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President, First Lady vote for by-election at Tamway Tsp Constituency in Yangon



President U Win Myint (Upper), and First Lady Daw Cho Cho (Lower) cast their votes in the By-Elections for a vacant seat for Pyithu Hluttaw at the polling station-3 in Pyithu Hluttaw constituency in Tamway Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 2018 by-election was held at 13 vacant constituencies throughout the country starting at 6 a.m. yesterday, with constituents arriving to vote for the by-election at respective polling stations.

President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and family came to cast their votes for the by-election at the Yangon Region Tamway Township Pyithu Hluttaw constituency's Kyarkwatthit Ward polling station 3 yesterday afternoon. — MNA ■



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By-Elections held for 13 vacant constituencies

By-elections began across Myanmar yesterday morning and eligible voters went to the polls to cast their votes at the voting stations of all 13 vacant constituencies.

By-Elections for four vacant seats of Pyithu Hluttaw

By-election in Laikha Township



People queue up to vote in Laikha Township. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

By-Elections for a vacant seat for Pyithu Hluttaw was held in Laikha yesterday. Three candidates were on the ballot, including a candidate from the

Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, a candidate from the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy and a candidate from the National League for

Democracy.

Over 36,000 people in the township are eligible to cast vote in the 2018 by-election. — Township IPRD ■

By-election in Tamway Township

By-Elections for a vacant seat for the Pyithu Hluttaw was held in Tamway yesterday.

Eight candidates were on the ballot.

There are 123 polling stations in Tamway Township for the By-Elections for the seat and 99,119 people are eligible for voting in the township.

Diplomats and election observers visited the polling stations yesterday.

Tamway Township Health Department, Myanmar Red Cross and MILT assisted the disabled voters at the polling stations.



Woman voting in Tamway Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

The voting ended at 4 pm and officials of the polling stations counted the ballots.—MNA ■

People voting for Pyithu Hluttaw representative in Myingyan Township

THE public voted for Pyithu Hluttaw representative in Myingyan, Mandalay Region during the 2018 by-election yesterday morning at 6 a.m.

Myingyan Township constitutes 20 wards, 85 village tracts, and 185 villages with 221,865 constituents, and in Myingyan Township 64,867 constituents were voting at 63 polling stations in 20 wards. In the villages in the township, 156,998 constituents were voting at 205 polling stations.

In Myingyan Township there were 4,853 constituents who cast their votes in advance.



Woman voting in Myingyan Township. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN NAING**

Also, 63 polling stations in 20 wards in the Township opened at 6 a.m., and constituents who had earlier checked the voting lists were able to

cast their votes quickly, though some who had not checked the voting list took some time to vote.

Handicapped per-

sons, as well as those who were sick and infirmed, were transported and assisted to vote by Myingyan Township social assistant groups. The Township Police Force was providing security and the Fire Brigade was on standby to respond to any emergency situation, while Red Cross personnel had clinics ready in the wards. There were four candidates from four parties contesting for Pyithu Hluttaw representative seat, while five Shan ethnic nationals contested for the Shan ethnic national representative seat. — Zaw Min Naing ■

By-election in Kanpetlet Township



PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

FOUR candidates each from Chin National Democratic Party, National League for Democracy, Union Solidarity and Development Party and Chin Progressive Party were on the ballot for a vacant seat for Pyithu Hluttaw in the By-Elections in the

township.

Voters cast their ballot at 69 polling stations in Kanpetlet Township yesterday.

A total of 124,449 people in the township are eligible to vote for the 2018 by-election.—Township IPRD ■

By-Elections for vacant seat of Amyotha Hluttaw

By-Elections in Myitkyina Township for vacant seat of Amyotha Hluttaw

By-Elections for a vacant seat for Amyotha Hluttaw was held at the constituency 2 of Myitkyina Township yesterday.

A total of 203,292 eligi-

ble voters cast their ballots at 114 polling stations in wards in Myitkyina and village-tracts in the Township.

Six candidates were on the ballot, including each

candidate from Kachin Democratic Party, Red Shan (Tailai) and Northern Shan Ethnic Solidarity Party, Union Solidarity and Development Party,

National League for Democracy and Union Ethnic People's Federal Democracy Party and one independent candidate were on the ballot.—MNA ■



PHOTO: MNA

Legal aid

Legal aid for people who cannot afford legal representation has been established. Legal aid is given to citizens who are poor and unable to defend for themselves, such as children, women, the elderly, disabled, and people suffering from communicable diseases.

(Excerpt from the report on the current work of the Union Government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)



President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho fill in the form to get ballots for the by-election in Tamway Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**



President U Win Myint greets officials of the polling station and international election observers after casting his vote for a vacant seat of Pyithu Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

Literature Roundtable held at Pathein University

A Literature Roundtable, as part of the Children's Literature Festival, Children's Literature Exhibition and Book Sales, jointly organized by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Ayeyawady Region Government, was held at Pathein University convocation hall yesterday afternoon.

The Literature Roundtable was moderated by U Sithu Nyein of Maubin Government Technical and Vocational Education Training School, and led by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint along with Pathein Technological University fifth year B.E. Civil student Maung Kyaw Aung Zin Latt, Pathein Technological University fourth year B.E. EC student Naw Aviniza, Maubin Computer University third year student Maung Sai Min Thu Aung, Maubin Computer University first year student Ma Yamin Khin, Maubin University Master of Arts (Myanmar) first year student Maung Khant Ko Ko and Maubin Uni-

versity (History) third year student Maung Tat Toe.

During the discussion, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the Roundtable was held with the aim of increasing the habit of reading, and thus discussions can focus on writing, publishing books, magazines and journals, as well.

People who read make progress and develop, while a country that reads is up front and develops in ways that prevents other countries from overtaking them. This can be seen in literature, as well as in real life. To study means

to read. Reading involves both fiction and non-fiction. Reading to develop a country involves all. Subject matters can be non-fiction, but not only non-fiction, as all others need to develop, too. A country cannot only develop with scientists in labs. Reading of biographies, history, novels and fiction would not result in understanding people. People who deeply read novels understand people in depth. It is important to know history, as well as geography. Nowadays, it is also important to know geo-politics. It is neces-

sary to know geo-politics, geo-economics and international relations, said the Union Minister.

Next, students participating in the Literature Roundtable discussed the books and literature they like, and the Union Minister joined in the discussion.

After the talk, the Union Minister, Literature Roundtable participants, and departmental officials in attendance, posed for commemorative group photo. — Thi Thi Min, Min Thit (MNA) (Translated by Zaw Min) ■



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint takes part in literature talk together with youths at the Children's Literature Festival in Pathein. **PHOTO: NAY LIN**

First validation study design workshop for TCSF held in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivered the opening speech at the first validation study design workshop for TCSF (Teacher Competency Standards Framework) held on Friday at Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister thanked UNESCO (Myanmar), the Australia Government, Finland Government, British Government and advisor to Australian Council for Education Research Dr. Jen Jackson for providing technical and financial support to strengthen pre-service teacher education validation study design programmes and TCSF works.

Myanmar is carrying out fourth sustainable development goal and education reforms, in which teachers are specifically emphasized and recognized in teachers' education priority works

and increasing student learning results.

The validation study design for TCSF was conducted by study design members and the draft validation study design for TCSF of pre-service teachers was submitted to the National Education Policy Commission for suggestions.

The TCSF for experienced, expert level leading teachers are still being drawn up. The Ministry of Education said he owes much to the UNESCO STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) project, DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) My-EQIP (Myanmar Education Improvement Program) Australian Council for Education Research for their support toward study works conducted by the Department of Higher Education.

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By-Elections held in regions and states

By-elections began across Myanmar yesterday morning and eligible voters went to the polls to cast their votes at the voting stations of all 13 vacant constituencies.

By-Elections for eight vacant seats in region, state Hluttaws



A voter prepare to cast vote in Matupi. **PHOTO: IPRD**

By-election in Matupi Township

The By-Elections for a vacant seat in the Chin State Hluttaw (Parliament) was held in Matupi yesterday.

Two candidates were on the ballot, including a candidate from the Chin League for Democracy and a candidate from the National

League for Democracy, as eligible voters cast their votes at 70 polling stations in Matupi Township yesterday.

A total of 8,315 men and 9,047 women are eligible for voting in the by-election in Matupi. — Matupi Township IPRD ■



People line up for casting vote in Tamu. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN**

By-election in Tamu Township

By-Elections for a vacant seat in the Sagaing Region Hluttaw were also held in Tamu yesterday.

Over 35,400 people were eligible to vote in the By-Elections in the township, and the voting were held at 38 polling stations beginning at 6 am yesterday. Over 140 police and

members of the auxiliary fire brigade provided security at the polling stations.

Observers from ANFREL and Peace election observation organizations visited the polling stations. Also, over 1,100 voters cast advanced votes on 1 and 2 November. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■



Officials prepare to count ballots at a polling station in Toungoo. **PHOTO: THURA (TOUNGOO)**

By-election in Oattwin Township

By-Elections for a vacant seat for the Bago Region Hluttaw were held in Oattwin yesterday.

People from 22 village-tracts cast their votes

at 71 polling stations beginning at 6 am yesterday, and over 59,000 people are eligible to cast vote in the by-elections in the township. — Thura (Toungoo)

By-election in Yangon West District's Seikkan Township

By-Elections for a vacant seat in the Yangon Region Hluttaw were held in Seikkan Township in Yangon West District yesterday.

International observers, diplomats, journalists and delegates from political parties observed the voting.

Over 1,400 eligible voters cast their votes at the polling stations in the By-Elections in the township. Aung Myint (IPRD) ■

By-election in Yathedaung Township



A man casts his ballot in Yathedaung. **PHOTO: IPRD**

By-Elections for a vacant seat in the Rakhine State Hluttaw were held in constituency-2 of Yathedaung yesterday.

Four candidates were on the ballot, including U Khin Than Maung from the National League for Democracy, U Maung Hla Myint from Arakan National Party and U Thein Maung from Arakan League for Democracy, along with one

independent candidate.

For the by-elections, three polling stations in Yathedaung and 83 polling stations in village-tracts, totalling 86, were set up in the township. There were 52,300 eligible voters for the by-elections in the township.

Media and observers were also present at the polling stations. — Rakhine State IPRD ■



Voters fill in forms to draw their ballots. **PHOTO: IPRD**

By-election in Thabeikkyin Township

THE By-Elections for two vacant seats for Mandalay Region Hluttaw and for a representative for Shan ethnic affairs were held in Thabeikkyin Township yesterday.

A total of 49,749 are eligible for voting in the By-Elections for the two vacant seats. For the seat of Mandalay Region Hluttaw, seven candidates

were on the ballot, including each candidate from the National League for Democracy, the National Democratic Force, the National Unity Party, the Union Farmers-Labour Force, the Union Solidarity and Development party, the National United Democratic party and the Democratic Party (Myanmar). — Township IPRD ■



A voter casts his ballot in the by-election in Thabeikkyin, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Seat for Shan Ethnic affairs of Mandalay Region Hluttaw

FOR the seat for a representative for Shan ethnic affairs, six candidates were on the ballot in Thabeikkyin, including each candidate from the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, the National League for Democracy, the Union Soli-

darity and Development Party and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy and one independent candidate.

Eligible voters cast their votes at 47 polling stations in Matupi Township yesterday. — Township IPRD ■

By-election in Minbu Township

By-Elections for a vacant seat in the Magway Region Hluttaw were held in constituency-2 of Minbu, Magway Region, yesterday. Five candidates were on the ballot, including candidates from the National League for Democracy, the Union Solidarity and Development Party, and the National United Democratic Party and two independent candidates. For the by-elections, 96 polling stations were set up in Minbu and village-tracts. Officials of the Magway region, district and township sub-election commissions inspected the polling stations. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU) ■



Children's Literature Festival, Exhibition, Book Sales held at Patheingyi University

THE opening ceremony for the Children's Literature Festival, Children's Literature Exhibition and Book Sales, jointly organized by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Ayeyawady Region Government, was held yesterday morning at Patheingyi University, Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region.

The opening ceremony was held in front of Patheingyi University's convocation hall, where Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Khaing, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and students cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Next, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Khaing, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, guests and students posed for commemorative group photos in front of the convocation hall.

The second part of the opening ceremony was also held in the convocation hall, starting with students from Ayeyawady Region Primary School No. 9 singing the children's literature festival theme song.

