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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 270, 3rd Waning of Pyatho 1381 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Sunday, 12 January 2020

Union Minister for Education opens Asi@Connect National Launching Ceremony

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the Asi@Connect National Launching Ceremony in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Asi@Connect National Launching Ceremony was held at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday, with an opening speech by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi.

Asi@Connect, begun at the Asia-Europe Meeting in 2001, is a project aided by the European Union for establishing a Trans-Eurasia Information Network – TEIN.

Universities and research departments from 24 Asian countries are cooperating on the project and conducting research by contacting 50 million European researchers via the GEANT network.

The programme seeks to reduce the gap in digital technology in the region, which is one of the six main tasks of the project.

With the assistance of Asi@Connect Project, 13 types of training courses for teachers at technological universities in regions and states are being conducted at the University of Computer Studies, Yangon, in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said a good environment, encouraging learning, training, research and creativity, is being established to expand the abilities of students, youths and lifelong learners in the higher education reform processes.

Research is the lifeline of a university, and also important to develop a nation's economy and ensure long-term harmonious development, he added.

SEE PAGE-3

Financial authorities, Kayin State SMEs discuss loans

FINANCIAL authorities held a meeting with small- and medium-sized enterprises in Kayin State yesterday to discuss granting loans to enterprises.

Some 150 businesspersons from Kayin State attended the meeting with the committee on providing financial assistance for private sector development, which was led by Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win.

The local businesspersons requested that authorities relax rules for obtaining SME loans, extend the loan period and coordination from the governmental departments for granting land ownership documents, and decrease interest rates.

The officials from the committee explained the loan process and discussed the issues presented by the businesspersons. Kayin Region Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Kayin State Minister for Planning, Finance and Development Affairs, officials from the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank and from the Central Bank of Myanmar were also present at the meeting. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Electrification ratio of Sagaing Region reaches 44%

Union Minister U Win Khaing meets with officials from the sub station yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Win Khaing, officials and youths pose for a group photo at the opening ceremony of Sub Station in Shwebo yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 178.56 miles long 230-KV Nabar-Shwebo-Ohndaw cable powerline and the 230/33/11KV 100 AVA Shwebo main sub-power station in Shwebo, Sagain Region, erected by the Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy was commissioned into service yesterday morning.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing said the 178.56 miles long 230-KV Nabar-Shwebo-Ohndaw cable powerline and the 230/33/11KV 100 AVA Shwebo main sub-power station were built to supply stable current and full voltage of electricity generated by Tapain (1) hydropower plant to Kachin State and Sagaing Region. In so doing, the 75-mile 230KV Bhamo-Nabar powerline, two 230KV sub-power stations in Bhamo and Nabar, 178.56 miles long 230-KV Nabar-Shwebo-Ohndaw line are erected and switch bays extended at Shwebo and Ohndaw sub-power stations. test transmission of 230KV Shwebo-Ohndaw powerline was conducted on 14 November last year. The test transmission proved stable current flow to Shwebo town, Shwebo industrial zone, YeU and KhinU townships and Katha, Shwegu, Htigyaint, Bhanmauk, Indaw, Mawlu, Mogaing, Moenyin.

The 75-mile 230KV Bhamo-Nabar powerline, 230/220/11KV (2x100) MVA, 110/66KV 50MVA sub-power station and 230/66/11KV (2x50) MVA sub-power station will complete this month end to link the power produced by Tapain (1) hydropower plant with national grid. The opening of 230KV Bhamo-Nabar sub-power powerline and sub-power stations will ensure better electricity to towns such as Kamaing, Hpakant and Tanaing,. 132KV Washaung-Waingmaw and 230KV Waingmaw-Nabar powerlines will be installed to improve the current of power supply to Kachin State and upper parts of Sagaing Region.

The Union Minister also elaborated on the extended power supply programs for western part of Sagaing Region including Tamu at the border with India and its surrounding villages, saying the electrification ratio of Sagaing Region has reached 44 percent. It will reach 75 percent in 2021-2022.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region Dr Myint Naing, President Mr Yu Jun of CCPG company also gave speeches. a resident thanked the government.

Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Than, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win, region cabinet member U Than Nyunt Win, MP Dr A Zin Latt, Economic Counselor of Chinese Embassy Mr Tan Shufu and President Mr Yu Jun of CCPG company formally opned the facilities.the Union Minister and the Chief Minister unveiled the signboard and looked around the sub-power station. —MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

Thanlyin gymnasium donated by ROK

Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin and donors open the sports centre of No 3 Basic Education High School in Thanlyin on 10 January. **PHOTO: THET KHAING (THANLYIN)**

A ceremony was held on Friday to open a gymnasium donated by the SeokSung Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Korea at No 3 Basic Education High School in Thanlyin. Region Hluttaw representative U Nay Lin Aung of Thanlyin Township No.1 Constituency, officials from the Ministry of Education and ROK's SeokSung Scholarship Foundation, and the headmistress formally opened the gymnasium. Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin and donors opened the sports centre by pressing buttons, followed by a Taekwondo demonstration by athletes from the two nations, and a hand over of sports equipment.

The ceremony continued at the school's hall where students sang the song "Pyi Myanmar" and the chairman of the school's board of trustees, U Myint Win, delivered a key-note address. Also, the Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister and the ROK's donors discussed the donation of the gymnasium, and handed over documents to the school's headmistress. Representatives of the two nations also exchanged commemorative gifts, which were followed by students entertaining guests with songs and dances. — Thet Khaing (Thanlyin) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar Youth Technopreneurship Development Program 2020 to be held in February

MYANMAR Youth Technopreneurship Development Program 2020 will be launched in Yangon on 4th February and in Mandalay on 9th February.

The officials urged those who want to compete in the program and talks-2020 to send their application forms not later than 24 January.

The final contest will be held at the MICT Park in Hline Township.

Winners of the program will be awarded with K10 million cash prize and will be granted with space free of charge for operating their business for six months.

The Myanmar Youth Technopreneurship Development Program-2020 talks was held yesterday at the MICT Park in Yangon, and the four speakers and attendees exchanged views on the program. — Than Htike

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

MoHS producing skilled nurses through degree, diploma courses, on- and off-campus programs

LECTURE hall, hostel and dining hall of Nursing Related Field Practice Training School at Dagon Myothit (East), Yangon were opened yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said the ministry, with the cooperation of WHO experts, is upgrading the curriculum of nursing schools to meet the international standard. Beginning 2018-2019 nurses training schools have been admitting 3600 trainees a year, up from only 1800 in the past. Principals of midwifery schools should hold talks, knowledge sharing sessions, regular meetings with specialist doctors of training hospitals. Libraries of nurses training schools and midwifery schools should be provided with more books including textbooks. Suggestions and work programs produced by conferences in 2016 and 2017 should be reviewed to make a priority list.

He said the Ministry is producing skilled nurses through nursing science degree courses, on-campus program, off-campus program and nursing diploma courses. Nurses attending the course at the school should try to become candidates of master's degree and doctorate degree courses

Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun and principal of the school Daw Mi Khin Zaw Mu also gave speeches.

The Union Minister, the Speaker and officials formally opened the facilities.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the cooperation between his ministry and Niigata University of Japan at Novotel Hotel in Yangon.

In his address, the Union Minister said sharing of knowledge and technology with the university has enhanced the efficiency of the ministry staff. Scholars who have completed their studies at the university should share and effectively apply their knowledge in the practical field. He urged the Niigata University to extend its cooperation with the departments and universities under the ministry in multiple sectors including research and development through signing of more MoUs.

Union Ministre Dr Myint Htwe and officials open the lecture hall, hostel and dining hall of Nursing Related Field Practice Training School in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Chief of Mission of Japanese Embassy Mr. Toru Maeda and President of Niigata University Professor Sugata Takahashi extended greetings.

The ministry and the university have reached agreements to monitor seasonal flu and conduct vaccination programs, research and diseases prevention and treatment.

Accompanied by officials, the Union Minister also attended the opening of the first Mother's Milk Bank in Myanmar at the Central Women's Hospital in Yangon, and gave a speech.

Medical superintendent of the hospital Dr. Khin Pyone Kyi, Ms. Jennifer Cashin, Regional Technical Specialist of Alive and Thrive, and Pediatrician Professor (Retired) Dr. San San Myint, fundraiser Dr. Htet Zan Lin and Pediatrician Professor Dr. Nant San San Aye also gave speeches. — MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Union Minister for Education opens Asi@Connect National Launching Ceremony

FROM PAGE-1

Afterwards, European Head of Mission Mr Johann Hesse, President of TEIN CC Mr Young Hwan Chung, and Rector of the University of Computer Studies, Yangon, Daw Mi Mi Thet Lwin, delivered speeches.

The speeches were followed by a discussion, entitled "WP6 Project CCNA Op and WP6 Project Bridging the Digital Divide in Myanmar." — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win delivers the speech at the meeting with small- and medium-sized enterprises in Kayin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA** **(NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

Yangon hosts J Series Festival for the first time

Audience enjoy the Japanese TV episodes at Yangon Convention Centre yesterday. **PHOTOS: HLA MOE**

A Japanese organization sponsored the J Series Festival or the Japanese TV episodes for first time in Myanmar at Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) yesterday evening. The main organizer, the executive committee of the International Drama Festival in Tokyo, has held the J Series Festival for five times in Thailand, two times in Indonesia and one time each in Vietnam and Taiwan. At the ceremony Myanmar News Agency interviewed the officials and artistes.

Mr. Shigemura Hajime (Organizer) of the executive committee of the International Drama Festival

We have been organizing the festival in Asian countries for six years, and it is the first time in Myanmar. The main goal is to further enhance Japan-Myanmar friendship through the introduction of Myanmar people to popular events in Japan and vice versa. It is my honour to hold this festival here.

Ms. Hada Michiko, the protagonist of a Japanese TV series

It's a pleasure for me that Myanmar people are enjoying Japanese dramas. Thanks you all, and hope that better Japanese TV episodes will follow in the future. I believe that Myanmar people will embrace them. As Myanmar and Japan have many similarities, we would be able to shape a better future together.

Ms. Milet (Vocalist)

I am so thankful that I could sing my first song in Myanmar. I wish Japan and Myanmar do well in further promoting their friendly ties through the art. It's a privilege to be here.

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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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.

Great values of Bagan shines at Anawrahta Art Gallery

AN art exhibition, entitled "Spiritual Heritage Great Bagan," opened yesterday at the Anawrahta Art Gallery in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township.

The exhibition was held in celebration of listing Myanmar's ancient city of Bagan in the UNESCO heritage listing.

At the gallery, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko delivered an opening address.

The exhibition was formally opened by U Tin Oo, Patron of the National League for Democracy, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung and Myanmar's prominent impressionist and veteran artist Dr U Lun Gywe.

Art works by 70 artists are exhibited free of charge for public viewing from 11 to 18 January.

Patron of the National League for Democracy U Tin Oo, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and officials observe the art works at the Anawrahta Art Gallery in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO : KYAW ZEYA**

Anawrahta Art Gallery is located in Thityarpin Road, Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township.—Kyaw Zeya ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin))

Yangon hosts J Series Festival for the first time

FROM PAGE-3

Ms. Hirahara Ayaka (Vocalist)

I am very happy as I could sing the theme song "If" of the TV series "A house under the dreams" together with Morisaki Win. The song highlights the success achieved through collective efforts.

Mr. Morisaki Win (Vocalist and actor)

I am happy that Japanese dramas can be screened in Myanmar, and I hope continued support of the people. I thank all who lend a helping hand for holding the festival.

