Vice President U Myint Swe addresses 21st regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs

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Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of PSDC and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo, U Win Maw Tun and U Maung Maung Win, Yangon Region Government ministers, UMFCCI President, Vice Presidents and members, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, officials from the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, the Myanmar Federation of Mining Association and Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In his speech the Vice President said that the regular monthly meetings with private entrepreneurs had been held since 2016 December and had been resolving difficulties faced by the entrepreneurs. Up to October 2018, 20 such meetings have been held and today’s meeting was the 21st, said the Vice President.

Myanmar delegation votes against the resolution on Myanmar tabled by OIC & EU at the Third Committee of the 73rd UNGA

THE Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the European Union (EU) tabled a draft resolution entitled the “Situation of human rights in Myanmar” at the Third Committee of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 16 November 2018.

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Tristar tyres that are produced in line with international standards and are being exported to USA, Paraguay, New Guinean and Brazil.

The Best Quality Tyre
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All levels commissions to hold elections based on five norms

Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein, along with the chairmen of all election sub-commissions in Ayeyawady Region, met at Pathein Ayea Sha War hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein said the UEC is holding elections under the five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible elections that reflect the will of the people. Due to the systematic management and cooperation of election sub-commissions and relevant ministries, the 2018 by-election was held peacefully and successfully. All levels of election sub-commissions need to start the election process with wise preparations, starting now, so that the 2020 general election is held successfully and in accordance with the five norms.

Magway Region hosts workshop on anti-corruption

The Anti-Corruption Commission and Magway Region Government, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme-UNDP, conducted a workshop titled “Development of Business and Ethics” at the City Hall in Magway yesterday.

Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, Chief Minister of Magway Region, invited complaints against malpractices in land and construction issues handled by the regional government, adding that he is confident that Myanmar would reach another step in becoming free from corruption through transparency, thanks to the efforts of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, said some countries are facing obstacles in controlling corruption due to having incorrect conceptions on corruption, conflicts of interests, insufficient institutions and weaknesses in policies and problems in the executive sector.

He added that corruption causes great losses to a country, noting that the losses caused by corruption are not only from those who take bribes or who give bribes, but the losses are from public funds, and the public suffers from those losses.

“Corruption has taken deep roots in Myanmar for several decades. Nobody denies that Myanmar has not seen developments in its political, administrative, economic and socio-cultural sectors due to such dilemmas,” said U Aung Kyi.

The workshop also focused on how to solve and how to prevent the serious problem of corruption.

The Anti-Corruption Commission, which is mainly responsible for fighting corruption across the country, is to cooperate with governmental departments, private institutions, CSOs, as well as public and international organizations, in accordance with Section 16 of the Anti-Corruption Law.

“No country can root out corruption. We can not expect that we can eradicate corruption in our country within several years. However, we have found ways to effectively prevent corruption, to a certain extent, in near future,” said the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

He also called upon institutions, including governmental departments, private organizations and private businesses, to work together in fighting corruption, showing the way of the Public-Private-Collaboration-PPC.

“Therefore, prevention needs to take pre-emptive measures. Our discussion today will include how preventive works should be conducted by departments that are connected with the public, how preventive works should be conducted by private businesses and how civil society organizations assist the affected peoples to become a PPC. All of us understand that it is immoral and is committing a crime if prevention is neglected and bad deeds are continued,” said U Aung Kyi.

As corruption is a Crime of Calculation it is difficult to obtain firm evidence and due to this corrupt people hide their evil act. Those who participate or share the proceeds of corruption also assist and help in hiding the crime. This is conspiring or abetting. When this happens, we have no other choice but to take effective legal action.

Some say anti-corruption work is the work of the commission and the government and businesses had to wait and see the economic weather and act accordingly for survival. If there is no problem by doing some give and take with departments, they’ll think of continuing as in the past. If there is corruption and nothing is heard about it, it is being in a state of “Corrupt equilibrium.” This is the worst stage of corruption and had the highest destructive power, he added.

Various levels of departments in an administration, businesses and civil society organizations must not remain neutral in anti-corruption process. They must not ignore or claim ignorance. Public organizations and private organizations are to work hand in hand to seek out and expose corrupt areas within their region. Draw up rules, regulations and ethics and follow and abide by it to prevent corruption. Raise the ethics and moral of the officials and the citizens and help in development of the country’s economy, said U Aung Kyi.

Next, Anti-corruption commission chairman, Magway Region Chief Minister and attendees posed for commemorative group photo.

Afterwards, Dr. Tin Maung Than (Thint Ba Wa), Region minister U Tin Nwe Oo, commission member Daw Lei Lei Thwin, U Win Myint Aung from UMFCCI and U Zaw Min Naung of UNDP discussed under various titles related to corruption.

Questions raised by attendees were then responded to and UNDP Project Manager Mr. Thomas Crick explained about programs to continue cooperation.

In the afternoon, commissioner U Han Nyunt and Region minister U Zaw Min explained and discussed about the works conducted by the Anti-Corruption Commission and matters relating to economic sectors.

This was followed by local business person U Zeya, representatives from local CSOs U Ye Lin Aung and U Thant Sin discussed about their experiences and responded to questions raised.— May Thu Lwin (Magway)
Local news media group visits Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre

A local news media group that was in Maungtaw Town visited the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre to report news about receiving returnees yesterday.

The local news media group arrived at Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre temporary head Deputy Director U Ye Htoo and gathered news at Myanmar-Bangladesh border bridge, where the returnees will enter, and verifications about their identities, health, and other concerns will be checked.

The news media also met with Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre temporary head Deputy Director U Ye Htoo and raised questions about the status of work being conducted to receive and resettle returnees. They also questioned Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Deputy Director U Thant Sin about forms needed to clarify citizenship, guest citizenship, and naturalized citizenships; freedom of travel; the taking of biometric records; the status of issuing identity cards for people whose citizenship is being clarified; and stages in conducting immigration works.

In the afternoon, the news media group returned to Maungtaw Town where they met with six family members who returned from Bangladesh, and questioned them on life in the IDP camp, assistance provided at the moment, board and lodging, and works conducted to bring back relatives who were left in the other country.

Afterwards, they went to Kanyinchaung Economic Zone, met with officials and asked questions on construction of the economic zone, the possibility of the zone supporting development of Maungtaw region and economic development of the Maungtaw region at the present moment.

Including this visit, news media groups had visited Rakhine State Maungtaw region 28 times, including once in 2016, 8 times in 2017 and 6 times as of the end of February 2018, as well as twice every month for 13 times under the arrangement of Committee on Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State starting from March 2018. — MNA
Ayeyawady Region lights up with Hlinethaya-Kyaiklat power line, Kyaiklat sub-station

THE ceremony to inaugurate the 52.26 miles long Hlinethaya-Kyaiklat power line and Kyaiklat sub-station was held at the main Kyaiklat sub-station in Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

Union Minister U Win Khaing said the laying of the 52.26 miles long 230 KV Hlinethaya-Kyaiklat power line was part of the construction of the 230/66/11 KV (100 MVA and 66/33 KV (0) MVA Kyaiklat main sub-station, which will provide sufficient electricity to Maubin, Kyaiklat, Dedaye, Pyapon, Bogale and Mawlamyineyegun in the eastern part of Ayeyawady Region, which was carried out by the State with US$ 42.9 million and Ks 12.9 billion. Construction of the 230 KV Hlinethaya-Kyaiklat power line and Kyaiklat main sub-station was started in fiscal year 2014-2015. In addition, the electrification of Nat Ye Dein, Talat Htaw, Takapon and Ma Se Sate villages in Kawhmu Township was completed. Project materials were transported over land and water, while river crossing towers were constructed in places that were far from roads. Therefore, power lines over the rivers were successfully laid, despite the many difficulties.

Due to these efforts, starting 28 June 2018, electricity had been transmitted to Kyaiklat sub-station via 33 KV Hlinethaya-Kyaiklat national power gridline. In the past, townships in the eastern part of Ayeyawady Region were supplied with electricity through the 230 KV Kanaung (Hlinethaya) main sub-station, 33 KV Twantay-Kawhmu-Kungyangon and 33 KV Nyaung Kon-Maubin lines. The power lines were about 90 miles long and resulted in voltage drops causing insufficient electricity in the Pyapon, Bogale and Mawlamyineyegun regions. Now, full voltage can be used as electricity for Maubin, Kyaiklat and Pyapon, which was distributed from the Kyaiklat sub-station, reducing the load at Hlinethaya sub-station, as well as enabling more distribution of electricity into the Yangon Region.

Plans are underway to construct a LNG fueled 1390 MW power station in Ayeyawady Region. Plans are underway to construct a LNG fueled 1390 MW power station in Ayeyawady Region. It will be the largest in Myanmar, and once it is completed, electricity that is required in the Region can be provided.

PHOTO: MAUNG MIN NAING

Plans are underway to construct a LNG fueled 1390 MW power station in Ayeyawady Region. It will be the largest in Myanmar, and once it is completed, electricity that is required in the Region can be provided. It is one of the projects that will support the country’s power system, said the Union Minister.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and Regional Chief Minister unveiled a commemorative plaque for the MVA sub-station.