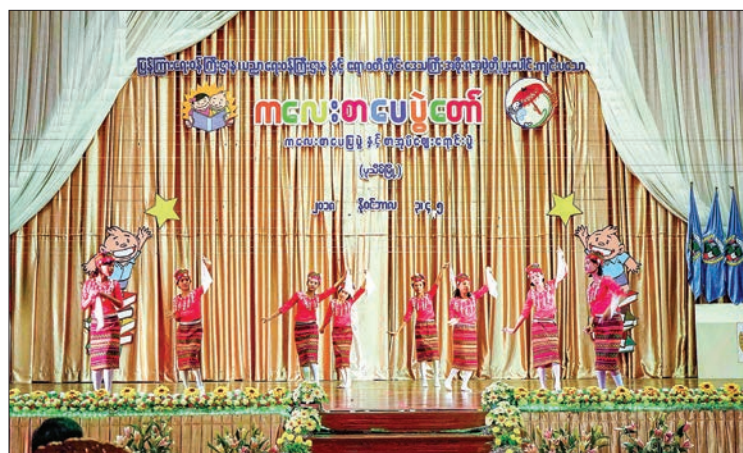
Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addressed the event, saying children who come to today's festival will see many exhibitions displaying books and literature. They will also see many competitions, such as literature, poem recitations and story-telling competitions. For children who enjoy games, they'll enjoy game connecting words in phrases that are related to literature. Books and literatures for children are on display and the culture of valuing books and literature should be encouraged among the children.

The aims of conducting children's literature festivals are to make children happy, to love and cherish literature, to enable children to work and associate with others, and to create great children.

Looking at the list of countries that read the most books and take the most time to read will find China and India at the top, and Thailand is near the top. To work toward developing our country, our people are required



Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung cut ceremonial ribbons to open the Children's Literature Festival in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: IPRD**



Youths perform traditional and ethnic dances. **PHOTO: IPRD**



Children take part in sports games. **PHOTO: IPRD**

to read books on a wide range of topics. It is hard to urge elders to read. Reading requires acquiring the habit. There must be a willingness to read and the long-practice of reading. This habit and practice needs to be nurtured since they were young.

The Ministry of Information is setting up reading rooms in Information and Public Relation Department libraries. It is doing the best it can with what it has. At today's event, a sample reading room is shown. Persons who

are interested and have good intentions are approaching the department to set up reading rooms. There were also organisations that were setting up children's reading rooms under their own arrangements.

The Ministry of Education has also made arrangements to have reading rooms in schools, since for children to successfully acquire the habit of reading, they must work together in cooperation, said the Union Minister.

Union Minister Dr. Myo



Children's Literature Festival (Patheingyi) is crowded with visitors.



Books stalls are packed with visitors. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Thein Gyi then spoke about encouraging the practice of reading, to create opportunities to acquire the habit of reading and to read often, and to have the ability to review and evaluate what was read.

This was followed by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, who noted that developing the image of children and creating a future is the best way to develop the entire Ayeyawady Region and reflects the importance of immersing in literature to become highly qualified

sons and daughters.

Following the speeches, students from various schools provided entertainment with songs and dances.

Finally, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Khaing and officials inspected the exhibits and entertainment, including the magic shows and dances.—Thi Thi Min, Nay Lin (MNA) (Translated by Zaw Min) ■

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Japanese design low-cost housing project to be launched

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA) held a housing business workshop, in cooperation with the Japan-Myanmar Association for Industry of Housing and Urban Development (JHMU/JIBH), at Sedona Hotel on 2 November to launch a Japanese designed low-cost pilot housing project.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Ichiro Maruyama, JHMU/JIBH chairman Haryo, MCEA chairman U Shein Win and officials from Japanese construction companies and local Myanmar companies attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister said that there are some 400,000 people making up 100,000 households of squatters in the Yangon region. "We need around 300,000



The scale model of Japanese design building for low-cost pilot housing project. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

apartments for our local people, including our employees and companies' staff members. At present, we are seeking investors to fulfill this requirement. According to the project, we are conducting negotiations to im-

plement the housing project to fulfill the needs of the people."

MCEA and JHMU reached an agreement on 2 December 2017 to build flats for those who earn low incomes.

According to the agreement,

Myanmar construction entrepreneurs have built two sample apartment buildings near No.3 Highway toll gate, Yangon, using Japanese designs and with the assistance of Japan. They have introduced these two apartment buildings as a pilot project.

Recently, lower-cost and affordable apartments have been planned for Yangonites by Yangon Region Government, in cooperation with Myanmar Construction companies.

During State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's visit to Japan, she has entered into an agreement with the Japanese prime minister to assist the Myanmar's development project, covering three sectors, including Yangon Region development, rural road development and housing development.—Myint Maung Soe (Translated by Hay Mar) ■

Youths receive basic skills for bamboo handicraft in Toungoo

A COMPLETION ceremony for bamboo handicraft trainees was held in Hin Ye Myar Village in Suatap Village-tract, Toungoo Tsp, on 1 November.

The basic bamboo handicraft work training classes are held under the sponsorship of Toungoo Tsp's Department for Rural Development in Bago Region, and are intended to support the livelihoods of local residents.

U Ba Thein, the Chief Officer of Toungoo District Rural Development Department, addressed the trainees at the successful completion of training.

Daw Ngu Wah Htwe, Chief Officer of Toungoo Tsp Rural Development Department, said the training lasted from 17 to 31 October, with 25 young stu-



Bamboo handicraft products seen in Toungoo Township. **PHOTO: KHIN KO (KYAUK DA GAR)**

dents enrolled in the course. She noted that the trainees received lessons on creation and preparation of agricultural

equipment and basic bamboo products from village elders.—Khin Ko (Kyauk Da Gar) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■

320 Myanmar citizens arrested on Thai- Myanmar border

THAI authorities arrested 320 Myanmar citizens on 2 November in Mae Sot Town, Thailand, when police raided six wards in which the most of the residents are Myanmar citizens.

A combined team included officials and staff from the immigration, No.14 tourist police force and No. 364 Border Guard Force (BGF).

This raid was conducted under operation X- Ray Law, targeting foreigners in Mae Sot Town as part of a mass crackdown on undocumented foreigners.

Some of the arrested Myanmar citizens were found living in six wards but had legal documents. Thai authorities will release those with legal documents and were set to deport those unable to provide proper documents.

Thai authorities conducted the raids as part of efforts to reduce the crimes of gambling, drugs and human trafficking.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung) (Translated by Hay Mar) ■

Police sergeant seriously wounded by accidental gunshot

A POLICE sergeant was seriously injured in Mandalay Region on 1 November after a gun was discharged while being handed to another constable.

The police constable in

question was handing his gun to a fellow constable when the gun fired on its own, shooting the police sergeant in the right side of his abdomen, according to an officer on duty.

The constable involved in

the shooting is from Chanmyathazi Tsp Police Station 11.

The incident has been reported to the regional police command for further action.—Kyaw Kyaw (Ma Hlaing) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■

First validation study design workshop for TCSF held in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE-3

Expert teachers, representatives of international organisations and responsible officials attending the day's events are urged to participate in selecting the best design for development of Myanmar's teaching, learning and support works.

The Union Minister also spoke of the joy in receiving the cooperation of the UNESCO STEM Project Team in Myanmar education reform and thanked the donors and My-

EQIP, who provided financial and technical support for the day's event.

Additionally, Ms. Min Jeong Kim, Head of Office, UNESCO Myanmar, and Ms. Esther Sainsbury, First Secretary, Australian Embassy, delivered speeches.

Afterwards, Department of Higher Education Deputy Director-General Dr. Daw San Yi explained about the workshop, processes and frameworks. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Min) ■



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi addresses the first validation study design workshop for Teacher Competency Standards Framework in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Than Myint attends 36th Havana International Fair

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint attended the 36th Havana International Fair – FIHAV 2018, held in Havana, Cuba from 29 October to 2 November.

The Union Minister and Myanmar delegation attended the opening ceremony of the fair on 29 October, together with President of Cuba H.E. Miguel Diaz-Canel, Cuba Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment H.E. Rodrigo Malmierca Diaz, Ministers and Deputy Ministers from more than 20 countries, including Venezuela, Russia and Spain.

Also, business persons from 65 countries attended the opening ceremony of the Havana International Fair on the morning of 29 October.

On the morning of 30 October the Myanmar delegation visited Bio Cuba Farma in Havana, where expert Dr. Dora Carcia Deigado and Director Dr. Normando E. Iznaga Escobar explained about the work conducted by Bio Cuba Farma, and the Union Minister discussed increasing trade and investment in both the health and agriculture sectors.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister met with Cuba Deputy Minister for Health Ms. Dra C. de la Salud Marcia Cobas Ruiz and discussed bilateral cooperation, including importing pharmaceutical products and investment.

On the morning of 31 October, the Myanmar delegation visited Centro de Inmunologia Molecular, where department head Mr. Marardo Pujol and regional management officer Dr. Patricia Sierra Blazquez explained about Cuba's pharmaceutical manufacturing and exports, and

discussed opportunities to manufacture pharmaceuticals in Myanmar.

Later in the evening, they arrived at the Cuba Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, where Department Head Mr. Lic Frank Gabriel Denis Martinez explained about the status of manufacturing and exporting drugs and medicines for cancer, diabetes and jaundice.

For his part, the Union Minister discussed exchanges of medical experts and trainings between the two countries, as well as the possibilities of invest-

ing in Myanmar and the status of Myanmar providing benefits, based upon its investment laws.

On the morning of 1 November, Union Minister Dr. Than Myint met with Cuba Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment H.E. Rodrigo Malmierca Diaz to discuss increasing cooperation in bilateral trade and investment sectors.

The Union Minister and his party left Havana on the evening of 1 November by air, arriving back in Yangon on 3 November. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun) ■

Two MCs from Myanmar participates in “Heaven or Hell” program in JPN



TWO MCs from Myanmar will participate in “Heaven or Hell” program which is an entertainment show which neither MCs nor viewers know the destination because cue cards they travel along are all written in Japanese.

A consecutive fun, exciting and thrilling moments including, stunning Japanese scenery, savory Japanese food, in addition, some strange experiences, such as eating foods Burmese are not used to eat or thrill rides.

Two familiar MCs travelling

to Japan this time are Zaw Htet and Hum Thiha. It is very first time for them to visit Japan and experience such travels where the destinations will be all depending on the choices of the cue cards of Heaven or Hell.

This is an exciting TV show with laughter and scream!

On this program, they will visit tourist attractions including Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Kumamoto, its mascot, and Okinawa. — K Banana ■

SME entrepreneurs meet with “villous amomum” growers in Thandaunggyi

SME entrepreneurs meet with “villous amomum” growers in Thandaunggyi town's Pathi hall on 3 November.

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo attended the ceremony and delivered a speech in which he said that the government is providing assistance in respect of the agricultural technology for villous amomum to penetrate the international market.

The forestry department is making arrangements for the local farmers to receive 30-year land lease grant for planting villous amomum. Additionally, there is a plan to found Villous Amomum Association very soon. Villous amomum is demanded mostly by China.

Therefore, we need to make arrangements for villous amomum to be displayed in international trade exhibition and there is a need to export



SME entrepreneurs meet with “villous amomum” growers in Thandaunggyi. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

this product to the western market. Then, Ahmyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Naw Christ Tun discussed the profit of villous amomum growers and current market sale conditions.

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Saw Victor klite, State Hluttaw

representative U Saw J Aye Win Myint and Villous Amomum Producers and Exporters' Association Chairman U Saw Christopher discussed further process as well as the progress of work as well as the difficulties encountered. —Township IPRD (Translated by Hay Mar) ■

Ghani to seek re-election in Afghan presidential poll: official

KABUL (Afghanistan) — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani will seek re-election in 2019, his office announced on Saturday, as potential rivals begin jockeying for the country's top job ahead of the ballot.

Ghani, who was elected in a fraud-tainted poll in 2014 that was only resolved in a US-brokered power-sharing deal, is expected to present himself to war-weary voters as the candidate who can end the 17-year conflict.

The acerbic academic, who has a reputation for shouting at subordinates and micromanaging the unity government, will try to capitalise on renewed US-led efforts to engage the Taliban in peace talks, which are showing tentative signs of bearing fruit.

"I can confirm that President Ghani is seeking re-election next year," presidential palace spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazawi told AFP.

Ghani, who chose the widely feared ethnic Uzbek leader Abdul Rashid Dostum as his first run-



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. PHOTO: AFP

ning mate in the 2014 election, has not yet announced who he will pick this time round.

It also is not certain who will challenge Ghani in the 20 April ballot.

Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, Afghanistan's equivalent of prime minister, and former national security adviser Mohammad Haneef Atmar, who quit in August, are among potential con-

tenders.

Former Balkh provincial governor Atta Mohammad Noor, whose refusal to stand down from his position sparked a months-long political crisis for Ghani, has previously expressed interest in the job.

Nominations open on 10 November, the same day that the embattled Independent Election Commission is scheduled to re-

lease the results of last month's shambolic parliamentary poll.

Ghani, an ethnic Pashtun, will need more than the support of Afghanistan's largest ethnic group if he is to succeed at the ballot box and he has already started trying to win over rival ethnicities.

Vice President Dostum's controversial return from exile in July was interpreted as an at-

tempt by Ghani to secure votes from the minority group.

Ghani's presidency has been marred by growing militant violence, record-high civilian casualties, political infighting and deepening ethnic divisions.

