by workers).**
လမ်းကို ယခုပြင်နေသည်။

4. **The school will be closed tomorrow.**

ကျောင်းကို မနက်ဖြန်ပိတ်လိမ့်မည်။

ထို့ကြောင့် **Passive Voice** တွင် **by the people, by someone, by the police, by the workers, by us, by them, by the government,** စသည်တို့ကို ထည့်ရန်မလို။

(E) မြန်မာစာတွင်လည်း ဤသဘောမျိုးအသုံးအနှုန်းရှိသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။

- (1) အမေ ညစာကို ချက်သည်။

ညစာကို အမေချက်သည်။

- (2) ဦးမောင်မောင်သည် ကိုယ်စားလှယ်အဖွဲ့ကို ခေါင်းဆောင်လိမ့်မည်။
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်အဖွဲ့ကို ဦးမောင်မောင်ခေါင်းဆောင်လိမ့်မည်။

(F) ကံပါသော ကြိယာ(ခံရသူရှိသော ကြိယာ)ကို အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် **Verb Transitive (vt)** ဟု ခေါ်သည်။ **kill, sell, invent, take, give** စသည့်ကြိယာမျိုးများဖြစ်သည်။ ထိုကြိယာများဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသောစာ

ကြောင်းများကိုသာ **Passive Voice** သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

ကံမပါသောကြိယာ **Verb Intransitive (vi)** များဖြစ်သည့် **go, come, stand, sit** စသည့်ကြိယာများဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသောစာကြောင်းများကိုမူ **Passive Voice** သို့ မပြောင်းနိုင်။

(G) Simple Present Tense, Simple Past Tense, Perfect Tense, Future Tense, နှင့် **Continuous Tense** တို့ဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော စာကြောင်းများကိုသာ **Passive Voice** သို့ပြောင်း နိုင်သည်။

(I) Simple Present Tense

1. **Ma Ma sweeps the room everyday.**

The room is swept by Ma Ma everyday.

2. **Su Su washes the clothes every morning.**

The clothes are washed by Su Su every morning.

Simple Present Tense တွင် ခံရသူ **(object)** ကိုစာကြောင်း ရှေ့ဆုံးပို့၍ နောက်မှ **is, are + V3** ပုံစံလိုက်ရသည်။ ပြုလုပ်သူ **(subject)** ကို **by** နှင့်တွဲ၍ နောက်မှထည့်ရသည်။

(II) Simple Past Tense တွင် ခံရသူ **(object)** ကို စာကြောင်း ရှေ့ဆုံးသို့ပို့၍ နောက်မှ **was, were + V3** ပုံစံလိုက်ရသည်။

1. **Ko Ko killed the rat.**

The rat was killed by Ko Ko.

2. **Ma Ma wrote these stories.**

These stories were written by Ma Ma.

(III) Perfect Tense တွင် ခံရသူ **(object)** ကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့ဆုံးသို့ ပို့၍ **has, have, had** တို့နောက်တွင် **been** ကို ထည့်ကာနောက်မှ **V3** လိုက်ရသည်။

1. **She has sung a song.**

A song has been sung by her.

2. **He has eaten the mangoes.**

The mangoes have been eaten by him.

3. **He sold the car after he had repaired it.**

The car was sold after it had been repaired by him.

(IV) Future Tense တွင် ခံရသူ **(object)** ကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့ဆုံးသို့ ပို့၍ **will, would, shall, should, can, could, may, might, must** တို့နောက်တွင် **be + V3** လိုက်ရသည်။

1. **U Aung Tun will publish the book.**

The book will be published by U Aung Tun.

2. **He can solve the problem.**

The problem can be solved by him.

3. **They should obey my orders.**

My orders should be obeyed. (by them မလို)

4. **We must crush the enemy.**

The enemy must be crushed. (by us မလို)

5. **You may open the window.**

The window may be opened.

(V) Continuous Tense တွင် ခံရသူ **(object)** ကို စာကြောင်း ရှေ့ဆုံးသို့ပို့၍ **is, are, was, were** နောက်တွင် **being + V3** ထည့်ရသည်။

1. **He is writing a story now.**

A story is being written by him now.

2. **She is washing the clothes.**

The clothes are being washed by her.

3. **Ko Ko watched while Ma Ma was ironing his shirt.**

Ko Ko watched while his shirt was being ironed by Ma Ma.

4. **Su Su was sweeping the room when I went in.**
The room was being swept by Su Su when I went in.

ဆက်လေ့လာပါ. . .

