Authorities warned locals in areas as part of a new order not to enter restricted areas provided aid and assistance to the people affected by armed attacks by ARSA extremists and administered first aid to them.

Action to be taken against incitement to violence

The information committee issued a statement yesterday to take action against those who carry out incitement to violence on 11 September. The statement said that it is found incitements to violence attacks on 11 September were spreading to the people via mobile phone messages and social media. The statement has also urged the people not to incite both communities, asking the citizens to inform acts on suspicions of inciting to violence to the authorities. “It can be assumed that both communities carry out incitements to cause panic among the people and actions will be taken against those who carry out the incitements,” said the statement.
—Myanmar News Agency
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint returns from China

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and party arrive back Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and party, who paid a goodwill visit to China at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, the People’s Republic of China, returned to Myanmar from Beijing via Kunming yesterday morning.

The Myanmar Hluttaw delegation was seen off at the Beijing airport by Mr. Long Zhuangwei, Vice Chair of the National People’s Congress of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and responsible personnel, U Thit Lin Ohn, Myanmar Ambassador to China and officials.

While transiting through Kunming, the Hluttaw delegation was hosted to a luncheon by H.E. Mme. Dao Linyin, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People’s Congress of Yunnan Province at the Best Hotel in Kunming.

The Hluttaw delegation arrived in Myanmar at 2:30 pm and was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, hluttaw representatives, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and officials from the hluttaw office.

—Myanmar News Agency

Provision to displaced people, security staff in Maungtaw donated by women’s affairs federation

THE Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation provided cash donations, food and utensils to displaced people, security forces and departmental staff yesterday in Maungtaw, northern Rakhine State.

On 8 September at the meeting hall of regional command headquarters in Sittway, the chairman of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation donated Ks2 million and food for local people, departmental staff and security forces who served in Maungtaw region.

The regional commander accepted the donations.

Later, ethnic people who are being sheltered at Mani Yadana monastery in Sittway were provided food, clothes and cash.

The party then went to temporary rescue camps in Buthidaung and donated cash and food to displaced ethnic people. —Min Hlat Aung, Tin Maung Lwin

Union Attorney General receives Forum of Federation’s vice chairman

UNION Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo received a delegation led by Forum of Federation’s vice chairman Mr. Felix Knuepling on Thursday at the Union Attorney General’s Office.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning democracy development, success of the peace process, cooperation activities for the development of federalism with the assistance of Forum of Federations of the Canadian Government, holding awareness seminars about federalism’s basic activities and practices for the hluttaw, the government, political parties and public, holding law-relat ed courses in accordance with the principles of federalism in collaboration with the Union Attorney General’s Office as well as the peace process and constitutional processes of the measurements with providence of the Forum of Federations.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint and permanent secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin. —Myanmar News Agency

Suspected terrorist arrested in Buthidaung

A suspected extremist terrorist from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) was found with a gunshot wound in Buthidaung Township on Thursday, according to the government information committee.

Acting on a tip off that a terrorist was hiding in Sinoyeypin Village, security forces inspected the village and arrested Abugawbu, 21, son of Miyarlauth, who was allegedly involved in the terrorist attacks on 27 August. He was found at his house with a gunshot wound on Thursday evening.

The information committee stated that the terrorist allegedly involved in the terrorist attack on security forces on 27 August was wounded during the attack. He was hospitalised and charged in accordance with the law. —Myanmar News Agency

Abugawbu. PHOTO: MNA
Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives Turkish Ambassador

Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, received Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Kerem Divanlioglu on Friday in the ministry.

During the meeting, the Union Minister explained the status of providing assistance to people in need who were affected by the terrorist acts in Rakhine State according to the humanitarian assistance principle for which the ministry is responsible for, the status of coordinating with the Red Cross Movement in providing humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State, and incorrect news published by international media on the attack and the killing of ethnic nationals by extremist terrorists.

The Turkish Ambassador said Turkey was assisting millions of Syrian refugees and was experienced in providing humanitarian assistance. Turkey was the first nation to condemn the terrorist attacks of August. “Turkey does not accept extremism. With regards to Myanmar, especially the Rakhine State affair, Turkey had a constructive view. It believes that civilians not involved in terrorist acts need to be assisted without any discrimination of race and religion. Turkey is providing assistance and would like to continue assisting”, the ambassador said. “Our President has spoken with the State Counsellor on the phone and, in addition to the leaders, the implementers from the two countries will cooperate”, said the ambassador. The ambassador also welcomed and recognised Myanmar arrangements to provide humanitarian assistance to all. —Myanmar News Agency

ASEAN, Japan ministers discuss countering fake news

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) roundtable discussion on Countering Fake News and Communicating the Right Information held in Manila, the Philippines yesterday.

The roundtable discussion was held to share each country’s experiences on incorrect news and fake news, handling the effect of such news, how officials from the government information sector respond to such news by communicating true information and to discuss cooperative work that can be done among countries within the region in counteracting such news. The roundtable discussion was attended by 32 information ministers, information sector sub-committee chairmen and officials from ASEAN member countries and Japan.

Also discussed at the meeting was the effect of fake news on the socio-economic security of the people, and the political problems and that arise when unscrupulous persons post fake photos and news for their political and economic benefit. The problem spreads as television broadcasts, newspapers and some mainstream media reported such unverified fake and wrong news. With the advancement of technology, and the increase in the use of social media in each country, taking legal action against such acts, increasing media literacy campaign process, responding to fake/false news, cooperating in communicating the right information and regional cooperation to increase ethical and socially responsible media sector were discussed.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister attended the ASEAN-Japan TV Festival held in Trinoma Mall Activity Center, Quezon City, Manila. —Myanmar News Agency

Outstanding first aid awards given at 2017 World First Aid Day

THE 2017 World First Aid Day and an awards ceremony for a first aid talent competition were held at the Hall of the Myanmar Red Cross Society in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The 2017 World First Aid Day ceremony was held with the theme “Injuries at home, help with first aid”.

Present at the ceremony were officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, the chair of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, Nay Pyi Taw Council Red Cross supervision committee chair, members of Red Cross Society from states and regions, Red Cross nursing members, Red Cross volunteers and recognised Red Cross youths.

Dr Daw May Thu, the chair of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, delivered an opening speech in which she noted that a new Red Cross Law was enacted on 26 August, 2015, and new members of executive and new members of central council and leaders from states and regions were selected in accord with the law.

Then, she urged old leaders and volunteers of the Red Cross Society to carry out their strategy in cooperation with new public leaders selected from various backgrounds of regions and states.

Outstanding awards for the first aid talent competitions, single men and women competition, double men and women competition, and four people competitions were given by officials.

Hpa-An Township was awarded for the highest first aid training opening.

Chin State was awarded the best prize of the first aid talent competition. Mandalay Region was awarded for all-round best prize and best multiplier training prize.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society holds First Aid Day annually and the first aid talent competition has been held since 2013. —Myanmar News Agency

Order for rule of law in Maungtaw

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The order also urges the people not to rob, steal or destroy property in the restricted areas, not to hold or store sticks, machetes or explosives and to inform authorities when they see any acts which break the prohibition.

The statement came about a week after local authorities urged Islamic villagers in Maungtaw to cooperate with them when security forces searched ARSA extremists, and asked them not to pose a threat or brandish weapons when the security forces enter their villages. —Myanmar News Agency
UCSB Chairman attends discussion on civil service reform at Oxford University

Upon the invitation of Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, London, Britain, Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman Dr. Win Thein attended a discussion on civil service personnel reform and a high level officials’ meeting held in University of Oxford from 3-7 September and returned to Yangon via Malaysia on 8 September.

The discussion and meetings were attended by heads of civil service of internationally top 31 countries. Civil service personnel reform experiences of each country, result of the research project “International Civil Service Effectiveness” (InCiSE) that was conducted by Blavatnik School of Government and affiliate organisations, methodology to measure the increase in the capacity of civil service personnel, process to develop the capacity of the heads of civil services to the highest level, challenges expected to be faced in a decade by civil service personnel and preparation to overcome it, setting and implementing best policy for civil service system using InCiSE indicators and uncovering best methods to use for civil service personnel based on experiences and lessons learnt from civil service sector were discussed.

UCSB Chairman and Myanmar Ambassador U Kyaw Zwa Min also met with heads of Britain’s Civil Service Commission, National School of Government International, Implementation Unit to discuss and exchange views on civil service matters.

—Myanmar News Agency

Rakhine authorities, IDPs discuss resettlement plan

Rakhine State Government held a meeting with local people yesterday, exchanging views on future plan for the displaced people from the conflict areas in Maungtaw.

At the meeting, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu clarified current efforts of the state government, saying that the authorities are collecting data on IDPs and carrying out the capacity of the heads of civil service of internationally top 31 countries.

—Myanmar News Agency

Tourist arrivals increased five-fold in Mandalay in nearly a decade

U SANYU, assistant director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mandalay), the international tourist arrivals have increased more than five-fold in Mandalay within the past nine years, according to the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

Tourist arrivals have been on increase in the region year after year. According to the official statistics, Mandalay, the last royal capital of Myanmar, hosted 64,377 foreign visitors in 2009.


Between January and July of this year, more than 260,000 tourists entered the region, said U San Yu.

Efforts have been made by the region authorities to promote tourism market in Mandalay in collaboration with local and international tourism bodies, extending new travel destinations and implementing eco-tourism as well as community-based tourism.

—GNLM
Domestic gold price on upward trend due to high global gold price

DOMESTIC gold price keeps rising due to high global gold price. As global gold price jumped to US$1,356 per ounce last Friday, domestic gold price reached a peak of Ks935,000 per tical (0.578 ounce). In spite of the fact that global gold price slipped a bit yesterday against last Friday’s price, domestic pure gold price still remained on the rise with a record high of Ks935,500 a tical in the evening of 9 September, according to Aung Thamardi Gold and Jewellery Shop and Gold Refinery.

“Record high gold price cools the market. The gold and jewellery shops do not rush to make transaction while observing the market price,” said U Kyaw Win.

