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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of Bogyoke Aung San Statue in Pyigyitagon Township, Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**



Biggest Bogyoke Aung San Statue unveiled in Mandalay

Tin Maung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)

THE inauguration of the Bogyoke Aung San statue and the square was held in Mandalay yesterday in commemoration of the centenary of the late national leader, with the attendance of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Na-

tional League for Democracy U Win Htein and Chief Minister of Mandalay Region Dr Zaw Myint Maung and officials.

At the ceremony, Speaker U Win Myint delivered an opening address to unveil the brass statue which was cast in commemoration of Bogyoke Aung San, the independence hero of Myanmar.

Responsible persons also explained the efforts to cast

the statue and build the square which serve as a model and example for future generations.

The statue and the square are located in Mandalay Tagon Park between 56th and 57th streets and Bayintnaung and Kyansittha roads, Pyigyitagon Township, Mandalay.

The statue was cast by Daw Nyunt Nyunt Win, the daughter of the traditional Myanmar brass

sculptor U Win Maung of Tampa Wadi ward, Mandalay.

Using 1800 viss (2880 kilograms) of brass, she began work on the statue on 23 July 2016 and completed it on 8 June 2017.

The 13-foot-high statue was paraded through the city last weekend before reaching its destination, Mandalay Tagon Park in Pyigyitagon township, at 8pm on Sunday. ■



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SUNDAY SPECIAL



Today's issue contains
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pull-out supplement.



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Search of crashed plane continues



Divers working to search the parts of the crashed plane. **PHOTO: MNA**

NAVY ships and divers and local divers and trawlers were combing the seabed of the area where the tail section of the crashed military plane Y-8 was found with the hope of discovering more parts.

They were also trying to

retrieve the already found part.

At about 7 pm on 16 June, a Navy boat doing search operations at sea found a body of a man near Launglonbok island. A total of 91 bodies have been retrieved. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Navy ships and fishing boats are seen in search operation. **PHOTO: MNA**



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is seen off by Russian Ambassador Mr Nikolay A Listtopadov. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing leaves for Russia

SENIOR GENERAL Min Aung Hlaing Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services left for Russian Federation yesterday morning, at the invitation of Army General Sergei K. Shoigu Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party were seen off

by Commander-in-Chief(Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and senior military officials, Ambassador of Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr. Nikolay A. Listopadov, deputy military Attaché Commander Vitaly V.Luchshev and officials.

During his tour, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will discuss with Minister for Defence of Russian Federation on promotion of bilateral military cooperations, and also visit military training schools, headquarters and industries. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Kunming Expo continues with over 8,000 booths

MYANMAR opened 34 booths at Kunming Expo where over 8,000 booths of South and South-east Asian countries were displaying foodstuff, handicrafts, polished gems, farm products and others.

“We have organized the local businesspersons who opened 34 booths here. We hope that Myanmar entrepreneurs will open over 200 booths at Nanning Expo in the coming September. We are planning to extend booths at the Nanning Expo” where state leaders will visit, said U Win Than, deputy director of Myanmar Investment Commission.

“We sell various kinds of tea leaves and green tea and tea as finished products. This is

the first time we participate in this expo. As you know, Yunnan Province, with Kunming as its capital, produces tea. So we just try to test the market and the result is fair. We will come again if we find the situation favourable for us. The expo is going to end soon, and I find other booths also doing fairly good,” said a Myanmar businessman.

Media persons of South and Southeast Asian countries and Greater Mekong media exchange programme were covering the event. Yunnan government also organized special tours to significant destinations such as cultural zones, economic zones, farming zones and tourism zones.—Than Oo (Laymyithna) ■



Kunming Expo is thronged with visitors. **PHOTO: MNA**

Head of 100-households in Buthidaung attacked

FIVE men attacked a head of 100-households from Gutarpyin Taung Village in Buthidaung Township on 16th June, according to the police source.

Bizu was stabbed by the unidentified men as he returned home at 11pm af-

ter inspecting the village's sentries.

The men also threw stones at his son, Shawbi Islam, who came to help his father.

The five men managed to escape from the scene.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Man charged with receiving terrorist training

A man was arrested in Buthidaung on 15th June on suspicion of attending a terrorist training.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces managed to arrest Karldi Husaung in Kyaukhlapyin Village at 11 pm.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Traffic resumes on An-Sittway road

TRAFFIC has resumed on An-Sittway road beginning 3 am yesterday, thanks to the steel-frame bridge erected within a day at the place between mile-post 28/0 and 28/1 where down-pours triggered a major landslide, according to No 16 special road building team.

“We finished building the bridge at 3 am today (June 17), and permitted the resumption of the traffic. Except from the landside, there were no other major damages on the road, and we have already repaired them all,” explained U Hla Shwe of the team.

Two teams – No 7 and 16 special road building teams – in cooperation of soldiers of local battalion started erecting the bridge at about 9.30 am on 16 June and completed at 3 am next day. The bridge that can bear up

to 16 tons is 90 feet long and 13 feet wide.

Due to heavy rains, there occurred over-flooding on Yangon-Sittway Road, causing landslides between milestones 28/0 and 28/1, with building a bailey bridge being arranged for vehicles to ply in rainy season, according to road special engineering team-16.

Due to torrents in 2015, some parts of Yangon-Sittway road were destroyed by landslides. In 2016 there did not happen any damages to the roads.

On account of torrents in Rakhine State, there occurred flooding on Sittway—Yangon road.

According to the ministry of Transport and Communications, in 12 places between An & Kazukai village over-floods occurred.—Min Thit (MNA) ■



Traffic resumes on An-Sittway road after a steel-frame bridge was erected within a day. PHOTO: YE HTUT

Government realizing free education system

ENROLMENT of school age children, regular class attendance and dropout reduction have relations with social security, said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye at a meeting with local people at a newly upgraded village high school at Magway Region in central Myanmar yesterday.

The government is realizing the free education system, but support for families is still in need to address other social issues including nutrition program, said the Union minister while attending the ceremony at Minywa village in Gangaw

Township.

Together with Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, he was looking into the requirements of social protection, natural disaster prevention, emergency relief measures and encouraging the locals to speak out for their needs in Magway Region.

The tour of the two ministers also included provision of financial assistance or pension to nine nonagenarian grandmas, school visits where they provided financial and material aids and the inspection of the plot for a new government office building.—Myanmar News Agency ■



A nonagenarian grandma receiving financial assistance presented by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye. PHOTO: MNA

Matriculation examination results released

MON State won the highest pass rate in all states and regions for the 2017 matriculation examination at 41.12 per cent meaning that of the 22,618 candidates, 9,301 passed. It won the highest pass rate for two years in a row.

Nay Pyi Taw Council area saw 34.68 per cent pass rate or 6,710 of the 19,348 students passed in the 2017 matriculation examination, exceeding the previous year's pass rate of 29.86 per cent.

Thirty-five students passed with six distinctions, 42 with five distinctions, 82 with four distinctions, 100 with three distinctions, 167 with two distinctions and 877 with one distinction.

Mandalay Region stood second with 40.22 per cent as 99,845 students sat for the matriculation examination and 40,154 passed it.

Magway Region where 26,700 students passed the examination was third with 37.97



A moment of joy or sadness for parents and students. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

per cent pass rate. A total of 70,291 sat for it. Mon State won the highest pass rate for five consecutive years before dropping to second place in 2015.

Maungtaw township in the north of Rakhine State saw one of its students won five distinctions in the 2017 matriculation

examination. Of the 1422 students sat for the examination, 142 passed it. So the pass rate was 9.99 per cent.

In Buthitaung, another northern township in Rakhine State, of the 3,054 candidates, 341 passed, indicating an 11.17 per cent rate.—MNA ■

Villager found dead in Maungtaw Township

A villager was found dead with knife wounds on 16 June in northern Rakhine State when a search was made as he failed to return home. Abu Nasae of Gaungnya

Village of Maungtaw Township who visited a friend's house for dinner went missing.

When a search was made at about 11 am the previous day, his

body with cuts and stab wounds was found on the bank of a creek in the east of Gaungnya. Police were investigating the case.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Wetthe Lake residents profit from lotus fiber production

"WE, residents around Wetthe Lake, make a healthy profit mainly from lotus fiber production," said Daw Moe Moe, one of the producers of lotus fiber.

Located in Salin Township in the Minbu District of Magway Region, Wetthe Lake is filled with lotus plants and is thus the natural habitat of a wide variety of bird species. Residents in Anaukanbaung, Aunghline, Tamachaung and Hsinkyone villages rely heavily on the lotus fiber business for profits.

"Fibers have traditionally been extracted within days after the lotus stems are fresh. We cut about three inches of lotus stem and pull out their spongy fibers by twisting and hand rolling together on a wooden table", said Daw Moe Moe.

She said she exports raw lotus fibers to the Inlay area, earning about



Workers make fiber from lotus. PHOTO: KYEMON

Ks400,000 per viss (approximately 3.6 pounds). These are the raw materials used to create the special cloth used for the robes of Buddhist monks.

In addition, the leaves of

lotus plants have also been sold to food sellers for Ks100 for 30 leaves that are used for packaging.

Different species of colourful lotus have been found

in different parts of the lake. The plants produce a single bloom in the Myanmar months of Tabaung, Tagu, Kasone, Nayone, Waso, Wagaung and Tawthalin.—Poe Pyae ■

Water to be supplied to 80 per cent of households in Pinlaung

AN Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to ¥578.3 million was granted to the government to implement regional development activities and reduce poverty as a gesture of co-operation between Myanmar and Japan.

The low-interest, 40-year loan will be partially spent by the Pinlaung Township development committee to supply water to 80 per cent of the households in the township, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The water supply project

was started in May 2016 and is 98 per cent completed. The water will be distributed very soon, said U Zaw Min Khine, a staff officer from the Pinlaung Township development committee.

Currently, the Pin Laung Township development com-

mittee is supplying 20,000 gallons of water to the local people per day. Upon completion of the project, over 180,000 gallons of water can be supplied.

Water will be delivered from the 100,000-gallon water storage pond, which is located in Letphet hillock.—GNLM ■

70 new trainees join hospitality courses for tourism development

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism said it is working to turn out skilled employees for the country's hotel and tourism industry, creating more job opportunities for local young people.

With the aim of providing better services for both local and international travellers, different kinds of hotel management courses have been conducted by the tourism authorities nationwide, chiefly in

big cities, said a spokesperson of the ministry. As part of its human resources development programme, the ministry has recently opened hospitality courses in Mawlamyine Township, including receptionist

training, room management and food and beverage service, lasting nearly one month. A total of 68 trainees are attending those hospitality courses, which will last until 7 July.—Shwe Khine ■

Bagan viewpoint embankments to be completed in July

CONSTRUCTION of a Sulamani Lake embankment and a Nyaung Lettaphet Lake embankment in Bagan will be completed in July, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The lake embankments are being constructed for tourists to view the Bagan landscape the same as can be viewed from the top of many Bagan pagodas. Currently, the construction of the Sulamani

Lake embankment has been 75 per cent completed, whereas the Nyaung Lettaphet Lake embankment is 50 per cent completed.

Upon completion of the lake embankments, viewing

from the Bagan pagodas will be reduced.

Currently, the renovation of the Ko Mauk Kan viewpoint, which was damaged by landslide, is to be completed at the end of this month.— GNLM ■

30,000-ton container ship successfully docks at Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal

MV Pacific Star, a large container ship with deadweight of 30,000t, which is 175 meter in length, has successfully docked at Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal on a trial basis, according to the Myanma Port Authority.

The successful docking was accomplished with the help of the managing director, the chief navigator and officials from Myanma Port Authority under the Transport and Communications Ministry.

With the aim of promoting the country's economy and reduce prices of commodities, the port authorities allowed huge container vessels to enter the Yangon port which is situated at Latitude 16° 47' N and Longitude 96° 15' E on the Yangon River and about 32 km inland from the Elephant Point on the

Gulf of Martaban.

One of transport authorities said that the arrival of the large container ship brings down the cost of shippers as well as merchants. If the transportation cost can be reduced, the merchants can distribute commodities at a reasonable price.

After conducting survey along the Yangon River, the authorities allow general cargo vessels with a length of 190 meters to dock at the Sule port terminal through inner bar to export rice, the country's major agriculture product.

Organized by a Myanmar shipmaster, the container vessel with a capacity of 1,900 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), also docked at the designated port on the Yangon River last Sunday.—GNLM ■



MV Pacific Star container ship docks at Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Farm croc products planned for export

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation said it is working to officially export crocodile products manufactured from the Thakayta Crocodile Farm, according to a report of the Myawady Daily on Saturday.

Thakayta Crocodile Farm is the government-run farm that breeds rare crocodiles to maintain their population. The numbers of crocodiles in the

farm has gradually increased each year. At the present time, populations of crocodiles in the farm reached between 600 and 700. This is a key reason why the authorities plan to sell them to other countries for the purpose of raising the country's FE.

Currently, the ministry's officials are in Thailand, finding the best ways to export crocodiles to foreign countries. Crocodile trade is legal in Thailand

and some other countries.

International countries strictly control the trading of crocodiles, the large aquatic reptiles. However, the reptiles can officially be traded if the exporter shows birth and death record of the different species of reptiles. DNA testing will be used to identify the exact species of those crocodiles living in the farm, according to the ministry.—GNLM ■

Growers reap handsome profits from export of maize

“BASED on size and quality, growers get about Ks250,000 per ton of maize, one of the country's popular export items,” said U Maung Maung Oo, a local corn merchant.

Myanmar exports maize to East Asian countries as well as ASEAN member states on a commercial scale. Ninety per cent of the total corn exports of goes mainly to China, followed by Viet Nam, Malaysia, China (Taipei) and Singapore. The cultivation of corns is popular among farmers due to high ex-

port demand. This year sees a significant increase in corn production when compared to last year, farmers say. One ton of maize is currently sold for Ks223,520 in the domestic market, U Maung Maung Oo said.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, more than 500 tonnes of maize have been traded at Kanpaktee, China-Myanmar border trade camp, on a daily basis. The country exported 1.3 million tonnes of maize last fiscal year, earning US\$200 million.—Kyaw Swa ■

Marine exports increase by \$9 million in current FY

THE export value of marine products in the current fiscal year reached over 90 million US dollars, an increase of \$9 million matched against the same period of last year, according to the official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce this week.