Following this, the Hlinethaya-Kyaiklat power line and Kyaiklat MVA Kyaiklat sub-station were formally opened by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing, Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U San Min Aung, Yangon Region electricity, industry, road and communication minister Daw Nilar Kyaw, Ayeyawady Region electricity, industry, road and communication minister U Win Hlay. The Union Minister and Regional Chief Minister then inspected the Kyaiklat sub-station switch yard, as well as inside the sub-station—Maung Min Naing (Translated by Zaw Min)

Ethnic dances performed at National Landmark Garden in Nay Pyi Taw

TRADITIONAL ethnic dances were performed for the public yesterday at the National Landmark Garden in Nay Pyi Taw, and conducted by the Fine Art Department, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. At the performance, artists from the Fine Art Department, along with magicians, entertained the crowd. Featured artists included the Semipuzaw Thardukhaw ethnic dance, Pwe Oo Alinkar ethnic dance, Mingalayar ethnic dance, Pyu era Yein dance, Bagan era Yein dance, Ryan Taing Aung Par Sae Yein dance, Philippine duet Yein dance, puppetry dances, the Myanmar umbrella dance, Yone Kyi Chin Myar Swar (ASEAN) dance, Shwe Myanmar Tharyar Face dance, Kwayoke Thadan dance, Hoklo Shar Nyi Nyi Han Yay Chi dance, Nu Hla Pone Thwin Kha Han Yin dance, Naung Inn Lay song, Shue Taing Yin song, Lar Chin Yin Anee Lay song, Thar Swa Htar Nay Var Ma Nya Myay song, Saw Ya Ai song, Pyi Taw Win song, and Taw Thu Lay Moe song. The Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, and Ministry of Information hosted the national cultural dance performances, as a monthly free event for the ninth time. Government employees and officials from the ministries, along with the public from the townships in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, watched the entertainment shows—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
THE government is working to raise the country’s ranking on the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business index to less than 100 by 2021, U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Commerce, said at the regular monthly meeting between businesspersons and Vice-President U Myint Swe, on 17 November in Yangon.

“Myanmar’s ambition to reach below 100th place in 2021 is not said to be big. As I mentioned earlier, Myanmar will achieve its goal if respective officials and private organizations make redeployed efforts, tirelessly and with great insight,” U Aung Htoo added.

According to the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Rankings for 2018, Myanmar was ranked 171 out of 190 countries in 2017 and Myanmar’s rank remained unchanged in 2018. Its current ranking is due to the fact that Myanmar made some reforms after May, in which indicators were calculated.

“The new Myanmar Companies Law was put in place on 1 August, 2018. For the availability of loans, the government issued an order to set up a credit bureau during this year. This progress was not included in the calculation of indicators, as the loan coverage will be higher than five per cent, set at its inception. Also, the private sector doesn’t extensively know about some reforms. Myanmar missed a chance to receive marks for the calculation of indicators, as they are not included in the Work Bank’s questionnaires,” said U Aung Htoo.

U Aung Naing Oo, Secretary of the Myanmar Investment Commission, said that there is no significant change in the Doing Business Ranking this year. Myanmar will see better results in 2020, as the government is making continued efforts to promote actions that will lead to a higher ranking.

“MyCO was launched on 1 August, 2018. Our reforms were not included in the calculation, as the WB’s questionnaire process ended on 31 May. Our reforms relating to the new companies law, including implementation of the electronic registration system and reforms made by other ministries after May, will be included in the 2020 report that will be issued in 2019. The country is expected to get better results in 2020,” he said.

Developed by the Myanmar Investment Commission under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan seeks to increase Myanmar’s ranking to enter the 100 top countries for doing business by 2020/21, to join the top 80 countries by 2025, to rank among 60 countries by 2030 and to enter the 40 top countries by 2035.

The index is expected to increase in the coming year, as Myanmar introduced many reforms, including the enactment of the Myanmar Companies Law, drafting new laws relating to customs tariffs, as well as a reduction in company registration fees. Also, the country’s central bank recently allowed foreign banks to lend to local businesses, said Deputy Commerce Minister U Aung Htoo.

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

**Border export via Muse gate falls 24% this FY**

**MYANMAR’s exports to China at the Muse (105th Mile) trade zone reached US$256 million in the current fiscal year 2018-2019, down by $132.9 million, a 24.3% decrease as against the same period last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.**

At this time last year, exports via the Muse gate was $397 million, in total.

From 1 October through 9 November this year, Myanmar-China bilateral trade at the Muse station hit $410 million, including $133 million from the import sector.

Despite a decrease in value in bilateral exports, Myanmar’s imports from China increased slightly by $7.7 million.

Border trade between the two countries is conducted mainly through five land border points, involving the Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung.

Of this total, the Muse gate sees the largest volume and value, in terms of border trade.

During the period, exports and imports from all China-Myanmar border gates totalled $484 million, including $118.8 million from Lweje, $56.5 million from Chinshwehaw, $5.9 million from Kanpikete and $3.357 million from the Kengtung border station.

Normally, Myanmar exports agricultural, marine, forest products, minerals and manufactured products to China. Marketable items at the Si- no-Myanmar borders include eel, crab, watermelon, muskmelon, mango, rice and live cattle.

The country normally imports consumer goods, raw materials, construction equipment, automobiles, motorbikes and capital goods from China.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), China’s new investment in Myanmar during the mini-budget period hit over $300 million from 28 projects. Its investment in the last 2017-2018 FY was almost $1.4 billion.—Swe Nyein

**Jellyfish fishing in Kawthoung generates more income this season**

**FISHERMEN in Kawthoung, a town in Taninthayi Region, are seeing strong harvests of jellyfish this season. Since the beginning of November, jellyfish have been plentiful in the sea near the town. Due to ocean currents that forces jellyfish to swim near the surface of water in early winter, large numbers of jellyfish can be seen, chiefly on sunny days there.**

Normally, an adult jellyfish measures over two feet long and over one viss (0.6 lbs) in weight. Local residents note that some types of jellyfish have a powerful sting, with some causing serious injuries to human skin when coming in contact with people.

This presents an opportunity for local fishermen, as jellyfish can be seen in the sea only once a year. This season, schools of jellyfish are swimming two feet below sea level. For the time being, fishermen do a half day fishing, starting at 5 a.m. daily, harvesting jellyfish with the use of local fishing gear, returning to sea again to catch fish in the evening. A fishing boat can collect between 300 and 400 jellyfishes per day. Myanmar exports jellyfish to the U.S and European markets through Thailand.

Currently, a fresh jellyfish is worth some Ks2,000 at border markets, and a fisherman earns roughly Ks100,000 per day.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

**Imported gas engines for 145 MW gas-fired plant arrive at Thilawa port**

EIGHT newly imported gas engines for a 145 MW gas-fired plant arrived at Thilawa port Terminal, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. Each gas engine has an output of 18 megawatts, and were shipped to the jetty in Ngazun Township, Ayeyawady Region, from the Thilawa port. On 16 November, the gas engines arrived in Ta-daU Township, Mandalay Region. Currently, they have been transported to Singaung Township. The new gas engines will be used in a 145 megawatt gas-fired plant that will be built within the Bae- lin 230 kV sub-power station in Singaung Township, Kyaukse District in Mandalay Region, as part of the ministry’s efforts to offer improved electricity supplies to people in the region. Upon completion, there will be less frequent power cuts in the area, especially in the summer. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is carrying out several power projects, including construction of hydro-power plants and gas-fired power plants in regions and states to fulfill increasing electricity demands, particularly in big cities. —Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay) (Translated by KTL)
Myanmar delegation votes against the resolution on Myanmar tabled by OIC & EU at the Third Committee of the 73rd UNGA

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In his general statement, the Permanent Representative stated Myanmar’s total rejection of the draft resolution by calling for the vote on the resolution as a whole, citing the following four main reasons:

Firstly, tabling a country-specific resolution at the General Assembly on the human rights situation of a particular country that is currently under active consideration of UN Human Rights Council is procedurally unwarranted;

Secondly, the whole exercise of tabling country-specific human rights resolution is a politically driven attempt to exert pressure on selected countries;

Thirdly, the draft resolution in question itself is a clear manifestation of the hostility and dictatorial intent of the co-sponsors towards a soft target. The draft resolution was submitted to the Secretariat without calling a single open consultation with other interested members other than the co-sponsors, thus is in violation of established practice of the General Assembly. There was complete lack of transparency. Although the draft resolution is labeled “Situation of human rights in Myanmar”, 90 percent of the draft is devoted to the rights of Muslims in Rakhine. It contains sweeping allegation of human rights violations from the report of the Human Rights Council Fact-finding Mission on Myanmar which is not evidence-based. The eight-page long extraordinary human rights plus draft resolution contains 28 Preamble paragraphs and 29 Operative paragraphs in which not a single paragraph can be found welcoming or acknowledging the relentless efforts made by the Government of Myanmar to find sustainable solutions to the issues of Rakhine State.

In addition, the draft fails to reflect positive political and socio-economic developments in Myanmar. There is no mention of the Government’s tireless efforts for national reconciliation and peace, for building a democratic federal union, no supporting for such endeavour. The objective of the draft resolution, based on sensational narratives, seems to garner international pressure against Myanmar. It sows the seeds of mistrust and further polarization among different communities in Rakhine as well as between Myanmar and the international community. It is imbued with retributive and punitive undertone than seeking solution, understanding and reconciliation.

Moreover, the draft resolution deliberately ignored the threat of terrorism which is the real cause of present humanitarian problem. The so-called Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacks on security stations in Northern Rakhine State in October 2016 and August 2017 had caused the most tragic humanitarian situation in Rakhine State and resulted in large number of people fleeing to the Bangladesh side of the border as well as to safe places in the southern Rakhine. The ARSA has been, reportedly, supported by foreign terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and Tehrik-e-Talib Pakistan (TTP). This deliberate omission of the role of ARSA terrorists in the draft resolution calls for great concerns with regard to the true intention and sincerity of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

Fourthly, the United Nations’ handling of Myanmar human rights issues in the past three decades has been an evident application of double standards, in total disregard of established principles, including impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.

After the resolution was adopted with a majority vote, the Permanent Representative Ambassador U Hau Do Suan made a response expressing his delegation’s deep appreciations to all delegations that expressed their great concerns with regard to the one-sided and discriminatory draft resolution against Myanmar. He further thanked those who stood firm with Myanmar in voting against the draft resolution, who remained absent, and who did not participate in the voting to demonstrate their courage to resist the attempt of major groupings.