He took office in 2014 as US-led NATO combat troops withdrew from the country, sparking a resurgence in the Taliban which also coincided with the emergence of the Islamic State group in the region.

In February, under growing pressure from the international community which provides critical financial and military backing to the government, Ghani made a peace offer to the Taliban.

That was followed in June by an unprecedented ceasefire between Afghan troops and Taliban fighters that lasted three days and spurred hopes that peace was possible. Taliban representatives have met with US officials at least twice in Qatar in recent months, most recently on 12 October with newly appointed US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad. —AFP ■

Iraq reinforces border with Syria, fearing IS spillover



An Iraqi military helicopter lands near the Al-Qaim border crossing between Syria and Iraq on 1 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

AL-QAIM (Iraq) — Iraqi troops have reinforced their positions along the porous frontier with neighbouring war-torn Syria, fearing a spillover from clashes there between Islamic State group jihadists and US-backed forces. For weeks, IS has fought back an assault by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on a key jihadist-held pocket in Syria's eastern Deir Ezzor province near the border with Iraq.

It managed to recapture some territory from the SDF around Hajin, prompting Baghdad to dispatch reinforcements to its own border, including paramilitary units from the Hashed al-Shaabi and the army.

"All measures have been taken: we have control towers, observation posts, dirt berms and trenches," Lieutenant Colonel Abbas Mohammad, the head of one border unit, said on Thursday. "The SDF's retreat will not be a threat to Iraq," he added.

Soldiers could be seen posted along a sand berm topped by barbed wire and decorated with Iraqi flags, according to an AFP videojournalist at the scene.

Military vehicles patrolled between barracks, and soldiers stationed at observation posts pointed their machine guns towards the Syrian border.

Helicopters and more armoured cars arrived throughout

the day.

According to Iraqi General Qassem al-Mohammadi, who heads operations in Iraq's western Anbar province, IS fighters were just "five or six kilometres away, inside Syria."

Anbar, a massive desert governorate which extends from the edge of Baghdad west towards the Syrian border, served as a jihadist bastion before Iraqi forces retook it in late 2017.

Across the border in Syria, two separate offensives have aimed at ousting IS from the frontier with Iraq.

One has been carried out by Russian-backed Syrian troops, who have cleared IS from territory west of the Euphrates River.

That includes the Albu Kamal border post with Iraq, which was captured last year. Authorities in both Baghdad and Damascus said in mid-October that they hope to revitalise cross-border trade through it as soon as possible.

The SDF is still fighting IS east of the Euphrates around Hajin, where the US-led coalition estimates around 2,000 jihadists are based. —AFP ■

Iran launches fighter jet production line: report

TEHRAN — Iran on Saturday launched the mass production line of a homegrown fighter jet, official IRNA news agency reported. The production line of the fighter jet, called Kowsar, was launched at Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industries Company in Iran's central city of Isfahan, attended by senior Iranian military officials. The jet, unveiled on National Defence Day in August, is equipped with "advanced avionics and fire control systems" and capable of carrying various weapons, which can be used for short aerial support missions.

It also uses digital military data networks, multi-purpose digital monitors, ballistic calculation computers and smart mobile mapping systems.

The jet has an advanced radar system, enabling it to detect

enemy targets. It is also equipped with a head-up display, which promotes precision targeting.

According to Press TV, Iran's Defence Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said on Saturday that "soon, the needed number of this plane will be produced and put at the service of the Air Force." Hatami said that the project has satisfied one of the most vital needs of the country's military aviation industry.

Kowsar is "the very symbol of fighting the (global) arrogance and standing against the excessive demands of ... the United States," he was quoted as saying.

"The enemies' psychological warfare, propagandist blackmail, and economic sanctions" had no effect on the lively trend of advancing the country's deterrent capabilities, he stressed. —AFP ■

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Trump expects 'very good' trade deal with China

WASHINGTON (United States)—President Donald Trump said on Friday that he expects a budding US-China trade war to end with "a very good deal."

"I think we will make a deal with China," he told journalists at the White House. "I think a very good deal will be made with China." Markets have soared on reports that the two sides are closing in on a deal that would avoid Washington piling on still more tariffs against Chinese imports.

"We are getting much closer to doing something," Trump said. "A lot of progress has been made." Asian markets enjoyed another rally earlier after Trump hailed positive talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and a report said he had asked officials to draw up a draft bill ahead of a potential trade deal. The comments came days after Trump warned he would impose tariffs on all China's shipments to the US before saying he thought he could "make a great deal with China" but it was not yet ready.



US President Donald Trump speaks to the press before boarding Marine One from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC on 2 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bloomberg News, citing unnamed sources, reported that the president has requested key cabinet secretaries put together an outline deal to call a ceasefire in the painful row. It said several agencies had been called in to help with putting the plan together.

Hong Kong enjoyed its best percentage gain since December 2011. Washington and Beijing are in an increasingly high-stakes standoff over Trump's aggressive move to end what he says have been years of unfair trade practices by China, including rampant

intellectual property theft, forced technology transfers and market access barriers.

Trump imposed new tariffs on roughly half of Chinese imports this summer, while Beijing fired back with tariffs on most US products.— **AFP ■**

Medvedev to meet with Cuban president, discuss joint projects



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. **PHOTO: TASS**

MOSCOW—Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel will discuss implementation of joint projects at their meeting on

Saturday in Moscow.

The sides will focus on relevant issues in Russian-Cuban trade-economic, investment, scientific-technical and cultur-

al-humanitarian cooperation, the press service of the Russian cabinet of ministers said earlier adding that Medvedev and Diaz-Canel will also discuss progress in implementing joint projects in energy, industry, transport and other spheres.

Diaz-Canel started his official visit to Russia on 1 November on the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. On 2 November, the Cuban president held talks with Putin. Diaz-Canel also met with Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko and State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin. The Cuban president will also meet with Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and

All Russia.

At talks with Volodin, Diaz-Canel confirmed Havana's unchanged policy toward Moscow. The sides discussed US sanctions imposed on Russia and Cuba, and noted the unacceptability of using such measures as a political instrument against other countries.

At her meeting with the Cuban president, Matviyenko noted the privileged character and gradual development of bilateral relations. Talking about economic cooperation between Russia and Cuba, she called for making joint efforts to implement bilateral investment projects as soon as possible.— **Tass ■**

France, Germany, UK, EU condemn new US Iran sanctions

PARIS (France)—France, Germany, Britain and the European Union issued a joint condemnation on Friday of the US move to place fresh sanctions on the Iranian economy, vowing to protect European companies doing "legitimate" business with Tehran.

"We deeply regret the reimposition of sanctions by the United States stemming from their withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," the statement said in reference to the hard-fought 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. Struck between world powers and Tehran after years of fraught negotiations, the deal was aimed at limiting Iran's nuclear capabilities in exchange for sanctions relief.

But US President Donald Trump announced in May that he was walking away from the deal and would reimpose sanctions, leaving the EU scrambling to protect companies that have forged trade links with Iran. Friday's statement from EU nations defended the deal as "essential for the security of Europe, the region and the whole world".

"Our objective is to protect European economic actors involved in legitimate commercial trade with Iran," it added.

Europe will also seek to "maintain financial channels operational with Iran and to ensure the continuation of Iranian oil and gas exports", it said. — **AFP ■**

Erdogan: Khashoggi kill order came from 'highest levels' of Saudi govt

WASHINGTON (United States)—The order to murder Saudi journalist and regime critic Jamal Khashoggi came from "the highest levels" of the Riyadh government, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday in a *Washington Post* op-ed.

"We know that the perpetrators are among the 18 suspects detained in Saudi Arabia. We also know that those individuals came to carry out their orders: Kill Khashoggi and leave," he wrote.

"Finally, we know that the order to kill Khashoggi came from the highest levels of the Saudi government."

Erdogan added that he did "not believe for a second" that Saudi's King Salman had ordered the hit on Khashoggi, who was murdered at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul on 2 October.— **AFP ■**

Two dead, several wounded in US yoga studio shooting: police

MIAMI (United States)—A gunman killed two people and wounded several others at a yoga studio in Florida's state capital Tallahassee on Friday before apparently taking his own life, the local police chief said.

At approximately 5:37 pm the Tallahassee Police Department responded to reports of a shooting at an area yoga studio, where police chief Michael DeLeo said officers "found multiple victims suffering from gunshot wounds."

In a later statement police said a total of seven victims had been identified: six with gunshot wounds, and one who was pistol-whipped.

They also identified the shooter as 40-year-old Scott Paul Beierle, whose motive is still unknown.

Two of the gunshot victims later died of their injuries, while two of the wounded remained in the hospital in stable condition and three had been released.

"There are indications that several people inside fought back and tried to not only save themselves but other people, which is a testament to their courage," DeLeo said.— **AFP ■**



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan (l) and China's Premier Li Keqiang attend a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 3 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

With eye on aid, Pakistan PM meets Chinese counterpart

BEIJING (China) — Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan met with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang in Beijing on Saturday, as he seeks aid and investment from the world's second largest economy in hopes of staving off a financial crisis.

Before travelling to China — one of Pakistan's firmest allies — Khan said he was striving to obtain financial aid from two unnamed countries after Pakistan secured \$6 billion in funding from Saudi Arabia.

His government has also entered talks with the International Monetary Fund over a potential bailout as it grapples with a balance of payment crisis and current account deficit.

China is already a major investor in Pakistan, where the two countries are building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a multi-billion-dollar project at the heart of Chinese

president Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, an ambitious, globe-spanning trade infrastructure programme.

The corridor aims to increase energy and transport links between the western Chinese region of Xinjiang and the Arabian Sea via Pakistan.

However, given Pakistan's deteriorating finances, there have been concerns in recent months that portions of the agreement may have to be scaled down.

In his meeting with Li, Khan invited the Chinese premier to visit Pakistan and see for himself the difference the mega-project has made in the country.

"CPEC in 2013 was just an idea. Now it is on the ground. And it has caught the imagination of the people of Pakistan," he said.

"We feel that this a great opportunity for our country to progress, to attract investment. It gives us an opportunity to raise

our standard of living, growth rate."

Li praised the relationship, saying "China and Pakistan are all-weather partners."

"Pakistan has always been regarded as a foreign policy priority by China."

The meeting follows talks with President Xi Jinping on Friday, where the former cricket star bemoaned his country's financial woes, saying the economy was at a "low point".

Since taking power in August, Khan has sought loans from "friendly" countries like Saudi Arabia, vowed to recover funds stolen by corrupt officials, and embarked on a series of populist austerity drives to raise cash.

Pakistan has gone to the IMF repeatedly since the late 1980s.

The last time was in 2013, when Islamabad got a \$6.6 billion loan to tackle a similar crisis. —AFP ■

Viet Nam vets welcome French PM's visit to Dien Bien Phu battle site

HANOI (Viet Nam) — Hoang Bao was barely 20 years old when he trekked to Dien Bien Phu in northern Viet Nam to fight the French, facing his enemy full of hatred and ready to die for his country's independence.

More than 60 years after the communists' shock victory in the epic battle, the site of which French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe will visit on Saturday, retired colonel Bao is happy to call his former foe a friend.

"We have no hatred toward the French any more," 85-year-old Bao told AFP in Hanoi, wearing his dark green military uniform decorated with medals.

But he said there are important lessons to be learned from the bloody 56-day fight that sparked the collapse of France's colonial Indochina empire and paved the way for northern Viet Nam's independence.

"The French didn't learn our history well, so they lost... Viet Nam is different from other countries, we are not willing to surrender," he said.

Viet Nam's win over the French led to the country's division into the communist-ruled north, headed by revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh, and a pro-US southern regime.

That set the stage for two decades of war which would end with unification and America's defeat in the Viet Nam War in 1975.

Today France is one of Viet Nam's most important allies, with soaring trade worth \$7.6 billion and cosy military alliances.

Philippe is the second senior French leader to visit the site after President Francois Mitterrand in 1993.

The French premier, who will travel to Dien Bien Phu with

several French vets, said the trip is a chance to pay respect to the thousands who fought in the war.

"I want to pay tribute to the dedication, the self-sacrifice, the immense courage of the fighters on both sides," Philippe said in an interview with *Tuoi Tre* newspaper this week.

The ferocious battle in the rugged, remote valley killed 13,000 people on both sides in under two months, as Vietnamese fighters hemmed in French forces — equipped with superior weapons — and bombarded them with heavy artillery.

Facing the French in battle was complicated for some fighters, whose lives were closely intertwined with their colonial rulers, sometimes going to school or working alongside them.

But driven by patriotism and a fierce thirst for independence, many Vietnamese took up the struggle fortified by bitter memories of invasion by the Chinese, Japanese and French.

They were also buoyed by Communist slogans that urged everyone to pitch into the war effort.

"One slogan was: We would rather die than be slaves again and (we will) sacrifice everything for independence and freedom," said Tran Quoc Hanh, an 83-year-old former colonel who trekked thousands of kilometres to the battle site in 1953.

