

**SUNDAY
SPECIAL**

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SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Victims of
cancer
society**NATIONAL**Vice President U Henry Van Thio
inspects development works in Putao

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Vice President U Myint Swe attends national literary award ceremony

Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at a ceremony to present Lifelong National Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Myint Swe delivered a speech at a ceremony to present Lifelong National Literary Award for 2017, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award held at the National Theatre of Yangon yesterday morning.

In his speech Vice President U Myint Swe said that Sarsodaw Day, a day to honor the literati, is held every year on the 1st Waxing of Nattaw and had reached the 75th year. This day is celebrated

As the day's event was to honor outstanding writers who produced outstanding literatures for the country, we also share the happiness of the award winning writers.

nationwide to honor the literati who wielded the pen throughout the ages to develop the country's literature, religion, social, political and cultural knowledge.

This is a unique cultural tradition that is a source of honor and pride for Myanmar. It gave him much pleasure to be given an opportunity to speak at such

an auspicious time.

Myanmar literature that started from the Bagan era to the present moment had past more than 900 years and throughout this long period outstanding writers from the monastic sector as well as from among the common people had produced literature that are invaluable for the people and the country. All sorts of literature that were produced bring forth the development of knowledge and cultures for the people of Myanmar.

The main source of today's literature, motion picture, music, dances, arts and culture in Myanmar is literature. That is why with an aim towards developing the Myanmar literature circle good and outstanding literature that depicted Myanmar's traditions, practices and thoughts were selected and presented with national level literary awards every year on Sarsodaw Day.

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MYANMAR FIRST WIND GAME

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects development works in Putao

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who is also Chairman of the Central Committee for the Development of the National Tourism Industry (CCDNTI), flew from Myitkyina to Putao on Friday.

He was accompanied by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, Deputy Ministers Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin, Permanent Secretaries U Tin Myint and U Win Khant, and other officials.

The Vice President first traveled to the Upper Namhtwam hydropower project located on the Namhtwam creek seven miles southwest of Putao. At the project's meeting room, U Chit Toe, Director-General of the Department of Hydropower Implementation, explained about the project's implementation stages and test runs for generating electricity.

The Vice President asked further questions and received additional explanation. He said Putao and Machanbaw were the only two districts with icy mountains in the entire Southeast Asia region and the Khakaborazi National Park was listed as an ASEAN Cultural Heritage. He said the diverse cultures of Jinghpaw, Yawem, Lisu and Shan ethnic races could be seen in one place here and was also home to rare medicinal herbs and officinal plants. He said the district also had fruits and vegetables that were hard to cultivate in other regions and abounds with natural resources and scenery that attracted lots of tourists. He said tourism in the region was sure to increase and so there would be greater demand for electricity in the future and instructed the officials to continue searching for resources to power this project and other prospective hydropower projects.

The Vice President then inspected various areas of the Namhtwam hydropower plant



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the Namhtwam hydropower plant and observes a test run of electricity generation on Friday. **PHOTO:MNA**

and observed a test run of electricity generation.

The Namhtwam hydropower plant is located on the Namhtwam Creek seven miles southwest of Putao. The plant has four generators, each of which has the capacity of generating 800 KW, and will be able to generate 3.2

He then toured the museum and signed the museum's guestbook.

The Vice President attended a dinner hosted by the Kachin State government in the evening where he enjoyed performances by traditional dance troupes. He conferred celebratory flower wreaths to the performers.

Diverse cultures of Jinghpaw, Yawem, Lisu and Shan ethnic races could be seen in one place here and was also home to rare medicinal herbs and officinal plants.

MW in total and 14.13 million kilowatt-hours annually. The plant is currently providing 24-hour electricity to Putao, Machanbaw and 25 villages during its trial run.

Next, the Vice President visited the Yawem Manau grounds where he enjoyed a traditional Yawem dance performance and then took a documentary photo with members of the Yawem Literature and Culture Committee.

The Vice President next went to Yawem National Museum and was given a briefing by U Mayit Yaw Wu, the chairman of the Central Committee for Yawem Literature and Culture.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and his entourage also visited the Kaung Mhu Lone Pagoda in Machanbaw Tsp yesterday morning and made donations. He then observed the kyauk naga, Malikha suspension bridge (Machanbaw) and Gubar retreat.

The Vice President then traveled to Khakaborazi National Park exhibit where Chief Administrator U Aung Maung explained about the park and Phon Kan Razi nature reserve.

Next, Kachin State Minister for Finance, Taxation, Planning and Economic, U Wai Linn, explained about processes for de-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio poses for documentary photo with members of the Yawem Literature and Culture Committee as he visits the Yawem Manau grounds. **PHOTO:MNA**

veloping Kachin State's economy and tourism sector.

The Vice President said department officials and the people need to collaborate to protect the natural resources in the country from being exported illegally. He requested department officials and tourism associations to work together to promote tourism in Putao, Machanbaw, and Indawgyi. He then toured the national park. Khakaborazi National Park is located in Pannandin area, Nagmon Township in Putao District. It was marked as a national park on 10 November 1998 and

listed as an ASEAN cultural heritage on 18 December 2003. The park is 1,472 square miles large.

Phon Kan Razi nature reserve was established on 1 December 2003 and is located in both Machanbaw and Nagmon Townships in Putao District. The reserve measures 1,044 square miles and is home to the takin, red panda, mountain goat, and 36 mammals, 370 bird species, 360 butterfly species, and 82 reptiles.

The Vice President flew from Putao to Yangon in the evening. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Election Commission Chairman visits sub commissions in Taninthayi Region



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein addresses the meeting of election sub commissions from Dawei, Myeik, Kawthoung districts and townships at Dawei City Hall yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

UNION Election Commission Chair U Hla Thein attended a meeting of election sub commission from Dawei, Myeik, Kawthoung district and townships in Taninthayi Region at Dawei City Hall yesterday.

The UEC Chair delivered a speech, saying the sub commissions have to uphold the five standards of conducting elections, namely a free, just, transparent, and reliable election that acts in

line with the people's wishes. He said members of the commissions and sub commissions must not only be knowledgeable of the laws, bylaws and rules and regulations of the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws and the regional and state Hluttaws, but adhere to it as well. He then explained about election commission's rules and regulations. Next, U Thein Lin Oo, secretary of the regional election sub commission, gave a

presentation on the current processes and requirements of the sub commissions in the region.

The UEC Chair then urged the regional sub election commission chair, secretary and members to use their skills and capabilities to the fullest in ensuring the upcoming 2020 general elections are held successfully in accordance with the five standards of conducting elections. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Vice President U Myint Swe attends national literary award ceremony



Vice President U Myint Swe and party pose for a documentary photo together with winners of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award 2017 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

National Literary Awards were presented in many forms for more than 70 years. Sarpay Beikman, established in August 1947 as the Myanmar Translation Society, had connected with the world and produced translations of world's literatures for Myanmar literature development and Sarpay Beikman modern novel award was started in 1948.

In 1962 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award was renamed as artistic literature award and presented to nine categories. In 1963 awards were selected from both printed books as well as yet-to-be printed manuscripts. The awards were then renamed as National Literary Award in 1965. In 1969, the system of select-

ing from books submitted for consideration was discontinued and selection of a best book among designated categories published for the first time during a calendar year was instead made to present National Literary Award. For manuscript award, it was renamed as Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and had been presented under this name to date. The aim of presenting this award is to select outstanding manuscripts that were not published for any reason so that it can be published enabling good literature to come into existence.

The National Literary Award was presented to nine categories and was expanded year by year and this year, it is presented to a total of eighteen categories. Sarpay Beikman

Manuscript Award also had increased gradually from nine categories to thirteen categories this year.

In addition to this, to

single Lifelong National Literary Award was presented every year but starting from 2012, three were selected and presented with the award with an

This year is unique in a way with an addition of two categories for National Literature Award. The two categories are Essay and Reference.

honor writers who had produced outstanding literature throughout their lives in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, starting from 2001, a national level recognition award of Lifelong National Literary Award had been presented yearly.

From 2001 to 2011, a

aim to develop Myanmar literature. This year, two persons will be presented with Lifelong National Literary Award. One produces outstanding and valuable literature while another did not publish many books but strives toward development of Myanmar literature all along.

Prize money for the awards was being increased yearly and selection process has been made systematically in a transparent way. The selection group was also formed with literature experts as well as experienced publishers. National Literature Award Selection Committee was formed with 65 members and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Group was formed with 28 members. The selection was also seen to be made systematically in three stages, said the Vice President.

Of the 2,847 books published for the first time in 2017, 11 authors in 11 categories out of a total of 18 categories were selected for National Literature Award. For Sarpay Beik-

man Manuscript Award, 25 manuscripts were selected from 316 manuscripts in 11 out of 13 categories. The awards will be presented in this ceremony.

This year is unique in a way with an addition of two categories for National Literature Award. The two categories are Essay and Reference. Essay award is aimed towards development of a literature category that had become popular prior to the modern literature era while Reference award is to promote the development of reference literature that are of use for researchers and writers.

Everyone knew that Myanmar was striving towards the aim of establishing a democratic federal union.

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Vice President U Myint Swe presents the National Lifelong Literary Award to U Tun Yi (Archaeological Researcher).



Vice President U Myint Swe presents the National Lifelong Literary Award to Author Phoe Kyawt. **PHOTO:MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint presents the award to a winner of the collection of short stories genre.

Vice President U Myint Swe attends national literary award ceremony

Lifelong Literary Award Winners for 2017	
No.	Name
1.	Author Phoe Kyawt
2.	U Tun Yi (Archaeological Researcher)

FROM PAGE-3

As such encouragement and support must be made for literature development, increase the number of people who read and have an interest in reading, conduct reading and discussion circles so that the people acquire the habit of resolving problems through dialogue, democratic practices and make sure that youths who will be the future leaders acquire knowledge and foresights.

During her literary fiction discussion with Yangon university students in August, the State Counsellor mentioned about establishing and supporting Soft Powers like arts in a developing country like Myanmar. That was why literature talk circles were being conducted in States and Regions while literary fiction discussions were conducted with higher education students, local youths who are literature enthusiasts and literature experts.

In the same way, under the guidance of the State Counsellor, the Ministry of Information has also conducted children literature festivals in States and Regions. The aim is for the youths who will be future leaders of the country to enjoy literature, gain knowledge and expertise.

Furthermore, Sarpay Beikman and Tun Foundation are also re-editing the 15 volumes of Myanmar Encyclopedia published

in 1954. In addition to updating with modern facts and data, new subjects were also being included and would become a useful encyclopedia for the people.

Still going much further, classic literature works from the start of Myanmar literature 900 years ago to the year 2000 has been collected and will be published as 100 Myanmar Classic Book series starting with three volumes. As it will reflect Myanmar traditions, practices and thoughts, it will be welcomed not only by the people in Myanmar but also by international researchers.

As the day’s event was to honor outstanding writers who produced outstanding literatures for the country, we also share the happiness of the award winning writers.

The practice of honoring outstanding writers is becoming a proud Myanmar tradition. It is to maintain this proud tradition that these ceremonies were held every year with much emphasis.

While mentioning the deep appreciation to the literature experts, award winners, award selection committee and group chairmen and members who had put in all-out efforts toward the event, all are urged to continue and participate toward strengthening and development of Myanmar literature, said the Vice President.

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Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun presents the award to a winner of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

National Literary Award Winner for 2017		
Writer	Book	Award Genre
Lu Khar	<i>Myanmar-pyi-a-pyin-bak</i>	Novel
Tint Zaw	<i>A-ya-thar-ma-tu-thaw-pan-thi-myar</i>	Collection of short stories
Ma Nitar	<i>Inn-wa-tho-yin-khon-chin</i>	Poem
Tin Nyunt	<i>Kyaung-sayar-hmat-tan</i>	General knowledge
Sabe Phyu Nu	<i>Par-lay-yar-Annie</i>	Children’s Literature
Lin Htet Swe`	<i>Hi-ma-wun-tar-Kha-yi-the-ei-say-phayar-shar-pon-taw</i>	Translation (Knowledge)
Tint Zaw	<i>Asian short stories</i>	Translation (Aesthetic)
Hsinphyukyun Than Tun	<i>Pyithu-Pa-ho-pyu-wun-saung-hmu-myar-si-tho</i>	General Knowledge (Art)
Maung Maung Soe	<i>Myauk-U-Sit-Tan</i>	Political Literature
Dr. Khin Let Yer	<i>Burma’s Fate</i>	English language (Knowledge)
Maung Kyint Mar (Kyaungkön)	<i>Nwe-Hnaung-Ta-nya-hna-Layaung-hnint-laynyin-ko-twe-shi-gyin</i>	Aesthetic paper

2017 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards Winners		
Author	Manuscript Title	Award Genre
Ko Set Pe	<i>Kabar-go-htoe-mea-kel-dan</i>	Novel (First prize)
Ko Lwin Bo (May Say)	<i>Ma-chit-kel-hlyin</i>	Novel (Second prize)
Kyaw Khant	<i>Yin-nyein-aye</i>	Novel (Third prize)
Kyaw Lwin (Sethmu)	<i>A-way-kyi-hman-pyaung and other short stories</i>	Collection of short stories (First Prize)
Min Htet Myaing	<i>Thin-Oo-Cha-Yway-A-hmya-way-yar and other short stories</i>	Collection of short stories (Second Prize)
A-kariz	<i>Hmat-hmat-thar-thar-sayar-sagar and other stories</i>	Collection of short stories (Third Prize)
Hsan Lwin (Myanmarsar)	<i>Law-ka-pya-din-Ah-Lin-Lat-Hsaung poems</i>	Collection of poems (First Prize)
Hsan Myint Moh	<i>Yay-pyar-lan-hnint-Pann-son-lin- poems</i>	Collection of poems (Second Prize)
Maung Kyi Nwe (Pinlebu)	<i>Second-paw-ka-Ah-hla poems</i>	Collection of poems (Third Prize)
Lwin Myanmar (Mann Takkatho)	<i>Myanma-yoyar-Ywe-kazar-gyin-Ah-tat-pyinnyar-hnint-Ywe-Athon-cha-pyinnar</i>	General Knowledge (Art) (Second Prize)
Zaw Lwin Oo (Hinthada)	<i>Yak-sauk-tha-mine Yak-sauk-hmat-tan</i>	General Knowledge (Art) (Second Prize)
Pantanaw (Khin Maung Myint)	<i>Kaba-Kyauk-me-thwe-law-ka-hnint-Myanmar-Kyauk-me-thwe</i>	General Knowledge (Science and Applied Science) (First Prize)
Maung Aung (Vet)	<i>Lu-thar-A-kyo-pyu-lar?</i>	General Knowledge (Science and Applied Science) (Second Prize)
U Soe Han	<i>Zay-kwat-win-thi-pin-sar-pin-saik-pyo-yay (or) Thisar-saik-pyo-chin-pyinnar</i>	General Knowledge (Science and Applied Science) (Third Prize)
Thaung Nyunt Thit	<i>Naing-gnan-ta-hlwar-kha-yi-thwar-Myanma-sip-war-Ah-Lar-Ah-Lar</i>	Literary Miscellany (Article) (Second Prize)
Maung Thar Lin	<i>Say-thar-Lwint-pyae-ma-thwar-thi-lwan-chin-myar</i>	Literary Miscellany (Article) (Third Prize)
Aung Pan Wai (LL B)	<i>Myanama-Yoke-thay-kyo-swe-pyinnar</i>	Myanmar Art and Culture Literature (Second Prize)
Shwe Nyar Thar Myat-Min	<i>Ta-ang (Palaung) Taing-yin-thar-to-ei-Bawa-dalay-yo-yar-yin-kyay-hmu-myar</i>	Myanmar Art and Culture Literature (Third Prize)
Kantbalu Khin Maung Swe	<i>Phyu-n-wah-pyar-pann-marlar children poems</i>	Children’s Literature (First Prize)
Nandar Moe Kyae	<i>Kyar-ywat-hti-ka-lay Children poems</i>	Children’s Literature (Second Prize)
Naing Myint	<i>Sat-bee-ka-lay and other children stories</i>	Children’s Literature (Third Prize)
Kaytu Maung Nyo Lin	<i>Sit-taung-myt-kan-na-bay-ka-lu-nge-bawa-ka-lay-myar</i>	Youth Literature (Second Prize)
Maung Nay Chi (Pyay)	<i>Pwint-thaw-pann-to-ah-lan-sone-way</i>	Youth Literature (Third Prize)
Maung Lwe Eik	<i>Nwar-pwe-sar-ei-sagar-ah-lin-gar</i>	Play Literature (Third Prize)
Dipan Lin	<i>Kabar-thar-ah-lon-ah-twat-sein-khaw-chat-myar</i>	Translation (First Prize)

Annual review of National AIDS/STD eradication project held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers an address at the annual review on AIDS/STD eradication project. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

THE opening ceremony for the Ministry of Health and Sports National AIDS/STD eradication project annual review and assessment meeting (2017) was held at the Taw Win Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health

and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe addressed the opening ceremony, attended by Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretaries and representatives of related ministries, heads of States/Regions Public Health and Medical Services, specialist doctors,

team leader doctors, representatives and officials from WHO, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNODC, UNAIDS, USAIDS, US-CDC, UNFPA, Save The Children and other international NGOs, persons living with HIV and officials.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister conducts resettlement and social protection works in Kayah State

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended a coordination meeting on a work program to resettle returnees returning voluntarily from refugee camps in Thailand held at Kayah State Government Office, Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday morning.

