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Sunday, 26 May 2019

VP U Henry Van Thio observes artistes performing in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents the flower bouquet to artistes after the public entertainments programme at National Landmark Garden in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio observed artistes from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture conduct-

ing a public entertainment programme.

They performed ethnic national group dances and

dance varieties with the aim of providing entertainment to the public at the National Landmark Garden, Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday morning. In addition to visitors from all works of life from various regions,

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Mechanism to be established to resolve forced labour complaints

TO ELIMINATE forced labour in Myanmar, a national-level mechanism for registering complaints would be established, said Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, yesterday.

He stated this at the 13th National Tripartite Dialogue Forum in the presence of representatives of workers, employers and the government at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

"We have drafted a system for the mechanism in cooperation with other ministries after taking into consideration the experiences in our country and in other countries. We will also discuss it at this meeting. The mechanism will come into effect once it is ready," said the union minister.

All ministries of the Union Government were involved in the mechanism, he added.

The Confederation of Trade Unions in Myanmar also suggested the inclusion of representatives of employers and employees in the mechanism.

"The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a tripartite mechanism.

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Royal Sportainment Complex Facebook Page

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Union Minister U Ohn Win attends 14th TWG Mekong, 8th MSC Mekong in Cambodia



Union Minister U Ohn Win attends Fourteenth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Siem Reap, Cambodia. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win arrived back in Myanmar yesterday afternoon

after attending the Fourteenth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Re-

gion (14th TWG Mekong) and the Eight Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region (8th MSC Mekong) in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 23 to 24 May 2019.

The meetings were attended by ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, the ASEAN Secretary-General's office, ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Global Environment Center (GEC), Europe Union (EU) and German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ).

The meeting was opened with welcoming speeches by the Governor of Siem Reap Province

and Cambodia's Minister for Environment, and ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre (ASMC) explained about present conditions of the weather and haze pollution.

Chairman of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Haze Pollution in the Mekong Sub-Region from Cambodia discussed matters concerning development of the implementation of international-level work schemes to control the haze and the Chiang Rai 2017 plan of action, wildfire and haze control management and cooperation in the countries of Mekong Sub-Region and other international cooperation partnership countries.

Then officials from Thailand discussed work progress and developments of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee Transboundary Haze Pollution in

the Mekong Sub-Region.

The officials from the ASEAN Secretary-General's office discussed the implementation Roadmap of the Transboundary Haze Pollution control and ASEAN cooperation scheme following the statement and report of the meeting were ratified.

In their closing remarks at the meeting, ministers from Mekong Sub-Region pledged to tackle the challenges in unison while conducting the environmental issues through sustainable cooperation. In the afternoon, the Union Minister held talks with the delegation from Thailand and discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation to enhance the control of wildlife and haze problems and to sign MoU for environmental conservation.—MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Hpa-an hosts Nationwide School Enrolment Day ceremony

ACADEMIC Year 2019-2020 Kayin State nationwide school enrolment day event was held at Hpa-an No. 1 Basic Education High School in Kayin State yesterday morning.

The event kicked off with students from No. 5 Basic Education High School singing a song title "Myanmar's school."

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi spoke of implementing free education of basic education level, providing opportunity for all school going age children to enrol in schools and to increase the school enrolment rate.

Academic Year 2019-2020 will be conducted with the theme "Parents and people support together for all school going age children to obtain quality education without discrimination." It is important for five years old children to enrol in KG and six years

old children to enrol in Grade-1. Schools were also instructed not to collect or accept money and gifts while no sales of anything including uniforms, class and school badges said the Union Ministers. Great emphasis was placed toward teaching reading, writing and basic mathematics to students attending Grade-1 to 3, prevent usage of drug, beer, cigarettes, understanding and abiding by traffic and road rules, acquire health and reproductive knowledge. Students' addictions to games were becoming a challenge and efforts were made toward reducing this. State/region, district and township education offices must provide support for the teachers to teach well as only happy and contented teachers can teach the students well said the Union Minister.

Next, Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, Basic



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at Nationwide School Enrolment Day event at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Hpa-an, Kayin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Education Department Director General U Ko Lay Win and Daw Myint Myint Win of Kayin State Director Office delivered speeches.

Afterwards Union Minister and officials presented stationaries and teaching aids donated by

donors to the students and also presented certificate of honors to the donors. Later the Union Minister and officials went to Hpa-An No. 3 Basic Education High School 3 and No. 2 Basic Education Sub High School and inspected the school enrolment

works conducted.

The Union Minister and officials also went to Hpa-an University and Hpa-an Education College and met with teachers, teachers union, students union and students.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Students enrolling at No.(2) Basic Education High School in Latha Township in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LAT**



A teacher presents text books to students on School Enrolment Day in Thaketa Township yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWA**

VP U Henry Van Thio observes artistes performing ...



Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials enjoy the traditional ethnic performance at the National Landmark Garden in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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the entertainments were also observed by Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko and Nai Thet Lwin, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint, U Kyi Min and U Hla Maw Oo, heads of departments, officials and public servants and their

families.

After the dance performances Vice President U Henry Van Thio presented floral bouquet to the artistes and cordially greeted them.

Next, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko presented cash awards to the performing artistes.

Entertainment performances at Nay Pyi Taw's National Landmark Garden were started with personnel from Tatmadaw Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare in January 2018. Following this personnel from Ministry of Information, Myanmar Radio and Television

and personnel from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture were conducting monthly performance alternatively. So far each ministries had performed six times already.

The Nay Pyi Taw's National Landmark Garden displays mock-up buildings and significant landmarks of each state

and regions in Myanmar as well as cultural heritages of ethnic nationals, traditions, customs and living styles. The National Landmark Garden was established to enable studying all these at one place and to maintain the cultural heritages. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

13th National Tripartite Dialogue Forum held in Yangon

THE 13th National Level Tripartite Dialogue Forum jointly organized by Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and International Labour Organization (ILO) was held at Sedona Hotel, Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The forum was attended by Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, ILO Liaison Officer Mr. Rory Mungoven, representatives of ILO Yangon Office, employer and workers and ministry officials.

In addressing the meeting, Union Minister U Thein Swe said that among the major sectors for a country's development, worksite/workplace peace and tranquility and production development were interlinked and for a stable and tranquil worksite/workplace, unity of the employers, workers and government was very important.

Tripartite fora were very beneficial because employer and employee representatives mutually recognized one another allowing official and open negotiation and discussion.

Legally forming employer



Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population hosts the 13th National Tripartite Dialogue Forum in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and employee organizations supports mutual respect, understanding, trust and worksite/workplace peace and tranquility and protects the benefits of both the employers and employees.

At this tripartite forum, ILO proposed changing workers affair law, acceptance of a Core Convention on the centenary of ILO, Centenary

Outcome Document Ending Violence and Harassment in World of Work and Committee on Application of Standards were to be discussed in a positive manner.

The Union Minister informed the representatives attending the forum that it has been two years since the Government had worked with ILO to eradicate forced labour

in Myanmar and appointed a Liaison Officer in 2002, signed MOU with ILO on complaint mechanism to resolve with ILO complaints made and formed a work committee to implement forced labour eradication joint strategy.

It was known that in the 108th Congress to be held in June, Myanmar was to discuss and explain about implemen-

tation on eradicating forced labour at the Committee on the Application of Standards.

Work program on eradicating forced labour was drawn up by the country on its own arrangement and efforts were made toward establishing a complaint mechanism. Prior to the establishment of this, complaints will be resolved by HLWG (High Level Working Group) on Cooperation of Labour Affairs.

These were being conducted not because it was insisted by ILO but to eradicate forced labour for the long term benefit of the country. As such, employers and employees are urged to cooperate as one with full trust and confidence. Attendees are also urged to discuss in a positive manner for the benefit of the entire work force and the country, said the Union Minister.

Next, ILO Liaison Officer Mr. Rory Mungoven delivered a message of greeting, and attended representatives openly and cordially discussed workers affairs. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Traditional glass mosaic art faces extinction

WITH so few people wishing to learn to create glass mosaic art, glass mosaic artists are going to face extinction, said U Win Tint, the proprietor of Sein Shwe Group, a glass mosaic business.

“Glass mosaic art businesses are rare these days because only modern materials are used to decorate monasteries. Also, skilled laborers are scarce. Most glass mosaic works, which take artists a long time to create, have already disappeared from the people’s minds. The glass mosaic art is combined with four types of arts, including the art of painting, the art of bricklaying and masonry, the art of making floral designs using masonry and the art of making lacquerware. People don’t really know the value of mosaics and, thus, this art is going to become extinct,” he added.

In 1991, there were over 400 glass mosaic artists in Mandalay region. Currently, there are



Glass mosaic artists create art work at the Pagoda on Mandalay Hill. PHOTO : AUNG PHYO KYAW

only 20 glass artists remaining to create glass mosaic patterns. The glass mosaic structure is a traditional Myanmar art involving assembling pieces of glass to embellish decorative art, structures and furniture.

“Now, there are only a few

people of the younger generation who want to learn glass mosaic art. We cannot share our art through books. We can only teach them in person, and they need to practice it by making the art works by themselves,” he added. Glass mosaic is typi-

cally used to decorate the walls and ceilings of pagodas, as well as to embellish furniture and accessories. Glass mosaic is often studded with gems and semi-precious stones.—Aung Phyo Kyaw ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

National Robot Competition to be held on 1st June, at Theinbyu Stadium
Free Tickets Available on Phandeeyar and Myanmar RoboLeague Facebook Page

MYANMAR RoboLeague, Myanmar’s first ever robot competition will be held on 1st June, 2019 at Thein Phyu Stadium, Yangon. Supported by USAID, organized by Phandeeyar and the partners, Ministry of Education and Myanmar Rectors Committee, this event aims to promote Robotics and STEM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) for students in Myanmar.

The students are chosen through 90 minutes online quiz which includes five different categories, Math and Logic, Physics and Mechanics, Electronics, Programing, IQ Test and Situational Test. Thirteen schools have been chosen to represent thirteen states/regions, and Chin students from different technology universities will be represent as Chin Team.

Following are the schools chosen to represent each state and region in Myanmar Robo League.

State/Region	Representing University
Ayeyarwady	University of Computer Studies (Pathein)
Bago	Pyay, Technological University
Chin	Technological University (Thanlyin) Technological University (Taunggyi) West Yangon Technological University

Kachin	University of Computer Studies (Banmaw)
Kayah	University of Computer Studies (Loikaw)
Kayin	University of Computer Studies (Hpa-an)
Magway	Technological University (Pakokku)
Mandalay	Myanmar Institute of Information Technology
Mon	University of Computer Studies (Thaton)
Rakhine	University of Computer Studies (Sittwe)
Sagaing	Technological University (Monywa)
Shan	University of Computer Studies (Taunggyi)
Tanintharyi	Technological University (Myeik)
Yangon	Yangon Technological University

This five-hour event will start from 10am in the morning, fourteen teams will be compete in 7 matches and final teams will compete 4 more matches to win Myanmar RoboLeague.

The event will be opened to everyone who registered, and the online tickets will be available on Myanmar RoboLeague and Phandeeyar Facebook Page.—GNLM ■

Illegal drugs seized in Hpa-an, Taunggyi

ILLEGAL drugs were seized in Hpa-an in Kayin State on 23 May and in Taunggyi in Shan State on 24 May, according to police sources.

Acting on a tip-off, Hpa-an District Law Enforcement police have searched Aung Moe Oo (a) Aung Moe (a) Ko Moe in a restaurant at No. 9 Ward in Hpa-an Town in the afternoon of 23 May, and seized 10,000 stimulant tablets and a mobile phone

from him. Police then raided the house of the suspect in Lha Ka Myin Village in Hpa-an Township, and additional 128,000 stimulant tablets and three mobile phones were seized from the wife of the suspect, Ma Win Thuzar, along with Thin Win, Tin Aung Kyaw and Saw Kyaw in the house.

Similarly, Taunggyi Law Enforcement police searched the Mark II car driven by Mg Lay (a) Sai Naung Aum on Pali Lin-Aye



Thayar road in Taunggyi Township at 7pm on 24 May, and seized 1,000 stimulant tablets and one mobile phone from him.

Police filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—GNLM ■

Locally assembled vehicles sold well in Yangon auto market

ALTHOUGH the Yangon automotive market remains busy, particularly with Suzuki Ertiga cars assembled locally in Myanmar, new imported cars are not being sold very well.

At the end of April, Suzuki Myanmar Motor Co Ltd introduced its new Ertiga 2019, assembled in the Suzuki Myanmar Motor plant in the Thilawa Industrial Zone. The new Ertiga has measured up not only in size, but also in its more elegant design.

Along with the rising de-

mand for the Suzuki Ertiga 2019, used Japanese right hand drive cars and cars with township licenses are being sold well at fair prices.

Currently, Suzuki Ertiga 2019 vehicles are the most popular vehicles among buyers, compared with other Suzuki vehicles.

Currently, the import of other high-priced vehicles are on the decline, while a few second-hand cars are being returned to the government.—SN ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Vehicles seen at Yangon's auto market. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Maritime import of diesel, petrol exceeds 9,600 tons on 5-11 May

MYANMAR spent more than US\$28 million on importing diesel and petrol weighing over 9,600 tons through by sea route during the week between 5 and 11 May, according to traders.

During the week, the country imported over 50,000 tons of diesel worth nearly \$28.22 million and 46,963 tons of petrol worth \$26.06 million. When compared with last week, this week saw an increase in import volume of petrol by over 19,800 tons, however, the import of diesel down by roughly 9,200 tons.