The Japan-Myanmar Film Festival 2020 will be held at Thuwunna Bhumi Event Park in Yangon on 9 February. Popular vocalist of Myanmar will entertain the public together with Hirahara Ayaka and Morisaki Win. Booths and food stall of Japan and Myanmar will be opened at the festival. —Yi Yi Myint ■

(Translated by TMT)

Local-made lotus towels find market in Japan

JAPAN is the largest buyer of towels woven with lotus thread, said Ko Nay Myo Thet of Pan Organic Wear of Amarapura Towsnhip, Yangon Region.

Pan Organic Wear is buying the thread derived by the residents from lotus stalks of the plants thriving in Soanye Inn lake near Soanye village in Kyaukse Township as raw material for the industry. The company is selling a towel woven with lotus and silk at over K 100,000 and with pure lotus at over K 400,000.

"Fabrics made of lotus thread are too rare. We want the people know about their excellent qualities. They can cool you down in summer and warm you up in winter. Besides, they are light and easy to wash. Those are their advantages. Most Myanmar people wear the lotus towel around the next as a muffler, but foreigners typically wrap it around the waist as a longyi. So we made the towels for duel use. Six person have to work through the difference stages of weaving for three consecutive days to produce a lotus thread towel. Unlike the imported cloths, lotus thread fabrics are rare commodity which takes time to produce one. So I would urge our people to buy locally made goods," he said.

Pan Organic Wear is also producing longyis (man's sarong) dyed with natural agents, apart from lotus thread towels, with the strength of 20 workers. It is also producing new generation weavers, according to local sources.

The company buys a viss (3.6 pounds) of lotus thread between Ks 300,000 and Ks 400,000 depending on the quality. The lotus season begin in April every year.—*Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-printing House)*
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Women showing how to prepare for lotus threads for making lotus towels at a booth.
PHOTO : MIN HTET AUNG (MANN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Neighbouring countries building stronger gems markets than Myanmar

By Nyein Nyein

NEIGHBOURING countries are building stronger gems market than Myanmar, which is the country of origin for many gems. Nearby countries are enjoying greater benefits than Myanmar, which is producing the gems and jewelleries, said U La Hpai Khun Sa, chairman of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs' Federation.

"The raw gems, which are produced in our country, are purchased by our neighbouring countries. Then, they build a stronger market in their countries. When we think of the reason why they are earning better incomes from this trading, we find that countries like China and Thailand have more prosperous markets, as they are adding value to raw gems by making the finished products with beautiful designs. They manufacture the value added finished products with attractive designs through the use of the state of the art crafting technologies. Additionally, their manufacturing of the finished products have created thousands of job opportunities," said U La Hpai Khun Sa.

"Therefore, the gems and jewellery market should be built strong in Myanmar. In this regard, Myanmar needs to produce jewellery with attractive designs through the use of state of the art technology, in order that we can vie with our neighbours in a highly competitive international market. Then, only will Myanmar be able to derive greater benefits from the manufacturing of the gems and jewellery", he added.

There is still a need to build a finished gem products market in Myanmar, and there continues to be weak cooperation between entrepreneurs, the associations and related departments. Myanmar needs strong cooperation in order for the local gems market to emerge and to develop high- quality finished products in Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs' Federation.

"We have discovered that we are facing these problems because we are weak in cooperation. And what is more, we are selling gems and jewellery at a much cheaper price, because we receive and produce them cheaply. In fact, we first need to build a market in which we can produce high-quality finished products of gems and jewellery. We need to produce the most beautiful designs of gems and jewellery," he added.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources and it also produces world renowned precious gems. However, under five per cent of markets can produce good-quality finished gems and jewellery.—

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Merchants examine the jade lots displayed at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO MNA**

Local sesame farmers pleased with high demand

LOCAL sesame farmers from Myinmu Township, Sagaing Region, are pleased during the sesame harvest because of rising demand from the market.

Local farmers grow sesame because there are only a few costs involved in sesame cultivation. The cultivation costs nearly K50,000 per acre for use of a tractor, K 16,000 for sesame seeds and K70,000 for other expenses. The sesame is also easy to grow. Sesame is grown mostly in September and harvested in November.

"This year, we receive good profits," said U Soe Thein, a local sesame grower from Kone Ywar village, Myinmu Township.

The white sesame yield is 10 baskets per acre, while the black sesame yield is eight baskets per acre.

The price of white sesame is K 48,500 per basket, while the price of black sesame is K 78,000 per basket at the Myinmu town wholesale market, according to Tun sesame depot.—Aung Soe Phay (Myinmu)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Farmers collecting sesame near a warehouse in Sagaing. **PHOTO: AUNG SOE PHAY (MYINMU)**

Myanmar-Bangladesh trade up $5.87mln from Oct.

THE value of the nation's border trade reached US$11.46 million between 1 October, 2019 and 3 January, 2020 this fiscal year, recording an increase of $5.87 million compared with the same period in the last FY, according to figures released by the commerce ministry.

The country's exports to Bangladesh totaled $11.42 million, while imports were $0.05 million during the period. During the same period last year, total trade between the two countries was valued at $5.59 million, with $5.4 million in exports and $0.19 million in imports.

Usually, Myanmar's exports exceed imports in bilateral trade with Bangladesh, conducted by sea or land. In bilateral border trade, goods move mainly through the Sittway and Maungtaw trade stations.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jam, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages.

From 1 October, 2019 to 3 January, 2020, trade through the Maungtaw gate reached $4.35 million, while trade from the Sittway border point was valued at $7.11 million.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's border trade with four neighboring countries, China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh, totalled $2.84 billion, made up of $2.001 billion in exports and $832 million in imports.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade Mark Ads
Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

US job creation in 2019 slowest in 8 years

WASHINGTON (United States) — America's solid job creation continued in December but gains in for 2019 were the lowest in eight years, according to the closely-watched government report released Friday.

After a decade of rising employment, hiring last year slowed notably from the brisk pace seen in 2018: With 2.1 million jobs created, that made 2019 the weakest year since 2011, according to the Labor Department data.

The economy added an average of 175,000 new positions a month last year, a sharp drop from the 225,000 monthly average in the prior year.

The decline — which is not unusual after such a long stretch of brisk hiring — still could tarnish President Donald Trump's economic record as he battles to win re-election in November.

In the final month of the year, the US jobs engine added another 145,000 new positions, the slowest pace in seven months and a bit short of economists' expectations.

The unemployment rate held steady at 3.5 percent, remaining at a 50-year low, according to the report.

The ailing manufacturing sector, driven into recession by Trump's multi-front trade wars and a sluggish global economy, shed workers for third time in 2019.

But retailers, hotels, bars, restaurants, education, construction and health care led hiring last month, showing the resilience of America's dominant service sector.

Worker pay was a disappointment, rising only 2.9 percent compared to December 2018 — the first time that measure has fallen below three percent since July 2018.That still put wage gains well above consumer inflation for the period, leaving workers with more cash to spend.—AFP ■

Retailers and restaurants hired at a solid pace in December 2019, but the US monthly average in 2019 was much slower than 2018. **PHOTO : AFP**

Automakers display 800 modified cars at Tokyo Auto Salon

Photo taken on 10 January 2020, shows Tokyo Auto Salon trade show at Makuhari Messe convention center in Chiba, near Tokyo. **PHOTO : KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO — Automakers and auto parts manufacturers from Japan and abroad displayed on Saturday some 800 custom and race cars at an auto show near Tokyo.

At the Tokyo Auto Salon 2020 in Chiba, east of Tokyo, which opened to the public for a two-day run, Toyota Motor Corp. unveiled the GR Yaris sport compact car, developed with its abundant motor sport experience such as participation in the World Rally Championship.

Along with Toyota, Honda Motor Co., Volvo Cars Japan and Mazda Motor Corp., a total of 438 automakers and auto parts manufacturers put on display their unique custom products.

Toyota, the largest Japanese automaker by sales volume, started accepting orders Friday for the GR Yaris' four-wheel drive special model with a 1.6-liter turbo engine, to be made at a factory in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, where the company is headquartered.

"I'm pleased we've made all components of the sport-type vehicle by ourselves, unlike our 86 and Supra sport vehicle models" that were co-developed with another automaker, Toyota President Akio Toyoda told reporters.

Subaru Corp. unveiled a sportier version of the Levorg station wagon expected to be released in the second half of the year, while Nissan Motor Co. showcased limited editions of the GT-R and Fairlady Z sports cars.

The event also includes race car demonstration drives around the exhibition hall at the Makuhari Messe convention center, according to organizers.

The organizers expect the auto show, which was open to the media on Friday, to attract more than 300,000 people.—Kyodo News ■

Hundreds protest in Lebanon as crisis deepens

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Hundreds protested across Lebanon on Saturday to denounce a crippling economic crisis and the political deadlock that has left the country without a government for over two months.

Chanting anti-government slogans in the capital Beirut, the northern city of Tripoli and the southern city of Nabatieh, they also denounced a class of political leaders they deem incompetent and corrupt.

In Beirut, hundreds of protesters marched to parliament, making stops at the state-run electricity company and the headquarters of the Association of Banks.

"All the reasons that made us take to the streets on October 17 still stand," said protester Riad Issa, referring to the date Lebanon's anti-government protest movement started.

"Nothing has changed and the political establishment is closing its ears... and shutting its eyes."

Although protests have declined in size, demonstrations have been ongoing since October, increasingly targeting banks and state institutions blamed for driving the country towards collapse.

The movement has been fuelled by a crippling economic crisis, the worst since Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

The World Bank has warned of an impeding recession that may see the proportion of people living in poverty climb from a third to half the population.

To make matters worse, a liquidity crunch has pushed Lebanese banks to limit dollar withdrawals and transfers since September.

This has forced depositors to deal in the plummeting Lebanese pound, which has lost nearly two thirds of its black market value against the greenback for the first time since it was pegged at 1,500 to the dollar in 1997.

"The country is collapsing. We want a government of independents and a rescue plan," read a banner carried by demonstrators in Beirut.

Lebanon has been without a government since former Prime Minister Saad Hariri resigned on October 29, bowing to popular pressure.

His successor, Hassan Diab, was designated on December 19 but is yet to form a government in a delay donors say debt-saddled Lebanon can ill afford.

In a statement on Friday, he said he still stands by his pledge to form a government of independent experts to rescue the country from the brink of collapse, a key demand of protesters.

But he said his efforts were being challenged.

"The pressures, no matter how large, will not change my conviction," he said on Twitter.

"I will not bow to intimidation." The delay in forming a government has drawn the ire of demonstrators.

"We are tired of this skirting of responsibility," said Rolan Younan, a demonstrator.

"We need to reshape the political class."—AFP ■

Oman's new ruler backs policy that made kingdom vital mediator

Oman's new ruler Haitham bin Tariq pledged to follow his predecessor's policy of neutrality. **PHOTO : AFP**

MUSCAT (Oman) — Oman's new royal ruler pledged Saturday to follow the non-interference policy that made the kingdom a vital regional mediator under his late cousin Sultan Qaboos who reigned for half a century.

Haitham bin Tariq, the culture minister, was sworn in shortly after modern Oman's founding father was laid to rest after his death on Friday at the age of 79.

"We will follow the path of the late sultan," Haitham, 65, said in his first public speech which was aired live on state television.

He expressed support for "our country's foreign policy of peaceful living among nations and peoples... and not interfering in the internal affairs of others, respecting nations' sovereignty and international cooperation."

Qaboos transformed the Arabian Peninsula nation from a backwater into a modern state with a thriving tourism industry, thanks to the country's crystal waters and scenic mountain ranges. But it was the sultan's policy of neutrality and non-interference that elevated Oman's standing as a "Switzerland of the Middle East" and made him an important go-between.

