

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 41, 3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Nayon 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 28 May 2017



## Hailing Union Peace Conference —21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong (Second Session)



### Government and KIA may meet again soon

A meeting between the government and the Kachin Independence Army-KIA is expected to happen soon, KIA Vice-Chairman U N'Ban La told media at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport yesterday on his way back home. **(FULL STORY ON PAGE-3). PHOTO: MNA**



#### NATIONAL

Private sector development is the main driving force behind economic growth

**PAGE-2**

### UPC-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong (Second Session) to be held through 29 May

THE second session of the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, which began on 24th May, will be held through 29 May. Myanmar News Agency

## NCA based on draft submitted by ethnic armed organizations

News – Ye Gaung Nyunt

AT the press conference held in the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 yesterday morning, the fourth day of the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong (Second Session), UPDJC secretariat member U Hla Maung Shwe said the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was based on a draft submitted by ethnic armed organizations that includes all except United Wa State Army (UWSA), National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA) and Restoration Council of Shan State

(RCSS).

“The draft was brought by the ethnic armed organizations with the exception of Wa, Monglar (NDAA) and RCSS and was not drawn up by the government and the Tatmadaw.

When NCA was signed, RCSS was included in the signatories and whether NCA had progressed or not need to be reconsidered. Both the State Counsellor and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services are going along the NCA path and NCA umbrella can be considered as covering all” said U Hla Maung Shwe.

Discussions in the current conference on the political sector only includes matters that were agreed between ethnic armed organizations and democracy forces since 2005 said Chin National Front (CNF) Vice Chairman Dr. Hlan Hmon Sar Khaung.

“What we submitted in the political sector is not new.

The matters agreed between ethnic armed organizations and democracy forces in 2005 were submitted. We amend this in the Mai Ja Yang congress. A congress of the ethnic armed organizations was held in April

2017 where it was submitted again. Therefore, this was not a submission that only the ethnic armed organizations who signed the agreement accepted but was in fact a dogma held by ethnic organizations armed consistently. Therefore, it will be convenient for future signatories as this is understood to be accepted by all” said Dr. Hlan Hmon Sar Khaung.

Director General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office told the media that NCA is a solid policy for cease fire and is open for non-signatories to participate.

**SEE PAGE 2**



#### NATIONAL

Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee Secretariat meeting

**PAGE-3**

#### NATIONAL

Delegates attending Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong (Second Session) tour Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

**PAGE-3**

## Private sector development is the main driving force behind economic growth



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects making bricks at the newly opened factory in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRIVATE sector development is the main driving force behind the national economic growth, noted Vice President U Henry Van Thio in northern Yangon yesterday morning.

He was speaking at the opening of a new factory where 225 million aerated concrete blocks-AAC and 90 million autoclaved pressed concrete bricks-APC are manufactured annually.

The State is encouraging the public-private partnership-PPP in its mission of prioritizing the private sector development, the vice president explained, adding, its PPP programme is privatizing the convertible industries.

Under the State's PPP programme, Mother Industrial Co., Ltd converted a government-owned sand brick factory in Insein Township north of Yan-

gon into an advanced industry, manufacturing AACs and APCs beginning 24 this month. The vice president also highlighted the importance of industrial development for the export promotion, realization of an economic model that strikes a balance between the agricultural and industrial sectors, and job generation of citizens living in the country and returning from abroad.

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho and Managing Director of the company U Soe Yi also gave speeches at the ceremony in which the VP unveiled the factory plaque and the minister, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Region Minister for Rakhine Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung and officials formally inaugurated the factory. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Grand Hanthar International Specialist Hospital opens in Yangon

THE first stage of Grand Hanthar International Specialist Hospital at the corner of Kyimyindine road and Nanattaw road in Yangon was opened yesterday, with an attendance by U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance and officials.

The first stage of the newly opened hospital can provide full fledge services such as outpatient, emergency and inpatient services and have diabetes center and hormone disease specialist center with various supporting machineries said Dr. Than Than Aye from the hospital.

The 8-floor hospital has 700-bed with 800 medical staff including specialists.

The next stage will include more specialized services and surgeries.

Present at the opening cer-

emony were the Union Minister, departmental officials, hospital management and invited guests. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Grand Hanthar International Specialist Hospital is officially opened by Union Minister U Kyaw Win and officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

## NCA based on draft submitted by ethnic...

### FROM PAGE 1

"Many types of ceasefire agreements were signed that failed for various reasons. NCA include thoughts on preventing such failures and there were groups who signed the NCA as well as groups that hadn't signed yet. There are political problems that had happened for years. There are different background histories of how each ethnic armed organizations came into existence.

Discussing in this differing circumstances, there are differ-

ences in presentation and approaches. Therefore we are keeping the doors open for groups to join us while setting up a common ceasefire process that is firm and would not break down the ceasefire. We are working on a basic policy that is acceptable to all. It also includes basic policy that is acceptable to those who are not in (the NCA)," said U Zaw Htay.

The 8 ethnic armed organizations that have signed the NCA on 15 October 2015 were Karen National Union (KNU), Karen National Union/Karen National

Liberation Army (Peace Council) [KNU/KNLA(PC)], Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), Chin National Front (CNF), Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and Arakan Liberation Party (ALP). Questions raised by the news media personnel at the press conference were answered by UPDJC Secretariat members U Zaw Htay, U Hla Maung Shwe, Dr. Hlan Hmon Sar Khaung and U Aung Soe. ■

## Tree falls, kills man in Maungtaw

A VILLAGER was found dead under a fallen tree in a forest in Maungtaw Township yesterday.

The victim is identified as Swe Tusong from Shwetine Village in Maungtaw Township.

He went into the forest together with his friend to

cut bamboo in the morning of 25 May. As they did not returned to the village, the villagers went into the forest to search for them and found the body of the victim. Ma Shawbi, who went into the forest together with the victim is still missing.—MNA ■

## Fire breaks out in Maungtaw

A FIRE broke out in Eudaung village in Maungtaw Township yesterday, destroying a shop.

The fire caused by negligence happened at a shop of

Maung Kyan at 8:00 pm.

It claimed the shop with thatch roofs and bamboo walls. The police filed charges against him under the law.—MNA ■

## Hand-made guns and bullets seized in Maungtaw

THE security forces seized hand-made guns and bullets while searching a house in Thawunchaung village in Maungtaw Township yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces searched the house of Marmat Shawbe in

Thawunchaung village and seized three hand-made guns, eight rubber bullets, two fired rubber bullets, seven 5.56 mm bullets, and a receipt showing money paid to 20 peoples on 1 May. The police are making investigation to find the suspect who is at large.—MNA ■



Photo shows seized hand-made guns and bullets. **PHOTO: MNA**

## UPDJC Secretariat meeting reviews outcomes of group meetings

UNION Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat meeting was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning where topics discussed by sectors and groups were reviewed and discussed.

The meeting was attended by the Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, UPDJC Secretariat members U Khin Zaw Oo, U Zaw Htay, U Hla Maung Shwe, U Aung Soe, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, U Myo Win, Sai La, Dr. Hlan Hmon Sar Khaung, Khun Myint Tun, Saw Mya Yarzar Lin, Sai

Kyaw Nyunt, Min Kyaw Zayar Oo, Tar Hla Pe, U Myint Soe, U Naing Ngan Lin and responsible persons.

Topics discussed on second and third day of the group meetings were reviewed and discussed by the UPDJC Secretariat and will be submitted to the UPDJC meeting.

At the UPDJC meeting the points submitted by UPDJC Secretariat will be reviewed to confirm its inclusion as part of the Union Agreement.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee Secretariat meeting is held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday reviewing outcomes of the group meetings. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Myanmar delegation attends 8th International Meeting of High Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters



U Thaung Tun is welcomed by Russian Ambassador Mr Nikolay A Listopadov as he arrives back Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

AT the invitation of the Secretary of Security Council of the Russian Federation Mr. Nikolai Patrushev, a Myanmar delegation led by National Security Advisor to the Union Government U Thaung Tun attended the 8th International Meeting of High Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters, held in Zavidovo, Tver Region of the Russian Federation from 23 to 25 May 2017. National Security Advisor was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen. Aung Soe and responsible officials from Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor. The meeting was attended by high level representatives from more than (90) countries, including ASEAN members. The meeting discussed the role of modern technologies in international information security including Cyber security as

well as enhancing international cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crimes.

While in Zavidovo, the National Security Advisor met separately with Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Mr. Nikolai Patrushev, First Deputy Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation Mr. Boytsov Artourovich, Secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of China Mr. Meng Jianzhu, and National Security Advisor of India Mr. Ajit Doval. Matters relating to the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation and national security issues were discussed in the bilateral meetings.

In Moscow, National Security Advisor met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Igor Morgulov and discussed enhancement of bilateral relations.— Myanmar News Agency ■

## Government and KIA may meet again soon

A meeting between the government and the Kachin Independence Army-KIA of the Northern armed groups is expected to happen soon, KIA Vice-Chairman U N'Ban La told the media before the seven northern armed groups, who attended the opening ceremony of the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong, left for Kunming, China.

“Bye-bye everyone! We are going home with success, but we will have to hold further talks with the government,” he said, after leaving Horizon Lake View Hotel. When asked about the time, he said “Soon. It’s going to happen soon.”

Before leaving for Kunming, Zhao Guo-ann who is in charge of external affairs department of the Wa state said,

“We leave Nay Pyi Taw today. Our groups will reach their respective destinations via Kunming. The destinations of the seven groups are not the same. Some will go back home from Jing Hong, some from Mognai and others from Ruili. There are also others who go back home from other places. So we will take different routes for our homebound trips. We all hope for peace.”

As regards the meeting between the seven Northern Armed Groups and the State Counsellor, Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor U Zaw Haty met the press.

“The State Counsellor hosted a luncheon for the KIA Vice-Chairman U N'Ban La and wife at 12:30 pm; met with four groups – KIA, UWSA, SSPP and

NDAA at 2 pm; held talks with the remaining three groups — AA, MNDAA and TNLA at 4 pm,” he told reporters. He also said that roughly, there were no agreements, but all accepted the idea of going through the dialogue.

The seven groups, who have formed the Union Political Dialogue Committee, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 May, and attended the second session of the Conference under the mediation of the People’s Republic of China and at the invitation of the government and the Tatmadaw.

The groups were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw airport by Vice-Chairman of the Peace Commission U Thein Zaw and Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang.—Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

## Delegates attending Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session) tour Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

181 delegates from organizations attending Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session) toured distinguished areas in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning.

The delegates first paid homage to Uppatasanti Pagoda with flowers, candles, waters and viewed the white elephants

in the pagoda compound.

The next visited the Thatta Thattaha (seven sacred sites) Bodhgaya in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the afternoon, the delegates arrived to Gem Museum where the museum curator and officials welcomed them. They studied and viewed the precious gems, jewelry and silverwares

shown in the gem market and gem exhibition halls.

Afterward, the delegates visited the Tatmadaw Museum where officials explained about historical records shown in Tatmadaw (Army), Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air) exhibition halls.—Myanmar News Agency ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**ACTING CHIEF EDITOR**

Aye Min Soe  
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**

Mark Angeles  
markangeles@gmail.com

**SENIOR CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

**SENIOR TRANSLATORS**

Khin Maung Oo  
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader)  
Zaw Min  
Min Zaw Oo

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**

Ye Htut Tin  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)  
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

**TRANSLATORS**

Khaing Thanda Lwin,  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Hay Mar Tin Win,  
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Ei Myat Mon  
Zaw Htet Oo  
Kyaw Zin Lin  
Sandar Soe  
Kyaw Zin Tun

**REPORTER**

Tun Aung Kyaw,  
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

**COMPUTER TEAM**

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),  
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,  
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,  
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,  
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

**EDITORIAL SECTION**

(+95) (01) 8604529,  
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 974424114

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**

(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com  
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
www.facebook.com/  
globalnewlightofmyanmar

**Write for us**

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

# Affordable housing projects to be implemented soon

TO fill housing needs of people, the government is continuing its efforts to develop affordable housing projects in every region and state through a systematic approach.

Under the arrangement of the government, Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA) will organise the establishment of the housing schemes in collaboration with private construction groups.

With the technical assistance offered by Myanmar Coll Wall Precast Thailand and partner organisations, three types of public housings will be built with the use of precast system.

The apartments from the projects in downtown area will be sold through 15-year installment plan. Units of public housings on the outskirts of Yangon such as Dala, Hmawby and



Photo shows new affordable housing in Thailand. **PHOTO: MYO MIN THEIN (MAYANGON)**

Htaukkyant townships will be sold through monthly payment system.

In the initial stage, affordable housings will be constructed on private-owned lands in

three wards in South Okkalapa Township.

Plans are underway to build new housings in Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (South), (North) and (East).

Priorities will be given to retired civil servants, government staff and public wishing to develop self-employed businesses.—Myo Min Thein (Mayangon) ■

## Almost 4,500 tourists visit Myanmar through Tachilek Border this FY

NEARLY 4,500 international travellers visit the country through Tachilek, a border town in Shan State, in the current fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Between 1 April and 25 May, about 1,500 tourists mostly from Thailand, China and third world countries entered the country via Tachilek cross-border gate from Mae Sai of Thailand. They

visited around Tachilek Town and other significant sites including Maha Myatmuni Pagoda, the Shwedagon Pagoda, National Races Village, Akhar market and Chinese Buddhist temples.

According to the ministry, more than 1,800 holidaymakers toured to Mongphyat and Kengtung towns while other 1,184 visitors went to Taunggyi

and Inle areas in Shan State, Bagan in Mandalay Region, the well-known Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda in Mon State and the commercial capital Yangon over the first 55 days of this FY.

In Mongphyat and Kengtung townships, there are a lot of tourist attractions, involving Chinese monasteries, Buddhist temples and other religious buildings. Among

others, Thai and Chinese citizens mostly visit the sites with beautiful natural landscapes, observing lifestyle and culture of residents.

The country mainly operates culture-based tourism, with the tourism authorities putting forth concerted efforts to develop marine travel, which is more popular in other countries.—Shwe Khine ■

## Bank staff to go Thailand after capacity building trainings

SELECTED bank employees will undergo capacity building training provided by the Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) in co-operation with Myanmar Banker Association and Thammasat University, the Thailand's second oldest institute of higher learning.