Between 28 April and 4 May,

the country bought 27,070 tons of petrol and 59,240 tons of diesel from its international trade partners by sea. Normally, fuels are imported mostly from Singapore and Thailand. Myanmar also imports fuels not only from sea routes but also from border trade stations. During the week, the country imported 1,100 tons of petrol with an estimated value of about \$605,700 and 856.75 tons of diesel amounted to over \$529,000 via Tachilek, a border between Myanmar and Thailand.—Khine Khant ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



A worker filling fuel to the vehicle at a filling station in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Export of manufactured goods up over 90% on 11-17 May

MYANMAR earned over US\$160 million from the export of manufactured goods during week between 11 and 17 May, up by \$77 million, or 92 per cent, from this time last fiscal year, the Ministry of Commerce reported on Friday.

The total exports of manufactured goods included \$57 million by the public sector and \$104 million by the private sector. From the corresponding period last FY, the country's export of the same totalled \$83 million.

From October through May

this 2018-2019 fiscal year, the country's exports of manufactured goods reached \$5.6 billion, with public sector exports pegged at \$2.2 billion and private sector exports exceeded \$3.3 billion.

In the 2018 mini-budget period between April and September, Myanmar exported manufactured goods worth \$4.53 billion, with the public sector earning \$1.6 billion and the private sector fetching \$2.932 billion, according to the ministry. The country earned \$6.9 billion from the ex-

port of manufactured products in the 2017-2018 FY, \$5.7 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$6.5 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$4.6 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$4.4 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, and \$4.08 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, according to the ministry's annual statistical report. During the same period, Myanmar's overall export stood at \$10.45 billion, including \$2.9 billion by the public sector and \$7.5 billion by the private sector.—Swe Nyein ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar-Bangladesh trade exceeds \$47 mln since October

BILATERAL trade with Bangladesh in the first half of this fiscal year 2018-2019 topped US\$47.5 million, including exports worth almost \$32.7 million and imports amounting to \$14.8 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce. In bilateral trade, Myanmar's export is always greater than its imports. Ginger, peanuts, mung beans, dried plums, garlic, rice, saltwater prawns and fish, bamboos, blankets, candy, plum jam and footwear are the main export

items between the two countries. Myanmar delivers goods to Bangladesh through both border routes and non-border routes. The bilateral border trade is conducted mainly through Sittway and Maungdaw gates.

The ministry's data showed that Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade were \$242 million during the 2018 mini-budget period. The bilateral borders trade was \$84 million in the FY2011-2012, \$42 million in the FY2012-2013, \$75 million in the FY2013-2014,

\$39 million in the FY2014-2015, \$33 million in the FY2015-2016, nearly \$44 million in the FY2016-2017 and \$192 million in the FY2017-2018.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, this year saw no new investment from Bangladesh. Last year, Myanmar received \$1.5 million investment from its neighbour.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

First Smart Logistics Myanmar 2019 to be held in Sept

TARGETING ASEAN Logistics, Transportation and Warehousing, TWTC presents the new show "2019 Smart Logistics Myanmar" at Yangon Convention Center (YCC) from 26th to 29th September.

The show which focuses on delivery, warehousing, packaging, transportation, cargo service and other smart logistics system and equipment will be held in Yangon Convention Centre-YCC with an estimated 75

exhibitors and 150 booths across multiple industries, ranging from logistics, storage & warehousing to material handling, etc, according to the press release of the TWTC.

Exhibitors will present services and goods relating to EDI (Electronic Data Interchange), supply chain management, printing, label equipment, bar code recognition, packaging, delivery, international freight, overseas service, delivery equipment and

machinery, cold chain logistics, distribution and warehousing equipment, security system, CCTV, satellite tracking system, GPS, RFID, warehouse management system, special purpose vehicle, and cargo gear.

The aim is to build a new service model for the Myanmar logistics industry with eminent logistics suppliers all over the world.

The Asian Development Bank estimated a 7% growth in

2019. The existing three special economic zones (SEZ) in Myanmar has already attracted a great amount of foreign investments. The rise in business and industry means increasingly pressing needs for better logistics, warehousing, and transportation.

At the same time, Myanmar's fast-growing e-commerce prompt the development of cross-border e-commerce trades. However, insufficient

road, sea and air freight means an efficient logistic system is still lacking, said Taipei World Trade Center (TWTC) in its statement, and adding that the present freight system is desperately in need of advanced technical support and the centre invited its businesses capital and as bulk freight service between cities or countries are in high demand, the timing can't have been better for Taiwan businesses, said TWTC.—GNLM ■

Mechanism to be established to resolve forced labour complaints

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So, I suggested we include representatives of employers and employees because while when we resolve issues, our mechanism should also be a tripartite one," said U Maung Maung, President of the CTUM.

The government has also agreed, in principle, to include representatives of employers,

said U Myint Soe, a representative of the employers.

"The employers are making preparations including imparting training to their human resources so that they can avoid unnecessary issues of forced labour in the future," he added.

Myanmar is a signatory to the Forced Labour Convention 29 of the ILO.—Ye Khaung Nyunt
■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with journalists at National Tripartite Dialogue Forum in Yangon. yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

Dr. Win Myat Aye attends ending sexual violence in crises conf. in Oslo



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends the international conference on Ending Sexual Violence in Humanitarian Crises in Oslo, Norway. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended

the international conference on Ending Sexual Violence in Humanitarian Crises in Oslo,

Norway, on 23 and 24 May 2019.

In his discussion at the conference, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said that Myanmar is implementing policies, laws, frameworks and schemes with a view to ending sexual and gender-based violence, and fulfilling the National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women (2013-2022) and the Joint Communique with the Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict in December, 2018. In an effort to carry out the Joint Communique, a national-level committee has been set up in cooperation with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and other relevant ministries while a national-level

programme is being drafted. Myanmar has been following up the peace process with the Ethnic Armed Organizations since recent years, and a new Union Peace Accord has been made for the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union with fundamental principles set forth in the accord. To promote women empowerment and gender equality, policies and work process intend to guarantee female participation rate among nationals 30 percent in all sectors. Moreover, gender-responsive budgeting was one of the schemes that has been dedicated to conducting by the Government. With a view to fostering the benefits of

women and children, budget allocation in social sectors in that year has been amounted to three times compared to those of 2016. In carrying out the implementation of the services for the people who suffered sexual violence, it was found that the process has been facilitated greatly. Myanmar has been making strenuous efforts to end sexual and gender-based violence while attending to their requirements to bring about the development of the State.

The conference was hosted by the Norwegian Government and participants from over one hundred countries took part in the event.—MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

MoI Deputy Minister inspects Loikaw Community Centre, meets staff

MINISTRY of Information (MoI) Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects works conducted at public based Community Centre setup in Kayah State, Loikaw District Office and met with staff from Kayah State Office, Loikaw District, Kayah State television retransmission station and ethnic television channel yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting attending staff submitted requirements and difficulties while the Deputy Minister coordinated and resolved the requirements and difficulties.

Next, the Deputy Minister addressed the meeting and spoke of the requirement to provide news to the public in a timely manner, staff to have information and knowledge in order to provide information and knowledge to the people, using libraries to gain informa-

tion and knowledge, staff to read more and organize the people to read more, to have full knowledge about the library in order to provide library services, to have full knowledge of each book and each book cabinets in the library as only then can service be provided to the people.

In order to entertain and serve the people, staff themselves need to be happy and contented. Staff need to be happy where ever they are and must be able to work well with whoever they meet and the duty station is the staff's place. Staff need to have this mindset and for their works to be successful they should connect with local CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) said the Deputy Minister.

Furthermore, the Deputy Minister remarked on working toward achieving success in Community Centre works; mak-



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects the Community Center in Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

ing library an active and eventful place; taking special care for security; keeping systematic, accurate and true records as support and evidence of works

conducted; be happy, make your personnel happy and also have a happy family.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister inspected the site where a

new public based community centre will be constructed.—District IPRD ■

(Translated by Translated by Zaw Min)

Pound bobs around May resignation, stocks mostly gain

NEW YORK (United States)—The British pound bounced around Friday after Prime Minister Theresa May announced her resignation, while global stocks mostly recovered following a rout in the prior session on US-China trade tensions.

Sterling sank below \$1.27 after May said she would step down as prime minister on 7 June, paving the way for a contest to replace her. But the British currency later recovered and advanced against the dollar and euro. “The pound will bounce around here and there but it won’t be going anywhere fast,” Forex.com analyst FawadRazaqzada told AFP.

“A lot now depends who will be the next leader of the Tories.”

The currency could face fresh turmoil, with key Brexiteer and former foreign minister Boris Johnson the front-runner to replace May. Ratings agency Moody’s warned that news of May’s departure “amplifies the uncertainty” over Britain’s withdrawal from the European Union, and “increases the risk of a no-deal Brexit.”

Elsewhere, Europe’s major



The pound’s fate now hinges on who comes next. PHOTO: AFP

share markets rebounded after the previous day’s sharp-selloff sparked by the China-US trade war and global economic worries. US stocks also nudged higher, although the gains were not enough to offset losses earlier in the week. The Dow retreated for the fifth straight week, its longest losing streak since 2011. After a strong run for the stocks in the first four months of the year, fresh trade war anxiety has roiled markets throughout May as the United States and China have announced new tariff measures amid sharpening rhetoric.

The two sides still have not scheduled another round of negotiations, although both sides have vowed to keep talking. “The lack of a trade agreement is probably the biggest thing confronting the market going forward,” said Bill Lynch, director of investment at Hinsdale Associates. “Hopefully we’ll get something soon.”

In other disappointing news, data showed sales of US-manufactured goods in April fell to their lowest level in nine months, as American companies sold fewer cars and planes and less factory equipment. — AFP ■

Brazil economy minister threatens to quit over pension reform

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil)—Brazil’s economy minister threatened to quit over the country’s stalled pension reform in an interview published Friday, as President Jair Bolsonaro’s embattled government struggles to pass its signature economic policy.

Paulo Guedes, a US-trained free-marketeer spearheading the government’s pro-market agenda, told Veja magazine that if the proposal was watered down significantly or faced too much opposition, he would “get on a plane and go live abroad.”

His comments come as Bolsonaro supporters plan marches across Brazil on Sunday to shore up the ultraconservative government as it faces growing opposition.

Bolsonaro, who took power in January on a promise to revive Latin America’s biggest economy, has seen his popularity plunge as rising unemployment and education spending freezes fuel opposition to his administration, which is plagued

by infighting.

His controversial order earlier this month permitting millions of Brazilians to carry loaded weapons in public has fuelled anger, sparked a legal challenge and added to his woes in Congress, where his relations with key leaders had already deteriorated.

Sunday’s planned demonstrations come after tens of thousands of students and teachers took to the streets on 15 May in protest over the government’s suspension of 30 per cent of discretionary spending for public universities in the second half of this year.

After such a strong display of opposition, Bolsonaro needs a big turnout Sunday to save face and strengthen his authority.

But the former paratrooper has said he would not participate in the demonstrations, which have been organized by his most radical supporters, and has advised his ministers against taking part. — AFP ■

Despite up session, Dow suffers 5th straight weekly loss

NEW YORK (United States)—Wall Street stocks finished another down week on a positive note on Friday, climbing ahead of a holiday weekend despite lingering anxiety over the US-China trade conflict.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 0.4 per cent to 25,585.69. But this was not enough to prevent the index from falling

for the fifth straight week, its longest such streak since 2011.

The broad-based S&P 500 added 0.1 per cent at 2,826.06, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index also edged up 0.1 per cent to 7,637.01. After a strong run for the stocks in the first four months of the year, fresh trade war anxiety has roiled markets throughout May as the

United States and China have announced new tariff measures amid sharpening rhetoric between Beijing and Washington.

The two sides still have not scheduled another round of negotiations, although both sides have vowed to keep talking. “The lack of a trade agreement is probably the biggest thing confronting the market going forward,” said Bill Lynch, director of investment at Hinsdale Associates. “Hopefully we’ll get something soon.” In other disappointing news, data showed sales of US-manufactured goods in April fell to their lowest level in nine months, as American companies sold fewer cars and planes and less factory equipment. Among individual companies, Foot Locker plunged 16 per cent after it reported lower-than-expected first-quarter earnings and sales.

Analysts described Friday’s trading volume as light ahead of the Memorial Day weekend. US markets will be closed on Monday. — AFP ■



Traders work ahead of the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on Wall Street in New York City on 23 May 2019. PHOTO: AFP

Mexican economy grows 1.2 pct in first quarter of 2019

MEXICO CITY — The Mexican economy grew 1.2 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2019, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Inegi) reported on Friday.

Between January and March, the service sector grew by 1.9 per cent, the agricultural sector grew by 5.8 per cent, while industrial activity linked to the United States fell by 0.7 per cent year-on-year, Inegi said in a statement. The gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 0.2 per cent in the same period in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2018, Inegi said.

In a separate report, the Scotiabank Financial Group, a member of Canada’s Scotiabank, said the new data confirmed that a complicated environment has made an impact on economic activity as a whole.

It referred in particular

to “lower investment flows associated with greater uncertainty, both external and internal, a possible lower foreign demand, greater caution on the part of consumers, and a less robust labor market.”

