BUILDING TRUST IS AN ESSENTIAL PIECE TO THE DEVELOPMENT PUZZLE PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL

Authorities arrange smooth traffic flow during shooting of film Line Walker - 2 in Yangon

PAGE-6

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung presents an award to a cadet at the 11th graduation ceremony of Myanmar Mercantile Marine (MMM) College in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

MMM College holds 11th graduation ceremony of Dip. N.S. , Dip. Mar. Tech

THE Ministry of Transport and Communication's Myanmar Mercantile Marine (MMM) College held its 11th graduation ceremony to award the Diploma in Nautical Studies (Dip. N.S.) and Diploma of Maritime Technology (Dip. Mar. Tech) at the college parade ground in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the graduation ceremony, Union Minister for Transport and Communication U Thant Sin Maung presented best cadet (nautical) and best literature (nautical) awards to Cadet Aung Chit Ko, best cadet (engineer) and best literature (engineer) awards to Cadet Min Khant Tun, along with the best parade award to Migathi company.

Also, the Union Minister delivered a graduation speech, followed by graduating companies marching in formation to salute the Union Minister.

At the 11th graduation ceremony, 56 Dip. N.S. and 50 Dip. Mar. Tech. diplomas were awarded. Since the courses began in 1963, 2,716 mercantile marine graduates have been awarded degrees. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Mandalay hosts Htamane festival to promote tourism

A TRADITIONAL festival to celebrate the Myanmar delicacy Htamane began at the Maha Muni Pagoda in Mandalay yesterday, attracting local and foreign travellers.

The Hotels and Tourism Ministry and Myanmar Restaurants Association (Mandalay) jointly hosted the festival, holding competitions for the making of Htamane, which attracted 15 teams.

"We organized this festive activity, in coordination with the 60th Buddha Pujaniya festival of the pagoda, to show our traditional culture to foreigners.

This is an activity to promote tourism," said U San Yu, Assistant Director of the Mandalay Region Hotels and Tourism.

The four-day festival will end on 19 February.

Pilgrims are offered the charity food of Htamane.

The festival for creating Htamane is also one of the Myanmar New Crop Consuming Festivals, which all Myanmar ethnic nationals celebrate in their villages, in their own traditional manner.

SEE PAGE-4

Myanmar, Laos hold ministerial level meeting on electrical sector cooperation

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing met with Laos Minister of Energy and Mines H.E. Dr. Khammany Inthirath at the Luang Prabang View Hotel, Luang Prabang, Laos, to discuss increasing bilateral electrical sector cooperation.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Myanmar-Laos electrical sector cooperation was signed on 15 January 2018 and, as per the MoU, a joint committee and work committee made up of representatives from the two countries were reviewing cross border electricity purchases and sales, technology exchanges and investment opportunities. Prior to the ministerial level meeting on cooperation, high ranking officials from the two countries were conducting Myanmar-Laos electrical sector cooperation committee and work committee meetings.

At the ministerial level meeting, discussions at the joint committee and work committee meetings, constructing a cross-border power line to purchase and sell electricity, exchanging experiences on hydro power electricity production, reducing damages and the impact on the natural environment and water resources, conducting technology exchanges and preliminary studies through cooperation of experts from the two countries, and exchanging information on electrical sector investments were also discussed.

During the trip, the Myanmar delegation, led by the Union Minister and accompanied by Laos Minister of Energy and Mines H.E. Dr. Khammany Inthirath, visited the construction site at the Xayaburi hydro power station in Xayaburi Province, Laos. The hydro power project is being built on the Mekong river and will produce 1,285 MW of electricity. It is a Run Off River type hydropower station, with a Law Head Turbine installed. Xayaburi Power Company began implementing the project in 2010 and is planning to start producing electricity in 2019. The project was constructed under the guidelines of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and is a landmark hydro power project in the Mekong River basin.

Union Minister U Win Khaing visits the electrical power station in Laos. **PHOTO : HTAN PHONE**

After the meeting, Union Minister U Win Khaing and party left Luang Prabang, Laos and arrived back in Myanmar in the evening.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Union Minister meets representatives of ethnic literature and culture groups

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin poses for a documentary photo together with ethnic people in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: HTAN PHONE**

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin held a meeting with representatives of ethnic literature and culture groups from Shan State (North) and Rakhine State at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 15 February.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said the world is becoming a global village and as technology develops, all information from countries throughout the world become known daily. With such developments, it is important to have knowledge and skills, as well as peace. There will be rule of law only when there is peace. And regional development matters, such as education, health and transport, can be conducted only with the rule of law. Youth must not have selfish minds, but instead have the willingness to work together for the benefit of all. Only when they have education and knowledge can they develop their region, state and country. While visiting States and Regions, widespread deforestation and damage to natural environment were observed. All need to preserve and maintain their natural environment. Ethnic Affairs branch offices of the Ethnic Affairs Ministry hav been opened in states and regions, and the requirements of ethnic nationals can be submitted to those branch offices. Matters can be handled at state and region levels, and even if the ministry itself is unable to handle a matter, it will be submitted to the Union Government, said the Union Minister. Further, Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture Deputy Director General U Win Naing explained about the first visit of ethnic literature and culture groups. Afterwards, joint secretary of Shan literature and culture committee and chairman of Khami literature and culture groups delivered his thanks. Union Minister, Director General, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Deputy Director General and officials took commemorative group photos with representatives of ethnic literature and culture groups from Shan State (North) and Rakhine State, and hosted a luncheon for the visitors. Later in the afternoon, visitors toured Buddha Gaya, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda and Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Ethnic literature, culture groups continue third day tour of Nay Pyi Taw

MEMBERS of ethnic literature and culture groups from states and regions who were in Nay Pyi Taw at the invitation of Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, continued their third-day field trip in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the morning, the groups, accompanied by officials from Department of Ethnical Literature and Culture, visited the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV).

During the visit, in-charge engineer of MRTV U Nay Myo Win explained to the members of the groups about the displayed radios, video cameras and record players (gramophones) used throughout the ages, the processes of recording, editing and broadcasting news, broadcasting of National Races Channel (NRC) and broadcasting of radio programs. He also responded to questions raised by the visiting groups.

In the afternoon, the groups visited the National Landmark Garden, Nay Pyi Taw, and observed the replicas of famous places and buildings in the regions and states.

They then visited the Zoological Garden in Nay Pyi Taw.—Mg Lu Maw ■

An official explains ethnic literature and culture group about the MRTV during their visit to the state-run media in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOT: HTAN PHONE**

Minoru-Keiwa Myanmar donates rice transplanting, seed cleaning machines to Dept of Agricultural Research

Demonstration for rice planting machines is held at the Department of Agriculture Research field in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: NEWS LOVER FOR MOALI FACEBOOK**

A DEMONSTRATION of rice planting machines, and the donation of rice transplanting and seed cleaning machines to the Department of Agriculture Research (DAR), was held at the DAR research field in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the event, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu said departments, farm service providers, agriculture cooperatives and people associated with the agriculture sector must strive toward the widespread use of farm machineries to effectively resolve the scarcity of farm workers. While works were conducted on increasing yields, quality and safety for consumers, efforts towards increasing income and profits for farmers and investments must also be made.

Throughout the agriculture work processes, it may be difficult for an individual farmer to fully utilize modern technologies and machineries, but this difficulty can be overcome through a cooperative system. As such, in addition to providing assistance and support in agricultural matters, assistance and support is required in establishing farm cooperatives according to the law, said the Union Minister.

Also, officials from Keiwa Innovation Co., Ltd. and Minoru-Keiwa Myanmar Co., Ltd. explained about the reason for donating the rice planting machine and seed cleaning machines, and DAR Director General U Nai Kyi Win thanked them for the donation.

Afterwards, the Union Minister witnessed a demonstration of the 600 kg/hour seed cleaning machine, the leveling of farm land with machinery, and the planting of rice using SRI (System of Rice Intensification) system with Minoru RX61 rice planting machine from Japan.

The Minoru RX61 rice transplanting machine created six planting rows, and the distance between rice seedlings can be adjusted from 6 to 12 inches and can carry 23 seedling trays containing 448 seedlings. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Danyingon-Paywetseikkon circular rail to be upgraded within six months

WHILE upgrading the Yangon City circular railway, the Danyingon-Mingalardon-Paywetseikkon rail road is being renovated, with plans calling for its completion within six months to ensure the convenience of commuters, said U Min Aung, the project engineer for the Yangon circular railway upgrading project.

"The upgrading of the Yangon City circular railway has been divided into two segments. The first segment will include Danyingon-Insein-Kyimyindaing-Yangon, while the second segment is for the Danyingon-Mingalardon-Paywetseikkon-Yangon.

The Danyingon-Insein part of the project is 90 per cent completed, whereas the Insein- Kyimyindaing route will be finished by 27 February. Then, Myanma Railway (MR) will upgrade its infrastructure outside of the circular railway route.

"The Danyingon-Mingalardon-Paywetseikkon railway route is one of the important parts of the circular railway route. It is being renovated to be finished within six months," said U Min Aung. The Danyingon-Minglardon-Paywetseikkon railway route is being built anew. The project was started on 21 November and is expected to be completed by 21 May. The Danyingon-Mingalardon-Paywetseikkon railway route is being renovated by Shwe Taung Company and Myanma Railway (MR) engineering department. Similarly, the Danyingon-Insein-Kyimyindaing project will be carried out by A1 company and MR's staff. MR is also upgrading the level crossings. Upon completion of the railway upgrading project, the locomotive and coaches will also be upgraded. Afterwards, MR will be able to run the circular trains at a speed of 60 kilometers per hour. According to MR, over 200,000 commuters rely on the circular train service daily.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Danyingon-Mingalardon-Paywetseikkon rail road is being upgraded, with plans calling for its completion within six months. **PHOTO: MNA**

News in Brief

Mdy to host women's mass walking activity on 17 Feb.

With the assistance of the Ministry of Health and Sports, a women's mass walking activity is scheduled to be held for the second time, at the Mandalay Hill Centenary Stadium, Mandalay Region, at 5 a.m. on 17 February.

Talks on HR Professional in SMEs on 24 Feb. in Mdy

Myanmar Society for Human Resource will conduct a talk on SME Sector Development at the Hotel Mandalay at 1 pm on 24 February.

Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet will give talks titled "HR Pro Professional in SMEs" at the Mandalay Hotel, Mandalay Region, at 1 p.m. on February 24.

Educational Talks on YCDC Election on 17 Feb.

In an effort to elect qualified candidates, educational talks on Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) Election will be held at the Dhammayon in the Bo Myat Tun Street, Bo Tun San Ward, Daw Pon Township, at 2 p.m.

72nd Anniversary Mon National Day to be celebrated at People's Square in Yangon

Mon Ethnic Literature and Cultural Association will organize the 72nd Anniversary Mon National Day at the People's Square on 19 and 20 February.

The annual celebration is aimed at conserving the literature, culture and customs of Mon ethnic people and showing the ethnic people's commitment to building a democratic federal Union.

Myint Soe, (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Mandalay hosts Htamane festival to promote tourism

FROM PAGE-1

Creating Htamane is a communal activity, in which Myanmar people of all age groups participate.

Both males and females of old age, middle age, and younger ages, including children, are involved. Typically, older people supervise the work and judge whether the delicacy is made according to traditional standards.

Meanwhile, middle age people organize the party, decide on divisions of labour and share the recipe for making the delicacy. They also lend pots, pans and utensils from their our possessions at home, or from area monasteries. —Aung Phyo Kyaw

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Men are making Htamane in the festive activity in Mandalay. **PHOTO: APK**

Authorities to spend K 10.8 bln to carry out development in Naga

A total of 166 development projects will be carried out in the Naga Self-administered Zone in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, with the use of K10.8 billion in budgeted funds, said U Law Yone, an MP in the Lahe constituency.

The projects will cover construction of gravel and earthen roads, roads for motorcycles and concrete bridges, retaining walls, installation of water facilities, development of religious buildings, and repairs of departmental buildings.

During the current financial year, 31 projects will be implemented by the region's Ministry of Security and Border Affairs, at a cost of K3.264 billion; 21 projects by the region's Department of Border Areas and National Races Development, costing K1.832 billion; 18 projects by the region's Rural Development Department, worth K449.2 million; seven projects by the Department of Rural Road Department, valued at K1.852 billion; 25 projects by the region's General Administration Department, costing K848.9 million; 41 projects by other ministries, valued at K881.5 million, and 23 projects by the region's Road Department, worth K1.673 billion.—Win Oo (Zeyataing) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin

Gauges installed at stations along Ayeyawady River

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology is installing staff gauges at hydrological stations along the Ayeyawady River in 71 townships across the country to measure water depths.

The gauges are part of the Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Management (AIRBM) project being carried out in many parts of the country, with the support of the World Bank.

A staff gauge is a measuring tool used to provide a visual indication of the depth of water in lakes, rivers and other surface waters. They are simple to install and readable from long distances.

U Tin Tun, head of Hydrological Station (Yangon), said the project was first begun in lower Myanmar, especially in Ayeyawady Region, including Pathein, Myaungmya, Maubin, Thabaung, Zalun and Hinthada townships. The staff gauges will also be placed in Pyu and Taungoo townships in Bago Region, Hpa-an and Myawady townships in Kayin State, Mandalay and Myitnge townships in Mandalay Region, Sagaing, Myinmu and Kani townships in Sagaing Region, Mon State, and Machanbaw Township in Kachin State.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology is installing staff gauges at hydrological stations along the Ayeyawady River to measure water depths. **PHOTO : KHINE SET WAI**

As of 11 February, the department has installed staff gauges at hydrological stations in Mandalay. Thanks to these measuring tools, people are able to easily understand the measurements of water depths, he said. In Mandalay, the department has installed some nine staff gauges, and plans to also install more than nine gauges in Khamti.—Khine Hsat Wai ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Edible black-nest swiftlet penetrates Singapore market

THE edible nest of the black-nest swiftlet from the Myeik archipelagoes and Kawthoung areas in Taninthayi Region have been shipped by sea to a new foreign market, Singapore, according to a news release from the Ministry of Commerce.

The price of the edible nest is higher than the white-nest swiftlet. Merchants sought licences to export US$182,360 worth, weighing 388 kilos. A kilo is valued at $470, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

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

Edible nest swiftlets are induced to build nests using bird-noise techniques at bird houses along the Strand Road in Myeik. The breeding business has become popular in the region, and many breeders are thriving, said breeders.

Earlier, breeders had to build nests on walls of mountains. Later, experimental breeding at bird houses was successful, allowing breeders to earn handsome profits, said a breeder.

Two types of nests are sold at the market, including those from islands and others collected from breeding houses.

To maintain the ecosystem of the islands, two islands in Myanmar's marine territory have been designated as sanctuaries. The period of collecting is set at three months per year. The edible bird's nests produced by swiftlets dwelling in the Myeik archipelagoes in Taninthayi Region are purchased by China, Malaysia and Thailand, after their being purified. —GNLM ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

The edible nest swiftlet from the Myeik Archipelago and Kawthoung areas in Taninthayi Region.
PHOTO : KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

Drop in rice exports results in inadequate storage capacity, said MRF

Myanmar's rice exports to foreign countries during the current fiscal year are likely to fall by 1 million, compared with the corresponding period in the last FY, causing storage problems, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Last FY reached the all-time record of over 3.5 million tons in rice exports. Exports during this FY are expected to reach only over 2 million tons due to foreign market conditions. The trade volume might continue on the down side, owing to confiscations by China and EU's ban on Indica rice. Therefore, over 1 million tons of rice will be stockpiled.

"We have our concerns over the handling of stockpiles, as there is insufficient storage capacity," said U Chit Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Rice Federation, speaking to the Agriculture and Market Information Agency

Also, the lack of storage might result in damage to rice, along with illegal rice exports, said a merchant. The Ministry of Commerce has conducted negotiations with China to legally export Myanmar rice to China via border gates. Myanmar needs to seek certificates from China's food safety inspection mechanism, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), according to U Aung Htoo, deputy minister for Commerce, at an event marking World Pulse Day 2019 held on 10 February. Myanmar intends to export some 4 million tons of rice to foreign markets during the 2019-2020 FY, with estimated earnings of US$1.5 billion.—GNLM ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

SEZs attract 104 enterprises

Under the Special Economic Zone Law, 104 enterprises, including three domestic businesses, invested capital of US$1.59 billion into the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Singapore placed top on the list, with investments of $639 million, accounting for 40 per cent of overall investments, followed by Japan with $456 million and Thailand with over $186.49 million. The Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, the UK, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, China (Taipei), Panama, China, Brunei, Viet Nam, Australia, France and the Netherlands also invested in the SEZs.

