Independent journalists visit troubled areas in Maungtaw

Myanmar and foreign journalists visited troubled areas in northern Rakhine yesterday, where people were attacked by armed attackers.

The independent journalists were taken to several areas including Maung-hnama Village, Yinna Chaung Taung Village and Kyar Gaung Taung Village. They were taken to Kyar Gaung Taung Village. More than 50 villagers from the village were arrested on suspicion of involvement in violent attacks in November last year.

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungtaw Tsp

An IED suspected to be planted by terrorists exploded between Pyay Piko Village and Nga Sar Kyuu Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday morning, killing three people and injuring one.

The explosion occurred while four men were resting on a hill after working on a farm at the foot of the hill. Security forces immediately went to the area and found Swe Yaik Dula dead and Pe Yan, Oosman and Kiman Hussun injured. The three injured were transported to Maungtaw hospital for treatment where Pe Yan and Oosman later succumbed to their injuries.—Myanmar News Agency
Ms. Yanghee Lee arrives back to Yangon from Lashio

Ms. YANGHEE LEE, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar arrived back to Yangon by air from Lashio yesterday.

Earlier in the morning, she met with officials of UN organizations and civil society organizations at Golden Hill Hotel, Lashio.

Later in the afternoon, she paid homage to Thi Ri Mingalar Mansu Shan Monastery Sayadaw and donated cofferies after which she left for Yangon by air.

---IPRD

Eight arrested in Yathedaung Township on suspicion of terrorist links

SECURITY forces recently arrested a terrorist suspect and seven others suspected of being linked to terrorists in Yathedaung Township it is learnt.

Based on information received on individuals who may have associations with terrorists, attended terrorist training or participated in terrorist acts, security forces arrested Mahmot Norul in Chin Village, Yathedaung Township on the morning of 11 July. He was interrogated in Nyaung Chaung Police Station and a case was opened against him on 13 July in Zedipyin Police Station. An investigation revealed another terrorist suspect, Mawni Rahmon of Chin Village, who was arrested together with seven men suspected of links to terrorists on the morning of 14 July. Investigations into all the suspects continue.—Myanmar News Agency

Gov’t prepares to counter flooding

NATIONAL Natural Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye met with Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung yesterday morning at the Mandalay Region government office in Mandalay to discuss flooding in the Mandalay region last year and preparation for this year, where there will be cooperation between Union and regional governments in the prevention, response and reconstruction to natural disasters.

Next, the Union Minister provided Ks11 million to the Chief Minister to purchase five fiberglass motorboats for use in disaster management works and for safe transport of basic education school teachers and students of Pathein gyi Township during the rainy season.

The Union Minister then visited Gaw Wein Jetty in Ma-haungmyay Township to view the water inflow situation in the rainy season and went on to Nyaungzin village, Hanthawaddy village tract, Tada-U Township to inspect the preparation of sandbags for preventing the overflowing of Dotawadi River and coordinated long term arrangements. Afterward, the Union Minister visited the old city area in Sinyoke Village, Meethine Village Tract, Tada-U Township, where flood waters were flowing. The Union Minister coordinated on restoring the old city wall without affecting the historic architecture. The old city area is a place of frequent flooding during every rainy season. In the afternoon, the Union Minister visited a drug addicts rehabilitation centre in Mandalay and discussed in detail with officials on upgrading the work of the centre in cooperation with the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation so that the centre could become a model rehabilitation centre.

The Union Minister then met with officials of the Myanmar Social Association, Chanmythitha, Chanthhaka, 36 Pa-rabitha and Seanpang Ward social associations to discuss cooperation among government, townpeople and social associations in preparing and responding to natural disasters.—Myanmar News Agency

Maungtaw markets again bustling with shoppers

DESPITE the existence of a curfew instituted after the violent attacks of October 2016, the security situation in Maungtaw town seems to be returning to normal, with the markets in Maungtaw crowded with shoppers and sellers until early in the evening.

Government offices, schools, hospitals, clinics, markets, banks as well as private shops selling various items, barber shops, tailors and tea shops operating normally.

Three border police outposts were attacked by terrorists in October 2016, resulting in the deaths of nine border policemen and months of security clearance operations.

Due to tightened security immediately after the terrorist incident, the shops were allowed to operate only in the morning, but are now open the whole day with a 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew.

Transport and communication between Maungtaw and Buthidaung has also improved with more buses and cars carrying people and goods while travel to nearby villages with motorcycles and motor tricycles had also increased.—Myint Maung Soe, Aung Kyaw Oo

Independent journalists visit troubled areas...

FROM PAGE 1

The 18-Myanmar nationals and foreigners will end their five-day visit today.

They arrived in Rakhine State on 12 July, with a pledge from the government not to impose any restrictions on the reporters visiting the troubled areas that have been the site of violence since October.

“There are no restrictions regarding the areas that you can report from,” said U Thein Swe, a director of the Ministry of Information, to the reporters at the beginning of the trip.—GNLM

Maungtaw Market. PHOTO: THAKKA

Transport Co eyes Myanmar links

TRANSPORT CO, Thailand’s state-owned public interprovincial bus service provider, plans to expand its routes to link Myanmar and India, according to the Bangkok Post.

Managing Director Jirasak Yaowatchayasakul said the plan was part of the company’s bid to expand to Asean, especially Myanmar, where tourism was booming, according to a Manager Online report.

The planned route will link Thailand with Myanmar and India— from Mae Sot in Tak province to Myanmar and India’s border town of Morey, the Bangkok Post reported yesterday.

Vietnam is also on the company’s radar, with the planned route running from Hue to Danang. In the South, it hopes to operate from southern provinces to Malaysia and perhaps to Singapore. “New services will need to be approved by third countries.

Safety will be a major factor in the consideration as some countries have minority groups. We’re now discussing the plans with the Land Transport Department before sending them to the Foreign Ministry and the Transport Ministry for approval,” he said.

Some 15%, or 187 million baht, of the company’s 3.7-bilion-baht revenue comes from services linked with neighbouring countries, with Laos being the largest market. Transport Co now has 15 routes linking to neighbouring countries, 13 of which are connected to Laos.—Bangkok Post and GNLM
Complement of true scientific internationalism

Every nation in the world being a conglomeration of races and religions should develop such a nationalism as is compatible with the welfare of one and all, irrespective of race or religion or class or sex. This is my nationalism and I believe that such a nationalism is but a complement of true scientific internationalism.

(Excerpt from the address made at the meeting of the Anglo-Burman Council at the City Hall, Rangoon, on December 8, 1946)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends Shwe Nantha fair-cost housing estate opening ceremony

VICE President U Henry Van Thio attended the opening ceremony of the Shwe Nantha fair-cost housing estate held in Oatarra Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Union Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Myo Nyunt, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Ministers U Ohn Win, Dr Than Myint, U Ohn Maung, U Naing Thet Lwin, Union Auditor General U Maw Than, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers Dr Tun Naing and U Kyaw Lin, Hluttaw representatives, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials were also present on this occasion.

The Vice President, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the estate to inaugurate the event. The Vice President then pressed a button to unveil the commemorative plaque of the housing estate and sprinkled scented waters on it.

Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing then gave a welcoming speech and Urban and Housing Development Department Director-General U Min Htein explained the details of Shwe Nantha Fair-cost Housing Estate. Afterwards, the Vice President and party toured the housing estate.

Construction of the fair-cost housing buildings were started in June 2016 and completed in December 2016. The buildings are five-storey reinforced concrete and five-storey steel structures measuring 100 ft by 47 ft. Each building contains 40 20 ft x20 ft apartments. The Shwe Nantha Housing estate contains 22 low-cost and fair-cost housing buildings consisting of eight five-storey buildings with eight apartment units per storey, 12 four-storey buildings with four apartment units per storey and two three-storey buildings with six apartment units. In the Shwe Nantha fair-cost housing complex, the apartment prices are set at Ks13.5 million for a ground floor unit, Ks12.5 million for a first floor unit, Ks12 million for a second floor unit, Ks11.5 million for a third floor unit and Ks11 million for a fourth floor unit. Down payment is 30 per cent and the remaining 70 per cent is to be paid in a long-term yearly payments.

The Ministry of Construction is implementing this housing project to develop urban sector housing, resolve urbanization problems, create pleasant urban scenery and opportunities for local and foreign investments, establish a town that is disaster resistant and sustainable, and provide appropriate housing and socio-economic development for the people.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister for Information meets IDPs in Myitkyina

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint arrived at Myitkyina Airport, Kachin State yesterday morning and met with State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung and state ministers in the airport hall and discussed cooperative works between the Ministry of Information and the Kachin State government.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party together with the Kachin State minister for municipal affairs went to camp for internally displaced persons in the Kachin Baptist church compound at Tatkone Ward, Myitkyina and met with families staying in the camp. The families in the camp were provided with rice, cooking oil, school books and stationery by the Union Minister, bags of rice and cooking oil by the state minister for municipal affairs U Nay Win, T-shirts with peace logos by the songwriter Naung Naung (Sunflower) on behalf of peace music festival members, foodstuff by Premier family and cooking oil, dried fish and foodstuff by the Myanmar Kyal Sinlin Company.

A family member in return gave words of thanks. Afterward, the Union Minister and party toured the living areas of the families in the camp.

Later, the Union Minister and party inspected works underway in a sub-printing house of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Myanmar Radio and Television broadcasting sub-station and a community centre building in Myitkyina and provided necessary instruction to officials. The opening ceremony for the community centre will be jointly conducted by the Information and Public Relations Department and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

—State IPRD
Reduced down payment for low-cost housing

KO MOE

Arrangements are being made to reduce the down payment and provide long-term loans for buyers of low-cost apartments, said the Construction and Housing Development Bank.

The Construction and Housing Development Bank has begun offering housing savings accounts on 1 August 2016, and now has over 10,000 account holders. This is to construct affordable housing projects in areas like Dagon Seikkan Township in order to fulfill the needs of homeless citizens.

The Shwe Lin Paon low-cost housing project was constructed together with the Department of Urban and Housing Development as a pilot project.

The Union Government and related regional governments are discussing ways to reduce the down payment to 20 per cent and increase loan periods from 20 to 30 years.

The Yangon Regional Government is planning to construct low-cost apartments together with other related departments as well as the Ministry of Construction. The plan is to construct low-cost housing priced under Ks10 million within two years by inviting private construction entrepreneurs, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister of Electricity, Industry, Transport and Communication.

Low-cost housing projects are also being implemented in Hlinethayar and Thanlyin townships.

In addition, the Ministries of Planning and Finance and Construction were also constructing low-cost housing for pensioner, public servants and low income communities all over the country. —GNLM

Almost 20,000 tonnes of maize went to China from border trade camps

MYANMAR exported nearly 20,000 tonnes of maize to China through land border ports of entry in the last week of June, according to border trade authorities.