Myanmar’s regional trade hit US$3.43 billion in first four months of this FY

REGIONAL trade of Myanmar with ASEAN countries amounted to about US$3.43 billion in the first four months of this fiscal year, comprising $1.2 million worth of export and $2.2 billion worth of import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce last Friday.

Since April, Thailand was listed at the third place with trade values of $354 million while Indonesia stood at the fourth place with estimated $285 million and Myanmar’s trade with Viet Nam reached about $260 million.

The value of bilateral trade with the Philippines reached $135.5 million. The trade value with Cambodia and Laos was about $1 million each. Value of Brunei’s trade with Myanmar was less than $1 million.

The country mainly exported agricultural products, fishery products and minerals while food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles and consumer goods were imported into Myanmar.

Regional trade value was about $9.6 billion in 2016-2017 FY and FY 2015-16 saw $10.4 billion. Myanmar’s trade with ASEAN countries reached $12.6 billion in 2014-2015 FY, $11 billion in 2013-2014 FY, $8.4 billion in 2012-2013 FY and $8.69 billion in 2011-2012 FY. — Ko Htet

Ginger exports through Myanmar-Bangladesh border declines

GINGER export across the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh decreased by more than 50 tons in third week of August, according to border trade authorities.

From 19 to 25 August, Myanmar exported fresh ginger weighing nearly 185 tons to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh via the Sittway and Maungtaw land borders, earning a total of US$50,530.

Neighbouring Bangladesh imported nearly 165 tons of fresh ginger from the Maungtaw border trade camp and another 20 tons from the Sittway border point of entry.

The country exported almost 240 tons of the same kind of product to its neighbour in the previous week before 19 August, including 57 tons from the Sittway border gate and 182 tons from the Maungtaw cross-border point.

Ginger, a common ingredient in Asian and Indian cuisine, is the main export item at Myanmar-Bangladesh borders. Bangladesh also imports peanuts, mung bean, dried plum, garlic, rice, dried fish and prawns, and bamboo.

In Sittway, the price of one ton of fresh ginger reached over Ks1 million. A ton of ginger was lower than Ks1 million in the same period of last year.—Shwe Rhine

More than $2.2 billion in trade deficit this FY

THE VALUE of international trade for the current fiscal year reached more than US$13 billion since April, with a trade deficit of over $2.2 billion, according to the Commerce Ministry’s statistical report released on 8 September.

Between 1 April and 1 September of this year, the total external trade value rose by $1.635 billion compared to the same period of last year.

Exports were $5.412 billion and imports were $7.675 billion.

Trade value included over $1.778 billion from normal trade and over $3.633 billion from cross-border trade. Eighty per cent of Myanmar’s exports were accommodated by seaports.

This year’s border exports decreased by over $110 million from that of last year. However, exports by sea rose by $544 million.

The country’s trade deficit was $91 million in FY2012-2013 and increased to $2.555 billion in FY2013-2014, $4.109 billion in FY2014-2015, $5.441 billion in FY2015-2016 and $5.5 billion in FY2016-2017, according to the ministry’s yearly report.

The country chiefly exports agricultural products, marine and animal products, minerals and forest products while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer products.—Swe Nyein

A salesman displays a tray of gold bangles at a jewellery shop. PHOTO: REUTERS

The global gold price is likely to remain on the upward trend due to political tension, he added.

The pure gold reached above Ks900,000 a tical in mid July and then, the price soared to Ks945,000 in the end of August. And now, the price reached its new peak of Ks935,500 per tical in the evening of 9 September while global gold price is $1,347 an ounce. — GNLM
China, Russia vow to boost cooperation in Far Eastern development

KHABAROVSK — Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Trutnev agreed here on Friday to strengthen the two countries’ cooperation in developing the Far East.

The agreement was reached at a meeting between Wang and Trutnev in Khabarovsk on intergovernmental cooperation between China’s northeastern regions and Russia’s Far Eastern and Baikal regions.

Such cooperation is among the consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and is also a strategic direction for China-Russia cooperation, Wang said, hailing the achievements in Far Eastern development between China and Russia.

Trutnev said China is an important partner of Russia in regional cooperation.

China and Russia will improve the docking of their development strategies and policy coordination, and push ahead partnerships in trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people exchanges, according to Wang and Trutnev.

They said the two countries will start to compile a guideline for Chinese and Russian enterprises intending to participate in Far Eastern development.

Wang and Trutnev agreed to improve interconnectivity, boost infrastructure construction and build a number of big projects.

The two sides also decided to create a more favorable business environment, provide better financial services and further facilitate investment and trade.—Xinhua

Drone to measure radiation inside tainted Fukushima plant buildings

TOKYO — The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is planning to use a drone to measure radiation inside heavily contaminated structures as it prepares to decommission damaged reactors there, according to officials of the operator.

Data obtained from its use is expected to help the operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc, create 3-D maps and identify areas with high-level radiation inside buildings where workers cannot stay safely.

The drone envisioned for the task is 83 centimetres tall and 93 cm wide, and, equipped with four propellers, can fly for around 15 minutes. The operator envisions its use inside buildings that house damaged reactors and inside those housing turbines.

In February Tepco, as it is known, tested a drone inside the turbine building for the No 3 reactor, one of three reactors that experienced meltdowns in the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

After improving its performance, the plant operator has decided to put the drone into use for radiation measurement. But it is still considering where it should begin using the machine, according to the officials. The government and Tepco are aiming to start debris extraction work from 2021, and are currently in the process of determining a specific approach to removing melted fuel from each damaged reactor and of updating their decommissioning road map.

— Kyodo News

Philippines suspends trade with North Korea to comply with UN resolution

MANILA — The Philippines has suspended trade relations with North Korea to comply with a UN Security Council resolution over its repeated missile tests, Manila’s foreign minister said on Friday.

The United States and other Western countries have asked the United Nations to consider tough new sanctions on North Korea after its test last week that it said was of an advanced hydrogen bomb.

“We can say we have suspended trade relations with North Korea,” Foreign Minister Alan Peter Cayetano told reporters after a meeting with the US ambassador on cooperation on an anti-drugs programme.

“We will fully comply with UNSC resolution including the economic sanctions.”

Tension on the Korean peninsula has escalated as North Korea’s young leader, Kim Jong Un, has stepped up the development of weapons in defiance of UN sanctions.

It has tested a series of missiles this year, including one that flew over Japan, and conducted its sixth and biggest nuclear test on Sunday.

The Philippines is North Korea’s fifth-largest trade partner, with bilateral trade from January to June this year worth $28.8 million, according to the state-run Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency.

On an annual basis, North Korea imported $28.8 million of products from the Philippines in 2016, an increase of 80 per cent from the previous year, while Manila’s imports from Pyongyang surged 170 per cent to $16.1 million.

According to the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the main exports to North Korea in 2015 were computers, integrated circuited boards, bananas and women’s undergarments.

“The UN Security Council is quite clear,” Cayetano said.

“Part of these are the economic sanctions and the Philippines will comply. We have been communicating with the DTI secretary and I think it was yesterday and the other day, we have gotten direction from the (presidential) palace to support the UN Security Council.”

Cayetano said the trade ban covered raw computer chips from the Philippines.

— Reuters

Iran, South Korea sign deal on banking cooperation

TEHRAN — Iran and South Korea signed an agreement to cooperate in banking sector, Press TV reported on Friday.

The agreement was signed by Ha Yung-ku, chairman of the Korea Federation of Banks, and Kourosh Purvazian, head of Iran’s Association of Private Banks.

The agreement, between private lenders of Iran and South Korea, mostly envisages the expansion of non-dollar trade between the two countries.

It also calls for the share information on banking affairs, provides banking assistance to importers and exporters, and conducts exchanges of financial training.

Iranian bankers have called for the expansion of euro-based trade between the two countries what it said had been welcomed by South Korean bankers.

— Xinhua
Korea marks founding anniversary with adversarial words to US

BEIJING — North Korea marked on Saturday the 69th anniversary of its founding boasting of its status as a world-class military power and taking an explicitly adversarial stand against the United States, as the international community struggles to rein in the secretive country following a series of weapons tests.

North Korea’s most influential newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, in its front page praised the country for becoming an “invincible nuclear power” after having succeeded in possessing an atomic bomb, a hydrogen bomb and even an intercontinental ballistic missile.

With North Korea’s upgraded military capabilities, the newspaper warned that the United States and its “vassal” forces are doomed to be defeated, at a time when the international community is carefully watching the North for signs of another missile launch or other provocations on the occasion of the anniversary.

Rodong Sinmun also denounced in a separate commentary the administration of US President Donald Trump for spearheading new UN sanctions against North Korea and threatened that “as long as the United States will pursue hostile action, it will continue to receive big and small gift packages from us.” The US aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan left its home port in Yokosuka, located south of Tokyo, for a patrol mission of the region on Friday.

Last year, North Korea conducted its fifth nuclear test on the day of the anniversary. This year’s ceremony comes about a week after the country’s highly powerful ever underground blast of what it claimed was a hydrogen bomb.

North Korea has also test-fired already nearly 20 ballistic missiles this year alone, including two ICBMs in July believed capable of reaching the mainland United States.

Just days before its sixth nuclear test, North Korea launched an intermediate-range ballistic missile that crossed Japan before landing in the northern Pacific Ocean. In response to the sixth nuclear test on 3 September, the United States and its allies are trying to have the UN Security Council endorse a new resolution toughening sanctions on North Korea.

The United States, which has proposed an oil embargo and a freeze on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s assets, among other punitive steps against the country, has requested the 15-member Security Council to vote on the resolution on Monday.

China and Russia, two of the five veto-wielding permanent members of the council, hold the key to whether North Korea will face stricter sanctions.

Both China and Russia have condemned North Korea for the latest nuclear test but have adhered to their long-held positions of prioritizing the restart of negotiations, rather than putting too much pressure on Pyongyang in the belief that doing so would further escalate tensions.

On the occasion of the 69th founding anniversary, North Korea’s official media reported that Kim received a congratulatory message from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“The relations between the two countries are based on the excellent tradition of friendship and mutual respect,” the Korean Central News Agency quoted the message as saying. “I am convinced that further development of the bilateral relations in all fields will conform with the fundamental interests of the two peoples and contribute to consolidating the security and stability of the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia as a whole.”

