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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi views the medical treatment demonstration with the use of modern teaching aid at St. Mary's Hospital. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor attends dinner hosted by Boris Johnson, visits St. Mary's Hospital

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is currently in London, UK on an official visit, attended a dinner hosted by British Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson at Carlton Gardens, London Friday evening.

At the dinner, views were

exchanged and discussions held on promotion of Myanmar-Britain bilateral relations and cooperation, improving the professional qualifications of the Myanmar Police force, cementing cooperation in education and health sectors, development and continued

help by Britain in the Myanmar Peace and national unity process.

At 3 p.m local time, the State Counsellor and party visited St. Mary's Hospital in London and viewed the medical treatment demonstration using modern education support

equipment.

Serving as an academic health science centre, St. Mary's Hospital is cooperating with and assisting the Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports in teaching medical subjects.—Myanmar News Agency ■



NATIONAL

Gov't to amend 1998 cultural heritage law as it steps up for enlisting Bagan in World Heritage list

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Today issue contains an eight-page special pull-out supplement.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Peace Commission Press Release 11th Waxing of Kason 1379 ME 6 May 2017

1. The Peace Commission has been negotiating with the national ethnic armed groups to be able to successfully hold the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong.
2. The delegation led by the Chairman of the Peace Commission met with DPN (Delegation for Political Negotiation) consisting of (KIO, SSPP, KNPP, NMSP, ANC, LDU, WNO) at Chiang Mai, in Thailand on 28th April 2017, to negotiate for the signing of the NCA (National Ceasefire Agreement),

and to attend the Second meeting of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong to be held on May 24, 2017.

3. During the period of negotiating the 9 facts proposed by DPN (Delegation for Political Negotiation) in order to sign the NCA, matters on signing DoC—Deed of Commitment was negotiated as well.
4. In addition, the Peace Commission will make efforts to negotiate with all national ethnic armed groups which have not yet signed the NCA, for all national ethnic armed groups to take part in the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong for seeking a solution by means of political negotiations without trying to solve political problems through fighting and it will continue to negotiate by following the NCA Path. (Unofficial Translation)

1998 cultural heritage law to be amended before Bagan added to World Heritage list

THE government has a plan to amend the 1998 Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions Law as it no longer suited current situations, said Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko.

The remark came at the press conference on conservation of Bagan Cultural Heritage in Bagan yesterday.

He also disclosed that as regards submission to have Bagan Cultural Heritage designated in the list of global heritage, Nomination Dossier will have to be tendered at the end of September, 2017, with Nomination Dossier and Management Plan to be submitted in January 2018.

Following this, International Council on Monuments & Sites (ICOMOS) will come to Bagan Cultural Zone, for inspection and it will enquire attitudes of the locals, according to Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko.

"If we cannot carry out the task of renewing Bagan region, it cannot be carried out to do remaining works of writing nomination dossiers which are being done to have the region enlisted," he said.

The plan to have Bagan Cultural Zone designated in the list of world heritage was launched since 1996.

"It had been resumed to have Bagan Region enlisted in the list of global heritage in 2017-



Hot air balloons carrying tourists over Bagan, one of the tourist attractions of Myanmar. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

2018. If and when Bagan Region has been enlisted in the global heritage, the invisible benefit we will gain is none other than "National Dignity," said the Union Minister.

"In case, the plan to submission of having Bagan region designated in the list of global heritage had been delayed due to various reasons, it must be assumed that we will lose a chance on national dignity," he said, "Having Bagan cultural heritage enlisted in the global heritage, we will get cutting-edge technique and monetary subsidy to

be provided by advanced UNESCO member countries."

The local ancestors maintained the cultural heritages their forefathers established and cultivated, for thousands of years.

Like Myanmar, countries across the world have been facing natural disasters.

The Union Minister added, "It had been planned to submit to have Mrauk U region designated in the list of global heritage and to have Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon enlisted in UNESCO, temporarily.

Following that, Union Minister and responsible officials replied to the questions raised by media men, as to the plan of having Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone designated in the global heritage list, conservation of quake-hit pagodas in Bagan Region.

Present at the press release ceremony on designation of the area to have Bagan cultural heritage zone designated in the list of global heritage, were responsible officials, departmental officials and media men. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Scholarship offered for under graduates and post graduates

AS a part of contribution to the human resource development in Myanmar, STI Myanmar University offers scholarship to the outstanding students in Myanmar under its special program.

The scholarship will be offered for the undergraduate courses of business management, accounting and post graduate course of business management opened by department of economics, undergraduate course of architecture, civil engineering, electronic, and architecture and civil engineering opened by the department of engineer, post graduates course for food and nutrition, hospital and health service management opened by the department of medicine.

The selection process takes into account the community services and activities of the candidates in addition to their academic qualifications. The full scholarship for the under graduates and 50 per cent scholarship for post graduate were offered. Apart from the students, employed persons are also entitled for the scholarship program.

The post graduate student can apply for the scholarship until May 20 and undergraduate till May 25, addressing to No 10, MICT Park, Hlaing Campus, Yangon. The contact phones were 01-507151, 09-250064451 and to B 15, 16, corner of 66th and Thazin street, Chanyatharzi township, Mandalay. Phone contacts were 09-783800062-63-64. —Ko Nyi ■

Heavy rain makes Kawthoung flooded

Due to the heavy rain on May 5, streets in downtown area in Kawthoung township in Taninthayi Region were flooded. Heavy rain came amidst the continuous flush of light-

ning and thunders and caused floods in the town as the time coincided with the rising tides. The rising floods stopped all movement of cars and other vehicles on the town roads

for an hour. Lower areas were worst hit as flood waters flowed into the ground floor of some homes. Fortunately, the rain stopped in an hour and no major damage caused.

The townfolks are worried about the current drainage system that needs repair before the coming rainy season. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■

Two thieves arrested in Yangon

WHILE working on patrol on 2 May police found a safe including 62 lakhs, 2 visiting cards, a photo, 1 purse and a note book close to the bridge over the railroad near Thamada Cinema and investigated for owner and thieves in railway quarters, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township.

Police discovered that the

safe was stolen from a tea shop on Bogoyoke Aung San Street by two jobless men Pho Khat and Kyaw Soe Lin from Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township and arrested the two men on 3 May. On questioning, it was confirmed that the two suspects stole the safe and an axe from the tea shop and were trying to break

it open near the bridge. When people passing by noticed the two actions, the two fled leaving the safe behind.

The Pabedan police station is continuing the investigation of the two suspects if they had committed any other crimes. —Myanmar Police Force ■

Raw Opium seized in Phakant

An anti-drug squad in Mohnyin searched a motorbike driven by Khaung Lwan near Mu Tower Post on Wahikhar-Hsaitaung road in Phakant Township on 5 May and seized 1.2 kilo weight of raw opium.

Similarly on the same day, a local anti-drug squad from Lashio seized 2090

stimulant pills in a search of a motorbike driven by Kyaw Zeya Myo at mile post (80/4) Muse-Mandalay Pyidaungsu highway.

Police have filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —Myanmar Police Force ■

Ks 230 million for Buthitaung township development in northern Rakhine State

BUTHIDAUNG Township in northern Rakhine State will spend over Ks 230 million for its development during the fiscal year 2017-2018, according to its development affairs committee.

The amount Ks 230 million that covers 23 programs does not include the funds allotted by the state government as it solely comes from committee's coffers, said an official of township development affairs committee, saying the state government hasn't informed us about its allotted budget for us and the type and number of development undertakings yet.

During the previous fiscal, the township used nearly Ks 317 million from its budget for 22 projects and about Ks 327 million allotted by the state government for six projects totaling round about Ks 644 million. The

projects covered construction of market, bridges, and retaining walls, installing pipes and paving town roads.

Initially, the expenditure for this fiscal was earmarked at over K 260 million, but the careful revision of the works and detailed calculations show the probable coast at over Ks 230 million, according to the committee.

This fiscal's works include gravelling of the circular road, erection of the second bridge on Minphalaung Road, a concrete bridge on the Strand Road and the third bridge on Maygawady Street, roofing of the wells, replacement and installation of water supply pipes, tarring and gravelling of intra roads, explained the engineering sector of the committee.—Maung Sein Lwin, Hla Kyaw (Buthidaung) ■

Kayah State Chief Minister assists in repairing gale-hit houses

KAYAH State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho assisted yesterday in repairing houses which destroyed by a gale-force winds in Loikaw Township on Thursday.

The strong wind blew off

roofs of three houses at Mikekan Village in Lawpita Village-tract in Loikaw Township.

The chief minister encouraged the owners of the houses and delivered cash assistance to them.—Kayah State IPRD ■



The gale-hit house under repair in Loikaw Township. PHOTO:KAYAH STATE IPRD



Meeting on socio-economic development and resettlement in Rakhine State in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Meeting on socio-economic development and resettlement in Rakhine State

A MEETING led by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to extend the works of the Coordinating Committee for United Nations, international and non-government organizations in Rakhine State was held in Rakhine State government meeting hall in Sittway yesterday afternoon.

Rakhine State government members, United Nations, international and non-government organizations conducting humanitarian and development work in Rakhine State, officials and town elders who are member of the coordinating committee attended the meeting.

The Union Minister said the incumbent government was handling the Rakhine State developmental and resettlement matters consistently since April 2016. Socio-economic development works together with humanitarian assistance was being conducted. While living in camps, work trainings were provided for development

of women to provide job opportunities. Of the recommendations made by the Rakhine State Advisory Commission, the government was implementing the quickest achievable one while resettlements are made according to the wishes of the people in the camps. Friendship markets were established for friendly trade, buying and selling activities. Rakhine State government's 5-year plan for socio-economic development will soon be implemented. Arrangements are made to start birth certification processes in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region but birth certification is not related to citizenship and citizenship naturalization. The ministry aim to be prepared in protecting social life, preventing and mitigating natural disaster together with civil society organizations. Of the 8 social life protection works, supporting expectant mothers and their newly born babies up to the age of two years with Ks

15,000 per month will be from LIFT Fund in least developed Chin State and from national reserve fund in Rakhine State and Naga region. Together with this cash support education on personal hygiene and family planning is also provided. This support and education work will be continued to cover the whole country. The Rakhine State government wanted to reach the stage where the true situation of the societies can be obtained through discussion and is prioritizing the developmental matters of the Rakhine State.

Next, meeting attendees discussed about Rakhine State socio-economy development and resettlement matters.

Afterward, the Union Minister met with Rakhine civil societies and town elders in Sittway hotel and discussed about Rakhine State socio-economy development and resettlement matters.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar exports to France and French tech cooperation and investment agreed

AN agreement on Myanmar exports to France together with the French. The agreement between Myanmar and French technology aid and investment to Myanmar has reached, according to Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce (UMFCCI).

The agreement was reached

after Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce signed the Memorandum of Understanding with French Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI French Myanmar) on 5 May.

According to the MoU, Myanmar exports will find a better way to reach France and the

country will get access to French technological aid and investment. "The bilateral cooperation is aimed at assisting Myanmar", said Mr. Julien Esch, Chairman of CCI French Myanmar.

French technology would enable help Myanmar produce value-added goods. "France can be the base for extending our

trade with the whole EU," said U Zaw Min Win, Chairman of UMFCCI.

Dr Mg Mg Lay, vice chairman of UMFCCI said he preferred inviting long term investment that can support Myanmar development rather than short term investment.

In enhancing cooperation

in trade and investment, the two federations will cooperate in trade fairs, business matching meetings, business tours, according to the agreement. French investment in Myanmar has reached USD 540 million in 2015-2016 and the trade volume has just reached USD 110 million.—Su Hnin Le ■

40,000 tourists visit Shwedagon Pagoda in April



A tour guide explains the detailed history of well-known Shwedagon Pagoda to tourists in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

THE Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the most famous pagodas in Myanmar, was visited by 40,789 tourists in April, according to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The number of tourists increased by over 8,000 when compared to the same period in 2016, when 32,683

tourists visited Shwedagon. The pagoda board of trustees collected Ks326,312,000 and US\$504 from the tourists from entrance fees and received US\$5,468 as donations.

Most of the visitors were from Asian countries such as Thailand, China and Japan, with most of the remainder

from European countries, including Germany and France. But a few tourists from Israel, South Africa, Pakistan, Arab countries and Indonesia visited Shwedagon.

Official statistics show that the pagoda was visited by 7,749 tourists from Thailand, 2,295 from China, 1,788

from Germany, 1,626 from France and 1,453 from Japan in 2017. There were 32,683 tourists who visited the pagoda in April 2016. Among them, 8,514 tourists were from Thailand, 2,484 from South Korea, 2,368 from China, 1,864 from Germany and 1,830 from the United States. — 200 ■

Exhibition for mangos and tea leaves to be held

MANDALAY will host an exhibition in which mangos, tealeaves, fruits, flowers and vegetables will be displayed at the National Institute of Building Science from 20 May to 22 May, according to Flowers and Vegetables Association.

The exhibition includes the 4th mango show where different species of different regions of Myanmar will be displayed in combination with mango competition.

Visitors to the exhibition will be treated with various sorts of tealeaves foods. Not only fruits, flowers and vegetables but also fertilizers, pesticides and various kinds of agriculture products will be displayed. The mangos for competition must have four inches length petiole and must be sent at least five samples to the venue between 9am and 3pm on 19 May.

The winners in this competition will be awarded Ks 300000 for first prize, Ks 200000 for second prizes, Ks 150000 for third prize.—200 ■

Over 1500 children with cleft lips, palates received free surgeries

HOSPITALS in Yangon were providing free surgeries for the children with cleft lips, palates and over 1500 surgeries have been conducted till now.

Under the aid of New Look New Life organization Pinlon Hospita and Shwe Baho Hospital in Yangon were conducting surgeries on children with cleft lips, palates free of charge.

The free-service programme aimed at enabling the children with cleft lips, palates to overcome their difficulties in dealing with social environment. Every year nearly 6000 children were born with cleft lips and palates in Myanmar according to estimated figures.—200 ■

Mixed chilli and corn cultivation increase profits

FARMERS gained more profits from chilli-corn mixed farming in summer at Salin creek field near Ngwetaman village, Salin Township, Minbu District, Magway Region.

One acre of corn farm can have a good yield, said a grower from corn plantation of Ngwetaman village. Shwe Ta Soke and Kyaukse in chilli can be grown altogether with the corns in corn plantations.