In 2018, Mexico’s GDP grew by 2 per cent. The country’s economy, the second largest in Latin America after Brazil, depends heavily on the economic cycles of the United States, its main business partner. — Xinhua ■

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Transition to new era with change of system

TODAY, our country is undergoing a transition. Truth be told, not too many decades ago we experienced a change of era and system. For example, we witnessed the so-called socialist revolution in the past decades. However, the revolution did not benefit the people in any way. Instead, it ended in collapse and the people lived through another

Government officials must change along with the new era and the new system. In the era of elected governments, a government official must be public-benefit oriented, responsible, disciplined, and ethical.

man of Nay Pyi Taw council, member of the council, members of Nay Pyi Taw city development committee, HLuttaw representative and district and township level officials in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 24 May.

There were some changes in an era and a system over five decades ago, but they were never public-centric. People did not play even a small part in building the country. Under various types of centralized managements, we stayed as an oppressed people, and in such a system government officials lost touch with the public. Government officials belonged to the public, but they intimidated and oppressed the people, forcing them to pay bribes. The levels of corruption were so high that people, let alone wanting to go inside, despised being even in the vicinity of government offices.

Government officials must change along with the new era and the new system. In the era of elected governments, a government official must be public-benefit oriented, responsible, disciplined, and ethical. In this way, the country's history shall be rewritten.

er era of massive destruction. During the course of change, we, the people, gazed at these changes as if they were playing out on a cinematic screen. But, it is the people who bore the brunt of the errors of that system and the bruises it inflicted on them.

The change in this particular period is towards building a democratic Federal Union. Democracy must guarantee the society fairness in politics and the economy, and social and equal rights to all ethnicities, as we move towards a Federal Union.

"Our attempt to build a Federal Union is a change from the old system to a new one. In doing so, we must break away from our old ways to find new ways to serve our purpose in the modern days ahead. If we stick to the old ways, we won't make much progress," the President, U Win Myint, said in his speech at the meeting with the Chair-

BIMSTEC: An Opportunity for International Collaboration, Cooperation, Coordination and Communication (4Cs) for Conservation of Regional Forests, Wildlife and Biodiversity

By S. K. BASU

THE Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organisation of seven nations of South Asia (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) and South East Asia (Myanmar and Thailand) representing an economic zone with a population of around +1.5 billion and combined GDP over US\$ 3.4 trillion. This great international initiative for cooperation among seven adjacent countries of South and South East Asia is monumental initiative with an impressive 14 point objectives and priorities highlighting investments in each other's economy, boosting regional trade and commerce, facilitating and building regional transport and communication, exchange technology, promote tourism, develop human resources, provide boost to local agriculture, fisheries, textile and leather industry development to mention a handful.

Different BIMSTEC centres have now been established to emphasize the growth and development of these priority sectors to achieve the main objectives of BIIMSTEC initiatives in a timely fashion. Among other important



Promoting mountain economy contributes to development. PHOTO: RAHUL RAY 3

priority of BIMSTEC includes active collaboration and cooperation among member nations in exchanging and promoting indigenous science and technological de-

velopments; and extending mutual assistance to one another in the realms of people to people contact, socio-cultural and socio-economic exchanges, promoting education, understanding; and further strengthening strategic and diplomatic ties.

Several trade and commerce as well as transport and communication agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) are either being already signed or are under review or going through a process of several rounds of discussions and negotiations between the BIMSTEC countries. However, there are some negative criticisms regarding this important international initiative as an Indian covert agenda to bypass the stagnant and almost non-functional South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) platform due to perpetual India-Pakistan geopolitical confrontations and to exert her socio-economic, socio-political and socio-cultural influence on adjoining countries of South and South Asia keeping Pakistan and China out of the equation. There is no doubt that SAARC has lost its credibility, relevance, and importance while moving towards as a dysfunctional organization rather than becoming a multi-dynamic, enthusiastic cooperation power

house for South Asian SAARC member countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

It has been party due to India's failure as an emergent global power to win the trust and cooperation of all the member nations as well as several unwanted and non-cooperative obstacles put forward by Pakistan since the day of SAARC inception. However, I sincerely believe that BIMSTEC could serve as the much needed free trade and communication bridges between South and South East Asia in the long run. The monumental idea and establishment of BIMSTEC (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar) will prove to be extremely useful in bringing two broad organizations like SAARC (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives) and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members like Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia closer and well integrated for the coordinated and simultaneous development of South and South East Asia.

From a geopolitical perspec-

tive as well as keeping in mind the negative criticism of global experts on international relationships suggesting that India as an emergent global economic power could serve as the glue in bringing in strong collaboration, cooperation, coordination and communication (4Cs) between these three major organizations like BIMSTEC, SAARC and ASEAN in the long run. Furthermore, India has already established strong collaboration and friendship with Iran and Afghanistan on her western flank bypassing Pakistan completely. Through BIMSTE, India has also been successful in developing a platform of cooperation connecting her immediate northern, eastern and south eastern neighbours comprehensively. Hence, this region has potentially of high economic growth and development in the not so distant future.

What is even more important is that BIMSTEC will help developing and connecting much neglected eastern and north eastern Indian states (Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura) to an international trade route that will promote tourism, trade and commerce, transport and communication,



National action plans are underway for conservation of migratory bird PHOTO: S.K.BASU

education and research as well as better rates of local employment across Nepal, Bhutan, eastern and northeast India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand successfully. The only one potential missing member that should have been integrated and incorporated in the BIMSTEC equation has been the island nation of Maldives. Hopefully, Maldives with its new political government and open attitude will join BIMSTEC to make it much stronger and well coordinated for Indian Ocean nations. The international cross border connectivity thus between Nepal, Bhutan and India one hand; and between India, Bangladesh, Myanmar into Thailand will be a win-win trade and economic opportunities for all the member nations.

However, one missing angle in the BIMSTEC priority points and objectives for the member nations has been a lack of any emphasis and focus on conservation efforts or for the protection of the regional ecosystem and environment across the seven member nations with biogeographical, ethnic and socio-cultural continuity between India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar. The opportunities are enormous and could easily benefit a vast number of marginal

member nations. BIMSTEC could successfully promote a highly efficient and effective example of an international model for close collaboration, cooperation, coordination and communication (4Cs) in the protection and conservation of regional forests, wildlife and biodiversity of South and South East Asia.

Both South Asia and Southeast Asia regions are rich in having unique habitats, numerous forests majestic wildlife and rich biodiversity. The rich belts of tropical and subtropical forests, deciduous forest forests, evergreen forests, mountain cloud forests, Himalayan bamboo forests to vast stretches of massive valleys, numerous freshwater, brackish water and marine habitats as well as abundant rainfall have made this region home for diverse species of flora and fauna; many of which are endemic meaning that they are not found anywhere else in the world. Hence, there is no doubt that this one of the most spectacular biodiversity region of the world and home to numerous vertebrates (fishes, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals) and invertebrates (porifera, ctenophora, coelenterates, platyhelminths, nemathelminths, annelids, arthropods, molluscs and echinoderms); both terrestrial and aquatic in their habit. This region also represents wide diversity of different algae and sea weeds, fungi, myxomycetes, lichens, bryophytes (such as hepatics, hornworts, mosses), pteridophytes (lycopodium, selaginella, psilotum, horsetails, eusporangiate and leptosporangiate ferns), gymnosperms (open seeded flowering plants) and angiosperms (close seeded flowering plants).

SEE PAGE-10



Black naped oriole. PHOTO: SOURAV GHOSH

Bird nests that hang from small branches. PHOTO: S. K. BASU

Ceremony to lay foundation for modern cold storage and fish cracker factory in Pantanaw



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu visits the cold storage and fish cracker factory in Pantanaw Township yesterday.
PHOTO: WIN AUNG (AGRI)

A ceremony to lay foundation for a modern cold storage and fish cracker factory in the Food Industry Complex project at Ayeyawday Region, Pantanaw Township was held in the project compound yesterday morning. The Food Industry Complex project was implemented by Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Company Limited.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, officials from Ayeyawady Region government, Myanmar Investment Commission and Myanmar Fisheries Federation and invited guests.

First, Global Earth Agro &

Aqua Industry Public Company Limited Chairman Wunna Kyaw Htin U Htay Myint explained about implementation of Food Industry Complex project.

Next Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu spoke of increasing consumption of fish in the world because eating fish supports the health. Global Earth Agro & Aqua Industry Public Company Limited was seen to be entrepreneur in its work with innovations that were in accord internationally. Today's work will benefit the country and added that fishery sector exported US\$ 712 billion last year.

Afterwards Union Minister Dr. Than Myint explained about the investment status.

Later the Union Ministers

and officials lay foundation stones where the cold storage and fish cracker factory included in the Food Industry Complex project will be constructed.

The Union Ministers and officials then inspected the construction of fish ponds, fish feed factory and cold storages, fish and prawn raised, fish hatchery exhibit, fish hatchery ponds, releasing of fingerlings and raising season tree plantings conducted in the Food Industry Complex.

The Food Industry Complex Project was constructed on 900 acres of land in 2017 and once works start in 2020, it'll employ about 20,000 workers it is learnt.—Min Thit, Thant Zin Win

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Government pensioner able to withdraw pension by Myanmar Mobile Money at 281 branch banks

It was reported that pensioner can withdraw their pension salary by Mobile payments and by Myanmar Mobile payment in 281 branch banks.

“On 21st of every month pensioner have difficulty queuing. Some elderly pensioners even faint. Our department is only to issue token to withdraw money. We don't have authority to deliver pension salary directly to pensioners. It is Myanmar economic bank that deliver pension salary into pensioners' hands. Pension salary is usually administered on the 21st of every month. There is usually crowd and long queue on that day” Director General of Department of pension Dr. Daw War War Maung said.

Pension salaries are reported to be able to withdrawn after 21st of every month during bank hours.

By opening a bank account at Myanmar Economic Bank and by ATM, pensioner can also withdraw salary at nearest Myanmar Economic Bank ATM machine.

Some withdraw by wave money, currently, at bank branch I and bank branches in Insein, Tawme, Thingangyun, Kamaryut, North Okkalapa, North Dagon and in bank

in Helgu. We will extend our service. Money transfer service charge fees is 300 MMK. It is worth Paying rather than coming in person.

“But department of Pension is not advertising mobile payment of private businesses. It is the duty of our department to promote Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy. This means creating an environment where people use banking rather than hard cash. Mobile payments save time. It will relieve the pensioners of some tiresomeness”.

“But the pensioners are accustomed to withdrawing their pension salary at bank so they trust this practice. As they are elderly people some of them may not be so happy about the use of modern technology and some do not trust it. Some want to come to bank to meet friends” Director General added.

It was reported that to pensioner withdraw pension salary in Myanmar Economic bank, which have only a small number of pensioner withdrawing pension salary, near to their towns, they can apply for changing bank. —MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

BIMSTEC: An Opportunity for International Collaboration, Cooperation, ...

FROM PAGE-9

It is important to mention this is the home for a large number well known global wildlife such as Asiatic lions, one horned Indian rhinoceros, striped hyenas, wild dogs, wild ass; as well different species and sub species of Asiatic elephants, pangolins, rodents and ant eaters, deer and antelopes, wild sheep and wild goats, apes (gibbons), monkeys, wolves, foxes, jackals, civets, bearcats, leopard cats, fishing cats, jungle cats, tigers, leopards, snow leopards, clouded leopards, bears, bats, fishes, insects, crocodiles, snakes, tortoise, geckos, monitor lizards, skinks, toads and frogs, salamanders and newts, spectacular coral reefs and associated marine species, freshwater and marine dolphins and turtles, wide diversity of resistant

and migrant birds to mention only a handful. The entire region is booming with spectacular biodiversity. However, the region is also densely populated and there are numerous associated challenges on the regional forests, wildlife and biodiversity such as habitat encroachment, illegal settlements in restricted forest belts, habitat destruction and habitat fragmentation, illegal grazing, uncontrolled forest fires, natural disasters (cyclone, earthquake, floods and draughts), unplanned infrastructural developments, expansion of industrial belts and agricultural plots close to forests, poaching, hunting, illegal wildlife trafficking, high demand for bush meat as well as transmission of diseases to wildlife from domestic animals, cattle's and livestock. The economically backward pop-

ulation living in around the spectacular Forest Avenue south and southeast Asia are often severely dependent on the local forest resources for their daily assistance such as food, fodder, fuel and fertilizer. As a consequence heavy anthropogenic pressures on the local forests are putting local wildlife and biodiversity at stake!

All the countries included in this organization, namely India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka are all suffering from different forms of degradation and destruction of the local forests, coastal and marine ecosystems, local wildlife and biodiversity. The entire region is impacted by high rates of poaching and hunting (for bush meat and fishes); and safely wildlife trafficking for animal organs (gall bladder, brain, eyes,

embryos, heart, liver, kidneys, body fat, reproductive organs) and body parts (skulls, skeletons, teeth, bones, skins, furs, pelts, hairs, horns, antlers) even urine and farces for illegal wildlife markets operating in southern China, Hong Kong and certain pockets of South East Asia such as Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos, the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. Hence, it is absolutely important that BIMSTEC nations join hand for the purpose of conservation of their precious natural resources in the form of freshwater, brackish water and marine ecosystems, local forests and wildlife and regional biodiversity from this relentless plunders by both internal and external, natural and anthropogenic factors through a Joint Conservation Initiative (JCI) through collabo-

ration, cooperation, coordination, and communication (4Cs) among themselves.

A Joint Conservation Initiative (JCI) between the BIMSTEC member nations can not only contribute towards the conservation of natural resources; but will help building trust and economic prosperity on either side of the international boundaries eloping in building local economies, conserve transboundary forests stretching between two adjacent countries, protect transboundary migratory wildlife and animal migration corridors and enhance security by preventing smuggling, poaching, drug, wildlife and human trafficking along sensitive border areas with dense forest and difficult physiographic terrains.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

EU votes as populists seek historic breakthrough

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — Voters were called out for a third day in EU parliamentary elections on Saturday as populists hoped to win a major breakthrough and disrupt European politics for the next five years.

