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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Win Myint meets with civil servants from executive, judiciary and legislative sectors in Magway.

Civil servants urged to change mindset to speed up reforms

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met with the Magway Region's authorities, MPs, judiciary officials and government employees as part of his tour in which he hopes to speed up the momentum of reforms.

In his speech at the meeting, the President spoke of the important role of government employees in the administrative, judiciary and legislative sectors for bringing about reforms that would ensure success of the democratic transition.

Change dogmatic mindsets and

habits
 Regarding the purpose of his Magway tour, President U Win Myint reiterated the essence of his inaugural speech when he was sworn in as the president, saying that to make the country's democratic transition process smooth and successful, it is very important for the people, government employees and civil servants to change their dogmatic mindsets and habits. In order to effect this change, managers and department heads need to lead the way.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with NHK's correspondent before the inclusive interview in Tokyo. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor gives exclusive interview to NHK

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is in Tokyo, Japan, to attend the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit, sat down with Ms. Oriie Sugimoto, Japan's NHK correspondent and chief of NHK Yangon branch, at Hotel New Otani Tokyo, for an exclusive interview yesterday.

In the interview, the State Counsellor replied to questions about progress of relations between Myanmar and Japan, plans for Mekong-Japan cooperation, expected outcomes from the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit and cooperation between Japan

and Myanmar in solving the Rakhine issue. Following the interview, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with staff of the Myanmar Embassy in Japan, the military attaché and staff of the military mission in Tokyo at the same hotel.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Thawng Tun and U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu and U Set Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Thurein Thant Zin, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Saw Min, staff of the Embassy and military mission and their families.—MNA ■

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MYANMAR FIRST WIND GAME

Vice President U Myint Swe, entrepreneurs hold 20th meeting to promote private sector business

VICE President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, and business persons held the 20th regular meeting in Yangon yesterday to promote the private sector.

The 20th regular meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar entrepreneurs was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office in Yangon.

The Private Sector Development Committee was formed in 24 October 2016 to effectively carry out the tasks of the private sector development framework.

Speaking at the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe reiterated the government's commitment to helping the entrepreneurs overcome their challenges as part of efforts for developing the country's economy.

The regular meetings have been held since 2016 December where sector and group wise difficulties were being resolved. As of the 19th meetings 283 suggestions and difficulties faced were submitted to the government and responses were sent to the relevant businesses through UMFCCI.

"We need to take time to resolve some obstacles and officials from the five work committees conducted Public-Private Dialogue between private business persons and relevant ministerial departments in attempts to revolve the matters in stages," said Vice President U Myint Swe.

In the Asian Development Bank (ADB) economic development estimate for the ten Southeast Asian countries were reduced 0.1 per cent from the



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 20th regular meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee in Yangon yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

earlier estimate to 5.1 per cent.

When figures on Myanmar in the Update were reviewed, "GDP growth rate" is 6.6 per cent for 2018 and 7 per cent for 2019, "inflation" is 6.2 per cent for 2018 and 6 per cent for 2019, "Current account balance deficit" is 3 per cent of GDP in 2018 and 4 per cent of GDP in 2019. From the figures it can be seen that Myanmar's trade deficit is at a status where it is estimated to gradually decrease.

Foreign trade in fiscal year 2017-2018 was US\$ 33.521 billion out of which US\$ 27.240 billion or 81 per cent was conducted by the private sector. Figures as of 21 September 2018 show the foreign trade to be US\$ 17.297 billion which is US\$ 2.353 billion more than the last year's figures. In this too the private sector conducted US\$ 14.806 billion or 85 per cent. Export was up 1.632 billion and trade deficit was reduced to about US\$ 900 million.

The Myanmar Investment Commission is drawing up plans to attract foreign investment. Now, ordinary passport holders from Japan, Korea, Macao

and Hong Kong are given visa free travel to Myanmar while visa-on-arrivals were permitted to ordinary passport holders from China. Arrangements are being made for visitors as well as investors to visit and invest in Myanmar easily.

Recently the Ministry of Electricity and Energy had made an official announcement on discovery of natural gas in offshore block A-6 that has a good prospect of being commercially produced. This is expected to fulfill future energy requirements of Myanmar and there are also possibilities of increasing the export value.

Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) is also drawn up. The plan includes detailed Action Plans. As such, private sector as the main driving engine is urged to participate together with the people in the march toward a balanced and sustainable development.

Associations and entities participating in today's meeting are also urged to discuss openly the difficulties they face with relevant Union ministries, deputy

ministers and officials who are present said the Vice President.

Next, Vice Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint explained about works conducted for export/import businesses.

Afterwards Union Minister U Soe Win explained about status of works conducted on investment and tax matters.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein then explained about works conducted in Yangon Region for private sector development.

Following this, UMFCCI President U Zaw Win Min explained about sector wise works conducted for private sector development and SME (small and medium enterprise) development. Later Union of Myanmar Bhamo-Lweje Border Trade Merchant Association chairperson Daw Yi Yi Sein, Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association Dr. Soe Tun, Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association Vice Chairman Dr. Myint Sein, Myanmar Petro-

leum Trade Association Central Executive Committee member U Thein Win Zaw, floor/wall tile businessperson U Soe Min Thant and Myanmar Rice Federation Secretary-General U Ye Min Aung explained and suggested on sector wise difficulties faced.

The meeting came to a close after the Vice President, Union Ministers, Yangon Region Chief Minister, Deputy Minister and officials had provided comments to ensure coordination and responses had been given to the explanations and suggestions made by private sector business persons.

Also present at the meeting were Yangon Region ministers; officials from five work committees, UMFCCI President and members; officials from Union of Myanmar Bhamo-Lweje Border Trade Merchant Association; Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association; Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association; Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association; Myanmar Rice Federation; floor/wall tile factory and officials.—MNA ■

MPIE, NSKRE Residence (Myanmar) ink agreement to build 12-storey structure in Tamway

MYANMA Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise-MPIE of the Ministry of Industry and NSKRE Residence (Myanmar) Co Ltd signed an agreement yesterday to build a high-rise structure on the land owned by MPIE in Tamway.

The building will be constructed with the build-operate-transfer (BOT) system and it is set to include 230 apartments,

fitness centre, minimart, restaurant, business offices, car parking.

The land lease agreement was signed by U Ko Ko Aung, Managing Director of MPIE and Mr. Hirosato Fukimbara, Managing Director of NSKRE Residence (Myanmar) Co Ltd, in the presence of Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho.

The signing ceremony came

after the two parties received permit from Myanmar Investment Commission which gave a permit of 50-year land lease.

NSKRE Residence (Myanmar) Co Ltd is a consortium of two Myanmar companies namely Mann Myanmar Family Ltd and Asia Business Solution Co Ltd and Japanese company Nippon Steel Kowa Real Estate.—Thi Thi Min ■



Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho (centre) witnesses the signing of land lease agreement. PHOTO: MNA

Civil servants urged to change mindset to speed up reforms

FROM PAGE-1

“Those government institutions which are lagging behind in the transformation process will need to be put under tight management controls,” he said.

The effort would require changes across all departments, with an eye toward eliminating cronyism and criminal acts, he said.

“The country’s weak judiciary system would need to be strengthened. More efforts need to be exerted to stamp out corruption. More efforts need to be exerted to prevent human rights violations. More efforts need to be exerted to crack down illegal drug trade,” said the President.

“We need to manage public funds properly so that there is no wastage. Measures need to be taken to return confiscated farmland to farmers and to give compensation to farmers for losses they have suffered in accordance with the law,” said the President.

A successful democratic transition requires government employees to obey the law and perform their duties in the interests of the people and country, as they are civil servants who enjoy salaries and benefits given by the State.

“Reform is not an enemy, but our good friend. Reform is not a threat, but opportunities. So, civil servants are to change their mindsets and habits to be able to adapt to reforms,” he said.

Executive sector should not be a burden for people

Regarding the executive sector, President U Win Myint stressed the need to create administrative machinery that can guarantee security, safety and peace for the people, adding that the administrative machinery should not be a burden for the people.

Authorities concerned are to take responsibility and be held accountable while supervising their staff, and employees must cooperate with their superiors, he said. Successful democratic reforms require cooperation from CSOs, NGOs and the media, with some added momentum, said the President.

Judiciary sector

The Judiciary sector should be impartial and those who are taking part in the judiciary sector must obey existing laws and the Union Judiciary Law. The judi-



President U Win Myint meets with Magway Region’s authorities, MPs, judiciary officials and government employees as part of his tour in which he hopes to speed up the momentum of reforms.

ary system should be free from interference by the authorities, and only when the judiciary system is fair and right will it gain trust from the people.

... Successful democratic reforms require cooperation from CSOs, NGOs and the media.

Legislative Sector

In the legislative sector, laws that are truly beneficial for the people of the Region are required. Laws to be enacted should be reviewed so that it is truly beneficial for the Region, appropriate to the guidelines and policies of the State and the Constitution. There should be check and balance among administrative, judicial and legislative sector but care must be taken so that one is not influencing the other in anyway.

No friend nor foe in anti-corruption drive

Anti-corruption works are to be conducted regardless of being friend or foe and haves or have-nots. State/Region anti-corruption committees will be organized to become a corruption-free society. Eradicating corruption, rule of law and the country’s development are interconnected.

As per the saying of no-one is above the law, works on eradication and elimination of drug

are to be conducted according to the law. There is a need for CSO, NGO and media to cooperate and participate in this. The works are to be conducted without any influence from those who have powers and rights. A Drug Activity Special Complaint Department was opened at the Office of the President where public complaints were handled with the Ministry of Home Affairs and successes were being achieved.

Authorities need to point out and prevent wastage of public fund and cooperate towards properly using it for the benefit of the region. Projects using public funds need to be appropriate and beneficial to the region. State/Region Auditors are to ensure that fund usages are according to financial rules and regulations.

All levels of committees on assessing and reviewing confiscated farmlands and other lands are to conduct their works according to the policies set by the State and not use any personal interpretations. Works must be done speedily to return the lands to the rightful owners.

Public servants are to bear

in mind that they are at their respective departments to serve the people and perform their duties for the benefit of the country and the people. They must not let-go of the opportunity to participate in the democratic transformation process. Performing their duties and responsibilities are raising their own dignity. There are challenges in transiting from an old to a new system. That is why all are urged and instructed to participate together in establishing democratic federal union and achieving internal peace said the President.

Next, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo explained about the status of conducting Region development works. Magway Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tar explained about Hluttaw affairs and Magway Region Chief Judge U Sein Htun explained about judicial matters.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint explained about the strengths and weaknesses of the explanations made and to follow the tender rules and regulations when calling for tenders. If responsible persons conduct

their works in ignorance of the law, they are liable to be taken action under the anti-corruption law. Motions and questions tabled in the Region Hluttaw are to be assessed and reviewed so that they are in accord with the Hluttaw laws.

The judiciary sector needs to judge the cases speedily, truthfully and without bias. All decisions and judgments are to be according to the law, and all are to be equal in the face of the law. Punishments or rulings need to be according to the law and appropriate to the crime committed. Human rights are to be respected and defended.

The Region Government is to successfully implement the State policies and guidelines. The prompt and correct decisions and conducts of the Region Government are connected to the development of the country. Furthermore the Region Government need to manage, guide, control and monitor the departments and more emphasis need to be placed towards rule of law, stability, peace and security in the Region.

The President then cordially greeted the meeting attendees, left Magway on a Tatmadaw special flight and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Deputy Minister for Electric and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary of the Office of the President U Khin Latt, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials.— MNA / Photo: Than Naing Oo (Ngape) ■



President U Win Myint being welcomed by officials at the Magway Airport.

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UMFCCI suggests Export Promotion and Import Substitution

By May Thet Hnin

UNION of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) put forward the suggestions of export promotion and import substitution at 20th coordination meeting that brought together Vice President U Myint Swe, the Private Sector Development Committee Chairman, and entrepreneurs, which was held on 6 October.

UMFCCI suggests export promotion by setting-up and forming National Export Promotion Council which has also been proposed during the recent meeting with the State Counsellor. "We will implement this project as soon as possible because the authorities have already agreed earlier," said U Ye Min Aung, vice chairman of UMFCCI.

As Myanmar's exportable products need more support



Dr. Myint Sein.

and assistance from Government in terms of financing, land use and tax incentives as well as to sustain international market access, UMFCCI thinks there should be a dedicated private-public initiative for Export Promotion. UMFCCI and private sector will also work together with Government officials and agencies, he added.



U Ye Min Aung.

Regarding the import substitution, local and foreign direct investment (FDI) needs to be attracted. Similarly, existing local manufacturing industries need to be supported. Tax, tariff and non-tariff measures, including quota and minimum access systems, will be introduced in order to make local manufacturing industries stronger and

more competitive.

"China's Small and medium-sized enterprises businesses are not stable due to a trade war between United States and China. Upon this advantage, we have to persuade Chinese businesses into coming to Myanmar. The private enterprises also should be invited to participate in National Export Promotion Council," said Dr. Myint Sein, Deputy Chairman of Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

"Government side also understands and supports the initiatives," he said.

Between April and September this year, the country's export to international countries reached \$8.5 billion, while its imports stood at \$9.8 billion in total, resulting in a trade deficit of \$1.3 billion, which decreased by about \$540 million against the same period of the last year. ■

Over 282,000 'Yaba' pills seized in Maungtau

THE police seized 282,750 Yaba tablets contained in two bags in Maungtau, Rakhine State, on 5 September.

The drug haul weighs 28.275 kilo and worth Ks 565 million. The police also seized a China-made DAYANG-125 motorbike carrying the drugs.

A combined team of police and other staffs from the Anti-Narcotic Force Unit-46 was waiting on a road leading

to Kyee Kan Pyin Camp, Maungtau Township, and searched the motorbike, acting on a tip-off. When the police stopped two motorbikes with three people, the two people left one motorbike and two bags at the scene and managed to escape from the scene.

The another one driving away on a motorbike to the Zula village still at large. — District IPRD ■



Stimulant tablets found weighing 28.275 kilo and worth Ks 565 million seized in Maungtau are seen. PHOTO: MAUNGTAU DISTRICT IPRD

Govt to announce soon to provide products information in Myanmar language for safety of consumers

By May Thet Hnin

FOR the safety of consumers, Government will announce very soon to entrepreneurs to provide product information on packaging in Myanmar language, said U Swe Tint Kyu, the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Commerce.

According to the instruction, all businesses must provide information and a guide on their products regarding with direction for use, direction for keeping, its side-effects and allergic the reaction. The products are inclusive of local and foreign. This must be provided in

Myanmar language while other languages may also be included.

In line with the directive, the priority goods are electronic items, baby accessories, toys, landline phones, hand phones, toothpastes, soaps, medicines, the chemicals used in foods, consumers and cosmetics, fertilizers, agricultural items, juices, jams, dairy and milk products, meats, edible oils, instant noodles, frozen foods, drinking water bottles, chilli sauce brands, instant snacks, betel, liquor and smoking cigarettes.

Businesses will have six months to comply with the official notification, once it is released. The businesses, who

failed to follow this instruction, will be warned, severe warned, penalty and ban the products distribution for some period.

"This official notification will be released with the aim to protect our consumers, ensure the accountability for producers and distributors and get trust in consumers' perceptions over the goods which were exported or imported from abroad. By selling high quality products, we can not only promote the market but also boost the country's economy, said U Swe Tint Kyu.

"The consumers concern about the food safety in the market. People are affecting over the products which were im-

ported from the abroad. Those who produce the foods in the country need to obey the food safety guidelines," said U Aye Win, chair of Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association.

The entrepreneurs also requested to take legal actions against those who imported the illegal foods in the country.

In Myanmar, the Consumer Protection Law was enacted since 2014. The National Food Law was enacted in 1997 and currently it is also being amended. This instruction will be issued the notification letter to be followed by the business before the Labeling Law.

Growers reap healthy profits for guava fruits this season

DEMANDS for guava fruits have been on the rise in the domestic market this season that financially benefits farmers in Kuauk-padaung Township in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, according to local guava producers.

“Guava growers got a good yield in this harvest time with the use of groundwater, earning a handsome income for them with higher growing local demands,” said U Pike, one of guava growers in the township.

