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President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho attend stake driving ceremony for Pathein Bridge 2



President U Win Myint presses a button to drive Stand Pipe No. 1 into the ground at a stake driving ceremony for Pathein Bridge 2 in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho flew from Nay Pyi Taw via a special Tatmadaw flight to Pathein in Ayeyawady Region yesterday to attend the stake driving ceremony for Pathein Bridge 2.

The President and First Lady were accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Dr. Myint Htwe and U Ohn Maung, Deputy Ministers U Hla

Kyaw and U Kyaw Myo, Myanmar Police Force Chief Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and other officials.

The President, First Lady and entourage were welcomed at Pathein Airport by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Regional Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Khine, Regional High Court Chief Judge U Than Tun, Regional Advocate General U Thein Shwe, Regional min-

isters, Hluttaw MPs and other officials.

The President and First Lady then traveled in a motorcade to the site for the Pathein Bridge 2 stake driving ceremony and were warmly welcomed by local residents and staff along the road.

At the ceremony, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Han Zaw and U

Ohn Maung, the Regional Chief Minister and Regional Hluttaw Speaker drove the stakes at their designated spots and sprinkled scented water on them.

The President pressed a button to drive Stand Pipe No. 1 into the ground, and then sprinkled scented water on it.

Afterwards, the President was escorted to the bridge construction meeting hall where

Union Minister U Han Zaw reported on the location, objective and measurement taking process for Pathein Bridge 2; negotiations conducted with the residents living within the bridge's construction area; the aim to complete construction within the next 2 years; the bridge construction project details;

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President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho attend ...

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the construction progress of bridges in the Ayeyawady Region; the completion and opening of Takan Bridge and Set San Bridge in 2017-2018 FY; the opening of the completed Shwe Taung Yan (Ma Kyee Chaung) Bridge and Nga Wan (Laymyatnar) Bridge; the construction process of Myaungmya Bridge, Sawke Bridge and Kyun Pyathat Bridge; upgrading projects for Shwelaung Bridge, Wakema Bridge, Kyungone Bridge and Labutta (Pinlelay) Bridge within the current fiscal year; and the progress of feasibility studies for Tetkeltaung Bridge and Kyaiklet Bridge in addition to the various bridges to be constructed along the Ngayoutkaung-Ngwe Saung-Chaung Thar-Shwe Taung Yan-Kyuak Chun-Gwa road.

The President responded to the explanations and said the bridges must be properly constructed in accordance with the allotted national budget so that they will be of high quality standard. He said the Hluttaw MPs and local residents must cooperate to ensure the budget



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho offer flowers to the images of the Buddha at Shwemokhtaw Maha Pagoda, left photo, President U Win Myint greets local residents in the construction site of Pathein Bridge on the Sein Gone bank side, west of the river, right photo. **PHOTO: MNA**



is not squandered. He said there needs to be preparations for smooth water transport during the construction period of the bridges.

The people in the eastern area of Pathein will receive socio-economic development once this [Pathein] Bridge is completed, said the President. He said when all the bridge construction projects are completed then Pathein City will become a significant city in the region. He urged Hluttaw MPs and local

elders to carefully explain about removing buildings built in the construction area of the projects to the people living there. He said more foreign travelers will enter the region when the Ngayoutkaung-Ngwe Saung-Chaung Thar-Shwe Taung Yan-Kyuak Chun-Gwa road is improved. He also mentioned that the construction projects need to be completed according to the set deadlines.

Pathein Bridge 2 will be a 2,318 feet long steel rein-

forced concrete bridge when completed.

Afterwards, the President and First Lady travelled to the construction site of the bridge in Ward 9 and 10 on the Sein Gone bank side of the river, west bank of Pathein City, and met with local residents there. The President and First Lady then went to BEHS 8 and were welcomed by the school's Headmistress and teachers. The principal explained about their school's requirements to the President

who gave instructions to the relevant officials to ensure that their requirements are met. The President and First Lady then signed in the school's guestbook.

The President and First Lady then visited the Shwemokhtaw Maha Pagoda in Pathein and offered flowers, water and oil lamps to the images of the Buddha, and donated Ks 3 million to the pagoda for the Buddha idol's golden robe. The President then signed the pagoda's guestbook. —MNA ■

China donates 1,000 assembled houses for use in accepting returnees in Maungtaw

A CEREMONY to hand over 1,000 units of Assembled Board Houses donated by the People's Republic of China for use in accepting returnees in Rakhine State was held at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa yesterday. Union Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe addressed the ceremony.

The ceremony was also at-

tended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Lin and U Soe Aung, region ministers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and embassy officials.

In addressing the ceremony, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said the day's event is a ceremony to transfer 1,000 units of assembled board hous-

es donated by China and as it is a significant support towards resettling returnees in Rakhine State it is much appreciated.

The Union Minister said the donation was made because during a visit to China the Union Minister met with Foreign Minister and State Councilor Mr. Wang Yi on 28 June 2018 and requested an additional support of 1,000 units

of easy to assemble houses for use in resettling returnees in Rakhine State to which China agreed under the Pauk Phaw relationship. This donation was made with a view to fulfill Myanmar's requirement in comparison to the earlier donation of 100 ABHs (Assembled Board Houses) made in January 2018.

During times of difficulties in Myanmar and its people, the Government of China, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi had provided political supports firmly as a good neighbor and friend as well as providing material supports. The Union Minister also expressed thanks to the government of China.

"Our two countries had been historically and traditionally close and had maintained the Pauk Phaw relationship that had progressed to become an all-round strategic partner country. Whatever are the changes in the international situation due to the challenges of the 21st century, the relations between the two countries would continue to

improve and strengthen," he added.

The fact that China strongly supported Myanmar with full understanding while providing support such as this based on requirements at the ground level shows clearly the Pauk Phaw relationship, said the Union Minister.

Per unit cost of the ABH is about Ks 15.9 million and thus this donation of 1,000 ABH is worth Ks 15.9 billion. But the value that could not be described or calculated is providing support in time of need in the spirit of a good relative said the Union Minister.

Next, Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang explained about the reason for donation of 1,000 units of assembled board houses and handed over the donation which was accepted by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe. As a good neighbor China had donated 1,053 ABHs in 2015 to natural disaster affected states and regions in Myanmar and 100 ABHs in January for Rakhine State. —Min Thit (MNA) ■



Union Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe delivers an address at the handover ceremony of 1,000 units of assembled board houses from China. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

President urges Three Pillars of Democracy in Ayeyawady Region to work together for reforms, democratic transition



President U Win Myint meeting with officials from the judiciary, executive and legislative sectors in Ayeyawady Region in Pathein yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met and gave guidelines to officials from Ayeyawady Region government, Region Hluttaw and Region High Court; Hluttaw (Pyithu, Amyotha, Region) representatives; Region, district and township department officials at Pathein hall, Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

Speaking at the meeting President U Win Myint first explained about the aim of visiting Ayeyawady Region. Recalling the speech he delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after swearing in as President, the President said that the essence of that speech was the importance of changing the established rigid mindset and habits of the people, government servants and public servants for a successful transformation process in the democracy transition period. Departmental organizations that are slow in reforming are to be given tighter management. The judicial sector needs to be true and correct. Corruption needs to be just and correct. Human rights violations are to be prevented. Drugs are to be eliminated. Wastage and loss of public funds are to be managed. Farmlands confiscated unlawfully need to be returned or compensation paid in accordance to the law.

All need to work together when changing and transforming from an old system of an old era to a new system of a new era in our country. This transformation is the desire of the

people and all have the duty to fulfill this desire of the people. Some may waver, hesitate and feel uneasy about reform. Transforming or reforming is not to be worried about it. Without flowing along the transformation path, our country will not develop. Reform is something that must be done. This is the law of nature. Reform or change is the law of nature that is always correct and true. Reform or change is not an enemy. It is a friend.

Reform or change is something that is not to be forced upon but something that must be done. When conducting reforms, lessons from the past were obtained and policies to establish a future union were established. The aim of the policies is the establishment of a democratic federal union. We have a firm stand and belief. Policies on legislation, administration and judiciaries were formulated.

The administration must have political, economic and social fairness. Similarly arrangements must be made so that there are equal opportunities, no discrimination and all are equal in the face of law. As the arrangements are made thus, the Region Governments must implement the policies, work processes and guidelines of the Union Government. They also need to perform occasional duties assigned by the Union Government as well.

In addition to this it has the duty to instruct, manage, control and inspect the departmental organizations in the Region. The

administrative system need to support the rule of law. It must not be administrative machinery that oppresses the citizens. It must be an administration that provides services to the people.

It must be a fair and unbiased administration. Democracy is strengthened by being fair. Fairness strengthens society.

The Judiciary sector need to do things according to the law. The judiciary must follow

"Human rights are something that is not given by someone. It is the birth right of everyone"

President U Win Myint

the Union Judiciary Law and must be bias free. All need to be equal in the face of the law. The Judiciary needs to be free from the influence and manipulation of those who have powers and rights. Region High Court judges are to inspect detention centres in police stations and courts and prisons to ensure that there are no human rights violations and the judiciary is free from corruption.

Works are being done with the aim of establishing a democratic federal union. Balanced

development of all regions and states had to be done with the aim of establishing a peaceful union.

Public servants enjoy the salary and benefits provided by the Government budget. They have their rights and responsibilities. They are to properly enjoy the benefits, while performing the duties assigned for the public.

We are all performing the historical duties that fell on us and future generations will be judging us to determine how we performed so all need to do their best, said the President.

Next, Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Khaing and Region Chief Judge U Than Tun explained about regional development works conducted by the Shan State government, Hluttaw affairs work and judicial work respectively.

President U Win Myint then said the judiciary sector needs to provide rulings in a timely manner as well as in accordance with the law and everyone in the court must be treated equally. In addition to providing rulings in a timely manner and in accordance with the law, judges must also inspect police detention centres and prison cells to ensure that they are in accord with human rights norms and standards. Human rights are something that is not given by someone. It is the birth right of everyone. No one must be penalized without strong evidences. Evidences must be properly assessed.

Questions raised and motions tabled in the legislative sector must be in accord with the State/Region Hluttaw laws and rules. Pledges in Hluttaw must be given only when the Region Government is able to perform it. Hluttaw affairs committees are to access and review and then coordinate with relevant parties on submissions, complaints and appeals made. The region Hluttaw building also need to be constructed quickly, said the President.

Monthly reports submitted to the Union Government by the Region government on the administrative sector must be sector wise. Relevant authorities must ensure that unrelated matters are not included in the auctioning of fish ponds. Wards and villages in Ayeyawady Region where administrators have not yet been elected yet need to be elected quickly according to the ward and village administrator election law. Review must be conducted as general income from auctions decline by half compared to last year. Confiscated farm land matters must be handled in accordance with the policies set by the Union Government. All officials are to perform their assigned duties and responsibilities in the best interest of the country and the people, said the President.

After the meeting the President cordially greeted the meeting attendees and inspected the Pathein-Chaungtha-Shwe Thaungyan road status by car and rested for the night in Shwe Thaungyan. — MNA ■

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EU revoking of GSP won't affect FDI in flows to Myanmar

THE European Union (EU) probable revoking of the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) will not have an impact on foreign direct investments in Myanmar because EU countries have never been leading investors in Myanmar investment sector, said U Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy director general of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"It will not have impact on the FDI in Myanmar. They are not leading investor," he added.

EU has granted the GSP in Myanmar since 2013. EU trade commissioner announced on 5 October that they will send commission to Myanmar to observe for consideration to withdraw GSP related to Rakhine State issue.

China topped the list of Myanmar foreign investors' line up, followed by Singapore, Thailand,

Hong Kong and Korea. Although there are some European investors in Myanmar but their investment mainly goes to oil and gas industry, according to DICA.

"The Western countries are not large-scale investors in Myanmar. We have some investment from France and UK but their investment make in oil and gas. Myanmar's main sources of FDI come from Singapore, China, Thailand, Hong Kong and Korea,"

said U Than Aung Kyaw.

"We have already deliberated on how government will support investor and which policy will shape to run if EU probable revoking of GSP," said U Than Aung Kyaw.

As stated by DICA, Myanmar received \$2 billion in foreign investments. Singapore was the largest investor with \$700 million, followed by China with \$300 million.—Nyein Nyein ■

Florists anticipate PyinOoLwin Flower Festival

THE 13th PyinOoLwin Flower Festival will be held in the National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden, PyinOoLwin on 15 December 2018 through 15 January 2019.

The lush green landscape will be displayed in cooperation with the floral experts from Japan and Thailand. About 20 per cent of the flowers will be fake flowers and the remaining are real fresh ones to decorate the landscape garden. At present, more than 200,000 flower species are being cultivated. And, shifting cultivation will be implanted in the first week of November. At the festival, Japan and Thai flower species will be also displayed.

The seasonal flower competition will be conducted for the first time in 13th PyinOoLwin Flower Festival. Those, who are interested in flower



Flowers and decorations seen at previous year's PyinOoLwin Flower Festival. **PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU**

planting, are being invited to participate in the festival. Winners will be chosen by online likes on dedicated Facebook page.

First prize winner will be paid Ks 500,000 as prize money, second prize winner Ks 300,000 and third

prize will be awarded Ks 200,000. Those who are interested in participating can take out the form in National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden as of 30 November.