This is part of a plan to improve the country's banking industry by conducting the capacity building trainings for bank staff to help promote their skills. The special training programme is the first of its kinds in the country to turn out skilled employees in the sector

by raising their knowledge and experience through one-and-a-half month course.

Thirty bank staffs of the country are allowed to attend the course free of charge, with the organisers planning to open the similar courses twice a year.

In addition, all trainees will be sent to Thailand after the training to study the operation of banks in Thailand, including Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) and Bank of Thailand (BOT) and as well as Exchange of Thailand (SET) within the two-day trip.—200 ■

## KBZ to provide 24-hour service for trade-related payments via MPU



Customers seeking information about around the-clock service for trade-related payments through Myanmar Payment Union-MPU system. **PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)**

KANBAWZA Bank has prepared to offer its around-the-clock service for trade-related payments through Myanmar Payment Union-MPU system, said U Aung Kyaw Myo, Deputy CEO of the KBZ Bank.

The announcement for the payment system change came at the workshop on trade transaction payments with Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) system and expanding the fully online licensing system for export and import products held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office in Yangon recently.

“Today is the time when we

all are making efforts for development of import and export industry. Financial sector plays an important role in the drive for the trade sector. KBZ Bank has prepared to provide the 24-hour trade-related payment service to traders with the use of the Myanmar Payment Union system,” said U Aung Kyaw Myo.

The first stage will be introduced at Nay Pyi Taw headquarters, Yangon export and import office, Muse 105 trade zone and Myawaddy Trade Zone with the digital banking system. Customers can make payments via a point-of-sales (POS) system of Kanbawza Bank at the offices and by an e-commerce system

via the internet website of the Ministry of Commerce for the 24-hour service.

The MPU system change has been under preparation to be introduced at the remaining border trade zones. Thanks to the system change, customers can make payment with the use of an ATM card. Meanwhile, the cost for transaction is reduced from 500 kyats to 200 kyats for one time. The workshop was also attended by Director-General Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Yan Naing Tun, Director-General of the Trade Department, MPU’s CEO U Zaw Lin Htut, and invited traders.— **Thura Lwin (Eco)** ■

## MTSH share price plunges down to the lowest

SHARE price of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) plunged downward and hit a year-low of Ks3,800, according to the statistics of Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX).

After split of share, MTSH traded its share at Ks5,100 per unit. And then, the share price slipped downward and hit a record low of Ks3,900 on 15th May. The price remained on the decline and reached all-time low of Ks3,800 on 25th and 26th May.

First Myanmar Invest-

ment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and FPB are currently trading their shares on YSX.

A total of 9,620 shares worth over Ks53million were traded on 26th May 2017, with trading volumes of 1,013 shares from FMI, 8,311 shares from MTSH, 113 shares from MCB and 183 shares from FPB. The share prices are Ks15,500 for FMI, Ks3,800 for MTSH, Ks8,800 for MCB and Ks27,000 for FPB at the closing time.

—Mon Mon ■

## Myanmar Jewellery entrepreneurs to join Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Fair



Merchants check jade stones at an exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR jewellery entrepreneurs will display gems and jewellery products at Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Fair which will be held from 15th to 18th June, said an official from Yangon Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

The aforementioned association has joined Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Fair since 2014. The association participated in 57th Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Fair with about 50 stalls.

Thai Gems and jewellery industry is listed as one of

the world’s largest gems and jewellery fair. This Fair can bring about the economic opportunity with international countries and exchange the new techniques, he added.

Thailand purchases the raw gem materials from international countries. They also buy the gems produced from Mogok, Myanmar but the mining of ruby is found to decline.

Thailand purchased nearly 30 per cent in the previous years but with the decline of raw materials in Myanmar, it is now purchasing only 5 per cent.—200 ■

## Over 350 more import/export items to be added to online licensing system

A total of 352 import/export items will soon to be able to get access to a fully online licensing system, according to a recent meeting of the Commerce Ministry.

The fully online licensing system started in early June 2016 with 28 export items and 15 import items. Soon, 329 more import items and 23 export items were added to the system.

The Myanmar Payment

Union (MPU) system will be utilised at import/export offices in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Myawaddy and Muse border gates next month, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Previously, while making payments for licence fees and registration, only those who had accounts at Myanmar Citizens Bank could pay with the e-Commerce online payment system.

A transformation of the

MPU system is to facilitate the payment system and cut down unnecessary procedures.

This system will start in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Muse 105th Mile trade zone and Myawaddy trade zone.

Concerted efforts will be exerted so that this system can be practiced at other border trade zones, special economic zones and the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).—**Ko Khant** ■

## Philippines turns to heavy firepower as hunt for rebel leader narrow

MARAWI CITY, Philippines — Philippine armed forces helicopters fired guided rockets at Islamist militant positions on Saturday in an attempt to end a siege in the southern city of Marawi that has raged for five days.

The use for the first time of the heavy firepower came amid growing confidence that the location of the man believed to be the leader of the Islamic State-inspired fighters, Isnilon Hapilon, has been pinpointed in the city.

“We are trying to use our maximum force,” said Major General Carlito Galvez, who heads the military command in the Western Mindanao region.

“The main purpose of the offensive is to suppress the lawlessness and to maintain normalcy in Marawi so that our people here, our countrymen, can return, especially by Ramadan.”

Ramadan, Islam’s month of fasting and prayer, began on Saturday and has special significance in Marawi, which has a predominantly Muslim population in a largely Catholic country.

The Maute rebels’ hold of Marawi City and the government’s announcement that Indonesians and Malaysians were among the fighters has raised alarm about the prospect of Islamic State’s radical ideology gaining traction Southeast Asia.

The Maute have emerged



Smoke rises in the residential neighbourhood of Marawi City as fighting rages between government soldiers and the Maute militant group, in southern Philippines on 27 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

from the glut of bandit and separatist groups in the southern Philippines and are a tactically smart, social media savvy group eager to align with Islamic State militants.

Security experts say Mindanao could become a draw for regional extremists and the Maute’s alignment with the Islamic State group and its ability to take on the military could support moves to secure funding and recruit foreign and local fighters.

A city of 200,000 people, Marawi is mostly deserted, with

officials saying “80-90 percent” of the population has been evacuated.

Some residents remain in relatively safe neighbours but others are trapped close to the fighters from the Maute group and other militants from the area.

Islamic State’s Amaq news agency claimed responsibility for the Marawi unrest, although that came more than a day after it started. The military says Maute has yet to be endorsed by Islamic State, or ISIS, as one of its affiliates.

The militants have control of some government buildings, including a jail, which was seized on Tuesday, leading to the escape of more than 100 prisoners, including some Maute members.

“I saw them near the highway. I saw ISIS there. I could tell because they wore black headbands with the ISIS signs,” said one man fleeing Marawi by foot, who identified himself as Musa.

“They were also riding around my area on motorcycles.”

Jo-Ar Herrera, a military spokesman, said 41 militants had

been killed, with 10 more deaths after heavy fighting on Friday. Two more soldiers died, bringing the total of those killed in action to 13. Forty-five military personnel had been wounded.

Asked whether the military had located the whereabouts of Hapilon in Marawi, Herrera answered “yes”.

“They can run but they can’t hide,” he said, adding that it was only a matter of time before Hapilon is captured or killed.”

Hapilon, a leader of another Mindanao-based rebel group Abu Sayyaf, pledged allegiance to Islamic State last year and has formed an alliance with Maute. The military says he is still wounded from a January air strike and the fierce Maute resistance is aimed at protecting him.

According to Philippines Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Hapilon received \$2 million from Syria to fund his campaign in Mindanao.

Sidney Jones, a regional security expert, said it was not clear that Hapilon was calling the shots in Marawi. Abdullah Maute, one of two brothers that formed Maute, may be setting the overall strategy.

“He’s smarter, and the fighters are on his territory. So no, Hapilon’s death would not cripple the movement,” Jones said.—Reuters ■

## Airbus starts building helicopter plant in China

QINGDAO — Airbus Group’s helicopter manufacturing arm began construction of its first assembly line for commercial aircraft in China on Saturday.

The plant, located in the city of Qingdao in eastern China’s Shandong Province, will be jointly operated by Airbus Helicopters and Qingdao United General Aviation Company.

The plant will be completed in 2018 and is designed to produce 18 H135 helicopters a year, but capacity could be further raised according to demand, company sources said.

The first aircraft is likely to be rolled out in 2019.

Airbus Helicopters

CEO Guillaume Faury said the assembly line demonstrated a commitment to cooperation with China’s rapidly growing aviation industry.

The H135 is a popular light helicopter in China, mainly used in medical aid, rescue, police surveillance, fire fighting and tourism.

In 2016, China emerged as the largest civil helicopter market for Airbus Helicopters, thanks to the opening of low-altitude airspace that stimulated a boom in demand.

According to estimates, China will require about 600 light helicopters in the next 20 years.—Xinhua ■

## Malaysian police arrests six Islamic State suspects

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian authorities have arrested six local men for suspected involvement with the Islamic State militant group, police said on Saturday.

Muslim-majority Malaysia has been on the watch for Islamic State-linked militants since an attack last year by the group in Jakarta, the capital of neighbouring Indonesia.

Inspector-general of police Khalid Abu Bakar said in a statement that the six suspects were detained from separate raids in four states from 23-26 May.

The first arrest was of Muhammad Muzafa Arief Junaidi who surrendered after police issued a media statement requesting the public to come forward with information about him. The 27-year-old cow farmer

was wanted by police for smuggling arms for Malaysia-based Islamic State militants.

Khalid said Muzafa was instructed to sneak into Southern Thailand with two firearms.

Another arrest involved two brothers — a religious school teacher and online businessman — under suspicion of helping the militant movement in Syria. The brothers are relatives of Muhammad Fudhail Omar, who had instructed a “lone wolf” attack in Malaysian state of Sabah last August.

Fudhail is expected to take over the role of the former top Islamic State operative Muhammad Wanndy Mohamed Jedi who was on a US list of global militants until his death, Khalid said.

Wanndy was the alleged

mastermind behind a grenade attack on a Kuala Lumpur bar last June which injured eight people. It was the first and so far only Islamic State attack that caused casualties in Malaysia.

Also arrested, a 54-year-old retired military personnel for channelling around 20,000 ringgit to Syrian militants through several transactions. One of his sons has joined the militants in Syria. Another two unnamed suspects were detained for supporting and helping the Islamic State movement in Syria.

All six suspects will be held for further investigation, Khalid said.

Malaysia has arrested more than 250 people between 2013 and 2016 for suspected militant activity linked to Islamic State.—Reuters ■

## Top China official says Hong Kong's autonomy is not a license to challenge Beijing

HONG KONG — A top Chinese official said on Saturday Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy must not be taken as a license to confront Beijing, and urged the territory's government to implement contentious new national security laws.

The comments by Zhang Dejiang, China's number three official who oversees Hong Kong affairs, highlight growing concerns at Beijing's top leadership about a fledgling independence or secessionist movement in the former British colony.

They come as Hong Kong, which returned to mainland rule in 1997 amid promises of wide-ranging autonomy under the formula of "one country, two systems", is set to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its handover on 1 July, with Chinese president Xi Jinping widely expected to visit the city.

In some of his strongest comments yet, Zhang, the chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, warned in a speech that Hong Kong's autonomy should not be used as a license to challenge the central government's authority.

"Under 'One Country, Two Systems,' the Central Government and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's power relationship is... not one of power sharing," Zhang said during an official forum discussing Hong Kong's mini-constitution, in footage carried by Hong Kong's Cable TV.



Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Zhang Dejiang (C) gives a speech during the second plenary session of the NPC at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on 8 March, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

stitution, in footage carried by Hong Kong's Cable TV.

"Under no condition should the high degree of autonomy be used as a guise to confront the Central Government's authority."

After the 2014 "Umbrella Movement" protests, where hundreds of thousands occupied the streets for months and demanded full democracy, a nascent independence movement emerged, though it lost momentum after China stepped in last year to effectively disqualify two of the movement's young leaders

elected into legislature.

Apart from the independence movement, another group of activists headed by student protest leader Joshua Wong called for self-determination rights for the former colony.

Zhang slammed both movements on Saturday. "In practice they attempt to turn Hong Kong into an independent or semi-independent political entity, and to secede Hong Kong from the country," Zhang said.

"We cannot ignore these actions. The (Hong Kong gov-

ernment) should implement their constitutional responsibility under the Basic Law to enact laws over national security, and resolutely halt any behaviour and action that endanger national unity."

Under Hong Kong's mini-constitution, known as the Basic Law, the government is expected to toughen up the territory's existing national security laws, but has held off on doing so since its last attempt in 2003 triggered the first massive street protests after the handover. —Reuters ■

## South Korea says contact resumed with vessel off Somalia, crew safe

SEOUL — South Korea said on Saturday it has resumed contact with a distressed fishing vessel that feared it was being followed by a suspected pirate vessel off the waters of Somalia, and that the three Koreans and 18 Indonesians on board were safe.

The South Korean military had dispatched its anti-piracy naval unit after communication with the Mongolian squid fishing vessel was cut when it requested help after midnight on Friday.

The vessel's South Korean captain confirmed the safety of the three South Koreans, the foreign ministry said in the statement.

A foreign ministry official told Reuters the vessel was "not hijacked" and that the Indonesians were also safe. The ministry had said earlier that South Korean authorities were working with their counterparts in countries, including the United States, Germany, India and Japan, to trace the vehicle. It added that it will now drop its "request for cooperation to related countries and wrap up the case". On Tuesday, Somali pirates hijacked an Iranian fishing vessel to use as a base to attack bigger, more valuable ships, part of an upsurge in attacks following years of relative calm. —Reuters ■

## Nepal's ethnic parties launch protests to thwart upcoming local elections

KATHMANDU — Nepal's Madhes-based ethnic parties on Friday decided to boycott the second round of local body elections slated for 14 June announcing a fresh round of protests.

At a press conference held in the Capital, the Madhesi parties under the banner of United Federal Alliance announced that they will launch series of protests in Southern Terai plains to disrupt election process.