1. **People speak English all over the world.**
English is spoken all over the world.
They always keep the rooms clean.
The rooms are always kept clean.
2. **They built this hospital 60 years ago.**
This hospital was built 60 years ago.
The teacher punished us yesterday.
We were punished by the teacher yesterday.
3. **They have repaired the road.**
The road has been repaired.
Khin Khin has washed the clothes.
The clothes have been washed by Khin Khin.
4. **They will announce the news in a few moments.**
The news will be announced in a few moments.
We can prevent wars.
Wars can be prevented.
5. **Mother is feeding the children now.**
The children are being fed by mother now.

For Study

(အထူးဂရုပြုရမည့်အချက်များ)

(a) Ma Ma gave me a Shan bag.
ဤစာကြောင်းတွင် ကံ **(objects)** နှစ်ခုပါသည်။ **me** နှင့် **a Shan bag** တို့ဖြစ်သည်။

I was given a Shan bag by Ma Ma.

ဟုလည်း ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

A Shan bag was given to me by Ma Ma.

ဟုလည်းပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

(b) Ko Ko did the work well.

The work was well done by Ko Ko.

Active စာကြောင်းတွင် ကြိယာဝိသေသန **(adv) well** သည် စာကြောင်း၏ နောက်ဆုံးမှ လာသော်လည်း **Passive** စာကြောင်းတွင် **Verb 3** ၏ရှေ့တပ်ထည့်ရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။

(c) (1) **Ma Ma is going to bake a cake for us.**
A cake is going to be baked for us by Ma Ma.

Passive စာကြောင်းတွင် **going to** (တော့မလို့) ဟူသော စကားစုကို ပြန်သုံးရသည်။ **to bake** ကိုသာ **to be baked** သို့ ပြောင်းရသည်။

(2) **Mother is going to beat Nyi Nyi.**

Nyi Nyi is going to be beaten by Mother.

(d) Nobody is to take the books away.

The books are not to be taken away.

by nobody, by anybody, စသည်ဖြင့် ထည့်ရန်မလိုသဖြင့် **Passive** စာကြောင်းတွင် **not** ထည့်ရသည်။ **to take** ကို **to be taken** ဟု ပြောင်းရသည်။

(e) Nobody has ever heard this joke before.

This joke has never been heard before.

Active စာကြောင်းတွင် **Nobody** နှင့် **ever** ပါလာလျှင် **Passive** စာကြောင်းတွင် **Never** ကို သုံးရသည်။

(f) (1) **Ko Ko did not take anybody to the cinema.**
Nobody was taken to the cinema by Ko Ko.

Active စာကြောင်းတွင် **not anybody** ပါလျှင် **Passive** စာကြောင်းရှေ့ဆုံးတွင် **Nobody** သုံးရသည်။

(2) **Ma Ma will not find anything in the old box.**

Nothing will be found in the old box by Ma Ma.

Active တွင် **not anything** ပါလာလျှင် **Passive** စာကြောင်း ရှေ့ဆုံးတွင် **Nothing** သုံးရသည်။

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK



Xenophobia: a disease or a mentality?

By Khin Maung Myint

I'M not a scholar of psychology, thus my views expressed in this article may not be in agreement with some professional psychologists' opinions. I want to make it clear that my intentions in writing it is to draw some lessons from the adverse consequences of xenophobia. This article is written based mostly on my experiences and knowledge accumulated throughout my life. Apart from referring to some dictionaries to check the meaning of the vocabulary "xenophobia", I didn't refer to any other source nor there are any copied and pasted materials in this article.

According to the dictionaries, xenophobia means extreme dislike or fear of foreigners - their customs, their religions etc., or in other words, distrust of strangers, especially foreigners or people of foreign origins. Thus xenophobia, in my personal opinion is the extension of the racism-

ism and religious discriminations. As all phobias, xenophobia is related to an individual's mental or behavioural attitude. Today, this phenomenon is on the rise almost everywhere in the world. Even in most European countries and the United States of America, resentments and hatred towards foreigners are seen to be on the rise. I dare say this, because the discriminations based on race and religions are rampant again today as in the past, when wars were fought for racial and religious reasons. As the Wars of Crusades were fought for religious reasons, the two World Wars were the results of the su-

premacist attitudes or racism on the part of the Nazis.

As stated above, xenophobia is on the rise in the whole world today, and our country is no exception. Xenophobia in our country should be blamed on both the racial and religious extremisms. Some extremists—racists and religionists—are behind the spread of xenophobia. I don't deny the fact that there were confrontations and clashes between races, between foreigners or people of foreign origins and Barmars and between the different national races in the past, but religion was neither the motive nor the root cause of those conflicts in the past. Also, they were not as serious as today.