Myanmar is currently putting in place three Special Economic Zones in Thilawa, Kyaukpyu and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading in investments due to its better infrastructure and successful business.

Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited's 2017-2018 annual report stated that 97 per cent of Thilawa Zone A and 61 per cent of Zone B have already been sold.

Companies in the promotion zone of Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) accounted for over 75 per cent of overall investments. A company exporting at least 75% of the production in value is registered as a Free Zone investor that will be exempted from corporate taxes for 7 years starting from their beginning commercial operations. The companies, such as logistics that support export-oriented manufacturing, can also be free zone companies. Domestic oriented manufacturing companies are regarded as promotion zone companies, and they are eligible to enjoy five-year tax holidays for corporate taxes.

There are other tax incentives for free zone and promotion zone investors on the import of capital goods, raw materials and merchandise, and consigned goods and vehicles. For further tax information, the public can visit *http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm.*

The manufacturing sector absorbed the largest share of foreign investments. Additionally, investments flowed into trading, service, transportation and logistics, real estate and hotel sectors in recent years. —Ko Khant ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Sugar prices rise slightly due to China demand this month

THE price of sugar rose slightly in domestic markets, as Chinese merchants began buying sugar from Myanmar in February, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Following suspension of sugar re-exports to China since September 2018, sugar has stockpiled and the price fell to K1,000 per viss.

This month, there has been no supplies from foreign markets for re-export when China is purchasing sugar. Therefore, the price increased from K1,000 to K1,100 per viss (a viss equivalent to 1.6 kg) in the domestic market.

China is the main market for Myanmar's sugar re-exports. Yet, confiscation occurs frequently at the Sino-Myanmar border gates, as it is considered an illegal export in China.

The commerce ministry allowed Myanmar merchants to re-export sugar during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, with an aim to attain hard currency, enhance trade and create job opportunities.

New licences for sugar re-export have been temporarily suspended, due to the soaring US dollar exchange rate in the floating exchange rate system. However, previously permitted licences are still valid to import sugar for the re-export process.

Sugar has been purchased with dollars, imported into Myanmar and then sold with yuan, while re-exporting them to China. This practice results in a net outflow of dollars that also reduces the value of the kyat.

Imported sugar under the re-export system is not allowed to be consumed domestically, in order to protect local sugar millers.

Myanmar's merchants import sugar mostly from Thailand and India, and also from Brazil, Qatar and the UAE, which is then re-exported to China through the Sino-Myanmar checkpoint, as Myanmar sugar millers are unable to produce quality sugar that meets the export criteria, due to a lack of advanced refining machinery.

Over 700,000 tons of sugar were exported in the 2015-2016 FY, valued at $394 million. During the 2016-2017 FY, 2 million tons of sugar, worth $1.12 billion, were exported. Starting from 22 September 2017, sugar re-exporting was suspended.—Ko Htet ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Scenes of Line Walker -2 shot at Shwedagon Pagoda, YMCA Hall

SCENES for the film Line Walker-2 were shot at the Shwedagon Pagoda and YMCA Hall in Yangon yesterday.

The shooting at the Shwedagon Pagoda started at 7 pm and took some two hours to complete, in which Lruyuning, Tiang Peiyao and 30 local supporting actors took part.

Some scenes were also shot at the YMCA hall on Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township yesterday, and at the National Races Village in Thaketa Township on Friday, which attracted film fans.

When shooting in Yangon, authorities took steps to prevent traffic jams and to maintain overall safety.

Line Walker-2 Film being shot at the National Races Village in Thaketa Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

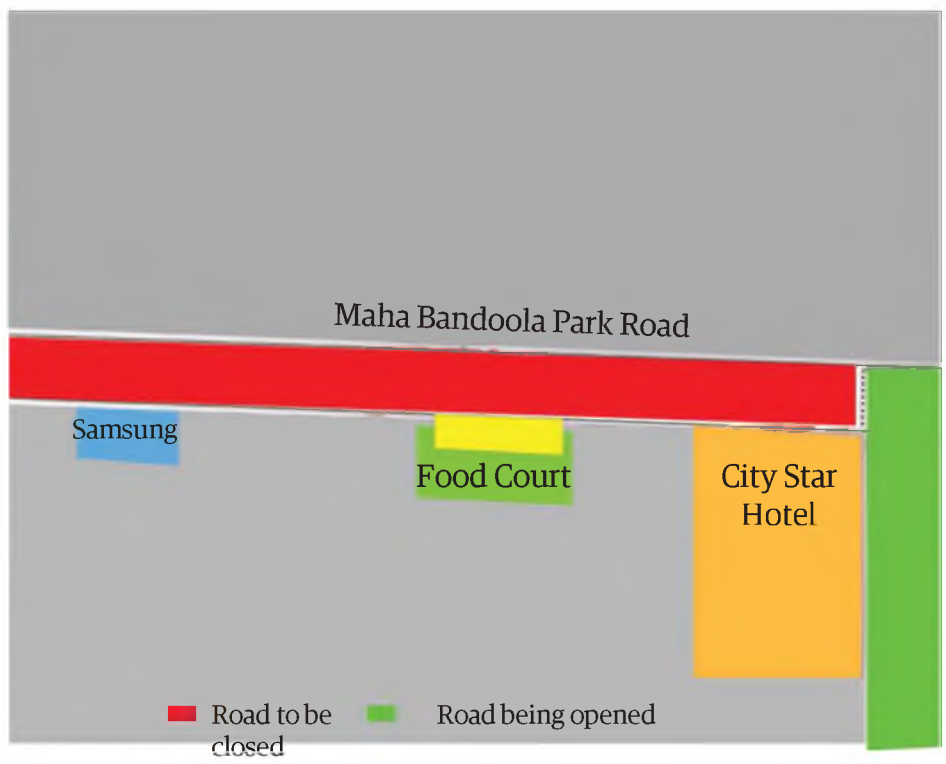
The scene for the Line Walker-2 film shot at the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

Shaw Brothers Pictures International Ltd. is staging major scenes for Line Walker-2, a sequel to their very successful Line Walker movie, in Yangon.

"Shootings, explosions, cars racing against each other, crashes, and helicopters flying are included in this film. Departments concerned will help us. Therefore, the public is requested to enjoy the shooting from designated places," said U Aye Kywe, Deputy Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department, at a press conference in Yangon.

"Through this film, we want to show the world that we ensure transparency, no delays, and no obstacles for foreign movies being shot in our country," he added. —Zaw Gyi ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Authorities arrange smooth traffic flow during shooting of film Line Walker – 2 in Yangon



AUTHORITIES from the Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee, Traffic Police Force, in Yangon have ensured that traffic will flow smoothly while the film Line Walker-2 is being shot in Yangon.

On 18 February, the road from the eastern entrance of the Shwedagon Pagoda to Yedashe Road will be closed for almost seven-hour long, from 6 am to 1 pm, said authorities.

On 17 February, Maha Bandoola Park Road will be closed from 11 am to 4 pm, and the section from Anawrahta Road to the City Star Hotel will be closed from 6 am to 6 pm on 21 February.

From 22 to 26 February, the section of the road from the overpass on the Anawrahta Road to the Zebra near the Sule Pagoda on the side of the Fire Services Brigade will be closed from 6 am to 6 pm.

While another road is closed, drivers can travel the along Anawrahta Road and turn onto Shwebontha Road.

As roads are temporarily closed, traffic enforcement officials will be deployed to assist commuters.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Global stocks surge on hopeful signs from US-China trade talks

NEW YORK (United States) — European and US stock markets leapt on Friday as positive signs emerged from US-China trade talks aimed at averting an escalation of a tariff war between the world's top two economies.

US President Donald Trump said the negotiations in Beijing were going "extremely well" and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping announced the talks would continue in Washington next week.

Trump also said there was a "possibility" he would extend a March 1 deadline for a sharp rise in tariffs on $200 billion Chinese goods to go into effect.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average index finished the day up 1.7 per cent to 25,883.25 to close its eighth straight week of gains.

"There is a lot of optimism that a deal will be done," said Bill Lynch on Hinsdale Associates. "I'll believe it when I see it but it seems that a deal is fairly close."

Investors also greeted Trump's decision to sign a spending bill that averts another government shutdown.

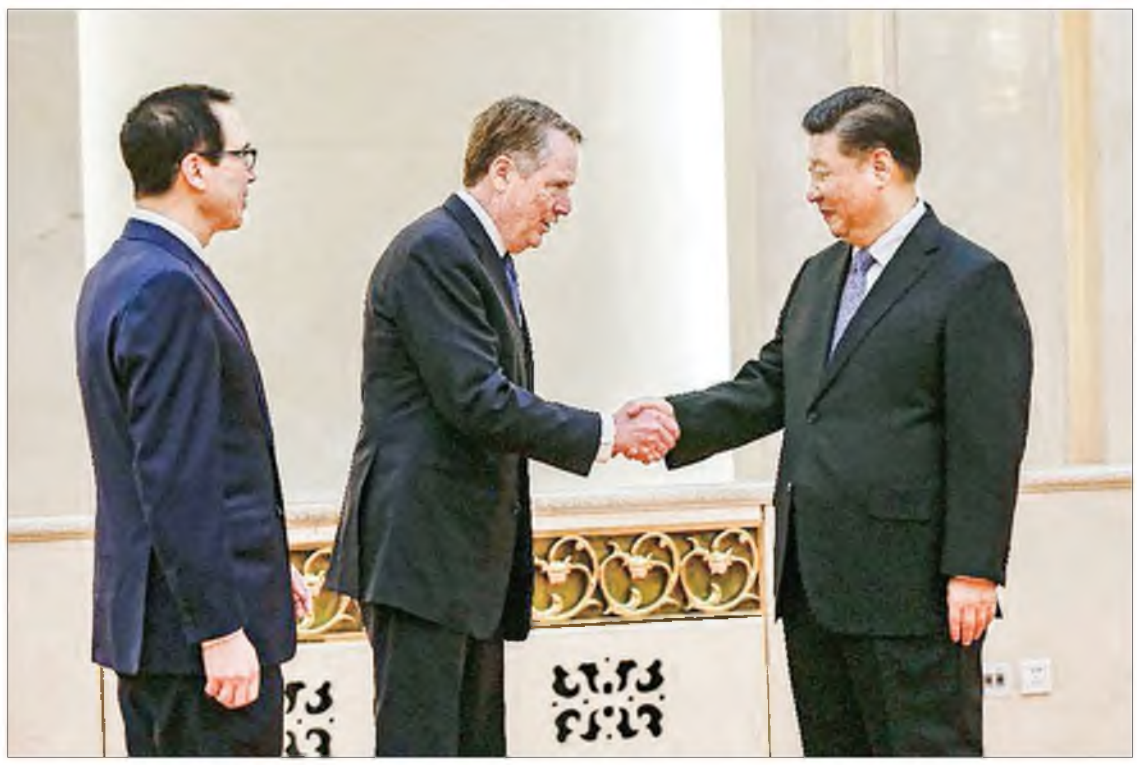
Meanwhile, Trump's decision to declare a national emergency to fund a wall along the Mexican border, which is expected to face legal challenges, is a "side issue," Lynch said.

European markets also "went gaga" for the news of further trade talks, as Frankfurt's DAX 30 closed up 1.9 per cent and the Paris CAC 40 followed suit with a 1.8 rise on the day

Madrid's IBEX 35 index rose 2.0 per cent after Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called an early general election, following the rejection of his draft budget in parliament over the Catalan secession crisis.

London's index also rose after stronger than expected British retail sales were reported for January, as consumers seemed to shrug off Brexit blues.

Oil prices continued to push higher on evidence members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries are implementing production cuts. Brent oil futures finished at $66.25 a barrel, up 2.6 per cent for the day and 6.7 per cent for the week. After a brutal end of 2018, US stocks have been on a tear since late December on expectations of a US-China trade deal and relief at the Federal Reserve's shift to a more dovish posture. These views have allowed the market to overlook signs of weakness, such as Federal Reserve data on Friday that showed a big drop in US manufacturing for January — AFP ■



US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told Chinese President Xi Jinping that "we have additional work to do, but we are hopeful". **PHOTO: AFP**

Half of Japan's regional banks to join hands in cashless payment

TOKYO — About half of around 100 regional banks in Japan will introduce a new cashless payment system developed by Mizuho Financial Group Inc. starting in late March, sources close to the matter said Saturday.

The plan by over 50 banks to join the Tokyo-based bank's J-Coin initiative comes at a time the Japanese government is pushing use of cashless payments as the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics approach, aiming to double digital payments to 40 per cent of all transactions by 2025. J-Coin transactions will be processed through a smartphone app using either a "Quick Response" two-dimensional barcode, a telephone number or Line Corp. instant messaging app's personal number for identification. Unlike prepaid smart cards which are currently more popular in Japan, the J-Coin service allows transactions between individuals and does not require dedicated readers at retailers. While promotion of the service to visitors from abroad would depend on whether Mizuho can join hands with major providers of cashless payment services such as China's Alipay, J-Coin could be an attractive alternative for rapidly increasing foreign visitors as cash continues to be the most-used form of payment by consumers in the country. The new service will initially be offered to individuals holding accounts at regional banks such as Chiba Bank and Nishi-Nippon City Bank, according to the sources. Mizuho Bank will launch the service on 1 March, with regional banks following suit from 25 March, they said. Japanese home appliance retailers such as Bic Camera Inc. and Yamada Denki Co. will start adopting the J-Coin system in April, with other firms like East Japan Railway Co., convenience store chain FamilyMart Co. and restaurant operator Royal Holdings Co. considering joining them. Hoping to accelerate the use of cashless payments and help cushion an expected impact of an upcoming tax hike, the government will give consumers using cashless methods rebates of 2 per cent of the purchase price at convenience stores, or 5 per cent at other small or medium-sized stores, for nine months after the consumption tax is raised from 8 per cent to 10 per cent in October — Kyodo News ■

Merkel says US calling European cars a threat is 'frightening'

MUNICH (Germany) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday labelled as "frightening" tough US trade rhetoric planning to declare European car imports a national security threat.

"If these cars... suddenly spell a threat to US national security, than that is frightening to us," she said.

Merkel pointed out that the biggest car plant of German luxury brand BMW was not in Bavaria but in South Carolina, from where it exports vehicles to China.

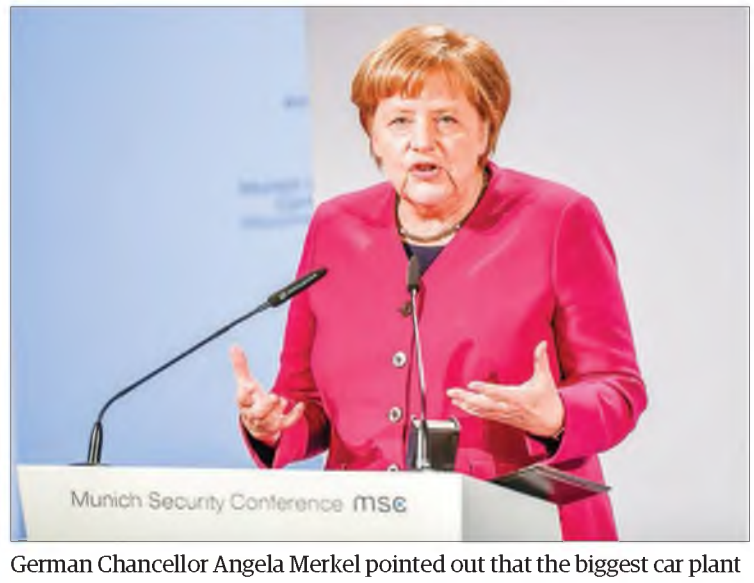
"All I can say is it would be good if we could resume proper talks with one another," she said at the Munich Security Conference. "Then we will find a solution." A US Commerce Department report has concluded that auto imports threaten national security, setting the stage for possible tariffs by the White House, two people familiar with the matter said Thursday.

The investigation, ordered by President Donald Trump in May, is "positive" with respect to the central question of whether the imports "impair" US national security, said a European auto industry source.