After harvesting the corns, the chilli will be watered

and fertilized.

One item of corn can be sold at 90 to 100 kyats. One plant of shwe ta soke chilli can yield 30 to 40 handful amounts and one handful of chilli obtained nearly K 15.

The price of the shwe ta soke chilli is nearly 350 kyats and Kyaukse in chilli can get up to 500 kyats.

They were distributed to the markets of Kyaukpadaung, Minbu and Chauk.—Phoe Pyae ■



Farmers drying red chillies at a farm. **Photo: GNLM/Phoe Khwar**



File photo shows trucks near 105-mile Muse Trade Zone, Shan State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Border trade with ITCs reaches Ks1.7 billion in current FY

BORDER trade value using the Individual Trading Card (ITC) amounted to more than Ks1.7 billion in the current fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Myawady border trade camp is reported to have the largest volume of trade with a value of more than Ks1.250 billion. According to the ministry's statistics, the export value with ITCs was Ks1.694 billion on the first 21 days of this FY, while the import value with ITCs was

Ks86 million.

The trade value through ITCs at borders were Ks83m at Tamu trade camp; Ks4m at Muse border gate; Ks79m at Tachilek trade camp; over Ks241 million at Kanpikete border gate; over Ks28m at Kawthaung border town; over Ks19m at Reed border trade camp and over Ks72m at Mawtaung gate.

The total trade value with ITCs was Ks18.972 billion in FY2016-2017.

From FY2012-2013 to

date, the ministry issued a total of 1,273 ITCs to individual traders at borders. The commerce ministry permitted 292 ITCs in FY2012-13; 261 cards in FY2013-14; 317 cards in FY2014-15; 146 cards in FY2015-16 and 248 cards in FY2016-17 and 9 cards in current FY. According to the ministry, an ITC holder may trade up to Ks15m in five days at border trade camps and import and export offices, with a trade value of Ks3m a day on average.

—Swe Nyein ■

Trade deficit reaches over \$300 million in current FY

MYANMAR's external trade value for the current fiscal year reached over US\$1.8 billion, with the trade deficit of more than \$300 million, according to the official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the past 28 days of this FY, the foreign trade value amounted to \$1.867 billion, exceeding \$399 million than that of the same period of last

year. Of the total value, export value hit \$776.409 million and import value totalled \$1.090 billion while the country has racked up a trade deficit of \$314.247million.

The total trade value of this FY included \$535.608 million from normal trade and \$240.801 million from the border trade.

Efforts have been made by trade authorities to decrease

trade deficit by promoting the country's export sector. The country suffered a trade deficit of over \$91 million in FY2012-2013. The trade deficit rose to \$2.555 billion in FY2013-2014. It continues to increase to \$4.109 billion in FY2014-2015 and \$5.441 billion in FY2015-2016. Myanmar registered trade deficits of \$5.5 billion in FY2016-2017. —Lynn Lynn ■

Export value up by over US\$460million as of 21st April this FY

EXPORTS from 1st to 21st April fetched US\$681.764 million, up from US\$219.509 million in the same period last year, according to statistics from the Commerce Ministry.

In the similar period, the import value was US\$689.058million which is up by over US\$94 million compared to that of last year.

External trade with foreign trade partners as of 21st April amounted to over US\$1.3billion, which is an increase of over US\$550million from last year. Normal trade hit over US\$1billion, whereas border trade fetched over US\$280million.

The country exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, animal

products, forest products, finished industrial goods and other products while capital goods, personal goods and raw industrial materials are imported into Myanmar.

Myanmar is conducting border trade with China through Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung while the country is trading with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese border gates.

The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaung, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.—Mon Mon ■

Computers and accessories market cool down

COMPUTERS and their accessories market started to cool in Myanmar starting from March and remains cool till May because of appreciation of the US dollar. The price of the computers and its accessories are always changing depending on the rate of US dollar exchange, according to the computer shop owners from Seikkantha road.

"Computers are selling well mostly from January to April. Desktop and Laptop computers are also very popular in the market. But this month, our computer market is cooling when compared to the last month," said a computer shop owner.

Moreover, the used computers which are sold by the training centers and imported

from Japan are selling well. The used computers imported from Japan have the strong market because of the competitive price and high quality. The used desktop computers sold from the training centers are not selling at the shop but they are bought and sold direct between the buyers and sellers.

The price of the computers is changing depending on the US dollar exchange rate. The US dollar exchange rate was Ks 1,352 on 3 April, Ks 1,353 on 25 April and Ks 1,350 on 3 May. The US dollar exchange rate is stable between Ks 1,350 and Ks 1,360 from the 1 to 6 May. So, the stable US dollar exchange affects the computer market. —MMAL ■



Computers are displayed for sale. Computers are selling well mostly from January to April. **PHOTO: MYANMA ALINN**

Japan pledges \$40 million to ADB fund for infrastructure development

YOKOHAMA — Japan pledged Saturday to provide \$40 million to help developing countries introduce advanced technology via the Asian Development Bank in response to increasing infrastructure needs in the Asia-Pacific region.

In a speech delivered at an annual gathering of the ADB in Yokohama near Tokyo, Finance Minister Taro Aso also said infrastructure should increase connectivity in an “open, transparent and nonexclusive” manner.

The ADB expects large infrastructure-building needs totaling \$26 trillion by 2030 as economic expansion continues in the fast-growing region.

The \$40 million promised by Japan over the next two years will go to the ADB’s newly created trust fund designed to give assistance to clean energy and transportation projects, according to Japanese officials.

The Manila-based lender has a long history of helping build infrastructure in developing countries but its role



Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso (C) delivers a speech at an annual gathering of the Asian Development Bank, in Yokohama near Tokyo on 6 May 2017. **KYODO NEWS**

and relevance are increasingly being tested by the launch of a China-led infrastructure investment bank.

Japan, one of the leading financial contributors to the ADB, has been promoting “quality” infrastructure, while calling for more action to address health risks and promote disaster prevention.

“I encourage the bank to focus more on knowledge-sharing and reform supporting loans in areas such as health, while continuing to promote infrastructure projects as a central pillar of its operations,” Aso said.

Aso, chairing this year’s annual event, said economic growth has contributed to alleviating poverty in Asia, with the ADB serving as the region’s “family doctor.”

“We cannot be complacent,” Aso told the gathering as natural disasters and pandemics pose risks and the region needs to address income inequality, aging and volatility in capital flows.

Crown Prince Naruhito attended the opening session of the ADB’s board of governors and expressed hope for the bank’s increased role in the region.

Finance ministers, central bankers and other delegates from the ADB’s 67 member states and regions are in the Japanese port city for a host of meetings through Sunday.

On the sidelines of the events, Japan proposed Friday to the Association of South-east Asian Nations to create a new currency swap scheme worth \$40 billion to address short-term liquidity problems.

—Kyodo News ■

Nepali attempting to beat oldest Mt. Everest climber record dies

KATHMANDU — Nepali climber Min Bahadur Sherchan, who was hoping to surpass Japanese climber Yuichiro Miura as the oldest person to climb Mt. Everest, died Saturday at a mountain base camp, the Tourism Ministry confirmed.

“Sherchan passed away at 5:14 pm today at the base camp. Doctors here suspect he suffered a heart attack,” ministry official Gyanendra Shrestha told Kyodo News by phone from the base camp. Shrestha was 85 years old.

In 2008, Sherchan became the oldest man to summit the 8,848-meter peak — the world’s tallest — when he climbed Mt. Everest at the age of 76.

But in 2013, that feat was surpassed by Japan’s Yuichiro Miura who climbed the mountain at the age of 80. Sherchan, a former British Gurkha born in Myagdi district in western Nepal in June 1931, afterward repeatedly attempted to regain the record.

In 2008 when Miura achieved the stunning feat, Sherchan had to abandon his own attempt to defend his record because of delay in the issuance of a government

climbing permit. And in 2015, he had to abort an attempt because of a quake-triggered avalanche on the mountain that killed 18 people.

Before Sherchan, the record for the oldest man to climb the mountain was set by Japanese climber Katsusuke Yanagisawa, who did so at age 71 in 2007. Miura previously had held the record by climbing the mountain in 2003 at the age of 70.

Sherchan is the second climber to have perished on Mt. Everest this season. On Sunday, famed Swiss alpinist Ueli Steck, 40, died after slipping and falling 1,000 meters between Camp I and Camp II of the mountain.

The government has issued 371 climbing permits, an all-time record, for the mountain this climbing season.

Climbers who are acclimatizing at lower slopes of the mountain are expected to make their final push later this month, taking advantage of favorable weather periods. Including Sherpa guides, around 800 people are expected to attempt the mountain this month. —Kyodo News ■

India successfully launches South Asia satellite

NEW DELHI — In its biggest space diplomacy push, Indian launched a South Asia communication satellite on Friday from the spaceport of Sriharikota in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

The State-owned Indian Space Research Organisation’s (ISRO) rocket, Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), carrying the 2,230 kg satellite GSAT-9, lifted off from the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota at 4:57 p.m. local time (1127 GMT).

ISRO, which has built the satellite for use by countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region, said GSAT-9 has been launched with an objective to provide different communication applications in Ku-band with coverage over South Asia.

The satellite was originally named SAARC satellite, but was later changed to South Asia satellite after Pakistan opted out of the project, stating “it has its own

space programme.”

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the country’s scientists for the successful launch. “We are a united family of South Asian countries, united

in our pursuit of peace, progress & prosperity of our region & the entire humankind,” he tweeted soon after the launch.

Later joining the five heads of state of SAARC nations — Af-

ghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Maldives President Abdulla Yameen, Nepal’s Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Sri Lankan

President Maithripala Sirisena — Modi hailed the launch.

“Today is a historic day, one without precedent. We extend our close links into Outer Space. Space technology will touch the lives of our people in the region. Convinced when we join hands and mutually share fruits of knowledge, technology and growth, we can speed up development,” he said.

On his part, Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani said: “This is an extremely important step to know nature and nature’s patterns. Development must be citizen centric. Today’s development is child centred and women centred, it makes governance accessible.”

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took the opportunity to thank India. “On today’s auspicious occasion, I congratulate the Government of India (for the successful launch). Betterment of our people can happen through fruitful engagement,” she said. —Xinhua ■



The GSLV-F09 rocket carrying India’s GSAT-9, or the South Asia Communication Satellite, blasts off from the launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, India, on 5 May 2017. In its biggest space diplomacy push, Indian launched a South Asia communication satellite on Friday from the spaceport of Sriharikota in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Japan, China to hold finance talks amid concerns on protectionism, North Korea

YOKOHAMA, (Japan) — Japan and China will hold their first bilateral financial dialogue in two years on Saturday to discuss risks to Asia's economic outlook, such as the protectionist policies advocated by US President Donald Trump and tension over North Korea, officials said.

Chinese Finance Minister Xiao Jie, who missed a trilateral meeting with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts on Friday for an emergency domestic meeting, has flown in for the bilateral dialogue, seeking to dispel speculation his absence had diplomatic implications.

Xiao and Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso will discuss issues ranging from North Korea's nuclear and missile programme to the two countries' economic outlook and financial cooperation during the dialogue, to be held on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank's annual meeting in Yokohama, eastern Japan.

Senior finance officials from both countries will also hold a separate round of talks, Japanese Finance Ministry officials say.

Relations between Japan and China have been strained



Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso attends at opening session of the ADB annual meeting in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, Japan, on 6 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

over territorial rows and Japan's occupation of parts of China in World War II, though leaders have recently sought to mend ties through dialogue.

Still, China's increasing presence in infrastructure finance has alarmed some Japanese policy-makers, who worry that Beijing's new development bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), may overshadow the Japan-backed ADB.

Japan and China do agree on the need to respect free trade, which is crucial to Asia's trade-dependent economies.

Finance officials from Japan, China and South Korea agreed to resist all forms of protectionism in Friday's trilateral meeting, taking a stronger stand than G20 major economies against the protectionist policies advocated by Trump.

China has positioned itself as a supporter of free trade in the wake of Trump's calls to put America's interests first and pull out of multilateral trade agreements. Japan has taken a more accommodative stance toward Washington's argument that trade must not just be free but fair.—Reuters ■

Lao power company lauds China's efforts to push for integrated regional energy system

VIENTIANE — The Lao state-run energy giant EDL-Gen spoke highly of the efforts made by the State Grid Corporation of China to promote power grid interconnection and interworking with neighbouring countries under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Proposed by China in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, aiming at building a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient trade routes of Silk Road.

EDL-Gen (Electricite du Laos Generation Public Company) is willing to join hands with regional countries to build an integrated energy system and exchange of electrical energy, EDL-Gen director Bounoum Syvanpheng has said.

Hydropower plants built by Chinese companies have helped provide residents in remote areas in Laos with access to electricity, contributing to the accomplishment of the country's socio-economic development targets, according to Lao officials.

According to Bounoum, the Lao government has put forward a number of policies that promote clean energy and cross-border electrical grid interconnection in order to facilitate sustainable energy development.

"At present, Laos has connected with regional countries in terms of energy, but the competitiveness of our system is not strong enough and needs to be improved to ensure quality and reliability of connection," Bounoum said.

Laos expects China's promotion of power grid interconnection and interworking with neighbouring countries to "contribute to realizing our common goal," noting that the EDL-Gen will continue to support the exchanges of electrical energy among regional countries to ensure regional energy stability.

With the rapid development of ASEAN countries, electricity demand of the bloc's member states has also surged. Electricity exports have become one of the main sources for foreign trade and foreign exchange reserves of Laos.—Xinhua ■

Over 200 students hospitalized after gas leak near school in Delhi

NEW DELHI — Nearly 200 students of a state-run school were hospitalized after they fell ill following a gas leak from a nearby container depot in the Indian capital Saturday, a senior police official said.

The gas leak took place in Tughlakabad container depot near Rani Jhansi Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya (school) in southeast Delhi in the morning, when classes were underway.

"Around 200 children have been admitted to four different hospitals for treatment after they complained of irritation in eye and throat. However, no one is serious. All students and teachers of the school have been evacuated," Deputy Commissioner of Delhi Police, Romil Baniya, told the media.

"Fortunately, there have been no reports of any death in the incident. Some of the students who were hospitalized have been discharged after administration of first aid, while the remaining others are undergoing treatment," the official said.