All the different faiths flourished peacefully in

our country, where people of different faiths lived in harmony with one another. As most readers are aware of those facts, I'll not be going into details at length, as the objective of this article is to highlight the adverse consequences of xenophobia.

The xenophobic attitudes were with us since the days of our kings. My opinion may be somewhat controversial. I perceived that idea since some decades ago, when I took interest in history and started reading not only ours', but those of our neighbouring countries. I came to realize that our kings were reluctant to trust foreigners and never sought their services. In fact, they were experts in the affairs

of the world, knowledgeable of the scientific and engineering matters and the arts of war and politics of those periods. Our kings not only isolated themselves and shunned interactions with foreigners and had never travelled overseas to pursue education in their youth nor for diplomatic purposes when they became kings. That deprived them of exposures to the ways of the world and were not knowledgeable of what was happening in the world.

Thus, compared to the contemporary rulers of neighbouring Thailand or Siam, which had their princes, military personnel and civilian officials educated and trained in foreign countries since many centuries ago, our rulers were backward in their outlooks on the affairs of the world and lacked diplomacy in the foreign affairs.

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**STOP
XENOPHOBIA**

Solemn tribute to UBS Mayu: the Grande Dame of the Navy

By Yaythuye

EARLY one day, I came to hear about the State Counsellor's visit to the museum ship UMS Mayu located at the Myanmar Naval Training Command Headquarters at Seik-kyi, in Thanlayin township. Hearing that, an idea came to my mind to write about that ship as I had served on her at one time and was also involved in a minor role in her becoming a museum.

Mayu was a gift to our country by the British as a prelude to granting Independence, which was rightfully earned, thanks to our great leader and hero General Aung San, whose relentless endeavours brought about our country's freedom. General Aung San accepted the transfer of the ship on behalf of the Government of Burma. During his acceptance speech, he renamed her to HMBS Mayu, after the Mayu River in Arakan (Rakhine) State to honour officers and men of Burma Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, who fought against Fascist forces at the river during the Second World War.

The following was Bogoyoke's acceptance speech given on that occasion:-

"I accept on behalf of the Burma Government the free loan of HMS Fal generously offered by His Majesty's Government. This is an auspicious occasion as, with the

hand-over of this frigate, the Burma Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve will have for the first time a Major Warship fit to withstand all weather conditions. In keeping with the national status of the country it will be desirable to rename this ship while she is being used by the Burma Navy. I propose to rename her after the River Mayu in Arakan with which the officers and men of the Burma Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in active service during the last war had proud associations. As you are all aware it was along the beaches of this river that the Burma Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve played a prominent part in the active operations against the Japanese during the famous Arakan Campaigns. Their courage, determination and resolute during these operations have won for them a well-deserved praise and I as a Burman take pride in their achievements.

I wish to thank, on behalf of my government, Lt. Commander Mitchell, his officers and men for bringing this ship safely to our hands. I now rename the ship HMBS Mayu and hand over to Lt. Commander Khin Mg Bo to take charge of its command under the orders of the officer commanding, Burma Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and the Burma Government."

25 May 1947.

She was a river class frigate, launched in 1943 and commissioned into the British Royal Navy as (His Majesty's Ship) HMS Fal on 2 July 1943.

On 29 August 1948, she was transferred permanently to the Burma Navy as a free gift and she was officially renamed as UBS Mayu.

Naval support during the Insein campaign

There was once a time when most of the divisions and some states were under the insurgents. In 1948, the insurgents had occupied Insein, which was literally a stone's throw from Rangoon (Yangon), the seat of the government. As almost the whole country was under the insurgents, it could be said the government had jurisdiction only over Rangoon. During the battle to recapture Insein, UBS Mayu took position somewhere up the Hlaing River near Kemmindine (Kyí Myin Dine) to give fire support to our own infantry troops.

Naval Bombardment of Taing Tayar Kyauing in Bassein

Not very long after the Insein cam-

paign, UBS Mayu was again called in to give naval fire support in retaking Bassein (Patheingyi). It was in 1948, the enemies had holed up in Taing Tayar Kyauing and putting up strong resistance from there to the assaulting infantry troops. As the enemies were well fortified inside that place, our infantry was finding difficulties to advance onto their position. Only after Mayu bombarded with 4 inch cannon rounds on the enemy position, they retreated and Bassein was recaptured.