At the meeting Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye first delivered an opening remark. The Union Minister, Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Disaster Management Department Director General, Department of Social Welfare Deputy Director General then discussed about resettlement



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye presents social pension cash support to landmine victims in Kayah State. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

and social protection works.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister and party attended a ceremony held in Township Hall, Loikaw Town to present social pension cash support, ministry's cash assis-

tance to expand mother circles and victims of land mines.

The total cash support/assistance provided amounted to K 36,108,100 it is learnt.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Provisions distributed to local people in Naga Self-Administered Zone

MINISTRY of Border Affairs distributed provision to the local people suffering from cough and chest infection in Naga Self-Administered Zone for the second time yesterday at Yan Nawnote Nyo Village in Nanyun Township, Sagaing Region.

On behalf of Ministry of Border Affairs, officials from Sagaing

Region development supervision office and Nanyun Township development supervision office provided 613 local people from 98 households with 249 blankets, 613 sets of coat and trouser and 88 nutrition powder tins, totally worth K 5.9407 million.

Local residents accepted the provisions and the village leader

expressed thanks. The first time distribution of provisions by the Ministry of Border Affairs was conducted on 13 September at Lann Pann Village, Shan Hae Note Village-tract in Nanyun Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region. —Maung Min Naing ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Vice President U Myint Swe attends national literary...

FROM PAGE-4

Next, Vice President U Myint Swe presented Lifelong National Literary Awards to Sayagyi U Myint Lwin (Pho Kyawt) and literature expert Sayagyi U Tun Yi (archaeological researcher).

Afterwards Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi presented National Literature Awards to award winners while Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister U Aung Aung Hla Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung and Yangon City Development Committee member Daw Than Myint presented Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards to award winners.

On behalf of award winners Sayagyi U Tun Yi (history researcher) delivered a speech of appreciation.

Vice President U Myint Swe and party then took a commemorative group photo together with award winners.

Before the start of the ceremony, the Vice President and party inspected an exhibition where the photos of the award winners and award winning

books were displayed.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region ministers, Hluttaw representatives, heads of departments, Myanmar Writers Association chairman and executive committee members, Selection Committee and Group members, award winners and their families, literature experts, literature enthusiasts and invited guests.

The earlier Lifelong National Literary Award winners were presented with K 600,000. In 2011 it was increased to K 1 million, increased further to K 1.5 million in 2012, 2.5 million in 2013 and K 5 million this year.

For National Literature Award, the earlier winners were presented with K 300,000 which was increased to K 500,000 in 2011. It was further increased to K 1 million in 2012, K 1.5 million in 2013 and K 2.5 million this year. For Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, the earlier winners were presented with K 150,000, K 100,000 and K 50,000 for first, second and third place winners. It was increased in 2012 and 2013 and this year, it was increased further to K 1 million, K 700,000 and K 500,000 it is learnt.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Ceremony to honor elderly journalists held in Yangon

A CEREMONY to honor elderly journalists was organized by the Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA) yesterday at the Yangon City Hall. This is the fifth time the MJA has held such an event.

At the ceremony, MJA Chairman U Myat Khaing explained the reasons for holding the event. MJA General Secretary U Tha Zaw introduced the elderly journalists, and tributes were paid to them.

Later, the MJA Chairman

and officials received cash from donors and gave certificates of honor to them.

U Tun Shein (Natmauk Tun Shein) and U Ohn Kyaing (Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing) delivered words of thanks on behalf of the journalists honored at the event. Afterwards, MJA Secretary (1) Daw Ei Ei Tin expressed thanks. At the ceremony, 130 elderly journalists were presented with Ks100,000 each and offertories.—Yi Yi Myint ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Elderly journalists attend a ceremony honoring them in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

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Work on solar power plant begins; to serve over 1,000 households in Manaung

THE construction of a solar power plant, which will supply electricity to more than 1,000 households in Manaung Township, began yesterday.

The project was launched by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Rakhine State Government, and the POSCO Daewoo Corporation.

"The plant will be built from November 2018 to May 2019 at a cost of US\$2.5 million, which is being funded by the POSCO Daewoo Corporation under the its CSR scheme," said the Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, U Win Khaing, at a ceremony to drive stakes for the plant in Manaung.

Upon completion of the plant, more than 1,000 households will get access to 24-hour power supply.

The solar power plant is the first phase of a project being implemented by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy to supply 24-hour power to Manaung Township. The project has been divided into three phases.

In the second phase of the project, a diesel-and-energy saving hybrid system will be implemented. Plans are under



Stake driving ceremony for the construction of a solar power plant, which will supply electricity to over 1,000 households being convened in Manaung Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

way to get loans for the second phase, which will supply 24-hour power to over 49,000 households in 57 villages in the township.

In preparation for the second phase, the Rakhine State Government built 51 transformers in the 2016-2017 fiscal year at a cost of nearly K4 billion

with government funds. In the 2017-2018 FY, two more transformers and cable lines were set up at a cost of over K2.8 million with government funds. In the 2018-2019 FY, the government has spent K3.4 million on three more transformers and cable lines.

The third phase will supply

power to the remaining villages in Manaung Township.

At the ceremony, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, POSCO Daewoo Corporation's CEO, Mr. Young Sang Kim, and other dignitaries also drove stakes to launch the power plant project.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

PyinOoLwin artists present works at Mandalay Hill Art Gallery

WORKS of artists from PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region, are currently on display at the Mandalay Hill Art Gallery, according to the event's organisers.

The art exhibition entitled 'Art of Highland Maymyo' officially opened on 8 December at the gallery located at the base of the Mandalay Hill near the

prominent lion statutes in Aungmyethazan Township.

This is the second time the group has organised a collective art exhibition in Mandalay. The exhibition, which ends on 12 December, will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The exhibition showcases more than 110 works in a wide

range of styles and medium, including acrylic, watercolour, and oil. The subject matters include still life, traditional arts and culture, historic buildings, ancient pagodas, and other natural landscapes of PyinOoLwin and Mandalay.

Senior artists from around the region, including well-known

Artist U Mar Lar, U Zaw Win, the patron of the Upper Myanmar Watercolour Association, students from the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay), and art lovers attended the opening of the exhibition.—Maung Pyithu (Mandalay) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Drugs worth over K2 mln seized in Tachilek

ACTING on a tip-off, an anti-drug squad stopped and searched a motorcycle in Tachilek, a town in eastern Shan State, on Friday and seized a cache of drugs worth K2 million.

The motorcyclist, identified as Tu Tu, was driving from the Arkhar market on Bogyoke Road in Yanaungmye Ward on Friday afternoon when he was intercepted by the police.

The police found WY brand yaba tablets worth K2 million,

a handset, and 5,000 Thai Baht from his bike.

The police arrested Tu Tu and another man, identified as Na Po Shi, who was riding with him.

The police also conducted a search at a home in Maekhaung Ward in the same town, where Tu Tu and his friend, identified as Ye Min Tun, were residing. They found 13 yaba pills worth K13,000, drug-related objects and a handset.



Na Po Shi (left) and Tu Tu (Right). **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

A total of more than 2,000 yaba pills were seized from the three suspects, who have been charged with smuggling

drugs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Wai Yan Lynn ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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Public sector exports of manufactured goods decline by \$115 mln

PUBLIC sector exports of manufactured goods in the first two months of the current fiscal year totalled US\$489.562 million, a decline in value by \$115 million from the same period last year when the sector earned \$605.388 million, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

From 1 October to 30 November, Myanmar earned \$1.357 billion from the export of manufactured goods, with the private sector raking in \$868.189 million.

While there was a decline in the value of public sector exports of manufactured goods, private sector exports rose more than \$400 million compared with the same period

last year.

In the current fiscal year, the public sector also exported minerals worth \$0.049 million, forest products worth \$1.119 million, and other miscellaneous products worth \$38.048 million.

During the first 61 days of the current FY, the public and private sector exported agricultural products worth \$432.908 million, animal products worth \$99.598 million, marine products worth \$154 million, minerals worth \$217 million, forest products worth \$29 million, and other items worth over \$154 million, totalling \$1.088 billion.

According to the ministry's annual data, the country exported manufactured goods worth \$4.632 billion during the mini-budget period between April and September this year.

Myanmar's exports of manufactured goods stood at \$6.946 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$5.477 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$5.733 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$6.524 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$4.637 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$4.492 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, and \$4.083 billion in the 2011-2012 FY. —Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

CMP imports up \$98 mln in current fiscal year

MYANMAR'S private sector Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) imports in the first two months of the current fiscal year touched US\$374.322 million, an increase of \$98 million, or 35.8 per cent, from the same period last year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period last year, the country's private sector CMP imports totalled \$275.598 million.

Myanmar mainly im-

ports capital goods, intermediate products, consumer goods, and CMP. In the current fiscal year, the country imported capital goods worth \$1 billion, semi-finished goods worth \$1.12 billion, and consumer goods worth \$565.653 million.

Apart from CMP, the public sector imported all major groups of products valued at \$257.675 million, while private importers bought goods worth

\$2.803 billion in the current fiscal year.

When compared with the same period last year, the public sector's imports showed an increase of \$126 million, while imports from the private sector declined by \$34 million. In the FY 2018-2019, the country has imported goods worth \$1.435 billion via sea and goods amounting to \$2.632 billion via the border.—Shwe Khine ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Cultivation of winter crops in Kantbalu now 50% complete

THE cultivation of winter crops across the Kantbalu District in Sagaing Region for the fiscal year 2018-2019 is currently over 50% complete and efforts are being made to meet the production target within the set time frame, according to the Kantbalu District Agriculture Department.

The district's agriculture department is targeting to grow over 400,000 acres of a wide variety of winter crops in Kantbalu Township and 68,618 acres in Kyunhla Township this FY. So far, a total of 288,1298 acres of crops have been planted in Kantbalu Township, while growers have cultivated over 34,000 acres of crops in Kyunhla Township.

Winter crops which are being cultivated in the region include maize, cabbage, lettuce, tomato, sunflowers, peanut, sesame, ladyfinger, haricot bean,

and green bean.

An official with the department said the authorities are implementing plans to produce good quality seeds, raise awareness on systematic farming, boost production of marketable crops, reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, and develop organic plantations.

"Agriculturalists from the department are sharing their knowledge and experience on crop planting, soil preservation, and crop protection.

Cultivation techniques and weather information are also being shared with growers through call centers," he said.

The department is helping farmers increase commercial production of good quality crops, in anticipation of healthy exports, he said.—Aung Win Nyein (Kantbalu) ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Cultivation of winter crops including tomato across the Kantbalu District in Sagaing Region for the fiscal year 2018-2019 is currently over 50% complete. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Seeking oversea jobs under MoU system key towards getting full rights

MYANMAR labour diplomats and labour organizations in foreign countries are providing legal advice and cooperating with our migrant workers to conduct matters according to the law of the relevant country.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has sent workers to foreign countries under an MoU system with host countries in order to prevent the workers from being exploited and trafficked.

Abiding by the law at home and abroad can assist the workers in easily obtaining labour and social rights. Hence, they should find oversea jobs through licensed foreign employment agencies in Myanmar.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population issued certificates of identity (CI) to 1,099,586 undocumented Myanmar workers in Thailand and their bio matrix data were scanned, recorded and stored at the National Data Center in Nay Pyi Taw.

This bio matrix technology was also used to collect data of other workers going oversea and as of 2 December a total of 1,265,688 were put on record.

Myanmar started sending workers officially to Thailand through an MoU system in 2010. The legal protection of workers' rights as well as social protections have been conducted and emphasis is placed to prevent the workers from being exploited when they go across the long Myanmar-Thailand border for work.

According to information sent by Thailand, there are more than 30,000 workers from Taninthayi Region, Ayeyawady Region, Mon State and Rakhine State working in Thailand's fishery sector.

Thailand still requires an additional 40,000 workers for this sector and Thailand is eager to recruit these workers under the MoU system.

All Myanmar workers in Thailand who are either undocumented, have travel visas, CI or entry visas reaching their expiration date, can only continue working in Thailand by reentering with the MoU system.

A new mobile worker office has been set up in the Myanmar-Thai border town of Kawthoung on 26 November to offer one stop services related to the MoU system to the many fishermen in the area who may wish to travel to Thailand for work.

Myanmar workers will receive better protection and services if they go to work via the official route. Thailand currently has a high demand for workers in the fishery sector so if workers already in Thailand were to get an official status then they would receive their legal rights and protection.

Departments concerned are urged to step up their efforts for raising awareness of seeking oversea jobs as part of efforts for helping migrant workers avoid becoming victims of brokers.

Roundtable Discussions on ways and means for the economic development of the nation

By Zaw Gyi
PHOTO PHAY ZAW

“WITH the smooth flow of trade, foreign investment could be elevated that could raise the business in the economic development of the nation”: Director-General U Kyaw Htin of Custom Department.

MRTV aired a live program on talks under the theme “On ways and means for the economic development of the nation” in which officials of Custom Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the business people from private sector participated.

The panelists are U Kyaw Htin, Director-General of the Custom Department; U Thein Swe, Deputy Director-General of the Custom Department; Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, Joint General Secretary of UMFCCI; Dr Aung Zaw, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association; U Aye Han, Managing Director of United Paints Group of Co., Ltd; U Than Htike Lwin, Managing Director of Proven Group of Co., participated in the talks.

They touched the topics such as the tasks and performances of the Custom Department for the economic development of the nation; types of taxes and revenues; income tax levied during one year period; the involvement of the custom department in the ASEAN Economic Community; the smooth functioning of trade; the effective control of illegal trade; the development plan of SMEs; the difficulties in connection with import substitutes and expert advice; and the tasks of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association.

Coordinator: Kindly explain the role of the Custom Department in the economic development of the nation.

Director-General: For the economic development of the nation, the Custom Department has laid down the policy such as “By applying clear, easy and transparent custom procedure, we are making the trade smooth and simple in conjunction with the aim to collect appropriate taxes for the nation”. With that policy we are driving to collect revenue for the country, trying to smooth the



trade, elevating the trade volume in line with the rules, regulation and relevant laws combined with the international standard.