Children lie on hospital beds as they receive treatment after complaining of breathlessness and eye irritation following a gas leak from a fuel tanker in New Delhi, India, on 6 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Fire tenders and the National Disaster Response Force have rushed to the spot and are trying to contain the leakage.

"The gas that leaked is actually Chloromethyl Pyridine, a chemical which is used in manu-

facturing insecticides and pesticides. We are trying to ascertain the exact cause of the leak," said a senior official of the Delhi Fire Services.

One of the school teachers said, on condition of anonymity,

that the school was open Saturday because of a scheduled examination. "The examination has now been postponed and the school shut temporarily," she said.

Rubi Singh, a parent, said she got a call from one of the school

teachers that her daughter has been admitted to a hospital after she complained of breathlessness, following the gas leak. "I was so worried. I immediately rushed to the hospital, now my daughter is out of danger," she said.

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia said he will visit the children in the hospitals and that he has spoken to a few children on phone. "I have asked district magistrate to investigate the leak. Doctors have also said there is no problem," he said.

A probe has been ordered into the incident and strict action will be taken against anyone found guilty, said another police official.

Gas leak is not uncommon in India, the most infamous being the tragedy in the central Indian city of Bhopal in 1984 when a poisonous gas leak from the Union Carbide Corporation plant killed several thousand people and injured more than half a million.—Xinhua ■

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Launching an Initiative for Building a Platform for New Writers

Khin Maung Oo

ACCORDING to Law of Nature—impermanence, the new replace the old in our world, animate and inanimate. Each and every one of the three traditional divisions of the natural world—animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms undergoes—the process of the above-said law of nature. Apart from the last one, the other two obviously show it. All living things including human beings in the animal kingdom grow older and older as time passes by. On our faces and bodies, wrinkles and lines are appearing and our hair turns grey, with our advancing years. Our strength as well reaches the climax and thence drops gradually or plunges into the depth promptly. Trees and plants in the vegetable kingdom grow bigger and bigger too, likewise. Deciduous trees lose their leaves every year and new leaves replace old ones, as do evergreen ones.

Young plants and trees give us food for us when young. When trees

become old, they give us shelter, on one condition that we need to nurture young plants to reach the state of maturity. We must protect them from being cut down by destructive elements. These days, voices are being heard that Myanmar youths are losing interest in reading Myanmar aesthetic literature. This being so, our State leaders are encouraging the development of Myanmar literature and literature for children by holding literary festivals, along with paper reading sessions.

Much has been heard also that today's youth are beginning to have an appetite for our own language, and before they know it they are spoiling our cultural heritage, Myanmar language, carelessly or otherwise. If the problem goes uncared, we cannot say how to reply, as to "Whither the future of Myanmar?" As regards the Ministry of Information there has been progress of the Myanmar literature through newspapers in Myanmar version, gaining success considerably.

English plays an important role

to make the world known to Myanmar and simultaneously to make Myanmar known to the world. Once in the past, we had a large number of Myanmar writers who wrote prolifically works of excellence written in English. Many passed away and only some survived. Once, the status in learning the language stayed at the top of the totem pole and it plunged down miserably. Yet, nascent progress of learning English is being seen. Learning skills can be acquired through reading English books. They lack room, or rather a place or nurturing ground for new writers. Now we are going to have a place to do so, under the instruction of the Information Minister. A page for "a platform for new writers" on newspaper pages of "the Global New Light of Myanmar," is coming to youths. The program can fill the need to replace the dying breed of Myanmar writers. With the encouragement of the Ministry, our Myanmar new writers need to join the initiative launched by the Ministry, without hesitation.

Discovery of a historical site by a late Octogenarian

Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

MANY a time had the writer, before he reached the retired age of 60 years, visited this historic site in the outskirts of Yangon, either alone or in company with his family or students. But never bothered to learn about it and look seriously at sacred edifices and all their associated accessories. Only when, as a late octogenarian, one day he and his wife, on one Buddhist Sabbath day, visited it for religious merit making, he discovered, much to his excitement, untapped historical sources. It was Moe Kaung Su Taung-Pyi Zedi, in Yankin township of Yangon reachable via Thitsa Road leading to it, or via Moe Kaung Paya Road leading to the western entrance or main road of Moe Kaung straight to the eastern entrance.

The Pagoda festival is annually held on the waxing moon days of Nat-taw month [December]. The festival assumes a dual feature of rural and urban. Many bazaars from neighboring villages and markets and sores from nearly towns mushroom around the Pagoda precincts and performances of puppets, Ayeint dances, drama zatp-wes, circus, stage show, for public entertainment gratis, feasts of Myanmar



snacks, and soft drink for lay people and swarn food for monks donated by well-wishers and merit makers. Every time the written and the family visited it at the festival time they enjoyed entertainments, relished food and returned home with many souvenirs or rural products.

It was only on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of the Festival, the author's attention was caught by a folding pamphlet handed him by the Pagoda Trustee [Gawpaka] of Yankin Township.

Background history given in the pamphlet claims that Moe KaungZedi was built by Emperor Asoka who after becoming a Buddhist convert in the SasanaSankrit 200 promoted Buddhism by building 84000 water reservoirs, wells sacred stupas and edifices at home and abroad and sending out missionaries including his own son and daughter to nine places and nine countries. Asoka named Moe Kaung-Zedi "Sri MangalaZadi". In the reign of King Min Khaung 1 of Inwa Period of Myanmar history, the Sawbwa of Moe Meik Sao KhunNaung renovated the Zedi raising its height as it stands today. Thenceforth the Zedi came to be known as Moe KaungZedi. The inner precinct of the Zedi measures 160 feet in circumference. The Zedi is 99 feet high. Next sacred edifice on the precinct, are briefly described as follows.

Thiri Nanda bhijayaSima [Ordination Hall] stone Inscription. At the south east corner of the precinct is a brick building in which is set up a stone pillar on which are Thiri Nanda bhijayaSima Inscriptions the stone pillar measures 3 feet in length 2 feet in breadth and 6 inches in thickness. It dates kawzaSakarit year 1227. The inscriptions need deciphering of learned experienced epigraphists.

SEE PAGE 9

Marine conservation must consider human rights

OCEAN conservation is essential for protecting the marine environment and safeguarding the resources that people rely on for livelihoods and food security. But there are many documented cases where conservation has bumped up against the people who share the same places and resources, even leading to human rights abuses.

“Often the impacts of marine protected areas can undermine people’s rights or stop them from doing their livelihoods,” said Bennett, lead author of a new study published today in *Marine Policy* and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of British Columbia and the University of Washington. “There is a real danger that in pushing for marine conservation, socially

unjust or inappropriate actions could be promoted, including those leading to displacement, violence, marginalization and poverty.”

Both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Targets have set goals to have 10% of the ocean be designated as marine protected areas by 2020. But currently there are no standards for how conservation is done. Doctors, lawyers, engineers and many other professions have codes of conduct, should one exist for conservation?

A global group of oceans science practitioners and scientists argue yes - it is “warranted, urgent and past due”, in their new paper “An appeal for a code of conduct for marine conservation”. In it, they outline what that code could look

like, with considerations for fair governance, social justice and accountability practices. This code could be widely used by governments, researchers, NGOs, private sector and local organizations to review such issues around human rights, indigenous rights, food and livelihood security, benefit sharing, conflict resolution, and more.

“This is urgent, we need thoughtful actions to conserve the marine environment, but we need to do it in an equitable way, with respect for fishers’ livelihoods, food sovereignty and dignity,” said Yoshitaka Ota, co-author and Nippon Foundation-UBC Nereus Program Director of Policy. “Most importantly, conservation is the art of finding a better way to live with the environment

because we will always be a part of it.”

The authors recognize that accountability is a challenge - whether such a code of conduct would be voluntary or whether conservation needs an independent auditing system. Creating a code of conduct would allow for a more coordinated effort to happen internationally to merge the human dimension into the mainstream of conservation. “This is an important investment that the conservation community needs to prioritize,” said Bennett. “Investing in a code of conduct will pay dividends by increasing the acceptance and effectiveness of conservation.”

“The key is ‘being there’ to understand people, their rights and their needs” said Lydia Teh, co-author and Nip-

pon Foundation-UBC Nereus Program Research Associate. “A successful approach for marine conservation is through bottom-up processes which work with local people and develop their capacity to manage the resources and decide on areas for protection.” — Phys.org ■

Often the impacts of marine protected areas can undermine people’s rights or stop them from doing their livelihoods

Discovery of a historical site by a late Octogenarian

FROM PAGE 8

Moe Kaung Bo Bo Gyi Statues located near the Western Entrance Tazaung [Covered Corridor]. Believers pay homage to this statue with all kinds of offertories, fruits, flowers, incense, candles, sweet and rice and they believe that their prayers are answered. Bo Bo Gyi type of Statues are found at other Pagodas. They are old men who became guardian spirits protecting the Pagodas and giving blessings and benevolence to the worshippers.

At the Tuesday corner [South-east] of the precinct sits the Statue of King Dhammazedi Min Khaung, receiving daily homage and offerings of believes.

There are two other types of idols which believers come to worship and pray with offertories. One was a pair of two idols known as YakhaNyiNaung [Two ogre brothers] and the other pair of idols Say Bodaw meaning. The old man guardian Spirit who cures all disease natural as well as supernatural. A

smooth round wishing stone in front is used by believers in wishing and praying to the idol. Next idol is that of Kabar Bo daw. He only preaches his believers the observances of Five, Eight and Ten moral precepts of the Buddha so that there would be everlasting peace and prosperity on earth. Both these two idols are realistically carved out of teak or good timber wood. Their facial expressions are benevolent and their seating styles are dignified and adorable.

To left side of the western entrance and tazaung under the shady trees are located a medium size bronze bell and two marble stone slabs. All bear inscriptions from which some, political economic and socio-cultural data of that time can be gleaned.

The bell is now painted in gold paint. It has seven lines of inscriptions. In the Sasana Sakarit 2472 [Buddhist Era] and KawzaSakarit [Myanmar Era] 1290. In the district of Yangon which is like Tavatimsa of Sakka Deva is Kanbe town where the donors of this bell U Pho Hmyin and



wife Daw Aye Mya, son Ko Ba Maung, daughter Ma Ngwe Yin and grandson Maung Tin Hla who are inspired with the spirit of dana [giving] donated this bell which weighs 319 viss of bronze. For this merit may we be protected from five great enemies [Water, Fire, Kings, Thieves, those who hate us] three dangers [Famine, Disease, Fighting and Killing]. May we attain Nirvana as soon as possible. We share out this merit to all sentient beings who will exclaim SaduSaduSadu [well done 3 times].

The last time says “the bell was cast by the bronze

smith U PuKe and grand son Maung Ba Thaung. It weighs 319 Viss.

The two stone slabs with inscriptions were set up by NibansawAthin [Religious affairs association] headed by U Nu later Prime Minister and wife Daw Mya Yee in ME 1309 [1941].

To the right side of the Western entrance are bells with inscriptions. The first bell tells as “Nay La Kaba Aba Aung, Moe Kaung Zedi U Tin Aung and family 1371, warring moon of Thidingyut [October] 3-10-2009, Saturday.

Next is a small bell in memory of a young man named Aung Ye Htet Kyu Lay who passed away at the age of 26 on 26 March 2012. His educational qualifications are B.A [Myanmar], Diploma [English], Diploma in Computer Science.

Under the warm gold sun light everything looks so bright and so peaceful. Many stalls lined up on both sides of the Tazaung selling both utility and vanity goods, and religious souvenirs. Fortunetellers palmists astrologers, and astronomers

await consultants. Holiday makers or Sabbath keepers rest under green foliage alive with all kinds of local birds, cuckoos, doves, crows, minas and fowls. Squirrels loudly demand food from the visitors while hand some dogs and cats being overfed by the visitors lazily loiter about howling and mewing. Two twin roosters indolently cockatooing their time reminding calls. These animals never fight. They co-exist peacefully.

The entire place is a sacred Abaya Htana. [No. Danger Zone] Sanctuary. Day and nights voluntary Pagoda Patrols make round by turn every hour. All night sentries keep their watch every nook and corner for security a safety.

Moe Kaung Zedi is under the administration of Advadaeeriya Sayadaw [Advisory Body of Monks], Gawpa-kaApwe [Pagoda Trustees] and voluntary organizations. The writer and his wife returned home happy and peaceful, wishing to visit Moe Kaung Zedi again and again.

French candidate Macron claims massive hack as emails leaked

FRANKFURT/PARIS — Leading French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron's campaign said on Friday it had been the target of a "massive" computer hack that dumped its campaign emails online 1-1/2 days before voters choose between the centrist and his far-right rival, Marine Le Pen.

Macron, who is seen as the frontrunner in an election billed as the most important in France in decades, extended his lead over Le Pen in polls on Friday.

As much as 9 gigabytes of data were posted on a profile called EMLEAKS to Pastebin, a site that allows anonymous document sharing. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for posting the data or if any of it was genuine.

In a statement, Macron's political movement En Marche! (Onwards!) confirmed that it had been hacked.

"The En Marche! Movement has been the victim of a massive and co-ordinated hack this evening which has given rise to the diffusion on social media of various internal information," the statement said.

An interior ministry official declined to comment, citing French rules that forbid any commentary liable to influence an election, which took effect at midnight on Friday (2200 GMT).

The presidential election commission said in statement that it would hold a meeting later on Saturday after Macron's campaign informed it about the hack and publishing of the data.

It urged the media to be cautious about publishing details of the emails given that campaigning had ended, and publication

could lead to criminal charges.

Comments about the email dump began to appear on Friday evening just hours before the official ban on campaigning began. The ban is due to stay in place until the last polling stations close Sunday at 8 pm (1800 GMT).

Opinion polls show independent centrist Macron is set to beat National Front candidate Le Pen in Sunday's second round of voting, in what is seen to be France's most important election in decades. The latest surveys show him winning with about 62 percent of the vote.

Former economy minister Macron's campaign has previously complained about attempts to hack its emails, blaming Russian interests in part for the cyber attacks.

On 26 April, the team said it had been the target of a attempts to steal email credentials dating back to January, but that the perpetrators had failed to compromise any campaign data.

The Kremlin has denied it was behind any such attacks, even though Macron's camp renewed complaints against Russian media and a hackers' group operating in Ukraine.

