

SUNDAY
SPECIAL

Pull-out supplement

NATIONAL

Rakhine Chief Minister discusses regional development with local people in Gwa Tsp

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Sunday, 25 November 2018

90 MW, 225 MW power plant projects in Myingyan seek to end power shortfall

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing inspected the Myingyan 90 MW gas engine power plant project in Taungtha Township, Myingyan District, Mandalay Region, being carried out by Hong Kong-based V Power Holding Limited, under the Independent Power Producer (IPP) Build-Operate-Own (BOO) system yesterday morning.

The Union Minister and party received an explanation about the status of the project by Electric Power Supply Enterprise Managing Director U Khin Maung Win and officials from V Power Holding Limited in the briefing hall, and later inspected



Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing and officials inspect the 225 MW natural gas fired power plant in Myingyan, Mandalay Region, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myingyan 90 MW gas engine power plant project is being built to use 20 million cubic feet per day from the Shwe Offshore gas field to meet the electricity requirements for the summer of 2019.

the project site.

The Myingyan 90 MW gas engine power plant project is being built to use 20 million cubic feet per day from the Shwe Offshore gas field to meet the electricity requirements for the

summer of 2019. The electricity from this power plant will be provided to Myingyan, Taungtha, Ngazun, Natogyi and NyaungU townships through a 132 KV Myingyan sub-station. It will also be connected to the national grid.

The installed capacity is 64 gas engines, each generating 1.56 MW and totaling 99.84 MW, with an assured capacity of 90 MW. Based upon the design, the annual electricity generation will reach 630

million units. The Union Minister and party also inspected the 225 MW natural gas fired power plant project in Myingyan, implemented by Sembcorp Myingyan Power Co., Ltd.

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Meeting on higher education held in Nay Pyi Taw

A COORDINATION meeting on higher education works of the Ministry of Education was held at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 November.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers U Ohn Win, U Thein Swe and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Auditor General U Maw Than, deputy ministers from ministries, directors general, rectors, officials from the National Education Policy Commission, Rectors Committee Chairman, officials and invited guests.

In his opening address, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the meeting is meant to coordinate the teaching, management, financial matters and status of work conducted in universities, degree colleges and colleges.

According to the National Education Law (2014) and Law Amending the National Education Law (2015), Higher Education is the highest level of basic education, or an equivalent education from schools recognized by the National Education Policy Commission.

Section 27 also said the National Education Policy Commission



The coordination meeting on higher education works of Ministry of Education in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

sion can form an independent commission with appropriate persons to coordinate matters relating to higher education. As per this, a third committee of the Rectors Committee was formed on 6 April to support and coordinate the development of the schools without affecting the free self-administration of the universities, degree colleges and colleges.

The University Council was also formed according to

the universities' charters with rectors, pro rectors, equivalent level persons, heads of master departments, heads of departments, management officials, representatives elected by teachers and students, respected persons and experts.

In schools where higher education is carried out, a system of teaching, learning, managing and administering freely is to be practiced. Research and development subjects are to be

prioritized and the management of the university is the duty and responsibility of the University Council. As per Section 64 of National Education Law, universities, degree colleges and colleges can establish and seek out their own funds, said the Union Minister.

During academic year 2017-2018, there were 978,935 students attending 176 universities, degree colleges and colleges, and there were 120,581 graduates.

Students, teachers, rectors, professors, parents, former students, regional authorities, work organisations, Hluttaw representatives, ministries and the Government is striving towards reforming and raising the education level to be on par with international levels. Starting with 12 universities, the forming of University Councils and university organisations according to the universities charters are to be encouraged so that the system is transformed into a self-administered system.

It is believed that through establishing a Research Network in cooperation with relevant ministries and conducting managing and auditing courses, there will be rapid development resulting in achieving an international level of education, said the Union Minister.

Also, Rectors Committee Chairman Dr. Zaw Wei Soe and Vice Chairman Dr. Soe Sint explained about the organisation, duties and responsibilities of the committee, after which the Union Ministers and officials provided suggestions.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung visit villages in Dakkhinathiri District

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung visited the villages in the eastern hilly area of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and provided cash assistance to the Kayan ethnic people.

First, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung went to the Koe Tit Bone Soe Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, where they paid their respects to the presiding monk and offered a cash donation and offertories.

They continued to the Primary School of Koe Tit village in Dakkhinathiri District, where they met with teachers and school children.

They then proceeded to Alei Chaung village where they attended the ceremony to provide cash assistance to the villagers. At the ceremony, Union Minister



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung visit Kayan ethnic village in the hilly area of Dakkhinathiri District. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr. Win Myat Aye said that the union government is striving to fulfill the requirements of the people, while making concerted efforts to ensure internal peace prevails in the region.

The government has made a commitment to foster the all-round development of the country. It was found that transportation is difficult in the Kayan

region. In terms of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, arrangements were being made to provide food and to render help for the needy.

Plans were also underway to open new schools for the children, while creating employment opportunities to those who passed the matriculation examination and got degrees.

Next, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung said that the government is striving to improve the transportation and healthcare sectors.

Later, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Directors General of the Rehabilitation Department and the

Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, and other officials provided Ks31.7121 million for buying rice, Ks3.5281 million for opening five maternal care classes, Ks300000 for Kayan Literature and Culture Association, Ks300000 for Kayan Youth Generation and Ks300000 for the Kayan Social Organisation. Moreover, officials concerned from the village received 100 bags of rice from the donors, and the patrons of the village extended their appreciation.

Many villages of the eastern mountain in Dakkhinathiri District suffered crop failure caused by rats in the fields. As a consequence, they have to suffer from food shortage. As for the officials concerned, efforts are being made to provide cash assistance and food supply to the local people, while working to improve the socio-economic lives in the region. — MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Media Sector Development Coordination meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

A COORDINATION meeting to discuss different avenues of cooperation for the sustainable development of the media sector was held at 10:30 a.m. yesterday in the Assembly Hall at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said there were common objectives between the Ministry of Information and the Myanmar Press Council (MPC), which were to be carried out to ensure continued development within the media sector. Moreover, occasional meetings and discussions have been held to develop the media sector. He added that the Press Council was responsible for safeguarding the rights of media personnels, noting that the media serves the interest of the public by disseminating information to the people. As for the MPC, there remains a duty to address damage caused by

media coverage, when those who have been harmed in terms of content lodge a complaint such damage. In striving for the development of the media, improvements are needed in the quality of media personnels, while also opening media classes to produce qualified journalists.

In his discussion of media development, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun talked about the importance of close and transparent cooperation between the Ministry of Information and the MPC, and the need for cooperation to put in place changes in accord with the reforms of current transformation period.

Chairman of the MPC Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing, and Vice Chairmen Dr. Myo Thant Tin and U Kyaw Naing (Htet Myat) took part in the discussion regarding current activities of the MPC, with a review on their



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint holds the coordination meeting with Myanmar Press Council on development of media sector yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

successes, obstacles, challenges and cooperation to assist in the ongoing development of the media.

Afterwards, members of the MPC and Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung discussed general work requirements.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing, Vice Chairmen Dr. Myo Thant Tin and U Kyaw Naing (Htet Myat), Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, departmental heads

under the Ministry of Information, members of the MPC and officials.

The coordination meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint. — MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Minister U Win Khaing inspects the 90 MW gas fired engine plant in Myingyan Tsp. **PHOTO: MNA**

90 MW, 225 MW power plant projects in Myingyan seek to end power shortfall

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At the briefing hall, the Union Minister and party learned about the project status by Electric Power Supply Enterprise Managing Director U Khin Maung Win and officials from Sembcorp Myingyan Power Co., Ltd. The Union Minister raised some questions and remarked on the project's requirements.

The 225 MW Myingyan natural gas fired power station is generating 144 MW in its first

phase, begun on 7 May, and 81 MW on 2 October, as a second phase. Installed capacity is 230 MW and assured capacity is 225 MW. The designed annual electricity generation will be 1,675 million units. The electricity generated from this power station is connected and distributed through the national grid via a 230 KV Myingyan main sub-station and through the 230 KV Thabyaywa-Myingyan power line. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

100 bicycles donated for rehabilitation works

Win & Win Co., Ltd., which is in a joint venture with the Ministry of Industry, donated 100 bicycles to the Ministry of Industry, which were then delivered to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for use in rehabilitation work. A ceremony to transfer the bicycles was conducted at the research and development center in Thagaya Industrial Zone, Yedsahe Township, Bago Region, yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended

by Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Yedashe Township Hluttaw representatives, Win & Win Co. Chairman and officials, officials from the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

As per the program, the Win & Win Co., Ltd. Chairman reviewed the reasons for donating the bicycles, after which No.

3 Heavy Industrial Enterprise Managing Director U Thein Han presented Win & Win Co., Ltd. with certificates of honor.

Also, Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho transferred the 100 bicycles, which were accepted by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye then said that the ministry is preparing to conduct rapid relief and redevelopment works whenever disasters occur. Only then can the momentum of de-

velopment be maintained to support the peace and development. The donation of the bicycles by a company that is conducting PPP (Private Public Partnership) with the Ministry of Industry is giving back to the people, an indication of their collective strength, and thanked Win & Win Co., Ltd. for the donation, while wishing the company greater successes in the future.

After the ceremony, the Union Ministers and party inspected the mobile training vehicles,

ambulances, training support demonstration ambulance and mobile market vehicles designed and produced by the research and development center.

The mobile training vehicles were used to educate the public about electricity, welding and vehicle maintenance in states and regions, while the ambulances and training support demonstration ambulance was produced for the Ministry of Health and Sports. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Buddha statues unearthed in Kyaukme



PHOTO : SAI TUN THEIN

A large number of Buddha statues were unearthed in a village in Kyaukme Township, Shan State (north), yesterday. About 50 villagers discovered the statues as they clear bushes and grass in the compound of the Kywekon monastery to repair an old pagoda.

The villagers uncovered 33 bronze statues about 12 inches high, 4 crystal glass statues 6 inches high, and 6 other 6 inch statues, totaling 43 statues.

The statues were taken to Kywekon monastery and displayed for public obeisance.— Sai Tun Thein ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Woman arrested for dealing drugs in Bhamo

POLICE arrested a 40-year-old woman in Bhamo Township, Kachin State, on Saturday after she was found in possession of a cache of yaba pills, according to a police report.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched Myint Myint Moe, of Hante Area in Bhamo Town, while she was walking along a road near Shanpei Area in Paukhon Ward at around 7 a.m. on 24 November. During the course of the search, police discovered 390 WY brand yaba tablets. Additionally, 390 yaba pills were seized from her home, investigators say.

The suspect has been charged with smuggling drugs, in violation of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Law. Township police are carrying out further investigations to apprehend those connected with the drug trafficking case.—Win Naing (Kachinmye) (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Man arrested after stealing oxen

Police arrested a man only a short time after he stole two oxen in Nyaung Pin Hla village, Meiktila Township, in Mandalay Region on Friday.

Having been asked by the police if he had checked his oxen on the night they were stolen, U Kyaw Yin, 73, the owner, said he was sure that he tied the oxen inside his yard on Thursday night. But two oxen were being missed the next morning when he awoke around 6 am. Since then, he has been searching in his area, but he could not find them. Therefore, he informed the police in the evening.

The owner said that one of the bluish white oxen is three

years old, measuring a length of five and a half feet and height of four and a half feet, while the other is of the same age and is five feet in length and 4 feet high. The taller ox is approximately worth Ks 1.4 million, while the shorter one is valued at Ks 1.3 million.

Acting on a tip-off, the police went to the in Thaungthar Town market where oxen are sold and found Kyaw Swe, 45, from Nyaung Pin Hla village, together with the stolen oxen.

The suspect has been charged by the police under section 379 (P) of the Penal Code.—Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing) (Translated by Hay Mar)

Artist Tin Htay Aung holds 4th solo show at NUAC Art Gallery

ARTIST Tin Htay Aung is now showing selected works at his fourth solo exhibition at NUAC Art Gallery in Mandalay, under the title "Aesthetic Journey 4 Art Exhibition", according to event organisers.

The current art exhibition, featuring over 80 watercolour paintings, began on 24 November and will continue until 28 November at NUAC Art Gallery, located at the corner of 24th and 80th street in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay.

Tin Htay Aung's subject matters mainly include natural

landscapes, culture, tradition and the lifestyles of people in the region.

This is Tin Htay Aung's fourth solo event. His third solo show was held in May 2017 at the same venue.

On the first day, the exhibition was crowded with watercolourists from upper Myanmar, faculty members and students of National University of Arts and Culture in Mandalay and enthusiasts.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

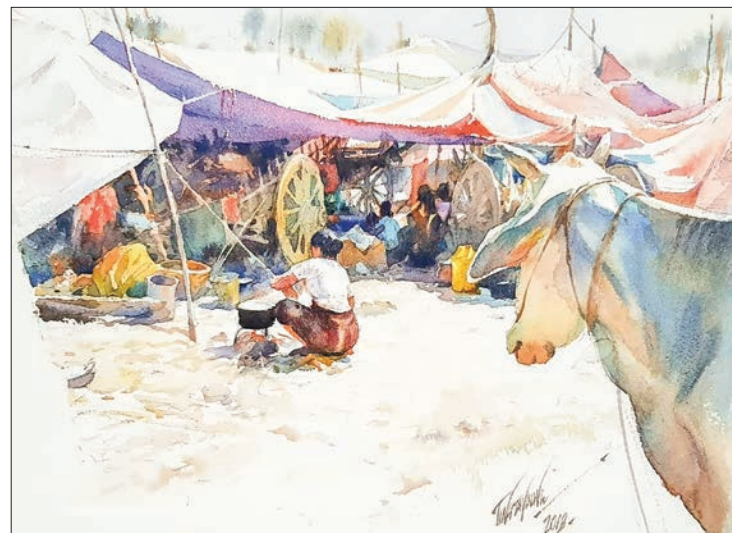


PHOTO : MAUNG PYI THU (MANDALAY)

Bilateral trade with Malaysia increases 12% in six months

MYANMAR-Malaysia trade totalled US\$600 million during the period from April through September this year, an increase of \$66.3 million, or 12 per cent as against the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's monthly trade report.

At the same time during the 2017-2018 fiscal year, trade between the two nations was valued at \$534.171 million, with \$97.123 million in exports and \$437 million in imports.

When compared with last year, this year saw an increase in value of bilateral imports and exports. According to the ministry's data, this year's bilateral exports reached \$121 million, while bilateral imports topped \$478 million.

Monthly, Myanmar exports aquaculture products, clothing, forest-based products, agricultural commodities and other

miscellaneous products to Malaysia. Its imports from Malaysia include oil, consumer goods, plastic ware, chemicals, stone and glass, footwear, minerals, metals, construction appliances, wire, medical products, electronic devices and intermediate goods.