He added that guava fruits are mainly produced from Legwa, Letpanai and Hsatpyakyin villages in the townships. The fruits are usually sent to Myoma

market in Kyaukpadaung Township. Moreover, merchants from Magway and Meiktila townships come to the guava producing villages and they buy the fruits through local brokers.

Growers say that this year saw a significant increase in prices of guava fruits. The prices of the fruit increased twofold in this harvest time. When compared with the previous year, the prices of guava fruits rose by roughly Ks 600 per viss (3.6 lbs). Last year, a viss of guava fruits was sold for Ks 300 only. The figure increased to Ks900-Ks1,000 per viss this year.

Guava is considered as a



Guava trees are seen in farmland in Mandalay. PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAYAUK)

kind of nutritionally valuable and remunerative crops. The fruits are consumed widely in the country where retailers traditionally sell the fruits mostly in the markets and near the bus

stops.

Local growers shared their experience on guava cultivation practices that the planting distance between guava trees in the villages is 4.5 feet in the

row and they seasonally use groundwater for their plantations. After passing the plating time for one and a half years, the trees bear the fruits. — Ko Htain (Ngathayauk) ■

External trade exceeds \$18bln, but moves into deficit

MYANMAR'S external trade topped \$18 billion in its six-month interim fiscal period, increasing by over \$2 billion comparing with the same period last year, when foreign trade totalled \$16.3 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period between April and September this year, the country's exports reached \$8.5 billion, while its imports were valued at \$9.8 billion in total, resulting in a trade deficit of \$1.3 billion, which decreased by about \$540 million against the same period last year, when Myanmar recorded a trade deficit of nearly \$1.86 billion.

Myanmar conducts overseas trade principally through by sea. During the six-month

period, the country's international trade by sea hit \$14 billion whereas its external border trade reached \$4.2 billion. When compared with the same time the last year, the country's non-border trade went up by \$1.56 billion while its border trade increased by over \$450 million.

Usually, the country exports seven main groups of commodities, covering agricultural, forest, marine and animal products, minerals, manufactured products and other miscellaneous items.

It imports three major categories of commodities, containing capital goods, intermediate products and consumer goods. —Swe Nyein ■

Export of mineral commodities up by \$368 million

THE export value of mineral products between Myanmar and foreign trade partners went up by US\$368 million, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

From 1 April through 30 September this year, the private sector exported \$403 million worth of minerals and the public sector exported the substances worth \$631 million, showing the trade value at \$1.034 billion. During the similar period last year, the country's export values of mineral commodities put the figure at \$665 million, consisting of \$207

million by the public sector and \$458 million by the private sector.

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 \$196 million, while the private sector saw an increase in value by \$172 million against last year.

According to the ministry's trade data, the country earned almost \$8.5 billion from overall exports of domestic products within the six-month period, up

by nearly \$1.3 billion than that of the similar period in the last year.

According to the yearly trade report issued by the Ministry of Commerce, the mineral exports were valued at \$1.784 billion in the last fiscal year 2017-2018. The country's export of the substances was \$897 million in the 2011-2012 FY, \$399 million in the 2012-2013 FY, \$1.34 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$1.498 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$968 million in the 2015-2016 FY, and over \$1 billion in the 2016-2017 FY. — Khine Khant ■

Closer cooperation needed to combat illegal import of edible palm olein in Sagaing

TO combat illegal import of edible palm olein in Sagaing Region, collaboration is needed between the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and related government departments, said Dr Zaw Win, Sagaing Region Minister for Social Affairs.

At regular session of Sagaing Region Hluttaw on 5 September, U Nyi Nyi Thun, an MP from Katha Township constituency, raised a question relating to the government's efforts on elimination of illegal trading and distribution of edible palm olein in the region.

Giving a reply to the query, Dr Zaw Win said that it is impossible for the FDA to control the illegal flows of edible palm olein into the region. It is needed to raise cooperation with the related



PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

departments, such as the General Administration Department, the Customs Department and the Department of Trade.

RBO palm olein is one of the imported products granted by the FDA. Importers who are

holder of Import Recommendation (IR) a long with Import Health Certificate (IHC) for palm olein are eligible to officially import and distribute the products in the region.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Vice President U Myint Swe receives Independent Commission of Enquiry

VICE President U Myint Swe received the Independent Commission of Enquiry and members led by Ambassador H.E. Rosario Manalo at the Envoys Hall of the Presidential Palace yesterday afternoon.

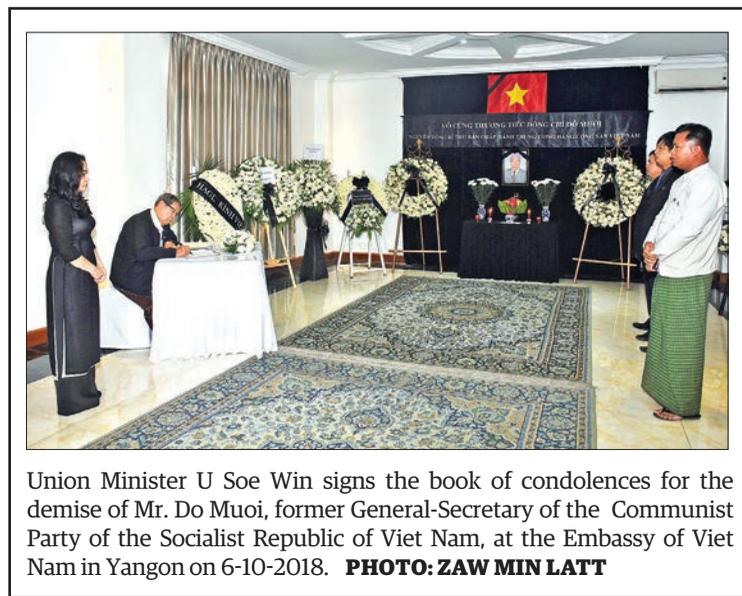
At the meeting matters relating to commission's field visit and action taken, activities of ARSA terrorist group, status of preparations made to receive returnees, status of cooperation with UNDP and UNHCR, works conducted by the State for Rakhine State stability and development and future works were discussed and views ex-

changed.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Ministry of State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu and officials while Ambassador H.E. Rosario Manalo was accompanied by Independent Commission of Enquiry members U Myint Thein, Ambassador H.E. Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet and officials. — MNA ■



Vice President U Myint Swe holds talks with Ambassador H.E. Rosario Manalo at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister U Soe Win signs the book of condolences for the demise of Mr. Do Muoi, former General-Secretary of the Communist Party of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, at the Embassy of Viet Nam in Yangon on 6-10-2018. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

65 killed in 341 road accidents on Yangon-Mandalay highway from Jan to Sept

A TOTAL of 341 road accidents caused 65 fatalities and 629 injuries on the Yangon-Mandalay highway from January to September 2018 it is learnt. Following is the breakdown.

Month	Road accident cases	fatality	Injury
January	41	9	83
February	36	11	76
March	33	4	62
April	44	12	137
May	37	8	77
June	40	6	55
July	28	4	37
August	38	6	44
September	44	5	58
Total	341	65	629

— Than Oo (Laymyetna) ■

National Scrutiny Card issued to workers in industrial zones in Yangon

MINISTRY of Labour, Immigration and Population launched a program yesterday to issue National Scrutiny Card to about 8,000 workers in industrial zones in Yangon Region.

The ministry has conducted the two-month project making a field trip to factories in the industrial zones after it received the statistics that about 8,000 workers, out of 400,000 at factories in industry zones in the region, have no national scrutiny card due to several reasons.

The ceremony to launch the project was held at the office of the Thakayta Industry Zone Supervisory Committee in Thakayta Township yesterday.

Since its taking office, the incumbent government has carried out the project namely "Thitsar" sending the immigration officials door to door to issue the National Scrutiny Card to the people at homes, to school children aged 10 and above at schools, and to internal migrant workers at work sites, according to the ministry.

During the period from 1 May, 2016 to 30 September, 2018 of the Thitsar Project, the ministry issued household certificates to 42,528 families of internal migrant workers, National Scrutiny Card to 8,410 workers, and 952,962 school children, said Union Minister for Labour, Im-

migration and Population U Thein Swe.

In Yangon Region, the ministry issued household certificates to 11,631 families, National Scrutiny Card to 1,490 to the family members and 3,971 workers.

In the 2018-2019 Academic Year, the ministry issued National Scrutiny Card to 33,024 school children so far, according to the ministry.

"It is found that some workers lost their opportunities for getting legal oversea jobs as they have no National Scrutiny Card and also social security benefits," said Union Minister U Thein Swe.—Thi Thi Min ■

Myanmar's economy expected to grow 7.4 pct this FY 2018-19

THE ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) has forecast that Myanmar's economy is expected to grow 7.4 percent in this new fiscal year 2018-19 which started on October 1.

The AMRO has recently established the annual consultation report on Myanmar, based on its annual consultation visit to Myanmar from May 15 to 25 and data available up to June 29 this year.

The AMRO has forecast that the country's economy has reached on a gradual recovery path in last FY 2017-18 as it grew to 6.8 percent in FY 2017-18, up from 5.9 percent in FY 2016-17.

The country's economic recovery will be supported by

sustained inflow of foreign direct investment, improving investment sentiment and continuing strong growth in garment exports and domestic consumption, the report said.

Also, inflation rate is forecast to stabilize at 5.0 percent in this FY 2018-19, but inflation may be boosted on account of depreciation when the stronger U.S. dollar will exert downward pressure on the kyat.

Moreover, structural reforms including hard and soft infrastructure and the regulatory and legal environment are reportedly needed to develop a market-based economy targeting inclusive economic growth. The accelerating structural

reforms will boost private sector development and upgrading the key infrastructure including electricity, and logistics could provide an attractive environment for investment and trade in the country, the report added.

The AMRO also urged to upgrade the country's education system, focusing on vocational training to provide the necessary skill sets and talents to meet the needs of the economy.

The AMRO, an international organization, is established to contribute to securing the economic and financial stability of the ASEAN+3 regions, comprising of ASEAN members and China, Japan and South Korea. — Xinhua ■

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Rakhine State issue

The necessary arrangements for repatriation, relief and resettlement have now been undertaken in accordance with the bilateral arrangement signed by Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2017.

The Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) consisting of two well-known international personalities and two local experts was established in accordance with the law. This Commission is tasked to investigate allegations of human rights violations and the related issues of terrorist attacks. There will be cooperation and collaboration among relevant departments and organizations, the security forces and the ICOE.

(Excerpt from the report on the current work of the Union Government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko (right) accepts Ks 200 million donated by Shwe Parami Tawra Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika, Agga Maha Siri Suddhama Mani Jotadhara U Shein Win and Daw Khin Cho Oo (Tat Lann Company) for the construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda. PHOTO: MNA

Cash contributed to construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw

THE third cash donation ceremony for the Eternal Peace Pagoda which is under construction in Nay Pyi Taw was held at the Vijaya Mingalar Dhamma Hall on Kaba Aye Hillock in Mayangon Township, Yangon yesterday.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and the audience received Five Precepts from Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Shwe Parami Tawra Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika.

Union Minister then presented offertories to Shwe Parami Tawra Sayadaw.

For the construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda, Shwe Parami Tawra Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika and Agga Maha Siri Suddhama Mani Jotadhara U Shein Win, Daw Khin Cho Oo (Tat Lann Company) and family donated Ks 200 million each, and Dr Tint Soe Linn, sister Daw Pwint Mar Khaing and relatives (Shwe Pu Zun family) and U Myo Thwin and Daw Khaing Su Mon (Shwe Pann Taing Trading Company) family donated Ks 100

million each.

U Thein Han (Tokyo Pipe & Excel Hotel Group) and wife Dr Thi Thi and family donated Ks 50 million, U Kyaw Myint (representative of Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong), Daw Win Myint (Taw Win Pann Pharmaceutical Company) and family donated Ks 29 million, Mr Jain Glover-Daw Myat Thet Saw (Myat Kan Moe Enterprise Co., Ltd) and U Yan Aung-Siha Suddhamma Singi Daw Yin Shwin (New Star Gem Jewelry) family donated Ks 10 million each.

Suddhama Mani Jotadhara U Myo Nyunt and Daw Tin Tin Myint (Moe Yan Shwe Lamin & Myat Su Kaday) and family donated Ks 5.4 million, U Thein Maung, Daw Par Par (Sandi herbal medicine) family donated Ks 5.004 million, Siha Suddhamma Singi Daw Tin Nu (Yoke Pyo Company) and Siha Suddhamma Singi U Shein Myint, Siha Suddhamma Singi Daw Khin Than Myint (Pa Pa Win Jewelry) and family donated Ks 5 million each, and Chairman of All Myanmar

Tamil Hindu Foundation U Thein Lwin and family donated Ks 3,333,333.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko accepted the donation and presented certificates of honor to the donors in return.

Later, Union Minister deliver a speech of appreciation to the donors after which Shwe Parami Tawra Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika delivered a sermon and the audience shared the merits gained.

A total of Ks756,537,333 from 42 donors were presented for the construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda in the ceremony.

In the afternoon, at the Yangon branch office of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Mogok Aung Sakyar Monastery, Thaketa Township Nayaka Sayadaw Dr Sanda Thiri donated Ks 5 million and relics of the Arahants to the Eternal Peace Pagoda. Union Minister accepted the donations and the relics and presented certificate of honor in return.—MNA ■

Outstanding farmers in Pyinmana honoured by Agri company

MYANMAR Agri Foods Co., Ltd. honor partner farmers and present agriculture performance awards at a ceremony held in Mingala Byuha Sasana Beikman, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Council yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Tint, heads of departments from Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar Agri Foods Co., Ltd. Chairman U Ye Myint Maung, officials from Ayeyawady Agriculture company, Biosupreme Co., Ltd. and Big-M Co., Ltd. presented crop wise agriculture performance awards to farmers and gifts of honors to partner farmers of Myanmar Agri Foods Co., Ltd.

At the ceremony Myanmar Agri Foods Co., Ltd. Chairman U Ye Myint Maung said Myanmar farmers were able to produce many agriculture products but were weak in exporting the products to foreign markets. Based on the fact that purchasing agriculture products from the farmers and exporting would increase the farmers' income, the company started this business. Farmers partnering with the company will have a firm market and profit. If water is available all year round, they can plant about four crops and earn more income. The company provided

technical and other supports to partner farmers, purchase back the products, prepare, pack and export it.

Director-General U Kyaw Swe Lin from Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation said agriculture products from Myanmar were exported without proper packing or preparation in the raw status to neighboring countries. By value adding through preparation and packaging like Myanmar Agri Foods Co., Ltd. means that the products need not rely only on neighboring countries' market. This processing and value adding allow expansion of market as well as assuring a market for the products. It is important for such processing and packaging factories to be in operation and this depends on the farmers too. As the company provides a firm market for the farmers and farmers produces the products, the company and farmers need to build up mutual trust, said U Kyaw Swe Lin.

Myanmar Agri Foods Co., Ltd. is located near Kyi In Village beside the Nay Pyi Taw by-pass road and is exporting frozen vegetables while working together with partner farmers to expand the production and processing of farm products, it is learnt.—MNA ■



An official presents agricultural performance award to an outstanding farmer. PHOTO: MNA

El Nino could be on its way

THE World Meteorological Organization forecast “a 70 per cent chance of an El Nino developing by the end of this year”.

El Nino is triggered by periodic warming in the eastern Pacific Ocean which occurs once every four to seven years and can trigger drought in some regions, heavy rain in others.

While El Niño events normally occur every five-to-seven years, the recurrence of the event so close to the previous one, suggests that climate change may be having an impact.

Myanmar’s prominent weather expert U Tun Lwin has urged the authorities concerned and the people of the country to take precautions for the powerful climate phenomenon which will bring drought.

October, November and December which usually sees storms in



We must monitor the weather front as we are still not in a position whereby we can know the exact extent of El Nino’s arrival to the our country.

the Bay of Bengal are experiencing lack of storms this year. It means the El Nino weather front, which is more severe than previous years, is expected to arrive in this region.

But, the weather pattern is kept under watch by meteorologists, and if it is approaching us to us, the weather bureau will sound alarm about the weather event that usually takes effect in March, April and May in Myanmar with extreme high temperatures.

Myanmar experienced the El Nino weather in 2015-2016 winter and 2016 summer seasons. The 2015-16 El Niño was one of the strongest ever

recorded, and had an impact on global temperatures, which saw 2016 enter the record books as the warmest year.