The Permanent Representative responded that the Third Committee had adopted a total of 24 resolutions on the situation of human rights in Myanmar since 1991. He said since ARSA terrorist attacks in August 2017, the Security Council had held 15 sessions devoted to the situation of Rakhine State. During the same period, the Human Rights Council held 7 sessions on the rights of Muslims in Rakhine and adopted 3 resolutions. Today, Myanmar is under the scrutiny of at least 7 UN mechanisms (HRC, Special Rapporteur, FFM, the Ongoing Independent Mechanism, SESG, UNGA Third Committee and Security Council).

The Permanent Representative pointed out that UN Budget allocation for the four special mechanisms (Special Rapporteur, Special Envoy of SC, FFM and newly created the Ongoing Independent Mechanism) for the years 2018-2020 amount to US$28,608,600. For the OIM alone, it would require 62 staff headed by an ASG with an annual budget of US$26,733,800. The UN could have used its scarce resources for helping the poor and the vulnerable around the world who needed it most.

He advised the Committee that adoption of yet another ill-intentioned, selective and politically motivated resolution will not help the Government’s efforts to resolving the issue of Rakhine State, but would rather lead to further polarization and escalation of tensions among different religious communities in the country. It will only aggravate mistrust between the people of Myanmar and the international community. The United Nations must promote and advocate for peace, harmony and reconciliation, not hatred, mistrust or polarization.

In conclusion, the Permanent Representative reiterated, “The people of Myanmar are united as ever under the leadership of State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar’s relentless efforts to building peace, the rule of law, national reconciliation and development for all 54 million people. We shall strive with unwavering determination to achieve democracy with the support and good will of our friends near and far”. — Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sixth day of Gems Emporium continues in Nay Pyi Taw

THE sixth day of the Gems Emporium, focused on the selling of raw gemstones and jade stones, continued at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, and witnessed a large turnout among merchants.

The list of the buyers for jade lots no. 3121 to no. 3339 was released, and a total of 999 jades lots, amounting to Ks 14,081.93 million, were sold.

Fifty lots of raw gemstones, valued at Ks 794.90 million and 3,185 lots of jade stones, valued at Ks 48,298.49 million, were also sold yesterday at the exhibition.

In the evening, a press conference reviewing the sale and exhibition of raw gemstones and jade stones was held, and led by the Gems Emporium Management Committee chairman U Than Zaw Oo, Deputy Chairman U Naing Zaw Oo, Jade and Gems stone Emporium Committee’s Secretary U Kyaw Lwin Oo and member U Aung Myint. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Panel on screen writing development held in Yangon

A PANEL discussion for developing screenwriters’ role in film production was held at the Film Development Centre in Shwe Li Road, Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday.

The panelists comprised of screenwriters Moe Ni Lwin, L Min Pyae Mon, M Noe and Zaw (Ad.leono) who discussed under the title Screenwriting and Investments.

L Min Pyae Mon said screenwriting is an important aspect of film making and modern screenwriters are heading towards international styles for writing screenplays. While there will be little difference in the basics, trying to fit the script into a modern context requires a different kind of thinking, he said.

“We will have to accept assistance from external screenwriting experts but we must also keep in mind that it is the local screenwriters who need to try harder,” said M Noe. Zaw (Ad.leono) said the script is the backbone of a movie and it’s mediocrity can ruin every other aspect of a film. He said they are still learning new things as well and encouraged young screenwriters to think more, write more and consult others and experts.

This is the second panel discussion held for the topic. The first discussion was held under the title Movies and Myanmar Aspects on 3 November. Similar workshops will be regularly held on Saturdays every two weeks.

— Myat Sandi (Translated by Zaw Het OO)
Staying within the law is the best option

MYANMAR was prepared to receive the displaced people from Bangladesh on 30 November, as per the agreement between the two countries. Bangladesh, however, has not yet repatriated the displaced people, citing the report of UNHCR that they were unwilling on the part of those displaced people to be repatriated. On 13 November 2018, Union Minister Kyaw T Swe and Foreign Minister Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali of Bangladesh communicated with each other using the hotline established between them.

Both Myanmar and Bangladesh reiterated their determination to carry out the bilateral agreement, entitled “Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State” signed on 22 November 2018, whereas the return will be conducted under safe, voluntary and dignified conditions.

It was understood that the present difficulties stem from the weakness in following the procedures laid down in the “Physical Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State” signed on 16 November 2018, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali of Bangladesh.

We hope that UNHCR does not operate in a hindering way, regarding the repatriation of people who truly wish to return.

Imbuing basic health staff with information technology for provision of quality health care in Myanmar

By Dr. Than Tun Aung, Daw Aye Aye Sein, Dr. Than Lwin Tun, Dr. Nang Naing Naing Shin

"Public health is of great importance for the country. I would like to say that the good health of the public is the best fortune for the country."

(Excerpt from the inaugural speech delivered by the State Counsellor HE: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the ceremony unveiling the National Health Plan (2017-2021) on 31 March 2017 at Myanmar International Convention Center 2, NayPyiTaw)

"ICT can serve as a powerful tool for health care workers to expand access to affordable and quality care for millions of people."

ICT can serve as a powerful tool for health care workers to expand access to affordable and quality care for millions of people. ICT also allowed health care workers to continually build their capacity by accessing educational programs and research. It is also recognized that mobile devices and internet access are becoming increasingly necessary professional tools for health care workers at all levels in developing countries. It provides an extraordinary opportunity to scale up health workers, especially frontline health care workers, training and improve its quality as well as to optimize health service delivery and strengthen health systems through improving communication and clinical decision support.

In Myanmar, Township and Station medical officers and Basic Health Staff are major health care givers in rural and remote area, where 70% of population is concentrated living in isolated or scattered small villages. The mobile health system can make medical care available to remote locations and it is more effective and efficient than mobile health teams.

Experiences of several countries showed that given the right policies, ICT can serve as a powerful tool for health care workers to expand access to affordable and quality care for millions of people. ICT also allowed health care workers to continually build their capacity by accessing educational programs and research.

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The health professionals can access many applications, including Diabetes Guide, Safe Delivery, Ted Talks, Love Question Life Answers and Health Education Movies etc.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

The Global New Light of Myanmar  
Editorial Department,  
No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 7,05, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, or person, or by e-mail to globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
with the following information: (a) short story you wish to be included in (fiction, short stories, drama, poetry, etc.); (b) your name and (if different) your penname; (c) your level of education; (d) name of your School/College/University. (f) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your own work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine (e.g., via WhatsApp or Facebook). (g) A - photo of the submitter. (h) Copy of your NRC. (i) Contact information (email address, mobile number etc.) – Publication Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19th November, 2018: Weather will be generally fine in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway Regions and partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon and Ayearyawady Regions, Chin and Rakhine States. Rain or thunder showers will be scattered in Tanintharyi Region and Rakhine and Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th November, 2018: Generally fine weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th November, 2018: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18th November, 2018: Generally fine weather.

A midwife learning via mobile tablet in Sub-Rural Health Centre

A midwife promoting health literacy of local people by using mobile tablet

The health professionals can access many applications, including Diabetes Guide, Safe Delivery, Ted Talks, Love Question Life Answers and Health Education Movies etc.

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Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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Simultaneous self-driving vehicles tested in central Japan

NAGOYA — The Aichi prefectural government conducted on Saturday a test in which two driverless cars were operated together using autonomous driving technology, a feat they claim is a first in Japan. The closed road test, involving Nagoya University, mobile phone carrier KDDI Corp and seven other firms, drove a minivan and a remodeled golf cart through a zoo and botanical garden in Toyohashi in the central Japan prefecture.

After having the 1.5-kilometre bus route uploaded to the system, the two vehicles drove at a distance of 30 metres while traveling at less than 7 km per hour. Steering input, the accelerator and brake are applied automatically, but the brakes can be controlled remotely by a human in case of emergency.

When an in-car sensor detected obstacles on the road, the cars stopped automatically and contacted a support centre in Tokyo to make sure there were no passengers injured.

The prefecture plans to introduce the self-driving vehicles to an internal transport service in the park as well using them in a taxi service for the elderly in sparsely populated areas. Aichi Governor Hideaki Omura said after taking a test ride, “It was comfortable. I felt (the system) could be put to work right away in an enclosed area like within a park.” —Kyodo News

Bombardier stock plunges on probe of insider trades

MONTREAL (Canada) — Canadian planes and trains manufacturer Bombardier’s stock price tumbled on Friday after Quebec’s securities regulator announced it was probing executives’ stock trades.

At the close on the Toronto stock exchange, it had fallen more than 20 per cent to finish the week at Can$1.67.

Investors reacted badly after the province’s financial markets regulator, the AMF, announced late Thursday it was looking into the company’s creation on 15 August of an Automatic Securities Disposition Plan (ASDP).

ADSPs allow executives with insider knowledge to sell their stock at arms-length on a predetermined schedule, as long as they don’t have undisclosed material information.

At the regulator’s request, the company suspended all sales of securities under the plan “until further notice.”

Bombardier said it “fully intends to cooperate with the AMF in its review.”

It noted also that the plan had been reviewed by the AMF prior to its establishment.

Local media said the securities regulator was investigating whether Bombardier executives had implemented the stock plan knowing a restructuring would be announced three months later.

“The regulator will have to determine whether, with the information they had that was not available to the public, Bombardier executives committed insider trading,” said Montreal’s La Presse newspaper.

The struggling manufacturer last week announced the sale of its aging Q Series turboprop line to a Canadian investment fund, and worldwide cuts of 5,000 engineering jobs.

After the divestiture—which followed its sale of a majority stake in its CSeries jetliner line to Airbus in July—questions were raised about Bombardier’s future as an aeronautics firm, as it was left with only regional aircraft and business jet lines. —AFP

Australia takes India to WTO over sugar subsidies

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australia announced on Friday it was taking legal action against India at the WTO over sugar subsidies it said caused a “significant downturn” in world sugar prices and hurt domestic producers.

