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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Myanmar diaspora in Toronto on Friday. Full Story on Page-2

Commander-in-Chief makes first remarks about military plane crash

THREE days after a Myanmar military transport plane crashed with 122 people on board, off the coast of Taninthayi Region in Myeik, Myanmar's highest-ranking military officer addressed the tragedy at a cash donation ceremony for relatives of the victims at the Nay Pyi Taw Command and promised continuing support for the victims' survivors.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the Myanmar navy has retrieved 33 bodies and debris from the nation's territo-

rial waters, but recent storms prevented them from locating more casualties or the plane fuselage.

Several nations, including China, have made offers to assist Myanmar's recovery effort, but none has been accepted to date.

The senior general spoke at a ceremony where Ks990 million in donations from concerned Myanmar military families citizens were received to be given to victims' relatives.

The military chief criticised

reports about the crash on the internet, which he said hurt the feelings of victims' survivors.

"A large cloud formed in the area where the accident occurred", he said. "This should be taken into consideration".

The Chinese-made Y-8-200F transport plane lost contact with ground control 29 minutes after takeoff when it had reached a height of 18,000 feet (5,485 metres), about 43 miles (70 km) west of Dawei, the military said.

An aircraft wheel, two life

jackets and some bags with clothes - believed to be from the missing plane - were found on Thursday.—GNLM



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pledges to support the victims' relatives as he expresses condolence. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**



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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Myanmar community in Toronto

IN extended remarks before a group of Myanmar nationals living in Canada, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi explained elements of the ongoing peace process with armed ethnic groups, development challenges and the important religious and ethnic unity.

The talk took place on Friday at Toronto City Hall during a flurry of meetings in Canada that included a conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "The main aim of my visit is to understand more about the federal democracy," she said.

After being introduced by Toronto's mayor, the State Counsellor said her delegation included representatives of the armed ethnic groups, the government and the Tatmadaw - all of whom were invited by the Forum of Federations, an international organisation founded by Canada to encourage state federalism.

"We can exchange our views mutually here, and learn more about the challenges ahead. We found a lot to learn from Canada's federal democracy process although it may not be as difficult as ours. We must learn how Canada has overcome its challenges as a firm federation, while understanding that challenges never stop coming," she told the crowd.

"There are some quarters complaining about the lack of progress in our peace process. Yes, there is progress, and sometimes there is retrogress. Actually we must move forward and backward as necessary till reaching the aspired goal. Peace process of other countries too goes like this. In certain coun-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with Myanmar community settled in Canada. PHOTO:MNA

tries the process to restore peace and national reconciliation even takes centuries. We must follow their example," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Everywhere I go, I always answer the questions raised by the Myanmar expatriates, because I wish to provide them with the latest developments of our country to the most possible degree. Some lack knowledge about the prevailing situation as they are away from their motherland. Mostly, people want to know whether there are policy changes of the Foreign Ministry, whether visas are also available for Myanmar holding foreign citizenship and whether the politics-related blacklist is still valid," she said.

"Actually answers can be found in the websites of our em-

bassies," she said. She explained that politics-related blacklisting has ceased and that the issuance of multiple entry visas depends on the person's occupation. Under the new policy of the government in office, the main duty of diplomats sent abroad by Foreign Affairs Ministry is to protect and welcome all overseas Myanmar people whether they hold Myanmar citizenship or foreign citizenship without any discrimination. She urged overseas Myanmar people to contact their embassies, adding, the embassies on their part must warmly accept them.

"As regards the national reconciliation and peace process, she said the country has not even enjoyed a short period of total peace during the 70 years

after independence was restored. Internal strife began on 4 January 1948 the day we regained independence. The internal strife has not ended yet. A lot of efforts are required. Peace process is not on a smooth path. In fact, we must pave the way by ourselves. It's like building a road through forests and mountains. It will be only an earth road at its initial stage. Then we must gradually develop it into an all-weather facility," she said.

She then spoke of the importance of road transport for the country comprising multiple ethnic races, saying that there must be yearly development in road construction.

"We have already held the Union Peace Conference - the 21st Century Panglong for two

times, but haven't won the 100 percent public satisfaction yet. It would be rather weird if the 70-year-old conflict can be solved with just two meetings. The main requirement is the strong mind and firm resolution," she said.

"Everyone has the right to choose between the work of fueling disagreements and the work of fostering unity. Not only the participants of the peace process, but also the overseas Myanmar citizens and non-citizens have this right. Every individual can make a decision whether he is going to encourage unity for eternal peace or fan division. We are not just a multi-ethnic society, but also a multi-religion country. So, there must be unity and harmony in diversity. It is the goal of every nation," she noted.

"Only unity can bring actual progress of a country. Mutual trust must be built, but it is not an easy job. NLD had stood as the Opposition for nearly 30 years. We were against the then government officials and staffs. Now we are working together with them. In our eyes, these government staff are also citizens. They too have goodwill for the country. With this belief in mind we work with them. But there are some who cannot be trusted. These people say that they are different. So it's up to their attitude. But the basic conviction of our democracy movement is to restore peace and tranquility through unity of all citizens. Under the democracy all disagreements must be settled through peaceful means in the interest of the nation," she said.—Myanmar News Agency ■ (Unofficial translation)



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor meets Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Canada, in the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor, Toronton at local standard time 11:45 am on 9 June.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of children sector development, equal rights on genders, and environmental conservations.—Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady attend opening ceremony of new MES office and technical library

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin attended the opening ceremonies of the new office of Myanmar Engineering Society (Nay Pyi Taw) and technical library yesterday in front of that building in Zawwana Ward, Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was also attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Ministers Maj-Gen Sein Win, Maj-Gen Ye Aung, U Khin Maung Cho and U Win Khaing, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers, representatives of parliament, departmental heads, Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Council, Chairman and members of MES, donors, invited guests and official concerned.

First Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho and U Win Khaing, MP U Tin Maung Win, patron of Myanmar Engineering Council (MEC) U Aye Myint, Chairman of MEC Dr. Charlie Than, Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society U Aung My-



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin visit the office of Myanmar Engineering Society.

PHOTO: MNA

int and Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society (Nay Pyi Taw) U Win Naing formally cut the ribbon to open the ceremony. And then Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho and U Win Khaing and the Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society planted a star-flower tree.

Next, the President formally unveiled the signboard of the

building by pressing the button and sprinkling it with scented water.

Then Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin, Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing and MPRL E&P General Manager U Myo Tin on behalf of the donor cut the ribbon to open the technical library.

The President and the First

Lady and guests went around the library.

At the ceremony Union Minister U Win Khaing, the Patron of MEC and MES, said today's developed countries have become industrialized countries through engineering innovation.

He went on to say that engineering played the most important part nowadays at a time

when smart cities were being developed around the world. And then Chairman of MES (Nay Pyi Taw) U Win Naing explained about the society office; and other two engineers the benefits and programmes of the society.

Next the Union Minister gave a souvenir to the President.

The Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw accompanied by the guests then went around the office of the MES and the exhibition booths of the Ministries of Industry, Construction and Electricity and Energy, the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management and the Department of Agricultural Mechanization and companies after which the ceremony concluded.

The office of the MES (Nay Pyi Taw) and technical library is a two-storey RC building standing on two acres of land in Zawwana Word, Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

The first association of engineering of Myanmar by the name Burmar Engineering Congress was formed in 1916. It was closed in 1963.

MES was reformed at the Yangon Technology University in 1995.—MNA ■

Government seriously prioritizing the task of retransferring land to farmers

GOVERNMENT is seriously prioritizing the task of transferring land back to farmers as agriculture is their life and hope, said Vice President U Henry Van Thio yesterday morning in Kayin State in the southeast of the country.

The government has adopted policies and work programs for retransfer of unused land to original owners soonest, the Vice President said at the ceremony to give back seized land to the rightful owners in Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State.

The Central Committee in coordination with the relevant ministry and organizations and the local governments is facilitating the work of solving the land problem, said U Henry Van Thio who also inspected regional development and natural disaster prevention undertakings of the state.

Chief Minister of the state Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint reported on the accomplishments



Vice President U Henry Van Thio looks at ploughing by farmers in Hpa-an.

PHOTO: MNA

of the land retransfer project and future programs.

Nearly 18 acres of land abandoned by the Ministry of Defence, and over 540 acres abandoned by the Ministry of Industry were returned to 76 farmers under temporary permits.

Accompanied by Union Minister Naing Thet Lwin, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe and officials, the Vice President visit-

ed the office of the crop development project in Hpa-an.

The Vice President's inspection tour also included the plot where a shelter that can accommodate up to 400 people will be built, One Stop Service, the plots designated for ethnic affairs branch, and the technical school (Hpa-an) for ethnic youths of border regions in Hpa-an.

At the technical school the

Vice President met with its teachers and students and praised it as the important facility for regional and national development.

The school which started classes on 2 January 2014 is the result of the joint efforts of the Bridge Asia Japan. The Vice President and party then visited the home for the aged construction project, the government technical high school that is

opening classes in cooperation with organizations such as Myanmar Norwegian Refugee Council and Swisscontact in the regional capital and river bank erosion prevention project in two villages in Hpa-an township.

Japan International Cooperation Agency contributed K 220 million and the local government K 443.5 million to the project.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Shan State MPs

ASKING questions or presenting proposals at the Hluttaw should be within the framework of the parliamentary procedures and regulations, said Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint at his meeting with MPs of Shan State Hluttaw in the regional capital Taunggyi yesterday afternoon.

The separation of the legislative, administrative and judicial powers and the use of check and balance system must be within the constitutional and legal frameworks, he told the MPs, warning them against interference-like actions that go beyond the limits of the check and balance procedure. As MPs are law-makers, they should not become law-breakers, he cautioned, adding, they have the right to coordinate with the relevant bodies without opposing the constitution.—MNA



Speaker U Win Myint greets law-makers from Shan State Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Secretariat building and meeting hall to be opened on 70th Martyrs'

ONE of Myanmar's most iconic landmarks is expected to be opened to the public by 19 July.

Built in the late 1800s, the Secretariat was also known as the Ministers' Building and was the seat of Britain's colonial administration in Burma.

General Aung San and six of his cabinet ministers were assassinated at the building in 1947 by a paramilitary squad loyal to former Prime Minister U Saw. The building where the assassinations took place is currently being renovated for public viewing.

The restored red brick building will house a history museum and cultural center.



The secretariat building in Yangon will be opened on 70th Martyrs' Day. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Anawmar art group has been contracted to operate the museum with the assistance of histo-

rians, curators and the Yangon Heritage Trust, a local conservation entity.—200 ■

500 booths to be sold at annual Taung Pyone festival

TAUNG Pyone Pagoda Board of Trustees will organise tenders for 500 booths during its annual village festival in Madaya Township, Mandalay scheduled for 31 July-7 August, according to a report on 8 June in Myawady Daily newspaper.

The Taung Pyone Nat or Spirit festival is a popular celebration held during Myanmar's rainy season.

Booths will be sold for nine different locations in the festival grounds – six of which will be sold in an open tender

system, and three by the board of trustees. The board will begin selling booths one month before the festival.

Tender application forms are available until 21 June and are being sold for Ks10,000.—200 ■

“Green season” to increase monsoon tourism

THE government is implementing new promotional programmes to attract more tourists to Myanmar after a slump in 2016 visitors, according to a report on Thursday in the City News, a publication of the Yangon City Development Committee.

In 2016, 2.9 million tourists visited Myanmar, a decline from 2015.

In response to declining numbers, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will promote travel during Myanmar's often torrential four-month rainy season by renaming it the “green season”.

The government will join the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs' Association in promoting its green season campaign by reducing airfares, hotel rates and restaurant prices.

The ministry also plans to attract tourists interested in golf. The tourism industry in Myanmar is also hoping to encourage visits to drier areas of Myanmar like Bagan during the rainy season.

The promotion programme will include reduction of local airline fares, hotel charges and restaurant rates.—YCDC ■

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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.



\$4.177 million flowed into livestock and fisheries in April. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Foreign investment in Myanmar up in April

FOREIGN direct investment in Myanmar reached US\$656 million in April, with the majority of that investment going into the manufacturing sector, according to the monthly report of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) released last week.

By this time last year, no new FDI had come into Myanmar.

Investments flowed into various Myanmar sectors in April, including: \$3.809 million in agriculture, \$4.177 million in livestock and fisheries, \$504.401 million in manufacturing, \$95 million in transport and communications, \$41.447 million in real estate, more than \$5 million in industrial estate and \$2.112 million in other service

sectors.

No investments were recorded in construction, hotel and tourism, oil and gas, mining and power in April.

The Myanmar Investment Commission approved \$6.649 billion in investments last fiscal year, a decrease of \$2.8 billion compared to FY2015-16.—Khine Khant ■

Border trade with ITC reaches Ks6.3billion

THE value of border trade with the use of the Individual Trading Card (ITC) from 1st April to 26th May this fiscal year amounted to over Ks6.3billion, comprised of export value of over Ks350 million and import value of over Ks6 billion, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Out of border trade camps, Myawady and Kan Pike Tee border trade camps were found to have the largest trade value using the ITC.

Border trade values with

ITC as of 26th May were over Ks190million in Tamu, over Ks6million in Muse, over Ks4.85 billion in Myawady, Ks316million in Tachilek, over Ks54million in Lweje, over Ks501million in Kan Pike Tee, over Ks79million in Kawthoung, over Ks252million in Maw Taung and over Ks12million in Keng Tung, according to the official statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The Trade Department issued 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in FY 2013-2014, 317 cards

in FY 2014-2015, 146 cards in FY 2015-2016 and 248 cards in FY 2016-2017 and 32 cards as of 26th May this FY 2017-2018, according to an announcement released by the aforementioned ministry.