However, the World Meteorological Organization predicts that it does not expect the anticipated El Nino would have less impact than in the 2015-2016 event, but it will still have considerable impacts.

It also warned that the advance prediction of this event will help save many lives and considerable economic losses.

El Nino would mean that Myanmar would see drier-than-normal conditions during the post-monsoon season.

According to weather experts, El Niño brings extreme temperatures and poses severe problems including unusual rainfall patterns, acute water shortage and diseases for the country.

Prolonged drought can compromise not only freshwater supplies and food security, but can also have cascading impacts on public health, the economy and food distribution.

The late arrival of annual rainfall, one of the impacts of El Nino, could have detrimental effects on cultivation of monsoon paddy crops.

Hence, most importantly we must monitor the weather front as we are still not in a position whereby we can know the exact extent of El Nino’s arrival to the our country.

Taking lessons which we experienced in the 2015-2016 winter and 2016 summer seasons, We must seek ways and means for risk reduction in the face of severe weather patterns.

World Mental Health Day 2018

Dr Aung Tun (Ministry of Health and Sports)

WORLD Mental Health Day is observed around the world every year on October 10. The day is first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation of Mental Health and World Health Organization supports this initiative through raising awareness on mental health issues using its strong relationships with Ministry of Health and civil society organizations across the world. The theme of World Mental Health Day in 2018 is “Young people and Mental Health in a changing world”.

Specific goal of the 2018 campaign is to bring attention to the issues our youth and young adults are facing in our world today and begin the conversation around what they need in order to grow up healthy, happy and resilient.

The Global Burden of Mental Health Problems

Mental Health is a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.

Mental disorders comprise a broad range of problems, with different symptoms. However, they are generally characterized by some combination of abnormal thoughts, emotions, behaviours and relationships with others.

The global burden of mental disorders continues to grow with significant impacts on health and major social, human rights and economic consequences in all countries of world.

- ❖ 1 in 4 people are affected by a mental disorder at some point in their lives.
- ❖ By 2030 depression will be the leading cause of disease burden globally.
- ❖ 900,000 persons commit suicide each year. Suicide is the second most common cause of death among young people.
- ❖ 3 out of 4 with severe mental disorders receive no treatment.
- ❖ People with Mental Health disorders are exposed to a wide range of human rights violations.

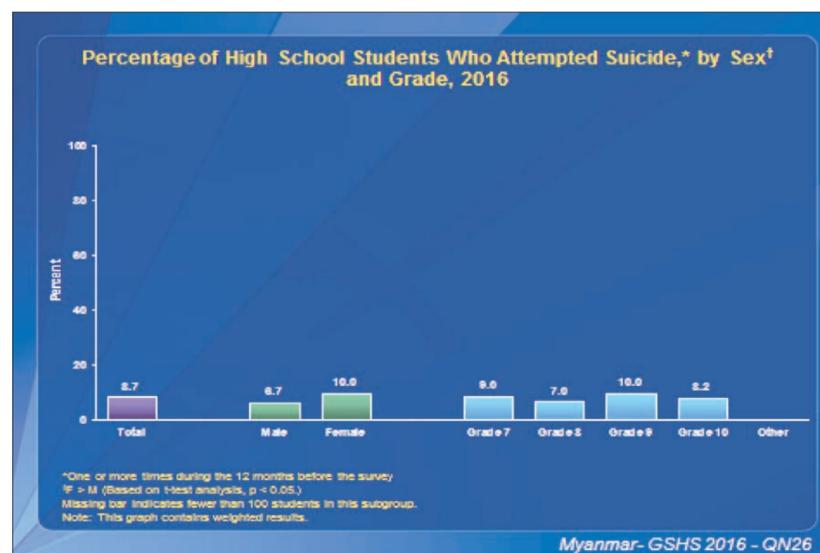
World-wide, approximately 20% of children and adolescents suffer from a disabling mental illness, Anxiety disorders, depression and other mood disorders, and behavioural and cognitive disorders are among the most common mental health problems among adolescents. Half of all lifetime cases of mental disorders starts by the age of 14.

Every country and culture have children and adolescents struggling with mental health problems. Most of these young people suffer needlessly, unable to access appropriate resources for recognition, support, and treatment. Ignored, these young people are at high risk for abuse and neglect, suicide, alcohol and other drug use, school failure, violent and criminal activities, mental illness in adulthood, and health-jeopardizing impulsive behaviours. Each year, about 4 million adolescents world-wide attempt suicide. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people.

Mental Health Situation in Myanmar

According to Public Health Statistics (2014-2016), mental health problem per 100,000 population in 2016 revealed that 9 person reported with psychosis, 6 person had depression, 7 person showed anxiety and mental retardation, 5 stayed with epilepsys, 120 depend on alcohol.

According to Myanmar Global School based Student Health Survey 2016, in MYANMAR, Overall, 3.6% of students most of the time or always felt so worried about something that they could not sleep at night during the past 12 months. Female students (3.8%) are significantly more likely than male students (3.4%) to most of the time or always feel so worried about something that they could not sleep at night. Overall, 8.5 % of students felt lonely most of the time or always. Female students (9.8 %) are significantly more likely than male students (7.0%) felt lonely most of the time or always. Overall, 9.2 % of students seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months. Female students (10.6 %) are significantly more likely than male students (7.6 %) to seriously consider attempting suicide. Overall, 8.4% of students



made a plan about they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months. Female students (11.2%) are not significantly than female students (10.3 %) to seriously consider attempting suicide. Overall, 3.7 % of students have no close friends. Female students (3.7 %) are significantly more likely than male students (3.5 %) to have no close friends. Mental health problems are increasing in Myanmar.

Adolescent Mental Health Promotion and Prevention in Myanmar

The Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Education of Myanmar jointly are reforming school health programme with a greater emphasis on health promotion and health literacy, environmental health and sanitation, NCD prevention, including mental health, injury and violence prevention. With the support from UNICEF, Ministry of Education has been implementing Skills Based Health Education and Life skills Programme since 2002. Life skills-based Education refers to an interactive process of teaching and learning which enables children and young people to acquire knowledge, attitudes and skills which support the adoption of healthy behaviours such as: taking greater responsibility for their own lives; making healthy life choices; gaining greater resistance to negative pressures; and minimizing harmful behaviours.

With the support of WHO, the comprehensive school health strategy (2017-2022) was developed based on the context of National Health Plan 2017-2022 for younger generation which come from both education and health sector.

With the support of UNFPA, the National strategic plan for Young People’s Health (2016-2020) has been implemented to aim at strengthening the existing policy framework and adolescent health programmes.

Currently, the Ministry of Health and Sports is committed to promoting and maintaining the mental health status of Myanmar people through various health care services including mental health promotion and prevention, with the support and participation of the related ministries and sectors, international and local NGOs and the community as a whole. However, specifically youth-focused mental health promotion and prevention programs under Myanmar Youth Policy should be implemented as joint efforts between Ministry of Health and Sport, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Welfare in collaboration with related ministries.

Continued support and close collaboration from the WHO and other partners are essential in the struggle for mental health promotion in Myanmar. Civil societies at national, regional and international levels are needed to play an important role in contributing to the success of mental

health promotion and prevention efforts in Myanmar.

Let’s start today

It’s important to take care of yourself and get the most from life. Mental Health Foundation of UK provides the following 10 practical ways to look after your mental health.

1. Talk about your feeling-Talking about your feelings can help you stay in good mental health and deal with times when you feel troubled.
2. Keep active-Regular exercise can boost your self-esteem and can help you concentrate, sleep, and look and feel better. Exercise keeps the brain and your other vital organs healthy, and is also for a significant benefit towards improving your mental health.
3. Eat well-Your brain needs a mix of nutrients in order to stay healthy and function well, just like the other organs in your body. A diet that’s good for your physical health is also good for your mental health.
4. Drink sensibly-We often drink alcohol to change our mood. Some people drink to deal with fear or loneliness, but the effect is only temporary. When the drink wears off, you feel worse because of the way the alcohol has affected your brain and the rest of your body. Drinking is not a good way to manage difficult feelings.
5. Keep in touch-There’s nothing better than catching up with someone face to face, but

that’s not always possible. You can also give them a call, drop them a note, or chat to them online instead. Keep the lines of communication open: it’s good for you!

6. Ask for Help-None of us are superhuman. We all sometimes get tired or overwhelmed by how we feel or when things don’t go to plan. If things are getting too much for you and you feel you can’t cope, ask for help. Your family or friends may be able to offer practical help or a listening ear. Local services are there to help you.

7. Take a break-A change of scene or a change of pace is good for your mental health. It could be a five-minute pause from cleaning your kitchen, a half-hour lunch break at work, or a weekend exploring somewhere new. A few minutes can be enough to de-stress you. Give yourself some ‘me time’.

8. Do something you’re good at-What do you love doing? What activities can you lose yourself in? What did you love doing in the past? Enjoying yourself can help beat stress. Doing an activity you enjoy probably means you’re good at it, and achieving something boosts your self-esteem.

9. Accept who you are-We’re all different. It’s much healthier to accept that you’re unique than to wish you were more like someone else. Feeling good about yourself boosts your confidence to learn new skills, visit new places and make new friends. Good self-esteem helps you cope when life takes a difficult turn.

10. Care for others -‘Friends are really important... We help each other whenever we can, so it’s a two-way street, and supporting them uplifts me.’ Caring for others is often an important part of keeping up relationships with people close to you. It can even bring you closer together.

Ref: 1. *Mental Health Action Plan (2013-2020)*, WHO, 2013
2. *Myanmar GSHS survey findings*, MOHS, 2016
3. *Public Health Statistics (2014-2016)*, MOHS, 2017
4. *WHO WMHD package*, WHO, 2018
5. *How to look after your mental health*, Mental Health Foundation, UK, 2018



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 am Saturday 6th October, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 6th October, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in (Northern and Southern)Shan State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (2 - 5)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of rain or thundershowers in Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6th October, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6th October, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6th October, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

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Sudan, S Sudan agree to establish buffer zone, open border crossings

KHARTOUM—Sudan and South Sudan on Friday agreed to establish a buffer zone on their joint border, demarcate the Zero line and open border crossings before the end of 2018, Sudan's official SUNA news agency reported.

Sudan and South Sudan on Friday concluded military talks, where the two countries' chiefs of staff signed the

minutes of the talks before developing them into a memorandum of understanding for military cooperation.

"The talks were held under appropriate circumstances that allow boosting the military cooperation between the two countries to reach common understandings and pave the way for a great breakthrough in a number of outstanding issues,"

Lt Gen Kamal Abdul-Marouf Al-Mahi, Sudanese Army's chief of joint staff, was quoted in the report as saying.

For his part, Gen Gabriel Jok Riak, chief of staff of South Sudan's Army, reiterated his country's full commitment to what has been agreed on, the report said.

"What has been reached is considered a strong push on

the course of the two countries' bilateral political and military relations. These talks constituted a new breakthrough in various areas of military cooperation and means of strengthening and developing them further," he said.

Riak started a visit to Sudan five days ago, where he held talks with his Sudanese counterpart and met with Su-

danese President Omar al-Bashir and National Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Awad ibn Auf.

Sudan and South Sudan signed a deal in 2012 on security arrangements stipulating withdrawal of the two countries' troops for 10 km north and south of the zero line agreed on to establish a demilitarized zone on the joint border.—Xinhua ■

Crown prince downplays Trump's statement on Saudi military

RIYADH—Saudi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has brushed off comments from US President Donald Trump that Washington is "subsidising" the kingdom's military, Bloomberg reported on Friday.

The crown prince insisted that the kingdom has always paid for armaments from the US.

"Ever since the relationship started between Saudi Arabia and the United States of America, we've bought everything with money," he told Bloomberg in an interview.

Last week Trump asked at a rally "when you have wealthy countries like Saudi Arabia,

like Japan, like South Korea, why are we subsidising their military?"

"They'll pay us. The problem is nobody ever asks," he added.

Prince Mohammed downplayed any apparent rift with the US leader and said relations between the two allies remains strong.

"You have to accept that any friend will say good things and bad things. So you cannot have 100 per cent friends saying good things about you," he said.

"You will have some misunderstandings. So we put that in that category."—AFP ■



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (pictured April 2018) insists that the kingdom has always paid for armaments from the US. PHOTO:AFP



Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (pictured August 2018), who took office in 2015 and has dealt with many anti-government protests for his aggressive reform agenda, has been almost unanimously re-elected. PHOTO:AFP

Ethiopia ruling party backs PM Abiy at key meeting

ADDIS ABABA—Ethiopia's ruling party on Friday re-elected Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed as chairman in a near-unanimous vote that underscored official support for his reform agenda, state-affiliated media reported.

The 177 voting members of the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) backed Abiy, along with his deputy Demeke Mekonnen, during the party's long-delayed congress in the southern city of Hawassa, Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported.

"Abiy won 176 of the 177 votes, while Demeke received 149 votes," the broadcaster said. Abiy, 42, took office in April after the unprecedented

resignation of his predecessor Hailemariam Desalegn.

Starting in late 2015, his administration was roiled by anti-government protests led by Ethiopia's largest ethnic groups the Oromo and Amhara, who were angered by the heavy-handed rule of the EPRDF, which controls every seat in parliament and has targeted dissenters during its 27 years in power.

Since his inauguration, Abiy, an Oromo, has pursued an aggressive reform agenda that includes releasing jailed dissidents and journalists, making peace with arch-foe Eritrea and announcing the privatisation of key state-owned enterprises.

But ethnic clashes in the

countryside and violence in the capital have raised fears of looming crises in Africa's second most-populous country.

During Abiy's first public appearance in the capital Addis Ababa, a grenade attack set off a stampede, killing two people and injuring scores.

Meanwhile, nearly one million people have been displaced after fighting between the Oromos and the Gedeo ethnic minority in Ethiopia's south broke out shortly after Abiy took office.

Last month, clashes on the outskirts of the capital left at least 58 people dead, with those fleeing saying they were targeted by Oromo mobs because they are members of minority ethnic groups.—AFP ■

Pompeo eyes progress over Trump-Kim summit on Asia trip

TOKYO (Japan)—US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he hoped to accelerate a second summit between Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump as he kicked off an Asian trip on Saturday featuring a meeting with North Korea's leader. Pompeo arrived in Tokyo on the first leg of a tour that will take him to Pyongyang for a fourth time as the contours of a possibly historic US-North Korea deal take shape. Speaking on the plane on the way from the United States, Pompeo said his aim was to "develop sufficient trust" between the historic foes to inch towards peace. "Then we are also going to set up the next summit," said Pompeo.

However, he played down

expectations for a major breakthrough, saying: "I doubt we will get it nailed but begin to develop options for both location and timing for when Chairman Kim will meet with the president again."

"Maybe we will get further than that." In June, Trump met Kim in Singapore in the first-ever summit between the countries.

No sitting US president has visited North Korea, which according to human rights groups remains one of the most repressive countries on Earth.

Since the Singapore summit, which yielded what critics charge was a vague commitment by Kim towards denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, the road towards better ties has



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. PHOTO: AFP

been bumpy. Trump scrapped a previously planned trip by his top diplomat to Pyongyang after what he said was insufficient progress towards implementing the terms of the Singapore declaration.

But the unorthodox US president has also declared himself "in love" with the strongman in Pyongyang. Pompeo has repeat-

edly declined to be drawn out publicly on the shape of an eventual agreement. The United States has called for a comprehensive accord and strict enforcement of sanctions on North Korea in the meantime.

'Grand bargain'

Pompeo kicks off his trip in

Tokyo, holding talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Foreign Minister Taro Kono.

Japan, which has seen North Korean missiles fly over its territory and been threatened with annihilation, has historically taken a hard line on Pyongyang and stressed the need to maintain pressure on the regime.— AFP ■

Russia creates system capable of spotting drone operators

MOSCOW—The holding company Roselektronika (an affiliate of Rostec) has created a special system capable of spotting the location of drone operators, the corporation told the media on 2 October.

"The holding company Roselektronika has developed a radio monitoring module codenamed Cheryomukha (Bird Cherry) capable of spotting drones and identifying the location of their command centre," Rostec said.

In the process of testing Cheryomukha managed to determine the direction towards the drone and its operator with an error of just two degrees.

Cheryomukha is now being integrated with the drone resistance system incorporating a passive radar and radio-electronic jamming module Serp.