India, the world’s second-largest sugar producer, has been giving help to its cane growers, who reported record production last season. “We will support the right of our sugar industry to compete on equal terms and will utilise well-established global trading rules to defend the interests of our farmers,” Trade Minister Simon Birmingham said in a statement.

Birmingham said Australia — the world’s third-largest exporter of sugar — had raised its concerns at senior levels of India’s government and was “disappointed our concerns haven’t been addressed”.

Whilst we support efforts by countries to develop their agricultural industries, these efforts need to be consistent with their WTO obligations and applied in a manner that doesn’t distort global trade.”

The government was set to enter formal discussions with India and other World Trade Organization members at an agriculture meeting in late November.

Other major producers including Brazil — the biggest producer — Thailand and Australia, have also blamed India for contributing to a glut in the market that has forced prices down.

Sugar futures in New York have plunged 17 per cent this year, according to Bloomberg News.

Birmingham told national broadcaster ABC he hoped the WTO action would be backed by the other countries.

The announcement came two days after Prime Minister Scott Morrison met his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in Singapore on the sidelines of a regional summit.

Morrison told reporters he wanted to resolve the issue within the framework of the “good relationship” between the two nations.

Australia’s Aus$2 billion (US$1.46 billion) sugar industry, which has 4,000 cane farms and 24 sugar mills, is suffering losses as a result of the India subsidies, producers say.

Birmingham told ABC India’s actions were costing Australian producers “many millions of dollars in terms of the impact of suppressed prices”. —AFP

China’s courier sector expands in first 10 months

BEIJING — China’s courier sector continued to expand in the first 10 months of this year, according to the State Post Bureau (SPB).

The sector raked in 478.05 billion yuan (about 68.91 billion US dollars) of revenue from January to October, up 23.3 per cent year on year, with the volume of parcels delivered amounting to 39.43 billion, the SPB said.

In October alone, the sector’s business revenue grew 19.6 per cent to 53.42 billion yuan, slightly faster than the 18.5-per cent growth rate in September. The volume of delivered parcels saw a 25.2-per cent increase to 4.69 billion, 1.1 percentage points higher than that in September.

In the first 10 months, an index measuring the market share occupied by the top eight courier businesses dropped 0.1 point to 81.3 from that in the January-September period.

Cross-border courier services saw a 38.4-per cent year-on-year increase in business volume in the first 10 months, with 880 million parcels delivered. —Xinhua
Pence pulls U-turn, will stay overnight in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY (Papua New Guinea) — In a last-minute U-turn, US Vice President Mike Pence will spend the night in Papua New Guinea where he is attending a regional summit, changing plans to fly in and out of Australia which had led to complaints of a lack of commitment.

Pence had originally been due to shuttle to the APEC talks from the northern Australian city of Cairns rather than stay overnight in Port Moresby, which is hosting the gathering for the first time.

But the White House confirmed that Pence would instead spend the night in the Pacific island nation, shrugging off its reputation for violence and petty crime.

“Staying in PNG is better for the schedule and the office was able to make it work, from a logistical and security standpoint,” a senior administration official told AFP.

The port city is effectively on lockdown with a heavy police presence and warships from the US, Australia and New Zealand patrolling offshore.

Due to security and a dearth of hotel rooms, most journalists and delegates are billeted on two huiling cruise ships moored in the harbour with ultra-tight security access.

Although the threat posed by terrorism in Papua New Guinea is considered minimal, the Melanesian country has developed a reputation for lawlessness.

Feared street gangs known as “raskols” have made carjackings common and the country has among the highest rates of rape and domestic violence in the world.

Pence’s decision to stay in Papua New Guinea now puts him in the same boat as China’s President Xi Jinping, whose delegation has locked down the Stanley Hotel where Chinese lanterns abound and a pagoda has been constructed in his honour.

Some of the leaders are thought to be staying at the Airways hotel — “one of the world’s most unique airport hotels”, according to its website.

Hotel guests describe security arrangements at the Airways as “immense” even without the APEC summit, complete with shotgun-toting guards at the gates.

“But that is nothing compared with what we see now,” a resident said on Saturday, citing snipers on the roof, parts of the hotel sealed off, road blocks and special clearance required for cars. — AFP

Julian Assange charged in US: WikiLeaks

WASHINGTON (United States) — WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange has been charged in the United States, the organization said, in a development that could have implications for Robert Mueller’s probe into alleged Russian meddling in the US presidential election.

Prosecutors inadvertently disclosed the existence of a sealed indictment in a court filing in an unrelated case, WikiLeaks said on Thursday.

The exact nature of the charges against Assange was not immediately known.

“SCOOP: US Department of Justice ‘accidentally’ reveals existence of sealed charges (or a draft for them) against WikiLeaks’ publisher Julian Assange in apparent cut-and-paste error in an unrelated case also at the Eastern District of Virginia,” Wikileaks wrote on Twitter.

The still-unsealed charges against Assange were revealed by Assistant US Attorney Kellen Dwyer as he made a filing in the unrelated case and urged a judge to keep that filing sealed.

Dwyer wrote: “Due to the sophistication of the defendant and the publicity surrounding the case, no other procedure is likely to keep confidential the fact that Assange has been charged,” according to The Washington Post.

The charges would “need to remain sealed until Assange is arrested,” Dwyer wrote.

Federal prosecutors have been investigating Assange over WikiLeaks’ 2010 publication of a trove of US diplomatic cables that proved an acute embarrassment to Washington.

But the charging of Assange in the US could have implications for special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe into whether Donald Trump’s election campaign team colluded with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential vote, and whether Trump tried to obstruct the probe into that.

In July, Mueller charged 12 Russian spies with conspiring to hack Democratic National Committee computers, stealing data from the organization and publishing those files in an effort to sway the election.

One of the indictments referred to WikiLeaks, described as “Organization 1,” as the platform the Russians used to release the stolen emails.

‘Made in error’

US media were alerted late Thursday to the inadvertent disclosure, thanks to a tweet from Seamus Hughes, deputy director of the Program on Extremism at George Washington University. He is known to follow court filings closely.

“The court filing was made in error,” said Joshua Stueve, a spokesman for the US Attorney’s Office in the Eastern District of Virginia, US media reported.

“That was not the intended name for this filing.”

The 47-year-old Assange has been held up at Ecuador’s embassy in London since 2012, where he took refuge over fears of being extradited to the US over the 2010 WikiLeaks cable dump.

He was originally wanted in London after a British judge ruled he should be extradited to face allegations of sexual assault in Sweden.

The Swedish case has since been dropped, but Britain still wants him to face justice over breaching his bail conditions following his arrest on the sexual assault allegations.

“This was a ‘cut-and-paste’ error. The entire criminal case was dropped,” said the department.

The US has been “temporarily” barred following a contentious exchange with President Donald Trump.

Trump spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said “in response to the court, we will temporarily reinstate the reporter’s hard pass.” But she left open the possibility of seeking to remove Acosta’s access later and said new rules would be imposed “to ensure fair and orderly press conferences.” — AFP

‘Inert’ WWII shell found in London’s Hyde Park

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Emergency responders on Friday recovered an ‘inert’ World War II mortar round used for training by the Home Guard, the Met’s Westminster unit said on Twitter. “Serpentine and surroundings re-opened. As Cpl Jones would say: ‘Don’t panic!’” it added, light-heartedly referring to a fictional Home Guard corporal from an old television sitcom “Dad’s Army.” — AFP

Wreck of Argentine submarine found year after going missing: navy

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina) — The wreckage of an Argentine navy submarine that exploded and disappeared one year ago with 44 crew on board was located in the Atlantic Ocean on Friday, the navy said.

The Argentine navy has been “positive identification of the ARA San Juan,” at a depth of 800 metres (2,600 feet), a statement on Twitter from the navy said.

The Seabed Constructor — a vessel owned by US search firm Ocean Infinity, which set out in September on the latest attempt to find the San Juan — found the missing sub. — AFP

News in Brief

White House says will ‘temporarily’ reinstate CNN reporter’s pass

WASHINGTON (United States) — The White House said on Friday it will “temporarily” reinstate a press pass for CNN reporter Jim Acosta after a court ruled he had been improperly banned following a contentious exchange with President Donald Trump.

Trump spokesman Sarah Sanders said “in response to the court, we will temporarily reinstate the reporter’s hard pass.” But she left open the possibility of seeking to remove Acosta’s access later and said new rules would be imposed “to ensure fair and orderly press conferences.” — AFP

Argentine submarine missing: search for missing Argentine navy submarine that exploded and disappeared one year ago with 44 crew on board was located in the Atlantic Ocean. — AFP

Hulk of US submarine located in Atlantic: search for missing Argentine navy submarine that exploded and disappeared one year ago with 44 crew on board was located in the Atlantic Ocean. — AFP

Wreck of Argentine submarine found year after going missing: navy

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The Seabed Constructor — a vessel owned by US search firm Ocean Infinity, which set out in September on the latest attempt to find the San Juan — found the missing sub. — AFP
APEC leaders to hold 2-day talks, focus on protectionism

PORT MORESBY—Pacific-rim leaders are set to start a two-day meeting on Saturday in Papua New Guinea, with analysts watching whether the leaders can commit to the fight against protectionism in a veiled counter to US President Donald Trump’s “America First” trade policy. Leaders from the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum will discuss ways to further open markets and regional economic integration at a time when the United States, Japan and other economies are rebalancing China over its intellectual property violations, industrial subsidies and other market distorting measures.

The meeting will bring together Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chinese President Xi Jinping, US Vice President Mike Pence in lieu of Trump, and other leaders in the region responsible for half of global trade and 60 percent of the world economy.

A draft of a post-summit declaration says APEC leaders “remain committed to continuing APEC’s leadership to promote free and open markets and to fight against all forms of protectionism and other trade distorting measures.” The leaders will express concern about “the re-emergence of protectionism,” says the draft, a copy of which was obtained by Kyodo News.