Between 24 and 30 June of this year, the country sold a total of 19,428 tonnes of maize to its largest trade partner via the Muse, Lwejel and Chinshwehaw trade stations in Sino-Myanmar borders and Ks10 million in India-Myanmar ports of entry. There were no border trade deals with Bangladesh between April and June.

Over the first three months of this FY, the trade value of border trade with the use of ITCs amounted to more than Ks10 billion in total.

Imports with ITCs at borders reaches Ks9.4 billion

The import value of border trade using the Individual Trading Card (ITC) topped Ks9.45 billion in the current fiscal year, while export earnings reached about Ks600 million, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce this week.

Imports with ITCs as of 30 June amounted to more than Ks6 billion in Thailand-Myanmar border camps, over Ks7 billion in Sino-Myanmar borders and Ks45 million in India-Myanmar border ports of entry. There were no border trade deals with Bangladesh between April and June.

Wholesalers in Muse say corn was sold for Ks258,824 per tonne in late June, including transportation charges of Ks56-64 per viss (one viss is equivalent to approximately 3.6 pounds).

More than 600 trucks loaded with maize entered the Muse market between 24 June and 30 June.—Swe Nyein

Imports and exports through the Muse and Kengtung cross-border entries totalled less than Ks60 million, while trade via the Muse and Chinshwehaw border stations was no more than Ks7 million.

The overall value of border trade with ITCs last fiscal year was Ks18.972 billion. —Shwe Khine
Over 200 hotel rooms to be added in Myeik Archipelago for coming high season

May Thet Hnin

MORE THAN 200 hotel rooms will be added in the Myeik Archipelago in the coming high season starting in October and November, said U Hlwam Moe, in charge of the Kawthaung District Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

U Hlwam Moe said that nine local and foreign companies have received permission from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) to construct hotels on 12 islands in the Myeik Archipelago. New hotels will emerge on Nyaung Oo Phee Island, Wa Ale Island, Hlaniggu Island, Ngakhimyogyi Island, 115 Island, Phoni Island, Balar Island and Thahtay Island before this high season.

There are more than 800 islands in the region, of which about 140 islands are popular among visitors as well as investors.

U Hlwam Moe added that the region has had accommodation problems due to insufficient numbers of hotel rooms as visitor arrivals in Myeik increase year on year. The problem is expected to be solved after finishing the new projects this year.

He continued to say that the telecommunication barrier is one of the main challenges the travellers face in the region.

“For the time being, the arrival of visitors to the region has decreased this monsoon because of weather conditions. The number of visitors from home and abroad obviously has increased within the past two or three years, especially on Thingyan holidays, Christmas Day, New Year and other significant days. Thanks to a quick registration process, day trippers can easily visit the island after reporting their trip to the respective department. This is one of the reasons why traveller arrivals are increasing in the region. Before October 2010, day trippers could visit the area only after gaining permission from the authorities.

With the current government, several tourism improvement programmes are being developed by a committee founded by the Union government in partnership with regional authorities to transform the region as a new tourism destination, said U Ohn Myint, deputy director-general of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

“Plans are underway to explore Myeik Archipelago as a new tourism site. The projects are being implemented in collaboration with Taninthayi Region Development Committee. It will take a long time to develop the schemes in the islands, with plans to allow only one kind of business in each island to protect the natural environment,” said U Ohn Myint.

U Hsan Myint, deputy director-general of Myanmar Investment Commission, said; “The MIC directly monitors all permitted enterprises within the country, making field trips to project areas in partnership with relevant government departments. A business cannot get permission from the MIC only. It needs to apply for licenses at the respective ministries which are responsible for scrutinising the project proposals.

“Action will be taken against those businesspersons who failed to abide by the existing rules and regulations.” According to U Hlwam Moe, the majority of visitors are currently from Thailand. According to official statistics, around 300,000 foreigners visited the region last year, including 250,000 Thai citizens. Over the first five months of this year, the number of foreign visitors in the region reached around 160,000, comprised of some Americans and those from western states.

Holidaymakers to the Myeik Archipelago are very interested in eco-tourism, officials said. Hiking, bird watching, diving, trekking and snorkeling are some of the popular tours. Many of the travellers visit the region regularly. Some foreigners stay in the region for as long as 28 days. They also enjoy four or five-day sightseeing trips on luxury motor boats.

To protect the natural environment of the region, the ministry has issued dos and don’ts for visitors, including good waste management and safety plans, U Hlwam Moe explained, adding that visitors are required to use local guides for sea trips. Visitors are been banned from touching natural coral reefs and taking the shells of sea snails.

MIC permits 36 local and foreign investments

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) has registered 36 local and foreign investments this month, the Deputy Director-General of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) U Hsan Myint reported to a regular 11 July MIC meeting.

According to MIC, a total of 27 foreign enterprises invested US$817.17 billion and nine Myanmar investment projects invested Ks89.29 billion between April and mid July in this year.

MIC approved 27 foreign direct investments (FDIs) 14 in industrial sectors, two in transport and telecoms sectors, one in the livestock and fishery sector, seven in services sectors and one in agricultural sectors. Total FDI reached US$810 million, creating 7,155 employment opportunities for locals. — May Thet Hnin
Indonesia blocks Telegram messaging service over security concerns

JAKARTA — Indonesia on Friday blocked access to the encrypted messaging service Telegram, citing concerns that it was being used to spread “radical and terrorist propaganda” in the world’s largest Muslim-majority nation.

The move comes amid heightened concerns over the growing presence and influence of Islamic State in Southeast Asia as the jihadist group loses territory in Syria and Iraq.

Indonesia itself has seen a resurgence in home-grown militancy, inspired in large part by Islamic State; a twin suicide bombing at a Jakarta bus station in May killed three police officers and injured several others. It has stepped up anti-terrorism cooperation with Malaysia and the Philippines.

“This has to be done because there are many channels on this service that are full of radical and terrorist propaganda, hatred, ways to make bombs, how to carry out attacks, disturbing images, which are all in conflict with Indonesian law,” the communications ministry said in a statement on its website.

Telegram is a messaging platform known to be popular among Islamic State sympathisers, who use chatrooms with hundreds of members as well as private conversations. The communications ministry added that both the mobile application and the desktop version of Telegram would be blocked throughout Indonesia. It did not say if it would take similar action against other messaging platforms.

Japan’s major airlines to toughen explosive checks from Tuesday

TOKYO — Major Japanese carriers will start randomly checking passengers’ electronic devices for explosives before they board aircraft, responding to a US request to enhance aviation security to counter terrorism, airport sources said Friday.

The new measure will be taken from Tuesday, likely affecting Tokyo’s Haneda airport and Narita airport near the capital as well as five other airports in the country that have direct flights to the United States. The implementation could cause flight delays as many passengers may be unaware of the new policy.

The random screening will be conducted on electronic devices passengers have as carry-on items, such as personal computers, tablet computers, electronic book readers and cameras, the sources said. Cell phones and smartphones are exempt from the checks. The screening will use special checking devices as the US government has called for the use of so-called Explosive Trace Detectors, which can detect traces of explosives by wiping on electronic devices. The checks will likely be conducted at departure gates, rather than security check areas, as the United States is calling for passengers who are already screened not to be allowed to mingle with those who are boarding other flights.

According to Japan’s Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the five other airports that have direct flights to the United States are New Chitose, Sendai, Chubu, Kansai and Pahaska.

In late June, the United States unveiled its enhanced security measures that will affect US-bound commercial flights through expanded screening of passengers and their carry-on electronic devices at departing airports.

The US Department of Homeland Security has expressed concerns that terrorists are improving their methods to plant explosives in electronic devices. It claims an explosives-laden laptop was used in a terrorism case in Somalia in February 2016. —Kyodo News

Three injured in fire in central Tokyo

TOKYO — A fire broke out in an apartment building in Tokyo’s central district of Akasaka early Saturday, injuring three men, firefighters said.

The three are all conscious, with their injuries not life-threatening, they said. The blaze was extinguished after a unit on the third floor of the building, which has 10 floors above ground and one underground, caught fire shortly past midnight.

The scene is about 500 meters southwest of Akasaka Station of the Tokyo Metro, a major subway operator in central Tokyo. The area is densely built-up with apartments, commercial facilities and multipurpose buildings.—Kyodo News

Five die in heavy rains in western India

NEW DELHI — At least five people have died in heavy rains in the western Indian state of Gujarat in the past 24 hours, officials said Saturday.

“Heavy rains have been lashing the state since Friday. Five persons have died in the state’s Saurashtra region, one each in districts and cities such as Surendr nagar, Rajkot, Aravali, Gandhinagar and Banaskantha,” a senior disaster management official said.

More than 2,000 people have been rescued from low-lying areas in the region and shifted to safer locations, he added.

State Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has called a high-level meeting to ensure that emergency services are on the alert as rains are not showing any immediate signs of ebbing. “The Chief Minister is personally taking stock of the situation,” a government official said.

Local TV channels reported that additional disaster management teams have been dispatched to the state to help those affected by rains and also showed footage of some rivers flowing near the danger mark.

Gujarat is not the only Indian state affected by monsoon rains. India’s northeastern region, particularly the state of Assam, has also been highly affected by heavy rains and so far more than 85 people have died there in nearly nine days of showers, according to the central government.—Xinhua
Calls for law change after Indians left in dark over data leaks

MUMBAI — Fears Indian telecom upstart Reliance Jio suffered a major data breach, compromising the personal data of over 100 million customers, have prompted calls for India to adopt more robust laws to protect consumers.

Jio has repeatedly denied any breach took place and said that names, telephone numbers and email addresses of Jio users on a website called “Magicapk” appeared to be “unauthentic.” The website was later shut down.

The company, part of conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd, said on Monday that its subscriber data was safe and protected by the highest levels of security.

However, Jio filed a complaint the same day alleging unlawful access to its systems, police have told Reuters.

Jio did not respond to requests for comment.

In contrast to companies in the European Union, which has stringent data protection standards, companies in India do not have to disclose data breaches to clients, information security professionals said.

“It raises questions of security and accountability,” said Pranesh Prakash, policy director at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), a research organisation.

People complained on Twitter about personal information of Jio users being available on the Magicapk site. Several local news outlets said their checks had led them to believe a leak had occurred.

“A rule to report breaches exists, but it is unenforceable,” says Prakash. “It says you’re not liable if you’re following reasonable security practices. What ‘reasonable’ means is not defined.”

Advocates of stronger laws in India say a data breach in countries with more stringent cyber laws, such as Britain or the United States, would prompt an inquiry by regulators.

After reports of a data leak at Verizon earlier this week, for example, the US telecoms firm quickly responded with an explanation of what had occurred, how it had happened and the extent of the problem.

