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People collect drinking water from a lake in Dalla in the southern outskirts of Yangon. A partnership with the World Bank since 2015 has helped families in villages across Myanmar with education, health, clean water, sanitation, electricity for lighting, refrigeration, and business development. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Myanmar, World Bank renews agreement for development aid worth US\$1.2bn

Partnership with World Bank Group Extended to Benefit More Poor People

MYANMAR and the World Bank Group have agreed to a two-year extension of a partnership that will promote growth in rural areas, improve nutrition, health and education services, build infrastructure and create more jobs.

The renewal is of the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) that began in 2015 in an effort to help the country develop, especially in poorer rural areas.

It was Myanmar's first full, nationwide strategy to improve development and human capital in 30 years.

"After a review of the current Country Partnership Framework, Myanmar and the World Bank Group agreed to a two-year extension of the CPF, which aims to end extreme poverty and promote inclusive growth in Myanmar. Over the

next two years, up to US\$1.2 billion in financing by the International Development Association (IDA), one of the World Bank's financing subsidiaries, will be earmarked for Myanmar, to be complemented with technical assistance and advisory services. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, and the Multilateral Investment

Guarantee Agency (MIGA), will continue their support to private lenders and investors based on demand", said a statement released on Friday.

The decision to extend the partnership is in keeping with Myanmar's mission of responsible development, increased infrastructure and the betterment of its people, officials said.

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SUNDAY SPECIAL



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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing returns from Russia

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party who were in the Russian Federation left Sevastopol air base onboard a special Russian military plane on 23 June morning and arrived at the Chkalovskii air base in Moscow.

At the air base, the Senior General inspected an IL-76 TD transport plane used by the Russian military.

In the afternoon, the Senior

General departed from Moscow Demodovo International Airport and arrived in Yangon yesterday afternoon. The Senior General was welcomed at the airport by Commander of Yangon Military Command Brig-Gen Thet Pone, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Nikolay A. Listopadov, Deputy Military Attache Commander Vitaly V. Luchshev and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is welcomed by Russian Ambassador Mr. Nikolay A. Listopadov. **PHOTO: MNA**

Jade stones worth Ks130m seized from two vehicles at Yaypu Inspection Gate

JADE stones worth about Ks130.70 million found in two vehicles were seized at the Yaypu Permanent Inspection Gate on Friday, according to the customs department. A combined inspection team of related departments checked a Ford Ranger and a Mazda heading from Mandalay to Muse and found 1,754 Kg of jade stones and cuttings hidden onboard.

The Yaypu and Mayan-

chung Permanent Inspection Gates were opened to prevent the flow of illegal goods. On Friday, the Yaypu Permanent Inspection Gate confiscated goods with an estimated worth of Ks 130.70 million in four separate incidents. The Mayanchaung Permanent Inspection Gate also uncovered the attempted transport of illegal goods worth of Ks10.7 million in three separate cases.—001 ■



Seized jade stones are seen. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

SWRR Ministry assists ethnic people

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has assisted in rebuilding homes and in the rehabilitation of the people in Kokant Self-administered zone.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, met with local people in Laukkai on 24 June and clarified the peace-making efforts of the government.

His trip to the Kokant Self-administered zone is aimed at assisting the ethnic peoples as part of efforts at closer relations with them, said Dr Win Myat Aye.

Following the meeting, the Union Minister handed over aid including construction materials, cash assistance for buying an ambulance and social pensions for elderly persons.



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meeting with ethnic people in Laukkai. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr Win Myat Aye also visited Hopan, Wa Self-administered Division, and met with locals. Aid provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

was distributed to local people in Laukkai yesterday as they faced shortages of food due to armed conflicts in the area in 2017.—Myanmar News Agency ■

849 children and young people released from Tatmadaw since 2012

Yangon/New York — The Tatmadaw released 67 children and young people from its rank on Friday, according to the joint press release by the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Myanmar UN Country Task force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on Grave Violations against Children.

Since the signature of a Joint

Action Plan (JAP) between the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on Grave Violations against Children and the Tatmadaw in 2012, 849 children and young people have been released by the army.

Today's release is the first discharge of children and young people to take place in 2017, and underlines the importance of protecting children in the con-

text of armed conflict and within the peace process, said the statement.

"We welcome this discharge by the Tatmadaw along with other measures it has taken to prevent new recruitments and the use of children. It is much more difficult to recruit a child today than it was 4 years ago, recruitment procedures have been centralized, physical checks are

strengthened, and assigned military focal points ensure the ranks are aware of the standards" says Bertrand Bainvel, the UNICEF Representative, and co-chair of the UN CTFMR.

In 2017 a number of significant actions have been taken. In February, the Government signed the Paris Principles on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups – an im-

portant international framework for the reintegration of children into civilian life. And last month, the Government relaunched its national campaign to raise awareness amongst the public about its commitment to end use and recruitment of children by Tatmadaw – with radio and TV spots, newspaper inserts, and the reinstallation of billboards across the country.—GNLM ■

Cooperate for long term development of literary sector

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said yesterday that his ministry concerns not only the news media, but also the literary sector, and encouraged literary leaders to help with the long-term development of literature.

During the meeting yesterday morning with members of literary organisations at the central press meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Street in Yangon, Dr Pe Myint said success in nurturing and developing the literary sector will be achieved if literary organisations cooperate in similar areas in addition to working on their own aims. The Union Minister said he expected programmes to be developed concerning the literary sector to come out of yesterday's meeting.

Responsible persons from Myanmar Writers' Association, Myanmar Writers' Union, My-

anmar Poets' Union, Myanmar Literature Lovers' Association, Myanmar Literature Development Association, PEN Myanmar, Myanmar Translators Network and Myanmar Writers' Club discussed matters relating to literary circles, literary personnel, translation, appearance of new writers, holding of a literary congress and development of the literary sector.

The Union Minister commented on the discussion and gave a closing speech.

Yesterday afternoon, the Union Minister met with responsible persons from the Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association and Myanmar Publishers and Booksellers Association and discussed matters relating to printing, publishing and distribution of books.

Later, the Union Minister attended a coordination meeting on the republishing of a Myanmar encyclopedia held in Tun

Commercial Bank (head office), Botahtaung Township, Yangon.

The Myanmar encyclopedia republishing leading committee patron U Thein Tun, chairman Dr. Thaw Kaung (U Thaw Kaung) and committee members then explained the status of work done on publishing Myanmar encyclopedia volume 1 and experts provided suggestions.

Fifteen volumes of the Myanmar Encyclopedia had been published by the Myanmar Translation Society (Sarpay Beikman) from 1954 to 1976. Starting from 1978, an annual Myanmar Encyclopedia (condensed) was published yearly for 39 issues. It is learnt that the Printing and Publishing Department of the Ministry of Information, Sarpay Beikman and Tun Foundations are working together to update and publish the original 15 volumes of the Myanmar Encyclopedia. —Yi Yi Myint & Ohnma Thant ■



Peace Music Festival in July

TO honor the peace making process, Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Forever Group and Shwe Than Lwin Co., led by the Ministry of Information, is holding Peace Music Festivals – song competitions – in Taunggyi, Myitkyina, Mawlamyine, Lashio, Patheingyi, Kalay, Yangon, Sittway, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay starting the first week of July.

Competitors for Level-1 competitions will be selected first by singing any song of their choice without music. Those selected will then compete in a second selection competition by singing a song of their choice playing their own musical equipment and/or by others playing for them. Selected competitors from this second selection competition will then compete in the Level-1 competitions with a full band. These Level-1 competitions will be broadcasted live.

Selected singers from the Level-1 competition will enter Level-2 competitions, where designated peace songs are to be sung. Ten competitors selected from this Level-2 competition are to enter the Level-3 competition by singing new peace songs. From this group three finalists will be chosen for the Grand Final by judges and audience voting system. Selection for first, second and third prize in Grand Final singing contest will also be made by judges and audience voting system. First prize is Ks30 million, second prize Ks20 million, third prize Ks10 million. There will also be seven consolation prizes of Ks3 million each.

Those who want to compete in the competition can check for details and updates at the Peace Music Festival page (www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival).—MRTV ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meeting with dignitaries from printing and publishing organizations. PHOTO: HLA MOE

Myanmar, World Bank renews agreement for development aid worth \$1.2bn

FROM PAGE 1

“The extended World Bank Group’s Country Partnership Framework closely aligns with our economic policy,” said H.E. U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance. “It will help us to consolidate progress and advance toward achieving our key development priorities such as rural development and fostering human capital, through efforts to improve nutrition, infrastructure development, and creation of jobs,

in order for all of Myanmar to benefit from the country’s development.”

A review of the current CPF by the World Bank Group showed progress in the areas of reducing rural poverty, investing in people and effective institutions, and supporting a dynamic private sector to create jobs, the organisation’s statement noted.

