Pull-out supplement

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Russian Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Win Myint visits Yangon

President U Win Myint inspects production and distribution of pharmaceuticals at the Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) in Yangon yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Win Myint left Nay Pyi Taw by Myanmar National Airline and arrived to Yangon yesterday morning. The President was welcomed on arrival at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon mayor U Maung Maung Soe and officials.

The President paid homage to Padamya Myetshin Buddha image at the Shwedagon Pagoda by offering a golden robe and also paid homage to the diamond bud on top of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

The President went to the National Races Village in Thakayta Township where Department of Rural Development Director General U Khant Zaw explained about the National Races Village and status of works conducted. Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein also provided additional explanations about works conducted for long term development.

The President remarked that the country was a Union and republic. A Union only becomes a Union with the participation of all ethnic people. The complete traditional cultures, traditions and utensils of ethnic nationals must be displayed and maintained for local and foreign visitors and this systematic display depicts the Union spirit. Historically our ethnic nationals had lived together through thick and thin. Policies were set up to maintain and develop the languages, literatures, traditional cultures, utensils, practices, customs etc. of our ethnic nationals. Therefore these were to be displayed in a timely manner and this itself would be the pride and honor of our country and our ethnic nationals.

The National Races Village need to be made more attractive and clean to draw in more local and foreign visitors. The National Races Village was the image of our country and was also the symbol of our ethnic brethren living together in peace. As such more emphasis must be placed toward developing the National Races Village said the President.

Afterwards the President observed the cultural performance conducted by the staff at the dance hall, presented cash reward to the staff and posed for a commemorative group photo.

After touring the National Races Village, the President and party went to Ministry of Industry Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) where Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (MPF) Managing Director U Ko Ko Lwin explained about production and distribution of pharmaceuticals from Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) and other factories of MPF.

Ensure the safety of pharmaceutical products

The President commented that the increase in pharmaceutical and profit was due to having more consumers and market share. As the numbers of consumer increases, more care and emphasis must be placed toward ensuring the safety of the products.

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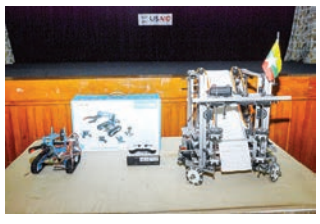

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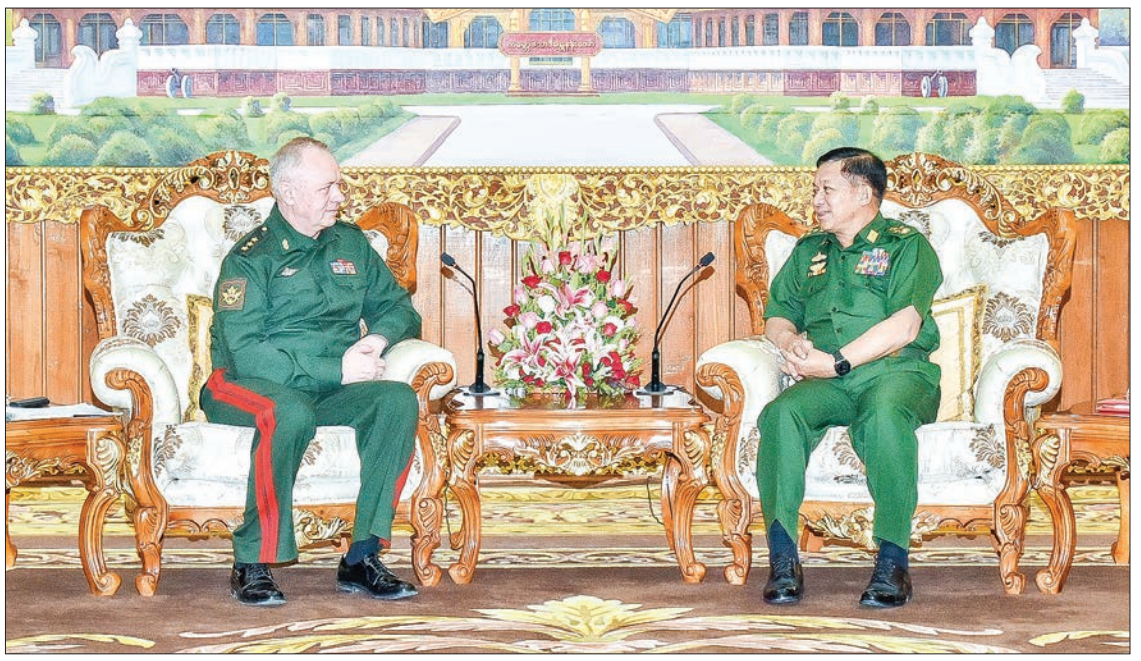
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Russian Deputy Defence Minister

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Deputy Defense Minister of the Russian Federation Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin at the Bayintnaung Guest Hall, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to cooperation in training and military technology between Myanmar and Russia, cooperation in medical technology, cooperation in anti-terrorism and cooperative matters, promotion of friendship and cooperation between the two armed forces, and holding the International Army Games-2019 in Russia, according to information released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing (Right) receives Deputy Defense Minister of the Russian Federation Colonel General Alexander V. Fomin in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO : OFFICE OF C-IN-C OF DEFERENCE SERVICES**

Yangon Book Street concludes

THE opening season sales of the Yangon Book Street or the Saturday-Sunday Book Street" would end today, with literary talks and quiz. A book on manuscript written Academy award winner Myint Oo Oo Mying will be introduced with the bookworms and Author Maung Kyi Thit will give talks on "Novelist is Philosopher".

In the afternoon, model Gonyi Aye Kyaw will conduct a literary quiz at the book street on Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township.

The book sales would be suspended and will be resumed after the monsoon season.

The Ministry of Information, with the assistance of Yangon Region government and Yangon City Development Committee, has been organizing the Weekend Yangon Book Street on Saturdays and Sundays since the end of monsoons in 2017.—Myanmar News Agency

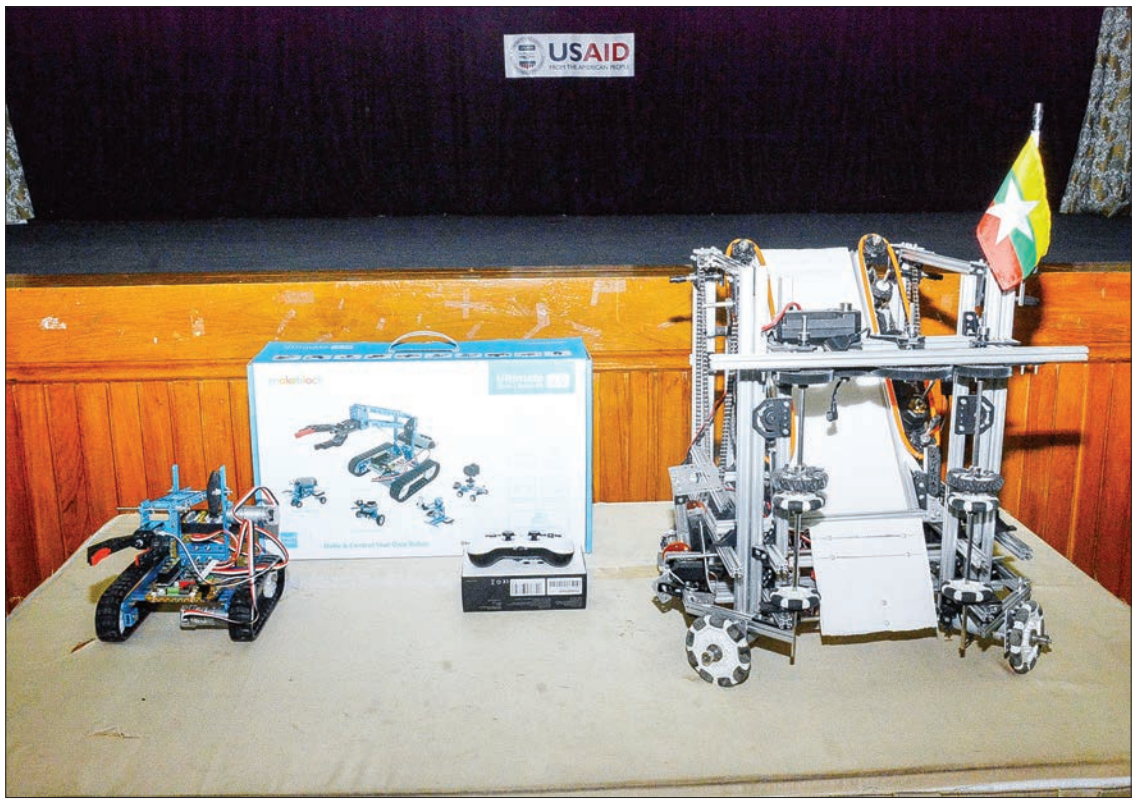
People browsing books at book stalls. **PHOTO : MNA**

Farmers compensated for rice fields destroyed by floods in Paung

AUTHORITIES in Paung, Mon State, delivered compensation valued at 13.8 million yesterday to farmers who suffered losses after their rice fields were destroyed by floods during the last monsoon season. Farmers from Latpandaw, Nathmaw and Hmawbi villages received the compensation from the Emergency Fund of the Union Government.—Ko Hein (Paung)

Official presents compensation to farmers in Paung Township. **PHOTO: KO HEIN (PAUNG)**

Myanmar Robo League 2019 invites talented university students



A sample for robotic machines showcasing at a technological expo. **PHOTO : HLA MOE**

THE organizer of the Myanmar's first-ever robotic competition titled "Myanmar Robo League 2019" is inviting talented students from technological universities and computer studies universities across the country, said an organizer at a news conference yesterday.

Supporting by the Rectors Committee, the competition will be organized by a tech start-up entity namely Makerspace, and the Robo League 2019 will be held at the Arts Hall of University of Yangon in June.

The competition is aimed to promote technology plus mathematics skills and engineering expertise of university students and invited them to participate in the competition in Yangon. The outstanding students will enable their way to compete in the First Global Robotics Challenge in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, said Makerspace's Manager Ko Htoo Wai Htet.

Altogether five students plus one trainer from each university will be allowed for the competition. Age limit for contestants who will take up in the competition is under 19 year old for students and age limit for the trainer is over 19 year old.

Interested students and trainers can submit their applications on the website link www.bit.ly/mmroboleague. The submitters need to fill their facts along with student identification cards and their photos by 12 April.

After their submission, they must take screening test within the period of 90 minutes for their qualifying into the competition.

The selected students from different universities will be announced on the Facebook page of the Myanmar Makerspace.

For the detail inquiry, anyone can check at the website named www.phandeeyar.org and on Facebook named FB.com/phandeeyar and on Twitter @Phandeeyar and on Instagram @phandeeyar according to the competition organizers.—Win Win Maw

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Reform is not an enemy, but our friend

Our country is taking steps to put in place reforms during the transition from an old system to a democratic system. There are some people who are worried about these reforms. Reform is not an enemy; rather, it is a well-meaning friend. I want to let governmental departments ensure that the transition comes to our country at the right time and offers new opportunities.

President U Win Myint

It is important to build understanding and mutual respect for one another

Our Union Government wishes to establish a true federal Union, because we think it is the most suitable course of action for the country. In a country like ours that needs to establish unity from diversity, it is important to build understanding and mutual respect for one another.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

President U Win Myint visits National Races Village in Yangon

President U Win Myint and party visit the National Races Village in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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In addition for the product to meeting the quality requirement, manufacturing process and packaging of the products must also be of good quality and modern. Ensure that the products couldn't be faked. Consumers were to be made aware of products produced to expand and develop the market. The President also remarked on producing sufficient anti-venoms for local market and strives toward exporting more.

After the briefing, the President inspected the new pharmaceuticals produced in the factory, an ambulance manufactured by Ministry of Industry, extraction of snake venom at the snake farm, the store and the factory.

Upgrading circular railway service to ease traffic

Later the President and party went to Insein Railway Station and inspected the Yangon circular railway line and upgrading works by taking a RBE train accompanied by Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo.

Upon arrival at Yangon Railway Station, the President and party were explained about the Yangon circular line upgrade project by Myanma Railway Managing Director in the Yangon Railway Station meeting hall. Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein also explained about systematic relocation of squatter shops that were dangerously close to the railway line and the status of review conducted for Yangon Urban Mass Rapid Transit (YUMRT) project. The President in return spoke of improving the transport sector to ease the travel of the people, importance of a good signaling system in a circular railway line, having railway overpass bridge for safety of the pedestrians, cleanliness along the circular railway line and in the stations and easing traffic congestion as people travel more by railway.

The project was considered to ease people's travel by railway, reducing running time, increases the numbers of travellers using circular train and to reduce traffic congestion in Yangon. — MNA ■

Children's Literary Festival concludes in Bago

Children's Literature Festival in Bago continued the final day at the Convocation Hall of the Bago University yesterday.

The three-day festival started on 28 March .

At the festival, many contestants consisting of 73 children for poem reciting, 109 children for storytelling, 43 children for extempore, 220 children for painting, 1514 children for paper folding, 125 children for reading skill, 44 children for paper drama, 61 children for story telling with picture books, 36 children for paper-folding drama, 2498 children for jigsaw contest, 1654 children for house construction games, 2677 children for colouring and 25447 children for Team Building Games took part in the competitions.

Moreover there were some 12 children taking part in poem reciting competition and 12 children joining the story-telling contests in ethnic languages, such as Kayah, Kayin, Ashyu Chin, Mon, Pa-O and Shan.

During the festival, authors Maung Chaint, Khaing Chit Aung (Bago), Maythingyan Hein (Myitmakha), Wutyi Khin (Bago), Ponnya Khin and Kan Myint Maw took part in the literary talks while traditional theatrical artistes Nan Khin Hmwe, Hantha Soe Win, Actor Min Nyi, Htet Ant Lin, Director Academy Nyein Min, author Wutyi Khin (Bago), artiste Pho Chit, vocalist Awratha, vocalist Pyae Phyo, author Dr. Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) and traditional theatrical artiste U Moe Win participated in the literary discussion.

A number of 1131 children from the B.E.H.S schools entertained the visitors with music and dances. In addition to this, vocalists Sein Win Tun, Shaw Phyu, J Maung Maung, Shin Phone, Khin Muang Htoo, Haymar Nay Win, Mi Sandi, Pho Pyae, Pyae Phyo, May Madi, Swan Pyae Aung and award winning singers of the Peace Music Festival entertained the visitors with songs. A total of 49 booths from the different universities and colleges, together with 69 bookshops were displayed at the festival. The literary festivals were held in regions and states with the aims of making children spend more time reading books and make them life-long learners. — MNA ■

(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.