Calling Japan “a flag bearer for free trade,” Abe is expected to lead discussions on promoting free trade, strengthening the role of the World Trade Organization and deepening regional economic integration so as to ensure that the Asia-Pacific region will continue to serve as a center of the world’s growth.

Abe is likely to underscore the significance of the revised Trans-Pacific Partnership — an 11-nation, high-standard free trade agreement — coming into force on 30 December, saying the development will help strengthen the free trade system.

Trump withdrew the United States from the TPP last year, saying his administration prefers bilateral approach in trade negotiations on its terms. Citing China’s massive and chronic trade surplus with the United States and Beijing’s “unfair” trade practices, Pence is expected to demand that China pursue trade policies that are “free, fair, and reciprocal.” The Trump administration has imposed tariffs on $250 billion in Chinese imports — or about half of the goods it imports from China each year — in response to Beijing’s alleged intellectual property and technology theft.

The APEC leaders are also expected to reaffirm their commitment to realizing a high quality and comprehensive Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, an APEC-wide free trade agreement. APEC groups the TPP members — Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam — and China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Russia, the United States, South Korea, Chinese Taipei and Thailand.

Five Filipino troops killed in ambush by Islamist gunmen

MANILA (Philippines)—Militants have killed five Filipino soldiers and wounded 23 others in a major ambush by members of a notorious Islamist kidnap-for-ransom group, the Philippine military said on Saturday.

The soldiers were searching for hostages taken by the Abu Sayyaf group when the gunmen attacked them on the southern Philippine island of Jolo on Friday, regional military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Gerry Besana told reporters.

“The effort is part of our mission to rescue the remaining hostages,” Besana said.

The Abu Sayyaf is a loose alliance of several hundred armed militants formed in the 1990s with seed money from Osama bin Laden’s Al-Qaeda network.

Friday’s clash was one of the deadliest since an Abu Sayyaf faction joined other foreign and Filipino militants in seizing the southern Philippine city of Marawi last year, leading to a five-month battle that claimed more than 1,100 lives. The Abu Sayyaf is now believed to hold “less than 10” hostages, Besana said.

The group is based in the strife-torn southern islands but its members began in 2016 to kidnap sailors in the waters between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The militants have also raided and taken hostages from resorts in the southern Philippines and neighbouring Malaysia.

Most of the hostages have been ransomed off for huge amounts of money and several were beheaded, including two Canadian tourists in 2016. A Dutch birdwatcher abducted on a nearby island in 2012 is believed to be among those still in Abu Sayyaf’s hands.

The Dutchman’s Swiss colleague escaped in 2014 after grabbing a kidnapper’s machete and killing him.

The soldiers who survived Friday’s ambush did not see any hostages during the September battle that claimed more than 1,100 lives. The Abu Sayyaf is now believed to hold “less than 10” hostages, Besana said.

Malaysian PM calls for inclusive policies in coping with technological disruptions

PORT MORESBY—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday called for better policies to prevent inequality from being widened due to the advance of new technology and automation. Delivering a speech at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit held here in the capital city of Papua New Guinea, Mahathir said economies now must deal with “the age of disruption,” particularly technological disruptions. As policymakers seek to adjust strategies and practices to deal with the radical change, the challenge is how to ensure no one is left behind, said Mahathir.

“We can expect more disruptions ahead when we become more automated, with unskilled and even skilled workers becoming less and less relevant,” he said, adding that people must be careful that the disruption should not widen inequality as it would be bad for growth and social stability.

The prime minister called for policies to be accessible and affordable to citizens, and take care of those losing out in the advance of technology.

He also called for cooperation at the international level on how to best manage technological disruptions, stressing that fairness and more genuine cooperation between the developed and developing economies can help deal with the disruption.

Australia to take leading role in push against protectionism: PM

PORT MORESBY—Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has declared that his government will fight against rising trade protectionism.

Addressing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council in Port Moresby on Saturday, Morrison re-affirmed his commitment to the open market.

He underlined the importance of showing people around the world “what happens when you are open and work in partnership.” You create jobs, you build prosperity and you create a more stable and secure region,” Morrison said.

“The test for us now is to stand up for the economic values we believe in, and show how they work by improving living standards and lifting millions of people out of poverty.”

In a statement released ahead of his speech on Saturday, Morrison said that APEC was critical to Australia’s vision for a stable and prosperous region.

“I will use this opportunity to advocate Australia’s long-standing interests in open trade and investment and to reinforce Australia’s commitment to the Pacific,” he said.—Xinhua

A ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum is held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 15 November, 2018. PHOTO: Kyodo News
US paves way to get ‘lab meat’ on plates

NEW YORK (United States)—US authorities on Friday agreed on how to regulate food products cultured from animal cells—paving the way to get so-called “lab meat” on American plates.

The Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration agreed to share regulation of cell-cultured food products, they said in a joint statement, following a public meeting in October. While technical details have yet to be confirmed, the FDA would oversee the collection and differentiation of cells—when stem cells develop to specialized cells—while USDA would oversee production and labeling of food products.

“This regulatory framework will leverage both the FDA’s experience regulating cell-culture technology and living biosystems and the USDA’s expertise in regulating livestock and poultry products for human consumption,” the statement said, adding that the agencies see no need for legislation on the matter.

The question of whether to approve cell-cultured food products has never really arisen in the US. In fact, several niche “lab-meat” startups already exist, but production costs are very high and nobody has a product that is ready to sell yet.

Californian company Just, known for its eggless mayonnaise, has said previously it plans to sell cell-cultured meat by the end of this year—and told AFP it looked forward to working with the agencies.

Others such as Memphis Meats and Mosa Meat, in the Netherlands, are working to get production costs down—with some backing from the agri-food industry.

The backers of “lab meat” argue avoiding slaughtering animals will reduce both suffering and greenhouse emissions. PHOTO: AFP

Record-breaking Alps postcard sends message against climate change

SWITZERLAND—A massive collage of 125,000 drawings and messages from children around the world about climate change was rolled out on a shrinking Swiss glacier on Friday, smashing the world record for giant postcards.

The mosaic of postcards, measuring 2,500 square metres (26,910 square feet), was laid out in the snow on the Aletsch glacier in the Swiss Alps, at an altitude of 3,400 metres (11,200 feet).

The event aims to “boost a global youth climate movement ahead of the next global climate conference (COP26) in Poland”, next month, said the WAVE foundation, which organised the event in cooperation with Swiss authorities.

The display easily set the Guinness world record for the number of postcards strung together in a single image, beating the last record held by a collage of 16,000 individual postcards, WAVE said.

The individual postcards feature children’s drawings in different colours and hues of white, which together spell out the words: “STOP GLOBAL WARMING”, “WE ARE THE FUTURE GIVE US A CHANCE” and “#1.5C”.

The last message refers to the maximum level of global warming that scientists say should be aimed for if the planet is to remain liveable.

However, a UN climate report last month warned that drastic action was needed to prevent Earth from hurting towards a far sharper rise in temperature. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) said the globe’s surface has already warmed one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial levels—enough to lift oceans and unleash a crescendo of deadly storms, floods and droughts—and without action is on track toward an unbearable 3C or 4C rise. — AFP
I like to be criticised as it makes me aware, says Amitabh Bachchan

MUMBAI — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan says he is fine taking criticism as it at least assures that the creative work has been consumed by the audience as opposed to people not watching a film at all.

Bachchan along with wife Jaya was in conversation with author Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi at the launch of his book “The Rabbit and The Squirrel” at the 9th edition of Tata Literature Live, Thursday.

When asked how do they both take criticism, Jaya quipped, “I don’t actually care.”

Bachchan says, “The first assurance that you get is somebody has actually read your work. It’s very important for us, in the creative field, because if no one goes to see our films, that’s very bad. So, that’s one of the first things that comes to your mind.

“But seriously, I would accept criticism, I would liked to be criticised because it gives you an aspect of your work which you may not be aware of,” he added.

The star said critics’ observation often go beyond the obvious and point out nuances which is a must for people in creative field.

“There are many critics who are able to have that perception, who are able to go beyond what you have written or have a different view point. I think it’s important for anyone in the creative field to know that. Many times, we are unaware of it. Most of the times, the critics are right and we are wrong.

“In such situations, when you feel they have been unfair, cut that criticism out from the piece of paper and stick it on your bathroom wall and every morning, look into the mirror and say, ‘One day buddy, I am going to disapprove you,’” he added.

The fest, which opened yesterday, will feature speakers, authors, intellectuals, journalists and performers from around the world including “The Crown” director Stephen Daldry, David Ebershoff, author of “The Danish Girl”, Mark Tully, among others. —PTI

Cultural renaissance sweeps Latvia for centenary

RIGA (Latvia) — With homegrown books and films topping sales in Latvia after decades of foreign cultural domination, the small Baltic state is in the throes of a cultural renaissance as it marks 100 years of independence.

Latvians will enjoy centenary festivities including classical music concerts, military parades and fireworks on Sunday.

Before independence in 1918, Latvia endured the better part of two centuries under Russian imperial domination, only punctuated by brief periods of freedom.

The country briefly emerged from that cloud, only to be swept again under the control of Moscow, with decades of Soviet rule that finally ended in the early 1990s.

Like others in the post-communist bloc, instead of examining their own culture, Latvians gobbled up American popular culture with their first taste of freedom.

But over the last few years Latvians have been reclaiming their identity by immersing themselves in books and films focused largely on their own troubled history.

And in the weeks ahead of the centenary, this trend appears to have accelerated, with books by Latvian authors setting new sales records and dominating bestsellers lists in four of the country’s largest bookstore chains.

Among the most popular is a book series entitled “We. Latvia. The 20th Century”.