The ministry's annual statistical report indicated that Myanmar-Malaysia trade reached a record high of \$1.089 billion in the last 2017-2018 FY. The bilateral trade was \$980 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$750 million in the 2015-2016 FY, more than \$1 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, over \$940 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$458 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$455 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

As claimed by to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Malaysian investment in Myanmar in the previous 2017-2018 FY was near-



A worker picking up selected frozen meat for exports to foreign countries. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

ly \$21.9 million. Its new investments in Myanmar during the six-month period totalled \$7.34

million. There were no new investments from Malaysia during the first month of the current

fiscal year.—Khine Khant ■
(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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Food safety officers conduct surprise checks

A food safety FDA team conducted a surprise check at shops around Myoma market in Gyobinkauk Township, Thayarwady district, Bago region on Friday.

For the safety of consumers, the Consumers Affairs Department conducted the surprise check at the shops, to monitor

prohibited or restricted consumer goods being sold. The visit was held in cooperation with the ward administrator.

Township officials from the department also delivered educational talks at the wholesale shops on the danger of expired products, as well as on the haz-

ard of illegal mosquito repellent coils.

“Today, we conducted a surprise checks, especially at shops deemed to be selling restricted and expired products including a brand called Miki-Ko. —Zeya Tun (Gyobinkauk) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Export of animal products up by almost \$50 million from 1 Oct to 9 Nov

MYANAMR'S exports of animal products from 1 October to 9 November this year topped US\$54.8 million, increasing by \$49.8 million from this time last year when exports were \$5.035 million, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

In the current fiscal year, only private exporters sold animal products, mainly to China, India and Thailand.

The ministry's statistical report showed that the country earned about \$1.5 billion from the export of seven major groups of domestic products—agricultural, animal, forest and aquaculture products, minerals, manufactured goods and other marketable products.

Over the first 40 days of this FY, the private sector exported over \$1.2 billion worth of products, with agro products worth \$255



Eel is the main export product in earning foreign money, as the eels can be caught year round. PHOTO AUNG WIN (PYAPON)

million, marine products valued at \$99.5 million, minerals worth \$139 million, forest products at \$21.5 million, manufactured goods valued at \$799 billion and miscellaneous products worth \$121 million.

During the period, the public sector exported four types

of products amounting to \$266 million, including \$0.049 million worth of minerals, \$0.798 million of forest-based products, \$228 million in manufactured goods and others worth \$36.8 million.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Korea-ASEAN anniversary art exhibition held in Yangon

THE opening ceremony of the Korea-Myanmar contemporary art exchange exhibition was held at the National Museum in Yangon on 24 November.

The art exhibition was held in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of the Myanmar, as well as of the 30th anniversary of the Korea-ASEAN Dialogue Partnership.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa, Yangon City Development Committee secretary Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture Permanent Secretary U Htun Ohn attended and formally cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

“The art of painting is not limited to people from around the world, regardless of whatever language they are speaking. So, people speaking different languages can communicate through the message the painting gives.

Korea is trying to further strengthen its good ties with



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein (center from left) visits the Korea-Myanmar contemporary art exchange exhibition in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

all ASEAN member countries, including Myanmar”, said the Korean Ambassador to Myanmar.

The ambassador noted that next week the Korean cultural concert will be held in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

The Yangon Region Chief Minister and the Korean Ambassador to Myanmar viewed the paintings, touring the art exhibition accompanied by artists from both countries, with whom

they discussed the themes of the paintings.

At the exhibition, 31 paintings by 12 Myanmar artists and 11 paintings by Korean artists, along with four sculptures by 14 Korean artists, are being displayed.

The exhibition is being held from 24 to 28 November from 9:30 to 4:30, and is free of charge to the public.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Rakhine Chief Minister discusses regional development with local people in Gwa Tsp

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, accompanied by state ministers, Hluttaw representatives and state and district level departmental officials, met yesterday with local residents of Shwe Oo Kwin, Kingpone and Zeegoene village tracts in Gwa Township to discuss developmental affairs.

The Rakhine State Chief Minister and party first met with local people in Shwe Oo Kwin Village and discussed matters related to taking action against the illegal timber trade along the Set Thwar Creek, and receiving assistance from the government for farmers. The party also met with residents in Kingpone Village and discussed the condi-

tions of school buildings and reconstruction following Cyclone Mala in 2016, as well as plans to build a rural health center branch, and assistance for the tourism sector.

The Chief Minister and party then provided 57 pregnant women and 45 children under 2 years old in the three village tracts with cash assistance for three months.

In addition, assistance of Ks 1.3 million for the high school in Shwe Oo Kwin Village, Ks 1.5 million for the repair of schools in Kingpone village tract, and Ks 2.4 million for schools in Zeegoene village tracts was also provided.—Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party meeting with local people in Gwa Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

US missionary's body could be lost in battle to preserve isolated tribe

PORT BLAIR, (India) — The body of American missionary-adventurer John Allen Chau may never be recovered from the lost island where he fell in a volley of arrows fired by a reclusive tribe whose existence is threatened by the modern world, say experts.

The menace to the Sentinelese from Chau's one-man invasion is such that tribal rights specialists say no murder charges will ever be laid and Chau's body will have to stay hidden to protect what is probably the world's last pre-neolithic tribe. Indian authorities — who do not dare enforce their rule over North Sentinel island — have not even tried to send police ashore to question the tribe who have been greeting outsiders with hostility for centuries.

Police sent a boat near North Sentinel for the second time since the killing on Friday.

“Due precautions were taken by the team to ensure that this particularly vulnerable tribal group are not disturbed and distressed during this exercise,”

said a police statement. Fears that 21st century diseases as mild as the common cold could kill off the tribe, or that experiencing electricity and the internet would devastate their lifestyle, has left them in a guarded bubble that Chau sought to burst with his “Jesus loves you” message.

The American died last week after making several attempts to reach the Sentinelese to preach Christianity — knowing it was illegal to go within three miles (five kilometres) of the island.

Double dilemma

Pankaj Sekhsaria, a tribal rights expert and author on the Andaman and Nicobar islands, said it would be “a futile exercise” to try to retrieve Chau's body.

“I don't think it is a good idea to go anywhere near (North Sentinel) because it will create conflict with the community there,” he told AFP.

“I don't believe there is any safe way to retrieve the body without putting both the Sentine-

lese and those attempting it at risk,” added Sophie Grig, senior researcher for Survival International which campaigns for such isolated groups.

Anup Kapoor, an anthropology professor at the University of Delhi, said that anyone wanting to open a dialogue with the Sentinelese had to show they were “on the same level.”

“Don't wear anything,” he recommended. “Only then you can hope to have some sort of interaction.”

Kapoor once had contacts with the Onge, another Andamans tribe, adding: “It was only after I took off my clothes, except my underwear.”

The lack of knowledge of the Sentinelese, believed to be the last surviving descendants of the first humans to arrive in Asia — and who 13th century adventurer Marco Polo called “brutish and savage” — is the main handicap.

“We have no clue about their communication systems, their history and culture, how can we

go anywhere near them,” said Kapoor. “What we know is that they have been killed and persecuted historically by the British and the Japanese. They hate anyone in uniform. If they see someone in uniform, they will kill him on the spot. “Let them be the way they are. Leave them in peace in the ecosystem they are in. Do not disturb them because that will only make them more aggressive.”

No timeline

Police in the Indian Ocean paradise are now wrestling with a double dilemma: how to answer the prayers of Chau's family and maintain the privacy around North Sentinel that is essential for the tribe's survival.

Andamans police chief Dendra Pathak has said no timeline can be given for finding a body. And Sekhsaria warned Indian authorities may now have to strengthen surveillance around North Sentinel to prevent a Chau copycat.

“The administration is seized

of the matter, they are already thinking about the surveillance,” he said without giving detail.

Indian outsiders have had a rough reception when going to North Sentinel. Arrows were fired at a helicopter that checked on the tribe after the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Two fishermen who strayed too close in 2006 were killed.

Police are talking with anthropologists and tribal welfare experts about the best way to establish contact. The Anthropological Survey of India has had previous rudimentary contact.

“When we went there, nothing happened,” said the survey's Andaman chief C. Raghu. “Our seniors visited the island and they came back. It is because we are experts and know the pulse of the people.

“It's not just the risk of disease. You also have to think of how to handle yourself, what to say and what to share with them. To them, whoever gets there is from the outside, new world.”—AFP ■

African local leaders eye 'sustainable development' to cope with urban boom

RABAT (Morocco) — A leader of an umbrella group of local governments from across Africa insisted Friday that "sustainable development" is needed to cope with the challenges of rapid urbanisation on the continent.

Thousands of delegates are meeting for the Africities Summit that brings together local leaders, civil society, governments and international donors every three years.

This year's gathering in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh is focusing on the "transition to sustainable cities and territories" and the role of local gov-

ernments in Africa.

"Sustainable development is the only alternative for African cities," said Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, the secretary general of umbrella group United Cities and Local Governments of Africa.

He called for African local authorities to learn lessons and "not repeat the errors of European cities" and other developing nations as they look to cope with rapid rises in populations.

Cities across Africa are already struggling to cope with overcrowding and are predicted to grow to over 1 billion people

by 2040, meaning that one in two people on the continent will live in urban areas.

With cities and towns swelling, African governments are facing up to a raft of issues.

Land disputes, pollution, increased poverty and the risk of infectious diseases are all increasing headaches as urban areas boom.

"The demographic challenge is the main challenge in Africa because we are on an upwards curve," said Mbassi.

"It is only from 2060 that we will begin to see a decline in the population." —AFP ■



Public transport minibuses painted in bright yellow colour popularly called "Danfo" barricade the roads in search of passengers and causing traffic gridlock at Idumota in Lagos on 10 May, 2017. PHOTO: AFP

US soldier killed in Afghanistan: NATO

KABUL (Afghanistan) — A US soldier was killed in Afghanistan on Saturday, NATO said, taking the number of American service personnel to die in the war-torn country this year to nine.

NATO's Resolute Support mission would not immediately release any details about the soldier — the second US service member to be killed in Afghanistan this month — or the circumstances of their death.

But it follows a spate of so-called "insider attacks" that have rattled foreign troops tasked with training and assisting Afghanistan's military.

Brent Taylor, the mayor of North Ogden in Utah state and a father of seven, was shot dead in an apparent insider attack in Kabul on 3 November.

That came after two similar

attacks in October, one on NATO personnel in the western province of Herat and another on a high-level security meeting in the southern province of Kandahar that was attended by General Scott Miller, the top NATO and US commander in Afghanistan.

Miller narrowly escaped unhurt but a powerful Afghan police chief was killed.

More than 2,200 American soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan since the 2001 US-led invasion that toppled the Taliban regime from power. The number of American casualties has fallen dramatically since the end of 2014 when Afghan forces took over from US-led NATO combat troops to secure the country.

Since the start of 2015, 58 Americans have been killed, President Ashraf Ghani said this

month.

In the same time period, nearly 30,000 Afghan police and soldiers have died, Ghani said — a figure much higher than anything previously acknowledged.

The Taliban have intensified attacks on Afghan forces, inflicting record casualties even as the United States ratchets up efforts to engage the militants in peace talks.

More than 17 years since the start of the conflict, the US is trying to find a way out of the war.

US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad is spearheading efforts to strike a peace deal with the Taliban before Afghanistan's April presidential election.

A Taliban delegation met with Khalilzad in Doha in October and November to discuss ending the Afghan conflict. —AFP ■

Nine dead in suspected IS attack in Libya

BENGHAZI (Libya) — At least nine security service members were killed in a suspected Islamic State group attack in the southeastern Libyan town of Tazerbo on Friday, a senior security official said.

Eleven other people including civilians and a security chief were also "kidnapped" by members of the extremist group, which attacked a police station in the oasis town, added the official.

The Tazerbo desert region is controlled by the forces of strongman Khalifa Haftar, who heads the self-styled National Libyan Army (ANL).

The capital Tripoli is the seat of a rival administration — the internationally-backed government led by Fayeza al-Sarraj.

The attack, which has not yet been claimed, is the second in less than a month targeting forces loyal to Haftar.

The first, claimed by IS, killed at least five people in October in the central Kufra region.

Another attack in August

claimed by IS killed 11 people including nine members of the ANL.

Torn apart by power struggles and undermined by chronic insecurity, Libya has become a haven for jihadists since the ouster and killing of Moamer Kadhafi in 2011.

IS took advantage of the chaos to gain a foothold in the city of Sirte in 2015 but forces loyal to a UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) resumed control of the city in December 2016 after eight months of deadly fighting.

Since then, some jihadists have returned to the desert in an attempt to regroup and reorganise.

In September, IS claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on the headquarters of the Libya's National Oil Company (NOC) in the heart of Tripoli which left two dead and 10 wounded.

Four months earlier, it also claimed an attack on the electoral commission headquarters which left 14 dead. —AFP ■

Brother of Honduran president arrested in US over drug ties: officials

TEGUCIGALPA (Honduras) — Juan Antonio Hernandez, the brother of the Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez, was arrested in the United States on Friday over suspected ties to drug trafficking, officials said Friday.

Honduran authorities released a statement saying the arrest in Miami was consistent with the president's declaration last month that "no one is above the law" and came after persistent rumors of Antonio Hernandez's involvement in narcotics.

The former head of the Los Cachiros cartel Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga had testified to a court in New York in 2017 that he had bribed the president's brother when he was a lawmaker, in exchange for his assistance to the traffickers.

Maradiaga had also testified against Fabio Lobo, son of former Honduran President

Porfirio Lobo, who was sentenced to 24 years in prison for collaborating with the Los Cachiros cartel.

In his testimony, he had explained how the Los Cachiros had set up an intermediary company which it used to conduct business with the government, and which served to launder its trafficking profits.

The Los Cachiros cartel was responsible for moving tons of cocaine in to the United States before being dismantled by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Antonio Hernandez was previously accused of being involved in the drug trade in 2016 by former Honduran soldier Santos Rodriguez.

Rodriguez also accused Antonio Hernandez of being an accomplice to a plot to kill the US ambassador to Honduras. He denied all charges. —AFP ■

Raise image of the country through your professional conduct

MEDIA is considered increasingly important, as it plays an important role between government activities and the general public, and so much so that it is said that the freedom of the media is the guarantee of the success of a government.

Media plays a crucial role in shaping a healthy democracy. Yet the credibility of the media is lost when it fails to seek the truth and ensure accuracy in reporting. Journalism is the only branch of information designed to help citizens in a democracy.

Today, the Myanmar's three branches of a democracy include legislative, executive and judicial branches, while joining hands with the people and civil society organizations, who are working together to build a democratic country.

The Union Government is steering the country on the road to democracy in a balanced, mindful and restrained way, based upon the method of "making reforms happen without affecting stability".

The government is carrying this out with great care and without jeopardizing the democratic transition. The media has actively participated and worked together with the people to achieve the democratic rights of freedom, equality and justice.