Polls were open in Malta, Slovakia and Latvia, with most of the bloc's 28 member states — including big players Germany, France and Italy — to vote on Sunday. More than 400 million people are eligible to elect 751 members of the European Parliament with the first official results to be announced late Sunday once voting in all EU countries is over.

Polling has shown for months that populists and the anti-immigration far right could make big gains in the vote, which will also help determine who replaces Jean-Claude Juncker as head of the European Commission as well as other top jobs. An exit poll after voting in the Netherlands on Thursday however showed a surprise victory for pro-EU socialists, giving hope to establishment forces elsewhere in the



After Ireland voting continues for a third day in EU-wide elections across the continent with populists hoping for an upset victory. **PHOTO: AFP**

bloc that the populist tide could be limited. "To all our friends across Europe still campaigning, this one is for you too!" said Dutchman Frans Timmermans, the lead socialist candidate and one of the main contenders to replace Juncker.

Europhiles also had reason to cheer from an exit poll in Ireland that suggested Prime Minister Leo Varadkar's Fine Gael party, which is committed to closer EU integration, was in the lead. Turnout is a major concern in the EU elections, with voters in Slovakia histori-

cally the least interested, having just 13 per cent show up for the last polls five years ago. Analysts said Slovakia would most likely send one far right MEP to Strasbourg, where Czech voters — who were voting for a second day on Saturday — seemed set to hand victory to the ruling ANO, polls suggested.

Britain voted on Thursday, a day before Prime Minister Theresa May announced her resignation following a months-long Brexit crisis, though the result will not be revealed until Sunday.

The Brexit Party, which was

only set up this year by veteran eurosceptic MEP Nigel Farage, is expected to score a resounding win in the UK vote. Britain was never supposed to have participated in the EU vote but May was forced to do so after delaying Brexit beyond the original date of 29 March because the UK parliament refused to approve the divorce deal.

'Shaping the future'

On the far right, Matteo Salvini of Italy's anti-immigrant League and Marine Le Pen of France's National Rally (RN) want their Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF) group to become the third largest in Brussels. The League has topped opinion polls in Italy. Le Pen is seeking to strike a big blow to Emmanuel Macron's French presidency by overtaking his pro-European party Republic on the Move (LREM) and denying the young leader's ambition to shake up the EU.

Polls give her RN party a slight edge, with around 25 per cent support against Macron's 22.5 per cent. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bali volcano erupts, causes flight cancellations

JAKARTA — Some airlines have canceled their flights to and from the Indonesian resort island of Bali following a volcanic eruption late Friday, authorities said.

Mt. Agung erupted for four and a half minutes at 7:23 p.m., spewing hot stones and lava up to 3 kilometers along the volcano's slopes in all directions, the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said. — Kyodo News ■

5 IS militants killed in attacks in central Iraq

BAGHDAD — A total of five Islamic State (IS) militants and seven other people were killed Saturday in separate attacks, targeting security forces and farmers in Iraq's central province of Salahuddin, security sources said.

A joint force from the Iraqi army and paramilitary tribal fighters clashed early in the morning with IS militants who attempted to set fire to wheat and barley farms in Shirqat area, some 280 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, Mohammed al-Bazi, from Salahuddin's provincial police, told Xinhua.

The clash resulted in the killing of two tribal fighters and one IS militant, al-Bazi said, adding that the attackers fled the scene while the security forces launched a search operation in the surrounding area.

Also in the province, IS militants attacked a group of farmers who were harvesting wheat in the village of Tulul al-Baj, some 250 km north of Baghdad, killing four farmers and setting fire in their farm and their harvester machine before they fled the scene, al-Bazi said. — Xinhua ■

Two journalists released in Libya: TV channel

TRIPOLI (Libya) — Two Libyan journalists held by an armed group for more than three weeks have been released, the television channel they work for said Saturday. "We congratulate the press world for the release of our two colleagues, Mohamad al-Gurj and Mohamad al-Chibani, who were kidnapped by Haftar's forces on May 2 while they were covering the assault on Tripoli," said the private channel Libya al-Ahrar, which is based in Turkey. — AFP ■

Global court to rule on Russia's detention of Ukrainian sailors

BERLIN — An international tribunal is due to rule Saturday on a dispute over Russia's holding 24 Ukrainian sailors and three naval vessels seized off the Crimea peninsula late last year.

Judge Jin-Hyun Paik of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the German port city of Hamburg was scheduled to announce its decision at noon (1000 GMT).

The incident in November in the Kerch Strait was the most dangerous direct clash in years between Russia and its ex-Soviet neighbour, which have been locked in conflict for over five years.

Russia in March 2014 annexed Crimea, and since then fighting between pro-Russian separatists and Kiev government forces in Ukraine's east has claimed some 13,000 lives, according to UN figures.

Ukraine's former president Petro Poroshenko insisted the sailors were "prisoners of war" and described their detention as "blatant proof that Russia continues to show cynical disrespect for human rights".

Moscow has accused the sailors of violating its maritime borders, and lawyers have said they could face up to six years

in prison.

Kiev on 10 May asked the international tribunal to order Russia to release the sailors and the Berdiansk, Nikopol and Yany Kapu vessels.

Ukrainian foreign ministry spokeswoman Kateryna Zelenko told AFP she hoped for judicial support to help "break the deadlock on the release of sailors and military vessels".

Russia has denied any wrongdoing and said it does not recognise the jurisdiction of the court, a body with 168 signatories created under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, over the case.

Bogdan Bezpalko, a member of the Kremlin's International Relations Committee, said recently on Sputnik Radio that "Russia has not violated international law; Russia has reacted to an aggression against it."

Stalemate

Earlier this month Ukraine's deputy foreign minister Olena Zerkal, addressing the tribunal, described the sailors' detention as "an additional illustration of Russia's continued disrespect for international law".

"Each additional day of detention, each interrogation, each court case aggravates the dispute between the parties," she said.

Russia has argued that the rights of the Ukrainian sailors have been strictly observed, including access to legal aid and medical attention. French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel jointly phoned Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday to encourage him to resume the dialogue with Ukraine after the election of the new president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

US Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo recently called on Moscow to show Zelensky a willingness to move toward "breaking the stalemate".

Pompeo said Washington "would in particular welcome the release of the Ukrainian crewmen detained near the Kerch Strait last year".

But since Zelensky was sworn in on Monday, tensions have risen with Moscow.

The new Ukrainian leader has urged Washington to impose more sanctions against Russia — prompting a swift warning from the Kremlin that such action would not help end the war in the east. — AFP ■



A Russian FSB security service officer escorts a detained Ukrainian sailor in Crimea in November — a total of 24 sailors are still being held by Russia along with three naval vessels from Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

S.Korea arrest warrants approved in Samsung accounting scandal

SEOUL (South Korea)—A South Korean court on Saturday approved arrest warrants for two vice presidents of Samsung Electronics over an accounting scandal, but rejected one for the head of the conglomerate's pharmaceutical arm, Yonhap news agency reported.

The Central District Court in Seoul said "there is room for dispute" over Samsung BioLogics CEO Kim Tae-han's supposed role in destroying evidence in 2015, the South Korean news agency said.

Samsung BioLogics, a contract drugmaker, is the third-biggest firm of its kind in the world by market share, and one of the South's 10 most valuable companies. In November last year, Seoul's Financial Services Commission (FSC) said the Incheon-based firm "intentionally" violated accounting rules in 2015, a year ahead of its IPO, by inflating the value of a subsidiary.

After making losses for years, Samsung BioLogics had changed the valuation method of its 85 percent stake in another group affiliate, Samsung Bioepis, raising it by 4.5 trillion won (currently \$3.8 billion) and resulting in a net profit of 1.9 trillion won.

Related to the same scandal, the Central District Court endorsed warrants for the two vice-presidents of Samsung

Electronics over allegations of destroying and manipulating evidence, according to Yonhap.

The electronics subsidiary is the flagship of Samsung Group, the biggest of the family-controlled conglomerates that dominate business in the world's 11th-largest economy, and it is crucial to South Korea's economic health. Yonhap reported that the investigation has intensified after prosecutors discovered a computer server and tens of notebooks concealed under the floor of a Samsung BioLogics plant in Incheon, west of Seoul, during a raid earlier this month.

The FSC in November fined Samsung BioLogics eight billion won (currently \$6.8 million) and suspended trading in its shares "for a while" to give stock market authorities time to decide whether it should be delisted. It also asked prosecutors to investigate the firm for accounting fraud and advised Samsung BioLogics to dismiss Kim Tae-han. Samsung BioLogics has said the firm was "confident" that it did not violate accounting rules, but apologized for "causing confusion" among investors and customers.

Samsung views pharmaceutical and healthcare businesses as a future engine for growth beyond its flagship businesses of mobile handsets and microchip production.—AFP ■

Trump urges fairer trade with Japan at start of state visit

TOKYO—President Donald Trump Saturday vowed to make the US trade relationship with Japan a "little bit more fair", as he kicked off a four-day visit to Tokyo aimed at cementing ties between the two close allies.

Trump's four-day trip is expected to feature plenty of warm words and images as he plays golf and watches sumo with his "friend" Shinzo Abe, Japan's prime minister.

But the world's top and third-biggest economies are also thrashing out a trade deal and Trump wasted no time in lashing out at what he sees as an imbalance between the pair.

"Japan has had a substantial edge for many, many years. But that's OK, maybe that's why you like us so much," Trump told leaders from some of Japan's leading companies, including Toyota, Honda and Nissan.

After a bilateral trade deal has been signed, it will be "a little bit more fair," vowed the president.

"With this deal we hope to address the trade imbalance, remove the barriers to United States exports and ensure fairness and reciprocity in our relationship. We're getting close," said Trump.

He added: "We hope to have several further announcements soon and some very big ones



The relationship between Donald Trump and Shinzo Abe has been hailed as 'unprecedented' by Japanese and US officials. **PHOTO: AFP**

over the next few months."

Some observers suspect Abe is rolling out the red carpet to present Japan as the most favourable of the countries currently engaged in trade disputes with Washington but little concrete progress is expected with elections looming for the Japanese PM.

Japanese and US officials hail as "unprecedented" the relationship between Trump and his "golf buddy" Abe, and the pair are scheduled to again find time for a round to burnish their diplomatic bromance. Just over an hour before Trump arrived, a 5.1-magnitude earthquake rattled buildings in Tokyo, with the epicentre very close to where the leaders are due to tee off.

The official centrepiece of the trip is Trump's meeting on Monday with Japan's new Emperor Naruhito, who only ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne at the beginning of the month following his father's historic abdication for health reasons.

"With all the countries of the world, I'm the guest of honour at the biggest event that they've had in over 200 years," said Trump before his departure.

But the visual highlight is more likely to be Trump's visit on Sunday to the final day of the summer "basho" or sumo tournament where he is expected to present the trophy to the winner.—AFP ■

Sri Lanka troops launch major hunt for Islamists linked to suicide attacks

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) — Sri Lanka's military launched a major hunt Saturday for remnants of an Islamist group which carried out the Easter suicide bombings that killed 258 people, officials said.

Several Colombo suburbs were targeted by troops using emergency powers on arrests and detentions adopted after the 21 April attacks. "Special cordon-and-search operations are under way in three areas just outside Colombo," a military official told reporters.

Similar operations were also carried out in the country's north-west, where anti-Muslim riots this month left one man dead and hundreds of Mus-

lim-owned shops, homes and mosques destroyed.

Security forces have arrested scores of suspects in connection with the bombings and over what appeared to be organised violence against the island's Muslim minority.

While authorities say the immediate jihadist threat has been blunted, President Maithripala Sirisena on Wednesday extended for one month the 30-day state of emergency imposed after the suicide bombings.

Sirisena said the move was to maintain "public security", with the country still on edge after the attacks on three hotels and three churches that were blamed on a local jihadi



Security forces have arrested scores of suspects in connection with the bombings and over what appeared to be organised violence against the island's Muslim minority. **PHOTO: AFP**

group, the National Thowheeth Jama'ath (NTJ).

The Islamic State group has also claimed a role in the attacks.

Christians make up 7.6 per cent and Muslims 10 per cent of mainly Buddhist Sri Lanka.—AFP ■

At least 18 killed in western India fire

NEW DELHI — At least 18 teenage students were killed in a fire that broke out at a tutoring center in the western Indian city of Surat on Friday, the Press Trust of India reported.

"Students on fourth and third floor jumped off to the ground to save themselves from fire and smoke. Many have been rescued and sent to hospital. The operation to douse the fire is on," a fire official was quoted as saying.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a Twitter post he was "extremely anguished" by the tragedy and that he instructed local authorities to provide all possible assistance to those affected.—Kyodo News

Scientists design paper-folding material to reduce impact forces

WASHINGTON — Researchers from University of Washington developed a kind of origami-inspired material to reduce impact forces, which can be used in car accident protection.

The study published on Friday in the journal Science Advances de-

scribed a paper model that uses "folding creases" to soften impact forces.

The building block of the material are made out of paper and the researchers used a laser cutter to cut dotted lines into paper to designate where to fold.

They folded the paper

along the lines to form a cylindrical structure and glued acrylic caps on either end to connect the cells into a long chain, according to the study. The researchers lined up 20 unit cells and connected one end to a device that pushed and set off a reac-

tion throughout the chain.