Offshore fixed pilot station opened, can handle over 600 ships

The offshore fixed pilot station, located 20 nautical miles from Yangon, has been installed at an estimated cost of US$ 20.9 million.
PHOTO : YINT MAUNG SOE

AN offshore fixed pilot station, located 20 nautical miles from Yangon, was opened yesterday.

The opening and handing over ceremony was held at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on 30 March. The ceremony was attended by the Union Minister for Transport and Communications and deputy ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, Yangon Regional government ministers, officials from related departments, the general manager and staff of the Myanma Port Authority, and the vice chairman and officials from the China Harbour Engineering Co. Ltd.

U Thant Sin Maung, the Union Minister for Transport and Communications, delivered the opening speech. He said, among other things, that the newly constructed offshore fixed pilot station is included in the national level buildings, which can contribute to the nation's development. Additionally, he said he is proud of the country's construction of the offshore fixed pilot station, which meets international standards.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Hong Liang, and Myanma Port Authority Managing Director Ni Aung, along with China Harbour Engineering Co. Ltd vice-chairman Pan Qingjian, also made speeches.

"The successful opening of the offshore fixed pilot station will enable 18 to 40 pilots to be assigned day and night, instead of 11 pilots on boats. At the same time, the station can handle the incoming and outgoing traffic of over 600 boats per month," said Captain U Nyunt Win.

The offshore fixed pilot station was built to enable pilots to steer international and local vessels. Previously, MPA kept one pilot vessels stationed in the sea to serve as pilot stations.

The offshore fixed pilot station was begun in 2017 and completed in February, 2019. The offshore station includes a three-storey building, a jetty to moor a GRT 1500- sized ship, a generator, water treatment system, navigation equipment, radar and three pilot boats. The estimated cost of the project is US$ 20.9 million.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

The male hornbill killed by U Win Maung is seen.
PHOTO : ZEYATU (MAGWAY)

Man charged in killing of endangered hornbill in Magway

A man was arrested and charged with killing a male hornbill in Ngaphe, Mangway Region on 28 March.

U Win Maung, 37, a truck driver, killed the male hornbill while it slept in a tree outside the Forest Department in Ngape, Magway. Officials said he killed the bird by firing a slingshot.

An official of the Forest Department opened a file against U Win Maung at the Padan area police station for killing the endangered species.

The killing of the male hornbill happened some five months after local forest officials and members of the public took action to release nine hornbills in the Goatgyi Forest Reserve in the township.

The hornbills had been seized from smugglers. —Zeyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin)

Illegal timber seized in Daik U

ILLEGAL timber was seized on Wednesday by authorities in Daik U Township, Bago region.

A team made up of local police and the Forest Department searched a vehicle on Daik U – Oak Chit Kone road, Bago region. That vehicle was en route to Daik-U and driven by Daw Khin Mar Win, 50, from Phado Town, along with passenger Ma Chaw Su, 29, from Nyaunglebin.

Officials found 192 trees weighing 1.3190 tons in the vehicle. The police have taken legal action against the men under section 43 (A) of the forest Law.—Phyo Ko Lin (Nyaung Wine)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Illegal timbers seized in Daik U Township, Bago.
PHOTO : PHYO KO LIN (NYAUNG WINE)

Some urge government intervention to fix ceiling prices for commodities

GOVERNMENT intervention is needed to fix ceiling prices for certain agricultural products because they are sold at exorbitant prices, regardless of whether agricultural production costs are high or not, according to consumers.

However, traders and merchants are opposed to this, saying that this is a time when a market economy is being pursued, and it is the market that adjusts prices, depending upon the principle of supply and demand. They argue that according to economists, the market automatically adjusts prices and government intervention is not needed.

Nevertheless, when there arises market failures, it is usual that governments intervene, argue those who advocate for the protection of consumers. What is happening now is that some staple foods are being sold at exorbitant prices, irrespective of production costs. The worst scenario can be seen in the rice and onion markets.

On the other hand, farmers and growers are also making demands on authorities to fix a floor price at which traders must buy their produce. In this regard, the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has responded to this demand by issuing an announcement that the floor price of paddy is to be fixed at K 500,000 per 100 baskets (one basket weighs 46 lb) for the 2019 paddy harvesting period. This is the first time the MRF has intervened to protect farmers. As a consequence, the prices of rice and the broken rice declined in the local market in 2019.

It is true that the MRF will also fix the floor price for 2019. However, it could not fix the floor price for rice until 28 March, 2019. Therefore, rice-related NGOs have urged rice merchants to purchase rice at the 2018 floor price.

Meanwhile, onion merchants have requested authorities to fix the floor price of onions, because the price onion traders pay is now at a record low of K 350 per viss in the region. When new onions enter the market, the price of onions decline in Yangon and border areas. Some 120,000 viss of onion are arriving at Yangon markets every day. As there is an abundant supply, the price of onions is some K 350 per viss. March 25 witnessed 390,000 viss of onions entering Yangon market, while 1 million viss per week are arriving via the Muse border gates.

Workers carry sacks of onion for local market sale. **PHOTO : SUPPLIED**

Some merchants are purchasing onions at a record low price during the onion growing season. Then, they store the onions to sell at record high prices in the market.

Therefore, the MRF has been requested to fix the floor price for onions to protect growers against losses, as well as to not allow selling the products at exorbitant prices.—Maung Say Aung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Border trade between Myanmar, Bangladesh decline

BORDER trade value between Myanmar and Bangladesh, as of 15 March, reached US$ 16.12 million, which showed a decrease of $ 1.9 million, compared with the same period last year, according to statistics provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Border trade between the two countries is conducted through the Sittway and Maungtaw cross-border camps. From 1st October to 15th March, trade through the Maungtaw gate reached $ 13.12 million, while trade from the Sittway border point was valued $ 4 million.

Commodities are delivered principally through by sea. During normal times, 90 per cent of border trade is made by the Myanmar side, which exports fisheries products including dried fish as well as other goods to the South Asian nations, which exports kitchen wares and clothing items to Myanmar.

Marketable items at the Myanmar-Bangladesh cross-borders cover bamboos, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, beverages and human hair.

The total border trade of Myanmar with her four neighboring countries reached $ 4.46 billion in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Workers load up a boat with bags of ginger at Maungtaw border trade camp. **PHOTO : HEIN HTET**

Artistes take part in Children's Literary Festival in Bago

The Children's Literary Festival and book sales (Bago) celebrated its third and final day at the Convocation Hall of Bago University yesterday.

The festival was jointly organized by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and the Bago Region government and was held from 28 to 30 March in Bago.

During the festival, artistes May Kabyar, Nay Min, Min Nyi and Pho Chit joined the performance, together with writers Ma Chaint, Nyein Min, Sayama Ponnya Khin, Sayama May Thingyan Hein (Myitmakha), Khaing Chit Aung (Bago), Writer Wutyi Khin (Bago) and Writer Kan Myint Maung.

In addition to this, vocalists Mi Sandi, Awratha, Pyae Phyo, Swan Pyae Aung, May Madi, Pho Pyae (Min Thar Gyi) and Nan Khin Hmwe, and Tabin artistes Moe Win and Nan Khin Hmwe participated in the performance and literary talks. — Wai Lyal

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Students browse books from the bookstalls at the Children's Literary Festival (Bago) yesterday. **PHOTO: WAI LYAL**

Book shops packed with visitors at the Chilren' Literary Festival(Bago) yesterday.

Kyaukse Elephant Dance seen at the festival.

Singer Mi Sandi entertains with songs at the festvial.

Actress May Kabyar encourages the children at the painting contest.

Children along with parents participate in the jigsaw contest.

Global stocks rally on trade deal optimism as pound falls again

NEW YORK (United States) — Global stocks rallied Friday on optimism over US-China trade talks, while the pound fell further as Britain veered closer to a potential "no deal" Brexit. Bourses rose in the US and in major European and Asian centers, concluding the first quarter with a flourish.

Friday's session was bolstered by upbeat comments from Trump administration officials following the latest round of trade negotiations in Beijing. US and Chinese negotiators are working to find a binding agreement to address President Donald Trump's complaints about years of unfair treatment of US companies by China, which would allow a rollback of the tariffs hitting businesses in both countries.

China's Vice Premier Liu He (r) shakes hands with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin (l) as they pose for a group photo at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. **PHOTO: AFP**

The White House reported "progress" in what it termed "candid and constructive discussions," saying that the next round of talks will be held in the US capital on 3 April. Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the latest round yielded "new progress," without elaborating.The broad-based S&P 500 ended at 2,834.40, up 0.7 per cent for the session and 13.1 per cent for the quarter, its best in almost a decade. The first-quarter rally has been fed by optimism over the US-China trade talks and by the Federal Reserve's dovish shift on monetary policy. In a closely-watched premiere on public markets, ride-hailing company Lyft finished at $78.29, up 8.7 per cent from its initial public offering price after the IPO raised $2.3 billion.

'What happens next'?

Meanwhile, the pound slid further after British MPs rejected Prime Minister Theresa May's EU divorce deal for a third time, opening the way for a long delay to Brexit -- or a chaotic "no deal" withdrawal in two weeks. Lawmakers in parliament's lower House of Commons defied May's plea to end a political deadlock over Brexit, defeating her withdrawal agreement by 344 votes to 286. "We thought it was going to be a lot closer," Joshua Mahony told AFP on the IG trading floor in London. "Everyone is now starting to wonder exactly what happens next."—AFP ■

Spain's public deficit meets EU limit for first time in over a decade

MADRID (Spain)—Spain's budget deficit fell below the European Union's limit of 3.0 per cent of economic output last year for the first time in over a decade, the government said Friday.

The deficit contracted to 2.63 per cent of gross domestic product in 2018 from 3.03 per cent in the previous year, Finance Minister Maria Jesus Montero told a news conference.

The is the first time since 2007 when Spain posted a budget surplus equal to 1.92 per cent of its economic output that the country has respected the EU's budget limit."The deficit has been reduced without putting at risk economic growth and without leaving anyone behind," Montero said."The Spanish economy maintains its strength and even picked up steam in the second half of 2018," she added, saying this had boosted state coffers.

Spain's economy has outpaced much of the EU and now the budget deficit is back on track, too. **PHOTO: AFP**

The eurozone's fourth-largest economy expanded by 2.6 percent last year, after growing 3.0 per cent in 2017, final figures released Friday by national statistics institute INE showed.

The figures give Montero's minority Socialist government a potential boost ahead of a snap general election on 28 April.

Spain suffered a prolonged period of economic decline when a decade-long property bubble burst in 2008, throwing millions of people out of work and pushing the country to the brink of a bail out.—AFP ■

White House wants Fed to cut rates: advisor

WASHINGTON (United States) —White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow on Friday urged the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates to protect the US economy.Kudlow told CNBC that it was necessary to reduce rates as a "protective measure," after earlier being quoted by Axios as saying the Fed should "immediately" cut rates by half a percentage point."We just don't want that threat" of higher rates, the aide said, adding that this reflects President Donald Trump's view.

"There is no inflation out there, so I think the Fed's actions were probably overdone," he said, referring to its decision to raise rates four times in 2018, with the last and most controversial increase coming in December. Trump also took aim at the Fed's rate hikes on Friday.

"Had the Fed not mistakenly raised interest rates, especially since there is very little inflation, and had they not done the ridiculously timed quantitative tightening, the 3.0% GDP, & Stock Market, would have both been much higher & World Markets would be in a better place!" the president tweeted.Speaking about the slowdown in the global economy that could threaten US growth, Kudlow referred to the "eurozone, virtually in a recession. China, very, very very soft as we negotiate our trade. Troubles in Latin America."'We don't want to threaten this great recovery," he said.

"We are, as everyone else in the world, aware of some of these external threats from around the world," he said, adding that Trump also wants the Fed to stop cutting its Treasury bill portfolio.

The advocacy of a sharp rate cut echoes the position of Stephen Moore, a conservative economist whom Trump has tapped to join the Fed.

Most economists and institutions—with the exception of the White House—predict a slump in US growth both this year and in 2020.The Fed recently reduced its growth projection to 2.1 per cent for 2019 and 1.9 per cent for next year, but the Trump administration says the economy will grow by 3.2 per cent this year.

The Fed's Monetary Committee left rates unchanged last week and gave up its plans for increases to the cost of credit for this year. —AFP ■

Finding solutions through nonviolent action

IF we take a look at Myanmar's history, we will find that conflicts and wars have taken place in each of our states and regions, and across various eras of our timeline. There was the war against the colonial expansionists before our independence, and then afterwards we fought in internal conflicts that have carried on to this day. Thus, there are casualties of war and underdevelopment issues in a country with no peace.

Reviewing the reasons for Myanmar's delayed socioeconomic development, we can trace them back to the unsuccessful attempt at establishing stability 70 years ago. The world's leading economists have pointed out that no matter how many kinds of projects we set out to accomplish, it will all be for naught if, beforehand, we can not build stability and peace within the country.

> The 21st Century Panglong Conference is injecting new blood into our nation, to raise it from the depths and drive towards development. Since it carries such tremendous importance with it, we wish for all ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) to participate in it, to benefit all the ethnic brothers and sisters of Myanmar.

This is why we must swiftly implement internal peace, urgently and without pause. The unrest started in the 20th century must be quenched in the 21st century. The ongoing Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong aims to free all the people of this country from the sounds of gunshots and strife plaguing their lives for so many years.

The Panglong Conference is the heart of our Union. If we lose the Panglong, then we lose our Union. The 21st Century Panglong Conference is injecting new blood into our nation, to raise it from the depths and drive towards development. Since it carries such tremendous importance with it, we wish for all ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) to participate in it, to benefit all the ethnic brothers and sisters of Myanmar.

It is heartening to see the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC), and the Tatmadaw, striving to hold tripartite meetings with EAOs, either individually or collectively. However, it is grave news to hear of the recent ongoing fighting in Rakhine State. Just within three months, from 4 January to 28 March, there have been 103 conflicts, 44 mine blasts, 39 deaths, 46 casualties, and at least 20,000 people displaced from their homes. While there are fatalities on both sides of the fighting, the main victims are local residents caught in the crossfire.

The country is unhappy and the world shares our grief for these victims of conflicts. Continuing to use military means to solve political issues, knowing the futility of such methods, borders on the insane and inhumane.

We deeply urge all stakeholders to reach for the open door to the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong, so that, together, we may look for political solutions to our political issues.