The passive radar spots all radio waves reflecting objects, while Cheryomukha finds out if these targets receive radio signals and if yes, whether the targets are drones, and then spots the command centre.

The system is being developed by the research and development institute Vektor (affiliated with Roselektronika). It will be available in two configurations - stationary and mobile.—Tass ■



Russia has developed a radio monitoring module capable of spotting drones and identifying the location of their command centre. PHOTO: TASS

Fujimori, in hospital plea, says return to prison would be 'death sentence'

LIMA (Peru)—Peru's ex-president Alberto Fujimori said from his hospital bed on Thursday that a return to prison would be a "death sentence," the day after a court revoked a pardon for crimes against humanity.

Fujimori, 80, addressed a plea to Peru's President Martin Vizcarra and the South American country's judiciary in a video recorded at his bedside.

"Please do not kill me. If I return to prison my heart will not support it. It is too weak to go through the same thing again. Don't sentence me to death. I can give no more."

A court on Wednesday annulled a presidential pardon for Fujimori, ending more than nine months of freedom granted under the shock pardon issued by a

previous president in December.

However, immediately after his re-arrest Fujimori was admitted to a clinic with heart problems.

His doctor, Alejandro Aguinaga, told reporters he experienced a drop in blood pressure and an accelerated heart beat — the same problems for which he has been hospitalized in the past.

"He is already considered a prisoner," Interior Minister Mauro Medina told Chile's RPP radio.

"He is expected to leave the clinic to take him to the penitentiary," the minister said.

Fujimori, a Peruvian of Japanese descent, has been living in Lima but has been hospitalized four times since his release last December.

His daughter Keiko Fujimori,

leader of the main opposition Popular Force party, described the court's decision on Wednesday as "inhuman" and "unjust".

"Today is the saddest day of our lives. It's painful," said Keiko, who is seen by many Peruvians as the heir to Fujimori's political dynasty.

Questionable pardon

Fujimori was pardoned last December on humanitarian grounds, but critics said the move was in exchange for Fujimori's son helping then-president Pedro Pablo Kuczynski avoid impeachment.

Fujimori was 12 years into a 25-year jail sentence handed down for ordering two massacres by death squads between 1991 and 1992.— AFP ■

US Senate approves sending Kavanaugh nomination to final vote

WASHINGTON (United States)—The US Senate on Friday narrowly approved moving to a final vote on President Donald Trump's embattled Supreme Court pick Brett Kavanaugh amid continuing controversy over sex-

ual abuse allegations against him.

The Senate voted 51-49 to approve Kavanaugh in the procedural cloture vote, with one Republican, Lisa Murkowski, opposing going forward while one Democrat, Joe Manchin, voted

to move ahead.

A final vote on the Republican nominee is planned for Saturday, with the result still in question as another Republican senator, Susan Collins, reserved her stance on final approval.— AFP ■

Japan military joins historic Philippine war games



Japanese Ground Home Defence Forces disembark from their amphibious assault vehicles during an amphibious landing exercise at the beach of the Philippine navy training center facing the south China sea in San Antonio town, Zambales province, north of Manila on 6 October, 2018, as they join the annual joint US-Philippine marines exercises. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAN ANTONIO (Philippines) — Japanese troops stormed a beach in the Philippines on Saturday in joint exercises with US and Filipino troops that officials said marked the first time Tokyo's armoured vehicles rolled on foreign soil since World War II.

The small Japanese contingent played a humanitarian support role in the drill after US and Filipino marines made an amphibious landing to retake Philippine territory from a "terrorist" group.

Fifty unarmed Japanese soldiers in camouflage marched behind their four armoured vehicles and picked up Filipino and American troops playing the role of wounded combatants while moving inland over sand and sparse bushland.

The exercise, codenamed Kamandag (Venom), marked the first time Japanese armoured military vehicles were used on foreign soil since the country adopted a pacifist constitution after its 1945 defeat, said Japan's

Major Koki Inoue. "Our purpose is to improve our operational capability and this is a very good opportunity for us to improve our humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training," Inoue said, adding Japan was not involved in the drill's combat component.

The exercise was held at a Philippine navy base facing the South China Sea some 250 kilometres (155 miles) from the Scarborough Shoal, a territory claimed by Manila that was seized by China during a 2012

naval stand-off.

The Philippines has since ramped up military cooperation with Washington, its long-time ally, and also held joint naval exercises with Japan near Scarborough Shoal in 2015.

Japan has its own maritime territorial dispute with Beijing in the East China Sea.

The US military stressed that Saturday's exercise was not aimed at China, which has also built artificial islands on disputed areas of the South China Sea

and installed military facilities on them.

"It has nothing to do with a foreign nation or any sort of foreign army. This is exclusively counter-terrorism within the Philippines," US Marine communications officer First Lieutenant Zack Doherty told AFP.

About 150 US, Filipino and Japanese troops took part in Saturday's landing, Doherty added.

This year's 10-day Kamandag exercises finish on Wednesday. —AFP ■

S-400 deal shows highest level of trust between Russia and India: Russian official

MOSCOW — Russia's decision to sell the sophisticated S-400 Triumf air defence missile system to India by 2020 testifies to the highest level of trust and understanding between the two strategic partners, a top official of a Russian industrial conglomerate said on Friday.

India and Russia concluded the USD 5 billion S-400 air defence system deal, notwithstanding the US warning that the agreement would be a "focus area" for it to implement punitive sanctions against a nation undertaking "signifi-



According to Vladimir Putin, Russia and India have also mapped out ambitious long-term plans. **PHOTO: TASS**

cant" business deals with the Russians.

The deal was sealed during the visit of Russian President

Vladimir Putin for the annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI ■

DPRK, S Korea call for end to war on peninsula

PYONGYANG — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and South Korea called for a complete end to the danger of war, the official media reported here Saturday.

The appeal was issued on Friday at an event held here to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the 2007 inter-Korean summit and released on Saturday by the Korean Central News Agency.

Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, and Unification

Minister of South Korea Cho Myoung-gyon were present at the ceremony.

The two sides called for "a complete end to the danger of a war on this land and turn our land into the peaceful one without nuclear weapons and nuclear threats."

They also called for thoroughly carrying out the historic Panmunjom declaration signed at the 2018 inter-Korean summit held in April and the September declaration signed last month by leaders of the two countries. —Xinhua ■

S Arabia threatens to block key UN climate report: sources

INCHEON (South Korea) — Oil giant Saudi Arabia is seeking to block adoption of a key UN climate change report unless a passage highlighting the inadequacy of national carbon-cutting pledges is removed or altered, multiple sources told AFP.

Already in overtime, a meeting of the 195-nation Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

in Incheon, South Korea is vetting a major report that traces pathways for limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Most of these scenarios involve a sharp reduction in the use of fossil fuels — Saudi Arabia's key export.

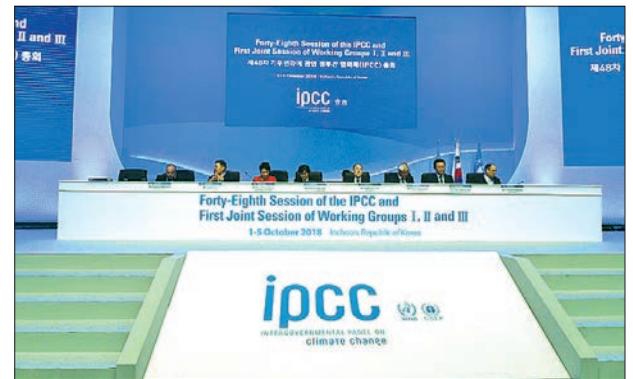
"We are very concerned that a single country is threatening to hold up

adoption of the IPCC Special Report if scientific findings are not changed or deleted according to its demands," said an informed observer who asked not to be named. The source, along with two other persons with direct knowledge of the situation, identified the country as Saudi Arabia.

"This has become a battle between Saudi Arabia, a rich oil producer, and

small island states threatened with extinction," said another participant at the meeting who also requested anonymity.

"The report hangs in the balance," the meeting's chair said Saturday — a day after talks were due to end — before convening an emergency huddle of the IPCC's half-dozen vice chairs, according to someone in the room. —AFP ■



The 195-nation Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is vetting a major report that traces pathways for limiting global warming. PHOTO: AFP

Chernobyl begins new life as solar power park

CHERNOBYL (Ukraine) — Ukraine launched on Friday a park of photovoltaic panels at the former Chernobyl power plant as the country seeks to use solar power to give the scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster a new lease on life.

The 1 million-euro (\$1.2-million), one-megawatt plant is located just a hundred metres (yards) from a giant metal dome sealing the remains of the the nuclear power plant which suffered a catastrophic meltdown in 1986.



New solar panels at the site of the closed Chernobyl power plant, scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster. PHOTO: AFP

"Today we are connecting the station to the power system of Ukraine," Yevgen Varyagin, the head of Solar Chernobyl, a Ukrainian-German company behind the project, said at the launch ceremony.

The facility, which is installed across an area of 1.6 hectares (4 acres), can power a medium-sized village, or about 2,000 households.

Plans are to eventually produce 100 megawatts at

the site, which due to contamination from radiation cannot be used for farming.

Ukrainian authorities have offered investors nearly 2,500 hectares to construct solar panels, and beside the cheap price of the land the site is also attractive as it offers connections to the power grid.

Foreign investors are attracted by the price at which Ukraine will buy the solar power, which exceeds the European average by

50 per cent, according to experts. Ukraine, which has stopped buying natural gas from Russia in the last few years, aims to diversify its electricity generation.

Reactor Number Four of the Chernobyl plant exploded on 26 April, 1986 and the fallout contaminated up to three quarters of Europe, according to some estimates, especially hitting Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Following the disaster,

Soviet authorities evacuated hundreds of thousands of people and the vast territory — over 2,000 square kilometres wide — has remained abandoned.

The other reactors were only gradually shut down, with the last closing in 2000, ending industrial activity in the area.

Humans cannot return to live in the zone for another 24,000 years, according to the Ukrainian authorities. —AFP ■

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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.

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Italy's 'other' film fest to kick off in Rome

ROME (Italy) — Cate Blanchett, Martin Scorsese, Sigourney Weaver and Michael Moore will all be attending this month's Rome Film Fest, Italy's 'other' cinema gathering after Venice. Just don't call it a festival.

"We are not a festival and those who want a festival will always be disappointed here," the Fest's director Antonio Monda told journalists on Friday ahead of the 18-28 October event which does not include a competition.

"What distinguishes us is that artists, directors, actors, actresses and producers choose Rome even if they don't have a film, book or CD to sell," Monda said.

The fest's 13th edition will screen 60 features, including 34 premieres. For the first time in Rome, two 'major' studios will

premiere films.

Sony Pictures will premiere the latest instalment in the Millennium series, "The Girl in the Spider's Web", to be attended by the cast including star Claire Foy, who played Queen Elizabeth II in the Netflix series "The Crown".

France's Studio Canal will show "Mia and the White Lion" about an 11-year-old girl's relationship with a lion.

US director Barry Jenkins, who won the Oscar for Best Film in 2016 with "Moonlight", returns with "If Beale Street Could Talk" which tackles US racism and discrimination in 1970s.

Martin Scorsese returns to his roots to receive a lifetime achievement award on 22 October.

Other workshops and discussion groups will be held with the

likes of Blanchett, Weaver and Isabelle Huppert, who will also receive a lifetime achievement award.

Moore on Trump

The director of the Cannes Film Festival Thierry Fremaux will discuss the thorny issue of Netflix and the often delicate relationship between streaming services and film fests/festivals.

Rome's show opens with "Bad Times at the El Royale" starring Dakota Johnson and Jeff Bridges, which tells the story of seven strangers at a run-down hotel in the Sierra Nevada.

Outspoken US documentary maker Michael Moore will show "Fahrenheit 11/9" about the day that Donald Trump became US president.

"An entertaining and worrying film that mixes Michael Moore's irony, intelligence and prophetic spirit," said Monda.

British documentary maker Tim Wardle will show "Three Identical Strangers" about triplets adopted by separate families who discover each other's existence aged 19.

The "Stan & Ollie" biopic about Laurel and Hardy, starring Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly will also be screened, along with "A Private War" by Matthew Heineman, about Sunday Times journalist Marie Colvin who was killed in Homs, Syria in 2012. —AFP ■



This month's Rome Film Fest, its 13th edition, will screen 60 features, including 34 premieres. For the first time in Rome, two 'major' studios will premiere films. PHOTO: AFP

#MeToo is about right vs wrong: Deepika Padukone

NEW DELHI — Deepika Padukone said Friday that #MeToo movement is about the victory of right over wrong and should not be reduced to men versus women. When asked about the #MeToo movement in the light of Tanushree Dutta's allegations of harassment against Nana Patekar, Padukone said, "For me, the #MeToo movement is not about gender. It is about the victory of right over wrong."

"Anyone who faces any kind of discrimination or any sort of abuse, I think we as people must support that person. It is not about a woman or a man or about female vs men. Let's not complicate or get confused in that conversation. I think the #MeToo should not be only about gender. It's about right vs wrong," she said at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit 2018 here.

Actor Ranveer Singh, who had accompanied Padukone to



Deepika Padukone. PHOTO: PTI

the event and shared the dais with her, said he condemns harassment in every form.

"Harassment per se is just wrong. Harassment of anyone, women, men or any person being harassed is wrong, whether it is in the workplace, public place, street or at home. It is wrong. Right now there is something that has happened. There is all kind of speculation.

"But if it has happened, then it takes a lot of courage for somebody to come out and speak about it. You know you have been through some very disturbing experience. It takes courage to speak publicly about it. Therefore you must consider what this person is saying... If it has happened, it is absolutely wrong and I condemn it emphatically," Ranveer said. —PTI ■

How Charles Aznavour changed music forever



Charles Aznavour reinvented popular music one cold December night in Paris in 1960. PHOTO: AFP

PARIS — "He just blew my brains out," said Bob Dylan of the first time he witnessed the French singer's style of delivery a little over two years later.

That concert has since gone down as one of the greatest ever at New York's Carnegie Hall.

Yet that night in Paris when a nervy Aznavour — who died Monday aged 94 — stepped out on stage to change the way songs were sung forever, his career was on the skids. Unloved at home and utterly unknown abroad, he was at the end of his tether.

He had pulled out all the stops to fill the Alhambra concert hall in one final bid to win over the public.

But the critics had come to bury not to praise him.

The little Armenian who had written songs for Edith Piaf, and spent years as her bag carrier, was going nowhere, stuck as the "ugly duckling" of the cabaret circuit without any kind of hit for four years.

Yet it was — irony of ironies — a song he wrote about a desperate provincial crooner dreaming of fame, "Je m'voyais déjà" (It Will Be My Day), that finally launched Aznavour to stardom.

Yves Montand, the actor and singer, had earlier turned it down, saying "songs about show business never work".

But that night at the Alhambra, Aznavour did not just sing the song, he turned it into "a one-act play" about the poor crooner's life, acting out him dressing to go on stage.

'He was revolutionary'

And with the song's last prophetic line, "But a day will come/ When I will show them I have the talent", Aznavour brought the house down.

The man who begun performing at five finally found his mojo at 36.

His biographer Bertrand Dicale said "Aznavour was a revolu-

tionary. He changed everything: the way songs were written, the themes a song could tackle, the way they could be performed."

Never good-looking — Piaf badgered him to get a nose job, then told him it was horrible — he was by then balding and prematurely aged.

But even as doors closed in his face, he was rebuilding himself from the best of his heroes. "My four points of reference were "Edith Piaf, Charles Trenet, (the Russian acting guru) Konstantin Stanislavski and Maurice Chevalier," he told AFP last year, adding that Bing Crosby, Mel Tormé and Frank Sinatra were also in the mix. "He stole his famous bar stool routine from Sinatra," said Dicale. "And that way he had of telling stories between songs was inspired by Sinatra's Las Vegas shows."

"I had done classical dance, variety and theatre, and I wanted to get all that into my performances," Aznavour, who will be buried on Saturday, told AFP.

'He put his guts into it'

"I said to myself that if I put them all in I would find my own style. And I did, it became 'Aznavour'," said the singer born Shahnour Varinag Aznavourian to parents fleeing the massacres of Armenians as the Ottoman empire collapsed.