Vitali Kremez, director of research with New York-based cyber intelligence firm Flashpoint, told Reuters his review indicates that APT 28, a group tied to the GRU, the Russian military intelligence directorate, was behind the leak. He cited similarities with US election hacks that have been previously attributed to that group. APT28 last month registered decoy internet addresses to mimic the name of En Marche, which it likely used



Emmanuel Macron, head of the political movement En Marche!, or Onwards!, and candidate for the 2017 presidential election, is pictured through a window of his hotel during a campaign visit in Rodez, France, On 5 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

send tainted emails to hack into the campaign's computers, Kremez said. Those domains include onedrive-en-marche.fr and mail-en-marche.fr.

"If indeed driven by Moscow, this leak appears to be a significant escalation over the previous Russian operations aimed at the US presidential election, expanding the approach and scope of effort from simple espionage efforts towards more direct attempts to sway the outcome," Kremez said. France is the latest nation to see a major election overshadowed by accusations of manipulation through cyber hacking.

US intelligence agencies said in January that Russian President Vladimir Putin had ordered hacking of parties tied to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to influence the election on behalf of Republican rival Donald Trump.

On Friday night as the #MacronLeaks hashtag buzzed around social media, Florian

Philippot, deputy leader of the National Front, tweeted "Will MacronLeaks teach us something that investigative journalism has deliberately killed?"

Macron spokesman Sylvain Fort, in a response on Twitter, called Philippot's tweet "vile".

En Marche! said the documents only showed the normal functioning of a presidential campaign, but that authentic documents had been mixed on social media with fake ones to sow "doubt and misinformation".

Ben Nimmo, a UK-based security researcher with the Digital Forensic Research Lab of the Atlantic Council think tank, said initial analysis indicated that a group of US far-right online activists were behind early efforts to spread the documents via social media. They were later picked up and promoted by core social media supporters of Le Pen in France, Nimmo said.

The hashtag #MacronLeaks was first spread by Jack Posobiec, a pro-Trump activist whose Twitter profile identifies him as Washington D.C. bureau chief of the far-right activist site Rebel TV, according to Nimmo and other analysts tracking the election.

Posobiec could not immediately be reached to comment by Reuters. "You have a hashtag drive that started with the alt-right in the United States that has been picked up by some of Le Pen's most dedicated and aggressive followers online," Nimmo told Reuters. Alt-right refers to a loose-knit group of far-right activists known for their advocacy of extremist ideas, rejection of mainstream conservatism and disruptive social media tactics. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Hundreds of inmates escape Indonesia's prison after riot

JAKARTA — Hundreds of inmates escaped an Indonesian prison on Sumatra Island on Friday afternoon following a riot caused by the bad condition of the prison.

I Wayan Dusak, the country's director general of prisons, told a press conference late evening that the exact number of escaping inmates was still unclear although officials and police gave figures ranging from 100 to 300. "We, however, rearrested 149 of them," Dusak said. The breakout at the Sialangbungkuk Prison in Sumatra's Riau provincial capital of Pekanbaru occurred after a Friday prayer when a riot was happening inside the prison caused by discontent among inmates over the bad condition of the prison. —Kyodo News ■

Kazakhstan offers to sell Brazil uranium

BRASILIA — Kazakhstan is offering to sell uranium to Brazil to cover the shortage of fuel for its atomic energy programme and help the South American nation explore its large reserves of uranium ore, a senior Kazak official said on Friday.

"We proposed the participation of Kazakhstan in tenders for the purchase of uranium or any other type of fuel that might be used in the Brazilian industry," Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Yerzhan Ashikbayev said after meeting with Brazilian energy officials.

Kazakhstan is the world's largest producer of uranium and its national operator Kazatomprom accounts for one third of global output of the mineral needed to generate nuclear power and also make weapons. —Reuters ■

Contaminated meat products recalled in several US states

CHICAGO — The state of Illinois among several other US states are recalling meat products distributed by a Pennsylvania-based company for E. coli contamination.

About 5,620 pounds of boneless veal, ground veal, beef and pork products produced by a farm could have been contaminated with E. coli, and the Pennsylvania-based Souderton has distributed these products to retail stores in Illinois, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia, according to the US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection service. There is no adverse reactions as a result of the consumption reported so far. —Xinhua ■

Trump counterterrorism strategy urges allies to do more

WASHINGTON — A draft of President Donald Trump's new counterterrorism strategy demands that U.S. allies shoulder more of the burden in combating Islamist militants, while acknowledging that the threat of terrorism will never be totally eliminated.

The 11-page draft, seen on Friday by Reuters, said the Unit-

ed States should avoid costly, "open-ended" military commitments.

"We need to intensify operations against global jihadist groups while also reducing the costs of American 'blood and treasure' in pursuit of our counterterrorism goals," states the document, which is expected to be released in coming months.

"We will seek to avoid costly, large-scale US military interventions to achieve counterterrorism objectives and will increasingly look to partners to share the responsibility for countering terrorist groups," it says.

However, it acknowledges that terrorism "cannot be defeated with any sort of finality."

Michael Anton, spokesman

for the White House National Security Council, said, "As part of its overall approach, the administration is taking a fresh look at the entire US national security strategy, to include the counterterrorism mission — which is especially important since no such strategy has been produced publicly since 2011." —Reuters ■

Russia says Syria de-escalation deal takes effect at midnight

MOSCOW/BEIRUT — A de-escalation agreement in Syria takes effect at midnight but Russia's air force will continue strikes against Islamic State elsewhere in the country, Russian news agencies cited the Defence Ministry as saying on Friday.

The largest of the four de-escalation zones is in northern Syria and includes Idlib province and adjoining districts of Latakia, Aleppo and Hama with a total population of over 1 million, the ministry said.

Iran and Turkey agreed on Thursday to Russia's proposal to establish the de-escalation zones.

But details of the memorandum the three guarantors signed were sketchy, while the main Syrian opposition group said it lacked all legitimacy.

The zones appear intended to halt conflict in specific areas between government forces and rebels, and would potentially be policed by foreign troops.

The fact that the de-escalation agreement was supported by the United Nations, the United States and Saudi Arabia guaranteed its implementation, the RIA and Interfax news agency quoted Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin as saying.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis



Internally displaced people who fled Raqqqa city carry their belongings as they leave a camp in Ain Issa, Raqqqa Governorate, Syria, on 4 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

told reporters the US-led coalition in Syria had not altered its operations, but declined to comment on the de-escalation zones.

With the help of Russia and Iranian-backed militias, the Syrian government has gained the military upper hand against rebel groups, including some supported by Turkey, the US and Gulf monarchies.

The government supported the de-escalation plan, but said

it would continue to fight what it termed terrorist groups.

Rebels have rejected the deal and said they would not recognise Iran as a guarantor of any ceasefire plan.

The main Syrian opposition umbrella group, the High Negotiations Committee, cautioned against attempts to "partition the country through vague meanings of what have been called ... 'de-escalation' zones".

The Russian-led deal "was

concluded without the Syrian people" and "lacks the minimum basics of legitimacy", it said in a statement.

The Riyadh-based HNC, which includes political and armed groups, said it remained committed to the UN-led peace process in Geneva and called for its revival.

Mohammed Rasheed, a spokesman for the Jaish al-Nasr group, said rebels doubted Russian or Syrian government

warplanes would stop striking opposition areas after the deal takes effect.

"This is not the first time," he added, referring to several mediated ceasefires that have unravelled in Syria's multi-sided conflict.

"As long as the jets are bombing civilians, then there are no signs of any ceasefire," Rasheed said. "When they stop, then we can work on political solutions." — Reuters ■

Afghan Taliban take district near northern Kunduz in spring offensive

KUNDUZ, (Afghanistan) — Taliban militants captured a district just outside the northern Afghan city of Kunduz on Saturday, officials said, pointing to renewed pickup in fighting after the insurgents announced their annual spring offensive last week.

Mahfouz Akbari, a police spokesman for eastern Afghanistan, said security forces had pulled out of Qala-i-Zal district, west of Kunduz city, on Saturday to avoid further civilian and military casualties after more than 24 hours of heavy fighting.

In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the insurgents had taken police headquarters, the governor's compound and all security checkpoints. He said

several police and soldiers had been killed and wounded.

Over the past 18 months, Taliban insurgents have twice succeeded in seizing the town centre of Kunduz for brief periods and the latest fighting underscores warnings that Afghan forces face another gruelling year of fighting.

A shopkeeper, whose name is also Zabihullah, said the situation was now reminiscent of the position in October last year when Taliban forces entered the city before being driven back after days of fighting and air strikes.

"I am extremely worried. There are security forces everywhere," he said. "Everyone in my family is worried and if the situation gets worse, we'll have to leave." — Reuters ■

Iraqi forces gain foothold in northwest Mosul after surprise new push

HULAYLA, (Iraq) — Iraqi forces pushed further into Mosul from the north on the second day of a new push to speed up the nearly seven-month attempt to dislodge Islamic State, commanders said on Friday.

Islamic State tried to block the troops' northerly advance into their de facto Iraqi capital with suicide car bombs and sniper fire, Brigadier General Walid Khalifa, deputy commander of the 9th brigade, told Reuters in Hulayla, west of Musherfa.

His troops had killed about 30 militants, destroyed five car bombs before they could be used against them, he said.

US air support has proved vital for spotting suicide car bombs and for avoiding targets where civilians are trapped.

Brigadier General Yahya Rasool, a spokesman for the

joint operations command, told Reuters the militants "didn't have time to make barriers, the advance since yesterday has been good".

An army statement said the Second Musherfa district as well as the Church and Mikhail's Monastery area had been retaken.

The US-backed Iraqi forces' new foothold aims to open escape routes for the hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped behind Islamic State lines and, in turn, help troops' progress.

Rasool said Iraqi forces rescued 1,000 families on Thursday.

Footage taken by a drone operated by the Iraqi 9th Armoured Division over the northwestern suburb of Musherfa and seen by Reuters, showed the militants had scant defenses there, unlike in other parts of Mosul where

streets are blocked by anti-tank barriers and vehicles.

US Army Lieutenant Colonel James Browning, the partnered adviser to the 9th, said the militants had tried to keep some streets open in order to use suicide car bombs.

Islamic State was probably expecting the attack, he said, "but they can't defend everywhere".

Only two months ago, the militants would be firing 200 rockets or mortars at Iraqi forces in Mosul on any given day, Browning said, but in the past two days it dropped to about 30.

"When you open up more fronts it becomes harder for (Islamic State) to be able to defend. There are certainly some challenges. There are defenses in place," he told Reuters. — Reuters ■



A motorcycle is seen in water on the West Side Highway after heavy rain in the Manhattan borough of New York, US, on 5 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Heavy rain, wind disrupts travel for New Yorkers

NEW YORK — Heavy, wind-driven rain soaked the New York City area on Friday afternoon, causing local flooding and an array of transportation delays across the heavily populated region.

The National Weather Service issued flash flood warnings for much of New York City and several suburban counties as a weather system that stretched across much of the Eastern Seaboard dumped three inches of rain on the metropolitan region in three hours.

The rain forced the closure of Manhattan's West Side Highway, a major thoroughfare along the Hudson River, for at least 10 blocks, and caused extensive traffic delays citywide, New York City's Office of Emergency Management said.

While the intensity of rainfall had diminished shortly before the evening rush hour, water in flood-affected areas was expected to take several hours to recede.

The weather service received reports of flooding across all five boroughs of New York City,

prompting some vehicle rescues, spokesman Tim Morrin said.

"The problem was the rain came down so heavy and so fast that the drainage couldn't keep up," Morrin said. "Roads became quickly impassible."

Many flights in and out of New York airports experienced long delays and there were many cancellations. Hardest hit was LaGuardia Airport, where more than 34 per cent of departing flights were delayed and 14 per cent canceled, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks air travel.

The PATH rail service that connects New Jersey to Manhattan suspended service on two lines on Friday, citing a power problem.

Flooding forced the temporary closure of the main entrance to Manhattan's Pennsylvania Station, according to local media. The reports could not be immediately confirmed by Reuters.

The weather-related disruption was especially aggravating for commuters from New Jersey

and Long Island suburbs who have endured hours-long delays in recent weeks after derailments and other incidents at Penn Station. Claire Jones, 19, who commutes from her home in New Jersey to New York, said her New Jersey Transit line running in and out of Penn Station was delayed at least six times this month.

"It's difficult," Jones said. "The main thing about time transit is that it's convenient so you know if you get on this train at this time, you'll get where you need to go, and when that doesn't happen, it's extremely inconvenient."

Amtrak, which owns and operates New York's Penn Station and leases tracks and space to NJ Transit and the Long Island Railroad, is planning to close some tracks for weeks and months at a time as it undertakes repairs.

The station, with its decaying, century-old rail tunnels extending underneath the Hudson River, is a chokepoint on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, which runs from Washington to Boston. —Reuters ■

Venezuela unrest death toll rises, Chavez statue destroyed

CARACAS — A 20-year-old Venezuelan protester died on Friday after being shot in the head, authorities said, taking fatalities from a month of anti-government unrest to at least 37 as the opposition geared up for more demonstrations.

Hecder Lugo was hurt during fighting between demonstrators and security forces in Valencia on Thursday that also injured four others, the local opposition Mayor Enzo Scarano said in a series of tweets.

The state prosecutor's office, which keeps an official count of deaths since protests began against socialist President Nicolas Maduro in early April, confirmed he died after being shot in a protest.

Another 717 people have been injured and 152 are still in jail from the hundreds rounded up in widespread unrest around the volatile South American OPEC nation of 30 million people, according to the office's latest tally. There has been violence and widespread looting this week in Valencia, a once-bustling industrial hub two

hours from the capital by road.

And in an incident loaded with symbolism, a handful of young men destroyed a statue of late leader Hugo Chavez in the oil-producing Zulia state, according to videos circulating on social media on Friday evening.

Footage shows the statue, which depicts Chavez saluting and wearing a sash, being yanked down to cheers in a public plaza before it is bashed into a sidewalk and then the road as onlookers swear at the leftist, who died in 2013 from cancer.

"Students destroyed this statue of Chavez. They accuse him, correctly, of destroying their future," opposition lawmaker Carlos Valero said about the incident, which was also reported in local media. Reuters was unable to independently confirm it.