However, there are no reports of Kim receiving a message of greetings from Chinese President Xi Jinping, a possible indication of fraying ties between the two neighbors.

While the rest of the world is worrying if or when North Korea may tame its nuclear ambitions, the country’s citizens, young and old alike, dressed up for one of its most important national holidays. Many were seen laying flowers before giant statues of the country’s two late leaders on Mansu Hill in the capital Pyongyang on 9 September, 2017, the 69th anniversary of the country’s founding.

North Koreans lay flowers before large bronze statues of the country’s two late leaders on Mansu Hill in the capital Pyongyang on 9 September, 2017, the 69th anniversary of the country’s founding. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

India doing best to help nationals affected by hurricane Irma in North America

NEW DELHI — India said on Saturday that it is constantly monitoring the situation in the aftermath of the deadly hurricane Irma hitting North American countries and doing its best to provide all help to its affected nationals there.

The Indian External Affairs Ministry said that its missions in Venezuela, the Netherlands, France and the United States are in touch with local authorities in the affected countries to give all possible assistance to Indian nationals there.

“Our missions in Venezuela, the Netherlands, France and the United States are constantly monitoring the situation following destruction due to hurricane Irma,” External Affairs Ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

“They (Indian missions) are in constant touch with the Indian diaspora affected by Irma and with local government officials to provide all possible assistance,” he added. Hurricane Irma, a category five storm which pounded the Bahamas before making landfall in Cuba’s Camaguey Archipelago late Friday night, has now been moving towards Florida in the United States. It claimed the lives of at least 19 people on the Caribbean islands — Xinhua

Storm Katia rapidly weakens after making landfall near Tecolutla, Mexico

MIAMI, Florida — Storm Katia rapidly weakened on Saturday after it made landfall near the working-class beach resort of Tecolutla in the state of Veracruz on the Mexican Gulf coast, the US National Hurricane Centre (NHC) said.

Katia was downgraded from a hurricane to a tropical storm as it was about 110 miles (175 km) northwest of Veracruz, Mexico with sustained winds of 45 mph (70 kmh), the centre said in an advisory.

Veracruz state officials said in a statement on Friday that the storm could cause landslides and flooding, and urged people living below hills and slopes to be prepared to evacuate.

Luis Felipe Puente, head of Mexico’s national emergency services, said this week that Katia has “worrying characteristics” because it is very slow-moving and could dump a lot of rain on areas that have been saturated in recent weeks.

State oil and gas company Pemex has installations in and around the coast of Veracruz, but the firm has not reported any disruption to its operations.

Mexico is also dealing with the aftermath of a powerful earthquake on Thursday night. The quake, the strongest to strike the country in more than 80 years, killed at least 61 people.

As Katrina was making landfall, Hurricane Irma, one of the most powerful Atlantic storms in a century, walloped Cuba’s northern coast as a Category 5 storm. Millions of Florida residents were ordered to evacuate after the storm killed people in the eastern Caribbean and left catastrophic destruction in its wake.

Hurricane Jose continued to gather strength far out in the Atlantic and was nearing Category 5 strength as it churned about 435 miles east-southeast of the Northern Leeward Islands. —Reuters
Every citizen needs to have security awareness

Maw Lin

National peace and stability is of great importance in every country. For doing so, security awareness and rule of law play an important role. Though the national security must be operated by its security forces and organizations, but it will be more effective and successful only if all the citizens help to participate energetically.

In regard to present events currently happening in Rakhine State, it can be said that anxieties for national security are required to express their love and loyalty toward the country by co-operating campaigns for national peace and stability, being implemented by the government.

(Translated Rhin Maung Oo)

Asia-Pacific Region: Gearing Up for the Next Transformation

Christine Lagarde
International Conference, Seoul

Following is the discussion of Ms Christine Lagarde at the conference in Seoul on 6th September focusing on how to promote sustained and inclusive growth in the world’s most dynamic region.

Introduction: Asia Today and Tomorrow

When we think about Asia’s economic future, we know that this future is being built on strong foundations—on the richness and diversity of its cultures, on the incredible energy and ingenuity of the people who have changed the world by transforming their own economies.

China and India have been driving the greatest poverty reduction in human history by creating the world’s largest middle classes. In a single generation, Vietnam has moved from being one of the world’s poorest nations to being a middle-income country.

And Korea has transformed itself into a thriving advanced economy—inspiring those who are working hard to avoid the so-called “middle income trap.” These are only some of the many Asian success stories that have captured the imagination of policymakers and economists around the world.

Why? Because this region is not just about sound macroeconomic policies and embracing global economic integration. It is also about resourcefulness and immense determination.

Twenty years ago, so many communities and companies were deeply hurt by the Asian financial crisis. So many countries in this region suffered a lot. But they also learned a lot—as did the IMF—and they are much stronger today. As the famous Korean proverb puts it: “After rain, the ground becomes firmer.”

This resilience was earned through bold, post-crisis reforms. Many countries adopted more flexible exchange rates and reduced external vulnerabilities. They also strengthened their financial sector regulation and supervision, and developed domestic capital markets.

With these reforms, Asia was able to weather the global financial crisis, and has since emerged as a key engine of global growth. Over the past decade, the Asia-Pacific region has contributed two-thirds of global growth, and now accounts for about 44 percent of global GDP.

Today we see the beginning of another economic transformation across Asia. What does that mean? It means that countries can build on the progress made so far, while addressing new vulnerabilities.

These include immediate challenges such as high corporate debt and the risk of protectionism—but also longer-term challenges such as population ageing and lower productivity growth.

There is a huge opportunity for policymakers to take the best of today’s Asia to build the best possible tomorrow for Asia. How? Through bold policy actions and strong international cooperation.

Here the Korean government has provided leadership—and not just by hosting international economic conferences. Next year, for example, Korea will host the Winter Olympics in Pyeong Chang, bringing together the world’s top athletes.

I believe that policymakers can take inspiration from these athletes—because that is what the next transformation requires: a relentless focus on training, on the nitty-gritty of economic reform.

Let me briefly discuss this from three perspectives:

• First, how can Asia seize its demographic opportunities?
• Second, what can governments do to boost productivity?
• And third, how can the IMF best serve its member countries in managing the next transformation?

1. Seizing the Demographic Opportunities

Let us start with demographics. Reforms in this area can lift potential growth and help societies share the benefits of growth more widely. Consider the immense potential of young and growing populations in countries such as India, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

By lifting productivity and creating more, higher-quality jobs for a growing workforce, these economies can reap this demographic dividend. IMF analysis shows that a growing workforce can add one full percentage point to their annual GDP growth over the next three decades.

There are also rapidly ageing populations in countries such as China, Japan, Korea, and Thailand. They will have smaller workforces in the future and potentially lower productivity growth.

We estimate that these countries could face lower annual GDP growth, again by up to a percentage point—although some of the negative effects of ageing remain subject to debate.

So what can Asia do to step up its demographic “training”? One avenue that has worked in all countries around the world is to boost the proportion of women in the workforce.

Korea and Japan, for example, could further increase their focus on reforming secondary earner taxation and boosting childcare benefits and tax incentives for part-time work.

Emerging and developing countries, such as Cambodia and India, can benefit from expanding girls’ access to high-quality education and promoting women’s access to finance.

Taken together, these initiatives could become an economic game changer. By some estimates, closing the gender gap in the labor market could boost GDP by 9 percent in Japan, 10 percent in Korea, and 27 percent in India.

We have also seen benefits from fostering more inclusive growth—especially in countries where income and wealth inequality are high and rising. To put it simply, when the benefits of growth are shared more broadly, growth is stronger, more durable, and more resilient.

Here in Korea, the Parliament recently approved a budget that includes transfers to the elderly, subsidies for job-seeking youth, and higher unemployment benefits. A stronger social safety net—including a more reliable pension system—is also crucial for China, because it facilitates the transition to consumption-led growth.

In other words, increasing the economic “fitness level” can help ensure that the next generation will be better off.
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Thilawa Special Economic Zone

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and senior officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) yesterday visited Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region.

Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development (MJTWD) Limited Chairman Mr. Watanabe, President and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Yanai explained the concept and operation of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in MJTWD executive office.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party toured the Thilawa Special Economic Zone by car.

Earlier, the Senior General and party visited a green-house agriculture zone of Thanlyin Base under the regional naval headquarters, where officials explained the flora and fauna being planted in the zone. —Myanmar News Agency

Asia-Pacific Region: Gearing Up for the Next Transformation

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2. Boosting Productivity

So much for demographics. What about productivity?

Over the long term, productivity growth is the most important source of higher income and rising living standards. For example, countries such as Bangladesh, India and Indonesia are benefiting from steady investment, which can help boost innovation and potential growth.

The not-so-good news is the sharp slowdown in productivity growth since the global financial crisis in countries such as China, Japan, Korea, and Thailand. This is part of a global trend, affecting advanced economies and many emerging market countries.

We estimate that, if productivity growth had followed its pre-2008 crisis trend, overall GDP in the Asia-Pacific region would be about 9 percent higher today. That would be the equivalent of adding to the global economy a country with an output of Japan.

So how can governments step up their productivity “training”? Fostering innovation is one way. This includes providing tax incentives for research and development, and investing more in infrastructure and education reform.

For example, Korea and Vietnam are world champions in educational achievement. Here a greater emphasis on vocational training could help reduce skills mismatches in some sectors.

Of course, Asia has been a world champion in entrepreneurship, most recently in smartphone apps, e-commerce, and fintech. In these and other sectors, the region could benefit from reducing overly stringent regulations and fostering new ventures and fresh ideas, rather than protecting incumbents.

More trade can also play a role. Why? Because trade promotes innovation-sharing and pushes firms to invest in new technologies and more efficient business practices.

For example, we estimate that China’s integration into the global trading system accounted for as much as 10 percent of the average overall productivity increase in advanced economies between the mid-1990s and mid-2000s.

Gains like that illustrate the transformative power of trade. Today, billions of people across the globe enjoy higher incomes and living standards, because we are—collectively—world champions in trade and technological progress.

But we also know that these structural changes come with negative side-effects, from job losses in shrinking sectors to social challenges in some communities.