Sadly, it was noticed that some cases have occurred in which laws have been broken.

In a democracy no man is above the law, and the media must also respect and abide by the law. The media, which serve as the eyes and ears of the public, are obliged to understand the seriousness of their duties and to hold in high regard the public sector that they serve.

Professional media and social media must avoid provoking sensitive issues which can derail friendships between countries and disrupt stability and peace.

It is natural that newly established democratic countries want to practice media freedoms in the same way as seen in countries where democracy has been established for hundreds of years.

But, we should not forget that media freedom must come with accountability and responsibility.

Being responsible not only means telling the truth, but also abiding by the law and being honest in the way a journalist gathers information. If the press drifts into law-breaking, then it loses the respect of its readers and the nation.

Our media personnel are urged to raise the image of the country by abiding by the News Media Law, while bringing pride and dignity to the people through their professional conduct.

■

By the Heads of the Nordic diplomatic missions

Today on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which marks the start of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the diplomatic missions of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, call on all stakeholders in Myanmar, men and women alike, to participate in ending violence against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread human rights violations across the world. It is a crime that has devastating costs for survivors and their families, and impacts all of society. Its spectrum includes harassment, sexual assault, rape, human trafficking, intimate partner violence and death. Regressive gender norms and biases, ineffective laws, policies and social institutions all contribute to its persistence. These challenges are pertinent in Myanmar, as they are in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

During this year's 16 Days

Campaign, survivors, activists, and women's networks and organizations in Myanmar and across the world are rallying around the slogan "Hear Me Too". This message calls for recognition of one of the most fundamental of human rights, namely, the right to be heard – irrespective of who you are or where you live; in the workplace, in politics, and in the private sphere of the home.

Yet victims of gender based violence rarely come forward and seek justice. This is due to shame, lack of trust in, or simply the non-availability of violence response services. In situations of armed conflict and intercommunal violence, which exacerbate violence against women and girls, women may also fear deeply for their families and community members. Conflicts impact on women and men long after the cessation of hostilities, and interventions to end violence against women and girls are essential to build peace and security.

Hear Their Voices



Last month, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced its decision to award the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize to Denis Mukwege of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nadia Murad of Iraq for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. **PHOTO: AFP**

Discussion, learning from the experiences of survivors, is needed in order to develop comprehensive approaches and broad-based awareness and understanding required for tackling the issue. The role of the government in supporting and facilitating this process is essential. Changing the way we think about gender norms and stereotypes; building non-violent social norms; and engaging men and boys in a positive role, are similarly essential. Through our development co-operation with government and civil society actors in Myanmar, Nordic countries are supporting initiatives to advance such discussion and transformation, and we are seeing promising results through greater awareness of gender based violence at community levels, increased number of male leaders role modeling gender equality, and increased provision and uptake of violence response services, for example.

During the 16 Days Campaign, women's networks and organizations in Myanmar

are continuing their rallying for the adoption of a national, Prevention of Violence Against Women Law compliant with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which Myanmar ratified in 1997.

Legislation is indeed important. It is an expression of the essential values embraced by society. Legislation must exist not only on paper, but it must be implemented in coordination with all relevant stakeholders, which include law enforcement agencies, health care professionals, teachers, and civil society. This we know from experience in our own countries.

Today, on the 25th of November, the Embassies of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden we reiterate our call to the Government of Myanmar to adopt and enact comprehensive legislation to protect women and girls from violence, and call on all stakeholders in Myanmar, men and women alike, to participate in ending violence against women and girls.

■

Vocational Education needed for the country's future

By Nyi Myitta (Amarapura)

THE proportion of skilled workers to engineers in Myanmar is in reverse order. It is reported that the numbers of skilled workers has decreased in our country. The scarcity of workers with vocational qualifications hurts the development of the country.

For instance, the building of a new town needs roads, bridges, electricity and infrastructure; for all these purposes fifty to hundred engineers are reasonably enough. Skilled workers for overhead and underground utilities, and also for roads and bridges are greatly in need. Masons, carpenters and workers for ironwork are required for construction of buildings. Laying of water pipes, decorations of rooms and parlors and skilled workers for furniture will need thousands of workers.

If we plan to build a new town, more skilled workers are needed. More engineers do not mean that it is an easy way of

creating new town. More skilled workers could go without a hitch for development and growth of a new town. Vocational qualifications are guaranteed for a young man for his future. Nowadays, most parents believe that their children should possess a degree or diploma for the smart career for their living. If a youth possesses some kinds of vocational qualifications, he could manage to steer his life in future undertakings.

Parents and their children should weigh in intentions of possessing degrees or diplomas for their careers. Let's say, a 60-year-old widow has got three children: the eldest son studies at grade-9, the middle daughter at 7th grade and the youngest son at 4th grade. It is certain that she will have to struggle for a means of livelihood. In that situation, she will have to take tuition fees and her incomes into consideration for a continuation of education for her children. In that context, parents and their

children are advised to forget about degrees or diplomas. For her eldest son, it will take five years to get a degree and a lot of money will have to spend to support him, let alone his younger sister and brother. Once he's got a degree, no guarantee for a suitable job. There are a lot of graduates who have to work on trishaws, as street vendors or do odd jobs. Under these circumstances, one should not try to get a degree or a diploma or would rather seek vocational trainings.

Skills need for their jobs. Parents are required to take into consideration for gaining

a degree or vocational qualifications for their offsprings. Nowadays, graduates will have to apply for their jobs with resume describing experiences of at least 2-3 years relating to their respective jobs; these descriptions are tantamount to the required skills. Celebrities of stage and screen, businessmen, land-or homeowners cannot be granted as graduates; maybe non-graduates are included. One thing is certain: be it graduates or non-graduates, they have to concentrate on their work with their technical expertise. Only then do they succeed in their

respective businesses.

Ironically, the most successful men and women are neither graduates nor persons with formal education. It does not mean that I regards graduates as worthless and no respect. Their efforts for education are highly valued for time-consuming and at great expense. What the author wants to point out is we should pursue education in accordance with our needs and from a position of financial strength.

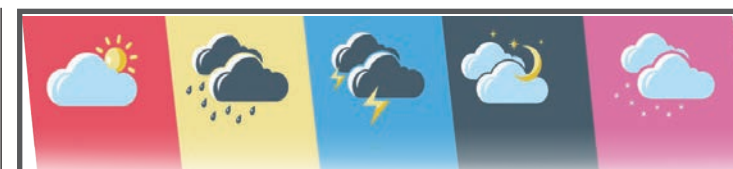
Graduates will be neither prosperous nor progressive without efforts. Let's have a look at the sporting events: tall boys and girls are suitable for volleyball and basketball and short and stout ones are put at swimming and track and field events so that they could bring success at the peak of their careers. Graduates are neither prosperous nor progressive without exerting great efforts. If vocational trainings are given to youths of eight or nine grades, they are

under proper guidance and no worries are needed for the ruins of their careers. Unemployed youths usually become more ruinous than the employed ones. Once engaged in their work, they have to deal with friends and colleagues.

Every work has its own merit. Every work is worth doing for it has its own merit. Never underestimate the vocational education and qualifications. Many workers with manual and artistic skills are greatly in need of developing countries. In that context, our country has already opened many technical and vocational schools in the Regions and the States.

In conclusion, by understanding the value of vocational education, youths of today can hope for a guarantee of career success and fulfill the requirements of technicians and experts in the country so that they enjoy working in workplaces to take care of their livelihood.

Translated by Arakan Sein



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 24th November, 2018)

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

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, Typhoon (Usagi) over the South China Sea is centered at about (120) miles East-Southeast of Hochimin (Vietnam). It is forecast to move Westwards.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25th November, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago and Yangon Regions and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Slight decrease of night temperature in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th November, 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th November, 2018: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th November, 2018: Generally fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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The oil price saw a dramatic fall on Friday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Oil prices sink on worries over excess supply, weak demand

NEW YORK (United States) — Oil prices slumped on Friday to lows not seen since last year as concerns over high crude supplies and uncertain economic growth triggered massive selling.

The petroleum slump, which took major oil contracts down to their lowest level since October 2017, comes as oil output remains high in the United States, Russia and Saudi Arabia and as some forecasters have trimmed their outlook for global growth, due in part to the US-China trade fight.

US oil benchmark West Texas Intermediate dropped \$4.21 to \$50.42 a barrel for January delivery, a decline of 7.7 per cent.

In London, Brent oil futures for January delivery, slid 6.1 per cent to \$58.80 per barrel.

“The truth of the matter remains that rising global crude supply coupled with worrying signs of slowing demand have written a recipe for disaster for the oil markets,” said Lukman Otunuga, a research analyst at FXTM.

Global stock markets were mixed, with major US indices retreating in part due to worries about lower oil prices and weak global growth.

Bourses in Paris and Frankfurt notched modest gains, while London, Shanghai and London all fell.

Trump effect?

High global oil production compared to demand was the top reason for Friday’s selling, while the outlook for a weakening world economy led investors to conclude that growth would not be strong enough to soak up the surplus.

The retreat comes ahead of a meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

in Vienna on 6 December.

Some analysts view the organization as constrained following heavy pressure from US President Donald Trump on Saudi Arabia.

Earlier this week, Trump thanked Saudi Arabia for low prices and decided to essentially overlook the Central Intelligence Agency’s reported conclusion over Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s involvement in the gruesome murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a stance that has outraged White House critics.

“Although most analysts claim that this has to do with supply overhang and increased production from Russia and Saudi Arabia, the bottom line is that the US President keeps pushing for lower prices,” said Fiona Cincotta, senior market analyst at City Index trading group.

“While this is the case it will be difficult to see a return to oil at a higher level unless oil cartel OPEC decides on a major output cut at its next meeting.”

But Andy Lipow of Lipow Oil Associates predicted the “Saudis will decide in their best interest to cut production,” adding that “it will not have an impact on the relationship with Washington because the US already said how this relationship was important and how important was the weapon business with the Saudis.”

Still, Friday’s drop in prices reflects market concern that OPEC production cuts are “not going to be enough to support prices,” Lipow added.

The drop in oil prices reverberated in equity markets, with oil giants Chevron, Royal Dutch Shell and Total all shedding three percent or more on their local bourses. —AFP ■

Spain to strengthen economic cooperation with Cuba

HAVANA — Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said here Friday that his government will continue to invest in Cuba and contribute to the economic development of the island nation.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of a business forum, the Spanish leader said Spain will not slow down its investment in Cuba despite the economic challenges facing the Caribbean country.

Sanchez was accompanied by Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel.

Noting that Spain is Cuba’s third largest trading partner, Sanchez said that past obstacles and current difficulties are not going to prevent the growth of trade and investment between

the two countries.

Spanish companies can lend their expertise in areas such as renewable energy, transport and infrastructure, and they could play a key role in Cuba’s economic takeoff, he said.

Sanchez’s trip is the first by a Spanish prime minister in 32 years.

The two-day business meeting brings together almost 300 Spanish entrepreneurs from around 100 companies to explore new areas of cooperation with their Cuban counterparts.

Cuban Vice President of the Council of Ministers Ricardo Cabrisas said current Cuba-Spain relations are at a “very positive moment” witnessing po-

litical and economic dialogues at its highest level in decades.

“This important visit by the Spanish prime minister after more than 32 years marks a new stage and relaunches our ties in different sectors, including economic and commercial cooperation,” he added.

On Friday, Sanchez also toured Old Havana, along with the city’s historian Eusebio Leal, where he appreciated the work to restore Spanish-era colonial buildings and houses.

During his stay in Cuba, the Spanish head of government will also host a meeting with Cuban intellectuals, artists, entrepreneurs, religious and civil society members. —Xinhua ■

China-made metro train coaches to be exported to India come off production line

DALIAN — The first three subway train coaches produced by Chinese train manufacturer CRRC Dalian Co, Ltd for the major Indian city of Nagpur have come off the production line, according to the company.

CRRC Dalian, an affiliated company under China’s top train manufacturer CRRC Corporation, received a train coach order from the Nagpur metro last year. The company is scheduled to produce 69 coaches and provide train maintenance services for 10 years for the city.

With a stainless steel body, the train coaches are designed to run at a maximum speed of 80 km per hour. The coaches will be used on two urban railway lines totaling 38 km in length in



China has been getting orders for metro rail rakes from India but it is not successful in its campaign to market its high-speed train technology. **PHOTO: PTI**

the Indian city. CRRC Dalian develops, produces and exports diesel locomotives, electric locomotives and urban rail cars.

The company has exported its products to countries such as New Zealand, Malaysia and Nigeria. —Xinhua ■

APEC host says WTO and trade row scuppered joint declaration

HONG KONG (China) — The host of a fractious Asia-Pacific summit said on Friday that “alternative” views on free trade and WTO rules prevented members agreeing a joint communique for the first time ever, five days after the US-China trade row overshadowed the APEC meeting.

In a chairman’s statement following last weekend’s summit, Papua New Guinea prime minister Peter O’Neill said members

had been unable to agree on sections concerning reform of the World Trade Organization, and also protectionism.

“Most economies agreed to the following text, while a small number had alternative or additional views on paragraphs 9, 16 and 17,” said O’Neill.

The highlighted paragraphs included a commitment to “improve the functioning of the WTO” by working “together to improve its negotiating, monitoring and

dispute settlement functions”.

Another urged economies “to advance trade in the region in a free, fair, and open manner, in a way that will support non-discriminatory, and mutually advantageous trade and investment frameworks.

During the summit, Chinese president Xi Jinping had lashed out at US trade protectionism, saying it was a “short-sighted approach” that was “doomed to failure”. —AFP ■

Mil Design Bureau to develop fast-speed combat helicopter for Russian Army

KAZAN—Russia's Defence Ministry has opted for the project of the Mil Design Bureau to create a cutting-edge fast-speed combat helicopter while the Kamov Design Bureau will continue developing the naval version of the Minoga rotorcraft, Russian Helicopters Group CEO Andrei Boginsky said on Friday. "After examining all the proposed technical versions from the viewpoint of their readiness, as well as the scientific and technical potential and the possibilities of cooperation, the customer opted for a solution that implies achieving the speed under the goals of the specifications based on the Mil helicopter," the chief executive said.

"It should also be borne in mind that the Kamov is already making the conceptual design of the Minoga helicopter... This project is already underway. The Kamov Design Bureau has always been strong and these competences have remained and we are multiplying them in the production of special co-axial rotorcraft for their application in specific conditions and, in the

first place, in the Navy," Boginsky added. As was reported earlier, Russia's Defence Ministry and the Moscow-based Mil Rotorcraft Factory signed a contract at the Army-2017 forum on the R&D work to develop a fast-speed combat helicopter.

Although the contract for developing a rotary-wing drone was signed with the Mil Rotorcraft Factory, both the Mil and the Kamov design bureaus took part in the tender for working out its design, Boginsky said.