Qaboos, the longest-serving leader of the modern Arab world, came to power in 1970 when he deposed his father in a palace coup. His death came after a long illness and he was believed to be suffering from colon cancer.

The late sultan, who was unmarried and had no children, left no apparent heir. Under the constitution, his successor was to be selected in a meeting of the royal family. If they could not agree, the person chosen by the sultan and named in a sealed letter was to succeed him. State TV said that the letter had been opened, without elaborating as to why.

"Haitham bin Tariq was sworn in as the new sultan of the country... after a meeting of the family which decided to appoint the one who was chosen by the sultan," the government said in a tweet.

Smooth succession

Many experts had expected the throne to go to Asad bin Tariq, another cousin, who was appointed deputy prime minister for international relations and cooperation affairs in 2017 in what was seen as a clear message of support.

However, analysts said the swift handover boded well for a smooth succession, at a time of heightened regional tensions with the United States facing off against Iran. "This portrays externally a show of unity that is very important in a volatile region and vis-a-vis concerns that neighbours would have liked to interfere in the process. Instead they closed ranks," Cinzia Bianco, a research fellow at the European Council for International Relations.—AFP ■

China warns Taiwan against any independence activity after Tsai's win

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party in Taipei claims victory in the island's presidential election on 11 January 2020, defeating her main rival Han Kuo-yu of the main opposition Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT). **PHOTO : KYODO NEWS**

BEIJING — China warned that it will continue to oppose any kind of Taiwan's independence activities, hours after incumbent Tsai Ing-wen won a landslide victory in Saturday's presidential election.

A statement from the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, carried by China's official media, said Beijing's stance against Taiwan is "clear and consistent," adding the mainland will stick to its principles of "peace unification" and "one country, two systems."

Final results show Tsai of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party received almost 8.2 million votes, defeating her key rival Han Kuo-yu of the main opposition Nationalist Party (KMT).—Kyodo News ■

Volcano erupts on southwestern Japan island

TOKYO — A volcano on a southwestern Japan island erupted Saturday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Rocks were thrown about 300 meters from the crater of Mt. Shintake on Kuchinoerabu Island in Kagoshima Prefecture following the eruption around 3:05 p.m., the agency said, adding it had not confirmed any pyroclastic flow.

It was the first eruption on the island since Feb. 2, 2019.

The agency maintained the alert level for the volcano at 3 on a scale of 5, which asks climbers to refrain from scaling the mountain, after raising the level from 2 in October.

The agency warned of possible flying rocks and pyroclastic flows within about a 2-kilometer radius of the crater. —Kyodo News ■

PM Modi has started new chapter in India's development, will be $5 trillion economy by 2024: Amit Shah

GANDHINAGAR (India) — Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "starting a new chapter in India's development" and exuded confidence that India will achieve its goal to be a $5 trillion economy by 2024.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started a new chapter in India's economic development. Since 1947 to 2014, we could make India a $2 trillion economy. From 2014-2019, the Narendra government within five years made it $3 trillion from $2 trillion," he said while addressing the annual convocation at the Gujarat Technological University (GTU). "No economy in the world has made such a huge jump. Today, those who are commenting on a temporary phase ... don't get disheartened by it ... I am here to tell you that $3 trillion is not our destination. In 2024, India will achieve the goal of $5 trillion economy," he said.

The Home Minister stressed that youths are important for achieving this goal.

Talking about 'New India,' Shah said: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi says it in the entire world that we would build a New India. That is because of his faith in the country's youths like you. On the basis of this faith, he says with confidence that -- my country has the solution to all the challenges of the world."

The Home Minister said that faith is there in him because of his constant communication with children, and students.

He, however, said: "There is no dearth of people in the country spreading pessimism."

Congratulating students for 'crossing' an important milestone, the Home Minister urged them to read about Swami Vivekananda and try to inculcate his thoughts in their lives.

Urging the youths to think of nation-building, he said: "Can we make the use of technology a medium to solve problems faced by the country? We will have to keep this dimension in our thinking as well."

"Thousands of farmers are burning stubbles due to compulsion. When I see those talking of environment and giving lectures to them, I want to make them understand that you are talking about problems. Please don't think the farmer is not aware of the problem. He just doesn't have the solution," added he.—ANI ■

Employment prospects remain lure for human trafficking

NORMALLY, all people are familiar with the term "Human Trafficking", though its exact meaning, in legal terms, goes beyond the knowledge of most persons. Legally, Trafficking in Persons means recruitment, transportation, transfer, sale, purchase, lending, hiring, harbouring or receipt of persons, after committing any of the following acts for the purpose of exploitation of a person, with or without his consent:

(1) threat, use of force or other form of coercion; (2) abduction; (3) fraud; (4) deception; (5) abuse of power or of a position taking advantage of the vulnerability of a person; (6) giving or receiving of money or benefits to obtain the consent of the person having control over another person.

> Sadly, the crime of human trafficking still surfaces, despite the government's ongoing efforts in implementing such tasks as alleviation of poverty, rural development and job generation programs.

Human trafficking has become a global menace and a lucrative illegal trade, like drug trafficking or gun running, as criminal gangs and rapacious persons are operating all over the world. The problem of trafficking in persons has become deeper and wider, alongside the rise in human migration triggered by the search for a better life abroad or the desire to escape from internal problems, resulting mostly from civil wars.

Records indicate that like other small countries, Myanmar is not free from the menace of human trafficking, as agents of the criminal world are luring innocent people into their trap with false promises of better lives and occupations with higher salaries in wealthier countries.

Sadly, the crime of human trafficking still surfaces, despite the government's ongoing efforts in implementing such tasks as alleviation of poverty, rural development and job generation programs.

Myanmar is facing both cross-border and domestic human trafficking, but cross-border trafficking is four times larger than within the country, as the business of selling people abroad brings in more money. Moreover, the number of women who fall victim to human trafficking is four times larger than that of male victims.

Although the root causes of this horrendous crime include poverty and lack of knowledge, the educated are also its victims, as illegal migration serves as an engine of growth for human trafficking. Also, the involvement of corrupt employees has made the crime worse.

In fact, a large population of youth of working age is one of the country's advantages. Another encouraging point is that Myanmar has adopted the means for developing human resources through generating job opportunities, professional training, and vocational schools. It has also permitted the opening of legal overseas employment agencies that are sending migrant workers abroad through proper channels. But having the broader knowledge about human trafficking and the dirty tricks of the criminal world is the best way to protect a person from human trafficking.

Video Games and The Youths of Today

By Thiha Thura Htun

IN THIS day and age, the majority of youths are unquestionably addicted to many different types of video games. Video games are considered as the cause of violent actions and as a consequence, it is assumed that video games are bad: this issue could be seen once in a blue moon in the news headlines you might have seen in some newspapers or in social media.

Well, it has become a controversy among youths and their parents or guardians to address that issue is completely right or wrong. Video games don't cause violence but it leads to a wrong ideology will. Videos games are bad if addicted and video games are the best pleasure when one plays it correctly.

Pros of playing videogames:

First of all, video games are a great source of learning. For example, it could provide historical knowledge on the Roman Empire, British Empire and other empires throughout background story of some games. In addition, it makes us an interesting background retold on World War One, World War Two and European Wars throughout the history such as The Crusade War, Napoleonic Wars and so on. Games provide a lot of information and they require a good English skill to understand so you will notice most gamers are intermediate levels in English.

Secondly, it increases the skill of problem-solving and the practice of active reaction time in real life. You see, not all games are as you adults think as easy and simple; some games involve problems, puzzles, riddles and some even needs environmental awareness just to continue the game. It also enhances the memory of a player, multitasking skills and social skills.

Thirdly, the players have seen the world and felt how life hits peoples hard. In some games, they involve the deaths of certain family members, friends or relatives of the character the player is playing as or the results of the choices the player made in games: like saving a nice game NPC(non-player character) will trigger an event in the near future like the NPC saves back the player's character or something and also saving a shady NPC will results in like a betrayal to the player or to the player's Nation or Faction and sometimes reminding the players to pay attention to Family Matters in real life. It seems to be the world as in like a game with a good graphic animation will make the player feel like he or she is seeing the real-life Building Structure or a certain place.

> It can finish up to say that games are necessary for relaxing and entertainment but misused can cause as a drug addicted and it will waste the youth's valuable time and will get dragged to the digital abyss.

Fourthly and finally, video games do not cause violence or aggression. Well, of course, we sometimes rage out during a playing section because the other player is cheating or the game NPCs are being too hard. No exact science explanations have ever proven that video games cause violence. In fact, video games prevent people from doing violence things outside by letting them rage in games and leaving the players satisfied and calm in real life.

But we all know everything has their own bad and dark sides. So here we are.

Cons of Playing video games:

As we all know, too many video games can cause eye injury and yes, even more damages such as sensitivity to real life light exposures, may limit social connections, academic process and can create psychological stress. Another thing is the price of the game, it is cheap when you play the cracked (pirated) version of the game but when you want to buy an official game, it gets expensive. Approximately a cheap PC (a computer) of the lowest would start about $250.00 to the latest expensive would be about $1,200 or more.

A PC game will cost about $9.99 on steam and a popular and trending game will cost about $20 to $50 and a console retails are about $399.99 and a CD of the console game would be about $100 with $60 for Deluxe or Platinum Version of the game.

It can finish up to say that games are necessary for relaxing and entertainment but misused can cause as a drug addicted and it will waste the youth's valuable time and will get dragged to the digital abyss. Understand us and let us enjoy the games with the pros and cons of it.

Video Game Genres are: FPS (First person shooter); TPS (Third person shooter); RPG (Role Play Game); MOBA (Multiplayer Online Battle Arena); MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game); Action; Simulation; Strategy; Sports; Scientific Studies and many other Genres.

Inter-communal Cohesion

- To promote friendly interactions among the diverse communities in Maungdaw District, Basic Education High School level inter-school soccer matches and traditional block-and-breakthrough game (Htoke Hsee Toe) competitions were organized in Maungdaw Township from 7 to 23 August 2019, where 18 teams of students from the two communities took part amicably.

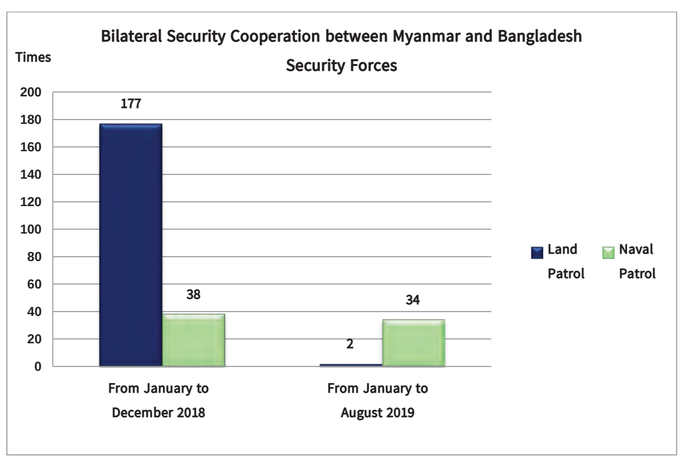
The Security Sector

Activities

- For the capacity-building of members of the police force, 26 professional skills trainings were conducted, attended by 105 officers and 2212 employees.
- For security in Sittwe, a command centre was set up at the Rakhine State Police Commander's Office and beginning with 15 December 2018, 117 CCTV cameras installed at 49 key locations are used for monitoring and providing security.
- The security forces conducted 9,284 patrols and 15,530 sentry sessions for public security.