Written by 13 contemporary writers, it looks back at the lives of ordinary Latvians, rather than heroes or leaders, under the Tsars prior to independence, during the two brief decades of independence that followed, and then during World War II and under Soviet rule.

“Af ter Soviet-era censorship and a period of turmoil during the 1990s and early 2000s, Latvian literature is back,” Dace Sparane, editor-in-chief of the Dienas Gramata publishing house, told AFP.

“It’s strong and diverse, and the popularity of this particular series is the best example,” Sparane added.

Soviet stories, drugs and death metal

With record sales at home, an English translation of the novel “Mother’s Milk” focused on Soviet rule in Latvia as seen through women’s eyes and written by Nora Ikstena is also on sale in Britain and Russia.

Jelgava ‘94, is among other hits. The semi-autobiographical tale by Janis Jonevs focuses the life of a 1990s teenager growing up in the bleak industrial town of Jelgava hit hard by the post-Soviet economic crisis.

The unnamed protagonist dabbles in hooligan life, drugs and alcohol as he discovers death metal, black metal and grindcore music. Jonevs won the EU literary prize for the book, which has been translated into French, Norwegian among others, under titles like “Metal” to “ Doom 94”.

“With contemporary and experimental novels dominating the bestsellers’ lists, Latvia’s cultural landscape is shedding its post-Soviet trappings and moving closer to (Western) European cultural traditions,” Sparane adds. —AFP

Mother who hid baby in car boot jailed in France

TULLE (France) — A French court on Friday sentenced a mother who kept her baby hidden in the manggot-infested boot of her car to a five-year jail term, three years of which were suspended.

Rosa Maria Da Cruz, a Portuguese-born mother of four, kept her daughter Serena hidden away until she was nearly two, leaving her with serious mental disabilities. In 2013, a mechanic discovered the baby in the filthy boot of Da Cruz’s car when she took it to be repaired.

Hearing a noise, he opened the trunk to discover the baby in a car seat, naked, filthy and dehydrated. She was surrounded by maggots and excrement.

The infant had also been kept in an unused room at the family home in the Correze region of central France.

The case caused horror in France where Da Cruz’s partner Domingos Sampaio Alves, an unemployed bricklayer, claimed he had no idea his partner had given birth to another child.

The child, who is now seven and in foster care, suffers from severe mental impairments, including irreversible autism, which medical experts have linked to sensory deprivation during her early months.

Da Cruz and Alves were allowed to keep their three other children, whom a paediatrician described as having been “perfectly raised”. —AFP

J K Simmons to star in ‘Veronica Mars’ revival

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actor J K Simmons has joined the cast of Hulu’s “Veronica Mars” revival.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, Simmons will play an ex-con named Clyde Prickett in the series.

Clyde served 10 years for racketeering and was the first inmate in Chino to offer protection to Neptune real estate developer Big Dick Casablancas (David Starzyk) when he entered the prison. After getting free Clyde started working as the elder Casablancas’ fixer. He is the smarter and more dangerous of the two and has a network of fellow ex-cons he uses to do his dirty work.

The eight-episode Hulu series also features Dawn Lewis, Patton Oswalt, Clifton Collins Jr. and Izabela Vidovic.

Series veterans Kristen Bell, Enrico Colantoni, Jason Dohring, Percy Daggs III, Francis Capra, Ryan Hansen, Max Greenfield and Daran Norris are all returning. The new season revolves around a series of murders among spring break partiers in Neptune. The family of one victim asks Veronica (Bell) to look into the case, exposing the class divide in Neptune once more. —PTI

In the film, the veteran actor Megastar Amitabh Bachchan plays the role of a lawyer. PHOTO: PTI
Tea or coffee? The answer might be genetic

PARIS (France) — In new research studying how genetic factors determine taste, scientists now believe they know why some humans prefer coffee while others opt for tea.

A paper published this week in the journal Nature Scientific Reports found that people who are genetically predisposed to like more bitter tastes typically choose coffee due to its higher content of bitter caffeine.

But, importantly for tea drinkers everywhere, that doesn’t make them right.

As humans evolved we developed the capacity to detect bitterness as a natural warning system to protect the body from harmful substances.

Evolutionarily speaking, we should want to spit that American straight down the sink.

But participants in the trial who were more genetically sensitive to the bitter taste of caffeine were more likely to prefer coffee to tea, and more likely to drink more of it.

“You’d expect that people who are particularly sensitive to the bitter taste of caffeine would drink less coffee,” said Marilyn Cornelis, assistant professor of preventative medicine at the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine.

“The opposite results of our study suggest coffee consumers acquire a taste or an ability to detect caffeine due to the learned positive reinforcement elicited by caffeine,” said the study, told AFP that the fact that some people prefer coffee showed how everyday experiences can override genetic tendencies when it comes to taste.

Bitter taste perception is shaped by not only genetics but also environmental factors,” he said.

“Even though humans naturally dislike bitterness, we can learn to like or enjoy bitter-tasting food after being exposed to environmental factors. Although coffee-lovers are essentially defying evolution, there is another possible benefit to liking your latte.

Hwang said coffee drinkers were genetically less sensitive to bitterness than tea drinkers, making them “less likely to hate other bitter-tasting foods” such as green vegetables. —AFP

Roscosmos chief thanks participants in successful launch of Soyuz-FG carrier rocket

MOSCOW — Director General of Russia’s space corporation Roscosmos Dmitry Rogozin has thanked all those behind the successful launch of a Soyuz-FG carrier rocket on Friday.

“The state commission held a meeting after the launch of the cargo spaceship from the Baikonur space centre. Dmitry Rogozin thanked operational crews for the successful launch,” Roscosmos said on its Twitter account. The Soyuz-FG carrier rocket with the Progress MS-10 cargo spaceship blasted off from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan at 21:14 Moscow time on Friday.

The Progress spacecraft is to dock to the Zvezda service module of the International Space Station (ISS) at 22:29 Moscow time on 18 November. The spaceship will deliver about 2.5 tonnes of cargo, including fuels, water and pressurized gases, to the ISS.

The Progress spacecraft was originally scheduled to be launched to the ISS on 30 October but the launch was rescheduled for 16 November following the abortive launch of 11 October. Soyuz-FG carrier rocket with a manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft blasted off from Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome to the International Space Station (ISS) on 11 October. On board the spacecraft were Russian cosmonaut Alexei Ovchinin (the commander of the Soyuz MS-10) and NASA astronaut Nick Hague.

Following a smooth liftoff, the Soyuz's booster malfunctioned between the first and second stages of separating, whereupon the crew was forced to abort the flight and switch to ballistic descent. The manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft ended up landing safely in the Kazakh steppe. The crew was not hurt. This was the first emergency situation with the launch of a manned spacecraft over the past 35 years.

The incident-probing commission announced on 1 November that the emergency situation occurred after “a nozzle cover on the oxidizer tank failed to open due to the deformation of the separation contact sensor.”

The sensor was damaged during the assembly of the rocket's first stage at the Baikonur Cosmodrome. —Tass

SpaceX gets nod to put 12,000 satellites in orbit

WASHINGTON (United States) — SpaceX got the green light this week from US authorities to put a constellation of nearly 12,000 satellites into orbit in order to boost cheap, wireless internet access by the 2020s.

The SpaceX network would vastly multiply the number of satellites around Earth.

Since the world’s first artificial satellite, Sputnik, was launched in 1957, humanity has sent just over 8,000 objects into space, according to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Between one quarter and one half of those are believed to still be operational.

On Thursday the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced it had authorized SpaceX to launch 7,518 satellites, adding to 4,425 satellites it has already approved.

None of the satellites has launched yet.

Elon Musk’s company has six years to put half in orbit, and nine years to complete the satellite network, according to FCC rules.

SpaceX wants most of the satellites to fly in low Earth orbit, about 208 to 215 miles (335 to 346 kilometers) high.

That would put them below the International Space Station, which orbits about 250 miles (400 kilometers) above Earth.

SpaceX’s interest in such a low orbit is to shorten the communication time between internet users on Earth and space-faring satellites, speeding up surfing speeds. But this low altitude may be difficult to maintain and smaller satellites tend to have shorter lives than bigger ones.

The FCC has also authorized other companies to launch satellites, including Kepler (140 satellites), Telesat (117 satellites), and LeoSat (78 satellites). —AFP

In this file photo taken on 7 October, 2018, the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base carrying the SAOCOM 1A and ITASAT 3 satellites, as seen during a long exposure near Santa Barbara, California. PHOTO: AFP
MYANMAR won two gold and three silver medals at the China-ASEAN International Marathon Competition 2018, held in Fangchenggang, a coastal city in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 17 November.

In the ASEAN Level, Myanmar secured first, Laos in second, Viet Nam in third, Cambodia in fourth and Thailand in fifth place.

In the ASEAN Level Women’s 21 Km Mini Marathon competition, Phyu Wha Htet from Myanmar won a gold medal with a record time of 1:16:22, while Laos won a silver medal with a score of 1:17:50 and Cambodia earned a bronze with a score of 1:20:15.

In the ASEAN Level Women’s 42 Km Mini Marathon competition, Myint Myint Aye from Myanmar won a silver medal and an athlete from Laos won a gold medal with a time of 2:28:31.

MYANMAR leads standing table on goal surplus in group-A

MYANMAR national men’s football squad is now leading a standing table in group-A of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 going above regional powerhouse Viet Nam on goal surplus.

Myanmar has achieved two wins on six points with seven goals for and two goals against whereas Viet Nam has attained two wins on six points with five goals for and zero goal against.