"He broke all the rules of his era when singers had to be really good looking," said the French songwriter Calogero. "But he had this incredible personality."

For the rapper MC Solaar "you can see the feeling with Aznavour. He wanted to move people, we are far beyond just singing with him," he added.

Dicale added that Aznavour really became the characters in the songs, "really putting his guts into it". That is what impressed his peers, the writer said, and what won him the hearts of audiences across the world. —AFP ■

First SpaceX mission with astronauts set for June 2019: NASA

WASHINGTON (United States) — NASA has announced the first crewed flight by a SpaceX rocket to the International Space Station (ISS) is expected to take place in June 2019. It will be the first manned US launch to the orbiting research laboratory since the space shuttle program was retired in 2011, forcing US astronauts to hitch costly rides aboard Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

A flight on Boeing spacecraft is set to follow in August 2019.

The timetable for both launches has already been postponed several times, but NASA said Thursday it would now be providing monthly updates on deadlines.

“This new process for reporting our schedule is better; nevertheless, launch dates will still have some uncertainty, and we anticipate they may change as we get closer to launch,” said Phil McAlister, director of Commercial Spaceflight Development at NASA Headquarters.

“These are new spacecraft, and the engineering teams have a lot of work to do before the systems will be ready to fly.”

Both missions are considered tests: the two astronauts transported in each flight will spend two weeks aboard the orbiting ISS before returning to Earth.

In the long term, NASA will use SpaceX and Boeing to take astronauts to the ISS for regular missions, which last about six months. SpaceX will carry out an uncrewed test in January 2019, and Boeing in March 2019.

SpaceX will use its Falcon 9 rocket for its launch with a Crew Dragon capsule attached on top.

Boeing’s Starliner ship will be propelled into space by an Atlas V rocket made by the United Launch Alliance, a joint venture with Lockheed Martin.

NASA is depending on the success of both missions as its contract with the Russian space agency expires in November 2019. —AFP ■



SpaceX will use its Falcon 9 rocket to launch its Crew Dragon capsule - simulator pictured here - to the orbiting International Space Station. PHOTO: AFP

US researchers develop algorithm to predict blood pressure

MSAN FRANCISCO — Researchers at the University of California (UC) San Diego have developed for the first time an algorithm to predict a patient’s blood pressure using wearable technology and machine learning.

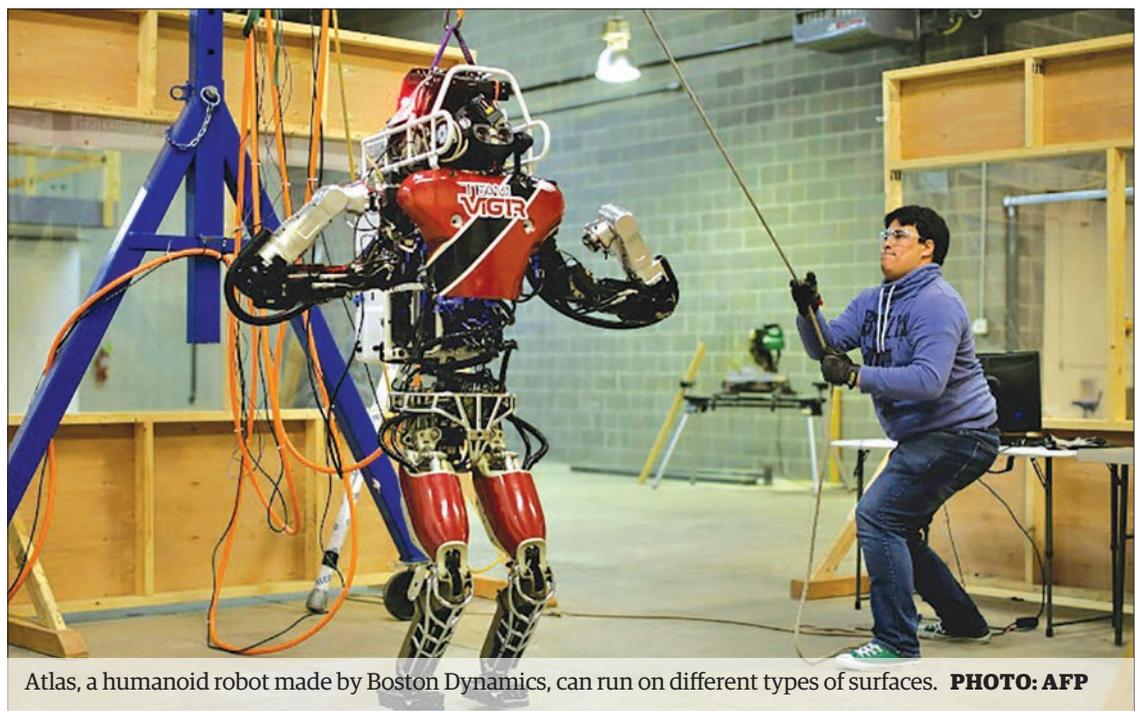
Scientists at the university carried out research on daily blood pressure prediction and its relationship to health behaviour data collected by wearables.

Sujit Dey, co-author of the study’s paper and director of the Centre for Wireless Communications at UC San Diego’s Jacobs School of Engineering, worked with a team to gather sleep, exercise and blood pressure data from patients throughout over 90 days using a FitBit Charge HR

and Omron Evolv wireless blood pressure monitor. With machine learning and data from wearable devices, the researchers developed an algorithm to predict the users’ blood pressure and show which particular health behaviors affected it most.

They recorded many possible factors and lifestyles of high-blood pressure patients, including their bedtime and its impact on their blood pressure.

Dey and his team found that the patients who went to bed 58 minutes earlier over the past week experienced an average 3.6 percent drop in systolic blood pressure and 6.6 per cent decrease in diastolic blood pressure from a week before. —Xinhua ■



Atlas, a humanoid robot made by Boston Dynamics, can run on different types of surfaces. PHOTO: AFP

Increasingly human-like robots spark fascination and fear

MADRID — Sporting a trendy brown bob, a humanoid robot named Erica chats to a man in front of stunned audience members in Madrid.

She and others like her are a prime focus of robotic research, as their uncanny human form could be key to integrating such machines into our lives, said researchers gathered this week at the annual International Conference on Intelligent Robots.

“You mentioned project management. Can you please tell me more?” Erica, who is playing the role of an employer, asks the man.

She may not understand the conversation, but she’s been trained to detect key words and respond to them.

A source of controversy due in part to fears for human employment, the presence of robots in our daily lives is nevertheless inevitable, engineers at the conference said.

The trick to making them more palatable, they added, is to make them look and act more human so that we accept them into our lives more easily.

In ageing societies, “robots will coexist with humans sooner or later”, said Hiroko Kamide, a Japanese psychologist who specialises in relations between humans and robots.

Welcoming robots into households or workplaces involves developing “multipurpose machines that are capable of interacting” with humans without being dangerous, said Philippe Soueres, head of the robotics department at a laboratory belonging to France’s CNRS scientific institute.

Human, but not too human

As such, robots must move around “in a supple way” despite their rigid mechanics and stop what they are doing in case of any unforeseen event, he added.

That’s why people are choosing “modular systems shaped like human bodies” which are meant to easily fit into real-world environments built for humans.

For instance Atlas, a humanoid robot made by Boston Dynamics, can run on different types of surfaces.

In Madrid, Marc Raibert, founder of the US firm, played a video showing Atlas doing a backflip.

In a sign of fears over the potential future uses for these humanoids, Amnesty International has accused Atlas, financed by an agency of the US Department of Defense, of being a “killer robot” made for future warfare.

Another example of humanoids presented in Madrid is Talos, a robot made by Spanish company Pal Robotics shown testing his stability on a balance board.

While it may not be the only form used for those coming into contact with humans, “it’s easier for people to accept the robots when they have human-like faces because people can expect how the robots will move, will react,” said Kamide.

That’s comforting, but it also has its limits.

Japanese researcher Masahiro Mori’s “uncanny valley” theory, which he developed in the 1970s, states that we react positively to robots if they have physical features familiar to us but they disturb us if they start looking too much like us.

“You can’t ever make a per-

fect human face” and this imperfection provokes a feeling of “rejection” among humans, said Miguel Salichs, a professor at the robotics lab of Madrid’s Carlos III University.

As such, he chose to fashion his robot Mini Maggie into a small cartoon animal.

‘Understand humans’

In Japan, robots like Erica are already used as receptionists.

But for one of their makers, Hiroshi Ishiguro, a professor at Osaka University, humanoids are above all “a very important tool to understand humans”.

Researchers have to think hard about the human form and how humans interact to develop robots that look like them.

“We understand the humans by using robots, the importance for example of eye gazing,” said Ishiguro, who has also made robots that look like dead celebrities, or “moving statues”.

He believes that humanoids are best to improve interactions between robots and humans.

“The human brain that we have has many functions to recognise humans. The natural interface for the humans is the humans,” said Ishiguro.

For Jurgen Schmidhuber, president of artificial intelligence start-up NNAISENSE, robots — be they humanoid or not — will be part of our future.

They won’t just imitate humans but will solve problems by experimenting themselves thanks to artificial intelligence without “a human teacher,” he believes.

Sitting on her chair, Erica nods her head. —AFP ■

Klopp believes Napoli loss can spur Liverpool on against Man City

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom)—Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp reckons a midweek Champions League defeat by Napoli could inspire his side when they face Premier League leaders Manchester City in a top-of-the-table clash at Anfield on Sunday.

Liverpool are currently second to City on goal difference alone but, for all the praise they've received so far this season, the Merseysiders have not won in three games—a League Cup draw and Premier League loss to Chelsea followed by Wednesday's 1-0 defeat by Napoli.

But having had time to reflect on that reverse in Italy, Klopp told a pre-match news conference on Friday: "After the game it felt much more clear they deserved to win than after the analysis.

"Yes they (Napoli) had more chances, we didn't have a shot on target," the German added.

"In the last 15 minutes they had two big chances and scored a goal, they had moments more than we did." But the crowd was in a lot of moments really unhap-



Jurgen Klopp hopes a defeat by Napoli will sting his Liverpool side into action against Manchester City. **PHOTO:AFP**

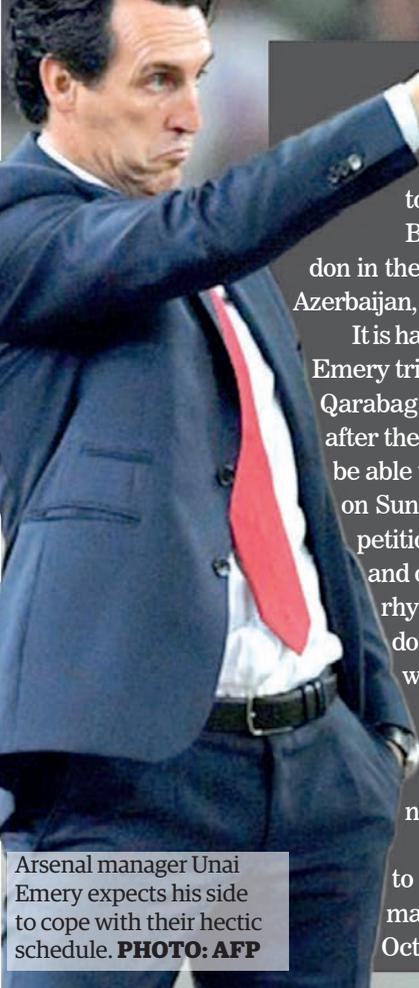
py with the Napoli performance. We defended in a lot of moments really good." He added: "Now we will have three days together until we play City and (we could) make the boys aware of what was all wrong." "I didn't want to lose at Napoli but, if you ask me which is the best preparation mood wise, it's losing a game. "We felt it now and we don't want to have that feeling again so we will fight with all we have for a different result."

Liverpool have won their last three matches against City, including both legs of a Champions League quarter-final last season.

But Klopp rejected suggestions he had some special hold over Pep Guardiola's side. "Obviously we won the last three games against City. After none of these games you go into the dressing room and think, 'Now we've got it, now we know how to beat Manchester City', because there is no real way, no one thing that you have to do," said Klopp.

"You have to be ready, you need a fantastic football team—which thank God I have—with outstanding character, ready to be really brave, ready to make mistakes. Then it can work.—AFP ■

Arsenal can cope with hectic schedule, insists Emery



Arsenal manager Unai Emery expects his side to cope with their hectic schedule. **PHOTO:AFP**

LONDON—Unai Emery insists Arsenal won't be allowed to use their hectic schedule as an excuse for a poor performance when they face Fulham on Sunday. Emery's side head to Craven Cottage bidding to extend their winning streak to nine matches in all competitions.

But Arsenal will be battling fatigue after touching down in London in the early hours of Friday morning, following a 4,000km flight from Azerbaijan, where they beat Qarabag 3-0 in the Europa League on Thursday.

It is hardly ideal preparation for an important Premier League clash, but Emery tried to guard against burn-out by resting several players against Qarabag. And regardless of the potential for dwindling energy levels after the gruelling European trip, the Spaniard believes his stars should be able to cope. "For us it's not a problem to play on Thursday and then on Sunday because we want to play a lot of matches and a lot of competitions," Emery said. "We also want to give the players the chances and opportunities to play, to give them confidence, responsibility and rhythm like today for all our players. "The players who sometimes don't play were used against Qarabag. But then also, maybe players who featured against Qarabag can play on Sunday too.

"We can do that with some players. For us it's very important on Sunday to produce the best performance." The Gunners should be able to use the momentum from their impressive winning run to keep them firing on all cylinders in the London derby.

Arsenal, up to fifth place after recovering from their slow start to the season, are vying to win six successive Premier League matches within a single campaign for the first time since August to October 2016.—AFP ■

Disciplinary committee takes disciplinary actions against players and both finalists

THE disciplinary committee of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) took disciplinary actions against the players and two finalists of Yangon United and Hanthawady United who were involved in the improper incidents in the final match of General Aung San Shield 2008 Knock-out Football Tournament.

The final match of General Aung San Shield 2008 Knock-out Football Tournament organized by the MFF took place in Aung San Stadium on September 30 and the championship trophy presentation ceremony followed.

At the 64th minute of the second half when Yangon United led the game with 2-1 win over Hanthawady United, Min Kyaw Khat wearing No 22 jersey of the former team committed a blatant foul on the player wearing No 19 jersey of the latter team who was dribbling the ball into the penalty area of the opponents' team. The referee offered a penalty kick to Hanthawady United. The Yangon United player made abusive words to the referee and forcibly pushed the chest of the referee for about three times. Then, the referee sent the Yangon United player off by showing a direct red card and at the meantime the red-carded player made a lot of attempts to be hostile toward the referee.

At the same time, goalie Kyaw Zin Htet of Yangon United was not happy with the penalty decision of the referee, thereby making abusive comments to the referee and forcibly pushing the chest of the referee. The referee sent the Yangon United goalie off by showing a red card. Afterwards, the Yangon United goalie made abusive words to the referee for several times and the teammates had to persuade him and bring him out of the pitch. The annoying incident halted the match for about five minutes.

The supporters of Yangon United entered the pitch, throwing water bottles at the players, the referees and the match officials and some supporters of Hanthawady United did the same matter.

At the stoppage time, goalie Kyaw Zin Htet of Yangon United entered the pitch and celebrated together with his teammates and made abusive words to the referees once again. Present on the final match among the audience were the heads of Yangon Region Government, high ranking military officials, the officials of the MFF and the football club owners. Unprofessional conducts tarnished the prestige image of Myanmar football arena and the MFF.

Regarding the incidents mentioned above, the disciplinary committee asked the referees who were in-charge of the final match and reviewed the report of the match supervisor as well as watched audio visual records.—Htute Htut (Twantay) ■

Striker Aung Thu to join Myanmar national football squad on 11 October

STRIKER Aung Thu, a Myanmar football star, who is playing for Thai club Police Tero as loan, is going to join his home team of Myanmar national football squad on 13 October, said a source close to Myanmar football arena.

At present Aung Thu is taking a retirement because he has sustained a minor injury on right wrist. His injury will miss the season remaining matches of Police Tero and the warm-up match against Indonesia on 10 October.

"Aung Thu will come to join Myanmar national football squad in Yangon on 11 Octo-

ber although he is not brought to Indonesia. For the sake of his right wrist injury, he is not wanted to be brought to Indonesia. It is not easy to exactly say whether he will be action in the friendly match against Bolivia. All depends on the situation of his injury," said an official of Myanmar national football team, who asked not to be named.