“Better schools, roads, and other infrastructure have benefited some 5.4 million people

since 2015. Stipends have helped 150,000 more students attend school. Families in remote villages across Myanmar have benefited from community investments in schools, clinics, clean water, sanitation, electricity for lighting, refrigeration, and running businesses through World Bank-financed education, health, power, and community driven development projects. Over \$1.5 billion of private sector financing was mobilised through loans, equity, and

guarantees by IFC and MIGA, along with a significant program of technical assistance and advisory services” the statement read.

The top World Bank official for Myanmar said the renewal of the agreement allows the organisation to assist in the shared mission of lifting the country out of poverty using its own manpower.

“It is a privilege for the World Bank Group to be a strong partner with the people of Myanmar

on their development journey. We will continue supporting Myanmar with vigor in the coming years,” said Abdoulaye Seck, World Bank Country Manager for Myanmar. “As friends of Myanmar, we listened to stakeholders across 14 states and regions, and were encouraged to learn that our support for growth and development that benefits more people, is consistent with the key directions proposed by the people and new administration.”—GNLM ■

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Sagaing region government to spend over Ks 2.3 billion for rural development

SAGAING Region Rural Area Development Department will spend over Ks 2.3 billion from the regional government fund this fiscal year for development of transportation sectors in rural areas in Sagaing Region, according to Win Oo, a reporter of the Myanmar Alin Daily newspaper.

The Regional Department is planning to build new road

and bridges in those rural areas of Sagaing region.

The department will implement the projects to build the road and bridges with an aim to access the better transportation, develop the living standard of the local people.

"The regional department is constructing the roads and bridges to fulfilling the need

of the rural areas of Sagaing Region. The department is implementing the project annually in the rural areas.

But this fiscal year, the department will spend over Ks 2.3 billion for the rural area development," said an official from the Sagaing Region Rural Area Development Department.

Fiscal year 2017-2018, the

Sagaing Region Department is planning to construct 0/4 mile stone road spending Ks40.9 million from the Sagaing regional government fund, 66/4 mile 27 earthen road spending Ks 2.13 billion, 120-feeth long concrete bridge spending Ks 60 million and 250 feet long suspension bridge spending Ks 136.3 million.—Win Oo (Zayar Time) ■

Myanmar to be dropped from list of worst offenders on child soldiers

SECRETARY of State Rex Tillerson plans to remove Iraq and Myanmar from a U.S. list of the world's worst offenders in the use of child soldiers, U.S. officials said, a step that could prompt accusations the Trump administration is prioritizing security and diplomatic interests ahead of human rights.

The planned removal was made over the objections of experts in the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, which typ-

ically shapes U.S. policy on the issue, said one official with knowledge of the internal discussions.

Tillerson also rejected an internal State Department proposal to add Afghanistan to the list, two U.S. officials said. One official said the decisions appeared to have been made following pressure from the Pentagon to avoid complicating assistance to the Iraqi and Afghan militaries, close U.S. allies in the fight against Islamist

militants. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

Foreign militaries on the list can face sanctions including a prohibition on receiving U.S. military aid, training and U.S.-made weapons unless the White House issues a waiver.

Human rights officials expressed surprise at the delisting, which was expected to be announced on Tuesday, the officials said, as part of the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

A State Department official said the TIP report's contents were being kept under wraps until its release and the department "does not discuss details of internal deliberations."

The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Officials said that although the report had been finalized there was always the possibility of last-minute changes.—By Matt Spetalnick and Jason Szep/ Reuters ■

Fire destroys warehouse in 45 minutes in Yekyi Town

A warehouse fire in a village in Ngathaingchaung, a town in Yekyi Township, Patheingyi District, on Friday morning caused damage estimated at around Ks75,000, according to a report from the Fire Services

Department.

According to the investigation, the fire engulfed the 20-feet wide, and 15-feet high warehouse owned by U Hsan Ni, 61, a bamboo products manufacturer in Shwekyau-

paing village in Daunggyibat village-tract, at 10 a.m. on 23 June while workers were working inside.

The fire was put under control almost 20 minutes after it began. The blaze de-

stroyed the warehouse and its contents.

An investigation to determine the cause of the fire is being carried out by the township fire services department.—Soe Min Oo (IPRD) ■

Light truck overturn kills one, injures five

A light truck overturned between the mileposts 311/3 and 311/4 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway yesterday, leaving one dead and five injured.

The accident happened at 4.30 pm due to a tyre puncture on its way from Mandalay to

Yangon and there were six passengers on board, said police source.

The injured people are not in critical condition.

The driver of the car has been charged for negligence driving.—Than Oo (Lay Hmyat Hnar) ■



PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY POLICE



Agricultural export earnings decreased by US\$ 32 million

The value of forestry product export was over US\$ 52 million and the export value of finished products reached US\$ 968 million. — Min Thu ■

UMFCCI offers Deep Sea Port project, laying YGN-MDY pipeline with JV system

Dr. Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy also suggested that “the route survey should be conducted initially to construct the Deep Sea Port. Then, we should think about the land issue. Public Consultation, Technical Support Report, FS, EIA, SIA reports should be conducted initially.—GNLM ■

Normal trade reaches US\$4.9billion

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, fisheries products, forest products, finished industrial goods and other items while capital goods, raw industrial goods and consumer products are imported into the country. External trade as of 16 June this FY amounted to \$6.39 billion, an increase of \$1billion from last FY.—Ko Htet ■

[illegible]

LDP eyes submitting Constitution proposals to Diet in fall: Abe

KOBE — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Saturday he wants his Liberal Democratic Party to submit proposals for discussions on changing Japan's Constitution during an extraordinary Diet session likely to be convened in the fall.

"I expect LDP proposals to be submitted at the Constitution commissions of the upper and lower houses before the extra Diet session ends," Abe said in a speech in the city of Kobe, indicating his eagerness to step up discussion within the ruling party to realize the first-ever amendment of the country's postwar Constitution.

Abe has set a year-end deadline for the LDP to devise its amendment proposals and it had been widely believed the party would seek to present them to the Constitution commissions in the next regular Diet session to be convened early next year.

The LDP has already started discussions among its members over the possible amendment of the war-renouncing Article 9, after Abe raised the issue of mentioning the Self-Defence Forces in the article to give the organization a legitimate position in the supreme law.

The LDP also sees the expansion of educational opportunities through cost-free education as another area of consideration for a constitutional change.

Abe said in the speech that discussing the future of education is "an extremely important topic" that should be dealt with in connection with constitutional amendments. Abe has a golden opportunity to push for his cherished goal of rewriting the Constitution, drafted under the strong influence of the United States after World War II, as Abe's LDP and other pro-amendment forces have secured the required

two-thirds of seats in each of the two Diet chambers. A majority of the Japanese people must also approve any proposed amendment to the constitution in a referendum. The current Constitution has never been revised since it went into effect in 1947, nor has a bid been made to initiate a formal amendment process, partly because of the high hurdle in proposing an amendment in parliament before it can be put to a referendum.

Abe has said he hopes the revised supreme law will be put into force in 2020, when Japan will host the Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo. Achieving the politically sensitive goal requires careful planning, with two major national elections upcoming — the House of Representatives election by December 2018 at the latest and the House of Councillors election in the summer of 2019. —Kyodo News ■



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, gives a speech in Kobe on 24 June, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

China, US aim to build productive military-to-military relationship

WASHINGTON — China and the United States agree to actively pursue a productive military-to-military relationship that is "constructive, pragmatic, and effective," according to a statement released on Friday.

"Both sides recognized the China-US military-to-military relationship is an important stabilizing factor to the overall bilateral relationship," said the statement released after the First Round of China-US Diplomatic and Security Dialogue.

Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi co-chaired the dialogue with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Defense James Mattis in Washington DC on Wednesday.

China and the United States are committed to implementing in good faith the annual military-to-military exchange program, enhancing high-level

engagements, realizing the exchange of visits between the two defense ministers at an early date and the visit of the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff to China at an early date, according to the statement.

The two sides are also committed to deepening their cooperation in such fields as humanitarian assistance and disaster management, fighting piracy and military medical science.

"The two sides reaffirm the importance of building mutual understanding, and of reducing the risk of miscalculation between our two militaries," said the statement.

Fang Fenghui, a member of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) and chief of the CMC Joint Staff Department, also participated in the Wednesday dialogue. —Xinhua ■

Viet Nam police detain dissident for deportation — wife

HANOI — Vietnamese police detained a French dissident of Vietnamese descent for deportation on Friday after the Communist state revoked his Vietnamese citizenship last month, his wife said.

Pham Minh Hoang, a 61-year-old activist and mathematics lecturer, had dual French and Vietnamese citizenship before Viet Nam canceled his citizenship without giving a reason, a move that drew criticism from human rights groups.

Despite sweeping reforms to the economy and growing openness to social change, the Communist Party retains tight media censorship and tolerates no criticism. Dozens of bloggers and activists are serving sentences for crimes against the state.

Hoang's wife, Le Thi Kieu Oanh, said police came to their house in Ho Chi Minh city on Friday asking to carry out a regular check on their household registration but later forced Hoang to leave with them and said they would deport him the next day.