Last FC saw Ks18billion earned from border trade with ITC. A businessman can trade Ks3million a day with an ITC, and then, the trade department granted trade value up to Ks15million a day, which amounted to a five-day-trade-value.—Ko Khant ■

Import from private sector up by over US \$2.2 billion in FY2016-17

THE import value from the private sector went up by over \$2.2 billion in 2016-2017 financial year when compared to the previous year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Last FY, the sector imported more than \$16 billion, with \$13.402 billion in goods and services through by sea and \$2.847 billion through cross-border trade camps.

The total import value of last fiscal year amounted to

\$17.198 billion, including \$949 million from the government sector.

The import by private sector in 2011-12 FY was \$6.605 billion in total. It increased to \$7.550 billion in 2012-13FY, \$11.205 billion in 2013-14 FY, \$13.878 billion in 2014-15 FY and \$14.031 billion in 2015-16 FY.

Myanmar monthly imports a wide range of products, including consumer goods, electronic devices, luxury products,

automobiles, agricultural machinery and others from international trade partners.

The country's external trade in FY2016-17 totalled \$29.103 billion, covering \$11.904 billion from the export sector.

The number exceeded over \$1.3 billion than last year's total.

In the current FY, the foreign trade of the country hit \$3.711 billion, according to the ministry.—Kyaw Swa ■

Myanmar's trade with ASEAN is US \$715 million in 1st month of current FY

MYANMAR's trade value with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) surpassed US\$700 million in the first month of the current fiscal year, according to Ministry of Commerce figures released last week.

Of the total, Myanmar's exports with ASEAN were \$308 million and imports were \$407million. Thailand is ranked first among Myanmar's ASEAN trading partners with \$290 million, including \$187 million in exports and \$102 million in imports. Singapore ranked second with \$252 million, Malaysia was third with over \$67 million.

Bilateral trade with Indonesia stood at \$55.098 million, Viet Nam trade was \$46.255

million and trade with the Philippines was \$3.781 million. Trade with Brunei, Laos and Cambodia were below \$500,000.

Myanmar's major imported products include consumer goods, electronic devices, capital goods, automobile and accessories, and intermediate goods. Myanmar also exports a wide range of agricultural products, dried and fresh marine products, minerals and industrial finished goods.

Myanmar's trade with ASEAN countries was \$8.697 billion in FY2011-12, \$8.411 billion in FY 2012-13; \$11.038 billion in FY2013-14; \$12.604 billion in FY2014-15; \$10.432 billion in FY2015-16 and \$9.607 billion in FY2016-17.—Shwe Khine ■

External trade as of 2nd June this FY hit over US\$5billion

THE value of external trade from 1st April to 2nd June this fiscal year reached over US\$5 billion, an increase of over US\$730 million compared to the same period last year, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

The export value was US\$1.9 billion, whereas the import value was US\$3.1 billion. Normal trade this fiscal year performed better than last year, with a US\$790 million increase. However, border trade decreased over US\$61million

compared to the same point last year.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, forest products, fisheries, minerals, finished industrial products and others while capital goods, raw industrial goods and personal goods are imported into the country.

Myanmar's main export items include natural gas, garments, rice, mung bean, minerals, green grams, fish, crude oil, corn and pigeon peas.—Mon Mon ■

Myanmar company initiates lucrative Japanese herbal remedy exports to Japan

MYANMAR exported 75 kilograms of traditional herbal medicines estimated to be worth US\$263 million to Japan, according to a report of the Commerce Ministry issued on Friday.

Four kinds of dried herbs – Burpleurum, Saposhnikovia Fivaricata (Boufu), Scutellaria Baicalensis (Ougon) and Platycodon Grandiflorus – were shipped to the island nation as part of a pilot program between MMK Supporting Con-

sultant Co. Ltd. The herbs are traditional Japanese remedies said to be beneficial for liver health, headaches, coughs and anti-aging.

MMK Supporting Consultant has been growing the plants on a one acre plot in PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Region since December 2015. The company intends to scale their growing operation in Myanmar on the back of a successful sale in Japan.—Swe Nyein ■

US forces assist Philippines in battle to end city siege

MANILA/MARAWI CITY, Philippines — US forces are providing the Philippines with technical assistance to end a siege of the southern town of Marawi by militants allied to Islamic State but it has no boots on the ground, the Philippines military said on Saturday.

The seizure of Marawi by hundreds of fighters who have sworn allegiance to Islamic State, including dozens from neighbouring countries and the Middle East, has fuelled concern that the ultra-radical group is gaining a foothold in Southeast Asia.

Earlier a US embassy spokesperson in Manila told Reuters that, at the request of the Philippines government, special operations forces were helping liberate the town, part of which has been occupied by hundreds of militants since 23 May.

In Marawi, military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jo-Ar Herrera confirmed the US assistance, telling a news conference: "They are not fighting. They are just providing technical support."

A US P3 Orion surveillance plane was seen flying over the town on Friday, according to local media reports.

Until now there had been



An OV-10 aircraft release a bomb during an airstrike against the so-called Maute group, who have taken over large parts of Marawi city, Philippines on 10 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

no confirmation that the Philippines had sought US support in the battle for Marawi City on the island of Mindanao, which is in its third week.

The assistance comes after months of strain between the two long-time allies that was stoked by Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's hostility towards Washington and his pledges to throw US troops out of the country.

Washington deployed special forces soldiers to Mindanao in 2002 to train and advise Philippine units fighting Abu Sayyaf militants in a programme that once involved 1,200 Americans.

It was discontinued in 2015 but a small presence remained for logistics and technical support.

The United States and the Philippines have been allies

for decades. Their relationship provided Washington with a strategic foothold in Asia, and offered Manila a shield against China's assertiveness in the region.

But Duterte has openly scorned the alliance, seeing it as an obstacle to a rapprochement with China, and has repeatedly lambasted Washington for treating his country as a lackey.—Reuters ■

India to set up 100 Yoga parks across country

NEW DELHI — The Indian government will set up 100 Yoga parks across the country to promote yoga activities, officials said on Saturday.

"The parks will be especially meant for yoga activities throughout the year and will be managed voluntarily by the Yoga or other organizations," Shripad Naik, minister of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) said.

"There are plans that federal government would providing funds to the municipal authorities to hire Yoga instructors to teach the common people about the ancient exercise," the minister said.

Meanwhile, the ministry has geared up to celebrate the International Day of Yoga on 21 June.

"Main event will be held in Lucknow, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to attend the celebration," he said, adding "along with PM, senior ministers of government, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yoga Gurus are expected to take part in the mega event."

Over 50,000 people are expected to demonstrate common yoga protocol along with the dignitaries in Lucknow on 21 June to mark International Day of Yoga, he said.

Last year Modi led the second International Day of Yoga celebrations at the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh city.

Yoga includes stretching and bending of body besides doing breathing exercises aimed at transforming body and mind.

The United Nations declared on 21 June as the International Day of Yoga after Modi, a Yoga enthusiast lobbied for the ancient Indian art.—Xinhua ■

Thailand's parliamentary body votes to set up new election commission

BANGKOK — A new election management body will ensure more credible election results and political reforms will start fresh, Thailand's main election official said on his personal social media page on Saturday.

"Reforms will always hurt some people," Somchai Srisuthiyakorn, one of Thailand's five election commissioners said after the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) voted on Friday to create a new Election Commission (EC).

The NLA voted overwhelming to disband the current Election Commission. Members voted 161-15 with 12 abstentions to expel all five commission members and replace them with seven new members to be appointed under means yet to be decided.

Somchai said the EC respected the NLA's decision for the benefit of the country.

The five existing election commissioners will remain in office until the new EC is installed by November, according

to local media.

The EC, established by the 2007 Constitution, is an independent government agency that oversees government elections and referendums throughout the country.

Those voted against viewed it unfair to current commissioners who were qualified under the 2007 charter, saying that the decision would affect the organization of the upcoming general election.

Those in favour said re-

moving the existing EC members is necessary as the current EC mechanisms cannot get rid of local influence, local media said.

Thailand has passed a new charter in the 2016 referendum. The new charter has been royally endorsed on 6 April.

After that, the country's charter drafting body will have to finish drafting 10 laws, four of which will determine the mechanics of a general election that would be potentially held in late 2018.—Xinhua ■

Gov't eyes seeking Xi visit to Japan as state guest next year

TOKYO — The government is considering asking Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit Japan in the latter half of next year as a state guest, government sources said on Saturday.

To lay the groundwork for Xi's trip to Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is likely to visit China in the first half of next year, the sources said. If Xi visits Japan, he will be the first Chinese president to do so since Hu Jintao in 2008.

Abe last visited China in September 2016.

Japan hopes to build closer relationships with China and join hands in addressing North Korea's missile and nuclear weapon development.

Tokyo also aims to improve relations soured over repeated intrusions by Chinese vessels into territorial waters in the East China Sea around the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands, which China also claims.

On Monday, Abe expressed



President Xi Jinping. PHOTO: REUTERS

interest in cooperating with the Xi administration's Belt and Road Initiative if certain conditions are met.

Beijing's initiative aims to build closer economic links along and beyond the ancient

Silk Road trade routes.

A Japanese government official said Xi is likely to strengthen his power base through the Communist Party congress this autumn.

"Next year will be the year

to improve conditions to promote Japan-China relations," the official said.

According to the sources, Shotaro Yachi, head of the secretariat of Japan's National Security Council, told State Councilor Yang Jiechi when Beijing's top diplomat visited Japan for talks in late May that Abe and Xi should visit each other's nations within the next year.

The Japanese government is considering inviting Xi to visit after Abe attends the trilateral summit next year in Beijing involving Japan, China and South Korea.

The government currently aims to arrange a summit of the Chinese and Japanese leaders on the sidelines of the Group of 20 major economies summit in Hamburg, Germany in early July. At that meeting, Abe is likely to tell Xi that Japan is keen to promote bilateral cooperation ahead of an Abe visit to China.—Kyodo News ■

Chinese government mulls enhanced transparency in decision making

BEIJING — China is mulling an interim regulation that would improve transparency in the drafting of major administrative policies.

According to the draft regulation, released Friday, all major policies regarding people's vital interests or having big influences on their rights and obligations should be made available for public solicitation.

The draft, released by the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, dedicated an entire chapter to "Public Participation," which specified the requirement on such procedures.

Such participation could be carried out in various forms including public hearings, questionnaires, surveys and interviews, according to the draft.

It also noted that the period of soliciting public opinion should be no less than 30 days.

Feedback is required on key issues brought up by the public, according to the draft.

Currently, there is still insufficient public participation in some cases, which has harmed the credibility of the government, said the office in an explanatory note.

The draft also highlighted the role of feasibility studies and risk evaluation procedures in decision making.

The public can submit their opinions at chinalaw.gov.cn before 8 July.—Xinhua ■

Three Japanese arrested in Thailand for confinement of businessman

BANGKOK — Thai police on Saturday announced the arrests of three Japanese men the previous day on suspicion of confining and physically harming a Japanese businessman who lives in the country.

According to the police, Tsunemi Watanabe, 55, was rescued by police Friday night from a Bangkok apartment where he

had been tied up and blindfolded by the three Japanese, who were demanding ransom of 300 million yen (about \$2.7 million).

His right leg had been broken with a baseball bat and his health was in poor condition, and he is now recovering in hospital.

Watanabe reportedly feared for his life during the ordeal, and

among the items recovered from the apartment were a saw, a gun and bullets.

According to the police, Watanabe, who runs a medical equipment business, went missing around 4 pm on Monday in the capital's central business district.

His Thai wife, worried by his absence, subsequently alerted

the police.

The three suspects were identified as Reo Tsuruzoe of Tokyo's Ota Ward, Masato Kobari and Kiyoto Miyata.

Watanabe and Tsuruzoe had become acquainted with each other some years ago back in Japan, but their relationship had soured over money, according to the police.—Kyodo News ■

DPRK says return of "abducted" young women precondition for reunion of separated families

PYONGYANG — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has made the repatriation of 12 young women who allegedly fled to South Korea the precondition for family reunions between the North and South.

The young women allegedly

fled to South Korea last year from an overseas restaurant they were working in.

Another DPRK woman named Kim Ryon Hui who Pyongyang said was lured to the South six years ago must also be returned, the Korean Central News

Agency cited a spokesman for the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society as saying in a Saturday report.

The South Korean authorities are intentionally turning away from the matter of their repatriation, despite the "appeal and

demand by the people from all walks of life," said the spokesman.

Seoul is pushing for a reunion of separated families on 15 August, according to the spokesman.

The spokesman also slammed Seoul for criticizing Pyongyang's human rights record

on the one hand and abducting DPRK citizens on the other.

"They should pay attention to the strong demand of the families of those abductees and settle the issue of their repatriation at an early date before anything else," he added.—Xinhua ■

GNLM's Sunday Special Issue to generate the interest of students in English!

Khin Maung Oo

It is a noteworthy saying that any kind of language should be studied. Especially, at such a time when the country is communicating with other countries globally on its move towards a federal democratic union, foreign languages happen to play an important role. Accordingly, not only students but also adult learners are increasingly coming to spend most of their time learning a foreign language to improve their academic studies, with adults desirous of going abroad for jobs queuing up to enter private language teaching classes. Though being language schools which give intensive language courses only, they are paving a smooth way to their destinations. Admittedly, they all know that it would take them time to master a language or to apply it well. Generally, we need to know a foreign

language for our individual progress. We need to gain proficiency and gain mastery of the foreign language because the country stills needs to acquire knowledge and cutting-edge technologies from developed countries.

Usually, a graduate spends a period of over a decade or so to study English in schools, universities and colleges. Most of them and authorities concerned themselves are well convinced that students regretfully spent their academic schooling getting only a smattering knowledge of English. This is not attributed to their poor IQs (Intelligence Quotient). In fact, youths are astute at learning. Had they benefited from correct teaching methods from their able teachers, they would have had satisfactory proficiency. And, now is not the time to blame and argue as to who were responsible for this. State

leaders and responsible persons know it very well.