The alliance stated in its press release that it would impose general strikes on 1 and

2 June in Madhes and Limbuwan region to thwart the second phase of elections as candidates will have to file their nominations on 2 June.

Nepal held the first round of local body elections on 14 May in provinces 3, 4 and 6, which was a major step of the government to implement the new constitution promulgated in 2015.

The latest move by the Madhes-based parties has thrown into disarray the plans of the government to hold second round of local body elections in 1, 2, 5 and 7 provinces of the country that border India,

observers said.

"We will padlock election offices in all municipalities and rural municipalities on 30 May and bring out torch rallies in all the district headquarters, municipalities, and major parts of the districts on 31 May," the release said.

The fundamental demand of the Madhes-based parties is to change demarcation of the provincial boundaries which the government has failed to fulfill, the released said.

A key leader of the agitating alliance, Mahantha Thakur, told the media that the revised con-

stitutional amendment tabled by the government at the House failed to address their demands, forcing them to launch the fresh agitation programmes.

The Madhes-based parties, which represent Nepal's southern Terai, announced their unification and the launch of a new group called Rashtriya Janata Party last month.

The Madhes-based parties have been demanding more political representation at the provincial and upper house and re-demarcation of provincial boundaries.

Rounds of talks between

the Madhes-based parties and the government failed to yield positive results.

Earlier, the government had registered the new amendment at the House in a bid to persuade the Madhes-based parties to participate in all three tiers of elections — local, provincial and central.

Over 50 people were killed in violent clashes with police in Nepal's southern Terai belt during the anti-constitution movement after Nepal promulgated the new statute in 2015 without involvement of the Madhes-based parties. —Reuters ■

## Discipline for Everyone and Discipline by Everyone

Dr. Nu Nu Win

AT the present time, as we all are marching towards our goal of a Democratic Federal Union, each and every one is important for the country. Each person should have confidence and self-respect. We need to value our culture, our traditions and most of all our self-discipline. If we take a good look at world history, we can see that countries where the citizens are well-disciplined grow and prosper. They can succeed in everything they do.

So, we need to not only value ourselves but also have respect for and value others. We know that discipline is the backbone of any organization or army. Without discipline, orders cannot be carried out effectively. Without discipline, projects cannot be implemented successfully on time with efficiency and effectiveness.

When we talk of discipline, stories of Sparta and Rome come to mind. One of the main factors for the rise of the Roman Empire was because of the discipline of the Roman army.

In civilian life also we need discipline. Especially, schools should keep school discipline, teachers should keep teachers' discipline, students should keep students' discipline, parents should keep parents' discipline, and government staff should abide by the Code of Conduct for Public Service Personnel and follow the rules and regulations issued by the respective Administrative departments.

If we do not take care of these different disciplines, the whole community or the whole country will rot from the core in utter chaos and confusion.

For example, if someone does not follow traffic rules, it can hurt not only that person, but also many others who are faultless or innocent. So,

everybody has the duty to follow the disciplines according to the different occasions.

That is discipline concerning others, such as different departmental disciplines, traffic disciplines, and the customs and traditions of each ethnic nationality.

Another kind of discipline is self-discipline.

For example, if a student studies regularly, and does his homework regularly, goes to school on time and returns home on time, we can say that he has self-discipline. We can say that he lives a disciplined life.

It is also important for everyone to have self-discipline. When a person has self-discipline, he needs no rules or laws to control him. He does whatever he should do by his own free will and according to his own timing. He needs no one to supervise him or monitor him. Therefore, because he

has his own self-discipline, he can perform any task or accomplish any assignment efficiently in a timely manner.

In this way, we can all finish whatever we need to do in time and with a quality and standard acceptable by our superiors.

That is why, we should have a high regard for discipline which is very important for dealing with others. Even in the business world and in the diplomatic community, punctuality and "keeping one's word" is very important.

All Myanmar citizens, young and old alike, should study and emulate countries whose citizens value and practice discipline in their daily lives. It is beneficial for us to imitate the good traits and reject the bad traits.

So, the writer wants to say again "Discipline for Everyone and Discipline by Everyone". ■

## Why Peace?

Dr. Khine Khine Win

WE all want peace. We do hope peace. It is because we all well known that no development, no rule of law, no human rights can happen if there is no peace. Without peace, we can have many problems like poverty, sickness, illiteracy, child mortality etc. and that is utmost essential that we have peaceful environment to deal with them. Willy Brandt, former Chancellor of Germany said "peace is not everything, but without peace, everything is nothing". Yes, without peace, everything is nothing.

We all want peace. We do hope peace. It is because peace only can bring the future of children, women, men and everything. Women and children are the victims and worst affected by conflict and suffered serious harm. They feel like there is no future for them if there is no peace. They believe that peace is important and it only can bring happiness for them. Their future is totally depends on peace.

We all want peace. We do hope peace. It is because we all want free from poverty, have food security and want to live freedom and equality. We understand that sometime poverty and inequality fuel conflict and instability. According to the World Bank, the share of extreme poor living in conflict-affected situations is expect-

ed to rise from 17% of the global total today to almost 50% by 2030. Conflicts also drive 80% of all humanitarian needs. So we totally need peace.

We all want peace. We do hope peace. It is because we want to live under good infrastructure without fear. Conflict destroys infrastructure, including water supply systems, roads, farmlands, crops and public health facilities etc. Everything is destroyed by conflict. To steer the country towards a more prosperous and stable future, we totally need peace.

We all want peace. We do hope peace. It is because we want sustainable development. More importantly that sustainable peace is vital for sustainable development for our future generation. According to IISD, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. Peace, Justice and Strong Institution is one of the goals of 17 global goals for our planet. Peace, justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are at the core of sustainable development. Several regions have enjoyed increased and sustained levels of peace and security in recent decades. But many countries still face armed conflict and violence, and far too many

people struggle as a result of weak institutions and the lack of access to justice, information and other fundamental freedoms. How we can aim to achieve the SDGs in countries where peace is the main challenge.

We all want peace. We do hope peace. It is because we all want full and equal access to human rights for us. We do hope the presence of equality within us. Without peace there is no human rights and no human rights, no peace. There are many ongoing conflicts that are taking place around the world. Former US President Mr. Obama made remarks at United Nations General Assembly in 2011 and he said "now we have learned that no matter how much we love peace and hate war, we cannot avoid having war brought upon us if there are convulsions in other parts of the world". If getting peace is hard, it is hard to bring human rights and freedom too. Conflict is not just violation of right to life it is a breeding ground for mass human rights violations. So we want peace because we want to live with human rights and fundamental freedom.

We all want peace. We do hope peace. It is because peace is the essence of our existence, freedom to pursue our dream. Without peace no dreams come true, no hope. Peace is the only one thing that can drive our dream comes true. We cannot change the past but we can change the attitude toward it. So let's change attitude for our dreams come true.

In order to become a peaceful world, we must cultivate peace, reduce and combat violence and

insecurity and encourage government to improve human rights situation of their own country are essential.

However, peace is not a one-time act. True peace is built over time, with many different processes and approaches that move conflict into lasting, peaceful relationships. It requires action at many different levels, by different people, in different ways, and at different points in a conflict. Increased understanding – of different cultures, languages, and concerns – can go a long way toward reducing conflict. There can be no peace without understanding. Then, for all aspects of progress and human development we need peace. ■

We all want peace. We do hope peace. It is because peace is the essence of our existence, freedom to pursue our dream. Without peace no dreams come true, no hope. Peace is the only one thing that can drive our dream comes true. We cannot change the past but we can change the attitude toward it. So let's change attitude for our dreams come true.

# School enrolment week begins in Maungtaw



Teachers presents books and school uniforms to school children in Maungtaw. PHOTO: YE HTUT

SCHOOL enrolment week for the 2017-2018 Academic Year began in Maungtaw on 25 May, providing exercise books, text books and school uniforms to school children free of charge.

Authorities are urging the parents of the school children

to send their school-age children to schools as the schools are accepting enrolment of children through 31st May.

“So far 700 children have been enrolled for the 2017-2018 Academic Year within three days. Our school has more than

2000 children,” said Daw Hla Thein May, Headmistress of the No 2 Basic Education High School in Maungtaw. There are more than 400 schools in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships in Maungtaw District, with more than 150,000 students.—Min Thit

# MHE-Demag organises first-ever exclusive material handling technical workshop in Myanmar

MHE-Demag, a joint venture between Jebsen & Jessen (SEA) Pte Ltd and Demag Cranes and Components GmbH, organised its first ever material handling technical workshop in Myanmar. This exclusive, in-depth workshop was aimed at knowledge

sharing to educate key customers and to grow MHE-Demag's business in Myanmar.

Supported by a local partner, General Machinery Trading Co., Ltd (GMT), the workshop saw the participation of more than 60 key players from various public

sectors including representatives from Myanmar Navy, Myanma Railways, Myanmar Port Authority, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Construction, Myanmar Economic Holding Ltd and Ministry of Electricity and Energy, among others.

Mr Klaus Schilling, Regional Director, MHE-Demag, said, “MHE-Demag ventured into Myanmar more than ten years ago, when the country's infrastructure development was in its infancy. This workshop demonstrates MHE-Demag's continuous commitment towards supporting our local partners and customers in Myanmar, and is an important step for MHE-Demag in terms of growth. We look forward to organising more knowledge sharing sessions in Yangon and other parts of Myanmar in the near future.”—GNLM ■



MHE-Demag organises first-ever exclusive material handling technical workshop in Myanmar. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

# Sule Shangri-La launches “A Bridge of a Lifetime”

SULE SHANGRI-LA, Yangon, will open the lacquer-panelled doors of its Myanmar Ballroom on 27 and 28th May as the hotel celebrates love and romance with the “A Bridge of a Lifetime” wedding fair.

The affair counts as its main collaborators are some of the city's most respected wedding specialists: Signature Weddings and Events Planning, show producer and creative director Brian Jeremiah, and floral and creative designer

Mummy Kwaw.

“A Bridge of a Lifetime” marries modern and traditional Burmese weddings, which are best captured in the wedding and evening gown creations of the featured local designers.

Mogok Pauk Pauk will lead the gala fashion shows on both days, while Charlotte Barjou, Ma Myint Zu of Zu Zu Collection and Latt Latt are the featured designers for the high tea bridal fashions shows.—GNLM ■



Sule Shangri-La launches “A Bridge of a Lifetime”

# Star City organises furniture sales, funfair

STAR CITY conducted the furniture sales and funfair at the Star City Housing in Thanlyin yesterday.

“Visitors to the event will come to know that Star City Housing is not far from

downtown Yangon and it is also a place busy with people,” said Leasing Manager of the Star City Mr William Gramond.

The two-day event ended today.—GNLM ■



Star City's furniture sales and funfair ends today at its housing in Thanlyin. PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Front row, L-R: Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, Guinea's President Alpha Conde, US President Donald Trump, Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou and Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi pose for a family photo with other participants of the G7 summit during the Summit of the Heads of State and of Government of the G7, the group of most industrialized economies, plus the European Union, in Taormina, Sicily, Italy, on 27 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## G7 leaders end summit split on climate change, more united on trade

TAORMINA, (ITALY) — Under pressure from allies, US President Donald Trump backed a pledge to fight protectionism on Saturday, but refused to endorse a global climate change accord, saying he needed more time to decide.

The summit of Group of Seven wealthy nations pitted Trump against the leaders of Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and Japan on several issues, with European diplomats frustrated at having to revisit questions they hoped were long settled.

Trump, who has previously called global warming a hoax, tweeted that he would make a decision next week on whether to back the 2015 Paris Agreement on curbing carbon emissions following lengthy discussions with G7 partners.

"The entire discussion about climate was very difficult, if not to say very dissatisfying," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters. "There are no indications whether the United States will stay in the Paris Agreement or not."

However, there was relief that Trump agreed to language in the final G7 communique that pledged to fight protectionism and commits to a rules-based international trade system.

During his election campaign last year, Trump threatened unilateral tariffs on Mexican and Chinese goods and said he would quit the North American Free Trade agreement unless it is renegotiated to his liking. Earlier this week he called Germany "very bad" on trade because of its surplus with the United States.

"In the end we convinced them to include the fight against protectionism in the final communique, so that was a step forward," said one European diplomat, who declined to be named.

Meeting in a luxury hotel overlooking the Mediterranean sea, hosts Italy had hoped that the summit would focus on Europe's migration crisis and the problems of neighboring Africa.

The internal G7 divisions and a suicide bombing in Britain on Monday, that killed 22, overshadowed the Italian agenda, but on Saturday five African leaders joined the world power leaders to discuss their continent's potential. Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou urged the G7 to take urgent measures to end the crisis in Libya — the point of departure for hundreds of thousands of migrants looking for a better life in Europe. He also criticized them for not honoring aid promises to fight poverty in West Africa's

poorest regions.

"Be it Niger, a transit nation, or the countries of origin, it is only through development that we will prevent illegal migration," Issoufou said.

The final communique was just six pages long, against 32 pages last year, with diplomats saying the leaders wanted a simpler document to help them reach a wider audience.

After lengthy deliberation, the document included a separate threat, that was inserted into the 2016 G7 statement, to take additional action against Russia, if warranted, for its intervention in Ukraine.

The European Union and the United States imposed sanctions on Russia after Moscow annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and pledged to up the penalties if Russian interference in Ukraine intensified. Trump's promise of warmer ties with Moscow had called into question the US commitment to sanctions.

Diplomats said that on other key international issues, such as Syria and North Korea, there was broad G7 agreement.

However, Italy was disappointed not to receive more backing for its call to open up more legal channels for immigration to try to slow the flow of people risk-

ing their lives to reach Europe on flimsy boats from lawless Libya.

"There was very strong opposition by the Americans and British who wanted to refocus on security and water down the expansive language on freedom of movement," said a European diplomat, who declined to be named. Security questions dominated initial G7 discussion on Friday and the leaders called on internet service providers and social media firms to "substantially increase" their efforts to rein in extremist content.

The US president is due to return to Washington later on Saturday at the end of a nine-day tour of the Middle East and Europe — his first foreign trip since taking office.