■■■

Active Vigor of Myanma Radio and Television

By Aye Thin Yi

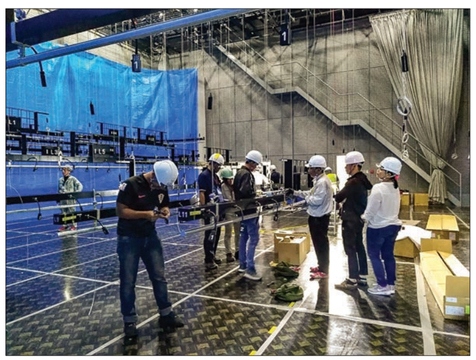
IN the 21st century of modern technology, news, literature and other kinds of entertainment are at the tip of our hands with easy access. This includes Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) which has continued to deliver a variety of entertainment to the Myanmar citizens without fail. MRTV has continued to improve and to provide viewers with a selection of new content by the Ministry of Information every year. MRTV provides viewers with a variety of content such as general knowledge and other educational segments and entertainment shows to help relief the public of the daily stresses of everyday life.

The news sections make up 45 per cent while the educational/social section and entertainment section makes up 20 per cent and 35 per cent of the content respectively on MRTV from 6 am until 11 pm.

It has been three years since the publicly elected government has been in administration. There have been several improvements in quality of MRTV's documentaries, news, educational programs and other entertainment shows within these three years. The programs on tradition and culture of the different ethnicities, along with documentaries from respected persons have been received with great applause from both at home and aboard. The world can easily access the different shows, segments and news from MRTV through MRTV Web portal and Facebook electronically as well.

Variety of Content

MRTV broadcasts from 7 am till 8 pm with breaking news (8 times per day) from local and international sources along with updates from the parliament and weather news from Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and 7 other states. There are also other segments including the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's weather forecasts and international weather trends from around the world, translation of international news from CCTV, DW, NHK, share prices from Yangon Stock Exchange, Exchange rates from Central Bank of Myanmar and the daily prices of different local produce brought to you by Agriculture & Market Information Agency (AMIA) . MRTV continue to work towards bringing local, international breaking news along with other social, business and weather news to the Myanmar television. Viewers from around the country have shown increased support for the Entrepreneur Shows and Weekly Sports review.



Workers install broadcasting equipment at the MRTV.

The Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) building in Nay Pyi Taw.

Purchase and Usage

MRTV is cooperating with several media companies for broadcasting the programs related with Myanmar women and travelogues made by Mizzima Media, the programs on youth, jobs and workers' rights made by Myanmar Cable Network and programs belonged to public health, literary and career sectors made by Myit Ma Ka Media. MRTV has included five lines of DVB-T2 System broadcast with the MRTV Multi Channel Play Out System and has produced several channels such as: Mizzima Channel from March 23, 2018; DVB Channel from 21 April, 2018; Channel K starting Jan 1, 2019; YTV Channel from Feb 15, 2019; Fortune TV Channel from March 13, 2019.

Viewers can also choose from the Analogue system provided by MRTV and its partners, Free to Air Channels via DVB T-2 and DTH systems for news, entertainment, education and other variety shows.

Live Streaming of Government Ceremonies

MRTV continues to work towards direct streaming of National level government ceremonies such as roundtable talks by the State Counsellor of Myanmar with the youth, Peace Talks, Union Peace Conference – the third session of the 21st Century Panglong Conference to help viewers get the latest update on the events as soon as possible.

The channels also broadcasts directly important ethnic events such as anniversary events, ceremonies specific to Regions and States individually so the viewers get to enjoy the events as if they were taking part and appreciate the beauty of other parts of Myanmar.

During the "Who Can Read Should Read" campaign held in MICC-2 Nay Pyi Taw, there were cooperation work with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

National Races Channel (NRC)

NRC is dedicated to Myanmar's ethnic peoples including Kachin, Kayah, SaKaw Kayin, East Poe Kayin, West Poe Kayin, Chin (Line Zoe), Chin (Choe), Shan, Mon, Rhakine and Wa for broadcast in 11 languages. Within the past year, MRTV worked with various media channels and organizaitons to improve the pronunciation, authenticity and correctness of the broadcast. MRTV and NRC also broadcast the Myanmar's traditional monthly festivities of the ethnic peoples that spoke such 11 languages – a gift from MRTV to the viewers.

Educational TV series

MRTV have collaborated with the Search for Common Ground (SFCG) international non-profit organization to present the viewers a program on drug abuse education namely "With the Touch of a Needle" ; with O Si Media for the Agro-Business Focus program; and TV series namely the "Views from the Countryside" made by Director A One Than Htut and the TV series are broadcasted on the Farmer Channel. Reporters have also been sent to Maungtaw, Rakhine to account for the events, legal aids and other aid that have been distributed in the area.

In Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships, there have been several initiatives such as an FM radio in Burmese, Rakhine, Bengali languages starting February 1, 2019 with two programs per day repeated twice in per language for stability, development and improving the standards of living for Rakhine residents. MRTV have also donated up to 67780 radios to the Rakhine government as well.

Kayay FM

MRTV, in collaboration with DW Akademine have been broadcasting Kayay FM in addition to BBC English Courses since the 3rd year of the public government. To inform the public on human trafficking, there is the "Lives behind the lies" and the "For a Beautiful Life" on drug trafficking and prevention. There are also additional programs such as "Music Talent" brought to the viewers in collaboration with Upgrade Music and Art where hopefuls can compete via online submissions.

There is also the "Diary of a Tea Cup" program produced in collaboration with BBC Media Action that has 32 episodes and "Where the Water is Clear" that tackles the issues of migrant workers. Lastly, the "Youth and Drugs" 12-episode segment on educating the youth about drug usage.

Ko Pya Thoe

MRTV has teamed up with a variety of organizations to bring radio shows such as "Entrepreneurship" for spreading business education with Internews and "Ko Pya Tho," a show produced with Samaritan's Purse for an educational segment on trafficking and safe migrant work. There is also the annual Radio Fan Club meeting in Nyaung U, Mandalay, Pyay, Bago and developing the trust between listeners and producers.

English Programs

MRTV has added City Beat, Wonderful ASEAN, ASEAN Journey, "Cover Song" Entertainment Show Variation on a tune ASEAN Folk Talks and Movie Song Tracks for its English language segment. MRTV have also worked together with JICA, with funds supported from the Japanese government of live program "Words of Life" starting July 26, 2018. MRTV and JICA (JCC) Have also collaborated on various other programs such as "Japan Rice- An Agricultural Success", "My beloved Organics", "First batch of GAP" and "Green Tea Farmer's Strength". These programs aim to benefit not only basic farmers but also the viewers by educating them on the life of farmers in Myanmar.

Music Department

The music department of MRTV has broadcasted a plethora of shows during the past year including music production, editing during the Nation's biggest ceremonies and holidays along with Thingyan TV program, MC for awards ceremonies, perform at Radio Fan Club events, National Park performance in Nay Pyi Taw. They have also worked with different artists from famous to newcomers, educational/book fairs, compose national songs in addition to background music during TV programs, radio and other education shows. The department also cross checks lyrics for artists, and if need, lend their equipment.

Preserving Traditional Music

Myanmar National Sine Wine and the Myanmar Classic Music department have worked together with the board members to choose weekly songs that are to be broadcasted, organize traditional dance and music talent shows, prizes and judging panels, connected with existing artists and performers of Myanmar Sine Wine, helps with the recording sessions of global trendy artists and also works with Internationally recognized artists to participate in their shows to showcase the Burmese music, instruments and dance so that Myanmar National Sine Wine is celebrated and respected in big ceremonies of the Nation.

The Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra

The Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra performs in various national ceremonies, welcome parties for international guests and have also collaborated and performed together with international music geniuses in annual performances in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.

Within the plethora of programs by the Ministry of Information, MRTV have continued to deliver updated news and programs with the effort of all it's employees for the public. In the coming times, MRTV will broadcast the progress and successes f the 3rd year of the publicly elected new government on a national, regional, state level administrations from different aspects including commentary from experts form various disciplines.

MRTV helps provides content and relief from the everyday lives of Myanmar citizens and aims to uplift the spirits and give hope by giving updates on the National government's efforts, the efforts and progress of the different parliament representatives along programs on entertainment and education.

(Translated by Myat Thu)

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 30th March, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 31st March, 2019: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Northern Shan, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st March, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st March, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31st March, 2019: Generally fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Caracas and other major Venezuelan cities hit by new blackout

CARACAS (Venezuelan)—A new blackout hit Caracas and other major Venezuelan cities on Friday, the third major electricity outage in the crisis-plagued country this month.

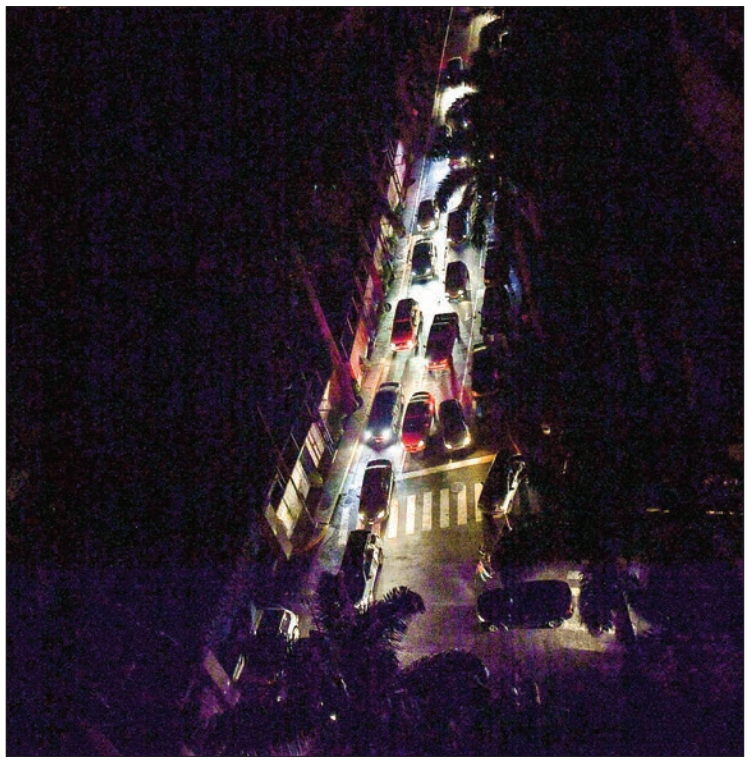
The blackout began around 7:10 pm (2310 GMT), leaving the capital as well as cities including Maracaibo, Valencia, Maracay and San Cristobal without electricity, according to users on social media networks. It is the third time since 7 March that a major power outage has hit Venezuela—worsening the already-dire economic and living conditions in a country that is witnessing a major political showdown between President Nicolas Maduro and opposition chief Juan Guaido.

Maduro has blamed the previous outages on sabotage, but experts have said that infrastructure crumbling from years of neglect is a more likely culprit than outside interference.

Earlier on Friday, the Red Cross said it would begin impartially distributing aid in Venezuela in two weeks, brushing aside the threat of political interference amid the Maduro-Guaido power struggle.

Malnutrition and disease are on the rise as living conditions plummet in the oil-producing Latin American nation, which is spiraling ever deeper into economic chaos during a protracted political crisis."We estimate that in a period of approximately 15 days we will be ready to offer help," said Francesco Rocca, head of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.The United States—which considers Guaido interim president along with some 50 other countries—welcomed the announcement as a "real opportunity."Rocca told reporters in Caracas the organization would begin distributing aid mid-April, including tons of mostly US food and medical supplies that Maduro has to date refused to allow into the country—leaving it stockpiled for weeks on the borders with Colombia and Brazil.

The Red Cross—aiming to reach 650,000 people initially—would act according to its principles of "impartiality, neutrality and independence," he said, "without accepting interference from anyone."



Drivers try to move along a pitch-dark, congested street during a new power outage in Caracas on 29 March 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Victory over sanctions'

Meanwhile, in a boost to Maduro, a Chinese plane loaded with 65 tons of medical aid landed in Caracas on Friday. His government celebrated it as a victory over US sanctions, which the socialist leader blames for the economic crisis.Though unpopular, Maduro has the upper hand at home, thanks to loyalty from his military chiefs and, since last weekend, the presence of 100 Russian troops.The Russian deployment to Venezuela has drawn fire from Washington, but Caracas' defense minister said Friday that "no one should be alarmed" by their presence.

"We are overcoming the purported siege, the blockade, which has been undertaken by President Trump and the diabolical puppet from here in Venezuela," said vice-president Tareck El Aissami, referring to Guaido.El Aissami, on the tarmac to meet the Chinese plane, said the medical supplies were the "first cargo of several that start from this moment." It includes analgesics, surgical equipment and medicine for diseases such as diabetes.China's ambassador Li Baorong said the delivery was part of previous "cooperation agreements" with Venezuela.– AFP ■

US seeks drawdown of UN peacekeeping force in Mali

UNITED NATIONS (United States)—Declaring that peace efforts in Mali had faltered, the United States on Friday called on the UN Security Council to consider a possible major drawdown of the peacekeeping mission in the West African country. The council is scheduled to decide in June whether to renew the mandate of the 14,000-strong force known as MINUSMA that was established in 2013 after the jihadist takeover of northern Mali was beaten back.

"Despite some progress in the last several months and after only modest progress in prior years, it's time to evaluate whether a peacekeeping mission in such an environment is the appropriate or effective solution to the problem set in northern Mali," said David Hale, the US under secretary of state for political affairs. The United States asked UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to provide options for a "significant adaptation" of MINUSMA before negotiations begin on extending the mission in June.—AFP

Facebook to tighten live stream access after mosque attacks

SAN FRANCISCO (United States)—Facebook on Friday said it is tightening live video streaming rules in response to the service being used to broadcast deadly attacks on mosques in New Zealand.The Christchurch attacks —carried out by a self-avowed white supremacist who opened fire on worshippers at two mosques—claimed 50 lives.

Many people have "rightly questioned how online platforms such as Facebook were used to circulate horrific videos of the attack," chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg said in an online post."In the wake of the terrorist attack, we are taking three steps: strengthening the rules for using Facebook Live, taking further steps to address hate on our platforms, and supporting the New Zealand community," she added.Facebook is looking into barring people who have previously violated the social network's community standards from livestreaming on its platform, according to Sandberg.

The social network is also investing in improving software to quickly identify edited versions of violent video or images to prevent them from be shared or re-posted. "While the original New Zealand attack video was shared Live, we know that this video spread mainly through people re-sharing it and re-editing it to make it harder for our systems to block it," Sandberg said."People with bad intentions will always try to get around our security measures." Facebook identified more than 900 different videos showing portions of the streamed violence.

Deadly attacks on mosques in New Zealand were live streamed on Facebook, prompting the social network to announce that it is tightening its rules. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hateful nationalism

The social network is using artificial intelligence tools to identify and remove hate groups in Australia and New Zealand, according to Sandberg. Those groups will be banned from Facebook services, she said. Facebook this week announce it would ban praise or support for white nationalism and white separatism as part of a stepped-up crackdown on hate speech.The ban will be enforced starting next week on the leading online social network and its image-centric messaging service Instagram.