This time last FY, the country exported \$81.172 million worth of fisheries products mainly to neighbouring countries.

Between 1 April and 2 June of this FY, the private sector sent marine products worth a total of \$90.176 million to the inter-

national trade partners while the government made no deal to export the similar products with those importers.

A wide variety of the country's aquaculture products including freshwater fishes, seafood, mud crabs, shrimps and prawns as well as dried fish have been exported to ASEAN member states, East Asian countries and some European nations via border points as well as sea routes.

The country's marine export reached its peak in 2011-12

FY, earning \$705 million in total. It decreased to \$624 million in 2012-13 FY. The export value continued to decline in three consecutive financial years beginning in 2013-14 FY. It rebounded to more than \$580 in 2016-17 FY.

The Myanmar government will implement a five-year project to improve the country's livestock and fishery industry in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and GIZ, German government-owned organization. The programme will last until 2022.—Shwe Khine ■

Consumer goods import exceeds \$750 million this FY

THE total import of consumer goods over the past 63 days totalled US\$756.761 million, including \$27.608 million from the government sector and \$729.153 million from the private sector, according to the latest report of the Commerce Ministry.

The current import figures for consumer products are \$155 million more than the similar period of last year. This time last year, the country's consumer goods import was \$601.525 million in total. Myanmar predominantly imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household

goods, foodstuff and electronic devices mostly from neighbouring countries.

The import of consumer goods continued to increase year after year. The import value was \$1.245 billion in FY2011-12 and it rose to \$1.4 billion in FY2012-13, \$2.3 billion in FY2013-14, \$2.9 billion in FY2014-15, \$3.5 billion in FY2015-16 and more than \$4 billion in FY2016-17. Myanmar's major international trading partners include China, Thailand, Singapore, India, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Germany, Indonesia, the U.S and UK.—Khine Khant ■

Chinese vice premier stresses building of Belt and Road

BEIJING — Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli said on Friday that China should endeavor to develop the Belt and Road into a path of peace, prosperity, opening up and innovation, as well as one that connects civilizations.

Addressing a work conference on the Belt and Road Initiative, Zhang said local authorities must encourage the Silk Road spirit of “peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit” to push forward the China-proposed initiative.

To build the initiative into a safe cooperation environment, China should connect the initiative with the development strategies of other countries along the Belt and Road, raise the ability of overseas security protection and create an environment featuring joint contribution and shared benefits, Zhang said.

“By focusing on development, the country must continue to focus on connectivity and industrial cooperation as the major fields of cooperation for building the Belt and Road into a



Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli addresses a work conference on the Belt and Road Initiative in Beijing, capital of China on 16 June, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

road of prosperity,” Zhang said.

He said that to build an open business environment, unswerving efforts should be made to safeguard multilateral trade systems, enhance investment cooperation and facilitate trade and investment.

“China should also enhance cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road in innovation-related fields, including the Internet, big data, cloud computing, digital economy, artificial intelligence and nanotechnology,” Zhang said.

More platforms should be created to enhance multi-layered people-to-people exchanges in building the Belt and Road into a means of connecting different civilizations, Zhang noted.

The country should do its

best to implement the outcomes from the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which was held from 14 to 15 May, Zhang said.

He added that the government should increase guidance and supervision for Chinese companies doing business overseas, strictly regulate their investment and business operations, and prevent risks in major investment projects.

China should also find new means of international investment and financing and create a multi-level financial platform to give the initiative stable and sustainable financial support with controllable risks, he said.

The vice premier also called for the setting up of think tanks and studies into important issues to offer valuable consultation and facilitate decision-making in building the initiative.

Named after the ancient Silk Road, the Belt and Road Initiative is seeking to integrate the rapidly expanding Chinese economy with the development of Asia, Europe, Africa and beyond.—Xinhua ■

S Korea confirms 21st case of Zika virus infection: Yonhap

SEOUL — A 21st case of infection with the Zika virus has been confirmed in South Korea, in a woman who recently returned from Thailand, Yonhap News Agency reported Saturday, citing the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The 31-year-old woman began experiencing symptoms the day after returning on 10 June from Thailand, Yonhap said.

On 2 June, a 33-year-old woman in South Korea who had traveled to the Maldives was also confirmed to be infected with the

Zika virus, the report said. The virus is typically not life-threatening, but poses a special danger to pregnant women as it has been linked to severe birth defects in newborns, including abnormally small heads and improperly developed brains.—Kyodo News ■

Australian farmer invents device to reduce weeds by 95 pct

CANBERRA — A device that destroys weeds during harvest, developed by a West Australian farmer, has garnered international attention.

Experts believe that the Harrington Seed Destructor (HSD), invented by Ray Harrington, has the potential to vastly reduce the need for herbicides in grain farming.

The device, which is attached to a grain harvester, works by crushing weed seeds that are picked up by the machine, meaning that the seeds are not spread back over a paddock with chaff once harvest is complete.

Analysis by the University of Western Australia (UWA) found that the machine killed 95 per cent of weed seeds.

The machine has the potential to save billions of dollars and the livelihood of struggling farmers all over the world.

Harrington said the need for the device arose when he came to the realization in the

mid-2000s that weeds were going to force him to quit farming.

“I am so pleased it has come to fruit, because it could have failed. I know if we adopt weed seed management across the globe, we are going to have a chance,” Harrington told Australian media on Saturday.

Steve Jefferies, managing director of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), said that weeds cost Australian farmers 2.66 billion US dollars every year.

“Five to seven years ago, particularly in places like the Western Australian wheat belt, there was quite a strong feeling that herbicide resistance was going to cause people to have to walk off their farms,” Jefferies said.

The device is now being produced by a South Australian company and has been sold into the United States, Canada and South America at a price of 120,000 US dollars fully installed.—Xinhua ■

Brunei ranked fifth in Southeast Asia in Global Innovation Index

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — Brunei is in fifth position among Southeast Asian nations, ninth in Asia and the 71st globally in the annual Global Innovation Index published recently.

The latest edition of the index, co-published by Cornell University, International business school INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organisation, provides detailed metrics about the innovation performance of 127 countries

and economies around the world. Its 81 indicators explore a broad vision of innovation, including political environment, education, infrastructure and business sophistication.

Making its first entry in such global index, Brunei, which was among the high income index nations, did well in several indicators.

Brunei is ranked among the best in the world in political stability and safety in the index.

The Sultanate is placed the seventh at the sub-pillar level under “Institutions”, after New Zealand, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Iceland, Canada and Singapore.

Under Institutions, Brunei excelled in regulatory environment, clinching the 27th place globally. Under this indicator, the nation triumphed in the cost of redundancy dismissal, salary weeks where it was ranked first.—Reuters ■

South Korean workers struggling under growing rich-poor divide

SEOUL — Yet the 30-year-old says he barely managed to make ends meet after paying his tuition fees and living expenses out of his less than 1 million won (\$890) monthly income, and he is still paying back his 10 million won student loan today.

With the country's minimum wage standing at 6,470 won per hour, he only made roughly 95 million won over the decade, excluding the two years he was in military service.

"No matter how much I work, I am only left with despair over my uncertain life," said Kim, now working as a cram school teacher and a part-timer in the capital, adding marriage is not an option on such low wages.

Kim is one of the many workers suffering amid the country's growing joblessness, which has resulted in a wider disparity between rich and poor. Some estimate that the top 10 per cent of the population holds around 60 per cent of the nation's wealth.

The average monthly income of the lowest 20 per cent of the working population last year fell 5.6 per cent from the previous year to 1,447,000 won, while that of the top 20 per cent rose 2.1 per cent.

The jobless rate among people under 30 stood at a record 11.2 per cent in April, while the unemployment rate for all age groups reached 4.2 per cent, the highest level since 2000. Even among those who do get jobs, only



South Korean labour unions hold a rally in Seoul on 27 May, 2017, demanding that nonregular employment status should be abolished. Phboto: **KYODO NEWS**

about half manage to become regular workers.

A survey by a South Korean think tank showed that nonregular workers accounted for 44.5 per cent of the workforce last year. As the survey did not include some workers hired through third parties, the proportion of nonregular workers was likely more than half.

An Myong Ja, 52, who teaches students with disabilities at an elementary school in the suburbs of Seoul, is on an indefinite-term contract without the benefits of a permanent employee.

"I have worked 13 years here but my salary is close to

the minimum wage level, and I do not know when my contract will be terminated," she said. "I wish I could make a big meal for my children even occasionally but it's impossible to do so."

South Korea had been counting workers like An as regular employees until the current administration of President Moon Jae In, claiming nonregular workers only accounted for 32.8 per cent of the workforce.

Moon, who took office in May, has pledged to raise the minimum wage to 10,000 won in three years and turn all 310,000 nonregular workers in the public sector into regular employees during his presiden-

cy, as he seeks to realize economic growth led by personal consumption. The new administration has already submitted a supplementary budget worth 11.2 trillion won for the creation of jobs, deeming the widening gap between rich and poor as "close to disaster."

Speaking at a ceremony in Seoul on 10 June marking the 30th anniversary of the country's democratization, Moon promised to make all-out efforts to narrow the disparity, saying, "We must create a society in which those who work diligently for eight hours a day do not have to worry about making ends meet." — Kyodo News ■

Malaysia locates crashed fighter jet a day after pilots found dead

KUALALUMPUR — Malaysia's air force located on Friday the wreckage of a jet fighter that went missing during a training run, a day after the aircraft's two pilots were found dead in a forested area.

An air force helicopter on a search and recovery mission found the British-made Hawk 108 in the Chukai district of the northeastern state of Terengganu, the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) said.

"A safety perimeter has been set up for the purpose of investigation and security. The RMAF is in the midst of clearing the wreckage," the statement read.

The bodies of the jet's two pilots — Major Hasri Zahari and Major Yazmi Mohamed Yusof — were found with their parachutes unfurled in a swamp in Terengganu on Thursday, several hours after the air force lost contact with their plane.

This is the first fatal incident involving a Malaysian-owned Hawk 108 since 2003. The RMAF has ordered a temporary suspension of its Hawk 108 fleet pending an investigation. Malaysia's plans to upgrade its ageing fleet of fighter jets have been complicated by defence budget cuts, as Prime Minister Najib Razak grapples with growing public discontent over the rising cost of living. — Reuters ■

Japan, EU to narrow gaps in auto, farm, eye free trade deal in July

TOKYO — Japan and the European Union are in the final phase of negotiations on sealing a broad agreement on a free trade pact early next month, seeking to strike deals on sensitive issues such as market access in agriculture and automobiles.

The two sides plan to scrap the 28-member bloc's 10 per cent tariff on Japanese automobiles some 10 years after the deal takes effect, sources close to the matter said recently.

The bloc also eyes an immediate elimination of tariffs on around 80 per cent of auto parts exported from Japan, which are currently at 3 to 4.5 per cent,

they said. Progress in negotiations over automobiles would be a boost for Japan, which in 2016 exported some 600,000 cars to the European Union. In return, however, the bloc is likely to force Japan to make concessions over market access in agriculture.

The European Union is urging Tokyo to cut tariffs on products such as cheese, wine and lumber, while the Japanese side is reluctant about opening its agriculture market, especially to a level higher than it agreed to in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact, signed in February 2016. After years of FTA negotiations launched in 2013, Japanese

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, and Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, plan to meet on 6 July in Brussels, a day before the Group of 20 major economies' meeting kicks off in Hamburg, to strike a broad agreement on the FTA, diplomatic sources said.

At their previous meeting in May, the three confirmed their desire to reach an agreement on fundamental elements of the FTA as early as possible and said that the agreement is "within reach," according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Abe is eager to accelerate

talks on the Japan-EU FTA after US President Donald Trump announced his country's withdrawal from the TPP deal soon after taking office in January.

"Amid moves promoting protectionism, as seen in Britain's exit from the European Union and in the policies of President Trump, Japan is looking to strike a broad agreement with the European Union as soon as possible," a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official told a group of lawmakers from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, headed by Abe, on Friday.

In the agricultural field, Japan is making final arrangements

to slash a tariff on pork to the level agreed under the TPP pact, while setting up low-tariff import quotas for powdered skim milk and butter, the sources said.

The LDP has established an in-house headquarters to discuss ways to protect Japanese farmers from possible negative effects stemming from the Japan-EU FTA. It is set to compile a proposal addressed to Abe by the end of this month. Agriculture minister Yuji Yamamoto told a recent press conference that "careful consideration is needed, keeping in mind the possible effects on our agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries." — Kyodo News ■

Oh, Youths! Success is within your reach

Khin Maung Oo

BEHS examination results have been released. News about successful candidates can be seen on face-book pages, smiling and happy. However, we can also see those who failed here and there, with long faces and eyes filled with tears. Under the need-blind university admission system we are still exercising till now, students are vying for scoring high marks so that they can join the professional institutes they want. Whatever it is, we must recognize their efforts and their parents' encouragement. Meanwhile, we saw remarkably outstanding students who gained one, two or distinctions in all subjects in the midst of many difficulties. To our great pleasure and surprise, we heard some successful candidates reply to questions raised by interviewers.

Nearly all interviewees say that they will serve the country with acquired knowledge and skills after completion of their academic learning. I dare say that these words have come out of their hearts because their faces look simple and their minds seem pure. One can only hope that they will continue their studies with diligence to obtain higher levels of academic achievements.

Here, we would like to give our heart-felt congratulations to successful candidates who are enjoying the feeling of their triumph. At the same time we wish to give encouragement to those who failed for whatever the reasons. They should remember the saying "if at first you don't succeed, try and try again." The BEHS examinations are not a decisive factor in your lives; it is just an intersection for you. From this intersection you

will have yet to move on a long way ahead. In other words, the BEHS examination is not a final destination. At a time when we are building our country into a federal democratic union, our country needs good leaders, scholars, experts, professionals, technicians and intellectuals. In the coming 20 years, you will have to replace our national statesmen, hence the need for you to try your best to be well-equipped with leadership abilities.