Here I would like to mention an interesting incident, that would highlight the role of UBS Mayu in the recapture of Bassein. In 1963, Burma Navy was conducting the first ever properly run training course for Mercantile Marine Cadets to serve onboard the Burma Five Star Line ships. During their sea training cruise onboard UBS Mayu, the ship touched in at Bassein for the first time since its recapture in 1948. As we approached the anchorage, which was close to the busy town center, I noticed the river bank was overcrowded with on-lookers - young and old. Then as we came closer, I saw to my surprise that some elderly persons were kneeling on the ground with hands clasped, as gestures of paying respect to our ship. Later when I went on "liberty", a naval jargon for shore leave, I enquired those people who were still around about their actions. I was told that Mayu was their saviour; so they were paying respect to her. Almost every restaurants and food stalls in town declined to charge money for the foods the crew members consumed. The owners said they were repaying their debts to their saviour.

Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Incident

Another noteworthy incident in which Mayu participated was also in 1948. Two B

class tug boats that the Navy was utilizing as gun boats were hijacked by the Yebaw Phyu insurgents. The insurgents dismantled the 20 mm Oerlikon guns capable of automatic fire with considerably high rates of fire, and mounted them on the platform of the Kyaik Khauk pagoda in Syriam (Thanlyin). From their vantage position, all traffic passing along the Rangoon River were easy targets and thus a great threat to them. Again Mayu did a great job of driving away the insurgents and recaptured the guns.

Other Important Campaigns

During those chaotic times Mayu had participated in the recapture of Kyauk Phyu in 1949 and again she was involved in the retaking of Moulmein (Mawlamyine) in 1950. Then once again in 1962, she played an important role during an amphibious landing in Arakan (Rakhine) to assault the Red Flag Communist faction of Thakin Soe.

Goodwill Missions and Oversea Trips

Mayu went on a goodwill mission to Australia in 1959 and two goodwill missions to India in 1960 and 1961. In the past there may be more missions that I have no actual knowledge of, but one particular trip stood out. It was during 1954 (or 55?), while the then Prime Minister, U Nu was visiting Ceylon (Sri Lanka), he received from the Ceylonese government a gift of some Banyan tree saplings, which he rever-

ed. Those trees were to be planted in the compound of the recently built Kabbar Aye pagoda. Mayu was sent to convey the Prime Minister and the Banyan tree saplings back to Burma.

While enroute, the ship anchored off the northern point of the Great Cocos Island, a Burmese territory, with the permission of the PM. The time the ship dropped anchor was already late at night.

Next morning, it was said that the PM was up early and was strolling on the main top deck, which was spacious enough to take a stroll. While he was doing that, he noticed a tiny island with a lighthouse, on top of which an Indian flag was flown, about a quarter of a mile to the north west of the Great Cocos. He told a crew member who was in attendance while he was strolling, to bring the Commanding Officer (CO) of the ship to him. He queried the CO about the island. Then only he learned that although the Cocos island group belonged to us the tiny island, which was called the Table Island according to the British Admiralty chart was an Indian territory. It was said, not very long after that epic trip, that small lighthouse island was handed over to our country and renamed "Mingalar Kyun".

UBS Mayu Turned into a Museum

On 28 September 1979 UBS Mayu was decommissioned from service, but today she is still serving her duties for the Navy, not actively, but as a museum and a training aid for junior officer and other rank trainees. Here I deemed it my duty, as one who had played a very minor role in the turning point of her fate, to describe how she became a museum in the first place.

In 1979, while serving as the CO of the RGB 312, a VIP transport ship, I was assigned a duty to convey a member of the State Council, H.E. Draung Maung, later the Ex-president of the Union of Burma on a short trip. The VIP arrived alone at the Yadanarbon Naval jetty at Thanlyayeth Sune, where my ship was berthed alongside. I greeted him at the gangway in proper naval tradition and I escorted him to the ship's wardroom or mess, where he can relax comforta-

bly. However, he declined to stay there but wanted to be on the ship's bridge with me.

Once on the bridge he told me the purpose of his trip was to visit UBS Mayu, which was riding a buoy in the Hlaing River close to Kyí Myin Dine market. He told me that he was writing a book on the life of Bogoyoke Aung San and as Bogoyoke was the one who accepted the ship from the Royal Navy, an event that he had described in his book, he wanted to have a close look of her before she was scrapped.

During the trip he asked me many questions about the ship. He also told me that he had seen a photo of Bogoyoke dressed in khaki British style uniform and signing some documents and asked me whether I know what he was signing and where that photo was taken. I told him that while I served on that ship in 1962, I had seen that photo, which was framed and fixed on the bulkhead (wall) right behind the place where Bogoyoke sat while signing the ship's guest book in the officers' wardroom. On hearing my answer he seemed to be very pleased and told me to take him to that place when we arrived onboard.