"It's going to say that auto imports are a threat to national security," said an official with another auto company.

The report, which is expected to be delivered to the White House by a Sunday deadline, has been seen as a major risk for foreign automakers. Trump has threatened to slap 25 per cent duties on European autos, especially targeting Germany, which he says has harmed the American car industry. After receiving the report, the US president will have 90 days to decide whether to move ahead with tariffs.

Trump in July reached a trade truce with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, with the two pledging no new tariffs while the negotiations continued. Brussels has already drawn up a list of 20 billion euros ($22.6 billion) in US exports for retaliatory tariffs should Washington press ahead, the commission's Director-General for Trade Jean-Luc Demarty told the European Parliament last month.—AFP ■



German Chancellor Angela Merkel pointed out that the biggest car plant of German luxury brand BMW was not in Bavaria but in South Carolina, from where it exports vehicles to China. **PHOTO: AFP**

17 FEBRUARY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Building trust is an essential piece to the development puzzle

TRUST, or 'yone kyi' in Burmese, is a key component in society. The word is a compound of 'yone' and 'kyi' and carries significant meaning. 'Yone' means believe, as believing in one another creates a clear state of mind, which is what 'kyi' implies. Trust enables us to perform tasks smoothly and together, while a loss of trust-building can lead to ruin.

During her visit to the villages of Kawthoung Township on 14 February, the State Counsellor said: "Our country's development relies on there being trust built between the people who run the government and the citizens of the nation. If there is deep trust amongst us, then we will be successful. Otherwise it would be very difficult to accomplish anything."

> The incumbent government is civilian, in nature, and we can see their people-oriented approach to governing the nation. We urge government and civilians alike to foster understanding and mutual respect towards each other, as we tread onwards in developing Myanmar.

The State Counsellor, during her visits to the states and regions, regularly reminds those people who have taken up the duties of government to build trust with the public. Myanmar aims to establish a genuine federal Union, and this will require the diverse ethnic races residing in the country to build trust from their diversity. We must foster understanding, mutual respect and trust between us all.

Likewise, not long ago, during her trip to Shan State, the State Counsellor urged the state cabinet to maintain close communication channels with the public, to regularly interact with the people, and to personally set out in resolving issues and implementing necessary procedures. She said authorities at the state and township levels both need to hold transparent discussions with the people to gain a better grasp on their wants and needs. She strongly advised against making false promises, in a bid to provide short-term remedies.

At the other end of the spectrum, the public also needs to understand the limitations of government departments and the current challenges they are facing. Understanding engenders trust and trust builds up understanding. It is almost impossible to build trust without understanding, and a lack of understanding from both sides surely cannot lead to trust. This is why it is important to establish and maintain close and transparent communications with the people.

The incumbent government is civilian, in nature, and we can see their people-oriented approach to governing the nation. We urge government and civilians alike to foster understanding and mutual respect towards each other, as we tread onwards in developing Myanmar.

■■■

Letkhokgon seaside resort: a place not at a distance

By Khin Maung Htay (Education)

THE author has a natural bent for travelling. My family shares the same view; no efforts are necessary to coordinate once we have holidauys, making me arrange a trip to the seaside. Most of my friends encourage travelling; they are also trippers.

This year the Yangon Kahtein Festival was alive with a teeming crowd. Donations by Myanmar people are amazingly abundant; donations are made once in a blue moon. Some people want the essence of the religion to be covered with superficial knowledge of happiness. Worst of all, they keep on dancing noisily without discipline, bothering the elderly and the young alike. That is why some people have been discussing about enforcement of laws for the use of loudspeakers. That is the reason why I want to stay away from noisy places once we have a long holiday.

Travellogue

I got a gift of a book from writer Shwegu May Hnin; the name of the book is Goodbye America. Sayamagyi wrote a lot of articles,short stories, essays , novels and translated works. The book revealed all findings and experiences during a trip of a month to the eight States of the United States, covering literary talks and discussions. The States she visited included San Francisco, Los Angles, New York, Washington D.C , Buffalo, desert and snowy mountains, panoramic views of Maple Heights, Grand museums, Churches and Shopping centres. Naturally I read a lot about articles on Travellogue.

The rain has not ended yet, winter fogs swirl up the windows, letting me breathe in winter fresh air. Dizziness has disappeared and made mefresh in my mind. Our trip is not bound for America, but rather foggy Yangon-Twantay trip. It is not possible for us to go on a trip to

America. We have to start with what we have in hand. There are many places I have never been to even in our country. Nile, Amazon, Yangtze and Ganges rivers are scenic and beautiful and so is the Ayeyawaddy.

Alps and Indies are beautiful and so are Hkakabo Razi and Gumlun Razi in some ways. The most important thing is to find a beautiful thing and enjoy it.

Letkhokgon

Soon we are going to get to Twantay Bridge; from there to Kunchangon Town. (The trip is estimated by crossing Yangon River to Dalla by Z-craft. The beach is a row of ten houses and have a panoramic view on the horizon of the open sea. There is a beach by the name of Letkhokgon near the sea. The beach is virtually 30 miles away from Yangon; it is situated near the village of Letkhokgon, about 9 miles long.

There is a Myaseintaung island to which a suspension bridge is connected; bird-watching, natural beauty of the environment and mangrove forests can be observed from the bridge. After walking for 15 minutes away from the island, one can have a panoramic view of the open sea.

The Hotel ravaged by cyclone Nargis in 2008 has been reopened as Orchid Adventure Cher Present Hotel on the beach. The beach is known as Muddy Water Resort; rows of tents were built so that they could be used as lodging houses for family members to put up at a reasonable price.

Towards the row of ten houses

We could go to Twantay Bridge via the old circle after crossing the Bayinaung Bridge. After the Bridge, we get to the junction of Hlaingthaya, Dalla and Twantay which covers 11 miles. We drive to Kawhmu after turning to Kanbe Road from Twantay Road which covers 21 miles. From Kawhmu to the row of ten houses is 20 miles away by crossing Warbalouthog road. Now the row of ten houses has been changed as Letkhokgon. We have to drive fast at least for three hours. The road along Twantay Kawhmu and Warbalouthog is good; that of Warbalouthog to the row of ten houses is paved with reinforced concrete. The road is too narrow for two cars to go through when nearing 3 or 4 miles to the Beach.

Letkhokgon Beach Temporary tents and multicolored benches are meticulously arranged along the 9-mile-long beach. Thatched tents are shady and also give spaces for parking lots. You have a panoramic view over the horizon of the sea. Small trawlers can be seen at a distance. Horse-riding, driving cars and motor-boat riding are seen few and far between on the vast beach where many photographers are found here and there.

Different kinds of seafood

Bungalows are available in villages. Shopkeepers on the beach could arrange parking lots and for recreation. Foods available are crabs cooked in different types, fried hilsa and seaweed salads. Drug abuses and sales of alcoholic beverages are not found. Sea Water and Alluvial Soil We got to the beach at about 10am. Sea water lowers four furlongs from the bank. Two furlongs cover sandy soil and another two do muddy alluvium. A shopkeeper told us the tide is coming in, covering two furlongs at 12 noon with little waves. At about one o'clock the sea water reaches towards the temporary tents where people are taking a rest.

At this time, shopkeepers who hire multicolored tubes, descend on the beach. As the sea water nears the bank, the swimmers with their tubes throw themselves into the water. The beach was thronged with the people from tents and lodging houses along the 9-mile-long beach.

A Day of Rest and Recreation

The Letkhokgon Beach is virtually a day-trip from Yangon. It is nearer by crossing to Dalla by Z-craft. One can also use the Kawhmu-Kunchangon Road. Some defects in the beach are that the water is not as clear as that of Chaungtha and Ngwesaung beaches; not much sand is found. The water is muddy, alluvial and not greenish. Except those things, the beach itself is serene and enraptured with rows of palm trees. The sunset over the horizon of the open sea is scenic and beautiful.

A piece of advice

Letkhokgon beach is not a faraway place from Yangon. That is why people could visit there easily. Transportation is good; but without road signs, leaving holidaymakers to ask the way. People heartily answer when they are asked. As the beach is of alluvial soil, the sea water comes in, making it muddy. It is not fit for having a bath near the edge of the beach. There are a lot of man-made waterfalls in the world nowadays. If the beach has been renovated and created with the help of modern technology.

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Translated by Arakan Sein

Food safety: A science and art that must be mastered

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia

Food safety is fundamental to public health. Here's how to secure it

Unsafe food causes a staggering range of disease. From diarrhea to cancer and on to hepatitis, food containing harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemicals is a major threat to public health, both globally and in the WHO South-East Asia Region. Every year, an estimated 420 000 people die worldwide due to foodborne diseases, with the South-East Asia Region accounting for a disproportionate share – some 175 000.

Tackling the problem is more important than ever. The globalized nature of modern food chains, alongside emerging hazards such as antimicrobial resistance and climate change, makes the threat of foodborne diseases increasingly acute. Apart from the potential for foodborne diseases to harm public health within and between countries, their occurrence can also compromise development, trade, nutrition and food security. Informal food production at the community level meanwhile poses an ongoing challenge, with basic hygiene, adulteration and falsification key concerns.

Countries across the Region have been active in addressing the issue. Since 2015, seven of the Region's 11 countries have conducted in-depth assessments of their foodborne disease surveillance and response capacity. All have strengthened their national Codex structure – the standards and guidelines created by the Codex Alimentarius Commission to promote food safety and protect consumers, especially in the context of international trade. Notably, with WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) support, simulation exercises have been carried out to test Region-wide coordination and communication, with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) anchoring all proceedings.

Progress continues. As a show of commitment, more than 30 representatives from nine of the Region's countries are attending WHO-supported conferences on the future of food safety in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February and in Geneva, Switzerland in April. Each event will have significant impact on a range of food-safety-related issues (both globally and in the Region), from dealing with present challenges to aligning food safety strategies across sectors and borders.

Immediate action is both possible and necessary. As outlined in the Region's Flagship Priorities and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda respectively, emergency preparedness must be scaled up and safe and healthy food made accessible to all. To achieve both, several high-impact interventions should be made.

First, food safety management and regulation frameworks should be strengthened. To do this, multi-sectoral action that involves all stakeholders – from food business operators, both formal and informal, to consumers, academics, scientists and the media – is crucial. By actively engaging each of these groups, food safety authorities have the best chance of achieving the integrated management of food supply chains and ensuring any weaknesses are addressed as a matter of priority. Importantly, each stakeholder must know their responsibilities and the standards and regulations to which they are accountable.

> ... foodborne disease surveillance should be strengthened Region-wide. The first step towards securing food safety is knowing when, where, why and how foodborne hazards and resulting illnesses occur.

Second, a risk-based approached to monitoring food safety should be developed and implemented in each of the Region's countries. To that end, monitoring compliance with food safety and quality regulations should begin at the primary production level, with strong partnerships forged between inspection officials and primary producers to identify potential risks and find ways to mitigate them. This collaborative approach, which should begin at the primary producer and end at the point of sale, is the best way to enhance buy-in among all stakeholders. It is also the best way to ensure compliance.

Third, foodborne disease surveillance should be strengthened Region-wide. The first step towards securing food safety is knowing when, where, why and how foodborne hazards and resulting illnesses occur. To make that happen, Member States Region-wide should fully implement the strategies outlined in WHO's manual on strengthening the surveillance of and response to foodborne diseases. That includes the integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in foodborne bacteria. In addition, there is strong potential to increase engagement with the International Network of Food Safety Authorities (INFOSAN) via its communication platforms, as well as to enhance coordination between national INFOSAN and IHR focal points.

And fourth, investing in all aspects of food safety should be better prioritized. Advocacy is crucial to ensure high-level leaders understand that investing in food safety protects and promotes public health as well as sustainable development more broadly. This is especially the case as rapid changes in food production techniques occur, new technologies are adopted, dietary shifts proceed, and antimicrobial resistance and climate change emerge as significant hazards. Substantial, well-thought-out investments (for example in developing food safety legislation and policy, enhancing risk-based inspections and compliance enforcement, or improving laboratory services), are crucial to strengthening and accelerating Region-wide progress.

There is strong support to achieve this objective. At both the regional and global levels, WHO, FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) have established a tripartite coordination mechanism to support food safety activities. As part of that tripartite, WHO will continue to support the Region's Member States reduce food-related illness and death and diminish the risk of national and transnational foodborne disease outbreaks. Like the process of producing food itself, securing food safety is both science and art. Each must be mastered, and safe and healthy food made accessible to all, all of the time.

■■■

EU, Germany reject US call to leave Iran nuclear deal

MUNICH (Germany)—Germany and the EU on Friday rejected an appeal by US Vice President Mike Pence for Europeans to withdraw from the Iranian nuclear deal and isolate Tehran.

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas defended the 2015 agreement under which Iran drastically scaled back its nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief.

EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini said the bloc was determined to preserve the "full implementation" of the deal, saying it was vital to European security.

"Together with the Brits, French and the entire EU we have found ways to keep Iran in the nuclear agreement until today," Maas told the Munich Security Conference.

A day earlier, Pence accused Tehran of planning a "new Holocaust" with its opposition to Israel and regional ambitions in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen.

Maas said that "our goal remains an Iran without nuclear weapons, precisely because we see clearly how Iran is destabilising the region".

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas speaks to the press near the Albert Einstein Memorial in Washington, DC on 6 February 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

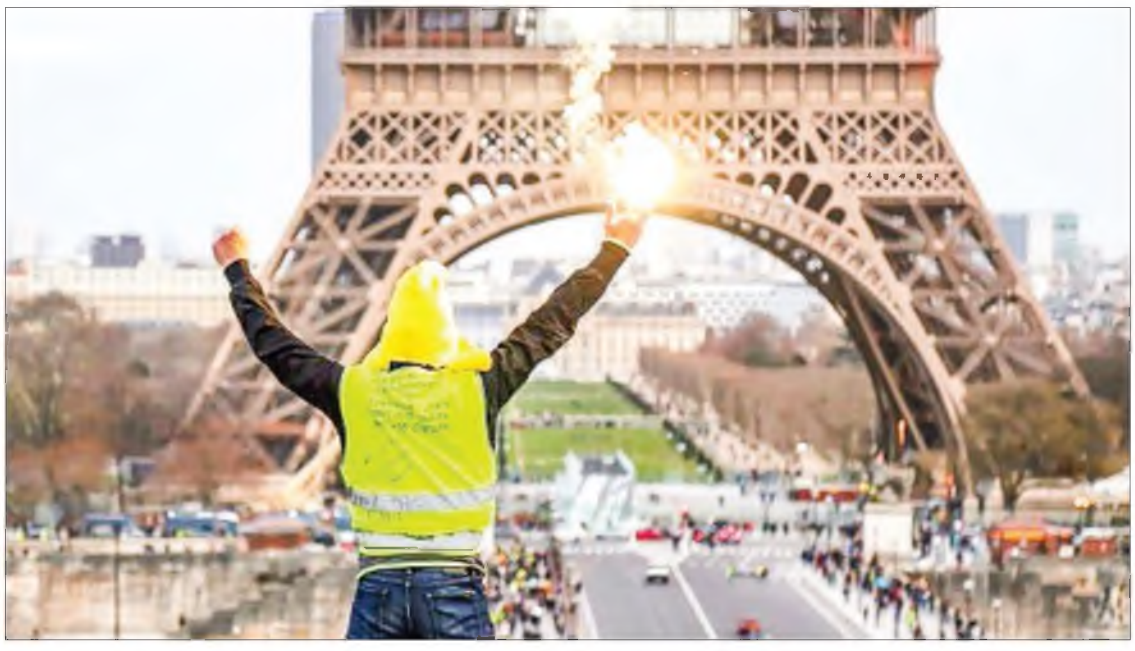
Without this agreement, "the region will not be safer and would actually be one step closer to an open confrontation," he added. Speaking at the same conference, Mogherini said the deal must be preserved, insisting that for Europe "it's a matter of security".

"So you can count on the fact the European Union and its member states will continue to serve the interests of security and non-proliferation... preserving the full implementation" of the deal, Mogherini said.

Pence at a conference on the Middle East in Warsaw on Thursday denounced the retention by the Europeans of the nuclear agreement.