We are also carrying out Customs Administration Reform and modernization systematically for five-year plan 2017-2021. In implementing this task, we are drawing up new staff setup as the current work force is not adequate. Regarding the existing rules and regulations, the plan is on the agenda in making amendments. Moreover, we are working to be in line with the international norms.

In our reform plan, many topics and themes are included such as that of World Trade valuation agreement (WTOVA); Post Clearance Audit (PCA); Advance Ruling on Classification and Customs Valuation; Bonded Warehouse System; Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program; and Dry Port System. For the easy and smooth trade, we have accorded and assisted the Trade Facilitation Agreement since 2017. The import and export clearance works under the single window program has been in application through Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) in Yangon area and as

“By applying clear, easy and transparent custom procedure, we are making the trade smooth and simple in conjunction with the aim to collect appropriate taxes for the nation”. With that policy we are driving to collect revenue for the country, trying to smooth the

As the first step, Myawaddy

border area in Myanmar-Thailand border has been facilitated on 5 June 2018. Such extension of implementation would be applied to other border areas step by step.

By doing this the custom procedures would be on a par with the international norm. With the smooth flow of trade, foreign investment could be elevated that could raise the business in the economic development of the nation.

The custom department is administering Customs duties, commercial tax, special merchandise tax, and advance income tax. In this regard, tax is being levied by the Custom Department, but the commercial tax, special merchandise tax, and advance income tax are being collected for the Internal Revenue Department.

The Customs Department will be responsible for collecting the tax on imported goods, including vehicles, but different agencies will take charge depending on where the goods arrive

The tariffs being levied are as follows in 2017-2018 financial year is (569) MMK billion; 2018 mini-budget MMK (294) billion; surpassing all the estimated and targeted figures.

The Custom Department has collected in 2017-2018 financial year a total of MMK (1562) billion; the 2018 mini-budget MMK (772) billion for the Internal Revenue Department.

Coordinator: Kindly explain the view of UMFCCI in connection

with the discussions of the Custom Department.

Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe: The explanation made by the Director-General on the development of custom works and easy trade manner are much inspiring and encouraging. I have also witnessed the implementation. I would like to discuss some points of the difficulties.

Since the import and export items have been implemented through MACCS system at the head office including the non-license category, license category and CMP category have been uploaded online and supplemented with attached files, the implementation tasks are being delayed. In ground reality, the physical examinations at the wharf are too many and the numbers of examiners are inadequate, resulting with much more delays.

Coordinator: In solving the current difficulties, kindly explain the view of UMFCCI to solve the problem.

Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe: Although the MACCS system has been in process and progression, some other portion is being uploaded online along with the documents, resulting with some problems and difficulties. It should be fully online and make them paperless system. Specially the payment should be linked and hooked up with the online application. Only then it would become fully online, making the trade easier and smooth.

As the users lack in skill and poor in expertise to get in line with the practicing of MACCS system, more training courses and seminars are needed to be conducted continuously.

When taking out the merchandises, the Trade Facilitation Agreement must be prioritized and the Risk Management system should be fully applied. Reform should be made to be in line with the international norm. The main reform is to be focused to address the inadequate staff members.

Among the ASEAN countries, the number of Myanmar Custom Staff is the lowest. The number of staff members should be enlarged. Moreover, the Custom Department is playing the main role in the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), the suggestion made in this regards should be implemented.

Moderator: DG may kindly discuss over the view of Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe.

Director-General: The discussion of Daw Khaing Khaing

Nwe is correct. We are making the MACCS system to be fully online. At the moment, we need to strengthen the number of staff members. We would submit the matter to strengthen the staff members.

Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe: I would like to add more. For better and easier trade at the wharf clearance task, it is necessary to fully utilize the risk management, hoping that it would apply more. Regarding the reform to be in line with the international standard, I wish the plan should be prioritized and fast.

The most vital task is to expand the staff. Another factor is that the State is working hard for the development of trade. More staff members are necessary when the dry port and warehouse are going to be implemented. As the border trade is giving priority, we need to beef up staff members to all places. Required training courses are to be provided. Enlargement of staff member would help elevate the trade sector.

Director-General: I am doing my best to fill up more posts.

Coordinator: Dr. Aung Zaw may kindly explain the task of your association.

Dr. Aung Zaw: Our Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association has five state owned pharmaceutical factories and seven private pharmaceutical factories with a total investment of US dollars (260.9) million and created (6000) job opportunities. We produce (362) kinds of medicines with the production and distribution of MMK (60) billion. All our pharmaceuticals have already awarded with ISO certificates, and we are also in line with the standards and norms such as WHO GMP issued by the local Food and Drug Administration.

*Translated by UMT (Ahlon)
(To be continued)*

19th ASEAN University Games Opening Ceremony to be broadcast live

THE opening ceremony of the 19th ASEAN University Games will be held at the Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium B in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 December at 4.50 p.m. The ceremony will be broadcast live on Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), MRTV Sport Channel, and MRTV's Facebook page. — MNA

Correction

THE headline on the front page of the 8 December edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained an error. The correct headline is ‘19th Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conf. to be held on 28 December in Nay Pyi Taw’. — Ed

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 8th December, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 9th December, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kayin State, scattered in Bago Region, Shan and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of rain or thundershowers in Bago and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th December, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th December, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th December, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

We are also carrying out Customs Administration Reform and modernization systematically for five-year plan 2017-2021.

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(l/r) Russian Minister of Energy of Russia Alexander Novak (on screen), Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) President UAE Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei and OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo of Nigeria speak during a ministerial level meeting during with OPEC members and non members during the 175th OPEC Conference on 7 December, 2018 in Vienna, Austria. **PHOTO: AFP**

OPEC agrees joint 1.2 mln bpd cut with partners

VIENNA (Austria)—OPEC members and 10 other oil producing nations agreed on Friday to cut output by 1.2 million barrels a day in a bid to boost prices. Energy ministers reached the deal—which takes effect from 1 January but has already sent prices surging on oil markets—after two days of talks at OPEC headquarters in Vienna. “We’ll cut 1.2 million bpd total,” Iraq’s Oil Minister Thamer Abbas al-Ghadhban told reporters after a meeting in Vienna. He said the amount—equivalent to just over one per cent of global production—would comprise an 800,000 bpd reduction by the 14 members of OPEC and 400,000 by the 10 non-cartel partners, including Russia.

OPEC and its partners, which together account for around half of global output, agree that a glut in the market had led to oil prices falling by more than 30 per cent in two months. Friday’s deal does not however include Iran, which had demanded an exemption from any production cuts to

take into account the effects of punishing US sanctions on its energy sector. “Officially Iran is exempted from this resolution,” UAE Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said.

Not enough?

The price of Brent crude, the European benchmark, surged five per cent on Friday after reports of the deal emerged. But some said the reduction may not be enough to keep oil prices buoyant. “I would describe the cuts as close but not close enough with regards to eliminating the global oil glut,” said Stephen Brennock, oil expert at London brokerage PVM. “A combined reduction of 1.5 mbpd was needed to avoid a supply surplus in the first half of next year,” he told AFP. “Accordingly, the price outlook for the coming few months still remains skewed to the downside despite today’s knee-jerk reaction.”

The deal was announced after Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak held bilateral meetings with several

counterparts, including Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh before the full meeting. However, the major players all had their own reasons to look to others to act first and the details of how any cuts will be shared out will be key. For Russia, which leads the non-member countries in the so-called OPEC+ alliance, “it’s much more difficult to cut than for other countries, because of our climatic conditions,” Novak said on Thursday.

OPEC Kingpin Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, had to bear in mind pressure from the United States after President Donald Trump demanded in a tweet on Wednesday that the cartel boost output so as to lower prices and help the economy. The kingdom’s diplomatic position however has been badly weakened by the furore over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Trump insists he will stick by Riyadh despite the outrage but he has been also ramping up the pressure for more oil.—AFP ■

Russian trade surplus up 65.5 per cent in first 10 months this year

MOSCOW—Russia’s trade surplus rose 65.5 per cent year on year to 170.8 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of this year, the Federal Customs Service of Russia said on Friday.

During the same period, Russia’s imports totaled 198.1 billion dollars, up 7.3 per cent from a year earlier, while exports totaled 368.9 billion dollars, up 28.2 per cent.

Fuel and energy products accounted for 64.4 per cent of the exports, up 5.2 per cent in volume and 36.3 per cent in value.

Metal products, another major item contributing to the trade surplus in the period, accounted for 10 per cent of the exports, up 11.6 per cent in volume and up 25.4 per cent in value.—Xinhua ■

China export growth slows in November: customs data

BEIJING (China)—China’s export growth slowed last month weighed down by slowing global demand and trade tensions with the United States, official data released on Saturday showed.

Exports rose 5.4 per cent for November on-year, short of the 9.4 per cent forecast by Bloomberg News, while imports rose 3.0 per cent on-year, also below the forecast, according to customs administration data.

China’s overall trade—what it buys and sells with all countries—logged a \$44.7 billion surplus in November, up from \$35 billion the previous month, the data showed.

The sagging export and import growth is another bad sign for China’s economy, which grew at its slowest pace for nine years in the third quarter, expanding 6.5 per cent on-year for July-September.

China’s trade surplus with the US has reached records highs this autumn as China has cut back imports from the US while American importers have rushed goods across the Pacific to beat the higher tariffs most expected in January.

Last week as part of a trade

war truce, US President Donald Trump agreed to hold off on plans to raise tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports to 25 per cent beginning on 1 January, leaving them at the current 10 per cent rate. But unease over the agreement has dented stocks this week with major US indices falling more than two per cent to close the market’s worst week since March and one that left both the Dow and S&P 500 in negative territory for the year.

China reacted furiously after a top executive and daughter of the founder of Chinese telecom giant Huawei was arrested in Canada this week following a US extradition request.

The arrest threatens to rattle the trade war truce with the United States, analysts say.

Confusion over what was achieved at the Trump-Xi meeting has already contributed to the unease.

The White House has said China agreed to purchase a “very substantial” amount of agricultural, energy, industrial and other products and would begin buying products from US farmers “immediately”.—AFP ■

China-US trade surplus hits record in November: China data

BEIJING (China)—China’s trade surplus with the US ballooned in November to a record \$35.6 billion as exports rose and imports shrank, official figures showed on Saturday.

Exports to the US rose 9.8 per cent for November on-year, while imports for the month fell 25 per cent on-year, the data from China’s customs ad-

ministration showed. The record monthly surplus exceeds the \$31.8 billion recorded in October and comes despite a raft of US tariffs on Chinese goods.

China’s trade surplus with the US for the first 11 months of the year stood at \$293.5 billion, up from \$251.3 billion during the same period last year.—AFP ■



A cargo ship is seen at a port in Qingdao in China’s eastern Shandong province on 8 December, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tillerson: Trump 'undisciplined,' wanted to break law

WASHINGTON (United States)—Former US secretary of state Rex Tillerson says that President Donald Trump repeatedly wanted to violate the law, describing him as “undisciplined” and uninterested in details.

Tillerson, who was fired in March, made no attempt to deny his poor relationship with Trump during a rare interview Thursday night as part of a charity dinner in his native Texas.

“I think part of it was obviously we are starkly different in our styles. We did not have a com-

mon value system,” Tillerson told veteran journalist Bob Schieffer of CBS News, which broadcast an excerpt on Friday.

“I’d have to say to him, ‘Well, Mr President, I understand what you want to do, but you can’t do it that way—it violates the law, it violates a treaty.’”

“He got really frustrated,” he said. “I think he grew tired of me being the guy every day that told him you can’t do that and let’s talk about what we can do.”

Tillerson, a former chief executive of oil giant ExxonMobil,

had no government experience and had never met Trump when his nomination was promoted by Republican Party insiders, who hoped for a stable figure who could nonetheless appeal to the tycoon-turned-president with his outsider status and business background. Tillerson immediately struggled to fit in, focusing on internal State Department streamlining rather than broader foreign policy goals as his relationship frayed with Trump.

“It was challenging for me coming from the disciplined, high-

ly process-oriented ExxonMobil Corp to go to work for a man who is pretty undisciplined, doesn’t like to read, doesn’t read briefing reports, doesn’t like to get into the details of a lot of things,” Tillerson said. Trump is proudly anti-intellectual, saying that he succeeds by following his instincts and knows better than experts.

Asked about his reading habits in an interview shortly after taking office, Trump said he was “looking at a book” but was distracted by phone calls every time he tried to get started.

Trump’s most visible foreign policy actions include pulling out of international agreements including the Paris accord on climate change and a denuclearization deal with Iran. Trump announced Tillerson’s firing by tweet and, in a final indignity, the White House made it known that the nation’s top diplomat was on the toilet when he learned the news.

He was replaced by Mike Pompeo, a brusque former congressman and CIA chief whose style appears more to Trump’s liking.— AFP ■

Merkel loyalist wins German party leadership battle



Germany’s conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) newly elected leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (L) is congratulated by German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R) during the CDU congress on 7 December, 2018 at a fair hall in Hamburg, northern Germany. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, a close ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, on Friday won a party vote to succeed the veteran leader at the helm of the centre-right CDU. **PHOTO: AFP**

HAMBURG (Germany)—Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, a close ally of Angela Merkel, won a tight race to succeed her as party leader on Friday, seeing off a longtime rival of the German chancellor.

The contest, which required a runoff vote to secure a 52-per cent majority for AKK as she is known, is expected to increase the likelihood that Merkel will be able to see out her fourth term until 2021. AKK, 56, pledged to maintain continuity after 18 years of Merkel at the helm while opening up the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) to more grassroots democracy. In a brief, upbeat address before the vote that brought many delegates to their feet, she called on the party to reject the politics of fear as the far-right makes inroads in Germany and Europe. “We must have the courage to stay the course against the Zeitgeist,” she said.

AKK beat corporate lawyer Friedrich Merz, 63, who had quit

politics in 2009 after losing a power struggle against Merkel and long nursed a grudge against the more centrist chancellor. The third candidate—vocal Merkel critic and current health minister Jens Spahn—lost in the first round. Merkel, 64, had earlier mounted a staunch defence of her moderate course since becoming chancellor in 2005.

Accepting a lengthy standing ovation from delegates, many tearful and holding “Thanks, boss” placards aloft, a visibly moved Merkel said the party had won four national elections under her by holding fast to its principles. “In difficult times we shouldn’t forget our Christian and democratic stance,” she said.

‘Show what we’ve got’

Pointing to the rise of populism worldwide and what she called a breakdown of shared Western values, Merkel said the order she had championed was at

risk. “Whether it’s the rejection of multilateralism, the return to nationalism, the reduction of international cooperation to deal-making or threatened trade wars... hybrid warfare, destabilisation of societies with fake news or the future of our EU—we Christian Democrats must show in the face of all these challenges what we’ve got,” she said.

Handpicked by Merkel as general secretary of the party in February, AKK was immediately seen as the chancellor’s anointed crown princess. Her modest style, even temper and largely middle-of-the-road policies mirror Merkel’s, but each woman is respected for the flash of steel they have shown at decisive moments. While she has called for tougher policies on refugees who commit crimes, AKK firmly backed Merkel’s fateful 2015 decision to welcome more than one million asylum-seekers from crisis zones such as Syria and Iraq.— AFP ■

Six dead in stampede at Italian nightclub: firefighters

ROME (Italy)—Six people died in a stampede at a nightclub near Ancona in central Italy after panic erupted in the early hours of Saturday morning, firefighters said. “The cause may have been the dispersal of a stinging substance, the young people fled and trampled over each other. Sadly, six people died and dozens are injured,” the fire service said in a statement on Twitter.