"My husband refused to go but three to four police officers

used violence to drag him out and locked me inside the house... They also parked a signal-jammer car right in front of our house," Oanh said. The French embassy in Viet Nam said France regretted the Vietnamese authorities decision to revoke Hoang's Vietnamese nationality and to deport him.

"Freedom of expression and of opinion, notably on the Internet, are both guaranteed by the international covenant on civil and political rights to which Viet Nam is a party. France calls on Vietnamese authorities to ensure compliance with these commitments", the embassy said in a statement sent to Reuters. Ho Chi Minh police said they could not provide any information on the case. Hoang was sentenced to three years in jail for attempted subversion in 2011 but was released after 17 months and served three years under house arrest. He frequently posts blogs criticising the Vietnamese government. Oanh said the couple were informed on 1 June by the French consul-general that Hoang's Vietnamese citizenship was being

annulled with a month for him to leave the country, but they refused to comply. "It's Hoang's ideal to stay in Viet Nam to raise a voice and contribute to building freedom and democracy," Oanh said. "After the signal-jammer car left I called the consul general and he just said he acknowledged the situation. What they would do after that, I don't know," she added.

She said the French embassy and consulate in Viet Nam were waiting for guidance from the French foreign ministry because Hoang's Vietnamese and French passports have expired.

Viet Nam's foreign ministry spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang last week defended the decision to revoke Hoang's citizenship, saying it was "conducted in accordance with the provisions of Vietnamese law." Hoang is a member of California-based Viet Tan, a group Viet Nam considers a terrorist organization. "The French government should not take part in the Hanoi regime's brazen exile of a well-known human rights activist," Viet Tan said in a statement. —Reuters ■

People attend colour run in central China



People attend a colour run in Hengyang, central China's Hunan Province on 24 June, 2017. More than 3,000 people took part in the colour run here on Saturday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Russia, India to hold joint military drills in fall

MOSCOW — The first joint Russian-Indian exercise, Indra-2017, is planned to be held in the fall in Russia's Eastern Military District, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Friday.

"Military cooperation is an important component and pillar of Russian-Indian strategic interaction. A particularly important aspect of this cooperation is joint military exercises," Shoigu said at a meeting of the Russian-Indian intergovernmental commission on military-technical cooperation with Indian Minister of Defence Arun Jaitley.

Such drills contribute to an increase of the prestige of the armed forces of the two countries and demonstrate the readiness of their defense departments to effectively counter modern challenges and threats, Shoigu said.

Both sides stressed the big potential of the cooperation in the spheres of missile and naval technologies, aircraft construction, shipbuilding and modernization of the land forces equipment, according to a statement by the Russian Defence Ministry.

A "Road map" of development of bilateral military cooperation between the two defence ministries and the final Protocol, aimed at the development of Russia-India relations in the military-technical sphere, were signed at the end of the Commission meeting, the statement said. —Reuters ■

Sri Lankan doctors call off countrywide strike after talks

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan doctors attached to the Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) on Saturday called off an islandwide strike after three days following successful talks with President Maithripala Sirisena.

The GMOA said that after its executive committee held talks with Sirisena, the doctors decided to suspend their strike.

During the discussions, Sirisena had assured to address the grievances of the doctors and bring in new laws to establish

standards of medical education in the country.

The GMOA on Thursday began the countrywide strike, protesting against the violent clashes which erupted between police and students on Wednesday.

According to the GMOA, the strike was launched to strongly protest the violence allegedly unleashed by the police on the medical students when they held a protest in front of the Health Ministry a day earlier, calling for

the closure of the country's only private medical faculty.

The violent clashes erupted close to the Colombo National Hospital, and left at least 85 students and nine policemen hospitalized.

The police said the premises of the Health Ministry were severely damaged due to the unruly behavior of the students after they forcibly entered the building in violation of the court order issued by the Colombo Chief Magistrate.

Following the islandwide strike by doctors, thousands of patients were left stranded when they sought medical treatment in state hospitals due to wards being deserted with a lack of staff.

Patients complained that the doctors' strike had inconvenienced the public who needed medical treatment.

Hospital emergency units, Dengue control units and hospitals in the disaster-affected areas continued to function as normal during the strike.—Xinhua ■

China, US agree aim of "complete, irreversible" Korean denuclearization

BEIJING — China and the United States agreed that efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula should be "complete, verifiable and irreversible", Chinese state media said on Saturday, reporting the results of high level talks in Washington this week.

"Both sides reaffirm that they will strive for the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," a consensus document released by the official Xinhua news agency said.

US Secretary of State Rex

Tillerson had said on Thursday that the United States pressed China to ramp up economic and political pressure on North Korea, during his meeting with top Chinese diplomats and defence chiefs. China's top diplomat Yang Jiechi and General Fang Fenghui met Tillerson and Defence Secretary Jim Mattis during the talks. Yang later met with US President Donald Trump in the White House, where they also discussed North Korea, Xinhua reported.

The consensus document also highlighted the need to fully

and strictly hold to UN Security Council resolutions and push for dialogue and negotiation, which has long been China's position on the issue.

Military-to-military exchanges should also be upgraded and mechanisms of notification established in order to cut the risks of "judgement errors" between the Chinese and US militaries, the statement also said.

Chinese state media described the talks, the first of their kind with the Trump administration, as an upgrade in dialogue

mechanisms between China and the United States, following on from President Xi Jinping's meeting with Trump in Florida in April.

Xi and Trump are next expected to meet again in Hamburg during the G20 Summit next month. A day last week's talks, President Donald Trump said China's efforts to use its leverage with North Korea had failed, raising fresh doubts about his administration's strategy for countering the threat from North Korea. The death of American university student Otto Warmbier

earlier this week, after his release from 17 months of imprisonment in Pyongyang, further complicated Trump's approach to North Korea.

China, North Korea's main trading partner, has been accused of not fully enforcing existing UN sanctions on its neighbour, and has resisted some tougher measures. Washington has considered further "secondary sanctions" against Chinese banks and other firms doing business with North Korea, which China opposes. —Reuters ■

A Chain is only as strong as its weakest link

Khin Maung Oo

The animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms are the three traditional divisions of the natural world. Among them, human beings in the animal kingdom govern our natural world and it exploits benefits from the remaining ones for their survival. In other words, nature creates everything we need. So, nature can be said to be of great use for us. Humans are trying to discover countless secrets of nature, building pleasant worlds for them to live. Nature is producing many useful things for us, and simultaneously harming us in many ways. For example, natural disasters such as earthquakes, storms, volcano eruptions, floods, torrents, wildfires etc., are threatening us all the time. To put it simply, we cannot overcome these. Yet,

due to efforts of human beings, nowadays we can trace imminent dangers of these calamities and make necessary preparations to avoid them to some extent. Through the efforts of humans to exploit from the natural world, we can use electrical power to get out of the dark to operate machines. We can get solar energy from the sun which is a sustainable energy source. It would be almost impossible to count the benefits given by the nature individually. Inventions or the avant-garde ideas and innovations of someone results in good effects for others. No inventor would invent things just for his/her own selfish use. Had selfish ideas been conceived in these inventors' minds, we cannot imagine living in the current situations. Here, we need to be well convinced of the meanings of the two words—self

and society. They can be said to be different and far in meaning because “Self” means a person whereas “Society” means people or a group of people. On the other hand if we look at it from another point of view, the two meanings are very close. That is because since time immemorial people used to live together in groups which later evolved into communities and later on became a society, solving problems together, finding ways and means to fight against natural disasters, sharing joys, benefits, knowledge and advantages one had gained. Occidental people's advancements in technology are being picked up by Oriental ones, as are Oriental beliefs and doctrines by Occidental people. Why do we disagree with each other under these circumstances?

When we live together, by bonding

with each other emotionally and working hand in hand with each other, our strength will become strong as if like a chain. The well-known saying, “A chain is only as strong as its weakest link” is a noteworthy one for us. To be a strong chain, links need be strengthened. Instead, if a link is weak at one point, the chain tends to be broken at any time. In other words, the chain's resistance depends upon its weakest link. “Unity is strength,” as the saying goes. We, all the people in the world, still have many things to work together so that we can live in peace and happiness. From now on, let us remove our mutual misunderstandings, suspicions, disagreements and hatred so as to be able to build a peaceful world. We need to understand that we are fellow travelers on this planet we call Earth. ■

Enhancing Rural Employment and Incomes

Kyaw Win (Labour)

ACCORDING to the 2014 Population Census Report Myanmar has a population of around 50 million. The number of working age persons (15 to 64 years) comprise 65.6% of the total population. This is indeed good news as it means Myanmar has ample human resources required for economic development. “Employed persons” of age 15 years and over, at present, amount to 20.5 million. Of this figure the number employed in the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery sectors amounts to 10.7 million of which 68.8% are in rural areas (Ref: 2014 Population Census Report Vol. 2-B Table 5, pg.11). Around 3 million of the population of the rural areas are “contributing family workers”.