The Minister for Information has launched an initiative to fulfill the present need in the education sector, and of course the co-operation of other ministries, especially the Ministry of Education is needed. There are over 45,000 basic education schools and over 150 universities and colleges across the country. Teachers are the sculptors who will shape the futures of their students. So, they need to be proficient in the English language regardless of their posts and status. Generally, students tend to emulate their teachers. Teachers, service personnel and employees lack spare hours to learn languages they want to study at private classes and to attend diploma courses conducted by institutions such as the UFL (University of Foreign Languages). Now, they all have a chance to fulfill their

needs, without moving an inch from their sedentary positions. Not only for students but also for the adults on jobs, GNLM has issued Sunday Special papers to read and to try their hands at creative writing—poems, short stories and articles. In other words, the program can be said to be a nursing ground for neo-writers to set foot into the literary field. That being so, the Ministry of Education should encourage all the teaching staff to take the present opportunity or to fill the book-shelves of school libraries with the Myanmar news papers, journals and Dailies in English version, for the sake of our country and our younger generations. Now, let us—the government, the Ministries, Education Department, teachers and parents—broaden our children's scope of knowledge and build up a well-developed nation, joining hand in hand with each other. ■

Thoughts on Reading Three Articles Concerning Burmese/Myanmar Education Forty-four Years Apart

By Dr. Myint Zan

'Fostering Mass Achievement'

On 30 May 1973 the now defunct The Working People's Daily (WPD) published an editorial entitled 'Foster Mass Achievement'. The writer does not have this old newspaper but from the writer's firm memory the editorial in effect draws attention to the then about-to-be-announced Basic Education High School Exam results. The editorial states that since 1970 and up to 1972 at least some State-owned newspapers (there being no private media in those Burmese socialist days) have mentioned in the front pages of the newspapers interviews and photographs of the 'top' candidates or those two or three students who obtained six distinctions (all-round distinctions) in the Basic Education High School (BEHS) exams. To the best of my recall, the editorial in not so many words describe that



School children learn at a school in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

in a socialist system individual achievements in exams should not be highlighted so much as 'mass achievement'. I recall that at least one newspaper (if I recall) published photographs and interviews of at least one if not both of the (inaugural) all round six distinction holders among those who passed the BEHS exam in the year 1970. I do not recall whether or not in the year 1971 those who obtained six distinctions in that years' BEHS exam were

or were not in the front page of Burmese language newspapers but in the year 1972 there were three 'all-round' distinction holders and perhaps if not interviews at least the names and photographs of those six distinctions holders were published in at least one State-owned newspaper.

The writer clearly recalls listening to a radio broadcast from the now (almost) defunct Communist Party of Burma (CPB) which bitinglly stated that among the three all round

six distinction holders two were from the then ruling Revolutionary Council or the Revolutionary government of the Union of Burma. (The Revolutionary Council and the Revolutionary government were two distinct entities though not all members of the Revolutionary government—an 'executive' body- were members of the Revolutionary Council – a supreme body with full legislative powers.) The CPB broadcast stated that 17

or so members of the Revolutionary Council can 'produce' two matriculates who got all-round distinctions and the remaindered so to speak 24 million seven hundred thousand Burmese can only produce one all-round distinction holder!

'Miasma Over Education'

But back to the WPD editorial. The late Saya Tet Toe (2 February 1913- 7 December 2004) wrote a rejoinder to the editorial under the title 'Miasma Over Education' which was published, I think, in the 2 June 1973 issue of The Working People's Daily. From my firm memory the first page of Saya Tet Toe's article reads: 'I fully support your editorial of May 30'. At the end of the article Saya Tet Toe wrote to the effect that 'all round distinction holders would say that they would of course state that they would staunchly served the people as medical doctors etc.

SEE PAGE-9

No major disagreements between UNFC, Peace Commission in Chaingmai talks

PEACE Commission and the delegation for Political negotiation of the United Nationalities Federal Council-UNFC held talks yesterday in Chaing Mai, Thailand, over nine points demanded by the UNFC.

“We have no major disagreements, only some verbal modifications during the five formal meetings we held with Delegation for Political Negotiation-DPN,” said a member of Peace Commission at a press meet in Chaing Mai, Thailand yesterday.

U Aung Soe, PC member and the leader of the delegation that held talks with DPN of the United Nationalities Federal Council-UNFC also told the media that an agreement reached at the informal meeting is a precursor of a good answer at the sixth formal meeting.

At the press meet, Khu Oo Ral, leader of the DPN, said



Khu Oo Ral (left) and U Aung Soe (Right) meet the press. PHOTO: AUNG AUNG (CHAINGMAI)

finding solutions to the issues still under negotiations is the baseline of the informal meeting.

Yesterday's informal meeting between DPN and UPC delegation is to explain the results of the second session of the Union Peace Conference: 21st Century Panglong where UNFC members were absent and to discuss

the nine points demanded by UNFC.

The formal meeting still needs negotiations for military-related issues and a political framework.

PC and DPN are planning to hold further talks in Yangon after UNFC has held its conference on 20 this month. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

Union Minister for Information to attend 2017 Edition of the Oslo Forum

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint left for Oslo, Norway, yesterday to attend the 2017 Edition of the Oslo Forum which is scheduled to be held from 13th to 14th June.

The Union Minister is ac-

companied by U Myint Kyaw, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials of the ministry.—Zaw Gyi /MNA ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint arrives Yangon International Airport to leave for Norway. PHOTO: ZAW GYI /MNA ■

Thoughts on Reading Three Articles Concerning ...

FROM PAGE-8

To the best of the writer's recollection unlike the previous three years going back to 1970, the State-owned newspapers did not carry or 'cover' the all-round or 'six-distinction-holders' profiles in the year 1973 nor did they interview them. I do not recall how many six-distinction holders were there in 1973 but one of them (and she might be the only person) (now) Dr. Hla Shan Pru was specifically honoured by (I think) the Arakanese (now Rakhine) Association in a function. I also do not recall whether that function was also covered or not in the state-owned print media but I am sure there was such a ceremony in honour of Dr. Hla Shan Pru in that year.

Prestigious Status of (Institutes / Universities) of Medicine (then and now) and International Relations Major Mainly in the 1980s and 1990s

Fast forward to the year 1987. It was no longer the 'Revolutionary Council era' but what is called in Burmese acronym MA HSA LA, the Burma Socialist Programme Party era. (The Revolutionary Council being abolished on 2 March

1974 by U Ne Win who –from 4 July 1962 to 23 July 1988- was in addition to being Revolutionary Council Chairman, Prime Minister and President was also the 'Chairman of the Burma Socialist Programme Party- and on 4 March 1974 U Ne Win became the first President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma while retaining the Party Chairman position even after retiring from the Presidency on 9 November 1981).

I clearly recall the then Burmese television in 1987 interviewing some (I think) all round distinction holders may be up to ten of them. Since at that time it was the 'second time' in less than 20 years where Matriculates had to diversify in the arts and science subjects the interviewer did not ask the science 'stream' matriculates which University or institution they wanted to join anticipating, I suspect, that if not all most of them would perhaps state the then (and perhaps now) the 'top' course of Medicine!

The interviewer did ask the arts stream matriculates which course they wanted to

join and almost all if not all of them replied the then 'popular' and prestigious subject of International Relations. (Since its inauguration in 1984 for several years I have heard that after the medicine and engineering disciplines International relations was the most popular course and it takes quite high marks to get admitted to international relations 'major' in the 1980s. This, I think, is no longer the case, I have heard that in recent years about 300 marks out of 600 are all that was needed to enroll in international relations major at least at Yadanabon University in Mandalay.)

'Back to the Present': Dr. Nu Nu Win's Article Forty-Four Years After WPD Editorial and Saya Tet Toe's Article

Fast forward from 1987 to 2017. If in the 1970s the candidates who appeared for the then BEHS Exams were (roughly, the writer has no access to the figures and they are subject to correction) is between say 50,000 (may be up to a maximum of 100,000) and in the 1980s (is between 70,000 and up to 250,000) the candi-

dates that 'sat' for the 2017 Matriculation Exams was, I have read, over 720,000 students. And the writer's guess is that there would easily be well over a hundred students if not a few hundred students who obtained all round six distinctions in the 2017 Exams as well as in previous years perhaps going back a decade before this year.

Even if the Editors of Kyay Mon (the Myanmar language newspaper) and The Global New Light of Myanmar is minded to publish even a two or three sentence profile of the all-round distinction holders –as the then some State-owned newspapers in the years 1970, 1971 and 1972 apparently did- it would cover most of Kyay Mon and the entire Global New Light of Myanmar perhaps for a few days!

And MRTV has to interview hourly for about ten days if all the all-round distinction holders. Hence WPD's editorial concern and Saya Tet Toe's 'full support' over the then 'miasma over education' in the context of the statements made then and in the education milieu of the occasion becomes if not redundant then inapplicable.

Miasma Over Education II?

Dr. Nu Nu Win's article published in The Global New Light of Myanmar on 4 June 2017 was published almost 44 years to the day after the 30 May 1973 WPD Editorial and 2 June 1973 rejoinder article of Saya Tet Toe.

Dr. Nu Nu Win's article is mainly in defence and in support of (I think) high school teachers (Senior Assistant Teachers) stating in this democratic age with candor that '[e]ven our beloved National Leader, Ahmay ('Mother') Su accidentally forgot (query when one –genuinely- forgets is it 'accidental' 'intentional' or plain forgetfulness) to give any certificate of thanks or to say any words of thanks to the teachers who had struggled a lot to make all elections fair and correct'. Dr. Nu Nu Win also points out the unreasonableness of 'threatening (by the Minister of Education no less!)' to send 'teachers to far, far places and remote regions' if there are not enough students (quota of students?) who passed the exams.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May addresses the country after Britain's election at Downing Street in London, Britain on 9 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

UK leader May seen fighting for survival after election failure

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May faces a slew of criticism after a failed election campaign left her short of a parliamentary majority and fighting for survival as the clock ticks down to the start of Brexit talks.

May's gamble that she could capitalise on Britons' desire to quit the European Union and perceived weakness in the opposition Labour Party backfired on Thursday as voters stripped her of her parliamentary majority.

The surprising outcome, which sent the pound tumbling, forced May to form a minority government, leaving her reliant on a small group of Northern Irish parliamentarians, just nine days before Britain is due to begin negotiating a deal to leave the EU.

Britain's typically right-wing press savaged May over the election outcome, questioning whether she will be able to remain in power after a result that leaves her reliant on uniting rival factions within her party to deliver Brexit.

"May stares into the abyss," said The Times' Sat-

urday edition while the Daily Mail led with "Tories Turn On Theresa". The Telegraph said senior Conservatives including Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, interior minister Amber Rudd and Brexit minister David Davis were taking soundings over whether to replace her.

"As I reflect on the results I will reflect on what we need to do in the future to take the party forward," May said on Friday in a televised statement.

Britain's best-selling Sun newspaper said senior members of her party had vowed to get rid of May, but would wait at least six months because they were worried that a leadership contest now could propel Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn into power.

"Theresa May is certainly the strongest leader that we have at the moment," David Jones, a junior Brexit minister, told the BBC. He said it was impossible to predict whether she would still be prime minister at the end of the year.

Several lawmakers demanded the resignation of May's top advisers, who have

been widely blamed for a disastrous policy to make the elderly pay more towards their care and a campaign seen as too insulated from ordinary voters and too focused on attacking her opponent.

After confirming on Friday that her top five ministers would keep their jobs, including finance minister Philip Hammond, May is expected to continue to appoint the government that will take on one of the most demanding negotiations in British history.

May said Brexit talks would begin on 19 June as scheduled, the same day as the formal reopening of parliament. But the election result meant it was unclear whether her plan to take Britain out of the bloc's single market and customs union could still be pursued.

British politicians, including within May's own party, differ widely on what they want from the Brexit negotiating process.

If she is to succeed in delivering the end of Britain's EU membership which 52 percent of the British public demanded

last year, she must find a way to recapture the full support of her party because she will need their votes to pass legislation preparing for and ultimately enacting the departure.

May will also need the support of the socially conservative, pro-Brexit Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) which won 10 seats in Northern Ireland.

The two parties are broadly politically aligned, but it remains to be seen what price the DUP will seek to extract for its support. Several Conservative lawmakers, including Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson, raised concerns over the DUP's opposition to same-sex marriage.

It was not immediately clear what the DUP's demands might be and one DUP lawmaker suggested support might come vote by vote.

Any such arrangement would be fraught with political risk for May, fuelling uncertainty among businesses over what the final terms of Britain's departure from the EU would look like, and how it will affect future trade with the bloc.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Trump to nominate Nathan Sales as counterterrorism coordinator — White House

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump intends to nominate Nathan Sales, a former Homeland Security official, as State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, the White House said on Friday.

Sales is a professor at Syracuse University College of Law, and previously served as deputy assistant secretary for policy at the Department of Homeland Security and as senior counsel in the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice, the White House said in a statement.

—Reuters ■

Norway oil workers agree wage deal, ending threat of strike

OSLO — Norwegian oil and gas firms secured a wage agreement with workers on Saturday, ending the threat of a strike that would have cut output at five fields, employers said.

The Norwegian Oil and Gas Association (NOG), which negotiated on behalf of energy firms, had warned that a strike by the Lederne trade union would have cut oil and gas output by 443,500 barrels of oil equivalent per day. The five fields that were under threat of strike are operated by Statoil, Shell and Eni.—Reuters ■

Philippines says "strong indications" Maute militant brothers dead

MARAWI CITY — The Philippines military said on Saturday it was validating reports that two brothers leading the Maute Islamist militant group were killed in the battle for control of the southern city of Marawi.