Local reports said around 1,000 people were in the Blue Lantern club in the town of Corinaldo on the Adriatic coast for a performance by Italian rapper Sfera Ebbasta. The accident happened around 1:00 am (0000 GMT). “We were dancing and waiting for the concert to start when we smelt this pungent odour,” a 16-year-old boy who was taken to hospital told the media. “We ran to one of the emergency exits but we found it blocked, the bouncers told us to go back.”— AFP ■

Eleven killed, including five hostages, in foiled Brazil bank robberies: mayor

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil)—Eleven people—six bank robbers and five hostages including a child—were killed on Friday in a pre-dawn assault on two banks in a northeast Brazilian city foiled by police, the local mayor said. The violence erupted in the city of Milagres, in the northeastern state of Ceara, with a fierce pre-dawn shootout between the armed robbers and the police. “Our information from the hospital is 11 victims killed—six bandits and five hostages,” the mayor of Milagres, Lielson Landin, told Radio Band News. He said four of the hostages, including the child, were all from the same family. They had been grabbed by the fleeing robbers as they were going to the nearby airport to catch a flight. Landin said that “the criminals killed the hostages and the police killed the criminals.” Some Brazilian media gave higher death tolls, of up to 13, and said the child killed was a 14-year-old boy.

The attempted robbery of the two banks occurred at 2:17 am (0417 GMT). When police arrived a shootout lasting 20 minutes ensued, reports said.— AFP ■

Nearly 300 detained as Paris braces for ‘yellow vest’ protests

PARIS (France)—Paris police detained nearly 300 people on Saturday ahead of fresh anti-government “yellow vest” protests which authorities fear could turn violent for a third weekend in a row. Clad in their luminous road safety jackets, dozens of demonstrators—who accuse President Emmanuel Macron of only looking out for the rich—gathered at dawn on the Champs-Élysées, the scene last Saturday of the worst rioting in Paris for decades. “We had to come to Paris to be heard,” said protester Herve Benoit, arriving with three friends from the Dordogne in western France.— AFP ■

Duterte seeks martial law extension in southern Philippines

MANILA—President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday asked legislators to extend martial law across the southern Philippines until the end of 2019 in order to quell continuing violence in the restive region, officials said.

Duterte's request, which could be approved as early as next week, comes despite critics voicing concerns the move threatens human rights and places too much power in the leader's hands. However, the president's spokesman Salvador Panelo said a third extension was needed in the southern region of Mindanao to "protect the nation and its people". "A halt may only frustrate the progress we are witnessing in Mindanao and may even strengthen the rebellion and propel it to other parts of the country," Panelo said in a statement. Duterte initially put the Mindanao region under military rule after gunmen flying the black Islamic State flag attacked the mainly Muslim city of Marawi in May 2017, sparking a five-month battle that killed 1,200 people. Martial law allows the military to establish control with measures like curfews, checkpoints and gun controls in a nation where civilians are allowed to own firearms. It is a particularly sensitive matter in the Philippines because martial rule was used by dictator Ferdinand Marcos to remain in power during his two-decade reign, which ended in 1986 with a bloodless uprising.

Military and police chiefs have both recommended to Duterte that martial rule re-



President of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: AFP

main in force in the area after 31 December to quell continuing violence by other Islamist groups and communist rebels, officials said. But critics warned that another extension is incomprehensible after the abuses that occurred in the preceding year and a half. "The victims of martial law are the people's rights—civil, political and human rights," opposition lawmaker Edcel Lagman told AFP. Rights group Karapatan, pointing to its own tally, said about 1,450 people have been arrested illegally and nearly 150 hit with politically-motivated charges since May 2017. However, there is a base of support for extending martial law, including among local leaders in the southern region of 20 million who face the ongoing threat of a decades-old Islamist insurgency.

Many Filipinos back

Duterte's tough tactics, including his deadly crackdown on narcotics, believing they are needed to solve the nation's deep-rooted problems like the roughly half-century battle against communist rebels. The Philippine constitution allows the president to impose martial rule for up to 60 days to suppress "invasion or rebellion", during which the authorities may also detain suspects for up to three days without charges.

However, Duterte allies have a stranglehold on Congress, which had granted Duterte's initial request for martial rule to last until the end of 2017 to give him time to crush the Marawi rebellion. Congress later approved another one-year extension to end-2018 in a decision that the opposition challenged in the Supreme Court, which narrowly upheld Duterte's move.—AFP ■

Kathmandu Int'l Mountain Film Festival kicks off with films from 31 countries

KATHMANDU—The 16th edition of Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival (KIMFF) kicked off in Nepal on Friday with the participation of more than 70 films from 31 countries. The five-day festival showcases documentaries, fictions, experimental films and animations on various issues covering adventure; mountaineering; culture; ancient lifestyles; social, environmental and conservation issues that affect highland communities worldwide. With support from Kathmandu Metropolitan City, a partner of this annual festival, Himal Association organizes the grand occasion, aiming to promote the young talent in and outside the country.

This year, the festival is being held under the theme "Women Move Mountains", exploring the role of women in society and encouraging women in the filmmaking. The film fiesta was jointly inaugurated by five influential women from different professions at City Hall amid the presence of over 400 audience. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, KIMFF Chairman Basanta Thapa said that the festival through its line-up of films and events will entertain audiences and engage them in conversations around issues that affect the Nepali public, with a special spotlight on women. The festival will conclude on Tuesday with an announcement of best films in various categories.—Xinhua ■

Hope, anxiety surround Japan over opening up to more foreign workers

TOKYO—Business leaders on Saturday welcomed Japan's move to accept more foreign workers as a way to ease the aging nation's acute labour crunch, but some local governments appeared unsure how they should brace for a possible influx of foreigners.

"We welcome the enactment that is to earnestly deal with the issue of securing supporters for social life and the industrial base as (Japan) faces a serious population decline," Hiroaki Nakanishi, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, said in a statement.

The legislation, enacted in the predawn hours despite fierce resistance from opposition parties, will create a new visa system to effectively accept more workers in sectors in desperate need of labor such as construction,

nursing care and farming.

Many foreigners who are currently engaging in jobs at places such as construction sites and convenience stores have been so-called technical interns who have come from developing countries to acquire skills, and foreign students who are allowed to work part-time.

The new visa system, to start from April, comes in response to growing calls from the business circle for the government to do something about the aging nation's acute labor shortage as the economy realizes modest growth.

"Our farming industry already depends on foreign labourers. We hope that the new system will enable them to work longer," said an official with Tsumagoi village in Gunma Prefecture, known for its cabbage farming.—Kyodo News ■

'Kill or be killed' says rebel group behind Papua massacre

SORONG (Indonesia)—Construction workers massacred at a remote jungle work camp in Papua were legitimate military targets, a rebel group said on Friday, as authorities hunted for more bodies after the grisly weekend attack which killed at least 16.

The National Liberation Army of West Papua (TPNPB) has claimed responsibility for the deadliest bout of violence in years to hit Papua, an Indonesian-controlled region wracked by a low-level independence insurgency. "(We killed them) because they were members of the Indonesian military in disguise. They're our enemy," Seby Sambom, spokesman for the TPNPB, told AFP. "This is war. It's kill or be killed." The rebel group said this week it had killed two dozen people working for a state-owned contractor. Indonesia's military has confirmed 16 dead and said at least three more company workers were unaccounted for.

An earlier eyewitness account supplied by the military described execution-style shootings and rebels slitting the throats of workers who tried to escape. On Friday, the military said most of the victims' hands were tied together with some suffering gunshot or knife wounds and blunt-force injuries. One worker was almost decapitated. A soldier was also killed by rebels while investigating the killings this week, authorities said. "We have five children—he was the youngest. Our only son," said the soldier's distraught mother, Septiani.

Authorities said they were scouring the jungle in search of more victims and the suspects, who could number as many as 50. "There are around 40 to 50 of them scattered around various places," Papua military spokesman Dax Sianturi told AFP.

"They have the support of the locals."

The contractor's employees were helping build bridges and roads to boost infrastructure in the impoverished region.—AFP ■



File photo taken in October 2018 shows a Vietnamese trainee (L) working at a steel bar factory in Chiba. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Hummingbirds thrive at innovative Mexico gardens

MEXICO CITY (Mexico)—In a dimly lit corner of a bustling market in Mexico City, vendors of amulets, voodoo dolls and other mystical objects sell tiny, taxidermied hummingbirds as charms to bring luck in love. Sold for 2,000 pesos (about \$100) each, the lifeless corpses are a symbol of the threats faced by hummingbirds, which are known for their speedy wings, delicate beauty and key role in pollination.

Those threats, which also include climate change, have led Mexico's largest university, UNAM, to launch an ambitious pro-

ject to monitor and protect hummingbirds with urban gardens. "Hummingbird gardens are, biologically speaking, the best strategy in big cities to conserve the species," says researcher Maria del Coro Arizmendi, who heads the project.

She got her inspiration from former US first lady Michelle Obama, who included a variety of flowers in her famous White House garden to attract bees—another threatened pollinator.

The university's hummingbird gardens feature specialized feeders as well as brightly colored, tubular flowers that attract the

birds, which are known for hovering in the air as they drink their nectar, flapping their wings up to 200 times per second. The gardens also have nets so scientists can capture the birds, tag and release them, enabling researchers in Mexico, the United States and Canada to track their migration patterns and monitor the impact of climate change.

Delicately holding the minute birds in their hands, Arizmendi and her fellow researchers fit them with tiny aluminum anklets, inscribed with ID numbers so small they can only be read with a magnifying glass.



Mexico City has 17 of the world's 330 hummingbird species. PHOTO: AFP

Launched in 2014, the project now has five gardens around the Mexico City metropolitan area, and has inspired private citizens to create dozens of others—all of which help feed hummingbirds on their long migratory route, which stretches from

Alaska to South America.

"You don't have to live in the White House. It doesn't matter if you have a big yard or just a flower pot. If people attract and feed these birds, using whatever space they have, it contributes enormously to conserving the species,"

says Arizmendi.

Mexico City has 17 of the world's 330 hummingbird species. Of those, one is threatened, one is endangered and one is critically endangered: the short-crested coquette (*Lophornis brachylophus*).—AFP ■

German farmers sue government over missed climate targets

VETSCHAU (Germany)—Dis-mayed by the German government's failure to meet climate protection targets, dairy farmer Heiner Luetke Schwienhorst has filed a lawsuit against Berlin to force it into action. "Some describe this as a fight between David and Goliath. To me, that's besides the point," said Schwienhorst, who suffered his poorest harvest in three decades after a record drought. "The attitude of political representatives, the way they trivialise climate targets by giving up what they have set, is something that we need to bring to political accountability. That is important," he told AFP.

Together with two other farmers and Greenpeace, Schwienhorst has launched a challenge against the German government for having "given

up" trying to achieve cuts in greenhouse gas emissions set out under its own climate target, as well as under European law.

A dairy farmer near Hamburg and a livestock farmer on the North Sea island of Pellworm have joined the first such lawsuit

to seek "climate protection, not monetary compensation". Berlin had pledged to take action to slash greenhouse gas emissions in Germany by 40 per cent by 2020 compared to 1990 levels.

But in its latest annual climate protection report published

in June, the government admitted that it was now expecting to achieve 32 per cent in reductions compared to 1990. The shortfall of 8 percentage points is equivalent to about 100 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

"It was clear in the climate protection report that the government is not planning to take further measures in order to reach the target. Instead, it has simply given up," said Anike Peters of Greenpeace. "We're saying we're not going to accept this. Because it's not about a lack of technical possibilities to reach the target, rather it's about a lack of political will.

'Do what you promised'

With the help of lawyer Roda Verheyen, the plaintiffs lodged their case at the administrative

court in Berlin at the end of October. The court now needs to decide if there is any merit to the case. Verheyen is no stranger to such climate cases. In another high profile case in Germany, she helped bring to court a challenge by a Peruvian farmer against energy giant RWE over climate change damage in the Andes.

While the initial ruling went against them, the case is now at the appeals court. Verheyen said that in her latest case, the issue is whether the government can be held liable for failing to implement climate protection measures, as the targets it set are not written into law.

"Here the plaintiff families say, yes. Do what you've promised, government, implement the 2020 climate protection goal."—AFP ■



Environmentalists dressed as a storm cloud (l) and a burning tree protest during a demonstration. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (004 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (004 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (1837/1838)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (1837/1838) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2018 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 ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1002 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1002 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2018 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

British Golden Globe sailor rescued in Pacific: official

SANTIAGO (Chile)—British Golden Globe Race sailor Susie Goodall was plucked from a stormy Southern Ocean by a Chinese ship on Friday, a day after her yacht was dismantled, Chile's Maritime Rescue Services told AFP. Goodall "was rescued at 1500 GMT and is already on the ship heading to Punta Arenas," in southern Chile, a spokesperson for the service said. A photo tweeted by the Chilean service showed Goodall, her head wrapped in a bandana, being winched above the waves and aboard the Hong Kong-flagged vessel Tian Fu.

"Susie is on the ship!!!! Wow-wow! Message just received from Susie Goodall," the Golden Globe Race organizers announced on their website. "This is fantastic news indeed...well done Susie too," they said. The



British skipper Susie Goodall was briefly knocked unconscious when mountainous seas upended her yacht DHL Starlight. **PHOTO: AFP**

40,000 tonne Tian Fu was expected to dock in Punta Arenas on 12 December.

The youngest competitor in the race and the only woman, 29-year-old Goodall was briefly knocked unconscious when mountainous seas upended her yacht DHL Starlight early Thurs-

day, tearing off its mast and trashing much of her equipment.

Goodall had managed to get her engine running but it failed after just 20 minutes, complicating rescue efforts as Chilean authorities diverted the Tian Fu to the area. The race organizers said Goodall had managed

to use a sea anchor to slow her yacht down, making a rescue less dangerous.

Goodall was attempting to navigate the southern Pacific's notorious Roaring Forties as part of the Golden Globe Race.

The young Briton sent a series of frantic text messages to race organizers throughout her ordeal. "Taking a hammering! Wondering what on Earth I'm doing out here," she texted as the storm hit.

When concerned organizers finally managed to contact her by satellite phone several hours later, she confirmed her boat had been dismantled but said the hull had not been breached. "The boat is destroyed. I can't make up a jury rig," she said. "The only thing left is the hull and deck which remain intact.

"We were pitchpoled (rolled

end over end) and I was thrown across the cabin and knocked out for a while."

While "beaten up and badly bruised" she was safe and had managed to bring flooding under control and get her engine going, giving her some maneuverability when the rescue ship arrived, race organizers said.

In text updates, Goodall said she endured "a looong night".

"In need of a good cuppa tea! But sadly no cooker," she messaged. The Golden Globe Race involves a gruelling 30,000-mile solo circumnavigation of the globe in yachts similar to those used in the first race 50 years ago, with no modern technology allowed except the communications equipment.

Entrants set off from France on 1 July and are expected to finish in April next year.—AFP ■

Jodie Whittaker confirms return for 'Doctor Who' season 12

LOS ANGELES—Actress Jodie Whittaker has confirmed she will be returning for another season of "Doctor Who".

Whittaker is the first female Time Lord in the history of the cult sci-fi series.

"I really can't wait to step back in and get to work again. It's such an incredible role. It's been

an extraordinary journey so far and I'm not quite ready to hand it over yet," Whittaker told The Hollywood Reporter.

The 11th season of "Doctor Who" will end on Sunday, with the show returning for a New Year's Day special. Season 12 is expected to start shooting in early 2019.—PTI ■

Rap star Kendrick Lamar, women nominees lead Grammy race

NEW YORK (United States) —The soundtrack of Marvel's "Black Panther" propelled rap superstar Kendrick Lamar to the front of this year's Grammy pack with eight nominations, closely followed by fellow rapper Drake who scored seven, organizers said on Friday. Women performers also made their mark in the top categories after being largely snubbed a year ago, with rapper Cardi B, pop diva Lady Gaga and folk-rock singer Brandi Carlile all nabbing key nominations for music's top awards. Six of the eight 2019 nominees for Best New Artist are women.