The flower festival will also include concerts, flower fashion

show and many other exciting activities. During the festival, souvenir shops, local products shops and flower shops will offer regionally-exclusive varieties to visitors. —Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay) ■

Myanmar will need more edible oil as demand from China rises

ALTHOUGH edible oil is produced in the country, Myanmar is facing insufficient edible oil to meet local consumption as China is highly demanding raw products from Myanmar, said U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of Edible Oil Distributor Association in Sagaing Region.

"Our domestic oil market is running with imported oil. Myanmar can actually produce edible oil but we don't have sufficient raw products because of high demand on raw products from China. Our country consumes 1.5 million tonnes of edible oil each year, but only produces over 0.5 million tonnes and the remaining 1 million tonnes are imported," said U Aung Aung Oo.

The palm oil markets in Malaysia and Indonesia are inactive markets. Hence, Yangon's palm oil wholesale market is stable at Ks 1,640 per viss. The price of peanut in Myanmar has increased on average between Ks 2,600 and Ks 3,000 per viss because of high demand from China. The price of peanut oil has also increased on average between Ks 5,200 and Ks 6,000 per viss, depending on the quality. The prices of peanut oil and raw products are mainly depend on the demand from China. Now, China has offered to purchase the peanut from the local farmers since they are going to harvest the peanut in December. The price of peanut will not decline as long as high demand from

China remains, said a local peanut oil producer.

The price of sesame oil has also risen above Ks 6,000 per viss because of scarcity of the monsoon sesame. At this present time, most of the local farmers cultivate the white and black sesame, with high demand in markets abroad. The local farmers stop planting brown and red sesame which are used as raw products by local oil millers. Therefore, there are only a few local oil millers operating in our region, said a sesame oil miller.

The price of sesame averages between Ks 40,000 and Ks 60,000 per basket while black sesame sells between Ks 70,000 and Ks 80,000 per basket.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

Nobody injured in YBS bus crash in Thingangyun

NOBODY was injured after a collision involving a YBS bus No. 7 Line and a FAW dump truck in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, around 10:30 am on Saturday, 27 October, police said.

The bus running from Sule gate to South Dagon Industrial Zone and the truck heading to Sanpya market collided near the Bawamyint bus stop on Laydaungkan Road.

The collision hit the left side of the bus, however, nobody was injured in the incident which caused damage to the bus.

Police are now investigating the case and planning to charge those who were responsible for the crash.—Tin Kyi (Thingangyun) ■

Myanmar-Malaysia trade grows on new high

TRADE between Myanmar and Malaysia exceeded US\$550 million during the five months between April through August, increasing by \$92.5 million compared to last year at this time, according to the Ministry of Commerce's monthly statistical report.

The present bilateral trade figures valued at \$99.8 million in exports and \$450 million in imports. At this time last year, the trade between the two countries totalled \$457 million, with exports worth \$87 million and imports worth \$370 million.

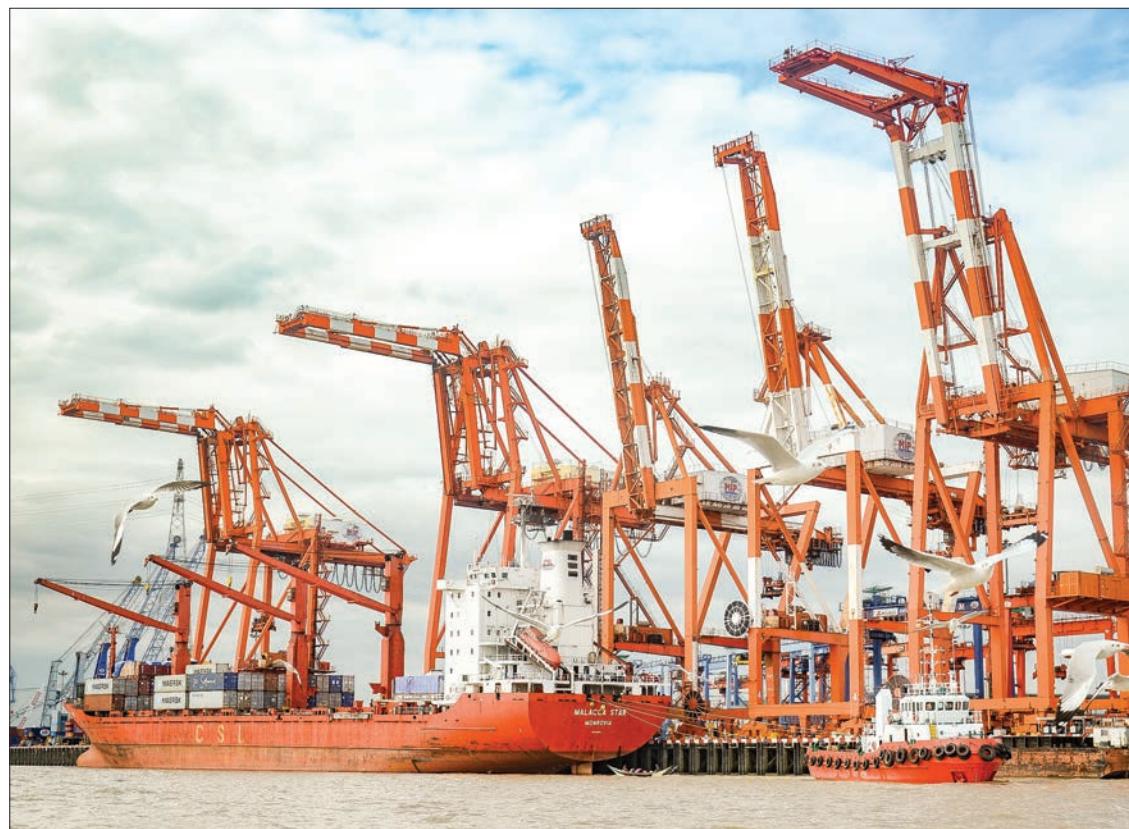
Myanmar monthly exports marine products, clothes, forest-based products and agricultural commodities to Malaysia. Its imports from Malaysia, one of the ASEAN member states, include oil, consumer products, intermediate goods, plastic ware, chemicals, stone and

glass, footwear, minerals, metals, construction appliances, wire, medical products and electronic devices, among other things.

The ministry's annual statistical report shows that the Myanmar-Malaysia trade reached a record high of \$1.089 billion in the last 2017-2018 financial year. The bilateral trade was \$980 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$750 million in the 2015-2016 FY, more than \$1 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$948 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$458 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$455 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Malaysian investment in Myanmar in the previous 2017-2018 FY was valued at \$21.9 million. Its new investment in the country continued till the end of September this year with \$7.34 million from one project.—

Khine Khant ■



Freighter ships seen at Botahtaung harbour in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Myanmar's cross-border trade has an upbeat start this FY

THE export value using the individual trading cards at border points totalled Ks466 million during the period of the first two weeks of the current fiscal year, while individual importations exceeded Ks1.8 billion in same period, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Of all border crossings, Myanmar exported a wide variety of goods through only three border trade stations, including Tamu, Mawtaung and Kengtung between 1 and 12 October this year. Of them, the individual export was the highest, both in terms of volume and trade, at the Tamu border gate, reaching more than Ks260 million in value, followed by

Mawtaung at Ks197 million and Kengtung at Ks8 million.

During the period, the individual border traders imported commodities through Muse, Myawady, Tachilek, Kanpaktee, Kawthoung, Reed, Tamu, Mawtaung and Kengtung points of entry. According to the ministry, the total individual border trade reached Ks2.298 billion in total.

The Ministry of Commerce has issued ITCs to border merchants since the 2012-2013 FY. Since the programme was launched, 1,062 ITC holders are operating at the border crossings. The trade authorities have issued eight cards to individual border merchants this FY.—Swe Nyein ■



Infrastructure development critical for Myanmar to woo more investment

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S lack of adequate infrastructures may deter becoming the destination of foreign investments, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Barriers to investment access that the country is facing are a lack of regular supply of electricity, power insufficiency, underdeveloped logistics infrastructure and other challenges.

In a bid to encourage the inflows of foreign investments into the country, it is needed to overcome the disadvantages in the Myanmar's Investment Promotion Plan, as well as investors' concerns about political instability, weak macroeconomics, residual investment restrictions and uncertain

investment approval procedures, lack of investment promotion, underdevelopment of financial sector and business regulatory systems and lack of skilled human resources.

The plan also faced with threats against promote investment, promotion, consisting of uncertain world political situation, tough competition with other ASEAN countries under AEC for investment attraction, world economic cycle and fluctuation of demand and cyclical weather conditions and potential climate change for agriculture.

The government will classify different kinds of policies so as to tackle the threats and weakness.

The plan envisions itself as four paths for investment

growth opportunities in export-oriented industries, domestic market-oriented industries, resources-based industries and knowledge-incentive industries.

The 20-year Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan is being implemented through stage by stage approach. Initiated since 2016-2017 fiscal year, the first stage has currently been implemented and it will last until 2020-2021 FY as a short-term project.

The middle-term project will be carried out from 2021-2022 FY through 2025-2026 FY. As a long-term project, the government plans to continue promotion of domestic and foreign investment from 2026-2027 FY through 2035-2036 FY. ■

7th Japan Expo begins at Tatmadaw Convention Hall

The 7th Japan Expo kicked off at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon yesterday and 70 companies are exhibiting their products at over 160 booths.

The three-day expo exhibit over 300 Japanese brands, Japanese technological products, Japanese language center, Japanese technological service provider

companies, Japanese job agencies, travel & tours, food, and Japanese cultural and business companies. The similar expo was also held in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi. Japan Expo Yangon is one of the most successfully event starting from 2012 and it is the must Exhibition for all kinds of Japanese companies from all over the world which are looking to explore into rapidly growing Myanmar market. The Japan expo has been celebrated since 2012, and it will be organized by Myanmar Promotional Services Co., Ltd., with the assistance of the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).—MNA

Children's Literature Festival, Book Sales begin in Thandwe

THE OPENING ceremony of the Children's Literature Festival, Children's Literature Exhibition and Book Sales in Thandwe, jointly organized by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and the Rakhine State government was held at Dwayar Wadi Hall in Thandwe, Rakhine State, yesterday morning.

The Children's Literature Festival, Children's Literature Exhibition and Book Sales Festival was opened by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, State Minister for Development Affairs U Win Myint, State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Chan Thar, Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing and students cutting the ceremonial ribbon. They then posed for a commemorative photo.

Next, students from Basic Education High School (Kin-maw) performed a musical number with the Children's Literature Festival theme song.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said literature needs to enter into the minds of the children for them to be learned, knowledgeable and happy in the long run. He said that is why this cheerful and enjoyable situation was created for them with many books and literature. A joyful experience with books and literature is created for them to remember for life, he added.



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and dignitaries have a documentary photo taken with participants of the Children Literature Festival in Thandwe, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

He said it is a festival that has book sales and other enjoyable programs that will be memorable for the children.

The Union Minister said teachers are to urge and encourage students in their school to participate in all the programs. During the two days duration of the festival, there'll be many competitions. In the earlier days before the festival, football and volleyball competitions were held. Paintings, jigsaw puzzles and connecting of words are programs that children can participate in, he said.

Many books and papers are being published in our country and there are many young people who read. Developed and progressive people in the world are those who read the most. Countries on the northern part of the world like Norway,

Sweden and Finland are the countries that read the most in the world. In those countries, book shelves can be seen on the road sides, junctions and every where. You don't need to store the book you want to read in your home because it can be taken from those places and returned after finishing reading, said the Union Minister.

As it is a country where people have the opportunity to be in touch with books, these countries become very developed. India and China are the most populous countries in the world but were not rich in the past. Now, they are developed and are at the top. This is because they read. They are at the top in all sorts of subjects, said the Union Minister.

The habit of reading must be instilled at childhood. Child-

hood means the younger the better. When parents go to book shops and libraries, they can bring along their children. In developed countries parents are not prevented from bringing their children to such places. This is making the children get used to literature and parents do things like read or tell stories to their children. Teachers also need to instill the habit of reading to students who come to school. If parents want their child to be outstanding, they need to read books or tell stories to them. Gradually, they will have to make their child become interested in the matters mentioned in the letters. If the child becomes interested, they will become lifelong readers and reading enthusiasts, said the Union Minister.

In the same way, Rakhine

State Chief Minister said in his speech that in Rakhine State, Children's Literature Festival was first held in Sittwe last year and is being held for the second time in Thandwe now.

Children need to be close to literatures, happy in it and read as much as they can as earliest as possible. A child's qualities and abilities increase through reading. Everything needs to be done to raise these aspects in the children.

The State Government has drawn up plans to hold children's literature festivals not only in major towns and districts but also in the townships.

It is believed that if all co-operate and participate in unity and goodwill, many children's literature festivals will be successfully held that are beneficial for all of us, said the Chief Minister.

After the entertainment performances, the Union Minister, Chief Minister and officials visited the Children's Literature Festival, Children's Literature Exhibition and Book Sales.

The Children's Literature Festival, Children's Literature Exhibition and Book Sales will be held on 27 and 28 October and there'll be entertainment and performances programs, debates, origami (paper folding of figures) competition, painting and drawing competitions, games, singing contest, English story telling competition as well as public talk circles. — MNA ■

Deputy Minister for Information attends talks on development of film industry, graduation ceremony of multimedia journalism course

TALKS on development of film industry was held at the Film Development Centre in Yangon with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun.

The talks was jointly organized by the Ministry of Information and the Film Development Centre's management committee with the aim of promoting film production.