Agricultural activity being mostly seasonal in nature, there is at present, considerable “underemployment” even among the “employed persons” as among the contributing family workers. Hence agricultural productivity and average incomes, for many rural areas, is rather low and this is one of the main “push” factor for internal migration to the urban areas and external migration for earning more income.

The present trend of voluntary migration, comprises mostly young single males, females as well as young married people leaving behind their children in the care of their grandparents or “guardians” in the villages. This will at present, adversely affect the working population in rural areas and possibly in the long term, the social fabric of the rural communities. The 12 point economic policy announced by the present Government in July 2016, includes

employment creation and development of the agriculture and livestock sectors to increase export of the sectors.

With vast areas of fertile land and abundant water resources Myanmar has the potential to further diversify and intensify agriculture and livestock breeding as well as fisheries & aquaculture and horticulture; increase quantity and quality of its produce/products enabling Myanmar to ensure its own food security, as well as emerge as a exporter of food and food products to the world markets.

Agriculture, livestock breeding, fisheries & aquaculture, and horticulture sectors are not as yet highly capital intensive or energy consuming industries in Myanmar. With agricultural mechanization still in its early stage, most of the rural activities related to agriculture sector, like preparing ground, planting, nurturing, harvesting, storing etc. are still quite labour intensive. Further diversification and intensification of agriculture, fishery & aquaculture, and horticulture will lead to higher production and higher rates of labour absorption in these sectors. The sectors' linkages to trade and industry, will have a further multiplying effect on employment. In addition, building of rural roads and bridges linking the rural areas with main roads and highways, for better transportation, processing and storage of the agro and fishery products/produce, will in turn create further employment down the line. Increasing opportunities for employment in rural areas will also increase rural incomes.

The drive, by the present government for reducing unessential imports and increasing exports augurs well for

the enhancement of exports of the agricultural sector as well. In terms of the economy, diversification and intensification of the agricultural sector including the sectors mentioned above, will enhance output of food and food products. Encouraging private sector investments, with the help and support of the government initially, towards further diversification and intensification of agriculture will bear fruits. Such action, by the Union as well as State and Regional Governments will enhance agricultural export earnings, and at the same time increase employment and rural incomes.

Recent lifting of economic sanctions by the US and EU, if the opportunity can be seized, will enable Myanmar to seek lucrative markets, to which agricultural, fishery and horticultural products may be exported. However for exporting, such products/produce need to meet the safety and quality requirements of the concerned importing countries or region as the exporting companies/organizations in Myanmar are well aware.

Meeting these requirements, as the saying goes, is “easier said than done”. They must start with the beginning of the product/produce chain, and end in the final export of the product/produce. Say, for example, regarding agricultural produce; the type of chemicals used in the fertilizer and insect sprays, pest control measures used, the mode of processing for export, temporary storage prior to export, etc. will have to be taken into consideration for conforming to the safety and technical requirements of the importing countries.

Most farmers may not even be

aware of the requirements so that their products/produce may not meet the requirements for export to the country concerned. They have to be made more aware of such requirements and taught how to put into practice the technology and procedures to meet the requirements.

Existing Agro-products/produce Inspection Agencies, may need to update their facilities for testing samples of the commodity for export as to its conformity to the abovementioned requirements. With increasing exports, more such agencies may need to be set up. They would test samples of the agricultural, livestock, fishery and horticultural products/produce, and if they meet the requirements, issue certificates of fitness for export.

Business requirements such as marketing standards and import restrictions would best be understood by the experienced business people involved in agriculture, livestock, fishery and horticultural exports. They might form themselves into associations or marketing cooperatives (to include the producers), and be the focal counterparts of the local farmers and producers in dealing with counterparts in the importing country.

The sooner the farmers, livestock breeders, fishermen, fish culturists, and fruit and vegetable growers can grow/produce more to meet the quantity and quality requirements for export of their products/produce, the sooner will the export to the world market be increased. It will consequently, increase export earnings and at the same time enhance employment in the agriculture, livestock breeding, fisheries and horticulture sectors and increase rural incomes. ■

Bulgaria's first communications satellite launched into orbit

SOFIA — Bulgaria's first geostationary communications satellite has been launched into space, operator Bulsatcom said in a statement on Saturday.

The BulgariaSat-1 satellite, which will provide television and communication services to Europe and North Africa, was launched by SpaceX from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 1910 GMT on Friday.

The satellite could be also used in force majeure situations - accidents due to natural disasters - such as earthquakes, storms and floods when land-based networks are not operational.

"When we started this space project more than 10 years ago, we clearly knew that what was needed to complete it successfully was patience, commitment and a strong team,"

said Maxim Zayakov, CEO of Bulgaria Sat and Bulsatcom.

"We launched our BulgariaSat-1, we stepped up as one of the leading space nations in Europe and opened the path for the development of the related Bulgarian high-tech sectors and talented specialists."

The satellite will be positioned into orbit at 36,000 km (22,000 miles) above the Earth and be operational up to 20 years. Over the next month, the ground control room will carry out the necessary tests and settings to make the satellite operationally ready to broadcast. Bulsatcom has secured financing for the \$235 million project from the United States' Export-Import Bank and a Deutsche Bank-led consortium of European banks. — Reuters ■

Siberian scientists invent technology to wirelessly recharge and 'kill' drones

NOVOSIBIRSK — Specialists of the Institute of Atmospheric Optics within the Siberian branch of Russia's Academy of Sciences have developed a device to remotely recharge drones, overcoming atmospheric disturbances, and also to shoot down unmanned aerial vehicles, Institute Researcher Grigory Filimonov told TASS on Wednesday.

"The technology of the highly efficient fiber lasers matrix addition allows remotely recharging unmanned aerial vehicles. It allows recharging friendly and shooting down alien drones. We have created a device with seven channels and achieved an energy increase by 49 times. The energy can be scaled up many times," Filimonov said at the R&D and Innovation Exhibition held as part of the Technoprom-2017 international forum taking place in Novosibirsk on 20-22 June.



The system, which features dual technology, helps minimize atmospheric disturbances. **PHOTO:TASS**

The system, which features dual technology, helps minimize atmospheric disturbances, he added. "It is possible to transmit energy at a distance of several kilometers," he added.

The 5th international technological forum, Technoprom-2017,

is being held in Novosibirsk on 20-22 June. Diversification in the defense industry is one of the forum's major themes. A total of 25 countries are taking part in the forum. TASS news agency is the forum's main information partner.—Tass ■

Novartis breast cancer drug Kisqali wins European panel backing

ZURICH — A European Medicines Agency (EMA) panel recommended on Friday approving Novartis's Kisqali drug, bolstering the Swiss drugmaker's bid to challenge rival Pfizer's Ibrance against tough-to-treat breast cancer.

The EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) backed Kisqali in combination with hormone therapy as a first-line treatment for hormone receptor positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor-2 negative locally advanced or metastatic breast

cancer. Kisqali got the US Food and Drug Administration's blessing in March. This latest CHMP opinion sets the stage for likely European Commission approval this year.

Friday's announcement, while expected, underscores Novartis's push to strengthen an oncology portfolio hurt last year by the patent expiration on blood cancer drug Glivec, exposing what was once its top-selling medicine to growing generic competition.

The recommendation is also the latest in a wave of up-

beat news on the Basel-based drugmaker whose CEO, Joe Jimenez, has pledged to restore growth in 2018.

In recent weeks, Novartis has released positive data on cancer cell therapy CTL019, its eye drug RTH258 and Thursday's surprise announcement that anti-inflammatory canakinumab benefited heart attack survivors. Novartis also won a US Supreme Court ruling this month that will speed its biosimilar copies of other name-brand drugs to market. Novartis considers Kisqali to be among

a dozen new medicines with blockbuster potential. Analysts see global annual sales reaching \$1.5 billion by 2022, Thomson Reuters data shows.

Its shares fell about 0.9 per cent by midday after hitting a 17-month high on Thursday.

Ibrance, on the market since winning accelerated approval from the FDA in 2015 and European approval last November, hit about \$2.1 billion in sales in 2016. Novartis has priced Kisqali competitively with Ibrance in the United States and is offering co-packaging with hormone

therapy letrozole, which it also sells, to kick-start sales.

Ibrance and Kisqali block enzymes known as cyclin-dependent kinases 4 and 6. They are designed for use in combination with existing drugs in women whose tumors grow in response to oestrogen and whose cancer is not caused by the HER2 protein. Still, some analysts have expressed concern that additional patient monitoring required by the FDA on concern over heart and liver problems linked to Kisqali could dent uptake.—Reuters ■

Birds' flight ability could determine shape of their eggs: study

WASHINGTON — Scientists may have solved the mystery of why bird eggs come in an astonishing variety of shapes, like ellipses in hummingbirds, spheres in owls and pointy ovoids in shorebirds.