Unlike other G7 leaders, he is not due to give a press conference before flying out.

US officials said he had enjoyed "robust" conversations with his allies in Sicily and had also learnt a lot — especially in the debate on climate change, which he has previously dismissed as a hoax.

"He came here to learn. He came here to get smart. His views are evolving which exactly as they should be," Trump's economic adviser Gary Cohn said on Friday. —Reuters ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

Putin discusses Syria, economic ties with Iran's Rouhani — Kremlin

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iran's Hassan Rouhani held a phone call in which the two leaders stressed the need for more joint efforts to resolve the Syria crisis and discussed economic ties, the Kremlin said on Saturday.

The Kremlin added that Putin congratulated Rouhani on his recent election win. It clarified that the economic issues discussed included joint projects in the oil and gas sector and peaceful nuclear projects. —Reuters ■

Trump tweets "money is beginning to pour in" to NATO

TAORMINA, Italy — US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that NATO alliance allies are already stepping up their contributions to the organization, two days after the president scolded members for not spending enough on defence.

"Many NATO countries have agreed to step up payments considerably, as they should. Money is beginning to pour in -NATO will be much stronger," Trump tweeted from Sicily where he is attending a Group of Seven meeting. —Reuters ■

Britain cuts terrorism threat level after significant police activity

LONDON — Britain lowered its security threat level to "severe" on Saturday following significant activity by police investigating the suicide bomb attack in Manchester, Prime Minister Theresa May said.

The level was raised to "critical" — meaning another attack was thought to be imminent — after Monday's bombing at a pop concert in Manchester. It has now been downgraded to "severe", which means an attack is considered highly likely. As a result, soldiers who have been assisting police, would be withdrawn from Britain's streets from midnight on Monday. —Reuters ■

# Iraqi forces launch operation to seize last Islamic State enclave in Mosul

BAGHDAD/MOSUL, (Iraq) — Iraqi armed forces launched an operation on Saturday to capture the last Islamic State-held enclave in Mosul, according to a military statement.

The fall of the city would effectively mark the end of Iraqi half of the “caliphate” declared nearly three years ago by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, which also covers parts of Syria.

The Iraqi air force dropped leaflets on Friday urging residents in the enclave to flee, although humanitarian groups fear for the safety of civilians trying to escape.

The enclave covers mainly the Old City centre and three adjacent districts alongside the western bank of the Tigris river.

The US-backed offensive on Mosul, now in its eighth month, has taken longer than planned as the militants are dug in among civilians, fighting back with booby traps, suicide cars and motor-bikes, snipers and mortar fire.

“The joint forces have begun liberating the remaining districts,” said an Iraqi military statement.

Desperate civilians trapped behind Islamic State lines now face a harrowing situation with little food and water, no electricity and limited access to hospitals.

The push inside the Old City



Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) fire towards Islamic State militants during a battle on the outskirts of Al-Ba'aj, west of Mosul, Iraq on 26 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

coincides with the start of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. Its prime targets is the medieval Grand al-Nuri mosque and its landmark leaning minaret where Islamic State's black flag has been flying since mid 2014.

The forces hope to capture in the next few days the mosque where Baghdadi revealed himself to the world and announced the “caliphate” that also spans part of Syria.

Residents in the Old City

sounded desperate in telephone interviews made over the past few days.

“We're waiting for death at any moment, either by bombing or starving,” one said, asking not to be identified for his own safety. “Adults eat one meal a day, either flour or lentil soup.”

The United Nations expressed “deep concern” for the hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped behind Islamic State lines, in a statement on Satur-

day from the organisation's under-secretary general for humanitarian affairs, Stephen O'Brien.

“Although the UN is not present in the areas where fighting is occurring, we have received very disturbing reports of families being shut inside booby-trapped homes and of children being deliberately targeted by snipers,” he said. The militants have laid sheets of corrugated metal over pebbles in the alleys as an early warning system, residents said.

The grinding noise produced by treading on it would alert them to any troop movements or civilians trying to escape.

The United Nations last week said up to 200,000 more people could flee Mosul as fighting moves to the Old City.

Residents said millet, usually used as bird feed, is being baked like rice as food prices increased ten fold. People were seen collecting wild mallow plants in abandoned lots and also eating mulberry leaves and other types of plants.

About 700,000 people, about a third of the pre-war city's population, have already fled, seeking refuge either with friends and relatives or in camps.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi had initially hoped Mosul would be retaken by the end of 2016.

The insurgents are also retreating in Syria, mainly in the face US-backed Kurdish-led forces. The insurgency is expected to continue in the sparsely populated desert region along the Syrian border even if Mosul is fully captured.

Iranian-backed Shi'ite paramilitary forces are fighting Islamic State in that part of the country where Baghdadi is believed to be hiding, according to US and Iraqi officials.—Reuters ■

## Dozens dead in Afghanistan violence as Ramadan begins

KABUL — A suspected suicide bomber killed as many as 14 people in Afghanistan on Saturday and fighting between militants and security forces left at least 36 people dead on the first day of Islam's holy Month of Ramadan.

In eastern Khost province, a Taliban attacker detonated a car bomb near a football field that is close to a military base, officials said.

At a local hospital, doctors received at least 14 dead bodies and eight wounded people, said Gul Mohammaddin Mangal, head of the public health department in Khost.

“The bodies are not recog-

nizable and it is hard to say if they are civilians or security forces,” he said.

Najib Danish, spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, put the death toll at 13 killed and eight wounded, including two children.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the Khost attack, saying it was aimed at members of the Afghan security forces.

A Reuters witness at the scene did not observe any military or police vehicles among those destroyed in the blast.

In the north-western province of Badghis, militants at-

tacked security forces in Qadis district, sparking fighting that killed 22 insurgents, six security forces, and eight civilians, said Zahir Bahand a spokesman for the provincial governor.

The fighting also left 33 militants and 17 civilians wounded, he said.

In Nangarhar province on Friday, some residents of Achin district rebelled against Islamic State fighters who have occupied much of that district, resulting in fighting that left 15 militants and six civilians dead, provincial governor Gulab Mangar said in a statement.

The Western-backed Afghan



Afghan men inspect a car damaged in a suicide car bomb attack in Khost province, Afghanistan on 27 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

government is battling both Taliban and Islamic State militants around the country. Taliban forces have increased their attacks in the weeks before Ramadan, with a string of strikes in Kandahar, Paktia, and Helmand, among

other provinces. Muslims around the world typically mark Ramadan with fasting, prayers, and other observances, although the holy month can begin on different days in different countries.—Reuters

## Russia working on advanced air defence system

SMOLENSK — Eight priority R&D works are underway in Russia on assignment from the Defence Ministry to create an advanced air defence system, Air Defence Force Commander Lieutenant-General Alexander Leonov said on Friday.

“The works are underway for creating an air defence system to comprise the entire range of modern and promising automated control systems, reconnaissance means, air defence missile and artillery systems and complexes,” the commander said at a conference on the prospects of battlefield air defence.

This year, Russia demonstrated for the first time at the Victory Day parade in Red Square the Tor-M2DT autonomous small-range anti-aircraft missile system developed specifically for Arctic applications, the



Buk-M2 surface-to-air missile systems. **PHOTO: TASS**

commander said.

“R&D work is planned to be launched for a further perspective to prepare tactical and technical assignments for developing new types of troops’ armaments,” the commander

said.

According to him, “proposals are currently being drafted and approved for the new draft state armaments programme.”

“The measures we are proposing will help contin-

ue equipping air defence troops with modern weapon systems and will give a possibility to lay the scientific and technical groundwork for developing promising armaments,” Leonov said. —Tass ■

## Pakistan says Iranian mortar attack kills civilian

QUETTA, Pakistan — Iranian mortar fire on Saturday killed a Pakistani civilian in the western Baluchistan province that shares a long border with Iran, a regional Pakistani official said.

Relations between Iran and Pakistan have been at a low ebb since 10 Iranian border guards were killed by militants last month. Iran said that, in that incident, Jaish al Adl, a Sunni militant group, had opened fire from inside Pakistan.

Earlier this month the head of the Iranian armed forces warned Islamabad that Tehran would hit bases inside Pakistan if the government did not confront

Sunni militants who carry out cross-border attacks.

Abdul Jabbar, deputy commissioner of the Panjgur district in Baluchistan, said Iranian border security forces had fired “many” mortar shells and rockets over the last two days.

“A Pakistani man was killed when a mortar shell hit his pickup while passing through the area,” said Jabbar.

He added that Pakistani officials had lodged a protest with Iranian authorities and asked for a meeting on Sunday.

Iranian officials could not be immediately reached for comment. —Reuters ■

## Under state pressure, Venezuela TV limits live coverage of protests

CARACAS — In the mountains above Caracas, two government officials often stand watch over the antennas of TV news network Globovision, poised to take it off air if regulators object to coverage of anti-government protests, according to two station employees.

They said the 24-hour Venezuelan news station receives regular warnings from state telecom regulator Conatel against showing live footage of clashes between anti-government protesters and security forces, or broadcasting terms such as “dictatorship” and “repression.”

“It’s a daily threat,” said one of the employees, citing information from station managers and asking not to be identified for fear of reprisals.

“Conatel is making decisions about coverage.”

In contrast to past waves of unrest in Venezuela, particularly during Hugo Chavez’s 1999-2013 rule, the nation’s three main private television stations have provided minimal live coverage of the latest anti-government

demonstrations.

They rarely show more than a few minutes of real-time images of protests, which range from peaceful marches to violent melees that have left 57 people dead amid anger against President Nicolas Maduro and frus-

tration over the crumbling economy.

However, the private networks, including Globovision, do give broadly equal weight to opposition and government leaders and supporters in broadcasts — contrary to assertions by critics that they

muzzle the opposition.

“If people abroad sampled Venezuela’s TV media directly, as opposed to judging it by what is said about it by the international media and some big NGOs, they’d be shocked to find the opposition constantly denouncing

the government and even making very thinly veiled appeals to the military to oust Maduro,” said Joe Emersberger, a Canadian blogger who tracks Venezuelan media and writes for state-funded Telesur network.

“Focusing on ‘live’

coverage is just a way to avoid acknowledging they (protests) are being extensively covered.”

Regulators do openly describe vigilance of coverage, with Conatel director Andres Mendez recently telling state TV the regulator was constantly evaluating Globovision and some of its anchors. “We sometimes have pleasant conversations with (Globovision’s) president,” he said.

Globovision, Mendez, Conatel, and the Information Ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

Ruling Socialist Party officials scoff at the idea of any censorship, insisting the government is the victim of a U.S.-supported campaign by private local and international media to depict it as a repressive regime and thus justify a coup.

They recall that private media openly backed a bungled 2002 coup against Chavez, and accuse media of exaggerating the protests to weaken Maduro’s government. —Reuters ■



Demonstrators run away from tear gas during a rally against Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela on 26 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## US to carry out first ICBM intercept test

WASHINGTON — The United States will test an existing missile defence system to try to intercept an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) next week, US officials said on Friday, at a time when North Korea is trying to develop one.

The test, scheduled for Tuesday, is the first time the United States will try to intercept an ICBM.

The United States has used the Ground-Based Midcourse Defence (GMD) system, managed

by Boeing Co and in place to counter attacks from rogue states such as North Korea, to intercept other types of missiles but never an ICBM.

While US officials believe Pyongyang is some years away from mastering re-entry expertise for perfecting an ICBM, it is making advances.

This week the head of the US Defence Intelligence Agency said that if left unchecked, North Korea is on an “inevitable” path to obtaining a

nuclear-armed missile capable of striking the United States.

The remarks are the latest indication of mounting US concern about Pyongyang’s advancing missile and nuclear weapons programmes, which the North says are needed for self-defence.

US officials said that the test had been planned well in advance and was not in reaction to any specific event.

The Missile Defence Agency said an interceptor

based out of Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, one of 36 in California and Alaska, will be used in the test to shoot down a target similar to an ICBM over the Pacific Ocean.

The system has carried out successful intercepts in nine out of 17 attempts dating back to 1999. The most recent test was in 2014. Last year a science advocacy group said the system has no proven capability to protect the United States.

—Reuters ■

## House fire in northern Spain claims four lives

MADRID — Four people lost their lives in a house fire which took place early Saturday morning in the northern Spanish city of Bilbao, local rescue services confirmed.

The fire occurred in a

two-story wooden structure building in the neighborhood of Zorroza, leaving two adults, a baby and an adolescent dead, while seven others hospitalized for burns and smoke inhalation. Six of the injured

are in “serious” conditions.

Moreover, between 12 to 15 people were treated at the spot.

The fire brigade worked for more than an hour to extinguish the flames.

Mayor of Bilbao Juan Maria Aburto visited the scene immediately after the accident, while police and fire brigade are now working to establish the causes of the fatal blaze.

—Xinhua ■



French President Emmanuel Macron (2ndR) speaks to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (R) near Christine Lagarde (L), head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni (2ndL), as they attend an expanded session during the G7 Summit in Taormina, Sicily, Italy on 27 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## G7 makes “substantial progress” on trade talks — French source

TAORMINA, Italy — The Group of Seven nations have made progress in negotiations on trade, notably on the issue of multilateralism, a French presidential source said on Saturday, suggesting there has been some softening in the United States’ protectionist

stance. The leaders have been wrangling on the wording of a final communique since Friday with international trade and climate change the main stumbling blocks.

“The discussions on trade are making substantial progress, notably on the issue of multilateral-

ism,” a French presidential source said.

Since taking office, US President Donald Trump, has derided some of the same international partnerships, including the World Trade Organization, raising the prospect that the Republican’s “America First” agenda might well

mean an America more willing to act alone.