After last year's show sparked a major backlash, the Recording Academy created a diversity task force responding to criticism that the show was consistently too male and too white, and ultimately expanded four of the top categories from five nominees to eight. Hip-hop dominated across the board for a second year running—though last year, rap mogul Jay-Z racked

up the most nominations but left empty-handed, and Lamar was shut out of the general categories. Thanks to the blockbuster film "Black Panther," Lamar—whose album "DAMN." made him the first rapper to win a Pulitzer Prize for music—once again has a chance to win the coveted Album of the Year prize after three prior losses.

His song from the Marvel superhero movie's soundtrack, "All the Stars," is also in the running for both Record of the Year, which recognizes the overall performance of a song, and

Song of the Year, which awards songwriting. Canadian rapper Drake meanwhile got love from the academy across the top categories for his album "Scorpion" and hit "God's Plan." The leading nominees will face stiff competition on 10 February at the Staples Centre in Los Angeles from fellow rappers Cardi B and Childish Gambino—as well as Lady Gaga, who snared nominations in both of those top categories for her hit "Shallow," performed with co-star Bradley Cooper in the film "A Star Is Born."—AFP ■



(FILES) In this file photo taken on January 28, 2018 Kendrick Lamar performs during the 60th Annual Grammy Awards show in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**



A pedestrian traffic light customized with a dancing Elvis Presley is pictured in Friedberg, western Germany on 7 December, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

'The King' of the road: German town puts Elvis on traffic lights

FRIEDBERG (Germany)—Cross the road, it's now or never. Or that's what residents in the German town of Friedberg may start humming when their traffic light jumps to green to reveal a hip-swivelling Elvis Presley. The jailhouse rocker performed his military service there between 1958 and 1960 and the town remains all shook up about its celebrated visitor. To commemorate the "Love me Tender" singer's link to Friedberg, located north of Frankfurt, local authorities have transformed three traffic lights into Elvis lights. On red, they show the music icon standing at his microphone. On green, Elvis is seen mid-hip shake, performing his trademark move on tip toes. The town, which calls itself "the army home of Elvis", already has a giant Elvis statue on a roundabout near the former US barracks.

"Elvis holds a special place here and that's why he is honoured and appreciated," local resident Heidi Huebner told AFP after she snapped a picture of the novelty traffic light. Although he served in Friedberg, Elvis actually lived off-base in the neighbouring town of Bad Nauheim, which proudly holds an Elvis festival every year.

It was in Bad Nauheim that Elvis met his future wife Priscilla. The couple wed in the United States in 1967 but divorced six years later. Elvis died unexpectedly in 1977 at just 42 years old. German towns and cities have a lively tradition in customising traffic lights, often to pay tribute to a famous resident. The city of Bonn has installed some that light up with Beethoven's face, while the western town of Trier celebrated the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth with traffic lights of the bearded philosopher. A string of German cities have also adorned their traffic lights with same-sex couples to mark gay pride events. —AFP ■

More than half of global population now online: UN

GENEVA (Switzerland)—Some 3.9 billion people are now using the Internet, meaning that for the first time more than half of the global population is online, the United Nations said on Friday. The UN agency for information and communication technologies, ITU, said that by the end of 2018 a full 51.2 per cent of people around the world will be using the Internet. “By the end of 2018, we will surpass the 50/50 milestone for Internet use,” ITU chief Houlin Zhou said in a statement.

“This represents an important step towards a more inclusive global information society,”

he said, adding though that “far too many people around the world are still waiting to reap the benefits of the digital economy.”

He called for more support to “technology and business innovation so that the digital revolution leaves no one offline.” According to ITU, the world’s richest countries have been showing slow and steady growth in Internet use, which has risen from 51.3 per cent of their populations in 2005 to 80.9 per cent now. The gains have meanwhile been more dramatic in developing countries, where 45.3 per cent of people are currently online, compared to just

7.7 per cent 13 years ago. Africa has experienced the strongest growth, with a more than 10-fold hike in the number of Internet users over the same period, from 2.1 per cent to 24.4 per cent, the ITU report showed.

The report also showed that while fixed-line telephone subscriptions continue to dwindle worldwide, to a current level of just 12.4 per cent, the number of mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions is now greater than the global population. And it found that mobile broadband subscriptions have skyrocketed from just four subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2007 to 69.3 today.—AFP ■



Malaria infected mosquitoes ready for dissection in the manufacturing facility of Sanaria, Inc, in Rockville, Maryland during vaccine production. PHOTO: AFP

Researchers explore new way of killing malaria in the liver

WASHINGTON (United States)—In the ongoing hunt for more effective weapons against malaria, international researchers said on Thursday they are exploring a pathway that has until now been little studied—killing parasites in the liver, before the illness emerges. “It’s very difficult to work on the liver stage,” said Elizabeth Winzeler, professor of pharmacology and drug discovery at University of California San Diego School of Medicine. “We have traditionally looked for medicines that will cure malaria,” she told AFP. For the latest research, published in the journal *Science*, scientists dissected hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes to remove parasites inside them. Each parasite was then isolated in a tube and treated with a different chemical compound — 500,000 experiments in all. Researchers found that certain molecules were able to kill the parasites.

After around six years of work, 631 candidate molecules for a “chemical vaccine” have been identified—a normal vaccine that would allow the body to make antibodies. “If you could find a drug that you give on one day at one time that will kill all the malaria parasites in the person, both in the liver and in the bloodstream, and last for three to six months. Yeah, that’d be super but there is no drug like that right now,” said Larry Slutsker, the leader of PATH’s Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) programs. Reducing the number of doses is crucial.

That’s because many medications available today must be taken over three days, said David Reddy, CEO of Medicines for Malaria Ventures. But often, after the first dose,

a child begins to feel better and the fever lessens. Parents then keep the other two doses in case another of their children falls ill. “That has two impacts. First the child does not get cured properly and secondly it builds drug resistance,” Reddy said.

Illness develops

Malaria is caused by a minuscule parasite, called *Plasmodium*.

Female mosquitoes transmit the parasite when they bite people for a meal of blood (males do not bite). Then, the parasite lodges in the liver and multiplies. After a couple of weeks, the population explodes and parasites run rampant in the blood. At this stage, fever, headache and muscle pain begins, followed by cold sweats and shivering. Without treatment, anemia, breathing difficulties and even death can follow, in the case of *Plasmodium falciparum*, which is dominant in Africa. The research published on Thursday offers a “promising path, as long as it lasts several months,” said Jean Gaudart, professor of public health at the University of Aix-Marseille. Gaudart said new approaches are necessary because resistance is on the rise in Asia against the most effective treatment using artemisinin, derived from a Chinese plant. “We really need new compounds,” he said. Now it’s up to researchers to confirm which of the 631 molecules identified have a real shot at wiping out this global scourge.

The World Health Organization said last month that global efforts to fight malaria have hit a plateau, with two million more cases of the killer disease in 2017—219 million—than the previous year.—AFP ■

China launches rover for first far side of the moon landing

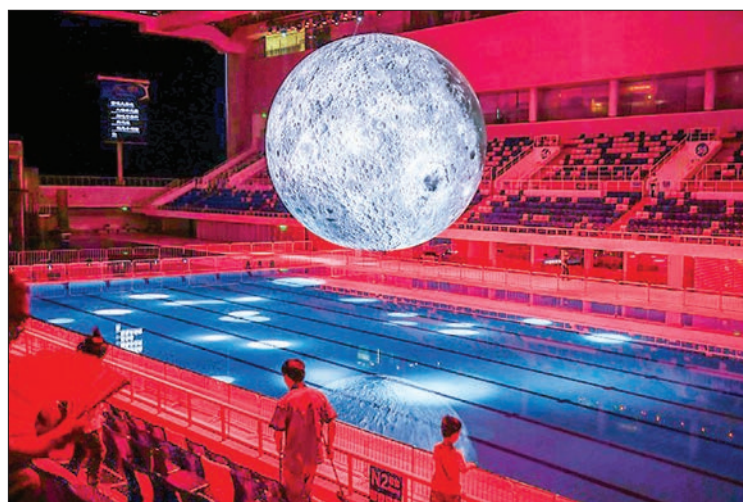
BEIJING (China)—China launched a rover early Saturday destined to land on the far side of the moon, a global first that would boost Beijing’s ambitions to become a space superpower, state media said.

The Chang’e-4 lunar probe mission—named after the moon goddess in Chinese mythology—launched on a Long March 3B rocket from the southwestern Xichang launch centre at 2:23 am (1823 GMT), according to the official Xinhua news agency.

The blast-off marked the start of a long journey to the far side of the moon for the Chang’e-4 mission, expected to land around the New Year to carry out experiments and survey the untrodden terrain.

“Chang’e-4 is humanity’s first probe to land on and explore the far side of the moon,” said the mission’s chief commander He Rongwei of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, the main state-owned space contractor. “This mission is also the most meaningful deep space exploration research project in the world in 2018,” He said, according to state-run *Global Times*.

Unlike the near side of the moon that is “tidally locked” and always faces the earth, and offers many flat areas to touch down on, the far side is mountainous and rugged. It was not until 1959 that the Soviet Union captured the first images of the heavily cratered surface, unclanking some of



Chang’e-4 is being sent to the Aitken Basin in the lunar south pole region—known for its craggy and complex terrain. PHOTO: AFP

the mystery of the moon’s “dark side”. No lander or rover has ever touched the surface there, positioning China as the first nation to explore the area.

“China over the past 10 or 20 years has been systematically ticking off the various firsts that America and the Soviet Union did in the 1960s and 1970s in space exploration,” said Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. “This is one of the first times they’ve done something that no one else has done before.”

Next up: humans

It is no easy technological feat—China has been preparing for this moment for years. A major challenge for such a mission is communicating with the robotic lander: as the far side of the moon always points away from

earth, there is no direct “line of sight” for signals. As a solution, China in May blasted the Queqiao (“Magpie Bridge”) satellite into the moon’s orbit, positioning it so that it can relay data and commands between the lander and earth.

Adding to the difficulties, Chang’e-4 is being sent to the Aitken Basin in the lunar south pole region—known for its craggy and complex terrain—state media has said. The probe is carrying six experiments from China and four from abroad. They include low-frequency radio astronomical studies—aiming to take advantage of the lack of interference on the far side—as well as mineral and radiation tests, Xinhua cited the China National Space Administration as saying. The experiments also involve planting potato and other seeds, according to Chinese media reports.—AFP ■

Myanmar cane-ball team wins gold in 19th ASEAN University Games

MYANMAR grabbed a gold medal in the traditional cane-ball (chinlone) competition at the 19th ASEAN University Games, held at the Wanna Theikdi cane-ball sports ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A total of four teams from Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Laos participated in the competition.

Myanmar took the gold medal with 395 points. Laos secured the second place with 300 points, Thailand earned the third place with 147 points, and Malaysia finished in the fourth place.

The Deputy Minister for Education, U Win Maw Tun, the Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Mya Lay Sein, the Director-General of the Department of Higher Education, Dr. Thein Win, the Director-General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education, U Myo Hlaing, officials, invited guests, and fans watched the sporting event.

Afterwards, an awards ceremony was held and the Deputy Ministers handed out the medals to the winning teams.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin) ■



Myanmar team showing their skill at the traditional cane-ball (chinlone) competition in 19th ASEAN University Games at Wanna Theikdi cane-ball sports ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Indonesia beat Myanmar in AFC U-20 Futsal qualifiers



Myanmar (red) fights for the ball in yesterday's AFC U-20 Futsal Championship qualifiers at Hua Mark Stadium in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFC**

INDONESIA trounced Myanmar 9-0 in the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship qualifiers at the Hua Mark Indoor Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday.

The Indonesian team dominated the play from the kick-off. Indonesia's star player Muhammad Syaifullah scored the opening goal at the 3-minute mark. Rizal Musthofa and Firman Adriansyah scored at the 9th and the 11th minute, respectively.

Just before the first half ended, Indonesia scored successive goals. Ramadhan Zidani scored at 17 minutes, Musthofa at 18 minutes, Muhammad Sanjaya at 19 minutes, and Dewa Rizki Amanda at 20 minutes. The first half

ended with Indonesia leading by 7 goals.

Myanmar was better in the second half with stronger attack and defense. But Indonesia managed to pierce Myanmar's defense, with Mohammad Afif Rizky scoring at the 29th minute.

Indonesia secured a convincing win at the 35-minute mark, with Sanjaya scoring the final goal.

Having lost all matches in the qualifiers, Myanmar is out of the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship. Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia, and Malaysia will next play on 9 December to advance into the next stage of the championship.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Shan United hire local talent

IN preparation for the upcoming season of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019, Shan United has boosted the team by recruiting young footballers from Sagaing United, Magway, and Yadanarbon football clubs.

Shan United has signed a two-year contract with former

Magway F.C. players Nanda Kyaw and Sat Phyo Wai, and former Yadanarbon F.C. player Ye Yint Tun.

The club has hired Sagaing United player Pyae Sone Aung on a three-year contract.

Shan United had been looking to recruit the four players based on their exceptional per-

formance in the previous season of the Myanmar National League, said a source.

Taunggyi-based Shan United is focusing on winning the upcoming season and is eager to sign on local talented players, said a source with the Myanmar National League.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Guardiola confident Man City will avoid UEFA ban over spending

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Pep Guardiola is confident that Manchester City will not be banned from the Champions League at the end of an ongoing Financial Fair Play investigation after speaking with the club's senior figures. UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin has promised that there will be action "very soon" regarding its assessment of allegations that City broke FFP rules. The German magazine *Der Spiegel*, using material purportedly obtained from the whistleblowing outlet Football Leaks, reported in November that City had set up sponsorship deals to circumvent regulations limiting how much money owners can put into a club.

City responded to that report by saying there had been an "organized and clear" attempt to damage the club's reputation

and that the emails that allegedly informed the accusations had been obtained illegally. A ban from UEFA competitions, including the Champions League, is a potential punishment if City are found guilty of FFP breaches. The club were fined 60 million euros (\$68 million) and subjected to squad, wage and spending caps in a 2014 settlement agreed with UEFA following a previous breach of the rules.

Guardiola says City would accept a ban but does not believe it is likely after discussions with chairman Khaldoon al Mubarak and chief executive Ferran Soriano.

He said: "We will not be banned, no. That's what I think because I trust in my chairman, with my CEO, what they have explained to me. I trust in them. "If it happens, because

UEFA decide that, we will accept it and move forward." While City are being investigated off the pitch, the team are continuing to enjoy fine form on it, leading the Premier League by two points going into the weekend's fixtures. Guardiola's side, unbeaten in their opening 15 league games, visit Chelsea on Saturday, where they are likely to face Jorginho, a player Guardiola tried unsuccessfully to sign from Napoli in the summer. The Italy midfielder, 26, instead followed head coach Maurizio Sarri from Naples to Stamford Bridge in July, signing a five-year contract.

It has meant that Guardiola has had to continue to rely heavily on Fernandinho in the midfield anchor role, with the Brazil international the only outfield player to have started all 15 of City's league games to date.—AFP ■



Victims of cancer society



By Yadanar Soe
State University of
New York

CRITICIZING others is one of the easiest things to do in this world. If we look around us, we become aware of how people are in favor of criticism. They say negative things about others with strong reasons, or occasionally, without any proper reasons. Being alive in this world mean you will be judged for being who you are with one way or another.

People tend to judge so quickly without seeing the whole picture. The hilarious fact is that we are even criticized for our appearance. Plastic Surgery is becoming a common thing in Myanmar these days. As we notice, people with plastic surgeries are more likely to get a lot of criticism. Are those people going under the knife because they want to? No, they do it because of the SOCIAL STANDARDS. The society rarely gives attention unless we have good looks or wealth. This is how it was designed.