The last CO of that ship was waiting for the VIP at the gangway of the ship. He took the VIP on a tour of the ship, during which the CO showed him many places on the ship except the wardroom. After the tour the CO escorted the VIP to his cabin to serve refreshments, which the VIP declined, but asked me where was the place, which he had told me he wanted to look. I told the CO that the VIP wanted to go to the wardroom. The CO insisted it was too dark down there and not suitable to go. At that point, as I knew how anxious Dr. Maung Maung was to look at that place I excused myself and went to my ship and brought back two emergency battery lamps and showed the way to the wardroom as I was familiar with that ship.

The whole place was in shambles and all the furnishings including the "L" shaped leather cushioned lounge bench where Bogoyoke sat in the photo were no where to be found. Anyway I showed him the place where that lounge bench used to be and the position where Bogoyoke sat and where that

photo was fixed in the old days. He listened attentively and after quite some time looking around inside that dark and stuffy cabin we left that place. Once on the main deck he told me to return to base. During the return trip he joined me on the bridge again. He sat silently for a few minutes in a thoughtful mood. Then he broke silence and asked me what will become of the ship. I told him that the ship will be auctioned off, then she will be stripped apart and the steel plates, the brass fittings and other recyclable materials will be sold by measurement or weight by those who won the auction.

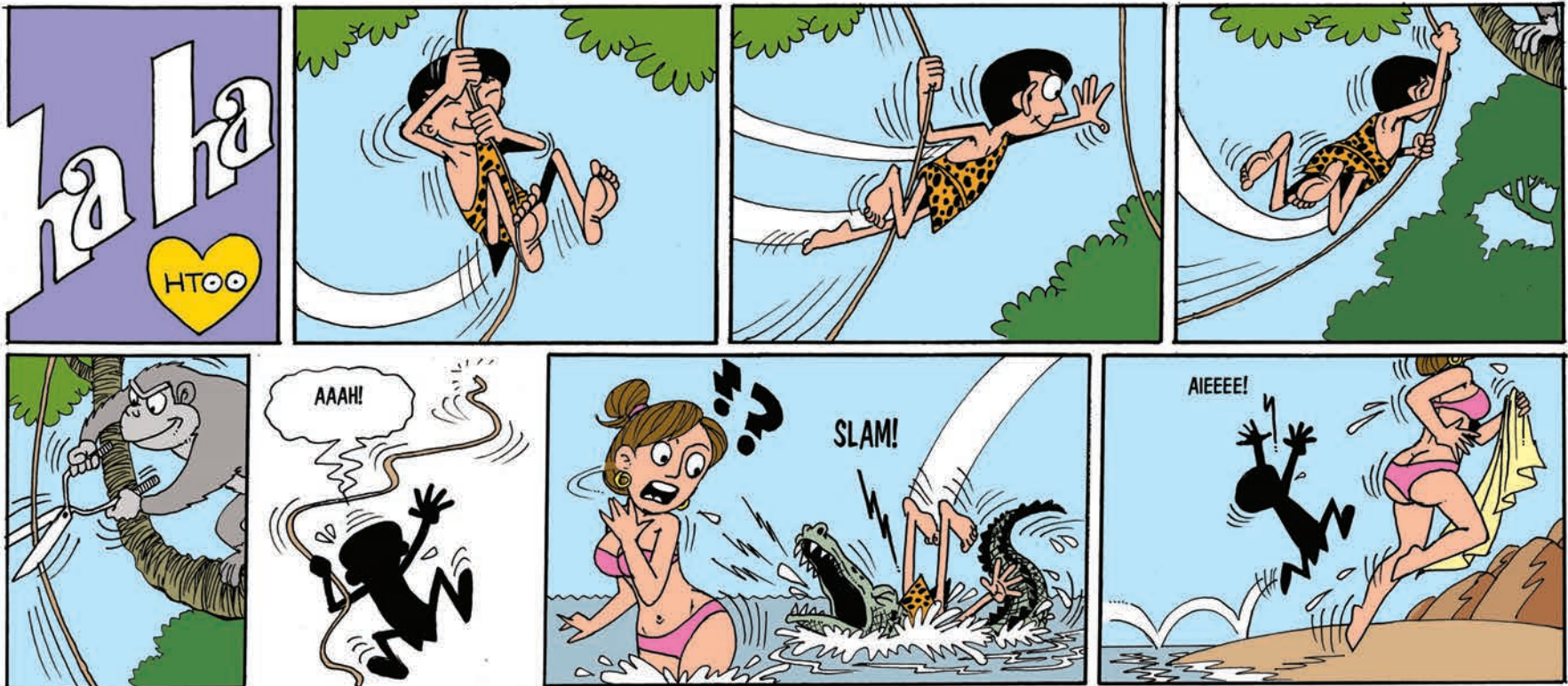
On hearing my answer he became moody once again. Then suddenly he said that it would be a shame to let such a historic ship to end up that way. On hearing that I requested permission to make a suggestion. He willingly granted and I told him that in 1967, while I was in U.S.A as a member of a ship crew to sail back a warship acquired from the U.S Navy, I had seen a historic sailing warship, converted into a museum there. On hearing that, he said that was one of his options, which he was thinking of putting up to the Chairman of the State Council. He added, now that I had mentioned, he had reached his decision to put up a proposal to convert the ship into a museum.