We are still awaiting confirmation," military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jo-Ar Herrera told a news conference in Marawi City. "We are still validating those reports but there are strong indications." —Reuters ■

Russia's Lavrov calls for talks to ease Qatar stand-off

MOSCOW — Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov told Qatar on Saturday of its concern over Arab nations cutting ties with the Gulf state and called for talks to solve the crisis.

“As a matter of policy we do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries or their bilateral relations with each other. But it does not give us joy when relations between our partners deteriorate,” Lavrov told Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani at talks in Moscow.

The Arab world's biggest powers, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates, severed diplomatic relations with Qatar on Monday, accusing it of support for Islamist militants and Iran.

Lavrov said Moscow was ready to act “with the consent and the interest of the parties involved” to help resolve the diplomatic row.

“We call for all contra-



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. PHOTO: REUTERS

dictions to be resolved at the negotiation table through a mutually respectful dialogue,” Lavrov said, adding Arab states should unite to effectively fight terrorism.

Sheikh Mohammed said

Qatar was committed to solving the issue via a dialogue and that he considered the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf as the most appropriate format for such talks.

—Reuters ■

Saudi and Bahrain welcome Trump's scolding of Qatar

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia and Bahrain welcomed on Saturday US President Donald Trump's demand for Qatar to stop supporting terrorism, but did not respond to a US Department of State call for them to ease pressure on the Gulf state.

After severing ties with Qatar on Monday, Saudi Arabia said it was committed to “decisive and swift action to cut off all funding sources for terrorism” in a statement carried by state news agency SPA, attributed to “an official source”.

And in a separate statement issued on Friday, the United Arab Emirates praised Trump's “leadership in challenging Qatar's troubling support for extremism”.

Trump accused Qatar of being a “high level” funder of terrorism on Friday, even as the Pentagon and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson cautioned against the military,

commercial and humanitarian effects of a blockade imposed by Arab states and others.

A separate SPA report on Saturday acknowledged Tillerson's call for Qatar to curtail support for terrorism, but did not mention his remarks that the crisis was hurting ordinary Qataris, impairing business dealings and harming the US fight against the Islamic State militant group.

Saudi Arabia said its action followed the conclusions of last month's Arab Islamic American Summit in Riyadh, where Trump delivered a speech about Islamic extremism.

Trump said he helped plan the move against Qatar, although a senior administration official told Reuters earlier this week that the US had no indication from the Saudis or Emiratis during the visit that they would sever ties with Qatar. —Reuters ■

US-backed Syrian militias push into IS-held Raqqa

BEIRUT — US-backed Syrian forces have advanced into opposite sides of Islamic State's so-called Syrian capital of Raqqa, the forces and a war monitor said on Saturday.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a group of Kurdish and Arab militias supported by a US-led coalition, began to attack Raqqa on Tuesday after a months-long campaign to cut

it off.

The US-led coalition estimates that Raqqa, which Islamic State seized from Syrian rebels in 2014 during their lightning advance in Syria and Iraq, is defended by 3,000-4,000 jihadists.

It has been a hub both for Islamic State's military leaders and its bureaucrats, and has been used to plot attacks

in countries around the world.

The SDF said it had seized al-Mishlab district in the far east of Raqqa on Friday and al-Sabahia district in the west. The war monitor, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the SDF had taken Mishlab and more than half of Sabahia.

The forces are now advancing into al-Romania district in northwest Raqqa, the SDF and

the Observatory said. Islamic State had turned back an earlier SDF assault on a military base on the north side, the Observatory said. Islamic State still has a long sweep of territory along Syria's Euphrates valley and wide stretches of desert, despite recent losses to the SDF, the Syrian army and rebel groups.

To the west of Raqqa, the Syrian army and its allies have

advanced into Islamic State territory and on Friday reached SDF lines near the town of Tabqa, 40km (25 miles) from the city.

The Syrian government has described the SDF's war against Islamic State as “legitimate” and said its military priorities are further east, suggesting it does not plan to confront the group now. — Reuters ■

Afghan policemen killed in US airstrike: officials

LASHKAR GAH (Afghanistan) — At least three Afghan policemen were killed and two wounded when an American military aircraft opened fire during an operation in southern Afghanistan, officials said on Saturday.

The so-called “friendly fire” incident occurred overnight, during a raid in Afghanistan's restive Helmand province, the US military command in Kabul said in a statement.

The officers, members of the Afghan Border Police, were killed when a US aircraft “returned fire” during the operation, which included Afghan and American special forces, a military spokesman said.

“We would like to express our deepest condolences to the families of the ABP members affected by this unfortunate incident,” the statement said.

Omar Zwak, a spokesman

for the Helmand governor, put the toll at three policemen killed and two wounded.

Both Afghan and American officials said they were investigating the incident.

Taliban insurgents have made widespread gains in Helmand, seizing many of the province's districts and threatening the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah. Hundreds of US Marines recently arrived in Helmand to take

over an advising mission as part of the NATO-led coalition training and assisting Afghan forces.

American troops, including special forces, also carry out separate counterterrorism missions.

Airstrikes by American warplanes have greatly increased in recent months, as US President Donald Trump considers requests from military commanders for thousands more international troops. Afghanistan has

suffered a string of violent attacks in recent weeks after the Taliban launched their spring offensive, including attacks in the capital city of Kabul that killed and wounded hundreds.

On Friday night, identified gunmen opened fire at a mosque in the eastern province of Paktia, killing three civilians and wounding nine others, the Afghan Interior Ministry said in a statement. —Reuters ■



The defence system has passed all the required trials. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russia tests cruise missile defence systems

MOSCOW — Russia's Radio-Electronic Technologies Group (KRET), part of the state hi-tech corporation Rostec, has developed and tested onboard defence systems for cruise missiles of various modifications, Adviser to the KRET first deputy CEO Vladimir Mikheyev told TASS on Friday.

"We have prepared a set of equipment for mounting it on cruise missiles of various modifications. Moreover, missiles

can have any type of a warhead but all of them will be equipped with onboard defence systems," he said.

This defence system has passed all the required trials today, he added.

The onboard defence system comprises integrated technical means designed to determine and classify the threat of destruction of the protected object and also to neutralize this threat.—Tass ■

Canada launches rescue as winds hit trans-Atlantic sailing race

OTTAWA — The Canadian military launched a rescue mission on Friday to reach several sailing vessels in distress in the mid-Atlantic after high seas and hurricane-strength winds disrupted a sailing race from Britain to the United States.

Two rescue aircraft and three ships as well as two civilian tankers were en route in response to distress calls from three yachts damaged by the storm, the military's Joint Task Force Atlantic said on Twitter.

"At least one vessel is dismasted, with others having rigging and or hull damage," the task force tweeted.

The vessels, carrying one or two sailors each, were sailing from Plymouth, England to Newport, Rhode Island as part of the Royal Western Yacht Club's single-handed and two-handed transatlantic race.

The military said conditions in the mid-Atlantic remain difficult, with 10-15 metre (32-49 feet) seas and 50-70 knot (58-81 mph) winds. Sustained winds of 64 knots or greater are considered hurricane force. Twenty-one vessels from about a dozen countries began the race, departing Plymouth on 29 May, according to the yacht club's website. The races are open to mono and multi-hulled vessels between 27 and 60 feet in length.—Reuters ■

Trump says Comey not telling truth, willing to respond under oath

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Friday denied he tried to interfere with an FBI investigation, effectively accusing James Comey, the FBI's former director, of lying under oath to Congress.

Comey delivered scathing remarks about the president on Thursday at a congressional hearing and testified that Trump had asked him to drop a Federal Bureau of Investigation probe into former aide Michael Flynn and his alleged ties to Russia.

Trump said Comey's testimony also vindicated him from allegations that he colluded with Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election.

"James Comey confirmed a lot of what I said. And some of the things that he said just weren't true," Trump said at a news conference in the White House Rose Garden.

Asked by a reporter if he had told Comey to drop the investigation into former national security adviser Flynn, Trump said, "I didn't say that."

The reporter then asked, "So he lied about that?"

"Well, I didn't say that. I mean, I will tell you, I didn't say that," Trump replied. "And there would be nothing wrong if I did say it according to everybody that I've read today, but I did not say that," he said.

In his testimony, Comey also said Trump asked him in January

to pledge loyalty to the president, an unusual request that would put in doubt the independence of the FBI. "I hardly know the man. I'm not going to say I want you to pledge allegiance. Who would do that?" Trump said.

Comey's testimony was the most eagerly anticipated US congressional hearing in years. The issue of the Trump election campaign's relationship with Russia has dogged Trump's first months in office and distracted from his policy goals such as overhauling the US healthcare system and making tax cuts. Comey, who was fired by Trump in May, did not make any major disclosures about any links between Trump or his associates and alleged Russian meddling. Asked on Friday if he would be willing to go under oath to give his version of his interactions with Comey, Trump replied, "100 percent."

He said he would be happy to speak to special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating allegations that Russia interfered with the election and colluded with Trump's campaign.

"I would be glad to tell him exactly what I just told you," Trump told a reporter.

Several congressional committees, as well as the FBI and Mueller, are looking into the Russia allegations. On Friday, the leaders of the House of Representatives intelligence committee's investigation said they



US President Donald Trump addresses a joint news conference with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis in the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington, US on 9 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

had asked Comey for his notes and memos about his discussions with Trump, and asked the White House to produce any recordings or memos of conversations between Trump and Comey.

Trump declined to answer questions from reporters about whether recordings existed. "I'll tell you about that maybe sometime in the very near future," he said. Trump's offer to testify under oath would pit his word against Comey's before federal investigators.

If either Trump's testimony or memos written by Comey about his conversations with the president turn out to be untrue, either man could be charged with lying to federal investigators.

A US president is given a wide array of immunities from

criminal prosecutions. The US Constitution does not directly address whether the president can be criminally prosecuted, and the area is the subject of legal debate. A president can be charged after leaving office. Trump wrote earlier on Friday on Twitter that the former FBI head had vindicated him by telling the Senate Intelligence Committee that the president had not been personally under investigation in the Russia probe. With a single tweet, Trump also castigated Comey as "a leaker" for giving an account of his conversation with the president to a law professor who shared it with a news outlet. "Despite so many false statements and lies, total and complete vindication ... and WOW, Comey is a leaker!" Trump tweeted.—Reuters ■

Germany's Merkel lends support to Mexico over NAFTA

MEXICO CITY — Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday backed Mexico to press for a successful renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Donald Trump, thanking its government for keeping German interests in mind during the talks.

Germany and Mexico have pursued policies tailored toward exporting manufactured goods, and both ran trade surpluses of more than \$60 billion with the United States last year.

Many of the biggest names in German manufacturing have factories in both Mexico and the United States, including car-makers such as Volkswagen, BMW and Daimler.

However, tension over trade has surfaced under US President Trump and



Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel gestures as she addresses the audience during a news conference at National Palace in Mexico City, Mexico on 9 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

his "America First" policy.

Claiming that their gains have come at the expense of US manufacturers, Trump has repeatedly attacked Germany and Mexico over their

trade surpluses. And he has vowed to withdraw from NAFTA if he cannot renegotiate it in favor of the United States.

Speaking on a visit to Mexico just a few weeks

after her foreign minister visited the country and backed its pro-NAFTA stance, Merkel said she was pleased the deal's signatories, the United States, Mexico and Can-

ada, were talking about an update.

"I hope these talks are a big success," she said at a news conference alongside President Enrique Pena Nieto in Mexico City. "And I'd like to offer thanks that the interests of German companies are also being taken into consideration."

Mexico and Germany reject Trump's hostility to NAFTA and say flourishing trade has brought benefits to all.

Formal talks between the United States, Canada and Mexico to start renegotiating the accord that took effect in 1994 are expected to begin from around mid-August.

Merkel also welcomed the fact that sectors like energy could be included in the NAFTA revamp, after Mexico

opened up its oil and gas market to private investment at the end of 2013, ending a longstanding state monopoly on production and exploration.

Still, unruly parts of Mexico where organized crime holds sway have rattled some investors, and gang violence has recently been on the increase again.

Merkel said Mexico faces big challenges from organized crime, adding that Germany was willing and able to help in that fight.

She said Europe, like Mexico, was also suffering from problems linked to violence like terrorism.

Merkel also said she hoped for a speedy conclusion this year to talks between Mexico and the EU to update a free trade accord.—Reuters ■

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

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Philippine military says 13 soldiers killed in Friday's battle with militants

MARAWI, (Philippines) — Thirteen Philippine marines have been killed in the battle for Marawi city, a military spokesman said on Saturday, a setback in the government's quest to retake the southern town from militants allied to Islamic State.

The 13 marines were killed during an "intense firefight" on Friday as they were conducting operations to clear enemy positions, military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jo-Ar Herrera told a news conference.

The deaths take the number of security force members killed to 58, with

20 civilians and more than a hundred rebel fighters also killed in the Marawi battles.

The little-known Maute group has been a fierce enemy of a military with superior firepower and greater troop strength.

The Philippine military has said the aim was to end the siege by Monday, the Philippines' independence day. "As long as we sustain the fight, as long as we are able to destroy the elements of the local terrorist group we can reach that," Herrera said of the 12 June target.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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

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

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Musician Lionel Richie. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Back from injury, Lionel Richie to tour with Mariah Carey

OAKLAND — Lionel Richie is ready to hit the road with Mariah Carey for his “All the Hits” North American tour after a knee injury in March forced him to postpone the venture. Richie and Carey are joining forces for the first time on tour, kicking off on 21 July in Oakland, California.

“I must tell you, I was so happy when she (Carey) said yes. My next thing was, ‘Really?’ It’s going to be one of those evenings where you are going to just ... it’s going to be pretty fun,” the “All Night Long” singer said. Richie was coy when asked if he and Carey would duet on the tour — and if so, which song they would choose.