According to a new study published Thursday in the US journal Science, it's related to birds' flight ability and the egg membrane may play a critical role in determining shape.

"In contrast to classic hypotheses, we discovered that flight

may influence egg shape," lead author Mary Caswell Stoddard of Princeton University said in a statement. "Birds that are good fliers tend to lay asymmetric or elliptical eggs. In addition, we propose that the stretchy egg membrane, not the hard shell, is responsible for generating the diversity of egg shapes we see in nature."

Many different theories exist as to why the shape of bird eggs varies so much across species.

One theory was that cliff-nest-

ing birds lay more cone-shaped eggs, which roll in a tight circle and are less likely to tumble off the cliff. Another theory suggested that different egg shapes exist to maximize incubation efficiency in a clutch. To unravel the mystery, an international team of researchers analyzed the shapes of nearly 50,000 eggs representing 1,400 species in 35 orders, including two extinct orders. The eggs, from the online database of The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

at Berkeley, came from across the globe and were largely collected by naturalists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With simple observations, the team found that an egg's shape is not determined by the shell: dissolve away the calcified shell and the shell-less, membrane-encased egg still retains its shape.

"By adjusting two basic properties — changes in the thickness of the egg membrane as a function of location, and a pressure

jump across the membrane — we show that our model can produce a wide variety of egg shapes, encompassing the entire range of observations," Senior author L. Mahadevan of Harvard University said. "This mechanistic approach to shape has a long history in biology, and our work suggests how tinkering with just two functional forms could allow evolution to move through the two-dimensional morphospace of egg shapes."—Xinhua ■

British PM May defends Brexit rights offer in face of EU doubts

BRUSSELS — British Prime Minister Theresa May defended her offer to let millions of EU citizens stay in Britain after Brexit as fellow EU leaders responded coolly on Friday to her opening move in negotiations on Britain's withdrawal.

A year to the day after Britons voted narrowly for Brexit, May admitted differences at the Brussels summit over guarantees to the 3 million EU expatriates in Britain, but said they would be addressed in negotiations begun this week.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said it was a "good start" but "not a breakthrough, to say the least". Summit chair Donald Tusk, a former Polish premier, found it "below expectations" and said it could leave people, including 800,000 Poles, worse off.

"It's obvious that this is about reducing the citizens' rights," Tusk told reporters of his "first impression" of May's offer. "Our role in negotiations is to reduce this risk."

May, facing the first European test of her authority after an election backfire cost her a parliamentary majority, pushed back, calling her proposal a "fair and serious offer".

"Those citizens from EU countries that have come to the United Kingdom and who've made their lives and homes in the United Kingdom will be able to stay, and we will guarantee their rights in the United Kingdom," she said.

"There are some differences between that and the proposals of the European Commission, but the matter will now go into the negotiations."

Sitting alongside new French President Emmanuel Macron at joint news conference, Merkel said: "It became clear during the discussion last night that we have a long path ahead of us."

"And the 27, especially Germany and France, will be well prepared, we will not allow ourselves to be divided."

Many leaders want to see details that May promised for Monday, including the nit-



British Prime Minister Theresa May arrives at the EU summit in Brussels, Belgium on 23 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ty-gritty of how complex, multinational families would fare and what judicial oversight there would be.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel was among the most sceptical, wary of getting a nasty "cat-in-the-bag" surprise.

For Poland, Deputy Foreign Minister Konrad Szymanski said: "We appreciate the effort but the offer does not meet all the criteria the EU agreed on as red lines."

In particular, the EU 27 want their citizens to be able to enforce their rights in Britain through the European Court of Justice, something May has ruled out. They also dispute her attempt to potentially limit those rights to people already living in Britain before she triggered Brexit three months ago.

EU chief executive Jean-Claude Juncker said he could not imagine people not having recourse to the European Court of Justice. The Union wants the ECJ to be the arbiter of the Brexit treaty. That would mean Luxembourg judges retaining a role in the lives of EU expatriates in Britain — as

now, via British courts.

At the end of a Brussels summit dinner on Thursday, May had outlined five principles. These were notably that no EU citizen resident in Britain at a cut-off date would be deported and that those who had lived in Britain for five years could stay for life — a right foreigners already have in the rest of the EU.

Those more recently arrived would be allowed to stay until they reach the five-year threshold for "settled status". Red tape for permanent residency would be cut and there would be a two-year grace period to avoid "cliff edge" mishaps.

Nonetheless, some EU migrants to Britain still believed they would be required to leave.

"I don't feel safe with (May's offer) because I haven't been living here for five years. She hasn't been clear enough for me," said 26-year-old Italian cafe worker Michele Paoletti.

Paoletti, who moved to Britain in 2014, now intends to move to the Netherlands with his Dutch wife and son.

Weakened by an election she did not need to call, May has watered down her government's programme to try to get it through parliament and set a softer tone in her approach to Brexit, which she had opposed prior to last year's referendum.

Yet her aims have held. She wants a clean break from the bloc, leaving the lucrative single market and customs union and so reducing immigration and ending EU courts' jurisdiction.

However, her political weakness have generated concern that the divorce may not be orderly. Manfred Weber, German leader of conservatives in the European Parliament which must approve any Brexit deal, said the lack of detail in May's rights proposals was "quite worrying for the rest of the negotiations".

Describing "an island in chaos" compared to a continent growing in confidence in its economy and leaders like Macron, Weber said: "It still seems that the UK government has no idea what they want to achieve." —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

US would like nuclear deal with India to go forward — official

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's administration would like to see a Westinghouse nuclear reactor deal with India move forward, a senior White House official said on Friday ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meetings with Trump on Monday.

The deal, years in the making, has been slow to complete due to concerns about liability in the event of a nuclear accident.

"We're still very much interested in seeing this deal move forward," the official told reporters. "Westinghouse stands by the viability of the project ... We very much support continued negotiations between Westinghouse and its Indian partners." —Reuters ■

Bomber planning an attack on Grand Mosque blew himself up — Interior Ministry

DUBAI — Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry said a suicide bomber who was planning an attack on the Grand Mosque in Mecca blew himself up on Friday when security forces surrounded a house where he was hiding.

The ministry said, in a statement read on Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television, that security forces had also detained five other militants, including one woman. —Reuters ■

UAE's Gargash says alternative to Qatar demands is "not escalation but parting ways"

DUBAI — A senior United Arab Emirates (UAE) official said on Saturday that if Qatar did not accept an ultimatum issued by Arab states which imposed a boycott on the small Gulf Arab nation this month, "the alternative is not escalation but parting ways".

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash told reporters that diplomacy, however, was still a priority. —Reuters ■

Sectarian group claims Pakistan bombs; death toll rises to 59

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan —A faction of Pakistan-based sectarian militants Lashkar-e-Jhangvi on Saturday claimed responsibility for twin bombs that hit a market in the northwestern town of Parachinar, killing at least 59 people ahead of the holiday marking the end of Ramadan.

LeJ's Al Alami faction said in a statement it was targeting minority Shi'ite Muslims and threatened more attacks over Pakistanis fighting against Sunni militants in Syria's civil war.

Video footage after the attack showed civilians dragging bleeding victims outside to waiting ambulances in the chaos that came when the bombs exploded before the sundown meal breaking the daily Ramadan fast.

"We have received 59 bodies so far, and 250 were wounded," said Sabir Hussain, medical superintendent of Parachinar Hospital. Sixty of the seriously wounded had been transferred to the larger city of Peshawar, he added.

LeJ Al Alami, which has previously partnered with Middle East-based Islamic State to carry out attacks in Pakistan, said it has previously "warned



Police and rescue officials inspect the site of blast in Quetta, Pakistan on 23 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

the Shia community of Parachinar ... to stop staining your hands with the blood of Sunnis in Syria".

It repeated the demand in the statement, saying that "otherwise in the coming days you will face such hate-fueled and deadly attacks that you will not be able to stand them".

Hundreds of Pakistanis — many of them Shi'ites believed

recruited by Iran — have gone to fight in Syria to defend the government of Tehran's ally, President Bashar al-Assad.

Assad's government is also supported by Russian air strikes and fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah militia, against an array of Sunni rebels backed by Turkey and Arab states.

The United States, Turkey, Arab and European powers are

also participating in a coalition bombing Islamic State, a Sunni Muslim militant group.

The market bombings in Parachinar late on Friday afternoon came on a particularly deadly day for Pakistan as both Sunni and Shia Muslims prepared to mark the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Another bombing in the

southwestern city of Quetta killed 13 people and a drive-by shooting killed four police officers in the southern megacity of Karachi on Friday. Both of those attacks were claimed by another militant group, the Jamaat ur Ahrar faction of the Pakistani Taliban. Islamic State also claimed the Quetta attack through a messaging network. It had not commented on the Parachinar attack by Saturday afternoon. Sunni-majority Pakistan also has a sizeable Shi'ite minority and has sought to avoid being dragged into sectarian strife that is rife in Syria and also the recent rift between Qatar and Saudi Arabia-led Sunni states that have cut off ties with Doha in part over its relations with Iran.