Each country has a responsibility in this area—it is a global responsibility as well. What do I mean by that? I mean pushing for better and smarter trade agreements, including better protecting labor and environmental standards. Here international cooperation has a key role.

As the famous Korean proverb puts it: “Even a sheet of paper is held more easily by two people”.

3. The IMF as a Partner

That brings me to my third and final topic—the IMF as a partner, as a “fitness coach”.

In many ways, the IMF has been going through its own transformation, and continues to adapt to better serve our member countries here in Asia and around the world.

Our raison d’etre is to work with our members to foster resilient and inclusive growth. This means engaging deeply through analysis, policy advice, and hands-on assistance and training on how to strengthen institutions and improve economic management.

For example: when Myanmar began opening its economy, the IMF helped modernize its tax administration and revamp its central bank and foreign exchange market. We also supported Myanmar in building a statistics program and strengthening its anti-money laundering regime.

More broadly, we work with our members every day to address the challenges posed by demographic pressures, climate change, and new technology—but that is not the whole story.

We are constantly learning from our members and sharing that knowledge—so all members can enhance their own performance.

Think of what has been achieved since 2010, when Korea chaired the G20. Our discussions have contributed to the IMF’s reassessment of the role of capital flow management measures.

We have also been working with our members to strengthen the global financial safety net—by enhancing our toolkit and by deepening our cooperation with regional financing arrangements, including the Chiang Mai Initiative.

And there is now a greater representation of dynamic emerging economies in the governance of the IMF. With the most recent quota reforms, the BRIC countries are now among our top 10 shareholders.

This is a new Fund in a new world, serving our membership in new and better ways.

Conclusion

Let me conclude on a personal note: I have learned so much from Asia—from the young entrepreneurs in Vietnam to the students in Cambodia, China, Korea, and India. They embody Asia’s tremendous potential.

I see a generation that will have a unique opportunity to lead Asia’s next transformation. By working and learning together—by stepping up our “training”—we can help improve the lives of people in this region and across the globe.

Thank you—kamsa hamnida!
Defence Ministry surprised at statement from German military authority about West-2017

MOSCOW — The Russian Defence Ministry is surprised at the statement made by German's Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen claiming 100,000 Russian military will be involved in the West-2017 exercise, spokesman of the Russian authority Igor Konashenkov said on Saturday.

“We are surprised at the statement, made by the German defence minister, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, as she quoted the unreasonable figures concerning claimed 100,000 Russian military to be involved in the West-2017 exercise and about consequent threats to Europe,” the spokesman said. “The German side was notified and it has received all the exhaustive information about the plot, defence character and real numbers of the Russian military involved in the West-2017 exercise.”

According to the spokesman, the German side has received detailed information both by the Belarusian side and directly to the German embassy’s military attaché in Moscow during a special briefing on 29 August by Russia’s Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin in the presence of hundreds of foreign reporters.

Moreover, Russia’s Head of the General Staff General Valery Gerasimov only the day before yesterday in Baku during a meeting with head of NATO’s Military Committee informed additionally General Petr Pavel about the Zapad-2017 exercise, stressing it is a planned action and it is not aimed against third countries,” the Defence Ministry’s spokesman said. “It is difficult to imagine that colleagues of Ms Ursula von der Layen at NATO, or from other involved German authorities or her office deliberately mislead the German defence minister.”

“IT is much easier to suppose the opposite,” he added. Earlier, Germany’s military spokesman Jens Flosdorff in a comment on the statement by Minister Ursula von der Leyen about the number of personnel involved in the Zapad-2017 exercise said those were estimations of NATO’s experts.

Zapad-2017 exercise
The joint strategic exercise Zapad-2017 is scheduled for September 14-20. Six proving grounds in Russia and Belarus will be used. It is expected that 12,700 troops will take part (about 10,200 in Belarus) and 680 pieces of military equipment.

The Belarussian Defence Ministry has dispatched invitations to monitors from seven countries and a number of international organizations, including NATO, CSTO, CIS, UN and OSCE. Russia, too, has invited senior officials from a number of foreign defence ministries to see the final phase of the exercise.—Tass

Russia’s ambassador to US hopes US really stops policy of countermeasures

WASHINGTON — Russia’s new Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said on Friday he hopes Washington’s wishes to stop the policy of countermeasures will be realized.

“I would like very much to hope that all this ‘US’ putting an end to the policy of countermeasures – TASS – will be implemented in concrete actions,” he said answering a TASS question.

“I can vow that there are no problems on our part,” Antonov noted, adding that Russia has always stood “for improvement in bilateral relations.”

“We want our relations to be trust-based, mutually respectful, equal, and, of course, mutually beneficial,” he stressed, adding that this is in the interests of both the international community, Russia and the United States.

The Russian ambassador presented his credentials to President Donald Trump on Friday.

“The atmosphere was good, constructive and friendly,” he said. “President Trump met me cordially. We agree with his staff members to continue our contacts.”

US Department of State Spokesperson Heather Nauert told reporters on Thursday that the United States is not willing to continue the diplomatic tit-for-tat with Moscow and wants relations to improve. “We don’t want to continue this kind of diplomatic tit-for-tat. There are far too many areas where we can, we hope we can, cooperate with Russia,” she said. Nauert did not elaborate on possible retaliatory measures from Moscow, stressing once again her country’s hope to improve ties with Moscow.—Tass

Chinas Hong Kong, ASEAN conclude Free Trade Agreement negotiations

HONG KONG — China’s Hong Kong and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced Saturday the conclusion of the negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a related Investment Agreement.

The announcement was made at the second ASEAN Economic Ministers-Hong Kong, China Consultations (AEM-HKC Consultations).—Xinhua

Russian Dep ForMin Ryabkov to meet US Shannon on 11-12 September— RIA

MOSCOW — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov will meet US Undersecretary of State Thomas Shannon in Helsinki on 11-12 September, the RIA news agency cited a Russian diplomatic source as saying on Saturday.—Reuters

Hurricane Jose on track to pass close to northern Leeward Islands

MIAMI, Florida — Hurricane Jose, a Category 4 storm, was a track to pass close to the northern Leeward Islands on Saturday, the National Hurricane Centre said.

The storm was about 190 miles (305 km) east-southeast of the northern Leeward Islands with sustained winds of 150 mph (240 km), the center said.

The core of Hurricane Jose will pass close to or just east of the islands on Saturday. After it passes it is expected to gradually weaken, the centre said. —Reuters
Australia to send more troops to help Philippines fight Islamist militants

SYDNEY — Australia will send troops to assist Philippine forces in the ongoing battle against Islamic State fighters in the southern city of Marawi, Australia’s Defense Minister Marise Payne said on Friday.

Small contingents of Australian soldiers will be sent to train Philippine troops, Payne said during a press conference with her counterpart, Delfin Lorenzana in Manila.

“We are very committed to supporting the Philippines in its efforts to defend itself against terrorist threats,” Minister Payne said.

“Terrorist threats,” Minister Lorenzana said.

But no Australian troops will be actively involved in the fighting, Lorenzana said.

“It would not look good if we would be needing troops to fight the war here. We are happy with the assistance we’re getting from Australia.”

Smoke billows after a fighter jet plane released a bomb during an airstrike as government troops continue their assault.

“We are very committed to supporting the Philippines in its efforts to defend itself against terrorist threats,” Minister Payne said.

But no Australian troops will be actively involved in the fighting, Lorenzana said.

“It would not look good if we would be needing troops to fight the war here. We are happy with the assistance we’re getting from Australia.”

The militants swept through Marawi on 23 May and have held parts of it.

Despite sustained ground attacks by hundreds of soldiers and daily pummeling by planes and artillery.

“The southern Philippines has been marred for decades by insurgency and banditry. But the intensity of the battle in Marawi and the presence of foreign fighters fighting alongside local militants has raised concerns that the region may become a Southeast Asian hub for Islamic State as it loses ground in Iraq and Syria.”

Australian soldiers will compliment those from their country already sent to the Philippines to train local personnel, Payne said.

Philippine troops fighting Islamic State-linked rebels in a southern city have encountered armed resistance from women and children who were likely family members of militants, the Philippine military said on Monday.

A spokesman for Payne said further details of the training contingent would be determined in coming days.—Reuters

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON BHUM VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.9.2017 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

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Scoping of EIA Study of M9 East Appraisal and Exploration Drilling in Block M9 by PTTEPI

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI) plans to develop appraisal and exploration drilling campaign in the eastern part of Offshore Block M9 with objective to confirm (or deny) and to indicate the presence of hydrocarbon reservoirs, and could serve the development of the existing Zawtika gas field. The proposed appraisal and exploration drilling will be up to 12 wells which will begin in Q1 2018.

Under Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PTTEPI is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. PTTEPI and Arvelia Eau & Environment (Artelia) are currently undertaking Scoping of EIA Study to define project description, study area, potential environmental and social impacts and relevant stakeholders. The Scoping will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

More information about the proposed activity can be found on PTTEPI’s website as follows: www.pttep.com. Questions and comments can also be submitted to TinNilarSoe@pttep.com.

Scoping of EIA Study of M11 Exploration Drilling in Block M11 by PTTEPI

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI) plans to develop exploration drilling campaign in the Offshore Block M11 with objective to confirm (or deny) the presence of hydrocarbon reservoirs. The proposed exploration drilling will be up to 2 wells which will begin in Q4 2018.

Under Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PTTEPI is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. PTTEPI and Arvelia Eau & Environment (Artelia) are currently undertaking Scoping of EIA Study to define project description, study area, potential environmental and social impacts and relevant stakeholders. The Scoping will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

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Manchester concert venue shattered by bomb attack to reopen

LONDON — The Manchester music venue where a suicide bomber killed 22 people as they left an Ariana Grande concert in May will reopen on Saturday for the first time since the attack.

A benefit concert entitled “We Are Manchester” will raise money for a charitable trust in charge of establishing a permanent memorial in the northern English city. The victims of the 22 May attack at the Manchester Arena included many young girls, who make up a large part of US singer Grande’s fan base.

The youngest, Saffie Roussos, was aged eight.