Using six GoPro cameras, the team observed the counter-intuitive wave motion that replaced pushing force at one end completely with pulling back force at the other end.

"If you were wearing a football helmet made of

this material and something hit the helmet, you'd never feel that hit on your head," Yang Jinkyu, the paper's corresponding author and associate professor of aeronautics and astronautics at University of Washington, said in a statement. "By the time

the energy reaches you, it's no longer pushing. It's pulling."

"Impact is a problem we encounter on a daily basis, and our system provides a completely new approach to reducing its effects," Yang said.

— Xinhua ■

Youths rally across Europe in pre-vote climate protest



Tens of thousands of young climate activists rallied across Europe demanding urgent action against global warming. **PHOTO: AFP**

BERLIN (Germany) — Hundreds of thousands of young climate activists rallied across Europe Friday ahead of EU Parliament elections as part of protests worldwide demanding action against global warming.

In Germany alone, wrote the Fridays for Future group on Twitter, "320,000 people have gathered on the streets for today's #ClimateStrike - our biggest strike yet!"

From Lisbon to Oslo, children and youths skipped school and voiced their anxiety about inheriting a warming planet with melting ice caps and worsening storms, floods and droughts.

"You are running out of excuses, we are running out of time," read one message in Berlin directed at politicians, while another demanded: "The climate is changing, why aren't we?"

In Warsaw, around 1,000 students lay down on a major city intersection in a brief "die-in" that, an organiser said, was meant to "symbolise what will happen to us in the future".

"We are all in the same boat," read a protest sign in Madrid, expressing the shared sentiment of youngsters who rallied in

cities across more than 120 countries.

Some 15,000 activists marched in Paris, while a roughly equal number demonstrated at Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate, chanting "What do we want? Climate justice! When do we want it? Now!"

"Climate now, homework later!" read one teenage activist's banner while another warned that "There is no planet B".

The initiator of the movement, 16-year-old Swedish school girl Greta Thunberg, spoke in Stockholm to some 4,000 supporters.

"We will have an existential crisis if we haven't cut our CO2 emissions in half in 20 years," she told the cheering crowd.

"We are going to start a chain reaction out of mankind's control. Time is running out."

'Make love, not CO2'

While many previous protest movements have started on university campuses, the "Fridays" rallies emerged from among school students -- a generation that has grown up with predictions of ecological doom yet witnessed only glacial political change.—AFP ■

'A long ride': 50 years ago, a dress rehearsal for the Moon landing

WASHINGTON (United States)— As Earth grew ever smaller below his spacecraft, Apollo 10 commander Tom Stafford made an unusual request to mission control.

The year was 1969, and his vessel was the first to be equipped with a color camera, which was beaming live images to an awestruck global audience.

"I was feeling real high," recalled Stafford, who is now 88 and the last surviving member of the crew. "I said: 'Think you could call over to London and tell the president of the Flat Earth Society that he's wrong?'"

It was a light moment during a mission of paramount importance: 50 years ago this week, Apollo 10 set off to finalize the preparations for Apollo 11's lunar landing.

The mission's objectives included an eight-hour orbit in a lunar module that Stafford flew down to within nine miles (14 kilometers) of the Moon's surface.

Apollo 10 paved the way for Neil Armstrong's "giant leap for mankind" two months later -- a historic milestone and a colossal geopolitical win for the United States at the height of the Cold War.

But Stafford, a US Air Force test pilot who was among the first astronauts recruited for the newly formed National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), almost wasn't part of the mission, after a close call a few years earlier.

Narrow escape

The US entered the space race well behind the Soviet Union, which put the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, into orbit in 1957, and sent up the first human, Yuri Gagarin, four years later.

To catch up, the Gemini program was conceived to devise rendezvous and docking techniques for an eventual mission to the Moon.

"As a boy I'd read about Buck Rogers, Flash

Gordon — you'd see these spaceships flying together. Nobody had ever done it," Stafford said at a Washington event commemorating the anniversary.

The Oklahoma native was chosen for the two-man Gemini 6A mission, which could have ended in tragedy had it not been for the quick thinking of Commander Wally Schirra.

Seconds before lift-off on 12 December, 1965, they realized the engines of their Titan II rocket had cut out.

Mission rules dictated that Schirra should pull a cord and eject them because if the rocket had taken off with partial thrust, it would likely fall back to its launch pad, causing a catastrophic explosion.

But realizing from previous experience that they had not in fact taken off, Schirra decided to wait.

Stafford said it was a decision that probably saved their lives as the cabin had been soaking in pure oxygen for hours.— AFP ■



The Apollo 10 mission became synonymous with Snoopy and Charlie Brown in the minds of the public, because the three-man crew named their lunar module and command module after the iconic cartoon characters. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (020 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (020 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0169-499W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0169-499W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

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LINES

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Four mega urban projects under implementation in Yangon and Mandalay

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) under Ministry of Construction is undertaking four mega urban projects in Yangon, the commercial capital and Mandalay, a commercial and cultural city of the Republic of Union of Myanmar. The projects aim to provide people with employment, boost production sector, create a green environment and a place that is more adaptable to environmental changes. These projects are New Mandalay Resort City, Eco Green City, Korea-Myanmar Industry Complex and Smart District.

New Mandalay Resort City Project

The project is located near mile post 21 on Mandalay-Muse Road (AH-1) in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Region covering about 9,893 acres. The project will be developed in three phases. Phase One covers 2,200 acres comprising of an IT facility, convention centre, schools and a commercial zone that includes banks, offices and retail places. Phase Two covers 2,919 acres with land allocated for industry and tourism sector. Phase Three with 4,774 acres will consist of housing, hotels, recreation and entertainment facility such as a golf course. Under Union level supervision a Steering Committee was formed to handle the project. Members of the Steering Committee lay down project related policies. A feasibility study was carried out by Surbana



PHOTOS: EGCP



Jurong, Singapore's largest engineering firm and one of the largest Asia-based global urban, industrial and infrastructure consulting firms. Developers were three local groups Khin Myanmar Development, Central Irrawaddy Development and Shwe Taung Development. Upon completion of the project, it will provide modern accommodations and job opportunities for locals while raising

their living standard.

Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex Project

Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex Project is located near Nyaungnabin, Hlegu Township just west of mile post 5 miles 6 furlong of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. It covers a land area of 555 acres. Korea Land and Housing Corporation (KLHC)

By Htut Htut (Twantay)



To Yangon



New Mandalay Resort City Project

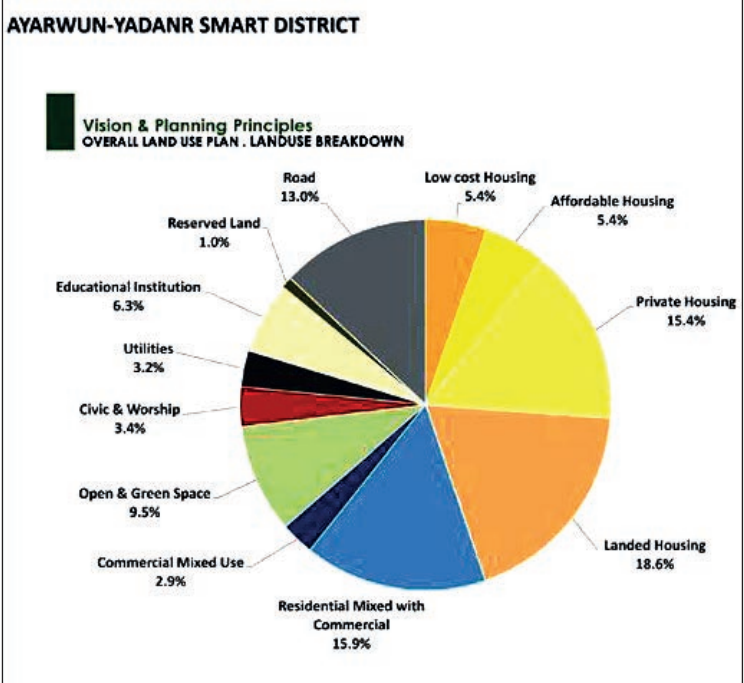


PHOTO: DUHD

ies, and the maintenance and management of land housing. MoU on Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex Project was signed in 2015 and the MoA in 2017. The construction period is five years and was started in 2018 with completion targeted for 2023. The project will comprise of small, medium and heavy industries, one stop services, labour-intensive sector, staff housing, park, water treatment plant, a management office and business service zones.

Ministry of Construction said in 2018 May that the project will provide 50,000 to 100,000 jobs when completed.

Hanthawady International Airport. DUHD and Alliance Stars Group of Company, a local company, were partnering to implement the project. Construction period of the two phase project is 10 years. Phase One of the project comprises of low-cost housing, government administrative offices and a retail area. Phase Two comprises of an international standard hospital, schools, hotel zone and a public recreational area. Once completed, it will provide accommodation for 30,000 to 40,000 people and create about 15,000 jobs.

Smart District Project

This project covers 1,100 acres in Dagon Seikkan Township, Yangon Region. It is a joint venture between DUHD and local property developer Shwe Taung Company. The project is bordered by Ayeyawun Road in the east, Bago River in the west, Seikkantha Street in south and Shweli Road in the north. It is 8 miles away or 30 minutes drive from central business district of Yangon. Investment volume is about Ks 250 billion and once completed it will provide 13,000 apartments and create job opportunities in the commercial use areas.

Through implementing the four mega urban projects DUHD of Ministry of Construction is creating safe and durable housing for the public in accordance with its motto “DUHD always serving for better livings” in addition to creating new employments and sustainable development.

Eco Green City Project

Eco Green City Project is located between three mile one furlong and five mile two furlong mile posts of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region covering an area of 1,453 acres. It is ten miles from the under construction

Chief Minister, British Ambassador and UNDP Resident Representative inaugurate new road as part of UNDP project in Bago Region

THE inauguration ceremony for the newly constructed rural concrete road in Kawa Township, Bago Region was attended by Bago Region Chief Minister, H.E. U Win Thein, Bago Region Planning and Finance Minister H.E. U Nyunt Shwe, British Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Dan Chugg, UNDP Myanmar Resident Representative Mr. Peter Batchelor, UK Aid and UNDP staff, and township officials and local community members.

The 7.6-furlong road will benefit more than 20,000 people from 12 villages with improved access to health, education and livelihoods because of the connection to the Yangon-Bago main road. Additionally, more than 250 female garment factory workers commute daily to the factories in Bago using this road.



Officials pose for documentary photo. PHOTO MNA

Development of the road was prioritized in a township participatory planning process for 2018-19 under UNDP’s Township Democratic Local Governance (TDLG) Project funded by UK Aid in collaboration with the Bago Region Government.

In his remarks the Bago Chief Minister said, “The concrete road project is an example of good democratic practice. Bago Region Government would like to extend such kind of practice to the remaining townships of the region in collaboration with UNDP and UK Aid”.

The British Ambassador in his speech said, “This road is an important symbol of a new way of working between the local government and the people in Bago – one that presents a model for the country as a whole. I am proud to be here today, and to see for myself the importance of UK Aid support to this programme”.

The UNDP Myanmar Resident Representative said, “The TDLG project has demonstrated that it is possible to let local people, through their elected representatives, have a voice in local development priorities. It has also shown that it is possible to decentralize funds for local development”.

Initially five townships were selected in Bago Region under the TDLG project to pilot a participatory township planning process. Based on the success to date of the project, the Bago Region Government decided in December 2018 to allocate 56 billion kyats from the regional budget as Townships Grants for all 28 townships in Bago Region and has requested UNDP to provide technical assistance for the planning process in all townships in Bago. The Bago Region Government is the first subnational government in Myanmar to make a decision of this kind.—GNLM

General Aung San Shield: Shan United beat Rakhine United in 1st leg semifinal

TAUNGGYI based Shan United defeated Rakhine United 4-0 in the 1st leg of the the General Aung San Shield 2019 semifinal at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Winning goals for Shan United were scored by Emanuel, Zin Min Tun and Swan Lam Mang.

Shan United used its main players in yesterday's match, including goal keeper cum captain Thiha Sithu, David Htan, Zin Min Tun, Emmanuel and Shwe Ko.

Rakhine United also lined up with key players, including goalkeeper Tay Zr Aung, Captain Nyein Chan, Kelvin and Yakubu.

Shan dominated the match from the start, with accurate attacks plus an effective midfield defence, while Rakhine United mostly relied upon their defensive play.

Shan United score its opening goal at the 10 minute mark, as the goal was scored by Shan United expat player Emmanuel.

Again, Shan scored their second goal due to the effort of Shan's Zin Min Tun, when Rakhine United's keeper did not block



Shan United's striker Emmanuel celebrates the victory after his opening goal during the 1st leg semifinal against Rakhine United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday during the General Aung San Shield 2019.

PHOTO: SUFC

the ball. The first half ended with a score of 2-0.

In the second half, the intensity on field increased, with both teams improving their play.

At 59 minutes, Shan gained its third goal with Suan Lam Mang's score.

Shan United had more opportunities, as Rakhine United's

defence line waned, and Zin Min Tun scored the third goal for Shan at 71 minutes.

Rakhine United finally mounted an attack just before the match end with its strikers putting forth maximum efforts, but all their attacks were thwarted by the efficient clearance of Shan's defenders, plus keeper

Thiha Sithu.