The battle for Dien Bien Phu is still bittersweet for many who wear the victory as a badge of honour, but lament the steep death toll.

"We lost so many comrades," said Nguyen Tran Viet, an 87-year-old former army medic.

"We should live peacefully now, never let war happen again," he said. —AFP ■



in
Picture

Tourists enjoy scenery at Xiaopu Township in Changxing County, east China's Zhejiang Province on 2 November, 2018. Beautiful scenery here attracts lots of tourists. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe (r) visits a classroom after inaugurating the newly-built Alexandre Yersin School in Hanoi on 3 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

World's rarest plants, vital crops can't be banked: study

PARIS (France) — International efforts to save some of the world's rarest and economically important plants from climate change are doomed to fail because their seeds cannot be stored, researchers warned on Friday.

As the planet heats and mankind continues to decimate natural habitats, scientists concede that the only way to save some types of vegetation is in seed banks — giant repositories of thousands of species preserved for future generations.

Nations agreed a global strategy in 2002 to conserve at least three quarters of threatened plant species with the aim of recovering and restoring their stocks in nature at some point.

Scientists working in several seed banks around the world currently conserve seeds by drying them before freezing.

But new research by botanists at Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, found that 36 per cent of "critically endangered" plants and trees aren't bankable under the current method because their seeds die when dried and so cannot be preserved by freezing.

"You can't dry the seeds so you cannot conserve them in a conventional seed bank," John Dickie, head of collections at Kew, told AFP.

It was previously known that at least eight percent of plants — including oak trees, mango, avocado and cacao — produce "recalcitrant" seeds that die when dried.

But with seed banking a work in progress, only a small proportion of plants have had their suitability for freezing assessed.

Dickie and his team developed a model using data on the climate, spe-

cies habitat and the known seed-storage behaviour of related vegetation that predicted how likely it was that a plant's seeds would be bankable.

Preservation goals 'impossible'

The analysis showed that the goal of conserving 75 per cent of the world's threatened plant species outside their natural habitat by 2020 was "practically impossible".

In addition, even a proportion of seeds that survive drying and freezing have been shown to deteriorate while in storage, further complicating efforts to save their species. Dickie said the team at Kew, which has been banking seeds for nearly 40 years, noticed "declines in viability" in some seed varieties over the decades, meaning they are less likely to be successfully planted and grown in future. —AFP ■



New research by botanists at Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens found that the seeds of more than a third of 'critically endangered' plants and trees can't be put into seed banks. PHOTO: AFP



A young Gentoo penguin chirps amidst a colony of penguins on Ardley Island, Antarctic on 3 February, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Plans for world's largest ocean sanctuary in Antarctic blocked

SYDNEY (Australia) — A plan to create the world's largest marine sanctuary in Antarctic waters was shot down when a key conservation summit failed to reach a consensus, with environmentalists on Saturday decrying a lack of scientific foresight.

Member states of the organization tasked with overseeing the sustainable exploitation of the Southern Ocean failed at an annual meeting Friday to agree over the a 1.8 million square kilometre (1.1 million square miles) maritime protection zone.

The proposed sanctuary — some five times the size of Germany — would ban fishing in a vast area in the Weddell sea, protecting key species including seals, penguins and whales.

Consensus is needed from all 24 members of the Commission for the

Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the European Union. But environmental groups say Russia and China — whose concerns over compliance issues and fishing rights have proved key stumbling blocks in the past — along with Norway, played a part in rejecting the plan.

"This was an historic opportunity to create the largest protected area on Earth in the Antarctic: safeguarding wildlife, tackling

climate change and improving the health of our global oceans," Greenpeace's Frida Bengtsson said in a statement on Saturday.

"Twenty-two delegations came here to negotiate in good faith but, instead, serious scientific proposals for urgent marine protection were derailed by interventions which barely engaged with the science and made a mockery of any pretence of real deliberation." —AFP ■

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‘Godfather’ of Hong Kong film, producer behind Bruce Lee, dies



Raymond Chow was seen as largely responsible for bringing Hong Kong cinema to an international audience.
PHOTO: AFP

HONG KONG (China)—Raymond Chow, the film producer credited with bringing kung fu legend Bruce Lee to the silver screen and widely regarded as the “godfather” of Hong Kong cinema, has died aged 91, reports said on Saturday.

Chow co-founded the Golden Harvest studio in 1971 and was seen as largely responsible for bringing the city’s films to an international audience.

He produced more than 170 films over his career, according to industry website IMDB, and nurtured the careers of several action stars, including Jackie Chan. Chow first worked with Lee on “The Big Boss”—released as “Fists of Fury” in the United

States—in 1971, making the actor a martial arts legend overnight. The film broke box office records both in Hong Kong and overseas. He went on to produce or co-produce two of Lee’s best known films: “Way of the Dragon” in 1972, followed a year later by “Enter the Dragon”, the first cinema collaboration between a Hong Kong studio and Hollywood.

He repeated the success with Chan, first working together on “The Young Master” in 1980.

Born in 1927 in Hong Kong, Chow studied journalism in Shanghai and briefly worked as a reporter before going into the film industry.

He joined the Shaw Brothers studio in 1958, working his way up

to chief executive before leaving in 1970 to set up his own firm.

He was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Asia Film Awards in 2011.

Fellow filmmakers and industry figures paid tribute to a man they said played a crucial role in the emergence of Hong Kong cinema.

A message on the Twitter account managed by Lee’s daughter recognized Chow’s role in the late legend’s rise to stardom.

“Thank you Raymond for taking a chance on a young Bruce Lee and helping him to realise his dream. Rest in peace, Raymond,” it said. Sin Kwok-lam, producer of the Ip Man kung fu series, described Chow as his idol.—AFP ■

Alec Baldwin arrested in NY after ‘punching’ man

NEW YORK (United States)—Hollywood actor and television presenter Alec Baldwin was arrested in New York on Friday for allegedly punching a 49-year-old man in the face during a parking dispute, police said.

The 60-year-old, who has famously impersonated President Donald Trump and who lives in downtown Manhattan with his second wife and their four young children, was arrested in Greenwich Village, a police spokeswoman told AFP.

“Police got a call around 1:30 pm (1730 GMT) regarding an assault in progress. When we got there, we discovered that it looked like two individuals were fighting over a parking spot,” the spokeswoman said.

The younger man had already parked his vehicle and was attempting to purchase a parking

ticket, when he got into a dispute with Baldwin, “who then punched him in the face,” the officer said.

She said the unnamed man was taken to hospital in “stable” condition, while Baldwin was in custody awaiting charges.

Baldwin is well known for his hot temper and for impersonating Trump on satirical US television show “Saturday Night Live.” The Oscar nominee recently launched a Sunday night talk show on ABC television.

In 2014, he was detained by New York police for riding his bicycle the wrong way down a street.

In late 2013, NBC scrapped his late-night chat show after he allegedly subjected a photographer to a homophobic slur outside his apartment on the day that a Canadian actress convicted of stalking him was jailed.



Actor Alec Baldwin attends the premiere of “The Public” during the Toronto International Film Festival, on 9 September, 2018 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. **PHOTO: AFP**

In a subsequent profanity-laden article in *New York Magazine*, the actor said he was finished with public life and that the Big Apple no longer offered his then baby daughter a “normal” life.—AFP ■

Prince Harry shares touching photo of pregnant wife Meghan

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Prince Harry has shared a photograph of his wife Meghan Markle cradling her baby bump during a walk through a forest in New Zealand on their recent Pacific royal tour. The couple’s Kensington Palace residence published the image on Instagram, with a photo credit for the prince, and a caption which said the couple had returned home “inspired” by their trip. “Thank you New Zealand for the most wonderful last week of our tour,” the message read, attributed to the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

“It has been a privilege to meet so many friendly Kiwis. Australia, Fiji, Tonga and NZ—we leave feeling inspired and reminded of how every single one of us can make a difference.”

It was followed by a quote from Kate Sheppard, the Liver-

pool-born leader of the women’s suffrage movement in New Zealand: “The rain that refreshes the parched ground, is made up of single drops.”

Women’s rights featured prominently during the tour, with the couple attending a ceremony to mark 125 years of universal female suffrage in New Zealand and Meghan quoting Sheppard in a speech. The photograph captures the beaming former actress with her hands on her tummy standing among enormous redwood trees in Rotorua on Wednesday, the final day of their tour. The couple’s 16-day tour opened with the bombshell announcement that Meghan was expecting the couple’s first baby early next year.

Meghan drew adoring crowds on her first international tour, confirming her star appeal as Britain’s newest royal.—AFP ■

Dutch Nazi art probe rejects Kandinsky claim

THE HAGUE (Netherlands)—The heirs of a Jewish art collector have lost their bid to reclaim a prized Kandinsky painting sold to Amsterdam’s famous Stedelijk Museum during World War II, the museum said on Friday. Wassily Kandinsky’s 1909 painting “Bild mit Hausern” (Painting with Houses) was claimed by three descendants of Amsterdam businessman and modern art aficionado Emmanuel Lewenstein.

They said the painting was sold at auction to the museum under duress by Lewenstein’s son Robert and his wife Irma Klein in October 1940, five months after Germany invaded the Netherlands.

But the Dutch Restitutions Committee—which rules in cases of ownership of artifacts looted during the Nazi occupation—rejected the claim, which was first lodged in 2013.

“The Restitutions Committee has issued a binding opinion in which they concluded that the... museum is not obliged to reconstitute the painting to the applicants,” said Stedelijk Museum spokeswoman Margriet Schavemaker told AFP.

“The committee did conclude that the sale cannot be seen in isolation from the Nazi regime,” she added.

“But it was also partly related to the deteriorating financial circumstances in which Robert Lewenstein and Irma Klein found themselves prior to the German invasion.”

After the war there are no indications that Irma Klein ever approached the museum to ask them to give it back “even though it can be reasonably assumed that she knew the work was there,” Schavemaker added.

The Stedelijk said at the time of the original claim by the heirs that the sale was voluntary and that the museum bought the canvas in good faith at the auction.

“We realise that this is painful for the applicants and that this painting will forever be associated with a painful history,” the museum’s interim director Jan Willem Sieburgh said. But “the work may remain in the collection of the Stedelijk,” he said.

One of the pioneers of modern abstract art, Moscow-born Kandinsky’s paintings are highly sought after and fetch millions of euros (dollars) at auction.

A double record for Kandinsky canvasses was set at Sotheby’s in London in June last year when two paintings from before World War I went for \$26.8 million and \$42.3 million respectively.—AFP ■

Paleontologists discover new sauropod species in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina) — A team of Spanish and Argentine paleontologists have discovered the remains of a dinosaur that lived 110 million years ago in the center of the country, the National University of La Matanza revealed on Friday.

The remains came from three separate dinosaurs from the herbivorous group of sauropods, the best known of which are the Diplodocus and Brontosaurus. This new species has been named *Lavocatisaurus agrioensis*.

“We found most of the cranial bones: the snout, the jaws, a lot of teeth, also the bones that define the eye sockets for example and, in that way, we were

able to create an almost complete reconstruction,” said Jose Luis Carballido, a researcher at the Egidio Feruglio museum and the national council of scientific investigations.

Parts of the neck, tail and back were also found.

“Not only is this the discovery of a new species in an area where you wouldn’t expect to find fossils, but the skull is almost complete,” added Carballido.

The remains belonged to an adult of around 12 meters (39 feet) in length, and two minors of around six to seven meters.

The paleontologists say the dinosaurs moved around in a group and died together.



Picture released by Argentine news agency Telam showing a worker assembling the fossils of what may be the largest dinosaur ever — a creature is believed to be a new species of Titanosaur, a long-necked, long-tailed sauropod that walked on four legs and lived some 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, at the Egidio Feruglio Museum in Trelew, in the Argentine Patagonian province of Chubut, some 1,300 km south of Buenos Aires, on 27 June, 2014. **PHOTO: AFP**



The region where the new species of sauropod was found is unusual as it would have been a desert during that era, 110 million years ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

“This discovery of an adult and two juveniles also signifies the first record of a group displacement among the rebachisaurus dinosaurs,” said study lead author Jose Ignacio Canudo of Zaragoza University.

The area in which the fossils were found is unusual for dinosaurs as it would have been a desert with sporadic lakes in that era.

Sauropods were the biggest creatures ever to walk the planet. It is believed that Supersaurus could reach up 33-34 meters in length and Argentinosaurus might have weighed up to 120 tons.

They were herbivorous quadrupeds with long necks and tails, massive bodies and small heads.

But the discovery in Neu-

quen, published in the scientific journal *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*, remains a huge surprise.