“It is at a nascent stage. For good norms in Asia, look to Singapore. It’s been praised for not having cyber security issues by the UN,” Srinivas Kodali, an independent security researcher, said.—Reuters

North Korea may have more nuclear bomb material than thought — US think tank

WASHINGTON — Thermal images of North Korea’s main nuclear site show Pyongyang may have reprocessed more plutonium than previously thought that can be used to enlarge its nuclear weapons stockpile, a US think tank said on Friday.

The analysis by 38 North, a Washington-based North Korean monitoring project, was based on satellite images of the radiochemical laboratory at the Yongbyon nuclear plant in North Korea by Airbus Defence & Space and 38 North released on 14 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

One killed, two injured as wooden boats catch fire in Central Java of Indonesia

JAKARTA — About 17 wooden boats caught fire at a river in Pati district of Indonesia’s Central Java province on Saturday, leaving one person dead and two others wounded, a senior official of disaster agency said.

Firefighters and water canon trucks were hampered to enter the location of the incident due to difficult access to the scene, spokesman of national disaster management agency Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told Xinhua in a text message.

The incidents hitting the sailboat ships started at 13:30 local time at Juwana port in Kenongo river, the spokesman said.

Efforts to separate the 17 boats from the other ones are still underway, he added.—Xinhua
**Work together for disaster preparedness**

By Aye Min Soe

MONSOONS and torrential rain is common in Myanmar during its long rainy season, which begins in mid-June and continues into October.

The near-constant rainfall swells the country’s waterways, with the Ayeyawady River, the country’s longest and largest, causing widespread flooding and landslides downstream.

In June, the overflow from the Irrawaddy River submerged low-lying areas. Several other rivers, including the Chindwin and the Ayeyawady, have reached dangerously high levels in some towns. They need careful monitoring.

As part of disaster preparedness, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye is currently visiting central Myanmar, holding talks with local authorities and assisting in preparedness tasks.

Some areas in central Myanmar are especially flood prone, especially in Chin and Shan States and the Taninthayi Region, which experienced rain-induced landslides.

Reviewing our past experiences and current preparedness measures against disasters can reduce the loss of life and property and are helpful in providing quick responses to the disasters.

Preparation is the key, and also effective communication. We should not forget the importance of the quick dissemination of weather information and disaster awareness among the people in order to reduce the disaster risks.

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**Memoir about Bogyoke Aung San Recounted by A Veteran in Struggle for Independence**

By Dr Kyaw Kyaw Min

We have already known that Bogyoke Aung San, our national leader is the person of great virtues and he is endowed with the characteristics of a great leader.

In the explanation about leadership qualities in the book titled, “The Path to Leadership,” written by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, it is written that honesty, strengthened morals, courage in action, enthusiasm, zeal, ability to solve problems and astuteness at being well convinced of human’s nature are leadership qualities. These are the qualities of national and political leaders.

Bogyoke Aung San is not only a national leader-cum-political leader but also a military leader; thus he was endowed with virtues of a soldier as written by Field Marshal Montgomery. Obedience or performing duties assigned by superiors perfunctorily, enthusiasm and zealous effort, freedom from immoral ideas, esprit de corps—these virtues and he is endowed with al leader is the person of great leader.

One day, Bogyoke asked. “Pole Star falls on to Earth, Sun and Stars disappear. Landslide of Mount Meru to nothingness. Even in the midst of these events, Never feel betrayed about my fondness.”

Apart from that piece, he never proceeded to sing. It was said to have been sung with the intention of making his return known to his wife. Sometimes, he came into, calling “Kyi, Kyi, Kyi.” When his better-half asked why he shouted such a call, Bogyoke’s only answer was, “I do it as I love you.”

One day, while Bogyoke was reading sitting in an easy chair at the down-stair, grandpa U Sein Pe returned home from outside, entering the house after putting off his shoes hurriedly, with one piece of the pair left behind.

At that time, grandpa did not yet attend any military training courses. He put an army uniform, shirt on the upper part, wearing a longyi and slippers at feet. Seemingly he noticed me and my happening, thus, I called him, summoning the grandpa. He mournfully and proudly recounted what he experienced in his youth, in spite of his advancing years.

As he had started his learning only in his mid-twenties, the grandpa had to attend at a special class, where he had ever listened to 10 standard-class teacher Bo Khin Maung Lay come to make a political lecture. Afterwards, he frequently visited Deh Bamar Asiayone, May Myo, still remembering U Pyan was the then chairman of the Asiayone. One day, BIA (Burma Independence Army) came to the Asiayone for the recruitment of new members. Then he joined BIA under the name of Myo Myint. Being sent to Pyinmana, he served under Bo Tun Pe, then to Shangan under Bo Lun Tin. Three months after joining BIA, it was abolished, becoming BDA (Burma Defence Army). At Shangan, he was accommodated at the down-stair of duplex 5 unit apartment.

Bo Tun Tin and grandpa lived in a room each, separately at the front part of the first floor, whereas the security section resided at the rear part. Bogyoke and his spouse did live in the up-stair. Then, Bogyoke was said to have been married just 3 months ago.

He mournfully and proudly recounted one of his reminiscences about Bogyoke. “Presently, none but me survived those wanting to be freed were arrested under section 10. Those who would like to be freed were released. So, it was an unfair law,” Bogyoke said.

Bogyoke added, “In the main land, on the contrary, a policeman had to find 3 crime cases every month. Failing that, he was granted freedom from taking actions for first two times. For the third time he had to be fired. In Scotland, the official in authority whose jurisdiction was free from crimes would be promoted. So as to be free from such a kind of governing a country, to be exact, to be free from ruling the country under “divide and rule” system by dividing into mainland and hilly regions, we urgently need Independence.”

In the sky...
Sri Lanka secures rice stocks from Myanmar and Pakistan

The four-man Lankan team of officials that flew to Pakistan and Myanmar to select rice tranche, returned to Colombo yesterday, according to official source from Sri Lanka.

It was reported that no less than 55,000 MT rice has been made available to Sri Lanka immediately by both Pakistan and Myanmar.

Sri Lankan Ministry of Industry and Commerce Rishad Bathiudeen, whose team of officials took off on 7 July to Pakistan and Myanmar to select rice from Sri Lanka. It was reported that official ambassadors present pledged immediate support to Sri Lanka’s efforts to procure the needed rice tranches. — GNLM

Workers dry rice grains under the Sun in Kangyidaunt in Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Memoir about Bogyoke Aung San Recounted by A Veteran in Struggle for Independence

FROM PAGE 8

Only if Independence is achieved, can we draw up a law suitable for the country ourselves. To gain Independ- ence, it is not possible just by learning to know how to use a fire-arm. It is necessary for us to abide by discipline so that we can succeed. That is all I wanted to say. Now, you can go, carry on!” At the end of his saying, he went on reading.

Three months later, grandpa desirous of going to frontier areas for fighting insisted on Bo Lam Tin sending him to attend the military training school. The training period was only three months. On completion of the training, Japanese Lt General Iida and General Aung San came into the parade ground on horseback each, making speeches respectively.

At the start of the training, trainees amounted to much, but there were only 300 left at the end. At the closing ceremony, the trainees were well treated with a square meal, and provided with uniforms, two pairs of boots, a blanket, a towel and a mosquito net each.

One day, Bo Thaung Han asked me to dispatch a letter to Bogyoke Aung San’s residence at Tower Lane. On seeing a man with a mustache in his hand in front of the house, U Sein Pe asked him where Bogyoke was, telling him that he had brought a letter to give Bogyoke. The man bluntly replied, “I am Bogyoke. Give me it.” And he gave the letter to Bogyoke. Being void of any uniforms on his body, U Sein Pe did not recognize Bogyoke well, though he had ever lived in Pyinmana for 3 months together with Bogyoke. On account of getting no worth from Bogyoke to go back, while he was waiting for Bogyoke’s order in the rear part of the house, he met with Sergeant Hla Pe, with whom he was acquainted in Pyinmana.

The sergeant was found making 3 fishing rods each for 3 children of Bogyoke, with the first one carrying nothing apart from a hook, the second one carrying a dead fish and the last one carrying with a live one attached with hook. It was intentionally made children happy and fishes were bought from the market. After that, the sergeant placed fishing rods at the side of the lake. On seeing no fish in the first hooks, they were disappointed, with at the second hooks, they were not happy at the sight of a dead fish and at the third hooks they went happy after seeing a fish attached with a hook, shouting happily and noisily.

At the time of PBF (Patriotic Burma Force)’ formation, the grandpa was hospitalized for suffering from beriberi disease, thence his hospitalizing was transferred to May Myo Sapper Miner from Yangon Myaynigone. The then battalion commander is a British named Colonel Stut. During his service in May Myo Sapper Miner, grandpa had chances to meet Bogyoke for two times. At the first time, Bogyoke made a speech at the mass-rally in Nyaungaw Grounds in May Myo. After the speech, the feast was set at the present State High School 1. Porcelain plates were placed on the tables spread with table clothes. According to the plan, 4 people were to sit face to face at a table. Being borrowed from various places, tables were not same in size and height.

On a surprise inspection, Bogyoke found cuisines in two kinds: one prepared for the guests and the other kind for special guests. Bogyoke ordered them to mix and stir the fusion of cuisines. Besides, he told to remove table clothes and change banana leaves for porcelain plates, on the pretext that those could not be compensated if broken. On In-phet meant for Dipterocar pus tuberculatus leaves and banana leaves, rice and curry were piled for those present at the meeting to eat. It was said that the people amounted to nearly 80.

At the second time Bogyoke was seen at the up-stair of the two-storied building (now State Primary School 4). The prepared feast—biryani smelled sweet, arousing the taste buds of all present there. Bogyoke climbed up-stairs from the rear stairs and climbed down from the front stairs, greeting guests and telling them to enjoy taking meal freely.

Without taking any meal prepared for him, Bogyoke left for the house of U Than Nyunt, a parliamentarian residing at ward 6 in May Myo. He told U Than Nyunt’s children to buy two dishes of Mont Hin Khar to eat together with the rice, such as it was. After taking meal at U Than Nyunt’s house, he returned.

When asked why he did not take the prepared meal, grandpa replied that Bogyoke seemed to dislike superficial things and excessive care to him.

Bogyoke’s real spirit can be vividly seen in the article titled “The day when Bogyoke burst out his anger,” written by Bo Tayar who was a member of 30 comrades. Here, Bo Tayar’s writing will be presented in brief.

One day, while Bogyoke was in the office room, some lieutenants and the rank and file were criticizing and laughing at uniforms unloaded from a car, they were of great poor qualities and they had never put on such kinds of clothes, the texture of cloth was so coarse that they would be thought to be coolies for Japanese Army, without knowing that Bogyoke was in there. On hearing this, Bogyoke burst out his anger and summoned all those in the group. Bogyoke shouted at them all of a sudden when they came in:

“What kinds of fellow are you? I heard you all say, Tell me what and why.” Bogyoke asked.