Undeniably, the medical profession is a noble one. Yet, we need able ones from various fields, careers and professions in shaping our nation into a peaceful, prosperous and modern democratic federal union. We need scholars, intellectuals, experts, engineers, doctors, professors, teachers, military personnel, economists, entrepreneurs and workers. All will

be nation builders, so they will be precious ones. Suffice it to say that each and every one of you has an individual chance to lead the country. Those who passed the exam with low marks need not be depressed. You can still reach the top of the totem pole of academic learning at universities and colleges you will be allowed to join. As regards those who failed in the exam, they are required to prepare themselves for another examination. They need to critically analyze their failure and turn defeat into victory. All of us are responsible to help them to do so.

Oh, youths! You are now standing at the starting point of your long journey towards the future. A future filled with challenges and opportunities. Never let anything destroy your hopes and dreams. Success is within your reach. ■

Don't make hate speech !

By: Tommy Pauk

IN human society, there may be more or less diverse culture, diverse religion and diverse ethnicity. Since we all are humans beings, we may love or hate according to the other people's behavior and response. Actually the feelings of love and hate dwell in human minds, but the feeling of love creates pleasant atmosphere and the feeling of hate leads to crises in human society.

Delivering hate speech badly hurts the persons or people who are hated by the speakers. Normally hate speech is intended to hate different religious believers and different races.

Nowadays, the freedom of religion is allowed in almost all the countries around the world. Very few countries have constraints on religious freedom in the world. Obviously, hate speech tends to insult or attack people or individuals and provides a platform for hate indeed. All people of good conscience oppose those who spread hate speech or poisonous narrative.

On the other hand, all peace-loving people do not accept the words of hate speech because they know that these words can incite the violent acts or racial hatred. Spewing hateful words directed at certain people or community or a person threatens peace and tranquility of the entire

human society. This is an act of destruction which hurts not only the targeted ones but also the community of the hate speech makers.

The violence related to hate speech brings a disaster as a result in a society. The targeted people become the victims of the hate speech since they are minority of people in a particular society.

All the peace-loving people ought to protect or prohibit the launch of hate speech campaign in their respective societies. Even then, the respective governments should crack down the hate speech launchers in accordance with law.

Unless otherwise, there will be a series of chaos in the societies in the world. Consequently, the societies might face impediment in nation building tasks and socio-economic development.

We are obliged to live together with diverse culture, religion and race in harmony in every nation as we are in a global village. We must develop sincerity, mutual respect, mutual understanding and mutual tolerance so that there can be no problem and animosity. We should strictly avoid saying insulting words on other persons' faith and races and should not do discriminatory act on other different races.

We all have to respect human rights which are universally declared to all humans and commonly accept-

ed by all nations on earth.

Nobody should encourage or cooperate with the instigators of hate speech by any means.

In fact, those who make hate speech disrupt the certain law and order of the society. Some hate speech makers use facebook for spreading poisonous narrative or make-up stories to hate the targeted persons or community or organizations.

Nevertheless, the conscientious persons never ever fall into the trap of hate speech. Due to hate speech, outburst of violence occurs and the chaotic situation takes place in the society. Therefore, hate speech is very dangerous for people in a certain society.

Learning the negative impact of hate speech, people are not allowed to make hate speech anywhere in any country to prevent from man-made disaster. In some countries, if a person is found to be a speaker of hate speech, he or she will be punished according to their prescribed law. Some communal violence in some society was incited by hate speech.

Hate speech does not support or contribute to any society and people concerned with goodness. In conclusion, all citizens of Myanmar and people around the world are urged not to make hate speech on any circumstances. Beware hate speech which creates the scourge and destruction in humanity. Don't make hate speech! ■

Actually the feelings of love and hate dwell in human minds, but the feeling of love creates pleasant atmosphere and the feeling of hate leads to crises in human society. Delivering hate speech badly hurts the persons or people who are hated by the speakers. Normally hate speech is intended to hate different religious believers and different races.

Trump's coal plan sends US energy "back to the past": Vatican

OSLO — US President Donald Trump is sending US energy production "back to the past" with disastrous decisions to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement and to promote the coal industry, a senior Vatican official said on Friday.

Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, head of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, said Pope Francis was concerned that any harm to the environment will be like a "boomerang that will come back ... especially to poor people" with ever worsening effects.

Trump said on 1 June he was pulling the United States out of the 195-nation Paris climate agreement, the first to oblige all nations to limit greenhouse gas emissions, saying he wanted to create jobs in the US fossil fuel industry.

Trump said participating in the pact would undermine the US economy, wipe out jobs, weaken national sovereignty and put his country at a permanent disadvantage.

"This is to go back to the past and not to see the future,"

Sanchez Sorondo, an Argentine like the pope, told Reuters in a telephone interview. He said future energy jobs would be in renewables, such as wind or solar power, rather than coal.

Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement "is a disaster for this country (the United States) and also for all the world", he said, echoing remarks he made to an Italian newspaper just before Trump's announcement.

Many other leaders have expressed dismay and anger at Trump's withdrawal and pledged to push ahead with the Paris accord.

Among them, German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged action to protect "Mother Earth". The 2015 Paris Agreement aims to phase out greenhouse gas emissions this century to limit a rise in average temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times.

The pope has urged Trump to be a peacemaker and gave him a signed copy of a 2015 encyclical about the environment in a meeting in the Vatican last



Dump trucks haul coal and sediment at the Black Butte coal mine outside Rock Springs, Wyoming, United State on 4 April, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

month.

Sanchez Sorondo said he had not heard if Trump had read the document.

Sanchez Sorondo criticized what he called the poor level of teaching of science in the United States, compared to many European countries such as Germany. "The German people are more educated in sciences and believe in science," he said.

"The real situation of the Earth today, of the planet, is described by scientists," he said. To anyone on the surface the Earth can seem flat but scien-

tific findings mean "it's difficult to say the Earth is not round," he said.

The Vatican has embraced climate change science in recent years, a quicker acceptance than in some other areas. Pope John Paul acknowledged only in 1996, for instance, that Charles Darwin's 1859 theory of evolution was "more than a hypothesis".

During his campaign, Trump dismissed man-made climate change as a hoax. By contrast, a UN panel of climate scientists says it is at least 95

per cent probable that most warming since the 1950s is caused by human activities.

Sanchez Sorondo will attend a meeting in Oslo on Monday of faith leaders to discuss how to protect tropical rainforests such as in the Amazon or Congo basins.

Protecting forests fits into religious traditions that humans are stewards of the planet, not just exploiting nature, he said. "This was an idea of the Bible but also an idea of the Greeks and all civilizations," he said. —Reuters ■

Sleeping-in on weekends linked to lower body weight

SEOUL — Catching up on lost sleep over weekends may help people keep their weight down, according to a study in South Korea.

Not getting enough sleep can disrupt hormones and metabolism and is known to increase the risk of obesity, researchers write in the journal Sleep.

"Short sleep, usually causing sleep debt, is common and inevitable in many cases, and is a risk factor for obesity, hypertension, coronary heart disease, as well as mortality," lead author Dr Chang-Ho-yun of the Seoul National University Budang Hospital told Reuters Health by email.

Sleeping in may be better than napping, as the sleep may

be deeper and follows the body's sleep-wake rhythms more closely, Yun said.

To determine how weekend sleep is related to body weight, the researchers used data from a nationwide survey of more than 2,000 people who ranged in age from 19 to 82 years old.

In face-to-face interviews, researchers asked participants about their height and weight, weekday and weekend sleep habits, mood and medical conditions.

The study team used this information to determine body mass index (BMI), a measure of weight relative to height, and whether participants engaged in catch-up sleep on weekends.

Weekend catch-up sleep was defined as sleeping more

hours on weekend nights compared to weekday nights.

On average, the participants slept 7.3 hours per night and had BMIs of 23, which falls in the healthy range.

About 43 per cent of people slept longer on weekends by nearly two hours than they did on weekdays.

People who slept-in on weekends tended to sleep shorter hours during weekdays, but slept more hours overall across the week.

The researchers' analysis found that those who slept-in on weekends had average BMIs of 22.8 while those who didn't engage in catch-up sleep averaged 23.1, which was a small but statistically meaningful difference.

In addition, the more catch

up sleep a person got, the lower their BMI tended to be, with each additional hour linked to a 0.12 decrease in BMI.

"Short sleepers tend to eat more meals per day, snack more, engage in more screen time and may be less likely to move due to increased sensations of fatigue when not rested," said Jean-Philippe Chaput of the University of Ottawa in Canada, who wasn't involved in the study.

Chaput noted that getting 30 minutes of heart-pumping exercise per day can help improve sleep.

"Sleep experts say that if people need an alarm clock to wake up it is a sign that they don't sleep enough," Chaput said by email.

"The more good behaviors

we can have every day (and sustain for the rest of our lives) the better it is for the prevention of chronic diseases and optimizing health. Sleep should be one of these priorities," he said.

"If you cannot sleep sufficiently on workdays because of work or social obligations, try to sleep as much as possible on the weekend. It might alleviate the risk for obesity."

"Weekend sleep extension could be a quick fix to compensate sleep loss over the week but is not an ultimate solution for chronic sleep loss," Yun cautioned. "If average sleep duration over the week is far below the optimal amount even with weekend sleep extension, the benefits would likely dissipate," Yun said.—Reuters ■

Trump acknowledges he is under investigation in Russia probe

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump acknowledged on Friday that he is personally under investigation as part of a widening probe into alleged Russian meddling in last year's US presidential race and possible collusion by his campaign, an inquiry that has cast a shadow over his five months in office.

"I am being investigated for firing the FBI Director by the man who told me to fire the FBI Director! Witch Hunt," Trump wrote on Twitter.

Trump did not specify who he was referring to, but he appeared to be questioning the integrity of Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, the US Justice Department's No 2 official. Rosenstein appointed Robert Mueller on 17 May as special counsel to head the inquiry into the Russia matter.

Rosenstein wrote a memo in May to Trump strongly criticizing FBI Director James Comey's performance. While the Trump administration initially said that letter was the reason the president fired Comey on 9 May, Trump later said he did so because of the "Russia thing."

Comey told a Senate panel last week he believed Trump fired him because of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Russia probe. Comey also testified Trump had directed him to drop a related FBI investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

A person familiar with Mueller's inquiry, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Thursday Mueller was looking into whether Trump or others attempted to obstruct the Russia investigation.

The Republican president has repeatedly complained about the probe, calling it a witch hunt and saying Democrats cannot accept his election victory. Trump said last week he felt vindicated by Comey's 8 June testimony that he was not the subject of investigation while Comey headed the agency. Several congressional committees are



US President Donald Trump refers to amounts of temperature change as he announces his decision that the United States will withdraw from the landmark Paris Climate Agreement, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, US on 1 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

also investigating the Russia matter.

ABC News reported on Friday that Rosenstein has said privately he may need to recuse himself from matters relating to the Russia probe because he could become a witness in the investigation. Citing unnamed sources, ABC reported Rosenstein told Associate Attorney General Rachel Brand she would have authority over the probe if he were to step aside.

Rosenstein currently has such authority because Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself on 2 March after revelations of previously undisclosed meetings with Russia's ambassador to Washington while he was a Trump campaign advisor.

The Democratic National Committee said it saw a need for Rosenstein to recuse himself, but it said control over the investigation should be given to Mueller and not another Trump appointee.

A Trump confidant said this week the president had considered firing Mueller. Rosenstein, the official who would be responsible for dismissing Mueller, told US law-

makers he would fire him only with good cause.

US intelligence agencies concluded in a report issued in January that Russia interfered in the presidential race to try to help Trump win, in part by hacking and releasing emails damaging to Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

Moscow has denied any interference. The White House has denied any collusion.

Trump kept up his criticism of the investigations in a series of tweets on Friday.

"After 7 months of investigations & committee hearings about my 'collusion with the Russians,' nobody has been able to show any proof. Sad!" he wrote in one post.

In another development, members of Trump's transition team that served him after he was elected in November until he took office in January have been ordered to preserve materials related to the Russia matter, the New York Times reported.

Citing a memo from the general counsel's office of Trump's transition team, the Times said members were given the order on Thursday

for any information involving Russia or Ukraine in the latest sign of the investigation's expanding reach.

The memo to former transition team members on Thursday also seeks specific information on five people, the Times reported. They are: Flynn; Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign manager; Rick Gates, Manafort's business partner; Carter Page, a former foreign policy adviser; and Roger J Stone Jr, an informal adviser to Mr Trump.

Flynn was dismissed by Trump in February after it emerged he had misled Pence about conversations with the Russian ambassador. Manafort, Page and Stone have also been linked to the Russia investigations.

During an appearance in Florida on Friday, Vice President Mike Pence said his hiring of his own lawyer to help him in the Russia inquiry was a "very routine" move. Pence has hired Richard Cullen, a lawyer known for defending government officials in high-profile investigations, his office said on Thursday. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Putin: early to speak about retaliation against new US sanctions — agency

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin said it was too early to speak about retaliation against a possible new round of sanctions that the United States is considering imposing on Moscow, state news agency RIA reported on Saturday.

"We need to see how it is all going to be. That is why it is premature to speak publicly about our retaliatory actions," RIA cited Putin as saying in an interview, parts of which were shown on Rossiya state TV channel on Saturday.

Earlier this week, the US Senate voted nearly unanimously for legislation to impose new sanctions on Russia and force President Donald Trump to get Congress' approval before easing any existing sanctions. —Reuters ■

Cuban government says Trump will not weaken the revolution

HAVANA — Cuba's government on Friday denounced US President Donald Trump's new measures to tighten the blockade on the island as a "setback" in US-Cuban relations and said they would not weaken the revolution.

In a statement read out on the evening news, the government reiterated its willingness to "continue the respectful dialogue and cooperation on matters of mutual interest." —Reuters ■

Islamic State claims responsibility for Jerusalem attack

CAIRO — Islamic State claimed responsibility for an attack in Jerusalem on Friday in which an Israeli border policewoman was killed, the group's Amaq news agency said.

Islamic State said the attack "will not be the last". —Reuters ■

No evidence of Islamic State link to Jerusalem attack —Israeli police

JERUSALEM — Israeli authorities said on Saturday they had found no evidence of Islamic State involvement in attacks by three Palestinians that killed an Israeli policewoman, despite the group's claim of responsibility.

Palestinian militant factions also denied Islamic State was involved in the attacks in Jerusalem on Friday, in which a second Israeli police officer was wounded.