"In order to give our customer a possibility to demonstrate the potential of both the Mil and Kamov Design Bureaus, we have made a decision within the Group and have agreed it with the customer that the two design bureaus should take part in this work. Correspondingly, about a dozen of concepts were offered to the customer to choose. Scientific and technical councils were held to examine the materials prepared by both design bureaus," Boginsky said. The tender has demonstrated the readiness of both design bureaus to prove their



The helicopter may develop a speed of up to 500 km/h. PHOTO: TASS

competences, the chief executive said. "If there are discussions, this means that there is competition... there are competences to substantiate a viewpoint of one of the two design bureaus and the customer already opts for the required version," Boginsky said.

Promising helicopter

As was reported earlier, work has been launched to develop a fast-speed helicopter for the Industry and Trade Ministry and the Defence Ministry of Russia. Then-Commander-in-Chief of Russia's Aerospace

Force Viktor Bondarev noted at the time that the helicopter was being developed for the Russian Defence Ministry, would enter its serial production from 2022 and would be able to develop a speed of up to 500 km/h.— AFP ■

May heads to Brussels as Spain threatens Brexit summit

BRUSSELS (Belgium)—British Prime Minister Theresa May was headed back to Brussels on Saturday to defend the planned Brexit divorce deal even as Spain threatened to boycott an EU summit meant to endorse it.

May has final day talks scheduled with EU leaders Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Tusk, although diplomats said the withdrawal agreement is finished and ready for EU leaders to approve on Sunday. Nothing in the painful 17-month withdrawal process has gone smoothly, and on Friday, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez warned he might not attend if the leaders do not acknowledge that Madrid holds a veto over the fate of Gibraltar in any post-Brexit negotiation of new EU-UK ties. Visiting Cuba, Sanchez said that Madrid must be allowed to negotiate directly with London on Gibraltar and give its specific assent to any changes to its relationship to the European Union in a future agreement between Britain and Brussels.

"If there's no agreement, it's



EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker welcomes British Prime Minister Theresa May for a meeting at the EU Headquarters in Brussels on 21 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

very clear what will happen, there very probably won't be a European Council" summit, he said.

Gibraltar, a tiny rocky outcrop home to a port and around 30,000 people, is a British territory claimed by Spain and will be a bone of contention as London negotiates a new relationship with Brussels after Brexit day on 29 March. Luis Marco Aguiriano Nalda, Spain's secretary of state for European affairs, said Madrid wanted London to put in writing that it shared Madrid's

interpretation of the negotiated Brexit deal texts regarding its stance on Gibraltar. "We have demanded that it be published by the British authorities before the European Council on Sunday," said in Brussels.

In London, however, a Downing Street source said he did not know what document Aguiriano could be referring to and added: "We have negotiated on behalf of the whole of the UK family. That includes Gibraltar and the overseas territories."— AFP ■

Berlin man, 95, charged over 36,000 deaths in Nazi camp

BERLIN (Germany)—German prosecutors on Friday charged a 95-year-old man with more than 36,000 counts of accessory to murder over his alleged time as a Nazi concentration camp guard during World War II. The allegations against the accused, identified only as Hans H, concern atrocities committed at the Mauthausen camp in Austria, the Berlin public prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Hans H is believed to have belonged to the SS-Totenkopf-Sturmabteilung (Death's Head Battalion) between summer 1944 and spring 1945 at Mauthausen, part of the Nazis' vast network of concentration camps where inmates were forced to perform slave labour.

Prosecutors argue that by working as a guard at the site, the accused contributed to tens of thousands of prisoner deaths.

During his time at the camp, at least 36,223 inmates died. Guards took part in killings by gas, fatal injections, gunfire and other means, while many more prisoners died of hunger or frost-

bite, prosecutors said.

"The accused is believed to have been aware of all the methods of killing as well as the disastrous living conditions of the inmates," their statement said.

"It is believed that he knew these methods of killing were used against a large number of people and that they could only be killed in this way, with this degree of regularity, if the victims were guarded by people like him." A total of 200,000 people were held at Mauthausen, half of whom died before the camp's liberation by US troops in May 1945. A Berlin court must now decide whether the case against Hans H can proceed.

Germany has been racing to put on trial surviving SS personnel, after the legal basis for prosecuting former Nazis changed in 2011 with the landmark conviction of former guard John Demjanjuk.

He was sentenced on the grounds that he served as a cog in the Nazi killing machine at the Sobibor camp in occupied Poland, rather than for murders or atrocities linked to him personally.— AFP ■

UN grants sanctions exemption for Korea railway survey

SEOUL (South Korea) — The UN Security Council has granted a sanctions exemption for the two Koreas to jointly conduct a survey on reconnecting railways across their border, a spokesman for the South Korean presidency said on Saturday.

The two Koreas last month agreed to start the survey no later than late October and to hold the groundbreaking ceremony sometime between late November and early December, as the countries pursue a reconciliation drive.

But the possibility of the project running up against UN sanctions imposed on North Korea over its nuclear programmes has caused delays.

"It is significant that this project has received support from the United States and international community", said Kim Eui-Gyeom, spokesman for the presidential Blue House in Seoul.

Railway experts from both

sides will criss-cross the country on survey trains together, Kim said in a statement, adding that the process will "bring inter-Korean cooperation to a new level".

Yonhap news agency said the South was expected to bring fuel for train locomotives, and other unspecified materials for the survey in the North.

Delivering fuel to North Korea could potentially have been in breach of a UN cap limiting imports to 500,000 barrels a year.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday any inter-Korean rapprochement had to move forward "in tandem" with efforts to denuclearize the peninsula, and could not come sooner.

US president Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held a historic summit in Singapore earlier this year, signing a vaguely worded deal on denuclearization.

But since then, talks on

denuclearization have stalled, with meetings either deemed unproductive, pushed back or cancelled altogether.

The US and South Korea have launched a working group to make sure that they don't "talk past each other", Pompeo said, as Seoul and Pyongyang appear to be moving ahead with their rapprochement more quickly than Washington and the North are making headway on nuclear disarmament.

A second leaders' summit is expected to take place in early 2019, according to Washington.

In the meantime, North and South Korea have made several concrete decisions on reconciliation and exchanges.

But the implementation of cross-border projects such as the reconnection of railways have been hamstrung by the lack of progress in denuclearisation talks. —AFP ■



South Korean soldiers gather at Arrowhead Ridge, a site of battles in the 1950-53 Korean War, as a tactical road is built across the military demarcation line inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the central section of the inter-Korean border in Cheorwon, Gangwon Province, in South Korea on 22 November, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**



Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono is pictured on 23 November, 2018 in Rome. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Japan's Kono hails Iran's continued implementation of nuclear deal

ROME — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono on Friday welcomed Iran's continued implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers despite the United States having reimposed sanctions against Tehran.

Kono relayed the view to his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif in a meeting in the Italian capital, reiterating Tokyo's stance of supporting the deal, Japanese officials said.

The administration of US President Donald Trump reimposed sanctions early this month on Iran's energy, banking, shipbuilding and shipping sectors in an effort to compel Tehran to end

its nuclear program and support for militant groups in the Middle East.

Under the 2015 deal struck between Iran and six major powers — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States under Trump's Democratic predecessor Barack Obama — Tehran agreed to curb its nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of crippling economic sanctions.

Kono is visiting Rome to attend an annual international gathering called Mediterranean Dialogues, which brings together government officials and experts on foreign and defense issues. — Kyodo News ■

More Chinese cities to offer 144-hour visa free transit in 2019

CHENGDU — Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, will extend its visa-free period for foreigners transiting through the city from 72 hours to 144 next year, local authorities said on Saturday.

People of 53 listed nationalities with valid travel documents and onward travel booked for within 144 hours are eligible for the visa-free policy, which will become available from 1 January, 2019.

The new arrangement is an extension and optimization of the current 72-hour visa-free transit policy, according to the

exit and entry administration of the Sichuan provincial public security bureau.

Besides Chengdu, Fujian Province's coastal city of Xiamen, Shandong Province's coastal city of Qingdao, Hubei Province's capital city of Wuhan, and Yunnan Province's capital city of Kunming will also implement the policy on New Year's Day.

Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region have been offering the visa-free service, allowing transit passengers to stay up to six days in total. —Xinhua ■

Singapore fires starting gun on sensitive political transition

SINGAPORE — Singapore's ruling party on Friday set in motion a carefully orchestrated political succession that will see the founding family hand over the premiership, a crucial moment in the city-state's short history.

Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat was named to a key post in the People's Action Party (PAP), which has ruled Singapore since it gained self-rule from Britain in 1959, putting him on course to become premier.

The 57-year-old is now expected to take over in the coming years from Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, the son of the late founding premier Lee Kuan Yew,

who oversaw the country's rapid economic development during three decades of sometimes authoritarian rule.

The power transfer, which begins as Singapore gears up for elections that could come as soon as next year, is in line with 66-year-old Premier Lee's plan to hand power to a broadly younger generation of leaders.

Heng would be the country's fourth prime minister and the second from outside the Lee family.

It will be a sensitive moment for the financial hub of 5.6 million people, with the country's transformation into one of the world's wealthiest and most stable soci-

eties inextricably linked in many people's minds to the rule of the Lee family.

The PAP announced in a statement that Heng had been appointed first assistant secretary general, putting him in pole position to take over as premier. The man seen as his closest rival for the top job — Trade Minister Chan Chun Sing — was named second assistant secretary general, the PAP said.

"A smooth transition to the new team to lead us beyond the next elections is important not only for the PAP, but also for Singapore's future," said Prime Minister Lee on Facebook following the announcement. —AFP ■

Huge quake edges New Zealand islands closer together

WELLINGTON (New Zealand) — A destructive earthquake that struck New Zealand two years ago has left its two main islands edging towards each other, and one city sinking, according to scientists.

But the margins are minimal with the gap between the North and South islands narrowing a mere 35 centimetres (13 and a half inches), while Nelson at the top of the South Island has sunk by up to 20 millimetres.

The magnitude 7.8 earthquake on November 14 initially pushed the two islands several metres closer and the unsettled fault lines have since nudged the southern landmass further north.

However, the gap from Cape Campbell, where the main rupture ended in the South Island, and the New Zealand capital Wellington at the bottom of the North Island is still more than 50 kilometres.

At least 25 fault lines ruptured in the 2016 quake, which earthquake geologist Rob Langridge from the government's geoscience research organisation GNS Science said made it one of the most complex earthquakes observed anywhere in the world.

Fellow GNS scientist Sigrun Hreinsdottir told the Stuff website on Friday that the sheer number of faults made it difficult to distinguish which was responsible for the post-quake creep.

"In reality we are having all this creeping going on and the question is, which (fault) is the dominant factor?"

Nelson, at the top of the South Island had fractionally slumped.

"The whole area is going down maybe 10 to 20 millimetres. It's not a huge amount but it is observable at our sites," she said. —AFP ■



The Kaikoura earthquake raced north from the middle of New Zealand's South Island towards Cook Strait covering 170 kilometres in about 74 seconds. **PHOTO: AFP**

Climate correction: when scientists get it wrong

PARIS (France) — On 1 November, AFP joined news outlets around the world in covering the release of a major academic paper warning that our oceans were warming dramatically quicker than previously thought.

The study was undertaken by some of the world's most pre-eminent climate scientists, using state-of-the-art modelling systems reviewed by their peers, and appeared in one of the most prestigious academic journals.

There was just one problem: it was wrong.

Published in *Nature*, the paper by researchers from the University of California San Diego and Princeton found that ocean temperatures had warmed 60 per cent more than current estimates.

They concluded, with no small sense of alarm, that even the most ambitious emissions cuts laid out in the global plan to prevent climate disaster would need to be slashed again by another 25 per cent.

Soon after publication, an independent climate scientist — one who has repeatedly voiced scepticism of the consensus that human behaviour is causing global warming — spotted an error in the *Nature* paper's maths.

"After correction, the... results do not suggest a larger increase in ocean heat content than previously thought," Nicolas Lewis wrote on his Climate Science blog.

"Just a few hours of



Oceans cover more than two thirds of the planet's surface and play a vital role in sustaining life on Earth. **PHOTO: AFP**

analysis and calculations was sufficient to uncover apparently serious (but surely inadvertent) errors in the underlying calculations.

"It is very important that the media outlets that unquestioningly trumpeted the paper's findings now correct the record too. But perhaps that is too much to hope for," he added.

With the rectified calculation, the authors quickly realised they had made a mistake.

The new results had a far larger range of possibilities in ocean temperature increases — between 10 and 70 per cent: still warmer, but rendering the study vague even for the sometimes unknowable science of climate modelling.

"We quickly realized that our calculations incorrectly treated systematic errors in the O₂ measurements as if they were random errors in the error propagation," author Ralph Keeling wrote on climate-

home.org.

"We really muffed the error margins," he told the San Diego Tribune.

'Climate hoax'

The correction prompted some climate deniers to wheel out the conspiracy theory that manmade global warming is made up.

Some Twitter users suggested the study was funded by the Democrats, that human-induced planetary warming was invented by former presidential hopeful Al Gore so he could buy a house, and that decades of evidence-based research into the phenomenon constituted "pseudo-science".

But scientists rallied round the authors, pointing out that the process surrounding the *Nature* paper's publication and correction was, really, how scientific research is supposed to work.

"Science is a human endeavour and it's there-

fore imperfect. What's important is that results are scrutinised and replicated by others so that we can assess what is robust and what isn't," Gavin A. Schmidt, director at the Goddard Institute for Space Sciences at NASA, told AFP.

"Current climate change has been looked at by thousands of scientists (and other interested people) and our understanding of it is pretty solid," he said.

AFP has since corrected its coverage of the study so its updated findings are on the record for future stories on warming oceans.

Peter Frumhoff, chief climate scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the ocean study correction was "a beautiful thing".

"The rapid, transparent acknowledgement and correction of inadvertent errors in scientific papers... is at the heart of what separates science from dogma," he told AFP. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (014 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (014 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (021 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (021 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1111W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1111W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER

LINES

Phone No: 2301185



The annual All Africa Music Awards, better known as Afrima, is the African equivalent of the Grammys. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Africa’s Grammys’ celebrate the hits of the continent

LAGOS (Nigeria)—After a 15-year career in banking and marketing, Nigerian Mike Dada was looking for a platform to “communicate the strength of Africa to the rest of the world”.

He decided to set up Afrima—the All Africa Music Awards—Africa’s equivalent of the Grammys, whose fourth edition takes place this weekend in Ghana’s capital, Accra. In 2014, penniless but passionate about music, he worked with private sponsors in Nigeria and a partner in Kenya.

Together, they organized the awards ceremony to “create jobs” and “make Africans proud”, he told local media, earning the backing of the African Union.

In four years, Afrima has managed to carve out a space as a platform to showcase the bubbling, innovative and prolific African music industry that has exploded in the past decade.

