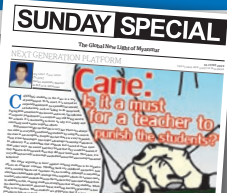


SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Kakku Pagoda in Taunggyi, meets PNO leader



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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 60, 14th Waxing of Nayon 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 16 June 2019

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker inaugurates Myawady-Wawlay concrete road in Kawkareik

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than attended an opening ceremony of Myawady-Wawlay concrete road constructed by Ministry of Construction Department Road, Kawkareik District, Kayin State held at a pandal on the road section yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin and state ministers, Saw Mo Shay of Democratic Kayin Benevolent Army, Hluttaw representatives, heads of department, state, district and township level officials, local ethnic nationals, invited guest and ethnic traditional dance troupes.

In his opening speech to the event Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said the Myawady-Wawlay road opened today was previously just an earth road and was now being upgraded to a concrete and tar road. Myawady-Wawlay road situated on the western bank of Thaungyin River and on the eastern side of Dawna Mountain range is an important road for border area development. The road was constructed along the Thai-Myanmar border and is a very important road for locals living in the area as well



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sein Bo and Saw Mo Shay of Democratic Kayin Benevolent Army open the Myawady-Wawlay concrete road in Kayin State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

as being a road on which local products can flow easily and smoothly in a short time frame to develop trade. The State had allocated and permitted funds to upgrade the Myawady-Wawlay Road as a concrete road

with an aim to develop the basic infrastructure in Kayin State and develop the socio-economic situation of the local ethnic nationals.

As there was no peace in Kayin State in the past, basic in-

frastructures such as roads and bridges could not be constructed and now in line with the wishes of the people, peace process works were implemented in stages and with the achievement of peace, infrastructures

such as roads and bridges were developed and constructed. Local populace need to maintain together the developed roads and bridges.

SEE PAGE-2

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First Lady inaugurates tube-well, tank donated by President's family in KhinU, Sagaing Region

AN artisan tube-well for drinking water and a concrete tank donated by the family of President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho in the village of Shwelu-Ai in KhinU Township was inaugurated yesterday.

First Lady Daw Cho Cho attended the ceremony to open the tube-well and sprinkled scented water on the facilities to mark the opening.

The First Lady also offered a day meal to members of the Sangha at the village's Monastery and presented gifts to 13 elders aged 61 years and above

from the village.

She also provided school uniforms, stationery and slippers to 47 school children at the Shwelu-Ai Village Basic Education Primary School.

The two drinking water supply facilities were constructed at the cost of K4.5 million contributed by the family of the President and the First Lady.

The tube-well and tank have benefited over 400 people from 75 households.

The ceremony was also attended by Daw Tint Tint (a) Daw Chu Chu, wife of Sagaing



First lady Daw Cho Cho sprinkles scented water on the donor recognition wall at the donation ceremony of artisan tube-well and a concrete tank at Shwelu-Ai Village in KhinU Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Region Chief Minister, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Dr. Win Aung and wife, Sagaing Region

Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Min Tun and local authorities, departmental officials and local

people. — Chit San (KhinU) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker inaugurates Myawady-Wawlay concrete road ...

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker also thanked the peace organizations, companies and local populace for pitching in and helping toward the establishment of Myawady-Wawlay Road.

Next Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw explained that the 44 miles 7 furlong long Myawady-Wawlay road opened today connects Myawady town and Wawlay-

myaing town. In the past only about 12 miles was tarred while the remaining 32 miles 7 furlong was just an earth road. Starting from fiscal year 2016-2017 to fiscal year 2019-2020, State capital fund Ks 8,807.04 million was used to construct 18 ft. wide concrete road. The road had 51 concrete bridges that were under 50 ft. long and one concrete bridge above 180 ft. long. The road also had 64 concrete culverts. The aim was to upgrade existing

roads and bridges in Myanmar to ASEAN Class III level 18 ft. wide concrete/asphalt road by 2030. Although Myawady-Wawlay road was a town connecting road, it was situated along the Thai-Myanmar border and is an important road for trade. As Kayin State had achieved close to 100 percent peace, Ministry of Construction was able to construct and upgrade roads and bridges. The locals are urged to maintain the road constructed

with state fund so that trade can be conducted with ease said the Union Minister.

Afterwards Saw Mo Shay of Democratic Kayin Benevolent Army explained about peace works and road transport development works conducted in Kayin State.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint,

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sein Bo and Saw Mo Shay of Democratic Kayin Benevolent Army then cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the road and took commemorative group photo.

Following this Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Minister, State Chief Minister and guests inspected the Myawady-Wawlay Road.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Patron of Myanmar Scout Association, Dr. Tin Myo Win presents prize to a youth scout at the ceremony to honour the Myanmar Scouts for their philanthropic works in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Scouts honoured for social welfare performance

MYANMAR Scout Association briefed about activities of the association and honoured scouts for philanthropic work in collaboration with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at UMFCCI in Yangon yesterday.

At the event, Chairman of Union Peace Commission and Patron of Myanmar Scout Association, Dr. Tin Myo Win, said that Myanmar Scout Association had ran local peace coordinators training in collaboration with Asia Pacific Scout Region, and that Myanmar hosted Dialogue For Peace facilitator Training which Myanmar scout representative and scout representatives from 13 countries of Asia Pacific Scout Region attended. This event reflects the effort of International and Myanmar youth for peace. The scouts were honoured for their achievement in building

mutual respect, understanding and trust with international youth through this training.

He also urged business people, who are supporting the development of the country, to support scouting which will benefit the country.

Then, Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance, Scout Master U Myint Thaung delivered key note speech. Myanmar Scout Association Chief Commissioner and Myanmar boy scout chief Dr. Tin Nyo explained scouting, and youth coordinator Maung Phyo Thura Win, Rover Scout Leader Ma Myat Su Mon and International Coordinator Mg Kaung Myat Htoo detailed the their humanitarian and philanthropist work.

Then, Patron of Myanmar Scout association Dr. Tin Myo Win, Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance Scout

Master U Myint Thaung, Chairman of UMFCCI, U Zaw Min Win presented prizes to 10 scouts from universities, who stood out in philanthropic work.

Chairman of UMFCCI gave congratulatory speech.

Recapping past work and planning for the future was held as second part of the Event. Myanmar Men Deputy Chief Scout, U Thar Sein, International communication Officer, U Mg Mg Win, Chief Organizer U Aye Kyaing, Youth scout Chief U Myint Swe led the discussion. Then, Scout Chief Commissioner Dr. Tin Nyo led discussion regarding work of Myanmar Scout association. General round of discussion by Scout masters and scouts followed. Ceremony was concluded with action song, "Diplomats of Peace" by Scout composer Hinthada Myint Ngwe. —MNA ■ (Translated by Alphonsus)

Senior General visits Kakku Pagoda in Taunggyi, meets PNO leader



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the historic Kakku Pagoda in Taunggyi, Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visited the historic Kakku Pagoda in Taunggyi, Shan

State, yesterday. Following the visit, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Patron of the People's Militia (transformed) of PaO Peace

Group (PNO) Aung Kham Hti at the Buddha Rakkhita Monastery. At the meeting, they cordially discussed regional development tasks.

After the talks, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gifted bottles of bird's nest drink and food to U Aung Kham Hti.

Following the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with local people at the Aung Su Haw Religious Building and briefed about the matters related to regional development tasks.

First, an administrator of the Kyauktalongyi Town and a member of the leading committee of the PaO Self-Administered Zone reported on facts about the zone and needs for education, health, agriculture and regional development of the zone.

In response to the report, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said he wanted to see the equitable development of all ethnic areas and disclosed obstacles for development in some areas.

The Tatmadaw is ready to give advices and to provide assistance for development to any areas, he added.

The Senior General also presented food for local people through an official at the meeting.

Following the meeting, Sen-

ior General Min Aung Hlaing and entourage went to the PNO's Aungsubwe Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm established in collaboration with the Tatmadaw.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing suggested the officials of the farm to grow crops which can also be used for feedstuff and to work in cooperation with the agricultural and livestock experts.

He also urged the officials of the farm to seek ways for getting access to water and power supply which is mainly needed for the farm.

In the evening, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoyed the match between the Shan United and Chin Land FC at the Shan State Sports Grounds in Taunggyi. The match is a part of the second leg of Myanmar National League 2019.

The match ended with 1-1 draw. After the match, the Senior General presented cash awarded to both teams, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Illegal drugs seized in Patheingyi, Mongmit, Hopong, Muse

Police anti-drug squad (17) Mandalay (North) searched a motorbike driven by Sai Aung Mei together with Aik Ngo on 14 June, 2019.

Upon investigation, they two were found with 660 g of heroin and 195 stimulant tablets hidden in 66 soap dishes containing in the bag on PyinOoLwin—Mandalay Road, Kyauk Chaw Village, Patheingyi Township. The anti-drug squad of Kyeethe Myoma Police Station searched a motorbike driven by Ma Nan Htwe Oo on the same day, and found 29,250 stimulant tablets together with her in Kyeethe Township.

The anti-drug squad (24) of Lashio searched a Toyota

Kluger vehicle driven by Gun Lar (a) Mar Gon and found 800 g of heroin and K460,000 hidden in the car.

The combined anti-drug squads (25) from Taunggyi and Shan State raided the house of Lone Leik, where they seized 5,960 stimulant tablets in Lae That Village, Hopong Township. Acting on a tip off, the anti-drug operatives raided the house of Yan Yee Kyone and arrested him with a seizure of 24,000 stimulant tablets. Actions are being taken against him and the cases are under investigation in accordance with the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MPF

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Suspects Sai Aung Mei and Aik Ngo seen with illegal drugs. **PHOTO:MPF**

MoI holds Monsoon Football Competition



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun greets the referees and athletes during the opening ceremony of the Ministry of Information 2019 Monsoon Football Competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

AN opening ceremony of the Ministry of Information 2019 Monsoon Football Competition was held at Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township Wunna Theikdi Sports Practice Ground yesterday afternoon. This is the third time it was being held.

The opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, departmental heads, personnel and football enthusiasts.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivered an opening remark and together with departmental heads greeted the footballers from the five competing teams and the referees. Minister Office team, Myanmar Radio and Television team, Information and Public Relations Department team, Printing and Publishing Enterprise team and News and Periodicals Enterprise team participated in the third Monsoon Football Competition of Ministry

of Information. Group matches will be played until 24 June. The match for third place will be held on 26 June and the final match will be held on 29 June.

The opening match of the Ministry of Information 2019 Monsoon Football Competition was a hard fought match between Myanmar Radio and Television team and News and Periodicals Enterprise team that ended in a goal-less draw. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Mogok sees nearly 600 tourists as of May

NEARLY 600 tourists visited Mogok, which is famous for Myanmar's gemstones, from January to May 2019, according to official statistics from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Mogok has been known since ancient times for its gemstones, especially rubies and sapphires. Tourists are interested to learn more about the gemstones, as well as local traditions and culture.

"Barnet village is inhabited by Lisu ethnics. This village is a land of ice. The local villagers build their village in imitation of Korean villages.

Most of the tourists visited Htar Mart, which is a gemstones market," said DawPhyu Phyu Myint, chairman of the Mogok Htar Market Gem Traders' Association.

A total of 599 tourists visited Mogok region in 2019, including 105 tourists in January, 156 tourists in February, 146 tourists in March, 72 tourists in April and 120 tourists in May.



Tourists flock to Mogok, Myanmar's ruby land as well as a beautiful hill town.

PHOTO: KHIN SATT WAI

Moreover, 490 tourists visited Mogok region in 2018, including 42 tourists from 10 to 30 September, 93 tourists in October, 235 tourists in November

and 120 tourists in December.

Authorities previously suspended tourists' visits to Mogok region.

However, tourists were

again permitted to visit Mogok on 10 September 2018 via the Mandalay-Thabeikkyin-Mogok route.—Khin Satt Wai ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fresh chili price sets new high in Magway Region

PRICES for fresh chili reached a new high this year in Magway Region, according to fresh chili growers.

Last year, the price of fresh chili was K 1,000 per viss in the wholesale market, while the retail price was K 1,500 per viss. (1 viss = 3.6 pounds)

In 2019, fresh chili is being sold for K 2,400 per viss in the wholesale market, and K 2,800

per viss in the retail market, said a local fresh chili distributor.

"Last year in April saw the fresh chili price increase because much of the chili crop was destroyed by heavy rains.

Although chili prices increased, it was only K 1,500 per viss. But this year, the price of chili is amazing. The price has increased dramatically, up to

K 2,800 per viss," said a local distributor.

"This year, the fresh chili yield declined because of the drought and the resultant high temperature in Magway Region. Last year also saw Magay Region suffering from shortages of fresh chili.

So, we ordered chilis from Pyay. This year, we could not order as many fresh chilis as

we need because the production of fresh chili is on the decrease everywhere.

The price of fresh chili is thus sky high, said a fresh chili wholesaler. Moreover, the prices of other crops, such as ladyfinger, long bean, eggplant, roselle and cabbage are also on the increase this year in Magway Region.—Aye Cho ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



The truck loaded with illegal timbers in Hlegu Township.