Myanmar won Cambodia 4-1 in the first match and Laos 3-1 in the second while Viet Nam beat Laos 3-0 in the first match and Malaysia 2-0 in the second. After the post-match, head coach Antoine Hey said, “I am happy with the result of today match. Tactics were changed at about 30th minute of the first half and so we got goals. Our team put constant pressure on the home team taking advantages of wing attacks. Third goal we got came from the left wing attack. The second half game was better the first half. I believe our team must reach the semifinals winning the supports of the home fans.” —Htut Htut (Twantay)

David Htan wins Honour Man of the Match

MYANMAR defender David Htan, who is playing for domestic club Shan United FC in Myanmar National League, won Honour Man of the Match in the away match of Group-A of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 against Laos in New Laos National Stadium on 16 November. Myanmar’s head coach Mr Antoine Hey set up the starting line to Myanmar nation.

“Honour Man of the Match went to David Htan. This Honour Man of the Match I won together with Myanmar national team is the first time in my career. I won this award as my teammates and coaches supported me. I will continue trying my best for the upcoming matches as well,” said David Htan. —Htut Htut (Twantay)

Away Fans tickets for Myanmar-Viet Nam match on sale till 19 Nov

AWAY fans tickets for the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 Group play Myanmar vs Viet Nam match are being sold in advanced from 17 to 19 November at the Myanmar Football Federation Headquarters, located at Goal Hotel, Waizayandar Road, in front of the Thuwunna Stadium, according to a source of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

All away fans or Viet Nam team fans must bring along their passport as proof of identification, and are eligible to purchase 2 tickets per person, according to the MFF.

Away fans are allocated 2,400 grandstand tickets, according to the football federation source.

Rules for away fans are also set up, as away fans are advised to buy only Away Fan tickets for security reasons, as the Myanmar Football Federation will deny entry to away fans who try to use Home Fan tickets, according to the MFF. After playing two group matches, Myanmar is placing in the top place of the table with a full six points, while Viet Nam followed Myanmar with the six points, but differences in goals.—Lynn Thit(Tgi)
FACEBOOK has had a widespread effect on the word “friendship”. Before any type of social networking existed, “friends” were the people we knew well and were close to. Nowadays, friends are people we have added on Facebook. Anyone these days can have more than a thousand friends on the computers or smart phones, as opposed to having a dozen in person.

Almost everyone in Myanmar is using Facebook nowadays. Facebook makes many people who are using much beneficial but some adverse effects which are associated with Facebook can be seen now and then. Among such frivolities, I would like to present about friends on Facebook.

On Facebook, people often make friends far and near, whom they do not know in person. It is a good practice for them as they can exchange their knowledge, opinion and other social essences which is able to be beneficial. Some exchange their conversation through chat room. Some exchange their mobile phone number to talk with each other so that they can obtain more intimacy. At first, their words are simple indicating about their friendship, health and average flippant matters. Later, they tend to talk words of love. In fact, such words of love are not important if both of them are not serious in love and they regard love as a light and flippant thing. However, if it is real one-sided love, the other one will get ashamed and sore or bitter at heart.

Some people become lovers via their friendship on Facebook. For a boy, he should not talk words of love to the girl just when he hears her voice or he sees her photos. For a girl, she should not feel pleasant just when she hears the proposal of a boy. Some boys make the excessively wheedle words of love on the phone line. When such boys meet the girls concerned in person and see that the beauties of the girls are not up to what they expected before, they abandon the girl stealthily. In fact, they should not start it if they do not see and understand their mind initially. In this case, if the girl has got a real love on her own side, it is herself who is going to suffer deeply.

Therefore, I would like to present that those who become friends on Facebook should commute their knowledge, experiences, opinions etc. Even if not, they should not dye their atmosphere of friendship to have ugly stains. For a boy, if he happens to talk words of love to a certain girl easily, it will be an insinuating insult upon the girl’s dignity. For a girl, if she believes it easily, she will be looked down upon for her haste reply. The wound in mind is worse than that on physical body and it might be an unbearable emotion. Although some said, “Love is blind”, if both loves of the individuals concerned are real and admirably adorable, it will be the best for the both sides.

All in all, Facebook should be a place to expand upon current relationships with close friends, not a place to be fake or lose real-life communication. An acquaintance of mine once said, “There is a difference between accepting a friend request and a friendship.” Facebook cannot provide for the needs of neglected relationships. Yet where friends truly understand closeness, Facebook is — and will continue to be — an avenue for maintaining a great many intimate relationships.
(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

LESSON - 11

Passive Voice

A
1. He carried a gun on his shoulder. He went into the forest.
2. He was a brave boy. He did not run away.
3. We are in Yangon. We can attend the Worker’s College.
4. She was very tired. She sat down to rest.

B
1. All the men are skilled workers.
2. The lady is our Myanmar language teacher. The lady is playing piano in the hall.
3. The books were published last month.

C
1. She saw a boy. The boy was flying a kite in the field.
2. I heard the girl. She was singing a Japanese song.

Perfect Participle

Perfect Participle (have + ing) Grammatical Example Past Participle (V3) Grammatical Example Passive Voice Grammatical Example

Past Participle

1. This is a book. The book was written by Maha Swe. (written)
2. He is a man. The mas is wanted by the police.
3. These are the houses. They were built before the war.
4. U Ko Ko is an engineer. He is respected by all the workers.
5. The flowers are still fresh. The flowers picked this morning.
6. The books are expensive. The books printed in London are expensive.
7. The shoes are of good quality. The shoes produced by this factory.

Perfect Participle

1. Khin Khin is a girl.
2. She is admired by everybody.
3. This is a camera.

Passive Voice

1. Having done all the homework, Ko Ko went to bed.
2. The rebels surrendered.
3. Having done his work, he came out of the office.
4. Maung Maung had been punished by the teacher.

(CHECKLIST)

Understand Passive Voice

By C. T. O

KO KO WENT TO BED.
HAVING DONE ALL THE HOMEWORK, KO KO WENT TO BED.

(CONTINUED FROM NEXT WEEK)
EMPATHY

By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
3rd year medical student

“EMPATHY is about finding echoes of another person in yourself.” This is a quote by Mohsin Hamid. Empathy starts with trying to put ourselves in another person’s shoes in order to understand his or her feelings. In today’s age, people have become more occupied with their own jobs and hobbies, having not much time to be aware of what others are going through. Youths can lack a sense of empathy, as a result of being caught up online or focusing only on passing exams with honors. As much as our jobs, education, and pastimes matter, it is also crucial to look around and be aware of the reality of problems and troubles other people are facing, whether it is our friend, a relative, or random people.

An empathetic heart has the power to bring on positive actions. When we empathize some helpless disabled persons on the side of the road, chances are we offer some donations to them or ask them if they need any help. Lending an ear to a friend who appears depressed or upset around us also is an action based on empathy. Showing empathy, of course, takes effort. We may have our tight schedules every single day, but when we actually make an effort to give some time for other people, whether that be a small coffee-chat or sharing their distress over phone, our expression of an empathy provides strength to those in need of it.

We must also understand that empathy means trying to put yourself in other’s situation, while simultaneously accepting that you will never be able to fully comprehend what another person is going through, even if you have experienced something similar yourself. True empathy comes with accepting another person’s reality without being judgmental. We feel a sense of trust, when our truths are accepted and believed by others. The burden of worrying about being judged also evaporates. We thus become better able to communicate and confide in one another.

In university or workplaces, when we attempt to observe or understand another person’s perspectives, emotions, and thoughts, it becomes smoother to develop and maintain positive relationships. Actively thinking beyond ourselves or our concerns is a foundation to developing an empathy. Even during little conversations, not jumping fast to our own conclusions but taking time to consider the other person’s opinions can help us expand our empathy. This leads to a shared understanding between people, despite different faiths, beliefs, nationalities, and creates a positive and relaxed atmosphere around the place.

People usually underestimate the significance of empathy. Parents must teach its importance to their kids, and school curriculums should promote skills of empathy, in addition to musical skills or sports. We must remember that our empathetic words of encouragement or simple display of an emotional connection could brighten up someone’s day or at least reduce some pain on the receiving end. When we empathize others, we stop judging, we build trust, and we feel at peace.

A dove is flapping in the sky
He seems to be innocent and white
He always says right and never fight
A laurel leaf in his beak and seeking for peace

Elders are meditating quietly
They have no luxury and greed
They will reach to peaceful place
Cleansing mind all the time and lie on their peace of mind

A nation is fighting each other
They are full of stigma and hate
They’re not late to handle peace
It is sure to get eternal peace indeed timely.

Everybody shouldn’t fight and grab the right
We need to be brighter as a peaceful land.
We must create peaceful life in the nationwide
For this way, will get rays
We will achieve peace forever.

Eternal Peace

Kaung Si Thu
1st YEAR ENGLISH, DAGON UNIVERSITY
N the year 2018, City of Mandalay marks 162th anniversary of founding the last royal capital of Myanmar. In 1856, Myanmar King Mindon built Mandalay, located 700 kilometers north of Yangon, on the vast mass plain over the east bank of mighty Ayeyawaddy River, and the ancient city was situated exactly at north latitude 21 degree 56 minutes and east longitude 94 degrees 04 minutes.

At the time when King Mindon ascended the throne at old City of Amarapura in February 1853, British Captain Frazer had initiated in building modern City of Yangon in Lower Myanmar. It was sure to have been in mind of a newly crowned Myanmar King to build a new City leaving behind an old City of Amarapura which was damaged packed with houses of bamboo and wood amased narrow streets with risks of chaotic health hazards.

Therefore, the King called a ministerial assembly and decided to build New Mandalay City Project on 30 October 1856. As the year 1856 coincided with auspicious Buddha Sassana Religious Year 2400, and therefore, the aspiration to build the new City was thus decided. Centering the Palace

After completion of all necessary work being done in building a new City and a Palace, the record of significant event was chronicled in Myanmar era 1221 (AD 1859 and Buddha Sassana Year 2400) and confirmed it in Mandalay.

The Palace is surrounded with beautiful moats on four sides with strong high brick walls in rectangular shape with 1,700 Myanmar Tar measurements of rectangular areas were laid down which equated to Myanmar One Pya measurement (a little over 550 feet). The total Myanmar Tar covering the Palace could be calculated into five miles and one furlong.