Among them one soldier ventured to disclose that they had criticized that the cloth was of nearest poor quality. At that time Bogyoke shouted them saying, “You are bull-like beings. You all are smart with the uniforms, just now. You speak too big enough not to hold in your mouths. When we fought enemies on our way from Siam up to here, you imagine what kind of clothes we wore. It does not matter for us to fight against enemies by girding up our loins with our anatomy shown to all. You betray our fallen soldiers. You traitors! You will be fired out. You ultra-opportunist! While the majority of people did not even a meagre amount of clothing, you would like to wear fine uniforms. What is the difference between you and me? All are the same.”

When they heard Bogyoke’s speech some cried and some apologized.

Here is the noteworthy word of Bogyoke Aung San.

“Be well convinced that if people are starved, we also must be hungry and if people live in poverty we also must be poor.”

Last but not least, I humbly pay great respect and congratulate our national leader Bogyoke and his spirits which is the valuable rarity in our world.

Reference:
1. Field Marshall Montgomery’s Leadership Qualities (translated by Kyaw Zeya (Pathein)
2. Bo Tayar’s (member of thirty comrades) the day when Bogyoke burst out his anger Ngwe Tar Yi Magazine 1966 July
3. Tantamaw History Records (I) 1942—1945 50th anniversary golden jubilee
4. U Sein Pe descriptions recounted by a veteran in struggle for Independence living in Pyin Sar village, Pyin Oo Lwin Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Thida-U)
‘Hard work starts now’ — Brexit bargaining to begin

BRUSSELS — EU officials hope the British government shows more sense of urgency about a Brexit deal when its negotiators come to Brussels on Monday for a first full round of talks aimed at smoothing Britain’s departure.

“The hard work starts now,” the European Union’s chief negotiator Michel Barnier said on Wednesday, again sounding a note of alarm that London has yet to provide detailed proposals on a range of key issues, with barely a year left for bargaining.

A year after the referendum vote to leave the bloc propelled her to power, Prime Minister Theresa May still faces a complex task in finding consensus at home on what kind of Brexit Britain wants — a job made all the harder by losing her parliamentary majority in an election last month.

Her Brexit minister, veteran anti-EU campaigner David Davis, is expected to meet Barnier; a French former cabinet minister, at the European Commission’s Berlaymont headquarters on Monday morning.

They and their teams will then spend up to four days in a mixture of smaller working groups and plenary sessions, with the priority being to identify areas of accord and discord on a set of issues agreed on during an initial day of talks on 19 June.

These issues, notably the rights of expatriate citizens, how much Britain may owe to the EU budget and how to manage the new EU-UK border, especially with Ireland, are ones both sides want to settle in a withdrawal treaty. Barnier says this must be ready by about October next year if it is to be ratified on both sides of the Channel before Britain leaves in March 2019.

“The clock is ticking,” he said on Wednesday, displaying a degree of impatience with British ministers who continue to dismiss EU demands that they first must agree in principle that London will owe the Union a hefty amount — probably in the tens of billions of euros — to cover its existing commitments.

“The first serious test of the negotiations will be them agreeing to pay the bill,” a senior EU official said, describing the coming week as a vital moment to establish rapport among the senior civil servants who will handle what is arguably the most convoluted and far-reaching diplomatic deal of modern times. — Reuters

South Korean president’s approval rating stays high

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in saw his approval rating stay at a relatively high level, a weekly survey showed Friday.

According to the Gallup Korea poll, Moon gained 80 per cent of support scores this week. It dropped 3 percentage points from the previous week, but it was much higher than his predecessors in the similar period of presidency.

The result was based on a survey of 1,004 voters conducted from Tuesday to Thursday. It had 3.1 percentage points in margin of error with a 95-per cent confidence level. — Xinhua

Police kill attacker of Tehran subway station

TEHRAN — Police forces shot the attacker of Tehran subway station dead on Saturday morning, Hadi Tambidi, the governor of Shahir-e-Ray district in the south of Iran’s capital Tehran, said.

On the day, a person attacked a cleric with a knife in the Shahir-e-Ray subway station and injured him. The cleric was transferred to the hospital, Tambidi told state IRIB-TV.

In the attack, another person who helped the cleric, was injured by the attacker, he said. — Xinhua

Italy drafts code on NGO migrant rescues as thousands more reach land

ROME — Italy will present a code of conduct next week to humanitarian groups that rescue migrants in the Mediterranean, a government source said on Friday, as thousands more arrived at its southern ports.

More than 4,400 migrants were due to come ashore during the day after being picked up this week in the southern Mediterranean by rescue boats belonging to European Union and Italian authorities as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The Italian government, desperately trying to stem the flow, has drafted a set of rules for NGOs operating on the edge of Libyan territorial waters.

The 10-point code, published by Huffington Post’s Italian edition and confirmed by a government source, would oblige NGOs to prove their ability to carry out rescues, and forbid them to fire flares that could prompt smugglers to push their boats out to sea. It would also oblige rescue organisations to stop transferring migrants to other ships and instead complete their disembarkation in a safe port themselves, which would limit their operations.

If any of the roughly nine NGOs that regularly deploy boats refuses to sign up, it could be barred from Italian ports, meaning it would have to take the migrants to other countries.

Italy is organising a meeting with the NGOs next week to present the finalised code, the source said. After Italian and EU officials discussed the issue in Brussels on Thursday, an official said the EU Commission was worried about the risk of accidents in and around Libyan waters, and happy that Italy was working on a code.

As of 13 July, some 86,123 migrants had come to Italy this year; up 10 per cent on the same period last year, according to the interior ministry.

While NGOs have said the planned rules will make it more difficult to help migrants fleeing poverty and war, a United Nations spokesperson said Italy needed more help dealing with the crisis. “Basically, in Italy we need more solidarity from the rest of the European Union. In Libya we need more stability, but we also need, across all of Africa, better investment in order to help people (there),” said Carlotta Sami, spokeswoman for the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR.

Besides 1,428 newcomers who arrived in the Sicilian port of Catania, a further 3,000 were due to arrive in the mainland ports of Salerno, Brindisi and Crotone. — Reuters

77 Afghan insurgents killed in 24 hours: defence ministry

KABUL — Up to 77 militants have been killed and 27 others wounded during series of operations across the insurgency-plagued Afghanistan over the past 24 hours, the country’s defence ministry said in a statement released on Saturday.

“Afghan troops backed by aircrafts launched series of operations in different provinces over the past 24 hours, as a result, 77 militants including 17 Islamic States (IS) fighters have been killed, 27 injured and seven others arrested,” the statement said. — Xinhua
Two German tourists stabbed to death on Egyptian beach

CAIRO — An Egyptian man stabbed two German tourists to death and wounded four others during an attack at the Zahabia hotel resort in Hurghada, south of the capital Cairo, Egypt, on 14 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

A security personnel detains the man who stabbed two German tourists to death and wounded four others during an attack at the Zahabia hotel resort in Hurghada, south of the capital Cairo, Egypt, on 14 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The attacker's motive was revenge against tourism. He jumped a wall between two of the most popular vacation spots on the Red Sea. In January 2016, two assailants armed with a gun, a knife and a suicide belt landed on the beach of a hotel in Hurghada, and wounded two foreign tourists.

He was looking for foreigners and he didn't want any Egyptians, said one member of staff at the Zahabia Hotel.

EGYPT IS FIGHTING ISLAMIST IN-SURGENTS IN THE SAHARA PENINSULA, WHERE THEY MAINLY TARGET SECURITY FORCES, BUT MILITANTS HAVE ALSO ATTACKED TOURIST TARGETS IN THE PAST, AS WELL AS COPTIC CHRISTIANS AND CHURCHES. HURGHADA, some 400 km (250 miles) south of the capital Cairo, is one of Egypt's most popular vacation spots on the Red Sea. In January 2016, two assailants armed with a gun, a knife and a suicide belt landed on the beach of a hotel in Hurghada, and wounded two foreign tourists.

EGYPT HAS BEEN HOPING THAT INVESTMENTS IN AIRPORT SECURITY AND THE CHEAPER EGYPTIAN POUND WILL BRING TOURIST VISITS TO ITS BEACHES AND ANCIENT SITES BACK UP TO LEVELS SEEN BEFORE ITS 2011 UPRISING.—REUTERS

UN ends round of Syria talks with focus on fight against terrorism

GENEVA — UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura put the emphasis on the international fight against terrorism on Friday as he wrapped up a round of Syria peace talks at which there was “no breakthrough, no breakdown and no one walking out”.

Speaking at a news conference after briefing the UN Security Council by video, de Mistura said he felt the UN was expected to say where it stood on the fight against terrorism, which he said was “becoming the main issue being discussed at the highest possible level elsewhere.”

Discussion of terrorism has been a constant demand of the Syrian government since the series of talks began early last year, and it was added to the formal agenda earlier this year, along with talks about a new constitution, reformed governance and fresh elections.

The main opposition group, the High Negotiations Committee, wants a focus on political transition, meaning an end to the rule of President Bashar al-Assad.

De Mistura said Assad’s negotiators had not given any indication that they were willing to discuss transition.

But what I do believe is that what is going to be the next steps of the international community in wanting to see an acceleration of the end of this conflict may help the government to be ready to address the political process, he said.

Although the Syrian government has repeatedly described opposition representatives as terrorists, de Mistura said he hoped to push all sides to at least sit in the same room during the next round of talks in September.

Before that can happen, the three rival opposition delegations need to narrow their differences enough to present a single position against the government negotiators.

De Mistura suggested that was on track, since the three opposition leaders had built mutual trust and confidence and planned to meet again later this month.—REUTERS

Head of Islamic State in Afghanistan killed

WASHINGTON — The head of Islamic State in Afghanistan, Abu Sayed, was killed in a strike on the group’s headquarters in Kunar province earlier this week, the Pentagon said on Friday.

Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said in a statement that other members of the Islamic State group were also killed in the strike on Tuesday.

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters, “The significance is you kill a leader of one of these groups and it sets them back... it is obviously a victory on our side in terms of setting them back, it is the right direction.”

Sayed is the third Islamic State leader in Afghanistan to be killed since July 2016.

Former leader Abdul Hasib was killed in a joint US and Afghan operation on 27 April in the eastern province of Nangarhar. Hasib’s predecessor Hafiz Saead Khan died in a US drone strike in 2016.

Afghan troops, backed by US warplanes and special forces, have been battling militants linked to Islamic State in eastern Afghanistan for years.

The local affiliate of Islamic State, sometimes known as Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K) after an old name for the region that includes Afghanistan, has been active since 2015, fighting the Taliban and Afghan and US forces.

General John Nicholson, the top US commander in Afghanistan, has vowed to defeat Islamic State there this year.—REUTERS
One of worst droughts in decades devastates South Europe crops

ROME/MADRID — Italian durum wheat and dairy farmer Attilio Tocchi saw warning signs during the winter of the dramatic drought to come at his holding a mile away from the Tuscan coast.