Bilateral Cooperation of Security Forces

Coordinated Naval Patrol by the Security Forces of the Two Countries



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 11th January, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and East central Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 12th January, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of light rain in Taninthayi Region.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th January, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th January, 2020: 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**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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This year is the deadline for the landmark deal to go into effect, yet half a decade of diplomatic wrangling has fallen far short of what science says is needed to avert disastrous climate change. **PHOTO: AFP**

Climate at mercy of politics in 2020, experts warn

PARIS (France)—2020 is the most crucial year yet for humanity's plan to dodge the bullet of catastrophic global warming, experts said Saturday, warning that the narrow path to safety was riddled with pitfalls, from the US election to Brexit.

When nations struck the 2015 Paris agreement, which aims to limit temperature rises under 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), they agreed on five-year periods in which climate action could be implemented, assessed and boosted. 2020 is the year the landmark deal goes into effect, yet almost three decades of diplomatic wrangling has fallen far short of what science says is needed to avert disastrous climate change.

A crucial UN summit at which leaders will finalise their action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is set to open in Glasgow on November 9 -- just six days after a US general election that could see President Donald Trump win a second term.

Trump shocked the world in 2017 when he said the United States -- history's largest emitter -- was withdrawing from the Paris agreement. It is due to leave the deal on November 4."Another four years of Trump in the White House would mean that the world's key country in terms of providing global leadership will be sitting the problem out," Michael Oppenheimer, professor of Geosciences and International Affairs at Princeton University, told AFP."So that's four years of having a millstone around the neck of the world's efforts to deal with climate change."

After a year of climate-related disasters, from cyclones and flooding in Africa and southeast Asia to devastating wildfires in Australia and California, nations in December failed to make progress during the annual UN Climate Change Conference COP 25. More than 100 countries have pledged to redouble their efforts to reduce domestic emissions, but the biggest polluters -- China, India, the US and the European Union -- have yet to unveil new plans.

-Brexit 'risk'

The Paris deal was dragged partly over the line thanks to more than a year of shuttle diplomacy by host France. Climate negotiations are multilateral and emissions cuts voluntary, so much depends on the skill and tactics of the country in charge of annual COP negotiating sessions.—AFP ■

Australia fires 'long way from over' but rain brings relief

MOGO (Australia)—Massive bushfires in southeastern Australia still have a "long way to go", authorities have warned, even as colder conditions brought some relief to exhausted firefighters and communities on Saturday.

After a blustery night that saw a series of massive infernos in New South Wales and Victoria states merge into a mega-blaze four times the size of Greater London, temperatures dropped and rain fell on fire-scarred regions.

"Whilst it was a very long and -- in parts of New South Wales -- difficult night, we're relieved this morning that no lives have been lost and no substantial property damage," New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian told reporters on Saturday.

The milder conditions are expected to last around a week, giving firefighters time to try to get the fires under control.

New South Wales Rural Fire Service commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons described the conditions as the "best seven days we have had without a rise of very dangerous fire ratings".

In a matter of months, the catastrophic bushfires have killed at least 26 people, destroyed more than 2,000 homes and scorched some 10 million hectares (25 million acres) -- an area larger than South Korea or Portugal.

University researchers estimate that more than one billion mammals, birds and reptiles have been killed in the blazes. Despite the cool change, authorities warned that the bushfire season is not yet over, with hundreds of fires across several states still raging.

The head of a firefighting "strike team" in the village of Towamba, Nathan Barnden, told AFP the rainfall was "fantastic" but "not enough at this stage to put these fires out".—AFP ■

The milder conditions are expected to last around a week, giving firefighters time to try to get the fires under control. **PHOTO: AFP**

Historic German island is nursery for North Sea seals

HELGOLAND (Germany)—The birthplace of Germany's national anthem and a practice bombing range for British airmen after World War II, Helgoland island in the North Sea turns cuddly at the turn of the year as grey seals arrive to give birth.

The Jordsand society, dedicated to preserving North Sea coastal life, has counted more than 520 births since November.

Dozens of tourists come each day to see the white-furred seal pups hop around the beach during the whelping season that lasts into January.

Grey seals come to Helgoland island in the North Sea to give birth. **PHOTO: AFP**

"They're so close and so lively. I often watch them on TV, but it's much more exciting to come here," said Karin, who had made a long trip to the island, also spelled Heligoland in English, from Essen in western Germany.

But two local rangers and Jordsand volunteers must keep the excited fans at a distance of at least 30 metres (100 feet).

Adult seals can grow as large as 300 kilogrammes (660 pounds) and won't hesitate to bite if they feel threatened.

"Sometimes, the tourists forget the restrictions and get too close. If the seals get too used to people, that has negative consequences in summer," said ranger Ute Pausch."They'll want to play in the water and they can injure swimmers."

Wooden boardwalks have been set up to corral the tourists during whelping season.

The challenge has become all the greater as seal numbers have grown in response to rising water temperatures.

Researchers say climate change is behind waters growing 1.6 degrees Celsius (2.9 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer in the past 45 years.

Now, "the seals are more and more numerous, I think it's because there's more food around," said Elmar Ballstaedt, who works for the Jordsand society.—AFP ■

Ukraine demands punishment for Iran plane downing

KIEV (Ukraine)—Ukraine on Saturday demanded that Iran punish those guilty for the downing of a Ukrainian airliner and compensate victims while praising Tehran for cooperating with the "objective" investigation.

Ukrainian president Volodomyr Zelensky was due to discuss the incident with his Iranian counterpart President Hassan Rouhani at 5:00

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has demanded that Iran punish those responsible for the downing of a Ukrainian airliner. **PHOTO: AFP**

pm local time (1500 GMT), his press office said.

"We expect Iran... to bring the guilty to the courts," the Ukrainian leader wrote on Facebook, calling also for the "payment of compensation" and the return of remains.

Tehran admitted Saturday that it accidentally downed the Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) plane, killing all 176 people on board on Wednesday, shortly after launching missiles at bases hosting US forces in Iraq.

Rouhani said Tehran "deeply regrets this disastrous mistake".

Tehran has invited the United States, Ukraine, Canada and others to join the crash investigation.

Kiev said that Iran had cooperated with its experts and it expects an objective probe.

Tehran has handed Ukrainian experts enough data including "all the photos, videos and other materials" to show the investigation "will be carried out objectively and promptly," Zelensky's office said."The political part of the work is finished," it added.

It published photos of experts examining the scene and close-ups of holes in the fuselage and shrapnel damage.—AFP ■

Iran says it 'unintentionally' shot down Ukraine passenger jet

Iran has admitted that it shot down a Ukrainian airliner by mistake. **PHOTO: AFP**

TEHRAN (Iran)—Iran said Saturday it "unintentionally" shot down a Ukrainian passenger jet, killing all 176 people aboard, in an abrupt about-turn after initially denying Western claims it was struck by a missile.

President Hassan Rouhani said a military probe into the tragedy had found "missiles fired due to human error" brought down the Boeing 737, calling it an "unforgivable mistake".

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered his condolences and ordered the armed forces to address "shortcomings" so that such a disaster does not happen again.

The acknowledgement came after officials in Iran had for days categorically denied Western claims that the Ukraine International Airlines airliner had been struck by a missile in a catastrophic error.

The jet, which had been bound for Kiev, slammed into a field shortly after taking off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport before dawn on Wednesday.

It came only hours after Iran launched a wave of missiles at bases hosting American forces in Iraq in response to the killing of Qasem Soleimani, one of Iran's top generals, in a US drone strike.

The aerospace commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards accepted full responsibility.

But Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh said the missile operator acted independently when he shot down the Boeing 737 after mistaking it for a "cruise missile"."He had 10 seconds to decide. He could have decided to strike or not to strike and under such circumstances he took the wrong decision.""It was a short-range missile that exploded next to the plane," he added.

Iran had come under mounting international pressure to allow a "credible" investigation after video footage emerged appearing to show the plane being hit by a fast-moving object before a flash appears. —AFP ■

Merkel, Putin discuss Middle East flashpoints at Kremlin meeting

Libya and Iran will top the agenda for talks in Moscow between German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin (pictured in Sochi in May 2018). **PHOTO: AFP**

MOSCOW (Russia)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin on Saturday for talks set to focus on flashpoints in the Middle East.

Merkel and Putin shook hands at the start of the meeting which the German leader said would cover topics including turmoil in Libya and the Syria conflict as well as Ukraine's war with pro-Russian separatists.

"There is a lot to discuss," said Merkel, adding that "talking with one another is always better than talking about one another."

Putin thanked the chancellor for visiting and said they would focus on "the hottest" topics. The leaders were set to give a press conference afterwards.

Germany and Russia said ahead of the talks that they would cover the confrontation between Washington and Tehran over the US killing of a top Iranian general and turmoil in Libya.

The visit by Merkel was her first to Russia since May 2018 when the leaders met at Putin's Black Sea residence.Putin visited Syria and Turkey this week and is keen to stress his role as a regional powerbroker.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who accompanied Merkel, said a "key reason" for the meeting was the escalating crisis in Libya, where Berlin is acting as a mediator in a conflict he has warned could become a "second Syria".

"We are involving Europe and those players who are influential there, for that we need Russia," Maas told Germany's NTV television. "For us, it's not too far to fly to Moscow to discuss that with Putin."

Merkel is to invite Putin to a Berlin conference on Libya later this month, diplomatic sources told AFP.—AFP ■

US rejects Iraq request to discuss troop withdrawal

WASHINGTON (United States)—The United States on Friday rejected a request by Iraq to start talks on pulling out its 5,200 troops, notching up the discord after Washington killed a top Iranian general in Baghdad.

Angry at an attack seen as violating Iraqi sovereignty and enmeshing the country again in war, Iraq's caretaker prime minister asked Secretary of State Mike Pompeo late Thursday to send a delegation to begin withdrawal arrangements.The State Department said it was ready for "a conversation" – but not about removing troops.

"At this time, any delegation sent to Iraq would be dedicated to discussing how to best recommit to our strategic partnership -- not to discuss troop withdrawal, but our right, appropriate force posture in the Middle East," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement.

Calling the United States "a force for good," she said: "We want to be a friend and partner to a sovereign, prosperous and stable Iraq."—AFP ■

Abe heads to Middle East amid U.S.-Iran tensions

TOKYO—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe embarked on a five-day trip to the Middle East on Saturday as part of Tokyo's efforts to help reduce tensions in a critical region for resource-poor Japan.

The trip will take him to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, countries which Japan sees as important players in stabilizing the situation in the Middle East, according to Japanese officials.

The visit precedes Tokyo's dispatch of Self-Defense Forces personnel and assets to the region to help secure the safe passage of shipping by enhancing intelligence-gathering capabilities. The SDF's operational areas include the Gulf of Oman and part of the Arabian Sea.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie wave at Haneda airport in Tokyo on 11 January 2020, kicking off his five-day tour to the Middle East. **PHOTO: KYODO**

"Japan will take its own initiative to tenaciously conduct peace diplomacy so as to ease tensions and stabilize the situation in the region," Abe told journalists before leaving Tokyo's Haneda airport.

Abe said he wants to win support from the three countries for the SDF dispatch to the region since it is vital to ensure the safety of Japanese commercial ships operating there.