In Accra, it’s not World Mu-

sic the continent is going to celebrate. Instead, it’s Afropop, the Nigerian-born style which mixes Congolese soukous, Ivorian coupe-decale, Ghanaian Highlife and Jamaican dancehall that has got Africa’s youth dancing.

“Music is a bridge,” said Olivier Laouchez, chief executive of Trace TV, a French music channel popular on the continent. “In Senegal, we listen to Nigerian hits in nightclubs and South Africa’s kwaito (afro-house) is exported to all radio stations on the continent. “Today, what is bringing Africa together... is sport and music.”

Diaspora

One category has been dedicated to artists from the vast diaspora.

This year, the contenders include Franco-Malian Aya Nakamura and the surprising Afrotronic, an artist of Chadian origin who dresses like Daft Punk and

makes house music with Sahelian rhythms and lyrics in Spanish.

Maitre Gims, who comes from Democratic Republic of Congo and is repeatedly played on French radio, has racked up more than 200 million views on YouTube with “J’m Tire” (“I’m outta here”) and is Afrima’s most nominated artist this year.

The rapper is as much of an unknown to English-speaking Africa as Nigeria’s Davido is to French audiences, despite his 100 million-plus views on YouTube.

“Thanks to Afrima we get to know musicians from all over the continent,” Oris Aigbokhaevbolo, a journalist with the Music in Africa website, told AFP.

Take, for example, Diamond Platnumz, a Tanzanian who hit the spotlight after winning three Afrima awards two years ago. “Love you Die”, his duet with Nigeria’s Patoranking, is now being played around the world.—AFP ■

Moscow’s ballet studios: where careers take flight

MOSCOW—In a small studio in northern Moscow, girls as young as three in tutus and pointe shoes practise their ballet moves in front of a mirror.

Lined up on their mats, the youngsters have no difficulty stretching their legs up over their heads—let alone doing splits. The studio is one of dozens in the Russian capital, home to some of the world’s best ballet troupes. Many are run by former professional ballerinas.

Children and teenagers meet at the studio in a Soviet-era community centre three times a week for classical ballet classes.

They are overwhelmingly

girls, their long hair tied tightly in buns high on their heads.

“We have boys, but unfortunately not many,” the studio’s director and former ballerina Oksana Mironova tells AFP. She proudly adds that one boy she taught is now a dancer at the Bolshoi Theatre.

Mironova herself started out at a ballet school in Saratov, a city on the Volga river. She went on to train at a Saint Petersburg academy, where she was taught by Russia’s legendary prima ballerina Natalia Dudinskaya.

After a 10-year career in Moscow, she suffered a knee injury that stopped her from danc-

ing, and opened a ballet studio in 2001. It is in these types of studios, she said, that a dancer’s “willpower and character” is forged before going on to Russia’s ballet academies—famed for their strict and rigid training.

Mironova stressed that while “you have to shout a bit” during a class, the teachers are “warm” to the children.

Russian ballet schools, she said, are considered the best in the world because of their adherence to tradition.

“We (the teachers) are all professionals from these academies and theatres and we safeguard these traditions.”—AFP ■

Christie’s and Sotheby’s share positive outlook for Russian art auctions in London

LONDON—Large auction houses have a positive outlook for Russian art auctions starting in London on 27 November, representatives of Sotheby’s and Christie’s told a TASS correspondent on Friday.

“The market has certainly made a recovery after 2014 when, I think, it did hit a low point,” director and head of sales at Sotheby’s Russian Pictures Reto Barmettler said adding that now they have a positive outlook as they are many new and established collectors.

“We had a very good year last year. We had total sales in excess of •20 mln, which is one of the better results we had for quite some years now. There are encouraging results for more traditional works, so the 19th century - 20th century did actually well,” he noted.

“There is a lot of diverse material both in terms of style and period, but as well as pricing the least expensive work is estimated at £500 pounds and

“Leo Tolstoy Barefoot” by Ilya Repin (1844-1930) estimated at £400,000-600,000.

International Head of Russian Department at Christie’s Alexis de Tiesenhausen said that interest in Russian art remains high but noted that it is difficult to provide any concrete forecasts for the upcoming auction. “Tastes don’t change, interest in Russian art remains, but you can never know ahead of the auction how the market will react,” de Tiesenhausen said. “For instance, the situation in June was not very good, but the results turned out to be not that bad at all.” “I wouldn’t say the market is weak. Rather, it is ‘capricious’. People decided whether they will buy or not at the very last moment, while 10 years ago many people came and bought. There are now fewer collectioners. They continue collecting but very carefully,” he added. The expert also noted one peculiarity of the Russian art market—the works sold at



Some of the top lots at upcoming auctions are paintings by Konstantin Makovsky, Ilya Repin, Ivan Aivazovsky and Vasilii Shukhaev. **PHOTO:TASS**

the most expensive work at £2 mln,” Barmettler said.

“Many collectors do have actually quite eclectic taste as well, and they are interested in the whole spectrum of Russian art. Even those who buy at a very high level are sometimes interested to buy something that is less expensive but will fit their collections well,” he added.

Among Sotheby’s top lots are paintings “Blind Man’s Bluff” by Konstantin Makovsky (1839-1915) estimated at £2-3 mln; “Georgian Woman Wearing a Lechaki” by Niko Pirosmani (1862-1918) estimated at £500,000-700,000; and portrait

an auction rarely return on sale. “They do not return to the market, unlike modern art or impressionists, whose works become available again in 10-15 years. I think it is the new generation that is passionate about collecting,” de Tiesenhausen said.

Among Christie’s top lots are paintings “Venice at Sunset” by Ivan Aivazovsky (1817-1900) estimated at £400,000-600,000; “Self-Portrait in a Gray Smock” and “Portrait of Vera Shukhaeva, the Artist’s Wife” by Vasilii Shukhaev (1887-1973) estimated at £300,000-500,000; and stage design for “Daphnis and Chloe” ballet Acts I and III by Leon Bakst (£180,000-220,000).—Tass ■



PHOTO: AFP

Paris hospital halts stool study after donor deluge

PARIS (France) — A Paris hospital which made a public appeal for stool samples for a study on intestinal diseases said on Friday it had suspended the project after being inundated by donors hoping for an easy 50 euros.

“We had to cancel the call for donors and halt the study because it had gotten out of control,” professor Harry Sokol, the gastroenterologist leading the study at the Saint-Antoine hospital, told AFP.

Originally donors were sought via posters at the hospital and at medical schools, offering compensation of 50 euros (\$57) if accepted.

“Someone took a picture and it spread rapidly on the internet and social media, because the message had been altered: People thought it meant: Give us your stools, we’ll give you 50 euros,” Sokol said.

The telephone hotline and email for potential donors was quickly overwhelmed, “and even after we cut off the number people were calling the hospital switchboard, some even showed

up in person, and it’s still going on,” he said.

In fact the rigorous selection progress for the study, on a potential treatment for intestinal inflammation, involved a series of blood and stool tests as well as an extensive interview on a donor’s medical history.

Doctors worldwide are studying fecal transplants, which aim to treat a range of chronic gut diseases by introducing stool bacteria from a healthy person into affected patients to help replenish a normal bacterial balance.

Fecal transplantation — also known as bacteriotherapy — can help counter symptoms and infections caused by *C. difficile* colitis, harmful bacteria which can proliferate especially after antibiotic treatment kills off too many beneficial bacteria in the digestive tract.

“It’s a very serious, large-scale study, with a long waiting list of patients” hoping to participate, Sokol said, adding that many were “devastated” over the project’s suspension. —AFP ■

Rare Atlantic walrus spotted in White Sea for first time in several hundred years

MOSCOW — Rare Atlantic walrus have been spotted in the White Sea again after several hundreds of years of not appearing in the area after unlimited exploitation, research fellow at the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology Alexander Agafonov told TASS on the eve of the Walrus Day.

“Atlantic walrus are still considered endangered species. Their population decreased initially because of intensive exploitation. For instance, they have not appeared in the White Sea since the 18th century. However, our records indicate that walrus returned to the White Sea, which most likely signals a positive dynamic,” Agafonov said.

It is currently prohibited to hunt Atlantic walrus. When it comes to Pacific walrus whose population is currently estimated at 200,000 animals, only indigenous peoples are allowed to hunt them in limited quantities, Agafonov noted.



Senior research fellow at the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology Vasily Spiridonov said it is important to watch Atlantic walrus closely as no concrete data on their numbers is available. PHOTO: TASS

Ocean pollution does not directly affect populations of walrus but can lead to decrease in fish supplies for the rare animals, especially in case of technogenic disasters like large-scale oil spills, the expert said.

Senior research fellow at the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology Vasily Spiridonov noted that there is no worrisome information yet about populations of Atlantic wal-

ruses but it is important to watch them closely as no concrete data on their numbers is available. There is another problem that concerns mostly Pacific walrus - global warming forces them to migrate north as ice pads in the Bering Sea gradually melt. Thus, competition for ice pads in the north of the Pacific Ocean grows rather quickly, the expert explained. —Tass ■

China expands use of BeiDou navigation system in transportation

BEIJING — China will expand the application of its home-grown BeiDou navigation system to cover all transportation fields, according to an official from the Ministry of Transport (MOT).

Over the past few years, over 6.17 million domestic vehicles nationwide and 35,000 vehicles of postal services or courier companies have installed or become compatible with the BeiDou navigation system, according to MOT

spokesperson Wu Chungeng.

The navigation system has also been installed in 80,000 buses, 370 ships and the country’s domestically-manufactured commercial airplanes.

The country is also promoting the international use of the BeiDou system in sectors such as transportation and rescue, and ensuring it serves Belt and Road countries.

The BeiDou system began

providing services in China in 2000 and surrounding regions in the Asia-Pacific in 2012. When the system is completed in 2020, it will be the fourth largest global satellite navigation system after the US GPS system, Russia’s GLONASS and the European Union’s Galileo.

A basic system with 18 orbiting BeiDou-3 satellites is expected to be in place by the end of 2018. —Xinhua ■

Russia develops mobile super-computer for defense industry

MOSCOW — Ruselectronics Group (part of the state hi-tech corporation Rostec) has developed a mobile super-computer with a capacity of 2.2 petaflops that can find applications in the defense and space industries, the Rostec press office reported on Friday.

“The 1.9x1.35x1m computing module allows reaching a record peak capacity of 2.2 petaflops for computers of such dimensions and a data storage volume of up to 2.2 petabytes,” Rostec said.

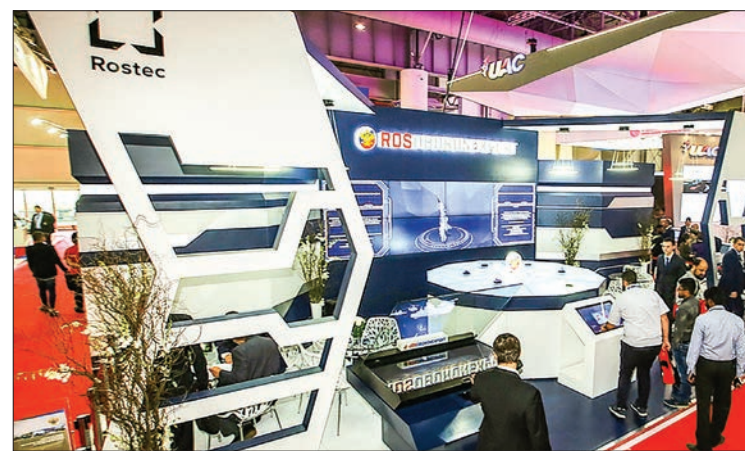
As the state hi-tech corporation noted, “organizations of the defense sector and the space industry, technological parks, research institutes and educational institutions are among potential customers of the new product.”

The super-computer has a system of liquid cooling (its blocs are immersed into a special container), which “allows creating mobile computer centers based on standard container platforms outside specially equipped premises,” the press office said.

This type of the cooling system features a low noise level, dust and humidity protection, and also fire resistance, Rostec added.

The new super-computer consumes 40% less electric power compared to its analogs on the market.

Rostec Executive Director Oleg Yevtushenko was quoted by the corporation’s press office as saying that the computer created by Vega Group (part of Ruselectronics Holding Company) can be used in outer space “for au-



The new super-computer consumes 40% less electric power compared to its analogs on the market. PHOTO: TASS

tomatically identifying objects in satellite imaging, modeling spacecraft and assessing the condition of their onboard systems.”

Super-computers can also be

used for computations in robotics, artificial intelligence and vision processing, neural networks of deep learning, big data processing, etc. —Tass ■

Myanmar defeated Malaysia in AFF Suzuki Cup Group play

MYANMAR was defeated by Malaysia 0-3 in yesterday's AFF Suzuki Cup Group match at Bukit Jalil Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The lineup for Myanmar included goalkeeper cum captain Kyaw Zin Htet, Zaw Min Tun, Nanda Kyaw, Soe Moe Kyaw, Win Moe Kyaw, Hlaing Bo Bo, Lwin Moe Aung, Maung Maung Soe, Si Thu Aung, Maung Maung Lwin and Aung Thu.

Malaysia dominated the second half with their careful play. Although Myanmar took advantage of their speed at the beginning of the match, its strikers could not penetrate their opponent's defence line.

Two goals were scored in the first half by Malaysia's Norshahrul Idlan at 26 minute and Mohd Zaquan Adha Abdul Radzak at 45 minutes on penal-

ties which affected the spirit of Myanmar players, as they were no longer able to display their original skills, especially in the second half.

Myanmar attempted to equalize in the second half, but Myanmar midfielders and strikers were unable to grab every chance for goals.

Malaysia again threatened the Myanmar side just before the final whistle, as Malaysia's Mohd Zaquan Adha Abdul Radzak again scored the third goal for his team to end the match.

With this loss, Myanmar was eliminated from the AFF Suzuki Cup Group Stage by 7 points, and Malaysia stepped up to second place by earning 9 points, with Viet Nam in first place with 10 points.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar's defender Nanda Kyaw (L) and Malaysia's midfielder Mohamadou Sumareh (#13) fight for the ball during the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 football match between Malaysia and Myanmar at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala yesterday. **PHOTO:AFP**



Chelsea's Italian head coach Maurizio Sarri gestures on the touchline during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Manchester United at Stamford Bridge in London on 20 October, 2018. **PHOTO:AFP**

Sarri optimistic Hazard will sign new Chelsea deal

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Maurizio Sarri said on Friday that he is confident Eden Hazard will put pen to paper on a new deal with Chelsea after N'Golo Kante signed a five-year contract with the Blues.

Hazard's deal with unbeaten Chelsea runs until June 2020 and speculation over his future at the club has intensified since his impressive displays for Belgium at the World Cup in Russia.