PHOTO: NAING LYNN (HLEGU)

Driver arrested, timber truck seized in Hlegu

FOREST officials arrested a man and seized a six-wheel truck loaded with illegally harvested timbers following a chase in Hlegu Township, Yangon North District, on Friday afternoon 14 June.

Driven by Saw La Pe (also known as Duwon), the FUSO six-wheel vehicle involved in the chase had been flagged down on Yangon-Mandalay expressway, but failed to stop.

Police later seized the suspected vehicle at Hlegu toll gate

at around 3:30 p.m.

Police founded 124 pieces of timber, weighing 7.154 tons, in the truck and arrested the driver, as well as confiscated the illegal timbers.

Action is being taken against the truck driver and those connected with the theft, according to Section 41 (a) of the existing Forest Law.—Naing Lynn (Hlegu) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Demands for salted shredded mango drops by half in three years

DOMESTIC demands for salted shredded mango has declined by nearly half in three years in Magway Region, according to local retailers.

Regarding the decline, U Hla Myint, a local shredded mango producer, said, "Demand for salted shredded mango is decreasing year after year. When compared with the previous three consecutive years, demand for the product dropped by nearly half. This is linked to a decrease in production of some crops in the region, as the market totally depends on rural areas where people rely largely on farming, and they make donations when they have high crop yields.

Salted shredded mango is one of the marketable domestic products in Magway Region.

Normally, a customer buys 25 tical (0.408 kilograms). Demand for the product is high, especially in charitable seasons when donors would give at least ten viss (16.329 kilograms) of salted shredded mango, he added.

This year has seen a decline in production in some townships in the region due to erratic weather conditions.

Another shredded mango producer, Daw Aye Kyi, said salted shredded mango producers are facing difficulties due to a continuous decrease in demand for the product. Earlier, there were many salted shredded mango producers in Magway. Now, the number of producers has declined to five.

At present, an 80-litre bag of raw materials is sold for K6,000 in the market. A viss of salted



Salted shredded mango is one of the marketable domestic products in Magway Region.
PHOTO : ZEYATU (MAGWAY)

shredded mango is currently priced at K1,000. The prices of salted shredded mango is worth

some K2,500 per viss (1.63 kilograms) in February and March when the market sees low pro-

duction.—Zeyatu (Magway) ■
(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar-Japan trade exceeds \$1 bln in seven months

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and Japan has touched US\$1.118 billion over the past seven months of this Fiscal Year 2018-2019, according to the Ministry of Commerce's Friday report.

The total Myanmar-Japan trade between October 2018 and April 2019 included \$800.5 million in exports and \$317.8 in imports.

Normally, imports outperform exports in bilateral trade with Japan. The bilateral exports are greater than imports starting the 2018 mini-budget period between April and September, when Myanmar's export to Japan was pegged at over \$760 million while its imports from the East Asian country were \$334 million.

Garments, marine products, rice, sesame, rubber and

other agricultural products, machines, electronic devices, fertilizers and chemical products, medicines, and automobiles are items traded between the countries. Both countries conduct trade through by sea.

During the first seven half of the current FY, the Myanmar Investment Commission permitted seven Japanese enterprises to bring in foreign direct investment of \$19.9 million. Japan's investment in Myanmar in the 2018 mini-budget period totalled \$134.6 million. In the 2017-2018 FY, Myanmar received a total of \$384 million worth of Japanese investment.

Sustained efforts are being made by the two governments to promote bilateral trade and cooperation.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Thai border trade via Myawady declines by \$16 mln this FY

ALTHOUGH the amount of Myanmar-Thailand border trade through Myawady gate reached over US\$ 630 million as of 7 June this fiscal year (FY), the amount declined by over \$ 16 million compared to the same period of last year, according to the official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar and Thailand are conducting the border trade via the following border gates--Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Maese and Mawtaung.

Among these gates, the trade via Myawady gate amount-

ed to USD 636.375 million from 1 October to 7 June this FY.

The same period of last year, the trade via Myawady gate reached \$ 634.104 million, which was a decrease by \$ 16.084 million. The value of Myawady export reached \$ 117.5 million, an increase by 54.1 million while the import hit \$518.8 million, a decreased by 70.2 million.

The country's agricultural and fishery products are exported to Thailand while cosmetics, food products and machinery and raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers are imported.

The country is also trading with the following neighboring countries— China, India and Bangladesh. Sino-Myanmar border trade is conducted through Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinswehaw and Kengtung gates while Myanmar is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed. The country's border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau. The trade through these border gates as of 7 June this FY totalled nearly \$ 7.2 billion, an increase by \$ 1.06 billion compared to last year.—Zwe ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Consumer goods import decline nearly 6.7% since October

MYANMAR'S import of consumer products as of 7 June in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year topped US\$2.279 billion, registering a decrease of over \$160 million or nearly 6.7 per cent, from this time last 2017-2018 FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The total imports of consumer goods included \$33.413 billion by the public sector and \$2.246 billion by the private sector. This FY saw a continuous decline in the imports of consumer goods by both sectors in comparison with the corresponding period last FY.

From this time last FY, Myanmar's import of consumer goods stood at \$2.442 billion, with \$62.122 million by the public sector and \$2.38 billion by the private sector.

In the first week of this month, the public sector imported \$0.312 million worth of consumer products whereas the private sector bought the same valued at \$59.3 million, totalling \$59.7 million.

The country's imports of consumer products totalled \$2.6 billion in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018).

According to the ministry's

annual report, the country's imports of consumer goods were \$1.245 billion in the 2011-2012 FY, \$1.4 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$2.9 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$3.5 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, over \$4 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and \$4.403 billion in the 2017-2018 FY. Between 1 October through 7 June, Myanmar also imported \$3.9 billion worth of capital goods, \$4.6 billion of manufactured goods and \$1.6 billion worth of raw materials used by CMP (cut-make-pack) businesses.—Shwe Khine ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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Union Minister inspects No. 24 Heavy Industry (Dagon) and staff house (Dagon)

UNION Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho went to No. 23 Heavy Industry (Dagon) yesterday morning and inspected the test drive of 220 KW and 140 KW Silent Type Gen Sets driven by converted LNG/LPG/CNG/Biogas and diesel multi fuel engines. The LNG/LPG/CNG/Biogas and diesel multi fuel engines were successfully converted in a Singapore test lab by Myanmar technicians with foreign work experience.

The Union Minister said that from the success of this experiment, marketable high quality and safe gas engine of world class could be converted and used as generator, ship and locomotive engines that support a clean natural environment. Multiplier courses are to be conducted so that the

technology could be used in producing market grade engines while research and innovation are to be conducted consistently. Such stages are to be conducted under PPP (Private Public Partnership) system said the Union Minister.

Next the Union Minister inspected the transformers, vertical drill machines, bench drill machines, cutting machines, milling machines, lathe machines and press machines produced from No. 23 Heavy Industry (Nyaung Chay Htauk) and remarked on distributing it into the market so that the public can purchase it easily.

Afterwards the Union Minister inspected Ministry of Industry staff houses in Bahan.—MNA
■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho inspects the LNG/LPG/CNG/Biogas and diesel multi fuel engines at No. 23 Heavy Industry (Dagon) yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Director-General U Ye Naing shakes hand with IMS/Fojo programme manager Ms. Pernille Bo Kristensen. PHOTO: MNA

MoI, IMS, Fojo Media Institute sign extended MoU on media cooperation

Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information, International Media Support – IMS, and Fojo Media Institute signed the existing extended Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on media cooperation yesterday at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon.

The purpose of the MoU is to draw laws and policies in line with international standards, to help the media personnel work professionally, to provide access of information to men and women based on social media and to help them participate in public forum.

The existing MoU was signed by Information and

Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information, the International Media Support (IMS) based in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the Fojo Media Institute, Kalmar, Sweden in 2013.

Director General U Ye Naing and IMS/Fojo programme manager Ms. Pernille Bo Kristensen signed a one-year extension of the MoU extended to March, 2020.

For the execution of the MoU on the cooperation of the media development, implementation processes were conducted for hold media development workshops, which aim at disseminating media and legal af-

fairs for aiding ethnic language stations and for holding ethnic media conference.

In accordance with the extension of the MoU, implementation would be carried out to convene the media development conference, the ethnic media conference and discussion meeting of the four pillars. Moreover, plans are under way to conduct the multimedia training classes in cooperation with international organizations, as well as conducting the pilots projects for radio programme in some villages of Ayeyawady region and Chin State.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Agricultural marketing information system to be upgraded with ICT

THE 20th annual workshop on agricultural products and marketing information system was convened yesterday at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw.

The workshop was attended by Directors-General and Directors of the Department of Planning and the Department of Agriculture, Rector of the Yezin Agricultural University, officials from the Ministry of Commerce, KOICA, the Agricultural Market News, and the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

The project of disseminating information about the prices of agricultural products was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Breeding and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in April, 1999.

The marketing service launched 20 years ago and the local and international market information were covered in *the Farmers Journal* and *the Farmer Market News*.

At the workshop, Director-General of Department of Planning U Kyaw Swe Lin said

that endeavours would be made to disseminate the information about the prospects of the markets, demand and market sharing in a timely manner with the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The workshop continues today, and experts from respective sectors in Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Mon and Shan States took part in the workshop and they shared information about data collection in market news, agriculture and meteorology.—MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



The 20th annual workshop on agricultural products and marketing information system being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Womankind's giant leap: who will be the first female moonwalker?

WASHINGTON (United States)— Who will take the giant leap for womankind?

More than fifty years after the end of the Apollo program, NASA plans to return to the Moon by 2024 as a “proving ground” to test the next generation of spacecraft ahead of an eventual crewed mission to Mars.

The new program has been named Artemis after Apollo's twin-sister in Greek mythology, and the space agency has said that the mission will see the first woman to stride the lunar surface. So, who will she be? No one knows for sure, but it's a likely bet the candidate will be selected from among NASA's current roster of 12 female astronauts.

They're aged between 40 and 53, and are former military pilots, medical doctors and scientists who were picked from among thousands of applicants since the late 1990s.

Predicting who will join Neil Armstrong in the annals of history isn't an exact science, but several former astronauts and experts interviewed by AFP say the proximity of the deadline mean it probably won't be a new recruit. “Now personally, I'd be okay with flying a rookie astronaut to the Moon,” former astronaut Eileen Collins, who flew and commanded Space Shuttles in the 1990s and 2000s, told AFP.

“But if you have enough astronauts who have already flown, they know how they're going to



NASA's current roster of female astronauts. PHOTO: AFP

react in space.

“Some go up there and they have symptoms that might interfere with their ability to do the work. But you don't know who that is.” Ken Bowersox, a senior official at NASA, agreed. “I think it will be better to send people who have had at least one flight,” he told AFP. That objective will be easier than ever before because there have never been so many women astronauts.

When NASA was first established in 1958 it only recruited from the military, which was at the time exclusively male. All 12 moonwalkers between 1969 and 1972 were men, and it wasn't until 1983 that Sally Ride became the first American woman sent to space.

Scientists and soldiers

The four women of the 21st class of astronauts, recruited

in 2013, represent a good mix of youth and experience. Currently between the ages of 40 and 41, they will all have made their first space forays between now and 2020.

Anne McClain, an ex-army helicopter pilot, will be in the International Space Station (ISS) until the end of June. Well spoken, with a self-assured gaze and a light smile, she embodies the ineffable “right stuff” of NASA's early recruits. Also currently in the ISS is Christina Koch, an engineer and passionate mountain climber. She will soon beat the record for the longest time a woman has been in space, at 11 months.

Back in March, the pair almost conducted the first all-female space walk, but a lack of a proper fitting spacesuit meant McClain had to give her place up for her male colleague Nick Hague.—AFP ■

Indonesia returns five containers of waste to the US

JAKARTA (Indonesia)— Indonesia has returned five containers of rubbish to the United States and will not become a “dumping ground”, officials said Saturday, the latest Southeast Asian country to return imported waste.

The containers were supposed to contain only paper scrap, according to the customs documents. Instead they were loaded with other waste including bottles, plastic waste, and diapers, said senior environment ministry official SayidMuhadhar.

“This is not appropriate and we don't want to be a dumping ground,” Muhadhar told AFP.

The five containers — owned by a Canadian company — were shipped from Seattle in the United States to Indonesia's second biggest city Surabaya in late March, Muhadhar said.

It was not immediately clear where the rubbish originated from. Indonesia is currently examining several other con-

tainers in Jakarta's port and the city of Batam on the island of Sumatra.

It is the latest country to return imported rubbish after neighbouring Malaysia vowed to ship back hundreds of tonnes of plastic waste last month. The Philippines has ordered tonnes of garbage dumped in the country to be shipped back to Canada, sparking a diplomatic row between the two countries.

For years China received the bulk of scrap plastic from around the world, but closed its doors to foreign refuse last year in an effort to clean up its environment. Huge quantities of waste have since been redirected to Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia and to a lesser degree the Philippines.