He also criticised the initiative of France, Germany and Britain to allow European companies to continue operating in Iran despite US sanctions.—AFP ■

French to mark three months of 'yellow vest' protests


A poll has found for the first time that more than half of those questioned feel the French "Yellow Vest" protests should end. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS (France)—Demonstrators are to hit French city streets again Saturday, marking three months of "yellow vest" protests as a poll now suggests that most of the country wants them to stop.

The number of those attending the weekly rallies has dropped since 287,000 turned out on 17 November, the first Saturday of protest. And for the first time, a poll found Wednesday that more than half those questioned felt it was time to end the protests.

On 9 February, the 13th weekend of anti-government actions, 51,000 people took to the streets according to police, though protest organisers put the figure at 118,000. Violence has marred nearly every large-scale rally.In Paris, where 4,000 gathered last week, clashes broke out outside the National Assembly building where one demonstrator lost a hand, reportedly as he tried to bat away a stun grenade.

Masked activists tried to break down barriers protecting the parliament but were repelled by police firing tear gas and grenades.As the march continued, vandals burned rubbish bins and cars and smashed bus shelters, cash machines and shop windows along the route. One of the torched vehicles belonged to Sentinelle, an anti-terrorism unit. Interior Minister Christophe Castaner expressed his "indignation and disgust" in a tweet.Some 550 shops have been damaged by protesters in the capital since mid November. Thousands of protesters also turned out in the southern cities of Marseille, Montpellier, Bordeaux and Toulouse —strongholds of the movement—as well as several cities in the north and west of France.The "yellow vest" movement started as a protest against rising fuel taxes, but it has become one of opposition to President Emmanuel Macron's policies.Speaking at a meeting with local mayors on Thursday, Macron said it was time for a "return to reason", adding that authorities would act with "greater firmness" against violent demonstrators. The interior ministry said 1,796 people have been sentenced for rioting or other acts of violence over the past three months, while 1,422 more are awaiting trial. Ex-boxer Christophe Dettinger who became a hero to some protesters after beating up police officers during a demonstration in January was convicted Wednesday and given a one-year prison term.—AFP ■

Brazil arrests eight Vale employees over mining dam disaster

SAO PAULO (Brazil)—Brazilian authorities arrested eight employees of mining giant Vale on Friday over a dam collapse at one of its mines three weeks ago that killed at least 166 people and left 147 missing, presumed dead.

Those apprehended—two executives, two managers and four members of teams that checked the stability of the collapsed dam—were being held to determine responsibility in relation to "hundreds of crimes of aggravated homicide," the prosecutor's office in the affected southeast state of Minas Gerais said in a statement.

It said they would be held in custody for 30 days. Police with warrants were also carrying out searches for evidence, including in Vale's headquarters in Rio de Janeiro.

Information leading to the arrests and warrants came from statements to police by two engineers from a German firm, TUEV SUED, contracted by Vale to inspect and certify the dam. The engineers were arrested four days after the dam's collapse along with three Vale employees for questioning, and were released a week later. Four other TUEV SUED employees in Brazil were being sought by police.

Vale acknowledged the arrests and warrants in a statement. "Vale is fully cooperating with the authorities and will keep contributing to the investigations to ascertain the facts, together with unconditional support for the affected families," it said.

The 25 January dam collapse is Brazil's worst industrial disaster. The reservoir, holding millions of tons of tailings—mineral-laced mining waste—broke apart and washed over the Vale iron ore mine near the town of Brumadinho.Most of those buried under its thick mud were mine workers, though some nearby residents were also engulfed.Emergency crews continue to pick through the mud to look for bodies, but officials have said it was likely not all remains would be recovered.—AFP ■

Trump's border wall 'emergency' faces tough legal hurdles

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump's declaration of an emergency Friday to build a border wall immediately drew legal challenges that could easily escalate into a landmark test of the balance of power between the White House and Congress.Legal experts said it was "unprecedented" for a president to use his emergency powers to overcome Congress's refusal to fund his wishes, in this case a barrier on the US-Mexican border to keep out illegal immigrants.

They also questioned Trump's categorization of the immigration issue as a national emergency and his tapping military funds for a non-military project.Hours after the announcement, the Trump administration faced an investigation by the House Judiciary committee and lawsuits from New York, California and the American Civil Liberties Union. "President Trump is manufacturing a crisis and declaring a made-up 'national emergency' in order to seize power and subvert the constitution," said California Governor Gavin Newsome."California will see you in court."Trump said he expected a legal fight and predicted he would prevail."We will have a national emergency, and we will then be sued," Trump said Friday"Then we will end up in the Supreme Court, and hopefully we will get a fair shake, and we'll win in the Supreme Court."

US President Donald Trump said he expected a legal fight over his border wall but predicted he would prevail. **PHOTO: AFP**

Dangerous precedent

Trump invoked the 1976 National Emergencies Act after Congress refused to allocate his requested $5.7 billion for a wall in a spending bill.The White House says the emergency order empowers it to pull around $6.6 billion from other sources, mostly already-allocated funds in the Defense Department budget. Democrats accused the president of an unconstitutional power grab."The president's actions clearly violate the Congress's exclusive power of the purse," Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, the Democratic leaders in Congress, said in a joint statement. It is a precedent-setting move, said American University law professor Jennifer Daskal, adding that the National Emergencies Act had "never been used in that way, for good reason."Critics warn that Trump opened the door for future presidents to call on the act whenever they fail to get their way with Congress. A frustrated Democratic president might some day invoke it to get funds to fight ongoing "emergencies" of climate change and gun proliferation.The White House dismissed this argument, underscoring how a court showdown might proceed."This actually creates zero precedent. This is authority given to the president in law already," said acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney."It's not as if he just didn't get what he wanted, so he is waving a magic wand and taking a bunch of money." —AFP ■

Gunman kills five in mass shooting at US manufacturing facility

Workers are escorted from the property after a shooting the Henry Pratt Company on 15 February 2019 in Aurora, Illinois. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHICAGO (United States)—Five people were killed and multiple police officers shot Friday when a gunman opened fire in an industrial area on the outskirts of Chicago, the latest mass shooting to hit the United States.

The shooting took place at approximately 1:28 pm (1928 GMT), at a giant manufacturing complex in Aurora, Illinois —a small suburb 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of central Chicago.

Police said officers engaged in a firefight with the suspect, thought to be an employee, before he was shot dead. He was identified as 45-year-old Gary Martin.

Aurora police chief Kristen Ziman said five police officers were shot. Two were air lifted to Chicago-area trauma centers.

"The other officers on the scene located gunshot victims inside the building," Ziman told a news conference, putting the death toll at five people.

Police did not release information on the officers' conditions or identify the victims.

Police said they do not know the motive for the shooting, but witnesses told local media that the gunman was a disgruntled employee. Witnesses said they locked themselves into nearby buildings as the gunman began firing off rounds.

Aerial TV footage showed dozens of police cars, ambulances and fire trucks at the scene as officers with shields entered the complex. John Probst, who was in the building as the shooting began but was able to escape, told the local ABC TV affiliate he recognized the gunman as a co-worker. "What I saw was the guy running down the aisles with a pistol with a laser on it," he said. "We were just scared."

Nancy Caal, an employee of a nearby repair workshop, told the Daily Herald newspaper she and three others had heard numerous emergency sirens, and so "went and shut the front gate and locked all of the doors." — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maduro blasts US for 'stealing' billions and offering 'crumbs'

CARACAS (Venezuela)—Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro hit out at the United States on Friday for "stealing" billions of dollars and offering "crumbs" in return as humanitarian aid.Tons of US aid is piling up in Colombia close to the border with Venezuela as opposition leader Juan Guaido has vowed to defy Maduro's efforts to block the supplies from entering the country."It's a booby trap, they're putting on a show with rotten and contaminated food," said Maduro, speaking at an event in the southeastern town of Ciudad Bolivar."They've stolen $30 billion and are offering four crumbs of rotten food," added the beleaguered socialist leader, referring to the United States.—AFP ■

Police find 66 bodies in NW Nigeria: state governor

ABUJA (Nigeria)—Authorities in northwest Nigeria on Friday said police had discovered the bodies of 66 people, including women and children, in an area known for ethnic and religious clashes.Kaduna state governor Nasir El-Rufai said the grim find was made in eight villages in the Kajuru area, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) southeast of the state capital, Kaduna city."Security agencies today reported the recovery of 66 bodies that were killed in attacks by criminal elements," he said in a statement.—AFP ■

W. House spokeswoman Sanders questioned by special counsel: CNN

WASHINGTON (United States)—Special Counsel Robert Mueller's office has interviewed White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders as part of the investigation into possible connections between President Donald Trump's team and Russia, CNN reported Friday. "The president urged me, like he has everyone in the administration, to fully cooperate with the special counsel. I was happy to voluntarily sit down with them," Sanders told the cable news outlet. The 36-year-old press secretary reportedly was interviewed around the same time that Mueller questioned John Kelly, who at the time was White House chief of staff. He left the post in December.—AFP ■

Abe seeks deeper Japan-Viet Nam ties, enhanced collaboration

HANOI—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Friday he wants Japan and Viet Nam to deepen their already good relations and cooperate to promote regional peace and prosperity.

"A key to the partnership ties between our two countries is contributing to the region's peace and prosperity," Abe told Viet Nam News Agency General Director Nguyen Duc Loi in an exclusive interview in Tokyo, where he is on a working visit.

Since 2014, Japan and Viet Nam have been pursuing an "Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia," under which they have been cooperating on economic, political and security issues, as well as in regional and international fora, while also promoting cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

"I really want to further deepen the relationship between our two countries," Abe said, according to a transcript. "I want our two countries to work together to solve regional and global issues."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) grants an exclusive interview to General Director of the Viet Nam News Agency Nguyen Duc Loi who is paying a working visit to Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

With that in mind, Abe noted that he has invited Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to attend the Group of 20 summit to be held in Osaka in late June as a guest.

Abe said a stable and peaceful Indo-Pacific region is the foundation for ensuring peace and prosperity.

Japan and Viet Nam should thus join hands to create a "free and open" Indo-Pacific region, he said, while also mentioning the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight—an apparent allusion to China's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea that are disputed by Viet Nam and other countries.

Abe hailed the success of Viet Nam's "doi moi" reform policy over the last three decades, crediting it for the country's impressive economic development. —Kyodo News ■

India, Pakistan in UN court for death row 'spy' case

A supporter of Jadhav holds a photograph of himself and the alleged spy along with other friends from the Mumbai neighbourhood where they all grew up. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — India will ask the UN's top court on Monday to order Pakistan to take an alleged Indian spy off death row, in a case that could stoke fresh tensions after a deadly attack in Kashmir.Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav was arrested in the restive southwestern Pakistani province of Baluchistan in March 2016 on charges of espionage and sentenced to death by a military court.The International Court of Justice urgently ordered Pakistan in 2017 to stay the execution of Jadhav, pending hearings on the broader Indian case that take place this week in The Hague. The rare foray into the international courts for the nuclear-armed rivals could be another flashpoint after Thursday's suicide bombing in Indian-administered Kashmir that killed 41 troops.New Delhi's lawyers will present their arguments on Monday to the court, which was set up after World War II to resolve international disputes, followed by Pakistan's on Tuesday

Jadhav, a former Indian navy officer, was accused of working for the Indian intelligence services in the province bordering Afghanistan, where Islamabad has long accused India of backing separatist rebels. After a closed trial he was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on 10 April, 2017, on charges of "espionage, sabotage and terrorism".

India insists Jadhav was not a spy, and that he was kidnapped in Pakistan. New Delhi in court documents is asking that the ICJ order Islamabad to annul the sentence.It accused Islamabad of violating the Vienna Convention by failing to provide him with consular access, as well as breaking human rights law.If Pakistan is unable to quash Jadhav's death sentence, Islamabad should be found in violation of international law and treaties, and be told to "release the convicted Indian national forthwith", India said.

'Release the convicted Indian'

India accused Pakistan in 2017 of harassing Jadhav's family during a visit, saying their meeting was held in an "atmosphere of coercion".Islamabad reacted coolly to the ICJ's urgent order to stay Jadhav's execution at the time, saying it "has not changed the status of commander Jadhav's case in any manner".The ICJ's decision will likely come months after this week's hearings.The death row spy case comes as the troubled ties between India and Pakistan risked taking a dangerous new turn following the bombing near Srinagar.Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned that Pakistan would pay a "heavy price" after local media reported that the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed Islamist group claimed responsibility.—AFP ■

Gas poisoning kills 7 at South China paper mill

GUANGZHOU—Seven people were killed in a gas poisoning case at a paper mill in south China's Guangdong Province Friday night, local authorities said on Saturday

Firefighters received the report of the poisoning at Shuangzhou Paper Co., Ltd. in Zhongtang township in the city of Dongguan, the city's publicity department said. Nine workers were then trapped inside a sewage adjusting tank of the paper factory.

Firefighters pulled them out and sent them to hospital. But seven died after medical treatment failed and the other two are in stable condition. Local government is investigating the cause of the case.—Xinhua ■

Woman killed in wild elephants attack in Thailand

BANGKOK —A woman was found stomped to death by wild elephants by a roadside near a national park in central Thailand's Hua Hin, reports said on Saturday Police found the woman lying face-down in bushes with her shoulders crushed and her skull fractured. Elephants footprints were seen nearby. The woman's husband said she left home on Thursday evening to visit her sick mother and didn't return. He was informed that his wife's body was found the next morning. The couple's house is about five kilometers away from the spot where the woman was killed by the pachyderms. Police said the spot is adjacent to a national park and the area turned into pineapple plantations later.

Villagers are living under threats of wild elephants in Thailand's forest area. The southeastern Asia country has seen the second elephant attack in just 48 hours. Previously, a Buddhist monk of a 19-day seclusion was killed by wild elephants near a Wildlife Sanctuary in Chachoengsao Province in central Thailand. It's estimated that about 3,500 domesticated elephants live in Thailand and roughly 3,340 wild elephants live in 69 wildlife sanctuaries and national parks across the country. —Xinhua ■

Fears flood water runoff could 'smother' Barrier Reef

SYDNEY (Australia) —Runoff from recent floods in northern Australia is flowing onto parts of the Barrier Reef, scientists said Friday, starving coral of light and providing fodder for the predatory crown-of-thorns starfish.

Parts of northern Queensland are still reeling after nearly two weeks of unprecedented rainfall that turned roads into rivers and inundated hundreds of homes with floodwater.Scientists at James Cook University say the floods swelled a number of rivers along hundreds of kilometres of coastline, spilling sediment onto the reef which has reduced water quality and much-needed sunlight."Coral reef and seagrass need light to maintain their growth and health," researcher Jane Waterhouse from James Cook University told AFP. Calm weather following the extended period of rain means the murky water is yet to disperse.

It threatens to "smother" coral in areas worst hit, like at the mouth of north Queensland's Burdekin river, where a brown flood plume has spread some 100 kilometres offshore. "If that were to stay there then eventually, it would not take that long for some of those systems to die off," Waterhouse added.The effects will not be fully

A handout photo shows sediment caused by unprecedented rain and flooding approaching the the Great Barrier Reef. **PHOTO: AFP**

understood until monitoring was completed over the next few of months after sediment has dispersed and settled. The 2,300-kilometre (1,400-mile) reef has already suffered from back-to-back coral bleaching in 2016 and 2017, where swathes have been killed by rising sea temperatures linked to climate change.The predatory crown-of-thorns starfish, which eat coral, have also proliferated on the reef due to pollution and agricultural runoff.

The recent floods have exacerbated the runoff, causing algae to grow in some areas."This provides a brilliant food source to allow those populations to thrive," Waterhouse added.—AFP ■

Indonesian firms owe $1.3 bn in forest damage fines: Greenpeace

The cases were mostly linked to damage from fires that tore through Indonesia in 2015, like the one pictured here. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAKARTA (Indonesia) — Indonesian firms owe at least $1.3 billion in unpaid fines for environmental damage caused by widespread forest clearing and deadly fires linked to tens of thousands of premature deaths, a Greenpeace study said Friday. Citing government data, the environmental group said it examined 11 civil court cases between 2012 and 2018 where palm oil and pulp-and-paper companies were ordered to pay fines to Jakarta.