“While one can imagine that this group of sauropods could have adapted to move in more arid environments, with little vegetation, little humidity and little water, it’s an area in which you wouldn’t be looking for fossils,” said Carballido. —AFP ■

Next expedition may go to ISS on 3 December

MOSCOW — The launch of the next expedition to the International Space Station (ISS) may be carried out on 3 December and the return of the current ISS crew to Earth on 20 December, the executive director of Roscos-

mos for manned programs, Sergei Krikalyov, said on 31 October.

“The original plan was the current crew will return in the middle of December and the next one will replace it shortly afterwards. In order to avoid

shifting the ISS to an unmanned mode the industry is exerting considerable efforts to make the launch possible on 3 December, while the landing is expected around 20 December,” Krikalyov told a special meeting timed for the 55th anniversary of the Biomedical Problems Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Currently the ISS has a crew of three — Roscosmos’s Sergei Prokopiev, NASA’s Serena Aunon-Chancellor and the European Space Agency’s Alexander Gerst. The next crew — Roscosmos’s Oleg Kononenko, NASA’s Ann McClain and Canadian Space Agency’s David Saint-Jacques — was to go to the ISS in late December, but the aborted launch of the Soyuz-FG rocket on 11 October required amendments to the timetable. —Tass ■



PHOTO: TASS

Discovery of gene may lead to disease-resistant crops

LONDON — Researchers have found a gene that can help control plants’ response to disease, which may pave the way for developing infection-resistant crops, according to a study released on Friday by the University of Edinburgh.

Using a common cress plant, *Arabidopsis thaliana*, researchers from Edinburgh analyzed the mechanism behind plants’ response to attack from bacteria or viruses.

They found that a previously unknown gene, called SRG1, can unleash the plant’s defence mechanism by limiting the activity of genes that suppress the immune response.

By altering the activity of the SRG1 gene, the team was able to demonstrate that plants

with higher levels of defence proteins produced by the gene were more resistant to infection.

They also found that nitric oxide regulates the immune response, ensuring the plant’s defence system does not over-react.

“Our findings provide a missing link between mechanisms that activate and suppress the plant’s response to disease,” said Professor Gary Loake from the University of Edinburgh.

The findings, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, could lead to ways to fine-tune the gene’s activity to boost disease resistance, pointing towards more resilient crop breeds or new treatments for infections. —Xinhua ■



Aung Thu wearing yellow jersey No 10 dribbles a ball penetrating into the opponents' team in Qatar. **PHOTO: MFF**

Striker Aung Thu on shortlist of seven top scorers to win Golden Boot of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018

MYANMAR'S forward Aung Thu, who is playing for Yadanarbon Utd FC of Myanmar and Police Tero of Thailand, has been on a shortlist of top scorers to win Golden Boot of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018.

Six other possible top scorers are Adisak Kraisorn from Thailand, Chan Vathanaka from Cambodia, Nguyen Anh Duc from Viet Nam, Phil Younghusband from Philippines, Alberto 'Beto' Goncalves from Indonesia and Safawi Rasid from Malaysia.

Aung Thu showcased his scoring skill at the previous edition of the AFF Suzuki Cup and he grabbed goals in back-to-back group stage encounters against Viet Nam and Cambodia. Since then, Aung Thu has quickly emerged as Myanmar's

most potent goal-scorer. A 22-year-old forward is full of solid international experiences and he is playing in one of the region's strongest domestic leagues. The Thai-based forward is a good bet to become not only the Asian Lions' leading scorer but also among the main contenders for the Golden Boot. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

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Aung La Nsang tipped for Global MMA awards to be honoured in Singapore on 8 November

BURMESE Python Aung La Nsang, ONE middleweight and light heavyweight world champion title holder, is being tipped for Global MMA awards these days.

The Global MMA award presentation ceremony will be held in Singapore on 8 November.

The awarding ceremony will honour the winners with 16 prizes of different categories.

Aung La Nsang has been shortlisted for five prizes representing Global MMA. Aung La Nsang has extended unbeaten

run so far after grasping ONE middleweight world champion title in 2017. Aung La Nsang won by three knockouts during 2018.

Aung La Nsang has been shortlisted for Martial Arts Hero of the Year, Male Athlete of the Year, Bout of the Year, Knockout of the Year and Walkout of the Year. ONE Championship will hold MMA bouts in Singapore on 9 November. The prize presentation ceremony will be held before the MMA fights. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



Aung La Nsang came to Royal Rose Hotel to receive K10 million honoured by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. **PHOTO: HTUT HTUT(TWANTAY)**



Officials pose for a documentary photo at AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 Press Conference in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Myanmar placed in AFF Suzuki Cup Group A

THE Myanmar national football team has been placed into Group (A) of the Asian Football Federation (AFF) Suzuki Cup 2018, along with Viet Nam, Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos.

Meanwhile, defending champion Thailand was selected to play in Group (B), together with Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Timor-Leste.

Ten ASEAN football teams, including Myanmar, will participate in the AFF Suzuki Cup, which will run from 8 November to 15 December 2018.

Based on AFF Championship rules and regulations, all

matches will begin with the round robin system, whether home, away, or during play offs.

There is one venue for each participating country in the tournament, as each country received two group matches played in their home stadium.

The AFF Suzuki Cup tour was held in Yangon on 24 and 25 October, Manila on 27 October, Bangkok on 28 October and will be held in Jakarta on 4 November. Myanmar will play against Cambodia in Mandalay on 12 November and against Viet Nam in Yangon on 18 November.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

4 NOVEMBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

PEACEFUL HOME



By Laura Htet
UDE English

HOME is defined as the house, apartment, etc. where you live, especially with your family in the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary. It is just a single word but it can be assumed that it possesses essence of wide meaning. Almost everybody including me has got a home. In such home, it is perfectly sure that there is a family which is constituted with warm loving kindness, peaceful love and numerous happiness. Everybody might long a home in which there is a family overwhelmed by father and mother's loving kindness and brothers and sisters' united happiness. Even certain animals obtain the essence of a family feeding their children in their nests which are made of strands of straw or dry leaves of grass.

My home is not magnificent one with valuable furniture. However, my home is entirely beautiful and pleasant to live due to permanently firm attachment and mutual loving kindness of my younger brothers, my younger sisters, my father and my mother. However enjoyable I get from outer atmosphere, it cannot be hardly compared with feeling of essence of the family at home. At the time of the dinner I have it alone, I realize the value of the nitty-gritty of the dinner with my family. I have a strong yearning towards my mom's bosom where I am let to reveal my sadness by the time I become sorrowful due to the certain events. Similarly, I hope the encouraging words made my dad standing beside me.

On my first day in the University, I could never forget the countenance of my dad who could not leave his daughter who had never alone parted home before and had to go back. I felt very sad as I had never parted my family and so did my dad. However, my parents let me part the family since they realized that I had to prepare to endure the mundane of world when I was to walk my life alone one day. When I came back home for the holidays, the greetings of my younger brothers and sisters saying, "Ma Ma Gyi is coming back" made my exhaustion nullified. The face of my mom who was completely ready to cook what her daughter liked is cool like a Queenly Moon. The face of my dad who was satisfied with his daughter's words which said about the experiences in the University is warm like a Kingly Sun. They both were smiling at their daughter who was gradually getting mature and experienced.

I think my peaceful home is like a building which is made up of steel as it consoles my exhaustions that are encountered in my life; it will suffer my shared troubles which are going to be met in future and it is always going to encourage the weaknesses in my life. Nothing is able to destroy my peaceful home which is well founded and constructed with the family members' loving kindness, attachment, goodwill and mutual understanding.





(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Order or Request အမိန့်/ တောင်းပန်စကား	
1.	Su Su said to Ko Ko, “Take me with you.” Su Su told Ko Ko to take her with him. said to အစား told သုံးရသည်။ to နှင့် ဆက်ရသည်။
2.	Thain said to Tun Tun, “Please don’t leave me alone.” Thazin requested Tun Tun not to leave her along. Requested သုံး၍ please ဖြုတ်ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။ don’t ကို not to အဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းရသည်။
3.	The captain said to the soldiers, “Wait here.” The captain ordered the soldiers to wait there. Said to အစား ordered သုံးရသည်။ to နှင့် ဆက်ရသည်။
4.	He siad to her, “Don’t go out alone at night.” He told her not to go out alone at night.
5.	Khin Khin said to the doctor, “Please save my mother’s life.” ခင်ခင်က ဆရာဝန်ကို ပြောသည်။ “ကျေးဇူးပြုပြီး ကျွန်မအမေ့ အသက်ကို ကယ်ပါ။” Khin Khin requested the doctor to save her mother’s life. ခင်ခင်က ဆရာဝန်ကို သူမမိခင်၏အသက်ကို ကယ်ရန် တောင်းပန်ခဲ့သည်။
6.	The doctor said to Ko Ko, “Drink plenty of milk.” ဆရာဝန်က ကိုကိုကို ပြောသည်။ “နွားနို့များများသောက်ပါ။” The doctor advised Ko Ko to dirnk plenty of milk. ဆရာဝန်က ကိုကိုကို နွားနို့များများသောက်ရန် အကြံပေးခဲ့သည်။
7.	I said to her, “Don’t be angry with me.” ကျွန်တော်က သူမကို ပြောသည်။ ‘ငါ့ကိုစိတ်မဆိုးပါနဲ့’ I told her not to be angry with me. ကျွန်တော်က ကျွန်တော့်ကို စိတ်မဆိုးရန် သူမကိုပြောခဲ့သည်။
8.	She said to the boys, “Don’t make noises.” သူမက လူကလေးများကိုပြောသည်။ ‘မဆူကြနဲ့’ She told the boys not to make noises. သူမ လူကလေးများကို မဆူကြရန် ပြောခဲ့သည်။
9.	The teacher said to us, “If you want to get good marks read the textbook 20 times.” ဆရာက ကျွန်တော်တို့ကို ပြောသည်။ “မင်းတို့ အမှတ်ကောင်းကောင်းရချင်လျှင် ဖတ်စာအုပ်ကို အကြိမ် (၂၀) ဖတ်ကြ” The teacher told us to read the textbook 20 times if we wanted to get good marks. ကျွန်တော်တို့အမှတ်ကောင်းကောင်းရချင်လျှင် ဖတ်စာအုပ်ကို အကြိမ် (၂၀) ဖတ်ရန် ဆရာက ကျွန်တော်တို့ကို ပြောခဲ့သည်။ Direct speech တွင် if clause ခံ၍ read ကို စာကြောင်းနောက်ပိုင်းတွင် ပေးထားသည်။ Indirect speech တွင် to နှင့်ဆက်ရမည်ဖြစ်သဖြင့် read the text book 20 times ကို ရှေ့သို့ပို့၍ if-clause ကို စာကြောင်းနောက်ပိုင်းတွင် ထားရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။ ပုံစံ C မှာ အမိန့်ပေးစကား၊ တောင်းပန်စကားဖြစ်သည်။ - အမိန့်ပေးသည်ဟု သေချာလျှင် said to အစား ordered သို့မဟုတ် commanded သုံးရသည်။ - တောင်းပန်သည်ဟု သေချာလျှင် (Please ပါလျှင်) said to အစား requested (begged) သုံးရသည်။ - advised အကြံပေးသည်။ urged တိုက်တွန်းသည်။ စသည်တို့ကိုလည်း ဆီလျော်သလိုသုံးနိုင်သည်။ - သို့ရာတွင် အမိန့်ပေးသည်၊ တောင်းပန်သည်စသည်တို့ မသေချာလျှင် told ကို သာသုံးရသည်။ - ရိုးရိုးစာကြောင်းများ (statement) တွင် to နှင့် ဆက်ရသည်။ - အငြင်းစကား don’t ပါလျှင် not to နှင့်ဆက်ရသည်။

Lesson 10 Direct and Indirect Speech အဆက် ယခင်လက အောက်ပါတို့ကို တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။	
(A)	
1.	He said, “I am busy today.” He said that he was busy that day.
2.	Ma Ma said, “I am doing my home work now.” Ma Ma said that she was doing her homework then.
(B)	
1.	Ko Ko said to the girl, “I have taken my share.” Ko Ko told the girl that he had taken his share.
2.	Ma Ma said to him, “I shall visit Pegu tomorrow.” Ma Ma told him that she would visit Pegu the next day.
- ပုံစံ A တွင် ပြောသူသာရှိ၍ said ကိုပင်ပြန်သုံးရသည်။ - ပုံစံ B တွင် အပြောခံရသူရှိ၍ told ကို သုံးရသည်။ - စာကြောင်းနှစ်ကြောင်းကို that ဖြင့်ဆက်ရသည်။ - ယခင်လက တင်ပြခဲ့သည့်အတိုင်း Tense များနှင့် နာမ်စားများပြောင်းရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။	
(C)	
1.	Ko Ko said to her, “Bring the book to me.” Ko Ko told her to bring the book to him.
2.	She said to Ko Ko, “Please help me.” She requested Ko Ko to help her. ပုံစံ C မှာ အမိန့်ပေးစကားတောင်းပန်စကားဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ordered, commanded, requested (begged), urged, advised တို့ကို ဆီလျော်သလို သုံးရသည်ဟု တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် မသေချာလျှင် told ကိုသာသုံးရသည်။ To/ not to တို့နှင့် ဆက်ရသည်။ ယခုဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။
(D)	
1.	Ko Ko said to the girl, “Is it a painting?” Ko Ko asked the girl if it was a painting. Ko Ko asked the girl whether it was a painting or not.
2.	She said to Ko Ko, “Have you heard the lasted news?” She asked Ko Ko if he had heard the latest news.
3.	She said to me “Do you like tea?” She asked me if I like tea.
4.	I said to Ko Ko, “Will you accompany me to the cinema?” I asked Ko Ko if he would accompany me to the cinema.
5.	Ko Ko said to the girl, “Did you find out the truth?” Ko Ko asked the girl if she had found out the truth. ပုံစံ D ၌ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် yes, no နှင့်ဖြေ၍ရသော မေးခွန်းများကို ပြောင်းခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။ မြန်မာစာတွင် ‘လား’နှင့် ဆုံးသောမေးခွန်းများဖြစ်သည်။ - said to နေရာတွင် asked သုံးရသည်။ - စာကြောင်းနှစ်ကြောင်းကို if ဖြင့်ဆက်ရသည်။ - whether နှင့်လည်းဆက်နိုင်သည်။ whether ကို သုံးလျှင် စာကြောင်းအဆုံးတွင် or not ကိုထည့်နိုင်သည်။ - Indirect Speech တွင် ဒုတိယ စာကြောင်းကို မေးခွန်းပုံစံအဖြစ် မထားတော့ဘဲ ရိုးရိုးစာကြောင်း (Statement) အဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းရသည်။
ထပ်မံလေ့လာပါ။	
ဥပမာ -	
6.	She said to Ko Ko, “Have you any class today?” She asked Ko Ko if he had any class that day.
7.	Ma Ma said to him, “Are you angry with me?”