In Saudi Arabia, Abe plans to meet with King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Sunday. He will travel to the United Arab Emirates on Monday for a meeting with Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

In Oman, the Japanese leader is expected to hold talks Tuesday with Sayyid Asaad bin Tariq bin Taimur Al Said, deputy prime minister for international relations and cooperation affairs and special representative for the sultan of Oman. —Kyodo News ■

US piles on sanctions pain against Iran

WASHINGTON (United States)—The United States piled new sanctions on Iran's already crippled economy Friday and defended the killing of a top Iranian leader, saying he had been planning an "imminent" attack on US embassies.

The sanctions, announced at the White House, marked the latest salvo in a US-Iranian confrontation that risked sliding into war a week ago with the deadly US drone attack on general Qasem Soleimani, who was by some measures the second most influential person in Iran.

In response, Iran fired volleys of ballistic missiles at Iraqi bases housing US troops, without causing casualties. — AFP ■

Notice for Changing of Tender Closing Date for Medical Equipment

Ministry of Health and Sports, Department of Medical Services has already invited open tender for Medical Equipment of New Yangon Specialist Hospital in (2019-2020) Budget year.

Now the tender closing date is changed to (6-2-2020) 12:00 noon instead of (8-1-2020) 12:00 noon. Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supply Division, Department of Medical Services, Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports.

For detail information please contact the Phone No. 067-3411510, 067-3411634, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar.

Procurement and Supply Division
Department of Medical Services
Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar

SDF planes leave for Middle East on intel-gathering mission

NAHA (Japan)—Two Japanese patrol planes left Okinawa for the Middle East on Saturday in what will be the Self-Defense Forces' first long-term intelligence-gathering mission abroad.

The dispatch came a day after Defense Minister Taro Kono issued a dispatch order intended to ensure the safety of Japan-related commercial ships passing through the region, on which Tokyo relies heavily for its crude oil imports.The P-3C Maritime Self-Defense Force patrol planes will start the mission on Jan. 20, while the destroyer Takanami will leave Japan on Feb. 2, according to the Defense Ministry.

"Ensuring the safety of Japan-related ships is crucially important," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters before leaving Tokyo for a five-day trip to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (1113 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (1113 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OREA VOY.NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OREA VOY.NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE., LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SAN PEDRO VOY.NO. (952S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAN PEDRO VOY.NO. (952S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE., LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (042 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (042 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV UNI ARISE VOY.NO. (0191-598 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI ARISE VOY.NO. (0191-598 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.
Phone No: 2301185

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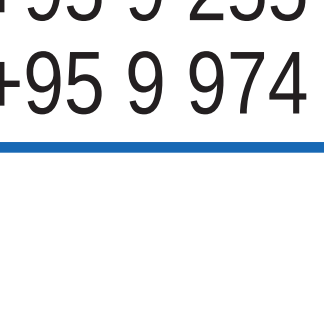
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Signing Ceremony in progress. **PHOTOS: YCDC**

New system of supplying water in Yangon

By Moe Myint Lin Let

DRINKING water serves an important role in daily basic needs in Yangon with a boost in population. With increasing numbers of factories, industries and private housing in Yangon day after day, there is an urgent need for the adequate drinking water the Yangonites are going to use every day. Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is working in partnership with relevant departments and organizations including Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Water purification technology

Japan will provide Myanmar with water purification technology with the notion that drinking water can be used as soon as any water tap in Yangon is turned. Fukuoka from Japan will render assistance to Yangon's water supply system, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

It came from the MoU signing on Water Supply and Management Cooperation between Fukuoka from Japan and Yangon at Yangon City Hall on 7 December in 2019.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, Mr. Soichiro Takashima said we are going to cooperate in water purification service. The Yangonites won't need to buy purified drinking water any longer in the future. We will go on rendering assistance to Yangon's water supply system in order to get safe drinking water as soon as water hydrants are turned in Yangon.

Reduction in waste water

The YCDC is now planning to privatize public water supply of Yangon. Privatization testing is being conducted in the wards in the townships in Yangon. The responsible persons explained waste water reduction programs to be launched in No 1, 2 and 3 wards in Mayangon Township in west district of Yangon on 23 December. Similar measures will be taken in other townships in Yangon.

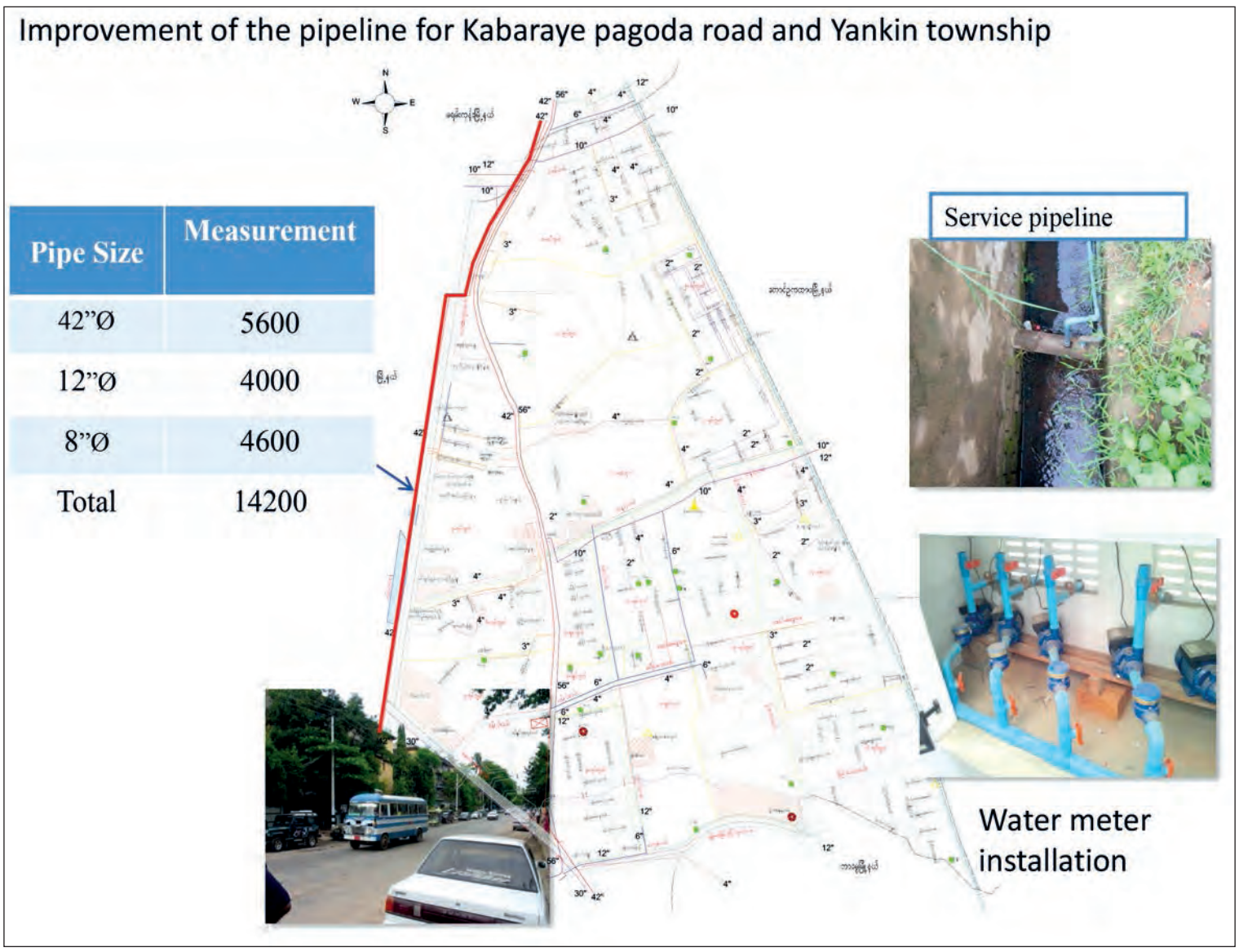
Continued measures

The YCDC invited proposals from the private businessmen on 27 August in 2019 in order to privatize water supply project.

"The YCDC has to plan to hand water supply service over to the private businessmen with the aim of reducing illegal connection of water pipelines and waste water," said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

The YCDC is still able to control a 60 per cent of waste water in water supply system of Yangon at present. Water will be distributed to ten designated zones after altering the whole water supply system of Yangon for ensuring that the Yangonites will be able to use sufficient water. The YCDC is in preparation for a new water supply system stockpiling wa-

ter storage tanks and pumps to supply water to the designated zones.



Alteration to water supply system

"We need to have sufficient amount of water to be able to supply water every day. We want water supply system to be better because drinking water is highly important to everyone. If we get purified drinking water, it will be able to save daily cost. It is a good idea that water supply system is going to be changed," said Daw Phyo Wai, a resident who is residing in Mayangon Township.

A water pipeline has been built on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road with the assistance of Japan as part of activities of zonal water supply system. Plans are underway to build water treatment plants. The YCDC in cooperation with Japan-based JC Company is going to connect water pipelines and install water meters from January in 2020. The participation of the people is of great importance. At present the YCDC is collecting K88 for one unit of home-use water meter and K120 for one unit of commercial-use water meter.

Increasing amount of waste water

"The current amount of water supply is only 45 per cent. It is expected to expand to 90 per cent in water supply program in 2025," said U Than, joint-secretary of the YCDC on 15 July in 2019. The amount of waste water is on the increase in the water supply system of Yangon. Measures are being taken to lessen the amount of waste water to the lowest level. The waste water rate accounts for only a 2.5 per cent in the major cities in the world. There is only a 2 per cent of waste water in Fukuoka of Japan and it is the lowest level in the world.

Daily water supply of about 205 million gallons

The YCDC is supplying about 205 million gallons of water daily with the use of its reservoirs in addition to Gyobyu, Phu Gyi, Hlawga, Ngamoeyeik 1 and 2 Reservoirs.

Lagunpyin and Kokkowa projects will be finished in 2027. Kokkowa water supply project in Htantabin is expected to be finished in 2025. Upon completion of Kokkowa water supply project, water will be supplied to Hlinethaya, Botahtaung, Pazundaung, Kyauktada, Pabedan, Mingalar Taungnyunt, Dagon, Sangyoung, Seikkan, Tamway, Lanmadaw, Latha, Ahlon and Kyimyindine townships.

Systematic measure

Technical support for water supply system, water purification process, use of water meter and water pipeline connection will be sought from Fukuoka in Japan. The JICA is carrying out a pilot project in Mayangon Township. The YCDC is planning to hand zonal drinking water supply service over to the private sector. Water supply system in Yangon will be systematic and waste water will decrease soon. At the same time, drinking water will be sufficient enough for the Yangonites to use.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)

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U Hla Maung,
Retired Ambassador, (Colonel)
D.S.A 10th Intake
Aged 74

The family of U Hla Maung, Retired Ambassador and Colonel, D.S.A 10th Intake, is saddened to announce his passing at 4 am on 11-1-2020 on Saturday at the age of 74.

He was predeceased by his parents (U Naw) and Daw Thein Yin, parents-in-law (U San Khin) and (Daw Mya Thwe) and his son of (Mg Zin Wai Maung). He is survived by his younger brother Warrant Officer Mya Maung (Retd) of the Defence Services (Air), his wife of Daw Thandar Khin of Lane-5, Ingyin Myaing Road, Thuwunna, daughter of Ma Yu Wai Maung (Kanbawza Bank), son of Deputy Police Major Ye Wint Maung of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control-CCDAC.

Funeral Service will be held at 1 pm on Monday, 13-1-2020 at the Yeway Cemetery. (Ferry to the cemetery will leave his home at 11 am on Monday).

Visitors are invited to attend the Memorial service with donation of food to the Members of the Sangha at his home in Thuwunna from 8 am to noon on Friday, 17-1-2020.