“When it still hadn’t rained at the beginning of spring we realized it was already irrepairable,” he said, adding that he had installed fans to try and cool his cows that were suffering in the heat.

Drought in southern Europe threatens to reduce cereal production in Italy and parts of Spain to its lowest level in at least 20 years, and hit other regional crops including olives and almonds.

Castile and Leon, the largest cereal growing region in Spain, has been particularly badly affected, with crop losses estimated at around 60 to 70 per cent.

“This year was not bad, it was catastrophic. I can’t remember a year like this since 1992 when I was a little child,” said Joaquin Antonio Pino, a cereal farmer in Sinlabajos, Avila.

Pino said many of his fields had not even been harvested, because crop revenues would not cover the wages of laborers who gathered them.

While the EU is collectively a major wheat exporter, Spain and Italy both rely on imports from countries including France, Britain and Ukraine.

Spanish soft wheat imports are expected to rise by more than 40 per cent to 5.6 million tonnes in the 2017-2018 marketing year, according to Agroinfomarket.

The drought has helped support EU wheat futures, which have risen around 6 per cent since the beginning of June, although the prospect of a larger harvest in France this year should ensure adequate overall supplies in the trading bloc.

Spain and Italy are also among the world’s top producers of olive oil.

Production in both countries is expected to fall, but the decline is likely to be particularly steep in Italy, where drought is the latest headache for olive growers already plagued by insects and a bacterial disease in recent years.

A 60 per cent drop in Italian output is forecast by the International Olive Council.

“We expected good production this year, but it hasn’t turned out like that,” said Francesco Suatoni, who tends about 4,000 olive trees on the fringe of the ancient town of Amelia, in Umbria, central Italy.

Holding up a branch with small, shriveled pods on it he added: “Each little ball could have been an olive, but it’s scorched.” — Reuters

Brazil proposes shrinking national forest after highway protests

SAO PAULO — Brazil’s government has sent Congress a bill to shrink the boundaries of a national forest in the Amazonian state of Pará, according to a statement from the Environment Ministry on Friday, a move environmentalists said would speed deforestation of the area.

The government proposed the bill as a comprise measure after local residents, who see the Jamanxim national forest as a source of livelihood, blocked a key grains exporting highway in response to President Michel Temer’s veto of similar legislation to reduce its protected area.

The government’s bill, if approved, would create a new protection area (APA) near the town of Novo Progresso, which is on the edge of forest around 790 miles (1,270 kms) northwest of the capital Brasilia. The measure would convert 349,086 hectares, or 27 per cent of the national forest into an APA, the ministry said.

The government said the APA would discipline land occupation, promoting the sustainable use of the rainforest and conservation of its water resources.

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Iran, EU launch nuclear safety cooperation project

TEHRAN — Iran and the European Union (EU) have launched a joint project to cooperate on nuclear safety programmes, Financial Tribune daily reported on Saturday.

Following the Wednesday meeting between the visiting EU delegation headed by Olivier Laycox, the director of EU nuclear safety unit, and Hujjatollah Salehi, the director of Iran’s nuclear safety center, both sides officially announced the start of the 2.85-million-US-dollar project.

The project is part of a 5.7-million-US-dollar package approved in 2016 with regard to Iran-EU cooperation on nuclear safety to enhance Iran’s nuclear safety capabilities in various spheres, including the establishment of a nuclear safety center, the report said.

Under the agreement which will last for three and a half years, the EU will support Iran’s accession to several international nuclear conventions. The project, signed within the framework of Iran’s nuclear deal, also seeks to provide more training opportunities to Iranian experts on nuclear safety procedures.

Iran and six world powers, including Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, reached an agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue on 14 July, 2015, which put it on the path of sanctions relief but with more strict limits on its nuclear programme. The deal set limits on Iran’s nuclear activities as it would take Tehran at least one year to create enough fissile material for a nuclear weapon, and allowed regular inspections of the facilities inside Iran.

In return, the United States and the European Union will suspend nuclear-related sanctions against Iran, including recalling all past UN Security Council sanction resolutions. — Xinhua

Environmentalists denounced the measure as an official stimulus to land-grabbing, which in turn leads to illegal logging, clear-cutting and mining in one of the hotspots of deforestation of the Amazon biome.

“The bill is seen as an amnesty for illegal occupation of the conservancy unit,” said Observatorio do Clima on its website, adding the government “yielded to pressure” from the rural lobby.

The bill followed blockades this month of the BR-163 highway, which runs next to the 1.3 million-hectare national forest. The highway links grain producing regions in Mato Grosso state to waterways connected to key Northern ports.

Protesters suspended the blockades, which began on July 3, after Temer sent the bill to Congress, according to a statement from the Sociedade Civil Organizada group on Friday. — Reuters
HONOLULU — Three people died in a fire that consumed three floors of a 36-storey condominium tower in Honolulu on Friday, city officials said.

At least five others were injured in the blaze at the Marco Polo high-rise that send thick black smoke pouring out over the city, a month to the day after a deadly tower fire in London. Firefighters sprayed water onto the flames from nearby balconies and brought them under control at about 6:30 p.m. local time (0430 GMT Saturday), four hours after the fire began, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell told reporters. “We were all trying to help as much as we could ... but there was a fire and you could see it spreading,” said 72-year-old resident, Karen Hastings, who was in the building when the fire broke out.

The blaze began on the 26th floor and quickly spread to the two floors above, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser newspaper reported. There were no immediate reports on what caused it. Images posted online showed orange flames raging on several floors and debris falling from windows.

Fire Chief Manuel Neves told reporters that the building did not have a sprinkler system. Officers were conducting a room-by-room search, a task that could take several hours, he said. “We don’t have any information for us to believe that there are problems with the structure,” Neves added. The building was constructed in 1971, before the city began requiring sprinkler systems, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser newspaper said. City officials told the newspaper that if the building had had a sprinkler system, the fire would have been contained to the original unit. Emergency responders said they took at least five people to hospital with injuries and a number of others were treated at the scene. Evans were being accommodated at a nearby park, with volunteers tending them, the Hawaii Red Cross said on social network Twitter.

The fire forced the closure of a major road in front of the condominium complex, the Honolulu police department said on Twitter.

In London, at least 80 people were killed when a fire gutted the 24-story Grenfell Tower apartments on 14 June. That building also did not have a sprinkler system.—Reuters

Drinking more coffee may help increase longevity

LONDON — Drinking more coffee could extend people’s life span, as coffee drinkers would have a lower risk of death, especially for heart diseases, cancer and diabettes among others, a new study shows.

Researchers from the International Agency for Research on Cancer and Imperial College London found that an extra cup of coffee every day would lengthen the life of a man by around three months and a woman by around one month on average.

It also shows that people who drank three or more cups of coffee per day would have a lower risk of all-cause death, such as respiratory disease, kidney and liver disease as well as stroke, than those who did not drink coffee.

The research, published in the journal the Annals of Internal Medicine, surveyed more than 520,000 people aged over 35 from 10 European Union countries.

However, skeptics said that it was impossible to validate the relationship between coffee and longevity, because the study had too many variables between coffee drinkers and non-coffee drinkers, such as healthier lifestyles, more spending on healthcare and more effective socializing that benefited people’s wellbeing.

Health experts also pointed out that the effects of caffeine vary from person to person. Moreover, caffeine can be consumed through not only coffee, but also through other beverages, such as tea and cola, which makes the research weaker to hold water. —Xinhua

HONOLULU high-rise blaze kills three, injures five

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV YANTRA BHUUM VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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.
Fired Kermit the Frog puppeteer ‘devastated’ for failing his hero

LOS ANGELES — The man who voiced Kermit the Frog for 27 years wrote an emotional letter about being fired, saying he was “devastated to have failed in my duty to my hero.”

Steve Whitmire made his comments in a blog post on Thursday, days after the Muppets Studio’s announcement of a new puppeteer to perform the role of the earnest Kermit, one of creator Jim Henson’s best-known characters.

Kermit was performed by Henson since he created it in 1955 until his death in 1990. The character is best known for its tempestuous relationship with the ardent Miss Piggy.

Whitmire, who started working on “The Muppet Show” in 1978 at age 19, took over the role from Henson. He called the Muppets “not just a job, a career or even a passion. They are an urgent, undeniable, impossible-to-resist way of life.”

“I would never consider abandoning Kermit,” he added on his personal blog site, saying he was told in October 2016 that executives at Muppets Studio, owned by Walt Disney Co, would be replacing the Kermit puppeteer.

Without giving details, Whitmire said executives had raised two issues with him that he had tried to remedy in the past nine months without success.

Disney executives declined to discuss the reasons for Whitmire’s departure but issued a statement saying “the Muppets Studio thanks Steve for his tremendous contributions to Kermit the Frog and The Muppets franchise. We wish him well in his future endeavors.”

Whitmire performed the role of Kermit in numerous television shows, movies and live appearances, including “Sesame Street,” “Fraggle Rock,” “Muppets Most Wanted,” and in the recent fictional talk show TV reboot “The Muppets,” which ABC canceled in 2016 after one season.

He also voiced the roles of Ernie, Rizzo the Rat, Beaker and Statler.

Performer Matt Vogel will make his first outing as Kermit in a “Muppets Thought of the Week” video coming out next week.

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Beyoncé debuted the pictures of her twins, Sir Carter and Rumi, in an Instagram post on Friday, causing an internet sensation once more in her first public acknowledgement of their birth.

“Sir Carter and Rumi 1 month today,” Beyoncé, 35, wrote in the post, which showed her holding her two infants.

She wore a blue veil and a colourful flowing robe that fell off her left shoulder. The picture had been “liked” more than 6.5 million times nine hours after it was posted.

Social media lit up, with thousands of people expressing their excitement about the trending photo. Many happily said it was the first image they woke up to.

“I wake up to Beyoncé holding her two sons,” wrote Twitter user Fadia Kader (@FADIA). “Good morning everyone.”

“For the record, I was one of the first 2,500 people to like her post,” boasted Twitter user @benduffie. “We basically fam.”

Neither Beyoncé, one of the world’s most popular singers, nor her husband, 47-year-old rap star and entrepreneur Jay-Z, had made any announcement about the birth until now.

Beyoncé’s father, Mathew Knowles, had said in a tweet in June that she was now the mother of twins, confirming earlier reports of the year’s most highly anticipated celebrity birth.

The singer, one of the most powerful women in the music business, announced the pregnancy on her Instagram account in February this year along with an image of her posing in lingerie and caressing a noticeable baby bump.

The photo became the most-liked Instagram picture of all time, with 11 million likes.

News of the twins came less than a year after the release of the R&B singer’s 2016 album “Lemonade,” in which she appeared to address long-standing rumors of trouble in her eight-year marriage.

Jay-Z’s own recent album, “4:44,” also dealt with the subject.