A senior White House official on Friday said Trump had told the leaders of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Canada and Britain that the United States would treat other countries in the same way it was treated.—Reuters ■

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO (013) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2017 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 LINES**

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 28.5.2017 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 LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES –Individual Consultants)

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Agricultural Development Support Project (ADSP)  
Credit No.: 5624 MM**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is in the process of receiving funds from the World Bank toward the cost of the ADSP Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Project Management Unit now invites expressions of interest from qualified candidates for the National Procurement Officer (Ref # SC-17) position. Interested consultants must provide their updated curriculum vitae, indicating personal and technical skills, qualifications and experience in similar assignments.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of 12 months with the possibility of extension, starting in July 2016. The location of work will be the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated July 2014 (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with procedures set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) can be obtained at the address below during working days from 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail, or by Fax) by **16<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 14.00 hrs.**

**Attn: Mr. Tint Lwin, Director of Procurement  
Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation  
Building No.43, Floor/ Room number: 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Office of  
Director of Procurement,  
Nay Pyi Taw  
Country: Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Telephone: +95-67-410019, Fax: + 95-67-410509, E-mail:  
[tlwin4.irr@gmail.com](mailto:tlwin4.irr@gmail.com)**



US pop star Ariana Grande. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Ariana Grande to hold concert in Manchester for bombing victims

LOS ANGELES — US pop star Ariana Grande said on Friday that she will hold a benefit concert in Manchester for the victims of Monday's suicide bombing at her show in the English city.

Grande, 23, said in a message on her Instagram account that a date for the concert had not yet been worked out.

Monday's suicide bombing, which killed 22 people and injured more than 100, many of them young people, took place just after Grande had finished performing a concert in the

northern English city. She later canceled several future concerts scheduled in London and Europe.

"I'll be returning to the incredibly brave city of Manchester to spend time with my fans and to have a benefit concert in honor of and to raise money for the victims and their families. ... I will have details to share with you as soon as everything is confirmed," Grande wrote in an emotional message.

Grande has a large young female fan base, many of whom were caught up in Monday's

attack by British-born Salman Abedi.

She said that her "Dangerous Woman" concert tour was intended to be a "space for my fans, a place for them to escape, to celebrate, to heal, to feel safe and to be themselves."

She said the victims would be "on my mind and in my heart everyday ... for the rest of my life."

But she added defiantly; "We will not quit or operate in fear. We won't let this divide us. We won't let hate win." —Reuters ■

## French director Ozon plays with psycho-sexual thriller genre at Cannes

CANNES, France — Critics at the Cannes Film Festival had a field day on Friday with "L'Amant Double" (The Double Lover), the latest movie from prolific French director Francois Ozon.

The story of a young woman who has an affair with her psychiatrist and then his twin brother delivers lots of sex and even more Freudian symbolism in a film that

Ozon said borrowed some of the styles of Alfred Hitchcock, Brian De Palma and David Cronenberg.

Far from the intellectual fare that usually wins at Cannes, "L'Amant Double" is a romp that the Guardian's Peter Bradshaw called "a wildly dated-looking and derivative film, a quaint adventure in fantasised naughtiness" that might become a

"camp classic".

Ozon himself said he had fun pushing the boundaries of the erotic thriller genre that he has visited before in films such as the 2003 movie "Swimming Pool" that also competed at Cannes.

"I love the way De Palma deconstructs the thriller and how he has fun playing with the codes of the genre," Ozon said, referring to the "Dressed

to Kill" director.

The film got a rousing ovation at a public screening in Cannes, but critics were less impressed.

"Over-symbolic, the film descends into a completely sterile sexy-chic bad trip that is dreadfully threadbare.

A haphazard amalgamation of (Roman) Polanski's neurotic cinema, De Palma's twisted voyeurism and Cronenberg's freak shows," wrote Renan Cros on French culture website Cinemateaser.

"Overripe and ridiculous, L'Amant Double is so filled to the brim with pure cinematic imagery and knowing irony, with innuendo and gleeful violations of taste, that it's hard to resist its barrage of hilarious filth," wrote Sam Gray in British online daily The Upcoming.

The criticism is unlikely to bother Ozon, who produces on average at least one film a year and had clearly approached "L'Amant Double" with knowing irony.

Commenting on an unforgettable image at the start of the movie, a close-up of female genitalia that suddenly becomes an eye, Ozon said: "It's something I had never seen in that way because, as a boy, you don't do to a gynaecology clinic. I'm a curious boy." —Reuters ■



Actor Ben Stiller and wife Christine Taylor. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Actors Ben Stiller and Christine Taylor separate after 18 years

LOS ANGELES — "Zoolander" actor Ben Stiller and his wife Christine Taylor said on Friday they had decided to separate after 18 years together. "With tremendous love and respect for each other, and the 18 years we spent together as a couple, we have made the decision to separate. Our priority will continue to be raising our children as devoted parents and the closest of friends. We kindly ask that the media respect our privacy at this time," the couple said in a joint statement.

Stiller and Taylor, best known for playing teenage daughter Marcia Brady in "The Brady Bunch Movie" in 1995, have appeared together in many films, including "Tropic Thunder" and "Meet the Parents." They married in 2000 and have two children. —Reuters ■



Director Francois Ozon and cast members Jacqueline Bisset, Marine Vauth and Jeremie Renier pose at the 70th Cannes Film Festival, Screening of the film "L'Amant double" (Amant Double) in competition in Cannes, France on 26 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

# Britain’s real-life “Iron Man” has high hopes for jet suit

SOMERSET, (England) — The British inventor of an “Iron Man”-style jet suit has lofty hopes that his project, which started out as fun experiment, could become a practical tool for industries ranging from entertainment to the military.

Richard Browning, a 38-year-old former commodities trader with little experience of engineering, developed his jet suit with the help of friends over the last 18 months. It is powered by six gas turbine engines which combined generate 800 horse-power.

“We didn’t set out to build an “Iron Man” suit – it’s just accidental,” Browning said, in reference to the highly successful trilogy of super hero films starring Robert Downey Jr.

The suit’s engines

are mounted on the pilot’s lower back and on each arm. It powers up using a hand-held throttle. Browning said the suit is capable of carrying a person thousands of feet in the air, and in theory could attain a speed of around 280 miles an hour (450 kph). For safety reasons, however, Browning hovers just a few feet off the ground.

Browning, who first developed the suit in his garage, describes it as a cross between a jet ski and a Formula One car. He believes it can be adapted to be used in the military, search and rescue and theme parks – or in fact anyone who has the funds to buy one.

Browning showed off his piloting skills at a flight test on Thursday, breaking his record for speed by



Inventor Richard Browning of technology startup Gravity flies in his ÒDaedalusÓ jet suit at Henstridge airfield in Somerset, Britain on 25 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

travelling over 30mph, covering a distance of several hundred meters.

Browning said he has received investment from a venture capitalist, and has also secured interest from entertainment giants

and the British and US militaries.

If man hours were taken into account, he said the suit would have cost “millions” to develop, and that the hardware alone cost a six-figure sum.

However, he said flight costs are low as around 12 litres of standard diesel is used.

Browning is not the only person to have pursued dreams of jet-powered glory. In Dubai, firefighters

have showcased jet boots that allow the wearer to rise high into the air using water pressure, and French inventor Franky Zapata has created a jet-powered hover-board.

The next step in Browning’s project is the Genesis suit which he is developing with the aid of experts and investors, but challenges still remain. Specifically - how to ascend safely from the ground to a height that a parachute could be deployed.

“It’s a real challenge if you have an engine failure at 50-60 feet. You’re going to really do yourself a mischief,” Browning said, adding “we’re working on a whole bunch of technology to address that, and until we do, we keep pretty low.” —Reuters ■

## London’s Chelsea Flower Show in full bloom

LONDON — Britain’s most prestigious flower show is taking place this week with hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of floral delights from Alium to Zantedeschia.

The highlight of Britain’s horticultural calendar, the annual Chelsea Flower Show in London’s sprawling Royal Hospital complex features a host of elaborate gardens designed by experts and is famous for its

unusual installations.

The event is also one of the staples of the city’s spring social calendar, with celebrities including media mogul Rupert Murdoch and Oscar-winning actress Judi Dench in attendance this year. The Royal family are also perennial visitors — the Queen made her annual visit this week and the Duchess of Cambridge was also pictured browsing the blossoms. The show ends

on Saturday, and organizers said it was expected

to attract around 165,000 visitors. —Reuters ■



A display by the National Chrysanthemum Society is seen at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London, Britain on 23 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Pine tree replanting project starts in tsunami-hit Rikuzentakata

MORIOKA, (Japan) — A project to replant pine trees began on Saturday on the coast of the northeastern Japan city of Rikuzentakata that was destroyed in the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

A total of around 40,000 pine trees are expected to be planted on the Pacific coast of the city in Iwate Prefecture by the end of March 2020, with a budget of around 1.35 billion yen (\$12.13 million), according to the prefectural government.

Before the massive tsunami wiped out the Takatamatsubara pine forest, around 70,000 pines stretched for 2 kilometres along the beach, attracting many tourists.

The original pine trees were planted in the Edo period (1603-1868) as a tidewater control forest.


The 2011 disaster

swept away all but one tree. The lone pine became a symbol of hope but had to be cut down due to excessive sea salt deposited by the tsunami. It was used subsequently for a monument called the “miracle pine tree.”

At a commemoration ceremony, around 300 people planted 1,250 saplings from Iwate Prefecture and other parts of the country.

“I participated in the event as I wanted to help with the reconstruction of the area,” said Ibuki Maeta, 11, a sixth grader from an elementary school in the city of Kurayoshi, Tottori Prefecture.

Maeta said he knows how dreadful earthquakes can be after experiencing a big one last year in the western Japan prefecture. —Kyodo News ■



### Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(28-5-2017 07:00am ~ 29-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Lacquerware Technology College
07:40	Am	Talking Shwe Thway (Children Journal)
07:52	Am	Coin Collectors
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Discovering Tribes: Zahau (Their Life and Customs)
08:48	Am	Trishaw Man
08:54	Am	School for the Blind
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Travelogue: To my dream city (Part-1)
09:51	Am	Egg Shell
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	The Iron Rider
10:40	Am	The Land of Stone Sculpture

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

**Prime Time**

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting
07:44	Pm	Kayah Style
07:54	Pm	Today Myanmar
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-3)
08:53	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass “Aung Thiha”

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - 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](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))

## McIlroy to miss Memorial due to nagging rib injury — agent



World number two Rory McIlroy. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

DUBLIN — World number two Rory McIlroy will skip next week's Memorial Tournament as he continues to recover from a nagging rib injury, his agent confirmed to Golf

Digest on Friday.

"All focus is on getting back to full health for the US Open," the agent said in an email.

The US Open, the year's second major, starts at

Erin Hills in Wisconsin on 15 June.

McIlroy, the 28-year-old four-times major champion, has not played since finishing tied for 35th at the Players Championship earlier this month.

A day after the tournament at TPC Sawgrass, McIlroy had an MRI that revealed he had suffered a "low-grade response" to the rib injury he sustained early in the year.

During the Players, McIlroy was bothered by a recurrence of the problem, which has kept him out of this week's BMW PGA Championship, the flagship event on the European Tour, and now means he will not play next week at Muirfield Village. —Reuters ■

## Portuguese midfielder Silva joins Manchester City



LONDON — Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva has joined Manchester City just days after helping Monaco to clinch the Ligue 1 title, the Premier League club said on Friday.

"I'm now at one of the best teams in the world. To be part of this club and to have this opportunity is great," Silva told City's website. "When you have the opportunity of being trained by (Pep) Guardiola, you don't say no... If not the best coach in the world, he is one of the best." —Reuters ■

AS Monaco's Bernardo Silva. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Organized by:



MYANMAR INVESTMENT  
FORUM 2017



# MYANMAR

## BEST DESTINATION FOR INVESTMENT

Opportunities in Special Economic Zones, Other Economic Zones and Industrial Parks

6TH - 7TH JUNE 2017

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION CENTRE - II (MICC- II)

Register at  
[MYANMARINVESTMENTFORUM2017.COM](http://MYANMARINVESTMENTFORUM2017.COM)

For more information, please visit [MYANMARIDA.COM](http://MYANMARIDA.COM)  
or email [INFO@MIDA.COM.MM](mailto:INFO@MIDA.COM.MM) or [MYANMARIDA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MYANMARIDA@GMAIL.COM)  
+95-9-8635910 / +95-9-791051153 / +95-9-455017674

Sponsored by:



## The Global New Light of Myanmar

## NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

28 MAY 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

## Youth and Goal



Kyaw Naing Tint  
Pakokku University

Travelling without destination and working without aim make waste time. We can know exactly work done and to be done for the future only when we do the task with definite aim. As a result, we can understand distance between the current position and goal.

Nowadays, some youth miss their goals. Some neglect on the works that they can do and some are imaginative. They can't accept the real situation and hoping to the things that they can't grasp. Some youth in rural area are not willing to do agriculture and breeding tasks combined with the advanced methods. They want to go abroad such as Singapore, South Korea, Japan and Thailand to find jobs. They think they can achieve if they work in abroad with a professional skill. But, they go there to do odd jobs and random works, the situation

can be worse than present.

We shouldn't blame them on that. It's a good idea that the young people want to go to new places for the jobs. But, it can more beneficial for the youths to do agriculture and livestock in their region by combining the modern technology and innovative idea. It will also support not only for regional development but also for progress of the country. The Government should encourage and create opportunities for them. The youths, themselves, should strive for their progress with all efforts. Now, opportunities are created to every youth who wants to try. The books are easily available for them and they can also learn the subjects that they want to study via online.

There are so many fields for the development. Youth need clear goal with strong determina-



tion and continuous efforts. We can't clutch anything if we do the task with several aims.

If a youth is interested in soccer, he needs to strive to become a selected player of Myanmar National League. Through this position, he can have a chance to join the higher clubs in the regional countries. Likewise, the youths who are interested in singing, have a chance to be a well-known vocalist through Myanmar Idol. A tourist guide can be a tour company owner. Now, the

farmers have also opportunities in doing agricultural tasks to replace with advanced agricultural methods and machinery in the conventional way using the labour of Ox and Buffalo. If one wishes to be IT professional, he or she can attend the trainings in local and abroad. There are many IT books for learning.