The Belgian has said he is in

a quandary about whether to extend his deal or seek a "dream" move to Real Madrid, but Sarri is optimistic his star player will stay in London after Kante committed his future to Stamford Bridge until 2023 on Friday.

"I don't know the evolution of the new contract. I think we can do (an extension)," said Sarri.

Asked if he was optimistic Hazard would commit to Chelsea, Sarri added: "I hope so." —AFP ■

Sixth Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon held in Bagan

THE sixth Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon, under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, was held in Bagan yesterday.

The Bagan Temple Marathon started at 6 am at the east side of the Htilominlo Temple.

A total of 274 runners participated, with 169 foreign run-

ners from 30 countries, including the United States, Australia, Britain, Denmark, and France.

The opening ceremony of the marathon was led by Mandalay Region's Hotels and Tourism Minister U Myat Thu and Director General Dr. Khin Than Win from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The Marathon was sponsored by Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Co., Ltd and Albatros Travel and Tours from Denmark.

From 2013 to 2016, over 900 foreign runners and 300 local runners have participated.—GNLM (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Runners jumping and raising their arms in celebration at the finish line after the Sixth Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon in Bagan, an ancient city of Myanmar, yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

25 NOVEMBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Reading, Books and me



By Gyaw Orwell
ITBMU

WHEN I was in the eighth grade, I remember my parents strictly prohibiting me from reading books that were not school textbooks, such as comics and fiction, as they wanted me to focus on my school lessons.

For me, reading books, not textbooks, was a hobby. My favorite books at this time included action stories, comics, detective, and fiction stories. I took great pleasure in reading these books behind my parent's backs. I read them during my school's lunch break. Sometimes, I read at home when my parents went outside.

I found school textbooks so boring. More so as I had to memorize some parts of the textbooks daily. That made me hate school books.

I was not the best student in the class but I used to get high marks in exams because my parents always urged me to study regularly, with the help of a cane stick.

While my parents supported and guided me in studies, they didn't allow me to take part in sports competitions.

The popular game at our school was table tennis. Our sports teacher was good at this game. Nearly every year when I was in the school, my schoolmates were chosen to compete at the region-level table tennis competition held at Patheingyi Town, the capital of Ayeyawady Region, representing Bogale Township.

At least two or more medals used to be taken every year by our school. Girls are much smarter than boys at table tennis. They used to win more gold medals. I didn't compete at the games as my parents didn't allow me to play because of school lessons.

I didn't harbor any negative feelings for not getting to participate in the competitions. But I had a nasty feeling to my parents for robbing me of the chance to read when I was young and for not having a library at our school.

But fortunately for me, there was a bookstore in my village where I could borrow books. I used to go there and borrow books with my pocket money.

Before I joined the university, my parents didn't allow me to read books that were not school textbooks.

But once I became a university student, my parents gave me a free choice.

I chose to read during my free time. Most of the books I read here were comics, detective, and action stories. Though the books didn't give me a deep knowledge, they sowed the seeds of reading.

One of my favorite things at the university is the library. Reading books from the library is free. If I find a topic that I would like to learn more about, there is a high probability that I will find a library book that can help. That has benefited me greatly.

Lately, I have come to know the value of good fiction. Reading fiction novels helps me understand the thoughts and emotions of people.

Books still encourage me to face new challenges of life. And then, they give me the courage to undertake adventures. Reading always provides me opportunities to explore new experiences. That is the brief relationship between reading and me.



(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Answers

1. Khin Khin is a girl admired by everybody.
 2. Here is the news read by Ba Oo.
 3. This is a camera given to me as a present by Ko Ko.
 4. This is a bicycle made of plastic.
 5. The food served in this hotel is delicious.
 6. The plan drawn up by experts will be discussed by the representatives of the people.
 7. The books published last month are still on sale.
 8. The boy bitten by a dog has been taken to the hospital.
- ယခုလသင်ခန်းစာအသစ်အဖြစ် **Cause and Effect** ကို တင်ပြမည်။

Cause and Effect
အကြောင်းတရားနှင့် အကျိုးသက်ရောက်မှု
He was ill. He did not go to school.

- (က) အထက်ပါစာကြောင်းကိုကြည့်လျှင် **He was ill** သည် အကြောင်းတရား ဖြစ်သည်။ **He did not go to school.** သည် အကျိုးသက်ရောက်မှုဖြစ် သည်။
- (ခ) အထက်အောက်သို့မဟုတ်တစ်ကြောင်းပြီးတစ်ကြောင်းယှဉ်တွဲထားလျှင် ကျောင်း မတက်နိုင်ခြင်း၏ အကြောင်းတရားမှာ နေမကောင်းခြင်းဖြစ်သည်ကို သိနိုင်သည်။
- (ဂ) သို့ရာတွင် အကြောင်းတရားနှင့်အကျိုးသက်ရောက်မှုကို တိတိကျကျဆက်စပ် ဖော်ပြလိုလျှင် အောက်ပါစကားလုံးများနှင့် ဆက်ရသည်။ **so, as, since, so that, too—to, being, because, because of.**
- (ဃ) ထိုစကားလုံးများနှင့်ဆက်ပုံကို လေ့လာပါ။

- (1) **So:** ထို့ကြောင့်
He was ill, so he did not go to school.
သူ နေမကောင်းပါ။ ထို့ကြောင့် သူကျောင်းမတက်ခဲ့ပါ။
(**So** ကို အကြောင်းတရားနောက် ကပ်ထည့်ရသည်။)
So နေရာတွင် **therefore** နှင့် **That was why** ကိုလည်း သုံးနိုင်သည်။
'ထို့ကြောင့်၊ သို့အတွက်ကြောင့်' ဟု အဓိပ္ပာယ်ရသည်။
- (2) **As:** သောကြောင့်
As he was ill, he did not go to school.
သူ နေမကောင်းသောကြောင့် ကျောင်းမတက်ခဲ့ပါ။
As ကို အကြောင်းတရားရှေ့ကပ်ထည့်ရသည်။
As နေရာတွင် **Since** ကိုလည်းသုံးနိုင်သည်။
Since he was ill, he did not go to school.
- (3) **So --- that:** လွန်းသည်အတွက်ကြောင့်
He was so ill that he did not go school.
သူနေမကောင်းလွန်းသည့်အတွက်ကြောင့် ကျောင်းမတက်ခဲ့ပါ။
(**So** နှင့် **that** ကြားတွင် **adjective** သို့မဟုတ် **adverb** ထည့်ရသည်။
အကြောင်းပြစာကြောင်းတွင် **very** ပါလျှင်ဖြုတ်ပစ်ရသည်။)
- (4) **Too—to:**
He was too ill to go to school.
သူ ကျောင်းမတက်နိုင်လောက်အောင် နေမကောင်းခဲ့ပါ။
(**Too** ကို **adjective** သို့မဟုတ် **adverb** ရှေ့ကပ်ထည့်ရသည်။ **adj/adv** နောက်တွင် **to** ထည့်၍ မူရင်း ကြိယာလိုက်ရသည်။)
- (5) **Being:** ခြင်းကြောင့်
Being ill, he did not go to school.
နေမကောင်းခြင်းကြောင့် သူ ကျောင်းမတက်ခဲ့ပါ။
Being နောက်ကပ်၍ **adjective** လိုက်ရသည်။ **Nouns** (နာမ်) နှင့် **Preposition** (ဝိဘတ်) လည်း လိုက်နိုင်သည်။
တစ်ခါတစ်ရံ **Past Participle** လည်းလိုက်နိုင်သည်။ ထို့နောက်မှ **Comma** ထည့်၍ ဆက်ရသည်။
- (6) **Because:** အဘယ်ကြောင့်ဆိုသော်
He did not go to school because he was ill.
သူ ကျောင်းမတက်ခဲ့ပါ။ အဘယ်ကြောင့်ဆိုသော် သူ နေမကောင်းခဲ့ပါ။

- (အကျိုးသက်ရောက်မှု (**effect**) ကို ရှေ့ကထား၍ **because** လိုက်ကာ နောက်မှအကြောင်းပြချက် (**cause**) ထည့်ရသည်။ **Because** အစား တစ်ခါတစ်ရံ **for** သုံးနိုင်သည်။
- (7) **Because of:** ခြင်းကြောင့်
He did not go to school because of his illness.
သူ နေမကောင်းခြင်းကြောင့် ကျောင်းမတက်ခဲ့ပါ။
Because of နောက်တွင် **noun** လိုက်ရသည်။ **ill** ၏ **Noun-form** မှာ **illness** ဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် **because of his illness** ဟု သုံးခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
သို့ရာတွင် **adj** များကို အရှေ့မှ **being** ထည့်လည်း နာမ်အဖြစ်သုံးနိုင်သည်။
ထို့ကြောင့် အောက်ပါ ကဲ့သို့လည်းရေးနိုင်သည်။
He did not go to school because of his being ill.
Because of နေရာတွင် **on account of, owing to, due to** တို့ကိုလည်း သုံးနိုင်သည်။
He did not go to school owing to his illness.
The problem was very difficult.
He could not solve it.
1. The problem was very difficult, so he could not solve it.
 2. As the problem was very difficult, he could not solve it.
 3. The problem was so difficult that he could not solve it.
 4. The problem was too difficult for him to solve.
Subject တစ်ခုနှင့် တစ်ခု မတူသဖြင့် **for him** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။ နောက်မှ **it** ကိုလည်းဖြုတ်ရသည်။
 5. The problem being difficult, he could not solve it.
Subject တစ်ခုနှင့်တစ်ခုမတူသဖြင့် ရှေ့မှ **the Problem** ထည့်ရေး ရခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
 6. He could not solve the problem because it was very difficult.
 7. He could not solve the problem because of its being very difficult.

- (1) He was too tired. He could not work any more.
(so) He was very tired, so he could not work any more.
(As) As he was very tired, he could not work any more.
(so...that) He was so tired that he could not work any moare.
(too...to) He was too tired to work any more.
(Being) Being very tired, he could not work any more.
(Because) He could not work any more because he was very tired.
(Because of) He could not work any more because of his being very tired.
- (2) The box was very heavy. She could not carry it.
(So) The box was very heavy, so she could not carry it.
(As) As the box was very heavy, she could not carry it.
(So...that) The box was so heavy that she could not carry it.
(Too...to) The box was too heavy for her to carry.

- ဤနေရာတွင် စာကြောင်းနှစ်ကြောင်းရှိ **Subjects** ခြင်းမတူသဖြင့် **being** ရှေ့တွင် **The box** ထည့်ရ ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
(သေတ္တာအလွန်လေးခြင်းကြောင့် သူမ မသယ်နိုင်ခဲ့ပါ။)
- (Being) The box being very heavy, she could not carry it.
(Because) She could not carry the box because it was very heavy.
(Because of) She could not carry the box because of its being heavy.
- (3) She is very proud. She will not ask for help.

- (So) She is verry proud, so she will not ask for help.
(As) As she is very proud, she will not ask for help.
(So...that) She is so proud that she will not ask for help.
(Too...to) She is too proud to ask for help.
(Being) Being very proud, she will not ask for help.
(Because) She will not ask for help because she is very proud.
(Because of) She will not as for help because of her pride.
(because of her being proud.)

Lesson 12

Relative Pronouns

သင်ခန်းစာအသစ်အဖြစ် **Relative Pronouns** (စာကြောင်း ဆက်နာမ်စား) များကို တင်ပြပါမည်။
Relative Pronouns များမှာ **who, whose, whom, which, that** နှင့် **where** တို့ဖြစ်သည်။
Relative Pronouns များနှင့် ဆက်ထားသော စာကြောင်းများမှာ အဓိကအားဖြင့် **Adjective Clause** (နာမ်ဝိသေသနပုဒ်စု) များဖြစ်သည်။

အောက်ပါတို့ကိုလေ့လာပါ။

1. Hla Hla is a prettty girl.
လှလှသည် လှပသော မိန်းကလေးတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
Hla Hla is a girl who is prettty.
အဓိပ္ပာယ်မှာ အတူတူပင်၊ ပုံစံသာကွဲပြားသည်။ **Who** နှင့် ဆက်ထားသည်။
who is pretty မှာ နာမ်ဝိသေသန ပုဒ်စု (**adj-clause**) ဖြစ်၍ **girl** ကို ဝိသေသပြုထားသည်။
2. Daw Mya Mya is our Physics teacherr.
ဒေါ်မြမြသည် ကျွန်တော်တို့၏ ရူပဗေဒဆရာမဖြစ်သည်။
Daw Mya Mya is a teacher who teaches us Physics.
ဒေါ်မြမြသည် ကျွန်တော်တို့ကို ရူပဗေဒ သင်ပေးသော ဆရာမဖြစ်သည်။
(**Who teaches us Physics** မှာ နာမ်ဝိသေသနပုဒ်စုဖြစ်သည်။
teacher ကို ဝိသေသပြုသည်။)
3. This is a wooden table.
This is a table which is made of wood.

(A)

Relative Pronouns များနှင့်ဆက်ရာတွင် အရေးအကြီးဆုံး အချက်မှာ ဝိသေသပြုလိုသော နာမ်နောက်တွင် **who, which, where** စသည်တို့ကို ကပ်ထည့်ရသည်။

ဥပမာ-

1. This is the boy.
The boy has taken away her book.
This is the boy who has taken away her book.

(ဒုတိယစာကြောင်းမှ **the boy** နေရာတွင် **who** ထည့်၍ ပထမစာကြောင်းမှ **the boy** နောက်တွင်ပုဒ်စုံ တစ်ခုလုံး ကပ်ထည့်ရသည်။)

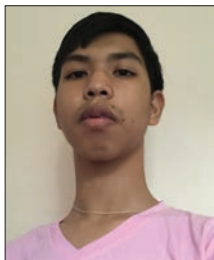
2. The girl is my younger sister.
The girl is standing near the car.
The girl who is standing near the car is my younger sister.
ကားနားမှာ ရပ်နေသော မိန်းကလေးသည် ကျွန်တော့်ညီမဖြစ်သည်။
3. This is the dog.
The dog bit my son.
This is the dog which bit my son.

အောက်ပါစကားပုံနှစ်ခုကို လေ့လာပါ။

- (a) He laungs best who laughs last.
နောက်ဆုံးဟားသူသည် အကောင်းဆုံး ဟားရသည်။
ဤစာကြောင်းသည် သဒ္ဒါအရမှားယွင်းနေသည်။ စကားပုံဖြစ်၍ ခွင့်ပြုထား ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
သဒ္ဒါစည်းကမ်းအရ ရေးလျှင် အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ရေးရသည်။
He who laughs last laughs best.