Around 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year. Much of that ends up in landfill or in the seas, according to the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). —AFP ■



Indonesia is the latest country to return imported rubbish after neighbouring Malaysia vowed to ship back hundreds of tonnes of plastic waste last month. PHOTO: AFP

France's 'wolf brigade': Alps guards with licence to kill

BREIL-SUR-ROYA (France) — As the sun sets over the southern French Alps on a cool evening in early June, a flock of sheep huddle in an enclosure at an altitude of 1,500 metres.

Next to them, two khaki-clad watchmen settle down for the night in the Mercantour National Park on the border with Italy, equipped with thermal-vision cameras, warm jackets and a rifle with a night-vision scope. “What's going to be important for the next few hours is to be attentive all the time. For a wolf to cross (the pass) takes two or three seconds. If we aren't watching, it's over,” one of the guards said.

The pair are part of France's

“wolf brigade”, employed by the state to protect livestock from a predator that was hunted to extinction in France in the early 20th century but is now making a grand comeback.

Starting in 1992, grey wolves started re-appearing in France, arriving across the Alps from Italy, which has rejected calls for a cull of its flourishing population of the fanged mammals. Seventeen years after their return, the population in France is growing fast, rising from an estimated 360 last year to 530, according to the national hunting and wildlife agency (ONCFS), which uses information gathered by 4,000 observers nationwide.

While their numbers are only a fraction of those found in Italy, Spain Romania or Poland, the predators have raised the hackles of farmers, with some 3,674 wolf attacks reported in 2018 alone, mainly on sheep.

Faced with the outcry from sheep farmers, the government has announced plans to nearly double the annual cull quota, from 53 this year to around 100 next year. “We now consider that the wolf is no longer a species at risk of extinction,” Agriculture Minister Didier Guillaume said last week, adding that the government's priority was now to protect farmers' livelihoods.—AFP ■

Chinese scientists find green way to make diesel fuel, hydrogen

SHENYANG — Chinese scientists have developed a method to convert light energy and biomass to diesel fuel and hydrogen.

The study by scientists of the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences provides a way to produce clean energy using solar power or artificial light source and sustainable carbon sources present on Earth's surface, according to the researchers.

Biomass, including agricultural straw and forest waste, is the largest source of sustainable carbon resources in nature. It is

able to replace petrochemical resources to provide abundant derivative products.

However, biomass derived from a hydrogen production process may become waste and pollute the environment.

Wang Feng, the chief scientist leading the research, developed technologies which can merge the process of hydrogen production and biomass conversion for creating diesel fuels with light energy.

The research result was published in the latest issue of the international science journal Nature Energy. — Xinhua ■

Fight poverty to stop forcing children to enter labour force

AFALL in child labour goes hand in hand with living standards and a nation's economy, as well as the levels of education in the country.

Children are leaving schools and working as child labourers due to armed conflicts, poverty, migration, climate change and disasters. Insufficient food and social crises are also blamed for exploiting the labour of school-age children.

This situation has alerted governments in developing countries to become more serious about enforcing existing laws to eradicate one of the most disturbing forms of exploitation in our society.

Every year, World Day Against Child Labour reminds us how far behind we still are when it comes to eradicating child labour.

Myanmar is implementing its child labour eradication program as part of efforts to secure a better future for the children in the country, which has over 12 million children

and, of these, over 600,000 are engaging in labour with 400,000 working in vulnerable situations.

Out of over 12 million children aged 5 to 17 years, over 30 percent of working children are found in rural areas and over 20 per cent are working as child labourers in cities.

To provide protection to our children working in dangerous jobs, we need to carry out the national-level child labour eradication project.

Globally, there are about 152 million children aged between 5 to 17 years. Of these, 7.4 per cent live in the Asia-Pacific region, and some 70.9 per cent work in the agricultural sector. About 73 million of these children are working in dangerous places.

Nearly 85 per cent of the world's youth live in developing countries, and 60 per cent are in the Asian region. The youth and children's development sectors are important in determining the future of a country and are valuable resources for a country.

Youth and children who support production resources are employed in most developing countries, especially in a developing country like Myanmar. The practice is connected to poverty, and many businesses can be seen using child labour.

Child labour deprives children of their fundamental right to acquire education. In addition, child labour exposes them to greater risk of severe forms of violence, ranging from physical to physiological, moral to sexual.

Poverty is the main reason forcing children to enter the labour force at such early ages. We have both the means and tools to prevent this. Children must be provided free and compulsory education during childhood, and safe homes and environments to ensure their bright futures.



If one wants to breathe in some fresh air

By Maung Thaung Win (Ex-diplomat)

THE lifespan of this earth is estimated by the geologists to be over five million years. Human beings have inhabited the earth since ancient times. At present, the population of 7.9 billion people has lived in the world, with their increase day by day. Industrial productions have speeded up to meet daily needs of an increasing population. Carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases emitted from these mills and factories have caused pollution of atmosphere in the world.

Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, meteorites hitting the earth's surface and sandstorms tend to cause air pollution. Agricultural productions, slash-and-burn cultivations, coals used for energy and firewood used for fuels, carbon dioxide emissions from public transportation, smoke from factories and liquid fuels used in households cause air pollution. In addition, increasing population in the world makes commodity productions speed up in order to make air pollution worse and worse.

Ill effects by air pollution

Air pollution and climate change are closely related. Slash-and-burn agriculture, energy produced from coals, CO2 emissions from motor engines, mills and factories send unclean dusts and smoke into the atmosphere, making air polluted. Along with air pollution, the rise of temperature, extreme cold, drought, floods, storms and climatic phenomena follow. If the sky is misty, even sun lights cannot be seen. As long as the sky has been covered with smoke, air pollution creates successive global warming and climatic processes and changes. Serious consequences such as shrouding in mist, blowing of sandstorms, increasing cold and untimely rainfalls will follow. Besides, children and the elderly may suffer from difficulty in breathing, asthma, coughing, eyestrains and tear droppings.

Countries mostly affected by air pollution

Countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan in South Asia are



Fresh air is fundamental to good health. GRAPHIC: BT

most affected by air pollution in the world. In addition, 20 cities in those countries have shown the highest rate in air pollution. People in those countries have suffered from wind-pipe problems because of air pollution. Suffice it to say that the research has shown one third of the death rate among several kinds of diseases is due to air pollution.

The death rate becomes higher

The research has found that as many as seven million people die yearly across the world; the highest rate happens to be in Asia. The rate is equivalent to that of smoking. People die just because they breathe in polluted air; the death rate is indeed found to be higher than that of alcoholics. People breathe in poisonous particles from the atmosphere, spreading them through lungs and blood vessels throughout their bodies. In addition, PM 2.5 tiny particles which cannot be seen with our naked eyes, could spread into brains, hearts and other parts of the body. These tiny particles could create lung and heart problems, asthma and even lead to cancerous tumours.

Frailties of the earth

Human beings have indeed inhabited on the earth since an-

Felling of trees, overuse of disposable plastic, chemical wastes thrown into rivers, streams and lakes, air pollution, successive greenhouse gas emissions lead to urgent need for the prevention of world's clean environment.

A decline in productions

Air pollution could cause not only a serious health hazard but also do a decline in production. Cities in Thailand, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh have closed down schools, mills and factories for the health of students and workers at the time of worst air pollution. Serious consequences could cause flight schedule cancellations due to being shrouded in the mist; cars are unable to get to their destinations in time because of foggy routes in towns.

The ancients have sown seeds for rice paddies on the virgin lands; they have lived simply by killing wild animals for their foods such as meat and fish. As time went by, human knowledge, technology and motivations of greed have led to the extraction of more natural resources. By now, the earth has dried up a supply of its natural resources with it becoming gradually too frail to go on.

World Environment Day

That is why world leaders have fixed June 5, 1972 as the World Environment Day to celebrate every year to take care of the frail earth. 143 countries

have started to celebrate the World Environment Day since 1974 to take up global pollutions, worse consequences of global warming and sustainable development of food productions and animal protections.

The theme for 2019 World Environment Day is "Beat Air Pollution". Protecting world environment is a good practice for the good of all mankind. The preservation of world environment can be carried out from individuals and groups up to the government level as sorts of national affairs. It is urgently needed to fight against air pollution which causes especially global warming and climatic conditions.

Fighting against air pollution

Most countries have sought ways and means to reduce the levels of environmental damages which keep threatening a massive loss of human life. For instance, reducing levels of greenhouse gases is being implemented in accordance with the Paris Agreement. But due to lack of full participation of respective countries, the levels of air pollution could not be reduced as expected. Indeed the aims of the Paris Agree-

ment and Sustainable Developments intend to create environment-friendly climate and some fresh air. In addition, the reduction of slash-and-burn cultivations, avoidance of setting fires to forests, reduction in energy produced from coals and firewood, no longer use of dilapidated cars which keep emitting carbon dioxide and air-cleaning technology should be fixed in mills and factories to reduce the levels of air pollution.

Trees play a vital role in preservation of world's environment. They absorb CO2 from the atmosphere and release oxygen which is essential for living things including men. If a man grows a tree well every year, it will do the people of the world good. If trees grow well, keeping free flow of water, clean atmosphere, green shady trees, reduction in global warming lead to coolness in summer and again reduction in greenhouse gases may lead to ecological balance for all living creatures. Planting trees will not only support the preservation of world's clean atmosphere but also be beneficial for future generations.

Over felling of trees, overuse of disposable plastic, chemical wastes thrown into rivers, streams and lakes, air pollution, successive greenhouse gas emissions lead to urgent need for the prevention of world's clean environment. It must be the duty of all humankind. Suffice it to say that air pollution which is threatening the world cannot be solved individually as well as by only one country. Same objectives and firm determination of the world leaders are urgently needed. World leaders actually abide by the agreement on reduction of emissions of CO2 and greenhouse gases, the air pollution will reduce to some extent. If each member of our community reduces as much as possible the slash-and-burn cultivations and use of firewood for energy, it is strongly believed that air pollution can be gradually eradicated.

Translated by Arakan Sein;



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 15th June, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16th June, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th June, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th June, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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EU seals deal to end US beef row



The beef accord comes nearly a year after US President Donald Trump and European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker pledged to hold off from further tit-for-tat tariffs and to a limited trade deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRUSSELS (Belgium)—The EU has sealed a deal to end a long-running row with Washington over US beef imports, a statement said on Friday, with hopes that the agreement can ease transatlantic trade tensions.

“With this step, the European Union reaffirms its commitment to bring about a new phase in the relationship with the United States,” said EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan in a statement.

The beef accord comes nearly a year after US President Donald Trump and European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker pledged to hold off from further tit-for-tat tariffs and to a limited trade deal.

Tensions between the allies had ratcheted up after Trump slapped steel and aluminium tariffs on Europe and threatened more on cars.

The row over hormone-treated beef dates back to 1988, when Europe banned imports of meat from animals injected with growth hormones, a common US practice.

In retaliation, and in line with a WTO ruling, in 1999 Washington imposed higher customs duties on some European products, provoking angry protests in France.

Under a compromise reached in 2009 and amended in 2014, the United States lifted the sanctions and the EU created an import quota for “high-quality” hormone-free foreign beef, including that from the United States.

But other producers such as Argentina, Australia and Uruguay seized a large share of the quota, prompting President Barack Obama’s administration to threaten a renewal of the customs penalties.

To reach the deal, EU member states allowed the commission to allocate the United States a larger part of the existing hormone-free beef quota that is also available to exporters from other countries.

The agreement provides for up to 35,000 tonnes of the quota to be reserved for the United States and to be gradually implemented over seven years. — AFP ■

China, Russia reject calls for freeze on UN pullout from Sudan

UNITED NATIONS (United States)—China and Russia on Friday rejected calls from European and African countries to freeze the planned shutdown of a peacekeeping mission to Sudan’s Darfur region.

Britain, France, Germany and the African countries on the Security Council told the group that the decision on closing the joint UN-African Union mission should be put on hold while Sudan is engulfed in crisis.

The council is scheduled to vote on the mandate of the mission, known as UNAMID, on 27 June.

“The situation has evolved, the situation is not the same in the center, and we cannot proceed as if nothing has happened,” said South Africa’s Ambassador Jerry Matjila.

Russia and China however said the drawdown must continue as planned with a view to end operations in 2020.

“The Sudanese government has the capacity to maintain peace and security in Darfur on its own,” said China’s Deputy Ambassador Wu Haitao.

China, Sudan’s major trading partner, has long supported Khartoum’s view that the conflict in Darfur was winding down and that peacekeepers were no longer needed.

After a series of phased drawdowns, about 7,200 troops and police remain in Darfur from the 16,000 deployed at the height of the conflict.

More than 300,000 people

have been killed and 2.5 million displaced in the violence, according to the United Nations.

Russian Deputy Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy said the council was right to pull out peacekeepers and warned against any “outside lecturing” to Khartoum.

Sudan has been led by a military council since generals ousted Omar al-Bashir on April 11 after months of nationwide protests against his three-decade rule.

Protesters remained encamped outside the military headquarters in Khartoum for weeks afterwards demanding civilian rule, until a 3 June crackdown that left scores dead.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have said the instability has an impact on Darfur and that peacekeepers should remain.