In the talks, Director U Aung Ko Latt, Producer U Kyi Win, Director Thiha Kyaw Soe, Producer U Min Soe Thiha and Director Aung Myat discussed the issues related with producing good films.

The talks came to an end with concluding remarks by Daw Swe Zin Htike, member of the management committee

the FDC.

Following the event, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun attended a graduation ceremony of Full-Time Multimedia Journalism Diploma Course-2018 of the Myanmar Journalism Institute held at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Deputy Minister stressed the important role of independent private media in producing professional journalists in Myanmar.

He also urged the media men to work together with the government, stressing the need to have patience and tolerance to tackle issues caused by frictions between the government and media due to press freedom.



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivers the address at graduation ceremony of the MJI in Yangon. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

Afterwards, U Kyaw Min Swe, Executive Director of the Myanmar Journalism Institute briefed about courses and efforts for promoting media sector by the institute.

U Myint Kyaw, Chairman of the MJI Board of Directors, suggested to conduct journalism training programmes.

Afterwards, the multimedia diploma certificates were con-

firmed on 17 trainees by the MJI.

Before conclusion of the ceremony, the trainees presented their experiences during the one-year course. — Yi Yi Myint, Ohnmar Thant ■

Changes in legal system and government administrative machinery

- * In its nation building endeavour, the government continues to strive to amend laws that are no longer agreeable to democratic values and accepted human rights standards.
 - * The Union Government aims to institute the rule of law, through the development and promulgation of laws, rules and regulations, law enforcement, and the administration of justice through the legal system to promote good governance.

(Excerpted from the report on the current work of the government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief honors Aung La N Sang



Yangon Region Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone presents a certificate of honor and cash reward to ONE two-division champion Aung La N Sang on behalf of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.

PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE

IN the main event of the Pursuit of Greatness matches held at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium, Yangon on the evening of 26 October, One middleweight and light heavyweight champion Aung La N Sang stopped the challenger Mohammad Karaki from Lebanon in the first round.

On behalf of the Tamadaw Commander-in-Chief, Yangon Region Command command-

er Maj-Gen Thet Pone presented Aung La N Sang with a document of honor and a cash reward of Ks 10 million at a ceremony held in Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon yesterday morning for winning and overcoming challenger Mohammad Karaki from Lebanon in the first round of the Middleweight Championship match with precise and powerful punches.

Next MMA middleweight and light heavyweight world champion Aung La N Sang thanked the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and presented in return to the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief a cloth with Aung La N Sang signature and One Championship poster, according to news released by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office.

Local, foreign media report situation in Maungtaw

LOCAL and foreign media groups who are currently visiting Sittway, Rakhine State, went to Maungtaw yesterday and gathered news.

The media groups first met with local authorities at the Maungtaw District General Administration Office and interviewed them.

At the meeting, U Myint

Khaing, Maungtaw Township Administrator, briefed about the current situation of Maungtaw region, implementation of UEHRD processes, the condition of reception and transit centres to scrutinize and receive returnees, and matters related to the people living near the boundary line of two countries.

went to Pan Taw Pyin Village, met with U Annwar, the in-charge of the village, and enquired about their livelihood, education and health.

Later, the media groups also went to the Myoma Taung Ward in Maungtaw, interviewed Islamic families who returned on 4 September 2018.
— Aung Ye Thwin ■



Myanmar Police Force Chief attends POLSEC in Thailand

MYANMAR Police Force Chief Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and party visited Thailand from 23 to 26 October under the invitation of Royal Thai Police Chief Police General Chakthip Chaijinda to attend the POLSEC 2018 showcasing the latest technology in police and law enforcement.

During the visit the Myanmar Police Force Chief met separately with Royal Thai Po-

lice Chief and discussed areas of cooperation between the two police forces, Cyber Crime, training course related to increasing human resources in DNA technology and training of drug detection sniffer dogs. Myanmar Police Force Chief also visited Counter-terrorism training school and Crime Scene Investigation Department under Royal Thai Police Academy.—MNA ■



**Chief of Myanma Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo (Right).
PHOTO: MNA**



Local and foreign journalists meeting with Muslim community in Maungtaw. **PHOTO : THET LWIN SOE (IPRD)**

Syria ordered Gaza rocket fire at Israel with Iran backing: army

JERUSALEM (Undefined)—The Israeli army accused the Syrian government on Saturday of instructing a Palestinian militant group to fire dozens of rockets at Israel from Gaza with Iran's supported and vowed to respond where it chose.

"The rockets that were launched against Israel... we know that the orders, incentives were given from Damascus with the clear involvement of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force," army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conricus said, referring to the Guards' foreign operations unit. Conricus told reporters Israel's response "is not limited geographically." At least 39 rockets have been fired at southern Israel by the Islamic Jihad group since late Friday, with 17 of them intercepted by the Iron Dome air defence system, and the rest hitting open fields, the army said.

Israeli aircraft carried out extensive retaliatory strikes in



People gather by the rubble of a building in Gaza City on 27 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Gaza, targeting approximately 90 sites belonging to the territory's Islamist rulers Hamas.

Conricus said that Israel held Hamas responsible for the fire,

even though it was carried out by Islamic Jihad at the behest of Syria and its ally Iran.

"We hold Hamas responsible for everything coming from Gaza,"

he said. On Friday, six Palestinians died in renewed clashes on the Gaza-Israel border, while Hamas said Egypt was seeking to negotiate a return to calm.—AFP ■

One civilian killed every three hours in Yemen: Oxfam

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates)—A civilian is killed every three hours in Yemen, Oxfam said on Friday, calling on the United States, Britain and other European states to suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

"One civilian has been killed every three hours in fighting in Yemen since the beginning of August, with many more people succumbing to disease and hunger," Oxfam said in a statement.

Citing data collected by the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, linked to the United Nations global protection clusters, the aid group said 575 civilians were killed between 1 August and 15 October, including 136 children.

"Oxfam is calling on the UK, US and other governments to suspend arms sales to the Saudis because of their disregard for civilian lives in the war in Yemen," read the Oxfam statement. —AFP ■

Afghans risk their lives to vote in delayed Kandahar poll

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan)—Afghans risked their lives to vote in legislative elections in southern Afghanistan on Saturday, after the Taliban-claimed killing of a powerful police chief delayed the ballot by a week.

As voting got under way, turbaned men and burqa-clad women stood in long, segregated queues outside polling centres in the deeply conservative Kandahar provincial capital, which was

blanketed with heavy security in anticipation of militant attacks.

More than half a million people—the vast majority of them men—are registered to vote in Kandahar province where organisers are under pressure to avoid last weekend's debacle that forced the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to extend the nationwide ballot by a day.

Problems with untested biometric verification devices,

missing or incomplete voter rolls and absent election workers following Taliban threats to attack the ballot forced Afghans to wait hours outside polling stations, many of which opened late or not at all.

Similar issues were already evident in Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban and a province notorious for ballot stuffing, with many polling sites in the city opening more than an hour late—

despite assurances from IEC deputy spokeswoman Kobra Rezaei on Friday that "we are absolutely ready". "I have been standing outside the polling centre since 6:00 am, but it still hasn't opened," university student Mohammad, who uses only one name, told AFP.

Streets in the city were quieter than usual at the beginning of the Afghan working week, after authorities restricted the use of cars and motorbikes during voting hours. Voting in the province bordering Pakistan was postponed following the 18 October death of General Abdul Raziq, an anti-Taliban strongman seen as a bulwark against the insurgency in the south, amid fears of violence flaring up. Raziq was among three people killed in a brazen insider attack on a high-level security meeting in Kandahar city that was attended by General Scott Miller, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan.

Miller escaped unhurt, but US Brigadier General Jeffrey Smiley was among 13 people wounded in the shooting claimed by the Taliban.

It is hoped that the appointment of Tadeen Khan—a brother of Raziq and a member of the

Afghan security forces—as acting provincial police chief will help keep a lid on polling day unrest.

On the eve of the ballot, Afghan air strikes killed at least 56 Taliban militants in Kandahar's Shah Wali Kot district, provincial police spokesman Zia Durrani told AFP. "I have to vote for a better future for my country," shopkeeper Abdul Abbas told AFP outside a polling centre.

"I have defied all the threats of attacks and explosions to vote."

Election death toll

IEC figures show around four million people voted in last weekend's parliamentary election that was held in 32 out of 34 provinces after months of chaotic preparations.

That compares with nearly nine million on the voter roll, but many suspect a significant number of those were based on fake identification documents that fraudsters planned to use to stuff ballot boxes.

Scores of attacks marred the first day of the election on October 20, with an AFP tally showing nearly 300 civilians and security forces were killed or wounded in poll-related violence.—AFP ■



Afghan employees of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) load ballot boxes onto a truck ahead of legislative election at a warehouse in Kandahar province on 26 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Mattis approves military support on Mexico border

WASHINGTON (United States)

— Defence Secretary Jim Mattis on Friday approved a request to send troops and military assistance to the US-Mexico border— part of President Donald Trump's effort to slow illegal crossings in the run-up to key elections. A Pentagon statement said the support would come in the form of logistical and engineering assistance, including the construction of “temporary barriers, barricades and fencing.” The Pentagon did not provide details on how many troops would be sent, but US officials on Thursday told AFP that about 800 service members would be

deployed to the frontier.

“After receiving a request for assistance from the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defence has approved providing mission-enhancing capabilities to Department of Homeland Security, US Customs and Border Protection along the Southwest Border,” the Pentagon statement read.

The troops would augment the 2,100 or so National Guardsmen who were deployed in April to support border operations, and could come from multiple military bases around the US.

Other help would include aviation support to ferry border

agents around and medical teams to “triage, treat and prepare for commercial transport of patients,” the statement read.

The military beef-up of the border comes as thousands of Central American migrants are crossing Mexico toward the United States in a slow-moving caravan. The issue has become a rallying cry for Trump, who has taken a hard line on illegal immigration and has repeatedly kept the story in the headlines in the run up to America's midterm congressional elections that could see the Democrats regain some degree of power — AFP ■



US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis speaks to journalists on the sideline of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) security summit in Singapore on 19 October, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Last survivor of WWII raid on Rome's Jewish Ghetto dies

ROME (Italy) — The last survivor of the 1943 Nazi raid on the Rome Ghetto, in which more than 1,000 Jews were taken away to concentration camps, has died aged 91, the Italian Jewish community said on Friday.

Lello Di Segni was 16 years old when he was seized with his parents and three younger siblings in the round-up during the first weeks of occupation by the Third Reich's troops.

Italy, where the far right came to power in June as part of a populist coalition, this year marked 80 years since the promulgation of anti-Jewish laws by Mussolini's fascist regime.

News of Di Segni's death came just days after the coun-

try also commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Ghetto raid, which saw German police arrest hundreds of people at dawn on 16 October 1943.

Some foreigners or people in mixed marriages were released, but of the 1,022 men, women and children sent to concentration camps after the round-up, just 16 returned — 15 men and one woman.

Di Segni was separated from his family and transported to Auschwitz, but survived and was later freed from the Dachau camp by the American army.

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte offered his condolences to the country's Jewish community on Friday.

“It is our responsibility to pass on his story, so that this dark period, devoid of reason, will never be repeated,” he tweeted. In total, nearly 8,000 Italian Jews died in concentration camps in World War II.

Liliana Segre, an Italian Holocaust survivor who has been made a senator for life, struck a more sombre tone.

“As those left disappear one by one, we fear that the memory [of the Holocaust] will also disappear,” she told local media. Jews were confined in the Rome Ghetto, an area along the river Tiber that still has the same name, for more than three centuries until their emancipation at the end of the 19th century. — AFP ■



Brazil's Haddad: Lula stand-in fighting the far right

SAO PAULO (Brazil) — Fernan-

do Haddad is the last hope for those dreading a far-right win in Brazil's presidential election, but the measured university professor lacks the charisma of his mentor, ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

In an election that is largely about the one candidate who cannot run — the popular but imprisoned Lula, who is serving 12 years for corruption — Haddad, 55, has struggled to fill the shoes of his one-time boss, who led Brazil through the boom years of 2003 to 2010, before both the country and his left-wing political project went bust.

Brought in late in the game when it became clear the courts would not let the former president run, Haddad spent half the race selling himself as “Lula's man,” and the other half doing the opposite.

Haddad launched his campaign in front of the prison where Lula is being held, and the Lula brand initially helped the relative unknown — a former Sao Paulo mayor and education minister — tap into the ex-president's broad

popularity.

But after far-right ex-army captain Jair Bolsonaro nearly won the first-round election outright on 7 October, Haddad changed his strategy for the run-off. He cut Lula's image from his campaign ads, ended his weekly visits to him in prison and switched out the red flag of their Workers Party for Brazilian green, yellow and blue.

More recently, he began emphasizing what he says is Bolsonaro's “fascism” and the threat he poses to democracy.

“My adversary foments violence, including a culture of rape,” Haddad told AFP in an interview, recalling an episode when Bolsonaro told a congresswoman she didn't “deserve” to be raped by him. Haddad insists the race is not a done deal, pointing to a narrowing gap in the polls.

Last week, opinion polls were giving Bolsonaro an 18-point lead. On Thursday, it was down to 12 points: 56 per cent to 44. “Nobody thought I would even make it to a run-off,” Haddad said. “I think we've done a great job in one month's time.” — AFP ■

US mail bomb suspect charged with five crimes: official

WASHINGTON (United States)

— A suspect has been charged with five federal crimes in connection with more than a dozen suspicious packages sent in a US mail bombing spree, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said on Friday. The charges include inter-state transportation of an explosive, mailing of explosives, threats against former presidents and threatening inter-state communications, Sessions told a news conference. FBI chief Christopher Wray confirmed the suspect is 56-year-old Florida resident Cesar Sayoc.