- (b) All is well that ends well.
ကောင်းစွာပြီးဆုံးသော အရာအားလုံး ကောင်းသည်။
ဤစာကြောင်းလည်း သဒ္ဒါအရ မှားသည်။ စကားပုံဖြစ်၍ခွင့်ပြုထားခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
သဒ္ဒါစည်းကမ်းအရ ရေးလျှင် အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ရေးရသည်။
All that ends well is well.
အထက်ပါကဲ့သို့ စကားပုံများမှ လွဲလျှင် **Relative Pronouns** များဖြစ်သည့် **who, which,** များနှင့် လာသော နာမ်ဝိသေသနပုဒ်စု (**adj caluse**) များကို ဝိသေသပြုလိုသော နာမ်များနောက်တွင် ကပ်ထည့်ရသည်။

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)



By Htet Myat Aung
Grade(11)



Knowledge through CARTOONS

WE have been seeing many cartoons since childhood.

Some of them give us not only entertainment but also knowledge. The cartoons are the books with pictures and sounds. In the part of creation of cartoons are more difficult than that of movies. The cartoons aim at kids and youths to get much knowledge as reading the books. And, cartoons is also the images of an era. If we watch cartoons, we could see what happened in that time. To clear in your eye, we will watch early Tom and Jerry cartoon that say many people were homeless and had hard time. As far as Zootopia, Hotel Transylvania, Inside Out, Cars and Dumbo should be watched.

Zootopia is a cartoon that encourages for people who paint their dream in the wall. Judy Hopps (nick name carrot) has been dreaming to become a police since childhood. But she is too that many said she will never be the police. Her dad and mom suggested that work in the farm which her family work and grow the car-

rots. She can't let her dream that fly away from her. Thus, she ever try to be the police and attend the police academy. The inequality is very difficult for her since the first day of the school.

Finally she graduated the academy with the flying colors. She go to the city of Zootopia. She thought that city is freedom and equality for everyone. But there are many inequality in this city and the many problems touch her.

She also meet a fox and solve this problem with him. The most part which I like best is that fox say that "He try to be a good person but many will not accept this because he is a fox. That many think he will never be a good one. That, he will be a bad one instead of good. That, we should not consider the ability and dream with their families. Finally, this problem is gradually clear who is the respondent. No one is one. Real respondent is inequality.

That, I know that "inequality is the beginning of crimes". Many wars and conflicts occur today because of inequality.

Therefore, we should reduce inequality in our community and society. Hotel Transylvania is the popular among the kids and youths.

For me Hotel Transylvania 3 tell everyone who humans or monsters have a thing which love place in the heart. In this cartoon, the granddaughter of professor can't lie her heart and the Dracula reduces the professor who is falling to chasm. Thus, humans or monsters isn't matter if you have a humanitarian heart. Coco is a cartoon what is telling the truth is a thing that cannot be hid. Time says the truth. Dumbo is a cartoon which direct about different abilities. Many jeer him because of his ears. Finally, he can fly with his ears. That if you have an ability which doesn't same with other, don't depress. The people who have different abilities, can be the famous people like Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Edison and so on. The good friends or family are the best luck for us.

That cartoons may be a light who can't do or find their dreams.

Tazaungmon, the peak month of festivals

By
Maha
Saddhamma
Jotika Dhaja,
Sithu
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

This article may read rather like a summary of notes on performing arts and festivals in the eight month of Myanmar Lunar Calendar, corresponding to November. The writer purposely wrote it that style because new generations, even some of adults and mid generations today have either no knowledge of or wrong knowledge of festivals and performing arts held in this month. We may rightly say that Tazaungmon is the peak month of festivals. The following old Myanmar folk song bespeaks volumes that Tazaungmon festivals (pwes) are many.

အဘိုးကြီးဘို့ ခါးကုန်းကုန်း
မသေပါနဲ့ဘူး
နေ့တစ်နေ့ခါ တန်ဆောင်မုန်း
ပြန်ကြည့်ပါနဲ့
Old man bent and double
Don't die so soon,
For watch again the pwes [Festivals] at next
Tazaungmon's full mon.

We may classify Tazaungmon festivals into (1). Pre-Buddhist (2). Buddhist and (3). Post-Buddhist in accordance with Myanmar's cultural history.

In Pre-Buddhist Period of Myanmar Cultural history the following are the festivals held yearly—

- (1) Net Khat Thabin Pwe, the festival of constellations and planets.
- (2) The festival of Fire god [Agni] and the feast of mejali satad.
- (3) Kyi-ma-no festival

In Buddhist Period of Myanmar Cultural history, the following are the festivals held yearly—

- (1) Kathein Robe offering to Buddhist monks
- (2) Matho-Thingan weaving contest and offering to the Buddha and the monks such Thingan [Non. State robes] festival
- (3) Kya Thingan weaving and offering it to the Buddha and monks.
- (4) Pant-tha-ku offering on full moon night of Tazaungmon to the monks and nuns.
- (5) Shin Ma Lei festival.

village. On the way home she rested, at a yayat rest house by the side of a lake. One saint monk was bathing in the lake. His robes were stolen. The saint monk had no robe to wear. The servant girl saw it. She would like to give her expensive beautiful dress which miraculously turned into robe which was offered to the saint monk. She prayed that in her next existence she be born the most beautiful lady bewitching all men go mad when they saw her beauty. So Ommadanti was born to a very wealthy family and her beauty known far and wide deserving her to become queen. King Thiwi of Arihtapura Kingdom sent his wise Brahmins to Ommadanti to see if she had queenly features.

Ommadanti arranged a grand banquet to welcome the Brahmtks. When they saw Ommadanti had no queenly qualities. Ommadanti decided to teach the King a lesson. She was married to the King's younger brother Abiparaka the Commander in Chief. On the Net khat Thabin Day the entire capital celebrated. The King was duty-bound to round the receptions in the capital. Abhiparaka told his wife not to come out from

the house, when the king's open coach stopped at the reception in front of their house. Ommadanti now had the good chance to teach the king a lesson. She dressed up beautifully and with flowers she waited. When the royal coach stopped in front of her house, she came out on the balcony and threw flowers on the King who upon looking up got just a glimpse, as she went in, making the king love crazy. He rushed back to his palace and shut himself up alone calling upon Ommadanti all the time. His brother knew about it. He offered his wife Ommadanti to King Thiwi, who heard devas warning that the King was about to commit adultery. The King was brought back to senses by their warnings. He ruled the kingdom according to the ten duties of a good king. Ommadanti Jataka is the jataka

make Mei Zalee salad seasoned with pea nut, fried garlic, sesamun and oil. A free feast of this salad is given to all comers.

Kyi Mano festival is a customery prank played by male youths. It is performed before the crows wake up. Locally it is known as "Theif's Night". On Tazaungmon full moon night Sawya Net Khat or 'Thief's' constellation comes out shedding its rays onto the earth. Anyone caught under its rays temporarily suffer "Kleptomania" on that night. It is a psychological mania to steal. Male youths take advantage of this custom and play their pranks on full moon Tazaungmon night, by "stealing" anything outside the house not from the house—chamber pots, ladies braziers, under wears, pots, pans, etc. and hang them up at public places.

recipients of Kathein robes. Myanmar Buddhists make a big show of Kathein robe offering. Robes and other offertories are artistically arranged on bamboo frames in the shape of Padethabin Tree [conucopias]. They are carried in procession either by hand or on vehicles followed by parties of performances — Singers, Musicians, dancers and merry makers till they reach the monastery where deserving monks are waiting.

2. Another festival is Matho Thingun weaving literally means Non. State robes. They are the robes to be woven and made robe within the time limit 6 p.m and, 6 a.m duration of one night. If the making breaks the allowed time it is state or not legible. Competitions are held on full moon night of Tazaungmon for weaving Matho Thingan winners



PHOTO: Kyaw Soe



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

that is reenacted in dramatic performance at Tazaungmon Festival.

Among the 27 constellations [Net khats] the Kyattika [Fire god Agni] came down to visit the tree god of the Tree Mei Zalee [cassia siamea] and stayed there. All tree gods came to Mei Zalee Tree to pay respect to tire god Kyattika. So people believe that on full moon Tazaungmon all curative qualities of medicinal plants and trees are concentrated in Mei Zalee leaves, buds and flowers, Myanmar people

They also steal chicken and vegetable in the yard outside the house and cook kalatha chicken curry. Kalatha means male youths who cook chicken curry without oil, just the way young male cooks and eat it with rice of the pot by means of a big wooden spoon by turn. Then they sing love songs in front of the houses of young girls who black out their houses but open the windows to watch and listen the serenade. The elders, though awake, pretend to be asleep to give free time to their daughters.

The following morning, the public are amused and laugh at all odds & ends hung up. Especially amusing scenes are that when elderly women come to reclaim their odds and ends especially ladies' braziers and under wears on behalf of their daughters or nieces. Watching youths jokingly yells "Aunti, are you collecting your own. Why not the real owner come to get herself". They laugh when old ladies yelled out some naughty curses at them. It is a customary prank.

The festivals held in Tazaungmon in the Buddhist Period are as follows:-

1. Kathein Robe offering—Pali word "Kathein means firm or durable". Lord Buddha, on seeing the plight of visiting Vaggali monks from faraway places prescribed Kathein robe offering to them by voluntary donors. He set out procedures, rules and regulations regarding the tye, size, colour and number of Kathein robes, disciplines of the donors and recipients and the merits to gain for both donors and

are awarded.

3. Pant-tha ku robe is the robe made out of old clothings discarded on the ground. In early period of Buddhism, monks had to make their own robes out of discarded old clothings on the ground, washed dyed and stitched into robe. Later Buddhist devotees donate new robes to be left on the ground near monasteries. Other offertories are also left on ground. Monks can collect and use them if the word Pant-tha ku is written on them.

4. Kya Thingan is the robe woven with the threads from the lotus stooks. Painstakingly and cleverly, threads are made out of lotus stock and woven into robes. Kya Thingans are very expensive because of rarely and painstaking labour. It is very on hygienic. Kya Thingans are cool in summer and warm in winter. Today lotus stock threads are woven into men's and women's dresses with fantastic designs.

5. Shin Malei Festival originated in Post-Buddha time is now nearly extinct in Myanmar, except in Mandalay. There is a Temple of Shin Malei in the compound of Maha Muni Buddha Image Temple in Mandalay.

Shin Malei was a great saint monk of a village monastery in Sri Lanka. Through intense concentration [Samatha] he went up to Tavatimsa [Celestial Kingdom] to worship Sulamani Pagoda in which the sacred hair relics of Prince Siddhartha and the sacred tooth relics of Lord Gotama Buddha were enshrined. There he met a deva who was the future Miteya Buddha. The deva requested Shin Malei

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PHOTO: SUPPLIED



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

In post-Buddhist Period of Myanmar Cultural history the following are the festivals held yearly-

- (1) Pagoda festivals
- (2) Nat festivals
- (3) National Day.

The main reason why the month Tazaungmon celebrates many festivals is that this month is free from all elimatic disturbances and pollutions. There is a Myanmar saying that "ခင်း၊ နှင်း၊ မိုး၊ တိုင်း၊ သူရိုက်၊ မီးခိုး၊ ညှပ်ဖို့ကင်းကွာ တန်ဆောင်မုန်းအခါ"

In Tazaungmon there are no polutions such as fog, snow, mist, cloud, sun rays and smoke. Therefore the sky is clear, day and night. All heavenly bodies constellations and planets (ကြယ်တာရာ နက္ခတ်) are visible to the naked eyes. Like Hindu Brahmins, Myanmar people believe that heavenly bodies are the bodies are the abodes of ceities. They exercise good or bad influence and impact upon living beings on Earth. They deserve worship [pujas] and propitiations [prayera] in Tazaungmon when they all come out in the night firmament on full moon day of Tazaungmon. So Netkhat Thabin Pwe was held on a grand scale in days of yore. The name Tazaungmon itself bears the meaning of light. Tazaung means light by oil lamps, Mon or Hmon means to embellish. So Tazaungmon means "Embellishing the Night with the light of oil lamps".

In one of Buddha jatakas called Ommadanti jataka, the celebration of Netkhat Thabin was fully accounted as follows. "A certain village servant at the great house of a welthy family saved up her wages to buy a beautiful expensive dress to wear when she returned to her native