"It's clear that these concepts are deeply linked to organized hate groups and have no place on our services," the social network said in a statement.Facebook policies already banned posts endorsing white supremacy as part of its prohibition against spewing hate at people based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity or religion. The ban had not applied to some postings because it was reasoned they were expressions of broader concepts of nationalism or political independence, according to the social network.

Facebook said that conversations with academics and "members of civil society" in recent months led it to view white nationalism and separatism as linked to organized hate groups. People who enter search terms associated with white supremacy will get results referring them to resources such as Life After Hate, which focus on helping people turn their backs on such groups, according to Facebook.—AFP ■

Pope visits Morocco to boost dialogue, meet migrants

Pope Francis will be the first pontiff to visit Morocco since John Paul II in 1985. **PHOTO: AFP**

RABAT (Morocco)—Pope Francis arrives in Morocco on Saturday for a visit which will see him meet Muslim leaders and migrants ahead of a mass with the country's minority Catholic community. The spiritual leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics was invited by King Mohammed VI as part of the "development of interreligious dialogue", according to Moroccan authorities.

Improving relations with other religions has been a priority for the Argentine pontiff, whose papacy has been marred by a wave of child sex abuse allegations against clergy. The Moroccan capital Rabat has stepped up security ahead of his arrival.

Buildings have been repainted, streets decorated and lawns manicured ahead of the first papal visit to Morocco since John Paul II in 1985. Francis is due to be welcomed at the airport by the king and presented with dates and almond milk. Then the pontiff will step into his Popemobile and the monarch into a limousine.

They will drive to a welcome ceremony at a mosque and a mausoleum, attended by 25,000 and beamed onto giant screens, before the king hosts Francis at the royal palace. The monarch is known as the "commander of the faithful" in Morocco, where 99 per cent of the population is Muslim. Francis will also visit an institute where around 1,300 students are studying to become imams and preachers, teaching "moderate Islam" and backed by the king."It's a very significant event, the first time that a pope is welcomed to an institute for the training of imams," said Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti.

During the visit, Francis is due to hear from two students — one African and one European— as well as a statement by Morocco's Ministry of Islamic Affairs.A concert drawing inspiration from Islam, Christianity and Judaism is also on the agenda.

Meeting migrants

Last month Francis visited the United Arab Emirates, where he met with Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the imam of Cairo's Al-Azhar, Sunni Islam's prestigious seat of learning. The two signed a document on "human fraternity for world peace", which among other things called for "freedom of belief" and "full citizenship" rights for minorities.

Francis will not hesitate to refer to the text, which from now on he will give to all heads of state, Gisotti said. — AFP ■

Hundreds vaccinated after measles emergency in New York

Hundreds were vaccinated after measles emergency in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK (United States)—A New York county which declared a state of emergency over a measles outbreak is on the "right path" after administering hundreds of vaccinations in two days, the chief of the US district said on Friday.

Under the emergency, Rockland County banned non-vaccinated minors from public places in a bid to prevent the once-eliminated disease from spreading. Planned for 30 days from midnight Wednesday, the emergency comes during a US surge in measles cases, linked to an anti-vaccination movement."We have already seen over 500 (new vaccinations) in the last couple of days," Rockland County Executive Ed Day said on CNBC TV. "People simply understand now that we are serious about this," added Day, whose district is 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of downtown New York.

"We believe we are on a right path now to get at least a 93 per cent immunization rate with the first shot," close to the level considered necessary to end the outbreak. Although measles was declared officially eliminated from the United States in 2000, outbreaks have occurred in five states this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).The outbreaks are linked to travelers who brought the illness back from other countries, and the majority of people who got measles were unvaccinated, the CDC said. The World Health Organization has warned that the growing anti-vaccine movement in richer nations constitutes a top-10 global health threat. The phenomenon has adherents in several Western nations, including Britain and France, but is particularly high profile in the US. Between 1 January and 21 March, there were 314 cases of measles in the United States, the CDC said.

Rockland County, with a population of more than 300,000, had registered 157 cases as of Friday.

Despite major vaccination campaigns since the outbreak began in October, around 27 per cent of minors aged one to 18 in the county remained unvaccinated, Day said earlier in the week.

The worst affected neighborhoods are those with a high ultra-Orthodox Jewish population, where many oppose vaccines on religious grounds. Many vaccines are theoretically mandatory for children to attend school in the United States. But 47 out of 50 states allow exemptions on religious, moral, or personal grounds.

Washington state, in the country's northwest, in January declared a state of emergency over an outbreak of measles, an airborne infection causing fever, coughing and rashes that can be deadly in rare cases. Day on Friday called for a tightening of the school vaccination legislation and said a draft law to that effect was being discussed at the state level.— AFP ■

UN food agency launches appeal for Mozambique relief funds

PARIS (France)—The UN Food and Agricultural Organization on Friday launched an appeal for $19 million in short-term aid for farmers, fishers and other food producers in cyclone-hit Mozambique, one of the world's poorest countries.

The three groups in three Southern African countries hit by Tropical Cyclone Idai - Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe - "are under severe threat," an FAO statement said.

As flood waters recede, "keeping animals alive, rehabilitating damaged land and rebooting food production will be critical," it added, given that 80 per cent of the population in Mozambique depends on agriculture.

The cyclone devastated the provinces of Manica and Sofala, which normally account for one-quarter of the nation's cereal production.

The FAO estimates that $19 million (almost 17 million euros) would provide three months' support for local populations.

Before Cyclone Idai hit, 1.8 million people already lacked access to secure food supplies, the statement said.

"We will procure and distribute seeds as a matter of urgency so that farmers can plant for the secondary agricultural season, which is starting now, in April," it quoted local representative Olman Serrano as saying.

Fishers and ports also need aid, in particular Beira, the country's main fishing port and import facility.

The FAO estimates that more than 600,000 people were affected by the cyclone, which killed around 450 people and triggered waves of cholera and diarrhoea.

The World Food Programme said satellite images showed the creation of an inland sea that measures 125 kilometres long and 25 kilometres wide (78 x 16 miles), larger than the European nation of Luxembourg.—AFP ■

Taliban kill nine police in checkpoint assault

GHAZNI (Afghanistan)—Nine Afghan policemen were killed when Taliban fighters stormed their checkpoints and launched a follow-up ambush in the eastern Afghanistan city of Ghazni, officials said Saturday.

The assault began early Friday when the Taliban attacked two adjacent checkpoints, Ghazni police spokesman Ahmad Khan Seerat told AFP.The Taliban then ambushed a group of police rushing to the scene, killing the head of the local police, Seerat added. In all, nine officers were killed and six were wounded, he said. The toll was confirmed by Arif Noori, spokesman for the Ghazni governor.In August, Taliban fighters briefly held the city of Ghazni before they were pushed out by US air strikes and Afghan forces. Friday's attack highlights the ongoing fragility of Afghanistan's security and the risks faced by local security forces as they man vulnerable checkpoints.President Ashraf Ghani in January said 45,000 security forces have been killed since he took office in September 2014.

This 2018 file photo shows Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers search vehicles at a checkpoint in the city of Jalalabad. **PHOTO: AFP**

On its Twitter account, the Taliban claimed to have killed 12 "soldiers," though the group frequently exaggerates numbers.

Meanwhile in Zabul in southern Afghanistan late Friday, Gul Islam Seyal, spokesman for the local governor, told AFP that four police were killed and two wounded after a "Taliban infiltrator" opened fire at a checkpoint.

The attacks come as the United States seeks to broker a peace accord with the Taliban and the Kabul government, more than 17 years since the US-led invasion that ousted the Islamist fighters.—AFP ■

Five killed in factory explosion in eastern China

BEIJING (China)—Five workers were killed and three injured in a factory explosion caused by a gas leak in eastern China, local authorities said Saturday. The blast happened Friday night at a perlite workshop in Shandong province, city officials said in a statement. All five victims were night shift workers inside the Qingzhou city factory during the explosion. Three others outside the workshop suffered mild injuries and are still in hospital under observation. "The cause of the accident was initially found to be a liquefied natural gas leak, and the specific cause is under further investigation," the statement said. A company official from the Yongli Perlite Plant has also been detained by local authorities, it added.Perlite is a form of volcanic glass that it mined and processed, often used in horticulture, insulation and plastics production.

The incident came barely a week after one of China's worst recent industrial accidents, in which an explosion at a chemical plant killed 78 people and injured hundreds. The powerful explosion in the eastern city of Yancheng toppled several buildings in the industrial park, blew out windows of nearby homes and even dented metal garage doors. It prompted the State Council, China's cabinet, to order a nationwide inspection of chemical firms.

Deadly industrial accidents are common in China, where safety regulations are often poorly enforced.In November, a gas leak at a plant in the northern Chinese city of Zhangjiakou, which will host the 2022 Winter Olympics, killed 24 people and injured 21 others. Leaked chloroethylene came in contact with a fire source causing the explosion, authorities said in a February report that revealed the Chinese chemical firm responsible for the accident had concealed information and misled investigators.—AFP ■

Bangladesh tower inferno death toll rises to 25

DHAKA (Bangladesh)—The death toll from a terrifying blaze that ripped through a Bangladesh tower rose on Friday to 25, as authorities vowed tough action to improve lax safety standards.

The latest deadly blaze to hit Bangladesh's congested capital Dhaka tore through the 22-storey FR Tower on Thursday, leaving some of the hundreds trapped inside screaming for help as horrified onlookers massed outside.Some of those stuck inside made it to safety by sliding down cables on the side of the building, but others took their chances and jumped in a bid to escape the smoke and heat. Six people leaped to their deaths.

Helicopters were called in to tackle the blaze in the 22-storey building in Dhaka's business district. **PHOTO: AFP**

Firefighters backed by military specialists—some in helicopters—tackled the flames, lowering ropes to help people escape, while rescuers on long ladders smashed through windows. But fire fighters were hampered by not having ladder cranes big enough to reach the top floors, officials said.The fire was later extinguished and on Friday fire fighters completed the process of combing through the gutted and blackened floors of the building.

The fire department initially put the death toll at 19 but police said Friday that six more had perished. Another was in a critical state in hospital.There was no immediate indication if others are missing, but more than 70 people were treated in hospital in the wake of the blaze.

'No fire exit'

Fire disasters regularly hit Bangladesh's major cities where safety standards are notoriously lax. Last month at least 70 people were killed in Dhaka apartment buildings where chemicals that were being illegally stored exploded—unleashing a blaze that took more than 12 hours to control.Following Thursday's fire, in the upmarket Banani commercial district, authorities have ordered a probe into safety measures at the building.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia to lease Turkish power ship amid electricity shortage

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Friday that Turkey has agreed to lease a power ship to help his country address its chronic electricity shortages.

The ship, with a power generation capacity of about 200 megawatts, is expected to arrive in early May and will be leased for three years.

Cambodia is currently facing an electricity shortage of about 400 MW, stemming from a lack of rainwater to power the country's nine hydropower stations amid surging demand.

To cover the remainder of the deficit, the kingdom is also seeking to import more power from neighboring countries Thailand, Laos and Viet Nam.

Cambodia's dry season runs from November through April.—Kyodo News ■

2 Japanese teens drown in lake on Australia's Fraser Island

SYDNEY—Queensland police announced on Saturday two Japanese teenagers died after drowning in a lake on a popular tourist island north of Brisbane, Australia.

Police said the bodies of the two 16-year-old boys were found in the waters of Lake McKenzie, a picturesque freshwater lake on Fraser Island, on Saturday morning after they were reported missing from a tour group just after 5 p.m. local time on Friday.—Kyodo News ■

British lawmakers reject EU withdrawal deal for 3rd time

LONDON—Britain's House of Commons on Friday rejected the government's Brexit withdrawal agreement for a third time.

On the day Britain had been initially due to leave the 28-member European Union, the agreement was voted down despite Prime Minister Theresa May's efforts to win over parliamentarians by vowing to step down if the deal were approved.—Kyodo News ■

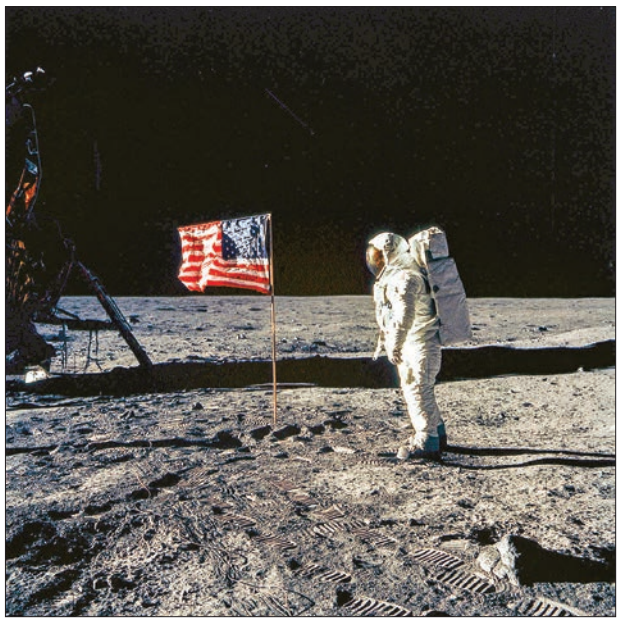
US boots on the Moon in 2024? It won't be easy

WASHINGTON (United States)—For the past 15 years, America has sought to put its astronauts back on the Moon, but NASA did not think it could be done before 2028.

On Tuesday, the government of President Donald Trump set a new deadline: 2024.But that timeframe is anything but ironclad, and would force the US space agency to upend its usual work practices and take serious risks.Just a few weeks ago, NASA chief Jim Bridenstine said the United States was not in any space race.

But he was forced to change his tune when Vice President Mike Pence said NASA needed to put astronauts back on the Moon in 2024 "by any means necessary.""Make no mistake about it, we are in a space race today," Pence said.Bridenstine now says the acceleration of the calendar is "aggressive" but doable.

Industry experts and officials also believe it's possible, but with a list of caveats: more money is needed, fewer tests, more help from the private sector —and some even want a change at the top of NASA. "I assume that all means that we would need more funding in order to accomplish those goals," one lawmaker asked."Yes," said Bridenstine.