Bereaved Family

Tun Tun Min to Challenge Iran Fighter K One in Mudon

MYANMAR lethwei fighter Tun Tun Min will compete against Iranian Fighter K One at the Win Sein Lethwei Fights Competition, which will be held in Mudon, Mon State on 20 January.

Tun Tun Min is the youngest fighter to ever win the Lethwei Golden Belt title, at age 21.

The 80 kilo fighter Tun Tun Min also took part in Muay Thai competitions at the 2012 Asian Muay Championships, 2013 Southeast Asian Games and 2013 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

Tun Tun Min has won forty fights, fought to 12 draws, and lost two fights.

K One, 28 years old, has won 54 fights and fought 4 fights to a draw, out of 68 fights.

Also, there will be three additional matches fought between Myanmar and foreign fighters on 19 January during the same tourney.

Myanmar's young lethwei star Thway Thit Win Hlaing will take on Iran's famous young fighter Reza.

Also, Soe Lin Oo, known as Iron Man of Myanmar, will fight Phongsiri of Thailand.

Next, Ye Thway Ni of Myanmar will fight Kaung Man Phone of Thailand.

Additionally, there will be lethwei fights to be fought by Myanmar lethwei fighters.

Aung Thu Hein (Bilut Myay Setyone) will fight Moe Htet Aung (Royal-D Wan Chai).

Banyar (Ngar Mhan) will take on Zwe Naing (Kyar Phyu).

Lin Htet Aung (Taung Kalay) will meet Train (Tiger) and Nay Htoo Htoo (Taung Kalay) will fight Aung Khaing.

Tickets for the lethwei fights are priced at K 8000 and K 10000, according to the lethwei fights organisers.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar lethwei star Tun Tun Min celebrating his victory at a lethwei challenge fight.
PHOTO: TUN TUN MIN'S FACEBOOK PAGE

VUC, GV see big victories in Week-12 of Myanmar Futsal League

A player from AMM Brothers FC attempts to score during the match against Dream Team FC in Week-12 of Myanmar Futsal League at National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

VICTORIA University College (VUC) Futsal Club and GV Futsal Club saw big victories in Week-12 of the Myanmar Futsal League held at National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon yesterday.

Friday's six matches included colourful tactics that showcased players' skills.

Victoria University College (VUC) Futsal Club trounced Futsal Chit Thu Futsal Club 12-0. Also, GV Futsal Club celebrated their big win over Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) U-19 Futsal Team by a score of 9-0.

Also, On Doctor Futsal Club celebrated their victory over Let Wel Thone Nara Futsal Club 11-0 and Winner Futsal Club defeated Myanmar Imperial Futsal Club 8-0.

The match between Do Do Ko Ko Futsal Club and Myoma JY Futsal Club saw Do Do Ko Ko beat Myoma JY team 8-1.

The other match, between Dream Team Futsal Club and AMM Brothers Futsal Club, was a thriller with Dream Team winning 6-4. After the conclusion of Week-12, the Week-13 matches will begin at National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon on 15 January, according to the Myanmar Futsal League.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)■

Myanmar National League: Yangon United to play Chin United today

YANGON United, defending champions of the 2019 General Aung San Shield, will play against Chin United today at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon.

"As the match is an opening match for our team, a win is needed for us. We had lost to Shan United in the Charity Cup 2020 recently, we must take care to grab a victory.

All the players have prepared well and are focusing on the opening match," said Yangon United's Maung Maung Win.

"I'm now trying my best to have balance in my team, under the guidance of the coaches," he added.

"Chin United was a champion in the Myanmar National League II and will not play carelessly in League I. I believe they have also trained well," noted Maung Maung Win.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

By Hnin Wint
Bachelor of Commerce (Finance) (MEUE)

How to get rid of negativity

Design: BT

NEGATIVITY deeply affects us and whoever being around us, and it limits our potential to become something greater, then it also does not let a fulfilling, purposeful and quintessential life build-up, but it badly supports to get a life filled with more stress, anxiety and sickness for good.

To be able to peacefully live up not only in inner mind but also in outer mind now and ever is definitely up to how we erode the negativity and how to follow with actions.

Ultimately says, being pessimistic is directly derived from comparing oneself with the others; therefore, first and foremost, every mankind needs to become graceful for everything believing that we all deserve all what we have. When we ourselves are capable to appreciate just for a little thing can make us feel better, more comfortable, and alive meaningfully.

As my peer has ever asked me "So to speak, if someone is willing to buy your one hand with how much you want to deal, how will you determine the value?"

It is a hundred percent certain that we cannot trade and regard the value like one million, two million on and on; that's because we totally understand that everything we have is unreplaceable and worth enough; that's why we human being need to be aware that we all are billionaires since we were born , but one thing to be mindful is to know the value of just our little finger and be thankful".

As a second, changing our thinking way can absolutely rephrase our darkness into the lightness because nothing can cause us worse than the thoughts we think; if so, it is that important to cut out when we are gloom-ridden and the time beaten by our black devils. Being in dusky mind, whatever we conceive are the biggest cause of unhappiness; thus, we must set ourselves up by keeping tobe occupied and need to mind off things that don't help us.

And, what runs as a third priority is to surround ourselves with good people that cutting off the inferior ones in our environment is a huge stage to get over to be more positive; it means, we should not survive in such toxic and crowded environment, and we just have to reject the defeatism that comes to our ways; as a consequence, how we behave and how we consider will always be oriented into positivism.

Moreover, we ought not to lose remembrance of smiling and laughing more often lest it can drive to lessen the black mindset effectually. The more happiness we can seek at ourselves, the more positivity there is a development by and by. In our own world, we are the only one in a million who can lighten up our mood; as a matter of fact, grinning whenever is an important reminder for us not to make our lives so serious.

As the last, the most functional factor to eliminate pessimism is to help and sympathize the others; in truth, these demons come from selfishness, so the adventure to fight these repels is to run the process of doing things for the others by ourselves because positivity accompanies purpose, so to be a purposeful one, we just need to live only for us by opening the helping door for who need us that this value will transform us into positivists, and our everyday will as always be that profound, restful and sincere.

As a final analysis, we ourselves have to rule the defeatist mindset out and need to endeavor to make efficacious choices in favor of ourselves from small to great. Nevertheless, as we all have unlimited potential to create our own reality, what we need to do is to internalize our power realizing that no one can make us feel, therefore, try to get rid of dissension from now and be strong muscular ones.

Useful leisure activities for students

By Phyu Min
BA (English); Dip in ELTM; Dip in English.

LEISURE activity is an activity chosen for pleasure, relaxation, other emotional satisfaction, typically after work and other responsibilities are done. People indulge themselves in numerous forms of recreation, including building bird houses, collecting stamps or coins, cooking, dancing, listening to music, painting, reading, playing musical instruments, using the Internet and playing computer games properly, gardening, doing physical exercise, refurbishing antique furniture, roller skating, shopping, visiting museums and so. Most of them are useful leisure activities for people. Among them, I would like to emphasize some useful leisure activities for students such as reading, using the Internet and playing computer games properly, gardening and doing physical exercises.

Reading is one of the enjoyable leisure activities for students. Reading can give students not only knowledge but also pleasure. Of course, reading does not cost too much like playing tennis or golf. It can widen their horizons. If they read short stories, they can know about people. The magazines, journals and newspapers can help them to know what is happening at home and abroad. Also, books on science, technology and arts can improve their knowledge and broaden their horizons. So, students should read in their leisure time.

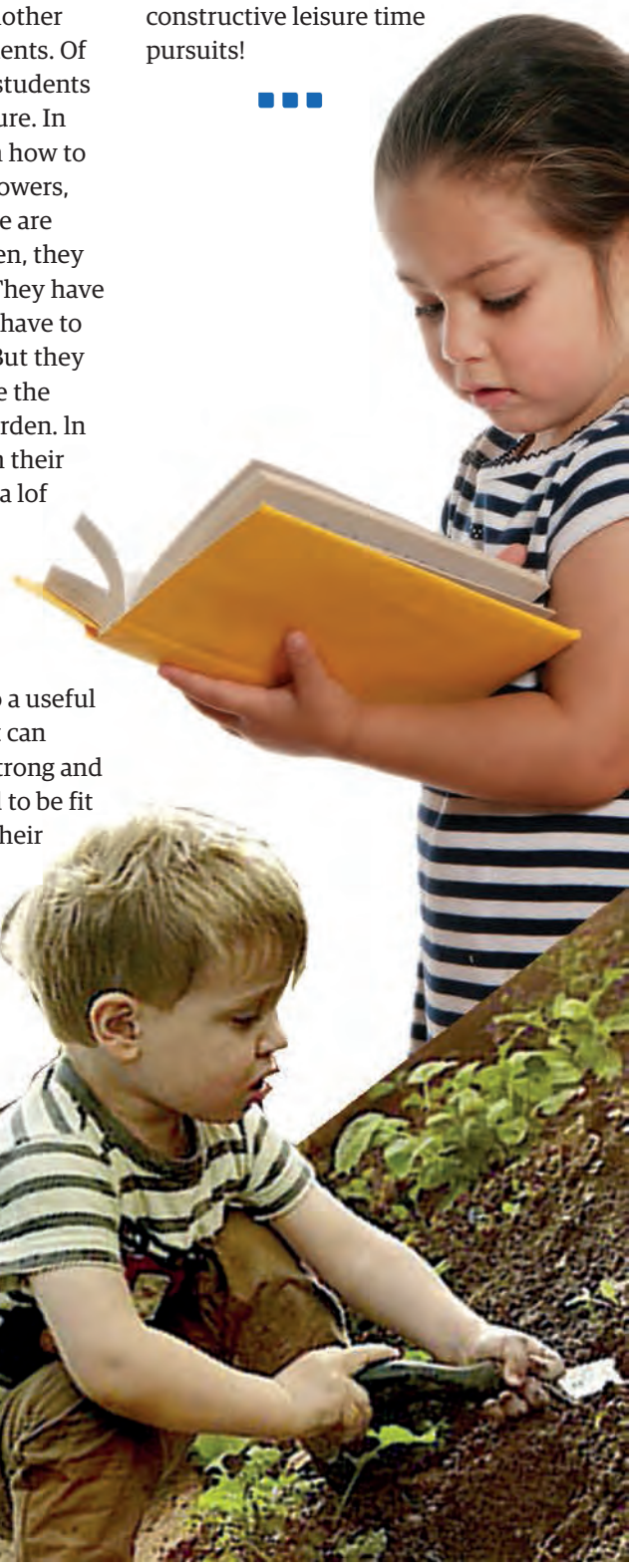
Besides, as today is the age of information technology, using the Internet and playing computer games in the free time are also useful leisure activities for students. But it is not good for students if they are addicted to using the Internet and playing computers, or if they use the Internet and play computer games all the time. On the other hand, using the Internet or playing computer games properly during leisure time helps the students to get knowledge as well as amusement and pleasure which are needed for good memory.

Moreover, gardening is another useful leisure activity for students. Of course, gardening is good for students who are interested in agriculture. In the garden, students can learn how to prepare the soil for growing flowers, plants and vegetables. As there are many things to do in the garden, they have no time to become lazy.They have to water regularly. Then, they have to weed the vegetable gardens. But they can enjoy great pleasure to see the flowers in full bloom in the garden. ln fact, by doing the gardening in their leisure time, students can get a lof knowledge about agriculture.

Not only that, but cooking, sewing and knitting in the free time are useful activities for girl students. Doing physical exercise is also a useful leisure activity for students. It can make students active, fresh, strong and healthy. In fact, students need to be fit and healthy in order to learn their lessons. If they are in good health, they can pay more attention to their studies. Doing physical exercise in free time is also a form of relaxation. It can help students to eliminate the exam stress.