Since people are not allowed to behave freely due to the judgmental society, they start to wear masks. People considered it as FAKE, and there we go again. When we are unable to remove our masks and become comfortable in our own skin, people call it "BAD". There are still some people out there who are truly good at heart, but society takes advantage of their kindness.

Here is a reminder: Just because some people are reminding you of an aspect of yourself that you don't like doesn't mean you should criticize them. People have different values in their lives. Think before you bring your criticism, because every word carries weight. Also, imagine how free you would be if you could shift your focus from judgement back to love and care.



(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Answers

1. The girl who painted this picture has been selected Luyechun.
2. The actor who plays the leading role in this film has won the Academy Award.
3. These are the troops who defeated the rebels last week.
4. I know the man who bought her car.
5. This is the girl whose father made a speech at the PTA meeting yesterday.
6. The woman whose jewellery was stolen last night has gone mad.
7. The train which left Yangon this morning has not reached Prome yet.
8. This is the hen that lays an egg everyday.
9. The flowers (which/that) Ma Ma picked this morning are still fresh.
10. This is the film (which/that) I like best.
11. This is the tree the leaves of which are always green.
12. The big house the kitchen of which is at the back was sold yesterday.
13. This is the place where he left his umbrellaa.
14. The garden where they meet every Sunday is near the Shwedagon.
15. He went to the city where he saw many cars.

For study (လေ့လာရန်)

- အလွတ်ကျက်၍ သုံးနိုင်ရန် အောက်တွင် **Idioms** အချို့ပေးထားပါသည်။
1. We must carry out this task *with might and main*.
ဤလုပ်ငန်းကို ငါတို့ အင်တိုက်အားတိုက်ဆောင်ရွက်ကြရမည်။
 2. They did their work *with heart and soul*.
သူတို့အလုပ်ကို စိတ်ပါလက်ပါလုပ်ခဲ့ကြသည်။
 3. They welcomed us *with open arms*.
သူတို့ ကျွန်တော်တို့ကို လှိုက်လှိုက်လှဲလှဲဆိုခဲ့သည်။
 4. My wife and I never *see eye to eye*.
ကျွန်တော့်ဇနီးနှင့် ကျွန်တော် ဘယ်တော့မှ အမြင်ခြင်းမတူပါ။
 5. They live *from hand to mouth*.
သူတို့ရရစားစားပဲ။
 6. He earns his living *by the sweat of his brow*.
သူနူ့က ချွေးခြေမကျသည့်တိုင်ပင်ပန်းကြီးမှာ အသက်မွေးဝမ်းကျောင်းပြုရသည်။
 7. I shall stand by you *through thick and thin*.
မင်းကောင်းစားသည်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ဒုက္ခရောက်သည်ဖြစ်စေ ငါမင်းနှင့်အတူ ရပ်တည်မည်။
 8. Life is full of ups and downs.
ဘဝဟူသည် အတက်အကျများနှင့် ပြည့်နေသည်။
 9. I know the ins and outs of this man.
ငါဤလူအကြောင်း ဝဟနဏသိသည်။
 10. He will move *heaven and earth* to reach the goal of his aim.
ရည်မှန်းချက်ပန်းတိုင်သို့ရောက်ရန် သူအစွမ်းရှိသမျှ ကြိုးစားလိမ့်မည်။
 11. He is a fish out of water.
သူရေနည်းငါးပမာ ဒုက္ခရောက်နေသည်။
 12. People from all walks of life visit the Shwedagon everyday.
လူတန်းစားအလွှာအသီးသီးမှ ပြည်သူများ ရွှေတိဂုံဘုရားသို့ နေ့စဉ်လာရောက်ကြသည်။
 13. They have gone back to their country *for good*.
သူတို့ သူတို့နိုင်ငံသို့ အပြီးအပိုင်ပြန်သွားကြပြီ။
 14. He is *on good terms* with his neighbours.
သူ အိမ်နီးနားချင်းများနှင့် တည်သည်။ (အဆင်ပြေသည်)
 15. He is a queer fish.
သူ လူကြောင်တစ်ယောက်ပဲ။

16. I want your promise *in black and white*.
ငါ မင်းကတိကို စာနဲ့ပေနဲ့ လိုချင်တယ်။
17. He is building a castle *in the air*.
သူစိတ်ကူးယဉ်နေသည်။ (လေထဲမှာ တိုက်အိမ်ဆောက်နေသည်။)
18. She is blowing her own trumpet.
သူမ ကြွားလုံးထုတ်နေသည်။
19. We must try to *catch up* with them in the long run.
ငါတို့ သူတို့ကို ရေရှည်မှာ အမှီလိုက်ရမည်။
20. I can't make *head or tail* of this problem.
ငါ ဒီပြဿနာကို နားမလည်ဘူး။
21. They are working hand in hand with the peasants.
သူတို့သည် တောင်သူ လယ်သမားများနှင့် လက်တွဲဆောင်ရွက်နေကြသည်။
22. They *laid down their arms*. (surrendered)
သူတို့ လက်နက်ချခဲ့ကြသည်။
23. He is an old hand at rowing.
သူသည် လှေလှော်ခြင်းတွင် အတွေ့အကြုံရှိပြီးသူ တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
24. U Kyaw Kyaw is a *man of parts*.
ဦးကျော်ကျော်သည် ဘက်စုံတော်သူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
25. *The man in the street* does not understand such things.
သူလိုငါလို သာမန်လူတစ်ယောက်သည် ဤကိစ္စမျိုးများကို နားမလည်ပါ။

Lesson 13

Relttive Pronouns (စာကြောင်းဆက်နာမ်စား)များကို တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။ ယခုလသင်ခန်းစာတွင် ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။
အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ **who, whose, whom, which, that**, တို့ကို သုံး၍ စာကြောင်းများဆက်ပုံကို တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။

1. This is the boy. The boy took her to the cinema yesterday.
This is the boy *who* took her to the cinema yesterday.
သူသည် သူမကို မနွေက ရှင်ရှင်ခေါ်သွားသော လူကလေးဖြစ်သည်။
2. The lady is our Physics teacher. The lady is talking with the headmaster.
The lady *who* is talking with the headmaster is our Physics teacher.
ကျောင်းအုပ်ဆရာကြီးနှင့် စကားပြောနေသော အမျိုးသမီးသည် ကျွန်တော်တို့၏ ရူပဗေဒဆရာမဖြစ်သည်။
3. This is the girl. The girl's mother gave us some cakes yesterday.
This is the girl *whose* mother gave us some cakes yesterday.
ဤမိန်းကလေးသည် သူမ၏ အမေက မနွေက ကျွန်တော်တို့ကိုကိတ်မုန့်အချို့ပေးခဲ့သော မိန်းကလေး ဖြစ်သည်။
4. The writer is still very poor. His books are very popular in Myanmar.
The writer *whose* books are very popular in Myanmar is still very poor.
သူ၏စာအုပ်များ မြန်မာပြည်တွင် အလွန်လူကြိုက်များသော စာရေးဆရာသည် ယခုတိုင် အလွန်ဆင်းရဲ နေသည်။
5. This is the teacher. Everybody respects the teacher.
This is the teacher *whom* (that) everybody respects.
This is the teacher everybody respects.
သူသည် လူတိုင်းလေးစားသော ဆရာဖြစ်သည်။
6. The man is the owner of this house.
The police arrested the man last night.
The man *whom* (that) the police arrested last night is the owner of this house.
The man the police arrested last night is the owner of this house.
ညက ရဲများ ဖမ်းဆီးခဲ့သော လူကြီးသည် အိမ်ပိုင်ရှင်ဖြစ်သည်။
7. We have read the article. The article was writtten by

- Ko Ko.
We have read the article *which* was written by Ko Ko.
ကျွန်တော်တို့သည် ကိုကိုရေးခဲ့သော ဆောင်းပါးကို ဖတ်ပြီးကြပြီ။
8. Books are very expensive. Books are printed in that country.
Books *which* are printed in that country are very expensive.
ထိုနိုင်ငံတွင် ပုံနှိပ်သော စာအုပ်များသည် အလွန်ဈေးကြီးသည်။
 9. This is the book. I like the book best.
This is the book *which* (that) I like best.
This is the book I like best.
ဤစာအုပ်သည် ကျွန်တော်အကြိုက်ဆုံးသော စာအုပ်ဖြစ်သည်။
 10. The fish were not fresh. Mother bought the fish yesterday.
The fish *which* (that) mother bought yesterday were not fresh.
The fish mother bought yesterday were not fresh.
အမေ မနွေက ဝယ်ခဲ့သော ငါးများမှာမလတ်ဆက်ပါ။
 11. This is the house.
The windows of the house are always closed.
This is the house the windows of *which* are always closed.
ဤအိမ်သည် ၎င်း၏ပြတင်းပေါက်များကို အမြဲပိတ်ထားသော အိမ်ဖြစ်သည်။
 12. The cow belongs to my uncle.
We drink the milk of the cow everyday.
The cow the milk of *which* we drink everyday belongs to my uncle.
၎င်း၏နွားနို့ကို ကျွန်တော်တို့နေ့စဉ်သောက်သော နွားမကြီးကို ကျွန်တော်ဦးလေးပိုင်သည်။
 13. This is the place.
I left the umbrella at the place.
This is the place where I left my umbrella.
ဤနေရာသည် ကျွန်တော်ထီးထားပစ်ခဲ့သောနေရာဖြစ်သည်။
 14. The house is now very old.
She spent her childhood at the house.
The house where she spent her childhood is now very old.
သူမ ကလေးဘဝကို ကုန်ဆုံးခဲ့သော အိမ်သည် ယခုအလွန်ဟောင်းလှပြီ။
၂၁ ၂၁ ၂၁

Relative Pronouns (စာကြောင်းဆက်နာမ်စား) ကို Pre-positions (ဝိဘတ်) နှင့်တွဲဖက်သုံးစွဲပုံ ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

အောက်ပါနမူနာကို လေ့လာပါ။

(A)

This is the girl.
I got the book *from* the girl.
This is the girl *from* *whom* I got the book.
ဤမိန်းကလေးသည် သူမထံမှ ကျွန်တော်စာအုပ်ရခဲ့သောမိန်းကလေးဖြစ်သည်။
(အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့လည်း ရေးနိုင်သည်။)
This is the girl *that* I got the book from.
ပထမစာကြောင်းတွင် **The girl** ပါသည်။ ဒုတိယစာကြောင်းတွင် **from the girl** ပါသည်။
ပထမစာကြောင်းတွင် ပါသော **the girl** နောက်ကပ်၍ **Preposition** (ဝိဘတ်) **from** နှင့်ဒုတိယစာကြောင်းမှ **the girl** အစား **whom** ကို ထည့်၍ဆက်ရသည်။
This is the girl from whom I got the book.
(**That** နှင့်ဆက်လျှင်မူ ပထမစာကြောင်းမှ **the girl** နောက်ကပ်၍ **That** ထည့်ကာ **from** ကို စာကြောင်းနောက်ဆုံးတွင် ထားရသည်။)

ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

1. This is the man.
I sold the bicycle to the man.
This is the man to *whom* I sold the bicycle.
သူသည်သူ့ကို ကျွန်တော်စက်ဘီးရောင်းခဲ့သော လူကြီးဖြစ်သည်။
This is the man *that* I sold the bicycle to.
2. The girl has gone home.
Ko Ko brought the flowers for the girl.
The girl *for* *whom* Ko Ko brought the flowers has gone home.
သူမအတွက် ကိုကိုပန်းများ ယူလာသော မိန်းကလေးသည် အိမ်ပြန်သွားပြီ။
3. The lady is very pretty.
Ko Ko plays tennis with the lady everyday.
The lady with *whom* Ko Ko plays tennis everyday is very pretty.
သူမနှင့်အတူကိုကိုနေ့စဉ်တင်းနစ်ကစားသော အမျိုးသမီးသည် အလွန်လှသည်။
4. The artist was very famous.
U Ngwe Gaing studied under the artist.
The artist under *whom* U Ngwe Gaing studied was very famous.
သူ့လက်အောက်တွင်ဦးငွေကိုင်လေ့လာခဲ့သောပန်းချီဆရာသည် အလွန်ကျော်ကြားခဲ့သည်။

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

The place I don't want to live in



PHOTO: AFP



By Kurt Knowles Carter
(Han Zaw Lwin)
First Year (English)
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I AM a university student. As a student, I have not many problems with the place I live. People live in different places of the world. Some people live in their birthplaces throughout their life. Some people move to better and pleasant places, so they can get whatever they want conveniently. Places, where no one wants to live, have no security, no peace, no food and no development. I can live with any kind of person. However, there are places I don't like and I don't want to live in. These places are earthquake zones, flood areas and places where have no security, no peace, no development and so on.

There are many places in Myanmar for different kinds of people to live. Some places are suitable for businessmen to live, some for merchants and traders, and yet some for technicians and technocrats. For them, the suitable place may be Yangon, Mandalay and other big cities in our country. These places are convenient for them on business. But, these places may not be suitable for students. Some people like to live in peaceful and quiet countryside where they can get fresh air. But, for people who live in countryside, there are few places where we can get happiness. Some

people like to live in busy towns and cities. Therefore, there are advantages and disadvantages in both cities and countryside.

Yangon is situated in the southern part of Myanmar, to the east of Ayeyarwady Region and to the south of Bago Region. Yangon is the commercial city with a good transport. So, we can get from Yangon to every part of country and foreign countries easily by any means of transport. It is also the gateway to Myanmar for foreigners. With a large number of facilities and large buildings, Yangon is the most developed place in Myanmar. Besides, there are a lot of cinemas, supermarkets, mini-stores and restaurants in Yangon. We can enjoy various kinds of food. We can go everywhere in Yangon by YBS buses with airconditioners consily. We can pay homage to the world famous Shewdagon Pagoda in Yangon. It give us peace in our mind and pleasure. These are advantages of living in Yangon but there are disadvantages that is why the place I don't want to live in is Yangon.

Yangon is a crowded city with a population of nearly six millions. In daytime, most of the areas of Yangon, especially the city centre, are full of people and there,

usually occurs traffic congestion. The noise of traffic makes us feel embarrassed. The buses are usually congested with passengers and so, it is difficult for students to go to their respective schools, universities and colleges. Last year, I was a matriculation student. I attended high school in Yangon. After I had passed the matriculation examination, I was waiting to attend university. And then, I submitted to enroll but, I wouldn't attend in Yangon. Now, I am studying at Dawei. The cost of living in Yangon is very high. Yangon has a temperate climate and rare books can be available in Yangon. So, as for me, this is the only point I like. However, there are many reasons why I don't want to live in Yangon. Firstly, everything in Yangon is more expensive than that of any other places. Secondly, due to so many factories and vehicles in Yangon, we cannot get fresh air and it can cause air pollution. Finally, owing to its heavy population, it is impossible for us to lead a peaceful life. Moreover, every place in Yangon is usually noisy.

In my opinion, I want to avoid such kind of busy crowded city and the hustle and bustle of urban areas. It is because not only mental well-being but also physical well-

Yangon is a crowded city with a population of nearly six millions. In daytime, most of the areas of Yangon, especially the city centre, are full of people and there, usually occurs traffic congestion.

- being is very important for us. An average student cannot afford the expense on education in Yangon. Besides, as there are a lot of students than in other cities, teacher cannot teach them well. So, we have to take extra class. TV games centres, other forms of fun and entertainment are great enemies for students. Thus, as a student, "Yangon" is the place I don't want to live in.