US astronaut Buzz Aldrin on the Moon on 20 July 1969— NASA is now trying to speed up the timetable for putting astronauts back on the Moon. **PHOTO: AFP**

More money, more problems

The idea of allocating more money to NASA has some on Capitol Hill gritting their teeth. The space agency has already spent $23 billion developing its new heavy-lift rocket (the Space Launch System, which is being built by aerospace giant Boeing), the Orion capsule to transport the astronauts (built by Lockheed Martin) and ground installations. Congress has granted it $4 billion for 2019. Orion is nearly ready but the SLS is the real bottleneck: it will be more powerful than the rockets used on the original Apollo missions to the Moon, but it is years behind schedule.At a NASA facility in New Orleans, the first stage of the SLS prototype, expected to take flight next year, is still being assembled. But its four engines have not yet been delivered.That first stage is then meant to be transported via barge to St Louis for testing, before being sent to Florida for final assembly.As for the planned June 2020 test flight, Bridenstine said: "I don't think that's in the cards."Some of the engine testing could be cancelled to gain a few months.

But that would fly in the face of the long-standing conservative work culture at NASA, which is still scarred by the Challenger and Columbia space shuttle disasters in 1986 and 2003."Do you want to kill astronauts? Because this is how you kill astronauts," said Holly Griffith, a vehicle systems engineer working on the Orion capsule in Houston."There's no reason to accelerate going to the Moon by four years," Griffith told AFP. "It's ridiculous."

Help!

The reality of Pence's announcement is that 2024 is politically significant: it would be the final year in Trump's eventual second term at the White House."The administration has been frustrated for some time on the lack of progress on the mandate to return to the Moon," Greg Autry, the vice president for space development at the independent National Space Society, told AFP."It's clear the president wants it to happen during his second term, presuming he's re-elected," added Autry, who was a member of Trump's presidential transition team.So why has a return to the Moon taken so long —after all, Neil Armstrong made his legendary "giant leap for mankind" 50 years ago.Autry says NASA wants to be "100,000 percent sure this will be safe."He says a "culture change" is needed, along with the naming of new top brass at the space agency who are "more like the president" and come from the private sector.—AFP ■

Stranded baby elephants rescued by Thai rangers

BANGKOK (Thailand)—Six baby elephants separated from their parents and trapped in a muddy pit for days have been rescued by park rangers in rural Thailand, officials said on Saturday.

Patrolling rangers chanced upon the struggling herd in a national park east of Bangkok on Wednesday afternoon, park superintendent Prawatsart Chantheap told AFP. Once the rangers realised the calves, aged between one and four years old, could not climb out of the dirty watering hole, some left the forest to bring back digging tools while others stayed overnight to keep watch over the frightened creatures. "Our team arrived with hoes (on Thursday morning)... and we began to dig around the rim (of the mud pit) to make it less steep," he said.

The elephant calves were stuck in a muddy watering hole when they found by park rangers. **PHOTO: AFP**

After three hours of digging to build a makeshift ramp, the mud-covered babies managed to stumble out of the pit one-by-one as the rangers cheered them on."-Go, go, follow each other!" the rangers yelled in a video recorded by the national parks department. "Go, children, go!"Prawatsart said the rangers had observed a herd of 30 adult elephants nearby and believed the young calves must have been separated from them."We believe they were stuck there for at least two days because after they got out their legs were weak," he said.Wild elephants are Thailand's national animal and live in the wild in parts of the country but their numbers have dwindled to about 2,700 from a peak of over 100,000 in 1850. —AFP ■

PES (တစ်ဦးချင်းသင်ပေးသည်)
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M.V MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (004 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (004 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-03-2019 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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1100 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
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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.

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'Pyitawthit' housing project that helps to foster Yangon urban development

Zin Lin Myint

View of an affordable housing in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

YANGON region has seen new housing projects under its urban development plan, including the renovation of old fragile state–owned property. One of them will be 'Pyitawthit' housing project located in Ward 3 of Pazundaung-Townshp, in Yangon.

While the old buildings in Yangon city have deteriorated threatened the safety of residents, the state-owned 'Pyitawthit' housing project is believed to boost the city's image.

'Pyitawthit' real estate in Pazundaung Township was first established in 1956, and it has been over 60 years now. Temporary shelters have been arranged to accommodate 142 families from housing, while construction works are underway.

The original six buildings on the land area of 4.348 acres will be substituted with a 12-storey building that includes an underground car parking area. The residential families will also be relocated after the construction works are finalized. In addition, plans have been made to construct five more apartment buildings in this project in coming May.

'Pyitawthit' is one of the housing projects developed by Department of Urban and-Housing Development. The project is implemented by M.K.T Construction Company and supervised by Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co., Ltd.

Tenders are being invited for this project beginning 14 March 2019 for construction of Phase-2 that will include shopping mall, condos, luxury apartments and office towers and is scheduled to finalize in 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The tender winner will become sub-developer for this Phase-2, and receive master plan, boundry map, EOI, form and regulations of this project.

The first phase of this project was initiated on 30 December 2018, and the whole project is expected to complete in 2023.

In his remark on initiating Pyitawthit Housing Project, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said, "The project is aimed to promote social standard of our people, and it will lead to development of the county."

Under this development plan, some state-owned real estates of Gyogone from Insein-township, Yankin, U Wisara, Zawana and Pyitawthit are under reconstruction.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

PHOTO: ZIN LIM MYINT

These housings become gradually old and fragile, while bringing about devastating effects on the public andtarnishing the image of Yangon urban development. Meanwhile, the city is developing some housing projects in Hlaingtharyar Township and Dagon MyothitSeikkanTowship. The prices of apartments in these projects are fixed in reasonable rates, and sold at installment.

It has been estimated that Yangon city will require over 300,000 apartments for civil service staff, company employees and squatters. To address this issue, Yangon Region government is seeking possible land and potential investments, while Japan has pledged Myanmar to loan K150 billion for this plan.

This loan will be taken out by Construction and Housing Development of Ministry of Construction, and Yangon Region government is finding appropriate land plots, to help reduce land value up to zero indecreasing prices of apartments as much as possible.

These efforts are intended to promote social standard of Yangon residents, and the new housing project 'Pyitawthit' will appear soon to foster Yangon urban development plan.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Sanpyazay bus stop. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

The 3rd pilot project was conducted at the Thingangyun Sanpyazay bus stops

AS part of "Project for Improving of Public Bus Service in Yangon" by JICA, the 3rd pilot project on traffic management at major bottleneck bus stop is conducted to ensure the smooth and safety movement by traffic and pedestrians. The pilot project will be conducted on 26th-31st March at Sanpyazay bus stops on both Thanthumar road and Lay Duang Kan road in cooperation with YRTA, YCDC, Traffic Police and bus operators.

At Sanpyazay bus stop, 16 bus routes operate and more than 350 bus vehicles stop at peak hours. Due to the lack of traffic management, serious congestion can be seen and safety of the pedestrians are not secured.

As pilot project activity, three main activities (provision of facility, setting bus stop operation rules and restriction) will be conducted aiming to tackle the traffic congestion and to enhance the convenience and safety of bus users.

During pilot project, designated bus stops will be provided by routes and allow to board/alight passengers only at bus stops. Waiting passengers at bus stops, overtaking one bus to another and taxi or other vehicles using the bus lane will be restricted. Aforementioned bus stop operation rules shall be kept during and after the Pilot Project by instruction of YRTA.

Similar activities have been implementing at Sule bus stops and remarkable outcomes have achieved with the participation of bus operators, drivers and passengers. Through these pilot project activities, bus operation, behavior of bus users and drivers and enhancement of bus user perception is expected to improve.

The project has 5 components of output and activities as; 1) Institutional Development of YRTA/YBS, 2) Bus Transport Planning, 3) Traffic Engineering and Infrastructure, 4) Capacity Improvement of YBS Operators with QOS and 5) ICT Application. This Pilot Project is one of the activity of output 3. The project has been implemented until March 2019.—GNLM ■

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. *Ph; 09-970890390*, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. *Ph; 01-378022.*Time- 11:30-14;00/ 17;30-22;00
(Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon.*Ph:09-799566917, 09-36714873.* 10:30-22;30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon.*Ph:09-260031197/ 09- 420231330.* 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge.(Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon *Ph:09-258322223/ 09-261322223.* Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/
Dinner 18:00-23:00(Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. *Ph:09-260031197 09-420231330.*11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon.*Ph:056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318(Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020.*11:00-21:00(Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon.*Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318(Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020,*11:00-21:00(Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.*Ph: 09-450067052*, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.*Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914.* 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00(Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon.*Ph: 01-386986*, 09:00-23:00(Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon,*Ph: 09-775330494.* 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00(Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon.*Ph: 09-250537315.* 11:00-14:00/ 17:00- 21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon.*Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.*

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon,*Ph:09 797 799111*,11:00-22:00(Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road,Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, *Ph: 09 777 799101.* 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km),Yangon.
Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.*

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.*

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe-gon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.
Ph:01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.*

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon.
Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township.
Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon.*Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.*

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. *Ph: 01-9351000.*

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01- 650933.*

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-2305858.*

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon,
Ph:01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, *Ph: 01-250388.*

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street.*Ph: 01-382687.*

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon.
Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon.
Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-8605377.*

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-242828.*

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.*

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon.
Ph:09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

Myanmar (white) vies to pass through China team's defenders (red) during yesterday's third place match at the Viet Nam invitational tourney. **PHOTO : MFF**

Myanmar suffers 3-2 loss to China at Viet Nam invitational tourney

MYANMAR U-19 team suffered a narrow loss to China U-19 team, losing 3-2 in the third place match at the invitational football tournament in Viet Nam yesterday.

Both teams fielded their key players and performed all out from the beginning of the match.

The China team scored the opening goal at the 9 minute mark, as Myanmar's defenders lost their concentration and China's strikers created their opportunities at the goal.

The opening goal was scored by China's Leng Jixuan.

But three minutes later, in a penalty shoot, team Myanmar scored an equaliser by youth star La Min Htwe, which the keeper was unable to block.

By using a power play and accurate passing, team Myanmar scored the leading goal at the 37 minute-mark through the efforts of Myanmar's Aung Ko Ko and his pass, which confused China's defenders.

But the China team equalized with a goal by Ma Fuyu at the 45 minute mark, and the score at the end of the first half was 2-2.

In the second half, with changing tactics, China created more opportunities.

When a Myanmar player left the match after receiving a red card due to rough play, Myanmar played with 10 players.

With fewer players, Myanmar could not withstand the attacks, and China scored the winning goal at the 70 minute mark.

The winning goal was scored by Ma Fuyu of China.

There were no goals seen in the later minutes and Myanmar missed placing in the third place slot due to its loss to China.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar to compete in U-16 invitational football tourney in China

AT the invitation of the China Football Association (CFA), the Myanmar U-16 boys' national football team will compete in the U-16 International Invitational Tournament in China, beginning 3 April at Weinan, China, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The federation will send U-15 team players so they might receive additional experience at the international tournament, said an official with the MFF.

The competition will continue until 11 April.

The four nations competing in the tourney are host China U-16 team, Myanmar U-16 team, Tajikistan U-16 team and Kyrgyzstan U-16 team.

Myanmar will play against host China on 6 April, Kyrgyzstan on 8 April and Krygyzstan on 10 April.

The Myanmar U-16 team is made up of 23 players, including keeper Htet Arkar Win, defender Htoo Myat Khant, midfielder Khaung Khant and striker Thiha Aung.

Team Myanmar will be managed by head coach Koga Takuma.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Timberwolves edge Warriors in controversial overtime finish

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Karl-Anthony Towns drained a free throw with five-tenths of a second remaining to seal a 131-130 overtime victory over Golden State Friday that left the defending NBA champion Warriors fuming over the officiating and their own miscues.

Towns went to the line after Warriors star Kevin Durant was whistled for a fifth foul on an inbounds play.

Durant was called for holding Towns near the basket, even though the pass appeared out of reach of both players.

Towns made the first of two free throws and missed the second as time expired.

The defeat left the Warriors neck-and-neck atop the Western Conference with the Denver Nuggets, who beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 115-105 to improve to 51-24.

The final foul on Durant was just one of the calls that irked the Warriors.

Seconds earlier, Golden State inbounded the ball to Durant who put up a three pointer that dropped through the net as a foul was called.

But officials waived off the basket saying the foul had occurred before Durant got the shot off.—AFP ■

Federer ready for Isner shoot-out for Miami crown

MIAMI (United States) — Roger Federer is gearing up for a Miami Open final shootout with John Isner on Sunday after blowing away young-gun Denis Shapovalov in straight sets.

Federer produced a 6-2, 6-4 masterclass at Hard Rock Stadium to leave up-and-coming star Shapovalov, who grew up idolizing the Swiss, chasing shadows during a difficult first set.

The Swiss was superb in dismantling the 19 year-old's game, but knows with huge serving Isner lying in wait in what will be the former world number one's 50th ATP Masters final, the key will be to defuse the reigning Miami Open champion's monster service game. Isner used it to great effect in his 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/4) win over Shapovalov's friend and compatriot Felix Auger-Aliassime earlier in the day, smashing down 21 aces. He'll be looking for more of the same against 20 time Grand Slam champion Federer.

"Playing a big server like John is like being in a penalty shootout in soccer, but I enjoy it," said number four seed Federer who coped brilliantly with Kevin Anderson's dangerous serve in the quarter-finals, winning the first set to love.

"Sometimes you go with momentum. Sometimes you go with feel. Sometimes you guess maybe a little bit and sometimes you see it. It's a combination of all sort of things.