With the win, Shan United is in a good position to reach the Final. Shan United will next take on Rakhine United in the decisive 2nd leg of the General Aung San Shield semifinal at the home stadium of the Rakhine United in Sittwe on 1 June.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Lucky draw to be played during K-League's club friendlies in Yangon

ENTERTAINMENT, including lucky draws for football fans, will be part of the two friendly matches when the Republic of Korea's K-League club, Pohang Steelers FC, plays against Myanmar football teams on 28 and 30 May, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Pohang Steelers FC will play the first friendly match against Myanmar National League club Ayeyawady United on 28 May and U-22 national football team on 30 May.

The friendly matches will be played at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, MFF officials stated.

Tickets for both matches are free, and a Korean cultural entertainment programme will be performed during the friendly matches, and the lucky draw programme will be also held for football fans, officials said.

The free tickets will be available at the gate at Thuwunna Stadium, and every ticket will be inclusive for the lucky draw programme.

The first prizes will include four, 49 inch LG branded TVs, second prizes are two Samsung handsets, third prizes is a one day stay at Lotte Hotel, fourth prize is buffet tickets at the Lotte Hotel, while fifth prize is 22 footballs. The consolation prizes are 50 T shirts, said the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

China reach Sudirman Cup final with clinical display

NANNING (China) _ Hosts China closed in on an 11th Sudirman Cup title as they ruthlessly dismantled Thailand to reach Sunday's final of the mixed-team badminton world championship.

China's comfortable 3-0 victory sets them up for a tournament decider against top seeds Japan or Indonesia, who play their semi-final later on Saturday.

China went 2-0 ahead in just 94 minutes thanks to their world number one mixed doubles pair Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaoping, and second-ranked Shi Yuqi in the men's singles. The tie was over when the men's doubles world champions Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen triumphed.

Shi did not have it all his own way against 18th-ranked Kantaphon Wangcharoen, who

squandered three opportunities to clinch the second game and force a decider. It was a turning point and Shi held his nerve before closing out victory 21-15, 26-24 to thrill the home crowd and snuff out the brief Thai resistance. "It was a very tough second game," said Shi, beaten in last year's world championship final by Kento Momota.

The top two in men's bad-

minton will meet once more on Sunday if, as expected, Japan beat Indonesia.

"The lead changed hands many times and neither of us could open up a big lead," added Shi, who has inherited the mantle of China's top men's player with Lin Dan approaching retirement.

"In the end I managed to overcome the pressure."—AFP ■

Federer, Nadal threaten Djokovic bid for historic Slam

PARIS (France) — Novak Djokovic can become only the second man in history to have twice held all four Grand Slam titles at the same time with victory at the French Open. However, a returning Roger Federer and rejuvenated Rafael Nadal will once again stand in his way.

World number one Djokovic completed his first private stranglehold of all four Slams with victory at Roland Garros in 2016.

Having clinched the 2018

Wimbledon and US Open titles and then a seventh Australian Open crown in January this year, the Serb is tantalisingly close to another 'Djoko Slam'. Federer and Nadal, with 20 and 17 career Grand Slam titles each respectively, may be ahead of 15-time major winner Djokovic in total hauls.

However, they have never managed to hold all four of the sport's greatest prizes at the same time. It is such a rare feat

that only Don Budge (1938) and Rod Laver (1962 and 1969)— all calendar Grand Slams — have pulled off the sweep in the sport's history.

Djokovic, who turned 32 on Wednesday, is playing down his potential date with destiny.

After losing to Nadal in the Italian Open final last weekend, the Serb was in no doubt that it was the Spaniard who would likely be celebrating a 12th Roland Garros title in a little over two

weeks' time. "Nadal, number one favourite, without a doubt — then everyone else," he said.

However, he admits his Paris triumph of 2016 which gave him his first sweep, is fuelling his bid for more history. "There is an extra motivation and incentive to win Roland Garros because of the opportunity to hold all four Slams, something I did three years ago, and that gives me obviously enough reason to believe I can do it again." Twelve months

ago, such confidence would have appeared reckless when he was shocked by Italian journeyman Marco Cecchinato in the quarter-finals, a defeat which sent him crashing out of the top 20 for the first time in over a decade.

This time around he starts his campaign against Poland's Hubert Hurkacz, the world number 43 with a potential quarter-final against Germany's Alexander Zverev who has still to get past the last eight at a Slam.—AFP ■

Caresse Of Gentle Hands



By Sandy Derek
Grade 11, ICEC



PHOTO: UNHCR

A FAINT silhouette came into my degrading vision. Out of curiosity, I gazed up through blurry eyes to find out who had approached my lying body. In my mind, I promptly visualized an ill, bed-ridden girl and a womanly figure looming over her. My mother's fond and pure lips entered my eyes and somehow brought a sense of security. She tenderly wiped away the sweat that covered my forehead and ushered me to sleep. I finally closed my eyes and sunk into darkness. It was one of the dearest memories I had with my mother. I was twelve then.

It goes without saying that Mothers are simply creatures of wonder. Consider them, if you will, as precious gifts of God. Since the time of conception in their wombs, mothers have sheltered us in her bosom well until we become 'fully-fledged' and ready enough to spread our wings. Truly, a mother is someone who can never be replaced, as she will always take up a permanent spot in our hearts.

If a passerby were to ask me who the closest person to me is in my life, without a second thought, I would answer, "Mom!" After all my misbehaving's, mother would forgive me and correct my means. In such times, all her anger seemed to have vanished without a trace and was swapped for a warm smile.

In dire straits, I need not check if my mother would be there to have my back and become my pillar of support. I believe that mother would be there to catch me if I were falling from an airplane, letting not a strand of my hair touch the ground.

The world has many types of moms: single moms, struggling moms, and new moms. However, one fact is certain. They work full time for us and are the real heroes. "Mother knows best," and perhaps, it is one of the best advices I have ever been given. My mother, for instance, is fully aware of my likes and dislikes, fortes and misgivings, mischief and misconducts. She is already so busy as she is. Nevertheless, she always finds time to attend to her children's needs. Indeed, what more would I wish for when there is Mother by my side?

It is said that life began when we woke up to our mothers' smiling faces and delight. Undeniably, we must count ourselves lucky to have mothers nagging at us. Ultimately, a mother is the embodiment of selfless love and altruism. She has not only given birth but also raised her child to become a full man. Her hands may be full of calluses, yet she still asks for nothing in return. A child only sleeps soundly in the tenderness of its mother's arms.

Mother's love is unconditional and peaceful. It need not be acquired; it need not be deserved. At the lowest point of my life, mother's soothing voice and words of encouragement resound in my ears. The caresses of her gentle hands never fail to comfort the depths of my soul. After all, mother is just one of the strongest women I have ever known. On this auspicious day, I am joyous to be ever grateful to my mother for everything she has done for my welfare.





(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Adverb Phrases

Phrase (ဝါကျပြုတ်)သည် ကြိယာမပါသောစကားလုံး အစုအဝေးဖြစ်သည်။
Adverb (ကြိယာဝိသေသန) တစ်လုံး လုပ်ရမည့်အလုပ်ကိုဝင်ရောက်လုပ်ကိုင်လျှင် ထိုစကားလုံး အစုအဝေးကို **Adverb Phrase** ဟု ခေါ်သည်။
အောက်တွင်လေ့လာပါ။

(a) **KoKo ran quickly.**
ကိုကိုလျင်မြန်စွာ ပြေးခဲ့သည်။
(ဘယ်လို ပြေးခဲ့သလဲ)
Ko Ko ran with great speed.
ကိုကိုသည် မြင့်မားသော အရှိန်ဖြင့်ပြေးခဲ့သည်။
With great speed သည် **quickly** (လျင်မြန်စွာ) ဟူသော **adverb** (ကြိယာဝိသေသန) နေရာကို ယူထားသည့် **Adverb Phrase** (ကြိယာဝိသေသနဝါကျပြုတ်) ဖြစ်သည်။

(b) **She danced beautifully.**
သူမ လှပစွာကခုန်သည်။ (ဘယ်လိုကခုန်သလဲ။)
She danced in a beautiful manner.
သူမသည် လှပသော ဟန်အမူအရာနှင့်ကခုန်သည်။
in a beautiful manner သည် **beautifully** ၏နေရာကို ယူထားသော **adverb phrase** ဖြစ်သည်။

(c) **He is coming now.**
သူယခုပင် ရောက်လာတော့မည်။
(ဘယ်တော့လဲ။)
He is coming at this very moment.
သူ ယခုအခိုက်အတန့်တွင်ပင် ရောက်လာတော့မည်။
at this very moment သည် **now** ဟူသော **adverb** လုပ်သည့်အလုပ်ကို ဝင်ရောက်လုပ်ကိုင်သော **adverb phrase** ဖြစ်သည်။

(d) **She was very rich then.**
သူမသည် ထိုစဉ်အခါက အလွန်ချမ်းသာသည်။ (ဘယ်တုန်းကလဲ။)
She was very rich in those days.
In those days သည် **then** ဟူသော **adverb** လုပ်သည့်အလုပ်ကို ဝင်ရောက် လုပ်ကိုင်သော **adverb phrase** ဖြစ်သည်။

(e) **The arrow fell here.**
မြားသည် ဤနေရာပေါ် ကျခဲ့သည်။
(ဘယ်နေရာလဲ။)
The arrow fell on this spot.
On this spot သည် **here** နေရာကို ဝင်ယူထားသော **adverbphrase** ဖြစ်သည်။

(f) **You can buy longyis everywhere.**
သင် လုံချည်များကို နေရာတကာမှာဝယ်နိုင်သည်။
(where ဘယ်နေရာလဲ)
You can buy longyis in all places.
in all places သည် **everywhere** လုပ်သည့် အလုပ်ကို ဝင်ရောက်လုပ်ကိုင်သော **adverb phrase** ဖြစ်သည်။

Adverb phrases များအဖြစ်သို့ ဆီလျော်သလို ပြောင်းရသည်ကို အောက်တွင် လေ့လာပါ။

Adverbs	Adverb Phrases
bravely	in a brave manner or with bravery
carelessly	in a careless manner, or without care
swiftly(လျင်မြန်စွာ)	in a swift manner, or with swiftness
formerly(ယခင်က)	in former times, or once upon a time
recently(မကြာသေးမီက)	Just now, or at a recent date
soon(မကြာမီ)	Before very long, or at an early date

there(ထိုနေရာမှာ) **at that place**
away(အခြားတစ်နေရာသို့) **To another place**
abroad(နိုင်ငံခြားသို့) **To (in) a foreign country**

လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းလုပ်ကြည့်ပါ

(က) **Underline the Adverb Phrases in the following sentences :-**
အောက်ပါ စာကြောင်းများတွင် ကြိယာဝိသေသနဝါကျပြုတ်များကို မျဉ်းသားပြပါ။
(အဖြေကို အောက်တွင် ပေးထားပါသည်။)

1. There are no living things on the moon.
2. He spoke in a rude manner.
3. He lives by his pen.

သူ ကလောင်ဖြင့် အသက်မွေးဝမ်းကျောင်းပြုသည်။

4. It must be done at any price.
5. They worked with might and main.

သူတို့အင်တိုက်အားတိုက် အလုပ်လုပ်ကြသည်။

6. They are going on in the direction of the pagoda.
7. Honesty is written on his face.
8. Much water has run under the bridge since then.
9. I stood on the bridge at midnight.
10. They all sat there in silence.

(ခ) **In each of the following sentences replace the Adverb by an Adverb Phrase of the same meaning :-**
အောက်ပါ စာကြောင်း တစ်ကြောင်းစီတွင် ကြိယာဝိသေသနကို အဓိပ္ပာယ်တူ ညီသော ကြိယာဝိသေသနဝါကျပြုတ်နှင့် အစားထိုးပေးပါ။

1. Go away.
2. The man shouted loudly.
3. The child answered my question truthfully.
4. They will stay here.
5. They were hurrying homeward.
6. The sun will set soon.
7. They worked cheerfully.
8. She thanked Ko Ko heartily.
9. The wind blew violently.
10. They crossed the road cautiously.

Answers

(က) 1. There are no living things on the moon.
2. He spoke in a rude manner.
3. He lives by his pen.
4. It must be done at any price.
5. They worked with might and main.
6. They are going in the direction of the pagoda.
7. Honesty is written on his face.
8. Much water has run under the bridge since then.
9. I stood on the bridge at midnight.
10. They all sat there in silence.

(ခ) 1. Go to another place.
2. The man shouted in a loud voice.
3. The child answered my question with truthfulness.
4. They will stay at this place.
5. They were hurrying in the direction of the home.
6. The sun will set before very long.
7. They worked in a cheerful manner.
8. She thanked Ko Ko with all her heart.

9. The wind blew with great violence.
10. They crossed the road with caution.

အထူးသတိပြုသင့်သည့်အချက်-

အောက်ပါစာကြောင်း နှစ်ကြောင်းကိုနှိုင်းယှဉ် လေ့လာပါ။

(a) The crowd in the bazaar was very noisy.

ဈေးထဲမှလူအုပ်သည် အလွန်ဆူညံသည်။

(b) The crowd halted in the bazaar.