The youth should be aware that there are many opportunities around us. The key point is to have firm determination and definite aim. Wishing to be a business man, a tour company owner, modern agricultural business pioneer and IT professional are possible things for the youth and that are not imaginative. They can reach their goals if they hard work with strong efforts. We believe that the youth will become valuable sons and daughters for their families and communities as well as citizens for the country if they march towards their goals with open eyes. ■

## May my sisters and brothers hear my words!



Chue Thinzar Theint  
Institute of Medicine

Whenever I see my elder sister & her family come to us every weekend, it reminds me one of my granny's bedtime stories when we were young. Here, I think I need to tell you about my family, firstly. There were 8 family members in our house, but now we have only 7 as my elder sister had been married to her fiancé, 3 years ago. Her husband went to the same school with Ma Ma, my sister since their childhood. And, they took same degrees in the same

year. Just after they graduated, my brother-in-law-to-be and his parents visited our parents for engagement with Ma Ma. My grandparents, in fact, did not want to allow it yet, because they thought that my sister was still young. But, they did not dare to shake their heads, because their daughter herself, who is my mother, eloped with my dad as they did not nod easily when their parents came to propose, supposing that their daughter was too young to have been married. Therefore, my parents accepted their proposal to marry their daughter, my sister, with the consent of my grandparents.

My grandparents led a peaceful and simple life. Once in the past, they worked

for government services throughout their lives. They both were born to ordinary families. They used to say proudly that they had been free from taking bribes from others. According to them, some of their friends had been jailed for misappropriation of power, and some friends suffered a lot for their children's bad behavior by spending much collected dishonestly by their parents. My grandparents could not save money enough to buy a house of their own.

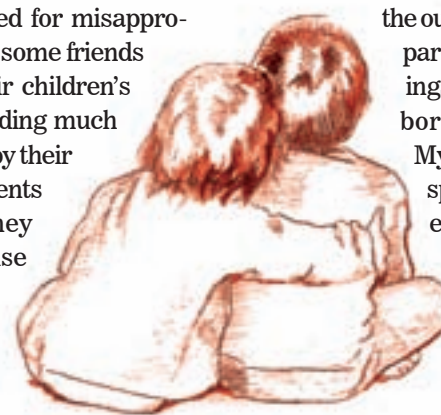
They had to live in one of the government's apartments.

After their retirement from government services, my mother had to join her father's department to be able to continue to live in the apartment. But my mother and my father could buy a house in

the outskirts area, with grandparents' hard-earned savings and the money they borrowed from others.

My parents too got the spirits of my grandparents. At first, I did not understand why my parents did not agree with my sister's marriage.

SEE PAGE-B



## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to [dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto: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

# Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

## Lesson 4: Nouns ... Singular and Plural Numbers

We have been studying Grammar here for four weeks now. We have discussed about

- (1) the Eight Parts of Speech
- (2) Nouns ... Common and Proper Nouns
- (3) Nouns .. Collective and Abstract Nouns

Here in this Lesson 4, we are going to study about Nouns : Numbers.

There are two different Numbers of Nouns: the Singular Number and the Plural Number .

Nouns that are of only one in number are called Singular Numbers.

e.g. a boy , a girl, one dog, an ant , a table, one book.

Nouns that are of more than one are called Plural Numbers.

e.g. two girls, three women, many birds, three lions, many flowers, five tables

### Exercise 4.1

I. Underline the Singular Nouns and double-line the Plural Nouns in the following sentences.

- (a) The two little girls are plucking the flowers from that tree.
- (b) The young boy wants to eat many chocolates.
- (c) Has the man possessed many houses?
- (d) Mary had a little lamb.
- (e) The moon is shining up there with many little stars surrounding it.
- (f) There are different trees in the garden; one mango tree, one orange tree and three apple trees.
- (g) At home, I've got 3 kittens and 2 puppies , but only one mother cat and one mother dog.
- (h) In their family, they have one Grandpa, their father and mother, two aunts and one uncle for their children.
- (i) The teacher asked the boys to do the exercises from 1 to 4.
- (j) The man can eat a loaf of bread, two eggs, a cup of milk and many sandwiches.

There are different ways to change from Singular Number into Plural Number. These are: ...

- (1) By Adding "s" to the Singular .  
e.g. cat .. cats , girl.. girls , boy.. boys, cup ... cups, bird.. birds
- (2) By Adding "es" to the Singular Nouns that end with s, ss, es, x, sh and ch  
e.g. bus .. buses, class.. classes, princess .. princesses, fox.. foxes, ash .. ashes, brush .. brushes, church .. churches
- (3) By changing f or fe into ves. for Nouns which end in f or fe.  
e.g. loaf .. loaves, life .. lives, leaf.. leaves
- (4) By changing "y" into "ies" for the Nouns that end in "y"  
e.g. fly .. flies, baby.. babies, lady.. ladies
- (5) By changing "um" in the Singular Number into "a"  
e.g. curriculum .. curricula, datum.. data
- (6) By changing nothing to the Singular Noun  
e.g. sheep .. sheep , deer.. deer
- (7) By changing "a" in the Singular Number into "e"  
e.g. man.. men, woman.. women
- (8) Some words by totally changing into a new word  
e.g. child.. children, mouse .. mice

- (9) We simply put an "s" to some Singular Nouns ending with "oy", "ey", "ye", "ef", to make these into Plural .

e.g. boy .. boys, key.. keys , eye.. eyes, chief .. chiefs

### Exercise 4.2

- II. Give 10 different Singular Nouns
- III. Give 10 different Plural Nouns
- IV. Change the following words into plural.  
(a) girl, cat, kitten, cup, laptop, prince, house  
(b) princess, ash, sandwich, bus, class, kiss  
(c) fly, sky, cry, lady, baby, puppy  
(d) sheep, deer , lion, tiger, fish  
(e) child, mouse, man, woman, policeman
- V. Change the Singular Nouns in the following sentences into Plural Nouns.  
(a) I saw a boy riding the horse.  
(b) We will meet the child in the school.  
(c) Who can catch sheep and deer?  
(d) The policeman caught the thief.  
(e) There are lion, tiger, bird, sheep and deer in the zoo.  
(f) The little girl broke the glass.  
(g) We can find sea-shell on the sea-shore.  
(h) Our family had a little lamb.  
(i) The child ate the cake on the table.  
(j) Have you got the datum for our curriculum?

So, today, we have studied "Nouns : Number" . The two Numbers are Singular Number and Plural Number.

We have also studied how to change Singular Numbers into Plural Numbers. Hope that you can do all these exercises well!

*Bye for now class! See you next Sunday!*

*Your English Teacher, GNLM.*

Email: dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

### Here's the answers to the last week's exercises .

#### Exercise 3 .

- I. Example of any five Collective Nouns are ... a bunch of banana, a shoal of fish, a herd of cattle, a litter of puppies, a basket of eggs
- II. The Collective Nouns in the sentences are  
(a) police , crowd (b) a dozen of pens  
(c) a bunch of grapes (d) a herd of cattle(e) team
- III. Make sentences with the given Collective Nouns.  
(a) strength (b) honesty (c) laughter  
(d) childhood (e) death
- IV. Examples of Abstract Nouns ... beauty, strength, hatred, honesty, bravery
- V. Abstract Nouns from the sentences are :..  
(a) strength (b) honesty (c) laughter  
(d) childhood (e) death

#### Example sentences

## May my sisters and brothers hear my words!

### FROM PAGE-A

As for me, I agreed with hers, because my brother-in-law has been handsome and he is very kind to us. And, his parents are rich and high-ranking officials in government services. Soon after their wedding, they both had jobs in the department many people wanted to join. Now, they became petty officers.

Ma Ma gave pocket-money to me and my brothers. Later, I came to realize why my sister could pay money to that extent, frequently. Actually, Ma Ma cannot give this much because her husband's salary and hers are not much. Then, how and from where did they get these amounts?

My granny used to say that money earned from others is very hot. As long as we eat and dress ourselves with this money, these will make us feel hot. Oh! It is a terribly dreadful thing. Did Granny's words disappear from my sister's mind? And, will my grandparents and parents also neglect my sister's bad deeds? I am responsible for reminding my sisters and her friends of their wrong doing through my writing. I pray, "May they read this." Let me recount a noteworthy story granny used to tell. Long ago, there was a well-known professional thief in a country, who was too swift in stealing to be caught alive. So an announcement

was made that anyone who could arrest him would be rewarded a considerable amount of bounty. One day, he was caught red-handed unfortunately, and put forward before the king. The king ordered to kill him in the presence of the public and allowed him to disclose his dying wish. The culprit asked for permission to see his mother, and he was permitted to do so. He told his mom that he wanted to whisper the secret in her ear. Believing in her son's words, she approached him and lent her ear. Once he did get a chance, he bit her ear off when the latter screamed in horror. When he was asked why he did so, he replied without reluctance. He

disclosed in sorrow that he would never become such a villain if the mother prevented him from stealing since the time he developed a habit of stealing things of others else. There is a well-known saying, "To err is human, to forgive divine". We may be wrong in some way or another. No age is too old to mend one's way, one's behavior or one's mind. Now, Ma Ma seems to forget that she herself is stealing our country's money without the knowledge of the government. If her theft would have been found out she would be punished, and I am afraid whether she would bite my ear or my parents' ones or our grandparents'. ■

# The Role of Teachers

Dr. Nu Nu Win

In the previous week, the author emphasized the responsibilities and duties of teachers. But we teachers are also persons who are struggling for our lives just like people. It is the point that the author wants to give emphasis on. Apart from our duties as teachers, we also need to eat, sleep, have recreation and enjoy our lives just like other people.

We should take it into consideration that a teacher has a family of his own whether he is married or single. And it is natural that, he wants to enjoy his life with his own family. He should have time enough to enjoy his life together with his family members. This argument applies to female teachers also.

“All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy” is a saying in the field of Education and everyone including we teachers accept it very easily.

But, how about teachers? Who takes it into consideration that teachers need to have enough time to enjoy with their own families?

For this factor, the first thing we need is “enough time”. Then other things which will to be taken into consideration follow gradually. These can be enough money to enjoy life, enough opportunity to enjoy life, and so on.

Let’s think one after another.

First , enough time !

Think of it deeply whether we teachers have enough time to enjoy with our families.

Most people think teachers have much leisure time as they have holidays after holidays and they have a long holiday in summer time. And our Education Minister once urged us to try our best and teach our children without taking any rest and any sleep. Is it possible to do so in practical life?

Sure ! Impossible .

Only we teachers can understand our

ways of life as teachers.

Let’s start with weekends: Saturdays and Sundays .

Can any teacher find time to take rest and sleep during these days?

During the whole week, we teach our students the whole day . We do not get free even in our off periods. During these periods, we need to do corrections to our pupils’ exercises, we need to write our lesson plans, we need to write our diaries, we need to check our registers and attendance and so on. Sometimes, we rarely get the time to do so, as we have to talk to the pupils who had broken the disciplines during the previous days, sometimes we need to meet and talk to their parents, sometimes we need to discuss with the principals or other teachers for some students and for some other plans occasionally as a matter of fact. Then all these above mentioned jobs come back home together with the teachers in the evenings. So these become the homework for the teachers. Then where is the time for us to enjoy with our families?

These are just some examples we have to face. Then how about our Official Holidays, as Independence Day, National Day, Union Day and so on.

For these occasional holidays, every school has the duty to deliver talks to commemorate these historical events and to hold some displays or competitions concerning these days. So beforehand and later, all of us teachers have more and more duties to carry out before, during and after these occasional holidays.

Then where’s the time for us to enjoy with our families?

Here comes the great long Summer holidays for which others are jealous of teachers.

Wow ! What are our heavy duties during these holidays, do you know?

First of all, before the holidays, all students have to sit for their Final Examinations. Then after the exams, the school is closed for a long summer holidays for all their students. But, the first part of the long holidays give the teachers the duties of evaluation the papers their students have answered and left behind. Teachers have to do these evaluations and then prepare to announce the results.

As everybody knows, the Examinations are the necessary evils, it is sure that although there will be no golden prize for the teachers to give if they can fulfill this Exam duty well and successfully, it is sure that they will be punished if there were any mistakes , small or big , without any explanation. That’s a great pressure upon teachers. It will take some days up till Thingyan holidays to carry out this exam duties.

Then come the great Thingyan Holidays! May be five days or ten days , we enjoy it so much , especially together with our families. But , for those who have to go and teach in schools far far away from their native towns, they need to spend at least five days to come back home for Thingyan . So, after enjoying for some short holidays together with their families, they have to struggle again to reach their schools which are in the far away areas and with the very inconvenient transports.

After Thingyan or sometimes before Thingyan , there are also the duties to do evaluation for the Government Exams as the Matriculation Examination papers, the Eighth and Fourth Standards Examinations papers. These will take at least two weeks again. Then come the never-ending training courses for teaching in different classes, as for Kindergarten, for the First Standard, for respective subject matters, and so on. Teachers cannot deny all these training courses again. And if someone is outstand-

ing in these training courses, he or she will be sure to be selected as the trainer to the trainees in their regions. So, they all have to continue for the trainer courses and then give training courses in their own regions to other teachers.

In this way, the whole month of April and May are spent by the teachers absorbed in Examinations and training courses during the whole long summer holidays. And during the last week of May, we need to accept the registrations of children in our schools for the new Academic Year. And in June, the new Academic Year begins and we have to rush and struggle again in the new duties.

What is this life if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare!

That’s the life of teachers in our country. Not enough time to enjoy. Not enough time to spend with the families. Not enough time to read and study and prepare for the new academic year in what we are interested in.

Here, I do not say a word about enough money to enjoy life. Is it also necessary for teachers to enjoy life?

All work and no play can make not only Jack, a dull boy, but teachers also. They will become bored and dull.

How can we upgrade our Education with such kind of teachers? They need rest, they need enough rest and time to enjoy life , they need enough money to support their families , they need psychological supports and encouragements by their supervisors and administrators to go on in a full-fledged manner after so much toil and struggle all summer long.

Bravo to all teachers, who are courageous enough to choose such kind of struggling life !

Dr. Nu Nu Win ( Retired Professor and Head, Department of Educational Psychology, Sagaing Institute of Education )

# Leaders should be Organizers

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

Every leader should be an organizer, so that he or she can carry out his or her duties effectively and smoothly. If he or she cannot organize the public to be on his or her side, how can the leader go on with his work in which the public will follow willingly.