“I heard a rumor about that, but I can’t reveal these kinds of things. There’s a rumor going round, but I won’t say a word,” he said.—Reuters ■

Taylor Swift returns to streaming as rival Katy Perry releases album

LOS ANGELES — Taylor Swift got back together with Spotify on Friday, returning her music to streaming services almost three years after complaining publicly they did not pay artists enough, and on the same day rival Katy Perry released a new album.

Swift, one of the world’s best-selling pop stars, also made her music available on Pandora, Amazon.com and Tidal streaming services, her management team said. Her catalog had previously only been available on Apple Inc’s Music service.

The pop star’s management said the latest decision to return to all streaming services was taken to celebrate her album “1989” selling over 10 million copies worldwide.

“Taylor wants to thank her fans by making her entire back catalog available to all streaming services at midnight,” her management’s Instagram account called Taylor Nation said late on Thursday.

The move coincided with the release on Friday of “Witness,” a new album by Perry, Swift’s pop industry rival with whom she has a long-running personal feud. Swift, 27, has no new album to promote.

Swift pulled all her music off Spotify and other streaming services in November 2014 after writing an opinion piece in the



Taylor Swift performs ‘Out of the Woods’ at the 58th Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, US on 15 February, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Wall Street Journal saying that “piracy, file sharing and streaming have shrunk the numbers of paid album sales drastically... Valuable things should be paid for. It’s my opinion that music should not be free.”

Six months later she struck a deal with Apple Music for her “1989” album after Apple bowed to pressure and agreed to pay artists during a free trial of its

new streaming music service.

The announcement by Swift may ramp up rivalry with Perry, 32, who released her new album’s first single, “Swish Swish,” last month. She told talk show host Jimmy Fallon the song was “a great anthem for people to use whenever somebody’s trying to hold you down or bully you.”

Swift’s 2014 single “Bad

Blood” has been seen as directed at Perry, and the “Firework” singer admitted recently that the two were not friends.

“That’s true, there is a situation. Honestly, it’s really like she (Swift) started it and it’s time for her to finish it,” Perry told talk show host James Corden in May. She said the feud stemmed from a disagreement over backup dancers.—Reuters ■

Ryan Hansen to co-star in ‘Bum Deal’



Actor Ryan Hansen. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

LOS ANGELES — “Central Intelligence” actor Ryan Hansen has been cast to star opposite Tone Bell and David Alan Grier in an upcoming indie comedy “Bum Deal”.

The story follows two San Francisco slackers who strike a mutually rewarding deal with a homeless person to pose as the jet-setting venture capitalist who can get them in the door.

The script has been written by Shea Mirzai and Evan Mirzai, who are also exec producers on the project.

Hansen recently appeared in films like “Central Intelligence”, “Bad Santa 2” and “Chips”.—PTI ■

Rachel Weisz recounts riding accident

LONDON — British actress Rachel Weisz spoke with Reuters this week, discussing the politics of her new film, and recounting a dangerous, on-set incident involving a horse.

The 47-year-old, who found fame with her role in action, comedy “The Mummy” in 1999, stars in “My Cousin Rachel”, in which she plays a mysterious woman who is suspected of murdering her cousin’s guardian.

Here are excerpts of the interview:

Q: How would you describe “My Cousin Rachel”?

A: It’s a romantic, Gothic, dark, suspenseful, mysterious

thriller. That’s a lot of adjectives, but I think it can handle that description. I stand by that.

Q: Did you have any challenging moments while filming?

A: The horse I rode, I had to learn to ride side-saddle, which was a first, which is challenging in a corset and a big dress, he had been trained on “Game of Thrones” to die when you pulled his left rein very sharply which I didn’t know.

So I cantered out of shot and stopped and pulled the left rein, and he very gracefully buckled his front legs and his back legs and died on his left side, which was the side I was

on... It was a terrifying moment because I didn’t know if I’d get crushed but I was fine.

Q: For a period film, “My Cousin Rachel” has modern sensibilities.

A: The novel was written in the 1950s so it had quite twentieth century ideas, so you know women already had the vote, but (a) woman who believes in sexual freedom, financial freedom, doesn’t think she should be a possession of her husband in the 1850s is really radical, so that’s what makes the film have a kind of modern edge.

“My Cousin Rachel” is released in UK cinemas on 9 June.—Reuters ■

ဘုရား၊ ရဟန်း၊ ကျောင်းဒါယကာကြီး
ဦးဝင်းနိုင် (၇၂) နှစ်
စာရေးဆရာ ဦးတင့်ဝင်းနိုင်
သာလွန် အဘိဓာန်၊ သာလွန်စာအုပ်တိုက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဒဂုံမြို့နယ်၊ ယောမင်းကြီးရပ်ကွက်၊ ဗိုလ်ရာညွန့်လမ်း၊ ကံကော်ကွန်ဒို C1Bနေ အိမ်ခြံမြေဝင်း၏ခင်ပွန်း၊ ဦးကျော်နိုင်ထွန်း+ဒေါ်သင်းသင်းနိုင် (အ.လ.က (၁) ဗိုလ်တထောင်)၊ ဦးရန်ကြီးအောင်+ဒေါ်လင်းလင်းနိုင်၊ ဒေါက်တာ မင်းသစ်ထွန်း (Pfizer pharma Co.)+ ဒေါ်ကြည်သာဝင်းနိုင်တို့၏ မွေးသမင်၊ မောင်ချမ်းမြေ့ရန်နိုင် (G-6) အထက (၁) ဒဂုံ၊ ကြည်ဖြူနိုင် (ALBA-Year 5)၊ မောင်ကောင်းပြည့်ရန်နိုင် (G-1 အထက (၁) ဒဂုံ)၊ မဇာတိမင်းတို့၏ ဖိုးဖိုးကြီးသည် ၇-၆-၂၀၁၇ (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့) နံနက် ၃ နာရီတွင် ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါသဖြင့် ဆွေးမျိုးမိတ်သင်္ဂဟအပေါင်းအား အသိပေး အကြောင်းကြားအပ်ပါသည်။ ကွယ်လွန်သူ၏ ဆန္ဒအရ ဆေးတက္ကသိုလ် (၁) ရန်ကုန်၊ ခန္ဓာဗေဒဌာနသို့ လှူဒါန်းလိုက်ပါသည်။ ကွယ်လွန်သူအား ရည်စူး၍ ၁၃.၆.၂၀၁၇ နေ့ (အင်္ဂါနေ့)တွင် အထက်ပါနေအိမ်သို့ ရက်လည်ဆွမ်းကျွေးတရားနာယူရန် ရပ်နီးရပ်ဝေးမှ ဆွေမျိုး မိတ်သင်္ဂဟအပေါင်းအား ဖိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု



Remnants of boats used by refugees and recovered at Greek coasts are displayed as part of a project by Mexican artist Guillermo Galindo ahead of the opening of Germany's biggest art fair "Documenta 14" in Kassel, Germany on 7 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Street artists bring colour to Israeli and Jordanian streets

ARAD (Israel) — With large murals of black cats and colourful gurning faces, a group of traveling international artists are bringing a splash of colourful street art to towns in Israel and Jordan.

The eye-catching works, including large portraits and spying eyes, are produced under the banner of the international POW! WOW! event, a week-long culture festival which aims to "contribute, share culture and beautify communities with art."

Having produced pieces at the Dead Sea and Petra in Jordan, the small group of artists, from Hawaii, Tel Aviv and Los Angeles, traveled to the southern Israeli city of Arad, a town in the Negev desert not often touched by street art.

"I came to the artist



A boy plays in front of a wall painting by Hawaiian artist Kamea Hadar during an art happening, called POW! WOW! Israel, which is connected to a week-long art and culture festival held in Hawaii called POW! WOW! Hawaii, in the southern city of Arad, Israel on 6 June, 2017. PHOTO REUTERS

quarter in Arad to paint some walls, to give some colors and beauty to the place and to the people," Tel Aviv street artist Diod said on Wednesday as he finished his piece of the

large faces.

The artists will next head to Tel Aviv to continue their art pilgrimage on Thursday for the final stages of the two-week festival. —Reuters ■

From Parthenon of banned books to pipe homes of refugees — documenta 14 kicks off

KASSEL (Germany) — A life-sized model of the Greek Parthenon — covered in forbidden books donated from around the world — stands in central Kassel right where Nazis once burned banned books.

It is a centerpiece of Germany's biggest contemporary art exhibit, documenta 14.

The exhibit, created by Argentine artist Marta Minujin, is also a poignant visual bridge to Athens, where a sister documenta 14 show is being held for the first time since the prestigious exhibit began in 1955. This year's dual exhibits include work by 160 artists from more than 50 countries, including, in Athens some rare Communist Albanian paintings.

Both the Athens and Kassel shows will continue for 100 days. Organizers expect close to a million

visitors in Kassel, where the exhibit will continue until 17 September.

"It's an exhibition including many artists who went through rather concrete experiences of displacement," Polish curator Adam Szymczyk told Reuters TV.

"These artists and their bodies, their histories, kind of testify in many ways to this permanent state of displacement that is affecting many people around the globe."

In Kassel, Kurdish-Iraqi artist Hiwa K. has created an exhibit with a series of ceramic pipes entitled "when we were exhaling" that centers on his experience after fleeing northern Iraq on foot in the 1990s, too poor to afford a hotel room, Szymczyk said.

"He walked on foot across Turkey and then ended up for a time being in the town of Patras

(Greece) where he lived in these ceramic pipes that are used for canalization," he said. Hiwa K sees the exhibit as a broader reflection on poverty, capitalism and what happens when a person no longer has room for their belongings.

"The refugee crisis is ... the outcome of what late capitalism is producing and what it is bringing to us," Hiwa K told Reuters TV. "It is interesting to show it in Kassel because you have a big industry for weapons here which are producing weapons for other countries."

He had hoped to turn the exhibit into an Airbnb space for documenta 14 visitors, but the city refused, citing health and safety reasons.

Instead only the 13 students who helped decorate the cylinders will spend a night there during the art fair. —Reuters ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(11-6-2017 07:00am - 12-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Harpist
07:32	Am	Back to A Paradise (Ep-1)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
08:44	Am	Elegant and Exquisite Myanmar Cotton Fabrics
08:55	Am	Dances of Myanmar (Pre Kayaw Traditional Dance)
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (EP-1)
09:53	Am	TECH School
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Hive Hunter

10:45 Am Hmaw Yaw Gyi Elephant Camp

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
07:42	Pm	One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar: Water Hyacinths
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-3) His Public Service & Literary World
08:52	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass - Aung Thiha

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Programme Schedule (11-6-2017, Sunday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	11:00 Am	◆ Week Characterful News
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	11:40 Am	◆ Taste of Korea
7:35 Am	◆ Documentaray	12:45 Am	◆ Myanmar Movie
8:35 Am	◆ Cartoon	3:00 Pm	◆ This Week's Special Interest
8:50 Am	◆ Beautiful ASEAN	6:20 Pm	◆ Documentary
9:10 Am	◆ Towards All Sector Development	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
9:30 Am	◆ MRTV Travelogue	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
9:45 Am	◆ Poen for Childrwn	◆ Myanmar Movie (Part-2)	
10:00 Am	◆ Sunday Talk	◆ Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition	
10:35 Am	◆ Women in Myanmar Society		



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates winning his semi final match against Austria's Dominic Thiem at Roland Garros in Paris, France on 9 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Nadal crushes Thiem to set up Wawrinka showdown

PARIS — Claycourt king Rafa Nadal marched into his 10th French Open final after demolishing rising Austrian Dominic Thiem 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 on Court Philippe Chatrier on Friday.

The 31-year-old Spaniard, back to his best after his Roland Garros reign suffered a two-year hiatus, brushed aside

the sixth seed with a daunting show of force.

Thiem had reached the semi-final without dropping a set and had trounced defending champion Novak Djokovic in the quarter-finals, but after starting brightly in the early evening sunshine his challenge disappeared into the encroach-

ing shadows.

Nadal has dropped only 29 games to reach the final — surpassing his previous best of 35 in 2012.

Waiting for him will be Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka who outlasted world number one Andy Murray in an epic five-setter.—Reuters ■

Lloris error hands Sweden last-gasp 2-1 win over France



France's goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

STOCKHOLM — An error by France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris handed Sweden's Ola Toivonen a last-gasp goal to secure a 2-1 win in their World Cup Group A qualifier at the Friends Arena on Friday. Lloris's poor clearance fell straight to the midfielder who lobbed the keeper from inside his own half to steal the points and delight the home fans and their celebrating players.

France had led through a superb left-foot strike by forward Olivier Giroud after 37 minutes but that was cancelled out by a precise low finish from Sweden's Jimmy Durmaz in the 43rd.

The win put Sweden top of the group, level on 13 points with France and three ahead of the Netherlands, who beat visiting

Luxembourg 5-0 on Friday.

The Swedes, who had lost 2-1 when the sides met in Paris in November, spent the opening half-hour frustrating the visitors, getting stuck in to challenges and slowing the tempo, but that all changed when Giroud scored and the game burst into life.

France forward Antoine Griezmann twice headed straight at Robin Olsen in the second half but went closer with a free kick from distance that the goalkeeper scrambled to parry as the beaten Euro 2016 finalists upped the tempo. Minutes later Lloris was tipping a free kick from Emil Forsberg over the bar and Sweden's Jakob Johansson also had a thumping shot from distance that flew just wide of the target.—Reuters ■

Ibrahimovic released by Manchester United

LONDON — Manchester United have released top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic after a year at Old Trafford, with the injured Swedish striker's name appearing on a list published by the Premier League on Friday.

The 35-year-old joined United on a year-long contract from Paris St Germain before the 2016-17 campaign and was vital to their League Cup and Europa League triumphs.

He scored 28 goals in 46 appearances before sustaining a season-ending knee injury in April that could keep him out until next year.

Ibrahimovic, who underwent surgery in May and will be out of contract on June 30, was the only player on United's release list.