In conclusion, the leisure activities mentioned above are useful for students in different ways, especially in their education and health. Therefore, students should read, use the Internet and play computer games properly, do gardening and physical exercise in their leisure time to get general knowledge and pleasure as well as to enjoy good health. Discover and develop constructive leisure time pursuits!

■■■



A DREAM BORN IN THE STAR-FALLING NIGHT

Ms. Moon
Final Year Honours (English)
Dagon University

It is difficult for me to try not to consider the expectation of the thing called 'Another time' following the words saying 'Stars are quite beautiful, and so are the clouds'; my dear, Bro.

I would like to be OK in everything on every day for you and so I send my loving-kindness to you again and again whenever I say my prayers. I happen to wear a crimson rose, a flower you like a lot, in my hair making a braid today. Besides, I happen to chew a lot of sunflower seeds that you have already prevented me from saying you do not like such seeds.

On that day, I came and made a long gaze to your face that was sure not to come back again. Then, I had to come back home alone yearning and looking up the stars from the street late at night. Whenever you asked me if I would blame what we could not meet in life, I happened to shake my head with great pain. Accepting our meeting due to fate, I would have to accept our parting due to that fate feeling heart-rending sorrow.

Tonight, there is so full of stars in the sky of my little town; Orion's belt, the Pleiades, the Seven Stars, etc. They are alternately making light and dark. However, instead of being profuse with stars in my eyes, there well up with tears there. I do not know why it is raining in my very eyes deliberately. The couple next to me are making a promise that they would never part each other pointing at the stars twinkling in the sky and revealing their bilateral love. I pray at the stars on behalf of them in order to join hands steadfast. Although our wish cannot be fulfilled, I wish they would be united soon.

When I say like this, Bro, maybe you laugh. You would ask me, "What is for me?" Should I pray for both of you, the two lovers, to be happy? Or else, should I pray for myself who got to you late in order to join hands to be happy? I cannot think about it at all!

Now, I am going to my grandma's farm crossing the hills I love. It is the place that I have told you like the energetic words 'One day' tightly holding your palms. The early winter makes me somewhat cold. In such coolness, can you who get used to couching come to the little firm where my dreams are? Will you choose me abandoning everything which is perfect and you become used to it for several decades? I do not dare to think about it!

Bro, I am the one who does not dare to go on walking even a step with your words saying 'I love you', strumming my hair and grasping my palms. It is extremely exhausting for me in forgetting the touches of your tender palms with almost being deranged due to shock. The days on which I write and erase the words 'May you be in warm peace with your newborn love' on SMS are like that the world gets ruined.

You have told me that I would forget you when we did not meet each other; when we were far; when we did not happen to talk to each other; when we did not make a contact with each other. They have not been right for me yet, Bro. Although I am trying to forget you, I am frail and drown in the mind with which I cannot forget it.

Have you really forgotten me, Bro? Otherwise, do you lie to yourself? I am going to get to my dreaming farm soon. The crack of dawn is also near. The stars are going to disappear, too. I will send an SMS addressing the stars, which indicates my words of prayer for you. What the pray will be fulfilled or not will be known just by the sky and myself. May you be happy and warm with much love.

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

PHOTO: MYO HLAING,NAING LIN KYAW

PHOTO: AMS

PHOTO: MYO HLAING,NAING LIN KYAW

PHOTO: AMS

Twante offers ancient kiln-sites, modern pottery industry

By Myo Hlaing, Naing Lin Kyaw

Twante, located about 25 kilometres to the southwest of Yangon, is renowned for its pottery industry and historic pagodas.

Ancient kiln-sites in Twantay have become museums, attracting local and foreign ceramic researchers.

Most of the ceramic wares unearthed contain marks. Ceramic smoking pipes, plates, pots and other wares are exhibited at the museum.

Myanmar archaeologists and ceramic experts have estimated that there may be more than a thousand kiln sites buried below ground in Twante.

An enormous number of ancient kilns that mostly produced celadon were recently unearthed in the Twante area.

Several kiln sites and glazed ceramics, including celadon green glazed wares exhibited at the museums, have become well known for researchers at home and abroad, as the ceramic wares are very helpful for them in exploring an extinct ceramic tradition of Myanmar. Modern kilns in the town primarily attract tourists.

The ancient techniques for making glazed ceramics can produce straw-colour, white-colour, green-yellow colour and green-white colour wares, according to experts.

Myanmar has a long tradition for crafting glazed ceramics, though some disappeared during the past centuries, and recent findings indicate that the history of glazed ceramics, including celadon, could date back to the 5th century.

In Twante, there are about 10 modern kilns producing lead- and tin-based glazed ceramics and attracting tourists today.

To date, the society has uncovered the traditional way of making green celadon and is teaching the technique to modern glazed potters.

However, Twante's pottery industry is facing challenges, as they find it difficult to obtain soil used as raw material, and due to the shortage of artisans, as the number of pottery workshops has today decreased to about 10.

Translated by Nat Ye Hla

PHOTO: AMS

PHOTO: MYO HLAING,NAING LIN KYAW

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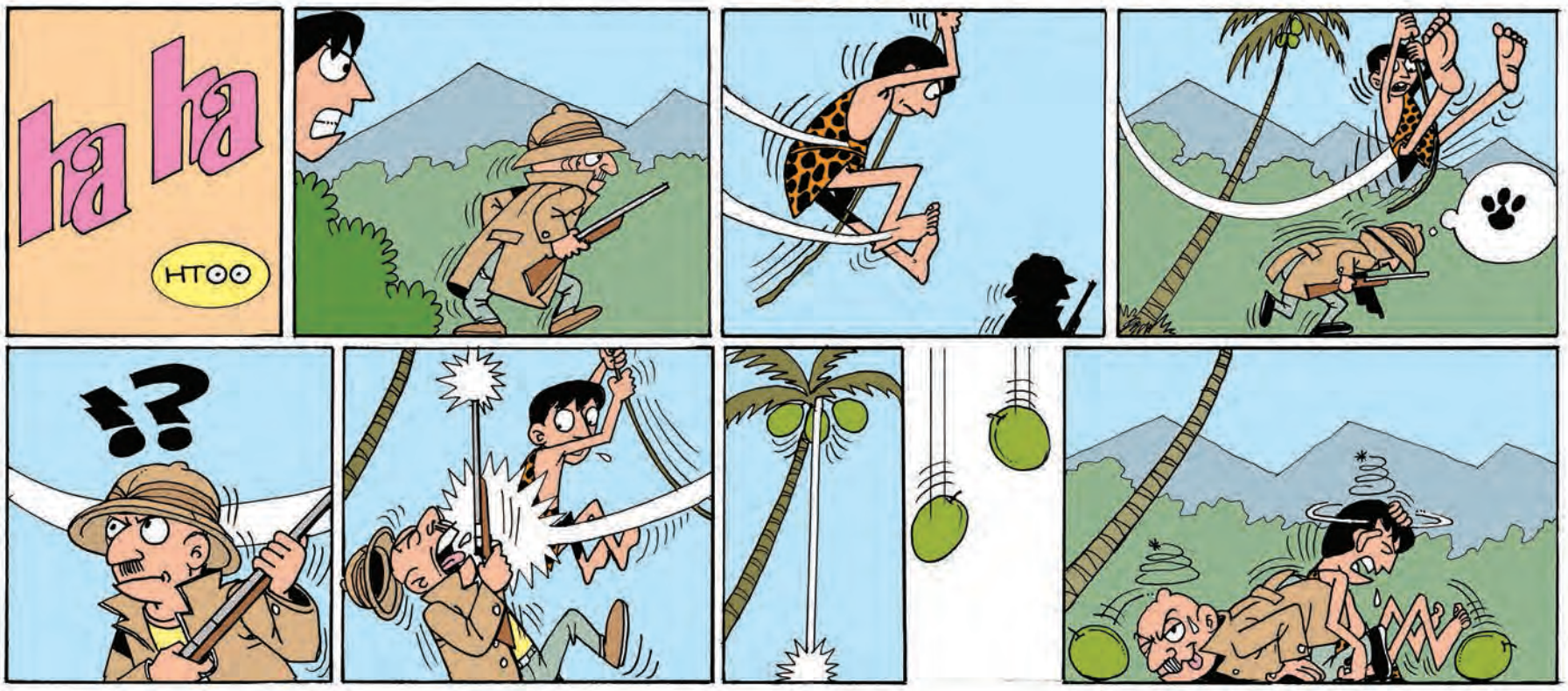
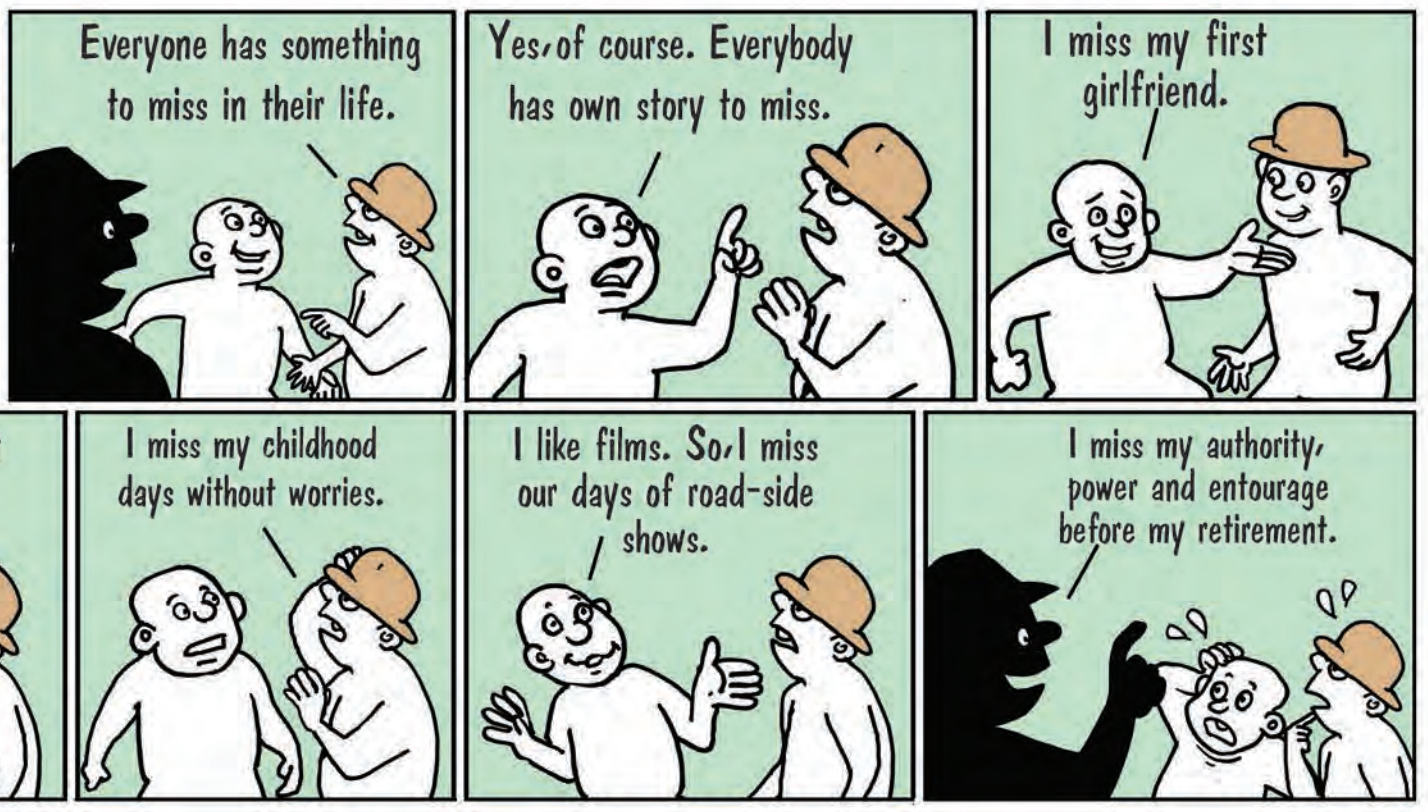
SUNDAY COMICS