Myanmar national football squad will play two warm-up matches in the second week of October. Myanmar will play away friendly match against Indonesia on October 10 and home friendly against Bolivia on 13 October.—Htute Htut (Twantay) ■

Foreign language should be mandatory



By Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University

FOREIGN language is a language which is not our mother tongue. These languages play an important role in the world. The reason: they can create a better society by communicating with each other. They can help people make many friends all around the world. By communicating with each other, the world will be better. They are helping people in a lot of fields, such as education, economy, and politics. Moreover, foreign language is a kind of way to explore the world. We should not be contented with what we have possessed in our mind. If we are contented with what we have, we will be like a frog in a little pond.

By learning a foreign language, we can connect many people who are being alive in the world. The first thing we can receive well by learning foreign languages is many friends. It cannot be denied, as we can understand different languages to communicate with different foreign language speakers. And we can get help when we go abroad. Going to foreign countries is not an easy way. If we don't understand what the foreigner says, we cannot stay in a foreign country well. So, we need to learn foreign languages as much as we can.

Secondly, foreign languages can help the students to expand their knowledge. In education, foreign languages play an important role. There are some students who would like to go to foreign countries to expand their knowledge. And then, there are a lot of scholarships programs that are waiting for students who are willing to go abroad. If those students understand the foreign language, they have many golden opportunities to fulfill their wish. Some students say that they cannot afford

to attend foreign language proficiency classes. As today, however, is the IT age, students can learn foreign languages through online. By doing so, they do not need to give much time and pay a lot of money.

Thirdly, foreign languages help a lot in politics, since they can help the national leaders and politicians to communicate with different countries in the world. By understanding foreign languages, the national leaders can create a better communication with other countries. Moreover, foreign languages can help to possess mutual understanding. By creating a mutual understanding through foreign languages, the world will be better.

The next field in which foreign languages work well is economics. Economics is one of the vital factors for a country's development. When a business runs in cooperation with foreign countries, foreign languages are very important. For example, as our motherland, Myanmar, is merely a developing country, businessmen are cooperating with foreign countries more and more. If so, they can get many profits. And, they can help the country's development in a way.

Therefore, foreign languages are very important in a lot of fields as I have mentioned above. Nelson Mandela said, "If you talk to a man in a language that he understands, it goes to his head. If you talk to a man in his language, it goes to his heart." So, what I would like to say is foreign language should be mandatory to connect to the world by your heart.





Myanmar has been implementing the recommendations of the final report by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, and we are also encouraged by the recent assessment visit undertaken by the UNHCR and UNDP to meet with the communities in the various village tracts to find a durable solution for all communities in Rakhine State.

Exclusive Interview with Her Excellency Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Vanessa Chan

Q: Excellency, we understand that you served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Singapore Embassy in Myanmar from 2007 to 2011. I'd like to know your opinion about the changes during your terms here. What do you think of the present situation in Myanmar?

A: My last assignment in Myanmar from 2007 to 2011 was very eventful. I arrived on the eve of what is known to the outside world as the Saffron Uprising in October 2007. I was here when Cyclone Nargis ravaged the Ayeyawady Delta in May 2008 and when Mr. John Yettaw swam across Inya Lake to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's residence in 2009. I was among the international observers monitoring the 2010 General Election but unfortunately, I left just before the pivotal handover of power from Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe to President U Thein Sein in March 2011 and the beginnings of the transition in Myanmar.

I took a year off work to pursue my research interests in sar-si-kyo before resuming my responsibilities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in January 2012. Due to my research, I made regular visits to Myanmar and I could observe the changes happening in Myanmar society each time. However, it is only when I assumed my current responsibilities as Ambassador in December 2017 when I begin to grasp the enormity of the changes that have been set in motion since 2011.

For one, there are certainly many, many, more cars on the roads than I recall from my last assignment. The cost of a sim card today is about MMK 1,500 compared to some USD 300 – 400 in the past. We used to require special permission from the government to travel beyond Yangon but many places have become more accessible not just to foreign diplomats but to tourists as well. Where people were afraid to voice their opinions publicly in the past, Myanmar people today now post their thoughts freely on social media platform, such as Facebook and Twitter.

There has also been notable improvements in the provision of utilities and commodities. Electricity supply appears to be more regular and the supermarkets are well stocked with overseas product. I also noted that the Food and Beverage establishments have also flourished and there is a broad spectrum of international cuisine to choose from in Yangon. Myanmar today, is very different from the Myanmar that I had lived between 2007 and 2011.

Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges for our country in her transition to democracy, and do you have any suggestions for facing these challenges?

A: Transition in any society is not easy. As State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said at the Singapore Lecture in August, the complexity of the current transition lies in its amorphous nature, diverse opinions among its people and its overseas friends on how and what the transition should be as well as the enormous hopes and aspirations, and not to mention anxieties intertwined in this process. These sentiments have also been amplified by the social media.

Public opinion is important in any functioning democracy. Democracy as a form of governance has also evolved over time. I noticed that the NLD government tries to accommodate a broad segment of opinions, not merely giving greater priority to the voices of its supporters, in order to achieve national reconciliation. From a political standpoint, this may restrict what the government can do in any given scenario. In addition, a fixed electoral cycle also puts pressure on the government to deliver results. What Myanmar is facing in terms of domestic political pressure is not very different from those faced by many other countries from this perspective.

In a short span of seven years since the beginning of the transition in 2011, Myanmar has made tremendous strides. However, many of the challenges have long historical roots and do not lend themselves to quick fixes, especially when it came to rebuilding trust and confidence. One such example is the situation in Rakhine State. Singapore has taken the consistent and principled position that humanitarian

assistance should be provided to all affected communities, and the voluntary repatriation of displaced persons should be carried out in a safe, secure and dignified manner without delay. However, addressing the root causes of the conflict and creating a conducive environment for the affected communities to rebuild their lives does not take place overnight. In this respect, Myanmar has been implementing the recommendations of the final report by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, and we are also encouraged by the recent assessment visit undertaken by the UNHCR and UNDP to meet with the communities in the various village tracts to find a durable solution for all communities in Rakhine State. A win-win outcome in Rakhine State may provide inspiration for the ongoing peace process.

We are also entering a period of uncertainty in the international order. No one country can insulate itself from events happening outside our countries. For Myanmar which has only recently reintegrated itself into the global economy, I can only imagine the scale of the challenges it is facing. I applaud the courage of the government to continue its reform process and the resilience of the Myanmar people to bite the bullet to give time for the reforms to bear fruit.

Myanmar has no shortage of friends. Among friends, disagreements are common. But more importantly, all of Myanmar's friends want to see it succeed. Singapore will look at our niche advantages to continue to support Myanmar in its development priorities, such as in the area of vocational education. From our own developmental journey, having recovered from two debilitating racial riots in the 1960s, we have realised that primordial differences can be mitigated when all groups have equal access to opportunities and the fruits of our collective labour are shared. I therefore echo President Win Myint's call to uplift the socio-economic conditions of all peoples in Myanmar.

Q: Can you please tell us the present situation of bilateral trade between our two countries? And do you have any suggestions for improving it?

A: Trade relations between our two countries have always been strong. The Singapore-Myanmar Joint Ministerial Working Committee (JMWC) is a cornerstone of our bilateral economic relations. It serves as a platform to discuss ways to improve cooperation in trade and related sectors. I am happy to note that Singapore was Myanmar's third largest trading partner in 2017, and recent statistics from the Myanmar Government, we are Myanmar's second largest trading partner in ASEAN in 2018 thus far.

I believe that trade between our two countries has the potential for greater growth. One area I can think of is the export of Myanmar agriculture products and fisheries to Singapore. Singapore people are already big fans of your sein-ta-lone mangoes. I have also heard that we are buying specialty coffee grown in Myanmar. I have met many NGOs working with Myanmar farmers to introduce sustainable organic farming practices to improve the livelihood of the people. I understand that a Singapore company, Golden Sunland, has commenced a pilot project in Nay Pyi Taw to introduce a variety of hybrid rice to Myanmar farmers that has a higher yield and could potentially provide more income for them. With proper post-harvest processing and the development of cold-chain logistics, I am confident that Singapore will be an important destination for Myanmar produce.

Q: As we all know, Singapore is one of the biggest investors in our country. Could you please give us some information about the Singapore FDI in Myanmar? And what advice would you give us in order to attract more FDI from Singapore?

A: Singapore investors are committed to the long-term development of Myanmar. In the past five years, Singapore has been the top foreign investor in Myanmar. However, I would like to clarify that a significant amount of these investments are from foreign companies based in Singapore.



Being aged and ageism



By Laura Htet
UDE English

I HAVE much sympathy upon the old people. Although I do not know the life-span of people in Myanmar, I can see many old people around me. They all are more than 70 years of age. Some of them are in bed and some cannot go out of their houses. Seeing them, I do not want to live long. There are some reasons that I do not want to live over 70 years. However, I cannot deny how many years my fortune will let me to live.

Everyone is in association with four phenomena namely birth, decrepitude, infirmity and death. No one will be deprived of such four phenomena though they do not want to meet them. I am a youth so that I have already experienced with birth. Then, I have to surely meet the decrepitude without fail. Growing old happen to all of us, however hard we may try to delay the process. Cosmetic surgery may

remove the wrinkles, skin which has sagged may be tightened by means of a facelift, and hairdressers may dye grey hair a more youthful color, but we cannot remain young forever.

Advances in medicine have made it possible for more people to stay alive longer. However, what is important is the quality of life and people age differently. Some people remain quite well and able to look after themselves when they get old, but others of the same age are not so lucky. They have to go into sheltered housing or even into a residential home or nursing home in order to receive adequate care. Moreover, the worst aspect of ageing is that often the mind becomes less alert. As people grow older, they often experience loss of short-term memory although they may well be able to recall quite easily events that happened long ago. Later they may suffer from dementia, often

known as grey power. This name comes from the fact that elderly people usually have grey hair and the power, especially financial or political power held by elderly people. Nonetheless, I do not want to be a grey-powered person. This is the rare case among the aged. Most of the aged are weak, both physically and mentally.

All in all, there are some cultures which are noted for the great respect with which they treat their old people, but many people regard the old as having very low status in society and treat them accordingly. People in the latter culture are often guilty of ageism. They regard the old people as geriatrics who have one foot in the grave. This is a state like Myanmar saying that goes, "Not respected by man; not cowed by dog." Therefore, I would like to remind such ones that they, too, will be old one day. ■

FROM PAGE- S-2

As many of our friends would know, Singapore is a small country who tries to be useful to the rest of the world. To this end, we have been quite successful as a regional financial hub and to create an enabling environment to attract foreign companies interested in investing in the region to establish their operations in Singapore.

To encourage more investments from Singapore, we are in the midst of finalising a Bilateral Investment Treaty with Myanmar as well as to update our existing Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement. In addition, new legislations rolled out by the Myanmar government such as the Investment Law and the Companies Act has renewed interest by companies in Singapore to invest in Myanmar. The Singapore business community in Myanmar is also doing its part to promote Myanmar as an investment destination. The Singapore Association of Myanmar will be organising a business forum in November 2018 in conjunction with its annual Charity and Fundraising Golf and Dinner where it will invite Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, and Minister for the Office of the Government, HE U Thaung Tun to deliver a keynote address as well as distinguished speakers to speak at the event.

Like Singapore, Myanmar is also trying to navigate its way in a turbulent international economic climate. Singapore will continue to offer its technical assistance in accordance to our strengths and Myanmar's needs. We will also be happy to work with our international partners in this regard to enhance the confidence in Myanmar's economic prospects and joint collaborations for Myanmar's development.

Q: In a previous interview with former Ambassador H.E. Robert Chua, he shared that there is a growing Singapore community in Myanmar: a wonderful presence of almost 200,000 Myanmar people living and working in Singapore. Do you have any plan to recruit more Myanmar workers?

A: I am told that there are between 100,000 to 200,000 Myanmar people living in Singapore at any point in time. Some are there to study while others are working there. For the latter, there is a broad range, from the semi-skilled to highly trained professionals. They have contributed to Singapore's development during their sojourn with us.

Singapore is always happy to welcome more Myanmar people to work there. In our contact with the Myanmar people in Singapore, they have proven to be intelligent, diligent and willing to learn. Many of the skills and mind-set that they have acquired will be useful to Myanmar's development.

Q: What do you think we should do to attract more tourists from Singapore?

A: Myanmar has a lot of potential for tourism, given the diversity of your peoples and the richness of the culture, heritage and natural beauties. I recall that the Myanmar Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has recently launched a new campaign "Myanmar, Be Enchanted". Despite this being my second assignment in Myanmar, I am still very much enchanted by your people, traditions and your bountiful natural treasures.

When Myanmar and Singapore granted visa exemptions to each other's citizens from 1 December 2016, the number of visitors from Singapore increased by more than 10% year on year. According to Singapore Tourism Board statistics, more than 146,000 Myanmar travellers visited Singapore in 2017, a 28% increase compared to 2016. Silk Air launched its multi-city "stopover flights" connecting Singapore-Yangon-Mandalay in October 2017. This will encourage tourism flows between both countries.

Increasingly, tourists are becoming more sophisticated and want to experience something different. I would suggest that the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to work towards distinguishing its attractions to provide a unique experience for visitors, be it the beaches along the Andaman coasts, the Shan mountain ranges or the pagodas in Bagan.

Q: What do you like most about living and working in Myanmar?

A: Compared to my first assignment in Myanmar from 2007 to 2011, the living standards that I am experiencing at this moment is a dramatic improvement. But what motivated me to return to Myanmar to serve another tour is the fact that I have been personally touched by the warmth and the generosity of my Myanmar friends. I also feel that I can do more in my current capacity to advance the relationship of our two countries and our peoples as well as to support Myanmar's development and transition. ■

Gandhi and Lenin's Birth Anniversaries and 'Iffy History'

By Dr. Myint Zan
PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

PART I: MAHATMA GANDHI AND VLADIMIR LENIN

Mahatma Gandhi and Lenin Centennial Anniversaries in 1969 and 1970

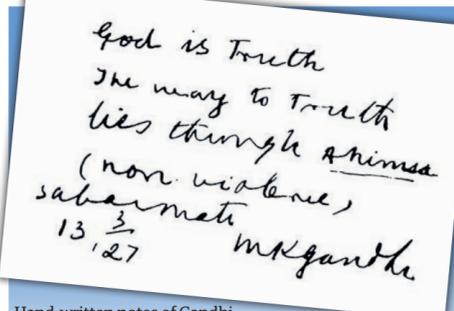
2 October 2018 is (using the historic present tense) the 149th birth anniversary (pre 150th birth anniversary) of Mahatma Gandhi (2 October 1869-30 January 1948). There will be commemorations of the birth of this icon of, among others, non-violence ideology. This year (2018) commemorations are perhaps an overture for what can be considered as grander commemorations in 2019 of Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary.

Mahatma Gandhi's 100th birth anniversary was celebrated in the Union of Burma in October 1969. The writer recalls that, as high school students at No. 6 State High School in Mandalay, we were required (rather than 'invited') to attend the talks on Mahatma Gandhi held at Mandalay Town Hall. The writer only recalls one speaker who spoke at the Gandhi centenary at Mandalay Town Hall. He was the late historian Sayagyi ('Revered teacher') Dr. Than Tun (6 April 1923-30 November 2005). The writer does not recall any of the contents of Dr. Than Tun's speech except that he ended his speech quite abruptly saying 'that's enough' တော့ပဲ (Taw Bar Byi). Perhaps Dr. Than Tun might have rushed through his speech and abruptly ended it because previous speakers might have spent more than their allotted time or perhaps he was in no mood to continue his speech.

Fast forward (or rewind backward first to October 1869 and then forward) to April 1870. 22 April 1970 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Lenin (22 April 1870-21 January 1924). Lenin's birth centenary, also like Mahatma Gandhi's was commemorated if not (almost) worldwide then in many countries around the world including in the Union of Burma. The celebrations of the birth centenary of Lenin in 1970 would be more widespread and much grander in the then Soviet Union (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) than in the Union of Burma. In contrast, in the United States, at the height of the Cold War (albeit just a few years before the détente years), at least officially the commemorations (if there were any at all) would be much more muted.