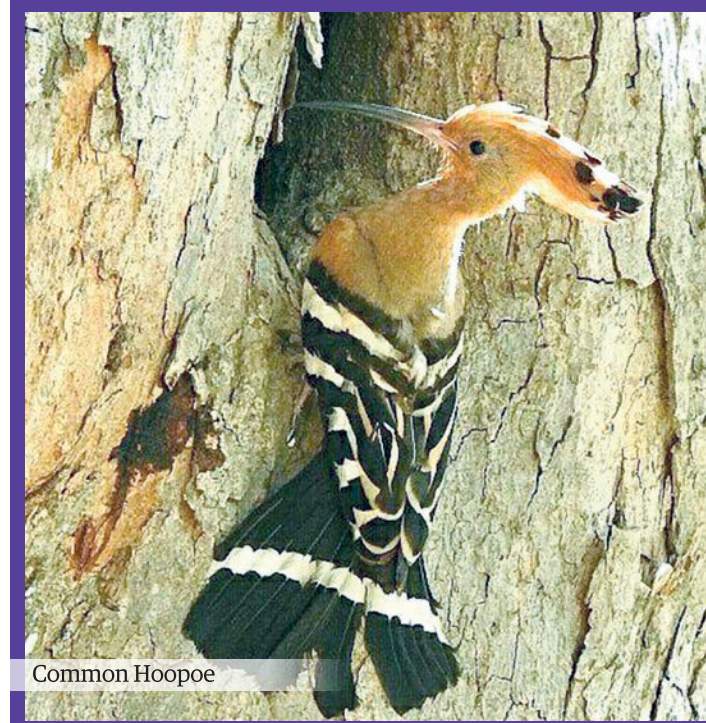




Brown Boobook



Puff-throat Babbler



Common Hoopoe

PHOTOS: Maung Nwaymyingyi

Let's go birding in Myanmar

By Aye Mar Way
(Researcher)

It is Myanmar that rich in biodiversity with various forest types that are home of numerous flora and fauna. Myanmar boasts more than 18,000 plants species, 300 mammals, 1,096 birds, 291 reptiles, 119 amphibians, 1197 butterflies, 520 fresh water fish species according to the report "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020)" prepared by Forest Department. By these data, we can know that Myanmar is one of the biodiversity richest countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

In avifauna sector, Myanmar is recognized as having the greatest diversity of bird species in Southeast Asia, with at least 1,096 avifauna species including many endemic birds, endangered birds and other specialty birds. Of which, six are endemic, two have been introduced by humans and ten are rare or accidental. Besides, about 50 birds of them are globally threatened species.

Bird species endemic to Myanmar include Jerdon's Minivet (*Pericrocotus albigularis*), Hooded Treepie (*Crypsirina cucullata*), Burmese Bushlark (*Mirafra microptera*), Burmese Tit (*Aegithalos sharpii*), White-throated Babbler (*Turdoides gularis*) and White-browed Nuthatch (*Sitta victoriae*). The two introduced bird species are Javan Myan (*Acridotheres javanicus*) and Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*). The ten rare or accidental are White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*), South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*), Dark-rumped Swift (*Apus acuticauda*), Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*), American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), White-shouldered Starling (*Sturnia sinensis*), (Tristram's Bunting (*Emberiza tristrami*), Pallas's Bunting (*Emberiza pallasi*), Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) and Yellow-billed Grosbeak (*Eophona migratoria*).

With these various species of birds and various types of forests, Myanmar is a very interesting region for bird lovers or bird watchers. It can provide unforgettable birding experiences to them due to its diversity topography and climate conditions which create numerous different ecosystems and support an incredibly wide range of associated species. Birding or bird watching in Myanmar, therefore, becomes very popular in Asia for all of Myanmar various colorful birds.

For birding or birdwatching times in Myanmar, the periods from October to May is recommended because of fine weather conditions in these periods. The best time will be on the days of November, December, January and February. The times from June to September is not good for birding because it will rain around the country. However, some places can be visited for birding around the whole year.

For bird lovers, to recommend birding sites in Myanmar, there are many destinations providing wonderful experiences of Myanmar's nature and excellent photo opportunities. Some are very amazing and unique. Among them, some notable, impressive and famous sites have been listed according to their respective states and regions around Myanmar. Each site has been expressed together with the recorded bird species number, the forest types and the significant information summarized of the site in the bracket.

1. In Kachin State

- > Hkakaborazi National Park (363 bird species/ evergreen, hill pine and moist upper mixed deciduous forests/ Mt Hkakaborazi is the highest peak in south-east Asia)
- > Hponkan Razi Wildlife Sanctuary (322 bird species/ evergreen forest)
- > Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (247 bird species/ dense lowland evergreen, temperate mountain and subtropical mountain forests)
- > Indawgyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary (326 bird species/ Indawgyi is the largest inland lake of South East Asia and the third largest lake in the world)

2. In Chin State

- > Nat Ma Taung (Mt Victoria) National Park (283 bird species/ hill savannah, hill evergreen, moist upper mixed deciduous and pine forests/ the best site for birding and highest peak in Chin State)

3. In Sagaing Region

- > Alaungdaw Kathpa National Park (235 bird species/ central mixed deciduous forests/ the historical famous Alaungdaw Kathapa Shrine is present in the park)
- > Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary (223 bird species/ grass savanna, dry deciduous and mixed deciduous forests)
- > Tamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary (244 bird species/ tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests)

4. In Tanintharyi Region

- > Tanintharyi Area (532 bird species/ tidal, beach, evergreen, mixed deciduous, dipterocarp and hill forests/ the custom of local Salon ethnic nations can be observed)

5. In Bago Region

- > Moeyingyi Wetland Bird Sanctuary (128 bird species/ a few trees and shrubs)
- > Pyay Area (164 bird species/ dry zone/ it is ancient "Pyu" capital of "Thayekhittaya")
- > Pho Kyar Elephant Camp (157 bird species/ moist upper mixed deciduous forest, dry upper mixed deciduous forest and lower mixed deciduous forest)

6. In Magwe Region

- > Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary (132 bird species/ dry deciduous forest)

7. In Mandalay Region

- > Bagan Area (138 bird species/ scrub and scattered trees/ it is one of the richest archaeological sites in Asia, with over 2,000 ancient pagodas)
- > Popa Mountain Park (177 bird species/ evergreen forest, moist upper deciduous forest and pine forest/ Mt. Popa is a great extinct volcano and also a historical and cultural important place)
- > Pyin-Oo-Lwin Area (122 bird species/ tropical mixed forest/ the famous Natural Kandawgyi Botanical Garden can be visited)

8. In Mon State

- > Kyaikhtiyo Wildlife Sanctuary (About 100 bird species/ tropical rain forest/ studying the ethnic tribes and visiting the world famous Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda



Slender-billed Oriole



Brown Shrike

are accessible)

9. In Rakhine State

- > Rakhine Roma Elephant Range (96 bird species/ evergreen forest, mangrove forest)

10. In Yangon Region

- > Hlawga Wildlife Park (Over 179 bird species/ semi-evergreen, deciduous and swamp forests including small wetland areas/ it is a popular recreational & educational park)
- > Let Khome Khone Beach (145 bird species/ mangrove forests)

11. In Shan State

- > Inle Wetland Bird Sanctuary of Inle Lake (254 bird species/ it is a large bird sanctuary and a major source of hydro electrical power for southern Myanmar)
- > Kalaw Area (189 bird species/ moist deciduous, dry deciduous and pine forest)

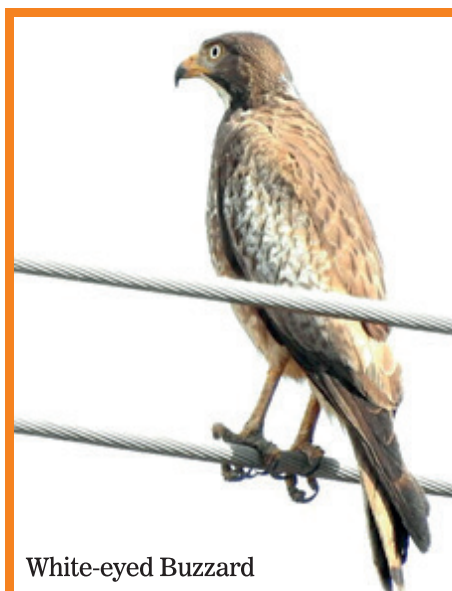
12. In Ayeyarwaddy Region

- > Meinmahla Kyun (Island) Wildlife Sanctuary (157

bird species/ mangrove forests)

These birding sites have their respective key birds which have not been present here yet. The key birds can be known by studying each site in detailed. Bird lovers should study the sites where they want to visit to. Some sites can offer unique things to their visitors. Some are famous for their nature. For example, Bagan is the most important archeology zone in Myanmar and it is famous for its over 2000 ancient pagodas, temples and historical sites built by Bagan Dynasty. In Inle Lake, the unique traditional style of one leg-rowers, fishing, floating market and floating agriculture are attractions. Nat Ma Taung National Park is home to a variety of rare and beautiful flora and fauna including the endemic birds - White-browed Nuthatch and Burmese Tit. In the Alaungdaw Kathpa National Park, the famous Alaungdaw Kathpa Shrine is located, drawing at least 30,000 pilgrims a year paying homage to the shrine. For Mt. Hkakaborazi, it is a snow-capped