Venezuela's opposition, which now enjoys majority support after being in the shadow of the ruling Socialist party since Chavez's 1998 election win, says his successor Maduro has become a dictator and wrecked the economy.—Reuters ■



Musicians from the Jose Francisco del Castillo Youth Symphony play the national anthem as a tribute during the funeral of Armando Canizales, a violinist who died during a protest, at his wake in Caracas, Venezuela on 5 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

IATA says Mideast traffic growth slows in March

DUBAI — The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Saturday that Middle East carriers' traffic growth slowed to 4.9 per cent in March compared to a year ago, "a considerable slowing" from its performance in January and

February.

In an e-mailed statement, IATA said the global demand for flights in March, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs), rose 6.8 per cent year-on-year.

About the reasons why the

Middle East, usually an outperforming region, underperformed in March, IATA said it is related more to "developments seen last year," without giving details.

Last month, IATA said the potential implications of the Brexit talks on the air transport

are "significant," as Britain is one of the most important destinations for Arab carriers in Europe.

Nevertheless, the trade association hailed the overall traffic growth for Middle East airlines since the

beginning of 2017.

"The Middle East has seen the fastest year-on-year growth in international RPKs so far this year, with robust growth on routes to and from Asia and Europe," IATA said in the statement.—Xinhua ■

Japan researchers to seek to have Chiba stratum represent geologic age

TOKYO — Japanese researchers will file an application this month with an international geological organization to have the name “Chibanian” represent the middle Pleistocene stage, based on a stratum discovered in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, according to researchers.

If granted, Chibanian meaning “Chiba age” will be the first time the name of a Japanese place has been adopted to represent a geologic time period. The Chiba section, where evidence of the last geomagnetic reversal occurring 770,000 years ago was found preserved in good condition, is competing with two other candidate sections in Italy — Montalbano Jorica and Valle di Manche.

The three candidates are competing for the nam-



Photo taken April 25, 2017, shows a stratum in Ichihara, Chiba Prefecture, where evidence of the last geomagnetic reversal occurring 770,000 years ago was found preserved in good condition. Based on this stratum, Japanese researchers will file an application in May 2017 with an international geological organization to have the name “Chibanian” represent the middle Pleistocene stage. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ing right to represent the period from 770,000 to 126,000 years ago during which Earth’s most recent switching of north

and south magnetic poles took place.

The organization, the International Union of Geological Sciences,

is expected to select the name early next year after a thorough review.

Boundaries in geochronology are established

by composite sections with episodic depositions evidencing the planet’s 4.6 billion years of history, such as drastic environmental

changes. For example, the Jurassic period encompassing numerous stages was named on the basis of rock strata discovered in the Jura Mountains straddling the border between France and Switzerland.

The Japanese researchers including those at Ibaraki University and the National Institute of Polar Research will file the application for the Chiba section, exposed along the Yoro River on the Boso Peninsula.

In addition to grains with a magnetic trace taken from layers in the section, quality data of fossils of oceanic micro organisms and pollens will be crucial for the organization’s review in designating a section as a Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point or GSSP, according to the researchers. —Kyodo News ■

Indonesia sues Thailand’s PTT, PTTEP for \$2 billion over oil spill

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government is suing Thailand’s state-owned PTT (PTT.BK) and PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP.BK) for around \$2 billion for alleged damage to the environment from an oil spill in the Timor Sea eight years ago.

The Montara well-head operated by subsidiary PTTEP Australasia caught fire in 2009, leaking hundreds of thousands of litres of oil off the northern coast of Western Australia, according to media reports at the time.

The incident was considered one of Australia’s worst oil disasters, and PTTEP was fined A\$510,000 (\$394,000, £303,474) by a Darwin court after pleading guilty in 2011 to charges related to workplace health and safety and failure to maintain good oilfield practice. Indonesia alleges, however, that the oil spill also fouled seawater and coastal areas in the

nation’s East Nusa Tenggara province, and filed a lawsuit on Wednesday in a Jakarta court against PTT, PTTEP and PTTEP Australasia, seeking 27.5 trillion rupiah (\$2.1 billion) for damages and restoration costs.

PTTEP Australasia “has not shown good intention in resolving the pollution problem of the Montara oil spill,” Indonesia’s maritime coordinating ministry said in a statement on Friday.

Besides polluting seawater, the incident also damaged mangrove forests, coral reefs and seagrass fields in East Nusa Tenggara province, the ministry said.

PTTEP said in an emailed statement that it was aware of reports about Indonesia’s lawsuit, but that it “has not been served with proceedings and has not received any notification of the substance or extent of the claim.”—Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2017 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINESS

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINESS

Phone No: 2301185

Kanye West deletes social media accounts

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Kanye West has deleted his Twitter and Instagram accounts.

The 39-year-old music star mysteriously deactivated both his verified accounts, giving no reason for his actions, reported Ace Showbiz.

West, who is married to Kim Kardashian, has been struggling with his health following his breakdown and hospitalization in

November last year.

His condition forced him to be absent from big events like the Met Gala. It was reported that he “was still very much enjoying his time off from public events.”

Although he hasn’t personally talked about his condition, Kim recently revealed on “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” how his breakdown affected their marriage. —PTI ■

Country singer Loretta Lynn hospitalized after suffering stroke

LOS ANGELES — Country music singer Loretta Lynn was hospitalized after a suffering a stroke at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee, her official website said Friday.

Lynn, 85, was admitted to a Nashville hospital on Thursday where she is “under medical care and is responsive and expected to make a full recovery,” a statement on LorettaLynn.com said.

The singer’s upcoming shows have been postponed on advice of her doctors while

she recovers, the statement added.

Lynn was scheduled to perform at the Carolina Theatre in Durham, North Carolina on Friday, and had performances lined up across the United States through November.

Born in Kentucky, Lynn carved a career in the country music scene with her down-home twangy voice, singing hits such as 1960’s “I’m a Honky Tonk Girl” and “Coal Miner’s Daughter,” released in 1970.—Reuters ■

Deepika peeved over being mistaken for Priyanka in the West

MUMBAI — Actress Deepika Padukone says it is not only ignorance but racist when the foreign media mistakes her for Priyanka Chopra.

International mediapersons often confuse Deepika for the “Quantico” star and have even addressed her as Priyanka.

“It’s not just about me being offended. It’s you all in this room who should be offended. It’s not just ignorance, it’s also racist.

“Two people of similar colour are not the same people.

So, you as fellow Indians should actually be calling them out and educating them instead of encouraging it,” Deepika told reporters at the L’Oreal event today. When asked what could be the reason behind this con-



Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra. PHOTO: PTI

fusion, she says, “Ignorance is ignorance. I feel bad for them.”

Recently Priyanka had said that it was not fair to mistake Deepika for her. “I guess I’m the most popular brown face

that everyone has known. Every brown girl does not look the same. Don’t mistake it. Let’s try and tell us apart. That was not right and it’s not fair. She’s a massive star from India,” she had said.—PTI ■

Demi Moore sued over pool death

LOS ANGELES — Actress Demi Moore is being sued by the family of a man, who drowned in her pool two years ago.

The body of 21-year-old Ednilson Steven Valle was discovered at the bottom of the pool at Demi’s Los Angeles home following a small party thrown by her caretaker and the actress has now been named as a defendant in the lawsuit filed by Valle’s parents, reported TMZ

In their lawsuit, Valle’s parents claim that “there were no

depth markers or any safety signage in the 10-foot-deep pool, there were rocks around the pool which created a trip hazard.”

They also allege that the temperature in the pool was 101 degrees, which “compromises brain function”. Demi, 54, wasn’t at home when the death occurred but revealed she had been left devastated by the tragedy.

“I am in absolute shock. I was out of the country traveling to meet my daughters for a birthday celebration when I got the

devastating news.

“The loss of a child is an unthinkable tragedy and my heart goes out to this young man’s family and friends. I ask that you please respect the privacy of all concerned during this sensitive time,” she had said.

It was previously reported that Valle didn’t know how to swim, and his body was discovered after the caretaker and some friends returned to the property after going out briefly.—PTI ■

New Brussels museum tells history from European perspective

BRUSSELS — An interactive museum exploring Europe’s diverse history of wars, the EU and even Brexit opens to the public in Brussels on Saturday, trying to tell the story of the continent from a non-national perspective.

Visitors to the modern six-storey House of European History, funded by the European Parliament, can take an interactive tour in 24 languages, starting in antiquity and leading past the two great wars of the 20th century and the reconstruction process towards a united continent that followed.

The museum will continue to evolve with future events such as Brexit, the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union, the museum’s con-

tent coordinator Andrea Mork explained.

“Depending on tomorrow’s events, we are trying to update as much as possible. But as a museum we need a certain distance to evaluate what is important,” she said.

The museum, which cost 55.4 million euros (\$60.8 million) plus 7 million euros in annual expenses, was criticized as “a wildly extravagant vanity project” by Jonathan Arnott, a member of the European Parliament for British eurosceptic party UKIP.

The parliament’s president Antonio Tajani dismissed the criticism, saying the museum was an investment in culture as well as the education of future generations. —Reuters ■



A visitor looks at items on display at the inauguration of the House of European History in Brussels, Belgium, on 4 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Eerie model of Picasso’s corpse lies in Spanish birthplace



People take pictures next to an artwork entitled “Picasso died here” by Spanish artist Eugenio Merino, featuring a hyperrealistic figure of the Spanish artist Pablo Picasso’s corpse, displayed at the Alliance Francaise (French Alliance) in Malaga, southern Spain, on 5 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

MALAGA (Spain) — A life-size model of the corpse of Pablo Picasso lies on a plinth in his home city of Malaga, eyes closed, hands folded.

The artist who transformed his subjects into Cubist abstractions is immortalized in an eerily realistic sculpture dressed in his trademark blue and white striped jersey and black rope-soled shoes.

The work, made of silicon, resin and fiberglass, with human hair and real clothes, was created by Spanish artist Eugenio Merino - best known for his hyper-realistic models of dictators including Spain’s Francisco Franco.

Picasso lies out in a small room in the city’s branch of the Alliance Francaise cultural institute, the end point of a tour following the landmarks of his life.

On the surface, it looks like another scheme to draw in tourists. But, say the organizers, the tour and sculpture are actually a critique of the way the city has used Picasso for commercial ends. “The project is meant to criticize mass tourism and the culture industry of the city as a brand, in which tourism goes against the needs of the residents and where reality is replaced by settings created for the visitors,” said Los Interventores, a group of artists who commissioned the exhibit. Their Picasso tour passes by the church where he was baptized, his school and the bullring, before ending abruptly with his body, laid out near a marble gravestone that reads in gold lettering: ‘Here lies our good friend Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)’.—Reuters ■

Auction houses see signs of art market uptick ahead of New York sales

NEW YORK — As auction powerhouses Christie’s and Sotheby’s gear up for their New York spring sales, hopes are high that a host of major works the likes of which have not hit the block for several seasons will reap strong, even record, prices.

After years of gangbuster results marked by soaring prices, both auction houses staged relatively modest sales last year, owing largely, they say, to hesitancy on the part of consignors in an unsettled global market.

No works carried estimates much beyond \$40 million, in contrast to recent seasons when many pieces broke the \$100 million barrier. Executives resorted

to employing such terms as discerning, measured and selective to characterize both the market, and some flabby results.

But collectors’ hunger for top-tier works also drove heavy spending in the fall, said Brook Hazelton, president of Christie’s Americas, citing its Claude Monet record in November. “Those successes gave a tremendous boost to seller confidence, and since that time we have seen a meaningful increase in supply,” Hazelton told Reuters. “We have witnessed strong demand for breakthrough masterpieces,” said Simon Shaw, co-head of Impressionist and modern art at rival Sotheby’s, citing one of its star of-

ferings, Egon Schiele’s, “Danaë,” as just one example. Painted when the artist was just 19, the work which Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale head Jeremiah Evarts called “without doubt the most important early work that’s ever come to auction” is expected to fetch as much as \$40 million, not including commission, which would set a new Schiele record.

Traditionally the auction houses’ largest, the spring sales in New York kick off on May 15 as Christie’s features Pablo Picasso’s 1939 portrait of muse Dora Maar, “Femme assise, robe bleue,” estimated between \$35 million and \$50 million, at its Impressionist and Modern Art sale.—Reuters ■



A sign is pictured outside Christie's auction house in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(7-5-2017, Sunday)

6:00 Am

◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 Am

◆ Breakfast News

7:35 Am

◆ Documentary

8:35 Am

◆ Cartoon

9:25 Am

◆ MRTV Travelogue

9:45 Am

◆ Poem for childfen

10:00 Am

◆ Sunday Talk

10:30 Am

◆ Women in Myanmar Society

11:00 Pm

◆ Documentary (Chinlone)

11:45 Am

◆ ASEAN Sportlight

12:40 Pm

◆ Myanmar Movie

2:30 Pm

◆ TV Drama Series

3:15 Pm

◆ “Myanmar National League (MNL) (1) (2017) (LIVE Broadcast) (Hantharwady United FC Vs Rakhine United FC)

5:30 Pm

◆ This Week’s Special Intrest)

6:15 Pm

◆ Myanmar Classical Songs

7:15 Pm

◆ TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm

◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 Pm

◆ Unity Melody

9:15 Pm

◆ Asean Chinlone Championship 2017 Myanmar

9:25 Pm

◆ TV Drama Series

10:10 Pm

◆ Fine Arts - Bosom of Dramatic Performance

mitv

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(7-5-2017 07:00am ~ 8-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03

Am

News

07:25

Am

Paper Products... Plain but Pretty

07:46

Am

Ywar Thit’s Monhinkhar

08:03

Am

News

08:26

Am

Strong Infrastructures Through Enhancing Ties

08:55

Am

Scented Buddha Images

09:03

Am

News

09:26

Am

Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence...

To Kachin State

09:49

Am

Gold from Garbage

10:03

Am

News

10:26

Am

Reflected Glory

10:49

Am

Capable Though Disabled

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Saturday Repeat (07:00Am~11:00Am)

(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03

Pm

News

07:25

Pm

Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-5)

07:42

Pm

Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All

07:49

Pm

Today Myanmar: Yangon Book Plaza

08:03

Pm

News

08:27

Pm

U Kyaw Thu: from Artist to Philanthropist (Part II)

08:45

Pm

Sagaing: Gold Leaf

08:54

Pm

Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am~11:00 Am)

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00Am)-Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am~11:00 Am)

(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge (L) runs behind pace-makers during an attempt to break the two-hour marathon barrier at the Monza circuit in Italy, on 6 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Kipchoge runs quickest marathon in just over two hours

MONZA, (Italy) — Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge ran the quickest recorded marathon time at the Monza circuit in Italy on Saturday, crossing the line in two hours and 24 seconds but missing out on an attempt to break the two-hour barrier.