The writer also attended the 100th anniversary of Lenin's birth anniversary talks held on or around 22 April 1970 at Rangoon (as it was then called) Town Hall. Again, I only recall one speaker from that occasion: the late writer U Thein Pe Myint (10 July 1914-15 January 1978) at the Town Hall talk all those 48 years ago. And I recall that unlike the speech of Dr. Than Tun, U Thein Pe Myint did not end his speech abruptly but with an anecdote – apparently a warm and touching one – concerning one aspect of the relationship between Lenin and his wife Nadezhda Krupskaya. From my recall, U Thein Pe Myint concluded his speech stating that a great leader or revolutionary in addition to the qualities that made him a great leader also needs to have a sense of and exhibit humanity လူသားဆန်စရာ (Lu Thar Hsan Ya Mae).

The 150th anniversary of Lenin's birth may—or may not—(perhaps) be commemorated in April 2020 including (or is it especially?) in the Russian Federation. Perhaps with the (arguable) decline (one hesitates to state 'downfall') of Communism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the commemorations might not (or they might?)



Hand-written notes of Gandhi (in English), dated 13 March 1927.

reach the level, 'height' or fervor of the centennial ones in 1970.

Lenin's contemporaneous obituaries in Time magazine and the New York Times

Quite some time after the centennial celebrations of Gandhi and Lenin, the writer has had the chance to read the contemporaneous reports and obituaries of various personages online from the archives of Time magazine (which from the years 2003 to about 2007 was free; since about 2009, if not earlier, it is a paid service.). The obituary of Lenin published in Time magazine of February 1924 wrote somewhat enigmatically, ironically (and perhaps prematurely?) that 'it would take a century to "estimate" Lenin'. If Lenin's death in January 1924 is taken as the 'time line' then it is not quite yet time to 'estimate' Lenin since it is not yet a century since Lenin has passed on.

Lenin's 'Great October Socialist Revolution' (of November 1917 according to the Gregorian calendar) was in fact a sort of coup (by the Bolsheviks against the Mensheviks) in the Provisional Government formed after the Tsar's overthrow in February 1917. If that revolution or 'coup' date by the Bolsheviks is taken as the starting point to 'estimate' Lenin then the century mark was reached several months ago.

The New York Times' contemporaneous report describes the emotional scenes with Soviet Communist deputies wailing loudly, beating their chests and tearing their hair with abandon when Lenin's death was announced. A week or so later in the early February 1924 issue of the weekly Time magazine's reportage and commentary mentioned above it editorialized that it would take a 'century to estimate Lenin'. It also mentioned that the Soviet officials announcing the death of Lenin asserted that there were thousands and thousands of Soviet citizens who would willingly have 'given every drop of blood in their bodies if they could have saved Lenin'. But enough of Lenin's obituary and on to the Mahatma's obituary that appeared almost 24 years to the month later in Time magazine and the New York Times (Lenin died on 21 January 1924; Gandhi was assassinated on 30 January 1948).

Mahatma Gandhi's contemporaneous obituary in Time magazine and the New York Times

In the 1970s, several weeks after certain personages had passed away, this writer has had the chance to read ('in

hard copy' in modern parlance) in Mandalay the obituaries of, among others, philosopher Bertrand Russell (died February 1970), retired United States Chief Justice (one biography of him has the title 'super Chief') Earl Warren (died July 1974) and historian Arnold Toynbee (died October 1975) that appeared in Time magazine. They were all well-written almost touching tributes of those personages. But it was only around 2005 that I have had the chance to read the even more movingly and affectingly written obituary of the Mahatma in a contemporaneous Time magazine article of early February 1948 entitled 'Of Truth and Shame'. (So far, the writer has only read Mahatma Gandhi's obituary downloaded from the World Wide Web. Recently, the writer enquired both at University of Mandalay and University of Yangon libraries whether they have 'hard copies' of Time magazine from around February 1948. The University of Mandalay library has selected copies of Time dating back to the early 1960s, not earlier, but University of Yangon library staff informed me that for easy retrieval they only have copies dating back to 1997!)

As stated above New York Times reported the announcement of Lenin's death in January 1924 to the Soviet apparatus and the emotional scenes that immediately broke out among them. Twenty-four years later the New York Times also reported that Gandhi's funeral procession was 5 miles long. Time magazine added that, at the funeral, quite a few distraught mourners tried to jump into the funeral pyre. In order to deter such suicides from occurring, the Indian police had to beat them with lathes (iron-bound bamboo stick used as a weapon, by the police), Time reported.

Thousands of Soviet citizens might willingly have 'given every drop of their blood to save Lenin' but at least a few Indians did try to jump into Gandhiji's funeral pyre 'to be cremated with the Mahatma'.

Mahatma Gandhi and Lenin's political views, actions and impacts briefly contrasted

Mahatma Gandhi's advocacy and practice of non-violence Ahimsa အတိတ် and Lenin's revolutionary—indeed open and ruthless advocacy and practice of violence, both when he was struggling for power and immediately after he obtained power – rhetoric and methods stood in stark contrast from each other. They shed much light on Gandhi's and Lenin's political ideologies. Such a contrast can also be discerned philosophically and perhaps also from the perspective of political morality albeit some (political) cynics might raise the 'ontological' issue of whether there is in existence such a 'genre' as political morality or morality in politics.

Indeed, personally this writer would find it somewhat of a puzzlement if a person were to tell him that they (using gender neutral language) admire both Gandhi and Lenin with equal devotion and fervor. It is perhaps understandable to admire both while at the same time admire one personage Lenin or Gandhi (much) more than the other. To this writer, it is an anomaly if not to use a Marxist (but not Leninist?) term 'inner contradiction' to assert that a person simultaneously and equally admires both the author of State and Revolution (Lenin) and espouser of non-violence resistance to authority exemplified in Gandhi's discourses and actions.

Arguably, it was at least partly through the Mahatma's

method of non-violent resistance that eventually brought forth Indian and, one might add, Pakistan's independence in August 1947. In neighboring Burma it was (at least initially from 1940 to 1942) armed resistance through tutelage and cooperation with the then Japanese Fascists, as it was used later to describe them, that the British were (during the War years) driven out of the country. After the Second World War, the British returned to Burma. In post-war Burmese politics it was perhaps partly through the Gandhian method of negotiation and peaceful resistance (and not the Leninist revolution) that brought about Burma's independence in 1948.

In far flung Viet Nam (in contrast to Burma, Viet Nam is far flung from India), Ho Chi Minh fought militarily and defeated the French in 1954, nine years after his unilateral declaration of independence in September 1945. Though Ho Chi Minh's method(s) cannot be fully described as Leninist, it was also assuredly not Gandhian non-violence that Ho Chi Minh employed in his successful attempt to regain Vietnamese independence.

In a certain sense and in different modes, the writer admires both Mahatma Gandhi and Ho Chi Minh but—let's not beat about the bush—not Vladimir Lenin. The writer is of the opinion though and acknowledges that in terms of impact and influence in the 20th and early 21st centuries, and as argued by Michael H. Hart in his book The Hundred: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History, it was and it is Lenin who would probably (and arguably) 'top' Gandhi. (Please note that 'influence' is not the same as, indeed it could be vastly different from, brilliance, prestige, morality, fame, goodness or even evilness of personages). Still, it needs to be pointed that in 2007, the United Nations General Assembly passed a Resolution to commemorate 2 October every year as 'International Day of Non-Violence' in honour of the Mahatma. As far as the writer knows, certainly after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, no United Nations body has designated either the day Lenin was born or the day that he died to be internationally commemorated.

U Thein Pe Myint attributed 'humanity' to Lenin in his talk of April 1970. But as stated by biographer Robert Payne's The Life and Death of Lenin (first published 1964), which I (deliberately) finished reading on the 108th birthday of Lenin (22 April 1978), and in a more recent biography by Victor Sebestyen, Lenin: The Man, the Dictator, and the Master of Terror (2017), it was stated and argued with ample evidence that Lenin's political actions were tainted with (some might argue 'drenched in') cruelty as well.

There are many books which just fell short of 'designating' Mahatma Gandhi as a 'secular saint' and there are also a few which sort of debunks the 'secular sainthood' status attributed or accorded to Gandhi. Nevertheless, even the most critical biographies of Mahatma Gandhi would not (and dare not since there is no historical record or evidence) accuse Gandhi of possessing the characteristics of cruelty, ruthlessness and treachery attributed to Lenin by not only critical biographers but also as discernible from post-Soviet era declassified archives.

A historical curiosity: has Lenin and Gandhi ever met or even corresponded?

I have read that Charles Darwin (12 February 1809-19 April 1882) and Karl Marx (5 May 1818-14 March 1883) (personages which are perhaps even more influential in history than Lenin and Gandhi) had, at some point in their lives, lived (at most) perhaps a hundred miles from each other in England. Both Darwin and Marx died within a year of each other in England but apparently they had never met.

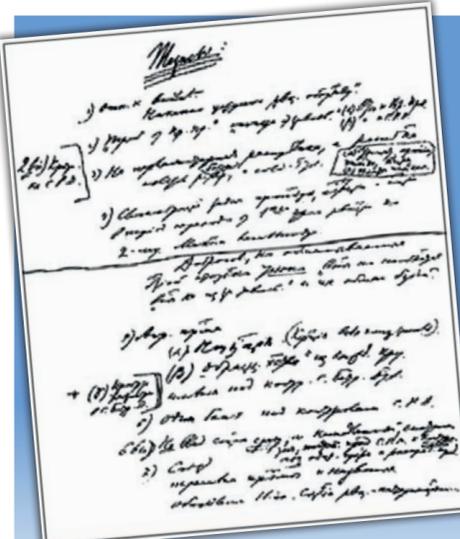
One wonders whether Lenin and Gandhi, like Marx and Darwin, has (n)ever met? Have they ever corresponded? From the writer's vague recall from reading The Life and Death of Lenin, biographer the late Robert Payne did not indicate that these towering (not based on their heights) personalities of the 20th century had ever met or perhaps even corresponded. Very likely they did not. The writer is subject to correction on these points especially as regards the correspondence part.

PART II COUNTER-FACTUAL HYPOTHETICALS AND 'IFFY HISTORY'

Counter-factual hypothetical and 'iffy history' regarding Lenin's and Gandhi's lives and deaths

Mahatma Gandhi and Vladimir Lenin might never have met but they were contemporaries. Lenin, born in April 1870, was just over six months younger than Gandhi, born in October 1869. But Lenin died (on 21 January 1924) 24 years to the month almost to the day before Gandhi was assassinated (on 30 January 1948). In the contemporaneous obituary in the New York Times of Mahatma Gandhi, it is stated that in January 1922 the British colonial government sentenced him to jail, but because of Gandhi's medical conditions he was released in January 1924—the month and the year of Lenin's death.

Vladimir Lenin became politically active against an oppressive, definitely feudal system and regime which had



Handwritten note of Lenin, apparently in Russian, written around April 1917 (ten years earlier than Gandhi's note) which, in part, so the description says states Lenin advocated the overthrow of the provisional government formed in February 1917.

lasted for hundreds of years—the Tsarist rule in Russia. In contrast, the British colonial government in India was a relatively benign regime in comparison with the feudalistic and oppressive Tsarist rule. Both Gandhi and Lenin became politically active around the same time—late 19th to early 20th century. Lenin was trying to overthrow Tsarist rule and later he also turned against his erstwhile 'coalition partners' (albeit perhaps not 'comrades') the Mensheviks through all means including violent ones.

In contrast, Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and methods were non-violent. In an academic (as in learning and as in futility) indeed hypothetical exercise even if the (for want of a better phrase) Machiavellian Lenin did adopt Gandhian methods against Tsarist rule he might well not

have succeeded. In the same vein, about 40 years later in the 1940s and 1950s, Ho Chi Minh would, probably not have succeeded in Viet Nam in his anti-colonial struggle against the French if he were to adopt only Gandhian non-violence methods as a weapon (pun is intended) of struggle.

The writer realizes that this is a counter-factual hypothetical but he is not 'done' yet with 'counter-factual hypotheticals' so to speak. Indeed, beyond the 'realm' of the counter-factual he would indulge in what colloquially but perhaps quite tellingly is called 'iffy history' which is: if this and that event had not occurred or if they had occurred differently would certain aspects of human history be the same or not?

IF (if) Gandhi –instead of Lenin—had died in January 1924 at the age of 53 years and 9 months—as Lenin actually did – of say, natural causes, instead of being assassinated at the age of 78 years and 3 months (in actuality) would modern (i.e. 20th century) Indian and indeed world history have been different or not?

Similarly, (or in the obverse) IF (if) Lenin had lived as long as Mahatma Gandhi did and died only at the age of 78—as Gandhi did—would Soviet history and world history have changed or not?

If these counter-factual hypotheticals were to take place, would the changes for India, the Soviet Union and the world be for the better; for the worse or more or less the same?

The writer has one more 'counter-factual hypothetical' 'up his sleeve' and, for that matter, with a local 'flavor'. IF (if) Lenin had lived up to the age of 'our own' (the phrase is used advisedly) General/U Ne Win (6 July 1910? - 5 December 2002) (92 years and five months) then Lenin would have been alive on 4 October 1957 when the Soviet state he founded launched the world's first man-made satellite Sputnik I which orbited the Earth from Space.

Lenin would have been 'only' 87 years and 5 months old when Sputnik I orbited the Earth. Better, if Lenin were to live as long as U Ne Win, Lenin would have been alive when the Soviet Union sent the late Yuri Gagarin into Space to orbit the Earth in less than two hours on 12 April 1961. If Lenin were alive at that historic date Lenin would be ten days short of 91— still younger than U Ne Win when he passed away apparently at the age of 92 years and 5 months.

Likewise, if Mahatma Gandhi were to live as long as U Ne Win, he would also have been alive when Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen became the first human in Space. In April 1961, Gandhi, if alive, would have been 91 years and 6 months old. If Gandhi had lived as long as U Ne Win, he would also have been alive when a citizen of a neighboring country, U Thant of Burma, was unanimously elected (101 for, no vote against, no abstention in the United Nations General Assembly) as the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 3 November 1961. If (if) Mahatma Gandhi was alive in November 1961 when U Thant became Secretary-General, he would 'only' be 91 years and one month old and would be younger than U Ne Win (if the above date of birth mentioned is true) than the age when U Ne Win passed away in December 2002.

Most of the statements in this section, to repeat the phrase in the title, are 'iffy history'. Some parts of this article deals with (comparative) politics, (comparing) personalities and (comparative) biographies. In this section exercising writer's license I discuss about iffy history or 'the pasts that never were'.

In Burma in the Family of Nations, published in 1956, which in large part covers aspects of the diplomatic and legal history of Burma, the late President Dr. Maung Maung (31 January 1925-2 July 1994) wrote: 'History is not interested in ifs and buts. History has a will and a way of its own.'

The contention that aspects of Indian, Soviet/Russian and world history of the 20th century—this time not iffy history—have been impacted one way or the other by the lives and actions of Mahatma Gandhi (Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi) and Lenin (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov) are based on (historical) facts which are virtually beyond dispute.



By C. T. O

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

အခြား Narrative essay တစ်ပုဒ်ကို အောက်တွင်ပေးထားပါသည်။ လေ့လာပါ။

A visit to a village

Last Sunday my friend Htay Lwin took me to a village. It is his native village. It is called Myittha. It is on the opposite bank of the Hlaing River from Insein. Our friends Tun Shwe and Hla Pe came along with us. We first went to Insein by bus. Then we took a boat to the village. Htay Lwin has an uncle there. We went to his house.

His uncle U Myint Thein warmly welcomed us. He is a rich farmer. He grows paddy. He has a large live-stock farm. We drank a lot of milk and ate a lot of eggs. Then we went round his farm. He has many cows, pigs, chickens, and ducks on his farm. We saw many farm workers. Most of them are girls. Some were milking the cows. Some were feeding the chickens. Some were punding broken rice. Some were punding broken rice. Some were washing the pigs. Some were gathering eggs. Some were carrying water from the river. We then went to a small stream that flows into the Hlaing River and swam in it. We watched the village girls carrying water. We also saw many fishermen. We went back to U Myint Thein's house and had lunch. Then we went round the village. It is a large village. There are over 700 houses and nearly 4,000 people in it. Most of the houses are made of wood and bamboo. There is a pagoda at the head of the village. There is a monastery near it. It is a brick building. There is a State Middle School at the village. It is in the centre of the village. It has over 500 boys and girls. The co-operative shop is near the school. It sells groceries, textiles and farming implements.