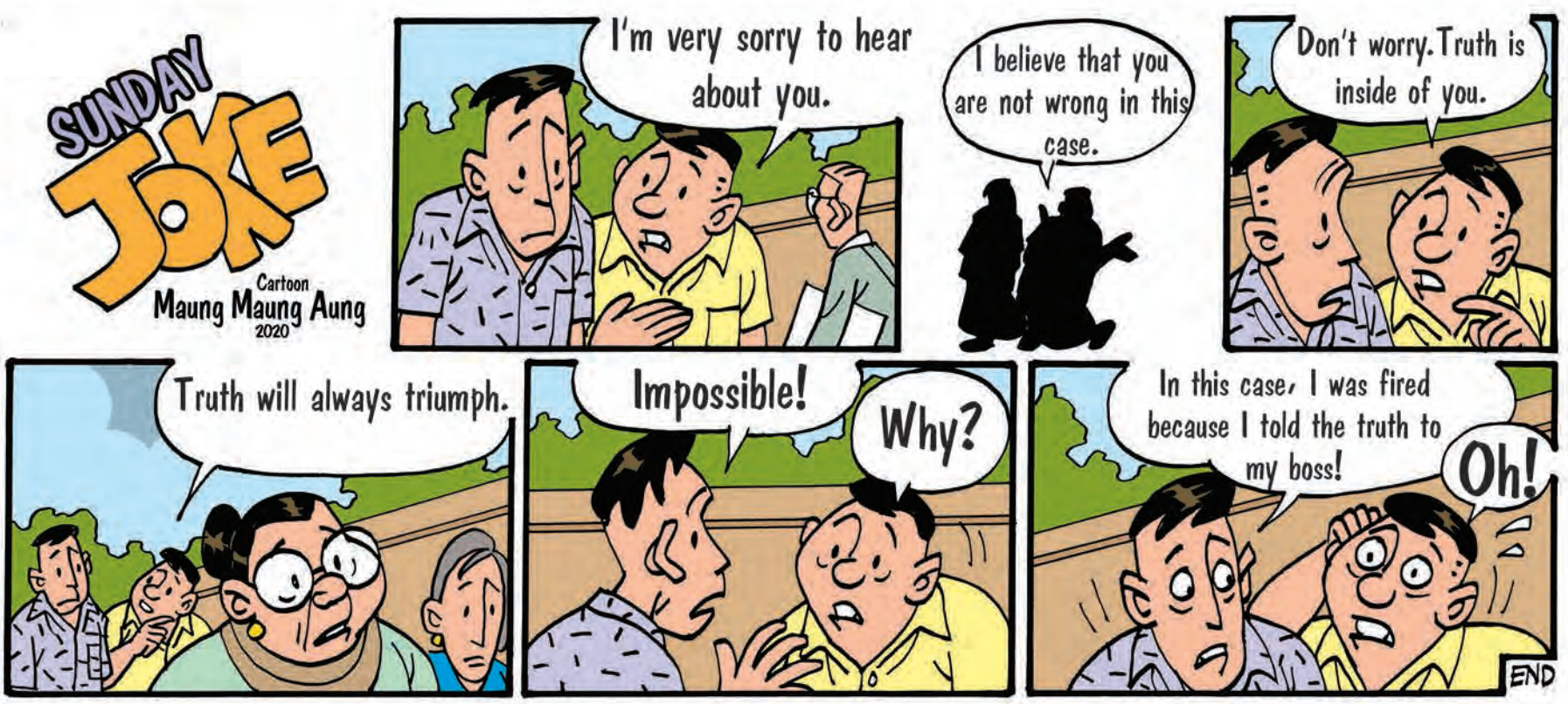
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020



By Zin Wai (Hayman)

One day, a child going back from school was playing with her fellow friends, her parents were farming, cooking, and grandparents were gardening and cleaning the yard.

The southern part of the village she lives was a white-washed pagoda where beautifully silent except the enchanting sound of numerous pagoda bells when breeze came. The mangrove forest along the village was sounding the signing of lovely birds.

Suddenly, the girl heard the loud sound and ran in fear to her grandpa who was sweeping the compound of the house. What she knew then was leaving their home at night and stayed in a pit-house with other relatives for a week. They had to live with complete silent but her parents were whispering and listening to the radio with a very low tone.

A week later, they returned to their home which was burnt down like other houses in the village. She said she was very sad at that time as the earthen toys she has made and the pictures she has drawn were lost in the ashes.

My grandma told me the story when I gestured to the airplane flying in the sky, warning me not to do like that. According to her, their houses were destroyed by an airstrike.

She said that schools were also closed down for several months. During the time, her father and grandpa were mostly away from home with the reasons she was not be allowed known.

Her grandfather came back but her father didn't. Later, she knew that her father couldn't come back forever. She said that it was because of "war."

I didn't know then what the "war" was. But I didn't ask my grandma as she was weeping. But I noted that "war" can kill my grandmother's father.

"What is war?" I asked my father. He replied that war is catastrophic. Strangers are killing one another. He replied, "You will know more when you are older."

I also asked my uncle. He told me the story of his witnessed killing during war. One evening, he came back to the village and hid behind a tree as he heard the sounds of a man's painful cry. Two armed men beheaded a villager he knew. After killing the man, the two armed killers dragged the body into the creek and one of them kicked the head into the creek. Uncle said he was frightened and then ran back as quickly as he can to the house when the two armed men were away.

From that time, I don't ask anyone what war is. But I learnt that it can kill one's grandmother's father and make one's uncle ran away.

When I grow older, I come to know that debt, death, and sadness are all disadvantages of war. No ordinary one may likes war. But some are waging wars for their privileges. In fact, those wanting wars are those foolish. May the world be free from such foolish and be free from any kind of war.

You can't drag me down

By Kyal Sin Phu
2nd Year Honours Student
(English Specialization)
University of Yangon

Though you give me the pain
I turn it into push using my brain
Make progress again and again
Thus, it finally ends in gain.

You mock at me
To arouse my frustration
But, I stay calm in maturation
Then, keep on moving towards my destination.

Thanks for those annoying situations
I learnt how to get comfortable
With being uncomfortable
This way, I'm no longer vulnerable.

At the end of the day
I became stronger and smarter
Training myself to be better
Hoping my potential to be greater.

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FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily
8M335	7:30	9:15	Daily
UB-019	7:25	9:20	Daily
TG2304	9:35	11:30	Daily
PG702	10:30	12:30	1,2,3,4,6,7
TG2302	11:20	13:15	Daily
PG708	15:35	17:35	Daily
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	17:35	19:30	Daily
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily
TG306	19:50	21:45	Daily

BANGKOK TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
TG2303	7:50	8:45	Daily
PG701	8:45	9:40	1,2,3,4,6,7
TG2301	9:35	10:30	Daily
8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily
UB020	10:20	11:15	Daily
PG707	13:45	14:40	Daily
PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily
TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily
8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily
PG705	20:30	21:55	Daily
UB018	20:30	21:25	Daily

YANGON TO DON MUEANG

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4231	8:05	9:50	Daily
FD252	8:45	10:30	Daily
SL201	8:30	10:20	1,3,4,5,7
FD254	17:40	19:25	Daily
FD258	21:40	23:30	Daily
SL207	19:35	21:25	1,2,4,6,7
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily

DON MUEANG TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4230	6:20	7:05	Daily
FD251	7:30	8:15	Daily
SL200	6:45	7:35	1,3,4,5,7
FD253	16:25	17:05	Daily
FD257	20:30	21:10	Daily
SL206	18:55	19:45	1,2,4,6,7
DD4238	19:30	20:15	Daily

YANGON TO GUANGZHOU

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ3056	11:25	15:55	3,6
CZ3056	17:30	22:00	1,5

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CZ3055	8:30	10:20	3,6
8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ3055	14:40	16:30	1,5

YANGON TO SINGAPORE

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
UB001	7:15	23:45	Daily
8M231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily
3K582	11:30	16:05	1,4,5,7
UB003	16:00	20:30	Daily
MI519	17:35	22:10	1,2,4,6,7
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,4,5,6
3K584	19:40	00:10	1,2,3,5,6,7

SINGAPORE TO YANGON

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

YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KE472	23:30	7:25	Daily

SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON

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

YANGON TO TAIPEI

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CI7916	10:45	16:20	Daily

TAIPEI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CI7915	7:00	9:50	Daily

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily
MH741	11:15	15:45	Daily
OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7
MH743	16:10	20:30	1,4,6,7
AK503	19:10	23:30	Daily
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
AK504	6:45	7:55	Daily
MH740	9:10	10:25	Daily
OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7
MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
AK502	17:20	18:30	Daily
OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6

YANGON TO HONG KONG

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KA251	1:25	6:00	1,2,3,4,6,7
UB8027	7:05	11:45	3,5,7
KA275	17:05	21:50	1,3,5,7

HONG KONG TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
UB8028	12:45	14:30	3,5,7
KA250	21:50	23:35	1,2,3,5,6,7
KA254	14:20	16:10	1,3,5,7

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	2:00	5:45	1,2,4,6

DUBAI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
EK388	10:30	16:15	1,3,5,7

YANGON TO BEIJING

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,4,5,7

BEIJING TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA905	19:00	22:55	1,3,4,5,7

YANGON TO HANIO

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN956	19:00	21:30	Daily
VJ918	18:55	21:20	Daily

HANOI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN957	16:40	18:05	Daily
VJ917	16:30	17:55	Daily

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN942	12:10	15:05	1,3,4,6,7

HO CHI MINH TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN943	9:30	11:05	1,3,4,6,7

YANGON TO TOKYO

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
NH814	22:10	6:45+1	Daily

TOKYO TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
NH813	11:00	16:25	Daily

YANGON TO DOHA

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
QR919	1:05	4:55	1,3,4,6,7

DOHA TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
QR918	8:25	17:50	2,3,5,6,7

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG724	13:40	15:30	1,3,4,7

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG723	12:05	12:55	1,3,5,7

YANGON TO KUNMING

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2580	10:55	14:35	2,4,6
MU2012	13:40	20:50	3
MU9750	15:55	19:35	2,4,6
MU9758	15:55	19:35	1,3,5,7

KUNMING TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2011	8:20	12:40	3
MU2579	9:10	9:55	2,4,6
MU9749	13:45	14:45	2,4,6
MU9757	14:10	14:55	1,3,5,7

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	9:25	12:25	Daily
MU2040	15:20	18:25	1,3,7
MU9742	15:20	18:25	2,4,6
MU9748	21:20	00:25	2,4

KUNMING TO MANDALAY

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2567	8:05	8:25	Daily
MU2029	13:50	14:20	1,3,7
MU9741	13:50	14:20	2,4,6
MU9747	20:05	20:20	2,4

NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK

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

BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW

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

AIR LINES CODES

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

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

Subjected to change by repesctive airlines.
Hotline - (951) 229245