UN human rights official Andrew Gilmour said there have been increased reports of killings, abduction and sexual violence in Darfur in recent months.

Over the past two months, 47 people have been killed in Darfur, he said.

Sudan’s military rulers have issued a decree ordering UNAMID to hand over all of its camps in Darfur to the Rapid Support Forces, which led the crackdown on protesters.

But UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix said plans to turn over the camps to Sudanese forces as part of the drawdown have been suspended. — AFP ■

Oil rises again on tension fueled by tanker blasts

NEW YORK (United States)—Oil prices rose again Friday in reaction to geopolitical tension, building on the previous day’s surge sparked by blasts on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman.

The US government blamed Iran for mysterious explosions on the tankers, and there were growing fears that Tehran could close the Strait of Hormuz, a major choke point for world oil shipments. Despite a potentially disastrous standoff between the two foes, oil traders were “not getting carried away,” said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA.

Prices jumped by more than four percent at one stage

on Thursday as reports of the attacks in the Gulf of Oman flashed onto traders’ screens, and added around one per cent Friday.

‘Not risen too much’

“Oil prices may have spiked following the attacks but they have not risen too much considering the risk that an escalation poses,” Erlam said.

The International Energy Agency said Friday that tepid growth in demand for oil along with ample supplies from non-OPEC countries will complicate efforts by the cartel and its allies to boost prices. In its monthly report, the agency cut its forecast for demand

growth this year for the second month straight — and trimmed its second quarter forecast as well. “Global slowdown fears and trade war risks have intensified which has led to the latest downward revision from IEA,” Erlam told AFP.

Markets in the red

Global stock markets meanwhile fell on geopolitical fears, uncertainty over the China-US trade row and the gloomy outlook for the global economy, especially following negative economic data out of China.

In Asia, the Hong Kong stock market was again on the back foot, losing 0.7 per cent, after the city was rocked this week by violent protests

against government plans for a law that would allow extraditions to China and which observers warn could erode its attraction for businesses.— AFP ■



Geopolitical tension following explosions on tankers have caused oil prices to spike. **PHOTO: AFP**

Syria flare-up kills 35 fighters, including 26 pro-regime forces: monitor

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — At least 35 combatants including 26 pro-regime forces were killed Saturday in clashes and air strikes that erupted at dawn in northwestern Syria, a war monitor said.

The flare-up came as Russian-backed regime forces tried to retake two villages seized by jihadists and allied rebels earlier this month, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

“Since this morning, the Syrian regime and allied fighters have launched five failed attempts to regain control of Jibine and Tal Maleh in northwestern Hama province,” said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman.

Syrian regime and Russian air strikes killed nine jihadists and rebel fighters, the war monitor said. Ensuing clashes in the north of Hama province left 26 pro-regime forces dead, including eight who were killed in a mine explosion, the Observatory said.

The Idlib region of some three million people is supposed to be protected from a massive



Smoke billows from buildings in the jihadist-held village of Tal Maleh in northwest Syria's Hama province on June 9, 2019 as pro-regime forces pound the site. **PHOTO: AFP**

regime offensive by a buffer zone deal that Russia and Turkey signed in September.

But it was never fully implemented, as jihadists refused to withdraw from a planned demilitarised zone.

In January, the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate extended its administrative control over the region, which includes most of Idlib province as well as adjacent slivers of Latakia, Hama and

Aleppo provinces.

The Syrian government and Russia have upped their bombardment of the region since late April, killing more than 360 civilians, according to the Observatory. —AFP ■

Mediterranean countries ramp up efforts to find missing migrants

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — Mediterranean countries say they have taken a key step towards finding out the fate of thousands of migrants — many fleeing Syria's war — who have gone missing while trying to reach Europe.

At a meeting of the International Commission for Miss-

ing Persons in The Hague this week, Cyprus, Greece and Malta pledged to coordinate and beef up their efforts to trace nearly 18,500 migrants who have disappeared since 2014 while making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean. Italy—which has taken a hard line on migrants under its populist government

and interior minister Matteo Salvini — did not sign up to that new joint statement due to what the ICMP described as internal government issues

The four countries are the main point of entry to Europe for many of the migrants fleeing the war in Syria and other regions.

Finding out what happened to

those missing — whether they are eventually found alive or whether they have been confirmed dead and their remains found — provides crucial closure for families. “We are starting a process that is extremely important,” Queen Noor of Jordan, one of the ICMP's longest-serving commissioners, told AFP in an interview.

“Helping the families and communities that have lost their members in conflict can create a path to truth, justice and reconciliation — and where possible, accountability,” said the Jordanian royal. Born out of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and set up in 1996 in Sarajevo by then US president Bill Clinton, the ICMP uses increasingly sophisticated DNA technology to trace missing persons. It has already succeeded in identifying around 70 percent of the 40,000 people who went missing in the Balkans conflicts of the 1990s, including around 90 percent of the nearly 8,000 killed in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre. But it is now turning its attention to one of the biggest human catastrophes of recent times — the migration crisis that has hit the Middle East, North Africa and Europe since 2014. —AFP ■



Nearly 18,500 migrants have gone missing since 2014 while making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Paris's Notre-Dame to celebrate first mass after fire

PARIS (France)—The Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris will host its first mass on Saturday, exactly two months after the devastating blaze that shocked France and the world. For safety reasons, the mass led by Archbishop of Paris Michel Aupetit will be celebrated on a very small scale. Worshippers will be expected to don hard hats but priests will be wearing their ceremonial garb. There will be just some 30 people—half of them clergy —although the mass will be broadcast live on Catholic TV channel KTO. —AFP ■

G-20 energy, environment chiefs air concerns on Middle East tensions

KARUIZAWA (Japan)—Energy and environment ministers from the Group of 20 major economies voiced concerns over disruptions in fuel supplies on Saturday following attacks on oil tankers in the Middle East. The ministers began a two-day meeting in the resort town of Karuizawa in central Japan after Thursday's attacks heightened tensions in the region and sent crude oil prices surging. —Kyodo News ■

China's largest ever Picasso exhibition opens

BEIJING (China)—The largest Picasso exhibition ever held in China opens on Saturday, featuring more than 100 works—many of them from the artist's early years. The “Birth of a Genius” exhibition brings together the best of the Picasso Museum Paris, Laurent Le Bon, the museum's president told AFP. Featured works include paintings, sculptures and drawings, and are accompanied by photos of the young Pablo in Barcelona and Paris. The first Picasso exhibition in China was held in 1983, timed to coincide with a Beijing visit by then French president Francois Mitterrand. Just 33 pieces of art were put on display. This year's exhibition, which runs until September 1 at the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, focuses on the artist's first 30 years. —AFP ■

Sudan opposition chief, US demand probe on protest crackdown

OMDOURMAN (Sudan)— Sudan's veteran opposition leader Sadiq al-Mahdi called on Friday for an "objective" international investigation into last week's deadly crackdown on protesters, after the ruling military council rejected such a probe.

Mahdi's call was backed by top US envoy Tibor Nagy, who urged an "independent and credible" investigation into the June 3 killings. Thousands of protesters who had camped outside the army headquarters in central Khartoum for weeks were dispersed in an operation which left dozens dead.

The crackdown followed the collapse of talks between protest leaders and generals, following the ouster of president Omar al-Bashir.

The generals had repeatedly pledged they would not disperse the sit-in, but on Thursday admitted that "mistakes" had been made. Mahdi, speaking after attending Friday prayers at a mosque in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman, condemned the operation. "The protest's dispersal was wrong. There should be an independent international investigation into it," he told AFP.

"It's important that the probe is objective and not biased in favour of the authorities."

Mahdi's elected government was toppled in a 1989 coup led by Bashir, who then ruled for three decades before being ousted in April following mass protests.

'Independent and credible'
Nagy, the US assistant sec-



Sudanese opposition leader and former premier Sadiq al-Mahdi attends Friday prayers at a mosque linked to his National Umma Party in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman on 14 June 2019. PHOTO: AFP

retary of state for Africa, also called for an investigation.

"The USA believe very strongly there has to be an investigation which is independent and credible which will hold accountable those committing the egregious events," he said in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, after a two-day visit to Khartoum.

Along with the newly-appointed US special envoy to Sudan, Donald Booth, Nagy met with military council chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan on Thursday. The 3 June crackdown left about 120 people dead and hundreds wounded, according to doctors linked to protesters, while the health ministry put the death toll at 61.

The protest movement has also called for an international probe, something rejected by the military council. "We do not accept an international investigating committee. We are a sovereign state," council spokesman Shamseddine Kabbashi told reporters late Thursday.

Expressing "regret" over the crackdown, Kabbashi said the plan had been to clear an area close to the sit-in — but "excesses happened". He said the military is carrying out its own inquiry, whose findings are to be released on Saturday.

'Harsh and unacceptable'

On Friday, worshippers at the mosque linked to Mahdi's National Umma Party appeared frustrated with the generals' version of the crackdown. "The way the sit-in was dispersed was harsh and unacceptable," said Salim Gebriel, a university professor and member of the National Umma Party.

"They (the military rulers) keep saying they are looking forward to reaching an agreement (with the protest leaders) but their tone sounded as if they may take another route."

Another worshipper, Abdelrahman Amir al-Tom, found the military council's statement to be "extremely disappointing". —AFP ■

Six killed, 16 injured in car bombing in Somalia's Mogadishu

MOGADISHU — At least six people were killed and 16 others injured in bomb blasts in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Saturday, police and medical sources said.

A police officer who declined to be named told Xinhua that a vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) went off at a checkpoint in Sayidka near the parliament building. "The police suspected the car and ordered the driver to park it but he defied and drove off, then the car detonated causing the death of six people," the officer said.

Zakia Hussein, deputy police commander had earlier said

the security forces intercepted a second VBIED which exploded while the driver was being questioned at K4 junction, leaving no casualties. Abdulkadir Abdurrahman, director of Amin ambulance, free ambulance service in Mogadishu said they had carried 16 injured people from the scene.

Witnesses said the blasts were huge and caused panic among the residents.

"We heard a loud explosion as we were passing at KM4 junction and we heard gun fire, but we don't have further details," Farah Elmi, a witness told Xinhua.

The blasts come as the po-

lice tightened security of the capital blocking the main roads of the city to ward off possible attacks by the militants.

Al-Qaida allied group al-Shabab which fights to overthrow the central government claimed the responsibility for the latest bombings.

Somali National Army (SNA) backed by African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) have driven al-Shabab militants out of Mogadishu, but the terror group is still capable of conducting attacks, targeting government installations, hotels, restaurants and public places. —Xinhua ■

Journalists resign after pro-Russia MP buys Ukraine channel

KIEV (Ukraine)— A Ukrainian MP with ties to Russia has bought a national Ukrainian news channel, prompting a round of resignations from journalists who fear his ownership will mean coverage influenced by Moscow.

Taras Kozak of the pro-Moscow party "Opposition Platform" already owned two national TV stations before he took over the channel ZIK this week.

Kozak is a close ally of politician Viktor Medvedchuk, a controversial figure in Ukraine because of his close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin while Kiev is fighting a Moscow-backed separatist war.

Journalist Roman Nedzel'skiy, one of five journalists to resign from the channel along with its CEO, said Medvedchuk now essentially controls ZIK.

"Tomorrow I will be on the air with the last broadcast of the weekly show 'Details' and

then I will start looking for a job," he said on Facebook late Friday.

"Medvedchuk is an enemy of my country, a murderer of both the past and the future," his colleague Vakhtang Kipiiani wrote as he announced his resignation.

Mustafa Nayyem, a Ukrainian MP, wrote on social media that the takeover would be a challenge for new President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"It is difficult to say which is worse — a Russian tank on the demarcation line or a broadcast holding... belonging practically to a relative of Vladimir Putin".

Medvedchuk claims Putin is godfather to one of his daughters.

Ukraine is locked in a five-year conflict with Russia-backed separatists in the east of the country that has claimed over 13,000 lives. — AFP ■



Ebola spreads among humans through close contact with the blood, body fluids, secretions or organs of an infected person. PHOTO: AFP

WHO says DRC Ebola outbreak not an 'international' emergency

GENEVA (Switzerland)—The World Health Organization said Friday that the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo does not qualify as an international threat, despite confirmed cases also in neighbouring Uganda.

WHO's emergency committee said that while the outbreak was a "health emergency in DRC and the region" it did not yet amount to "a public health emergency of international concern." WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who is in DRC reviewing the Ebola response, said he accepted the committee's advice.

"Although the outbreak does not at this time pose a glob-

al health emergency, I want to emphasise that this outbreak is (for those affected) very much an emergency," Tedros told reporters. The WHO panel, which was formed in 2005, has used the label "public health emergency of international concern" only four times previously.