The 32-year-old Kipchoge's time, set on a Formula 1 track, smashed the official mark of 2:02.57 set by Kenyan Dennis Kimetto in Berlin in 2014, but will not enter the record books largely due to a non-compliant system of pacemaking.

The race involved just three competitors and was sponsored by sportswear group Nike in an athletics cum marketing project, Breaking2, which caught the imagination of sports fans and runners worldwide.

Nike had pitched it as sport's "moon shot".

Eritrean Zersenay Tadese and Ethiopian Lelisa Desisa, the other two main runners, both dropped off the pace and were out of the running by the halfway mark.—Reuters ■

Tottenham suffer crushing title blow with defeat at West Ham

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur's Premier League title hopes suffered a crushing blow as their nine-match winning run ended in a 1-0 defeat at West Ham United on Friday.

Manuel Lanzini's scrappy 65th-minute effort decided a derby that Tottenham had largely dominated without ever reaching the levels that had raised hopes of a first title since 1961.

Tottenham could have cut leaders' Chelsea's advantage to one point with a victory but instead the gap will stretch to a seemingly unbridgeable seven with three games left if Chelsea beat struggling Middlesbrough at home on Monday.

West Ham, the first team to stop Tottenham scoring since Liverpool in early February, moved up to ninth with 42 points and are now mathematically safe. Home keeper Adrian frustrated Tottenham with first-half saves in quick succession from Dele Alli and Harry Kane and he also did well to keep out Son Heung-Min after the break as the visitors probed for an opener.—Reuters ■

Fallen Djokovic should ask Becker to return, says Armenulic

BELGRADE — A struggling Novak Djokovic should bring past mentor Boris Becker back into the fold in order to rediscover his vintage form after dismissing his entire coaching staff on Friday, a former Yugoslavia Davis Cup team captain said.

"I expected this move because Djokovic's results in the past few months have been well below par for the world's former number one," Radmilo Armenulic told Belgrade's B92 website (www.b92.net).

"Something had to change because this team had become his family of sorts and I think Djokovic has made the right decision.

"He will now have to put together a heavyweight coaching

staff headed by the likes of Boris Becker, Pete Sampras or some other former top player.

"In my opinion, bringing Becker back would be the best course of action as he played the

best tennis of his life after the German had joined his team," added the 76-year old, who steered Yugoslavia to Davis Cup semi-finals in 1988, 1989 and 1991.

Djokovic said he had decided to part company with long-time head coach Marijan Vajda, fitness coach Gebhard Phil Gritsch, and physio Miljan Amanovic after last month's Monte Carlo Masters quarter-final exit at the hands of Belgian David Goffin.

That setback completed a poor run stretching back to last July, when he crashed out in the early stages of Wimbledon. He subsequently relinquished the top spot in the rankings to Briton Andy Murray before parting ways with Becker in December.

Having won six of his 12 grand slam titles after the German had become part of his team, including his maiden French Open title in June, the 29-year old Serb failed to spark in 2017 and suffered a shock second-round Australian Open exit.

The fiasco was followed by a pair of successive defeats against flamboyant Australian Nick Kyrgios in Acapulco and Indian Wells, before Goffin rubbed more salt into his wounds.

Armenulic said he believed Djokovic needed to change his game in order to stay competitive in the top echelons.

"He is not getting any quicker and therefore needs to switch from long rallies to shorter points.—Reuters ■



Serbia's Novak Djokovic listens to his coach Boris Becker during a practice session at Melbourne Park, Australia, on 16 January 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

7 MAY 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Are modern inventions, ruining our future?



Kaung Zan Phone
B.E.H.S (2) Bahan

Are modern inventions ruining our future? Frankly, some people will say 'no' and some 'yes'. In every way, all of them are not wrong. There is no definite answer to the above question because if the modern inventions are used in a right way they can help us to improve ourselves and have a more successful future. But if we use them in a wrong way, our future will surely be ruined.

For instance, let us take a look at the past. Before 'cars' were invented, people had to walk to everywhere they wanted to go such as their school, offices so on and so forth. But after 'cars' have been invented, we have been enjoying this ease of transportation since then. In others, we have become 'lazy'. We use our cars to go to everywhere, to work, to school, to go

on a trip or journey and so on. Some even use their cars to go to a convenience store which is just on the back street. Frankly, using our cars to go to somewhere far from our homes is right but we shouldn't use cars to go to somewhere which is near us. As our great Lord Buddha preached, 'Everything should be balanced.' But as some people, including some of my family members, use cars all the time, it proves that we, people, have become lazy.

Thus, we are getting fatter and fatter. Suppose that you are an owner of a company. A fat guy and a thin one take the interview to become an employee of your company. In a common sense, neglecting their experiences, would you choose the fat one or the slim? Well, I'm sure that 90 percent out of 100 will choose the thin one. Being so, modern inventions may ruin our futures if they are not used correctly.

Nowadays, every family in our country, Myanmar, has a TV, the one-eyed-monster, and people spend hours by watching TV. Watching TV is good but we should not watch it all the time and waste our pre-

cious time. As my favorite writer, William Shakespeare said, the time we have used cannot be replaced by the waves of time we have yet to use.

So we should watch TV for a while and spend the rest of our time usefully, especially the children around my age who are the future leaders of our country. The difference between the people who become successful in the future and who don't, it's the way they use their time. Thus if we watch TV all the time, our futures will be ruined for sure.

Mobile phones are also one of the serious dangers for us. Honestly, some people spend hours using mobile phones, playing online games like COC, COK, using Face book, Messenger, Viber, Wakie and so on.

We should not let mobile phones take complete control over us like that! Whether using phones is good or not simply depends on the way we use them. Most of the students use mobile phones to dial their girlfriends and crushes or to chat with them on messenger which, in

fact, will result in their lives being ruined. As a fellow student, I would like to say that we should not chat with them all the time especially when we are in the Matric as our results of the Matriculation exams will make a permanent decision for us whether we will become mental or physical workers in the future. Even in the foreign countries, it is natural for us, teenagers, to have girlfriends and crushes when we are over 12 as to the information from the internet. But it is of great importance that we have to remain interested in our education more than relationship. Otherwise, it will ruin our future. The more the future of the students are ruined, the more ruined will be the future of our precious and lovely country, Myanmar.

To put it in a nutshell, other modern inventions can also ruin or improve our futures depending on how we use them. Use them in moderation and we will get fruitful results such as fame, success, etc. Use them excessively and we will have to face the bad consequences of our actions.

Every face is lovable in my eyes



Hnin Moh Moh Aung
Institute of Medicine

My name is Nyein Chan, which was named by my Reverend Sayadaw U Sobita of the monastery situated near the only cemetery of our small town. As it is located nearby the graveyard, the monastery is called Sossankyaung. People apart from those residing nearby the monk never call me my real names, addressing me as Kauk Ya, instead. Some 15 years ago, a townfolk met a new-born baby wrapped with a piece of cloth in a basket near the cemetery, knowing that someone abandoning the baby. He himself and his neighbors were too poor for a baby to be adopted. In this way, the orphan whose parents were unknown finally came to the monk. The then poor boy was none other than I was.

Though no one knew who were my parents and on which day I was born, Sayardaw named me after the day when

I was picked up "Monday" as Nyein Chan meant for Peace in English, according to Myanmar traditional naming system. Out of pity for my present life of being left in a desperate condition, Sayardaw could choose other names but he had chosen this name on purpose with a view to driving sufferings and difficulties away from me in the years to follow. Sayardaw made me brought up under the care of his valet, Kappiya U Phyu Thee. The valet aged nearly 60, spent his life serving the monk since at the age of 30 after the death of his wife leaving no children. At 5, I was sent to school to learn primary education. In my life, there were unforgettable days when I was young. Whenever I returned from school, the Sayardaw condescended to listen to me recounting the very first experiences at school. Sayardaw wanted me to become an educated one. Just because I was allowed to study at school, I came to know that I was adopted by the monk as they nicked me Kauk Ya at school. Failing that, I would have acknowledged that U Phyu Thee was my father because the latter was always very kind to me like a

father without showing any signs of disappointment. He always calls me "My son." Since after I ascertained that I was an adopted son, some people called me Kauk Ya without the knowledge of the monk though they called me Nyein Chan in front of the Sayardaw.

In spite of being nicknamed, I was never annoyed or disappointed with anyone. Somehow, I had a great desire to know who my parents were. Some people thought I would feel hatred toward my parents, especially my mother as they gave me away on a road. Perhaps they would have a reason or something to do so. So, U Phyu Thee called me Phoe Pyone Cho for my ever-smiling face and endurance. Since then, a childish idea occurred to my mind that there may be my parents among the guests to the monastery, people met on streets, those seen in TVs, videos and cinemas, if they will be alive. With that idea, I felt love towards every one. Whenever they responded to my smile, I felt that I received smiles from my parents. I thought that my parents would have recognized me who has been their son surely whereas I have

no reason to recognize them completely. Later, I came to realize that all the people regardless of religions or races in this world have been my relatives.

Visitors who pay a visit to the monastery, especially on Sabbath Days talk of one thing and another. The topics in their conversation include political affairs. I am not interested in politics and I do not know what the politic is. Nothing is known apart from the knowledge that we all including displaced people in many parts of our country, all those working in air-conditioned rooms, teachers producing leaders-to-be for the future, medical doctors and staff trying to save our people's lives and generals from both sides giving commands to their forces to fight against each other are relatives. I am only an ordinary lad living on a diet provided by my Sayardaw. I am less educated compared to others. But I dare say my mind is free from greed, anger and ignorance. Therefore, every face surrounding me is lovable in my eyes. Let us uncover our masks of veiling with hatred, misunderstanding and revenges so that our future can be brighter.

Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

From today onwards, we are going to introduce “Basic English Grammar “ for “Basic Students” of any age and any entry level here in this Grammar Lessons section which will come up every Sunday on this page.

Here, “Basic English Grammar” means “the very Basic Level of English Grammar which is essential for you to read, to speak and to write your Correct English”. By the words “Basic Students”, we mean any student from any class and any school or institution, who wants to study English Grammar” .

Let's start with Lesson 1 today.

Lesson 1 : The Eight Parts of Speech

If you categorize or classify all English words, you can put all these into eight and only eight different boxes.

Let's see what they are .

These eight different boxes are called: ..

- (1) Nouns
- (2) Pronouns
- (3) Adjectives
- (4) Verbs
- (5) Adverbs
- (6) Prepositions
- (7) Conjunctions and
- (8) Interjections

All these eight boxes will be opened one after another and we will study all in detail in the coming lessons.

But, for the time being, what you should bear in mind is these eight different classes of English words are called “ the Eight Parts of Speech”, because by using these parts or words in their proper places, we can speak or write correct English .

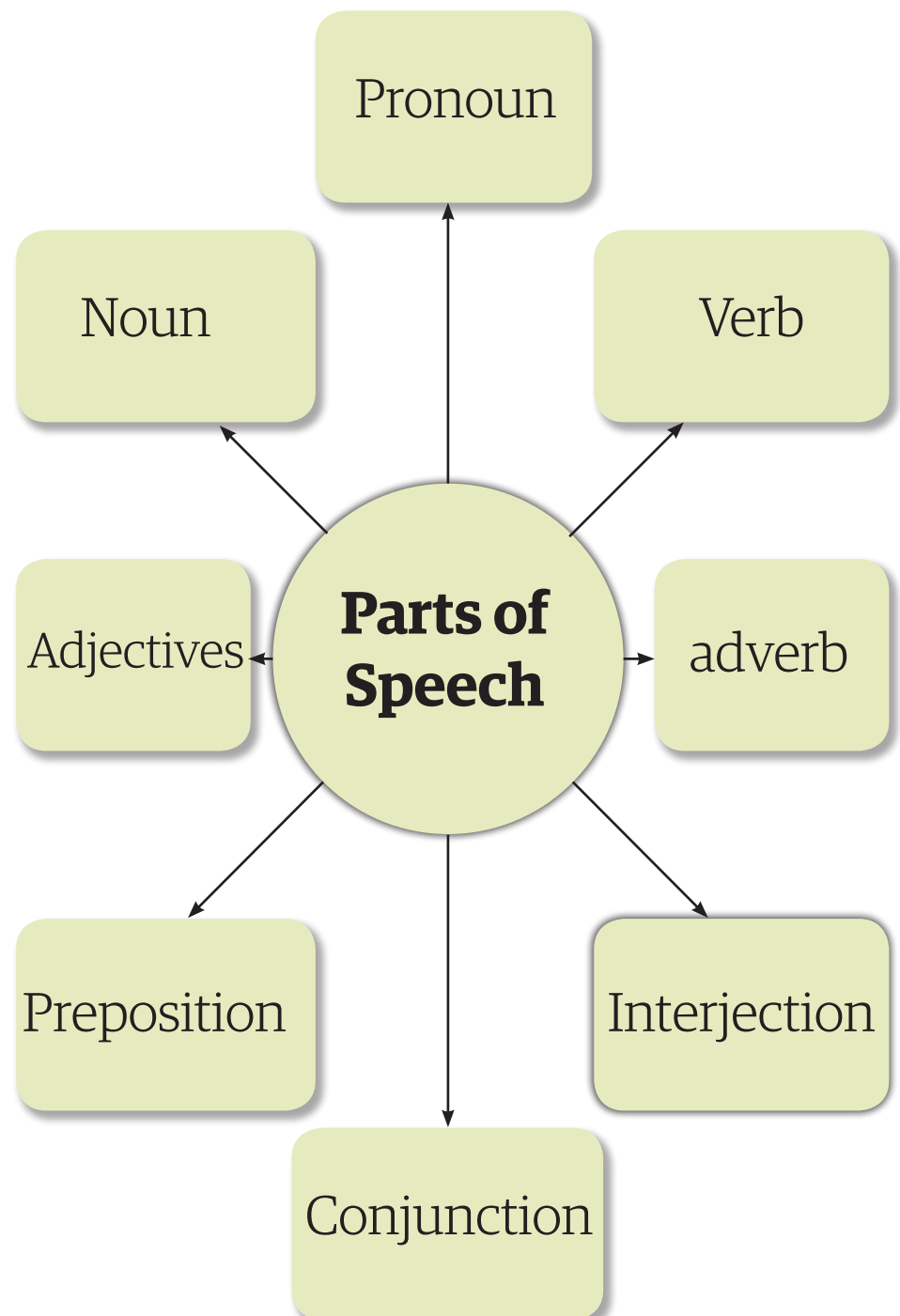
Let's see some example sentences below.

e.g.