Islamic State's claim of responsibility was reported by the group's Amaq news agency on Friday.

Police spokeswoman Luba Simri said the Israeli military had so far found no connection between the three assailants and any armed group.

"It was a local cell. At this stage no indication has been found it was directed by terrorist organisations nor has any connection to any organization been found," Simri said.

The SITE intelligence monitoring group said it was the first time Islamic State had claimed responsibility for an attack inside Israeli-controlled territory.

However, a senior official from Hamas, the Islamic group

A petrol bomb fired by Palestinian protesters hits an Israeli water cannon vehicle during an Israeli raid in Deir Meshaal village near the West Bank city of Ramallah on 17 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



that rules the Gaza Strip, and the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said the three attackers, who were all shot dead at the scene, were their own members.

"The three hero martyrs who executed the Jerusalem operation have no connection to Daesh (Islamic State), they are affiliated with the PFLP and Hamas," Hamas' Izzat El-Reshiq wrote on Twitter.

In a separate statement, the PFLP identified two of the three attackers as its members. "The media office of the PFLP armed wing mourns two of its hero comrades, two freed prisoners," it said.

Israeli police said on Friday all the assailants were from the occupied West Bank. Two of them, both from the area of Ramallah, were aged between 18 and 19 and the third was a

30-year-old from Hebron, Simri said.

The assaults took place simultaneously in two areas near the Damascus gate of Jerusalem's walled old city.

Two Palestinians were shot dead after opening fire at and trying to stab a group of Israeli police officers, police said. In the second incident, a Palestinian fatally stabbed a border police-woman before being shot dead

by police.

A wave of Palestinian street attacks began in October 2015 but has since slowed. Thirty-eight Israelis, two American tourists and a British student have been killed in stabbings, shootings and car-rammings, many of which took place in the vicinity of the Old City's Damascus gate.

At least 252 Palestinians and one Jordanian citizen have been killed since the violence began. Israel says at least 170 of those killed were carrying out attacks. Others died during clashes and protests.

Israel blames the violence on incitement by the Palestinian leadership.

The Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank, denies that and says assailants have acted out of desperation over Israeli occupation of land sought by Palestinians for a state.

US-brokered peace talks between the sides broke down in 2014. Palestinians want to establish an independent state in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East War.—Reuters ■

100,000 civilians behind Islamic State lines in Iraqi city of Mosul

GENEVA — About 100,000 civilians remain trapped behind Islamic State lines in Mosul with a US-backed government offensive to recapture the Iraqi city entering its ninth month, the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said on Friday.

Islamic State snipers are shooting at families trying to flee on foot or by boat across the Tigris River, it said.

"These civilians are basically held as human shields in the Old City," said the UNHCR representative in Iraq, Bruno Geddo, referring to Mosul's historic district where the militants are besieged by Iraqi government forces.

"There is hardly any food, water, electricity, fuel. These civilians are living in an increasingly worsening situation of penury and panic because they are surrounded by fighting."

The offensive to retake Mosul, Islamic State's de facto capital in Iraq, started on 17 October with air and ground support from a US-led international coalition.

Iraqi government forces re-

gained eastern Mosul in January, then a month later began the offensive on the western side that includes the Old City.

The Old City "is a very dense labyrinth, a maze of narrow alleyways where fighting will have to be done on foot, house by house," said Geddo.

"ISIS (Islamic State) snipers continue to aim at people trying to flee because there is this long-standing policy of executing people trying to flee the territory of the caliphate," he said.

The fall of Mosul would, in effect, mark the end of the Iraqi half of the "caliphate" that Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared in a speech from an historic mosque in the Old City three years ago, covering parts of Iraq and Syria.

Moscow said on Friday its forces may have killed Baghdadi in an air strike in Syria last month, but Washington said it could not corroborate the death and Western and Iraqi officials were sceptical. About 200,000 people were estimated to be trapped

behind Islamic State lines in Mosul in May, but the number has declined as government forces have thrust further into the city.

About 800,000 people, more than a third of the pre-war population of the northern Iraqi city, have fled, seeking refuge with friends and relatives or in camps. UNHCR has provided many with shelter, food and other necessities. Geddo voiced deep concern about "collective punishment" of families whose relative may have been an IS fighter.

"Collective punishment means in a deeply tribal society that you see evictions, destruction of property, confiscation of property for families perceived as being associated with ISIS because one family member might have been having that link.

"This is a very critical point for the future of Iraq. Because it is essential to uphold the rule of law, to pursue those who committed crimes through the court system, the judicial system, rather than applying tribal custom," he said.—Reuters ■

Iraqi forces remove IS fighters from vicinity of USbase in Syria

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi army and Sunni tribal fighters have dislodged Islamic State from the al-Waleed border crossing into Syria, an Iraqi military statement said on Saturday.

The capture of al-Waleed removes Islamic State fighters from the vicinity of a US base located on the other side of the border, in Syrian territory.

Aircraft from the US-led coalition and the Iraqi air force took part in the operation, the statement said.

Al-Waleed is close to Tanf, a strategic Syrian border crossing with Iraq on the Baghdad-Damascus highway, where US forces have assisted Syrian rebels trying to recapture territory from Islamic State.

US forces have been based at Tanf since last year, in effect preventing Iranian-backed forces supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad from receiving heavy weaponry from Iran by using the main highway between Iraq and Syria.

The involvement of Ira-

qi Sunni tribal fighters in the operation to dislodge the militants from al-Waleed is another indication that Iran will not yet be able to use the highway.

Pro-Assad forces in Syria, mainly comprising Iraqi Shi'ite militias, last week reached the Iraqi border north-east of Tanf, potentially preventing the US-backed rebels from taking more territory from Islamic State alongside the border area with Iraq.

In Mosul, where a US-backed offensive against Islamic State on Saturday entered its ninth month, the militants have been squeezed into an enclave on the western bank of the Tigris river.

Islamic State also controls territory along the border with Syria and urban pockets west and south of Mosul. In Syria, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, made up predominantly of Kurdish fighters, have seized territory to the north, east and west of Raqqa, Islamic State's Syrian bastion.—Reuters ■



Photo taken on 17 June, 2017, from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the US Navy's guided-missile destroyer Fitzgerald sailing off the central Japan city of Shimoda, after colliding with a Filipino container vessel off Yokosuka, south of Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Seven missing as US Navy ship collides with container ship off Japan

TOKYO — The US Navy's guided-missile destroyer Fitzgerald collided with a Filipino container vessel off Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, early Saturday, leaving seven crew members of the destroyer unaccounted for and three injured, the US Navy said.

Among the injured, Cmdr Bryce Benson, Fitzgerald's commanding officer, has been transferred to hospital but is reportedly in stable condition, while two other sailors are also taken to hospital for "lacerations and bruises," the Navy said. The Japan Coast Guard sent patrol vessels and an airplane to search for the missing

crew, while Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force dispatched a helicopter.

All 20 crewmembers aboard the ACX Crystal, which is operated by Nippon Yusen KK, are safe, according to the shipping company.

The starboard side near the bridge of the 8,315-ton Aegis-equipped Fitzgerald sustained significant damage in the collision. But the both US ship and 29,060-ton container vessel are able to proceed unaided.

The Fitzgerald, which is part of the US 7th Fleet, is now heading to the Yokosuka Naval Base in Kanagawa Prefecture,

while the container vessel is sailing toward Tokyo port. The port side of the Filipino vessel was damaged, the coast guard and the Navy said.

The collision took place at around 2:25 am about 100 kilometers southwest of Yokosuka. The container ship was sailing from Nagoya port to Tokyo port.

Under international regulations for preventing collisions at sea, when two vessels are in a crossing situation, a ship must give way to the vessel to starboard, or the right side. To determine the cause of the accident, the locations of the two ships, their routes and whether

they had sufficient surveillance are likely to be scrutinized.

The Fitzgerald has been sailing in Japanese coastal waters to monitor North Korea following a series of ballistic missile launches.

In April, it conducted a joint exercise with a MSDF destroyer in the Sea of Japan. The US ship also carried out another drill earlier this month in the Sea of Japan with the MSDF, together with the US nuclear-powered carriers Ronald Reagan and Carl Vinson. The Fitzgerald is 154 metres long, and ACX Crystal is 222.6 metres long. —Kyodo News ■

Islamist militants rapidly increasing in Sweden — security chief

STOCKHOLM — The number of Islamist militants in Sweden has soared to thousands in recent years but only a few pose a security threat to society, the head of the country's security services said on Friday.

Sweden is still in shock after five people were killed and 15 injured when a hijacked truck ploughed into a crowd on a busy shopping street and crashed into a Stockholm department store on 7 April.

Police are holding an Uzbek man who has admitted to driving the vehicle.

Anders Thornberg, the head of the Swedish Security Service (Sapo), said only a handful of militants had the desire and capacity to carry out attacks. He blamed propaganda by Islamic State for the problem.

"We have never seen anything like this before," Thornberg told national news agency TT.

He said the numbers included those who merely sympathise with violent militants to those who spread the message, recruit and collect funds. "The growth in extremism is a challenge of historical proportions," he said.—Reuters ■

Veteran negotiator offers to go to North Korea to free Americans, Canadian

WASHINGTON — Veteran former US politician and diplomat Bill Richardson offered on Friday to visit North Korea to secure the release of three detained Americans and a Canadian after US university student Otto Warmbier was brought back in a coma.

Richardson, a former New Mexico governor and congressman who visited North Korea in the 1990s and sought the release of detained Americans, told Reuters he made the proposal in a letter to the North Korean mission to the United Nations.

"I have proposed that as of

today," Richardson said, adding that he argued in the letter it was in North Korea's interest to free the detainees unconditionally, "in the light of its failure to properly take care and handle" Warmbier's case.

Doctors say the 22-year-old university student who was returned to the United States this week after being held in North Korea for 17 months has a severe brain injury and is in a state of "unresponsive wakefulness."

Richardson said he and members of his foundation had met with North Korean diplomats 20 times in the past year

to try to secure the release of Warmbier and the others - Korean-Americans Tony Kim, Kim Dong Chul and Kim Hak Song and Korean-Canadian Hyeon Soo Lim.

He said the foundation's executive director traveled to North Korea in November and proposed that Richardson travel there for the purpose, but the North Koreans did not respond.

Richardson said he had yet to inform the Trump administration about his letter, but had briefed the State Department and White House in recent weeks on his past efforts.

In 1996, Richardson se-

cured the release of a 26-year-old American, Evan Hunziker, who was held for three months in North Korea on spying charges. He called on the administration to find a way to ensure Warmbier "gets the best medical care to see if he can be revived".

"This is going to be a long, protracted convalescence; They should do this as a symbol that the US government will stand behind our citizens who have been violated," Richardson said. Trump said on Friday that what had happened to Warmbier was "a truly terrible thing."

Richardson, who has been

in close contact with the Warmbier family, said he did not believe Pyongyang's explanation that the student's condition was the result of botulism and a sleeping pill.

"It could be some kind of stress from the imprisonment; it could be beatings and torture," he said, adding that North Korea should cooperate with an investigation, perhaps carried out by the United Nations.

"They should have a detailed medical explanation why this happened and why they didn't disclose this a year ago. This is unconscionable," he said.—Reuters ■

Amid turmoil, Queen Elizabeth says Britain sombre but steadfast

LONDON — Amid the turmoil of militant attacks, political crisis and a deadly fire disaster, Queen Elizabeth said Britain was in a deeply sombre mood but that its people were resolute in the face of adversity.

Scarred by three deadly Islamist militant attacks and a tower block fire that killed dozens in London, Britain is also grappling with a political crisis that has left Prime Minister Theresa May

weakened on the eve of Brexit talks.

"It is difficult to escape a very sombre national mood," Elizabeth, the world's oldest and longest-reigning monarch, said in a message on her official birthday. "The country has witnessed a succession of terrible tragedies."

Elizabeth said that during recent visits to meet victims she had been struck by the inclination of

people to offer comfort and support to those in need.

"Put to the test, the United Kingdom has been resolute in the face of adversity," she said. "United in our sadness, we are equally determined, without fear or favour, to support all those rebuilding lives so horribly affected by injury and loss."

Elizabeth was born on 21 April, 1926 in Bruton Street in central London when Calvin Coolidge was

US President and Josef Stalin had just taken control in the Soviet Union. She became queen in 1952, aged 25.

At 91, she still regularly carries out official duties but has cut back on her number of engagements in recent years. She celebrates two birthdays each year: her actual birthday on 21 April and her official one which usually falls on the second Saturday in June.—Reuters ■



Britain's Queen Elizabeth visits the Mayflower Primary School during a visit to Poplar in Tower Hamlets in East London, Britain on 15 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Rodman returns from 'really good' North Korea trip

BEIJING — Former National Basketball Association star Dennis Rodman arrived in Beijing on Saturday after what he said was a "really good" 5-day trip to North Korea.

Rodman, 56, said last week before departing for Pyongyang that he was trying to bring sports to the increasingly isolated nuclear-armed country, where he has previously met leader Kim Jong Un.

"Everybody's going to be happy. It was a good day. It was a good trip. A really good trip," Rodman said.

Wearing black clothing with the PotCoin logo — a crypto-currency used by the legal marijuana industry — Rodman fended off questions from dozens of journalists at the arrival gate. Asked repeatedly if he had met Kim, Rodman said: "You'll find out." He also declined to answer questions about whether he had played a role in the re-



Former NBA basketball player Dennis Rodman leaves Beijing airport after arriving from North Korea's Pyongyang, China on 17 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

lease of Otto Warmbier, an American student who was returned home on the day of Rodman's arrival suffering from brain damage and in a state of unresponsive wakefulness, after more than a year in detention in North Korea.

Tensions have escalated on the Korean peninsula over North Korea's nuclear and missile tests and its vow to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the US

mainland, presenting US President Donald Trump with perhaps his most pressing security worry. Rodman's North Korea visits over the years have fueled speculation that he could somehow facilitate a diplomatic breakthrough between Pyongyang and Washington. The US State Department has said Rodman was traveling as a private citizen. Rodman has faced ridicule and criticism for his trips to North

Korea, which some US politicians and activists view as serving only as fodder for North Korean propaganda.