The Premier League said on their website (www.premier-league.com) that the informa-

tion was correct as of 29 May, but a player's status could have changed since that date.

The BBC reported that the Swede would remain in Manchester to continue his rehabilitation at the Carrington training ground.

His agent Mino Raiola said last week that Ibrahimovic would hold talks with United to extend his stay despite receiving offers from other clubs.

"He wants to stay in England, he wants to stay at the top and if he sees that he can be a valuable asset for Manchester United, then why not Manchester United?" Raiola told British radio broadcaster TalkSPORT.

"He can be a valuable asset for some other top clubs also. But I think it is respectful to talk to Manchester United and to see what all parties want." —Reuters ■

Two-goal Ronaldo leads Portugal to 3-0 win in Latvia

RIGA — Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice, taking his tally in the World Cup qualifiers to 11, to help them claim a somewhat flattering but important 3-0 win away to Latvia on Friday.

Portugal's fifth successive win in Group B left them with 15 points from six games but still three behind leaders Switzerland who beat Faroe Islands 2-0 to maintain their 100 percent record.

Ronaldo, Portugal's all-time leading scorer, took his tally to 73 goals for his country after another decisive performance.

He looked their only real threat in the first half and scored four minutes before half-time when he stooped to head in from close range after Jose Fonte's header hit the post.

Ronaldo scored with another easy header in the 63rd after Ricardo Quaresma's cross was deflected into his path and then played a one-two with Andre Silva who scored the third

four minutes later. The group looks increasingly like it will boil down to the final match between Portugal and Switzerland in October which the European champions must win to top the standings, qualify directly and avoid a perilous two-leg playoff.—Reuters ■



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo in action. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

11 JUNE 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Based on my Opinion for the next generation of the 21st Century
Argumentative Essay about English is a useful language

Ye Lin Aung
Natmauk, Magway
Region

Some people trust that English is a useful language. Some people believe that English is not useful in their daily life. As for me, I wanna agree that English has been using nowadays in every sector. I want to point out advantage and disadvantage on it.

According to the declaration of the UNITED NATIONS, English is the official language of 53 countries. It is spoken as a first language by around 400 million people of the world. As a second language, all over the world decide to study it in their daily life. Nowadays, every sector has been using English such as Education, Economy, Health, Social Network and Social Communication so on and so forth. It is positive impact on multi-dimensional development.

Firstly, I want to tell the first sector of Education. In Education, English is very important for children to understand easily because many countries include English language in their school syllabus and children start learning English at a young age.

For the young, they must be knowledge hunger. So they can be learnt an

indescribable knowledge requires good environment such as library, training center and information technology. All of that many books and information are written in English now. Therefore, it is really need to be success in life. For the young adults, it is vital to shape their dream now that when they did graduate, they will have to choose a job on their life pathway based on their specialization. Therefore some are relearning the necessities which are compatible with their Degree. Some would like to pursue updated skill, knowledge and know-how on their profession. Some wanna be smart for computer. Come what may every sector has been learning by English. And English is also the language of computer. So English is also advantage on these facts.

F o r

the adults, when they got back home from their work, they would like to relax with a good book. For late adults, they would like to watch the entertainment such as films and music. For the elderly, it gives them a peace of mind by reading Dama books which is translated by English. Nowadays many of the world's top films, books and music are published and produced in English. So English is not commonly used but also the most useful language on the world. Based on that English language is positive impact on irrespective age.

Secondly, in Economy English is the dominated business language and it has become a necessary for people to speak English if they are to enter a global workforce. Re-

over the world shows that cross—border business communication is most often conducted in English. If you know English well, you increase your chances of getting a good job in a multinational company within your home country or of finding work abroad. So, learning English really can change your life.

In Social Network and Communication, English is also the language of internet. Many websites are written in English. Whenever we find something difficult, easily we can search the ways of the problems by writing English. So knowing English will give you an incredible amount of information which may not be otherwise available. It makes me easy to understand people and to make friends from every corner in the world.

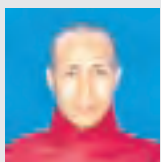
Thirdly, For Health, we who live in the age of rapid development is just like seconds. Similarly, medical field is also transforming to a modern world, hence, there were a lot of modern apparatus in medical field such as X-ray, Scanning the body by ECG, CT scan and Ultrasound, ect.... All of these results are also written in English. And English is the language of the WHO. So English is applicable for health. Therefore if you want to success in medical, it is really needed.

SEE PAGE-H



search
from
all

An Unforgettable View: A Disabled Man



U Thuriya
Mandalay Region

It was the evening of a Sabbath day which was our happy holiday. So I visited one of my friends staying near the Maha Muni Pagoda in Mandalay, an ancient city of upper Myanmar. From there I headed to the bus stop to go back to my place. At the bus stop, which was at the right corner of 41st and 84th streets, I was waiting and

gazing at passers-by from the bus alone. The bus there used to leave by turns only when it was filled with passengers.

Meanwhile, a man dressed in the worn out-military uniform caught my eyes, forcing me to stop my unclear train of thoughts. He was putting on a dirty green hat that was used to be worn by soldiers. His body looked too weak and thin though he was tall. It was more pitiful that he was trying to cross a busy street towards the other side, with his hands landing on the hard ground and with his hips moved difficultly step by step. In his

hand was a wooden crutch but he did not use the crutch. Yes, he was a poor disabled man.

Strongly, I believed that he did not seem to be a mad man according to his normal bodily manners and eyes. What he did on his arrival on the other side of the street, which was at the left corner of the street, really widened my tired eyes. It was nothing but he picked up an abandoned half-eaten ripe mango from the heap of rubbish and was eating it up eagerly, irrespective of pedestrians and coffee-drinkers at the nearby tea

shop watching him. Nevertheless, none of them was seen to give him some better leftover food out of compassion. Strangely, he did not beg anybody for food despite his seeming hunger. My tender heart was then deeply touched by what was happening right in front of me. That being so, the thought of donation occurred to me. In my hand then was only a single sheet of money—200 kyats, which was all I possessed as a student over fourteen years ago. Having seen a single sheet, the thought of how I would go back barred me from giving it away. SEE PAGE-H

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 6: Verbs

Up to the last lesson, we have studied about Nouns, Different Kinds of Nouns, Singular and Plural Numbers and Articles.

Today, in this lesson, we are going to study “**Verbs**”.

In brief, “**Verbs are the Doing Words**” . They show the actions which Nouns are doing or what is being done to Nouns.

- e.g. (1) The boy kicks the ball. (kicks)
(2) The dog bites the cat. (bites)
(3) The lady is going abroad. (is going)
(4) My mother was cooking curries at that time. (was cooking)
(5) Students have done their homework. (have done)
(6) Children have eaten cakes. (have eaten)
(7) Mya Mya has washed the clothes. (has washed)
(8) The child was scolded by her mother. (was scolded)
(9) This letter is written by the Singer himself. (is written)
(10) A song is being sung by a little girl. (is being sung)

All these words “**kicks, bites, is going, was cooking, have done, have eaten, has washed, was scolded, is written, and is being sung**” are “**Verbs**”.

They are doing words. They show the actions which Nouns do or what is being done to Noun.

Concerning with Verbs, there are “Different Tenses” according to the time and occasions and styles how and when these actions are done.

These different kinds of Tenses will be studied in the coming lessons. For today’s lesson, we should know that we always need to have at least a Verb to make a sentence.

e.g. From the above examples

- (1) The boy kicks the ball.
The boy (Noun) , kicks (Verb) , the ball (Noun)
It shows the action of the Noun, “boy”.
- (2) The dog bites the cat.
The dog (Noun) , bites (Verb), the cat (Noun)
It shows the action of the Noun “dog”.
- (3) The lady is going abroad.
The lady (Noun) , is going (Verb)
It shows the action of the Noun, “the lady”.
- (4) My mother was cooking curries at that time.
My mother (Noun) , was cooking (Verb), curries (Noun)
It shows the action of the Noun, “my mother”.
- (5) Students have done their homework.
Students (Noun) , have done (Verb), their homework (Noun)
It shows the action of the Noun, “Students”.
- (6) Children have eaten cakes.
Children (Noun), have eaten (Verb), cakes (Noun)
It shows the action of the Noun, “Children”.
- (7) Mya Mya has washed the clothes .
Mya Mya (Noun) , has washed (Verb), the clothes (Noun)
It shows the action of the Noun,”Mya Mya” .
- (8) The child was scolded by her mother.
The child (Noun) , was scolded (Verb), her mother (Noun)
It shows what action was done on the Noun, “child”.
- (9) This letter is written by the Singer himself.
This letter (Noun), is written (Verb) , the Singer (Noun)
It shows what action is done on the Noun, “this letter”.
- (10) A song is being sung by a little girl.
A song (Noun), is being sung (Verb) , a little girl (Noun)
It shows what action is being done to the Noun, “a song”.

By seeing the above example, we come to know that in every sentence, we have at least “one Verb” .Even in the sentence, “It rains.” , we have the Verb, “rains”.

So, “ Verbs” are “doing words” .

It shows “the actions of Nouns” or “ the actions done to the Nouns”.

Not only these action Verbs , we also have “Helping Verbs” , which are “am, is , are, was, were, has, have , had, may, might, shall , should, will, would, can , could, ought” .

These will be explained in the coming lessons.

Now, let’s do the following Exercises.

Exercise 6

I. Write down any 10 Verbs you know.

II. Underline the Verbs in the following sentences.

- (a) Soldiers are marching through the town.
(b) Children are playing in the garden.
(c) I see the beautiful flowers on this tree.
(d) You will see the eggs in the hen-house.
(e) Daphne writes her English essay well.
(f) Hsu Thinzar is attending her class.
(g) Aung Aung has done his homework.
(h) This curry was cooked by her mother.
(i) The ball was kicked into the goal.
(j) We are having dinner at the present.

III. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable Verbs.

- (a) I ----- some sea-shells on the sea-shore.
(b) He a hole in the ground.
(c) They their arithmetic exercises.
(d) Lwin Oo this beautiful hall.
(e) He is the engineer who bridges.
(f) Mu Mu this flower arrangement.
(g) Mee Mee very well that this broach is hers.
(h) Tin Tin to Italy.
(i) Mg Ba this book.
(j) Can you me where our teacher is?

As “Verbs” are very important for making sentences, we will have many more lessons concerning “Verbs” in the coming Grammar Lessons.

So, let’s stop for today and I hope that you can do your exercises very well.

Bye for now class! See you next Sunday!

Your English Teacher, GNLM.

Email: dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

Here’s the answers to the last week’s exercises .

Exercise 5

I. To underline

Once upon a time, there was a little girl in a small village which was at the foot of a high mountain. There was a big river which flowed near the village. The little girl was an orphan and she lived with her Grandpa. The Grandpa was a farmer. The farmers in that village grew paddy and sold the paddy to other towns and villages.

II. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable Articles, “a”, “an” or “the”.

In a far far away country, there was a King who had a beautiful Queen. They had a daughter who was very pretty. The King and the Queen loved their little daughter very much. The pretty little Princess was very good-hearted and very kind to others. There was a river named the Blue Danube in their country.

One day, the Princess strolled along the river bank together with her maids. Suddenly, she saw a very big fish swimming in the river. The fish was golden and bright in the sunshine. She went to the river bank and talked to the fish.

“Golden Fish, Golden Fish, where did you come from?”

The big fish stopped swimming for awhile, as if it heard the Princess talking .

III. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable articles, “a, an or the”.

- (a) A , a
(b) The, the
(c) A, The , a , the
(d) The , a, a/ the
(e) An, the , the
(f) a, a,
(g) a, a, the
(h) the
(i) The, the
(j) The, a

Hope that you all have done very well!

Bye Bye Class ! See you next week!

(Dr. Nu Nu Win) (Retired Professor , SUOE)

General Ethics

By Dr. Khin Zaw
Retired Rector, Yangon
University of Education

CONCERNING Ethics for Pedagogues and Educators, the writer wants to discuss herein two different Ethics named General Ethics and Professional Ethics.

In the last ten or fifteen years, pedagogues and educators have been increasingly aware of just how little they know, not only about Ethics in general, but about the whole process of Education for the development of moral character of homo sapiens. It is probably true that to some degree this discomfiting sense of disorientation stems from a radical new sense of urgency with respect to the whole question of human values which has in part grown out of whole countries breaking up in multiple fragments, resulting in international chaos.

Undoubtedly, there are general ethical principles which could be involved to guide the teacher's conduct. But the question arises whether such general ethics or principles are enough or whether the practice of Education presents special circumstances which require some added qualifications of general ethical principles. Does the relation of pupil and teacher present unique problems not ordinarily found or recognized in the relations of people generally to one another? Such a unique relationship is recognized in the relation of the doctor and his patient, of the lawyer and his client, and of the clergyman (abbot) and his parishioner (dagar / dagama).

Do the same or similar circumstances obtain in the case of Education, which warrant our going beyond a general to a professional ethic?

Before attempting to answer this question, we have to know what one means by this "general ethics".

Towards the end of the 18th century, Immanuel Kant sought to find the answer to this age-old problem of moral integrity or general ethics by looking inside the self. What is it, he asked, in the human soul that makes men capable of morality? What is it in man that can explain his capability? (No matter how little exercised), of acting in accordance with an idea right, irrespective of all possible dire consequences to the individual self? It must be something, he reasoned, not derived from anything external, any con-

dition of place, time or circumstances From anything whatsoever in history and society. This must be, Kant concluded, something inherent in all men equally: something to which obedience or loyalty is unconditionally obligatory. Kant found it in his "Categorical Imperative", a kind of duty for duty's sake: each person should act in all situations as he believes this moral principle within him and all others would tell them to act.

In other words, in every situation one faces, one can ascertain what his duty is, how he should act, by asking himself what the moral law would tell everyone else to do. But, then the question arises: how should all act? The answer is simple. This moral law within us tells us all to act as it tells each of us.