"You just hope that the stars align, that you pick the right side, that he picks the wrong side, that maybe he misses a serve, that you can put him in uncomfortable situations time and time again, and at the end somehow you find a way." Federer had no such challenge from Shapovalov, playing his fifth ATP Tour semi-final. Even though the Swiss was standing in his way of a first final, the 19 year-old stressed beforehand that it was a "dream" to take on Federer.—AFP ■

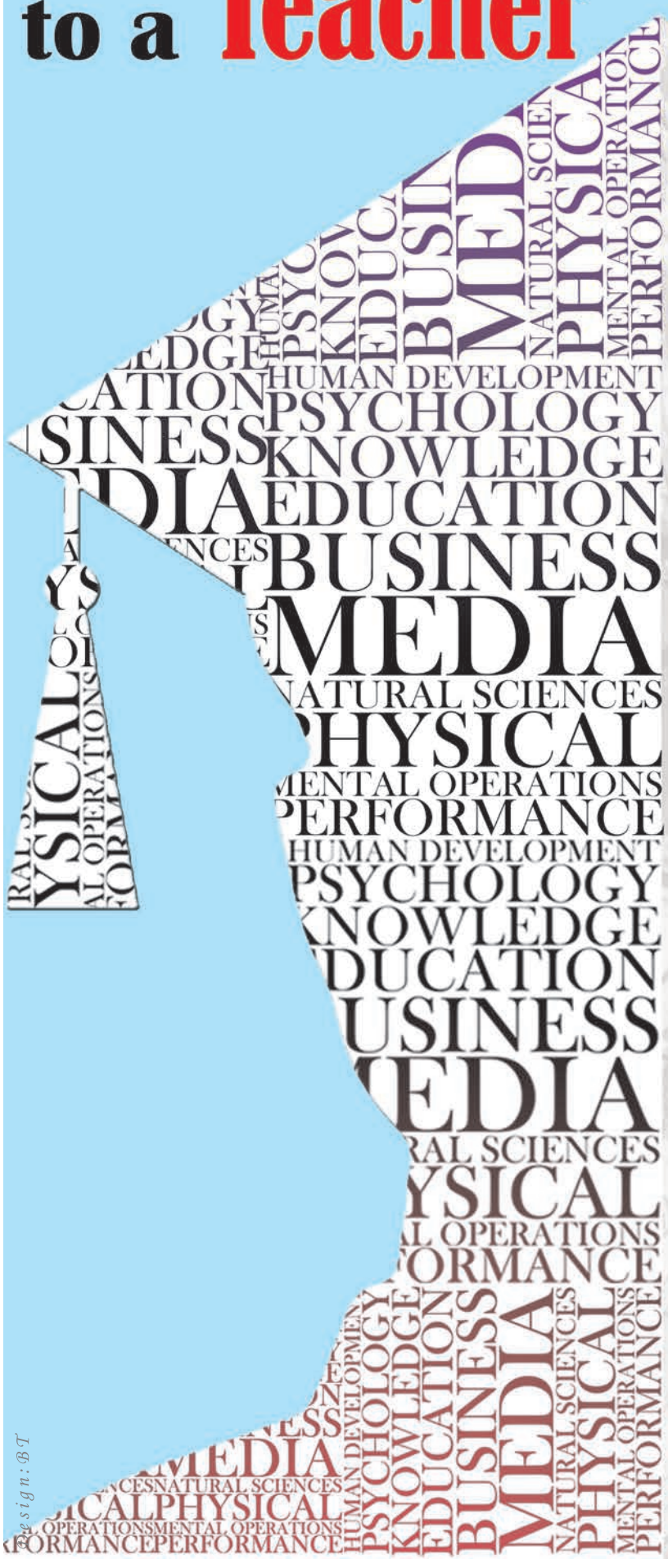
Swiss great Roger Federer on the way to a straight-sets victory over Canadian Denis Shapovalov in the semi-finals of the ATP and WTA Miami Open. **PHOTO : AFP**

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Why Educational Psychology is Important to a Teacher

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



PSYCHOLOGY is the study of people's behavior, performance, and mental operations. In addition, it refers to the application of the knowledge, which can be used to understand events, treat mental health issues, and improve education, employment, and relationships. There are sub-areas of psychology, including: Sports, Education, Business, Media, Physical conditions and Human development. It also involves other areas of study, including humanities, natural sciences, and the social sciences. Psychology studies people—who and what they are. It looks into why they act and think the way they do and how someone can improve himself or herself. Therefore, everything a person does is connected to the subject. It can be said that psychology is a must for all people to study. Education is one of the most important components of human society. Teachers, parents and students, who are all crucial in education, are human beings. Therefore, they should all have the knowledge of psychology. Among them, it is teachers who spend most of time with students and also mold students into good or bad ones in education. Therefore, Psychology is one of the basic needs to become a teacher. Psychology specialized in education area is termed as educational psychology.

In the institutes of education and education colleges throughout the world, Educational Psychology is prescribed as a compulsory subject for all prospective teachers to study like Educational Theory and Methodology. As our teacher, Professor Dr Tin Maung Win always said, Educational Theory focuses on what to teach, Methodology focuses on how to teach and Educational Psychology emphasizes when to teach. When a work is done, it is important to be able to it exactly at the right time. Otherwise, what we do and how we do it may be good, but it will never be effective. Similarly, it is more important to teach students at the right time, when they can absorb what is taught, than what is taught and how it is taught. Teacher is like a philosopher who guides his student. He is responsible to be aware about growth and development of the students. Only when he understands well his students' growth and development, he can correctly choose what to teach at the right time. In addition, Educational Psychology studies various factors which have impacts upon students, which may include home environment, social groupings, peer groups, his or her emotional sentiments, and mental hygiene etc. In this way, a teacher can realize why teaching-learning process fails if he or she finds it fail. As a result, he or she will be able to fix his teaching-learning process well in time. Educational Psychology helps a teacher to know that how learning takes place and enables him or her

SEE PAGE- S-3

Design: BT

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Lesson 20

Letter-writing

(တစ်ဦးထံတစ်ဦးပေးစာရေးသားခြင်း)

အခြေခံပညာအဆင့်မြင့်တန်း၊ ကောလိပ်နှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသားများနှင့်အခြားအင်္ဂလိပ်စာလေ့လာလိုက်စားသူများအနေဖြင့် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာစီစာကုံးရေးတတ်အောင်ကြိုးစားသကဲ့သို့ တစ်ဦးမှ တစ်ဦးသို့ ပေးသောစာများကိုလည်းရေး တတ်အောင်ကြိုးစားရန် လိုပါသည်။

ခွင့်တိုင်စာ၊ ကျေးဇူးတင်ကြောင်း ဖော်ပြသောစာ၊ ဖိတ်ကြားစာနှင့် ဆွေမျိုးမိတ်သင်္ဂဟများထံရေးသောစာများ အပါအဝင် လူမှုရေးနှင့်သက်ဆိုင်သောစာများ (Social Letters) နှင့် လျှောက်လွှာများ၊ အယ်ဒီတာထံပေးစာများ အပါ အဝင် စီးပွားရေး၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ဖောက်ကားရေးနှင့်ဆိုင်သော စာများ (Business Letters) ဟူ၍အကြမ်းဖျင်းနှစ်မျိုးနှစ်စားရှိပါသည်။

ကျောင်းသားများ အများဆုံး ရေးရသောပေးစာမှာ လူမှုရေးနှင့် သက်ဆိုင်သောပေးစာများ (Social Letters) ဖြစ်၍ ဤသင်ခန်းစာတွင် social letter များ ရေးသားပုံကို တင်ပြပါမည်။

(A) မြန်မာစာနှင့်ရေးသော ပေးစာများမှာကဲ့သို့ပင် အင်္ဂလိပ်လို ရေးသောပေးစာများကိုလည်း တစ်ဦးနှင့်တစ်ဦး စကားပြောသည့်ဟန် အသုံးအနှုန်းမျိုးဖြင့် ရေးလေ့ရှိသည်။ ဥပမာ "မေမေ၊ သား စာရေးလိုက်ပါတယ်။ သားနေကောင်းပါတယ်။" စသည့် စကားပြောသည့်အတိုင်း မြန်မာစာတွင် ရေးသကဲ့သို့ အင်္ဂလိပ်လိုပေးစာတွင်လည်း he'll (he will), I don't (I do not), She can't (She cannot), They haven't (They have not) စသည့် စကားပြောရာတွင် အသုံးများသော အတိုကောက်များကို သုံးနိုင်သည်။ သုံးလည်းသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

(B) ပေးစာ (Letter) ရေးရာတွင် စာကြောင်းရှည်ကြီးများ ရေးသားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ရှားသင့်သည်။ အသုံးအနှုန်း လွယ်လွယ်စာကြောင်းတို များဖြင့် ရေးသင့် သည်။ သဒ္ဒါ (grammar), အစီအစဉ် (order), စာလုံးပေါင်း (spelling) မမှားအောင် ဂရုစိုက်ရန် လိုပါသည်။

(C) ပေးစာများ (Letters) ကို အင်္ဂလိပ်လိုရေးရာတွင် အောက်ပါစည်းကမ်းများကို လိုက်နာရပါမည်။

(1) စာမျက်နှာ၏ ညာဘက်ထိပ်အစွန်နားတွင်ရေးသူ၏ လိပ်စာအပြည့်အစုံကို ရေးရသည်။

(2) လိပ်စာ၏ အောက်တွင် နေ့စွဲ(the date)ကို ရေးရမည်။ 15th Oct, 1982 ဟု ရေးနိုင်သကဲ့သို့ 15-10-82 ဟုလည်း ရေးနိုင်သည်။ သို့ရာတွင် Social Lettters များတွင် Dated the 15th October 1982 ဟု မရေးရပါ။

(3) နေ့စွဲအောက်ကပ်လျက် စာကြောင်းဘယ်ဘက်အစွန်တွင် ရှေ့မှ Dear ခံ၍ ဖခင်ဖြစ်လျှင် Dear Father, မိတ်ဆွေသူငယ်ချင်းဖြစ်လျှင် နာမည်နှင့် တွဲဖက်၍ Dear Zaw Lwin Oo, Dear Khet Khet စသည်ဖြင့် ရေးရသည်။

(4) စာကိုယ်ကို အပိုဒ်များခွဲ၍ ရေးလေ့ရှိသည်။ များသောအားဖြင့် သုံးပိုဒ်ခွဲ၍ ပထမအပိုဒ်တွင် စာဘယ်နေ့က ရရှိကြောင်း၊ နေကောင်းကြောင်းသိရ၍ ဝမ်းသာကြောင်း၊ ပြန်စာချက်ချင်းမရေးနိုင်၍ ဝမ်းနည်းကြောင်း စသည့်နှုတ်ခွန်းဆက်စကားများ ရေးလေ့ရှိသည်။

ဒုတိယအပိုဒ်တွင် ရေးလိုသောအကြောင်း၊ ရေးရမည့်အကြောင်းကို ရေးရသည်။ ဒုတိယအပိုဒ်သည် ပထမနှင့်တတိယအပိုဒ်တို့ထက်ပို ရှည်သင့် သည်။ (နမူနာ များတွင် လေ့လာပါ။) တတိယအပိုဒ်သည် စာစီစာကုံးမှာကဲ့သို့ပင် နိဂုံးဖြစ်သည်။ ကျန်းမာစေရန် သို့မဟုတ် စာမေးပွဲ အောင်စေရန် ဆုတောင်းကြောင်း စသည် ဖြင့်ရေးလေ့ရှိသည်။

(5) အောက်ဆုံး ညာဘက်ထောင့်ကပ်၍ လက်မှတ်ထိုးရသည်။ လက်မှတ်အပေါ်တွင် Your loving son, Your loving friend, Yours sincerely စသည်ဖြင့် ဆီလျော်သလို ထည့်လေ့ရှိသည်။ (နမူနာကြည့်ပါ)

(D) Letters များတွင် မိမိကလည်း How is life? Are you working hard now? When are you coming down to Yangon? စသည်ဖြင့် မေးခွန်းများလည်း မေးနိုင်သည်။

(F) မိမိရေးလိုသည့် သို့မဟုတ်ရေးရမည့်အကြောင်းအရာကိုစဉ်းစား၍ အတွေးများကို စုစည်းပြီး ရှင်းရှင်းလင်းလင်း၊ လွယ်လွယ်စာကြောင်းတိုများဖြင့် ရေးသား ရန် ကြိုးစားသင့်သည်။ ရေးရမည့်အကြောင်းအရာ နှစ်ခုသုံးခုရှိလျှင် အကြောင်းအရာပြောင်းတိုင်းအပိုဒ်ခွဲသင့်သည်။

အောက်တွင် နမူနာများရေးပေးထားပါသည်။ လေ့လာပါ။ ကိုယ်တိုင်လည်း အရေးကျင့်ပါ။

1. Write a letter to a friend of yours telling him or her how you intend to spend the coming summer vacation and inviting him or her to join you:

No. 12,Thazin Street,
Kamayut, Yangoon.
12th Jan, 1982

Dear Myat Oo,

I received your letter yesterday. I'm glad to know that you are in good health. I'm fine. I am getting on well with my new school. I have made many new friends but I still miss all of you.

In this letter I am going to tell you my plan for the coming summer. I intend to visit Taunggyi after my exam. I have already made arrangements. My younger brother Soe Tun will come along with me. We shall leave Yangon on 25 March. We shall go by train. We have an uncle there. He is the Township Education Officer. We shall stay at his house. We shall visit the famous Inle Lake. I have heard that the people there row their boats with their legs. We shall also go to Pindaya Caves and Kalaw. We shall also visit Shan villages.

I want you to come along with us. We shall be very happy together. Let me know whether you can come with us of not. On my return to Yangon I shall attend an art class for about a month. You know, I am interested in drawing and painting.

Are you working hard now? You are bright and I'm sure you will do well in your exam. Please remember me to all the members of your family.

Wishing you health and the best of luck in your exam.

With love,
Yours sincerely,
Min Hla Oo

fine	နေကောင်းသော
get on well with	အဆင်ပြေ
made new friends	မိတ်ဆွေသစ်များဖွဲ့ခဲ့
intend	ရည်ရွယ်သည်
I still miss all of you	ငါ မင်းတို့အားလုံးကို ယခုတိုင်အောင် လွမ်းဆွတ်တုန်းပဲ။
plan	စီမံကိန်း
arrangements	အစီအစဉ်
Township Education Officer	မြို့နယ်ပညာရေးမှူး
row boats	လှော်လှော်သည်
let me know	ငါသိပါရစေ
on my return	အပြန်မှာ
an art class	ပန်းချီသင်တန်း
interested in	စိတ်ဝင်စားသော
do well in the exam	စာမေးပွဲဖြေနိုင်
Please remember me to all the members of your family	မင်းမိသားစုကို ငါသတိရကြောင်းပြောပါ။
Wishing you health and the best of luck	ကျန်းမာ၍စာမေးပွဲတွင် ကံကောင်းပါစေဟု ဆန္ဒပြုလျက်။

2. Write a letter to your father asking him to send you K 100 more next month. Give reasons why you need extra money and also tell him how you are working hard at your studies:

No. 111, Gangaw Street,
Kamayut, Yangon.
15th Dec, 1982

Dear Father,

I am sorry that I have not written to you for about two weeks. I have been very busy as our second test is drawing very near. Now I am quite prepared for it. I am in good health. Don't worry about me.

I have been working hard at my studies since October holidays. I attend classes regularly. I read my lessons three or four hours a day. I go to the cinema only once or twice a week. I still play volleyball at school, but I study my lessons even on Sundays. I am sure to pass with flying colours. Father, please send me K 100 more this month. I would like to buy a pair of canvas shoes, some notes and some books on English composition. This summer I intend to read a lot of English books because I want to improve my English. I also need a new towel.

How is everybody at home? Please tell mother and younger sister that I shall bring good presents for them this summer. I miss you all. Once again, Futher, please don't worry about me. I take good care of my health and I am working hard.

Wishing you health and happiness.