His earlier visits to North Korea in 2013 and 2014 included a basketball game that he organized, an event chronicled in the documentary film "Big Bang in Pyongyang", which featured Rodman singing "Happy Birthday" to Kim. The US government has issued travel warnings to Americans against going to North Korea.

Rodman, nicknamed "The Worm" during his playing career and known for his tattoos, body piercings and multicolored hair, is considered one of the best defensive players and rebounders in NBA history. He won five league championships with the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls.—Reuters ■

Italian court says lobsters must not catch cold before cooking

ROME — Italy's highest court ruled on Friday that lobsters must not be kept on ice in restaurant kitchens because it causes them unjustifiable suffering before they head for death by fine dining.

Judges accepted a complaint by an animal rights group against the

owner of a restaurant near Florence who kept live crustaceans on ice, ordering him to pay a 2,000 euro fine (\$5,593) and a further 3,000 euros in legal fees.

Upholding a sentence by a lower court, the Cassation court ruled that the fact that lobsters are usually cooked while still alive

does not mean they can be mistreated beforehand.

"While the particular method of cooking can be considered legal by recognising that it is commonly used, the suffering caused by detaining the animals while they wait to be cooked cannot be justified in that way," the

judges wrote.

Rather than keeping lobsters and other crustaceans refrigerated, the court said it was already common practice in high-level restaurants and even supermarkets to keep them in oxygenated water tanks at room temperature.—Reuters ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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As Shanghai's Magic Kingdom turns one, Disney pushes further into China

SHANGHAI — Walt Disney celebrates the first anniversary of its \$5.5 billion theme park in Shanghai on Friday, a key plank of the entertainment giant's push into the world's second-largest economy through everything from English schools to films.

China matters for Mickey Mouse's owner: its box office takings there have tripled over the last two years and Shanghai Disneyland has seen more than 10 million guests in its first year, setting it on track for faster profits than Disney reaped from parks in Paris and Hong Kong, both loss-making for most of the years they have been open.

The company was "extraordinarily encouraged" by the number of guests who visited

Shanghai Disneyland and the satisfaction scores it received, Bob Chapek, head of parks and resorts, told reporters.

"I think those are the sort of right precursors, if you will, for future development," he said when asked about expansion plans.

"We're very encouraged by what we've seen."

Disney released 10 films in China last year, including "Zootopia" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" with ticket sales of about \$1 billion, according to box office tracker EntGroup. That was up from four films and \$313 million in 2014.

Last month, it rolled out the red carpet in Shanghai for a rare world premiere of the latest film in its "Pirates of the Caribbean"



Fireworks explode over the Shanghai Disney Resort during a celebration ceremony to mark its first anniversary in Shanghai, China on 16 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

franchise. Stars Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Javier Bardem made an appearance.

It has also been tying up with partners like state-backed producer Shanghai Film Group, its digital subsidiary BesTV for online content, and Shanghai

Shendi, its partner for Shanghai.

Now, for the first anniversary of the Shanghai park, it will celebrate Disney-style, with lights, fireworks and visits by executives including Chapek and Chief Executive Bob Iger.

Chapek said their hotels at

Shanghai Disneyland had hosted almost 750,000 people and had maintained occupancy levels significantly higher than the overall market. Guests were also spending more time at the park than anticipated, averaging about nine hours, he said.—Reuters ■

Whitney Houston was never ready for fame, says new documentary

LONDON — Before the millions of record sales, hundreds of awards and international acclaim, Whitney Houston was simply "Nippy from Newark", a naive young girl, ill prepared for fame.

A new documentary, titled "Can I Be Me", looks at how Houston, who graduated from child performer to become one of the most-famous female singers of all time, subsequently struggled with drug and alcohol issues before her death in 2012.

"She didn't know what she was going into, she was so beautiful and you can see she is just having fun," filmmaker Nick Broomfield told Reuters.

"She was portrayed as, you know, the American princess. So, actually she was from Newark. She was 'nippy' from Newark, the ghetto, worst race riots next to Los Angeles in the whole of America."

Broomfield spent two years going through archives and speaking with people close to Houston, who began singing in a gospel choir in New Jersey at the age of 11 and was discovered in a



A Filipino fan writes a message on a tribute wall for late American singer-actress Whitney Houston that is displayed inside a mall in Manila on 15 February, 2012. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

nightclub in the 1980s by record producer Clive Davis who guided her career. She found global fame following smash hits such as "I Will Always Love You" - the theme song of what was her film acting debut in "The Bodyguard" opposite Kevin Costner in 1992 - and "The Greatest Love of All."

Houston won six Grammys and more than 400 other awards in a 25-year career that was marred by drug and alcohol prob-

lems and a turbulent marriage to singer Bobby Brown. She died in 2012 after drowning in a hotel bathtub.

She was 48. "She just couldn't deal with all that, she was looking after so many people and she was always being criticized and I think she just became more and more you know she withdrew into drugs. I think that's really what happened," Broomfield said.—Reuters ■

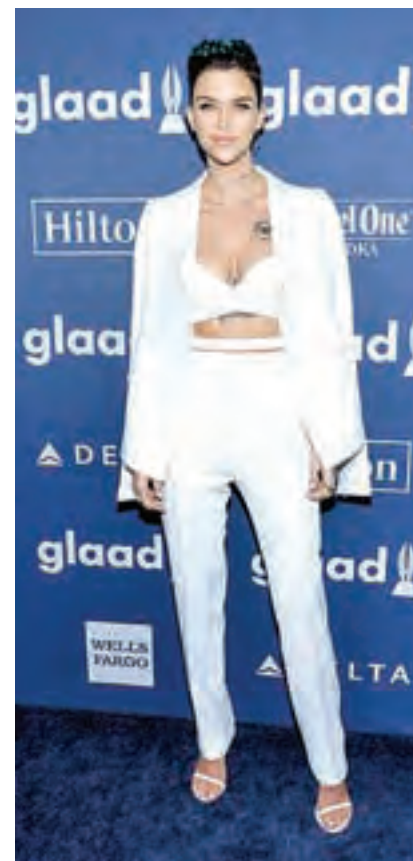
Ruby Rose's girlfriend teaching her guitar

LONDON — Actress Ruby Rose's girlfriend Jessica Origliasso has been teaching her to play guitar for her role in "Pitch Perfect 3".

The 31-year-old actress has been in a relationship with The Veronicas singer Origliasso since November last year — after having previously dated in 2008, reported Contactmusic.

"I've been teaching her guitar. She's very good. She plays guitar in 'Pitch Perfect 3'. I keep telling her she has to come and play 'In My Blood' or 'The Only High' on guitar in a live show with us.

"I'm waiting for the day when she runs on stage and surprises me and starts playing guitar with us," Jessica says.—PTI ■



Ruby Rose attends the 27th annual GLAAD Media Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 2 April, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

St Isaac's Cathedral administrator vows landmark will continue functioning as museum

ST PETERSBURG — St Isaac's Cathedral in St Petersburg will continue to operate as a museum, its newly-appointed Director Yuri Mudrov said at his first meeting with employees.

"Let's proceed from the premise that the museum is working. Should there be changes, we will proceed from the overall situation. Our task is to work properly and with dignity, to fulfill our obligations to receive visitors, to perform the museum's educational and enlightenment functions, to preserve and restore the priceless cultural monuments — St Isaac's Cathedral and the Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood," the museum's press service quotes him as saying.

Mudrov added that an agreement on a partnership with the St Petersburg Diocese, which makes it possible for the Russian Orthodox Church to hold



The Committee on Culture earlier announced that Yuri Mudrov had been appointed as the museum's director. PHOTO: REUTERS

religious services in the cathedral and also envisages joint work on educational projects, will carry on.

Mudrov's appointment The Committee on Culture earlier announced that Mudrov had been appointed as the museum's director. The position of St Isaac Cathedral Museum director was vacant after Nikolay Burov who had led it since 2008 resigned

voluntarily. Writer Irada Vovnenko who earlier worked as the museum's deputy director had been the Acting Director of St Isaac's Cathedral Museum since 31 May.

Russian President Vladimir Putin was asked about the transfer of the cathedral to the church during his annual televised Q&A session on Thursday. The head of state recalled

that the cathedral had never been owned by the church and was state property. However, at that time the Tsar was also the head of the Church. Putin added that St Isaac's Cathedral had been built as a house of worship rather than as a museum. He also called for depoliticizing the issue and spoke out in favor of preserving the museum functions.— Tass ■

Cambridge University refuses to return Aboriginal artifacts to Australia

SYDNEY — The University of Cambridge has refused a request by an Australian man to return important Aboriginal artifacts taken by British explorer Captain James Cook nearly 250 years ago.

Rodney Kelly is seeking the return of four spears from the university's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology on behalf of the Gweagal people, who traditionally inhabited southern parts of Sydney, Australia's largest city.

According to the university, Cook took the spears following a violent first encounter between Aborigines and Europeans on the shores of Botany Bay in Sydney in 1770. He also took a shield, which is currently held by the British Museum and for which Kelly has also sought repatriation.

The artifacts are recognised as a significant symbol of first contact between the British and indigenous Australians and of Aboriginal resistance to colonisation. However, the University of Cambridge has rejected a request for their return lodged by Kelly.

"Removing parts of the Cook-Sandwich collection, which is of great historical, scientific and educational importance nationally and internationally, would cause considerable harm by depriving the collection of its integrity," a spokeswoman said in a statement to Reuters on Saturday.

The university said the request contained no clear proposal for housing and conserving the spears if they were to be returned, and added it was important that any request for change be made with "accredited representatives of the Gweagal people".

Kelly, who submit-

ted a formal request for the repatriation of the spears in November last year, claims to be a direct descendant of the Gweagal warrior Cooman, from whom he claims the spears and shield were taken.

However, a report prepared by the University of Cambridge has questioned Kelly's ability to prove his descent - something disputed by the Sydney man.

"It makes me angry they are trying these tactics to discredit me and my history," Kelly told Reuters in an interview.

Cook's landing in Botany Bay on 29 April, 1770 marked the first point of contact between the British and Aborigines and preceded the arrival of the first waves of colonists to Australia eight years later.

Two Aboriginal men holding spears tried to resist Cook's party landing and one was injured by British musket fire, the university says. The Gweagal then retreated and Cook and his crew entered their camp and took the spears and a shield.

According to Kelly, Cooman was the injured man in the historical account, a claim the university says is not well-supported.

Both the Australian Senate and state parliament of New South Wales voted last year to support the repatriation of the artifacts from the British Museum and the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Kelly said he would continue to fight for the artifacts' return.

"I want to do everything I can to bring those artifacts home for my people and every indigenous and non indigenous person in Australia," he said.—Reuters ■

French aviator crosses Channel in flying car

PARIS — A French pilot crossed the English Channel on Wednesday in a flying car that looks part dune buggy, part paraglider.

Under a clear blue sky, Bruno Vezzoli launched his flying machine down an abandoned wartime runway near Calais, lurching from side to side as he slowly

gained altitude suspended beneath a giant canopy.

"I would say that the biggest risk, just like with any engine-powered machine, would be a breakdown," Vezzoli told Reuters TV as he made his pre take-off checks. "Usually you land on the ground, but in this case we would have

to do a sea-landing."

Vezzoli landed safely 59 km (36 miles) away, near the English port town of Dover. Named "Pegasus" — a winged horse in Greek mythology — the flying car is the brainchild of Jerome Dauffy, an entrepreneur inspired by early aviators such as Brazilian Alber-

to Santos-Dumont and Frenchman Louis Bleriot who made the first flight across the Channel in 1909. "The automotive and aeronautic industries were born around a century ago and it's only now that we are managing to combine the two modes," Dauffy said.—Reuters ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(18-6-2017 07:00am ~ 19-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Yoga & Health
07:47	Am	Elephant Catching and Scaring Trip Mile Stone 26
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Memorable Yaw Region
08:44	Am	A Way of Life: Aikido
08:55	Am	Dances of Myanmar: Rvwang Azulam Dance
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence... To Kachin State
09:49	Am	Lady Pilot
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Reflected Glory
10:49	Am	Safari World

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Travelogue: "Anyar Myay" or Upcountry (Part-III)
07:42	Pm	Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
07:49	Pm	Dances of Myanmar "Gaybar Kayin Traditional Dance"
07:54	Pm	Today Myanmar: The Smart Card for Squatters
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Hanthawaddy U Win Tin "A Fearless Man" (Episode-2)
08:45	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Performance Art

(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)



Paul Casey. PHOTO: REUTERS

Casey goes top then crashes down US Open leaderboard

ERIN, (Wisconsin) — After grabbing a share of the early second round lead at the US Open, Paul Casey crashed down the leaderboard with a triple bogey as the Erin Hills layout showed its teeth on Friday.

Casey and other early starters were greeted by more challenging conditions than those they faced in the opening round as winds picked up around the links-style layout making the longest course in US Open history play even longer.

Playing the back nine first, Casey quickly joined American overnight leader Rickie Fowler at the top of the leaderboard at seven-under with an early birdie at the 11th.

But the Englishman's stay at the top was short-lived, giving the stroke right back with a bogey at the next hole followed by a shock-

ing triple bogey at par-five 14th.

The Englishman found himself in trouble when he flew his approach out of rough over the green into the deep fescue and needed five more strokes to get in the cup.

A rattled Casey added another bogey at the 15th to extend his miserable run before hitting back with birdies at 17 and 18.

Young American Xander Schauffele, who had started the day alongside Casey in joint second, held steady in the toughening conditions reeling off four pars before carding his first birdie of the day at the fifth to join Fowler at the top.

It was also smooth sailing for Kim Si-Woo as the South Korean finished his first nine with back-to-back birdies at 17 and 18 and stormed through the turn with a third consecutive birdie to get to

six-under, one back of the co-leaders. Japan's Satoshi Kodaira was making the biggest move of the day, opening with back-to-back birdies and adding two more at 11 and 12 to reach three-under for the championship, four back of the pacesetters.

Newly branded as the "ultimate test in golf", the US Open has long been famed for its toughness and Erin Hills was expected to add to that hard-man reputation. But under sunny skies on Thursday, Erin Hills looked more friend than foe with 44 golfers breaking par to set a record for the opening round of a US Open.