လူအုပ်သည် ဈေးထဲတွင် ရပ်တန့်ခဲ့သည်။

စာကြောင်း (a) တွင် "in the bazaar" ဟူသော **phrase** သည် လူအုပ် အလွန်ဆူညံသည်ကို ရည်ညွှန်းသဖြင့် **crowd** (လူအုပ်) ဟူသော နာမ်ကို ဝိသေသပြုသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် **Adjective Phrase** ဖြစ်သည်။

စာကြောင်း (b) တွင် **in the bazaar**" ဟူသော **Phrase** သည် လူအုပ်ဘယ်မှာရပ်ခဲ့သည်ကို ရည်ညွှန်းသဖြင့် **halted** ဟူသောကြိယာကို ဝိသေသပြုသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် **Adverb Phrase** (ကြိယာဝိသေသနဝါကျပြုတ်) ဖြစ်သည်။

Phrase တစ်ခုသည် စာကြောင်းတစ်ကြောင်းတွင် **Adjective phrase** ဖြစ်၍ အခြားစာကြောင်းတစ်ကြောင်းတွင် **Adverb phrase** ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။

ထို့ကြောင့် **Phrase** (ဝါကျပြုတ်) တစ်ခုသည် **Noun** (နာမ်)ကို ဝိသေသပြုလျှင် **adjective phrase** ဖြစ်၍ ကြိယာ ဝိသေသပြုလျှင် **adverb phrase** ဖြစ်သည်။

Adverb Clauses (ကြိယာဝိသေသနပုဒ်စု)

(A) ကိုယ်ကိုင်ကတ္တား (**subject**) တစ်ခုနှင့်အနည်းဆုံး ဝါစက (**Predicate**) တစ်ခု ပါဝင်၍ စာကြောင်းတစ်ကြောင်းတွင် ဝင်ရောက်ရပ်တည်ရသော စကား အစုအဝေး သို့မဟုတ် စာကြောင်းငယ်ကိုပုဒ်စု (**clause**) ဟုခေါ်သည်။

(B) **Adverb** (ကြိယာဝိသေသန) တစ်ခု သို့မဟုတ် **Adverb Phrase** (ကြိယာဝိသေသနဝါကျပြုတ်) တစ်ခုလုပ်ရမည့်အလုပ်ကို ဝင်ရောက်လုပ်သော **clause** (ပုဒ်စု)သည် **Adverb clause** (ကြိယာဝိသေသနပုဒ်စု)ဖြစ်သည်။
(An Adverb Clause is a group of words which contains a subject and a predicate of its own and does the work of an adverb.)

လေ့လာပါ။

1. The travellers rested at sunset.

ခရီးသည်များသည် နေဝင်ချိန်တွင် နားခဲ့ကြသည်။

(Rested when ဘယ်အချိန်တုန်းက နားခဲ့သလဲ။)

at sunset (နေဝင်ချိန်) သည် **adverb phrase** ဖြစ်သည်။

2. The travellers rested when evening came.

ညနေခင်း ကျရောက်သောအခါ ခရီးသည်များ နားခဲ့ကြသည်။

(when evening came တွင် **evening** ဟူသော **Subject** နှင့် **came** ဟူသော **Predicate** (ဝါစက)တို့ ပါဝင်၍ **when** နှင့် တွဲဖက်ထားသည်။ အပြင်တွင် သီးခြားရပ်တည်နိုင်စွမ်းမရှိသဖြင့် ဝါကျလည်း မဟုတ်။ သို့ရာတွင် **The travellers rested when evening came** ဟူသော ဝါကျတွင် အပိုင်း တစ်ပိုင်းအဖြစ်ရပ်တည်၍ **rested** ဟူသောကြိယာကို ဝိသေသပြုရသောကြောင့် **Adverb Clause** ဖြစ်သည်။)

အထူးဂရုပြုသင့်သော အချက်တစ်ချက်

The travellers rested when evening came. ဟူသော ဝါကျတွင် **The teavellers rested** သည် မိမိဘာသာ သီးခြားရပ်တည်နိုင်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် ထိုပုဒ်စု(**clause**)ကို **Main Claude** သို့မဟုတ် **Principal Clause** (အဓိကပုဒ်စု)ဟု ခေါ်သည်။

When evening came မှာမူ **Main Clause** ထဲမှ **rested** ဟူသော ကြိယာကို ဝိသေသပြုသည့် **Adverb Clause** ဖြစ်သည်။ ဝါကျတစ်ခုအဖြစ် မိမိဘာသာရပ်တည်နိုင်စွမ်းမရှိသဖြင့် **The travellers rested when evening came.** ဟူသော ဝါကျထဲတွင် **The travellers rested** ဟူသော အဓိကပုဒ်စုကို ဦးရပ်တည်ရသဖြင့် **Subordinate Clause** (လက်အောက်ခံပုဒ်စု) သို့မဟုတ် **Dependent Clause** (ဦးရဲရသောပုဒ်စု) ဖြစ်သည်။

လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းလုပ်ကြည့်ပါ

Underline the Adverb Clause in the following sentences:—

အောက်ပါ စာကြောင်းများတွင် ကြိယာဝိသေသန ပုဒ်စုများကို မျဉ်းသားပါ။

1. We shall wait here till she returns.

2. You may sit wherever you like.

သင်ကြိုက်သော မည်သည့်နေရာတွင် မဆို ထိုင်နိုင်သည်။

3. If you eat too much you will fall ill.

4. He was so busy that he could not take a bath.

5. You will miss the train if you do not hurry.

6. She failed because she had not worked hard.

7. He was given a warm welcome when he arrived at the airport.

8. As he was not there I gave the book to his brother.

9. They went where living was cheaper.

10. Although they are poor, they are happy.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

Greedless Mind Makes Everyone Peaceful



Ms. Moon

Final year Honours
(English)
Dagon University



EVERYONE has already heard about greed. When the word “greed” is used it is most often in a negative connotation describing some sort of socially unacceptable behavior. Individuals who are described as “greedy” are often considered thieves or usurpers. Yes, greed is really bad except the greed of wishing to obtain Dharma. Everyone has possessed greed in a certain degree. Some people’s greed is extremely large and endless while that of Arahats who attain Arahatta, magga and phala is nothing. Therefore, every ordinary human being cannot be able to be deprive of greed.

Greed i.e. *Lobha* in Pali term is like fire. It is comprised of variety of heat. A person who is attached by a greedy mind is always scorched. If greed attaches to a person, it is hardly to be removed and taken away. In addition, a person who is attached by greed is like drinking salty water. The more he or she drinks it, the thirstier he or she feels. After he or she gets one thing, he or she wants other one again. His or her wants are endless. In the end, the greedy man is in association with ‘anger’ and ‘ignorance’ and then gets into trouble that cannot be solved.

Greedlessness i.e. *Alobha* in Pali term is entirely opposite to the greed. It is like the east and the west. Greed is to obtain something or someone while greedlessness is to share something or knowledge. The fundamental nature of greed is completely mixed and filled with the heat while that of greedlessness, the coolness. Therefore, the greedy man is always scorched and the greedless one is calm and peaceful forever.

When one makes donation to Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha and those who are virtuous with great

morality,

When one makes a donation to those who are in deep trouble and actually need current aids,

The delight in mind can be compared to nothing. Such delight is peculiar and not like other ones. This is due to the greedless mind. It must have been the



benefit of greedless mind.

If a consumer who loves apples has a choice between a basket containing three apples or a basket containing four apples for the same price she would obviously choose the basket containing four apples. The consumer in our example cannot be considered greedy for trying to satisfy her insatiable desire for apples by choosing the basket with the extra apple, she is simply maximizing the return to her investment (the price paid for the basket). This principle, of course, cannot be applicable on this text because such worldly greed is common to every ordinary human being. I would like to emphasize onto the non-greed mind.

In an English short poem I have ever read, it says . . .

Greedlessness

Grabbing
Drives the fragrant rose away
Charity
Brings the fragrant rose your way

Due to the wish to obtain with greed, one can commit evil thing and will commit so. Thus, the virtue it can be got will be bad news spreading horrible smell. Fragrance of roses can never be smelt.

Due to the wish of making a donation with greedless mind, one can make various kinds of merit. Thus, the virtue it can be got will be good news being fragrant pleasantly. The poet pointed out this completely undeniable information in the poem.



မြောက်ပိုင်း ပြည်နယ်ရှိ ကမ်းခြေတစ်ခုတွင် မြေသားတောင်များ ရှိပြီး အနီးရှိ ကမ်းခြေများတွင် လူများ ခရီးသွားလာကြသည်။



PHOTOS: Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)



၁ ကာကွယ်ရေး တပ်မတော် နယ်ချုပ်စနစ်ဖြင့် စောင့်ရှောက်နေသော မြေသားတောင်များတွင် လူများ ခရီးသွားလာကြသည်။

Edible bird nest industry, a new source of income for locals in Taninthayi Region

By Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

THE edible nest of the black-nest swiftlets are found in the islands of Myeik archipelagoes and the islands of the western Patheingyi.

The high-quality edible bird-nests are found in the 32 islands of Mergui Archipelago located in southernmost part of Myanmar's Taninthayi Region.

Previously, locals had to find nests on the walls of the mountain. Later, the experimental breeding at the houses achieved success, allowing breeders to earn handsome profits today.

The period of collecting lasts around three months a year, up to the first week of November. The period for working permits is up to the end of November. The period of collecting is set at three months per year.

Bird-nest businesses at homes

A permit allowing collection of bird's nests lasts until the first week of November.

Swiftlets are induced into making nests by using bird-noise techniques at houses along the Strand Road in Myeik. This breeding business has become popular in the region, and many breeders are thriving, said breeders.

There are over 130 houses where the swiftlets dwell in Myeik, Kawthoung and Boat Pyin. The market prices of bird's nests are from K1.6 to 2.2 million per viss, depending on the quality of the nest.

The price of the edible nest is higher than the white-nest swiftlet.

With the price of edible birds' nests rising, the number of breeders of nests has increased along Kanna Road in Myeik Township.

Two types of nests are sold at the market: those from islands and those collected from breeding houses. The edible nest swiftlets naturally make their nests here without the use of imitated voice.

With the price of edible birds' nests rising, the number of breeders of edible nest swiftlets (*Collocalia fuciphaga*) has increased along Kanna Road in Myeik Township.

The edible bird's nests produced by swiftlets dwelling in the Myeik archipelagoes are shipped by sea to a Singapore and also exported to China, Malaysia and Thailand, after their being purified.

Conservation of edible bird-nests

There are two islands on the archipelago where collection of bird's nests are not allowed, in order to prevent the extinction of the swiftlet. The collecting period of edible bird's nests lasts for three months.

To conserve the ecosystem of the islands, two islands in Myanmar's marine territory have been designated as sanctuaries.

The forestry department grants permission to collect the nests, in keeping with a policy to preserve the bird species.

(Translated by KZH)



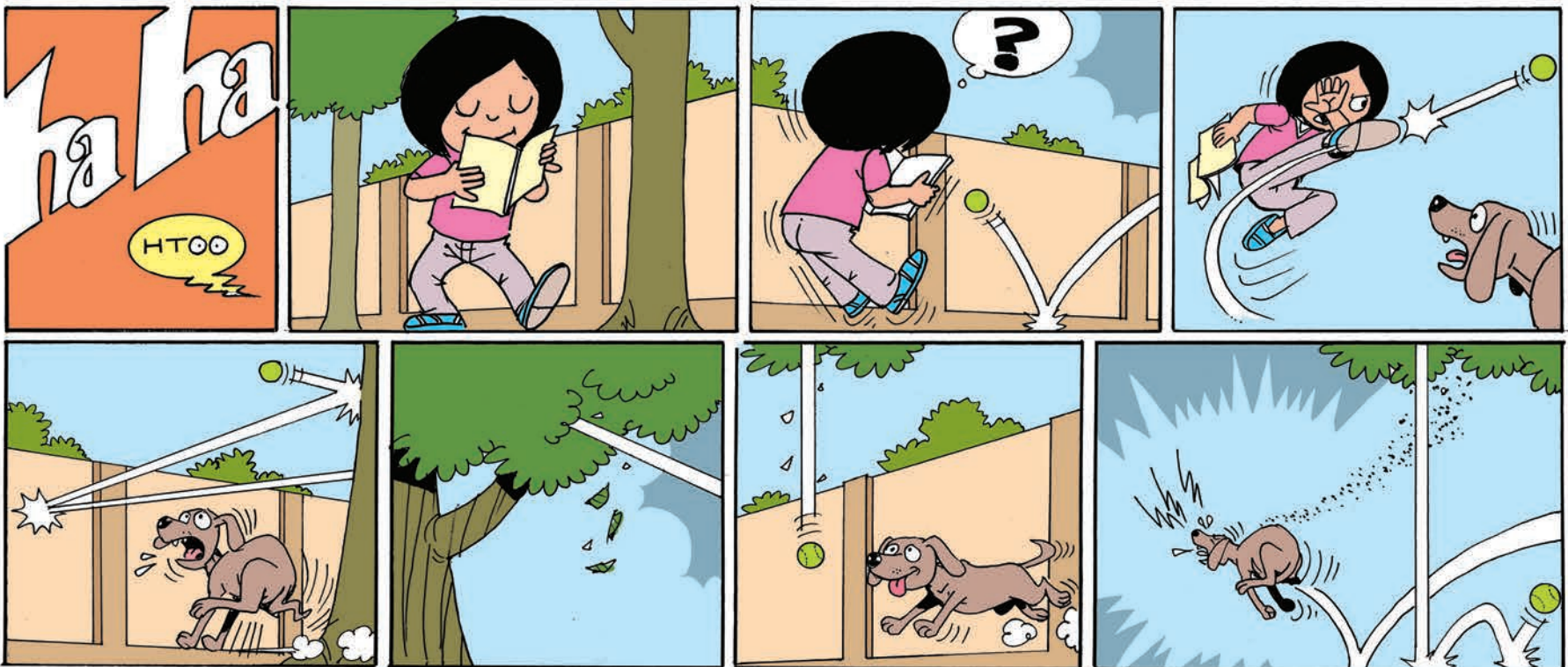
မြောက်ပိုင်း ပြည်နယ်ရှိ ကမ်းခြေတစ်ခုတွင် မြေသားတောင်များ ရှိပြီး အနီးရှိ ကမ်းခြေများတွင် လူများ ခရီးသွားလာကြသည်။