Parents who had come to pick up their children after the show were also among those killed in the attack carried out by Salman Abedi. “May’s events will never be forgotten, but they will not stop us, or Mancunian music fans, from coming together to enjoy live music,” said event organiser Allen, the venue’s general manager.

The line-up for Saturday’s concert, which was sold out, included Noel Gallagher, formerly of Oasis, one of the most successful bands to emerge from Manchester.

Also performing will be local poet Tony Walsh, known as Longfella, who moved crowds to tears at a vigil in central Manchester the day after the attack

Photography: Reuters

The city is now heralded as a model of urban development. It has installed cable cars up the steep Andean slopes that surround it to save working-class residents a punishing climb home and built libraries in neighbourhoods once host to gun battles.

A drug trafficking Escofar, Medellin’s most infamous resident, was gunned down in the city in a US-backed operation in 1993. He was recently resurrected as a character in the popular Netflix series Narcos.

During his visit to the city, Francis will highlight those who choose the habit and the cassock over secular careers, as the number of new entrants to vocations in the Roman Catholic Church has slumped.

At the La Macarena basilica, Francis will also pray before the relics of Mother Laura Montoya, a nun who was the first female Colombian saint.

Montoya was a teacher and prolific author who hosted classes in her own home when her children were just seven. Her death in 1995 was a shock to all the people of Medellín.

Francis will also tour Cartagena on Sunday before leaving for Rome that night. — Reuters

Pope Francis is traveling to the city of Medellín, one of the world’s five largest slums, to urge young people to join the fight against the drugs that ravage the area and bring Medellín a message of national reconciliation as the country tries to heal the wounds left by the conflict and bitter disagreements over a peace deal with guerrillas agreed last year.

On Friday in the tropical city of Villavicencio, he urged Colombians skeptical of a deal with the FARC guerrillas to be open to reconciliation with those who have repented, speaking hours after a top rebel leader asked the pontiff for forgiveness.

He visits the city of Cartagena on Sunday before leaving for Rome that night. — Reuters

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He visits the city of Cartagena on Sunday before leaving for Rome that night. — Reuters
Japanese lawmaker Inoki meets N Korea’s top diplomat

PYONGYANG/BEIJING — Japanese wrestler-turned-lawmaker Antonio Inoki on Friday held talks with North Korea’s top official in charge of foreign affairs, amid soaring tensions between the country and the rest of the world over its relentless nuclear and missile tests.

Inoki and Ri Su Yong, a vice chairman of the Workers’ Party of Korea who formerly served as foreign minister, shook hands and hugged when they met in Pyongyang.

“I welcome you,” Ri, known as a trusted confidant of leader Kim Jong Un, told Kyodo News on Thursday before leaving for Pyongyang from Beijing.

The 74-year-old House of Councillors member, whose real first name is Kanji, said he thinks it necessary to keep lines of communication open with North Korea, even at a time when many countries are trying to further isolate it over its defiant pursuit of nuclear and missile development.

The former pro-wrestling star last visited North Korea one year ago also for its national foundation day, when its fifth nuclear test was conducted.

Inoki, who is on his 32nd visit to Pyongyang, has said all the trip’s other main purposes is to help facilitate “sports exchanges” between Japan and North Korea, which have no diplomatic relations.

What Inoki discussed with Ri was not immediately known. He is scheduled to stay in North Korea until Monday and may disclose some elements of their discussions afterward.—Kyodo News

Japan says jet fighters conducted drills with US aircraft over East China Sea

TOKYO — Japanese F-15 fighter jets on Saturday conducted an air exercise with US B1-B bombers in the skies above the East China Sea, Japan’s Air Self Defence Force (ASDF) said.

The joint drill comes as South Korea braces for a possible further missile test by North Korea as it marked its founding anniversary, just days after its sixth and largest nuclear test rattled global financial markets and further escalated tensions in the region.

The exercise involved two US Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers flying from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in the skies above the East China Sea, Japan, in this photo released by the Air Staff Office of the Defence Ministry of Japan on 9 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan’s Self-Defence Forces F-15 fighter jets (top and bottom) conduct an air exercise with US Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers flying from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in the skies above the East China Sea, Japan, in this photo released by the Air Staff Office of the Defence Ministry of Japan on 9 September, 2017.

Japanese wrestler-turned-lawmaker Antonio Inoki (2nd from R) and Ri Su Yong (2nd from L), a vice chairman of the Workers’ Party of Korea who formerly served as foreign minister, hold talks in Pyongyang on 8 September, 2017, amid soaring tensions between North Korea and the rest of the world over Pyongyang’s nuclear and missile tests. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS
‘Five Foot Two’ explores Lady Gaga’s vulnerable side

TORONTO — In “Gaga: Five Foot Two”, director Chris Moukarbel captures the artist hidden behind the outrageous costumes, revealing a woman unafraid to express her vulnerabilities and exercise her agency. “This is me with nothing,” Lady Gaga says in the film.

The Netflix documentary, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on Friday, follows Lady Gaga over an eight-month period leading up to her Super Bowl Halftime performance in February 2017.

It’s an intimate and often raw look at the real Lady Gaga, Stefani Joanne Germanotta, roughly a decade after she exploded into the pop culture scene with her debut, “Just Dance”. Gaga over an eight-month period leading up to her Super Bowl Halftime performance in February 2017.

The film depicts that “whiplash”, juxtaposing the public Lady Gaga with the personal Germanotta.

An interview with the New York Times about her new single “Joanne” is book-ended by a call from a dying friend, Sonja Durham, and an emotional visit to her grandmother, who listens to her new song about her aunt Joanne for the first time.

Durham passed away earlier this year and the film is dedicated to her memory.

Lady Gaga, who performed a ballad version of “Bad Romance” before the film screening, watched the documentary for the first time on Friday.

“I was very overwhelmed watching it,” she told audiences afterwards, calling the film an authentic look at her life.

One moment she is elegantly turned out for a christening, surrounded by family, another moment she is wrapped in a towel, crying from the chronic pain that resulted from a hip fracture several years ago.

In the film, Lady Gaga’s vulnerabilities are on display: the depression and trauma caused by the hip injury, reflections on her self-image, being alone, turning 30, her dealings with men.

But she also talks extensively about finding empowerment and validation from within, as well as the power and influence of music on her life.

“Sometimes it’s like open heart surgery, making music. It’s invasive.”—Reuters

Reese Witherspoon encourages women to be ambitious

LONDON — Actress Reese Witherspoon said she is encouraging women to be more ambitious and do away with the stigma surrounding them.

The 41-year-old actress said she believed ambitious women have the power to “change the society”, reported FemaleFirst.

“A couple of years ago I wrote a speech of Glamour Women of the Year about why ambition in women is considered a dirty word. And we do kind of think, they’ve done all these studies at Harvard and Colombia about how women who have ambitious qualities are seen as selfish or self-serving, and it’s actually completely the opposite.

“Usually they have a mission or a drive to help other people, or accomplish something. So I’m just trying to take the stigma off the word so we can encourage more little girls to be ambitious, because I do think that’s how society will change,” Witherspoon said on “Good Morning America”.

Recently, the “Big Little Lies” actor slammed sexism prevalent in Hollywood, saying big studios are uninterested in making films with “female-driven material”. —PTI
More sex education needed in China, director Vivian Qu says with new film

VENICE — Vivian Qu hopes her new film “Angels Wear White” (“Jia Nian Hua”) will generate a discussion on sex education and child protection in her home country, the Chinese director said at the Venice film festival on Friday.

Qu, whose directorial debut “Trap Street” (“Shuyinjie”) premiered to critical acclaim at the festival in 2013, is back in Venice to present her latest project.

“We are trying to tell educators it’s important to educate about sex at an early age because children need to learn how to protect themselves because the parents are not necessarily always around,” Qu told Reuters in an interview.

“Angels Wear White” is set in a seaport town, where two young girls are assaulted in a motel by a middle-aged man. The only witness is receptionist Mia, played by Wen Qi, who is only a few years older than the girls. As news of the assault spread, the hotel’s managers try to cover up the evidence. Mia, worried she may lose her job, says nothing, and with few adults to turn to, both her and Wen have to find their own way out of their troubles.

Qu said she drew inspiration for the film from real life. It pained her to think that justice often was not served or came too late for the victims, she said.

Making a movie on such a sensitive topic with a young, non-professional actress presented its own challenges, she added.

Qu spent two months training her young star Zhou Meiju on weekends when the girl was out of school. Zhou was not aware of the full plot and was given the scenes only gradually.

“She didn’t understand, she was very young and very pure. So, we only gave her scene by scene,” Qu said.

“We focused more on her relationship with her parents because that’s also how the film was and because those are the things that she could understand,” she added. Qu is the only female director in the festival’s main competition this year and, while acknowledging the difficulties female film makers face, Qu said she believed it was more important to encourage women to get into the industry rather than opt for quotas.

“Any serious film makers would not want to be selected only because she is female, we want to be selected as good film makers, we make equally good films,” she said.

The 74th Venice film festival runs until Saturday, when the winner of the coveted Golden Lion award will be revealed.

—Reuters

Advertorial

Safety of MSG, “AJI-NO-MOTO®”

One of the responsibilities of a housewife is to select seasoning powder produced from natural raw materials that had the least side effect to use in preparing the daily foods for the family.

Currently, imported bowl (mistakenly identified as a pot locally) brand “AJI-NO-MOTO®” seasoning powder had occupied a place in the kitchens of Myanmar since a long time ago.

Ajinomoto Co., Inc. of Japan had produced “AJI-NO-MOTO®” seasoning powder since 1909. A Japanese scientist first discovered this substance from natural seaweed and named it “Umami, a fifth taste” because it is not among the four basic tastes of sweetness, sourness, saltiness and bitterness.

Monosodium Glutamate (MSG), substance name of “AJI-NO-MOTO®” was produced biologically from Monosodium Glutamate (MSG), substance name of “AJI-NO-MOTO®” seasoning powder since 1909. A Japanese scientist first discovered this substance from natural raw materials such as sugar cane and tapioca. MSG is Sodium Salt of Glutamic Acid, one of Amino acids in protein that is in meat and vegetables the people consume daily. This Amino Acid is inside a human body and is included in mother’s milk. That is why consumers like the taste of MSG. Now, MSG is called Umami seasoning.