If put on trial and convicted, the suspect faces up to 48 years in prison, according to a spokeswoman for the Department of Justice. Thirteen improved explosive devices were sent to

different individuals in the mail bombing spree, including PVC pipe, a small clock, a battery and wiring, Wray said.

He said it was “too early” to publicly identify a motive for the bombing spree, while also warning there “may be” further packages. “It's too early at this stage for us to be discussing motivation in this particular case,” Wray said. “We're concerned about people committing acts of violence under any motivation.” According to pictures posted on social media and broadcast by US television, a van impounded in Florida in connection with the suspect, Cesar Sayoc, was covered in stickers denouncing Democrats and supportive of Donald Trump. — AFP ■



Former Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapakse, left, is sworn in as prime minister by President Maithripala Sirisena. PHOTO: AFP

President suspends parliament as Sri Lanka crisis worsens

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) — Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena suspended parliament Saturday to forestall a challenge against his surprise ouster of the prime minister, deepening a sudden swell of political turmoil in the island nation.

Police cancelled all leave as tensions heightened in Colombo a day after the president dismissed Ranil Wickremesinghe and replaced him with controversial former strongman leader Mahinda Rajapakse, who ended the country's long civil war but was accused of rights abuses and rampant corruption.

Parliamentary officials said the president had suspended parliament until November 16. Wickremesinghe had earlier demanded an emergency session to prove he still commanded a majority.

Wickremesinghe continued to occupy Temple Trees, the official residence of the prime minister, and insisted in a letter to Sirisena that he was still in office.

"Get this controversy out of the way," Wickremesinghe told reporters in a press conference at the residence. "Reconvene parliament immediately so that I can prove my majority."

Parliamentary sources said Speaker Karu Jayasuriya would now have to decide if he recognised Rajapakse or Wickremesinghe as the prime minister.

The falling out between the two former allies has come to a rapid head since Sirisena earli-

er this year backed a no-confidence motion against the man he had handpicked to lead the government.

Sirisena initially said he would be a one-term president, but later indicated he will seek a second term that would pit him against Wickremesinghe who also has presidential ambitions.

The crisis, which follows similar turmoil in the neighbouring Maldives, has stirred international concern.

The United States called on all sides to abide by Sri Lanka's constitution and refrain from violence. European Union ambassadors in Colombo issued a similar message on Saturday.

Regional power India was also "closely watching" developments in Colombo, official sources in New Delhi told AFP.

Rajapakse is seen as being closer to China than Wickremesinghe, who had sought to re-establish stronger ties with traditional ally India.

Standoff

Overnight, Rajapakse loyalists stormed two state-owned television networks -- which they regard as loyal to Wickremesinghe's outgoing government -- and forced them off the air. They resumed broadcasting Saturday and were supporting Rajapakse.

There were reports of sporadic attacks against supporters of Wickremesinghe's United National Party in several parts of the country after Rajapakse was sworn in late Friday.

The streets of the capital

remained mainly calm Saturday but security was tightened around Temple Trees, Rajapakse's residence and the state television station.

Wickremesinghe, 69, who trained as a lawyer and regarded a champion of free market reforms, insisted that he can be removed only by parliament.

His party has the largest number of seats, but the president's United People's Freedom Alliance announced it was walking out of the governing coalition shortly before Wickremesinghe was sacked.

This is the second time that a president has ousted Wickremesinghe from office. In 2004, the then president sacked him and called snap elections.

After winning the premiership a third time in August 2015, Wickremesinghe amended the constitution to remove the head of state's power to sack prime ministers to prevent a repeat of his earlier ouster.

Sirisena proceeded on Friday despite the insistence of many political observers that he lacked the power to remove the premier. Political commentator Victor Ivan said Sirisena's action was a blatant violation of the constitution.

"This is a capture of power through a conspiracy," Ivan said.

However, Rajapakse loyalist and former foreign minister G. L. Peiris said they believed there was nothing illegal about sacking Wickremesinghe and challenged him to prove his majority on November 16.

— AFP ■

Malaysian drug trafficker hanged in Singapore

SINGAPORE—A convicted Malaysian drug trafficker was hanged in Singapore on Friday, officials said, after the city-state rejected last minute efforts to save him.

The Malaysian government — which decided earlier this month to abolish the death penalty — had asked neighbouring Singapore to spare the 31-year-old man from the gallows on humanitarian grounds.

But Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement late Friday that Prabu N Pathmanathan was executed in Singapore's Changi Prison earlier in the day, in the presence of family members and a representative from the Malaysian embassy. The ministry said the Malaysian government had asked Singapore to spare the man on humanitarian grounds but respects the city-state's laws. Capital punishment, which is carried out by hanging, is a legacy of British colonial rule in both countries.

Pathmanathan was sen-

tenced to death in 2014 for trafficking 227.82 grams (7.97 ounces) of heroin into Singapore, media reports said.

Family lawyer N Surendran said in a statement that the family received a letter from the office of the Singapore president on the eve of the execution denying their appeal for clemency. The family has now claimed the body, their lawyer added.

There was no comment from the Singapore government. Amnesty International, which had opposed the execution, urged Singapore to follow the example of Malaysia under the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who was swept to power in May elections. Malaysia's cabinet earlier this month decided to abolish capital punishment, a prelude to parliament amending the law. A moratorium on executions will be imposed in the meantime, with more than 1,200 people on death row set to win a reprieve.—AFP ■

Senior N Korean diplomat heads to Russia, maybe in prep for summit



North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Sin Hong Chol (L) is seen off by Russia's ambassador to North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, at Pyongyang's airport on 27 October, 2018, prior to his departure for Russia. PHOTO: Kyodo News

PYONGYANG (Beijing)—A North Korean delegation led by a deputy foreign minister on Saturday left for Russia to possibly prepare for a summit between the two countries. Vice Foreign Minister Sin Hong Chol's departure from Pyongyang comes as speculation grows that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un may make an official trip to Russia in the not-so-distant future.

The delegation was seen

off by Russia's ambassador to North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, at Pyongyang's airport. Upon his arrival at Beijing's international airport, Sin was tight-lipped when asked about the purpose of his trip to Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin has invited Kim for a formal meeting, as denuclearization negotiations between North Korea and the United States have stalled.—Kyodo News ■

Drought-hit Rhine forces Germany to tap oil reserves

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (Germany) — The German government on Friday said it had authorised the release of strategic fuel reserves after record-low water levels in the drought-hit Rhine river badly disrupted oil shipments in recent weeks.

The unusual move, ordered by official decree, will see Germany unlock reserves of gasoline, diesel and jet fuel to help affected regions along the mighty Rhine waterway.

A spokeswoman for the economy ministry told AFP the temporary measure was "specifically aimed" at certain areas and that Germany was not facing "a long-term crisis".

Among those worst hit by delivery problems because of the reduced

river traffic has been Frankfurt's busy international airport, as well as the city of Cologne and the western states of Hesse, Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rhineland Palatinate.

By law, Germany may tap its oil product reserves "to relieve a local crisis situation".

According to Wirtschaftswoche magazine, it is only the fourth time in 40 years the government has taken this step.

Months of scarce rainfall and hot sunny weather have driven water levels on the Rhine to historic lows, forcing barges to halt services or dramatically reduce their cargo to stay afloat.

While some oil products can be supplied to customers by rail, it is not enough to make up for the paralysed river transport.

Passenger ships normally plying the Rhine have been affected too, with many services suspended to keep vessels from running aground.

On Friday, Cologne measured a water level of just 73 centimetres (29 inches).

The ongoing dry spell has prompted industrial giant Thyssenkrupp to cut back production at its Duisburg plant because of a reduced supply of raw materials.

Chemicals giant BASF has likewise grappled with "limited deliveries" to its Ludwigshafen factory, while energy group RWE is struggling to supply its Hamm power plant with coal.

Other rivers in Germany have suffered too, with levels on the Elbe leading to Hamburg also dangerously low.—AFP■



The Rhine is not its usual mighty self because of drought. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NORTHPOLE VOY. NO. (130)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NORTHPOLE VOY. NO. (130) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MITSUI O.S.K KINKAI LTD

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (1824)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (1824) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1062 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1062 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185



The carcass of a large fin whale stranded on the beach in De Haan, on 25 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Endangered fin whale washes up on Belgian beach

DE HAAN (Belgium) — An 18-metre (60-foot) fin whale washed up overnight on a Belgian beach after dying offshore, in what the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences called a rare event.

The male whale, which weighed 35 tonnes, was first spotted at sea on Wednesday before its body drifted to the Coq beach near Bruges, the first time such an event has occurred in 21 years, local media said.

Fin whales are a protected species and are the world's second biggest mammals after blue whales.

The huge carcass was to be cut up and moved to a site where specialists will try to determine the cause of death. On its Twitter account, the institute asked spectators to keep their distance while the operation was ongoing.

The WWF conservation group says the fin whale is found in most oceans, but the species has been severely impacted by commercial whaling.

"Nearly 750,000 animals were killed in areas of the Southern Hemisphere alone between 1904 and 1979, and they are rarely seen there today," WWF said on its website.

"Their current status is unknown in most areas outside of the North Atlantic."

With a thin body and a distinctive dorsal fin, the whales are nicknamed "razorback", the fund said.

The Belgian institute said a dead fin whale had also been seen in the port of Ghent in 2015, but in stranger circumstances.

The 10.5 metre (34 foot) male whale was found on the stern of a Brazilian ship carrying a cargo of orange juice. Presumably, the whale had been hit by the ship a couple of days before and dragged along into the port, the institute said.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (010 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (010 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Hanoi's colonial-era railway doubles as selfie hotspot

HANOI—In the heart of Hanoi's busy Old Quarter, French-built railroad tracks have become a hotspot for tourists seeking the perfect Instagram selfie, and for cafe owners serving up hot coffee and cold beer.

Though picturesque, they are also perilous: the tracks are still in use and most days visitors must scramble for safety as the daily train rumbles through the narrow streets.

But for many, the thrill of dodging a speedy train is part of the appeal.

"It was amazing but scary in the same sense, a little bit overwhelming being so close to the train," Australian tourist Michelle Richards told AFP.

The tracks were first built by former colonial rulers France who used the railway to transport goods and people across Viet Nam — then part of Indochina, along with Laos and Cambodia.

During the Viet Nam War, parts of the railway were badly damaged by American bombs that rained down on the communist-ruled north.

Today the original metre-gauge tracks are still a



This photo taken on 20 October, 2018, shows a tourist posing for a photo on a railway track passing through an old residential district in central Hanoi. PHOTO: AFP

mode of transport for tourists and travellers seeking a cheaper option.

But in the past few years, visitors to Hanoi have seized upon their photographic possibilities.

Hemmed in by houses and cafes, the tracks offer a unique charm for budding travel photographers — and a business opportunity for makeshift cafe owners who have set up shop.

"It's got a really weird charm. You've got flowers

from the balcony coming down, you've got buildings which are very old and close to each other. You see people here living close to the train tracks," Hong Kong tourist Edward Tsim said.

"It felt like waiting for Christmas... and when it arrived, wow, it was something else," British tourist Paul Hardiman said.

"It's got a really weird charm. You've got flowers from the balcony coming down, you've got buildings which are

very old and close to each other. You see people here living close to the train tracks," Hong Kong tourist Edward Tsim said.

As the train rumbles into view, everyone clears the tracks and pulls their phones out to capture the scene.

"It felt like waiting for Christmas... and when it arrived, wow, it was something else," British tourist Paul Hardiman said.

"Well worth the wait."

—AFP ■

Bolivia's 'oldest woman' celebrates 118th birthday

LA PAZ — The oldest woman in Bolivia, and perhaps the world, turned 118 on Friday, remaining lucid and in good health, authorities in the South American country said.

Julia Flores was born in 1900 in a Quechua family in the mining region of Potosi in the country's south.

Known as "Mama Julia," Flores celebrated her birthday amongst family, friends and

local authorities from Sacaba, where she now lives in the center of Bolivia.

In a country where the average life expectancy is 71, Flores is an exception to the rule.

If her age was officially recognized, she would be the oldest living person and third oldest of all time, but she hasn't been confirmed by the Guinness Book of Records.



Although 118 years old, Julia Flores still has the dexterity to play the Andean lute, called a charango. PHOTO: AFP

"It's a day of recognition for us, to celebrate the oldest woman in our country," Juan Carvajal, a public employee in Sacaba told the Los Tiempos de Cochabamba newspaper.

Dressed in traditional Quechua clothes, complete with white sombrero, Flores played the charango — a type of Andean lute — at her party and tucked into a birthday cake.

She lives in a small mud-brick house with a tight garden where she keeps dogs, cats and chickens that her 65-year-old niece, Augustina Verna looks after.

The Bolivian Andes is no stranger to longevity as the region produced Carmelo Flores — no relation to Mama Julia — from the Aymara people who allegedly lived until 123, which if recognized would have made him the oldest person ever.