Conclusion

Today, thanks to H.E. Dr. Maung Maung, we can still see our beloved ship Mayu standing tall in all her gracefulness, magnificence and grandeur and still serving her duties as a museum and a training aid even though she had been decommissioned. Mayu had a very graceful streamline. It was a great sight to see her moving gracefully on the seas and oceans, even in rough sea conditions. She was not only graceful, but magnificent and majestic or very imposing. Aside from these attributes, she was a very lethal weapon of war during her heydays. I may sound a bit nostalgic, but I couldn't help it, because whenever I talk about Mayu, passions and sentiments started to flow through me. As passions and sentiments led to nostalgia, it prompted me to write this article after I had not taken the suggestion of the young lady mentioned above seriously at first.

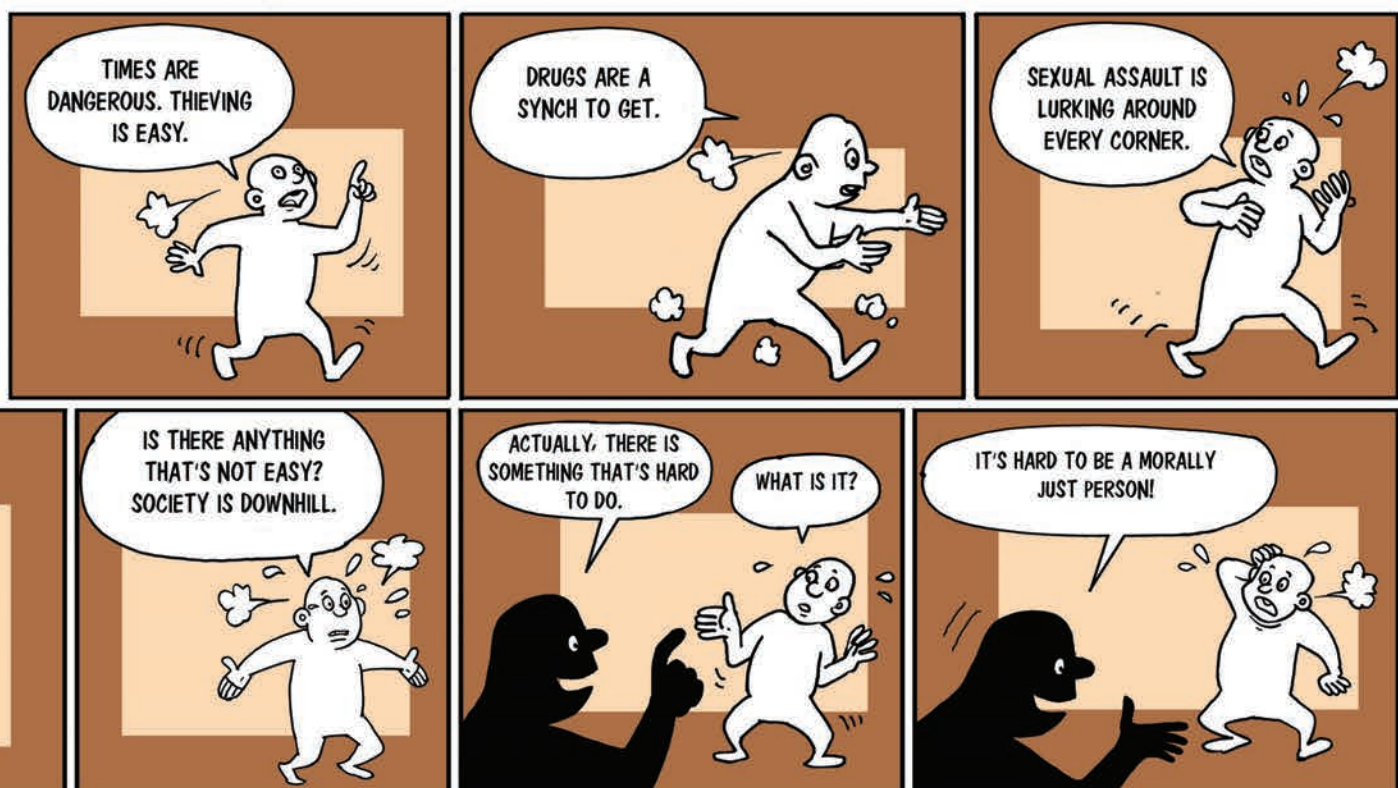


SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



An expected visitor



Daniel
Technological University
(Hmawbi)