After a successful world tour of “Lemonade,” Beyoncé became the second highest-paid entertainer in the year ended on June 1, earning $105 million, Forbes said. Only Sean “Diddy” Combs, at $130 million, topped her.
Turkish oil wrestlers grapple to win 600-year-old title

EDIRNE, (Turkey) — Some 2,200 oil wrestlers began fighting bouts at a stadium in the northwestern Turkish city of Edirne on Friday, competing to win a golden belt in a contest dating back to the 14th Century.

Organisers said a record number of wrestlers were taking part in the annual Kirkpinar tournament, in which participants don leather trousers and pour olive oil over their pants.

My grandfather was an oil wrestler and I want to continue our family tradition,” said Kinali. “Wrestling if fun,” he added, before continuing in a bout.

Sixty wrestlers will fight their way through qualifying to compete on Sunday in the final of the 656th edition of the annual contest in Edirne, near the border with Greece and Bulgaria.

The stands in the 25,000-seated Sarayici stadium were sparsely populated with a way for some Japanese fans to see the baby panda,” he said, referring to a giant panda cub born in June at a zoo adjacent to the park.

The figure had halved by the fall of 2016 with the frenzy calming down.

The proportion of Pokemon Go players in their 20s and 30s dropped to 52 per cent from 62 per cent after 12 months, while that of people aged 40 or older rose to 48 per cent from 38 per cent, according to Values.

One year after release, Pokemon Go is fitness tool for older people

OSAKA — About a year after the craze over the release of Pokemon Go, the smartphone app game has largely become a tool for middle-aged and older people to stay fit as well as a way for some Japanese tourist spots to attract visitors.

One day in early July, 48-year-old Tsutomu Misago was touching the screen of his smartphone in Tempozan Park in Osaka, western Japan, where hordes of young players used to gather to catch rare virtual characters of the location-based game.

I've nothing to do on my days off,” Misago, who runs a construction business in Kobe, said while playing Pokemon Go. Getting out and playing the game is “better than just staying at home,” he said, wiping sweat off his face.

There was another middle aged man nearby walking with his smartphone.

“I'm a job bachelor,” said the 56-year-old company employee, who lives in Osaka apart from his family due to his job. “I keep playing it as I have few other reasons to go out.”

In Tokyo's Ueno Park, which was also once a popular place for Pokemon Go fans, there were far fewer people playing the game than before: “I stopped playing it after two months as I felt tired of walking,” said a 20-year-old man strolling in the park with his girlfriend.

They were in the park “to see the baby panda,” he said, referring to a giant panda cub born in June at a zoo adjacent to the park.

The augmented reality game jointly developed by Nintendo Co., Pokemon Co. and Niantic Inc. was released in Japan on 22 June last year, after about two weeks after its global debut in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

As it had elsewhere before, the game immediately became a social phenomenon in Japan, flooding parks and streets with players trying to catch various “Pokemon” monsters that appear superimposed on their smartphone screens based on the player’s location.

The game was blamed for causing traffic accidents and trespassing problems involving players getting carried away.

According to Tokyo-based research agency Values Inc., the number of players who play the game at least once a month climbed to an estimated 11 million in Japan shortly after its domestic release in July last year.

My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake

The proportion of Pokemon Go players in their 20s and 30s dropped to 52 per cent from 62 per cent after 12 months, while that of people aged 40 or older rose to 48 per cent from 38 per cent, according to Values.

Older people have continued enjoying the app despite its shrinking popularity among younger players. Some senior citizens’ clubs have promoted it as a way to increase their outside activities.—Kyodo News

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NatRay Wellness organizes a monsoon promotion begins in July

NatRay Wellness organized a monsoon promotion at A4-001, Shwe Gabar Housing on Min Dhamma road, Yangon from 13 to 24 July. NatRay Wellness sells gym and fitness equipment and other high quality training accessories.

NatRay import gym and fitness equipment brands such as Life Fitness (USA), Impulse (UK) and fitness equipment and other high quality training accessories.

Myanmar TV Programme Schedule (16-7-2017, Sunday)

6:00 Am Parrita by Ven- erable Mingun Sayadaw
7:00 Am Breakfast News
8:35 Am Cartoon
9:40 Am Peace Music Festival (Myitkyina)
10:00 Am Nine Percept
11:30 Am Taste of Korea
4:35 Pm Documentary (Martyr)
5:05 Pm Sunday Talk
5:30 Pm Documentary (Martyr)
6:30 Pm Road to SEA Game
7:15 Pm TV Drama Series
8:00 Pm News/ International News/ Weather Report
8:30 Pm Peace Music Festival (LIVE) (Myitkyina)

Programme Schedule (16-7-2017, Sunday)
Sublime Federer outclasses gritty Berdych to reach final

LONDON — Roger Federer’s relentless pursuit of a record eighth Wimbledon title continued as he fought off stubborn Czech Tomas Berdych 7-6(4), 7-6(4), 6-4 to reach the final for the 11th time on Friday.

The 35-year-old Swiss was given his toughest test yet by the 11th seed, who beat him at the quarter-final stage in 2010, but he raised his game at the crucial moments to become the oldest men’s singles finalist here since Ken Rosewall in 1974.

Rosewall, then aged 39, went on to lose to Jimmy Connors but Federer will be a huge favourite to reclaim the title he last won in 2012 against big-serving Croatian Marin Cilic on Sunday.

Federer has now reached 29 grand slam finals and for the third time in his career has reached the Wimbledon final without dropping a set, having also achieved the feat in 2006 and 2008.

“I feel very privileged to be in another final,” Federer, who received a standing ovation at the end, said.

“I’ve got the pleasure to play on Centre Court another time. I can’t believe it’s almost true again. I’m happy to have a day off to reflect on what I’ve done at the tournament.”

Twelve months ago here Federer lost to Milos Raonic in the semi-finals - his legs looking heavy and the years finally appearing to catch up with him - but this year he has rolled back the clock in glorious fashion.

He now is one-match away from holding two of the game’s major four prizes for the first time since 2010 having begun the year by claiming the Australian Open title.

Berdych, who reached the semi-final after second seed Novak Djokovic retired hurt in the quarters, spent a diligent two hours and 18 minutes at the coalface on Friday.

Switzerland’s Roger Federer waves as he walks off court after winning the semi-final match against Czech Republic’s Tomas Berdych at Wimbledon in London, Britain, on 14 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

But while 31-year-old toiled with his muscular game it was the dashing Federer who supplied the gems.

Federer, contesting a record 12th Wimbledon semi-final, broke serve in the fifth game when he ran Berdych ragged before whipping a ball out of the air into the corner. — Reuters

Ibrahimovic could stay with United, says Mourinho

LONDON — Zlatan Ibrahimovic could be offered a new deal by Manchester United, the Premier League club’s manager Jose Mourinho said on Friday ahead of a friendly with Los Angeles Galaxy.

Speaking at a news conference on the eve of their first pre-season tour match in California, Mourinho left the door open to the Swede returning when he recovers from knee surgery.

The out-of-contract Ibrahimovic, 35, was United’s top scorer last term after joining on a one-year deal, but he was injured in April and is likely to be sidelined at least until December.

“If the decision is to stay and wait until December — he can’t be back until them — why not wait? We are speaking and changing ideas,” the Portuguese coach told reporters.

With Ibrahimovic out of action, Mourinho has brought in Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku from Everton for a fee put at about 75 million pounds by British media. — Reuters

Muguruza blows away Venus to take first Wimbledon crown

LONDON — An inspired Garbine Muguruza stormed to her first Wimbledon title on Saturday, blowing away in-form American Venus Williams 7-5, 6-0 with arguably the performance of her career after tight and tense early exchanges.

In the first women’s final played under the Centre Court roof, a high-quality first set gradually built towards a captivating conclusion after both players began with two comfortable service holds.

Muguruza saved two set points in the 10th game, the first a 19-stroke rally that ended when Williams netted a forehand. The Spaniard broke in the following game when another lung-busting rally ended on a forehand error from the American.

An astonishing defensive lob in the next then took Muguruza to two set points, the second of which she converted.

That three-game sequence seemed to break the resolve of the American who, trying to become the oldest woman to win Wimbledon for 109 years, lost the second set to love in an equally astonishing turnaround.

The Venezuela-born 23-year-old sealed her second grand slam victory after a successful Hawkeye challenge of a Williams forehand that sailed just beyond the baseline.

Spain’s Garbine Muguruza poses with the trophy as she celebrates winning the final against Venus Williams of the US in London, Britain, on 15 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Spain’s Garbine Muguruza poses with the trophy as she celebrates winning the final against Venus Williams of the US in London, Britain, on 15 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS
Nowadays, social media and the mobile web have given rise to a strange phenomenon called “Selfie”. What is Selfie? It is a photograph of the self which taken with a phone camera held in the hand or supported by a selfie stick and with digital camera or tablet. In the past, people are already satisfied on photos taken by others for them or they used to photograph the self by uncovering the lens of the camera and running into the shot. So, many different new things arise in our society now.

“Selfies” has records of being defined as early as 2004, and people of all ages can be seen taking selfies and uploading on social media. Mostly, selfies are used for sharing on social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and of course, Snapchat. Now, people are able to create their own selfies very quickly and easily and post them within seconds and this makes people more addicted to taking selfies. According to reports, 1 million selfies are posted on social media everyday.

I also love taking selfies especially when I visit a new place. And I see lots of people seriously falling in love with taking selfies in my neighbourhood. My friends also enjoy it. Whenever or wherever we never say NO to take selfies and pose with so many facial expressions including funny faces. Then, we review these pics and laugh freely. It makes us loads of fun and enjoyable memories. And we sometimes upload them for saving memories. But when do they become a problem? Or even an obsession? We should take a look at some of the pros and cons of selfies.

Selfie trend has both good and bad. Considering why selfies can be good, taking selfies is a great way of capturing the moment and to make memories. And the need for a photographer is dispensable with. Moreover, selfies can be used for informing the position of self to the family that lives in a distant place. Besides, providing the evidence of being present in a place. And selfies can boost self-confidence. When selfies are good, people tend to feel good about themselves. They are a good way to express ourselves. They can be entertaining and interesting.

However, selfies do have a negative side to them as well. People who take too many selfies tend to be superficial and become very self-obsessed and can also cause psychological effects. People tend to have a negative opinion of people who take too many selfies. Furthermore, we cannot guess or know the truth behind the selfies on social media. For example; if I take a few selfies for Facebook and post them, I probably pretended I was doing something entertaining but in reality I was actually alone or eating snacks and reading books. So, the internet is not a very safe place. Selfies with celebrities are used to promote business and influence in the market.

Selfie-culture is so prevalent that it can be harmed by this culture. I have heard one lady died from electrocution as she was capturing selfies atop a parked train. And, a college girl suffered a fatal head injury when she tried to take a selfie and fell from a moving train. Some countries have launched the awareness and advisory campaigns to educate their citizens on the danger involved in selfies.