Thus the maxims of general ethics can be condensed into one good rule, which is embodied in this famous imperative of Kant. "So act as to treat humanity," he enjoined, "whether in thine own person or that of another, in every case as an end withal, never as a means only."

By treating the individual as an end, we may assume that, Kant considered the individual to have intrinsic value. His injunction, therefore, charges us to respect this value and ALWAYS to act with the other person's best interests in mind.

One can easily see that the Kantian imperative is addressed to everyone without any qualification. Nothing is ever said about one imperative for laymen and another for professionals? Is there really a need for a new, specific professional code of conduct other than the general one?

To meet these queries, one must explicate the nature of a profession.

What distinguishes a profession from other occupations is that IT IS LEARNED. Its members possess a special competence based upon a long period of RIGOROUS THEORETICAL TRAINING Note that special com-

petence alone without exacting intellectual preparation is NOT enough for a craftsman might have that. The ad hoc routine of the craftsman is foreign to the professional, whose actions constantly require RECONDITE and frequently CREATIVE judgments.

Kant asserted that people should be treated as ends. Ordinarily the layman can be trusted to be the judge of whether he is being treated as an end, whether his best interests are being served by another. Self-reliance in judging one's own interest works reasonably well as long as both parties have approximately equal knowledge of the probable motivations and consequences involved in social interaction. But obvious-

ly this is not the situation where the layman can come close to competing with the professional's knowledge and / or expertise.

The professional knows so much more than the layman that the latter is almost completely at a disadvantage in determining whether the professional service he is receiving is to his best interest or not. As a matter of fact, ONLY the professional has a SOUND BASIS for judging the best interests of the layman. Hence, since the layman's judgment is an inadequate check against the professional's, the professional EXPERT must take almost sole responsibility himself to see that the Kantian ethic or rule is fulfilled. The responsibility is quite heavy. Thus, the adjective "professional" replaces the other adjective "general", and modifies the noun "ethnic", not by restricting its content, but by adding to the professional's obligation to abide by it.

Let us try to clarify our definition of general ethics by citing another, more concrete, example. Arizona State University's Professor Abraham gives us the following five statements.

- "1. I don't keep up with the literature in my field.
2. I never contribute to that litera-

ture.

3. I am not aware of recent research.
4. I don't go to conferences, attend meetings, or participate in seminars to help me keep up with things.
5. Am I a professional person? Of course I am

Whether we are talking about law, medicine, engineering, or teaching, the first four statements just CANNOT lead up to the last one. Implications are that these four lines, REVERSED to their perfect oppositions, happen to be general ethics of any PROFESSIONAL.

Throughout the world, men are today turning away from old established standards and are creating a richer, fuller human ethics by envisioning and seeking a life free of poverty and ignorance and offering the fullest possible development of man's limitless

potentialities. Only man can make himself, thanks to his brain and hands. As the famous English biologist Waddington has said, as cited by Brooklyn Professor Dr. Sel-sam, man's genes do not give him specific ethical beliefs but they do give him the ability to "ETHICIZE".

Thus, we have started to ethicize, we have come a long way from a broad, general definition of layman's ethics to a specific, narrower but still general description of professional ethics, which will be dealt within the next week's writings.

(to be continued next week)

Definitions

"Pedagogues" comes from the word "Pedagogy" which means "the Art or Science of Teaching".

So "Pedagogues" are the Artists or Scientists who know the Art or Science of Teaching".

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THE turmeric, a common spice popular in the cooking of Asian cuisines, especially in South and South East Asia, is gaining popularity worldwide as a healthy herb. Not very long ago, may be only a few decades, people in the West started to get interested in the health benefits of the turmeric. Though they may not use it for culinary purposes they are using it as dietary supplements. The turmeric attracted the attentions of the medical professionals in the West by the fact that the rates of gastrointestinal (GI) tract cancer among the natives of the South Asian countries—India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and etc; are relatively very low compared to other nationals around the world. When thorough and proper scientific researches are conducted it was found that the people from those countries consume large quantities of turmeric daily.

In Myanmar, it is common knowledge that turmeric possesses many healing properties. Since my childhood days we knew that cuts, burns and bruises can be effectively treated with ground turmeric powder. During the Second World War, as the traditional and Western medicines were not available, we relied on turmeric powder as first aid treatment for the wounds mentioned above. It was even used for dog bites. I knew that for fact because the time I was bitten by a dog in a village where we fled to, during the Second World War, there was no proper medicines but only ground turmeric. Miraculously the dog bite wound healed rapidly without any infection whatsoever. Those were the desperate days, but today that shouldn't be tried.

Although the Myanmar are quite familiar with the turmeric, I think it would be necessary to describe what this herb is and what are its properties before going on to mention its health benefits. Botanically it is a member of the ginger family. It is used in most Asian cuisines, especially in Indian foods and is dubbed "The Queen of Spices". It has a very distinct golden yellow colour that adds colour to the foods and also enhances their flavours. A compound called curcumin present in the turmeric provides the colour and flavour and also the health properties, such as: antioxidant, anti-aging, anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor, antiseptic, anti-bacterial, anti-viral and anti-fungal. Apart from these properties



turmeric is jam packed with nutrients such as fibres, calcium, vitamins and minerals.

The Indians had been using turmeric in their Ayurvedic medicines and also the Chinese in their traditional medicines for centuries. The Ayurvedic and the Chinese traditional medicines are very popular not only in their native countries but had spread to other regions, especially to the South East Asian countries. The thorough and scientific researches carried out by the Western countries during the past few decades had further revealed and confirmed the properties and the health benefits of the turmeric.

Apart from treating fresh wounds, the other uses that the Myanmar are traditionally accustomed to, are now proven to be beneficial to the overall health. In support of this statement I would like to mention the health benefits of turmeric that even the Westerners are now beginning to recognize and accept. What I'm going to mention are extracts from credible health digests and magazines found on the Internet. Based on the facts and informations found from the different sources and my personal experiences, I will be listing those benefits in conjunction with my remarks.. However, I would like to caution the readers that these informations or statements are just for education and not intended to replace the conventional medical advices. So use your own discretions or should seek advice from the doctors if necessary.

Health Benefits

There are a variety of health benefits that turmeric can provide, which are scientifically proven. They are as follows:

- 1. Cancer prevention:** turmeric fights free radicals and helps to maintain healthy cells, it is believed that curcumin blocks the enzymes that promote the growth of cancer cells. Turmeric is one of the top 14 foods that protect against cancer development.
- 2. Alzheimer's prevention:** turmeric improves the overall brain health and may prevent or slow down the progression of

Alzheimer's and it is one of the top 5 foods and supplements to delay Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

3. Diabetes control: turmeric improves blood sugar levels and reduces insulin resistance to prevent diabetes type II. However, combined with strong medicines it may cause a low blood sugar level. It is among the 7 best foods to control diabetes.

4. Natural painkiller and prevents arthritis: due to its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties it helps with stiff or creaky joints and arthritis. It is one of the natural remedies that are covered in the articles about natural remedies for arthritis and is also one of the foods that help to reduce inflammation in the body.

5. Wounds healer: a paste made from turmeric can quickly heal minor cuts, burns or bruises due to its antiinflammatory and antiseptic properties. It helps to repair the skin and may even be used to treat psoriasis or other inflammatory skin conditions.

6. Improves digestion: turmeric stimulates the gallbladder, reduces bloating

and gas and may be helpful to treat bowel inflammation. However, when suffering from a gallbladder disease, turmeric should not be taken as a dietary supplement as it may worsen the condition.

7. Liver detox: turmeric works as a natural liver cleanser and improves blood circulation. (It is interesting that most Myanmar women used to consume ground turmeric dissolved in water and cover their faces and bodies with turmeric paste after giving births. It is believed to cleanse their bodies and purify the blood. The fact that this had been practiced since time immemorial shows that the Myanmar were knowledgeable of the health benefits of turmeric since the old days and are now proven to be right.)

8. Weight control: turmeric increases the bile flow, which is important for breaking down fat and thus aids in weight control.

9. Promotes healthy skin: turmeric prevents skin pigmentation, tone the skin and when frequently used in the skin care

products it can give the face a perfect glow.

10. Heart health: turmeric reduces the bad cholesterol, prevents blood clots and plaque build-up in arteries.

11. Boost immune system: turmeric's antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal properties help to strengthen the immune system. It is also wonderful to soothe sore throat or fight a cold or flu.

12. Mood improver: turmeric has been used in alternative medicine to treat depressions and provides a better night's rest.

From my personal experiences, I can vouch for at least five of the above benefits of turmeric. I had been taking two 400 mg turmeric capsules as dietary supplement every night before going to bed for nearly five years and I know for sure that it helps me greatly. The first significant improvement is my memory. Before starting to take turmeric capsules I was getting very for-

though I'm nearly five years older now, my memory had greatly improved instead of deteriorating further. A few years back I had frequent bouts of knee pains, which I tried to overcome by taking the very expensive glucosamine tablets, but now it had been over three years that I didn't need that medication anymore. My knee pains and the creaking noises in the knee joints had disappeared. As for the wound healing effect I will not need to mention it again as I had done it somewhere above. Another significant improvement is that my digestive system is more efficient now. Before, I frequently suffered from excess gases, bloating, flatulence and constipation, but now those are the things of the past. In the past I felt depressed quite frequently, but now I noticed they had ceased to occur. I absolutely believe that all these improvements are due to the result of taking turmeric as a dietary supplement on a regular basis.

By saying thus I'm not trying to impose it on the readers, but sharing it with



The Golden Milk.

others. Those who believe in herbal medicines and natural cures should try it. However, I would like to advice that it is very important to acquire good quality, pure and hygienic ground turmeric, which is free of other substances such as the rice flours and artificial colorings, especially if used for topical applications like wound dressings. The variety of ground turmeric sold in the markets for cooking purposes are mostly of inferior qualities, neither pure nor hygienic. The best is to ground your own turmeric by purchasing freshly dug turmeric tubers from reliable herbal merchants. Today there are imported turmeric capsules available in Myanmar, so if you can get hold of such products it would be much more safer, effective and convenient.

The Golden Milk recipe

This article will not be complete without a recipe for a health drink made with turmeric. This drink is called "The Golden Milk", which is an ancient Ayurvedic Yogic drink handed down from generation to generation in India. Now some Westerners are using it as a remedy to cure diarrhea, fever, bronchitis, colds, flu, non-specific viral infections, headaches, parasite worms, leprosy, bladder and kidney infections and to reverse joint and muscle pains due to inflammation and arthritis. Ingredients required to prepare one serving of The Golden Milk are as follows:

- 1 cup coconut milk or milk of your choice (coconut milk is more preferable)
- 1/2 tsp. ground turmeric.
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper.
- 1 tsp. raw honey (or to taste).
- 1 crushed green cardamom pod (optional).
- 1 small cinnamon stick or 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon (optional).

To prepare the drink, heat the coconut milk and add cardamom, cinnamon, turmeric, black pepper and honey and keep stirring the mixture constantly until it is steaming but not boiling. Strain the cardamom and cinnamon and it's ready to serve. It's best to be taken in the evening.

Side Effects

After mentioning the health benefits, it would only be proper and necessary to say something about the side effects of the turmeric so that users can be cautious. Generally, it is assumed that turmeric is safe and there are no significant side effects if the daily required dosage is not exceeded for prolonged periods.

Normally the amount of turmeric in foods can in no way cause over-dosage, but if the supplements are used it would be necessary to know how much is safe. According to the medical community a maximum of 2000 mg of turmeric curcumin per day is the safe amount.

The University of Maryland recommends that 1 to 3 grams of turmeric can be used daily in cooking of foods; one gram being equal to about half a teaspoon. Various sources stated that high doses of turmeric had been observed, in very rare cases, to cause:

- Nausea.
- Diarrhea.
- Increased risk of bleeding.
- Hyperactive gallbladder contraction.
- Hypotension (low blood pressure).
- Increased liver function tests.
- Uterine contraction in pregnant women.
- Increased menstrual flow.

Conclusion

From the preceding discussions it is quite evident that the turmeric, a simple common culinary condiment, possesses a vast range of properties and is useful in the treatment of a variety of ailments. Being inexpensive and readily available in every kitchen in every household in our country and at the same time almost free from serious side effects if discretion is used, it is the peoples' medicine, which everyone can afford.