PHOTO: AFP

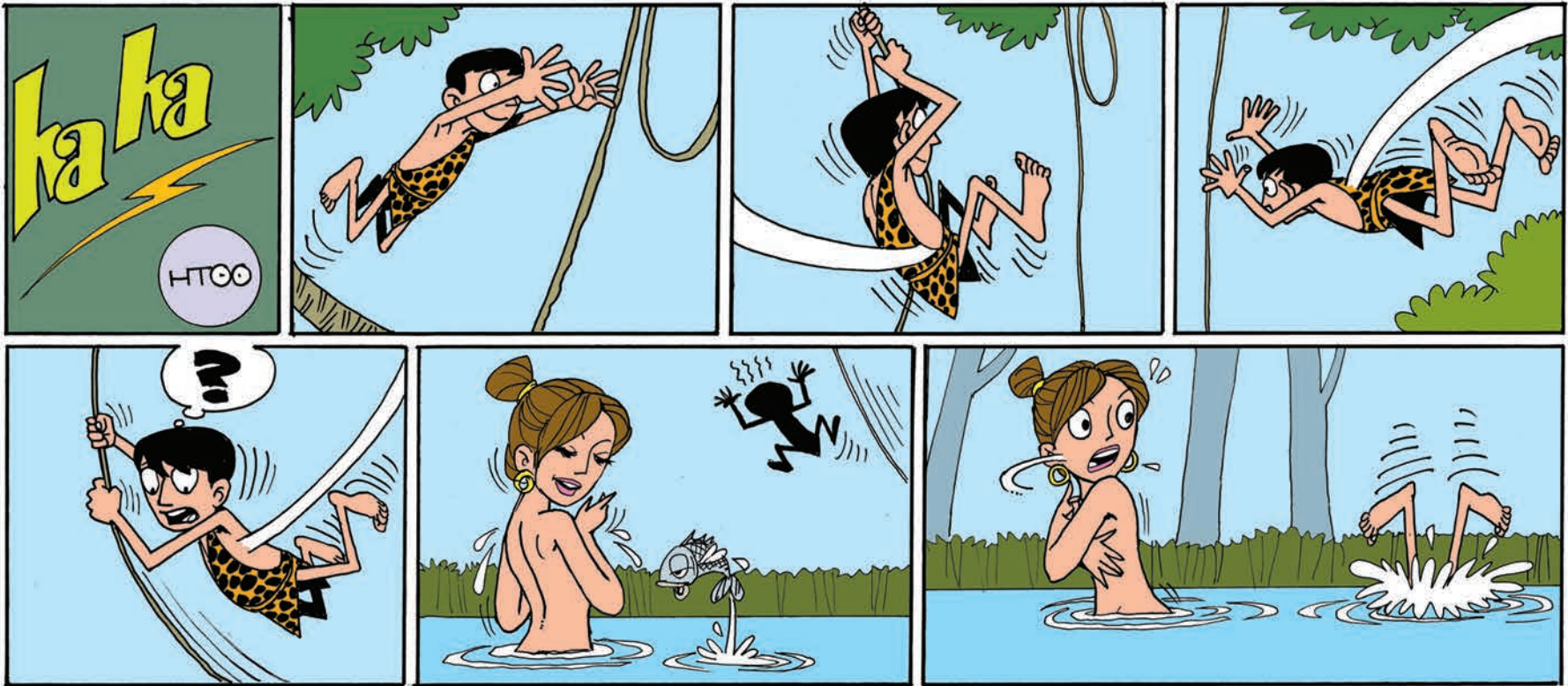


PHOTO: AFP



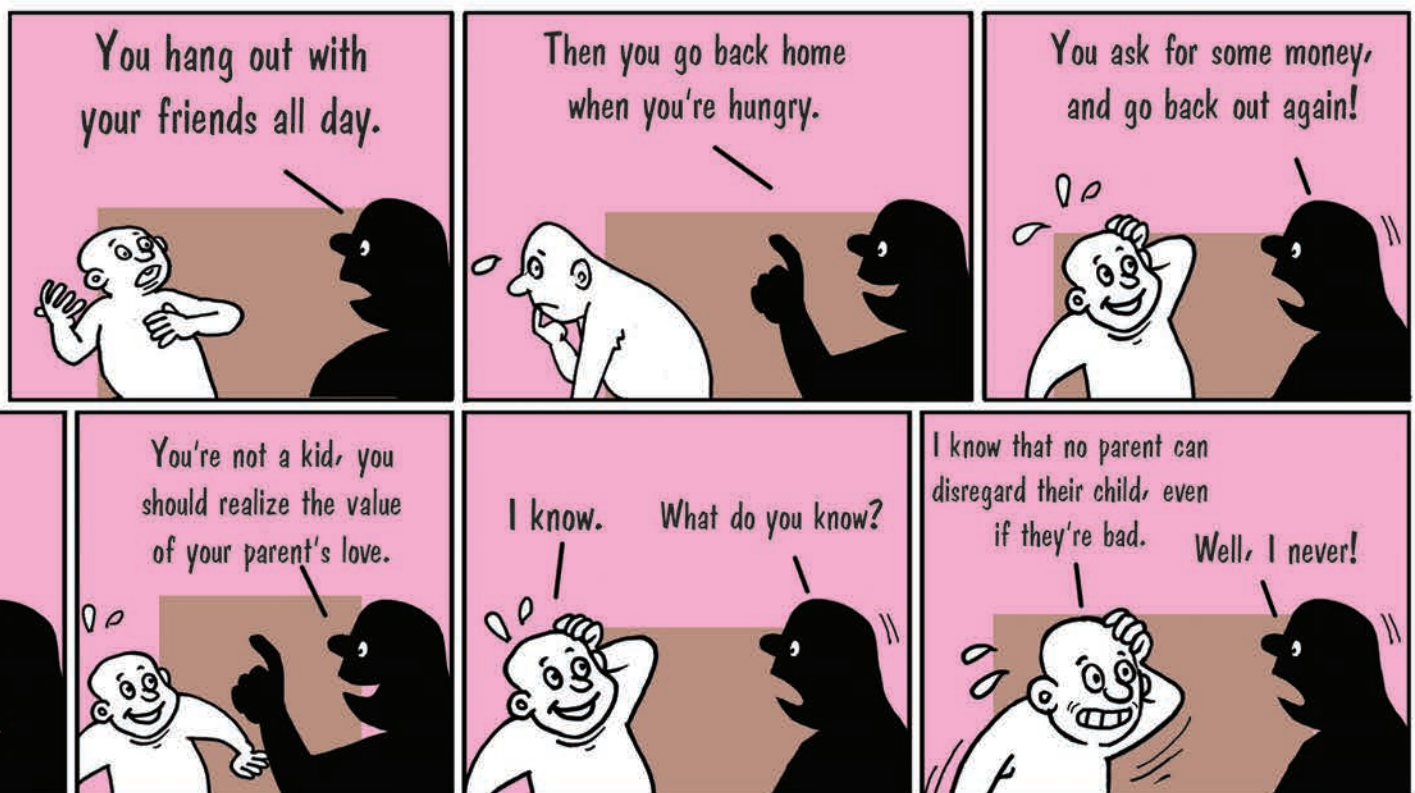
PHOTO: Soe Lin Naing

SUNDAY COMICS



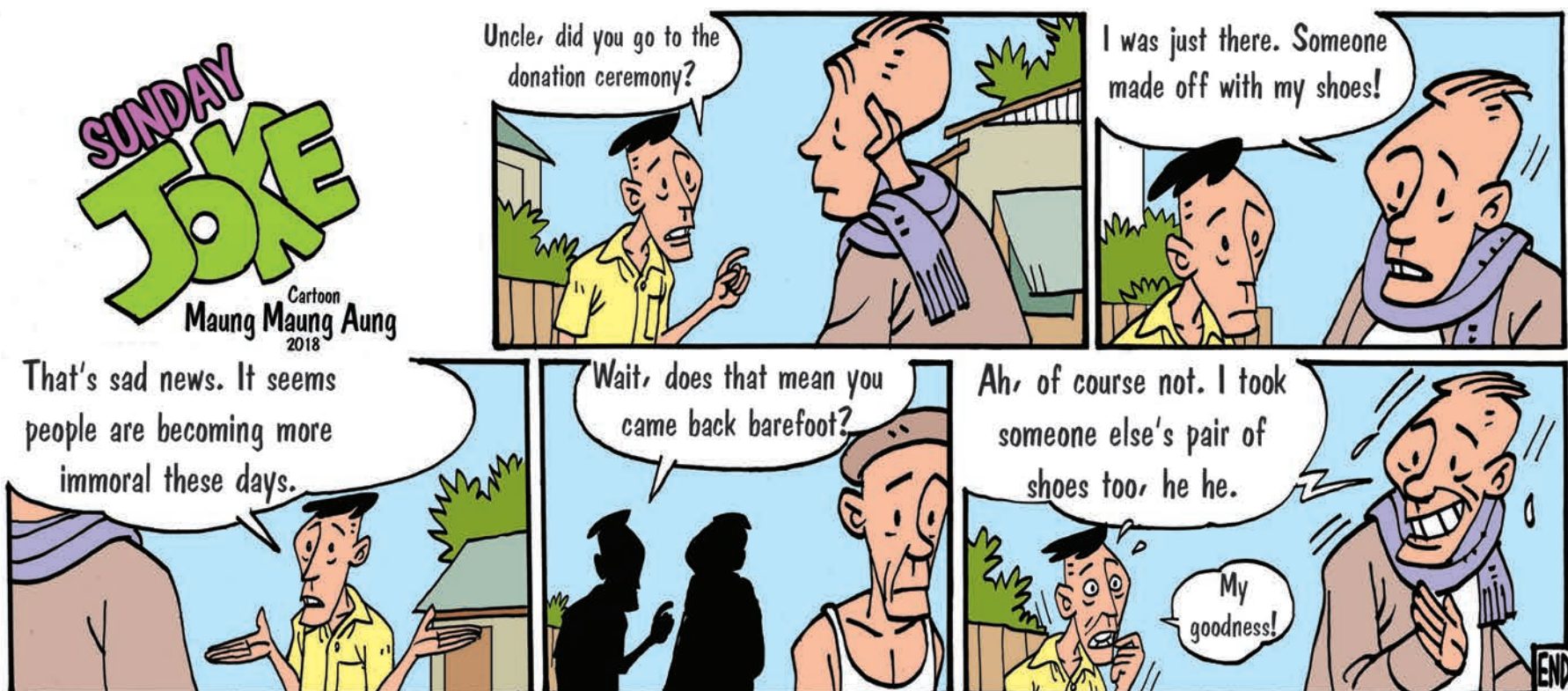
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

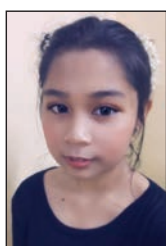
Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



Long Live The Rivers

"They are flowing forever,
We called them rivers.
From North to South, deep or shallow,
Waters sparkling like stars in their
shadows.
How wild or calm they are,
Now charm and chatter they are.
Them, for who we pray,
May live forever and watch us play."

PHOTO: BRAVO



By AW Khin Myat Phone
Grade 11 A, BEHS 4,
Botahtaung

LOTS of thanks to nature for giving the rivers as gifts to us. The rivers, they are special. They are unique and they are, as well, splendid. From North to South they go as they flow past each country and home. They are surviving on this planet just before history. They have experienced every century of our world. They have seen how the life begins. Too, they do know how they have started once to become an essential thing for every living.

Rivers are the blood of ours. Given from our mother nature. Their story's beginning is tough like everybody else. At first, they have to collect every single drop of tiny waters. Then they have to force their water to flow past the villages, hills and mountains, deep jungles and forests and then into the wide, wide endless sea. The brothers and sisters of rivers; the streams, creeks, and brooks also follow behind them to meet the mighty sea. As they flow through each country, they make some changes to the nature. They flow down mountains and hills and create canyons and valleys. They are of different shapes and sizes. Curly ones, straight ones and braided ones and many more.

Somehow, the environment may not look as beautiful as now if there were not any rivers. However, the artist

of our mother nature has painted them divinely that we now can feel the taste of the rivers' beauty. I see the rivers flowing and at the same time, I have been told that time is like a river. We cannot catch the time which have already flown away. Similarly, we cannot touch the same water for the second time as the quote which god -

**"Time is like a river.
You cannot touch the same
water twice,
Because the flow that has
passed will never pass again",**

It won't be easy to dream up our planet without the rivers. They are the essence of our daily lives. Additionally, our ascenders from the old yesteryears built the civilization beyond the banks of rivers. The rivers provide us drinking water, transportation, everyday use and help us in our agriculture. By building dams, we can produce hydropower for our houses and factories. Everything is so smooth with them.

Considering about rivers, they are besides the breeding ground for varieties of colourful and various kinds of fish. They contain an aquatic life. The aquarium of theirs is heavenly with big and small water creatures rushing here and there. What's more, the scene of a duck family swimming on the crystal-clear

water surface of calm rivers are greatly pleasant. How about the swan couple? They are in need of the rivers to live just like us, aren't they?

Well, now that most of the rivers are suffering from a serious illness all around the world. As we all build up cities and then the factories, we start to forget about the rivers which are helping us in an important role. The wastes from the factories can affect not only our environment but also the ecosystem of the rivers. The more we forget to take care of them, the more serious their illness become. Some of them are dying now. The waters stop flowing and blocked up with all those dirty rubbishes and wastes.

We have seen such fearsome examples ahead. Some rivers from our neighbour countries have died. I am afraid that one day we will face that kind of thing too. If it happened, it would be a total nightmare. Therefore, we must not lose any minute to take good care of The Ayeyarwady river. It is our life. It's our blood. We won't be able to survive without it. It is our responsibility to pray hard either for our Ayeyarwady or for the others around the globe not to face with this kind of situation. They give us lots of supports in many ways so, don't they worth living on this planet too? All in all, let's pray together for them, "Long live the rivers!" ■



Some kids are playing
Some are crying
Some are sleeping
Some are screaming
But they are all safe here

One child aged seven days
He doesn't even know
That he has been thrown
For the mistake he never made
But he is now safe here

One child aged three months
Being dumped down in the cold
Hospital had been his home
Since when he was thrown
Now he is safe here

One child sat gazing into space
A few sores on her mouth and fingers
When asked her whether it hurt
She nodded without a word
For she is too young to speak up

Children! Too young to defend
What kind of fates laid on them?
Most are said abandoned
Tears blurred my eyes a while
Then realize they are but lucky ones

Adopted by the two big-hearted monks
They now have a big home to dwell
Big enough to house 919 ownerless kids
With the teachers who teach them well
And the carers who feed them well

Children help each other
Sharing food with one another
Some half-naked and no footwear
But they have a shelter to share
And all happy under loving care

Not abandoned they are
Just handed over to the place
Where love and sympathy in abundance
All in all what they need is love
Because only love can give anybody a life

(In honour of Sa Ma Taung Altruistic Youth Welfare House)

By Honey Soe

FROM PAGE-S-5

to preach the Jataka Story of Vesandara to the people on every full moon night of Tazaungmon. Vesandara was the life of a king who fulfilled the perfection of giving [dana]. Composed in one thousand gathas [stanzas]. The monk promised, and every full moon day of Tazaungmon the monk preached Vessandara Jataka and the virtue of giving. In commemoration of this event Myanmar Buddhist built Shin Ma Lei Temple very tall to represent Tavatimsa with his image in it. Thousand offertories fruits and flowers especially lotus blooms are offered to represent one thousand stanzas of Vesandara Jataka. The crowd gather threw up lotus flowers to reach the Shin Malei image on the tower. Today new generation of Mandalay call this festival as Kya Pyit Pwe (ကြာပိတ်ပွဲ), lotus flowers throwing up festival.

In the Post-Buddhist Period of Myanmar Cultural history

- (1). Most famous Pagodas and monasteries festivals are held in the month of Tazaungmon eg. Pagodas in old Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Amarapura, Shwebo, Sagaing etc. and Bakaya monasteries of Inwa, Amarapura and Mandalay.
- (2). Though the month Nattaw [December] is the month of Nat [spirits] festivals, some local nats' festivals are held in Tazaungmon month.
- (3). National Day is observed in the month of Tazaungmon.

It was on the 10th waning moon of Tazaungmon in Myanmar Sakart year [ME 1282, 1920 A.D.] that the Rangoon University Boycott broke out to protest against the Rangoon University Act by the British Colonial Government. It was a residential University students were hostellers who had to pay expensive fees. Only upper middle class could afford it. The rest could not. The boycotters demanded for day scholars to attend but to no avail. This boycott grew into a National Movement to replace Colonial Education by National Education as the former only bred slavish mentality [serving the British Colonial Government] and the latter a real education teaching Myanmar history, Myanmar literature, Myanmar Culture and Myanmar Patriotism. The boycotters set up their headquarters on the Shwedagon Pagoda platform, formed the Council of National Education to set up National College and National Schools. The British Colonial Government gave in. Recognizing National Schools, allowing day scholars to attend University and even giving financial support to National Schools. Because it was the first victory of Myanmar patriots over the colonial rule in the struggle for complete national freedom, that day of Boycott was marked National Day and yearly observed and commemorated till now.

No other month of Myanmar Calendar has more festivals than Tazaungmon.

■

WHO'S WHO

Who didn't stand together
when Blood spoke in crucial times
through winds and weather?

Who stood between the borders
and took to the stronger side
when driven into corners?

Who took to arms
when calls were made for negotiations
and the tables should have for the better turned?

Each individual, living or dead,
writes own history before or after death,
some in bad hand calligraphy or others in letters of pearls.

Who's Who of what will you be
after you leave this world?

By Zaw Tun