Company Profile

Ajinomoto Co. Inc. is a global manufacturer of high-quality seasonings, processed foods, beverages, amino acids, pharmaceuticals and specialty chemicals. For many decades Ajinomoto Co. Inc. has contributed to food culture and human health through wide-ranging application of amino acid technologies.

Today, the company is becoming increasingly involved in many decades Ajinomoto Co. Inc. has contributed to food culture and human health through wide-ranging application of amino acid technologies.

The company had been selling more than 300,000 MT in Asia annually.

“Manyman FYA FDA approves “AJI-NO-MOTO®” and so does Asian and western countries. There is no country in the world that is banned “AJI-NO-MOTO®” and there were no instances of it being prosecuted,” said the company.

Currently, a factory has been set up in Thilawa Special Economic Zone and started the packaging operation and the distribution within the country.

“Manyman consumer first experience of seasoning powder is from consuming pot brand. Whatever brands that came in later, it is still top brand in the market. Because it is the first in the market, many people knew it. At home, I’m using pot brand, “AJI-NO-MOTO®” said a store owner with 20 years of selling various goods.

In every household it is the responsibility of the housewife to buy safe products to cook. If not, family members who had consumed the food will have subsequent health problems causing the loss of time and money as well as facing social problems. In the age when there are many fake products, it is the main responsibility of the housewife to buy trusted brand instead of cheap brands that affects the health.

Therefore “Take care of your family’s health by using FDA recognized “AJI-NO-MOTO®” seasoning powder.”
Myanmar U-18 football team beats Brunei 7-0 in AFF Youth Championship

Kyaw Zin Tun

The Myanmar U-18 football team beat Brunei by a score of 7-0 while Viet Nam beat the Philippines 5-0 at the Asian Football Federation (AFF) Youth Champion Group B tournament at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Myanmar midfielder Eant Maw Oo scored the opening goal for Myanmar at the ninth-minute mark. Myanmar defender Naing Ko Ko scored the second goal by heading the ball into the net with a pass by Thet Paing Htwe from the left side of the Brunei goal.

Myanmar forward player Win Naing Tun scored the third goal from a ball given by Myat Kaung Khat at 44 minutes. The first half of the Myanmar and Brunei competition ended at 3-0. In the second half, Myanmar scored four additional goals.

In earlier Group B action, Viet Nam beat the Philippines 5-0.

Today’s competitions will see Cambodia face Malaysia at 3pm and Singapore and Thailand at 6pm at Thuwanna Stadium. Timor Leste will play Laos at Aung San Stadium at 3pm.

Myanmar will play against the Philippines tomorrow and against Viet Nam on 13 September. All group matches of the tournament will end on 13 September, with semis final matches on 15 September and the final and third place matches on 17 September.

2017 states and regions men field hockey competition held

Kyaw Zin Tun

The opening of the states and regions men’s field hockey competition was held on the artificial turf of Theinphyu Stadium, Yangon on 8 September.

Field hockey is a sport in which a team consisting of 11 players, including a goalkeeper, use sticks made out of wood, carbon fibre, glass or a combination of carbon fibre and glass to hit a round, hard, plastic ball.

The opening ceremony yesterday featured a welcoming speech by U Myo Haling, the managing director of the sport and physical education department in the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The purpose of the competition is to increase the public interest in field hockey and to nurture new generations of field hockey players, said U Myo Haling.

U Myo Haling urged the selection committee and the field hockey federation to try their best to become a good Myanmar field hockey team.

A total of seven teams representing, Kachin, Chin, Bago, Mandalay, Mon, Yangon and Shan participated this year.

Last year’s winner and runner-up, Yangon Region and Chin State, played on opening day.

In other matches yesterday, Shan State defeated Mandalay Region 2-1 while Bago Region and Kachin State played to a 1-1 draw.

The 2017 men hockey competition began on 8 September and will end on 22 September.

Keita, Werner goals help Leipzig to snap Hamburg’s winning start

BERLIN — Second half goals from Naby Keita and Timo Werner helped RB Leipzig beat hosts Hamburg 2-0 on Friday and snap the northern club’s two-game winning start to the Bundesliga season.

Victory lifted Leipzig, last season’s Bundesliga runners-up, to six points and provisionally into third place, ahead of their opponents on goal difference.

Leipzig had a good chance in the first half but Jean-Kevin Augustin’s effort bounced off the post as they took the initiative from the start. Hamburg were then saved by the video assistant referee on the stroke of halftime when Werner was brought down in the box and the referee initially pointed to the penalty spot before changing his mind after asking for a video replay.

The hosts, looking to make it three wins in a row at the start of the season for the first time since the 1974/75 campaign, again survived early Leipzig pressure in the second half.

But keeper Christian Mathenia could do nothing when Keita, who will join Liverpool next season, thundered in an unstoppable shot past the keeper in the 67th minute.

Germany international Werner then showed why he is the most in-form striker at this moment, charging through and finishing his solo effort seconds after Hamburg missed a golden chance to level in the 73rd.

Champions Bayern Munich will look to make it three wins in a row when they travel to Hoffenheim on Saturday. Leaders Borussia Dortmund face Freiburg.—Reuters

Leverkusen request FIFA to register Alario

BERLIN — Bayer Leverkusen have requested world soccer body FIFA to register striker Lucas Alario as their own player after the Argentine federation refused to release him, the German club said on Friday.

Leverkusen had announced the deal late last month, saying it had paid the Argentine international’s release clause to River Plate and the 24-year-old forward was eligible to sign with Leverkusen.

“The Argentine football federation, after discussions with Club Atletico River Plate, have refused the release of player Lucas Alario,” the Germans said in a statement.

“Bayer Leverkusen have absolutely no understanding for the federation’s and the club’s actions. The refusal of the Argentine international means Bayer Leverkusen can now request the registration of Alario as its own player with FIFA,”

Financial details were not released but media reports put the deal at 19 million euros ($22.93 million).

Alario, who is in Germany and has been training with Leverkusen for several days, had joined River Plate in 2015, netting 31 times in 71 competitive games.

He also helped them lift the Copa Libertadores in his first season with the club.—Reuters
A Foray to Inya Lake

As I am a master student attending the YUFL, I always find myself confined to the classroom on week days. But, last Monday, a cultural show was staged at the university. So the class was dismissed earlier. When I arrived at the gate of the university, it was just 1 p.m. I decided to wend my way to Inya Lake, on whose bunds I had not set my foot for some days.

The vehicles coming from the direction of Hledan was held up by the traffic light. So, I crossed University Avenue hurriedly and turned into Inya Road. I saw the Inya Hostel on the left and tall shady trees on the right. Many vehicles of different sizes, shapes and colours are streaming along the road. As I walked with the brisk steps, I came to the western bund of Inya Lake after twenty minutes. I found a row of stalls along the bank selling various snacks. Oppositely, I found "Minlam" Moht (Rakhine Traditional rice vermicelli) stall packed with the customers. To my joy, the immediate environs of the Lake was so pleasant. Ornamental coconut palms were standing on either side of the concrete foot-path at the foot of the western bund. Near them were the plants with the colourful flowers. When I walked along the footpath beside the green grass. I felt that the atmosphere was laden with the sweet fragrance of the flowers. The butterflies were fitting to and fro among the flowers and plants.

Suddenly, I heard some calls of a cuckoo from afar. There were many trees near the car parking. Published on 10 SEPTEMBER 2017 by THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Lesson 18: Verbs — Tenses(1)

Hello dear students,

In the last two lessons, we have studied 6 different kinds of Sentence Structure Patterns. There are more to study concerning these patterns, but let's stop for awhile and let's study about “Tenses” which will be a great help in your sentence making.

Look at the following sentences.

(1) I write this letter today.
(2) I wrote a letter to my mother yesterday.
(3) I shall write a letter to my friend tomorrow.

In sentence (1), the Verb “write” refers to the Present Time.
In sentence (2), the Verb “wrote” refers to the Past Time.
In sentence (3), the Verb “shall” will refer to the Future Time.

Thus, a Verb may refer to:
(1) Present Time, (2) Past time and (3) Future time.

A Verb that refers to Present time is said to be in the “Present Tense”, as I write, I sing, I see.

(The word “Tense” comes from the Latin word “tempus” which means “time”).

A Verb that refers to Past time is said to be in the “Past Tense”, as I wrote, I sang, I saw.

A Verb that refers to Future time is said to be in the “Future Tense”, as I shall write, I shall sing, I shall see.

Therefore, there are three main Tenses: the Present, the Past and the Future.

The Tense of a Verb shows the “Time” of an action or an event.

So, the Definition of the “Tense” is as follows: Tense is that form of a Verb which shows the time and the state of an action or an event.

Note the followings about the Tense.

Present Tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular Number</th>
<th>Plural Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Person</td>
<td>I write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Person</td>
<td>You write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Person</td>
<td>He/She/They write</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Please note that we put “s” or “es” for 3rd Person Singular.)

Past Tense

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Person</td>
<td>I wrote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Person</td>
<td>You wrote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Person</td>
<td>He/She/They wrote</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Please note that there are no difference among the Person and the Number.)

Future Tense

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Person</td>
<td>I shall write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Person</td>
<td>You will write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Person</td>
<td>He/She/They will write</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note that we use the word “shall” for the 1st Person and the word “will” for the 2nd and 3rd Persons.)

But, there are some exceptional cases when we use “I will”, “we will” and “you shall”, “He/She/They shall”. It will be explained later.

So, today we have already studied the three different Tenses: the Present, the Past and the Future.

As these are used very simply to show the time of an action, we call these Tenses, “the Simple Present Tense”, “the Simple Past Tense” and “the Simple Future Tense”.

We use these “Simple Tenses” just to show simply the Time of an action or an event.

Exercise 18.

I. Write down 5 sentences in Simple Present Tense, 5 sentences in Simple Past Tense and 5 sentences in Simple Future Tense.

II. Write down in a table as shown in the above example on the following “Verbs”:

“write, sing, tell, read, sleep, drink, come, go, love, show”

You should write down for the 1st Person, 2nd Person and the 3rd Person and for Singular Number and Plural Number.

III. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable Verbs and Tenses:

(a) The boy ……… the cakes.
(b) He ……… that letter last night.
(c) I ……….. up early in the morning.
(d) She ……….. back home yesterday.
(e) I ………….. to Mandalay tomorrow.
(f) Mya Mya ……….. on the bench last evening.
(g) You …………. to school tomorrow.
(h) I ………….. a present next Monday.
(i) They ……….. the songs sweetly.
(j) The girls …………. with their dolls.

Hope that the following word forms will be useful for your exercise.

Verb Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>write</td>
<td>wrote</td>
<td>writing</td>
<td>written</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sing</td>
<td>sang</td>
<td>singing</td>
<td>sung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tell</td>
<td>told</td>
<td>telling</td>
<td>told</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sleep</td>
<td>slept</td>
<td>sleeping</td>
<td>sleeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drink</td>
<td>drank</td>
<td>drinking</td>
<td>drunk</td>
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<tr>
<td>come</td>
<td>came</td>
<td>coming</td>
<td>came</td>
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<tr>
<td>go</td>
<td>went</td>
<td>going</td>
<td>gone</td>
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<tr>
<td>love</td>
<td>loved</td>
<td>loving</td>
<td>loved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>show</td>
<td>showed</td>
<td>showing</td>
<td>shown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eat</td>
<td>ate</td>
<td>eating</td>
<td>eaten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get</td>
<td>got</td>
<td>getting</td>
<td>got</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wake</td>
<td>woke</td>
<td>waking</td>
<td>waked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sit</td>
<td>sat</td>
<td>sitting</td>
<td>sat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>give</td>
<td>gave</td>
<td>giving</td>
<td>given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>play</td>
<td>played</td>
<td>playing</td>
<td>played</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stand</td>
<td>stood</td>
<td>standing</td>
<td>stood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hate</td>
<td>hated</td>
<td>hating</td>
<td>hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>receive</td>
<td>received</td>
<td>receiving</td>
<td>received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>finish</td>
<td>finished</td>
<td>finishing</td>
<td>finished</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: You should learn all these Verb Forms by heart so that you can use in the future.)

Hope that you can do your exercises well!

Here come the answers for the last Exercise 17.

I. Five Example Sentences of S+V+C Pattern.

(1) Mi Mi is beautiful.
(2) Mya Mya is sitting silently.
(3) Ko Ko is sitting kindly.
(4) Ko Ko is sitting at the room.
(5) Ko Ko is sitting strongly.

II. Subject Verb Complement

(a) She can make cakes very well.
(b) He is strong.
(c) She is bright.
(d) We will return soon.
(e) I am sitting.

III. (a) fluently, (b) pretty, (c) My mother, (d) quickly, (e) soon.

IV. Five Example sentences of S+V+Prep+O Pattern.

(1) He looks at his book.
(2) The ball went through the window.
(3) She will take care of her father.
(4) Mu Mu is looking through the window.
(5) Nyl Nyl can jump over the fence.

V. Subject Verb Preposition Object

(a) The goal-keeper will kick the ball.
(b) You can take away these plates.
(c) Mya Mya picks up her books.
(d) Maung Maung is finishing up his dinner.
(e) Ko Ko lit up the room.

VI. (a) over, (b) on, (c) off, (d) The boy, (e) looks, his father

VII. Five example sentences of $S+V+O+DO$ Pattern.

(1) Father will give me a new car.
(2) She shares her friends noodles.
(3) The teacher hands her the books.
(4) You want to show her your letter.
(5) The children hand their mother flowers.

VIII. Subject Verb Indirect Obj Direct Obj

(a) His Ha hands her mother a rose.
(b) Nyl Nyl gave me a present.
(c) Ko Ko shares his brother the pocket money.
(d) U Ba will not give his grandson a penny.
(e) You can show him your book.

IX. (a) show, (b) your essay, (c) buy, (d) his daughter, (e) You, the teacher.

Hope that you all have done well.

Bye Bye Class! See you next week!
Some different attitudes and opinions of different stakeholders in Education

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

THIS time, the writer wants to share some of my findings from my latest research named “An Analytical Pilot Survey on Different Attitudes and Opinions on the Present Education System by Different Stakeholders in Education.”

Here, “Stakeholders in Education” means those who are concerned with Education in one way or another, such as students, parents, teachers, donors, laymen, members of school committees and so on. Even some monks who are working or teaching in the Monastic Education Schools are also stakeholders and disabled children and their parents are also stakeholders.

I have read some main important findings at the Silver Jubilee Research Paper Reading Session of Sagaing University of Education very recently, but according to limitation of time, I have stated only some important findings which I thought are the points we should take into account for changing to the better way.

The first one the researcher wants to state and discuss here is about the “Chapter-end Tests” of which all three main stakeholders (students, teachers and parents) complain about.

Although as my study is only a Pilot Study and only about 150 of each three different stakeholders, all three of them (students, teachers and parents) pointed out that the first thing which they want to change in the Present Education System is the “Assessment System of our Education” and all three different stakeholders complained about these “Chapter-end Tests” as the most annoying system for them.

So, in my discussion today, the researcher wants to discuss about this matter of “Chapter-end Tests” and let us try to find the best way to overcome this annoyance.

First, we need to see why we have “Tests and Examinations”. The basic point is to assess a person’s achievement after the teaching. Always after a teaching by a teacher, it is natural that a teacher wants to know whether the students understood and learned well or not on what he or she has taught. That is why we need to do the assessment on the students’ learning or achievement.

Why do we need to do so?

The first purpose is we want to know whether our teaching is effective or not on the students. The second reason is teachers should modify their teachings or they should explain more on the points which their students did not learn well. That’s why we call these Chapter-end tests, the Formative Tests. There is the same nature to all the Tutorials in the Universities. We let our students answer the tutorials or Chapter-end Tests so that we can do better formations on their learning, modifying their learning.

By its very nature, Formative Tests should not be a burden on the students. They just need to have feedback to both teachers and students, whether the students learnt well or not and to modify what they have learnt if it is in need.

That is why we need to do these tutorials and Chapter-end tests in an easy and fun way to learn ways and means. Here, “easy” does not mean “to ask only easy questions to answer.” May be some facts a student should learn cannot be easy. What the writer means is “students should answer and learn in very convenient ways and means”.

So, here the writer wants to point out why these Chapter-end Tests pose a burden onto all students, teachers and parents and also wants to give suggestions to all teachers and persons in authority how to perform them in better and burden-less ways.

As these are a kind of Formative Tests, we need to know very well about its purpose. The main purpose of these tests is to know whether the students learnt what they should learn and what would be the best way to improve their learning.

For this purpose, not every Chapter-end tests needs to sit for a paper and pencil test. We have so many different ways and means to see whether our students learn what they should learn after a Chapter.

These different ways and means include: group activities, group projects, practical activities, playing games concerning the Chapter, role playing, presentations, and so on.

For example, after teaching a Chapter teachers can ask them to discuss in groups and ask each group to make a presentation. Or we can let them draw a map or make teaching aids in groups and ask them to do presentations using the teaching aids made by the students themselves. Or we can let them play a game concerning what they have learnt in the Chapter. Or we can let them do role playing about the Chapter they have learnt.

In the above different ways, we teachers can come to know whether they learnt what they should learn from the Chapter or not and we can easily make modifications to their learning experience. In this way, we can make their better formation in their learning.

Therefore, not every Chapter-end Test needs to be a Paper and Pencil Test which gives such a burden to every student and force them to do rote learning on what they have been taught. This rote learning places burdens on students as they have to do rote learning for every subject they are studying and every now and then after a Chapter. This rote learning method places a burden on the parents also because they have anxiety whether their children will remember what they have learnt or not. Then follow the undesirable consequences when the students and parents try to get high marks by hook or by crook. This unfortunate situation affects the teachers directly as this will result in some teachers engaging in bribery and unethical practices which is against the code of ethics for teachers. These lead to the corruptions in the Education System.

For teachers, they have a never-ending burden preparing now and then for test papers, evaluating what students have answered, markings and preparations for report cards for parents. It is really a never-ending burden on teachers.

That’s why it is not a wonder that all three stakeholders of Education, the students, the teachers and the parents pointed out that all these Chapter-end Tests are the most annoyance to them all.

(Regarding Tutorials in the Universities there are no complaints because they have their own usual way of doing so and they also have separate duties for tutors to take care of these tutorials. Tutorial Questions will be set by the Lecturers or Assistant Lecturers or Course Leaders who taught the class and for the tutors they need to take care of the tutorials only. Most of the tutors need not give lectures.)

Then we have the Examination System which is the most important one to be changed. In our Examination System, the Matriculation Examinations are the most important for a student’s life. As we decided with the marks the students get from this Examination as their entrance to different Universities, this means it decides an individual’s life too.

As a retired Professor of Educational Psychology (under which we have to teach Educational Test and Measurement also), the writer does not believe that it is the end result for a student’s achievement decided only by a three-hour paper. It is not a reliable measurement of an individual’s efficiency or ability. There can be many a mistake in deciding in this manner.

And as the marks for the Matriculation Examination is the decision maker for a person’s life, it is not a wonder every student, every teacher and every parent tries to get higher marks by hook or by crook. These lead to all kinds of different corrupt practices in the Field of Education, not only in Matriculation Examinations, but also in all other matters such as giving Tuitions, resorting to bribery, and so on. All these can place great burdens on the students, parents and teachers not only as money matters but some other many annoyances also.

So, if we change this exam system first and foremost and then other things will follow. For this purpose, first we should give Authority to each University to make their own arrangements for giving Access to their University. All Universities should choose their students by their own authority according to their own needs. They can hold Entrance Exams for their own Universities to accept new students.

First and foremost, it is sure that we will find some corruptions by some Universities. But, after some few years they will not dare to do so, as the quality of their products will show the truth. Then only, they will change their policy. That is also what is happening in all different Universities all over the world.

So, what we need to do away with some aspects of unnecessary Centralization by the Ministry of Education and give the Universities more authority.