"However, not one of these forests cases has resulted in compensation being paid," Greenpeace said.The cases were mostly linked to damage from fires that tore through Indonesia in 2015, causing as much as $16 billion in damages to forestry and agriculture, as well as to tourism and other industry, it added, citing World Bank figures. The 2015 blazes destroyed some two million hectares of land and sparked a massive haze outbreak over Singapore and Malaysia, leading to diplomatic frictions. A US academic study estimated that the crisis may have led to more than 100,000 premature deaths."Until today not one company has paid compensation for their role in this catastrophe," Greenpeace said. Most of the $1.3 billion in penalties was attributed to the single case of a firm found to have been engaged in illegal logging that saw vast tracts of forest destroyed. Unpaid compensation is money owed to Indonesians and could be used for large-scale forest restoration and to prevent future damage, it added."By not forcing these companies to pay, the government is sending a dangerous message: company profit comes before law, clean air, health and forest protection," said Greenpeace Indonesia forest campaigner Arie Rompas. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (906S/908N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (906S/908N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1115 W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1115 W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (029 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (029 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BARBOUNY

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BARBOUNY VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RAINBOW MARINE & SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (046N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (046N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-02-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Skaters from North Korea perform during a festival marking the birthday of late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, in Pyongyang **PHOTO: AFP**

North Korea and China in ice dance to the music of diplomacy

PYONGYANG—At the climax of a festival on ice to celebrate late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il on Friday, Olympic skaters from the host nation and neighbouring China swapped partners to dance together. The moment symbolised the markedly improved relations between Beijing and nuclear-armed Pyongyang amid a flurry of diplomacy on and around the peninsula. The four skaters —Ryom Tae Ok and Kim Ju Sik of the North, who qualified for last year's Winter Olympics in the South, and Sui Wenjing and Han Cong, who took the ice dance silver in Pyeongchang — were the star attractions of the pageant.

With portraits of Kim—father and predecessor of current leader Kim Jong Un—and his own father Kim Il Sung looking down on the arena, they smiled and waved together to the crowd at the end of the closing sequence.

A diplomatic dance resumes at the end of the month in Hanoi for a second North Korean-US summit, but in marked contrast to the speculation circulating in Washington and elsewhere, Pyongyang's official KCNA news agency has barely mentioned the meeting.Kim Jong Un had three summits with the South's President Moon Jae-in last year and a historic first meeting with US President Donald Trump in Singapore.The North has yet to announce the date to its own people, and KCNA last referred to the encounter three weeks ago, when it said that a special envoy Kim sent to Washington had "discussed the issue for the second DPRK-US summit".

Viet Nam's foreign minister visited Pyongyang this week, but KCNA again skirted around the subject, saying he had "an in-depth exchange of opinions" on "regional and international issues of mutual concern".

Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear arms and the ballistic missiles to deliver them to the US mainland has left it isolated on the global stage, subject to multiple sets of sanctions from the UN Security Council and other bodies.But relations with China, long its key diplomatic protector and main provider of trade and aid, have improved markedly in recent months, with Kim keen to secure President Xi Jinping's backing in his negotiations with Trump, and Beijing wary of Washington seeking to influence developments in its own back yard. Kim went to China last month for his fourth encounter with Xi in less than a year, and in September Beijing sent a member of the Politburo Standing Committee, its most powerful political body, to attend a military parade in Pyongyang. —AFP■

Oscar organizers struggle to keep show relevant

LOS ANGELES (United States)—From going without a host to handing out key awards during commercial breaks, to a quickly nixed idea for a popular film category—Oscar organizers are struggling to keep Hollywood's biggest night relevant while dealing with a string of messy controversies.

With less than two weeks to go before the February 24 gala, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has been weathering the latest debacle over four awards to be presented off-air -- a decision many in the industry have denounced as "stupid" and "disrespectful."

The awards are Best Cinematography, Best Film Editing, Best Live Action Short, and Best Makeup and Hairstyling.

Academy president John Bailey informed the membership of the plan earlier this week, saying it was in line with a promise to shorten the broadcast to three hours, an hour shorter than previous telecasts.

The decision, however, has been met with derision across the industry, with more than 40 top cinematographers and directors, including Quentin Tarantino and Spike Lee, sending a letter of protest to the Academy

"Relegating these essential cinematic crafts to lesser status in this 91st Academy Awards ceremony is nothing less than an insult to those of us who have devoted our lives and passions to our chosen profession," the open letter read.

Alfonso Cuaron, whose celebrated movie "Roma" has been nominated for 10 Oscars, including best cinematography, said the move amounted to marginalizing key players in the art of moviemaking.

"In the history of CINEMA, masterpieces have existed without sound, without color, without a story, without actors and without music," he tweeted "No one single film has ever existed without CINEMAtography and without editing."—AFP■

Israeli photographer revives archaic art form in border series

NIR AM (Israel)—Edward Kaprov makes a final adjustment to the oversized, traditional-style camera perched on a heavy tripod aimed at an Israeli military jeep near the Gaza border.

"Let's give it a shot," the 43-year-old says as he strides briskly to the tent that serves as his darkroom.

Kaprov, a professional photographer, says he took to the mid-19th century wet-plate collodion process as part of an artistic project to "create a dialogue between the past and future".

The method entails coating a glass plate in liquid substances, fixing it in the camera, exposing it for a few seconds and then developing it—all within 10-15 minutes.

Edward Kaprov, an Israeli photographer, holds one of his images on a glass plate in his field darkroom, near Kibbutz Kissufim, overlooking the northern Gaza border, on 5 February 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Technological advances are all but ignored in the process which has remained nearly unchanged since it was invented in 1851—though Kaprov does use his smartphone as a light meter.

Kaprov unloads a table, basins, coolers and plastic jerrycans from the back of his panel van and deftly sets up his field darkroom in the tent.

He brushes clean the plate and carefully pours the collodion mixture on it.

Then he inserts it into a silver nitrate solution, which upon exposure would turn dark, with the collodion solidifying the forms to the plate.

Kaprov returns to the camera with the black magazine containing the wet glass. He inserts it, pulls out the magazine and leaves the glass in.Covering himself with a blanket as he stoops over the camera, he opens the lens and counts out loud to three before retrieving the glass.

Back in the tent the plate is carefully removed and treated before being taken out into the sun, still immersed in liquid—as the images of the military vehicle and gate appear on the glass.

Borderline disorder

The end product, a piece of glass roughly the size of A4 paper, doesn't reveal the labour put into the process.

"And now, a cigarette," Kaprov sighs in relief as he pats his pockets for his rolling tobacco.

The outdated technique is worth its remarkable hassle to Kaprov, who began a series of Israeli border images nearly 10 years ago using a regular digital camera, and around the year 2015 had something of an epiphany

"I suddenly understood that I had to continue taking the pictures the same way the first images from the Holy Land were produced to create a dialogue between the past and future," he says.He spent a year learning about the technique through books and internet tutorials, experimenting with potent chemicals and assembling the necessary equipment before he was ready to hit the road and resume work on what is now called the Borderline Personalities Disorder series. Kaprov's interest in borders is part of his own quest to define or understand his place in Israel, the country he left his native Siberia for at 17.

"I haven't really found myself since leaving my homeland for my historic homeland. I'm still searching," he says.

With his cropped hair, short beard and trim physique, Kaprov looks every bit the outdoor man he is, spending days in the field seeking interesting frames in the company of his mixed border collie Robin.

"Even my dog is borderline," he says with a grin.—AFP■

Archaeologists discover Incan tomb in Peru

LIMA (Peru)—Peruvian archaeologists discovered an Incan tomb in the north of the country where an elite member of the pre-Columbian empire was buried, one of the investigators announced on Friday

The discovery was made on the Mata Indio dig site in the northern Lambayeque region, archaeologist Luis Chero told state news agency Andina. Archaeologists believe the tomb belonged to a noble Inca based on the presence of "spondylus," a type of sea shell always present in the graves of important figures from the Incan period, which lasted from the 12th to the 16th centuries.The tomb had been broken into multiple times, possibly in search of treasure. But despite evidence of looting, archaeologists recovered items including vases.

The tomb also had unique architecture including hollows for the placement of idols.Chero said the findings "demonstrate the majesty and importance of this site," located 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) north of the capital Lima, and 2,000 kilometers from Cusco—capital of the Inca empire which stretched from southern Colombia to central Chile.—AFP ■

Undated picture distributed on 15 February 2019 by Peruvian news agency Andina of a recently discovered burial chamber belonging to the Inca period at the "Mata Indio" archeological site in Lambayeque region, Peru. **PHOTO: AFP**

Researchers keeps wraps on automatic text generator to prevent misuse

WASHINGTON—Researchers this week announced they had developed an automatic text generator using artificial intelligence which is very good — so good, it is keeping details private for now. That software developed by OpenAI could be used to generate news stories, product reviews and other kinds of writing which may be more realistic than anything developed before by computer.

Researchers who developed an artificial intelligence program capable of generating realistic text are keeping it secret for now. **PHOTO: AFP**

OpenAI, a research centre backed by Tesla's Elon Musk, Amazon and Microsoft, said the new software "achieves state-of-the-art performance on many language modelling benchmarks," including summarisation and translating.But it will not be releasing the program to the public.

"Due to our concerns about malicious applications of the technology, we are not releasing the trained model," the OpenAI researchers said in a blog post Thursday.The news suggested a potential breakthrough in efforts to develop computer-generated text which may be believable, but also potentially dangerous.

The researchers said there were numerous ways the program could be used for nefarious purposes, including to generate fake news articles, impersonating others online, and automating fake content on social media.

In one example, the program was fed one paragraph about "a herd of unicorns living in a remote, previously unexplored valley, in the Andes Mountains" and wrote a 300-word news story about it.

"The public at large will need to become more sceptical of text they find online, just as the 'deepfakes' phenomenon calls for more scepticism about images," the researchers wrote, referring to AI-manipulated videos, which have been on the rise.

The researchers said their model called GPT-2 "outperforms other language models" trained on tasks such as Wikipedia entries, news, or books without needing any specific training.

The OpenAI news is the latest showing how computers have gained in language ability, and follows a strong performance from IBM's Project Debater in a public competition with a professional debate champion.—AFP ■

NASA's lunar orbiter has its third, overhead look on China's Chang'e-4 probe

WASHINGTON —The United States space agency NASA said Friday that its lunar orbiter has observed the landing site of China's Chang'e-4 lunar probe for the third time, capturing a much sharper view.

NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) passed nearly overhead the Chang'e-4 landing site on Feb. 1, giving a 0.85-meter per pixel picture of the lander and Yutu-2 rover or Jade Rabbit-2 from an attitude of 82 kilometers, according to NASA. This view had close to the smallest pixel size possible in the current LRO orbit.

NASA said the rover was 29 meters northwest of the lander, but the rover had likely moved since the image was acquired.

According to NASA, the LRO will continue to image the site as the lighting changes and the rover roves. On 30 and 31 January, the LRO snapped the landing site for the first and second time respectively, but both in a slant angle, according to NASA.

Chang'e-4 set down on a relatively small farside mare basalt deposit. NASA hoped that China's probe could find out the composition of farside basalts with its visible near infrared spectrometer. China's Chang'e-4 probe, launched on 8 December in 2018, landed on the Von Karman Crater in the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side of the moon on 3 January.

NASA announced its plan last month to cooperate with Chinese space authorities to observe a signature of the landing plume of Chang'e-4's lunar lander.—Xinhua ■

New species of Angolan 'horned' spider unearthed

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa)—South African researchers have revealed the discovery of a new species of spider with an unusual horn-like protrusion on its back from the forests of central Angola, considered the first of its kind.

Named 'Ceratogyrus attonitifer', the arachnid belongs to the group known as the horned baboon spiders that possess a type of protuberance, but nothing like the softer and longer protrusion of this species.

"So this spider is absolutely unique in the world. It has this huge horn sticking out the middle of its head and no other spider in the world has anything like that," South African national biodiversity institute arachnologist Dr Ian Engelbrecht told AFP.

"There are other species that have a horn on the carapace but that's a muscular structure... This structure looks like it's full of fatty tissue."

Researchers first came across the odd looking spider in 2015 when collecting specimens as part of surveys done in the Okavango catchment, straddling Angola, Namibia and Botswana.

Several female specimens from the Miombo forests of central Angola were collected out of burrows for the Okavango Wilderness Project. —AFP ■

Myanmar head coach Popov: Looking forward to victory in AFF U-22 tourney

THE head coach of the Myanmar U-22 national football team has spoke of his confidence in the Myanmar team winning at the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) U-22 Championship in Cambodia. A press conference for the tournament was held yesterday at the Sunway Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and authorities from team Myanmar and its competitors attended.

Myanmar U-22 Head Coach Velizar Popov seen at the press conference for the AFF U-22 Championship in Cambodia. **PHOTO : MFF**

Group B includes hosts Cambodia, along with Malaysia, Myanmar and Indonesia.

During the conference, Myanmar head coach Velizar Popov said, "I had two weeks with the players in what is a very competitive group. But it will be a very good test for us." "There are no excuses in football. When they are on the field, the players must perform," he added.

Cambodian head coach Felix Dalmas noted, "We are looking at growth. We have some players from the recent AFF Suzuki Cup and we look forward to playing against some great teams here. We are looking to close the gap against the rest of the teams in the region." Malaysian head coach Datuk Ong Kim Swee added, "I would like to thank the AFF for this tournament. It is an important championship, as this allows us to prepare for AFC qualifiers. Every country here has improved, so it is important that we adapt." Indonesian head coach Indra Sjafri noted, "We have brought with us the best possible players. And as was said earlier, all teams here have improved. I believe that this is the best venue for us to prepare a squad for the AFC qualifiers, and also the SEA Games." In the first match for Myanmar, its team will take on Indonesia tomorrow.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Myanmar faces Australia in AFC U-19 Women's Championship round 2 qualifiers

MYANMAR women's national football team will face the Australia women national football team in the round 2 qualifiers of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship.

The Round 2 Qualifiers will be played over three match days from April 26 to 30.

Altogether, eight teams learned of their opponents for the next phase of qualifying, following the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Thailand 2019 Qualifiers Round 2 official draw at AFC House on Wednesday.

Myanmar will host the Group A matches of the qualifiers, and the Group A includes host Myanmar, along with Australia, Nepal and Uzbekistan.

Viet Nam will host the Group B matches, in which two-time champions Korea Republic, as well as Iran and Lebanon, are placing together with Viet Nam.

Myanmar is expecting to win the group, or likely win the group with a runners-up position, as Australia is the strongest team in the group, which finished in fourth place in the 2017 edition.

For the final round of qualifiers, eight teams have been divided into two groups of four teams, with the group winners and runners-up joining host nation Thailand, along with reigning champions Japan, DPR Korea and China PR in the Finals in October.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Spieth, Kang share lead at rainy Riviera as Woods waits

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Stand-out Fijian centre Semi Radradra is part of a potentially thrilling midfield combination with ex-All Black Seta Tamanivalu on which Bordeaux-Begles are banking to guide them into a Top 14 play-off spot.While Radradra, the former Parramatta Eels and once-capped Australian rugby league star, has settled in at Bordeaux following his move from Top14 rivals Toulon, it hasn't been quite plain sailing for Fiji-born five-times capped All Black Tamanivalu. Tamanivalu touched down in southwest France in the autumn with a niggling back injury and has started just once in the Top 14, twice coming on as a replacement, whilst also playing two European Challenge Cup games. On paper, Tamanivalu and Radradra look sure to make a dynamic pairing in midfield once the former properly finds his feet in France, having signed a three-year contract. Radradra has gone from strength to strength since officially crossing codes, having always had a base in union, playing for the Barbarians before progressing to the Fijian national side and also turning out for the sevens team.

US golfer Jordan Spieth. **PHOTO: AFP**

Radradra was part of the Fiji XV that racked up a historic first-ever victory over France in November, creating space with ball in hand and scoring a decisive try in the 21-14 win. "I told him that I was waiting for to him to be like that with Bordeaux!" said club teammate Baptiste Serin, who played scrum-half for France that fateful night. Bordeaux's veteran Australian fly-half Brock James, who now also helps coach the club's backline, added: "From that moment, we've see the great Semi Radradra." Bordeaux president Laurent Marti was in no doubts about what Radradra brought to the club, who are away to James' former club Clermont in league action this weekend.