Fowler will be among the later starters along with defending champion Dustin Johnson, who opened defence of his crown with shaky three-over 75 and will need to mount a charge to make the cut.—Reuters ■

MFF celebrates 70th founding anniversary

MYANMAR Football Federation-MFF celebrated the 70th founding anniversary in Yangon yesterday, honouring old selected players of Myanmar national team with cash assistance. The ceremony was held at the Thuwunna artificial lawn, with one-minute silence for late three old athletes and victims of the military transport plane crash.

Chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and Chairman of the Myanmar Selected Athletes Association U Tin Aung made remarks.

Chairman U Zaw Zaw and two vice-chairmen Sai Sam Tun and U Pyai Phyo Teza presented gifts to former chairmen U Aung Din, U Saw Shwe and U Thaung Htaik while General-Secretary of the MFF U Ko Ko Thein to U Tin Aung to mark the event before cutting a cake.

Following the event, Chairman U Zaw Zaw and former selected athletes played football to mark the 70th anniversary of the federation which was founded on 17th May 1947.—Nyi Myat Thawdar ■



U Zaw Zaw, Chairman of Myanmar Football Federation, vies for the ball with a former selected player. PHOTO: PHOE THAWZIN

Thein Zaw Myint leading Myanmar internal golf tourney

THEIN Zaw Myint with 206 strokes was leading in man's professional level at the third day of the third series of the Myanmar internal golf tournament sponsored by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar

PGA with Myawady Bank as the main supporter.

In man's amateur level, Maung Mae was leading with 212 strokes, and in woman's amateur level, Thin Wai Khaing was leading with 156 strokes

in the tourney held at Hanthawady Golf Course in Bago.

Thirty professionals, 108 male amateurs and 12 female amateurs totaling 150 are taking in the tourney.—Po Thaw Zin ■

Konta through to semi-finals in Nottingham

NOTTINGHAM — Top seed Johanna Konta overcame a second-set wobble against Australia's Ashleigh Barty to claim a 6-3, 7-5 victory and reach the semi-finals of the Nottingham Open on Friday.

Cheered on by the home crowd the world number eight eased through the first set but fell a break behind in the second before upping her game to avoid a deciding set. "I only had one little dip but I tried to stay strong. I felt I was able to raise my game," Konta, who will carry Britain's hopes in the Wimbledon women's singles next month, said after reaching the semis without dropping a set. "It was definitely a nice little comeback," Konta added. "I worked very hard to get myself back into that second set and stop Ashleigh from running



Great Britain's Johanna Konta. PHOTO: REUTERS

away with it."

Konta won a round at Wimbledon for the first time last year after four opening round defeats but after her rapid rise up the rankings, including the title in Miami this year, she will be expecting a deep run at the All England Club.

She will continue to sharp-

en her game with a Saturday semi-final in Nottingham against Magdalena Rybarikova who beat American qualifier Kristie Ahn. Croatia's Donna Vekic, a former finalist at the Birmingham grasscourt event, also reached the last four with a 6-2, 6-3 defeat of Greek player Maria Sakkari.—Reuters ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

18 JUNE 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Silence,
please!

MANY years ago, very few people were able to use mobile phone as it was difficult to buy in higher price. Not everyone could get one easily. It was assumed that not only for communicative device but also for the pride of ownership in a particular society. In general, most people had to rely on public pay phone to contact each other. Obviously, Myanmar is left in telecommunication system to compare with other countries, even in Southeast Asia, because of some needs.

Our government made an effort for the public to be able to use mobile phones. Then the price of mobile SIM cards gradually went down and most people can afford to buy it. However, some had to wait to use because of not having enough SIM cards in mobile market. Luckily, there were some phone operators that came to invest in Myanmar. People hope them for being able to purchase enough SIM cards and better services. At present, everyone can easily buy, and use mobile phone and other internet services from different operators as they wish.

Thanks to all mobile operators! The percentage of mobile users in Myanmar has significantly increased right now, and all family members can own mobile phones to contact each other easily. On the other hand, we shouldn't use mobile phone without taking care of our surroundings. We must notice for mobile etiquettes while we are using it. Some are unaware of that, and consequently it can be annoying for the others.

There will be some etiquette for using mobile phone. Here are some bad manners that can often be seen in our society. For example, some talk loudly on the phone in public areas such as on the bus or in a restaurant. If you do so, the people around you will feel uncomfortable for that. If the phone rings while you are on the bus, talk briefly or send SMS back. If you are in a restaurant, it's better to take your phone away and talk when it rings. In addition, be sure to make your phone silent and avoid texting or taking calls either in an important meeting or discussion.

The worst thing I had experienced was that some people didn't realize to keep their phone silent even at the meditation center. It was really irritating if the phone rang while the others were concentrating on their work in a quiet surrounding. Another thing that makes annoyed surrounding can also be seen in Movie Theaters. We should make our phones silent during the movie. There will be other annoying manners that people are using mobile phones wrongly in daily life without realization the etiquette, but not intentionally. So we should try to know dos and don'ts about mobile phone not to make the others uncomfortable in public. ■



Mg Win Myat
University of Foreign
Languages, Yangon

The Beast inside

Honey Soe

Do not express your anger on your eyes
For your eyes will reveal you are wild.

Do not express your anger in your voice.
For your voice will break no ice.

If you let your anger find its way out.
Then it will make you cry out loud.

Loud enough to put an end to all friendships.
Fixing needs just to keep a stiff upper lip

You can go mad at anyone as people do
Mind it is when they judge you are who

Anger can make you a kind of fool.
Remember it's always smarter to play it cool. ■



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 7: Sentences

We have studied 6 Lessons up till now and we come to know something about Nouns and something about Verbs.

So, we can start study about sentences , the simplest kind of sentences.

“A Sentence is a group of words which makes complete sense.”

Let’s see the examples.

The boy runs.

In this sentence, we all know and understand the sense of this group of words. It is a sentence.

If we say “the boy beats”, do you understand the sense of this group of words? You may ask, “The boy beats what?”

So, this group of words is not a sentence.

Exercise 7

- I.** Say which groups of words in the followings are sentences.
- (a) The girl sings a song.
 - (b) Children like.
 - (c) Parents love children.
 - (d) The princess is beautiful.
 - (e) The King is.
 - (f) The dog is chasing after the cat.
 - (g) Have you seen the rainbow?
 - (h) I want to.
 - (i) Can you cook?
 - (j) Shall we be rich?

II. Write 10 sentences of your own.

Note that every sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full-stop (.)

Here you will see that every sentence has at least a Verb. If you have a Noun and a Verb, you can make a sentence. But it needs to have a complete sense. If it does not make complete sense, it is not a sentence.

About all these groups of words, which do not make complete sense, we will study later in detail.

For today’s lesson, let’s study more about “sentences”.

We can divide a sentence into two different parts called, “the Subject” and “the Predicate”.

The part which contains the Noun which is the doer of an action is called “the Subject”.

And the other part is called “the Predicate”.

e.g. Let us study the following examples.

Subject	Predicate
(a) The little boy	kicks the ball.
(b) The girls	sing a sweet song.
(c) Children	can play the whole evening.
(d) It	rains.
(e) The dog	is chasing after the cat.
(f) The Pilot	flew his plane for 6 hours.
(g) These celebrities	are pretty .
(h) Mary	had a little lamb.
(i) Many ducks	are swimming in the pool.
(j) That thick book	is very old.

Here you will see that “the Subjects” are all doers of the actions. So, “the Subject” is the doer of the action and the other part is “the Predicate”.

Then, look at the other part which is called the “Predicate”.

Here, in some sentences, we have another Noun on which the action is being done.

e.g. In sentence (a), the Subject “The little boy” does the action “kicks” onto the Noun “the ball”.

It is called “the Object”.

“An Object is a Noun on which the action is done by the Subject.

So, in the above sentences, we can find “Objects” as follows: ..

(a) the ball	(b) a sweet song	(c) No Object	(d) No Object	(e) the cat
(f) his plane	(g) No Object	(h) A little lamb	(i) No Object	(j) No Object

Here comes the Exercise 7

- III.** Underline the Subjects and double-line the Predicates in the following sentences.
- (a) Birds are singing sweetly.
 - (b) I will pluck all these mangoes.
 - (c) Students should read this book.
 - (d) Our teachers correct our mistakes in English.
 - (e) Johnny had a little puppy.
 - (f) Tomorrow is my birthday.
 - (g) Mother bakes that cake.
 - (h) Pretty flowers are blooming beautifully.
 - (i) Do you know the Ugly Duckling?
 - (j) The moon is shining up there.
- Did you find any Objects in these sentences? If you did find and Objects, please mention them here sentence by sentence as I did in my examples.

IV. Make 10 sentences of your own and say which are Subjects, which are Predicates and which are Objects.

So, we have come to know that a group of words which makes complete sense is called a sentence.

Here what groups of words do not make complete sense?

These are called “Phrases” or “Clauses”

A Group of words which has a Verb in it , but which does not make a complete sense is called “a Clause “ and

A Group of words which does not have a Verb and does not make complete sense is called “a Phrase “

For example,

on the tree, in the kitchen, up there, with his mother , out of the house are Phrases, and who knows the meaning, which is on the table, who sits beside me, when he comes back, where there was an ocean are Clauses.

Exercise 7

- V.** Give 5 examples of Phrases and 5 examples of Clauses.
- VI.** Underline the Phrases and double-line the Clauses in the following sentences.
- (a) I know the boy who got 100 marks in Mathematics.
 - (b) We saw apples on the tree.
 - (c) The moon is shining up there.
 - (d) It rains under the rain cloud.
 - (e) Pussy finds the fish in the meat-safe.
 - (f) She wants to be friends with the singer who sang “Bo Aung Din”.
 - (g) I can make cakes which are delicious.
 - (h) Do you see the flowers in the field?
 - (i) He who lies late, will never be wise.
 - (j) I don’t like the old clock on the wall.

So, we have learned a lot today . We have learned “Sentences”, “the Subjects”, “the Predicates”, “the Objects”, “the Phrases” and “the Clauses”.

Hope that you understand up to this lesson. It is only the beginning of “Sentences”. Many more will come up in the coming lessons.

Bye for now Class! Hope you can do your Exercises well.

See you next Sunday!

Your English Teacher, GNLM.

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

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

Exercise 6

- I. Examples of 10 Verbs are:..**
- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| goes, | is writing , | have done, | will read, | said, |
| kicked, | sees, | eat, | gave, | was crying |
- II.** The Verbs in the sentences are:..
- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| (a) are marching | (b) are playing | (c) see | (d) will see |
| (e) writes | (f) is attending | (g) has done | (h) was cooked |
| (i) was kicked | (j) are having | | |
- III.** Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable Verbs, Examples
- | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| (a) saw | (b) digs | (c) are doing | (d) constructed | (e) builds |
| (f) has made | (g) knows | (h) went | (i) owns | (j) tell |

Professional Ethics

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

THE professions are essentially occupations which have developed a heightened self-consciousness and an acute awareness of their social distinctiveness.

What distinguishes them from other occupations is that they seek to develop, or have developed and seek to maintain, a more or less COMPLETE IDENTITY for their members to enjoy: a doctor IS a doctor and not simply a man who finds employment as a doctor; a pedagogue IS a pedagogue and not one who is working as a teacher.

Professionalization, thus, involves an occupation in a search for a rationale for the particular identity it claims for itself which is sufficiently convincing to win the assent of both its members and its clients. The professionalizing occupation has to persuade its members to see themselves as a profession, i.e. as wielders of authority, and those it serves to see themselves as clients, i.e. being subject to this authority. To this end, it typically seeks to show that the nature of the work it does is much as both to require and to cultivate in those who do it not only SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS, but also SPECIAL QUALITIES of MIND and CHARACTER.

It argues that only if these skills and virtues are given free rein unhampered by the practitioner's reluctance to wield the authority to confer, or their clients' willingness to concede it ..will the professions' work be properly done.

By the very nature of these claims a profession exposes itself to pressures from two directions: from changes in the problems and needs whose solution and satisfaction exercise its expertise. In short, professionalism provides the rationale for the present-day professions' attempts to accommodate, on one hand, the explosive impact of scientific and technological growth upon their traditional expertise and, on the other, the increasingly articulate, informed and imperative demands made upon them by lay clients, employers and policy-makers who can match their professional authority with authority of their own.

California University's Dr. Kornhauser has chosen as the distinguishing features of professions the following characteristics: ..

- (i) Expertise
- (ii) Autonomy
- (iii) Commitment, and
- (iv) Responsibility.

Whether we are talking about law, medicine, defense, engineering, or teaching, we must remember that a professional ... regardless of the particular profession of which he is a part ...

.... is a liberally educated person...
.... possesses a body of specialized skills and knowledge related to and for the performance of his function ...

.... is able to make rational judgments and to take appropriate action within the scope of his activities, and is responsible for the consequences of his judgments and actions ...

.... places primary emphasis upon his service to society rather than upon his personal gain...

.... actively participates with his colleagues in developing and enforcing standards fundamental to continuous improvement of his profession and abides by those standards in his own practice...

.... practices his profession on a full-time basis...

.... is engaged in a continuing search for new knowledge and skill

Earlier, the writer has written that the professional must take the responsibility of treating his layman as an end.

An important corollary of this obligation (of treating layman as ends) is the necessity, by the public or at least those that are directly concerned, for recognizing the autonomy of the professional, or Kornhauser's second pro-features.

As his expert knowledge makes him alone competent to determine what service is good for a particular layman, so too it must be left to him to set appropriate standards for professional practice in general. Naturally, this autonomy must extend also to determining criteria for admission to the profession and programmes of training suitable for that purpose. There is always room for improvement in all professions in the standards for actual entry, in the selection of those who enter, and in the preparation to which they are exposed. The layman should NOT try to prescribe, through the legislature or otherwise, for the professional in these important areas. The layman or any other un-professional person doing this would be assuming

ethical prerogatives for which he is UNFITTED.

King has noted that expertise and autonomy are two sides of the same coin: the professional's expertise is the basis for his claims to use his judgments autonomously within the field covered by it and autonomy is the condition for the successful exercise of his expertise. Or, in Kornhauser's words, "professional expertise is based on the belief that the performance of a vital function in society requires specialized knowledge and skills, which must be acquired ... through prolonged education and experiences", while professional autonomy is based on the belief that the qualified possessors of this specialized knowledge and skills" are best able to determine how the function ought to

be performed, and that each practitioner must be free to exercise his own judgment in the specific case.