Selfies are very much a creation of the young generation and in modern times. Selfies are sometimes more than just trying to look pretty. There is an overwhelming pressure in society today that we must all be beautiful, skinny, perfect like a lot of the celebrities and models that we see in magazines, in movies and on TV. Everyone is beautiful inside and out. That is what we are all told and I look forward to the day when everyone in the entire world is able to believe that about ourselves. When everyone sharing a selfie and thinking, “Wow! I feel good today!” brings us closer to that, then I encourage it entirely.
Lesson 11: Adverbs

Hello, dear students!
We have already studied about “Adjectives” last week. Do you remember what Adjectives are?
Adjectives are words that tell something more about Nouns.

In this lesson, we are going to study about “Adverbs”.
“Adverbs” are words that tell something about “Verbs”.
e.g. The boy runs quickly:
She comes early to school.
I can work this problem well.
Seinpanpyar can grow well in Pyin Oo Lwin.
He stood first.
They will go to Singapore in September.

Here, in these sentences, the words “quickly, early, well, in Pyin Oo Lwin, first” tell us something about the Verbs. So, they are called “Adverbs”.

Let us see one by one.
(1) The boy runs quickly:
Here, the word “quickly” tells something more about the Verb, “runs”.
How does the boy run? He runs quickly.
(2) She comes early to school.
Here, the word “early” tells something more about the Verb “comes”.
How does she come to school? She comes early.
(3) I can work this problem well.
Here, the word “well” tells something more about the Verb “can work”.
In what way can I work? I can work well.
(4) Seinpanpyar can grow well in Pyin Oo Lwin.
Here, the words “in Pyin Oo Lwin” tells something about the Verb, “can grow”.
“well” is also an Adverb too.
Where can Seinpanpyar grow well? In Pyin Oo Lwin.
So it is an Adverb of the Verb “can grow”.
It tells where Seinpanpyar can grow well.
(5) He stood first.
Here, the word “first” tells something about the Verb, “stood”.
It tells us how he stood. He stood first.
So, it is an Adverb of the Verb, “stood”.
(6) They will go to Singapore in September.
Here, the words “in September” tells something about the Verb, “will go”.
It shows when they will go to Singapore. It is an Adverb of the Verb, “will go”.
Here, “to Singapore” is also an Adverb to the Verb, “will go”.
It shows where they will go.

So, all these words that tell something more about the “Verbs”, which show “How, when, where, how much, how many times” are all Adverbs.

Here come the Exercises for you!

Exercise 11

I. Underline the Adverbs in these sentences.
(a) The baby sleeps well, in her cradle.
(b) The mother is doing all her work silently.
(c) She will come here tomorrow.
(d) I can write this Essay well.
(e) Have you studied your lesson daily?
(f) She travelled to town early.
(g) The man often comes to this village.
(h) She can dance and sing beautifully.
(i) He rarely studied his lesson.
(j) He works hard.
(k) She hardly works in the kitchen.
(l) The dogs bark loudly.
(m) The old woman speaks slowly.
(n) He stood in the corner silently.
(o) She stood still in the center of the room.

II. Write down ten Adverbs.

III. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable Adverbs.
(a) (b) He can play the piano ...............
FROM PAGE B
Here the Adverbs “often, rarely, twice, frequently” show us how many times or how much of the actions of the Verbs are done. They are Adverbs of Frequency.

There are two more different kinds of Adverbs named “Adverbs of Reason” and “Adverbs of Purpose”. These will be explained in later lessons.

Here come another Exercise.

Exercise 11
V. Underline the Adverbs in the following sentences and tell which kind of Adverbs they are.
(a) She will come back home early if she can finish her work in time.
(b) She can sing sweetly, but she cannot dance beautifully.
(c) When I was just a little girl, I frequently dance at home.
(d) He hardly learned his lesson well.
(e) Ko Ko will go and get the cup of water quickly.
(f) You will come tomorrow, won’t you?
(g) Wherever Mary went, the lamb was sure to follow.
(h) The Moon is shining up there.
(i) She stays for a week in Maymyo.
(j) His dog can run quickly.

That’s all for today’s lesson, class . I hope that you can do your exercises very well. Bye for now class! See you next week!

Your English Teacher (GNLM)
Email: dr.nunwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

Here are the answers to the last week’s Exercises 10.
I. Examples of ten Adjectives: .. beautiful, ugly, long, short, different, same, sour, sweet, handsome, soft
II. The Adjectives in the sentences are:
(a) graceful, five
(b) much, her
(c) Chinese
d) this
(e) little, rocking
(f) big
(g) our, our, exercise
(h) smart, his
(i) my, beautiful
(j) this, expensive
III. Examples of Adjectives of Quality: .. pretty girl, short story, golden hair, sweet apples, tall boy
Examples of Possessive Adjectives .. my home, our house, her village, his car , your book, its tall
Examples of Demonstrative Adjectives .. this bag, that window, these girls , those cars
IV. (a) ten (Adj.of Quantity), green (Adj.of Quality), front ( Adj. of Quality)
(b) many (Adj. of Quantity), narrow (Adj. of Quality)
c) your (Possessive Adj.), early (Adj. of Quality)
(d) that (Demonstrative Adj.), hilly (Adj. of Quality)
(e) this (Demonstrative Adj.), difficult (Adj. of Quality)
f) this (Demonstrative Adj.), unseen (Adj.of Quality)
(g) old (Adj. of Quality)
(h) little (Adj. of Quality), many (Adj. of Quantity), that
(Demonstrative Adj) green(Adj.of Quality)
i) These (Demonstrative Adj.), pink (Adj.of Quality), sweet-smelling (Adj. of Quality)
j) That (Demonstrative Adj.), naughty (Adj.of Quality), other (Adj. of Quality), young (Adj. of Quality).

How to Improve and What to Improve in Our Education System (3)

Dr. Nu Nu Win
(Retired Professor and Head of Department)

In the last week’s discussion, we were discussing about the different steps in learning namely,
(1) Knowledge,
(2) Comprehension,
(3) Application,
(4) Analysis,
(5) Synthesis, and
(6) Evaluation
The writer remembers that we are now reaching Step (4) Analysis. As it is mentioned in its name, this step will lead the learner to analyze what he had already learnt. Here, to do “Analysis”, we need the ability to differentiate and categorize what we have learnt from a bird’s eye view. That means we know the different characteristics of what we have learnt and their different concepts.
Then comes the step “Synthesis”.
In this step, we can synthesize what we have already learnt.
For example, to write an Essay, we need to understand and use what we have learnt, the vocabularies, the morphology, the sentence structures, the grammar, the knowledge concerned with that subject matter and so on. We can write a good essay only if we learnt what we have mentioned just now. So, this is the “Synthesis” step.
The last step is “Evaluation”. Here “Evaluation” means we should have our own thinking to decide what is right and what is wrong , the value of what we have learnt, and then decide its value. Here in this step we have “critical thinking” too. And what or how much we value what we have learnt.
Only after all these steps, we can create our own idea and our own image concerning what we have learnt. Even in the “Synthesis” step, we can contribute our own creation.
Therefore, we need to put all these steps as much as possible in our Curriculum, step by step, not too much going too far very quickly.
But, it should also go with the different development conditions and different interests of the students in different ages. That’s why I discussed about the “Educational Psychologists” who know very well about the different conditions of the children and youths in different ages.
Last, but not the least, what the writer wants to mention here is all these Curriculum should go together with the political policy of the country.
As our country is now going with the Democracy Policy in our political matters, our Education System should also go with the Democratic Philosophy.
We had Socialist Philosophy of Education in the days of the Burmese Way of Socialism, why should we not have a “Democratic Philosophy of Education”? Only the Educational Philosophers can lay down this “Democratic Philosophy of Education”. Only after that we can lay down the “Policies of Education” and then we can decide Laws and regulations in the field of Education. Then only we can operate our plans and projects of Education.
So, we cannot properly plan our Education System Improving without any Educationists. We need Educational Philosophers to lay down the policies with a Democratic Philoso- phy of Education as its foundation; only then would we be able to carry out other plans and projects in Education. We need Educational Psychologists for laying down a new Curriculum which go together with the ways and means of the Demo- cratic country.
This is the proper way to improve our Education System step by step.
The other thing we should take into account is we are going to construct a “Democratic Federal Union”, so we need to think of how the lines of Education will come up .
As there are 14 different states and regions with 14 different State or Regional Governments, how will it go in Education? Should we have 14 different State or Regional Ministers for Education or are we going to have the Union Minister for Education at the top and then the State line up posts for all other administrative posts? Do all State and Regional Ministers for Education need to obey the words and order of the Union Minister for Education or not? For each State and Region knows their own conditions better than the better anybody else. That is to say State and Regional Ministers of Education know about their own conditions better than others. So who should be the decision makers? It is the key point for the different states and regions for their own upgrading for Education. Can we get qualified Ministers of Education for each State and Region (or do we call it District?). Even for the Union Minister for Education, we need to have a qualified person who knows Education very well and who has voice and authority over these State and Regional Ministers.
That is why we need have clearcut instructions as to who’s who and nowadays how will be the lines so that the different orders from the Minister for Education will go properly step by step to much to schools or to the students and teachers.
The writer will continue to discuss all these Education matters in the coming weeks.
The next thing the writer wants to take into consideration is the experiences of all these top leaders in the field of Education.
For the Higher Education Department, i.e. for the Tertiary Level of Education, there are different Universities and Colleges . For these Universities and Colleges, those experienced Professors and Rectors have already enough experience in their own Departments and in their own Universities, there is no problem for them to administer these Universities and Colleges. They all have good experienced in their own Departments, Colleges and Universities, their administration can go very well and very smoothly. The writer will continue the discussions in this field too in the coming articles.
But, for the Basic Education field, the writer wants to mention their experiences as Basic Education teachers, so that they should have understanding, sympathy, empathy and far sight in their decision makings . Only when they have experienced as Basic Education teachers, can these decision makers can see what to do, how to do and when to do what they have to do in Basic Education. That’s why the writer wants to emphasize their experience in the field of Education before they become decision makers in this field.
One more thing the writer wants to emphasize here is the distribution of labour, authority and responsibility.
If our country becomes a Fed- eral State, every State and Division or Region should have the responsibility and authority for their own State and Division. Everything will be decided according to their own needs, capacities, strengths, difficulties and limitations. So they can see their own advantages and disadvantages.
Then comes the role of not only “Equality” but also the role of “Equi- ty”. This is another topic we need to discuss thoroughly.
So for the time being, the writer wants to stop this article (3) only at this point and will discuss more in the coming weeks .
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In the history of the world, there were two world wars with the first one broken out in AD 1914-1918 in which 17 million of people died and over 26 million wounded and the second one take place in AD 1939-1945 saw over 80 million dead and wounded. Not only soldiers but the civilians also died in the battlefields across the world. After the world wars scourge of wars were witnessed everywhere and the war cemeteries across the world are a witness to the episod of scavages of wars.