DAW Hla May, a rich widow, the mother of two children, Mg Hla Aung and Ma May Aye, lived in Ywar Thar village. She was very rigid and strict in discipline and was also keen for her children to be educated. Needless to say, she was busy carrying out all businesses that her husband had left after he passed away. She sent her children to Sayardaw U Zaw Ti Ka to teach them. The Sayardaw told Daw Hla May, “Don’t be so sorry about Ko Min Khaing. He is probably in heaven because he did not sin in anything. And I believe that he would like to want the children to be educated.”

“Yes, Sayardaw,” replied Daw Hla May, “and I also want them to be good persons. That’s why I send them to Sayardaw to teach them what they need to learn.”

“It’s good for the children to have a mother like you, Daw Hla May. All the parents in the village only want their children to work with them, but you don’t. That’s very good of you,” said Sayardaw to Daw Hla May.

“But don’t you ever forget that you also need to think of yourself. As you know, death can come to us anytime, so we need to do good deeds for your life. And I also want you to learn about Buddha’s teachings.”

Daw Hla May hesitated for a while and responded with a laugh,

“Oh, I don’t worry about this Sayardaw, because I have to raise my children first, and I think, I must do it first. Now, I’m only thirty-five years old and I promise, I’ll do the meditation later.”

Twelve years later, Mg Hla Aung started attending the Technological University (Hmawbi) and he was a first year student of Civil Engineering. His sister, Ma May Aye had passed the matriculation examination this year and she decided to choose the University of Medicine, for to be a doctor was her dream.

Daw Hla May was now over forty-seven years old and she moved to a city and still she was caring for her children. One day, she remembered what Sayardaw had said and tried to do some meditation, when she suddenly remembered to prepare to pack a lunch box for her son. So she left the room where there was a shelf for the shrine of Buddha and went to the kitchen and prepared what she needed to do, thinking,

“Oh, I can do it at night or on some other days.”

Time passed and nobody even noticed. Now, Mg Hla Aung is the father of a five-year old boy and Ma May Aye was about to marry her boyfriend sooner or later. As Daw Hla May had nothing to do, to care for her grandson was her duty. Even though no one asked her to do, she just loved her grandson and she only wanted to do it.

She said, “Oh, that’s my lovely grandson. Who says I don’t love you, huh? Do you want to eat bananas?” She then suddenly saw the rosary beads hanging on the rack of the shelf. And she just ignored, thinking, “Oh, I could do it later.”

But unfortunately, she passed away just a month after, and she did not even do the good deeds that the Sayardaw had asked her to do. Now Daw Hla May did not have to say those words again. Even though she procrastinated to do good deeds, death, an expected visitor, did not procrastinate to do its job.



FROM PAGE- S-3

That also made them ignorant of the strengths and capabilities of the foreign countries and underestimated them. That made some of them to be contemptuous and arrogant in dealing with the foreign envoys or representatives, which led to the colonization of our country.

This xenophobic sentiments continued to exist, may be even stronger, after our Independence. I have sound reasons to say thus, because most of the former colonies of the British Empire continued to remain in the British Commonwealth, except our country. Those countries still sought the services of the former colonialists even after gaining their independence, in the running and development of their newly Independent countries, unlike ours’.

During our days, the most visible consequences of the

xenophobic behaviour was the blunderous nationalization of the enterprises, businesses and confiscations of the homes and properties belonging to foreigners. Excuse given was, as the country was in the process of building a socialist society, capitalism and socialism could not co-exist, thus the nationalization was a “must” for every socialist country. However, the main targets were those belonging to foreigners. That incident led the world to blame xenophobia, on the part of the leader, as the main reason. I don’t want to pinpoint on whether it was hatred, distrust or fear of foreigners, but it was undoubtedly xenophobia.