In our Myanmar Culture, we have six points or characteristics that a leader should follow , what we call “Naryaka Gone Chauk Par” ( Six Characteristics that a leader should have .)

These are “ထက်ကြွ၊ နိုးကြား၊ သနား၊ သည်းခံ၊ ဝေဖန်၊ ထောက်ရှု ဤခြောက်ခု ကြီးသူကုန်အပ်ရာ” . These Characteristics are: .. to be active and alert, to sympathize and to be patient and have perseverance , to rationalize and to think of others “

If a leader has such kinds of characteristics, it is easy for him or her to organize the people. We people like persons who are always active and alert for they can carry out so many activities to be finished in time and to be alert continuously so that they can foresee dangers, and they can also have the ability and time to get innovative ideas on how to ward off the dangers and how to solve the problems effectively.

Then we have the characteristic of having sympathy and being patient towards their followers. It is natural that all followers obey their leaders all the times. Sometimes, we have some foolish followers who will disobey the leader and bring great harm to the whole organization. In facing such kinds of foolish followers, the leader should have sympathy and pity and patience onto them. It is not easy to do so for a leader, but leaders need to forgive these foolish ones and should sympathize and be patient and understand why they did what they did and have enough patience to explain to them why these foolish deeds can cause a great harm and loss for their organization.

Let’s see the last two. A leader should have the ability to see for the long run and have the ability to analyze the problems and harms and how to find a solution for the problem. And the last one is they should take care of their followers although he or she is foolish enough to do so, but leaders should have understanding for their wrong behaviours.

If a leader has all these characteristics, it is so

easy for them to organize the people to follow them. Sometimes, eye contact with the people, a wide smile ,a sympathetic word, and a touch on the shoulders prove to be very effective in organizing people.

Last, but not the least, simplicity and goodwill are also the most effective ways to organize the people.

Think of all great leaders of Myanmar and also at the global level, they all have such kinds of abilities to organize their people.

**Answer the following questions.**

(1) What are the characteristics of “Leaders”?

(2) What kind of persons , do we like ?

(3) Why does a leader need to have sympathy and be patient?

(4) What kind of leaders can organize people?

(5) Mention any five great leaders of our country.

( You will find the answers on our Education Page next Sunday.)

Dr. Nu Nu Win

# Caves and cultural heritages in Kayin State

By Soe Soe Naing (The Mirror)

Rich in ancient cultural heritages, artifacts, traditions, natural scenic beauties and Kayin's way of life, Kayin state situated in the south eastern part of Myanmar becomes one of the tourist destinations in the country.

With the height of 2372 feet, Mount Zwegabín, the landmark of Kayin State, lies stretching from south to north, seven miles to the south of Hpa-an, the capital city of the state. Zwegabín Hsandawshin Pagoda built on the top of the mountain can be seen from afar. Under the mountain are Lumbini park and Bawdi Tataung Buddha images. Zwegabín pagoda festival is yearly held on Tabauṅ Full Moon Day and Zwegabín Hsandawshin can be reached easily through cableways.

Another famous pagoda in the state is the historic Hsutaunggyai (wishes fulfilled) Shweyinmyaw Pagoda built on the bank of Thanlwin river in Hpa-an. The sunset can be viewed from this pagoda. From that pagoda, a viewer can see Hpapahto rocky mountain situated on the other bank of the river. The anniversary of Kayin State Day is held on every 7th November yearly, with don dance, Kayin traditional dances, traditional boxings, horticulture shows, traditional thespians, stage shows, market festivals and food stalls. On every full moon day of Myanmar month Wahgaung (roughly in July/August) Kayin traditional festival called Chipyupwe meaning wrist tying ceremony is held. Buddhist monks may chant a blessing and tie a white or yellow string around the wrists of laypeople who visit them. Famous Kayin New Year Festival falls on every first waxing day of Myanmar month Pyatho (roughly in December).

Kyauk Ka-Lat, a pagoda which is built on layers of natural rock formations in the middle of

a pond in Kawai village in Hpa-an township is just three furlongs from Thanlwin bridge. The historic Hsandawshin pagoda was built according to the portent of the nine zodiac signs of Thamanya Sayadaw. A visitor can pay homage to the pagoda and enjoy vegetarian diets.

Another historic place in Kayin State is Maha Sadan Cave. It is situated 20 miles to the south of Hpa-an. Stalagmites and stalactites are formed in the cave and some are in the form of the bodhisattva Sadan elephant king's tale. The cave is the longest one in Kayin State and the fifth longest in the country. It is the cave with both ends open like Yathebyan cave. It is more like a tunnel rather than a cave. The entrance to the cave is about 50 feet high and one can reach to the top of the cave through ladders. Twenty feet above the cave are the marks of thousands of antique votive tablets, but just four or five tablets remain intact at the top of the cave.

In the inner part of the cave reclining Buddha images, sitting Buddha images, twenty eight images, and a historic pagoda with Koe Taung (13.5 feet) high were found. From there you can see an entrance of a path of about half a mile to go straight through to the exit at the other end of the cave. As the natural light is dim there the Board of Trustees managed to supply electric light.

If you go into the inner part of the cave you will be surprised by seeing the bodhisattva Sadan elephant king's tales formed naturally. Kyaukhwekan meaning stone blood pond which can cure diseases; stalactites clinging to the ceiling of the cave and stalagmites; saw-like stone which was used to cut the tusk of Sadan king; the first hole for shooting arrow known as sky aiming hole created by the hunter which also provides



Kyauk Ka-Lat Pagoda in Kawai village in Hpa-an. PHOTO: AYE MIN THU



Bayin Nyi Cave in Hpa-an. PHOTO: AYE MIN THU



Maha Sadan Cave in Hpa-an. PHOTO: AUNG MOE (MZ)

light and ventilation; residence of the daughter of Sadan elephant king; intestine-like pile thought to be elephant king's intestines and paddy seed-like laterite on a stone slab called rice granary hill can be seen there. Pilgrims usually take these laterite stones as amulets to be able to increase their wealth.

If you exit via the place, you will be not very far from the place of second hole for shooting arrow and you can enjoy the light coming in there. You will also find elephant trunk-like stalactite formed by the drips from stalagmite which is thought to hide the princess (daughter of the elephant king) is there. Myanmar traditional hat-like stone hat thought to be put on by the hunter; crashed molar-like stones of King Sadan; stone cup used to serve betel leaves and nuts, and dried tobacco leaves stone blood pond which can cure diseases; stalactites clinging to the ceiling of the cave and stalagmites; saw-like stone which was used to cut the tusk of Sadan king; the first hole for shooting arrow known as sky aiming hole created by the hunter which also provides

on which a ceti (pagoda) with the height of 4.5 feet is built. This ceti is named Hsutaunggyai Ceti meaning wish-fulfilling pagoda. About fifty yards from that place is an exit and you have to walk at least 100 feet to reach the leveled-ground. On the ground a Lwanceti meaning a pagoda erected in memory of a departed dear and a Zayat, roadside public place for taking rest, can be found. There is also a big Sadan lake thought to be a place where the Buddha-to-be and his entourages taking baths. To the north of the lake is 200 feet high hill range under which cave orifice filled with water can be seen. The orifice of the cave is 100 feet long and five feet high. On this waterway there are ferries for visitors. These ferries attract the attention of the visitors as if one takes the ferry he can feel the excitement on the trip.

The historic Kawgun Cave is located on a limestone hill eight miles from Hpa-an and on the west bank of Thanlwin river near Kawgun village, 116 feet above sea level. The 30 feet long, 70 feet in width and 25 feet in height cave is

a kind of cul-de-sac. There are also stalactites and stalagmites. Inner and outer wall of the cave are decorated with ancient votive tablets, Buddha images, bas-reliefs carved on the limestone, sculptures, wall paintings, stone inscriptions, ink inscriptions, ancient Mon writings. Compared to the Bagan era ancient Mon inscriptions to the inscriptions in Kawgun Cave, Myanmar Department of Archaeology came to know that the Mon stone inscriptions were carved in the 11th century.

Kawgun Cave houses 26 lion statues, Independence monument, deity's pond, southern white Bodaw, the benefactor Grand Pa's spirit and a shrine for nat spirits. There are Buddha images in various postures – sitting, sitting cross-leg, reclining – along the passage from the entrance to the inner part of the cave.

The confluence of Thanlwin, Gyaing, Donthami and Attaran between Kayin and Mon States is home to natural limestone caves namely Niradon, Hpabaung, Yebu, Karon, Dhammatha, Sadan, Hpapyan, Taungbalwe, Yathe, Maungdi,



Kawkathaung cave in Hpa-an. PHOTO: AYE MIN THU



Kyonhtaw Waterfall in Myainggyingu region 50 miles from Hpa-an. PHOTO: THWE THWE TUN

Wepyan, Weipula, Kawkathaung, Minlwin, Bayin Nyi, Winsone, Hpakat, Kawgun and Yathepyan. These caves house ancient Buddha images and ancient artifacts. Of them, Kawgun cave is famous for its cultural treasures.

Bayin Nyi cave is situated 12 miles to the west of Hpa-an between Thanlwin and Donthami rivers. It occurs on top of a rock hill in the plain area by the roadside of Thaton and Myainggalay. In the caves are Buddha images of ancient handiworks. Many Buddhist culture can be seen in the cave which has many orifices. The significant feature of the cave is the flowing of hot and cold springs in the lake under the hill which currents are not merged but go side by side.

The second longest cave in Kayin State is Yathepyan cave. It is situated on the road to Kawgun cave. One can reach the cave passing through Thanlwin Bridge from the west bank of the river along Kawgun cave road. Historical facts and culture of successive eras can be studied there. Votive tablet Buddha images can be seen on the wall

of the inner part of the cave. The maximum width of the 800-feet-long cave is 80 feet and it is 50 feet high. In the middle of the passage there exists about 50 feet deep hole and those who walk on the passage may be on tenterhooks to see the hole. A brick ladder is to be used to reach the entrance to the cave. A visitor to the cave will see the 19th century Buddha images when he first steps on the cave. The images are carved on stalagmites and stalactites. In the middle of the cave is a ceti with the height of 40 feet and the axis of road will be found if you proceed from that ceti. The road leads to the exit of the cave. The space of the inner part of the cave is wider than the starting point and there is no image in that place. If you go straight through in the cave, you will see stalagmites and stalactites in a pile. It is said that a hermit who came to realize the truth levitated to the sky passing through the walls of the cave. So, the cave was named after the event as Yathepyan (flying hermit) cave. Till today a hole can be seen at the roof of the cave.

Kawkathaung cave is situated

near Kawkathaung village seven miles to the south of Hpa-an and it is a limestone cave. You must enter the cave through the archway and you will see Wingaba (labyrinth) wall, Hsutaunggyai Ceti, and a reserve fish pond. Nagayon (dragon) pagoda, various images, a flag mast can be seen at the entrance to the cave. Twenty eight Buddha images, images stick to the rock, lamppost wrapped by a dragon and an image, meditating statutes of a crocodile and a turtle, standing images, police commissioner pagoda, Sayadaw (abbot) Kyaungsaung and a relic shrine can be paid homage in the cave.

Wepyan cave is situated at Wepyan village in Mizaing village tract about 40 miles from Hpa-an on the west bank of Thanlwin river. The cave is at a hill range with the height of 500 feet and length of over four miles. That is a limestone cave. Measuring 200 feet in length, 70 feet in width and 30 feet in height, the cave houses votive tablets and wall paintings which are similar to that of Kawgun cave. Therefore scholars conclude that the artifacts in the two caves are

contemporaries.

Laingkawpya cave is situated 19 miles from Hpa-an. It can be reached via Hpa-an-Hlaingbwe road along Maehsaung-Naung-hpalein earthen road. The journey takes 40 minutes. Along the road, you will reach Naungthayet and Naunghpalein villages and there you will see Kayin traditional houses, and almost intact natural beauties. The shape of the cave is like the form of a frying pan which is put upside down. Ancient Buddha images, damaged images, stalactites and stalagmites and cave orifices can be seen at the inner part of the cave. It is less-frequented, its nature is still intact. In rainy season, cars are useless but motorboats are used for transportation.

Linnoh cave (Bat cave) is situated near Thanlwin Bridge in Hpa-an. It is famous among tourists. Every evening at dusk, a colony of bats leave the cave and drink water along Thanlwin river reaching Gulf of Mottama. A similar cave inhabited by the bats is also situated in Laos.

Thayarshwe cave is situated at Laypo hill near Myaing village in Hpa-an township. Laypo is Kayin language meaning small hill. Located at the upper part of the hill, the cave is straight through. As it is in the form of dome-shaped Myanmar traditional steamer it is also named Paungchaung-oh Taung (Steamer Hill). Later, Myaingyingu Sayadaw named it Thayarshwe cave. As there were many bat guano in the cave, no one could enter into the cave in the past. But the guano have won markets as a product, there are no odor in the cave.

Daw Hpakho means separation. The Kayin's legend has it that during a flood, a family made a raft and floated in the water. The bamboo of the raft hit the Mount Bwehekho and caused a crater there. From then on the mountain was divided and today one is called New Year Mountain and the other Naw Bu Baw Prayer Mountain.

Bwe tribes of Kayin ethnic group reside near Bwehekho mountain range the literary meaning of the mountain is a region where Bwe tribe is living. It is famous for establishing of royal palace by King Kiku. Rock shapes are formed as rock elephant trunk, rock table, rock chair, rock cradle, and a place where Naw Bu Baw was tied. Pathi creek located 13 miles from Taungoo is famous for taking a bath after returning from Mount Naw Bu Baw.

Greater Mekong Sub-region's East West Corridor passing through Kayin State is being upgraded. As it will emerge as a one of the important Asian highways, tourism industry can be promoted. Paying homage to the ancient images, buying locally made handicrafts, enjoying traditional foods, making contacts with locals, visiting traditional shows are kinds of tourist attractions. Moreover urban life can be enjoyed from Thanlwin Bridge. ■

Though Thandaung Resort is situated in Thandaunggyi

Township in Hpa-an District in the northern most part of Kayin State, it seemed to be separated with the state because it is very far from Hpa-an, the capital of the state. From there, one must use the road passing through Bago Region to reach the capital.