Your loving son,
Nyan Lwin Oo

drawing very near	အလွန်နီးကပ်လာနေ
am quite prepared	လုံးဝအဆင်သင့်ဖြစ်နေ
Don't worry about me	ကျွန်တော့်အတွက် မစိုးရိမ်ပါနဲ့
work hard	ပြင်းထန်စွာအလုပ်လုပ်(စာကြိုးစား)
twice	နှစ်ကြိမ်
with flying colours	ဂုဏ်ထူးများနှင့်
a pair of canvas shoes	ရွှက်ဖျင်ဖိနပ်စက်ရံ
composition	စာစီစာကုံး
improve	တိုးတက်သည်
towel	မျက်နှာသုတ်ပုဝါ
presents	လက်ဆောင်များ
take good care of	ကောင်းစွာဂရုစိုက်သည်
extra	အပို
reasons	အကြောင်းပြချက်

3. Write a letter to a friend of yours inviting him or her to your birthday party and telling him or her what arrangements you have made:—

No. 12, Myakan Street,
Kamayut, Yangon.
30th Dec, 1982

Dear Aye Aye,

I have not seen you for a long time. What have you been doing these days? Are you doing fine in your studies?

The coming Saturday, 6 January, is my 16th birthday. I am holding a birthday party at my house at 4 pm that day. I have invited about 50 friends. We shall play games. I have made all the arrangements. We shall also have music. Ko San Hla, Saw Tun Oo and Sein Lin will bring guitars. Ma Moe Swe, Thanda and Thazin will sing new songs. You know, they are very good singers, Then we shall have dinner at about 6. There will also be cold drinks and cakes. After dinner, we shall watch the television. Don't worry about transport. I shall send you back home in our car.

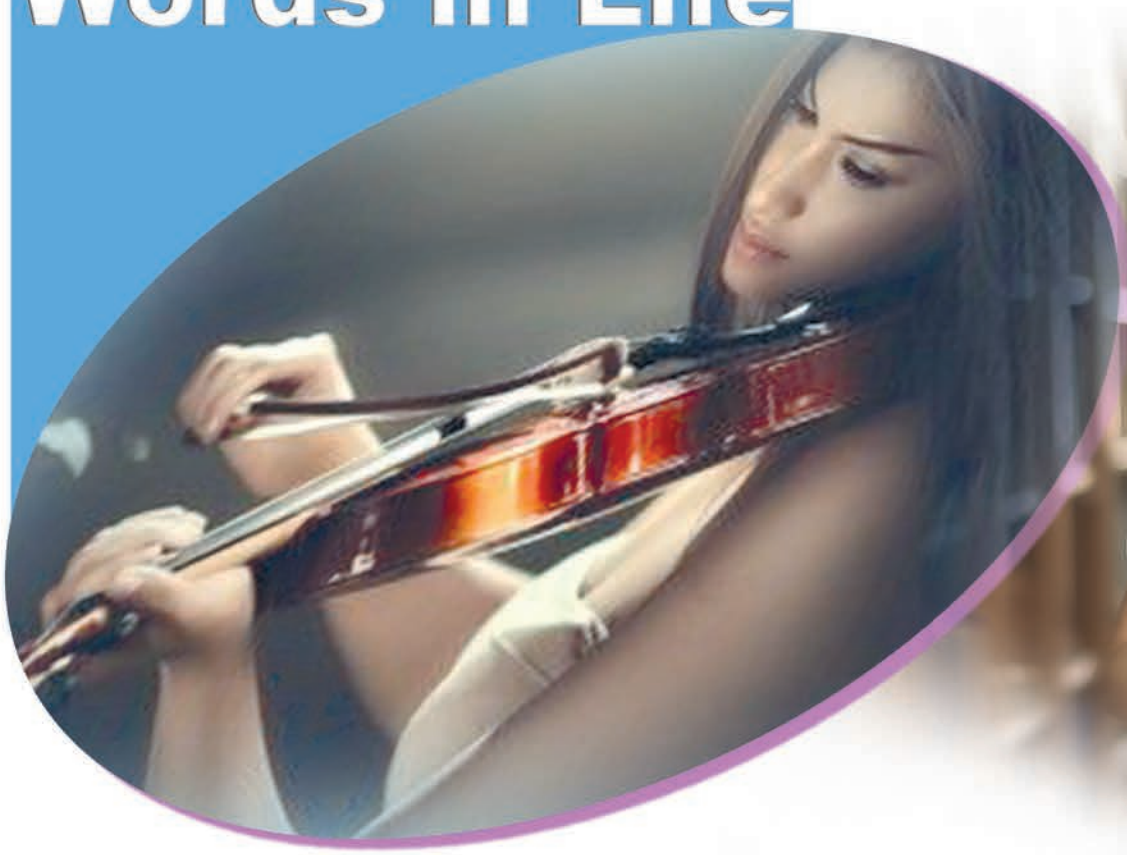
I want you to come earlier. You are one of my best friends and I shall be very angry with you if you don't come.

Looking forward to seeing you
Yours lovingly,
Aye Myint Mu

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

Numerous Adversarial Words in Life

Ms. Moon
Final year Honours
(English)
Dagon University



THERE, sometimes, were numerous words in my bosom, which I did not know to say to whom. Those words were in various colours. As I was a youth, there was no one to listen regarding my wishes. Those who were my intimate friends could not always be near me to listen to my words. Although I had brothers and sisters, they were busy with their professions and sundry tasks and could not give me a second to listen to what I wanted to say. I also had few chance to meet my sweetheart who often listened to my words in patience. When we got the rare chance to meet each other, we had to discuss the more important words for our lives instead of those in my bosom.

All of them including my sweetheart did not seem to be aware of adversarial words in my bosom. Thus, I felt as if I were in a lonely life. Since my life was in my hand, I seldom viewed my close surrounding atmosphere with curious care as well as made some preparations of steps forward for my vague future at a distance.

Although I was just a youth, I possessed a head that could contemplate the rights and the wrongs and give a proper decision as well as I owned a heart that could be fragile and could not withstand a harsh touch. However, they both were never identical and sometime they were much argumentative and quarrelsome. The adversarial words born from their repeated disputes made a heap of massive solid in my bosom.

The numbers of those massive words were like the twinkling particles of diamond called stars in the sky at night. They had been existing in my bosom for not less than two decades. In such life that did not have an opportunity to reveal my feeling, I made friend with an old violin. Playing the old violin, I was able to dissolve some massive words mentioned earlier together with the melody of the violin. However, my clumsy melody made the people who heard it annoyed and I had to try to cure it again.

Then, I thought that it would be more suitable I had to look for a better and more silent way to console my feeling. Therefore, I headed to the books of both knowledge and aesthetics. I read the books as much as I could and I found that books could lead me to escape commensurately from my choke. In this manner, I enjoyed reading books for a certain period. However, the numbers of words in my bosom did not get less and less. Instead, they even increased in number. Although I felt books might be an exit of my choke, I could not be entirely satisfied with them as a complete escape of my mind.

Therefore, I later took a blank white paper and poured the words kept in my bosom as the phrases, sentences or lines of verses. I was gradually able to compose poems and proses opportunely. At that moment, the waves due to the oppressed words in my bosom got rather calm and imperceptibly peaceful. I guessed I could have found the right place where my massive solids of words would have to be revealed. Then, I hesitantly and timidly sent my manuscripts to the editors of magazines and journals. When I saw my very first manuscripts of an essay that was printed on the page of the Sunday Special section of The GNLM, the experienced English newspaper in Myanmar, a limitless delight overwhelmed me for a while. Now, I am looking forward to composing the words in my bosom and conveying them onto the exciting pages.

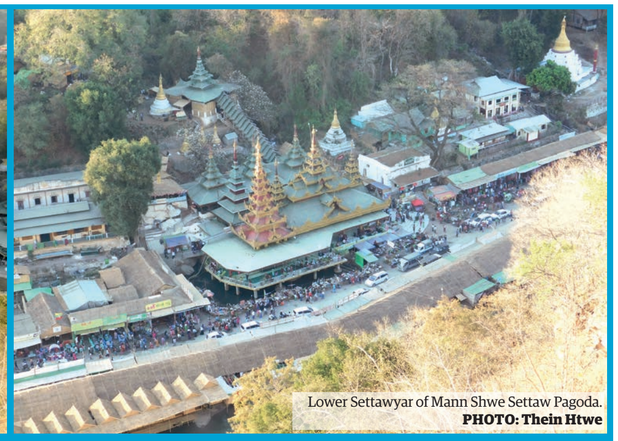
FROM PAGE- S-1

to know that how learning process should be initiated, how to motivate, how to memorize or learn. Therefore, it is undeniable that the teacher who studies well Educational Psychology will help his or her students' learning best. Moreover, Educational Psychology informs a teacher, about the nature of the learners and his or her potentialities, intelligences and aptitudes. For example, Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences Theory claims that every child is special and they are differently good at different areas. As a result, any student cannot be recognized as idiot ones and teacher will realize that students' performances should be assessed by using alternative assessments than traditional paper and pencil tests to polish students' abilities right in the fields they are talented. As a result, students are less likely to be specialized in the subject they are not really interested in as they have to do in the here and now. In this way, productive citizens who are rightly good at their fields can be produced more and it will help the education of our country to become better and more reliable.

It is not enough to present why Educational Psychology is important to a teacher only in an essay. This is just the brief presentation which highlights that Educational Psychology is a must for a teacher. It is like a weapon which a soldier must use to win a war or like an oar of a rower. Without studying Educational Psychology, a teacher can never accomplish his or her teaching-learning process effectively. Therefore, it is vital not to let anyone enter to teaching career unless he or she has studied Educational Psychology yet. In conclusion, Educational Psychology is important for every teacher and each and every teacher had better utilize what they have studied in educational psychology to implement an effective teaching-learning process.

31 MARCH 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Upper Settawyar of Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda.
PHOTO: Thein Htwe


Lower Settawyar of Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda.
PHOTO: Thein Htwe

Bullock carts travelling to pagoda festivals, part of the cultural heritage of Myanmar

By Nat Ye Hla

CARAVANS of bullock carts traveling towards the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda Festival, then leaving the pagoda after the festival, are still seen every March.

The centuries-old traditional trip by villagers to visit the pagoda has attracted photographers for decades. This tradition can also be seen at the pagoda festivals in Bagan, as well as at pagodas in central Myanmar, especially after the harvest season.

In the time of kings, the number of bullock carts reached over 70, according to records. The preparation period to visit the pagoda was a busy time for villagers after the harvest.

Each family decorated the bullock carts and bulls. They stored feed for their cows and brought cooking utensils and items for making camp at the pagodas, as the trip lasted from six to seven days. The trips were also a time for villagers to enjoy boasting about their decorated carts.

Villagers camped near the pagoda and enjoyed performances at traditional theatres, as well as shopping at night during the festival.

The Shwe Settaw pagoda festival remains one of the most famous pagoda festivals in Myanmar, lasting more than two months and ending in April. March is the crowded season for the festival and the best time for students to rest after examinations.

Another festival which witnesses camps of bullock carts is the Ananda Pagoda Festival in Bagan, which falls in December or January during the winter season.

The festival is one of the most significant pagoda festivals in Myanmar and lasts more than two months. Visitors can enjoy the traditional lifestyle of the locals of Bagan during this festival.

Another camp where bullock carts can be seen is in April at the Shwemawdaw Pagoda festival in Bago, about 50 miles from Yangon.

Travelling in bullock carts to pagoda festivals is one of the intangible cultural heritages of Myanmar, and is still seen in some areas thanks to villagers who have preserved the traditional culture of our older generations.

Myanmar has cultural heritages in various fields. Several million year-old primate and fossil remains have been discovered in Myanmar. According to archeological evidence, Myanmar also witnessed the stone, bronze and iron ages.

In its early history, there were ancient Pyu, Mon and Rakhine cities where civilization flourished. The first kingdom in Myanmar was established in Bagan, followed by the Inwa, Taungoo, Nyaungyan and Konbaung dynasties.

Throughout those eras, there were many arts and architectural creations created by those people, who remain as cultural heritages. Similarly, there were religious beliefs, traditions and festivals of ethnic nationals throughout Myanmar who remain as intangible cultural heritages.

These tangible and intangible heritages are a matter of pride and honor for the country and the people.

The nation's cultural heritage preservation law was enacted on 28 February, 2019 to protect both the tangible and intangible cultural heritages of the country.

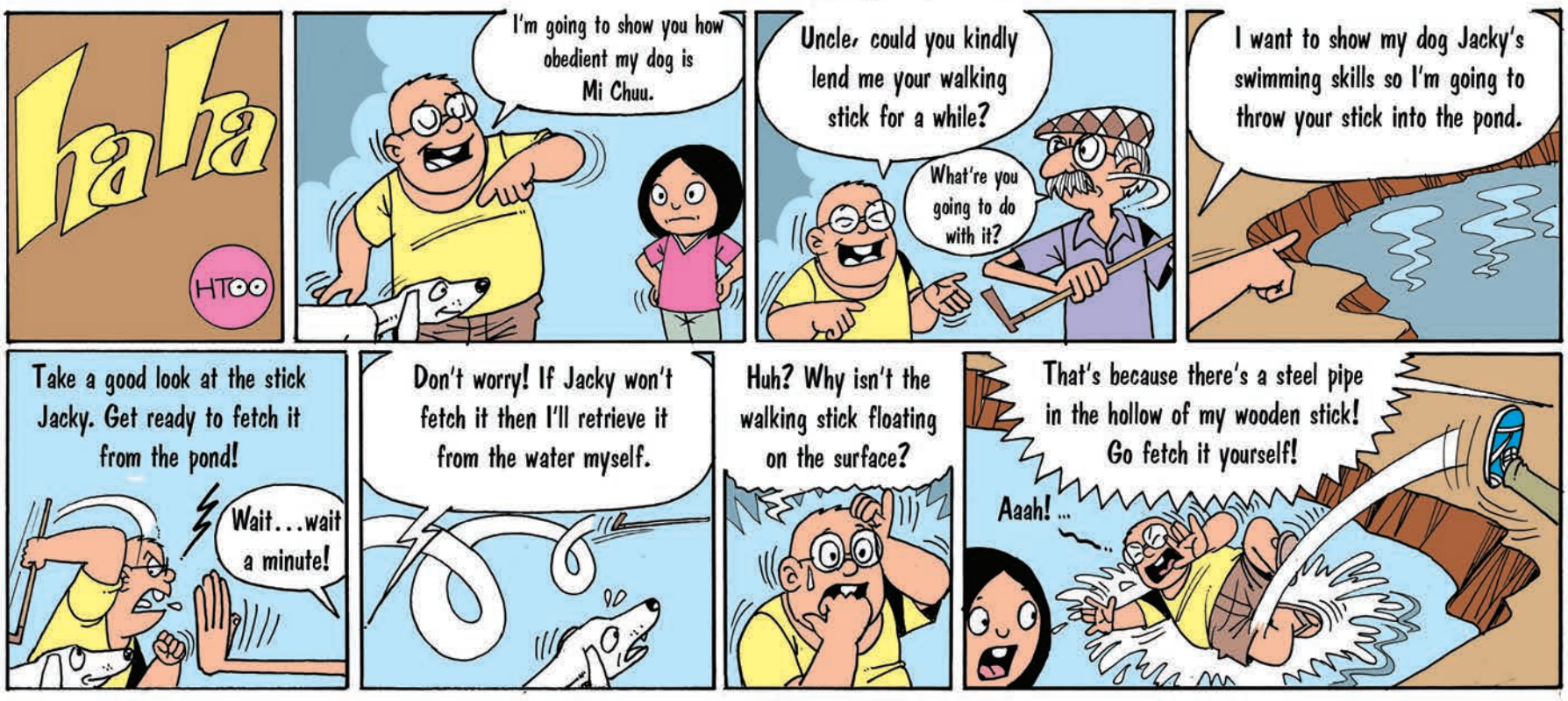
Only then, would the work of protecting and maintaining national cultural heritages progress and develop.