SEE PAGE-S-7



White-eyed Buzzard



Red-wattled Lapwing



Indian Roller



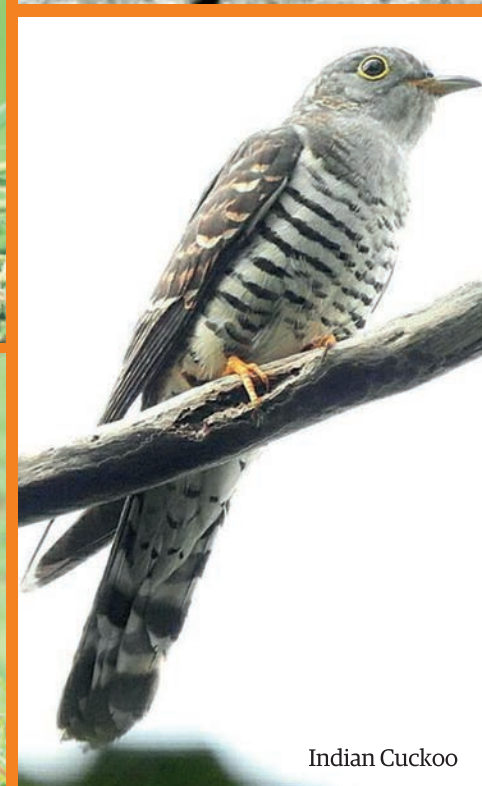
Red Avadavat



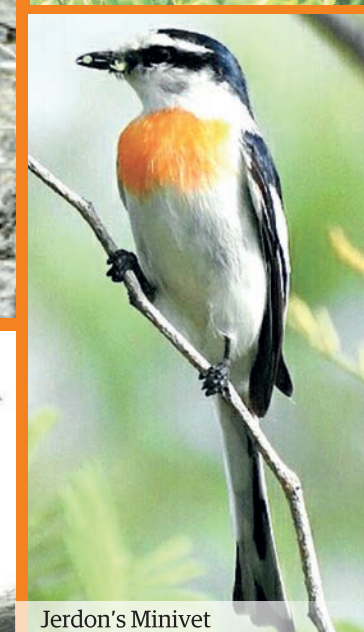
Pied Bushchat



Paddy Field Pipit



Indian Cuckoo



Jerdon's Minivet



Black-headed Ibis



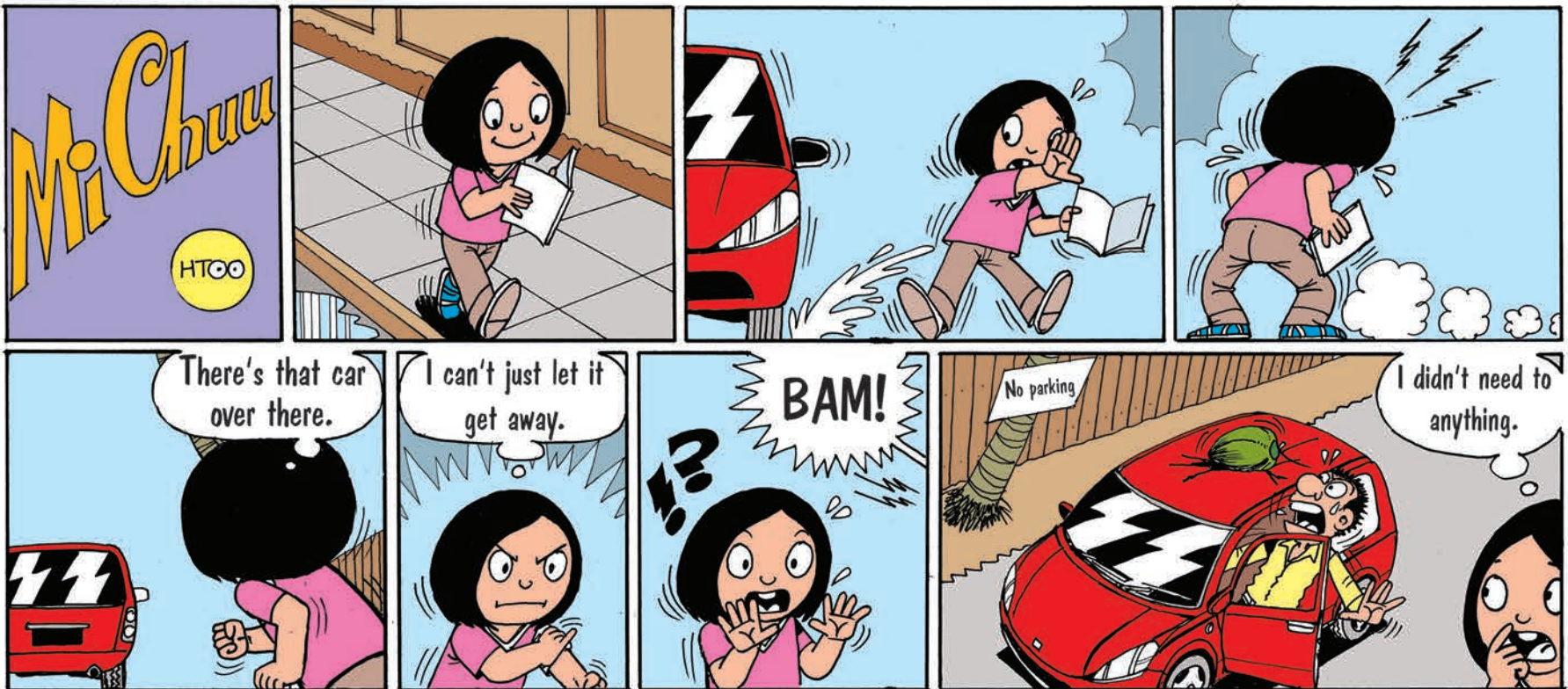
Black-winged Stit



Spotted Dove

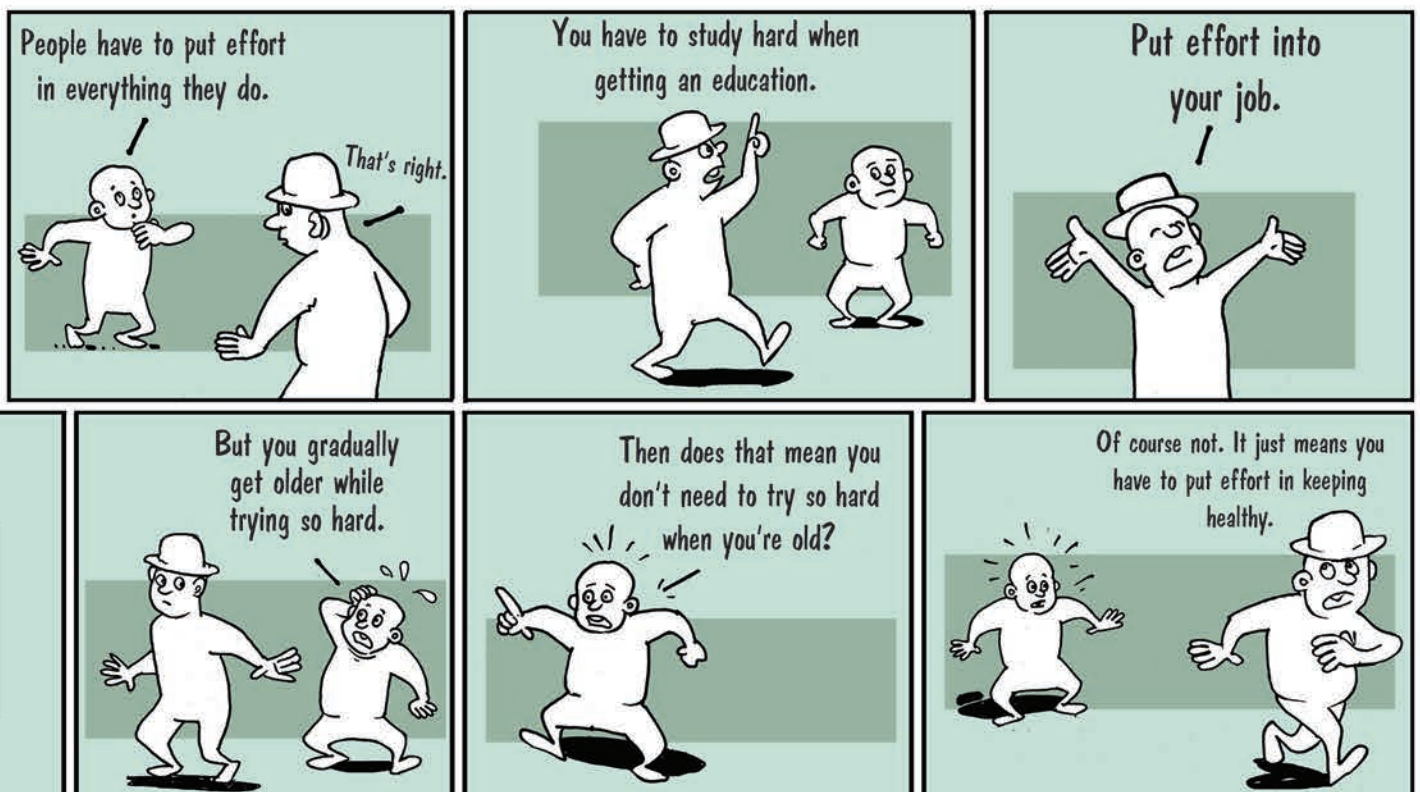
Grey Wagtail

SUNDAY COMICS



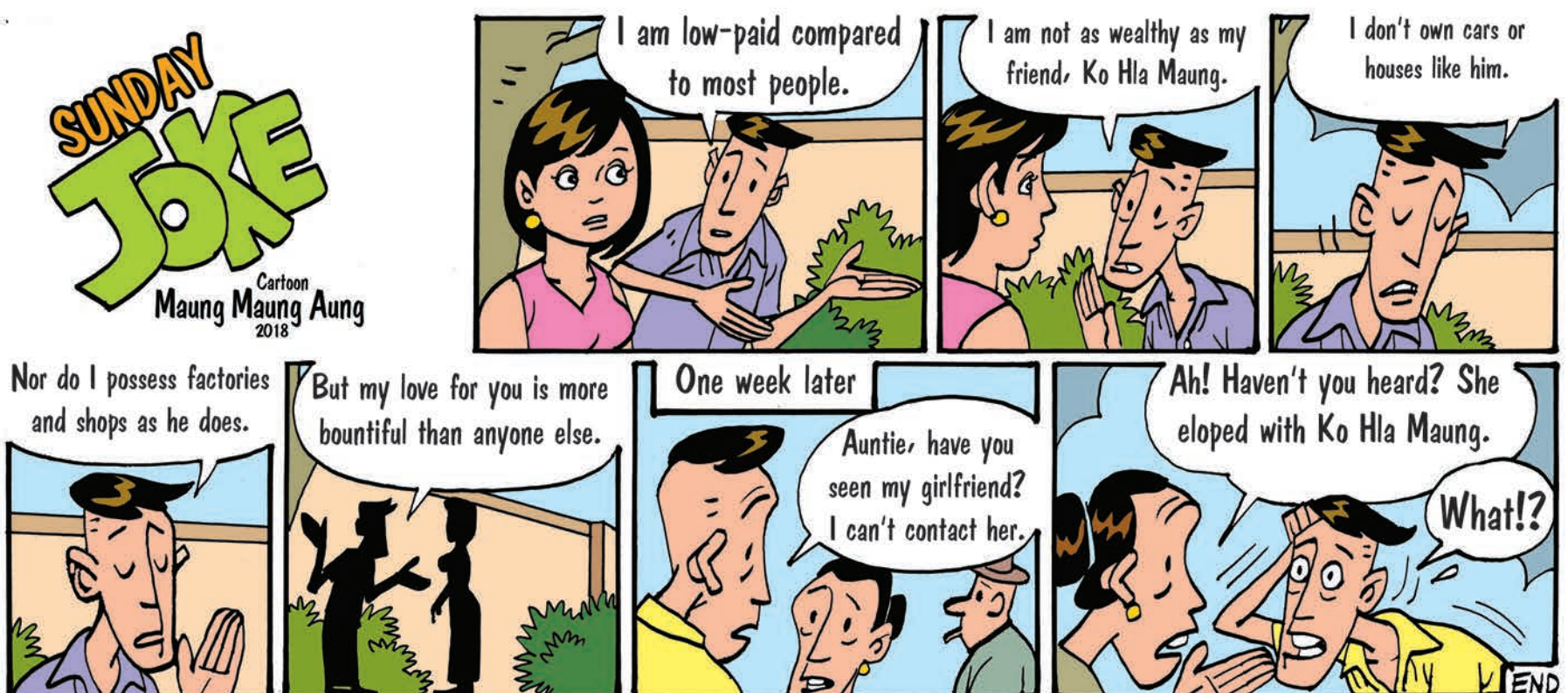
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



When man becomes hostile and greedy...



By Laura Htet
UDE English

I HAVE studied a poem in a prescribed English text when I was in Grade X. It was a long poem composed by the well-known poet named Henry Wadsworth Long Fellow. I did not know the poet but our English teacher introduced the name of the poet and gave us a brief explanation about him before he made his lecture. We found the poem and the poet very interesting as our teacher's explanation could entirely bewitch us. He was so good at his teaching that we had an opportunity to understand not only the paraphrasing but the background history in which the poem was based. Due to our teacher's smooth, interesting and reasonable explanation, we had much sorrow and sympathy upon the character in the poem.

Since then, whenever I happened to think the poem, I was heart-broken to those who were cruelly oppressed by the oblivious people. Nowadays, when we hear the news of human trafficking in newspapers and on television, I think this human trafficking affair does not occur only at the current era. It has been occurring for ages. I get angry for human beings are being considered and treated as non-living things. Human beings are living things not non-living ones. Although human beings are the most developed and highest standard organisms in the world, some people buy and sell them as non-living things. This is the rudest behavior and non-humanitarian act and the most unacceptable one for the cultured people.

However, such act was done and is being done by man. It was done in the west world in a great extent. It could be said as 'Slave-trafficking'. It was also a real historical human trafficking. The white who were developed in economy, health, education and all-round sectors bullied the black from Africa and captured them threatening with rely on the weapons. Then, the white sold them to the landlords and the capitalists from Europe as slaves. The slaves were forced to work in the firms owned by the landlords and the capitalists the whole day without being paid any charges. Those slaves were treated like the animals without getting any welfare.



In the poem entitled 'The slave's dream', Long Fellow, the poet, composed such events. He wrote it with his bosom and what he wanted to say was conveyed placing onto the vehicle called 'Poem' to the audiences. He mentioned neither his feeling nor his opinion in the poem but only the scene of the life of a slave. However, the reader could feel the life of a slave as a picture or a film. The poet could take the readers not only into the poem but also into the dream of the slave. It made me visualize the portrait of the slave galloping a horse along the Niger bank with tinkling sounds.

"...And then at furious speed he rode
Along the Niger's Bank;
His bridle-reins were golden chains,
And with a martial clank..."

In addition, it made me visualize his better half standing among his children. They were kissing his cheek and holding by his hands.

"...He saw once more his dark-eyed queen
Among her children stand;
They clasped his neck, they kiss his cheeks
They held him by the hand!..."

Finally, what I visualized and attached in the eye firmly was the scene of his lifeless body lying in the field, which was locked within the fetter. However, the poet said that the fetter was meaningless for him as his life was free from unbearable condition of a slave. Nowadays, the system of slave has been over for centuries in the world and even the era called globalization occurs. However, an another type of slave system gets prominent in the society. It is now known as 'Human trafficking'. Who are committing it? There will be an only answer. Those who become hostile, greedy and unsympathetic are committing that sin.

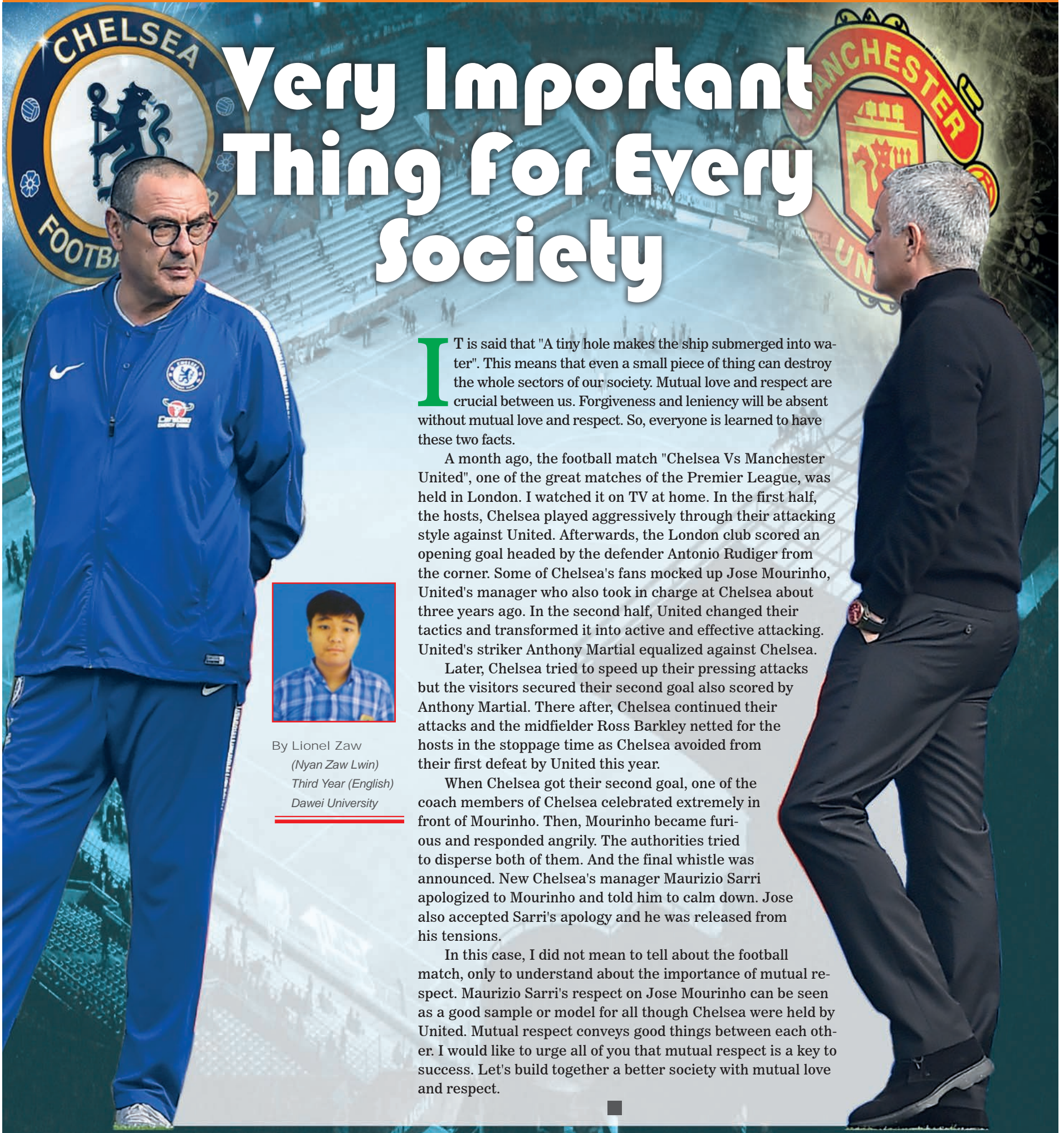
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mountain and the highest peak in south-east Asia. It is home to over 1,000 plant species including the 85 species of orchids. Especially, some Myanmar endemic tree species can be observed in this area.

In addition to the bird watching in these sites, some more activities such as butterfly and insect watching, flora studying, the sailing of boat in the river and streams can be done. In some places, rare mammal species such as Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Musk Deer, Blue Sheep, Black Barking Deer, Red Goat, Leaf Deer (Myanmar endemic), Bear, Red Panda and others can be observed. Besides, bird watchers can also study traditional culture, custom and living system of local tribes in some places.

Bird lovers can take shorter or longer bird watching tours into these sites. Birding tour services are available for the smoothness of the trip. They provide the tailor made tours, group package tours, charter flight booking, transportation services including. Bird watching guides who know the habitat of endemic birds and migrating birds well can also be accessible. Again, some special tours such as trekking tour, biking tour, diving tour, golf tour, business tour to explore business opportunities in the region, and also culture tour and eco tour can be enjoyed.

With the greatest diversity of bird species, endemic animals and plants, impressive views of birding sites, rare and unique natures in various forest types and some tour services, bird watching around Myanmar can offer unforgettable excellent experiences to the bird watchers. It is sure to be worth a visit and fantastic great trip for all. It is the time to find unexpected wonderful things in Myanmar. Birding in Myanmar is amazing.



Very Important Thing for Every Society

IT is said that "A tiny hole makes the ship submerged into water". This means that even a small piece of thing can destroy the whole sectors of our society. Mutual love and respect are crucial between us. Forgiveness and leniency will be absent without mutual love and respect. So, everyone is learned to have these two facts.

A month ago, the football match "Chelsea Vs Manchester United", one of the great matches of the Premier League, was held in London. I watched it on TV at home. In the first half, the hosts, Chelsea played aggressively through their attacking style against United. Afterwards, the London club scored an opening goal headed by the defender Antonio Rudiger from the corner. Some of Chelsea's fans mocked up Jose Mourinho, United's manager who also took in charge at Chelsea about three years ago. In the second half, United changed their tactics and transformed it into active and effective attacking. United's striker Anthony Martial equalized against Chelsea.

Later, Chelsea tried to speed up their pressing attacks but the visitors secured their second goal also scored by Anthony Martial. There after, Chelsea continued their attacks and the midfielder Ross Barkley netted for the hosts in the stoppage time as Chelsea avoided from their first defeat by United this year.

When Chelsea got their second goal, one of the coach members of Chelsea celebrated extremely in front of Mourinho. Then, Mourinho became furious and responded angrily. The authorities tried to disperse both of them. And the final whistle was announced. New Chelsea's manager Maurizio Sarri apologized to Mourinho and told him to calm down. Jose also accepted Sarri's apology and he was released from his tensions.

In this case, I did not mean to tell about the football match, only to understand about the importance of mutual respect. Maurizio Sarri's respect on Jose Mourinho can be seen as a good sample or model for all though Chelsea were held by United. Mutual respect conveys good things between each other. I would like to urge all of you that mutual respect is a key to success. Let's build together a better society with mutual love and respect.



By Lionel Zaw
(Nyan Zaw Lwin)
Third Year (English)
Dawei University

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