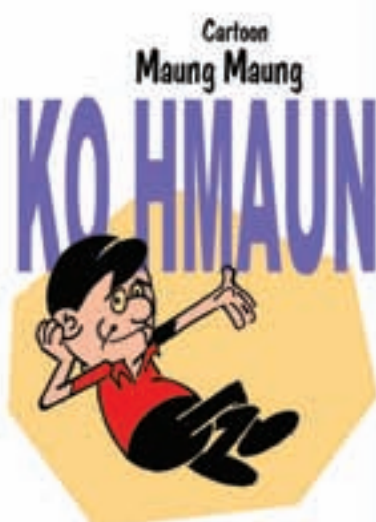
The resort, 30 miles from Taungoo, can be reached via Taungoo from Yangon-Mandalay Highway. At the 13th Mile, there is a fork road for uphill and downhill traffics. The famous Naw Bu Baw prayer mountain can be reached after driving on 4400-feet-long road. At the foot of the mountain to the top of it you have to take 374 steps on 500 long and six feet wide uphill road. A cool breeze will touch you and you will become fresh. The area is located 4842 above sea level. The natural geographical features of Thandaunggyi and its environs form mountains, ravines and valleys. Of the four high mountains in the area, Naw Bu Baw also known as Bwehekho mountain is the highest and Mount Bwehekho (sister) runs parallel to it. To the north east of Mount Bwehekho lies Daw Hpakho Mountain which forms a high and long row of mountain chain. To the south east of Mount Bwehekho (sister) is Mount Kiku. Daw Hpakho means separation. The Kayin's legend has it that during a flood, a family made a raft and floated in the water. The bamboo of the raft hit the Mount Bwehekho and caused a crater there. From then on the mountain was divided and today one is called New Year Mountain and the other Naw Bu Baw Prayer Mountain.

Bwe tribes of Kayin ethnic group reside near Bwehekho mountain range the literary meaning of the mountain is a region where Bwe tribe is living. It is famous for establishing of royal palace by King Kiku. Rock shapes are formed as rock elephant trunk, rock table, rock chair, rock cradle, and a place where Naw Bu Baw was tied. Pathi creek located 13 miles from Taungoo is famous for taking a bath after returning from Mount Naw Bu Baw.

Greater Mekong Sub-region's East West Corridor passing through Kayin State is being upgraded. As it will emerge as a one of the important Asian highways, tourism industry can be promoted. Paying homage to the ancient images, buying locally made handicrafts, enjoying traditional foods, making contacts with locals, visiting traditional shows are kinds of tourist attractions. Moreover urban life can be enjoyed from Thanlwin Bridge. ■

(Translated by Wallace)

# SUNDAY COMICS



# Interview with Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Vikram Misri

**A wide-ranging interview with Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Myanmar and India.**

**Q: What would you say is the main priority in bilateral relations between India and Burma?**

A: We are currently in an interesting time in bilateral relationship between India and Myanmar. Our priorities are to see the strengthening of democracy in this country. We were very glad that the transition that took place following the elections in 2015 was a very peaceful, smooth and stable transition. I think that is a process forward and all the stakeholders deserve credit including the political parties, civil societies and institutions and the military authorities as well because they all played a role. And I think we are seeing today a young democracy in its first steps into the world. There is a tradition of democracy in this country and it now has to rediscover some of those traditions and in that process, we stand ready to extend a helping hand. As the largest democracy in the world and with some very important achievements to our own credit in the field of strengthening democracy not just in our country but in many other regions around the world, we feel that there are contributions we can make to strengthen democracy. Our second priority would be to participate through any assistance or investment in the economic growth and regeneration of this country. Myanmar had been isolated from the mainstream of the economic world for a very long time and as it reintegrates with the mainstream of the international economy, India as the world's fastest-growing Asian economy is in a good place to assist and contribute from our own experiences of what we have learnt in our own process of moving through the different phases of our own economy. And thirdly I would say our priority is to strengthen security. This country has been witness to a very long civil war. A war that is still actively going on in some parts of the country unfortunately, and for which the government has embarked on the peace process and we are deeply invested in the success of that. Because we feel that a peaceful, stable and prosperous Myanmar is in the interest of not only the people of Myanmar but also all of its neighbors. So a very big and important priority for us is to see security strengthened in Myanmar and therefore to see the success of the peace process.



Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri speaks during the interview at his residence in Yangon. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

So a very big and important priority for us is to see security strengthened in Myanmar and therefore to see the success of the peace process.

**Q: We have a new government who has taken state responsibility for over a year, so I would like to know your perspective on the overall democratic transition of Myanmar.**

A: We are very happy in India to see the results of the elections in 2015 and the ascension of a democratically elected government. The Myanmar government has now completed one year in office with the country transitioning to a democratic form of government. There have been some good developments and there have been some challenges. But I don't think anyone would say that a democratic system of government is a walk in the park when you have to manage government with high expectations from people. And to do so with an open society, listening

to all sides and being open to criticism is challenging and I don't think the State Counsellor mentioned that this was going to be easy. What is impressive is the way in which these challenges have been faced by the government.

Democracy is like a log raft, what it means is it always going up and down on the waves and it constantly sits above water. The logs make up all the stakeholders in a society like the people, all the political parties, civil society, non-government organisations, and the military. The lashes that hold the logs together are the institutions, the rule of law, independent judiciary, of free media. These are what hold all the stakeholders together and holds the raft and makes it unsinkable. And I think that takes time and we can't expect everything to be perfect overnight. I think the people of Myanmar are doing a good job in facing these challenges on multiple fronts and there will no doubt be more challenges going into the future. But I think it's important that they face these challenges and have the resources to face them. From our perspective it's up to the people of Myanmar and their elected representatives to decide how to face up to these challenges, but as an outsider, we can assist in facing up to the challenges and we will always be there shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Myanmar.

**Q: What will be the challenges for the government in the transition during the peace process?**

A: The peace process has been a

very important priority for the Myanmar government. When we talk about building a new nation, we talk about the need for peace and the need for development and these are the same side of the same coin. I think the State Counsellor has been right to focus on the peace process because this is something that has occupied the people of Myanmar for more than 70 years. India was a witness to the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement, so we are very heavily invested in the success of the peace process. We have been as distressed as anybody else to see the sporadic outbreak of fighting on the eastern and northern borders and we hope that these hostilities will cease and that everybody will come back to the dialogue table. At the end of the day, there is no recourse in finding a solution to these issues other than through the process of peaceful dialogues sitting around a table and thrashing these issues out. I'm sure a will exist among all the stakeholders to sort these things out. I very much hope that everybody will find it possible to agree to terms and come around to dialogue. We would be very happy to see the success of this peace process. With India, Myanmar shares perhaps its most peaceful border and that is a good thing that it doesn't have to worry about a threat from across the border. From our side, we have some concerns because there are still Indian insurgent groups that seek shelter and sanctuary on the Myanmar side and rule that territory as a staging area for attacks on the Indian side but we have good mechanisms in place with the authorities in Myanmar to address these situations and we welcome the assurances given to us by Myanmar authorities that they will not permit these activities on their soil. I hope that the peace process encompasses groups situated all along the periphery of Myanmar. I hope we see some progress in the Union Peace Conference so that the people of Myanmar can see a future that is marked by peace.

**Q: There could be more interest from Indian investors so I want to touch on trade and business. In the last 3 or 4 years there have been more contacts between private to private businesses and private companies in Myanmar and private companies in India, so is this correct? I would like to know how important it is for our private to private contacts and what kind of business is India interested in in Myanmar?**

A: It is a fact that there is an increase in interest in the private sector in India to increase their footprint and engagement in Myanmar.

**SEE PAGE-H**

## FROM PAGE-G

When the State Counsellor visited India in October last year, she met with some of the captains of the India industry at an event that was organized in New Delhi for her. I was recently in India and spoke to representatives of two of the leading chamber of commerce in India where there was a reflector of the interest in India. I very keenly promoted Myanmar as an investment destination and was pleasantly surprised to see a lot of interest in coming to Myanmar. The reason for that is obvious. Myanmar is a largely unexplored territory with a considerably large market and I think businesses can expect fast growth, at least in the initial years. There are certain obstacles, primarily in the infrastructure and the unavailability of energy, for example, and I very much hope that the Myanmar government can put the policy and regulatory measures in place for equity to get businesses interested even further. But the interest is already there and it's already manifested itself on the ground. You already see factories for pharmaceuticals and the blending of fertilizers built in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone by Indian investors. There are Indian companies that have been in intense trading relationship for a very long time with this country and I, personally, am trying to encourage a lot of these companies to move from the trading phase to the investment phase and to generate jobs in the country.

Some of that is linked to the investment climate in the country and the specific situation in each particular sector. Some of the sectors that we could assist enormously for mutual benefit are energy, transport, health, education, skill building, and vocational training.

We have done some work in some of these areas, like energy for example, we have enormous achievement in renewable energy. Myanmar has one of the highest UV radiations in the world so it's literally sitting on a gold mine so far as solar energy is concerned. I hope that inflammable can be put in place whereby solar energy can be developed in the country, given the fact that nearly two-thirds of the country is not connected to the electricity grid. Solar energy can be the answer for people living in far-off rural areas. Similarly in hydro energy, there have been possibilities and plants discussed between the two sides for co-operation.

Health and education are areas where we have some world-class companies and institutions in India that will be happy to share their experiences and bring those achievements over here. With skill building and vocational training, especially in fields like information technology and English, both areas have initially setup institutions in Myanmar that are willing to take them forward. Myanmar needs a lot of infrastructure and we would be keen to engage with the government in building the next generation of infrastructure projects. I think all of these will help bring in Indian investors and businesses.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (Left) shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Right) during a photo opportunity ahead of their meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India, on 19 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

**Q: So what would you say is the biggest challenge is in the relationship between the two countries? For example, in terms of border security, crimes, illegal migrants, or something like that?**

A: If you look at challenges along the border, and we share a very long border, 1,600 km, the problem of drug and human trafficking and illegal border crossing are certainly there. What is good is that we have mechanisms in place to handle these and there's good cooperation between the border guard

I very much hope that the Myanmar government can put the policy and regulatory measures in place for equity to get businesses interested even further.

forces on both sides. We also have agreements in some areas in terms of laying down the procedures to handle these issues when they occur. I would say that these are things one would expect along a very long border such as this but it is not something that we would regard as an existential crisis for us. I said earlier that this is probably Myanmar's most peaceful border and some of these activities I referred to do take place from time to time and both sides should exert to make sure that they are controlled and they are prevented. But in terms of talking about challenges, I would point to another challenge between India and Myanmar, and that is really to rediscover each other. We are two countries that are so close to each other and share so

much of history, geography, literature, religion, tradition, culture, food and in the modern era, our collective experience with colonialism and the fight and struggle for independence. For some reason due to the incidents that have taken place in both countries, particularly the locked phase of isolation Myanmar went through, I think we have lost some kind of contact with each other. We need to rediscover that contact and find again how close we really are and I think that can be done by intensifying people to people contact and trying to expand the areas of contact between stakeholders of our societies. I think if we are able to do that then all of the other challenges will become easier to address.

**Q: Does the Indian government have a particular plan for bilateral relations between the two countries and how can the Indian government contribute to Myanmar's transition process?**

A: In terms of bilateral relations, our relationship with Myanmar always had strong development partnership content to it. It's probably not a very well-known fact but our exposure in terms of development assistance to Myanmar is nearly US\$ 1.75 billion. This is both by way of projects that are funded through ground assistance and projects financed through very generous lines of credit. There are a number of significant development projects that we are doing in Myanmar, such as the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, whose first two stages are complete with the port in Sittway built and the port and transshipment terminal in Paletwa having been finished. We have just awarded the contract for the final stage which is the road to be built from Paletwa to a point called Zorinpui which is on the border with Mizoram. I think the creation of this transport corridor, once it is fully functioning, has the potential to transform the economic landscape in the States through which it goes, Rakhine and Chin. Perhaps it a coincidence but these are two of the most underdeveloped states in Myanmar so I think that the potential in development

that this transport corridor will bring is immense because this will generate both direct and indirect jobs. But more importantly it provides some of these states such as Sagaing, Chin and Rakhine an alternative outlet for their export because from Sittway, Calcutta port is only 540 kilometers. I think this is one of the most significant projects that we are doing. We are also working on the trilateral highway between India, Myanmar and Thailand to contribute to the Asian highway, and on that there are projects that are underway. We are repairing 69 bridges on the Tamu-Kalay road and also constructing the Kalaywa-Yagyi section of that road. In Chin State which borders Mizoram in India, we are constructing a road that will connect Rhi on the border to the town of Tiddim.

We are also apprising a number of other projects and I hope we can take them up under the terms of line of credit assistance. We are assisting two roads, one of which is built in Kachin State and another one in Rakhine State. We are also assisting agriculture, telecommunications, railways and other projects in these areas. In terms of bilateral relations, we are trying to contribute to skill development in Myanmar. We have set up the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay and it is currently running both a diploma program as well as a five-year bachelor of engineering degree in IT. If it is professionally managed, I dare say it is an institute Myanmar would be proud of, not just as a national institution, but as an institution that can hold its own against the best of this entire region. There are institutes in the field of English instruction, IT entrepreneurship that we have promoted and there are a number of other projects that we are taking up in this so there is a very broad program of assistance to Myanmar that forms part of our bilateral relations program. We hope that by intervening in key areas such as the provision of health services, where there is deficit to make up, and provision of education services, intervening in the energy space. I hope we are plugging some of the requirements in this country. We can assist the economic transition that is underway in Myanmar.

**Q: How optimistic are you now about the future of Myanmar?**

A: I am very optimistic, I think that this country, one that is so rich not only in natural resources but especially in terms of human resources, has the possibility of starting innocence from a clean slate and the genius to benefit from its diversity and to resolve the difficulties that it currently has. I think the sky's the limit for a country like this. I don't discount the challenges but equally I think that the leadership of the country is aware of these challenges. Given the right amount of time and space, they will be able to surmount these challenges and take the country to join its rightful place in the committee of nations, as it deserves.