The oldest ever person, as recorded by Guinness, was Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment, who was 122 years, 164 days when she died in 1997. —AFP ■



Actress Jacqueline Fernandez. PHOTO: PTI

Can imagine life away from glamour: Jacqueline Fernandez

MUMBAI — Actress Jacqueline Fernandez says she can easily ditch the glamour side of acting if it meant solely focusing on her craft. The "Race 3" actress said being in films is "an extremely high maintenance profession" and comes with its own sets of pressure. "I can imagine my life away from the glamour world, but away from performing? No. As actresses, we are a part of storytelling and it is a glamorous world. If I were to give up the glam and just do my work, I would happily do it. It would be amazing," Jacqueline told PTI.

"There are legends who have been doing it for years and years. In the beginning, it is very exciting, you are new to everything but after sometime it does end up taking a toll on you. You can ask 'is this worth it, is this weighing to what I want in my life, career?' For me personally, I enjoy my work too much for these things to bring me down," she said at the store launch of Skechers.

The actress said being at the receiving end of people's scrutiny — from what she is wearing to where she is going — at times gets on her nerves. —PTI ■

Bollywood movie Hichki jazzes up box office in China

MUMBAI — Bollywood film Hichki, starred by popular Indian actress Rani Mukherjee and directed by Sidharth P Malhotra, has heated up in China since its release on 12 October, 2018, according to the film's production banner Yash Raj Films, India.

"Hichki" was titled "Teacher with Hiccup" for its Chinese release. Rani Mukherjee had promoted the film extensively across leading Chinese cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Chengdu before the release. In India it was theatrically released on 23 March, 2018.

The film narrates the story of a determined teacher who helps the economically backward students to achieve better education meanwhile fighting with a nervous system disorder Tourette Syndrome.

"Good cinema has no language barriers and it connects with the audience's hearts and minds. Hichki's success in China proves just that," Rani said in a press statement. —Xinhua ■

Millions with high blood sugar face TB risk

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — Millions of people with high blood sugar may be at greater risk of tuberculosis than previously thought, scientists said Friday, warning that diabetes and TB could combine to create the “perfect storm” of disease.

Tuberculosis, a severe infection caused by bacteria in the lungs, kills almost as many people each year as HIV/AIDS and malaria combined.

In 2017 nearly 10 million people developed TB, according to the World Health Organization, and experts are concerned that a global explosion in diabetes will put millions more at risk.

New research unveiled this week at a global lung health conference in The Hague also suggests further cause for worry.

For the study, scientists at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine conducted blood tests on people living with tuberculosis and diabetes in four countries: South Africa, Romania, Pakistan and several southeast Asian countries.

They found that blood samples from those who did not have diabetes still contained molecules associated with people suffering from TB/diabetes.

“This tells us even before a person develops diabetes, the risk of developing TB is higher,” Ajay Kumar, a research director at The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, who was not involved in the study, told AFP on Friday.

In some countries such as India, home to roughly a quarter of all tuberculosis cases, anyone found to be carrying TB must automatically be screened for diabetes, and vice versa.

Kumar said the study showed that countries should also check

patients with high blood sugar for tuberculosis.

He said “millions” of people with elevated blood sugar could be at additional risk.

‘Perfect storm’

The link between diabetes and tuberculosis is known, though poorly understood. Diabetes slows the body’s natural defences, allowing TB the chance to develop.

While TB infections and deaths have declined slightly in the last decade, type II diabetes has exploded.

It is a potent risk: roughly one in four people on Earth carry the TB bacteria in their bodies, and the WHO says more than 450 million people worldwide are type II diabetic. Paul Jensen, director of policy and strategy at The Union, said the countries of greatest concern were those with a high latent TB rate and a growing diabetes problem: India, China, Pakistan and several southeast Asian countries.

“We describe this issue in terms of a perfect storm — economically developing, already a huge pool of latent TB infection and here you have this issue with diabetes escalating,” he told AFP.

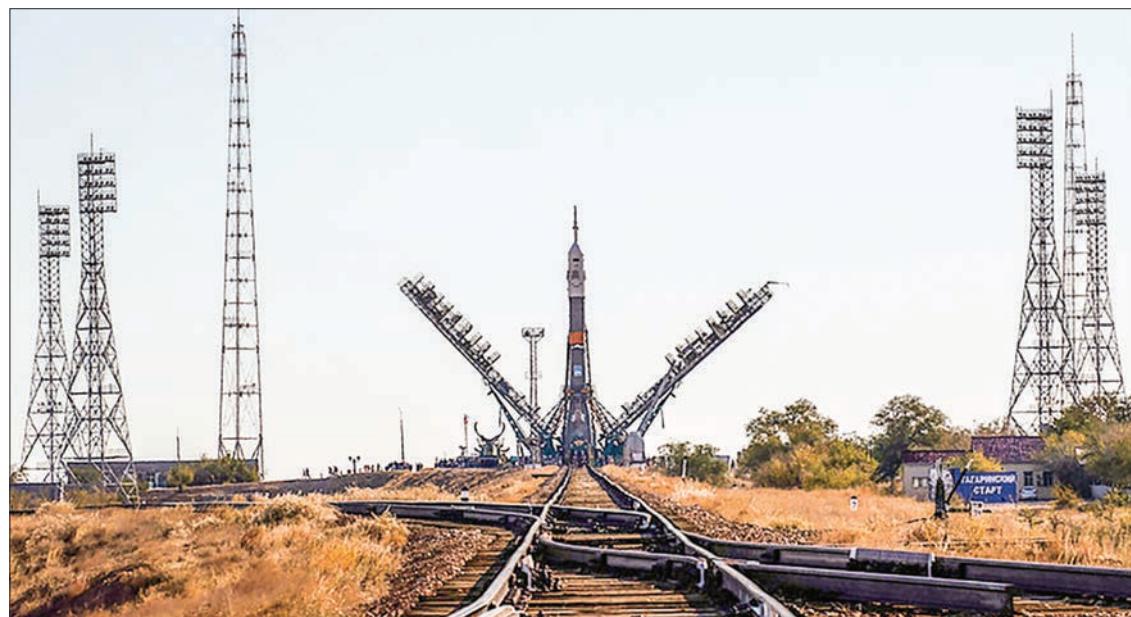
Although TB is curable, the treatment regimen has historically been long, painful and come with significant side effects.

“If you have TB and diabetes at the same time, it makes treatment even more complicated,” Jensen said. “You’re more likely to get TB again in the future and you’re more likely to die.”

The global fight against tuberculosis has frequently focused on HIV/AIDS prevention, as that disease, like diabetes, increases TB risk. Both Jensen and Kumar said more needed to be done to protect people from TB caused by diabetes. —AFP ■



Tuberculosis killed almost as many people as HIV/AIDS and malaria combined last year. PHOTO: AFP



According to a source in the domestic space industry, it is expected 9:14 pm Moscow time. PHOTO: TASS

First launch of Soyuz-FG booster after 11 October incident scheduled for 16 November

MOSCOW — The first launch of a Soyuz-FG booster after the 11 October incident has been scheduled for November 16 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, a source in the domestic space industry told TASS on Friday.

Another source in the Russian space industry earlier said that the launch of the Soyuz-FG booster had been scheduled for 18 November.

“The launch of a Soyuz-FG booster with a Progress MS-10 resupply ship to the International Space Station is planned for November 16, at 00:14 am local time in Baikonur (21:14 pm Moscow time),” the source said.

Soyuz aborted launch

A Soyuz-FG carrier rocket with a manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft blasted off from Kazakhstan’s Baikonur Cosmodrome to the International Space Station (ISS) on 11 October. On board the spacecraft were Russian cosmonaut Alexei Ovchinin (the commander of the Soyuz MS-10) and NASA astronaut Nick Hague.

Following a smooth liftoff, the Soyuz’s booster malfunctioned between the first and second stages of separating, whereupon the crew was forced to abort the flight and switch to ballistic descent. The manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft ended

up landing in the Kazakh steppe.

The press office of Russia’s Central Military District reported that rescuers recovered the crew from the descent capsule. Later, the crewmembers were examined and found to be in good condition. After their medical check-up in the town of Baikonur, the astronauts were transported to Moscow.

This is the first emergency landing with this type of carrier rocket over the past 35 years.

NASA astronaut Nick Hague, who returned to Moscow from the Baikonur spaceport on 12 October after the Soyuz booster’s failure, flew to the United States on 13 October. —Tass ■

Engineers invent energy-saving cooling system for structures

WASHINGTON — Engineers from two American universities developed a kind of natural air conditioner with almost no consumption of electricity. The study published on Friday in the journal Joule described the innovative water-cooling system capable of providing continuous day-and-night radiative cooling for structures. The low-cost hybrid organic-inorganic cooling material is scaled into a roughly 13-square-meter array, small enough to fit on most rooftops, according to the study. The advance could increase the efficiency of power generation plants in summer and lead to more efficient, environmentally-friendly temperature control for homes, businesses, utilities and industries.

“You could place these panels on the roof of a single-family home and satisfy its cooling

requirements,” said Zhao Dongliang, the paper’s lead author and a postdoctoral researcher in Colorado University Boulder’s Department of Mechanical Engineering. “As Earth’s temperature warms due to the absorbed heat from the sunlight during the day, it continuously emits infrared light to the cold universe all the time,” said Professor Yang Ronggui at Colorado Boulder and lead author of the study. “During the night, Earth cools down due to the emission without the sunshine.”

The film-like material reflects incoming almost all sunlight while still allowing an object’s stored heat to escape as much as possible, keeping it cooler than ambient air even in the midday sun.

It can be produced at low cost using the current roll-to-roll manufacturing techniques, according to the researchers.

“We can now apply these materials on building roof tops, and even build large-scale water cooling systems like this one with significant advantages over the conventional air conditioning systems, which require high amounts of electricity to function,” said the paper’s co-author Tan Gang, associate professor at the University of Wyoming’s Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering. The researchers tested their system outdoors in a variety of weather conditions, including wind, precipitation and humidity. In experiments conducted in August and September 2017, a module with a container of water covered by the material rendered 6.67 Celsius degrees cooler than the ambient air between 12:30 pm and 3:00 pm, the most intense summer sunlight of the day. —Xinhua ■



Myanmar to play home match against Cambodia in AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 on 12 November

MYANMAR national men's football squad is going to play its home debut against Cambodia in AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 at Mandalay Thiri Stadium on 12 November, said a source of Myanmar Football Federation.

As part of preparation for taking part in AFF Suzuki Cup 2018, Myanmar went to a friendly tour to Indonesia, Bahrain and Qatar during October. Myanmar also demonstrated a warm-up match against Bolivia, one of the South African powerhouses.

AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 will be held from 8 November to 15

December. Myanmar will have to play two home matches against Cambodia and Viet Nam and two away against Malaysia and Laos according to the fixture of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018.

Asian Football Federation (AFF) applied a new format to Suzuki Cup tournament in 2018. The nine highest ranked teams would be qualified automatically. The 10th and 11th placed teams have to play a two-legged qualifier. The 10 teams will be divided in two groups of five and play a round robin system. Each team has to play two home and two away

fixtures. A draw will be made to determine where the teams play. The format of the knockout round would remain unchanged.

According to the new format, Brunei and Timor Leste played home and away play offs which were conducted on 1 and 8 September 2018 with the latter securing qualification. Now the teams going to take part in the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 are Viet Nam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos in the Group-A and Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Timor Leste in the Group-B.—Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Myanmar badly needs win over Iran to reach next round

MYANMAR has been in badly need of a win over Iran that will play on 28 October in order to brighten the hope of reaching the next round, according to Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar was beaten by Laos with 3-4 in the debut of the

first round qualification of the 2020 Asian U-19 at Thuwunna Stadium on 26 October.

"Myanmar women's footballers had many senses of worries and made blunders a lot in today's match. They made many mistakes that they did not make

during the training and they lost to Lao. Myanmar still remains hope. We will try to the best of our ability in the decisive match against Iran," said head coach Daw Thet Thet Win of Myanmar U-19 women's football squad.

"All teammates tried to play the match. We conceded goals to Lao as we had many blunders. We apologize to Myanmar fans for losing to Laos on home soil," said captain San Thaw Thaw.

Iran is standing at the top group with one win, four goals for, one goal against and three points in the Group-F following a match and Lao at second place with five goals for, seven goals against and three points after playing two matches. Myanmar is at the last place with three goals for, four goals against and zero point after one match.

Myanmar will play the last match of the group against Iran at Thuwunna Stadium at 6 pm on October 28.—Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



Loftus-Cheek presses Chelsea case as Burnley await

LONDON—Ruben Loftus-Cheek made a persuasive argument this week to be included in Chelsea's starting line-up at Burnley on Sunday. The reality is, though, the England midfielder has more work to do to convince Maurizio Sarri he is ready for an extended run in the Premier League. A hat-trick in the Europa League victory over BATE Borisov confirmed the potential of the 22-year-old, who enjoyed a successful season-long loan spell at Chelsea's fellow London club Crystal Palace last term.

His performances last season were enough to win him a place in Gareth Southgate's World Cup squad, but back at club level, Loftus-Cheek has found himself on the fringes of Sarri's first team and in no doubt the Blues head coach does not yet believe he is ready to slot into the Italian's system.

Ever since Sarri arrived at Chelsea in July, he has emphasised the need for his players to understand the defensive requirements of his possession-based game. The coach insisted this would take time, although he clearly believes some members of his squad are adapting quickly. Mateo Kovacic has slotted straight into his system following his loan move from Real Madrid. Ross Barkley has won Sarri's trust, growing confidence as the season has progressed and ahead of Loftus-Cheek for both club and country. When Southgate announced his squad for the most recent international break, Barkley was included while Loftus-Cheek, at that point restricted to just one starting appearance this season, found himself left out, prompting suggestions he would be well-advised to seek a loan move away in January to maintain the momentum of his young career. A foot injury has not helped the player, who has come through the ranks at Chelsea after joining the club at the age of eight.