"When you watch his games, you feel he worries the opposing side, he creates doubts," Marti said.—AFP ■

Coach Valverde extends stay at Barcelona

MADRID (Spain)—Spanish champions Barcelona announced Friday they have extended the contract of coach Ernesto Valverde for another season with the option of one more. Valverde, who took over at the Camp Nou in 2017 after joining from Athletic Bilbao, won the league and cup double last season."FC Barcelona and Ernesto Valverde, the first team coach, have reached an agreement to extend the contract between the two parties for another season (2019/20) with the option for one more (2020/21)," the club said in a statement.Valverde's previous contract would have expired at the end of this season.He came within a whisker of leading Barca to an undefeated 2017/2018 season when only a defeat late in the season at Levante prevented the team from making history. Barca's run of scoring in 37 consecutive matches in the league came to an end last Sunday with a goalless draw away to Athletic Bilbao.—AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

eBook: Is it better to be read than a printed book?

By Htet Zaw Htoo (SUOE)
Senior Assisant Teacher at B.E.H.S. Minemaw

ADVANCES in technology have been growing day by day all over the world. An obvious example of such technological development is computer, mobile Internet and smartphones. Modern technology gets people's daily activities to depend more on electronic devices. Electronic banking, electronic publishing, electronic cash, electronic sport and so on are on everyone's lips nowadays. Likewise, books are published widely as electronic publishing and electronic books, shortened as e-books, and electronic magazines, shortened as e-magazines, become popular among not only light readers but also avid ones. Bringing lots of benefits to the book readers, reading printed books develop into reading electronic books, but on the other hand reading e-books make side effects for the readers too.

One major advantage of reading e-books is that it does reduce time consuming. In the olden days, especially before Internet and electronic devices were widely used, it used to be very difficult and time consuming to get and collect information. People had to go to the libraries and turn on many pages of the books to find the information they needed. However, nowadays, they can get the information they need through surfing the Internet at once. They can easily look for what they want by just clicking each topic described in electronic books. In addition, people have more chances to read books even when they have no money to buy the original printed books. Today most of the books are scanned and changed into electronic books and then they are uploaded to get downloaded in some websites. As a result, it is easy for a person to read a book even if he is not able to buy the original printed book because he is flat broke.

Nevertheless, reading electronic books has many side effects however it is widely used nowadays. The major or worst disadvantage of reading electronic books is that it badly affects our eyes. Blue light from smartphone and computer screens get people's eyes hurt. Some people try to get around the blue-light problem by dimming their screens or wearing special glasses. But there is no proof that these work. What is more, reading electronic books make people hard to sleep. Light from electronic screens comes in all colors, but the blues are the worst. Blue light fools the brain into thinking it i`s daytime. When that happens, the body stops releasing a sleep hormone called melatonin. Melatonin is nature's way of helping us wind down and prepare for bed. The body starts releasing it a couple of hours before bedtime. Darkness helps trigger the release of melatonin; blue light delays it. In addition, electronic books are likely to be less appreciated than printed books because they can be got more easily than printed books. When a person has finished reading a printed book, he puts it somewhere like the bookshelf. As a result, it gets him to notice that book and read again as the second time. On the contrary, it is more difficult for him to notice, search and read the electronic books which have been saved in his computer or smartphone because he has already stored songs, movies, photos and others together in his smartphone memory. Last but not the least, it is undeniable that reading a printed book by holding it in our hands gives us more pleasure than reading electronic books on electronic screens.

SEE PAGE- S-3

Design:BT

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Parallel Comparisom
(နှစ်ဖက်ယှဉ်ပြိုင် နှိုင်းယှဉ်ခြင်း)
(The more/ er... the more / er ပုံစံ)

1. If you read a lot, you know a lot.
   The more you read, the more you know.
   သင်ပို့ဖတ်လေလေ၊ သင်ပို့သိလေလေ၊
2. If you love more, you suffer more.
   The more you love, the more you suffer.
   သင်ပို့ချစ်လေလေ၊ သင်ပို့ခံရလေလေ၊
3. If he works hard, he will get more marks.
   The harder he works, the more marks he will get.
   သူပို့ကြိုးစားလေလေ၊ သူ ပို့အမှတ်ကောင်းကောင်းရလေလေ၊
4. If she eats a lot, she will become fat.
   The more she eats, the fatter she will become.
   သူမ ပို့များများစားလေလေ၊ သူမ ပို့ဝလာလေလေ (ဖြစ်လိမ့်မည်။)

(A) ကြိယာများနှင့် ER တည်၍မရသော adjective နှင့် adverb ရှေ့တွင် The more ကိုတည်၍ clause (ပုဒ်စု) များရှေ့သို့ တုတ်ရသည်။
(1) တွင် a lot အစား The more ကိုတည်၍ နှစ်ဖက်စလုံးတွင် ရှေ့တုတ်ထားသည်။
The more you read, the more you know.

(B) ER တည်၍ရသော adjective နှင့် adverb များကိုနောက်မှ ER ထည်၍ The ကို ရှေ့မှာကပ်လည့်ကာ clause (ပုဒ်စု) ရှေ့သို့ ယုတ်ရသည်။
(No.3) တွင် hard မှာ er တည်၍ရသော adverb ဖြစ်သဖြင့် ER တည်ကာ The နှင့်တွဲ၍ he works တူသော clause (ပုဒ်စု) ရှေ့သို့တုတ်တားသည်။
The harder he works, the more marks he will get.
ဒုတိယ caluse တွင် more ပါ၍ the နှင့်တွဲတာ နောက်မှ နာမ် (marks) ကိုပါ clause ရှေ့ထုတ်တားသည်။

(C) clause နှစ်ခုကြားတွင် comma တည်ရသည်။
(D) a lot, a lot of, plenty of စသည်တို့အစား more သုံးရသည်။
(E) little အစား less သုံးရသည်။
ဥပမာ
If you spend little, you can save a lot.
The less you spend, the more you can save.
သင်ပို့၍ လျော့နည်းသုံးလေလေ၊ သင်ပို့၍ စုနိုင်လေလေ။ Little အစား less ကိုသုံး၍ a lot အစား more သုံးရသည်။
(F) If, when, as, စသည်စာကြောင်းဆက် စတားလုံးများကို ဖြုတ်ပစ်ရသည်။
(G) clause (ပုဒ်စု) တွင် is, are, was, were များပါလာလျှင် ပြုပ်တားရသည်။ ဖော်သုံးရန်မလို။
ဥပမာ
1. If the night is dark, the danger is great.
   The darker the night, the greater the danger.
   ညသည် ပို့မှောင်လေလေ၊ အန္တရာယ်သည် ပို့၍ကြီးမားလေလေ။
(အသံတွက် ဖတ်ကြည်ပါ။ ပုဒ်စုတစ်ခုတွင် စာလုံးလေးလုံးပါတတ်သည်ကို သတ်ပြုပါ။)
2. If the sun is high, the day is hot.
   The higher the sun, the hotter the day.
   နေပို့မြင့်လေလေ၊ နေ့သည်ပို့၍ပူလေလေ။
3. If the book is thick, the price is high.
   The thicker the book, the higher the price.
   စာအုပ်ပို့၍ တူလေလေ၊ ဈေးပို့ကြီးလေလေ။
4. If the price is high, the quality is good.
   The higher the price, the better the quality
   ဈေးပို့ကြီးလေလေ၊ အရည်အသွေးပို့ကောင်းလေလေ။
5. If the news item is important, the headline is big.
   The more important the news item, the bigger the headline.
   သထင်းပို့အရေးကြီးလေလေ၊ ခေါင်းပို့ကြီးလေလေ။
6. If the night is dark, the dawn is near.
   The darker the night, the nearer the dawn.
   ညသည် ပို့မှောင်လေလေ၊ အရုဏ်ဦးနှင့် ပို့နီးလေလေ။

(H) သို့ရာတွင် he, she, they, it စသည်နာမ်စားများနှင့် တွဲလျှင်မူ တွဲသည် ဘတ်တွင် is, are, was, were တို့တို့ မမြှုပ်ရ။ တျန်ဘက်တွင် မြှုပ်ရသည်။
ဥပမာ
If a girl is prettier, she is prouder.
The prettier a girl, the prouder she is.
မိန်းတလေးတစ်ယောတ် ပို့လှလေလေ၊ ပို့မာနကြီးလေလေ။

အားလုံးကို တပ်မံလေ့လာပါ။
1. When we know more about man, we love dogs more.
   The more we know about man, the more we love dogs.
   တို့ လူအကြောင်း ပိုသိလာလေလေ၊ ခွေးကိုပို့ချစ်လာလေလေ။
2. If a place is near to the epicentre, the damage is great.
   The nearer a place to the epicentre, the greater the damage.
   နေရာတစ်နေရာသည် ငလျင်ဗဟို့ချက်နှင့်ပို့နီးလေလေ၊ ပျက်စီးမှုသည် ပို့ကြီးမားလေလေ။
3. If people grow old, they should become wise.
   The older people grow, the wiser they should become.
   လူများအသက်ပို့ကြီးလာလေလေ၊ ပညာပို့ရှိလာ သင့်လေလေ။
4. If you work hard, you will earn more.
   The harder you work, the more you will earn.
   သင်ပို့ပြင်းတန်စွာ အလုပ်လုပ်လေလေ၊ သင်ဝင်ငွေ ပို့ရလေလေ။
5. If the salary is high, the responsibility is great.
   The higher the salary the greater the responsibility
   လစာပို့မြင့်လေလေ၊ တာဝန်ပို့ကြီးလေလေ။
6. If you eat less, you become thinner.
   The less you eat, the thinner you become.
   သင်ပို့လျော့စားလေလေ၊ သင်ပို့ပိန်လာလေလေ။

(ဖြစ်လိမ့်မည်)
(အောတ်ပါနှစ်ပုဒ်မှာ ပြောင်းလဲပုံအနည်းငယ်တူးခြားသဖြင့် အလွတ်ကျက်သင့်သည်။)

7. If the meat is near to the bone; it is sweet.
   The nearer to the bone, the sweeter the meat.
   အရိုးနှင့်ပို့နီးလေလေ၊ အသားသည် ပို့ချိုလေလေ။
8. If people are near to the church, they are far from God.
   The nearer to the church, the farther from God.
   ဘုရားရှိခိုးကျောင်းနှင့် ပို့နီးလေလေ၊ ဘုရားသခင်နှင့် ဝို့ဝေးလေလေ။

လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းများလုပ်ကြည်ပါ။
အောတ်ပါစာကြောင်းများတို့ The more/ er – the more/ er ပုံစံပြင့် ဆတ်ပေးပါ။
(အဖြေကို အောတ်တွင်ပေးတားပါသည်။)
1. If we get more, we want more.
2. If a bus is big, it can carry more passengers.
3. If the quality is good, the price is high.
4. If the farmers are healthy, they will work hard.
5. If they work hard, they will produce more.
6. If they produce more, we can export more.
7. If we can export more, we shall earn more foriegn exchange.
8. If we earn more foreign exchange, we can import more machines and other necessities.
9. If you leave early, you will arrive there early.
10. If a pagoda is famous, it draws large crowds.
11. If you arrive soon, we can start early.
12. If a battle is fierce, the victory is sweet.

Answer
1. The more we get, the more we want.
2. The bigger the bus, the more passengers it can carry.
3. The better the quality, the higher the price.
4. The healthier the farmers, the harder they will work.
5. The harder they work, the more they will produce.
6. The more they produce, the more we can export.
7. The more we can export, the more foreign exchange we shall earn.
8. The more foreign exchange we earn, the more machines and other necessities we can import.
9. The earlier you leave, the earlier you will arrive there.
10. The more famous a pagoda, the larger the crowds it draws.
11. The sooner you arrive, the earlier we can start.
12. The more fierce a battle, the sweeter the victory.

Adjective phrases
နာမဝိသေသနဝါတျပြတ်များ

Phrase ဆိုသည်မှာ ကြိယာ မပါသော စတားလုံး အစုအဝေးဖြစ်သည်။ နာမဝိသေသန တစ်လုံး၏ နေရာကိုဝင် ယူသောကြောင့် နာမဝိသေသနဝါတျပြက် (adjective phrase) တုခေါ်ခြင်းပြစ်သည်။
Adjective များတို့ (Noun form) နာမ်ပုံစံသို့ ပြောင်း၍ in, on, of, with, စသည့်ဝိဘတ်များနှင့်တွဲတာ ဝိသေသပြုရမည်နာမ်နောက်မှ တပ်တည်ရသည်။
Adjective phrase များသည် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် အရေးကြီးသဖြင့် ဂရုတစိုက် လေ့လာသင့်ပါသည်။
ဥပမာ -
Mary is a blue-eyed girl.
မေရီသည် မျက်လုံးပြာသော မိန်းတလေးတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
Mary is a girl with blue eyes.
မေရီသည် မျက်လုံးပြာနှင့်မိန်းတလေးတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
(with blue eyes သည်ရှေ့မှ a girl တူသောနာမ်တို့ ဝိသေသဖြုသည့် adjective phrase ဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့အတူ
They are homeless people.
သူတို့သည် နေအိမ်မရှိသော လူများဖြစ်သည်။
They are people without homes.
(Without homes သည်ရှေ့မှ people ကို ဝိသေသဖြုသည်။)

ဆတ်လတ်လေ့လာပါ။
1. She is a beautiful girl.
   She is a girl of beauty. (She is a girl of great beauty.)
   သူမသည် လှပသော မိန်းတလေးတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
2. She is a wealthy woman.
   She is a woman of great wealth.
   သူမသည် ချမ်းသာသော အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ဦးဖြစ်သည်။
3. He is an important man.
   He is a man of great importance.
   သူသည် အရေးကြီးသော သူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
4. Ko Ko is an honest man.
   Ko Ko is a man of honesty.
   ကိုကိုသည် ရိုးသားသော လူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
5. Nyi Nyi is a courageous soldier.
   Nyi Nyi is a soldier of great courage.
   ညီညီသည် သတ္တိရှိသော စစ်သားတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
6. He is a wise man.
   He is a man of wisdom.
   သူသည် ပညာရှိသော လူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
7. Khin Khin is a kind-hearted girl.
   Khin Khin is a girl with a kind heart.
   ခင်ခင်သည် ကြင်နာသည် နှလုံးသားရှိသော မိန်းတလေးတစ်ယောတ်ဖြစ်သည်။
8. It is a wooden table.
   ဒါတာ သစ်သားစားပွဲတစ်လုံးပဲ။
   It is a table made of wood.
   ဒါတာ သစ်သားနှင့် လုပ်တားတဲ့စားပွဲတစ်လုံးပဲ။
အတက်ပါပုံစံတွင် table နောက်တွင် Verb 3 လိုက်တားသည်။ is, are, was, were မပါသပြင့် adjective phrase ပင်ဖြစ်သည်။

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

Don't Make The Leaf Cover Over The Stalk

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VALENTINE'S Day was celebrated recently with fervour in memory of martyrdom of Saint Valentine. It is celebrated on 14th of February, every year. Initially the day was celebrated in USA and UK only. But with the globalization and increasing technology and media coverage, there is hardly any part of the world where it is obscure. Though, there are many versions of the festival. In some countries it is related with commencement of spring, while in others it is celebrated as an agriculture festival.

The exact historic evolvement of the day is murky. There are numerous priests in the history with the name Valentine or Valentinus. It is hard to make a specific relation with any of these priests as little historical record is available about them. But the most commonly accepted version is that Saint Valentine was a priest of Rome in 3rd century in the reign of Emperor Claudius II. The emperor had an opinion that bachelor men make a better army than the married one. So, in view of expanding his army base, he prohibited the marriage of young men and forced them to join army to serve the nation. Saint Valentine was however against his autocratic law and he continued to perform marriages of the young couples in secret. When Claudius discovered his actions and intentions he ordered death penalty for the priest. Therefore, the day is celebrated in remembrance of the martyrdom of the priest for love.

There is another version of the story. Saint Valentine was jailed in the rule of Claudius where he healed the blind girl and fell in love with her. The girl was the daughter of jailer. Valentine wrote his love letter from the jail to the girl and signed it as 'from your Valentine'. The phrase is followed in the present generations while sending a love message or greeting card in the same format.

The other version is that the day is nothing but the Christianized form of an ancient Roman festival known as 'Lupercalia Festival'. The festival is celebrated as the commencement of spring and purification.

While there is another view, according to which mid-February is the mating season of birds in France and England. Thence the day is thought to be derived from the same fact.

The oldest known reference of Valentine is a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife in 1415. He wrote it when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London after facing a defeat at Battle of Agincourt. The manuscript is preserved in the British Library of London.