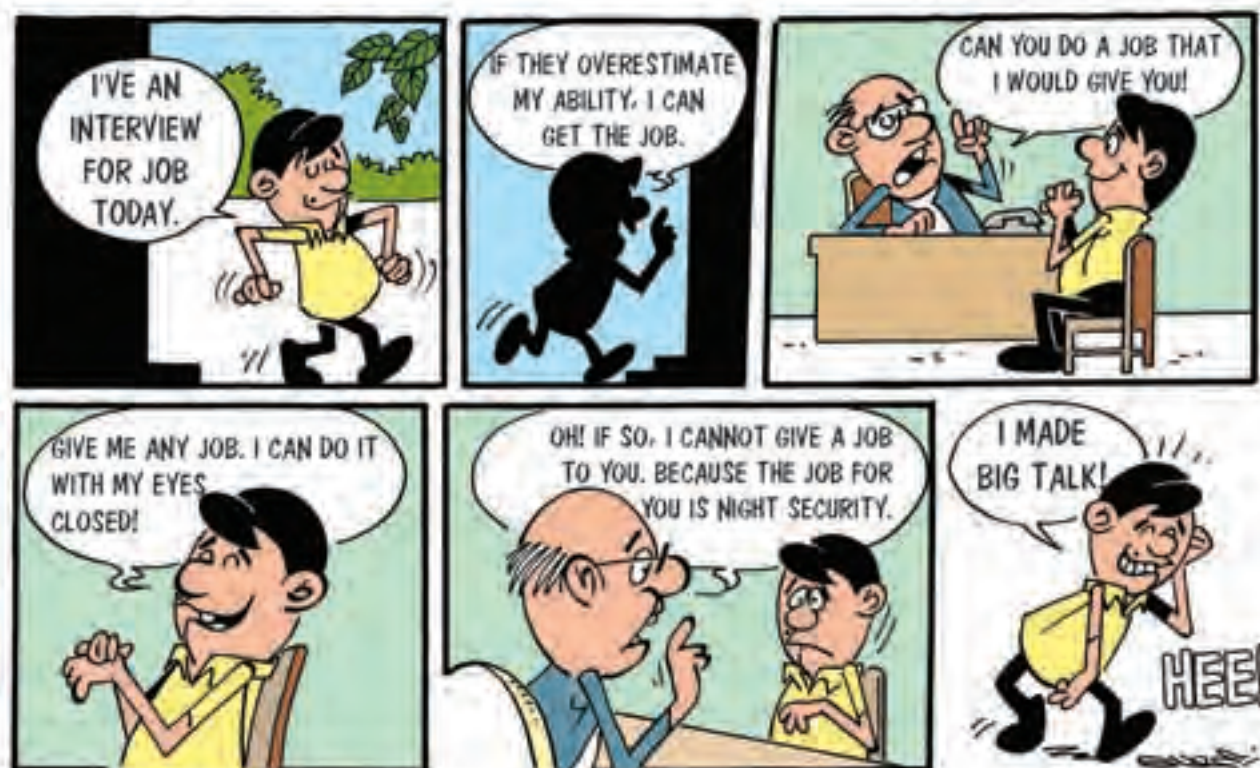
Today, the natural medicines and cures or to put it another way, the alternative medical practices are gaining popularity due to the methodical researches in those fields are yielding concrete evidences of their effectiveness. We have a large variety of herbal medicines that are well-proven through the ages since the days of the Kings. So I would like to urge the authorities concerned to consider producing some of our traditional or indigenous medicines in compliance with the General Manufacturing Practices (GMP). With the soaring prizes of the imported and locally produced generic medicines, these traditional herbal medicines could be cheaper substitutes for the poor. I can say for sure that they will be more cheaper, affordable to the majority of the population, safer and effective than the sub-standard or the fake medicines that are flooding our markets today. ■

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



KOHMAUN
CARTOON MAUNG MAUNG

Propects for stable electricity supply in 3 to 5 years will help alleviate concerns of Japanese companies

An Interview with Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar H.E. Mr Tateshi HIGUCHI by MRTV and The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Q: Do you have any comments on the democratic transition?

A: I have served as Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar in Yangon for 3 years. If you look around, you see many newspapers on sale on streets, people chatting away over the phones, lines of cars filled with families stuck in the traffic congestion. I love hustle and bustle of this city where day to day lives are very vivid. I feel democracy has become firmly rooted in this country. The new government elected by Myanmar people was established after the 2015 general elections and I feel that the government is sticking to its goal and will not go backward. I would like to affirm that the Japanese Government and the private sector are ready to provide more assistance to the Myanmar government in its nation-building.

Q: What do you think about the peace process?

A: I am tremendously proud of successful holding of the second session of the 21st Century Panglong Conference. I also attended the opening ceremony. Everybody knows that it is not an easy task for many stakeholders amid a complicated political landscape, to come together and hold talks. I'm heartened that on the basis of signing of the NCA by eight Ethnic Armed Groups, the current government, giving high priority to the peace process, has provided a good momentum to Myanmar to become the unified nation. Even if it takes some time, one should not miss this opportunity.

Mr. Yohei Sasakawa is the Special Envoy of the Japanese Government for National Reconciliation in Myanmar. He has been supporting on the side, peace talks between the Myanmar Government and Ethnic Armed Groups, which have not signed the NCA yet. In addition, during State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's visit to Japan in November last year, Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe, committed to provide more assistance to Myanmar to further the peace process.

For example, Kayin nationals from Thai refugee camps, who have not returned to Myanmar for several decades, returned to Myanmar to resettle in Laykekaw town in Kayin State in March, 2017. Japan constructed houses, schools, clinics, bridges and wells needed in receiving the refugees. It also provided



Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi HIGUCHI speaks during the interview at the Japanese Embassy in Yangon. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

We're considering providing assistance to Myanmar with a view to creating job opportunities.

assistance to Myanmar in the rehabilitation of areas where signatory Ethnic Armed Groups reside. I firmly believe that improving the socio-economic lives of ethnic minority groups, letting them enjoy the fruits of peace, and showing these benefits to non-signatory groups will contribute towards the further peace process in future.

Q: Are there any challenges for investors from Japan to make investments in Myanmar, and how should the two countries respond to these problems?

A: Asia region is the growth center of the world. I feel Myanmar stands out as a country undergoing rapid growth and it offers the best business opportunities. According to the official records of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar, the number of Japanese companies doing business here in Myanmar rose from 50 companies in 2011 to 346 in

April, 2017. If we take into consideration these figures and the amount of investments in Thilawa Special Economic Zone and investments through third countries like Singapore, it can be said that the amount of investments from Japan is pretty high, even though it is not directly shown in the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Serving as Ambassador, I have opportunities to listen to candid opinions of Japanese businessmen working in Myanmar. I am surprised to learn that many Japanese companies have opened their branch offices long time ago. Although it is true that all companies want to make profits, I am really excited by their enthusiasm that they would like to help the country develop by doing business in Myanmar.

Under these circumstances, we are helping Myanmar in the legal sector too, such as providing assistance in the drafting and implementation of legislations. In addition, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has dispatched experts and implemented technical assistance projects. The Union Minister for Planning and Finance and I co-chair Public Private Discussion Programme, in which the Myanmar Government can directly learn concerns and difficulties faced by Japanese entrepreneurs. Japanese companies, together with the UMFCI are seeking solutions to these challenges in the five working groups under the Programme. Their suggestions and requests offered in these meetings have been incorporated in the new investment law and have contributed to simplifying customs clearance proce-

dures. Myanmar Government is taking actions step by step in accordance with outcome of the discussion with Japanese entrepreneurs.

One of my important missions is to encourage Japanese companies hesitating to make investments in Myanmar. I would like to share their concerns with you today. I cannot encourage big companies or risk-sensitive small and medium enterprises to do so merely because there would be a good business chance. I think electric power projects, which give them prospects for stable electricity supply in 3 to 5 years, will help alleviate their concerns. I am of the view that such projects are indispensable if Myanmar would like to invite investments in high-value adding industries.

I would like to reiterate that Japan will strive to support Myanmar Government, as Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe announced during State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's visit to Japan in November last year that Japan plans to contribute 800 billion Japanese Yen over five years at public and private levels.

Q: How will Japan help develop human resources in Myanmar?

A: Japan's plans for capacity building will include providing vocational training and scholarship programmes. The State Counsellor requested Japan to provide Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Myanmar. These include trainings for automobile repair and maintenance, construction and electricity, and concrete works. We are planning to build facilities for TVET in Myanmar and train instructors.

A meeting is scheduled to be held today between Japanese delegation led by a Director from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Myanmar delegation led by Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Planning and Finance to discuss TVET in Nay Pyi Taw. I would like to say that Japan will help Myanmar practically based on the outcome from the meeting. We're considering providing assistance to Myanmar with a view to creating job opportunities.

Q: Are there any special plans to further promote and strengthen friendly relations between Myanmar and Japan?

A: Japan-Myanmar relations have a long history. After the Second World War, Japan had to overcome many difficulties to reenter the international community and we can never forget the fact that Myanmar is the first country in the world to sign an agreement on war reparations with Japan, encouraging Japan to come back to the international community.

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FROM PAGE-G

As the renovation and refurbishment work at the Baluchaung No 2 Hydropower Plant, constructed by Japan with a major portion of the Japanese war reparations to Myanmar, has been completed, it is now running properly. I'm very much honoured by the fact that Baluchaung Hydropower Plant is still of much benefit to the Myanmar people.

We must continue to maintain fine relations between the two countries and I think mutual exchanges of youths between the two countries is very important for posterity.

Although I started to hold the Japan-Myanmar Pwetaw (Festival), which I first thought of holding once, as people-to-people exchange between the two countries, we are now planning to hold the 4th Japan-Myanmar Pwetaw next year. We have the Japan Culture House in Yangon, which is the base to introduce Japanese culture, and are fulfilling the needs of Myanmar people whose interest in Japanese culture and language is rapidly growing. We are now in the process of opening the 25th Centre of the Japan Foundation, an institution for cultural exchange established by the Japanese Government to promote exchanges of artists and cultural experts between the two countries. According to



Myanmar State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (L), is escorted by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as she reviews a guard of honor before their meeting at the state guest house in Tokyo, Japan November 2, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

an agreement reached between the two countries during State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's visit to Japan last year, the Japanese Government, under the JICA programme, is planning to send the first batch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to Myanmar within this year. I hope that young generations who will shoulder future responsibilities, will

understand Myanmar deeply and that this will contribute towards further strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries.

Q: To which sector will Japan give priority in providing assistance to Myanmar?

A: Under the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots and Human Security Pro-

jects (GGP), the Japanese Government provides assistance to Myanmar with 60 to 70 projects per year. Under the projects, village roads, bridges and schools for children at the basic level are constructed. I receive representatives of local communities, who came all the way from various areas of the country to the Embassy of Japan in Yangon to sign grant agreements for implementation of the projects.

The question I always ask to them during these meetings is what the most important matter is for the Myanmar people. They replied that peace, development of stable democracy, and economic development are most important.

Japan will provide assistance based on the three pillars which Myanmar people aspire and the Myanmar government also regard as priority.

Q: What message do you want to give to the Myanmar people?

A: Japan, with the public and private sectors, will strive to provide assistance to Myanmar to the utmost to enhance the socio-economic lives of the people. While promoting and strengthening the people-to-people exchange between the two countries, I would like to extend my best wishes for further promotion and strengthening of bilateral relations between Japan and Myanmar. ■

English is a useful language

FROM PAGE-A

It is a stepping stone for each or everyone because English is the crucial key of the success. It is an effective tool for family and society now that it is a good tool to communicate and to travel to the other places of the globalized world in which we live without the communication of translators.

It is driving force for environment because if every company and every organization would like to invest in the production of mining and forest, they must to report to their government how to excavate and benefit for environment conservation with-

in the permission under the existing laws such as (EMP-Environment Management Plan). This presentation is also written in English.

English is the life-blood of the nation and country in as much Myanmar is now transforming from localization into globalization. Hence our country is making cooperative with the other countries by making inter-departmental program, small group discussion and brain-storm meeting. The first important point of the meetings is to convey one's ideas to others and receive new ideas from them. If so what is the second important of

meetings? I think that is only a language. So English is as good device to communicate one country and another country.

Based on that English is positive on individual, family, society, environment, nation, country and worldwide.

However it has some disadvantage. As you know that English is secondary language for us so it is not very easy to master the language, people find it difficult because of too many rules in grammar. It is hard to memorize the vocabulary! And the learning of this language needs time and dedication. Especially for people who cannot learn it easy. We have to live struggling and laborious life sunrise and sunset. So some people cannot dedicate the time

necessary to be able to learn it. I think that the balance between advantages and disadvantage always will bring us a positive result.

Well, according to my experience, occasionally I have a chance to take part in refresher course or professional workshops in my office. On the other hand, I have to keep in touch with foreign teams daily. At that time I cannot speak English well. So there were a lot of difficulty and were some mistake. Then I was known one answer that English is the window on the world. So as an evidence, I am also learning English more and more.

Conclusion for all the sound reasons mentioned above. I want to guarantee that English is a useful language. ■

An Unforgettable View

FROM PAGE-A

Again, the first idea—to donate my money—urged me to help him, as if telling me that such a desperately needy person would be rare to see and that helping such one in need would leave the lasting joy in you and that such donation would be more effective. Of course, in my mind, there was a fierce battle fighting alternately between the two ideas of giving away and of keeping the last breath-like money for me.

Eventually, I had to give in the second stronger thought, that is, not to donate. Believe it or not—there was another good reason for my failure in donation. The reason can be said to be my inborn eccentric habit. It is my odd

habit that I am too shy to be in front of people, especially the strangers and that I cannot stand being an attention centre of the surrounding people, apart from some cases like teaching.

Of course, if I went to give my money to him in front of the watching people, then I would have drawn their direct attentions to me. That would have been uncomfortable to me due to strong intrinsic embarrassment.

Frankly speaking, disregarding the man of destitution, I left the touching scene by bus, like many others who had then seen him eating a disgusting mango from the heap of rubbish. From that day onwards, the sad view has been an unforgettable view throughout my life.

As a matter of fact, the money I held firmly at that time was just bus-fare, not even pocket money. Giving away it would not cause me to lose anything, or to destroy all my belongings and all my life. Though little, it might have been a lifespan-extension support for him.

Fundamentally, being a country of agriculture as a main economy, we have lots of food such as rice as staple food, many types of bean, corn, potato, and so on. But we have been using them wastefully, tending to forget the people in need around us in our country and the people starving to death on our mother earth, too. Instead, we have been serving with decent food well-to-do people mutually in ultra-expensive restaurants, hotels, weddings, birthdays, etc., but turning eyes to avoid seeing hopelessly begging beggars and the old people.

In Buddhism, charity or donation is the first of the three forms of merit—donation, keeping precepts and practicing meditation. It is also the first of ten perfections (parami) that have to be fulfilled by Buddhas-to-be. So it is safe to say that donation is the easiest of all forms of merit. But we have been failing to perform it, without following the instruction the Buddha gave us. His noticeable instruction is: "Give something even a little if asked".

If we fail to do so, if we do not care the destitute and if we neglect the hungry, what would happen to us? It is nothing but our belongings would be unsafe and our lives would be insecure. So let us give something a little if we are asked on the roads, in the public places or anywhere else and if we encounter such above-mentioned people. ■