Those included the H1N1, or swine flu, pandemic of 2009, the spread of poliovirus in 2014, the Ebola epidemic that devastated parts of West Africa from 2014 to 2016, and the surge of the Zika virus in 2016. This is third time the committee has considered making the emergency call for the DRC outbreak, which has killed more than 1,400 people since it emerged in August last year. —AFP ■

Hong Kong leader halts extradition bill but opponents vow fresh rally

HONG KONG (China)—Hong Kong's embattled leader on Saturday suspended a hugely divisive bill that would allow extraditions to China in a major climbdown following unprecedented unrest, but protesters vowed to press ahead with a mass Sunday rally.

The international finance hub was rocked by the worst political violence since its 1997 handover to China on Wednesday as tens of thousands of protesters were dispersed by riot police firing tear gas and rubber bullets.

Those clashes came three days after chief executive Carrie Lam refused to be budged by a record-breaking rally in which organisers said more than a million people marched through

the streets calling for the Beijing-backed bill to be scrapped. After days of mounting pressure—including from her own allies -- Lam relented on Saturday, announcing that work on the bill would be halted. She set no deadline for its re-introduction but stopped short of saying it was permanently scrapped. The decision was a rare concession from the city's pro-Beijing leaders who have successfully faced down demands from pro-democracy demonstrators in recent years.

But opponents were unmoved and said they would go ahead with a march on Sunday afternoon, hoping another huge turnout will pile more pressure on the city's beleaguered leader. —AFP ■



Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam backtracked after a major public backlash. PHOTO: AFP

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the following packages. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference No.	Lot No.	Description	Unit	Quantity
G 132	1	Life Jackets	Unit	300
G 133	1	Printed Grievance Envelop	Number	110,000

Expressions of Interest for one or both Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. **Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ) by return email unioncddprocurement@gmail.com.** Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address by corresponding **date and time stated in respective ITQ**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted on lot-by-lot basis. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to the NCDDP, Procurement Unit: Attention to U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Department of Rural Development, Office No.36, Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067418637. Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com. please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

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Reference No.	Lot No.	Description	Quantity
G 144	1	High Speed Scanner	70 Nos

Expressions of Interest on Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. **Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ) by return email unioncddprocurement@gmail.com.** Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address by corresponding **date on Wednesday 03 July 2019, 10:00 am Myanmar time**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted on lot-by-lot basis. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

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Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09974424848

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (039 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (039 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-06-2019 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 ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (022 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (022 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-06-2019 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 GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1103 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1103 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301185

Where **China**, **India** and **ASEAN** meet

By Zaw Min

BACK in 1980 I was a 22 years old engineering student less than a year away from becoming a full fledge engineer. Before I enter the work force, I wanted to find out how real life businesses were and went along with my brother-in-law to our border with Thailand where he was a small time trader. I was astonished to found out that he was not producing anything himself but instead was carrying goods, mostly agriculture products from Myanmar to sell to Thailand and on the way back was carrying manufactured goods from Thailand.

At that time, our country was under socialist economy and as a young aspiring engineer, I was wrecking my brain to find out what sort of manufacturing or industry our country should went into. It was an eye opener for me to see what trade was in my trip to our country's border with Thailand. I realized there that trade can be done even if you don't produce anything.

In 1985 I became a junior research engineer and learnt about

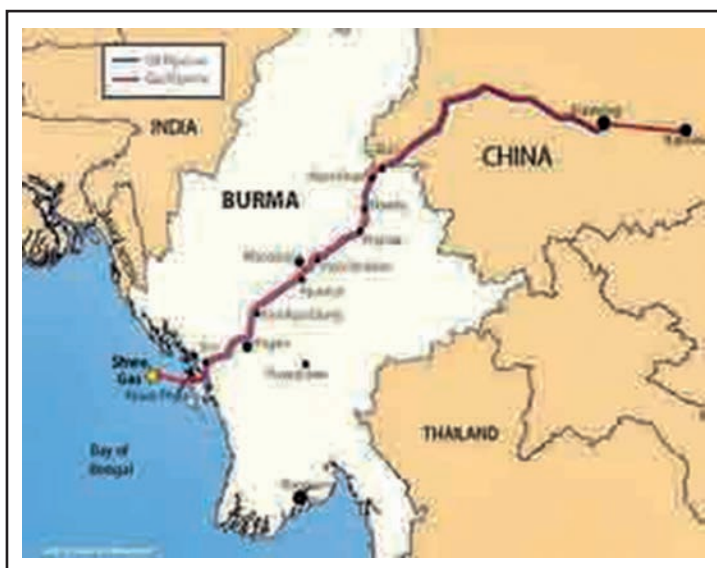
real life work and business. After having my first good experience in the opening market of Myanmar in the early 1990s and gaining some income that I couldn't dreamt of during the socialist era, I was even thinking of going into a newly opening market like Afghanistan as I've seen what can be done and

gained in an economy or market that was opening up. Fortunately or unfortunately I never went down that path so I don't know whether I would have made it great business wise in Afghanistan even though I was pretty cocky and somewhat over confident that I indeed could have made it.

Fast forward another 26 years to 2011 when I already had worked as an engineer, a manager, an advertiser, a marketing man and finally a business developer. I was more mature and not so overtly confident anymore. That was when I read Thant Myint U's book "Where China Meets India." The book brings back to me my first experience about trade in our border with Thailand on 1980. If my brother-in-law could buy and sell or trade Myanmar and Thai goods without producing anything and earn a decent living, a sizable number of our fellow countrymen and women can also earn a decent living buying and selling Chinese, Thai and Indian goods to China, India and Thailand or as an extension ASEAN. Myanmar is where China, India and ASEAN meet. We are at the crossroad or junction.

Look at Singapore which was another country at the crossroad or junction of trade. Looking back historically, east west trade benefited Singapore ever since merchant from east, west and the middle-east as well as locals thrives in the burgeoning trade that has been going on for centuries by now. Singapore starts off as a trading hub or centre and became what it is now as it expanded into other sectors like shipping, refinery and electronics.

Myanmar's population of 50 million is ten times more than Singapore. Combine this market with the combined population of China, India and ASEAN of more than 2.5 billion will give an unimaginable space for



Graphics: Globaltimes.cn

expansion. Market size can be a decisive factor in producing anything. The bigger the market size is, the more option the manufacturer and producer had.

The rich and poorness of the people in a market is also another factor for goods and services to that market. China, India and Asian countries consisting of ASEAN countries were once backward colonies or states. Now most of these countries were becoming mod-

ern and developed. Just look at China. China's middle class was four per cent of its population in 2002. A decade later, this number had climbed to 31 per cent constituting over 420 million people. China's middle class population is now bigger than the entire population of the United States. China's rising and increasing middle class was also the major contributor toward the number of outbound tourists from China as well



Infrastructure projects are at the heart of China's one belt, one road initiative spanning more than 60 countries. PHOTO: XINHUA



21st Century Maritime Silk Road

the world will be number one China, number two US, number three India and number four Japan. Not a single European economy will be among the top four and according to Kishore, this is a huge shift of world history.

Of course whenever we do business, we'll have to seek out the best market for our services and products. But if we have a huge market sitting right beside us that was predicted to become the top of the world's economy in 30 years, wouldn't it be prudent to look at what this huge market had to offer for us? Would it be wise to ignore this huge market nearby and look at much smaller and limited market elsewhere?

China's east coast is a very modern developed place because this was where China's production facilities were churning out goods for the entire world. But China also had western provinces to develop as well as is developing. For this, the best was to create new trade routes. China's One Belt One Road is creating these trade routes. The oil and gas pipeline to China is the revival of the old trade route to China through Myan-

multi-modal transport project with not only the purpose of developing its land-locked eastern provinces but to open up trade routes with ASEAN. Thailand on the east was opening up to their west into Myanmar through Dawei Special Economic Zone and the economic and transport corridors through it. As in the case with the route to China mentioned above, this east west economic and transport corridors will allow not only the flow of Indian, Thailand, ASEAN goods to and fro but our products as well as products for us as well.

Talking about SEZs in Myanmar would bring to the minds of everyone who had any interest in Myanmar about the most developed SEZ of the country – Thilawa SEZ. Thilawa SEZ is becoming more and more of a success story. This doesn't mean that it had the best concept and situation than the other two SEZs of Kyaukphyu and Dawei. We were realizing the potential of Thilawa SEZ to the fullest while the vast and enormous potentials of Kyaukphyu and Dawei were not being realized yet. We hadn't realized the vast and enormous



The United Dynamic arrives in Made Island, Rakhine State with 130,000 metric tons of crude oil that will be sent to China. PHOTO: MNA

mar. In fact the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road built or more correctly upgraded in the early 1990s was the first revival of this old trade route and had now become a major trade route for Myanmar-China trade. Remember World War II when this route and later the Ledo or Stillwell road became a strategic road of importance. Looking at matters from this perspective, the oil and gas pipeline, Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone, rail and road connection to Kyaukphyu via Mandalay from China can be seen as of vital interest not only for China but also for Myanmar and our people as well. It is not only Chinese goods and good for China that will flow long these routes. Our products and products for us can also flow along these routes.

In the same way, India is looking east and was promoting the Kaladan

potential of India's look east policy and China's belt and road program. Just think about the gigantic possibilities for all if Myanmar is not a market of a 50 million people but a market, or a trade route that will connect 2.5 billion people.

A free or more truthfully a fair trade promoted by World Trade Organization had made the world what it was today. Despite the recent revival and the dubious popularity of protectionism and nationalism worldwide that was somewhat of a concern, trade is still strongly believed to continue to make the world a better place to live in for all. For our country Myanmar, where China, India and ASEAN meet, promoting trade and hitching a ride on the developing trade routes would be the surest and simplest way to development and prosperity.



as local travel in China. India on the other hand is becoming a drive engine of the world's economy by providing the majority of the CEOs and leaders of the world's top global companies.

Kishore Mahbubani, a Singaporean academic, a former diplomat, a former Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and author of many thought provoking books such as "Can Asians Think?" and "The New Asian

Hemisphere" had pointed out that the West has been very powerful in the last two hundred years but looking back at the last two thousand years, the two largest economies in the world were consistently China and India. It was only in the last two hundred years that the West has taken off. Now, as the Asian societies are on the path of success a Goldman Sachs study had shown that by 2050, the four largest economies in



Yangon United midfielder Mg Mg Lwin (No.11) manages the ball during the previous MNL match of Yangon United vs Shan United at Yangon United's Sports Complex. **PHOTO: MNL**

Shan United ties Yangon United in U-21 MNL 2019

Shan United (U-21) played to a 0-0 scoreless draw against Yangon United (U-21) in a 2019 season match in the U-21 Myanmar National League (MNL) at Padonmar stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Both teams played energetically from the kickoff, and the scoreless result shows both team's defense lines were strong.

Despite the scoreless finish, the match was played with all-out efforts by both teams, but the indecision of the strikers was evident in yesterday's match, resulting in no goals being scored.

Shan United displayed a fast attack, while opponents also relied on frequent counter attacks.

In the second half, both teams made substitutions, along with new tactics, in order to turbo charge their attack.

Shan United had a number of opportunities to score, but Yangon's keeper Arkar Lin Myat blocked every effort by the young Shan strikers.

Yangon United again attacked Shan United's defense, but their efforts were blurred under the good clearance of Shan United's defenders.

The match became more exciting as time ticked down, with both teams trying to score their opening goal, but the time ended and the match finished with the scoreless result.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Shan United's Zve Khant Min (white) delivers the ball past Yangon United's striker (black) during the U-21 Myanmar National League match at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YUFC**

Yangon's Mg Mg Lwin to miss match against Rakhine United

Yangon United's key midfielder, Mg Mg Lwin, will miss the match against Rakhine United in the Week-12 of the Myanmar National League at Yangon United Sport Complex in Yangon (on 16 June), according to team officials.

Midfielder Mg Mg Lwin has suffered three yellow cards in the

previous matches in the Myanmar National League and will miss a match due to the rules of the tourney, said officials of the national league.

Youth player Mg Mg Lwin has scored five goals for his team this season.

After playing 11 matches in the first half season, host Yangon

United is standing in third place, after garnering 20 points, while visiting team Rakhine United is standing in seventh place with 16 points.

In their last meet in the national league, Yangon United defeated Rakhine United 1-0, due to a single goal by Mg Mg Lwin.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Caster Semenya declines Rabat 800m race: organisers

PARIS (France) — Two-time Olympic champion Caster Semenya will not run her specialist 800m distance at Rabat on Sunday despite having received an invitation to do so, in the latest twist of her bitter court battle over gender rules.

"She received an invitation but is unable to organise her schedule to come to Rabat," organiser Alain Blondel told AFP.

Semenya was cleared to take part in the Diamond League meeting after Switzerland's top court rejected an IAAF request

to re-impose rules obliging her to lower her testosterone before competing in certain events.

Organisers of the Morocco event had initially refused to allow the South African to take part but on Friday they "confirmed her invitation". "After checking the situation of Caster Semenya in the light of the decisions of the Swiss Federal Court, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the head of the international athletics meeting in Rabat, Alain Blondel, is happy to confirm the invitation," a statement on the event's official site said.

The Swiss federal court issued their order on Wednesday, explaining "this means that Caster remains permitted to compete without restriction in the female category at this time". The IAAF had earlier this month opposed a ruling by the court temporarily

suspending the federation's rules following an appeal by Semenya who won the women's 800 metres at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

The athlete was contesting a decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport which previously found the rules were "discriminatory" but "necessary" to ensure fairness in women's athletics.