(to be continued)

Dr. Nu Nu Win, Retired Professor and Head of Department, Department of Educational Psychology, SUOE.
Thara Saw Hti: An education and satirical comedy about life

By Khin Zarli

Thara Saw Hti is one of the five films to be shown during the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival on 15 September, based on the lives of local people who lagged behind in education and health care services due to instability and inaccessibility to resources in their area. Despite the lack of resources, the film highlights the life of a young teacher who has made a commitment to develop human resources by teaching the local people who lagged behind in education and health care services.

Dr Pe Myint and artists from our film world. The movie was shot by a new director with many new actors and actresses. An interview was conducted with the director, actors and actresses.

Academy Wah Wah Aung

This film is to be shown on Democracy Day, and thus it was shot democratically. Now actors and actresses were used in this movie. Auntie Wah taught them in the best of my ability. Of course there were difficulties. This is not a love story that most are described. I portray a doctor in the movie. I'm satisfied with my characterisation in some parts but in others, I felt I needed to do more. But I honestly try my best under the guidance of Ko Phyo Maung Maung. I'm satisfied with my acting and hope that this film will be successful. I urge the viewers to come watch the movie made by a new director, actors and actresses.

Academy Wah Wah Aung

This film is to be shown on Democracy Day, and thus it was shot democratically. New actors and actresses were used in this movie. Auntie Wah taught them in the best of my ability. Of course there were difficulties. This is not a love story that most are described. I portray a doctor in the movie. I'm satisfied with my acting. I would like to invite all to come and view the movie. I will be very much satisfied if the viewers' misunderstandings are corrected and they get the message given in the movie that is beneficial for the country.

Academy Wah Wah Aung

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Mi Chuuu

Hey, Mi Chuuu! Why aren’t you riding your bicycle?

Is it broken?

No, it works but...

Then give it to me!

No, don’t!

Clear the way!

Oh! Oh!

Crash!

It’s the brakes that are broken.

Let’s study together!

We’ll start.

We compete for improving our lives.

Competition in learning.

We’ll grow our businesses.

Competition in business.

People will be people.

Competition keeps you motivated.

But some competition is good!

That’s no good!

Hi!

That’s what they are competing.

I heard your husband wants a divorce.

Yes, I’m going to court.

For compensation?

No. I just want him to divorce me the same way he married me.

How?

He married me with an extravagant wedding in a hotel.

I’m filing for divorce with extravagant reception in a hotel.

Oh!
You had better go back home when peace and stability come!: Alodawpyae Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Ariya Vamsa

By Min Thit (MNA) and Aye Min Thu

ALODAWPYAE Sayadaw: Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhanama Jotik Daja Dr Bhaddanta Ariya Vamsa and Sanghas are going to provisional Shelter Camps where displaced people from Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung due to ARSA extremist terrorists’ attacks are presently residing, and those remaining to live in their own villages, providing them with foods and other necessary commodities and giving words of encouragement to return home, permanent living places for them, when the region regains peace and stability.

Here is the interview with the Sayadaw during his trip of supporting subsidies at rescue camps and villages of national ethnic people.

Interviewer: Please let me know how Sayadaw performed for displaced local nationals to lift up their depressed spirits, apart from programs for providing subsidies.

Sayadaw: Those who arrived at rescue camps at Sittway, Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw are in fact the ones who have fled their locations for fear of dangers of extremist terrorists. In reality, they greatly cherish their own land. Being well convinced that life is the most important above all, however, they reached the camps assuming to be safer ones, by giving up all their possessions—cattle and farming lands. Yet, they will have desires to return homes when their lands regain regional peace and stability. For the time being, they are to return homes when their lands. Yet, they will have desires to return homes when their lands regain regional peace and stability.

Interviewer: What would like you to say over responsible officials who are helping to provide subsidies in the areas and donor organizations?

Sayadaw: There are authorities at different levels—district and township administrators and departments. They all are the reliable ones who are working for the sake of the regions. They are Myanmar nationals who are conceived of nationalism in them. There are individuals and organizations that are ready to contribute aids and offertories to fellow brethren at the time when they are greatly in need of help. Yangon-based female Samaritan group named, “Lay-kyun-thu/Goddess of four Isles,” came to offer one truckload worth of 40-50 million kyats, as did a group of film stars dry goods and K 9 million in cash. And many other groups delivered contributions, as far as they could.

Interviewer: Please tell me as to how much subsidy and aid had been delivered and where there had still been difficulties.

Sayadaw: There are authorities at different levels—district and township administrators and departments. They all are the reliable ones who are working for the sake of the regions. They are Myanmar nationals who are conceived of nationalism in them. There are individuals and organizations that are ready to contribute aids and offertories to fellow brethren at the time when they are greatly in need of help. Yangon-based female Samaritan group named, “Lay-kyun-thu/Goddess of four Isles,” came to donate one truckload worth of 40-50 million kyats, as did a group of film stars dry goods and K 9 million in cash. And many other groups delivered contributions, as far as they could.

As regards the security of the area, Tatmadaw and police forces are currently giving security measures. It is wholly incumbent upon Tatmadaw and police forces in regard to security matters.

Interviewer: How much we give words of encouragement, they will never forget it. It was heartening for me to have seen it.

Sayadaw: As to how the government will protect the people so as to be free from fear, I want to assert that these fears will vanish only if the government will implement in a practical way. How much we give words of encouragement, they will never disappear easily from us, all of a sudden. That is because people rely upon the Government and the Tatmadaw when they confront with fearful happenings. In accord with their reliance, they have effective help. To sum it up, the Government needs to implement programs of assuring people of safer places, strengthened buildings and necessary cares.

—Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U)

Local people flee from Maungtaw after Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attack, at Sittway, Rakhine State, on 27 August 2017. PHOTO: RETURNS/SEZE ZEYA TUN
A Foray to Inya Lake

FROM SUPPLEMENT-A
These green trees afforded a welcome shade for the visitors. Along the bund were the roofed benches built with the sponsorship of a company. Some youths who seemed university students were sitting relaxingly on them. When I threw my look towards the vast extent of the water, I saw some ripples rising on the surface. Some birds were riding on the water. Some were wheeling about in the sky. Some were swooping down upon the fish bobbing up to the surface of the water. I espied the University Boat Club established in the 1920s, which stood on the headland jutting out into the lake. When I looked eastwards, I sighted some skyscrapers against the skyline.

While gazing at the wooded island on the water surface, I thought of the lake. It was formerly called “Kamarwat” in Mon meaning “Lake of Jewels”. The village near it was named “Kamaryut” after it. It developed gradually to a town in subsequent times. In ancient times, the lake was connected with the Hlaing River by a creek. So it was affected by tide. However, when it came to 1882, the British built Pyay Road by damming this lake with embankments. Since then, it turned into a land-locked lake. It is said that before the British occupied Myanmar, it was called “Ko Kaing Lake” after the village near it. When Myanmar fell into the hand of the British, its name was changed into “Victoria Lake” after their queen. Only after Myanmar had restored her independence, it was called ‘Inya Lak’. It is learnt that there was a British military camp some distance on the south of it during the Second World War, where some Japanese war prisoners were kept. Today, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s residence stands in a large compound on its southern bank. I remembered her campaigning for democratic rights from this residence for some years. While thinking of the heroine and national icon, I got down the bund and took a bus to Kabar Aye, where my house was located.

In conclusion, Inya Lake is a large body. So it can help regulate the climate. Besides, greening and beauty of its environs can make the visitors fresh, happy and free from the anxieties. So it can serve them as a good place of recreation and relaxation. Therefore, I think that it is necessary to conserve this lake in pristine purity. Anyhow, my visit to Inya Lake that day was indeed an exhilarating one for me.

Travelling in the pages
With a book at your hand
You can see the Garden of Eden
Covering in full blossom
Of which beauty you can feel

With a book at your hand
You can hear the fairies sing
Dancing in the marvellous land of faires
Of whose pleasure you can steal

With a book at your hand
You can see ranges of high mountain
Stretching out to the horizon
Of which blessed silence you can hear

With a book at your hand
You can go anywhere you wish
You can feel like a reality
So real you can almost reach

Come friends!
Let’s sail across the reading
Which, like a door or a channel
Conducts you to where you wheel.

Honey Soe (B.M.T.M)

A little monkey ridding on a crocodile and crosses the stream

By Khin Maung Phone Ko

In a jungle of forest there were heavy rain and flooding of all streams. Many trees were fallen here and there. There lived a few month-olds little monkey. Unfortunately, he was away from his mother when the thunderstorm started.

Naturally he was cut off from his mother who dwelt on mango tree. He wanted to go back to mother as he was afraid of the storm. But he faced difficulty to get home, as there was a stream now flooding and roaring. He paused to think how he could cross to the other side of this stream.

The God of creation help created being when it needed help. Suddenly God show a floating log in the stream. But it did not flow along the way water is flowing. But it was stationary and quite near the stream bank.

The little monkey, let us call him Momo. Then Momo got a flash of thought to use this floating log and paddle across the stream. Without hesitation he jumped on the log.

Wooh! To his surprise he noticed the log was floating to the other side of stream, before he used hands to do it. Momo took a free ride up to the middle of stream. Then suddenly the log below him started talking to him. “Hi, little guy I am not log as you may think, we croc deceived other to trap them. Then Momo was fearful but calmly ask the cunning Crocodile “What do you want of me, sir?” . The croc reply that his wife wanted to eat the heart of a monkey”. If memo reply no, croc could dive into the water and catch him.

But memo reply calmly and wisely to croc that “Mr. croc I want to make your wife happy to give my heart, but unfortunately, we monkey left our heart on that tree”, pointing to a big mango tree on the other side of the stream. He added “our hearts are hanging as fruit from the tree see there , pointing and added. What memo said was believed by croc, as we( or it) knew the mango fruit is like heart shape of living creatures. “So, sent me other side and I will come back and give you”. Thus, Mookie the little monkey escapes the trick-trap of the cunning crocodile and got off safely on the other side of a stream. [Based on the mi-yo-fa-lar or traditional Myanmar tale]

Bible Verses:
Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as (Jesus) is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning (or a deceiver) from the beginning. The reason the Son of God (Jesus) appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

(1John 3:7-8 NIV)

(Note!! Free to use in the Sunday school in the churches)