In other words, a threat to a profession's autonomy is inevitably read as a challenge to the expertise upon which it rests.

The professional man can be said to be uniquely charged with being the exclusive custodian of a large segment of public welfare. The society must have some kind of assurance that its professional people are faithfully executing the weighty ethical obligation which their advanced training has thrust upon them. Ordinarily the guarantee of professional integrity is to be found in the professional's DISINTERESTED DEDICATION to the welfare of his public. The professional must dispense his expert service primarily for the benefit of others. His own personal advancement and material comfort must be unequivocally subordinated to the public he serves.

Next comes the matter of FINANCIAL REMUNERATION for the professional. The essential difference between a CRAFT and a PROFESSION is that the former is carried on primarily for FINANCIAL GAIN, while the latter always counts financial remuneration of secondary importance. The situation is similar to that of Myanmar "pyinn-ya-the" and "pyinn-yashin". However, the English word "professional" possesses another meaning: this meaning

denotes a person who not only takes pay for his services but probably would not perform at all except for pay.

In this vein, Socrates denounced the Sophists of his day accepting pay for their teaching. These teachers, known as Elder Sophists, never formed a school in the institutional sense, but operated as free-lance lecturers in competition with each other, for fees. The fees seem to have been high. For example, Abdera's Protagoras (500-420 BC.) demanded 10,000 drachmas for a two or three-year course of instruction at a time when a drachma was a skilled worker's daily wage. Plato even referred to a Sophist's function as that of "paid hunter of the young ... a sort of trader in intellectual disciplines of the soul."

Today, it is considered quite dignified to live by the sweat of one's brow, till this sweat drops from one's forehead to his toes, but good forms still demands that the professional be motivated primarily by the idea of SERVICE rather than of gain.

Aristotle accounted for good forms on ETHICAL rather than SOCIOECONOMIC grounds; he made a distinction between activities that are "HONORABLE" and those that are merely "useful". The value of honorable activities is that they are self-contained; they result in perfecting the self of the doer. The value of useful activities, on other hand, is that they lie outside the self; they are contingent on someone or something else.

In modern societies, it is generally accepted that becoming and being a professional person requires the repeated hurdling of countless obstacles, the maturing of innate traits one already has in embryo form, and the painstaking development of some that one never seems to have had in the first place. Hence, professionalism has been defined, and professional ethics clarified, the writer hopes adequately. ■

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Mae Nu Brick Monastery is located in Innwa, Mandalay Region, on the East bank of the Ayeyawady River.
PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

By Maung Thar (Archaeology)

INNWA SAW a well-known historical site in which 4 Myanmar Kings took royal offices for four times in the history of Myanmar for nearly 400 years from AD 1364 to AD 1751. Westerners used to name First Myanmar (Pagan Era) Kingdom of Pagan, with Second Myanmar (Taunggoo Era) Kingdom of Pegu named, Third Myanmar (Konebaung Era) Kingdom of Ava, Court of Ava written. Only “Ava” had been put on record as the city of Innwa or Amarapura.

Innwa City in History

Soe San Kodawgyi, the daughter of Athinkhayar Sawyoon, the Founder of Sagaing & Thadon Minphyar, the son of Tagaung Minyoe Thadon founded Innwa in 726 ME (AD 1364) the founding Myanmar Era year of Innwa City had been coded as “Htoke Khun Thar, Innwa Tee.” Altogether, 31 kings reigned through 5 periods of Innwa Era, with 17 kings ruling in the first Innwa period (AD 1364-1554), 10 kings in the second Nyaung Yan period (AD 1597-1751), 3 kings in the third Innwa period (AD 1763-1782), one king in the fourth Innwa period (AD 1819-1837).

There did emerge famous poet laureates in Innwa era, 23 in the first Innwa period, 12 in the 2nd Innwa period, 9 in 3rd Innwa period and 5 in 4th Innwa period, 49 in all. Prior to founding Innwa, Thadon Minphyar ascended the throne after com-

mitting regicide of Badwedaw Min Pyauk, his uncle & Naungdaw U Zanar Pyaung, brother, managing court affairs residing in Pinya. Yet, soon after coming to throne, he set up Innwa royal city on 6th Waxing, Tuesday of month Tabauing in ME 726 (AD 1364, 26th January), assuming that Pinya was situated in unfavorable position to assassinate his targets. Just after 3 years of taking office in Innwa, Thadon Minphyar passed away. After his demise, Mingyi Swa Zaw Ke, Taraphyar, First Min Goung, Thihathu, Minhla Ngae, Kalay Kyaetaung Ngoy, Moehnyin, Moe Hnyin, Minye Kyaw Zwa, Nara Patigy, Maha Thiha Thura, Second Min Goung, Shwenan Ktawt Shin, Thohan Bwa, Ohnbaung Khon Hmine, Moebye Nara Pati and Sithu Kyaw Htin ruled Innwa successively. In 1554, Bayintnaung, King of Taunggoo conquered Innwa, taking King Sithu Kyaw Htin as POW to Hanthawady. After 43 years Myanmar’s royal city moved from Innwa to Hanthawady, to be exact, in 1597, 2nd Innwa (Nyaung Yan) Era, Innwa became a royal city, but in 1751 Maha Dhamma Yarzar Dhipati was forced to have been taken to Hanthawady. Thenceforth, a series of rulers of Innwa was disconnected. King Myaydoo, 3rd king of Konebaung dynasty transferred to Innwa in AD 1765, so the period from 1765 to 1783 was named 3rd Innwa Era. In the reign of King Badon the king’s royal court had been in Amarapura in the years 1783—1823, with Bagyidaw took his royal court in Innwa from 1823 till 1837.

Inn-Na-Wa or Innwa

It has been described in “Myanmar Encyclopedia” that Innwa situated at the confluence of Ayeyarwady river & Dote-Htar-Wady river is a city founded after filling 9 fishery ponds with earth, it got the name, “Inn-Na-Wa” meaning 9 fishery ponds, viz., Yay-Kyar Inn, Sane Inn, Nyaung Zauk Inn, Wet Che Inn, Un-Hne Inn, Lin-San Inn, Inn-Ma Inn, Bay-Mae Inn & Wan-Bae Inn. Some say that Innwa had been founded after filling 4 fish farms—Nga-Gyin Inn, Kyauk-Maw Inn, Inn-Pu Inn & Un-Hne Inn with earth. Others called it, Yadanar Pura, Thanhlyet Kyun, Thanhlyet Khon, and etc., And people mostly wrote its name “Awa” as it was situated at the mouth of the river Myitnge (a) Dotehtawady. [N.B—Awa means at the mouth of something.] Yet, it was named Innwa in the reign of King Tazeeshin Thihathu.

Being situated on a triangular piece of land, it shaped like a Myanmar king’s regalia—four-edged dagger by linking Ayeyarwady & Dotehtarwady rivers with Myitthar creek. According to the index of Myanmar map, it is located at 21 degree 52 minutes of north latitude and 96 degree 1 minute of east longitude, 2 miles 4 furlongs far away from north of Tada-U, 20 miles far from south-west of Mandalay and at 285 ft above the sea level. Once in the past, Innwa was a major place en route from the upper reach to the lower reach of the Ayeyarwady river; simultaneously a transit camp for Yunnan province of China from the east and India from the west.

At the time of founding Innwa, there were 9 city gates built namely, Kalay, San-ya, Winmanar, Kyawbon, Thazi, U-Ti, Aung Tun, Man Aung, Gaungsay, with 4 in the east—Zinmei, Mottama, Moegaung and Seittagoke; 4 in the west Gandalayit, Kyaing Ye, Sanda Puri and Kyaing Yone; 4 in the south Kaing Mar, Hanthawady, Myinde and Konebaung; 2 on the bank of Ayeyarwady in the north Taninthari and Yoedayar added to former 9 gates, reaching 23 in all.

Sayargyi Dr Than Tun, a well-known Myanmar historian concluded that Innwa’s location has been the best out of 6 royal cities of Konebaung period. In Yadanar-bon era, later part of Konebaung period, King Mindon built 3 forts—Hsingyone, Thabyaedon and Asigan on the bank of Ayeyarwady nearby Innwa, Sagaing and Mandalay so as to hinder the approach of British warships in the form of an obtuse triangle.

At the time when Innwa was initially built, there had been only one wall surrounding the city. In 1765, King Hsinphyushin Myaydumin, extended the Old City, making another wall surrounded, which had become 2750 cubits long. In the midst of Old Innwa City, the Old Royal Tower is still being found as seen usually in old Myanmar kings’ palaces. Innwa Royal Tower with 90-ft in height was built by King Bagyidaw in AD 1822, with the upper part of the tower ruined and slightly tilted to the north, due to the earthquake which struck in 1822. However, it had been renovated as in its original form, standing tall as the Myanmar

architecture of early 19th century, with original brick pillars of the tower nearby and the old pond in which Setkyawadei King used to play, as per people’s saying.

According to data recorded by the department of archaeology and national museum, there were about 300 ancient religious edifices in the Old Innwa. Among them, wooden wall, Kyawbon Gate, “Maha Zeya Pahta Bridge” Nan Myint Tower, Hsingyone Fort, Mae Nu Mansion named “Aung Myay Bon Zan,” Bargayar wooden monastery, Lay Htat Kyee Pagoda and Lawka Tharaphu Pagoda are remarkable ones.

Bargayar Monastery

“Bargayar” wooden monastery was built at one mile far from north-west of Innwa palace in 1196 ME in the reign of King Bagyidaw. The monastery measuring 188 ft in length & 103 ft I width has 267 teak posts, with the biggest one measuring 9 ft in circumference & 60 ft in height. Teak posts were erected into the ground with 7 cubits of every post under the soil. All the posts holed in the middle were wedged with wooden beams on which wood planks were put. Lower parts of teak posts can be seen from afar.

Twelve years after Mae Nu Mansion had been constructed with bricks, wooden Bargayar monastery was built. Both were religious edifices. Just after making an elephant climb on to the monastery on completion of the construction, the monastery was said to have been handed over



Bargayar wooden monastery is located in Innwa, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

for donation only if the edifice would not yield to the weight of an elephant. The building was surrounded on four sides with teak planks measuring 2 ft in length & 2 inches in thickness, on which floral arabesques were depicted. Wooden planks were spread on the floor by combining with iron bars. At the head of the monastery was a sacred marquee whereas the building was built with 4 tiered-and-spire-like-roof levels. Moreover, the interior and exterior were decorated with myriad sculptures. Sign-board erected by archaeology department in front of the monastery reads in English-Myanmar bilingual languages, “The monastery sees ancient Myanmar architecture and sculptural heritage on art which is a rarity these days.”

Mae Nu Mansion

Out of historical and religious edifices in Old Innwa, Mae Nu Brick Monastery is the one of great grandeur. Aung Myay Bon Zan Oakkyauing which King Bagyidaw, the founder of the fourth Innwa City & Chief Queen Nanmadaw Mae Nu built is situated at the north-east of short-drum-like wall of old Innwa city & at the north of Hti Hlaing Pagoda. The monastery “Mae Nu Brick Mansion” was named after the donor Mae Nu (Nanmadaw meant Royal Queen), instead of its real name, “Aung Myay Bon Zan.”

Sayardaw U Budh who had ever made a remarkable admonition, “Mi Nu is required to pay if she is indebted” resided in this monastery, a symbol of Innwa which

lasted for ages. The mansion measuring 192 ft in length, 112 ft in width and 94 ft in height built on a considerable high land was constructed on Tuesday 5th waning of Nattaw month, 1184 ME (AD 3rd December 1822.) Upon completion, on Tuesday 13th waxing of Tabauing month, 1189 ME (AD 1828 29th January the monastery named “Aung Myay Bon Zan” was officially donated to “Ponnyarbi Thiri Maha Dhamma Rarzar di Razar Guru” title recipient “Nyaunggan Sayardaw”, who was also renowned as “U Po.” In 1830 after the demise of Sayardaw U Po, the King & the Queen donated the monastery to U Budh, also born in Nyaunggan village. In the history of Buddhism in Myanmar, there is a well-known saying that Budh the first (Lord Buddha), Budh the middle (Shin Maha Buddha Gosa) and Budh the final (Sayardaw U Budh). While residing at the Innwa Aung Myay Bon Zan monastery, Sayardaw U Budh compiled 40 Treatises on Buddhism.

In building the mansion with artistic delicacy of Myanmar’s architecture in Konebaung Era, it cost over 3 lakhs in the then currency value. The sacred marquee, four sides of which were constructed open, and the main hall were separately built with 9 ft apart. The main hall was partitioned into rooms surrounded by path for monks to reside in. Wonderfully enough, wooden doors at the passage were fastened with iron rings attached to the door panes without any hinges. The mansion has 7 stairs.