The rules require women with higher than normal male hormone levels, a condition known as hyperandrogenism, to artificially lower the amount of testosterone in their bodies if they are to compete in races over distances of 400m to the mile.

'I keep winning'

"No woman should be subjected to these rules," Semenya said in a statement Thursday, adding she had "thought hard about not running the 800m in

solidarity unless all women can run free. But I will run now to show the IAAF that they cannot drug us".

The athlete, who underwent a gender test shortly before she won gold at the 2009 Berlin world championships, also dismissed the IAAF's claim that it is committed to the full participation of women in sport.

"I am a woman, but the IAAF has again tried to stop me from running the way I was born," she said in the statement, pointing out the hormonal drugs she had been required to take to compete had made her feel "constantly sick and unable to focus for many years". "No other woman should be forced to go through this," said Semenya, whose Berlin test allegedly showed she had both male and female characteristics.

— AFP ■



Semenya won the women's 800 metres at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics. **PHOTO: AFP**



By Htet Zaw Htoo
(SUOE)
Senior Assistant Teacher
at B.E.H.S. Minemaw

CANNING students in the class is a way of punishment. To be exact, it is termed as corporal punishment. As a penalty for unwanted behaviour such as failing to do homework, paying little attention to the lessons and so on, the infliction of corporal punishment is a common way still being used in the schools. It is fascinating to focus on why it is widely and commonly used and its negative effects.

Experience taught me that life is very fair. There are always two sides in everything and beating students by using the cane in the class is not exception. Despite the fact that it is a way of punishment, it has advantages. One major advantage of canning students is its efficiency. It is undeniable that students feel scared of canes more than other ways. No sooner had they heard that they would be beaten if they failed to do homework than they did their homework. Therefore, it is very efficient not only to leverage wanted behaviour but also to stop unwanted behaviour.

The major argument in favor against canning students is its negative effects on students' emotion. Thinking back our childhood memories, how much canning affects our emotions can be recalled. Although it sometimes stimulates indomitable spirit, it brings more negative effects. In serious cases, teachers who canes students become the teachers they hate most all their lives. In addition to this, canning students strengthens fear among students. When the classroom becomes silent out of fear, teaching-learning procedure is less likely to be effective. When students are gripped by fear, it is less possible to hear their fresh thoughts and critical thinking. A silent classroom because of students' deep-seated fear will

never be effective. Another argument against canning students is that it affects largely on the students' emotion. It is already known that a happy and fun classroom environment can maximize students' learning. That situation cannot be implemented if students feel like they are being threatened by a cane and they find less comfort in the class. In addition, beating some students, especially teens and adults do not work at all. Besides, it can create grudges against teachers and so it can make the situation even worse. What is more, beating students is a traditional way of tackling the problem with the students. In most developed countries, it is not officially allowed to perform as they perceive that this does not bring any benefits from a psychological point of view.

As John Cardi said, the classroom should be an entrance into the world, not an escape from it. Classroom is a crucial place in education. A silent classroom especially due to fear will never be a good classroom. Teachers and their students must be interactive in the classroom. Children need to be allowed to spread their wings of thought freely. The students' creative critical thinking should be enhanced in the classrooms. By using canes, teachers should not lessen the students' opportunities of free thinking and free expression of their opinions. Instead of canning students, there are many other ways to punish them such as reading punishment, sweeping, cleaning the class, overtime punishment and so forth. The more teachers read, the more they know how to handle a child with so many ways rather than canning students every time they are wrong. Therefore, it can be considered that canning students will still be a useful tool for unprofessional teachers who think it is the only solution to handle students with misbehaviors. However, a teacher with advanced thought will never forbid his or her students from thinking freely and their opportunities of expressing their view, showing their talents and so on. Taking everything into account, the cane is not a must for a teacher to punish the students.

Cane:

Is it a must for a teacher to punish the students?





By C. T. O

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Answers

- 1. Come when you like . (Adv Clause)
2. I know the man who gave you the camera. (Adj Clause)
3. I think that he will lend me some money. (Noun Clause)
4. Have you seen the new car that Ko Ko bought? (Adj Clause)
5. He admitted that he wrote that letter. (Noun Clause)
6. He ate when he was hungry. (Adv Clause)
7. I know the place where roses are sold. (Adj Clause)
8. They live where the climate is good. (Adv Clause)
9. I don't know why he has sold the house. (Noun Clause)

LESSON 24

Lesson 23 Adverb Phrases နှင့် Adverb Clauses (ကြိယာဝိသေသနပုဒ်) နှင့် Noun Phrases နှင့် Noun Clauses (နာမ်ပုဒ်) များကို တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။

ယခု Simple, Compound နှင့် Complex Sentences များကို တင်ပြပါမည်။ ပြီးခဲ့သော သင်ခန်းစာတစ်ခုတွင် Cause and Effect (အကြောင်းတရားနှင့် အကျိုးသက်ရောက်မှု) နှင့် ပတ်သက်၍ အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ စာကြောင်းအမျိုးမျိုးရေးနိုင်သည်ဟု တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။

- (1) He was very busy, so he did not attend the meeting. သူ့အလွန်အလုပ်များခဲ့သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် အစည်းအဝေးမတက်ခဲ့ပါ။
(2) As he was very busy, he did not attend the meeting. သူ့အလွန် အလုပ်များသောကြောင့် အစည်းအဝေး မတက်ခဲ့ပါ။
(3) He was so busy that he did not attend the meeting. သူ အလွန်အလုပ်များလွန်းသည့်အတွက်ကြောင့် အစည်းအဝေး မတက်ခဲ့ပါ။
(4) He was too busy to attend the meeting. သူ့အစည်းအဝေး မတက်နိုင်လောက်အောင် အလုပ် များခဲ့သည်။
(5) He did not attend the meeting because he was very busy. သူ အစည်းအဝေးမတက်ခဲ့ပါ။ အဘယ့်ကြောင့်ဆိုသော် သူ့အလွန် အလုပ်များခဲ့ပါသည်။
(6) He did not attend the meeting because of his being very busy. သူ့ အလွန် အလုပ်များခြင်းကြောင့် အစည်းအဝေး မတက်ခဲ့ပါ။
(7) Being very busy, he did not attend the meeting. အလွန် အလုပ်များခြင်းကြောင့် သူ အစည်းအဝေး မတက်ခဲ့ပါ။ အထက်ပါစာကြောင်းများသည် တည်ဆောက်မှုပုံသဏ္ဍာန်ကွဲသော်လည်း အဓိပ္ပာယ်မှာ အတူတူပင် ဖြစ်သည်။ စာကြောင်းပုံသဏ္ဍာန်၌ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences ဟူ၍ သုံးမျိုးရှိသည်။ အထက်ပါ စာကြောင်းများတွင် (1) သည် Compound Sentences ဖြစ်သည်။ (2), (3), (5) သည် Complex Sentences များဖြစ်သည်။ (4), (6), (7) သည် Simple Sentences များဖြစ်သည်။ ယခု Simple, Compound နှင့် Complex Sentences များကို ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

Simple Sentences

A Simple Sentence is one which has only one subject and one predicate.

Simple Sentence ဆိုသည်မှာ ကတ္တား (ပြုလုပ်သူ) တစ်ခုနှင့် ဝါစက (ကြိယာ) တစ်ခုတည်းသာ ပါဝင်သော ဝါကျဖြစ်သည်။ ဝါကျတစ်ခုသည် တိုသည်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ရှည်သည်ဖြစ်စေ၊ ကတ္တား (Subject) တစ်ခု တည်းနှင့် ဝါစက (predicate) တစ်ခုတည်းသာ ပါဝင်လျှင် ထိုဝါကျသည် Simple Sentence ဖြစ်သည်။ အောက်ပါစာကြောင်းများမှာ Simple Sentence များဖြစ်သည်။ Subject (ကတ္တား) တစ်ခုတည်းနှင့် Predicate (ဝါစက) တစ်ခုတည်းသာ ပါသည်ကို အထူးသတိပြုပါ။ (1) All news is new. သတင်းမှန်သမျှ လောလောလတ်လတ်ဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့သော အကြောင်းအရာချည်းပင်။

- (2) The enemy of my enemy is my friend. ငါ့ ရန်သူ၏ရန်သူသည် ငါ့မိတ်ဆွေဖြစ်သည်။
(3) To meet is to part. တွေ့ဆုံရခြင်းသည် ခွဲခွာရန်ဖြစ်သည်။
(4) Life is an adventure. ဘဝဟူသည် စွန့်စားမှုတစ်ခုပင်။
(5) You can help me by looking after my children. ကျွန်ုပ်၏ ကလေးများကို စောင့်ရှောက်ခြင်းအားဖြင့် သင် ကျွန်ုပ်ကို ကူညီနိုင်သည်။
(6) We can serve ourselves best by serving others. အခြားသူများ၏ အကျိုးကို ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းအားဖြင့် မိမိအကျိုးကို အကောင်အထူးဆောင် ရွက်နိုင်သည်။ (အများအကျိုးဆောင် ကိုယ့်အကျိုးအောင်။)
(7) There is no place like home. မိမိနေအိမ်နှင့်တူသော နေရာဟူ၍ မရှိ။
(8) A man without an ambition is like a boat without a rudder. ဘဝရည်မှန်းချက် မရှိသော လူတစ်ယောက်သည် ပဲ့မပါသော လှေတစ်စင်းနှင့် တူသည်။
(9) Time cures all sorrows. အချိန်သည် သောကအားလုံးကို ကုစားသည်။
(10) She has a brother reading in this school. သူမမှာ ဤကျောင်းတွင် တက်ရောက်သင်ကြားနေသော မောင် တစ်ယောက်ရှိသည်။
(11) She saw the boy flying kites in the field. သူမသည် လူကလေးများ လယ်ကွင်းထဲတွင် စွန်လွှတ်နေသည်ကို မြင်ခဲ့သည်။
(12) The boys attending this training course are from our school. ဤသင်တန်း တက်ရောက်နေသော လူကလေးများသည် ကျွန်တော်တို့ ကျောင်းမှ ဖြစ်သည်။
(13) I like the songs composed by Ko Lay Nyunt. ကျွန်တော်သည် ကိုလေးညွန့်စပ်သော သီချင်းများကို ကြိုက်သည်။
(14) The man wanted by the police is a murderer. ရဲအလိုရှိသော လူကြီးသည် လူသတ်သမားတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။

Compound Sentences

အောက်ပါစာကြောင်းကို လေ့လာပါ။ (a) The night was dark and we lost our way. ညသည် မှောင်၍ ငါတို့လမ်းပျောက်ခဲ့ကြသည်။ ဤစာကြောင်းတွင် အစိတ်အပိုင်းနှစ်ခုပါသည်။ တစ်ခုသည် the night was dark (ညသည် မှောင်သည်) ဖြစ်၍ ကျန်တစ်ခုမှာ we lost our way (ငါတို့ လမ်းပျောက်ခဲ့သည်) ဖြစ်သည်။ ထိုအစိတ်အပိုင်းနှစ်ခုကို စာကြောင်းဆက်စကားလုံး (Co-ordinating Conjunction) and နှင့် ဆက်ထားသည်။ အစိတ်အပိုင်းတစ်ခုစီတွင် ကိုယ်ပိုင်ကတ္တား (subject) တစ်ခုနှင့် ဝါစက (predicate) တစ်ခုပါဝင်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် အစိတ်အပိုင်းတစ်ခုစီသည် ဝါကျကြီးဖြစ်သော The night was dark and we lost our way ထဲမှ ဝါကျငယ်ဖြစ်သည်။ ထိုကဲ့သို့သော ဝါကျကို ပုဒ်စု (clause) တစ်ခုဖြစ်၍ we lost our way သည်လည်း ပုဒ်စု (clause) တစ်ခုဖြစ်သည်။ ဤပုဒ်စု နှစ်ခုစလုံးသည် မိမိဘာသာစာကြောင်းတစ်ကြောင်းစီအဖြစ်လည်း ရပ်တည် နိုင်သည်။ တစ်ခုပေါ်တစ်ခု မှီခိုရာမလိုပေ။ တစ်ခုစီသည် မိမိဘာသာလွတ်လပ်စွာရပ်တည် နိုင်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် an independent clause ဖြစ်သည်။ တစ်နည်းအားဖြင့် a co-ordinate (ပူးတွဲဆောင်ရွက်သော) ပုဒ်စုဖြစ်သည်။ ယခုကဲ့သို့ co-ordinate clause (ပူးတွဲဆောင်ရွက်သော ပုဒ်စု) နှစ်ခုတို့ဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော ဝါကျကို Compound Sentence ဟု ခေါ်သည်။ A Compound Sentence is one made up of two or more co-ordinate clauses. Compound Sentence ဆိုသည်မှာ မိမိဘာသာ လွတ်လပ်စွာရပ်တည် နိုင်သော ပုဒ်စု (Co-ordinate Clauses) အနည်းဆုံးနှစ်ခုဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထား သောဝါကျဖြစ်သည်။ တစ်နည်းအားဖြင့် ပြောရလျှင် Co-ordinating Conjunctions များဖြစ် သည့် and, so, but, or, either-or, neither-nor, both ... and; not only ... but also တို့ဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော စာကြောင်းများသည် Compound Sentences များဖြစ်သည်။ အောက်ပါ Compound Sentences များကို လေ့လာပါ။ (1) You must work hard or you will fail.