Ma Ma asked him if he was angry with her.
8. Ko Ko said to her, “Are you waiting for me?”
Ko Ko asked her if she was waiting for him.
(E)
ပုံစံ **E** တွင် **what, when, where, how** စသည်တို့ကို သုံး၍မေးရသော မေးခွန်းများကို ပြောင်းခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
မြန်မာစာတွင် ‘လဲ’ ဖြင့် အဆုံးသတ်သော မေးခွန်းများဖြစ်သည်။
What, when, how, why စသည်တို့ကိုပင် ပြန်သုံးရသည်။
အခြားစာကြောင်းဆက်စကားလုံးသုံးရန်မလို။
said အစား **asked** ကို သုံးရသည်။
ဒုတိယစာကြောင်းကို မေးခွန်းပုံစံနှင့်မရေးတော့ပဲရိုးရိုးစာကြောင်း **Statement** အဖြစ် ပြောင်းရေးရသည်။

1. Ko Ko said to her, “What is that?”
Ko Ko asked her what that was.
2. She said to Ko Ko, “Where is the car?”
သူမက ကိုကိုကို ပြောသည် ‘ကားဘယ်မှာလဲ’
She asked Ko Ko where the car was.
သူမက ကားဘယ်မှာလဲဟု ကိုကိုကို မေးခဲ့သည်။
3. He said to Ma Ma, “When will the train leave?”
He asked Ma Ma when the train would leave.
4. Ma Ma said to him, “Who are you?”
Ma Ma asked him who he was.
5. She said to me, “How old are you?”
She asked me how old I was.
6. He said to Ma Ma, “Why are you crying?”
He asked Ma Ma why she was crying.
(F)
ပုံစံ **F** မှာ အာမေဇိုတ် (**Interjection**) ဖြစ်သည်။
said အစား **exclaimed** ကိုသုံးရသည်။
How ပါသော စာကြောင်းတွင် **how** ကို ဖြုတ်၍ ရိုးရိုးစာကြောင်းအဖြစ် ပြန်ရေးရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ **Adjective** ရှေ့တွင် **very** ထည့်လေ့ရှိသည်။
What ပါသောစာကြောင်းတွင် **what** ကိုဖြုတ်၍ မြုပ်ထားသော **it is** ကိုပြန်ဖော်ကာ ရိုးရိုးစာကြောင်း အဖြစ်ပြန်ရေးရန်ဖြစ်သည်။
Adjective ရှေ့တွင် **very** ထည့်လေ့ရှိသည်။

ဥပမာ -
1. She said “How lovely the flowers are!”
She exclaimed that the flowers were very lovely.
2. He said, “How dirty the market is!”
He exclaimed that the market was very dirty.
3. Ma Ma said, “How clever the boy is!”
Ma Ma exclaimed that the boy was very clever.
4. Ko Ko said, “What a good idea.” (it is)
(It is ကို မြုပ်ထားလေ့ရှိသည်။)
Ko Ko exclaimed that it was a very good idea.
5. She said, “What a big house!”
She exclaimed that it was a very big house.

အောက်ပါလေ့ကျင့်ခန်းများလုပ်ကြည့်ပါ။
1. The girl said, “I want to be a teacher.”
2. Ko Ko said, “I don’t know how to swim.”
3. Mother said, “There will be a film show here tonight.”
4. She said to Ko Ko, “I have been waiting for you since morning.”
5. He said to her, “I will give you all the help you need.”
6. She said to Ko Ko, “I don’t know what I want in life.”
7. The captain said to the soldiers, “Wait here.”
8. She said to him, “Please take me with you.”
9. The teacher said to the boys, “Don’t talk in class.”
10. She said to me, “Don’t be angry with me.”
11. He said to Khin Khin, “Have you every been to Moulmein?”
12. She said to Ko Ko, “Do you play tennis every evening?”
13. He said to her, “Are you pleased with your life?”
14. She said to me, “Did you find the lost book?”
15. He said to Khin Khin, “What do you want?”
16. She said to Ko Ko, “Where are my toys?”
17. He said to her, “When will you leave for Mandalay?”
18. I said to her, “Why did you sell the car?”
19. “What are you doing now?” said Khin Khin to the boy.
20. He said to her, “Whose daughter are you?”
21. She said, “How tall the girl is!”
22. He said, “What a beautiful painting!”

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

Let's take care of our mental health



By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
3rd year medical student

OCTOBER 10th 2018 was the World Mental Health Day, the day when the global attention is brought to the important truth that our mental health is just as important as our physical well-being. We might have seen inspiring videos, photos and quotes, along with #WorldMentalHealthDay across Facebook and Instagram. These are not just pieces of information promoting awareness about mental health, but also an attempt to break down the stigmas around mental health problems in our society. In a fast-paced society of today, we tend to subconsciously prioritize the physical well-being and developments, and forget the immense significance of mental health, but statistics showing that 1 out of 4 people can be prone to a mental health problem at any time are a signal that mental health is in fact a real issue.

We should be aware that anyone and everyone can be impacted by a mental illness. It is not selective, it is not discriminatory, and it is real. We may think the richest millionaire in town will have no mental problems because of his wealth and luxury, but he too is not immune to these illnesses. Because we possess a body, we face problems and illnesses arising from different parts of our body, for example, the heart, lung and so on. Likewise, we have this mind, which means we could probably experience problems based on it. But because of the stigma attached to mental health problems that they are something dark, lonely, and shameful, not only people suffering from mental problems lose their self-esteem and become ripped of opportunities, but also those who are potentially facing mental illness become embarrassed or reluctant to talk about it, to open up and seek help. This is extremely worrying, because if a problem is not recognized and is underestimated, it cannot be addressed at all. Mental health issue, when not addressed properly, can be an important risk factor for preventable suicidal thoughts and actions.

Physical or external injury, such as a cut on our finger, is obvious and noticeable, but a wound deep down in our mind can be surreal and hard to detect. It requires expertise assistance and support without delay the way a physical injury would need visiting a doctor at the hospital. If having a heart problem or a lung infection is not perceived as embarrassing, then there are absolutely no grounds on which a person needs to feel ashamed of his or her mental health problem. A lot of people who struggle with mental illness tend to remain silent due to shame, stigma, fear of being judged, and this is what leads to complications in the long run, decreasing the quality of lives.

In today's age, it is a struggle to stay

mentally healthy and fit, and to overlook the destructive negativity around us. It is becoming harder daily to stay positive and focus on ourselves, as social media industry has been expanding boundlessly in the recent years. It is getting easier to be quickly distracted, to feel not worthy enough, to constantly criticize and compare ourselves with other people. At these times it is important to be surrounded by positive people that lift us up, support us, and boost our confidence. It may take time to find them in life but the right people can always show up late and they are, without doubt, the key to a happy and healthy mind.

People should know that it is okay to feel sad, vulnerable or overwhelmed sometimes, and to be scared about the unexpected, but it is also necessary to speak up. As humans, it is our job to ask our friends and colleagues how they are feeling and lend a non-judgmental ear to

their problems and challenges, without downplaying their severity. This could have helped them way more than we thought it would. Also, as decent human beings, we must show empathy towards anyone battling with mental conditions and refrain from discriminating against them.

As a third year university student myself, I find it quite stressful sometimes to balance study with my social life, maintaining friendships and giving time for hobbies. But meditation and doing some archery on weekends have helped me to clear my head, relax, and restore mental energy after a long week. I do have miserable days, but I try not to lose sight of myself and obtain motivation to carry on from my supportive friends and professors. As human beings, we all are built up of flesh and blood, as well as mental health. As much as we put emphasis on our physical health, we also need to cherish our personal mental health every single day - because it is part of us, part of our nature and our existence.

"I don't feel very much like Pooh today," said Pooh.



"There, there," said Piglet.
"I'll bring you tea and honey until you do."



Chin State gains traction on the road to development

By Ye Khaung (Geology)

Interview with Chin State Chief Minister

Q: Can you give us a brief description of Chin State?

A: Chin State is a mountainous region circled by Sagaing and Magway regions to its east, Rakhine State to the south, Bangladesh to the east, and with India to the southeast and Mizoram to the west. The 13,907 square mile State is populated by 53 Chin ethnicities, which are driven by a web of lineage lines into smaller lineages, and a small group of Rakhine and Bamar nationals.

Chin State has difficulty of linking with other regions and states due to poor roads. However, the Union government and State government are working tirelessly to develop across the State through tourism, agricultural and transportation ventures and have plans to open a technical university and science university in the future.

Q: Can you elaborate on agricultural plans?

A: Nomadic hill farming accounts for only 50 per cent of the Chin populace's subsistence. The other half is supplemented with beans, pulses, meat and fish imported from Magway and Sagaing regions. We will gradually replace the hill farming practices with better crop farming so that we may have enough food. We will form highland farms and plant rice.

Q: I heard about Chin State is growing grapes. What's the status on that?

A: The State Counsellor and Vice President-2 both mentioned grape farming in their guidance over increasing agricultural income. We'll start with farming grapes and make our way up to producing high-quality grape wine. We've already sent trainees to Austria and Israel and we're testing out planting grape species imported from Austria. There's been moderate success but we don't have much foreign grape species on the farms. The grape farms in Falam are successful too. We're conducting regional development projects with the help from Falam residents in America, the Falam Baptist Association and the Chin Theological University. We cooperate to our greatest capacity to provide electricity and water and to build roads in the state. We've built a model garden for the public to observe fish breeding, poultry farming (ducks) and harvesting a variety of plants.

Q: Elephant yam is a popular item from Chin State. Is that a good market right now?

A: Yes, elephant yam is mainly planted in the southern part of Chin State and we've started planting them in Tantalán in the north. When we accompanied the Vice President to look at the yams we saw that a single elephant yam can grow to weigh around 9 viss. The estimate is an acre of the yams can draw in about Ks 2 million.

Q: There's also an ambitious plan for coffee farming, is it correct? Is it going well?

A: We've had many organizations from the market and they extend their hands, especially from western countries and European companies. We will continue to implement coffee farming projects in Chin State. The oranges, elephant foot yam, grapes and locust beans we grow are chiefly exported to India. We're trying to give cultivators proper training but so far we only have small private businesses in this sector. The government is still in the planning phase for expanding arable land and giving out loans.

There are still nomadic hill farmers so we can't grant them form 7, which would allow them to own 50 acres of farmland each. We plan to plant Napier grass for feeding livestock and have them breed cattle and farm grapes and locust beans. We don't

have a farm model yet though. The Union government has amended the laws for us but they haven't placed the necessities in our hands yet. We can immediately start our operations once they grant it to us.

Q: Can you tell us about what ways education is being advanced in your State?

A: The Chin State government has submitted the necessary documents to the Union government to open a university in Mindat Tsp, a technological university in Haka, an agricultural university in Falam, and multiple industrial education schools in Paletwa. We're waiting for the remarks from the Ministry of Education. We submitted the documents in 2017 but since the budget depends on the Union government they will allot us one project at a time. I think we will receive funds for the institutions in Haka and Mindat first.