Pakistan's military said late Friday it had tightened security across the country, including at the Afghan border, following the attacks.

"Enemy trying to mar festive mood of nation through such coward acts. Shall fail against resilience of Pakistan," Pakistan army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa was quoted as saying in a tweet from the chief military spokesman.—Reuters ■

Second French journalist dies after being wounded in Mosul

PARIS — French journalist Veronique Robert has died in Paris after being wounded in an explosion in Mosul earlier this week, her employer France Televisions said in a statement on Saturday.

The mine explosion killed Iraqi journalist Bakhtiyar Haddad and French journalist Stephane Villeneuve while another freelance reporter suffered minor injuries.

Robert underwent surgery in Iraq before being transferred on Friday to the Percy hospital near Paris.

Islamic State fighters have been defending their remaining stronghold in the Old City of Mosul, moving stealthily along narrow back alleys as US-backed Iraqi forces slowly advance.—Reuters ■

If Baghdadi is dead, next IS leader likely to be Saddam-era officer

BAGHDAD — If Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is confirmed dead, he is likely to be succeeded by one of his top two lieutenants, both of whom were Iraqi army officers under late dictator Saddam Hussein.

Experts on Islamist groups see no clear successor but regard Iyad al-Obaidi and Ayad al-Jumaili as the leading contenders, though neither would be likely to assume Baghdadi's title of "caliph", or overall commander of Muslims.

Russia's defence ministry said last week Baghdadi may have been killed in an air strike in Syria and Interfax news agency quoted a senior Russian parliamentarian on Friday as saying the likelihood that he had been killed was close to 100 per cent.

But armed groups fighting in the region and many regional officials are skeptical about the reports.

"We don't have any concrete evidence on whether or not he's dead either," US Army Colonel Ryan Dillon, spokes-

man for the international coalition battling Islamic State, told a Pentagon briefing.

Obaidi, who is in his 50s, has been serving as war minister. Jumaili, in his late 40s, is head of the group's Amniya security agency. In April Iraqi state TV said Jumaili had been killed, but that was not confirmed.

Both joined the Sunni Salafist insurgency in Iraq in 2003, following the US-led invasion which Saddam and empowered Iraq's Shi'ite majority.

They have been Baghdadi's top aides since air strikes in 2016 killed his then deputy Abu Ali al-Anbari, his Chechen war minister Abu Omar al-Shishani and his Syrian chief propagandist, Abu Mohammad al-Adnani.

"Jumaili recognizes Obaidi as his senior but there is no clear successor and, depending on conditions, it can be either of the two (who succeeds Baghdadi)," said Hisham al-Hashimi, who advises several Middle East governments on IS affairs.

Baghdadi awarded himself the title of caliph — the chief Muslim civil and religious ruler, regarded as the successor of the Prophet Mohammad — in 2014. Obaidi or Jumaili would be unlikely to become caliph because they lack religious standing and Islamic State has lost much of its territory.

"They don't belong to the Prophet Mohammad's lineage. The group has no longer 'a land to rule' or 'Ardh al-Tamkeen'. And none is well versed in Islamic theology," said Fadhel Abu Ragheef, another Iraqi expert on the extremist group.

"A caliph has to have an Ardh al-Tamkeen, which he rules in accordance with Islamic law. Failing that, the successor will just be recognized as the emir," said Hashimi.

Emir is Arabic for prince, and is a title that jihadists often use to describe their leaders.

By contrast, Baghdadi, born as Ibrahim Awad al-Samarrai in 1971, comes from a family of preachers and studied Islamic law in Baghdad.

The appointment of the new leader would require the approval of an eight-member shoura council, an advisory body to the caliph. But its members would be unlikely to meet for security reasons so would make their opinion known through couriers.

Six members of the council are Iraqis, one Jordanian and one Saudi, and all are veterans of the Sunni salafist insurgency.

A ninth member, the group's Bahraini chief cleric, Turki al-Bin'ali, was killed in an air strike in Syria on 31 May.

In Washington, two US intelligence officials said they believed Islamic State had moved most of its leaders to al-Mayadin in Syria's Euphrates Valley, southeast of the group's besieged capital there, Raqqa.

Among the operations moved to al-Mayadin, about 80 km (50 miles) west of the Iraqi border, were its online propaganda operation and its limited command and control of attacks in Europe and elsewhere, they said.—Reuters ■



PHOTO: TASS

Russia launches serial production of seaborne air defence missile system

MOSCOW — The development of the Pantsyr-ME seaborne surface-to-air missile and artillery complex has been completed and the system has been launched into serial production, state hi-tech corporation Rostec CEO Sergei Chemezov said on Friday. “The development of the seaborne version of the Pantsyr air defence system that has no analogues in the world has been completed. The presentation of the Pantsyr-ME will be held at the International Maritime Defence Show in St Petersburg,” Chemezov said. “The complex has already been launched into serial production,” he added.

The Pantsyr-ME is the shipborne version of

the Pantsyr antiaircraft missile/gun system. The system’s version for ground forces is called Pantsyr-S. The International Maritime Defence Show will be held in St Petersburg on 28 June - 2 July.—Tass ■

Norway-Russia relations to deteriorate following US Marines’ base extension — Russian embassy

OSLO — Norway’s decision to extend the presence of US Marines on its soil will worsen relations with neighbouring Russia and could escalate tensions on NATO’s northern flank, the Russian embassy in Oslo told Reuters on Saturday.

Some 330 Marines will be stationed in Norway until the end of 2018, the government said on Wednesday, doubling the length of what was initially billed as a one-year trial period.

The deployment last January to practice winter warfare and cross-country skiing, and to participate in joint exercises, marked the first foreign troops to be stationed in the NATO member country since the end of World War Two.

“We consider that this step contradicts Norwegian policy of not deploying foreign military bases in the country in times of peace,” the Russian embassy wrote in an statement to Reuters.

It further “makes Norway (a) not fully predictable partner; can also escalate tension and lead to destabilization of the situation in the Northern region,” it added.

Norway has downplayed the significance of the deployment, emphasising the training element and denying that the arrival of Marines was an act directed against Russia. The US troops are stationed some 1,500 km (900 miles) from the Russian border.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(10 / 2017)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-022(17-18)	2 7/8" & 2 3/8" EUE Tubing (3) Items	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-023(17-18)	Spares of SJS Serva (TPB 600) Cementing Unit and Accessories (59) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-024(17-18)	Spares for HT 400 Pump (12) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-025(17-18)	Spares for Cat D 3406 Engine Ex Kenworth Truck (32) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-026(17-18)	Spares for Komatsu Tracked Dozer (D 155A-1) (16) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-027(17-18)	Spares for Komatsu Bulldozer (D 155 A-1) (47) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-028(17-18)	Spares for Cat 3406 C Generator Set Engine Ex ZJ 70L SR-I Rig (60) Items	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-029(17-18)	Spares for Mack Truck (20) Items	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-030(17-18)	Spares of Cat 3512 Rig Engine Ex ZJ 70L SR-II Rig (51) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-031(17-18)	Spares for SK 250 -8 Kobelco Excavator (28) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-032(17-18)	Spares for Cat-D3408 PC Engine (33) Items	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-033(17-18)	Spares for EMSCO Drilling Rig (17) Items	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-034(17-18)	Spares for Cat-D3412 Gas Engine(18)Items	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-035(17-18)	Spares for Kenworth Truck (25) Items	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-036(17-18)	Electrical Spares for D3T2 Rigs(24)Items	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-037(17-18)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Rigs (16)Items	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-038(17-18)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 50D Rigs(40)Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time- 20-7-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 22nd June, 2017 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206 / 411274

France’s Macron, eastern Europeans try to mend fences

BRUSSELS — French President Emmanuel Macron and four eastern European Union leaders sought to smooth relations on Friday after publicly trading barbs over jobs and democratic values.

Macron, in power for little more than a month, has vowed to protect French workers from what he sees as “social dumping”, in which companies employ cheaper labour, and unfair competition from the poorer eastern European states.

Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic say they should be allowed to compete on lower prices — just as more developed western EU nations compete on quality products and know-how — to catch up after decades of communist stagnation.

Along with looming negotiations on the EU’s next multi-year joint budget that runs from 2021, this dispute is shaping up as one of the most contentious issues facing the bloc, exacerbating an east-west rift as it seeks unity to tackle Brexit.

But meeting on the sidelines of an EU summit, Macron and the leaders of the east European states — known together as the Visegrad four — agreed to set up an expert-level group to try to narrow differences over rules for so-called “posted workers”.

“At the Visegrad meeting this morning we established which issues we disagree on and where we will continue to talk to better understand each other’s constraints,” Macron told a joint news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday.

“There are issues where I’d like to advance together, the posted workers directive being one... I believe we need a profound reform of the balance. I will do it with respect for our partners.”