We left the village at about 4 pm. On the way back we rowed the boat ourselves. It was very exciting. It was 6 o'clock when we arrived back.

ပထမအပုဒ်မှာကဲ့သို့ပင် တစ်ခုပြီးတစ်ခုဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့သည်တို့ကို Simple Past Tense ဖြင့်ရေး၍လယ်ကွက်ထဲတွင် မြင်ခဲ့ရသော မြင်ကွင်းတို့ကို Past Continuous Tense ဖြင့် ရေးသားပုံတို့ကို လေ့လာပါ။

There is, there are နှင့် တွဲဖက်သောစာကြောင်းများသုံးထားပုံကိုလည်း လေ့လာပါ။

Glossary

Table with 2 columns: English word and Burmese translation. Words include opposite, came along with us, livestock farm, farm workers, broken rice, at the head of the village, groceries, textiles, farming implements, co-operative, exciting, dropped in.

သင်ခန်းစာအသစ်အဖြစ် ဝိဘတ်များ (Prepositions) များကိုတင်ပြပါမည်။

(A) Prepositions များသည် ဝါကျတည်ဆောက်မှု (Structure) တွင် အရေးပါသော စာလုံးများဖြစ်သဖြင့် မှန်ကန်စွာအသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ သတိမထားလျှင် အင်္ဂလိပ်လူမျိုးပညာတတ်များပင် မှားသုံးတတ်သော စကားလုံးများဖြစ်သည်။

(B) ထိုအပြင် အချို့သော စာလုံးများနောက်တွင် တစ်စုံတစ်ခုသော ဝိဘတ်

(Preposition) ထည့်လိုက်ခြင်းဖြင့် မူရင်းစာလုံး၏ အဓိပ္ပာယ်ပျောက်ကာ အဓိပ္ပာယ်အသစ်တစ်ခု ရရှိပါသည်။ ၎င်းတို့ကို အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် Idioms ဟု ခေါ်ပါသည်။ Idioms များကို သင်ခန်းစာ(၁)နှင့် (၂)တွင် ပေးခဲ့ပါသည်။

(C) မြန်မာစာတွင် ဝိဘတ်သည်တွဲဖက်သုံးစွဲသော နာမ်၏နောက်မှကပ်လိုက်သည်။

- စားပွဲပေါ်မှာ အိပ်ထဲမှာ သစ်ပင်အောက်မှာ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် Preposition ဟူသော စာလုံးမှာ Pre (မတိုင်မီ) နှင့် Positon (နေရာ)ကို တွဲဖက်ထားခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။ နေရာ၏ ရှေ့မှ ထည့်ရသည်။ on the table in the house under the tree

(D) ဤသင်ခန်းစာမှာ Prepositions များကို သုံးစွဲတတ်အောင် လေ့လာရာတွင် အလွယ်ကူဆုံးဖြစ်အောင် စီစဉ်ထားသဖြင့် ရှုထောင့်မျှအပြောင်းပေးနိုင်သော အကြောင်းအရာများကို ပေးထားသေးပါ။

- (1) အချိန်မှာ at နေနှင့်ရက်မှာ on နှစ်နှင့်လမှာ in သုံးရသည်။ (a) He usually leaves for work at 9. (b) Bogyouk Aung San was assassinated on July 19. She will arrive here on Monday. (c) He died (passed away) in 1964. Our examination will be held in March.

- (2) နေရာနှင့်အချိန်တွင် ကျဉ်းလျှင် at ကျယ်လျှင် in ကို သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။ (a) I live at Ahlone in Yangon. ရန်ကုန်နှင့်ယှဉ်လျှင် အလုံသည်ကျဉ်း၍ at သုံးခြင်း ဖြစ်သည်။ ရန်ကုန်နှင့် မနိုင်းယှဉ်လျှင် I live in Ahlone. ဟု ရေးနိုင်သည်။ (b) He arrived at the station early. She arrived in Myanmar yesterday. (c) Our class begins at 9. We should take exercises early in the morning.

- (3) မြန်မာစာတွင် “လယ်ကွက်ထဲမှာ” ဟု သုံးသော်လည်း အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် on the farm ဟု သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။ There are chickens and pigs on his farm.

- (4) မြန်မာစာတွင် “မြစ်ထဲမှာ”ဟု သုံးသော်လည်း အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် on the river ဟု သုံးသည်။ There is a man in the boat on the river. မြစ်ထဲက လေ့ပေါ်မှာ လူတစ်ယောက်ရှိသည်။

- (5) အသင်းအပင်းများတွင် ပါဝင်လျှင် မြန်မာစာအထဲမှာ သုံးသည်။ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် on သုံးသည်။ (a) He is on the School Council. (b) She is on the Ward People's Council. သူမ ရပ်ကွက် ပြည်သူ့ကောင်စီထဲမှာ ပါသည်။

- (6) အပေါ်မှာ (ထိနေလျှင်) on အပေါ်မှာ (ထိမနေလျှင်) above အပေါ်မှ ဖြတ်ကျော်လျှင် over သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။ (a) Her book is on the table. (b) The moon is above our heads now. (c) The plane flew over the city. လေယာဉ်ပျံသည် မြို့ပေါ်မှ ဖြတ်ကျော်ပျံသန်းခဲ့သည်။ above ကို အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့လည်း သုံးသည်။ He is above the average. သူသည် သာမန်အဆင့် အထက်တွင် ရှိသည်။

over ကို ကျော်လွန်သောဟူသည့်အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖြင့်လည်း သုံးသည်။ She is over 40. သူမ အသက် ၄၀ ကျော်ပြီ။ There are over 3,000 students at our colleage. “ပြီးဆုံးသော”ဟူသော အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖြင့်လည်း သုံးသည်။ The school is over. ကျောင်းဆင်းပြီ။ The war is over. စစ်ပြီးသွားပြီ။

(7) နှစ်ခုနှစ်ယောက်အကြား between အများအကြား among သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- (a) The dispute between the two countries has been peacefully settled. နှစ်နိုင်ငံအကြား အငြင်းပွားမှုကို ငြိမ်းချမ်းစွာ ဖြေရှင်းပြီးပြီ။ (b) Among the three sisters, Myint Myint is the prettiest. ညီအစ်မသုံးယောက်ကြားတွင် မြင့်မြင့်သည် အလှဆုံးဖြစ်သည်။ (c) The food will be divided among the five boys.

(8) လို(တူသော)အတွက် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် like သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- (a) He can run like a horse. သူ မြင်းတစ်ကောင်လို ပြေးနိုင်သည်။ He can speak English like an English man. သူ အင်္ဂလိပ်စကားကို အင်္ဂလိပ်တစ်ယောက်လို ပြောနိုင်သည်။ (သူ အင်္ဂလိပ်တစ်ယောက်မဟုတ်တာကို သတိပြုပါ)

- (9) “အဖြစ်” အတွက် as သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။ (a) We chose Ko Ko as our representative. ငါတို့သည် ကိုကိုကို ငါတို့၏ ကိုယ်စားလှယ်အဖြစ် ရွေးချယ် ခဲ့ကြသည်။ (b) Health cannot be given to us as a gift.

(10) “အထဲသို့” အတွက် into သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- (a) She went into the room. သူမ အခန်းထဲသို့ ဝင်သွားသည်။ (b) He put the books into the bag. “အဖြစ်သို့” အတွက်လည်း into သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။ (a) We can change this sentence into passive voice. ကျွန်တော်တို့ ဤစာကြောင်းကို Passive Voice အဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။ (b) She will grow up into a beautiful lady. သူမသည် လှပသော မိန်းမပျိုအဖြစ်သို့ ကြီးထွားလာလိမ့်မည်။

(11) “နှင့် နှင့်အတူဖြင့်” အတွက် with သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- (a) She lives with her aunt. သူမသည် သူမ၏ အဒေါ်နှင့်အတူ နေသည်။ (b) She watched the young doctor with interest and curiosity. (c) He crossed the road with caution.

(12) “မပါဘဲ၊ မရှိဘဲ” အတွက် without ကို သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- (a) I never go out without any money in my pocket. ကျွန်တော်အိပ်ထောင်ထဲမှာ ပိုက်ဆံမပါဘဲ ကျွန်တော်ဘယ်တော့မှ အပြင်ထွက်လေ့မရှိပါ။ (b) We cannot live without air. လေမရှိဘဲ ငါတို့ အသက်မရှင်နိုင်။ (c) He went to bed without taking off his jacket. သူအပေါ် အင်္ကျီမချွတ်ဘဲ (ချွတ်ပစ်ခြင်းမရှိဘဲ) အိပ်ရာဝင်သွားသည်။ (d) He attended the meeting without being invited. သူဖိတ်ကြားခြင်းမခံရဘဲ အစည်းအဝေးတက်ခဲ့သည်။

(13) “ဖြတ်၍” (ကန်လန်) အတွက် across ကို သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- (a) He can swim across this river. သူဤမြစ်ကို ဖြတ်ကူးနိုင်သည်။

(14) “ဖောက်ထွင်းဖြတ်သန်း၍” အတွက် through သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- (a) The thief came into the room through the window. သူ့ခိုးသည် အခန်းထဲသို့ ပြတင်းပေါက်မှ ဖြတ်သန်းဝင်ရောက်လာသည်။ (b) The train passed through the tunnel. မီးရထားသည် ဥမင်ထဲမှ ဖြတ်သန်းခဲ့သည်။ (c) We passed through Meiktila on our way to Mandalay.

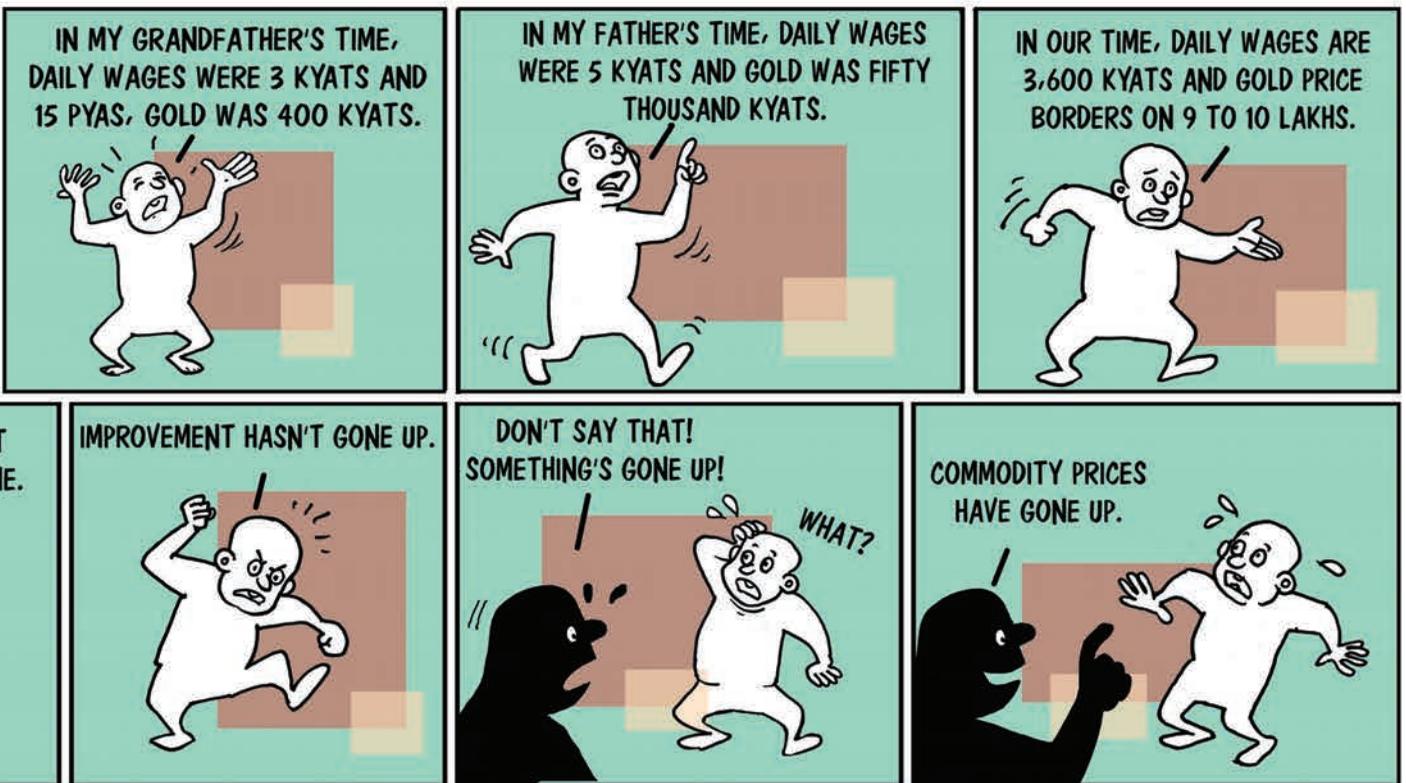
ကျွန်တော်တို့ မန္တလေးအသွားတွင် မိတ္ထီလာကို ဖြတ်ခဲ့သည်။ “မှတစ်ဆင့်”ဟူသောအဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖြင့်လည်း through ကို သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။ She sent me a letter through Maung Maung. သူမ ကျွန်တော်ထံသို့ မောင်မောင်မှတစ်ဆင့် စာတစ်စောင်ပို့ခဲ့သည်။ (TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Aung
2018



Bedtime Stories

REMEMBERING about our childhood, our parents and grandparents used to tell us bedtime stories every night. They, the bedtime stories, play an important role in our childhood. They are the ones that tell us about life. In case of bedtime stories, some make up their own ones while others read books. However, telling or reading them has been a vogue for centuries and centuries.

There are lots of stories not only in the Western countries but also in the Asian countries including Myanmar. Usually in foreign countries, fairy tales are popular among young children. They include, The Princess and the Frog, Three Little Pigs, Humpty Dumpty and King Arthur, etc. These favourite ones of little children are very famous that most of them are now made into animations these days which are as well gaining huge fans around the world.

It is true to say that Asians and the Westerns have a different taste. Mostly in Asia, folk tales of each country plays a role for a child's good night. There are lots and lots of them such as Japanese folk tales, Indian or Chinese folktales.

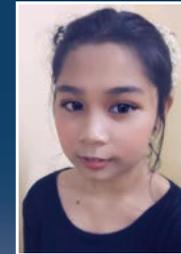
Likely, we have our own folk tales to tell

to our golden children. Additionally, there are as well many celebrated stories. For example, the tortoise and the hare, Shwe Yon and Shwe Kyar, Mother turtle and Ma Htway, An old man and the three sons (a story about having unity) and so on. All of them tell the importance of life lessons to our young.

What's more, as our Myanmar country used to shine with glory once, parents always tell stories about our brave Myanmar kings to little kids who are the future's stars. Those stories encourage children to become brave and let them know the history of our Myanmar Kingdom.

Among the famous bedtime stories, "Maung Pauk Kyaing" is the best of all time. The quote, **"If you walk on and on, you get to your destination. If you question much, you get your information. If you do not sleep, you preserve your life"**, is what makes the theme of the folk tale become more delicious than ever.

By telling this story to our young, we can educate them that if they never stop trying and keep on walking on and on, they will certainly get to their own des-



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tinations someday, somehow. And then if they ever ask what they really need to know, they would become knowledgeable one day. Finally, if they do not waste a day by sleeping extra hours and if they are always alert they will make it to the end of their entire life. These three moral lessons are those which teach the children to become nice youths one day too.

Telling or reading bedtime stories every night to our young can tie the relationship knot between parents and children stronger. It can give a warm contact and make them feel more secure in the loving arms of the parents. The stories contain many flavours, such as happiness, fear, sadness and love. This habit of bedtime stories has been handed down from generation to generation.

Sadly, these days this family tradition is fading slowly away. We have to keep it alive, right? Children are full of imagination and all of them are thrilled to listen to bedtime stories which go right up to their adulthood. They also open the doorway of reading and writing. Though we grow older and older, these bedtime stories never get older as they remain as wonderful as ever.