After the world wars the cemeteries for the fallen soldiers of allied forces were established to place the tombs of the soldiers. The family members can visit to the tombs of the fallen soldiers and make a memorial pray for or pay respect at the tombs. Many years later the war cemeteries have become well-known historical sites for the people to visit.

Myanmar and its War Cemeteries

After 2nd World War Britain built two war cemeteries in Yangon and one in Thabyuzayat of Mon State. The first war cemetery in Yangon was established in 1944 in Sanchaung Township and officially opened in 1946 under the name of Yangon War Cemetery having 1281 tombs.

Another war cemetery was built in Htaukkyant of Mingladon Township, Yangon in 1945. Htaukkyant War Cemetery is the biggest of all and accommodates 3771 tombs of the fallen soldiers in Yangon battlefields.

Yangon War Cemetery

The Yangon War Cemetery is located in Thanbyuzayat which was built in1946 to accommodate the 3771 tombs of the allied force soldiers fallen in Yangon battlefields.

The first War Cemetery of allied forces in Myanmar was opened in 1944 near Htanboawaddy Roundabout, Sanchaung Township. The British could drive out the Japanese forces from Yangon in Mar 28th and took over Yangon under British rule again and built the first war cemetery of Myanmar at the above-said place. The tombs of the allied soldiers buried in the war are of various nationalities. So, the cemetery could have the visit from the people of the different countries usually give a visit to the cemetery and make memorial pray for or pay respect at the tombs. Local visitors also visit Htaukkyant War Cemetery for recreation.

People visiting the war cemetery might be aware of the evil effects of the battle of Chindit of Myanmar and the other countries. This cemetery is the most frequented place among the Asian War Memorial sites.

Htaukkyant War Cemetery

Htaukkyant War Cemetery is situated on one side of Thabyuzayat-Maungmagan road and it is a large area having 26 acres of land. It accommodates the tombs of 3748 soldiers of allied forces and 621 Dutch soldiers who died in construction of Death Railway Line connecting Mon State and Thailand in the 2nd World War. Thabyuzayat War Cemetery was opened by General Aung San and Governor Sir Hubert Baze on 13 December 1946. It is a four destination popular among the tourists who visited Mon State. The town Thabyuzayat is situated at the junction of Yangon-Loikaw road, Yangon-Kawthoung road and Maungmagan-Sayamun road. It is situated away from the north of Maungmagan and 40 miles in the north of Yangon.

Htaukkyant War Cemetery is situated 16 miles away in the north of Yangon on the side of Yangon-Pyay car road in Mingladon Township.

It was known that 38,000 indigenous people of Myanmar and 15,000 prisoners of war died of misnutrition, intense weather, lack of health care service and the torture of fascist Japan in the course of building the Death Railway Line. According to the record the dead bodies were buried along the railway. The healthy and strong men from all over the country were recruited as forced labour for railway construction and 80,000 to 100,000 workers died in a dreadful construction.

Out of 21,000 prisoners of war, 32,399 died of the extremely hard works. Over 270,000 Asian people including Myanmar 90,000 died in the construction works according to the forced labour record. According to the book of forced labour record of own experience” written by Layone Thiti Lahin the railway line is about 265 miles long and the statistics shows 47 POW and 346 Asian forced labour were dead every mile of the rail line.

Thabyuzayat War Cemetery

It was named after the Thabyuzayat village in Mingladon Township and it is situated 16 miles away in the north of Yangon on the side of Yangon-Pyay car road. Htaukkyant is just a big village and as it is located at the junction of Yangon Pyay and Yangon-Pyay highway road, it has become a busy commercial place.

The green-coloured signboard set up at the entrance of the cemetery has the writing in both English and Myanmar languages describing that “the land on which the cemetery has been established is the calm and serene precinct where the fallen soldiers of Navy, Airforce and Army of allies forces in the 1st and 2nd world war lie forever and the bereaved ones come to honor their heros.”

There are 4,574 tombs of the soldiers of allied forces died in Myanmar battlefields during 1st and 2nd world wars. 13 tombs are for the soldiers fallen in 1st world war and 867 tombs are for the anonymous. There are also 1,213 tombs for Indian soldiers. It is interesting in having a tomb of a Myanmar citizen, 31 years old Captain Sein Tun of Bureau Suppers & Masons. As most of the fallen soldiers are Christians the tombs are found usuallv having Crucifix on it. The tombs of the British soldiers have statue image along with the name of the deceased. For Muslim soldiers the tombs are for the fallen soldiers in the jungle and village cemeteries were written in Arabic language and the tombs were placed in group separately from the tombs of other religion.

Most of the fallen soldiers died in the battle fields of Mokhita, Silwaya, Mandalay and Salmaw. However, it is difficult to keep the remains of the dead soldiers in the localities where they died, so they were brought to Yangon and buried at Htaukkyant War Cemetery.

The remains of the dead soldiers who died in Myidlaya battlefields were first buried at Thabyuzayat. Those remains were also disinterred and brought to Yangon and buried at Htaukkyant War Cemetery.

1. Remains of body from Htanboawaddy, 1 remains from Mixhita cantonment area, 4 area from Thayet, 4 from Tamakan, 12 from Minday and 21 from Myemgon cantonment area, 31 body remains in total were brought to Htaukkyant War Cemetery. 19 body remains of the soldiers died in 1st world war were buried in Aungmyo, Pethain, Rounshakonde, Maunglo, Memon, Pyay, Pyinmana and Shwebo cemeteries.

Htaukkyant War Cemetery was opened in 1945 near Hanthawaddy Roundabout, Sanchaung Township.

Thabyuzayat War Cemetery is situated on one side of Thabyuzayat-Maungmagan car road in Mon State.

Thabyuzayat War Cemetery was opened in 1944 near Hanthawaddy Roundabout, Sanchaung Township.

References:
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3. World War Cemeteries in Myanmar (CWGC)
SUNDAY COMICS

16 July 2017

SUNDAY Joke

Cartoon: Maung Maung Aung 2017

Sir, our company employees have so much stress that they've gone crazy.

Then only, will we think what to do?

A moment later: Oh! Almost all have gone mad. What will you do?

Tell me frankly to solve the problem the best!

Compile the list of the worst.

Hm! The best solution is you rest at the hospital. They will all be relieved then, sir.

Hm!
The only thing that can carry us through this peace process is the determination to see peace in the country.

A wide-ranging interview with Filipino Ambassador to Myanmar Eduardo Kapunan by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process, bilateral relations between Philippines and Myanmar and southern Philippines issue.

Q: Myanmar and the Philippines have established diplomatic relations since 1956, which is longer than ASEAN’s existence. When President Duterte visited Myanmar in March this year, he praised the enduring bond between the two countries. Please share your reflections on Myanmar-Philippines diplomatic relations.

A: The present relationship between the two countries is quite good but of course there is still a lot of room for it to grow better. With the present levels of communications between the two countries I have high hopes that it will get better.

Q: Myanmar and Philippines have been cooperating in areas of agriculture, labor, trade and investment. During President Duterte’s state visit, the two countries signed a MOU on food security and agricultural cooperation. Could you elaborate about this cooperation?

A: This cooperation is really an exchange of ideas on how to approach food security. Philippines have had a lot of concern over food security and somehow we have learnt a lot of lessons in that regard. Myanmar being a newly democratic republic maybe we can share from the past experiences that we have to include lessons from the past mistake that we have had.

Exchange of ideas in food security is not a one way process, it is going to be a two way process, learning from Myanmar and Myanmar learning from the Philippines as well.

Q: We have heard of the armed conflict in Marawi City located on the island of Mindanao, why did it get worse?

A: We have to separate the incident in Marawi with the larger armed conflict Mindanao. The other players such as the Moro National Liberation Front, the Islamic Liberation Front which came after the MNLF, and then here comes the BIFF, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters. Most of these are rooted on certain perceived inequality in the social situations in the Philippines. By and large, the major cause of the rebellion is actually injustice. So the Philippines government has moved forward to really improve the justice system, not only the filing cases in court but also in economic justice. There is this social justice system that also involves the social mobility of the people.

Q: What are the challenges and prospect of peace process in Southern Philippines?

A: The prospect is very bright. In our experience, once we sit at the table in a face-to-face conversation, we somehow find a way to connect with the other’s challenges. And so far even the MILF and the MNLF have signified the intention to help the government subdue the Marawi incident. So I would expect that the prospects are very high. There are quite a few challenges that I cannot consider insurmountable. Some of the major challenges are really that our government leadership changes almost every six years. So there is no continuity sometimes in general directions. But so far in the past three administrations, the direction has been very consistent and if gets to the level where consistency can be assured, the solution to the problem can be achieved in a lesser time than what a lot of people expect.

Q: What are the impacts of socio-economy concerning the rule of law, peace and stability in the Southern Philippines?

A: In areas where there is so-called no rule of law, I disagree with because there is always the rule of law. Otherwise if there is no rule of law a rebel can exist without being neutralized. There is rule of law but of course there are challenges to the implementation of the rule of law and a lot of questions are paused in that regard.

On the area of impact on the general economic situation in the country, if you look at the conflict areas; let’s look at Mindanao for example; basically you can divide it into two; the developed Mindanao and the underdeveloped Mindanao. The developed Mindanao is where the local governance is strong and this is where opportunities are abound. People can go with their democratic life and they can really pursue a good future. The underdeveloped one lacks the education system that is good, social mobility is questionable, but it will belong to local government authorities.

The direction set with national government sometimes is not effectively implemented in the local area. Personally if there is anybody I have to blame about this problem, I will blame first and foremost the local government in that area. They are the ones responsible for giving down the directions of national governance and they are also the ones who feel the burden of poverty, the burden of injustice in the localities and they have to do something about it.
A Mighty rhinoceros cannot protect itself by own strength

By Khin Maung Phone Ko

God the creator made a white rhinoceros with a weight of 4000 kg and an 18-inch horn. He is the mightiest land animal so far on earth. He is also proud with his mighty build and a sharp horn. But God asked him although you are strong, be you become humble like a dove. But, his mighty build and a sharp horn. But God warned him you are not safe without my protection as I always give protection to my created creatures. After many years has passed and the rhino is reigning the wild jungle. Then came one day another God's created human who loves the big horn of the rhino. The man can sell to other man for money. Many years has passed and man create a gun and can kill animals. He, the man kill rhino with gun to cut the horn for money. These day rhino poaching is to such an extent that African rhinos are near extinction. Thus, the creator God give love to another men who loved His created beings to prevent killing of the Rhinos. Thus, God the creator gives protection to the mighty Rhinoceros. Otherwise the mighty rhinos cannot protect by its own strength.

The Bible verses:

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

You are my refuge and my shield, I have put my hope in your word. (Psalm 119:114, NIV)