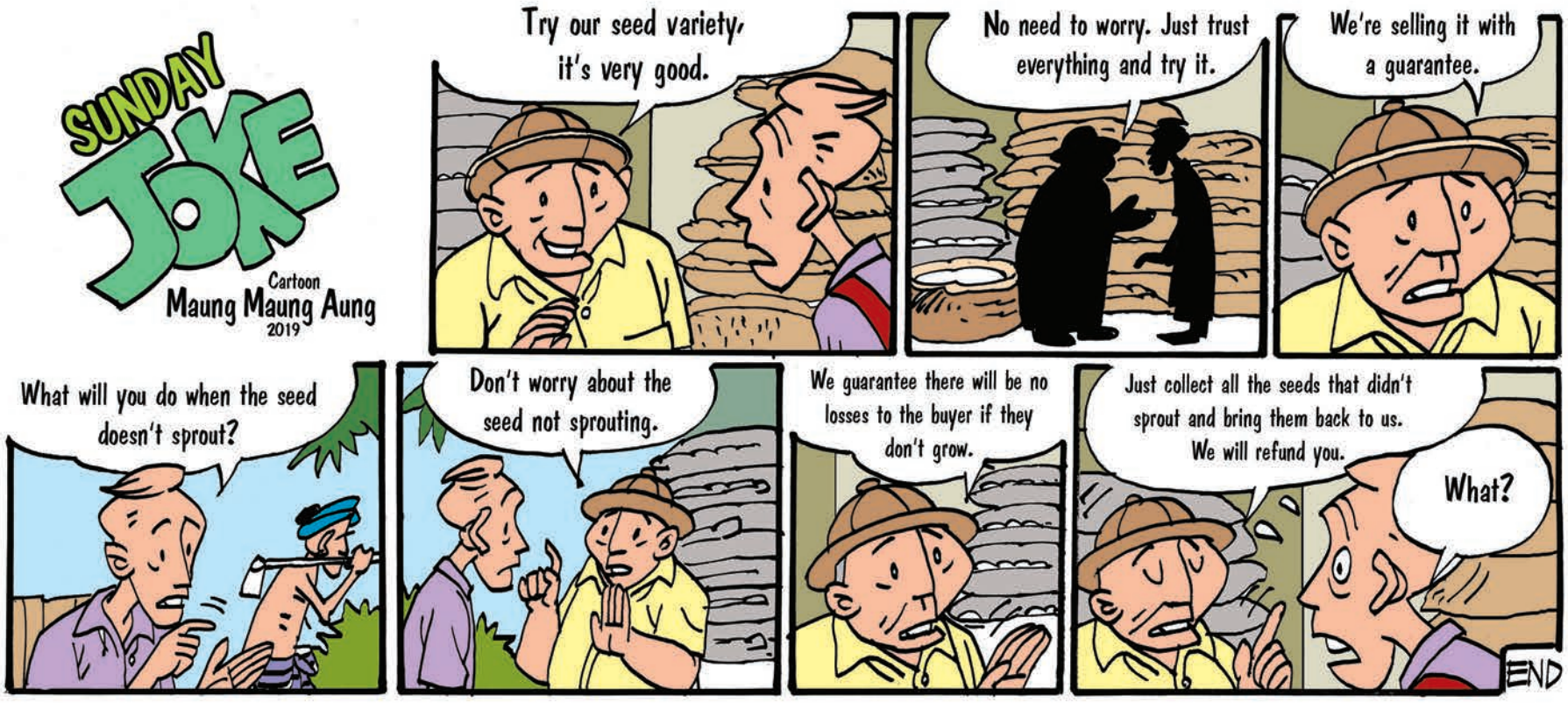
If our cultural heritages are not preserved and recognized, they will be adopted, transformed or taken away by other countries.

In fact, the preservation of intangible cultural heritages requires coordination with local people and understanding the essential role of communities in safeguarding cultural heritages. ■

Villagers from Minn Hla Kyin villagers travel in bullock carts to Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda in March, 2019.
PHOTO: Htain Lin (Magway)

SUNDAY COMICS





A wide-ranging interview with the European Union Ambassador Mr. Kristian Schmidt touched upon launching of "Education Budget Support Programme of the European Union to Myanmar."

> I think Myanmar will catch up in ten years if we can make this work efficiently. Ten years from now, Myanmar will not be needing EU's support for this.

Exclusive Interview with EU Ambassador

H.E. Mr. Kristian Schmidt

Q : Excellency, we've learnt the launching of "Education Budget Support Programme of the European Union to Myanmar". It is a great honour and absolutely delightful for our people. Please tell us about the aims and objectives of this programme?

Ambassador Schmidt: This is the opening of a new chapter in our partnership with Myanmar. We have been supporting the peace process and democratic transition, but with this new support for education, we are really investing in the future of the youth in Myanmar. It is not a classic project. We are going to support Myanmar through its own government systems, directly supporting the Ministry of Education. This is not just a sign of EU solidarity, it is also a sign of full EU support and confidence in the policy-making of Myanmar government. It is a big day for us.

Q : Excellency, we've learnt that this is the 1st EU support for such kind of education budget support programme of 221 million Euros. It is a very big support and very significant. Please tell us about the budget allocation plans.

Ambassador Schmidt: The needs of Myanmar's education sector are long-term and the government is implementing a five to ten-year plan. Therefore, if we want to be serious partners we must also make a long-term commitment. We do not know how the politics will develop in the next two to three years, but for the next five years, the EU will be supporting Myanmar's education system.

We recognize the enormous needs that Myanmar is facing to catch up. In the years under the military government, education was not a priority. It is a new set of skills that Myanmar needs to quickly catch up in order to compete in the global economy. We have realized this is something that must happen now.

This is not something that we as outsiders are imposing, but there is determination within the government to reform the education sector. We are willing to put our support directly into the Ministry of Education budget instead of funding parallel projects. By working this way with the government, we are going to strengthen the systems of Myanmar's Ministry of Education down to the States, the Regions and townships. That is the significance of budget support; it really is a sign of trust that Myanmar can handle this.

Q : It's very significant. We've learnt that the EU will support direct financial transfer to the Ministry of Education, also technical assistance. Please elaborate about technical assistance with the implementation partners?

Ambassador Schmidt: The entire package is 221 million Euros, which is roughly 380 billion Myanmar Kyats over five years. It is a lot of money. The majority of the funding will go directly to the Ministry of Education budget to implement its National Education Strategic Plan. There will be additional technical assistance through the Asian Development Bank for training secondary education teachers, improving vocational education and training, and for capacity-building so that the government systems will be strengthened. We will also support the capacity to spend the money in a safe and accountable manner: the World Bank will support public financial management, strengthening the systems so that we know that the money will be well spent. Technical assistance will also be available for the Parliament, through International-IDEA. That is why it is a unique package rather than just a support that stands alone .

Q : There is also a plan for investment in improving quality education in ethnic areas. Could you explain about this plan?

Ambassador Schmidt: Myanmar is in a process of nation-building and peace. There is nothing more important than changing the mindsets of the next generation so that they see the benefits of peace for education and development. I think we would be making a mistake if we didn't also try to ensure that the way we distribute our support is equal and gives improved quality education to people all over Myanmar.

We feel very comfortable in working with both the Government and ethnic parties because it is in accordance with the government's policy. The government's education strategy recognizes the need to support and promote ethnic languages and cultures, and the role of the Shan, the Kachin, and other administrations in offering education.

For a Federal Union to function, students need to have the choice to move around. The ambition should therefore be for the systems to speak together and to eventually merge into a federal system. We are very careful to ensure that while supporting the central government and its capacity, we also make sure that equality is ensured, with the level of education in the ethnic areas simultaneously increased.

Q : It's a kind of way for contributing our peace process?

Ambassador Schmidt: Yes, it must be. I have met many Myanmar friends, interlocutors and Ministers who have told me that peace is about mindsets, as well. If you have had 70 years of a war, the risk is that in schools you are taught that the problem lies in others. You get text books where you have your history but you don't have the history of your competitors or the other ethnic groups. If that continues, of course you're looking at another 70 years of war.

When I meet young people, I see they want peace and opportunities, not just in their own state but in the country as a whole. They want, now that Myanmar is open to the world, to travel the world. Of course, Europe is also extending scholarships so that the students from Myanmar can benefit from opportunities to study in the region and Europe. Yes, it is also a peace project. Education is a brilliant vehicle for making people understand each other and live together.

Q : Education is vital for human resource development, poverty alleviation and the peace process. We also learnt that there is a technical and vocational education training, so is this all part of the educational programmes?

Ambassador Schmidt: When Myanmar started opening up and receiving support from the outside, a lot of Myanmar's development partners focused on primary education, which is very important. Primary education is the basis. But very few addressed secondary education and vocational training. What we have seen from the figures is that many students are dropping out.

Then there's the question of quality. According to the Ministry of Education, education is largely focusing on skills that are not relevant for the labour market. After generations of low-quality education, many young people do not have the skills for getting a job today. You cannot send these people back through primary education and start over again. Vocational training is a way to catch that generation and immediately give these people skills and opportunities to enter the labour market.

In my very first meeting with the State Counsellor after I arrived here a year and a half ago I asked her 'How can Europe help?', and her first reply was 'Education'. I then asked "What kind of education?" and she said vocational training. It satisfies me greatly that this is exactly what we are going to do. To catch up with that generation that needs support now.

Q : This EU support project is very huge and I assume there will be a lot of meetings and discussions so how are you going to make this big deal happen?

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Ambassador Schmidt: It is a significant amount and I think Myanmar will catch up in ten years if we can make this work efficiently. Ten years from now, Myanmar will not be needing EU's support for this. But this new civilian government is not yet able to raise sufficient revenues from taxes. Myanmar has one of the lowest tax percentages in the world. Only 11 per cent of national wealth is being collected in taxes. Of course, this is because a lot of revenue from natural resources are going into illicit trade. Whether it's jade or timber, it's not being collected where it should be collected to fund education, social services, hospitals, all these things. This is where the authorities will also have to invest to make sure that those revenues are collected so that Myanmar in 10 years from now will not need external support and will have a system to fund its own education services.

But this country capacities need a boost right now, and over the next five years we hope to help with that boost. I'm sure the country will continue to grow and become independent of our support.

Q : Could you tell us what are the conditions to strengthen those commitments?

Ambassador Schmidt: The disbursements are made against meeting specific targets that Myanmar has set itself in its sector policy for education. Of course, it is not a blank cheque.

For instance, when the new textbooks the ministry has planned are delivered, we pay the next installment. When we see that teachers are being trained as planned we can make the next disbursement. It is a form of cooperation that rewards results. I also want to emphasize that this is not the European Union paying for everything. One of the important conditions is that Myanmar's own commitment is demonstrated by increasing the education budget. The government has increased the allocation to education by 22 per cent from one year to the other. 22 per cent increase is a lot, but of course starting from a very low base. We will only be supporting if we see the government itself is putting more money into education. These are some of the steps that will show that the reforms that the government has decided are advancing.

Q : We would also like to know the depth of changes and pace of reforms you have noticed during your term in Myanmar.

Ambassador Schmidt: Imagine somebody who has to run 400 meters full speed around the stadium. They are running very fast, winning the race, and as they arrive they are asked to run another one . I think this is what Myanmar has gone through in the past 5-10 years. Very fast-paced reforms. It is normal that you reach a level where you say (sighs), 'Now we have to absorb the reforms.' It is the next generation and there needs to be a change in the mindset. The young people have to come in with their new openness to transparency, rule of law and fighting corruption.

Yes, the international community has noted that the pace of the reforms has stagnated somewhat. And also, on certain areas such as media freedom and certainly the crisis in Rakhine State, the country has taken a step back. As your friends, we speak up when we see that, not because we want you to lose hope but because we want you to keep going. Don't lose sight of the ambition you set when you voted in 2015, of peace and democracy for everyone.

Yes, sometimes you lose your breath and you have to regain your strength to continue onto the next round. Our engagement with Myanmar is longer because we know that this transition is an ambition you have set as a country and that it will take more than just a couple of years to reach your objectives. — **GNLM**

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG706	5:45	8:10	Daily
8M335	7:40	9:25	Daily
UB-019	7:50	9:20	1,3,5,6,7
TG2304	9:50	11:45	Daily
PG702	10:30	12:30	Daily
TG2302	11:45	13:40	2,3,5,7
PG708	15:30	17:30	5,6,7
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	17:25	19:20	Daily
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily
TG306	19:45	21:40	Daily

BANGKOK TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
TG2303	7:55	8:50	Daily
PG701	8:45	9:40	Daily
TG2301	10:00	10:55	2,3,5,7
8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily
UB020	11:00	11:55	1,3,5,6,7
PG707	13:45	14:40	5,6,7
PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily
TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily
8M332	19:10	20:00	Daily
PG705	20:30	21:50	Daily
UB018	20:20	21:15	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	Daily
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	Daily
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	7:30	12:00	Daily
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily
3K582	11:30	16:05	Daily
MI533	12:30	19:30	2
MI510	14:55	19:30	4,6
UB003	16:15	20:45	Daily
MI519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,7
3K584	19:35	0:10	1,2,3,4,5,7

SINGAPORE TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily
3K581	9:10	10:35	Daily
MI510	10:15	14:10	4,6
MI533	10:15	11:40	2
UB002	13:15	14:45	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	1,2,3,4,5,7
UB004	21:15	22:45	Daily

YANGON TO HONG KONG

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KA275	17:20	21:45	5
KA251	1:05	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	8:25	12:40	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	19:30	23:45	1,5,6,7
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
AK504	6:45	7:55	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	17:50	19:00	1,5,6,7
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	16:15	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	14:15	16:00	1,3,6

DHAKA TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
BG060	10:45	13:30	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

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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

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