As a home-grown player, Loftus-Cheek has the backing of Blues supporters while further afield, his situation this season has contributed to the debate about the limited opportunities available to young English players at leading clubs in the Premier League. But having committed himself to trying to breakthrough at Chelsea, Loftus-Cheek knows he faces a battle to win Sarri over.

"He is asking me to improve defensively and positionally," said Sarri. "We are working on it every day in training and he is very demanding with the team. He is so demanding on shape, but also wants you to play freely as well, which is why we can play such free-flowing football. It is really good work."—AFP ■



SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

EMPATHY



By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
3rd year medical student

“EMPATHY is about finding echoes of another person in yourself.” This is a quote by Mohsin Hamid. Empathy starts with trying to put ourselves in another person’s shoes in order to understand his or her feelings. In today’s age, people have become more occupied with their own jobs and hobbies, having not much time to be aware of what others are going through. Youths can lack a sense of empathy, as a result of being caught up online or focusing only on passing exams with honors. As much as our jobs, education, and pastimes matter, it is also crucial to look around and be aware of the reality of problems and troubles other people are facing, whether it is our friend, a relative, or random people.

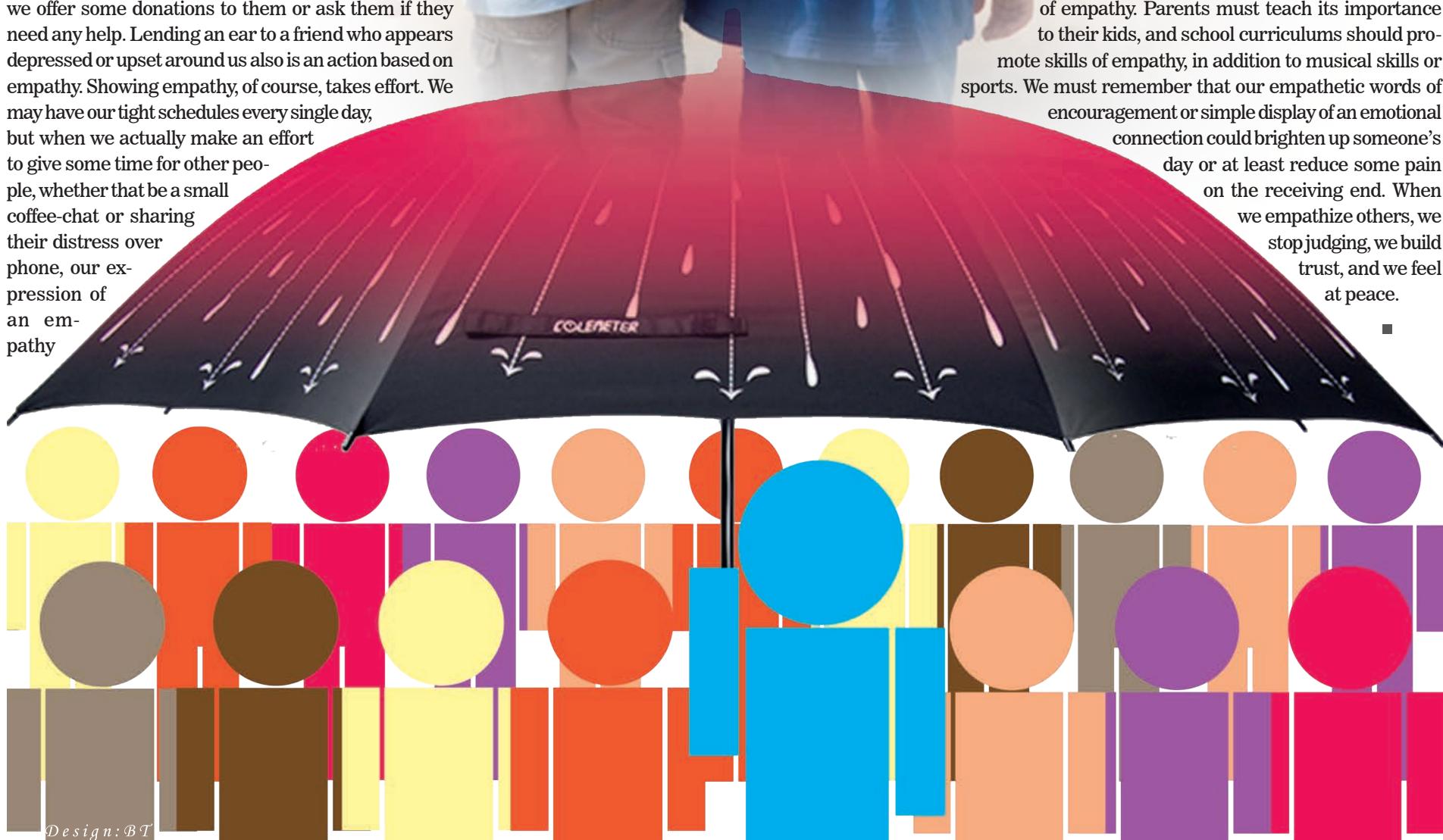
An empathetic heart has the power to bring on positive actions. When we empathize some helpless disabled persons on the side of the road, chances are we offer some donations to them or ask them if they need any help. Lending an ear to a friend who appears depressed or upset around us also is an action based on empathy. Showing empathy, of course, takes effort. We may have our tight schedules every single day, but when we actually make an effort to give some time for other people, whether that be a small coffee-chat or sharing their distress over phone, our expression of an empathy

provides strength to those in need of it.

We must also understand that empathy means trying to put yourself in other’s situation, while simultaneously accepting that you will never be able to fully comprehend what another person is going through, even if you have experienced something similar yourself. True empathy comes with accepting another person’s reality without being judgmental. We feel a sense of trust, when our truths are accepted and believed by others. The burden of worrying about being judged also evaporates. We thus become better able to communicate and confide in one another.

In university or workplaces, when we attempt to observe or understand another person’s perspectives, emotions, and thoughts, it becomes smoother to develop and maintain positive relationships. Actively thinking beyond ourselves or our concerns is a foundation to developing an empathy. Even during little conversations, not jumping fast to our own conclusions but taking time to consider the other person’s opinions can help us expand our empathy. This leads to a shared understanding between people, despite different faiths, beliefs, nationalities, and creates a positive and relaxed atmosphere around the place.

People usually underestimate the significance of empathy. Parents must teach its importance to their kids, and school curriculums should promote skills of empathy, in addition to musical skills or sports. We must remember that our empathetic words of encouragement or simple display of an emotional connection could brighten up someone’s day or at least reduce some pain on the receiving end. When we empathize others, we stop judging, we build trust, and we feel at peace.



28 OCTOBER 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Pakokku U Ohn Pe: Literary Award Donor and his legacy

By Ba Than

THE open season in Myanmar traditionally ushers in a busy schedule of social activities and events. Assuming top priority is the annual literary awards ceremony. In essence, the Myanmar literary award ceremonies are crucial for progress of literature in many ways. It promotes the budding writers into maturity and recognition. It accredits seasoned writers incentive and impetus to produce aesthetic writings to benefit the literary world at large. It also encourages the publishers to publish books of general interest for the society. And to top it all, the most crucial component to boost these noble endeavors are the donors of literary awards. The literary awards are held in order of precedence and protocol. The highest award

and the first
to be
celebrated

is the National Literary Award held by the Ministry of Information graced by the Honorary Minister himself. The status is comparable to the famous Pulitzer Awards. In the later decades private literary awards also joined in to play a pivotal role in the promotion. Next in line follows the private foundations viz: the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Foundation, Dr. Tin Shwe Literary Award Foundation, Thuta Sweson Literary Award Foundation and Tun Foundation, respectively. There are also small literary awards contributed by various agencies for commemorating and promoting social services in endless continuum.

In this context the author wishes to focus on the memorable award 'Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award', its donor Pakokku U Ohn Pe, and his legacy. The Pakokku Literary Award was founded on 31st May 1992 when the donor U Ohn Pe, owner of 'Thein Tayar Virginia Tobacco Treatment Plant' offered to contribute Kyats 7 lakhs and 1279 representing his Myanmar year of birth 1279 Myanmar Era (1918 AD) to set up a literary foundation. It was to be managed by the Myanmar writers and journalists Association (MWJA).

Five categories of literature in manuscript form were to be selected from among those competed. A special

'Lifetime Literary Award' was to be awarded for the most deserving writer who had dedicated his or her lifetime to the pursuit of literature. The Awards Selection Committee was formed with eminent scholars and writers to select the most deserving winners of each category. The donor U Ohn Pe requested that the award ceremony be held alternately in Pakokku and Yangon. The first chairman of the selection committee was the top journalist and Myanmar scholar, the late U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin). The author was among first batch of the pioneer E.C members.

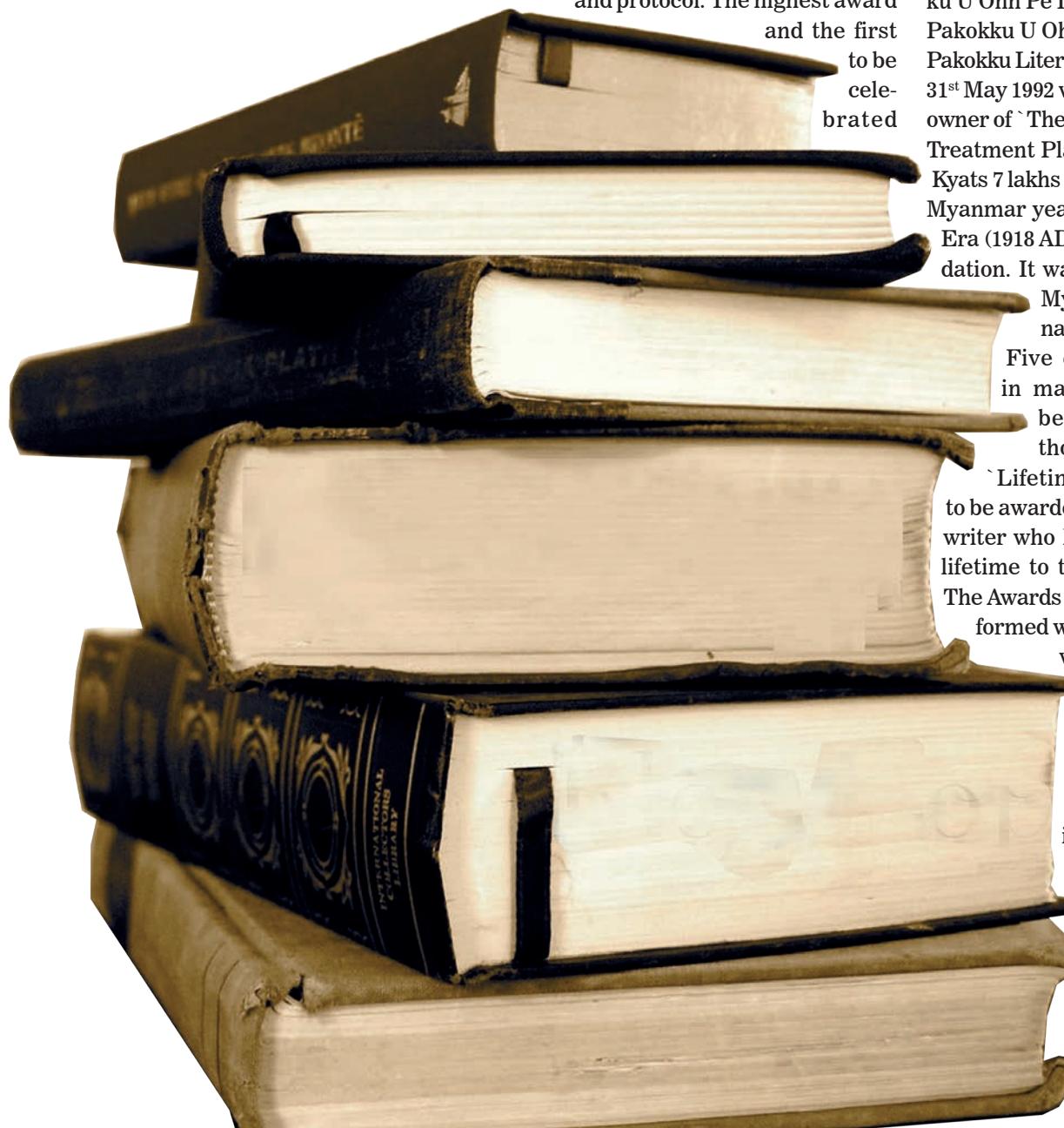
The first inaugural ceremony was held in Pakokku on 7th February 1994. Yearly award ceremonies were held successively from 1994 to 2018 and latest literary award [the 25th] was held on 16th September 2018 at Sarpay Beikman Hall. Literary prizes were awarded to 298 prize winners to date. To top it all, 29 dozen writers of national and worldwide reputation were honored with Lifetime Literary Achievement citations. The author was a deserving recipient of the Lifetime Literary Achievement Award in 2013.