မြောက်ပိုင်း ပြည်နယ်ရှိ ကမ်းခြေတစ်ခုတွင် မြေသားတောင်များ ရှိပြီး အနီးရှိ ကမ်းခြေများတွင် လူများ ခရီးသွားလာကြသည်။

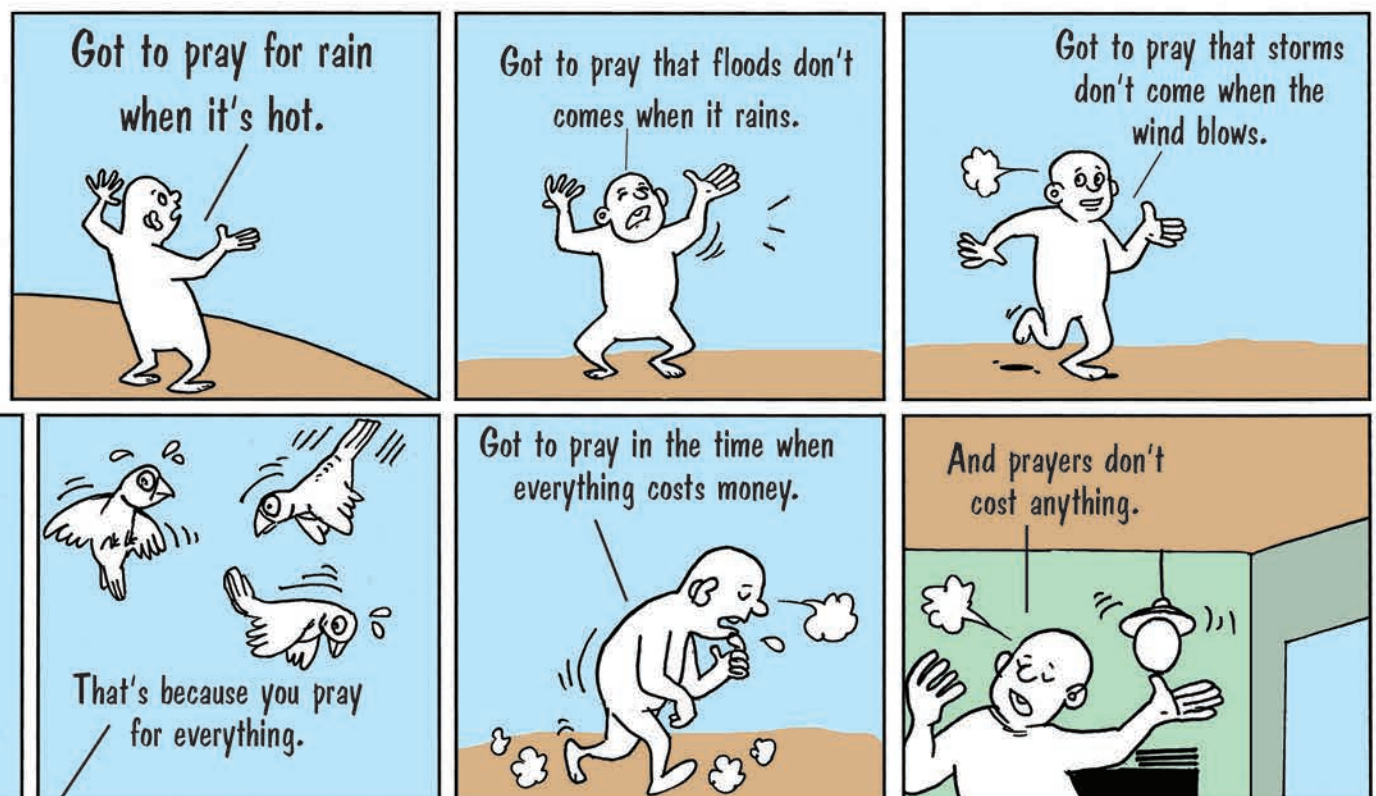


SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2019



Ngwe Saung:

Escape from the stressy city life

By Mya Thwe

If you are in Yangon craving a much-needed beach weekend, Ngwe Saung waves are your calling. Located in the Bay of Bengal, Ayeyarwady Region, the beach is just a 6-hour bus ride (or a 5-hour drive) from Yangon. The Ngwe Saung beach, which literally translates to silver beach, lives up to its name with the luxurious silver-grey sand along its coast. The place is ideal if you're looking to relax, unplug and take that break you've always wanted catch up on some much-needed sleep. It's also great for a great family beach weekend as there are islands to visit and very fine sand to build sandcastles out of. Do note that there is no night life here so if you're looking for a nightlife, this might not be the beach to swim ashore.

Getting there

Direct buses from Yangon to Ngwe Saung depart both in the morning and in the evenings. For the ones in the mornings, you have to catch the bus at the western bus terminal Hlaing Thar Yar, a 45-60 minute ride from downtown Yangon. The night buses depart around 9:00 pm and depending on where you are catching the bus. They usually have pick up points in Tamwe, Hledan and Hlaing Thar Yar but do check with your bus provider for specifics. The car attendant will usually call you before they reach your stop. The bus ticket costs around K 15,000 to K 20,000 for a round trip. The trip takes around 6 or 6.5 hours. The roads are pretty bump so if you easily get car sick and can't sleep on overnight buses, buses may not be the option for you.

If you are aiming for comfort, getting a private car with a driver

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will cost you around K 200,000 – K 250,000 (US\$150-200). Depending on how long you’re staying, the rate increases since the driver will be waiting for you at Ngwe Saung during your stay. You can also driver there yourself. If you are, it is highly recommended to do the trip in the morning and make sure you are well-rested and knows how to navigate the bendy roads of Myanmar.

Places to stay

Options in Ngwe Saung range from backpacker to 5-star beach villas with private pools. If you book in advance, you can even get pretty good discounts (almost 40% off) for the 4 stars hotels which usually cost US\$ 80-120 per night on travel sites like Agoda and hotels.com. There are hotels in the town and others in the “hotel zone”.

Ngwe Saung has more affordable accommodation options compared to Ngapali

beach. Budget hotels (K 15,000 – K 30,000, US\$ 10-20) are usually located further from the beach. There are mid-tier ones that are right on the beach such as At the Sea or Ocean Blue which goes for a reasonable US\$ 40-60 per night for standard rooms. Beware if you stay in the budget hotels. We’re told that Ngwe Saung hotel zones have yet to have electricity so the mid-tier hotel we stayed at only had electricity from 1pm-3pm and 6pm-6am. Of course, you need not worry about that in 4 or 5 star resorts.

Things to do

A three-wheeled tuk tuk ride to the small town in Ngwe Saung costs around 1000 MMK per person one way. If you decide to eat in the town, make sure to check out Sea King restaurant for fresh and delicious seafood. The price is fair compared to other restaurants as we spent only around K 20,000 (US\$ 15) for two seafood dishes, a vegetable dish, rice,

water bottle and two oysters. The waitstaff there is wonderful and service was quick too. There are also several tour operators for islands close to the beach in town as well.

If you’ve seen the pictures on Instagram you’ve come to the very beach the pagodas stand. Located right in front of Silver View Resort, the Kyauk Maunghnama Pagoda (‘rock brother and sister’) are an unusual sight for tourists and is very picturesque especially during sunset. During low tide season, guests can also walk to Lovers’ island known for its gigantic trees (for a tiny island) and have multiple viewpoints of the beach.

However, nothing beats chilling at the beach, coconut in hand with your favorite book. Listen to the waves as you fall asleep on the bench and recharge on your getaway. Just make sure to put on sunscreen.

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE



YANGON TO BANGKOK			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily
8M335	7:40	9:25	Daily
UB-019	7:45	9:40	Daily
TG2304	9:50	11:45	Daily
PG702	10:30	12:30	Daily
TG2302	11:30	13:25	3,4,5,7
PG708	15:20	17:20	Daily
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	17:25	19:20	Daily
PG704	18:20	20:20	Daily
TG306	19:45	21:40	Daily

YANGON TO DON MUEANG			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4231	8:05	9:50	Daily
FD252	8:30	10:15	Daily
SL201	9:25	11:15	Daily
FD256	13:25	15:15	1,2,3,5,6,7
FD254	17:30	19:15	Daily
FD258	19:25	21:15	Daily
SL207	20:45	22:45	Daily
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily

YANGON TO GUANGZHOU			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ3056	11:25	15:55	3,6
CZ8472	17:30	22:00	1,5

YANGON TO SINGAPORE			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
UB001	7:30	12:00	Daily
8M-231	8:20	12:50	Daily
SQ997	10:35	15:10	Daily
3K582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,7
UB003	16:15	20:45	Daily
MI519	17:35	22:10	1,2,3,4
SQ995	17:35	22:10	5,6,7
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,4
3K584	19:15	23:50	1,2,5,6,7

YANGON TO HONG KONG			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KA251	1:05	5:25	1,2,3,4,6,7
UB8027	7:25	12:05	3,5,7
KA275	17:20	21:45	5

BANGKOK TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
TG2303	7:55	8:50	Daily
PG701	8:50	9:40	Daily
TG2301	9:35	10:30	3,4,5,7
8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily
UB020	11:00	11:55	1,3,5,6,7
PG707	13:45	14:45	Daily
PG703	16:45	17:35	Daily
TG305	17:50	18:45	Daily
8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily
PG705	20:40	22:00	Daily
UB018	20:20	21:15	Daily

DON MUEANG TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4230	6:20	7:05	Daily
FD251	7:15	8:00	Daily
SL200	7:35	8:25	Daily
FD253	16:10	17:00	Daily
FD257	18:05	18:55	Daily
SL206	18:55	19:45	Daily
DD4238	19:30	20:15	Daily

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CZ3055	8:30	10:20	3,6
8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ8471	14:40	16:30	1,5

SINGAPORE TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily
3K581	8:55	10:25	1,2,5,6,7
UB002	13:15	14:45	Daily
8M232	13:50	15:20	Daily
MI518	15:15	16:40	1,2,3,4
SQ996	15:15	16:40	5,6,7
MI520	16:10	17:35	3,4
3K583	16:55	18:35	1,3,4,5,7
UB004	21:45	23:15	Daily

HONG KONG TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
UB8028	13:05	14:50	3,5,7
KA250	21:50	23:45	1,2,3,5,6,7
KA252	22:20	00:10+1	4

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily
MH741	11:30	15:50	Daily
OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7
MH743	16:15	20:30	1,4,6,7
AK503	19:30	23:45	1,5,6,7
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6

YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KE472	23:30	7:15	Daily

YANGON TO TAIPEI			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CI7916	10:45	16:15	Daily

YANGON TO KUNMING			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA416	12:15	15:45	Daily
MU2012	13:10	20:05	3
MU2032	16:00	19:50	Daily

YANGON TO BEIJING			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,5,7

YANGON TO HANOI			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN956	18:55	21:15	Daily
VJ918	18:55	21:20	2,4,5,6,7

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
SQ998	12:10	15:05	Daily

YANGON TO TOKYO			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
NH814	21:45	6:50+1	Daily

YANGON TO DOHA			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
QR919	7:40	11:55	1,3,4,6,7

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG724	13:10	15:05	Daily

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
AK504	6:45	7:55	Daily
MH740	9:10	10:25	Daily
OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7
MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
AK502	17:50	19:00	1,5,6,7
OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6

SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KE471	18:15	22:10	Daily

TAIPEI TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CI7915	7:00	9:45	Daily

KUNMING TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2011	8:20	12:10	3,7
CA415	10:45	11:15	Daily
MU2031	14:30	15:10	Daily

BEIJING TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5,7

HANOI TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN957	16:30	18:00	Daily
VJ917	16:30	17:55	2,4,5,6,7

HO CHI MINH TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN943	7:20	9:55	Daily

TOKYO TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
NH813	11:15	16:05	Daily

DOHA TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
QR918	20:00	5:30	2,3,5,6,7

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG723	10:40	12:35	Daily

YANGON TO DHAKA			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
BG061	14:15	16:00	1,3,6

YANGON TO DUBAI			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
EK389	2:20	5:40	1,4,5,7

MANDALAY TO BANGKOK			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG710	14:05	16:30	1,7
PG714	19:10	21:35	1,3,5,7

MANDALAY TO DON MUEONG			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
FD245	12:45	15:00	Daily

MANDALAY TO KUNMING			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2568	10:20	13:25	1,3,5,7
MU2030	16:10	19:25	Daily

NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG722	19:35	22:30	1,2,3,4,5,7

AIR LINES CODES	
3K = Jet Star	MH = Malaysia Airlines
8M = Myanmar Airways International	MI = Silk Air
AI = Air India	MU = China Eastern Airlines
AK = Air Asia	NH = All Nippon Airways
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines	PG = Bangkok Airways
CA = Air China	QR = Qatar Airways
CI = China Airlines	SL = Thai Lion Air
CZ = China Southern	SQ = Singapore Airways
DD = Nok Airline	TG = Thai Airways
FD = Air Asia	TR = Tiger Airlines
KA = Dragonair	UB = Myanmar National Airlines
KE = Korea Airlines	VN = Vietnam Airlines

DATE	4 = Thursday
1 = Monday	5 = Friday
2 = Tuesday	6 = Saturday
3 = Wednesday	7 = Sunday

Subjected to change by
repesctive airlines.
Hotline - (951) 229245