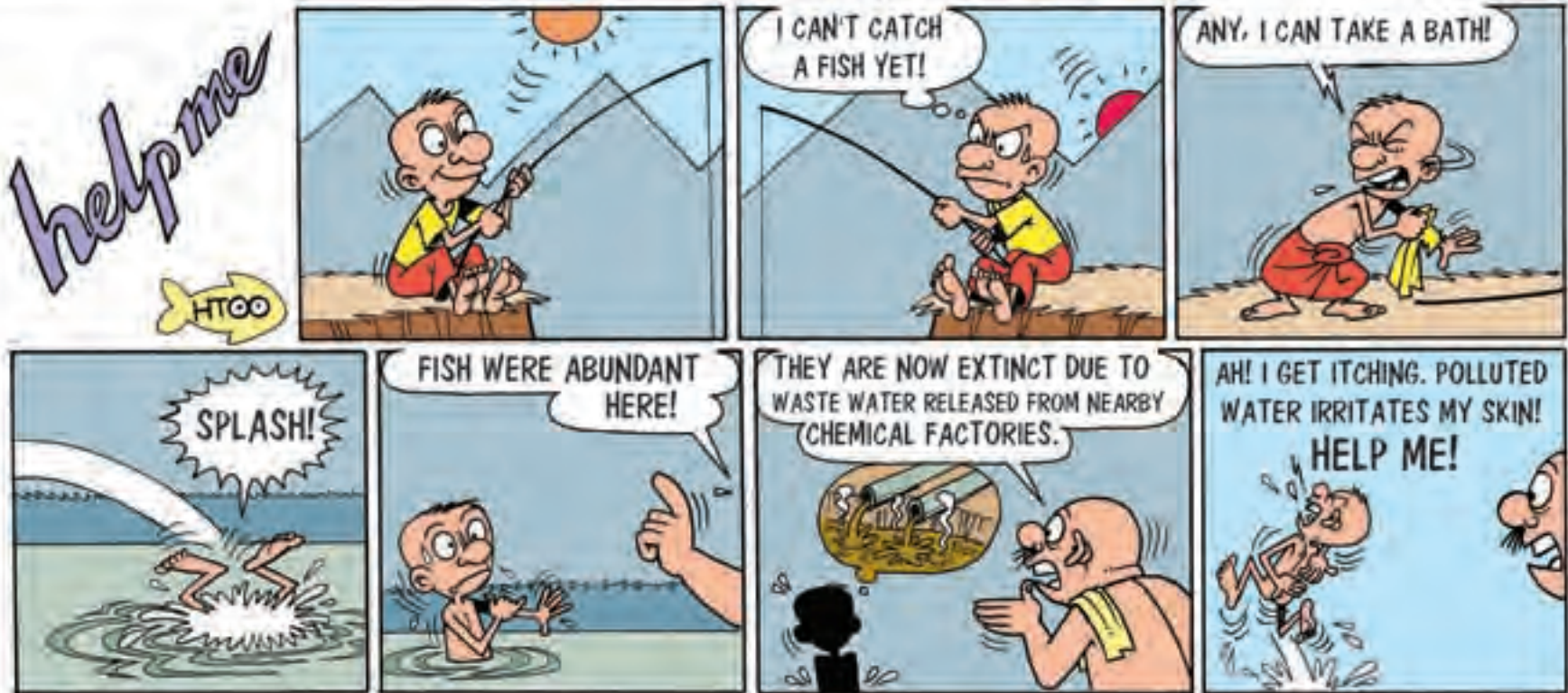
King Tharyarwady decided an execution order to drown in a way of execution for royalty accusing that Chief Queen Mae Nu tried to dethrone the king. On Tuesday, 12th waxing of Kason month 1202 ME (AD 1840, 12th May) to execute her, Nanmadaw Mae Nu asked the mayor and executioners for permission to pay an ultimate respect to Sayardaw U Budh, saying that this was her valedictory visit to Sayardaw. Sayardaw averted his eyes from reading to face the queen, saying “Mi Nu, you will pay if you are indebted to him.” The writer Nyo Mya sorrowfully wrote in his “Search for Konebaung Era,” that Mae Nu, the donor of the monastery followed executioners without a hint of fear, just after the end of the Sayardaw’s speech.

Though having been ruined by the quake in AD 1838, Mae Nu Mansion was renovated by Sinbyumashin, the daughter of Mae Nu. The monastery became a famous heritage of Innwa on account of Myanmar’s architecture, crafts of masonry and art of stone sculpture of Late Konebaung Era.

Bargayar & Mae Nu Monasteries stand tall as historical heritages of Innwa and religious edifices for Myanmar. Hence, the whole populace is required to conserve these ancient buildings by laying great stress on these and in admiration.—

Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U) ■
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SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2017



Investors expect to get guarantees, securities and easy process for obtaining permits in Myanmar

A wide-ranging interview with Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Ito Sumardi by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Indonesia and Myanmar.

Q: We've learned that the Republic of Indonesia is the world's largest island country as well as the world's fourth most populous country. Throughout history Myanmar and Indonesia have maintained strong diplomatic relationships. So Indonesia has been supporting Myanmar's democratization process since the acceptance of ASEAN membership. So please share your impression on Myanmar's transition to democracy.

A: The Myanmar government has tried to create the peace process through the Union Peace and Panglong conference and we know that this is a very, very constructive effort. But they realize that if they want to spread the peace process among the ethnic groups that have different visions and expectations, it is not an easy effort. This is why until now Indonesia stills stand behind Myanmar to support the peace process. Since we've passed the reformation process in my country, we already have experience running a democratic country and passing the transition process peacefully. So we try to share our experience and knowledge with the Myanmar government. We believe the Myanmar government can solve the problems and pass the process to create peace.

Q: Regarding the Union Peace Conference -21st Century Panglong, what is your opinion on Myanmar's endeavors for peace through trust building?

A: I believe Myanmar has already done a great work to create the peace process through the Panglong conference. I believe not all of the ethnic groups will accept the concept for the peace process but I believe Myanmar will get the result shortly from the process because as you know, every Myanmar people here want to be one with the country.

Q: Regarding the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, please share Indonesia's experience for that process.

A: Actually, since a long time ago, Indonesia has built for the process through the Institute for Peace and Democracy in Bali, with former Minister for Foreign Affairs Hassan Wirajuda as Chairman. I think they will make another trip to Myanmar and share their experience on how to make the concept for the peace process here. The Institute also has donations from some other countries so I think the



Indonesian Ambassador Ito Sumardi speaks during the interview at the Indonesian Embassy in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

I know about the situation in Rakhine because my experience as a former policeman tells me that maybe some of the information that spreads outside of Myanmar may not be true.

Myanmar can take some advantages from the IPD on how to make the peace process go smoothly.

Q: As Myanmar is implementing economic and political reforms in parallel, how will Indonesia cooperate with Myanmar in the economic sector?

A: Indonesia and Myanmar have a longstanding bilateral relationship in both economic and political aspects. Since the new government has taken office, we believe that through the openness and trans-

parent policy implemented by the new government, investors from Indonesia will be more enthusiastic. We know that Myanmar has rich natural resources that are still not optimally exploited yet. That is why, as the Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar, I have the vision and mission to enhance and strengthen the relationship between Indonesia and Myanmar. I try to invite investors and businessmen from Indonesia but we're still waiting for the developing politics here because these businessmen and investors expect to get guarantees, securities and easy process for obtaining permits in Myanmar. As the new democratic country like Indonesia before, they face the problems of a new country, especially investment. That is why Indonesia's economic and diplomatic diplomacy till now hasn't changed yet but we will try to enhance and create more opportunities for investment and businesses in Myanmar in the future.

Q: A lot of migrant Myanmar workers are working in Indonesia, so I think that is a kind of special economic relationship. So what do you think about its prospects?

A: As I've mentioned, Myanmar has very rich natural resources so our efforts from the Indonesian government is trying to invest in here by establishing factories because that means we will create

job opportunities here. Besides that, we know that most Myanmar workers are not educated well so we have plans to create and establish skill training centers here because of you only send Myanmar people to work in Indonesia or other countries abroad, it's not good for Myanmar because you have to develop your own country.

Q: Myanmar acknowledges and appreciates Indonesia's support and also its important role, especially Indonesia's stand on Myanmar's internal affairs like the communal conflicts in Rakhine State. ASEAN is going to celebrate its 50th anniversary in August, so what is your inspiration for ASEAN regional grouping unity?

A: In some of the Asian countries like Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand we have similar problems like Myanmar. So it seems we must all hold on to our spirit of an Asian country and realize we are each not alone in this. We had sovereignty and I know well about Myanmar after three and a half years here, so I know about the situation in Rakhine because my experience as a former policeman tells me that maybe some of the information that spreads outside of Myanmar may not be true. We must understand the reason because Myanmar has sovereignty so we must give an opportunity to the Myanmar government to solve their own problems. If Myanmar tries to solve the problems with their best effort and respect human rights, then all the countries in the world will support Myanmar. For me, personally, we as Asian countries must support and stand behind Myanmar.

Q: Can you please share some of the activities of the Indonesian Embassy in Myanmar?

A: Since I was assigned in Myanmar as ambassador, my first step was to learn the culture of Myanmar and some diplomatic aspects like economy, politics, social and so on. It is very interesting for me because Myanmar and Indonesia have very similar cultures. So next I try to evaluate what kind of things we've already done so far from my predecessor. After that I try to make our mission efficient during our term in Myanmar. So we've done a lot of things in Myanmar regarding the economy. I've invited big investors from Indonesia to Myanmar and some of them have set up good projects here, for instance, like the chicken farm Japfa Comfeed. Day by day they fill up their factories and they can absorb the workers here also fulfill the chicken necessity here. We also have plans for agricultural trading like rice and corn.

SEE PAGE-H

Timing is Everything

In life, timing is everything. There is an English saying “Time and tide waits for no man”. That is why all of us have to be careful in managing time. In personal life, in business or in government service, it is very important to meet the deadlines.

In the countryside, the farmers know the value of doing their work according to the changes of the weather, as their work depends upon weather patterns. For example, they have to know when to plough their fields, do the planting of the paddy seeds and also when to reap their harvest. That is why we have the saying in Myanmar, “don’t take out the plough after the rains have gone”.

The businessman also has to be very careful not to miss important deadlines. Whether you are the owner of a very small shop or the Managing Director of a company, the same rules apply about timing. Time management is very important. For example, the owner of a general merchandize store knows what he needs to do at what time. Some of the things need to be done in proper sequence. He must know what his customers need. If he wishes to sell umbrellas during the rainy season, he must make it a point to order umbrellas before the rainy season arrives. This is an example of doing things in proper sequence.

The successful businessman never misses an appointment. He has his own personal system to remind himself either by using a desk calendar or the calendar function in his smart phone. No matter what system you use, it is important that you always arrive ahead of the appointed time so that you have enough time to take a short rest before your meeting.

At the national level, it becomes many times more important, because things need to be done on time. If things are not done on time, government projects will not be successful. For example, when economic reform is not done in proper sequence and on time, the failure of these reforms can affect the lives of the people. Instead of producing the expected results, we can get negative effects.

Some experts say that political reforms need to be done first. Other experts say that economic reforms should come first. In the opinion of the writer, it depends on the situation so there is no hard and fast rule. Each country should be treated as a special unique case.

Answer the following questions.

1. Mention the saying which is concerned with “Timing”.
2. In the countryside, what kind of value do the farmers know?
3. What should a businessman be very careful of?
4. How can a successful businessman manage not to miss an appointment?
5. Which should we do first, the political reform or the economic reform? Give your opinions and your reasons.



Answers for 28 May Comprehension Exercise.

- (1) The Characteristics of “Leaders” are to be active and alert, to sympathize and to be patient and have perseverance, to rationalize and to think of others.
- (2) We like persons who are always active and alert.
- (3) A leader needs to have sympathy and be patient, because although all followers obey their leaders all the time, but sometimes we have some foolish followers who will disobey the leader and bring great harm to the whole organization.
- (4) Leaders who are active and alert, who can sympathize and be patient to their followers, who have perseverance, who have ability to see for the long run, who have the ability to analyze problems and harms, who can find the solution for the problem, and who take care of their followers and who have understanding for their followers’ wrong doings can organize people.
- (5) Examples of 5 great leaders of our country are :....
General Aung San, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Nu, U Thant and U Min Ko Naing

Hope that all of you have answered well!

Bye Bye !

Dr. Nu Nu Win (Mingalar Learning Centre)

Interview with Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Ito Sumardi

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For the infrastructure development we also have one of the biggest constructor companies in Indonesia, Wijaya Karya (Wika) has already partnered with some companies here for projects.

In the health field, we succeeded in inviting one of the biggest private companies, the Lippo Group, and they have already begun working with Pun Hlaing group and we have good modern hospitals and clinics in Pun Hlaing and Siloam. They also have plans to establish thirteen more hospitals in Myanmar. And in the health aspect, we donated one of the hospitals in MraukU as the commitment of the Indonesian government during the crisis in Rakhine since my president already agreed to donate. It is one of the biggest hospitals in MraukU and it is still an ongoing process. I’m very happy because the Rakhine State government supports all of the things we did here. But unfortunately it is still the rainy season so the project is delayed a bit. We also have plans to train the medical and paramedical in Myanmar, and some of the

big hospitals in my country have already agreed to accept Myanmar paramedics for training. And maybe one day, after they go back to their country they can give trainings to the other paramedics, like training the trainers.

Also in the education aspect, since 1968 we’ve established an Indonesian international school in Yangon that at the time was only for the staff and Indonesian people who stayed in Myanmar but after 2002 we started accepting Myanmar people in here. And now we have almost 600 students with 90 per cent Myanmar students. We apply three curriculums: Indonesian curriculum, Myanmar curriculum and Cambridge and every day they have to use English in conversations. So our objective is we try to support the Myanmar Education program in here to produce the human resource with high quality as the State Counsellor expects us to. We also try to contact some famous universities in Indonesia and two of our best universities have agreed to try to organize e-learning in Myanmar.

Q: Are the international school teachers from Indonesia?

A: Mostly the teachers are from Myanmar and have graduated from Indonesian exchange programs and when they finish university in Indonesia and come back to Myanmar, we hire them in our international school. Now we have almost 60 Myanmar teachers teaching in our school. What sets our international school apart from other international schools is that we still have 50 per cent subsidize from the Indonesian government. We hope Myanmar can soon give the status for the ISY, with the new education law.

Q: Are there any other cultural exchange programs?

A: Of course, we also have the joint culture program and every year we perform here and work together with the national art group. We also give the opportunity to accept some of the Myanmar students from university to come study in our country. We are also organizing an interfaith dialogue in Jakarta, accompa-

nying three of the religious leaders from Myanmar including from Buddhists, the Muslim and the Christian communities. I feel that there is one thing that has spread in Myanmar and that is discrimination but I don’t feel that has reached Yangon yet. In my country issues spread widely because of social media, so that is why I and my minister, with strong effort, try to explain to my people that it’s not true.

So I think it can be expected in other countries that you can explain to the people by telling the truth. Sometimes it’s not easy to tell the people that the rumors are not true, and sometimes when guests come visit Myanmar from Indonesia I bring to Sule so that they can see the pagoda and the mosque and the church and see that people here are free to follow their own religion. In my country, in a democratic country, if something happens the police force must be in the lead and the military will support in the back. So I have already sent some of the pictures I took during my visit to Maungdaw to the conflict areas. ■