EU states are divided on rules under which, say, a Bulgarian truck driver or a Lithuanian bricklayer can work in France for a limited time for the eastern European wage, usually below the minimum level guaranteed in the west.

“I pointed out to Emmanuel Macron today how low wages are in the Czech Republic compared to France, and that French firms can also do more to raise (their) wages,” Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka said.—Reuters ■



People search for survivors at the site of a landslide that destroyed some 40 households, where more than 100 people are feared to be buried, according to local media reports, in Xinmo Village, China, on 24 June 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

More than 120 missing in southwest China landslide

CHENGDU — The rescue headquarters of the landslide in southwest China's Sichuan Province has said the landslide buried 62 homes, and more than 120 people are thought to be missing.

The landslide from a

high part of a mountain in Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture of Aba hit Xinmo Village in Maoxian County at about 6 am, blocking a 2-km section of river and burying 1,600 metres of road.

The provincial gov-

ernment has launched the highest level of disaster relief response and sent rescue teams to the site.

Currently, more than 1,000 workers with life-detection instruments are engaged in the search for survivors.

The provincial department of land and resources said the landslide was caused by heavy rain. An estimated 18 million cubic meters of earth mass fell some 1,600 metres, engulfing Xinmo Village. Enditem—Xinhua ■

Australia welcomes charges against alleged Bali bombing mastermind

SYDNEY — Australia on Saturday welcomed charges against a Guantanamo Bay prisoner accused of masterminding the 2002 Bali bombings in which 202 people were killed, including 88 Australians.

Indonesian-born militant Riduan Isamuddin, also known as Hambali, is accused of overseeing the 2002 Bali bombings and an attack on the JW Marriott hotel in Jakarta in 2003 that killed 12 people.

"I hope that should this prosecution succeed, it will bring closure to those devastated by the loss of loved ones, family

and friends," Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop told reporters.

"It has been a scar on the hearts of all Australians since these attacks occurred in 2002."

Hambali was charged on seven different counts, including terrorism and murder in violation of the law of war, the Miami Herald reported, citing a charge sheet dated 20 June.

He is accused of directing three explosions on 12 October 2002, which hit a bar, nightclub and the US Consulate on the Indonesian resort island.

Two Islamist suicide bombers detonated explosives at the nightspots packed with tourists, killing 202 people.

For Australia, which suffered the most casualties, the Bali bombs were the worst peacetime attack on its citizens, many of whom regard a holiday on sun-drenched Bali as a rite of passage.

Seven Americans and 38 Indonesians citizens were also among the dead.

Hambali was captured in Bangkok, Thailand in 2003 and has been held in Guantanamo Bay without charge since 2006.

The Afghanistan-war veteran dubbed the "Osama bin Laden of Southeast Asia" was seen as the main link between Southeast Asian militant group Jemaah Islamiah (JI) and Al-Qaeda.

Bishop said Australia would provide whatever support it could, but did not support the death penalty.

"Those responsible for the murder of 202 people, including 88 Australians, should be prosecuted, should receive the severest of punishment and should never be freed," she said.—Reuters ■

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Actor Johnny Depp apologizes for ‘poor taste’ Trump assassination joke

GLASTONBURY, ENGLAND — Johnny Depp on Friday apologized for joking about assassinating US President Donald Trump, saying his remarks were in “poor taste.”

“The Pirates of the Caribbean” star spoke during an appearance at Britain’s Glastonbury music festival on Thursday when he pondered how long it had been since an actor had killed a US president.

His remarks drew rebukes from Trump supporters, and the White House described Depp’s remarks as “sad.”

“President Trump has condemned violence in all forms and it’s sad that others like Johnny Depp have not followed his lead,” the White House said in a statement.

“I hope that some of Mr Depp’s colleagues will speak out against this type of rhetoric as strongly as they would if his comments were directed to a Democratic elected official.”

Depp on Friday said his remarks were not intended maliciously.

“I apologize for the bad joke I attempted last night in poor



Actor Johnny Depp poses on a Cadillac before presenting his film *The Libertine*, at Cinemageddon at Worthy Farm in Somerset during the Glastonbury Festival in Britain on 22 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

taste about President Trump,” Depp, 54, said in a statement. “It did not come out as intended, and I intended no malice. I was only trying to amuse, not to harm anyone.”

Depp was at a screening of his 2004 film “*The Libertine*” at the Glastonbury festival when discussion turned to the topic of

Trump. Depp said he thought the president “needs help.”

“Can we bring Trump here?” Depp asked the audience. “... When was the last time an actor assassinated a president?”

Actor John Wilkes Booth assassinated US President Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

“Now I want to clarify, I’m not

an actor,” Depp continued. “I lie for a living. However, it’s been a while, and maybe it’s time.”

The US Secret Service said it was aware of Depp’s comments but had no other comment.

Some Republicans criticized Depp’s comments as part of a grim trend.

“I’m sick of celebrities get-

ting away with such disgusting comments,” Ronna Romney McDaniel, the Republican National Committees chairwoman, wrote on Twitter.

Depp, whose latest “*Pirates of the Caribbean*” movie was panned by critics in May, has had more than a year of bad press following an acrimonious divorce from actress Amber Heard and a lawsuit against his former business managers that has detailed claims of lavish spending by the actor.

Earlier in June, Delta Air Lines and Bank of America pulled their sponsorship of a New York production of Shakespeare’s “*Julius Caesar*” because the assassinated Roman ruler was portrayed as a Trump-like businessman.

Last month comedian Kathy Griffin posed in photographs holding up a fake bloody, severed head resembling Trump. She also apologized but was fired from hosting CNN’s annual New Year’s Eve broadcast.

Last week, a gunman opened fire on Republican lawmakers in who were practicing for a charity baseball game.—Reuters ■

I feared fame on a few levels: Ricky Gervais

LOS ANGELES — Actor Ricky Gervais has said that when he started getting recognition, he initially had a fear of becoming famous.

The 55-year-old star says he was scared that a mob will tag him as a famous personality and he will lose his individuality, reported *Vulture.com*. “When I was about to be famous, I feared it on a few levels. I feared it because I didn’t want people to lump me in with those people who do anything to be famous,” Gervais said.

The “Special Correspondents” actor says he used to despise the word celebrity and did not want his private life to bear the cost of fame.

“I didn’t like the word celebrity. I feared intrusion, you know? Make me famous, and suddenly you can go through my trash bins. I was very protective of my privacy. “I didn’t want people to write bad things about me that weren’t true because that’s just not fair. Fifty percent of everything written about me is wrong,” he says.—PTI ■

Radiohead take aim at ‘strong and stable’ May at Glastonbury

GLASTONBURY, ENGLAND — Britain’s Radiohead returned to Glastonbury’s Pyramid Stage on Friday, 20 years after a legendary performance at the festival, with a set that mocked Prime Minister Theresa May’s election campaign and pulled songs from nearly all of their albums.

The band from Oxfordshire, England, first headlined in 1997, one of the wettest years in the festival’s history, when they lifted a sodden crowd with music from their album “*OK Computer*”.

Featuring songs about alienation, capitalism and modern technology, the band’s third album sounds oddly prescient in a politically divided and anxious Britain in 2017.

Fans expected “*OK Computer*” to feature heavily in the set on Friday, the same day a version of the album was re-released, including tracks that did not make the cut 20 years ago, called “*OK Computer OKNOTOK 1997 2017*”.

The band opened with “*Daydreaming*” from last year’s “*A Moon Shaped Pool*”, followed

by “*Lucky*”, the first of a host of “*OK Computer*” tracks that included “*Exit Music (For a Film)*”, “*Let Down*”, “*Paranoid Android*” and “*Karma Police*”.

Singer Thom Yorke changed the lyric at the end of the song “*Myxomatosis*” to “strong and stable”, apparently mocking a slogan that May repeated many times in her campaign.

“See you later Theresa; Shut the door on the way out,” Yorke said, in one of his few addresses to the crowd.



Radiohead performs on the Pyramid Stage at Worthy Farm in Somerset during the Glastonbury Festival in Britain on 23 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

May has yet to form a stable government in Britain, more than two weeks after an inconclusive national election.

Radiohead’s two-hour show went down well with fans, but left some newcomers underwhelmed, evidenced by a steady stream of people heading off to other stages.

Tom Martin, a 30-year old from Cork, Ireland, was not disappointed by a band he had long followed. “It was the best gig I’ve ever seen,” he said.

Earlier in the day, English duo Royal Blood drew a huge Pyramid Stage crowd for a masterclass in straight, hard rock as their second album “*How Did We Get So Dark?*” went straight to the top of the charts.

Lead singer and guitarist Mike Kerr, who formed the band with drummer Ben Thatcher in 2013, said playing the main stage at the world’s biggest greenfield festival was “life-changing, terrifying and ridiculous”.

The festival started with a minute of silence on Friday morning in memory of recent terror attacks and the devastating Grenfell Tower fire before Hacienda Classical eased revelers into the first day of music.