- သင်ကြားစားရမည် သို့မဟုတ်ပါက သင်ကျွန်းလိမ့်မည်။
(2) He came late, so he was punished. သူ့နောက်ကျ ရောက်လာသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် သူ့အပြစ်ပေးခံခဲ့ရသည်။
(3) He failed again but he was not disappointed. သူ့နောက်တစ်ကြိမ် ကျွန်းပြန်သည် သို့ရာတွင် သူ စိတ်မပျက်ခဲ့ပါ။
(4) They played well and they were selected. သူတို့ကောင်းစွာ ကစားခဲ့ကြ၍ အရွေးခံခဲ့ရသည်။
(5) She is neither too fat nor too thin. သူမ မဝလွန်းမပိန်လွန်းပါ။
(6) Either Ko Ko or Nyi Nyi is wrong. ကိုကိုသော်လည်းကောင်း ညီညီသော်လည်းကောင်း မှားသည်။
(7) They are rich but (they are) not happy. သူတို့ ချမ်းသာကြသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် မပျော်ရွှင်ပါ။
(8) Both father and mother are teachers. အဖေရောအမေပါ ကျောင်းဆရာများဖြစ်ကြသည်။
(9) He had no money, so he could not take a taxi. သူ့မှာ ငွေမရှိခဲ့ပါ။ ထို့ကြောင့် သူကတ္တစ်မစီးနိုင်ခဲ့ပါ။
(10) She cried and he sighed. သူမ ငိုခဲ့၍ သူ့သက်ပြင်းချခဲ့သည်။

Complex Sentences

အောက်ပါဝါကျကို လေ့လာပါ။ She came out when she saw me. ကျွန်တော်ကို မြင်သောအခါ သူမအပြင်သို့ ထွက်လာသည်။ ဤဝါကျတွင်လည်း (a) She came out. (သူမအပြင်သို့ ထွက်လာသည်။) နှင့် when she saw me (သူမ ကျွန်တော်ကို မြင်သောအခါ) ဟူသော အစိတ်အပိုင်းနှစ်ခုပါရှိသည်။ အစိတ်အပိုင်းတစ်ခုစီတွင်လည်း ကိုယ်ပိုင်ကတ္တား (Subject) နှင့် ဝါစက (Predicate) တစ်ခုစီပါရှိသည်။ She came out ဟူသော ပုဒ်စု (clause) သည် မိမိဘာသာဝါကျတစ်ခုအဖြစ် သီးခြားလွတ်လပ်စွာရပ်တည်နိုင်စွမ်းရှိသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် Principal Clause သို့မဟုတ် Main Clause (အဓိက ပုဒ်စု) ဟုခေါ်သည်။ သို့ရာတွင် when she saw me (သူမ ကျွန်တော်ကို မြင်သောအခါ) ဟူသော ပုဒ်စုမှာမူကား မိမိဘာသာလွတ်လပ်စွာ ရပ်တည်နိုင်စွမ်းမရှိပေ။ She came out ဟူသော ပုဒ်စု (clause) ကို မှီခိုနေရသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် dependent (မှီခိုရသော) သို့မဟုတ် Subordinate (လက်အောက်ခံဖြစ်သော) ပုဒ်စု ဖြစ်သည်။ ထိုကဲ့သို့ အဓိကပုဒ်စု (Main Clause) တစ်ခုနှင့် လက်အောက်ခံပုဒ်စု (Subordinate Clause) တစ်ခု သို့မဟုတ် တစ်ခုထက်မက တို့ဖြင့် တည်ဆောက် ထားသော ဝါကျများသည် Complex Sentences များဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် Complex Sentence ဆိုသည်မှာ Main Clause (အဓိက ပုဒ်စု) တစ်ခုနှင့် Subordinate Clause (လက်အောက်ခံပုဒ်စု) အနည်းဆုံးတစ် ခုဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော ဝါကျဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ချုပ်လိုက်လျှင် ယခင်က သင်ခန်းစာများတွင် တင်ပြခဲ့သော Adjective Clauses (နာမ်ဝိသေသနပုဒ်စု) Adverb Clauses (ကြိယာဝိသေသနပုဒ်စု) နှင့် Noun Clauses နာမ်ပုဒ်စုတို့ဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော ဝါကျအားလုံးသည် Complex Sentences များဖြစ်သည်။ (a) Adjective Clauses (နာမ်ဝိသေသနပုဒ်စု) များမှာ who, whose, whom, which, that, where တို့ဖြင့် ဆက်သော ပုဒ်စုများဖြစ်သည်။ အဓိက ပုဒ်စုတစ်ခုနှင့် မှီခိုရသော ပုဒ်စုအနည်းဆုံးတစ်ခု ပါဝင်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် Complex Sentences များဖြစ်သည်။ လေ့လာပါ။ (1) Happy is the man who has no worries. (The man who has no worries is happy.) သောကမရှိသောသူသည် ပျော်သည်။ (2) The girl who lives next door was admitted to the YIT. တစ်ဖက်ခန်းတွင်နေသော မိန်းကလေးသည် စက်မှုတက္ကသိုလ်သို့ ဝင်ခွင့်ရခဲ့သည်။ (3) He who listens hears. နားထောင်သောသူ ကြား၏။ (4) Those who take part will get prizes. ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲသောသူများ ဆုရလိမ့်မည်။ (5) The lady (whom) Ko Ko wants to marry has already been engaged to my friend Sein Lin. ကိုကို လက်ထပ်လိုက်သောအမျိုးသမီးကို ကျွန်တော်မိတ်ဆွေ စိန်လင်းနှင့် စေ့စပ်ကြောင်း လမ်းပြီးပါပြီ။ (6) The woman whose son was killed in a car accident yesterday has gone mad. မနေက ကားတိုက်မှုတစ်ခုတွင် သူမ၏သားသေဆုံးခဲ့ရသည့် အမျိုးသမီးကြီး ယခုနေ့သွားရှာပြီ။ (7) The tales which Ma Ma tells us every night are very interesting. မမညတိုင်း ကျွန်တော်တို့ကို ပြောပြလေ့ရှိသော ပုံပြင်များသည် အလွန်စိတ်ဝင်စား ဖွယ်ကောင်းသည်။ (8) Do you know the place where Ko Ko keeps the keys? ကိုကို သော့များ သိမ်းထားလေ့ရှိသော နေရာကို သင်သိသလား။ (TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

“Only when discipline dwells in the hearts of all people!”

By Zin Linn Myint
Primary Teacher,
Basic Education High School
(branch) Myoma-3,
Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region.



YESTERDAY, I went to the teashop where I usually meet with my seniors for educational purposes. It is in the hub of my town situated at the junction near the Basic Education High School, Myoma. It is also a place which has quick access to all the prominent places of my town such as Township Hospital, Myoma market, Myanmar Economic Bank and Township General Administration Department etc...

As soon as I reached there, I chose a convenient table close to the road side so as to catch the beautiful images of the busy town. Then, what came across to my eyes was the careless and undisciplined parking of a private car driven by the officers of the certain well-known ministry. (In fact, they wore their uniform.) Actually, I didn't have enough courage to request them to park their car close to the pavement. What I could do was just wondering if they realized their misconduct to civil municipal laws and traffic laws.

At the same time, I saw a lady on a driving motorbike who suddenly stopped to answer her ringing telephone. Then, she occupied the main area of the road sitting on her motorbike and talking to the other person on the phone. All the passers-by on the road had to avoid her while she was blocking the traffic for her own sake, and there she spent for about five minutes. I was really amazed for a minute seeing their misdeeds.

During the recent water festival, almost all people have heard a very disappointing news of the youngsters who took away the traditional Patheingyi umbrellas which were decorated for Thingyan. This news has covered the social media for a few days exchanging criticisms and complaints according to the sides they take.

Another matter was about littering in public areas. Everyone can see the disgusting colourful plastic rubbish which are spread along the road sides in almost every town. It was a decade-long problem of developing countries including our country. As an effort to get public awareness of the danger of plastics, some enthusiasts and social activists raised the campaigns to collect rubbish from public areas in the title of "Clean-up Challenge", and they did their best to set up the rubbish free area. What a disappointment was that the new pile of rubbish appeared and covered up the challenged place on the next day.

Talking about this matter, a certain snapshot of my old friend, who always talked about ethics and civil laws, flashed on my memory. One day, he was talking about the people who carelessly threw rubbish in public areas. At that time he was at a table of the teashop where we used to sit, and he was talking loudly how people were bad and violating the laws by throwing rubbish carelessly. As soon as his story was over, he recklessly spat out betel spit onto the ground. To his embarrassment, I moved the betel quid spitoon to the place he had spat.

In the above events, the officers I mentioned may probably give their followers the guidelines not to litter, or they may even make the strict disciplines within their responsible society. But, actually, when they are out of their work sites and have to walk in the public places, they seem to forget to follow the disciplines in public.

After the meetings and seminars, we can easily find out the scattered rubbish such as pieces of tissue paper, bottles of cold drink and empty plastic bags under the chairs of dignified persons.

With the slogan of the people-elected government led by State Counsellor, "It's time to change", our country seems to be in progress towards the mature democracy. But there are so many spoiled people who are still addicted to the old habits as if they were in the time of military government.

In building a country, only words without work will not work properly. "Building a Castle in the Air" may be a proverb to remind the presence of the people of verbose words. But, what our country urgently needs at present is the people of discipline in every institution and association rather than the people of empty words. My opinion is to point out the fallacies of people that they do miss the point when it really comes to!

In conclusion, if we are honestly eager to build our country into developed one in our very eyes, we all should practise the rules and regulations and follow the disciplines exactly and harmoniously regardless of the ranks designated.

Our country will be stronger only when the "discipline" dwells in the heart of each and every citizen.



A Water Bus ferry boat sails to the Shwesantwa Pagoda in Twante.



A Water Bus ferry boat arrives in Pansodan Jetty.



On Sundays, the special ferry offers a pleasant trip for families from Botahtaung to Twante.



Traditional weaving industry in Shansu Ward is renowned for cotton textiles.



Beautiful pots in finishing touches of a potter.

Yangon residents use day trip to Twante by water bus to relieve city stress

By Kyaw Zeya

To escape from choking city life, daily stress and pressures at work, a day's vacation to Twante by water bus every Sunday has become popular among Yangonites.

Rural life, with traditional pottery, weaving clothing and the fresh fruits and vegetables found at local bazaars, along with a visit to the historic Shwesantaw Pagoda, can help visitors feel free from daily stress.

The water bus leaves Botahtaung Jetty at 9 am. Seeing Yangon from the river is a pleasure. Shortly after the ship leaves the jetty, the scenes of small motorized boats providing ferry services across the river and catching fish in the river, as vessels come into view, refreshes Sunday vacationers who have to live with traffic congestion, air pollution and busy traffic on their roads.

The best part of the journey is the cool and fresh breeze that we need to breathe every day to enjoy good health.

About 30 minutes after the departure from the jetty, the ship enters into the Twante Canal. Fishing boats casting nets in the canal and pagodas flanking the water route to Twante are unforgettable sites.

After about one hour of sailing in the canal, the ship arrives in Twantay.

In fact, Twantay, located about 15 miles north of Yangon, is the historic town known for its clay pots.

Discovering ancient kiln-sites in Twantay reflects the town's past glory of clay pots and ceramic products. The town has also attracted local and foreign ceramic researchers.

Unfortunately, this trip does not include visiting the kiln museums in the forest of the Twante.

But, two buses are ready to bring visitors to see traditional pottery in Ohbo Ward. Visitors have the opportunity to purchase clay toys as souvenirs for their children.

A second stop is a traditional weaving industry in Shansu Ward. Traditional weaving is one of Myanmar's ancient crafts. It is an honoured handicraft handed down from generation to generation. The people of Myanmar made their clothing on these handlooms.

This cottage industry is offering hand-woven clothing and bags, and is crowded with visitors every Sunday. After thirty minutes, visitors set off for their third stop, the Shwesandaw Pagoda, which is the major pilgrimage site in the town.

The visitors have thirty-minute to tour the pagoda, and they can also eat lunch provided by the ships' crews while sitting under the trees.

Before going back to Yangon, visitors also have an opportunity to visit a local bazaar to purchase locally-grown fruits and vegetables.

The water bus arrives back at the Botahtaung Jetty at 3 pm.

The number of vacationers on board is high in tourism season, reaching more than 200, said a member of a ship's crew. But, the number decreases in the rainy season.

A ticket costs K7,000 for a local resident, and it includes a lunch box, coffee and bottled water. The price is US\$15 for a foreigner.