In India, the day got prominence from the year 1992 only. It was the increasing effect of multi-national companies that mint a large profit in western countries on this day. It is the second largest festival celebrated after Christmas in the West. However, Valentine Day is gaining popularity among young lovers in the country also but it has been ardently opposed by various Hindu and Islamic traditionalists. They consider it as a threat to the values and cultures of their society. Some intellectuals also perceive it as the slavery mentality of the masses for western influence. According to them it only highlights the economic disparity in the society and creates a grudge among the urban and rural class of the society.

All in all, I would like to let Myanmar people especially the teenagers understand that we have not exactly known the history of the Valentine's Day. However, some of the Myanmar young people are enthusiastic to celebrate the Day as our tradition. I accept the aspect of globalization but there is a Myanmar saying "Don't make the leaf cover over the stalk." Therefore, one should not stay enjoyed on the tradition that is not associated with and is different from Myanmar culture. What is more, every Myanmar young person should understand the bold words mentioned in the above paragraph and contemplate our behaviours as much as we could. ■

FROM PAGE- S-1

Experience taught us that life is very fair. There are always two sides. Therefore, reading both electronic books and printed books have advantages and drawbacks. Taking everything into account, reading electronic books are efficient in finding what we want to read without delay. However, it is harmful to our eyes and it should not be used for long-term reading. Despite the fact that printed books probably may not be got easily and be high-priced, they are not bad for eyes and get easily noticed to read again. All in all, I think that printed books are better to be read than electronic books and it is impossible to replace completely the role of printed books with electronic books. ■

17 FEBRUARY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

The Salons: Sea Gypsies of Myanmar

By Khin Maung Myint
Photo : Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

MOST of the people of Myanmar may not have been to the beautiful and awe-inspiring Myeik Archipelago, where the Andaman Sea is studded with numerous pristine emerald islands, where many breath-taking white sand beaches remain to be explored. Nor, they may neither have any knowledge of the existence of a semi-primitive tribe—the Salons—Sea Gypsies of Myanmar. Today as tourism is opening up into virgin territories, those places are becoming tourist destinations. As more and more people are expected to come in contact with those people, they should have some ideas who the Salons are.

The Salons are nomads who never stayed put in one place for long, but always hopping from island to island in their dugouts. The Salons mostly spent their lives on their boats, which are their permanent homes. They roamed freely on the sea in an area straddling Thailand and Myanmar. According to the local people, the Salons are very skilled in sailing, swimming, diving and hunting. They are hunter-gatherers, who live off the sea and the islands by foraging and hunting, both on land and sea. It is said that the Salons can dive deeper and stay underwaters longer than the average person.

They gather sea cucumbers, conch, mother of pearls, shells, sea urchins and other marine animals including fish, squids, octopuses and the likes, by diving underwater. They also gather sea turtle eggs, collects birds' nests and hunt wild boars, deers and other small mammals that are abound on those islands with the help of their well-traind dogs. They sell or barter their goods with commodities they need in the neighbouring country, where they fetch good prices. They have no restrictions what-so-ever to enter or leave that country at will.

Before I had a chance to meet those semi-primitive people of the sea, in my imaginations they were muscular, stout, fierce and intimidating like any other primitive people. However, over five decades ago, when I first came in contact with them, my imaginations were shattered. They were diminutive, meek, timid and not at all resembling the intimidating and fierce people I had imagined them to be. Though they can have all the fish and meat as much as they can gather and hunt, they seemed to be malnourished and in poor health. As hunter-gatherers, they were not much into farming in those days. Thus their diets were unbalanced, lacking in health enhancing vegetables and herbs. Almost everyone—men, women and children were covered in scabies, and sores from mosquito and insect bites all over their bodies.

I had noticed that both males and females were scantily clad in tiny loin cloths with their upper bodies bared. I had seen Salon families living on a cramped boathouse together with their hunting partners and pets—the dogs, and feeding them with the same plates they eat. However, they got more civilized later and started to dress in longyis or sarongs and blouses. These changes were the results of the educations and clothings provided to them by the authorities.

Being nomads they were always island-hopping in those days. Their favourite haunts were in the lower parts of the Myeik Archipelago, mostly around Lampi Island and Zardet Gyi (St. Mathew) Island close to Kawthaung. Today, as they are now being settled in a permanent village on an island, where there are modern day facilities they may not be doing much island-hopping as in the past.

The tales that they can stay underwater for very long durations and dive up to great depths were just myths. This I knew for sure as I had tried them out myself, by making them dive in very clear and calm sea to test their abilities. However, as the Salon children can swim even before they can walk, they probably are more adaptable and more at home in the seas, thus they are more agile and comfortable in the sea than on land. One peculiarity about them is, they were never seen climbing trees. If they want to gather edible fruits from a tree, they would fell the tree rather than climb. The myths apart, the Salons are very interesting and mysterious people. Their boat building abilities are admirable and their language, the Austronesian language, is very intriguing.

Firstly, I'll discuss briefly about their boats or rather boathouses. They are dugouts made from the whole tree trunk, reinforced on the the sides from bow to stern with balsa woods and bamboos stacked one above the other for extra space, added buoyancy and strength. I had witnessed the seaworthiness of their boats as they negotiate the heavy seas and winds easily, while most larger vessels would not put out to seas. Their boat-building skills are praiseworthy for semi-primitive people to have mastered.

Secondly, the Austronesian language they speak is very intriguing. It is shared by other sea nomads like them who live in the seas around Southern Malaysia, Indonesia, Borneo, Sulawesi, Southern Philippines and some islands in the Pacific and Oceania. The Salons belong to a race known as Moken or Mawken in Myanmar and Thailand, and are thought to be closely related to the Orang lauts and Sama-Bajaus found in seas around Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. While the Myanmars call them Salons, the Thais call them "Thai mai", which means "New Thais". The Salons are mostly spirit worshipers.

As Austronesian language is also known to be spoken by some natives in Madagascar in East Africa and Sri Lenka, it can be assumed that they were originally from there. They

were thought to have migrated to our seas and islands about 4000 years ago, though some said they migrated overland from China 4000 years ago and spread throughout maritime South East Asia. Thus their Austronesian ancestry and language remains a mystery

Some historical records said the present day Phuket Island in Thailand was used to be called Jungceylon, where the Salons used to live in the old days. In ancient times these people were greatly feared by the sea-farers from Europe and Persia, who traveled to those places in search of spices and herbs to trade. They raided, pirated and massacred the foreigners who entered into their territories. Here, it is another mystery: how the once fierce warlike people turned into timid and meek people of today?

Though who these Salons or the Seas Gypsies are, will still remain a mystery, one thing for certain is that they are one of our national races. Their populations have dwindled rapidly and in my rough estimates, they may number only 2 to 3 thousands today As minorities and being nomads, they had been neglected until lately. Also, apart from some minor researches, proper and large scale research into their past history is never known to have been undertaken.

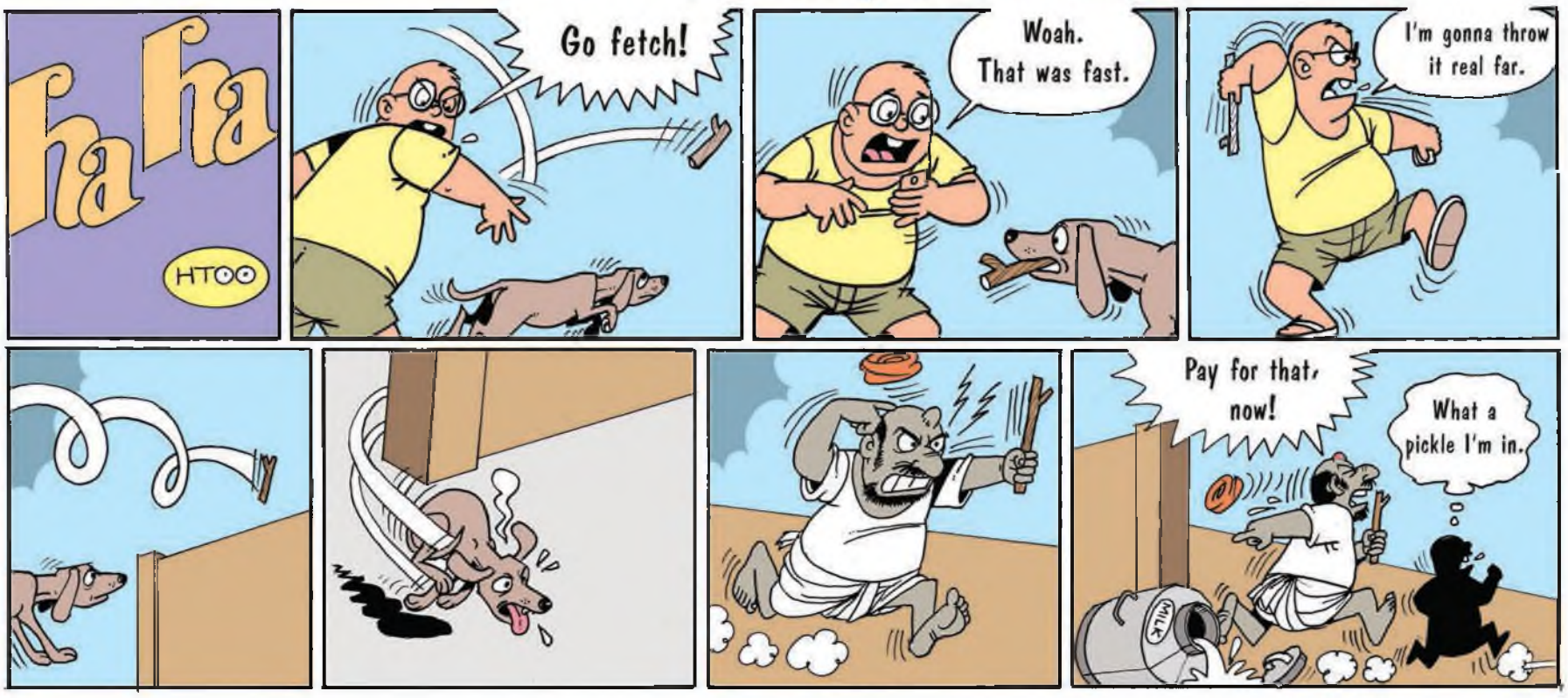
Anyway, I must say their lives have visibly improved today. Their ways of life may have changed too. When I first came upon them they were still primitive and on the verge of extinction. Thanks to the efforts of the successive governments, they had now adapted to live on dry land in permanent dwellings like other locals and become more cultured and civilized and also more hygienic and healthier. Sincerely hope they will multiply and survive eternally.

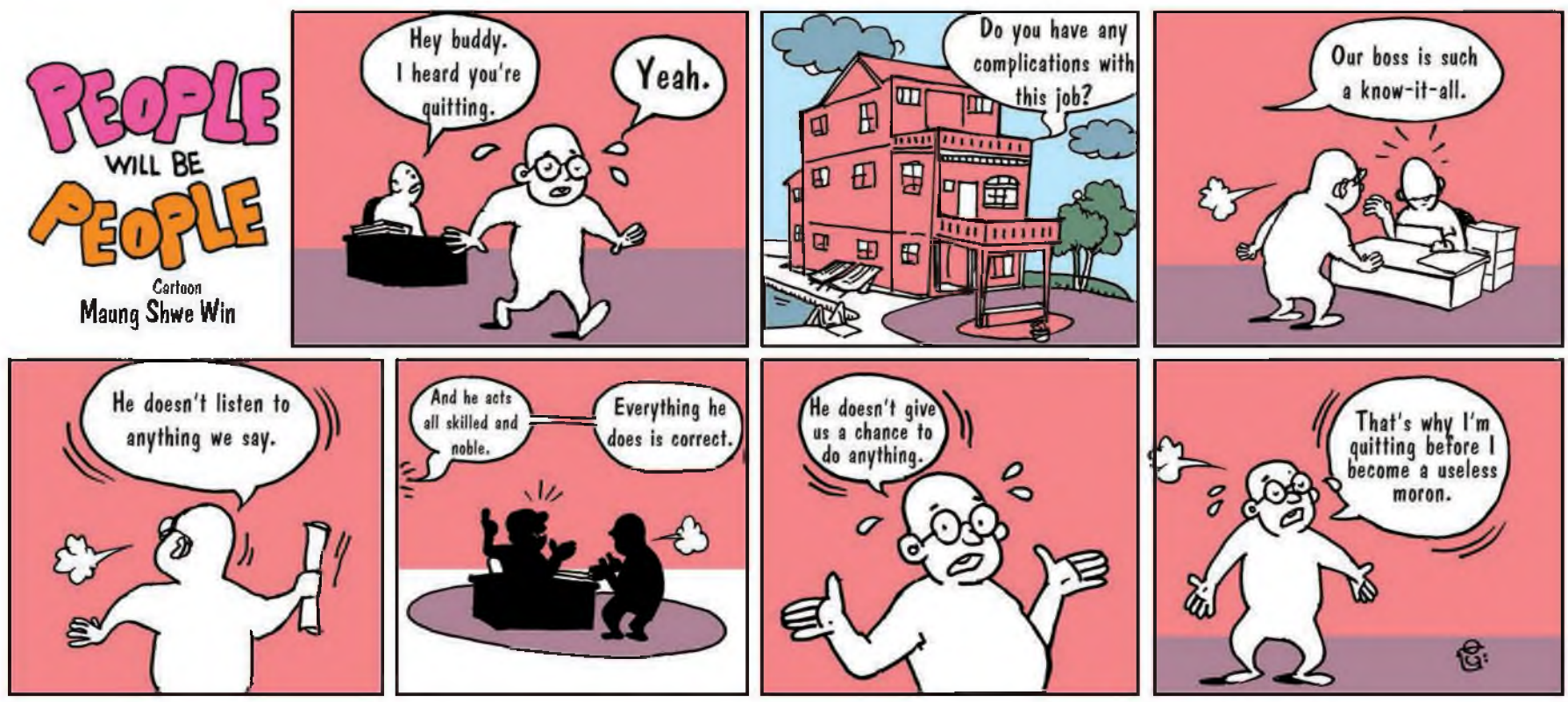
Reference:- Wikipedia.

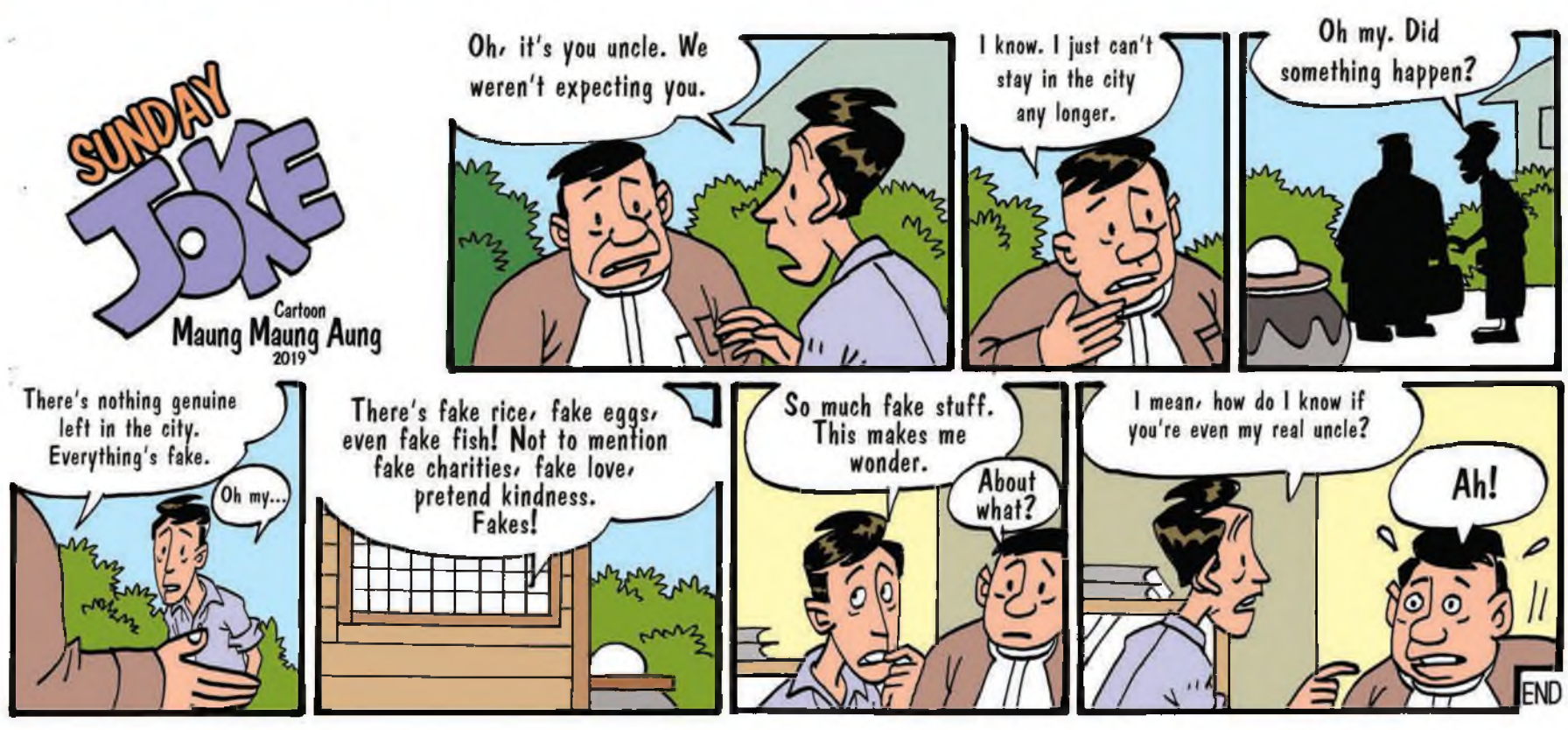
■

• Going for fishing.