Q: You've mentioned Chin State does not have good infrastructure, so what is being done to make it better?

A: It used to be very difficult to connect north and south of Chin State. Paletwa is the farthest place in southern Chin State. Before, we had to travel through five other states and regions to get from Haka to Paletwa but thankfully the direct road between the two places was completed last year. Our next project is building the 500 mile road from Paletwa through Simee, Matupi, Yezwar, Tantalán, Haka, Falam, Tiddim, Tongze, Kyikar and into India. The road will be accessible throughout the whole year.

On the topic of waterway transportation, India and Myanmar have signed a MoU to build a port in Sittway in Rakhine State. We will have six 300-ton boats transport cargo from the port to Paletwa six times a day. The boats will travel up the Kaledan River. We also have about 300 Indian workers paving a route from Paletwa to India meaning we will have a direct path to the sea when it's completed.

Q: Has the tourism sector in Chin State seen any changes?

A: Tourism season is upon us and with better roads and infrastructure, I think we will attract more travelers. Chin State is already famous for two of its sites; Khaw Nu M'Cong near Kanpetlat Tsp in southern Chin and the heart-shaped Rih Lake in Reekhordada Sub-tsp in northern Chin.

Q: What is your government's stance on attracting investors?

A: While Chin State is slowly gaining traction in its stride towards regional development, we have yet to find solutions for full-time electrification and a sufficient supply of drinking water; hence, it will be rather difficult to establish industrial zones in the region. We're negotiating with the Union government for the electrification process and we also cordially invite businesses and entrepreneurs to invest in our region.

Conclusion

The new Investment Law states that if a region or state is undertaking one of the ten prioritized works listed in the law, then income tax will either be eased or given immunity. In addition, if investment starts pouring into the state then it will be labelled as a 'zone' and will receive tax immunity for 7 years. In this regard, I would like to invite for travellers to come for visit to the peaceful and beautiful Chin State, for businesses to attract investments and build-up for the development throughout the entire nation as well.

Translated by Pen Dali



PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG



PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG



PHOTO: TIN WIN

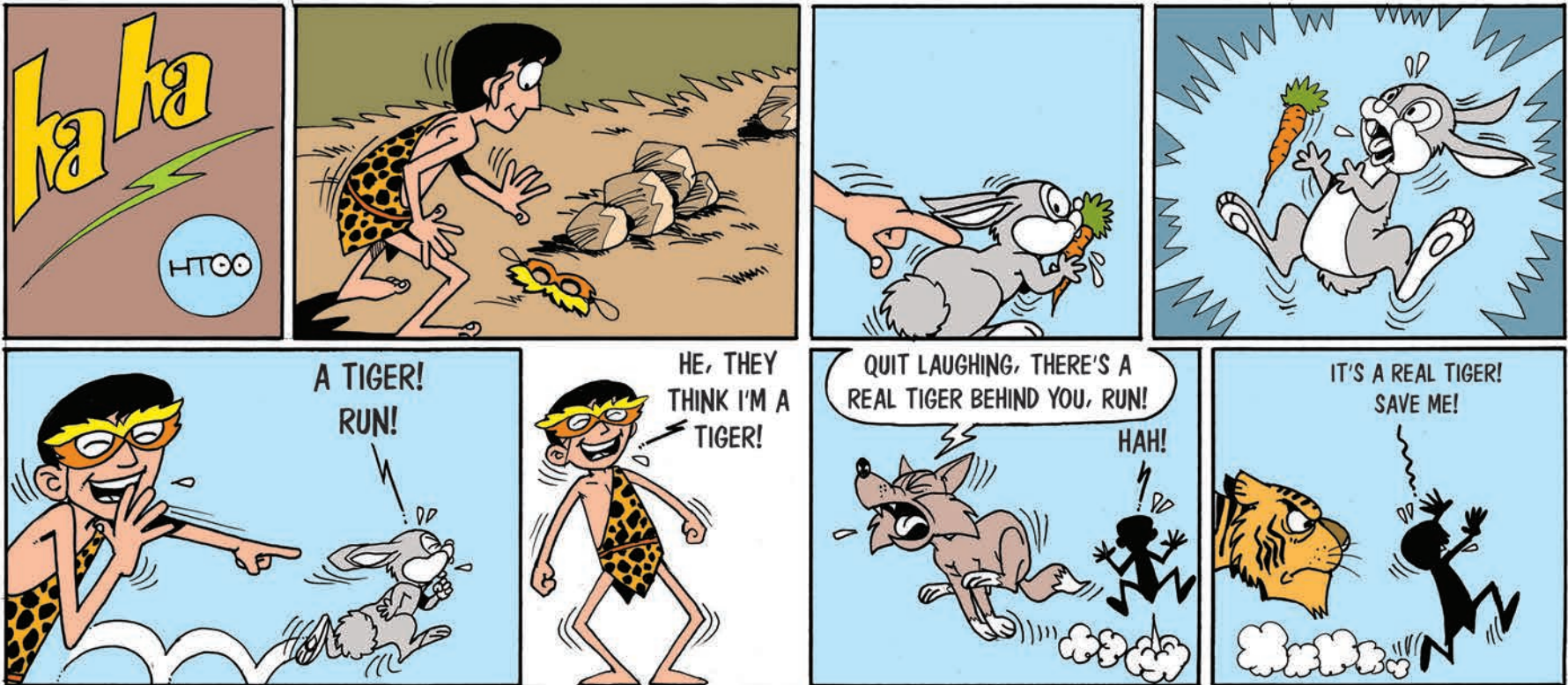


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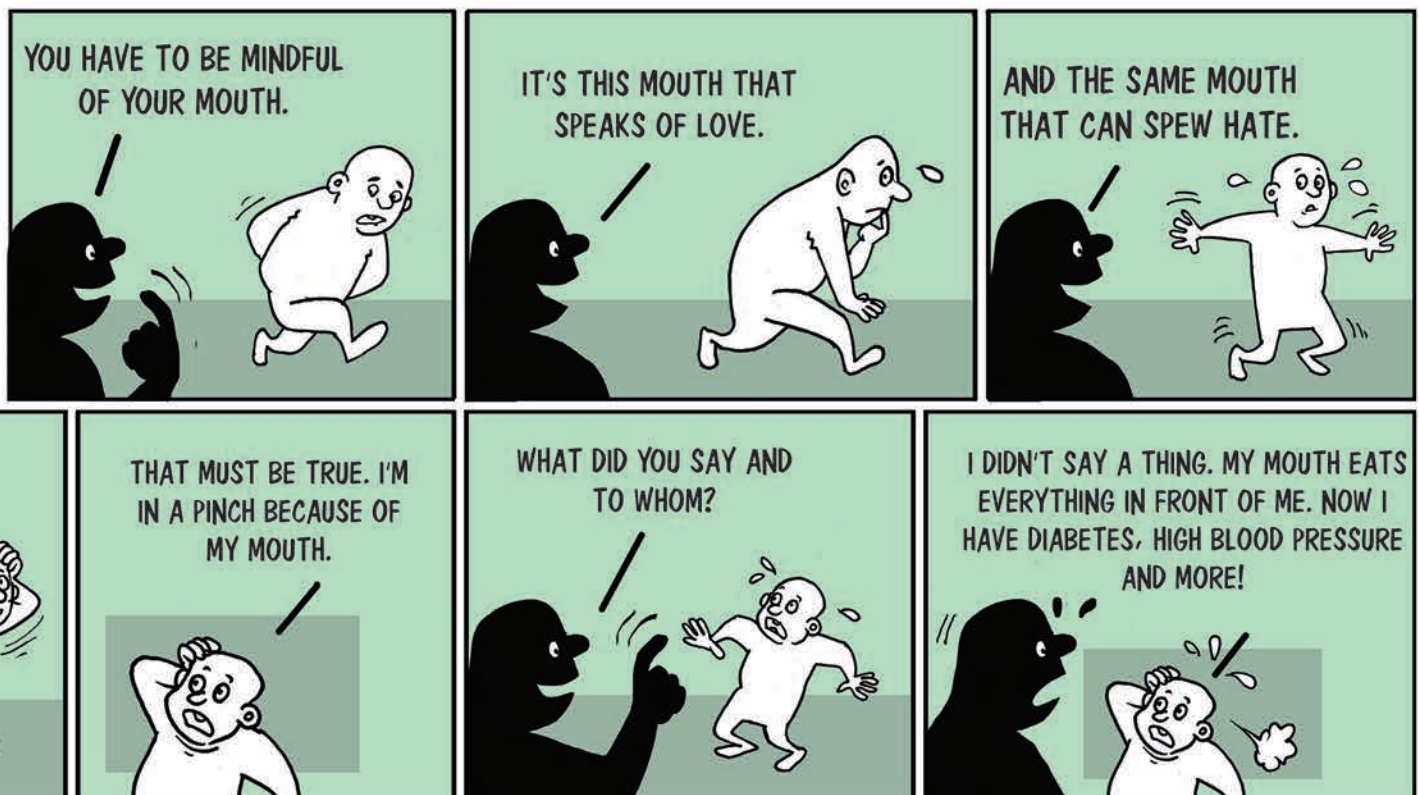
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SUNDAY COMICS



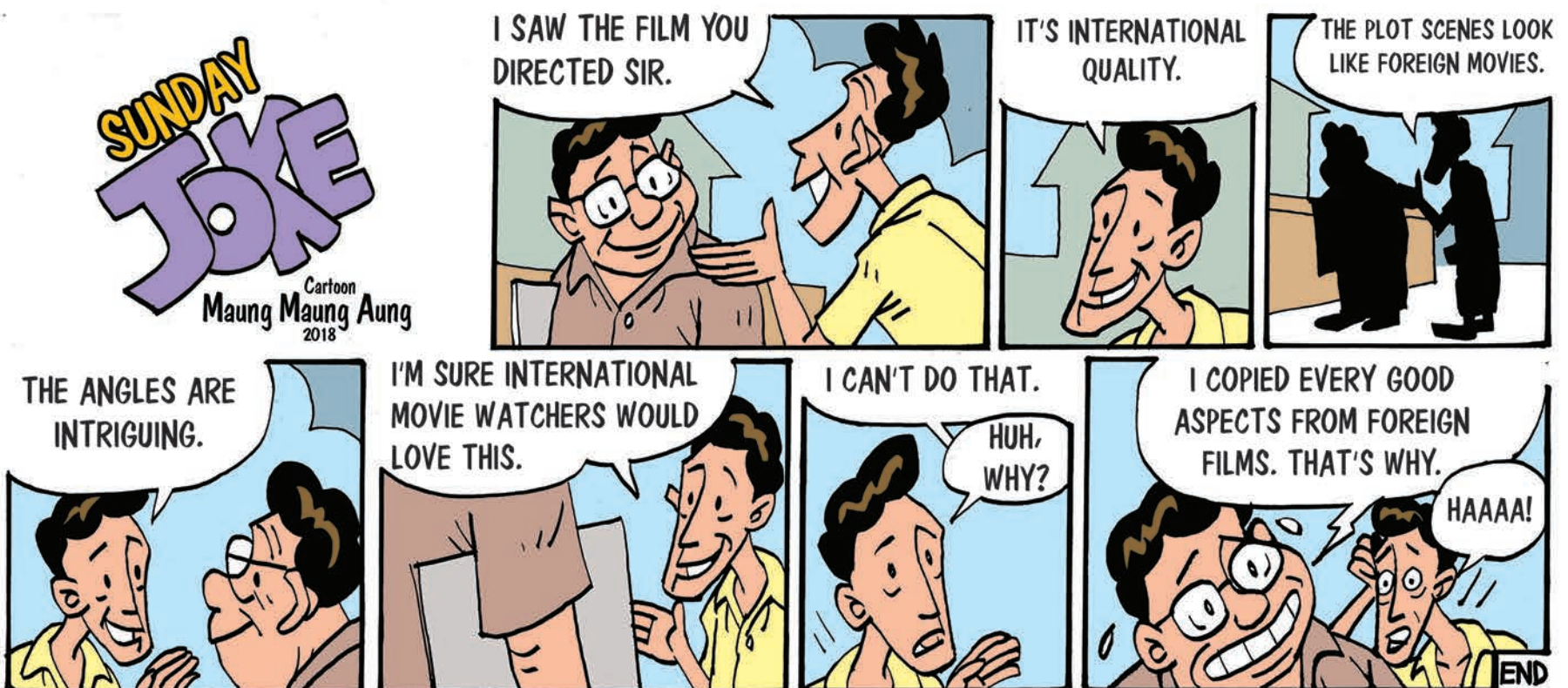
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



LEARNING OF ENGLISH AND MYANMAR

By Maung Hlaing

THESE days, we read so many articles on English language through the columns of the Global New Light of Myanmar. Especially, I have already gone through the articles "English language teaching in educational institutions" (GNLM, 23-1-2018) and "Why is English so important" (GNLM, 17-9-2018) by Saya Arakan Sein; the article "A sketch of English language and Myanmar" by Saya Myint Htun Aung (KGN) (GNLM, 14-10-2018) and the article "English, why should we learn it? English, a living language in a living world" by Saya U Khin Maung (A Retired Diplomat) (GNLM, 18-10-2018).