Throughout his lifetime, U Ohn Pe had donated a total of over Kyat 250 lakhs and much more for social and humanitarian causes. U Ohn Pe was a star speaker at every award ceremony which he attended regularly during his lifetime. His tanned skin bespoke of a typical Anyar gentleman. He was indeed a suave orator as he mesmerized his audience with poignant true life experiences interspersed with tears and laughter.

He also took to writing which earned him Sayarwun Tin Shwe award in 2001. Tekkatho Sein Tin a famous biographer had written and published his biography gaining nation-wide acclaim. Pakokku U Ohn Pe, the trail-blazing pioneer-donor was born in 1918 in Htanaung Gone village in Pakokku township, a village boy (Tawtha) indeed. He led a stressful arduous life in his youth and adolescence. Bereft of formal education, he was an acquisitive self-learner. He was methodical in accounts and strict disciplinarian in work. He pursued a clean occupation, but donated generously in social and humanitarian activities. He died in 11th April 2008 at the ripe age of 90.

Pakokku U Ohn Pe's legacy was taken over by the Supervising Committee formed under the Ministry of Information. Moreover as per the Resolution approved by consensus in 11th January 2011 the original name was changed to: 'Pakokku Literary Award founded by Pakokku U Ohn Pe'.

This article is dedicated to the poignant memory of Pakokku U Ohn Pe, his literary lifetime donations, his philanthropic charity and his legacy as role model for succeeding generations to emulate. ■





By Laura Htet
UDE English

I CAME home from the commercial city a couple of days ago. My town is a little one on the bank of Daga river, Ayeyarwady Region. My house was situated in an extension-ward where the roads and houses were built in disorder. In front of my house was a lane which was wide enough to go through a trishaw. I left the lane, my house and my town for ages due to my further studies in Yangon. As soon as I stepped on the lane, a mixture of happiness, enthusiasm, refreshment, yearning and touching feelings came to flow into my heart. Whenever I walked on this lane, such emotions mentioned earlier were spontaneously occupied by my mind. I had ever stepped on the big roads and streets but my love and yearning on the lane never faded away.

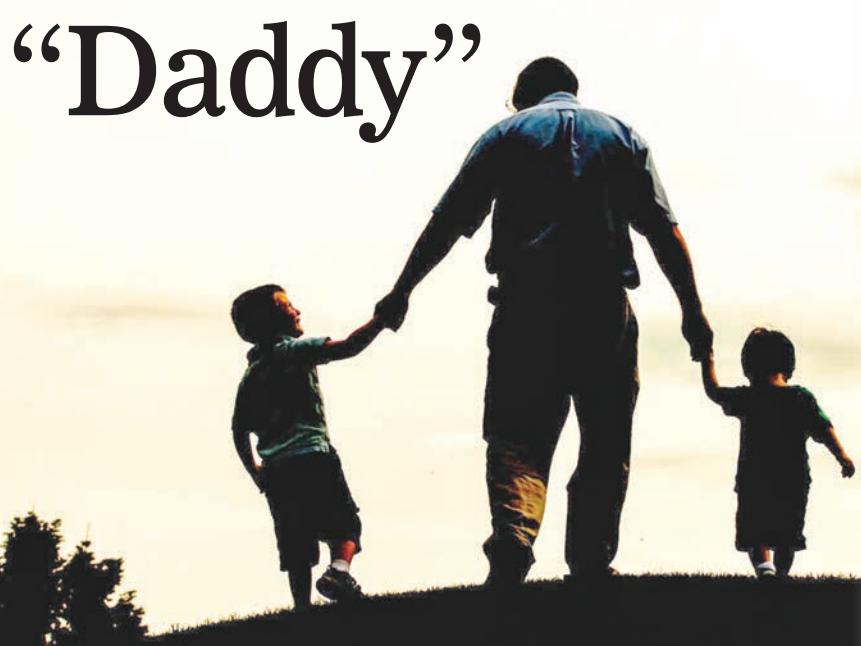
Since I was in KG, I started to utilized that lane. By passing through it, I used to go to school. Pacing up and down the lane, my life of primary-school completed. In all three seasons, I was familiar with the lane. In quite rainy days, mistily

hazy days and vividly sunny days, I had to face up to adverse consequences of weather together with the lane. In some rainy days, the lane had to remain under water now and then. At that moment, the lane was not even and smooth but just a laterite-lane. There were pits, pot holes and lumps in abundance on the surface. Nevertheless, that very rough lane was a reliable one for the ward-folks. It heartily accepted those who ever passed through its bosom. All the ward-folks got to their destination because of its benefit. The lane was very conveniently useful for school children, workers and housewives who had to go to the bazaar for curry.

After pacing several steps, I took notice the changes of the lane. It was not only a harsh one as before. It appeared as an even, smooth, neat and beautiful concrete lane before me. In the days of the heavy rain, one did not need to worry whether the lane would remain under water. School children did not need to step on the lane under water

falteringly and hesitatingly. They could happily go to school without staining mud or sand on their feet. I was highly pleased seeing the even, smooth and neat lane.

Some primary-level students were walking towards their school in groups. Pacing on the lane, some teachers were making a chat. Sweet voices and innocent laughs of the children were adrift hither and thither in the air. As Freewheeling enjoyment suddenly entered my heart, I visualized the images of my primary school life. The feeling of being alert and refresh instantly emerged from my heart. Felicitous and upbeat! Yearning and touching feeling promptly occupied my heart. That lane well maintained the images of my childhood days. In fact, the lane was neither large nor wide, splendid nor busy like the tarmac roads and concrete roads. Nonetheless, the lane was commensurately useful and beneficial to the ward-folks. It is small and narrow but dutiful. Therefore, I greeted it in silence, "Hi! You're my auspicious lane."



“Daddy”

Daddy; a strongest one of our life,
Give us strength to survive.
Sometimes, he may make us cry
But he wanna make us smile every time.



By Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University

Daddy; a jem of life like a ruby
Give us love keeping mind truly.
Sometimes, he may make us cry
But he wanna make us shine every time.

Daddy; a precious one of our life,
Give us color to make a picture in conspicuous bright
Sometimes, he may discolour his life
But he never forget to colourize our life.

Daddy; a driver of our life,
Incentivize and send us to good site.
Sometimes, he may struggle with stress
But he motivates himself for us.

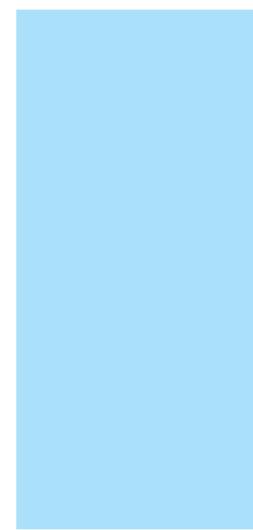
PHOTO ESSAY



Myathalun Pagoda in Magway is illuminated on the full moon of Thadingyut. PHOTO: THAN NAING OO

THE Myanmar lunar month of Thadingyut, which usually falls in October, is the end of the three-month Vassa period, also known as Buddhist Rains Retreat. Festivals and activities both large and small marking the full-moon of Thadingyut were commonly held across the country on this auspicious day on 24th October this year.

The Shwedagon Pagoda is crowded with the people on the Thadingyut full moon.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



Myathalun Pagoda in Magway is crowded with Buddhist devotees on the Thadingyut full moon. PHOTO: THAN NAING OO (NGAPE)



People light candles participating the Thadingyut light festival to commemorate the end of the Buddhist Rains Retreat on the Thadingyut full moon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Women release paper lamps with tiny candle to float on the Shwesgyin River during light festival yesterday, in Shwesgyin.
PHOTO: PAIN ZALOK THEIN NYUNTLocal women carry artificial lotus decorated with lights to welcome the end of the Rains Retreat in Saw Township.
PHOTO: KYAW THAN SWEYouths prepare to release hot-air balloon on the bank of Inya Lake in Yangon on the Thadingyut full moon.
PHOTO: YE MIN TUN (IPRD)

ENGLISH LESSON 9

By C. T. O

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

I am a schoolboy. I am in the tenth standard. I am reading at Lanmadaw No. 1 Basic Education High Level School. My house is not far from the school, so I usually go to school on foot. Our classes begin at 7 a.m. and I leave for school at about 6:30.

One winter morning while I was walking towards the school, I saw an old woman standing alone at a street corner. I was about to pass her when I noticed that she was shivering with cold. She looked very thin and weak. I felt sorry for her. She was sick and she was waiting for a taxi to go to the hospital. I decided to help her. I took her to the Yangon Hospital. I paid for the taxi. She told me that she was very poor and had to live on boiled rice only. I comforted her and promised to visit her. That morning I was late for school. I gave no reasons for being late. The teacher punished me. She made me stand on the bench for about 30 minutes. I was not sorry for that. In the evening I went to the old woman. I took some food for her. Her name is Daw Kha. She is a widow with no children. She has no relatives. No one came to see her. So I went to her every evening. Mother gave me some food for her.

She soon recovered and was very thankful to me for looking after her. She has no gone back to her village in Upper Myanmar.

reasons အကြောင်းပြချက်
recovered ပြန်လည်သက်သာ

A good soldier

Use the ideas given below:

1. strong and healthy
2. good at fighting and using weapons
3. obedient and faithful to his officers
4. brave and quick in action
5. ability to make quick decisions
6. good leader and love for the country

Every country in the world has an army. An army is made up of soldiers. The duty of soldiers is to defend and protect the country. Every army needs good soldiers. A good soldier is one who loves his country and culture and who is ready to give up his life for the country.

Moreover, a good soldier must be strong and healthy. He must be good at fighting and using weapons. So, he is given military training. In olden days soldiers fought with swords and spears and bows and arrows. They rode horses and elephants. An army today has jets, ships, tanks, rockets and big guns. Soldiers now carry automatic weapons. So, a modern soldier must be intelligent. He must know how to use modern weapons. A good soldier must be obedient and faithful to his officers. He must be brave and quick in action. He must have the ability to make decisions quickly. He must be a good leader and organizer. Our Tatmadaw was founded by our national hero Bogyoke Aung San during the war. It

fought against the colonialists and the fascists. It took part in the fight for independence.

Our Tatmadaw is now fighting a just war against destructionists. We are now building a modern nation. Our Tatmadaw is carrying out its national defence duty to the full. It is also taking an active part in nation construction work.

defend	ကာကွယ်သည်
sword	စားရှည်
spear	လုံး
bow and arrows	လေးနှင့်မြား
big guns	အပြောက်ကြီးများ
colonialists	ဂျွန်ပြုသူများ
fascists	ဟဂ်ဆတ်များ
a just war	တရားသောစစ်ပွဲ
national defence duty	အမျိုးသားကာကွယ်ရေးတာဝန်
construction work	တည်ဆောက်မှုလုပ်ငန်း
destructionists	အဖျက်သမား
to the full:	အပြည့်အဝ

Direct and Indirect Speech
(Reported Speech)

အောက်ပါစာကြောင်းနှင့်ပြောင်းလို့ လေ့လာပါ။

- (a) Ko Ko said, "I have no class today."
- (b) Ko Ko said that he had no class that day.

စာကြောင်း (a) တွင် ပါသော "I have no class today." မှာ

ကိုကို ပါးစိမ့်မှတ်ကြသော စကားလုံးများ ဖြစ်သည်။

စာကြောင်း (b) တွင် ပါသော he had no class that day မှာ

စာရေးသူကတ်ဆင့် ပြန်ပြောထားသော စကားလုံးများ ဖြစ်သည်။

(a) ကိုကိုပြောခဲ့သည်။ "ကျွန်တော်မှာ ယနေ့အတန်းမရှိပါ။"

(b) ကိုကိုက သူများ ထိနောက် အတန်းမရှိခဲ့ပါဟု ပြောခဲ့သည်။

အထက်ပါကဲ့သို့ တစ်ဆင့်ပြောသောစကားအဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းလဲရာတွင်

လိုက်နာရမည့် သွေးစဉ်းကင်းများကို အောက်တွင် ပေးထားပါသည်။

1. Direct Speech တွင် X အောက်ရှိစကားလုံးများပါပါက
Indirect Speech တွင် Z အောက်ရှိစကားလုံးများဖြင့်
အစားထိုးရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

Ma Ma said, "I am listening to the radio now."

မမကပြောသည်။ 'ကျွန်မ ယခုရေဒီယိုနားထောင်နေပါသည်။'

Ma Ma said that she was listening to the radio then.