Due to that blunder, the country suffered greatly. All commodities, including the most basic essential thing, rice, became scarce in a country,

which once boasted as being the rice bowl of Asia. Everything including rice was rationed. Even though we might have money, we were unable to purchase what we needed in those days. Thus black marketing and smuggling set in and became the way of life. Those trends still continue until today. Peoples’ behaviours also deteriorated and the law of the jungle or survival of the fittest mentalities set in. Some people would do anything for their survival. As a result the country became the least developed country (LDC) in the world.

Today, nearly five and half decades after that blunder of nationalization in 1963, there is some semblance of development in our country, materially of course, but mentally the deteriorated behaviours have not improved visibly. People

seemed to be more xenophobic today than in the past. In those days it was the leader who was xenophobic, but today even the people on the streets too are xenophobic. Worst is the fact that today, xenophobic mentalities are based on racial and religious sentiments, and distrust of foreigners or locals of foreign origins.

These opponents should know better that, at such a time, when fake and fabricated news are gaining more acceptance around the world than the true news released by the government and the military, the words of the foreigners among members of the committees or as leaders have more weight. In this age of the globalization, we cannot isolate ourselves from the outside world. We should work hand in hand with the people from the outside world.

One good example of the benefits of international cooperation and collaboration was the recent successful “Operation Thai Cave Rescue”. Of course there may be a few who are not sincere and untrustworthy, but we should be mindful that not all foreigners are crooked or evil.

In conclusion, I would like to try and answer the question in the title of this article. Though the term phobia may sound connected to medical conditions as some phobias are, xenophobia is not a disease, but a state of mind or behaviour born out of resentments, hatreds, fear or distrust towards strangers or foreigners. This mentality needs no medication or cure, but a change of outlook or attitude and discarding of prejudice towards other races, religions, and especially foreigners, will dispel this undesirable mentality.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Colored potatoes



Dear Editor

Colored potatoes have been a new sensation in the global nutraceutical and functional food markets due to the available package of rich concentration of beneficial phytochemicals, like carotenoids and flavonoids content in the colored potatoes, and the rich concentration of different antioxidants present in them. Carotenoids and flavonoids are the natural bioorganic pigments present in colored potatoes that gives them the unique colors, like red, pink, purple and violet, compared to the usual white and yellow skinned variety conventional potato breeds available and produced around the globe. The intensity of the color in the colored potato varieties depend on the concentrations of various carotenoids and flavonoids present in them, and their proportional concentrations in different colored potato varieties and cultivars. The higher the concentration of these pigments, more intense coloration is observed in these different colored potato varieties. The different colored potato varieties also differ with their concentration of various antioxidants. All these important phytochemicals add high health benefits, like high antioxidant values playing important role in preventing cancer. Such rich concentration of phytochemicals is also reported to increase the flavor of potatoes. Customers dedicated to the nutraceutical and functional food industries as well as organic produce are showing an appreciable increase in global niche market share of colored potatoes across North and South Americas, EU, Australia and New Zealand, South and South East Asia, Far East and China. This new trend among potential customers with increased health awareness, inclination towards practicing holistic health and consuming healthy and nutritious, chemical free produce has opened up new opportunities for colored potato producers around the world for capturing the niche market with target high value customers.

Thanking you.

Sincerely yours,
Saikat Kumar Basu
Apt 6-409, 43 Street South,
Lethbridge AB Canada T1J 4B3

Locked souls

By Honey Soe

Locked up three storeys above
With eyes blank and dead,
Gazing out through the window
Where does her mind go?
To a son from miles away?
Or a daughter on her way?

When young men go out to make money,
Old ones are left in the locked dwellings;
It seems the older the people grow
The narrower they play their roles;
At length, for the sake of their safety
They lock themselves in their own sanctuary.

Every morning and evening,
People in their sixties and seventies,
Forearms resting on the window ledge
Staring vacantly from their cage-like flat;
Are they reminiscing about their old days?
Or waiting for someone who's gone away?

Locked souls in big cities
Who can help to set them free?
If you are a daughter or a son
Talk to them with open arms,
Prick up your ears whatever they say
Though the same subject rewinding now and again.

All they talk is about their old days
As though it had happened yesterday,
Back in past their minds roam about
Only this can make them happy and proud,
If not afford to take them out
Just so hear them out.

When you open the door

By Zaw Tun

(Inspired from the Youth Literary Talks,
Mandalay, 11-8-2018)

When you open the door
of a library,
you open the door of a bright, new world;

When you open the cover
of a book before you,
you open up a layer of the earth, as yet unexplored.

When you open the window
Of your heart,
you are greeted with the smile of a new friend.

Open the Book, open
The shutters of your mind,
Pull out the weeds, flick off the cobwebs
and unlock the chains.
And plant on these pages of modern history
a blooming flower of sweet fragrance.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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 work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own 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