SUNDAY COMICS







The rule of law will encourage people towards healthy competition in business. The current government has emphasized in competition and not confrontation for attracting foreign investment.

Interview with Nepalese Ambassador

MR. BHIM UDAS

Q: Yes, Excellency. We have learnt that you've served as the chief of the World Food Program in Myanmar from 2003 to 2006. And you were appointed as the Nepalese Ambassador to Myanmar in 2017, so congratulations. And we want to know your impressions about the changes in Myanmar during your term.

A: Yes, during that period the country was ruled by the military government, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was under house arrest, economic sanction was imposed by the west and poverty was widespread. Though the situation was calm and outside security was good but people were living in fear.

First thing I have observed is the change in people's face. People look relaxed, they are smiling, talking freely and confidently I see more people in the street and in shopping malls which means they have jobs and earning. In Yangon, I see many tall buildings, new hotels and apartment buildings which were not there before. The roads are wide and big, at the same time, traffic is quiet busy. There were few traffic lights those days.

Quality of daily life has improved than before, in terms of, education, health, drinking water, electricity, gas and so on. The main thing is there is no fear in their faces. Those days very few young people could speak English. Now, many young people speak the language and they are open. Almost everybody is carrying mobile phone and that's a big change. That wasn't allowed freely in the past. Hardly few people could use it- some people in the government, UN agencies and NGOs. Mobile chips were very expensive. I remember, I paid about 2,000 dollars or so. This time, I paid only 1 dollar for a chip. This is a revolution, it has changed in people's mindset, behavior and innovation. They are able to broaden their knowledge and know the world better. With their little 4 by 6 inches mobile phone they can see and read the whole world. They can talk to their friends and family wherever and whenever they want, as if, the whole world is open for them.

This is the direct, immediate and important result of democracy in Myanmar.

Q: Thank you your Excellency for your very insightful view. So, what do you think of the present situation in Myanmar?

A: The present situation is encouraging. Transition from military to civilian government has been peaceful. The new government came in power through the election process. Democracy is in transition but, it is up to people to make it stable and sustainable. Peace and democracy are key to development. People want a better life which comes from education, income and good health.

The government has set five priorities for sustainable development. Peace, reconciliation, job creation, economic growth, social development and usage of natural resources prudently. Recently, the military (Tatmadaw) has announced unilateral ceasefire, General Administration Department (GAD) has been moved under the Presidents' office and 8-party northern alliance is eager to negotiate with the government. These are the significant progresses on the road to national peace conference and federal union.

In last November, I witnessed by-elections in Yangon. I saw how people were happily and enthusiastically casting their votes. It is a good sign that people want democracy and they are aware of their rights.

Q: So, Excellency, what do you think are the biggest challenges for our country in the transition to democracy, and do you have any suggestions for facing these challenges?

A: Obviously, there will be challenges when you transform the whole political and governing system. In democracy, people look for their rights and that creates hope and expectations. They want quick results and when they do not get it they lose patient and start complaining. But one should keep in mind that there is no quick fix when you follow the rules and regulations. And, rule of law is basic for prospering democracy. I have observed in several countries how the governance in young democratic countries failed mainly, due to big hopes, little results, lack of experience, non-delivery of service and corruption.

The good thing in Myanmar is people love democracy and the government is committed to peace process, social development, service delivery and have zeal for prosperity. However, there are some challenges for development, such as, slow economic reforms to attract foreign investors, lack of energy for major infrastructure development, lack of confidence and slow progress in peace negotiation. Some of these challenges have been addressed by the new company law, banking and insurance facilities and new investment policies. Reforms in policies and changes of regulations should be a continuing process based on needs and demands.

The current government came in power two years before. In the meantime, Rakhine problem erupted as a big shock. They have two more years left to address socio-economic challenges.

Q: So, you've mentioned about the consistency of the policy and rule of law.

A: Yes, it is important for confidence building and trust for doing business and it should be continued. The rule of law will encourage people towards healthy competition in business. The current government has emphasized in competition and not confrontation for attracting foreign investment.

Q: So, the sustainable development of the people is vital and relating to the future of Myanmar, please elaborate your thoughts about that.

A: Sustainable development starts from people. Nutritious food, drinking water, health, drinking water are basic for people's physical and mental development. People's innovation, resources, skills, knowledge and use of modern technology are important. Myanmar has abundant natural resources and fertile agricultural land. The government has prepared Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and identified project banks. Implementation of projects are key to success. The good part is people are peace loving, simple, sincere and humble. You have young population and labour cost is cheap. So, people are the greatest asset of Myanmar's prosperity, development and democracy.

Geographically, Myanmar is best located for market having two giant neighbours- China and India. It is in between ASEAN and South-Asian countries. Myanmar is a member of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and has Observer status in South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Such opportunity is not available to any other country in Asia.

Q: Thank you for suggestions, your Excellency. As we all know, your country has successfully transformed to federalism from absolute monarchy, with not much difficulty, within a short period. Could you please tell us if you have any lessons or experience to share with us for our peace process?

A: Definitely. Nepal got democracy in February 1951 (68 years ago). India and Burma supported in our fight for democracy for which Nepal is always grateful to Myanmar.

At that time, the King had announced to make a new constitution for Nepal through the constituent assembly. It took Nepal 65 years to establish the constituent assembly through the election process in 2008. The first meeting of this assembly decided to abolish 240 years old monarchy and Nepal became a republic. The constituent assembly endorsed the new constitution in September 2015. During the constitution making process, Nepali leaders decided to have a federal system. Thus, Nepal is now a federal democratic republic. That process went smoothly because there was a commitment to achieve peace from all sides.

SEE PAGE- S-8

FROM PAGE- S-7

The second was building trust and confidence. Trust should come from each other. Engage in continuous dialogue and negotiation respecting each other's position is essential. Dialogue should be conducted at higher, middle and lower levels in order to build confidence and consultation on a regular basis. It helps keeping everyone in the loop and avoid confusion and misunderstanding. It will also ensure knotting opinions of all the stake holders.

In case of Nepal, the international community also played a positive role from their own perspective. Our leaders were in regular consultation with international community, including our neighbours. While recognizing each and everyone's advise and suggestions our leaders decided to employ home grown solution that suited Nepal's national interest.

Q: Thank you your Excellency. Nepal has become a popular attraction for Myanmar tourists because as the birthplace of Buddha is located there. We understand that there used to be direct airlinks between Nepal and Myanmar; do you have any chances of restoring these direct airlinks between us in the interest of both countries?

A: Thank you for asking this question. There was a direct air link between Yangon and Kathmandu during 1970s. It was suspended due to internal strife and democratic movement in Myanmar in 1988. In 2017, Himalayan Airlines started flying between the two cities but it didn't last long unfortunately. Despite this problem, more than 30,000 pilgrims visited the birthplace of Lord Buddha in Lumbini last year.

Tourists want cheap and fast travel. They want to save time and money for travel. In direct flight, it takes 2 hours 30 minutes from Yangon to Kathmandu and the price was reasonable. Now, people have to travel either via Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur and spend between 6 to 12 hours and pay higher airfare. It is not convenient at all.

However, pilgrims from Myanmar travel from Yangon to Bodhgaya in a chartered flight and then visit to Lumbini by land for a short time. They want to spend more time in Lumbini for meditation but that choice is not available at the moment. Gautam Buddha International Airport in Lumbini will be operational from September this year, and pilgrims can directly fly from Yangon or Mandalay at a lower cost to begin pilgrimage from Buddha's birthplace and spend more time in Lumbini.

Q: Yes, it's very encouraging. Myanmar leaders also paid a State visit very recently. Could you please tell us the present situation of bilateral trade between our two countries, and do you have any suggestions for improving it?

A: You are right. From December 2017 to December 2018, four historic high-level official visits were made last year. From Myanmar side, President HE U Win Myint made a milestone visit in August. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made a historical visit in November 2018. Similarly, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing made a first ever visit by any Commander-in-Chief in December 2017. In response, Chief of Nepal's Army General Rajendra Chhetri paid a visit to Myanmar in July 2018. All those visits were landmark in bilateral relations between Myanmar and Nepal.

These visits attributed to significance increase in bilateral trade between the two countries. Last year, Myanmar exported at least 70,000 tons of beans and pulses to Nepal through different channels. Business environment this year is equally favourable. Apart from beans and pulses, Myanmar is also exporting veneer and other wooden materials to Nepal.

Q: So, there are a considerable number of Myanmar Nepalese citizens living across our country. Would you like to send a message to them?

A: Yes, there are about 150,000 people of Nepali origin (PNO) living in Myanmar. The record shows that Nepalis entered Myanmar first time in 1885. Many of them fought for the independence and sovereignty of this country in 1940s, and some of them lost their live. Now, they have integrated into Myanmar society very well and living in peace and harmony together with other ethnic groups. They have been contributing to economic progress and development of Myanmar. Having said that, they have preserved Nepali language, culture, traditions and custom while respecting other's. I think they are the bridge in bilateral relations between our two countries.

The message I want to send them is: Myanmar is their motherland but they should also remember Nepal as their fatherland. They should continue to play constructive role in enhancing bilateral and people-to-people relations. They must not forget the bravery, loyalty and sincerity that their forefathers have taught them in this golden land.

Q: Do you want to add any comments to the people of Myanmar?

A: Well, my best wishes to the people of Myanmar. I hope the peace process will be completed soon and Myanmar become a federal union bringing all the ethnic armed organizations together. I believe, the democracy in transition will be stable and sustainable. Myanmar people deserves peace and prosperity as they have been the largest private donors in the world. I have seen people willing to donate more and more, which demonstrates their generosity and simplicity. Myanmar has the longest history of civil conflicts in the world- time has come to change the course.

I salute Myanmar people. ■

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG706	5:45	8:10	Daily
8M335	7:30	9:15	Daily
UB-019	7:50	9:20	1,3,5,6,7
TG304	9:50	11:45	Daily
PG702	10:30	12:30	Daily
TG2302	11:45	13:40	Daily
PG708	15:30	17:30	Daily
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	18:00	19:30	Daily
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily
TG306	19:50	21:45	Daily

BANGKOK TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
TG303	8:00	8:45	Daily
PG701	8:40	9:40	Daily
TG2301	10:00	10:55	Daily
8M336	10:15	11:00	Daily
UB020	10:20	10:50	1,3,5,6,7
PG707	13:45	14:40	Daily
PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily
TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily
8M332	19:20	20:05	Daily
PG705	20:30	21:50	Daily
UB018	20:30	21:00	Daily

YANGON TO DON MUEANG

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4231	8:00	9:50	Daily
FD252	8:45	10:30	Daily
SL201	9:00	10:50	Daily
DD4235	11:55	13:40	Daily
FD254	17:35	19:25	1,3,5,6,7
SL207	19:00	20:55	Daily
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily
FD258	21:40	23:30	Daily

DON MUEANG TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4230	6:30	7:15	Daily
FD251	7:30	8:15	Daily
SL200	7:35	8:25	Daily
DD4234	10:35	11:20	Daily
FD253	16:10	17:05	1,3,5,6,7
SL206	18:55	19:45	Daily
DD4238	19:25	20:15	Daily
FD257	20:30	21:10	Daily

YANGON TO GUANGZHOU

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ3056	11:35	15:55	3,6
CZ8472	17:40	22:20	1,5

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CZ3055	8:35	10:25	3,6
8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ8471	14:35	16:40	1,5

YANGON TO SINGAPORE

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
UB001	7:15	11:45	Daily
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily
3K582	11:30	16:05	1,3,4,5,7
MI533	12:30	19:30	2
MI510	14:55	19:30	6
UB003	16:00	20:30	Daily
MI519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,5,7
3K584	19:35	0:10	1,2,3,5,6,7

SINGAPORE TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily
3K581	9:10	10:35	1,3,4,5,7
MI510	10:15	14:10	6
MI533	10:15	11:40	2
UB002	13:00	14:30	Daily
8M232	13:45	15:15	Daily
MI518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI520	16:10	17:35	3,5,7
3K583	17:30	18:55	1,2,3,5,6,7
UB004	21:15	22:45	Daily

YANGON TO HONG KONG

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KA275	17:20	21:45	5
KA251	1:5	5:25	1,2,3,4,6,7
UB8027	7:15	11:45	1,3,5,7

HONG KONG TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
UB8028	12:45	14:15	1,3,5,7
KA250	21:50	23:45	1,2,3,5,6,7
KA252	22:20	00:10+1	4

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
AK505	8:30	12:45	Daily
MH741	11:20	15:45	Daily
OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7
MH743	16:10	20:30	1,4,6,7
AK503	19:10	23:30	Daily
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
AK504	6:50	8:00	Daily
MH740	9:10	10:15	Daily
OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7
MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
AK502	17:20	18:30	Daily
OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6

YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KE472	23:30	7:15	Daily

SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KE471	18:15	22:10	Daily

YANGON TO TAIPEI

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CI7916	10:50	16:10	1,2,3,4,6

TAIPEI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CI7915	7:00	9:50	1,2,3,4,6

YANGON TO KUNMING

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA416	13:00	16:30	Daily
MU2012	13:10	20:05	3
MU2032	16:00	19:50	Daily

KUNMING TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2011	8:20	12:10	3,7
CA415	11:20	12:00	Daily
MU2031	14:30	15:10	Daily

YANGON TO BEIJING

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,5

BEIJING TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5

YANGON TO HANIO

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

HANOI TO YANGON

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

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN942	12:10	15:05	Daily

HO CHI MINH TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN943	7:20	9:55	Daily

YANGON TO TOKYO

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
NH814	21:10	6:45+1	Daily

TOKYO TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
NH813	11:00	16:30	Daily

YANGON TO DOHA

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

DOHA TO YANGON

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

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG724	13:40	15:30	Daily

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG723	12:05	12:55	Daily

YANGON TO DHAKA

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
BG061	17:00	18:45	1,3,6

DHAKA TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
BG060	13:30	16:15	1,3,6

YANGON TO DUBAI

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
EK389	2:10	5:55	Daily

DUBAI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
EK388	9:10	16:55	Daily

MANDALAY TO BANGKOK

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG710	14:30	16:55	Daily
PG714	19:15	21:40	Daily

BANGKOK TO MANDALAY

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG709	12:15	13:40	Daily
PG713	17:00	18:25	Daily

MANDALAY TO DON MUEONG

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
FD245	12:55	15:20	Daily

DON MUEONG TO MANDALAY

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
FD244	11:10	12:25	Daily

MANDALAY TO KUNMING

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

KUNMING TO MANDALAY

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2567	8:55	9:20	1,3,5,7
MU2029	14:55	15:10	Daily

NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG722	20:00	22:50	1,2,3,4,5,7

BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG721	17:25	19:20	1,2,3,4,5,7

AIR LINES CODES

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

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

Subjected to change by repesctive airlines.
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