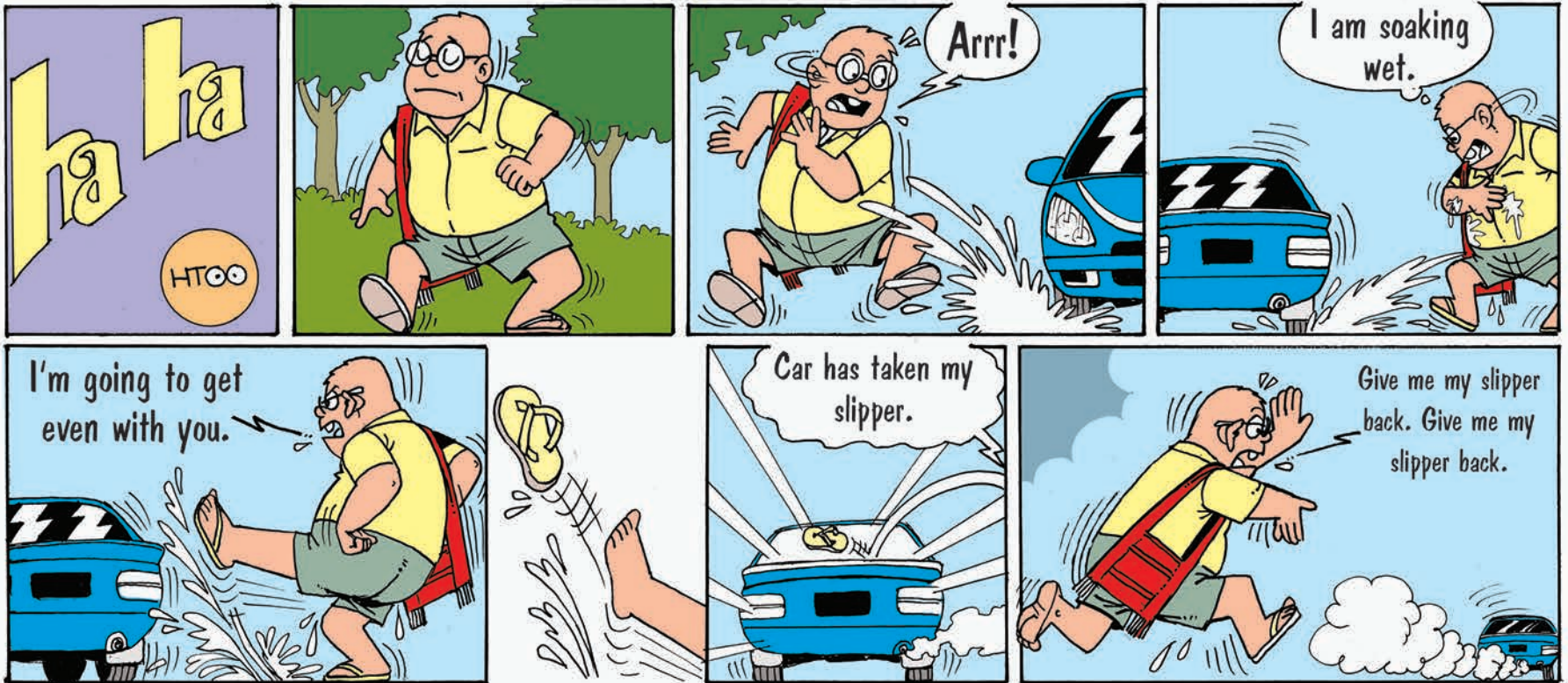
Tickets are available in advance, or can be purchased on arrival at the jetty.



A potter at work forms and squeezes the clay lump into a graceful shaped pot in Twante.

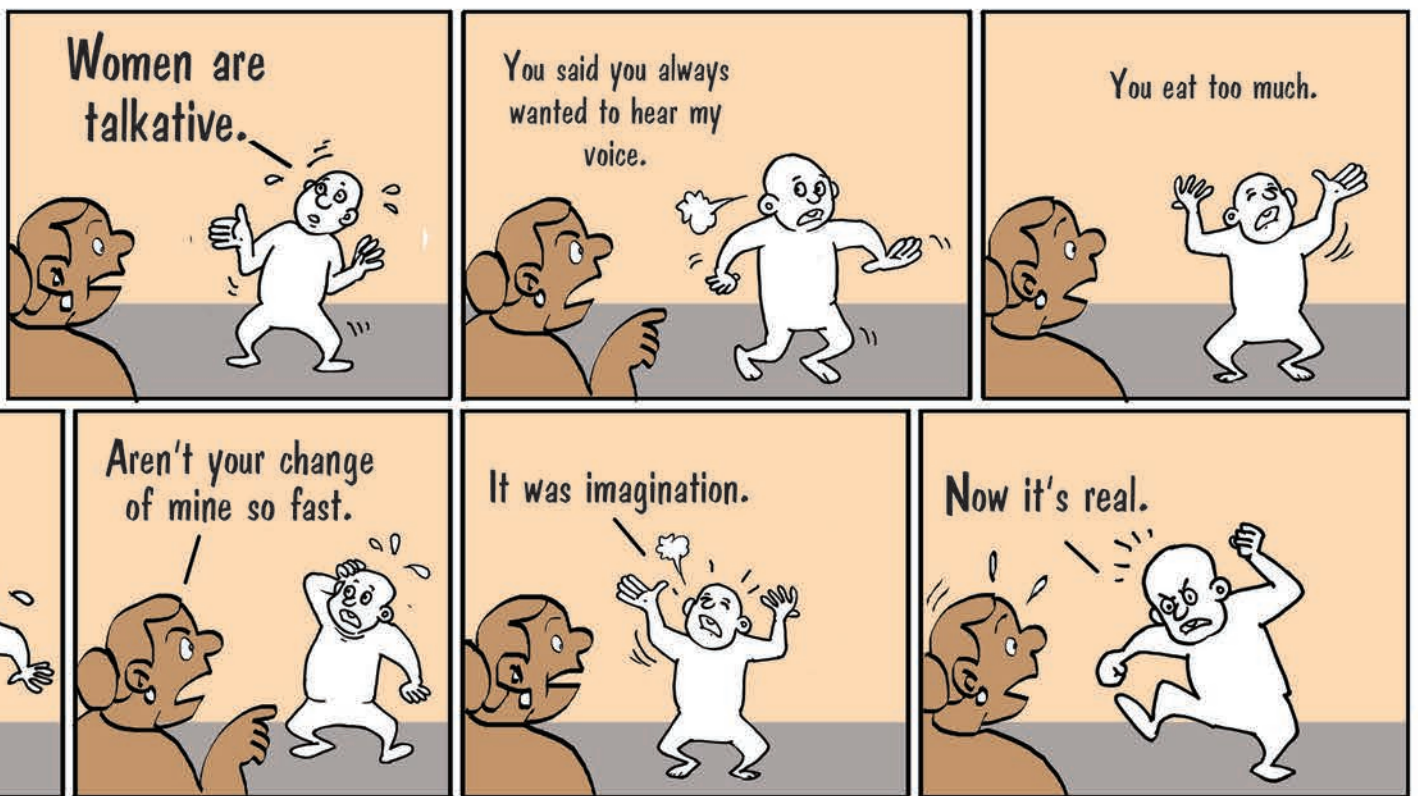
PHOTOS: KYAW ZEYA

SUNDAY COMICS



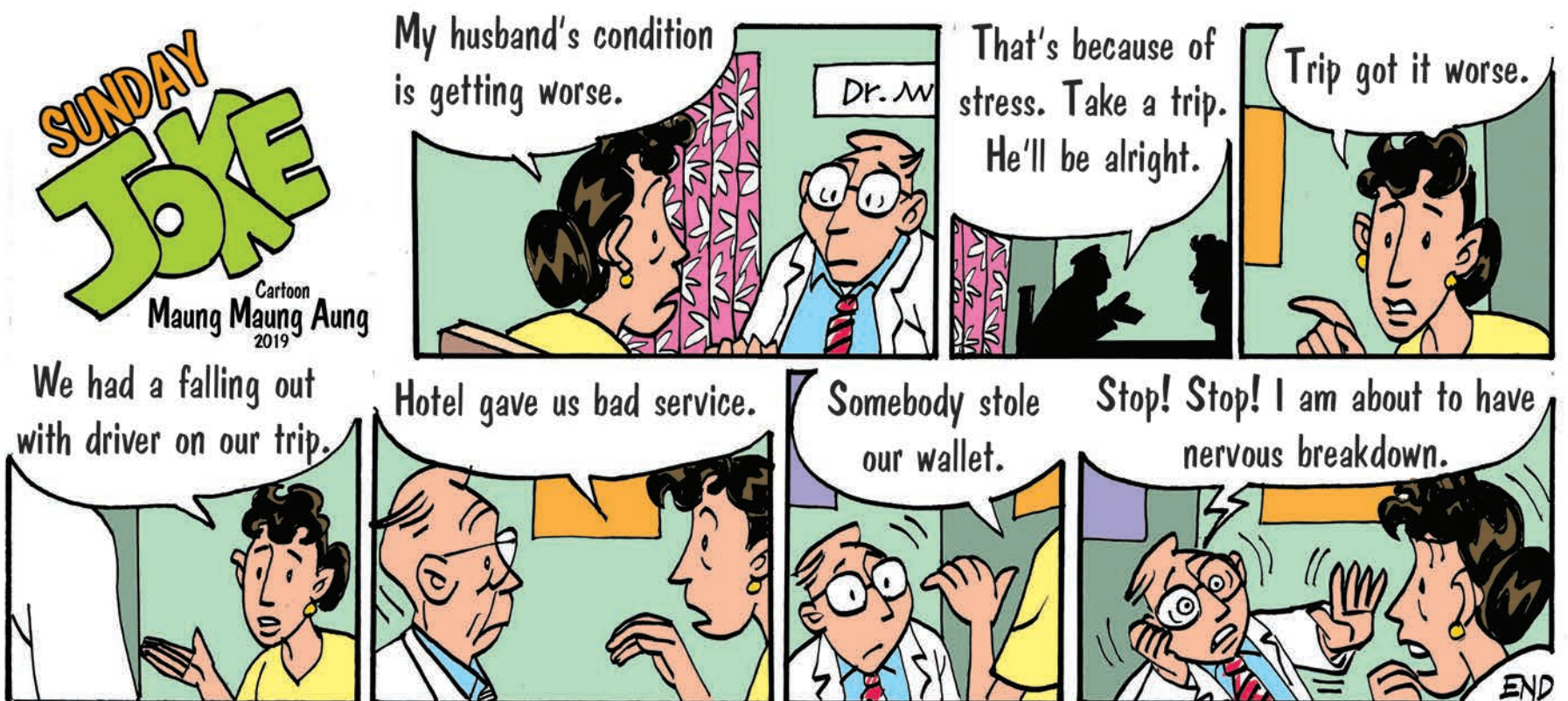
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2019



To the Bilugyun (Bilu Island)



By May Thu Htay
2nd year Honours Student,
English Specialization,
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The inauguration ceremony of the Bogyoke Aung San Bridge.

A FEW days ago, I went travelling to the Bilugyun, where is within Mon State areas. Everyone might not have heard of this island, as it is not connected to the capital of the Mon State, Mawlamyine long days ago. But now, thanks to the government's action for the infrastructural development, Bogyoke Aung San Bridge that joins the Mawlamyine to Chaungzone Township on the island of Bilugyun was officially opened on 9 May 2017. The bridge eases the Mon ethnic people's lives, in the aspects of work, healthcare, education, economic and transportation.

Before the bridge was built, the only access to the Bilu Island was by ships, cargo ships from Mawlamyine. Now, the local people can conveniently travel from one place to another which can improve their livelihood in many means. The Mon ethnics residing in the villages on the Bilu Island, mostly whose vocations are relying on the

agriculture, rubber manufacturing, the handicrafts production are hospitable and their Mon accent mixing when they speak Burmese Language is charming.

Nevertheless, on account of the location, being an island, the residences there have to face the hardships. In the times when rain falls continuously, the farmers' paddies are ruined and there are inconveniences for their incomes. When this incidences happen many times, the current generations only intend to work at Thailand and the villages are only left with children and the aged. As these people can work at Thailand easily as Thailand is located in a near distance, they can now solve the problems for their livelihood and they can earn money which, in practice, is the savior for humans as the stuffs can only be possessed with money. Some of them can even get richer. However, what I see is that the youths, men and women in their primes who currently

work in Thailand one day will realize that for their progenies, they will not let them go there when they can save enough money to be supportive parents. So, what should be carried out is to assist the local people to do their businesses in their hometown with systematic plans and to develop the educational system on the Bilu Island so that the new generations can be strong human resources for Myanmar. Sincerely, I have to say that Bilu Island, which cannot even have the electricity and the accessibility of the transportations in the past have improved a lot. But on the other hand, there are still issues that need to be dealt with. So, I hope that as the doctrine of the flower goes "If you plunk one, one more rises," even all the inconveniences of the our brethren cannot be figured out immediately, if we can target for the upcoming generation, there will be the sign of progress for this island.

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