- (1) Girls like their dolls.
(Girls=*Noun*, like=*Verb*, their=*Adjective*, dolls=*Noun*)
- (2) We love our parents.
(We=*Pronoun*, love=*Verb*, our=*Adjective*, parents=*Noun*)
- (3) Boys run quickly.
(Boys=*Noun*, run=*Verb*, quickly=*Adverb*)
- (4) Children are eating sweet ice creams.
(Children=*Noun*, are eating=*Verb*, sweet=*Adjective*, ice creams=*Noun*)
- (5) I put the book on the table.
(I=*Pronoun*, put=*Verb*, the book=*Noun*, on=*Preposition*, the table=*Noun*)
- (6) Mi Mi and Mu Mu are playing together .
(Mi Mi=*Noun*, Mu Mu=*Noun*, and=*Conjunction*, are playing=*Verb*, together=*Adverb*)
- (7) Wow! You are pretty !
(Wow=*Interjection*, You=*Pronoun*, are=*Verb*, pretty=*Adjective*)
- (8) Alas ! We win.
(Alas=*Interjection*, we=*Pronoun*, win=*Verb*)
- (9) We are happy in our English class.
(We=*Pronoun*, are=*Verb*, happy=*Adjective*, in=*Preposition*, English=*Adjective*, class=*Noun*)
- (10) The sun shines brightly.
(The sun=*Noun*, shines=*Verb*, brightly=*Adverb*)

By looking at these examples, I hope that you know most of these English words in your English Lessons.

Before going on to open these eight different boxes, let's see what you know about these eight parts of speech.



Please answer the following questions. Please don't worry if you make mistakes. You can answer whatever you think what you understand. Feel free to make mistakes. (I'll correct later.)

Exercise 1

- (1) Into how many different boxes you can put all the English words?
- (2) Can you put these into more than eight boxes?
- (3) Can you put these into less than eight boxes?
- (4) What are these eight boxes?
- (5) Write down 5 words you know. Can you mention what parts of speech are these? Try to do so.

The correct answers for this Exercise 1, will be in this newspaper next Sunday .

Bye for now !

Please do not forget that we are going to open the first box named “Nouns” next Sunday .

Bye Bye !

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

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The Most Important Stakeholders in Education

Dr. Nu Nu Win
Mingalar Learning Centre

We have so many stakeholders in the field of Education, such as, students, teachers, parents, donors, headmistresses and headmasters, Administrators from the Department of Education, both Basic and Higher, tutors, assistant lecturers, lecturers up to professors and rectors, the Minister of Education and so also persons from the other fields as school medical officers and school nurses, red cross associations and so on .

Among them, students, parents and teachers are the most important stakeholders.

We use to say that Students, Parents and Teachers are the three sides of the Education Triangle. If all these three sides or we can say three stakeholders of Education go together in a harmonious way, the condition or status of Education will be high. But if all three are not in harmony, the standard of Education will decline.

That means if students will do what students should do, teachers will do what teachers should do and parents will do what parents should do, then all these three sides will be in harmony and then we can get a beautiful Education triangle. So let's see how the three most important stakeholders should behave.

In our Myanmar society, it is not difficult to see what each side should do. We have our own customs and traditions in Myanmar such as Duties of Pupils, Duties of Teachers, and Duties of Parents. If we

all fulfill our duties, the Education sector will become perfect.

It is not difficult to do so when we were young and even up till the time when we became young teachers (i.e. in the days of 1970s and 1980s). We could teach our students as much as we could and we could take care of them not only for their Education, but also their all-round development, i.e. their physical development, mental development, emotional development , social development and their moral and ethical development .

During these days, when parents came to school to see the teachers, they used to say, "Teacher, you can teach them in every way you need to do so , if only they will not become blind or lamed (broken)". That is how parents relied fully on teachers for the all-round development of their children. But nowadays, the condition is upside down from heaven to hell. All teachers have to take care not to beat or punish a child no matter how much they break the classroom discipline. Or else, they will be reported to the higher authority and it is so sure they will be punished in one way or the other.

Because the one side (the parents side) is broken , the other side (the teacher side) becomes broken too. They have to take care of themselves so as not to lose the present job as a teacher; they have to relax some of their rules. They just ignore it when the children break school discipline if it is not so serious. Thus the children become spoilt.

They may think "I can do whatever I

like in school, no need to care about the teachers and the classroom disciplines. If something happens, I have my parents who will take care of me and these problems."

How can a child with such kind of attitude learn the lessons well?

Then another side of the Education triangle is broken again.

Let's see why all these happen during nowadays.

Nowadays, the gap between the rich and the poor has become greater. Those who have become so rich, want to fulfill all the needs of their children as they love them so much. They use to be always on their children's side whether these are right or wrong. They never take care of the disciplines their kids should follow. They think they can solve all these problems through their richness. That is one kind of parents.

Another kind is those who are so absorbed in their own business matters, they think if they can give enough money for their children, they are dutiful indeed. They never take care of what their children are doing or how they feel.

The other kind of parents, are those who have to struggle for their living to make ends meet. This is the other extreme. They have no time to take care of their children whether they go to school regularly or not. So, their children have the chance to do whatever they like.

To take care of all these different kinds of children of all these different parents, the role of the teachers is not easy.

When we were young SATs , we got only 200 Kyats as our salary , but at that time, the price of gold was also 200 Kyats. So, we teachers had enough money to take care of our families and also we could also take care of our pupils whenever they were in need. We could pay their school fees (i.e. what we call tuition fees at that time not like today's tuitions) , we could buy them compass boxes if their own parents could not afford to do so, we could buy and treat them lunch when they were in need and so on . So, during that time teachers were like parents to their pupils.

But, now a days, teachers' salaries are so low to meet the needs of their own families , so they have to find outside money by giving special tuitions, so that they could fulfill whatever they need for their own families' health , education and so on.

Because of this difference, sometimes the side of teachers is broken too.

In this way the three sides of the Education Triangle can be broken and so there is no more in harmony. Thus, sometimes corruption can be seen from these sides. Then how can we develop our Education sector to its highest level.

That's why we all need to keep our all three sides of the Education Triangle well and harmonious so that we can develop our children's all-round development to the full.

Therefore, we need to make sure that the three most important stakeholders of Education are in harmony so that we can have a higher and well-developed Education System.

Read the passage and answer the questions.

Mr Jones's shop sold food. Mr Jones and a young man worked there. The young man's name was George.

A man came into the shop on Monday. He was a funny man. Mr Jones was in the office. It was behind the shop. The funny man looked at George and said, "I want a small table, please".

George said, "We don't sell tables in this shop. We sell food."

The man smiled and answered, "A small, brown table." He took a picture out of his bag and showed it to George. It was a picture of a small, brown table.

George put his mouth near the man's ear and said, "We do not have tables in this shop! Food! Not tables!"

The man smiled and answered, "That's good. Thank you." Then he sat down on a chair and waited.

George was not happy. He went into the office and spoke to Mr Jones. Then he and Mr Jones came out again.

Mr Jones was angry. He looked at the man and said, "What do you want?"

The man smiled and answered, "I want a loaf of brown bread, please. Haven't you got any bread in your shop?"

Mr Jones said, "Yes, we have." He looked at George, and then he went and got a loaf of brown bread from a big box and gave it to the man.

Exercises

Look at these questions. Find the right answers. Then write the questions and the answers:

- Did Mr Jones work in George's shop?
(a) No, he didn't. (b) Yes, he did.
- Who worked in Mr. Jone's shop?
(a) A funny man did. (b) George did.
- Did the shop sell tables, or food?
(a) It sold food. (b) It sold tables.
- Did the funny man ask George for some food?
(a) No, he didn't... (b) Yes, he did.
- Did the funny man ask George for a table?
(a) No, he didn't. (b) Yes, he did.
- Did George show him a table?
(a) No, he didn't. (b) Yes he did.
- Whose office did George go into then?
(a) Mr Jones's. (b) The funny man's.
- Did Mr Jones speak to the funny man?
(a) No, he didn't. (b) Yes, he did.
- Was Mr Jones happy, or angry?
(a) He was angry. (b) He was happy.
- Did the funny man ask Mr Jones for a table, or some food?
(a) A table. (b) Some food.

(Answers will be covered next Sunday.)

L A HILL



Shall we visit legendary Ngwe Taung Pyi?

Soe Soe Naing

Kayah State where one can find exquisitely woven and finely embellished attire, intriguing traditional culture and quaint social mores, caves and lakes created by nature and captivating legends, now becomes a place that can fascinate not only the local visitors but foreign tourists also.

Kayah State is the smallest State among seven States having only 4500 sq mile in a real extension. It is sparsely populated and situated on mountainous area in the south-eastern part of Myanmar. The Kayah State has the border with Shan State, Kayin State of Myanmar and also with Thailand. The main power plant of Myanmar, namely Lawpita Hydro Power Station existed in Kayah State. Kayah State is constituted by 2 districts, Loikaw District and Bawlahe District. Loikaw Districts includes four townships, Loikaw, Dimawso, Phruso and Shataw Townships. Bawlahe District consists of Bawlwke, Phasaung and Mese Townships.

Kayah State is easily accessible by air from Yangon and Mandalay and the flight time is about one hour. The journey by car from Naypyidaw to Kayah State takes about 5 hours while the journey with the same mode of transport from Yangon or Mandalay to Kayah takes about 12 hours.

Thiri Mingla Taungtaw also known as Taung Gwe Zedi is a present of nature that glorify Kayah State with grace and beauty. The distinctive feature of Thiri Mingla

Taungtaw (Thiri Mingla Hill) is in its having nine separate steep-sided hillocks growing out and up from the common rock base. It is an interesting feature to see a stupa on each top of the hillock. The highest part of the mountain as a whole is 378 ft. The earliest stupa known as Shwe Yat taung Zedi having 33 ft. in height was built on one of the summits in 1895, and in 1913 Shweyinaye Zedi with 13.5 ft. in height, in 1914 Kyauk Thanban Zedi with 13.5 ft. in height, in 1929 Aungtawmu Zedi and Sutaung Pye Zedi with 24ft.in height, in 1933 Pylone Chantha Zedi (main Zedi) having 36 ft. in height and lower Kyaik Htiyo Zedi with 13.5 ft. in height, in 1934 Upper Kyaik Htiyo Zedi with 18ft. in height and in1950 Shwe Pyi Aye Zedi with 18ft. in height were built respectively on each summit. All the stupas on each summit can be reached by lift. The pilgrims or visitors can also use the stone steps to reach all the stupas built on summits of the 9 hillocks.

Thiri Mingla Taung is called “Taung Gwe Taung” in Myanmar, “Loi Phatet” in Shan and “Phaw Phye” in Kayah. There was an omen that said when a king who was dedicated supporter to the propagation of Buddhism emerged, he would build a Zedi (stupa) on this hill.

There was a legend that goes like that the Ngwe Taung Pyi (Silver Mountain Country) once existed in the place that is now known as Dimawso Township. There is now a dam called Ngwe Taung Dam named after the Ngwe Taung Pyi of the legend.



An ethnic Kayah (Red Karen) woman weaving a cloth on a traditional back-strap loom in Kayah State. **PHOTO: SOE SOE NAING**



Thiri Mingla Taungtaw also known as Taung Gwe Zedi is a present of nature that glorify Kayah State with grace and beauty. **PHOTO: SOE SOE NAING**

The Ngwe Taung Dam can be reached in 45 minutes drive from Loikaw. The dam is 35ft. high and 6000 ft. long and it is earth-filled type. Water storage area of the dam is 620 acre wide and volume of storage water is 8920 acre. The irrigated area of the dam is 6920 acres and people around the dam area rely on this dam for their drinking water.

You can extend your visit from Loikaw to new Panpet village in an hour drive to see one of the world wonders, culture of Kayan tribe. Kayah ladies in upholding their typical culture adorn themselves with spiral coil of brass or silver around their necks, their hands and their legs. Those brass or silver coils serve not only as the cultural features but also as decorative elements.

Kayan ladies start sporting the 2 or 3 brass coils at the age of five. When they reach 10 years of age the coils adorned at 5 years are removed and put on 10 coils. After they turn to 20 years of age, 15 to 20 numbers of coils are added again. In the case of wearing coils around the neck, some coils separate from the coils around the neck are worn on the shoulders to constitute a base and firm stand for the coils above around the neck. The thickness of the coil is a bit thinner than a little finger of a lady. Kayan women also used to decorate on the neck, hands and legs by hanging the different types of silver coins or minted coins, apart from the silver or brass coils. It is said that all the brass and silver coils and coins and minted coins worn all over the body of a Kayan woman weighed round about 60 pounds (about 17 visses).

Most of the Kayan ladies living in urban area casually wear the dress in vogue while the rural ladies are still in their tradition, passionately adorn themselves with their hand-woven dress and sporting brass coils and assorted coins around the neck, hands and legs.

Though the populace of Kayan people is remarkably lesser in amount than other indigenous people, their traditional dress with quaintly decorated neck , hands and legs are always captivating all the visitors.

Furthermore, Kayan people are adept in making handicraft from bamboo. They make toys and home utilities from bamboos. They depend on growing paddy and other crops for their livelihood. Kayah Khaung Yay (Kayah country liquor) is famous liquor and Kayah curry of bamboo pupa and fried eggs of red ants are so appealing that people salivate when they get smell of those traditional foods.