မမက သူမသည် ထိစိုက် ရေဒီယိုနားထောင်နေသည်ဟု ပြောခဲ့သည်။

From nearness to farness

(X)	(Z)
here	ဒီမှာ
this	ဤဘာ
these	ဤဘာများ
now	ယခု
today	ယနေ့
yesterday	မနေ့က
last night	မနေ့ညက
tomorrow	မနက်ဖြန်
	there
	ထိနေရာမှာ
	ထိဘာ
	ထိဘာများ
	ထိစိုက်
	ထိနေ့က
	မတိုင်မီတ်ရှုက
	မတိုင်မီတ်ညက
	နောက်တစ်နေ့

ago လွန်ခဲ့သော before ယခင်က
nowadays ယခုခေတ်မှာ in those days ထိခေတ်က

2. (a) "အချိန်ကာလ" မှား (Tenses) ပြောင်းရသည်က အထူးသတိပြုပါ။
Direct Speech ပါ Simple Present Tense ကို
Indirect Speech တွင် Simple Past Tense အဖြစ်
သို့ ပြောင်းရသည်။
- (b) Direct Speech တွင် Present Perfect Tense နှင့်
Simple Past Tense တိုကို Indirect Speech တွင်
Past Perfect Tense (အတိတ်မတိုင်မီအတိတ်ကာလ) အဖြစ်
သို့ ပြောင်းရသည်။
- (c) Present Future Tense (will, shall, can) ကို Past
Future Tense (would, should, could) အဖြစ်သို့
ပြောင်းရသည်။

- ဥပမာ -
1. He said, "I am a teacher".
He said that he was a teacher.
(Simple Present မှ Simple Past သို့ပြောင်းသွားသည်)
She said, "I have been to Kalaw."
She said that she had been to Kalaw.
(Present Perfect မှ Past Perfect သို့ပြောင်းသွားသည်)
He said, "I saw the film yesterday."
He said that he had seen the film the day before.
(Simple Past မှ Past Perfect သို့ပြောင်းသွားသည်)
She said, "I shall leave tomorrow."
She said that she would leave the next day.
(Present Future မှ Past Future သို့ပြောင်းသွားသည်)
 3. နာမ်စားများ (Pronouns) ကိုလည်း ဆီလျှော်သလို ပြောင်းရသည်။ နမူနာများတွင် လေ့လာပါ။

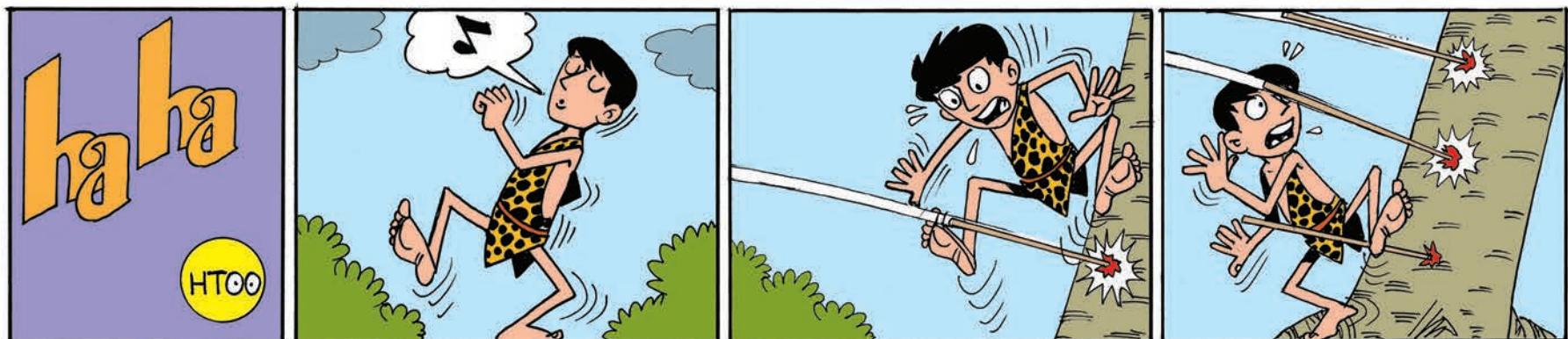
- ဥပမာ -
- Ko Ko said, "I want to be a writer."
Ko Ko said that he wanted to be a writer.
ဒုတိယစာဓကြောင်း: he မှာ ပထမစာဓကြောင်း I မှာ ပြောင်းလာသည်။
ကိုတိအတွက် နာမ်စားများကို အတွက်ဖြစ်သည်။
ပြောင်းပိုကို ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

- A.
1. He said, "I am very busy today."
He said that he was very busy that day.
Khin Khin said, "I have seen the latest film."
Khin Khin said that she had seen the latest film.
The doctor said, "I shall visit Pegu tomorrow."
The doctor said that he would visit Pegu the next day.
Ko Ko said, "I sent the letters yesterday".
Ko Ko said that he had sent the letters the day before.
အထက်ပါပဲစံ A တွင် ပြောသူသရှိ၍ အပြောခဲ့ရသူမရှိသောကြောင့်
said ကိုသာ ပြောသို့ရသည်။
စာကြောင်းနှင့်ပြောင်းကို that ဖြင့် ဆက်ရသည်။
နာမ်စားပြောင်းလို့ အချိန်ကာလ Tense ပြောင်းလို့တိုက် သတိပြုပါ။

- B.
1. Ko Ko said to Khin Khin, "I want you to be a famous singer."
Ko Ko told Khin Khin that he wanted her to be a famous singer.
He said to her, "I don't know when the train will arrive."
He told her that he did not know when the train would arrive.
She said to him, "I hope that I will win a prize."
She told him that she hoped that she would win a prize.
Ma Ma said to me, "If you work hard, you will pass."
မမက ကျွန်တော်ကို ကျွန်တော်ကြီးစားလျှင်အောင်လိမ့်မည်။
Ma Ma told me that if I worked hard, I would pass.
မမက ကျွန်တော်ကို ကျွန်တော်ကြီးစားလျှင်အောင်လိမ့် ဖြောခဲ့သည်။

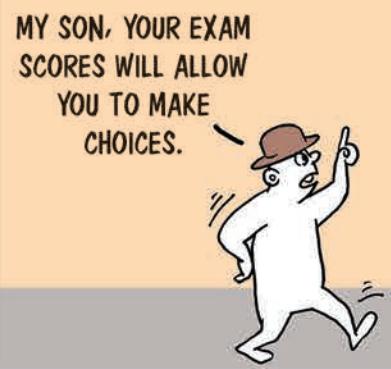
(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

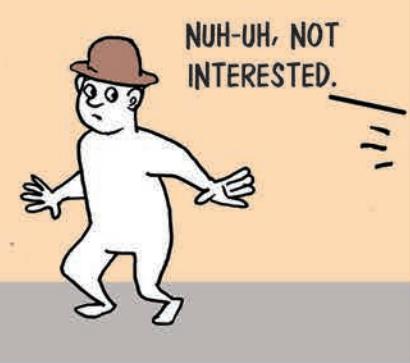
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



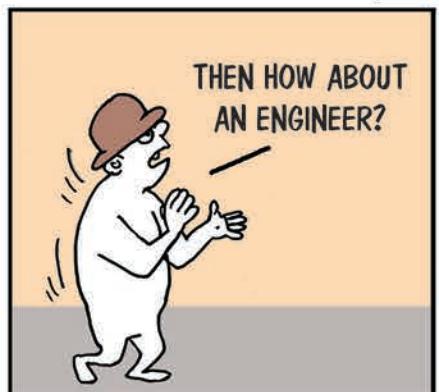
MY SON, YOUR EXAM SCORES WILL ALLOW YOU TO MAKE CHOICES.



DO YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR?



NUH-UH, NOT INTERESTED.



THEN HOW ABOUT AN ENGINEER?



NOT KEEN ON THAT.



THEN WHAT IS YOUR LIFE OBJECTIVE?



I'M JUST GOING TO SPEND YOUR FORTUNE DAD.

AGH!

SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



YOUR ACTIONS ASTOUND ME.

WHAT DID I DO TO AMAZE YOU AUNTIE?

YOU'VE DATED DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS BEFORE.



BUT NOW YOU'VE MARRIED A COMMON OFFICE WORKER. WHAT GIVES?



I TRULY CAN'T FATHOM IT.



DON'T BE SO SURPRISED AUNTIE. I DATED A LOT OF GUYS.



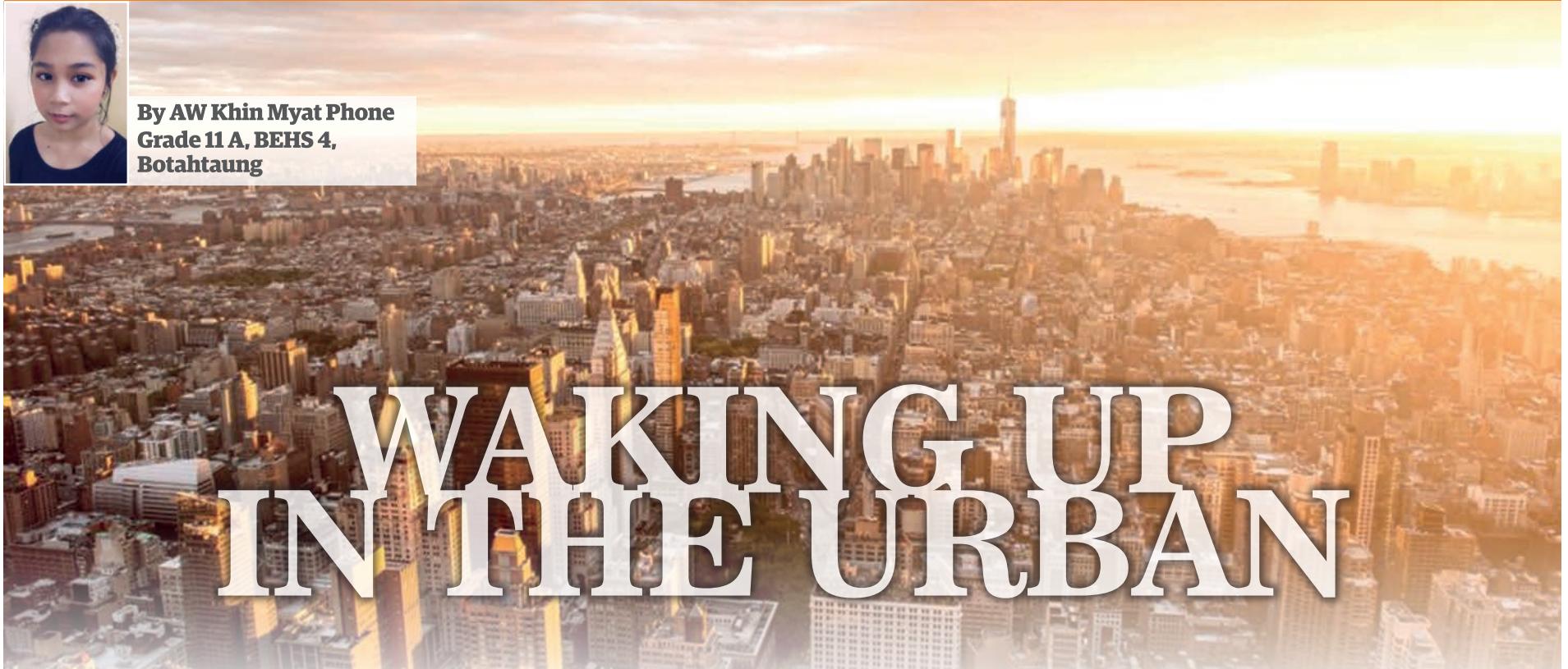
BUT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO PROPOSED TO ME.

THAT SO!?

END



By AW Khin Myat Phone
Grade 11 A, BEHS 4,
Botahtaung



WAKING UP IN THE URBAN

WHAT makes a perfect city? Different types of people go for different kinds of city. However, by coping up all over, everybody longs for the one which has everything. Everything without flaws.

Comparing the rural with the urban, most people prefer the urban. Since the taste of living in the urban is more delicious than that of the rural, population is boosting each and every day in the urban. Cities today are large. And they all are the state-of-the-art. Colourful graffiti everywhere. As the population grows, cities become mega. Most of the mega-cities around the world have at least something special for everybody. In this 21st century, the architecture of the cities are developing in speed. Urban planners compete with each other for better designs. Tall towers replace single houses, large car garages take small local pub's place. Everything is changing rapidly day after day.

Talking about a perfect city, we also want it to be sociable, and as well want it to have unique character like an attractive tourist site or maybe some fascinating natural views. Dating back to many years ago, cities used to be without tall towers and even without transportation.

Unlikely, nowadays the mega-cities have all the modern amenities such as 24-hour security, 24-hour bars and shops, free Wi-Fi and very grand shopping malls.

Well, as I am a city girl, it means a lot to me. I have spent all of my life growing up and playing around and facing up new and new challenges every day. Being one of the millions living in a big city, I can never get enough of this life. Yangon, a commercial city, is my home. It is always getting busy starting from the morning and until the sun goes down as the moon comes up in the endless night sky. What's more, it is somehow like a paradise for everyone and at least it has just one thing for everyone to enjoy.

The towers towering so stiff and high and those skyscrapers standing tall enough to reach the blue, blue sky make the portrait of a mega-city so complete. What else, the colourful LED lights shining all over the city at night make a viewer feel released. As the lifestyle changes, a mega-city's nightlife as well changes too. There are now enormous theatres for play and music lovers, international cinemas for film lovers and up-to-date gorgeous malls for window shoppers. Many people from rural places move into urban because it is certainly

the place where the job opportunities lie.

The urban lifestyle has some merits and demerits too. Firstly, for the merits, transportation is quick. Education level is high. Housing and social life is vibrant. Also, it provides wonderful leisure facilities including city centres, pools and parks, libraries and cyber cafes. There are a lot of healthcare centres, clinics and world class hospitals. Apart from all of these, many city dwellers are now fearing about dehumanisation. Hustle and bustle of the mega-city makes people annoyed. Traffic congestion takes place everywhere. People are increasingly aware of environmental concerns; costs and availability of energy sources. The division between the rich and the poor is occurring in most cities. The bigger the city, the fewer the green spaces.

However, people still love urban lifestyle. In case, it is somehow rich in history which is an interesting thing. The possibility of everything is found in the urban. The smell of positivity is in the air, so yet everybody looks up for the urban lifestyle. Waking up in the urban is challenging by looking forward for another tomorrow at last.



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