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In planning the City, Myanmar (50) Tar measurement was being used which equated to Myanmar One Pya measurement (a little over 390 feet). A total of (122) Pya measurements of rectangular areas were laid down in east, west, north and south of the City for (144) spaces. The same was carried outside the City in road and streets building with east to west, and north to south crossings in rectangular shape. The outside City had been constituted with four inhabitant spaces accommodating (54) wards giving proper names. Putting the Palace at the center it was generally termed that the east of the Palace wall is called “Ashay Pyin”; the west is called the “Anauk Pyin”; the north is called the “Myauk Pyin”.

A total of (54) wards are spread over the City such as (7) wards in the east; (13) wards in the south; (29) wards in the west; and (5) wards in the north. At that time, all the (54) wards were given with decent and royal names in befitting manners. Nowadays, some of the graceful names have been nearly extinct. No records are going to spread whatever. In fact, all these areas are most valuable intangible cultural heritage of the nation.

Intangible Cultural Heritage: Sustainability for Traditional Gold Leaf Industry of Myanmar

The survival of this industry depends on renovation works at pagodas namely Shwedagon Pagoda, Maha Myat Muni Pagoda, Kyak Hli Yoe Pagoda, Shwe Set Taw Pagoda, Jumlar Phuang Daw U Pagoda, Palmyra Shwe Moke Hlaw Pagoda, and many renowned and famous pagodas across the country.

Now is a critical and decisive time for serious consideration never to discard the use of Myanmar traditional gold leaf at the famous pagodas with the subsidization of other modern gold items being produced of foreign companies. If the other gold substitute is being made, then the surviving gold leaf industry that existed from the period of Bagan Era with the support of religious concept would be faded out and at risk of dying out. Moreover, it may hamstrung to destroy the surviving national industry.

For Sustainable Traditional Gold Leaf Industry of Myanmar

Let us seriously think and decide about the use of Myanmar traditional gold leaf at the famous pagodas with the subsidization of other modern gold items being produced of foreign companies. If the other gold substitute is being made, then the surviving gold leaf industry that existed from the period of Bagan Era with the support of religious concept would be faded out and at risk of dying out. Moreover, it may hamstrung to destroy the surviving national industry.

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I don’t know how to get back down.

Here, hug this pole and slide down gently.

He’s worthy to be my soulmate. Hm.

Children are like fire when they cause problems.

What’s the matter?

It’s my son. He won’t follow through with his education.

He’s not earning anything for his wife. I have to feed them both!

And he won’t get a job either.

If he’s such a problem, why don’t you marry him off?

That is exactly why it’s a huge mistake!

How come?

Haar!

It’s been a long time.

That’s right granny. I’ve been a bit busy.

Uncle, have a meal while you’re here.

Thank you, but I’ve vowed to be vegetarian while my new product’s launching.

Oh my, even you have changed a bit.

But what product are you launching?

Pesticide!

Goodness me!
Arnold Toynbee, Augustinian and Marxian ‘Triumphalism’ and ‘End of History’?

By Dr Myint Zan

Arnold Toynbee and ‘Understanding human affairs as a whole’

22 October 2018 (to use the historic present tense) is the 42nd anniversary of the passing away of historian Arnold Toynbee (14 April 1889-22 October 1975). A few weeks after he passed away obituary that appeared on November 3, 1975 Time magazine reads:

QUOTE

Daniel Boorstin, recently confirmed as the new Librarian of Congress, commented that 'few historians have spent themselves so unstintingly or so effectively in the effort to transcend the provincialism of their time and place.' Toynbee felt that there was a kind of intellectual provincialism, too, in what he called 'the dogma that life is just one damned thing after another;' for he himself had 'a lifetime conviction that human affairs do not become intelligible until they are seen as a whole.'

UNQUOTE

Personally I would have preferred the last sentence to be rewritten thus (the changes being indicated in bold)

QUOTE

'Toynbee himself felt that there was a kind of intellectual provincialism, too, in what he called 'the dogma that life is just one damned thing after another;' for he had a lifelong (instead of lifetime') conviction that human affairs do not become understandable (instead of intelligible') until they are seen as a whole.'

UNQUOTE

Among the obituaries in Time that I have read with the exception of Mahatma Gandhi’s obituary (in February 1948 issue of Time magazine under the title 'Of Truth and Shame') Toynbee’s obituary moves me the most. This is mainly due to the freshness, perspective and perhaps philosophical (historical?) consolation such perspective can provide in trying to understand ‘human affairs’. Independently the late Saya Zaw Gyi co-authored (7 April 1907-26 September 1990) in one poem in his series of poems about Ancient Pagan (Bagan) co-authored (7 April 1907-26 September 1990) exhorts us to cultivate the practice of ‘seeing things in 26 September 1990) in one poem in his series of poems as a whole’.


Augustine did express what can be termed his philosophy of history in his book The City of God Against the Pagans written in Latin perhaps between 410 Current Era and 430 Current Era (1388 years to 1908 years) ago. In the year 410 Current Era Rome (the pivot of the Roman Empire) was sacked by the Visigoths (who were considered ‘barbarians’ or ‘vandals’ by the Romans). Among the defeated Romans there apparently were loud murmurs or claims that this was a punishment emanating from the traditional Roman gods. The ‘punishment’, the argument would go, was meted out by the Roman gods to the Romans for ceasing to worship them and for embracing Christianity.

Augustine in response wrote a long tract The City of God (a 2012 translation into English in two volumes has a total of 1081 pages!). Augustine, in effect, argued that ‘The City of Rome’ is of no sequence so to speak, compared to ‘The City of God’. The loss of Rome to the ‘barbarians’ is (sort of) temporary and Augustine stated that Christianity will ‘triumph’ eventually. For want of a better phrase this aspect of Augustine’s view or philosophy of history can be described perhaps as Augustine’s ‘triumphalism’.

From the title of Augustine’s book (as discerned in the English translation) his philosophy of history can be described as ‘binary’ and dichotomous (Christianity v Pagans’). It is also ‘triumphalist’ with Augustine’s view of eventual triumph of Christianity notwithstanding the set-backs the Roman Christians had faced throughout the time Augustine was writing his tract. burning it they did ‘spare’ the Augustinian Library.

Karl Marx and (Marxian) Triumphalism

Fast forward again 1400 years to the 19th century and to the philosophy of history of Dr. Karl Marx (5 May 1818-14 March 1883). Marx was (and is) in the perspective of world history an even more influential philosopher than Augustine. Marx can be categorized (as far as academic or professional genres go) as a political scientist, economist and (in his early career) as a journalist. Arguably, Marx was not quite an historian. Still, Marx has written about his views if not assertions regarding the progress of history. Marx asserted with equal fervor and perhaps with comparable degree of righteousness as Augustine when he wrote about his own triumphalist positions if not predictions in relation to philosophy of history.

Perhaps Toynbee did refer to Augustine somewhere in his monumental 12 volume 3 million word A Study of History for which he spent about 40 years of his life writing and updating. Toynbee’s views on the ‘progress’ of history even if he saw it as ‘Vision of God’s Creation on the Move’ would not be as binary and shall one say as dogmatic or ideological as Augustine. Toynbee’s view of history as ‘Vision of God’s Creation on the Move’ and Augustine’s triumphalism, one ventures to suggest can be contrasted rather than analogized.

The writer is not sure whether or not Marx referred to Augustine’s work or have even read them in German translation. Marx’s view on the progress of history seems eerily similar with Augustinian predictions regarding the course of history: The major difference - and this difference need to be emphasized - is that the names of the eventual ‘victors’, the vindicators, so to speak, of history are changed. In other words as Augustine posited his ‘brand’ (so to speak) of Christian triumphalism Marx predicted that Communism (or is it Marxism?) will eventually triumph.

Marx saw history as passing through various stages from primitive communism, feudalism, capitalism to Com-
I first met him in 2013. It was the year in which I passed the matriculation examination. Before it, I had wanted to meet him due to his great education and reputation. Since then, I wanted to become one of his students. I wanted to learn near him. My desire came true only when I passed the matriculation examination. I felt very happy on that very day that I could meet him. He is with great dignity. I have heard that there is a wide and valuable education behind the calmness of him through a lot of information. He would never express and proclaim anyone his value and reputation. For those who want not education, for those who appreciate not education, for those who consider not the depth of education and for those who understand not benefit of education, my teacher would not be of use to them. However, there would be no doubt he is the reliable and valuable one for the students who realize his value very well.

He is always ready to give answers whatever his students want to know. He will never grudge the curious students who are greedy to learn. With numerous example sentences, he always explains his students so much that they could understand well. If I make a query to my teacher; I always come to know about it together with the other things. When one cannot understand any word clearly and approaches to him, his confirmation is always completely reliable. All his students including me have got the privilege to study his complete explanation endlessly.

He is the one who can answer precisely. He is also the one who can answer promptly whenever I want to know and who can satisfactorily answer whatever I want to know as desired.

Meaning, pronunciation, usage of a word, synonyms, antonyms, idioms, colloquialisms, slangs and phrasal verbs which the students want to know can be learned from him any time. Living and changing language can also be learned from him. He is the very teacher who is always new in line with the new-age.

He can give the correct and precise pronunciation of a word with both phonetic pronunciation just what the students want to understand and he utters the pronunciation just what the students want to hear. He will never speak any redundant words. Here, my dear readers want much enough to know who my teacher is, I guess.

Now, I am going to reveal the name of my teacher. He is not a living one but an application of a software on my computer which has already been installed since I got it from my father as a present for my success in the matriculation examination. His name is “Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary.”

This article is a summary of writer’s presentation mainly in the Myanmar language at the Department of History at Yangon University on 13 November 2018 partly to commemorate St. Augustine’s (13 November 354-28 August 430) 1664th birthday and ‘World Philosophy Day’ on 15 November.