Through these articles, I found the true cetana, or good will of the authors who made the readers know "how English is important and why we should learn English". And these articles reminded me of the days of late 1960s. In those days, we read so many letters and articles on "Teaching of English" and "Learning of English" in the Working People's Daily and the Guardian Daily almost every day.

Unlike those who learned English at mission schools, students of state High Schools were taught English only when they were in the fifth standard. That was why, most of them were at sea in English which was widely designated as "killer subject" in the matriculation examination. As for the students of Mission School, English was taught as the compulsory subject from kindergarten up to matriculation classes.

Frank and free comments on teaching and learning of English were made through the letters to the editor and people's forum of the English dailies. Some said that English subject should be abrogated while others said that English should be taught right from the start (from the kindergarten) and advised to raise the standard of English being taught at high schools. The learners including beginners and even scholars took part in the debates on teaching and learning of English.

Whenever I write or talk about learning of English, I cannot help calling up a poem humorously composed by Sayagyi Omega that appeared in the Guardian Monthly Magazine (June, 1987). The situation of learning of English for a Myanmar student in those days was reflected in the poem. May I share some four stanzas of the original poem with you? The title is "The English Language". Please appreciate it.

I am a person of culture,
Well versed in our language and literature.
Yet, when I start learning English,
I am up against a lot of gibberish.
Why, their grammar is not consistent,
Exceptions more than the rules are peristent.
"To the shcool we shall go" is what we say,
But, "We shall go to school" is their way.

I appeal to you, to all my intimates,
To rescue me from my present fate.
I am entangled in a wordy quagmire,
I am enmeshed in the syntax nightmare.
I am sunk in the jungle of phrases,
I cannot unchain myself from idiomatic mazes.
Perhaps, after all, I should stick to my Basic English,

"Me speekee plentee gooder Engleessee".

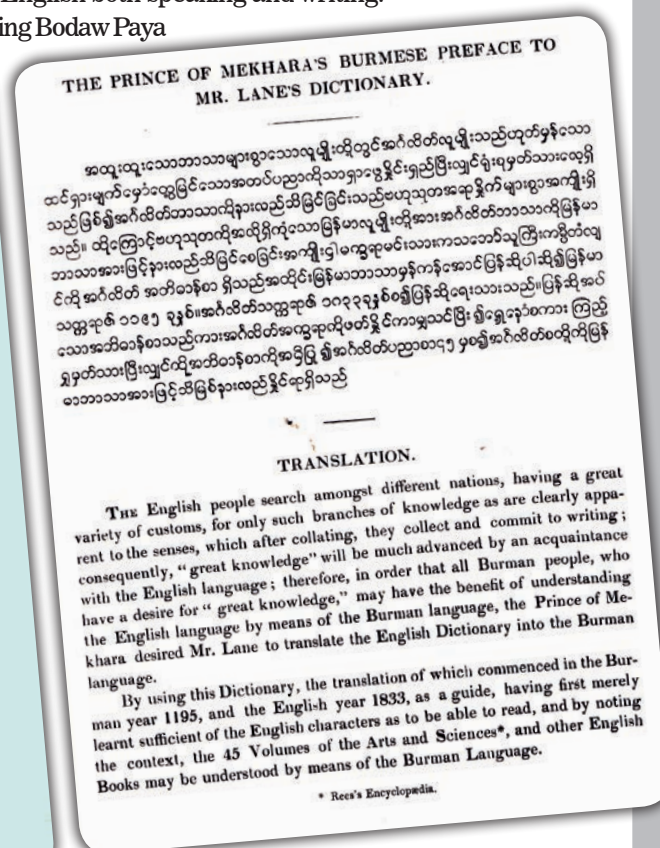
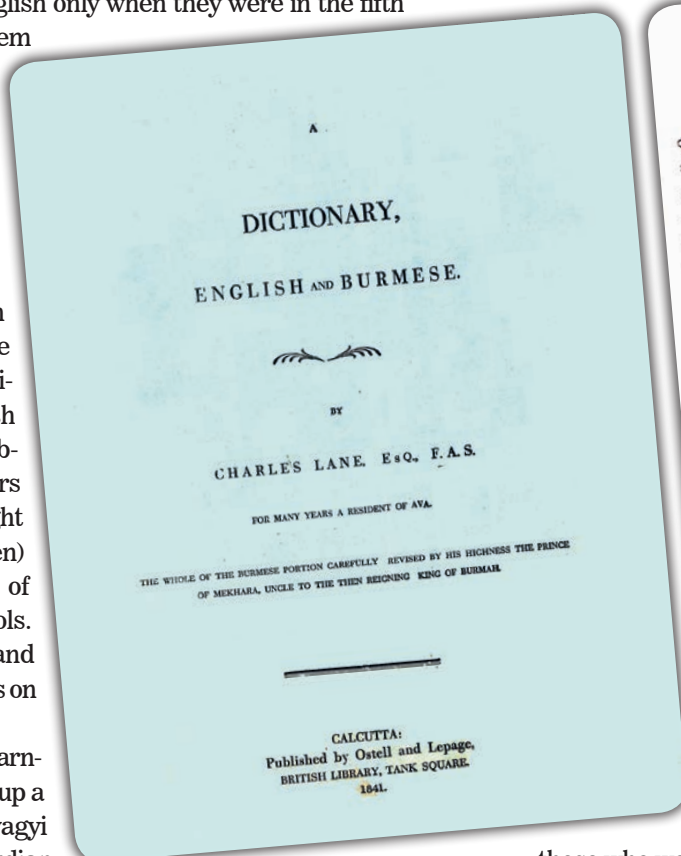
Regarding the learning of English in Myanmar, we cannot ignore the farsightedness and good will of Myanmar kings.

When did Myanmar people start to learn English?

To be frank, because of my limited knowledge, I simply thought that Myanmar young people began to learn English after the arrival of Dr. Judson. However, according to the historical records, we found that, learning of English had taken root in Myanmar before his arrival.

It was during the reign of king Bodaw Paya, also known as Badon Min, when Dr. Adoniram Judson arrived in Rangoon (Yangon). It was on 13 July, 1813, when Dr. Judson and his wife disembarked from the M.V. Georgiana, they were met by a young foreigner called George. When he introduced himself to Dr. Judson, he said that he was an authorized intrepeter of the king. Indeed, while he was acting as an intrepeter of the king, he taught Myanmar youths English both speaking and writing.

At that time, king Bodaw Paya



himself gave encouragement to those who were eager to learn English. In those days, Myanmar youths who came of age were called up for military service as everyone was responsible for the defence of the nation. However, the young men who were learning English were exempt from military service. Moreover, the parents of those who were learning English were also exempt from taxes and revenues levied by the government (King) in order to offer an incentive with a view to increasing the number of learners of English. Until that time, even a useful English-Myanmar or Myanmar-English dictionaries had not come out yet.

Another one who paved the way for learning of English was the Prince of Mekhara, one of the sons of king Bodaw Paya. Because of the endeavours made by the Prince, an English-Burmese Dictionary came out in 1841. The name of the dictionary was "Dictionary, English and Burmese by Charles Lane, Esq. F.A.S. (For many years a resident of Ava). It was published in Calcutta by Ostell and Lepage, British Library, Tank Square, 1841. On the cover of the Dictionary, we can read the message "The whole of the Burmese Portion carefully revised by His Highness the Prince of Mekhara".

Prince of Mekhara himself wrote a preface in Burmese to Mr. Lane's Dictionary. The original translation of the preface is as follows:-

I GREW up in the southern village named Shwe Taung Maw, Maubin, Ayeyarwady Region. I was 17. One morning, my father told me I could drive him to Maubin, the District City, about 16 miles away. On the condition that I took the car in to be serviced at a nearby garage. Having just learned to drive and hardly ever having the opportunity to use the car, I readily accepted. I drove Dad to Maubin and promised to pick him up at 4 p.m., then drove to a nearby garage and dropped off the car. As I had a few hours to spare, I decided to catch a couple of movies at a theater near the garage. However, I became so immersed in the films that I completely lost track of time. When the last movie had finished, I looked down at my watch. It was six o'clock. I was two hours late!

I knew Dad would be angry if he found

out I had been watching movies. He would never let me drive again. I decided to tell him that the car needed some repairs and that they had taken longer than had been expected. I drove up to the place where we had planned to meet and saw Dad waiting patiently on the corner. I apologized for being late and told him that I would come as quickly as I could, but the car had needed some major repairs. I could never forget his countenance that was staring at me.

"I'm disappointed that you feel you have to lie to me, Son."

"What do you mean? I'm telling the truth."

Dad looked at me again. "When you did not show up, I called the garage to ask if there were any problems, and they told me that you had not yet picked up the car. So you see, I know there were no problems with the car." A rush of guilt ran through me as I feebly confessed to my trip to the movie theater and the real reason for my tardiness. Dad listened intently as a sad-

ness passed through him.

"I'm angry, not with you but with myself. You see, I realize that I have failed as a father if after all these years you feel that you have to lie to me. I have failed because I have brought up a son who cannot even tell the truth to his own father. I'm going to walk home now and contemplate where I have gone wrong all these years."

"But Dad, it's 16 miles to home. It's getting dark. I'm sure it's impossible for you to walk home at such moment."

My protests, my apologies and the rest of my utterances were useless. I had let my father down, and I was about to learn one of the most painful lessons of my life. Dad began walking along the tarred roads. I quickly jumped in the car and followed behind, hoping he would relent. I pleaded all the way, telling him how sorry I was, but he simply ignored me, continuing on silently, thoughtfully and painfully. For 16 miles I drove behind him, averaging about

four or five miles per hour.

Seeing my father in so much physical and emotional pain was the most distressing and painful experience that I have ever faced. However, it was also the most successful lesson. I have never lied to him since then.



By Khant Nyo Hein
B.Sc, Pathein University

A Long Walk Home

FROM PAGE- S-7

"The English people search amongst different nations, having a great variety of customs, for only such branches of knowledge as are clearly apparent to the senses, which after collating, they collect and commit to writing; consequently, "great knowledge" will be much advanced by an acquaintance with the English language; therefore, in order that all Burman people, who have a desire for "great knowledge", may have the benefit of understanding the English language by means of the Burman language, the Prince of Mekhara desired Mr.Lane to translate the English Dictionary into the Burman language."

According to the historical linkages, we came to understand that Dr. Judson was on very friendly terms with Prince of Mekhara. When Dr.Judson arrived in Amarapura in 1822, he happened to meet Prince of Mekhara. The prince was

occupied with the study of modern science including astronomy and geography. In this way, Prince of Mekhara became familiar with English language and later he learned English from Dr.Judson. Because he had a feel for language, he could translate the articles on science subjects such as hailstorms, earthquakes and other natural sciences from the Ree's Encyclopaedia.

It can be said that the learning of English flourished in the time of king Mindon. When king Mindon ascended the throne in 1853, three Christian groups--Roman Catholics, American Baptists, and English Anglicans--were operating missions in Upper Myanmar. While the Christian missionaries played their own game to gain royal support in promoting their religion, King Mindon also took advantage of the competition among them and used them

for his political purposes.

The king welcomed missionaries who came to his kingdom with projects for building schools and carrying out social work.

The close relationship between king Mindon and the English Anglican missionary Dr.J.E.Marks well illustrated king Mindon's "religious diplomacy" at its best. As a matter of fact, Dr.J.E Marks was well known as Saya Hmat among Myanmar courtiers and young men who were pursuing modern education. When the English priest arrived in Mandalay in 1868, and asked for royal permission to carry out his missionary work and to build a church and a school, king Mindon immediately granted permission.

To show his good will, king Mindon built a church and a school at his own expense for Dr.Marks. The king provided the English priest with a monthly allowance of 300 kyats.

Later, King Mindon sent nine of his sons to that missionary school to learn English.

Regarding the learning and teaching of English, it is vividly seen that greater encouragement was given by Myanmar kings to the improvement of the universal language. Because of their encouragement and endeavours, English-Burmese and Burmese-English Dictionaries compiled by Dr.Judson came out. We are still relying on these dictionaries for writing English and translation and they really contribute much to our literary world.

Ref; 1. မြန်မာ့စွယ်စုံကျမ်း၊ အတွဲ (၁၀)၊ စာပေဗိမာန်

2. ဆရာယုဒသန့် (တင်နိုင်ဝိုး)၊ စေတနာစာပေ၊ ရန်ကုန်၊ ၂၀၁၁

3. KING MINDON'S Strategy for Defending Independence (1853-1878), Myo Myint, Depantment of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs., 2012

4. The Guardian Magazine, June, 1987