Among the legends of Ngwe Taung Pyi (a country where a silver mountain exists) one is about a female mythical bird with human body and bird's wings, the name of that mythical bird is Dwe Menaw. The legend says that there were seven female mythical birds from Ngwe Taung Pyi used to come to the lake located in the dense jungle near Silver Mountain. They used to be frolicking in the lake joyfully. One day Thudanu Prince got to the lake while he was on the way back home after finishing his study at the University. He found the strange mythical birds in the lake and was amazed to see beautiful young bird-like

ladies swimming in a lake so remote from any human settlements and in a dense jungle. He wondered whether they were human being or spiritual being. Then he decided to catch these bird-like ladies by snare. The youngest and the most beautiful lady, namely Dwe Me Naw was caught in the snare and the prince brought her to his country. The prince, then, fell in love with Dwe Me Naw and married her with

A distinct feature of Loikaw, capital of the State is having a river known as Bilu Chaung flowing past the town proper pleasantly.

grand nuptial celebration. Dwe Me Naw became princess and she was provided all to live in luxuries with host of attendants in the palace. However, she never felt happy in the palace despite being endowed with boundless luxuries. She always pined for returning her home land, Ngwe Taung Pyi.

The place where Dwe Me Naw and her sisters were residing has been known to have lakes on seven levels, one lake on each level respectively. Thus the place is now famous under the name of “Lakes on seven

levels” which is situated in Demawso Township, 14 miles away from Loikaw. In that region, there are seven mountains with the name Golden Mountain, Silver Mountain, Ruby mountains, etc. As the village existed near Silver Mountain, it is called “Ngwe Taung Village” and it is called Demawso in Kayah language. For local visitors and also for foreign tourists as well, planning are under way to construct the amenities which are essential for a recreation resort.

Another interesting place for recreation is also a lake called as “Hti Pwint Kan” having 227 ft. in length and 115 ft. in width. It is also situated in Demawso Township. The lake is supposed to be an old volcanic vent and the phenomenon in which sand and silt from the bottom of the lake surge upward the surface of the lake water in an open umbrella form is very interesting and can arouse the curiosity of the visitors. There is a natural overflowing well that makes a pond which is, in legend, said to be the place where Thudanu Prince and Dwemenaw vowed to be faithful to each other for life. Thus, the lake has been named as “Thitsar Yay Kan” literally meaning “Lake of Faith.” and the overflowing well has been known as “God’s Well”. The water from the well and lake supply drinking water and farming water for the local people.

“Hti Pwint Lake” and “lakes on seven levels” are all natural lakes and they are easily accessible by car using the Loikaw-Mawchi high way. Kayah State is also famous for its natural limestone caves. Among those caves, “Kyat Gu” (Kyat Cave) is distinct



Hand-made art crafts are displayed at a souvenir shop in Loikaw, Kayah State. **PHOTO: SOE SOE NAING**



Htipwint Lake, near Ngwe Taung Village in Dimawhso Township, where an umbrella-shaped volcanic structure of 227 feet in height and 115 feet in width that was created by a now-extinct volcano is located. **PHOTO: SOE SOE NAING**

for having strange big wooden coffins in the cavelets present in the wall of the main cave. Kyat Gu is situated in the area 11 miles 2 furlongs away in the north-east of Loikaw on the side of Loikaw-Shartaw road. According to tradition Kyat Gu was said to be discovered in 1960. To enter the main cave one has to climb about 100 ft. from the base and the cave is high about 20 ft. at the entrance. The cave is still in pristine stage and attractive with silvery stalactites and stalagmites giving the form of natural pillars in the cave. The path inside the cave is natural. The coffins found in the main cave and smaller caves formed in the wall of main cave are 20 ft. to 30 ft. long and so far 150 coffins have been found. However the a real extent of the cave has not been measured yet. The electric lighting has been supplied for 1800 ft in the cave along the path for the convenience of visitors.

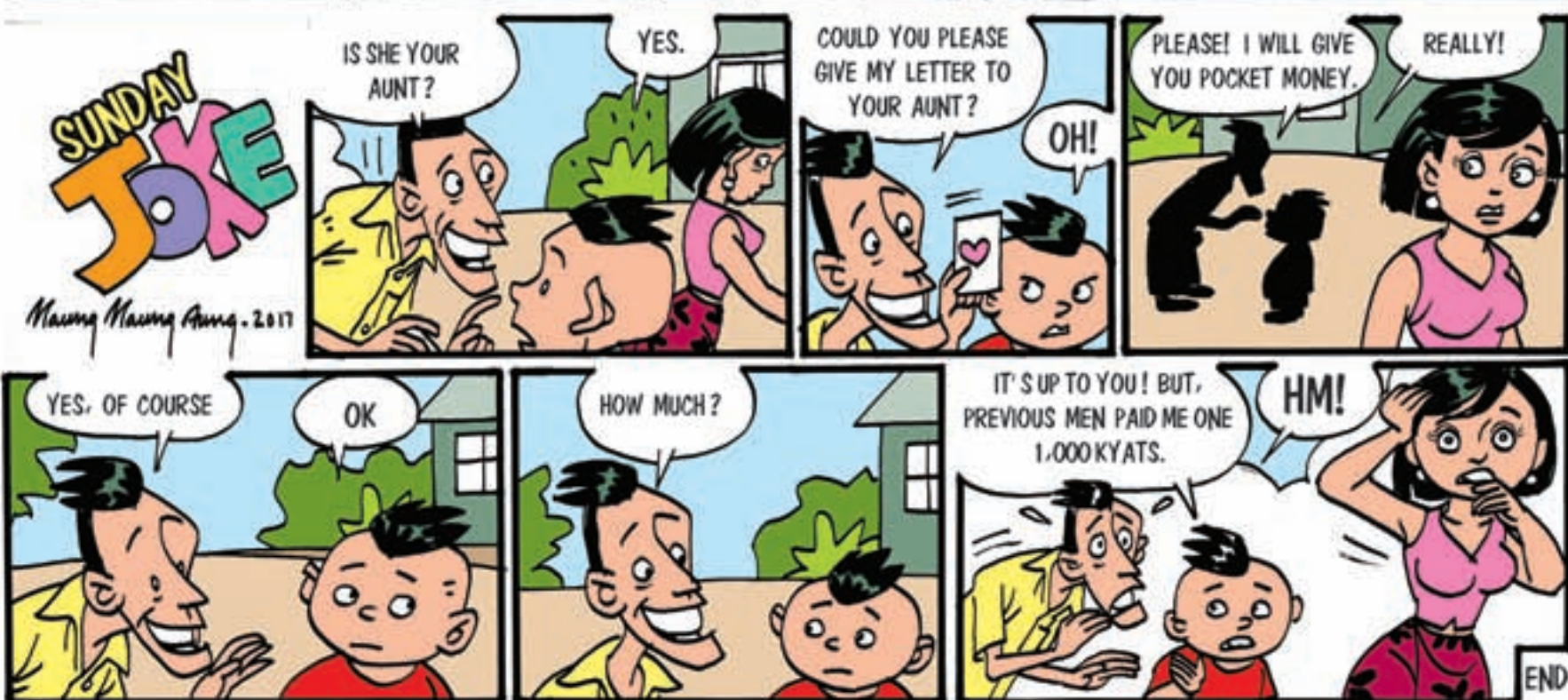
The visitors to Kayah State, after they visit the popular sites of the State usually go to Htise Khar Waterfall to take recreation enjoying the natural beauty of waterfall and its environ. It is located at Htise Khar village in Loilem village tract of Loikaw township. It is only 7 miles away from Loikaw and is existing on the border line of Kayah State and Southern Shan State. There are some small pagodas, restaurants and souvenir shops in the surrounding area. Security measures are also arranged for the safety of the visitors.

A distinct feature of Loikaw, capital of the State is having a river known as Bilu Chaung flowing past the town proper pleas-

antly and a busy market of Loikaw called Thiriminglar Market on other side of the river where people are in hustle and bustle selling and buying the various kinds of commodities. Another noteworthy feature of Loikaw is an edifice constructed near the Loikaw watch Tower in memorial of late unsung heroes who valiantly fought and sacrificed their lives in the battle with Kuomintang forces who invaded Myanmar territory in the period between November 1949 to August 1950. The Edifice for Unsung Heroes was accompanied by a 10 ft. high memorial stone inscription. The visitors can extend their visit to Lwetamu cave, Aungthabye Cave, wish-fulfilling Myonan Shwe Zedi (pagoda), Shwe Letwar Pagoda, Mya Kalat, Thit Tapin Taung and Naung Ya Lake. The traditional culture of Kayan, their social mores and mesmerizing endowment of natural features of Kayah State with improved communication and security of the area can generate the ever-increasing number of visitors to Loikaw. According to the chairman of Famous Parami group of Companies, the villages in the environ of Loikaw will get developed in a short time as the developers are now investing in building hotels, motels, guest houses, restaurants and mini-marts in that area, consequently creating rising real estate business that brings about the hiking price of the land.

This article was written with the intent to share the knowledge on the prominent sites worthy of visit in Kayah State or Kantarawaddy or Ngwe Taung Pyi of the legend. (Translated by Khin Maung Win)

SUNDAY COMICS



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Invitation to young writers for new Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is now accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its new weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform starting in May.

Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150 NgarHtatGyiPayar Street, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information:

- (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.),
- (2) Real 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 news office

Problems between Parents & Teens

Ei Phyu Phyu Zaw
Yangon University of Foreign Languages

A family is a kind of community in which father, mother and their children live together sharing love and caring to one another. Although family members love each other a lot, there may usually have problems in families. Different families can have different problems. Mostly, those kinds of problems occur when children are starting to turn into teenagers. Every teenager has to pass the period of time before they become adults. That period is called 'Adolescence'. Adolescence is a time when boys and girls begin to establish greater independence from their parents. It is not easy for both parents and teenagers to smoothly navigate this transition of stage. So, while parents and teenagers are trying to overcome this transitional stage, they may face some problems in their relationship. Among the problems, these ones are common; modern technology, alcoholism, mentally disabled parents, divorce and remarriage of parents, and others.

Firstly, I want to mention how media and technology effect on the relationship between parents and adolescents. In my view, continuous development of modern media and technology holds many problems between parents and teenagers to some extent. Nowadays most of the teenagers have own social accounts on the line and many social networks. In there, teens can make their secret life and own world each without letting their parents know about what they did, what they are doing and what they will do. For example, nowadays most of the teenagers are using Facebook, twitter, etc. where they can reveal and share their feelings they dare not or cannot tell their parents. And they can post photos and activities and chat with their friends. Otherwise, teens can play free online games, read free books and novels if interested in reading or can download music, videos and applications they like. There seem to be available most of the things that today's youth want--such as books, chatting, music, TV, general knowledge, school lessons, information and even shopping on the website. So, social networks and gadgets are gradually becoming better than real companions, like siblings and parents. Most of the teenagers shut their parents out when they get home from schools and use the Internet for their study or relaxation. That is the reason of why many teenagers are not close to their family and the worst is that they remember their parents only in need of money. Hence there is no doubt that teens and parents are gradually more and more apart from each other although they live together under the same roof. If there are no frequent and warm conversations between parents and children, it will be



difficult for both to closely associate in the future.

When we present about the family problems, one common problem is alcoholism and drug addiction. This affects the whole family – young, teenage, or grown-up children, wives or husbands, or even other relatives and friends. Every one out of four in this world has a problem with alcohol, and they are affected differently. In some family, they might have parents who are addicted to alcohol or drugs or maybe both, but in others, this addiction happens to children; teenagers are most possible ones to become alcohol or drug addicts. Alcohol abuse is a major problem for teenagers and their parents because it can damage the health of teenagers as well as the bonds between teenagers and parents. Many teenagers experiment with alcohol and other drugs. Adolescent problems with alcohol and other drugs are occurring at an earlier age than ever before. Children today commonly have their first alcohol-drinking experience at 12 years of age. Adolescents amounting to 4.6 million have alcohol-related problems such as poor school performance, trouble with parents, or criminal behavior and arrests. The main reason of this problem is that some parents keep in mind about the business and cannot pay attention to their teenage children's affairs and desires. That thing can partly exhort the teens to the wrong way and lead them to an unsuccessful life. In the same way, parental alcoholism and drug abuse effect on their children's mental and physical problems. These children have difficulties not only with their parents but also with their school and studying when they come of age. Often the stressful environment at home makes them incapable of establishing relationship with teachers, classmates, boyfriend or girlfriend. The reason is that they were not used to be in normal relationship apart from violent and fierce ones and, they do not trust others.

Plus, parents' divorcing also is a cause to make problems for both parents and adolescents. Parents divorce for many reasons. Usually divorce happens when couples feel that they can no longer live together due to fighting and anger or when the love they had to each other when they married, has completely changed. Divorce can also happen because one parent falls in love with someone else and sometimes it is due to a serious problem like drinking, drug-abuse, or gambling such as playing cards or betting in football matches. Sometimes nothing bad happens, but parents just decide to live apart.



After parents' divorce, children begin to feel stressed out, angry, frustrated or sad. Their emotions may change frequently, too. They want to be protective of one parent or blame another for this situation. They may also feel abandoned, afraid, worried or guilty. They fear that one of their parents will not love them as much anymore and that they might lose time with that parent. But on the other hand, they may also feel relieved after the divorce. Otherwise, there might have been a lot of tension or disputes at home more than ever. These feelings are typically found in teens whose parents get divorced.

It is estimated that mental illness can affect 1 in 4 of us, at some time in our lives. Therefore, many children grow up with a parent who suffers from a mental illness. When some children live with a parent

who has an enduring mental illness such as a personality disorder or long standing depression, or a severe mental illness, they may be undertaking inappropriate tasks for their age such as domestic tasks like household management; cleaning, shopping, washing and cooking. This can impact on the child's physical health, emotional well-being and future prospects.

The majority of children who have a parent with a mental illness find it difficult to cope because they do not have the maturity and coping tools to deal with certain complex situations. Often children are faced with feelings of insecurity and anxiety due to the unstable relationship with their parents. Sometimes they had to take their parents' responsibilities and take care of the younger siblings and a sick parent. Those kinds of children always feel worry, fear or shame because of their parent's illness and behavior. Because of having a family member with a mental illness, they can usually get teased or bullied by other children and sometimes can hear unkind and upset things about ailing parents. By looking at the miserable lives of these children, we can partly reduce their mental feelings by offering our sympathetic and helpful manners, sweet words and showing how we also feel the same like them.

Despite many difficult problems that most of the families are facing and struggling in these days, I think the problems mentioned above are the most common ones for teens and parents. If you realize those problems are happening in your family or around you, I want to advise you to keep calm and find out the best solutions together with your parents or children rather than making decisions with your only one sided opinion without knowing or letting say other's ideas and assumptions. I believe that we may take some lesson from these events which have appeared in my writing and can also prevent disadvantages from coming to us.