Peter Hook, the bass player from Manchester bands Joy Division and New Order, led the crowd in reflecting on “our hopes and our prayers for life, love and freedom, the things we are here to celebrate”.

Other performers on the main stage at Worthy Farm in south-west England, included 81-year-old Kris Kristofferson and English indie band the xx.—Reuters ■



A general view from the Pont Alexandre III bridge shows an athletics track on the River Seine, with the Eiffel tower in the background, in Paris, France on 23 June, 2017 as Paris is transformed into a giant Olympic park to celebrate International Olympic Days with a variety of sporting events for the public across the city during two days as the city bids to host the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. PHOTO: REUTERS

Paris turns into Olympic park as part of push to host 2024 Games

PARIS — A diver plunged into the Seine while the mayor of Paris took to the river in a kayak, as the French capital transformed itself on Friday into a giant Olympic park as part of its final push to win the rights to host the 2024 Games.

Paris and US rival Los Angeles are the only two cities bidding to stage the 2024 Olympics, and the French capital is running a series of events over the weekend to promote its credentials.

Canoes and kayaks filled the Seine just outside Notre Dame cathedral, while the diver jumped into the river from one of the city's bridges.

"This is a great opportunity for us to give a taster of what the Games will be like here in 2024," said former Olympic gold medal canoeist Tony Estanguet, who is leading Paris' bid to host the event. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo also turned up alongside Estanguet, with the two of them taking

to the Seine in a kayak, not far from where sprinters pelted along a floating athletics track. Paris last hosted the Olympics in 1924, while Los Angeles has held it twice — most recently in 1984. In July 2005 in Singapore, London pipped an over-confident Paris, which had lost out to Beijing for the 2008 Games, to win the right to stage the 2012 Summer Olympics, triggering tears in the French camp when the results were announced.—Reuters ■

Indian toilet charity renames village after Trump

MARODA, (India)— A toilet charity has renamed an Indian village after US President Donald Trump as part of a promotional push to raise cash and support for better sanitation.

Aid group Sulabh International, which says it has built 1.5 million toilets across the country, has set up "Trump Village" signs around the small community in the northern state of Haryana, each bearing a grinning portrait of the president.

Neither the White House, nor the Trump family's commercial empire, has given permission for the

rebranding of the village, still better known locally as Marora, the charity said.

But founder Bindeshwar Pathak said he hoped the gesture would win enough publicity and good will to at least raise awareness of a major social problem.

"Such a step might spur rich people, companies and other donors to come forward and donate money," he said.

"Once basic infrastructure is built here, the popularity of this village will grow and it will act as a motivational factor."

The change is purely

symbolic — the name Marora will continue to appear on maps and signs.

But locals said they were prepared to embrace the new title, Trump Sulabh Village in its full form, and any good things it brought with it.

"All our problems such as electricity and water will be addressed by renaming," said resident Mohammed Joharuddin.

Village head Shaukat Ali also played along, saying he was grateful for the charity's work. "A toilet is being constructed, a road is being built and community hall will also be built in the

village," he said.

The event was organized as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares to fly this weekend for his first meeting with Trump in Washington. The US embassy in New Delhi said it was aware but referred further inquiries to Washington.

Fewer than a third of India's 1.3 billion people have access to sanitation.

The United Nations estimates that half the population defecates outside — putting people at risk of cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, hepatitis A and typhoid.—Reuters ■

VR amusement park opens in Tokyo's Shibuya district

TOKYO — Tokyoites now have another way to escape their mundane day-to-day lives with the opening Saturday of an indoor amusement park featuring virtual reality technology in the city's Shibuya district.

Shibuya VR Land, located in the Shibuya Modi shopping complex, offers an hour's worth of content for an admission fee of 2,200 yen (\$20). Theme park operator Huis Ten Bosch Co created the facility in the hope of drawing visitors to its Dutch-inspired park in southwestern Japan's Sasebo, which also features VR attractions.

"We see it as a way to boost name-recognition across Japan and globally," a public relations official said. Shibuya VR Land offers five different sets of content.

Ultra Reverse Bungee uses headsets and moving seats to give the sensation of being shot into outer space by a giant catapult, while Impending Whisper of Love puts you on the receiving end of a declaration of love from one of three handsome

young men or a young woman.

Other content include a game where you battle hordes of enemies with a weapon of choice, a music game, and an escape from a haunted hospital.

The popularity of VR has soared in recent years as headsets such as Sony Interactive Entertainment's PlayStation VR and the Oculus Rift have become available to consumers.

Video game publisher Bandai Namco Entertainment Inc will open its own VR amusement park in Tokyo's Shinjuku area next month, where visitors can jump into the world of anime such as Gundam and Dragon Ball.

Competition among theme parks in Japan is heating up as the industry enjoys strong ticket sales due to a shift in consumer preferences toward spending on experiences rather than products.

A steady inflow of tourists from China and other parts of the world has also provided a tailwind.—Kyodo News ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(25-6-2017 07:00am ~ 26-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Ancient Heritage at Natalin
07:37	Am	Myanmar Sculpture-work of Art
07:53	Am	Inspiration
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Hmaw Yaw Gyi Elephant Camp
08:42	Am	The Hills of Phowintaung and Shwebataung
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Sayit-wyne Girls
09:48	Am	Toddy Palm Product Shop
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	A Snake Catcher
10:38	Am	The Longest Living Siblings (Part-II)

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	The History of Mrauk U Pagoda
07:43	Pm	A Girl Guide
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: Alley Garden
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son)

(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)

Hockey tournament to commemorate Olympic Day held in Yangon



The president of the Myanmar Hockey Federation U Saw Lu Lu Htaw presents the prize to the winners. **PHOTO: PHO THAW ZIN**

By Ye Yint Shine

A hockey tournament to commemorate Olympic Day 2017 was held yesterday morning at the Theinbyu Hockey Grounds in Yangon.

Two youth teams (A and B), a women's selection team, an above-45 Old Star team and a Telenor Myanmar amateur team participated in the tournament. Youth team A came in first place and youth team B

finished in second place.

The president of the Myanmar Hockey Federation U Saw Lu Lu Htaw and officials presented prizes to the winners and other participants.

"Olympic games were held since ancient times and, in commemoration, Olympic Day events are usually held during this month. Our federation held the tournament on this day and we thank all participants", said U Saw Lu Lu Htaw. ■

Myanmar U-22 wins with second-half goals

By Shweli Myat Thawda

In preparation for the 29th SEA Games, the Myanmar U-22 team played a test match with the MWL All Star team and won by a score of 2-1 yesterday afternoon at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The match was won with a come-from-behind effort when the Myanmar U-22 team scored two goals in the second half. Even though the team won, the contest revealed many requirements and weaknesses that should be worked on, observers said.

The MWL All Star team played with controlled pace in the first half, waiting for errors from the U-22 team. They were rewarded with a goal in 18th minute scored by experienced player Yan Paing, who headed in the goal. After scoring the goal, Yan Paing was replaced as he was playing while sick. Afterward, both teams made substitutions.

The U-22 team was not



Myanmar U-22 and MWL All Star players fight for the ball in the test match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

playing well in the early part of second half, but gradually picked up the pace to equalise on the 70th minute. Than Paing scored after Sithu Aung created

an opportunity for him. The U-22 team played better from then on and, in the 79th minute of play, Aung Thu scored the winning goal with a long range shot. ■

Kvitova into Birmingham semis, will face Safarova

BIRMINGHAM — Czech Petra Kvitova moved into the Aegon Classic semi-finals with a 6-4, 7-6(5) win over France's Kristina Mladenovic on Friday.

The seventh seed, twice Wimbledon champion, is playing in her second tournament after a lengthy layoff with a hand injury, suffered during a knife attack at her home in December.

"Both of us play really fast on this surface, the grass suits her game as well, so it was about a few points here in three, one or two key breaks in the match," Kvitova said. It took a second-set tiebreak and one hour 43 minutes for Kvitova to secure the win which sets up a semi-final clash with compatriot Lucie Safarova.

Safarova came through a marathon battle with Australian Daria Gavrilova, triumphing

6-7(4), 6-3, 7-6(5).

Safarova saved three match-points in the deciding set and rallied to win the last four points of the third set tiebreak to end the three-hour contest on top.

"It was such an amazing fight between the both of us and I am so happy that I won," Safarova said.

"I stayed positive until the end. I had a few opportunities but she was serving well. I just believed that I could pull it out and win it," she added. Later on Friday, Spain's Garbine Muguruza takes on American Coco Vandeweghe and Australian Ashleigh Barty faces Camila Giorgi of Italy. —Reuters ■



Midfielder Harrop joins Preston from Man United

LONDON — Preston North End have signed midfielder Josh Harrop from Manchester United on a four-year contract, the English Championship team said on Friday.

Harrop, 21, was the top scorer for United's reserve team with 10 goals in 25 appearances last season and made a memorable senior debut, scoring the opener in United's 2-0 win over Crystal Palace on the final day of the 2016-17 league campaign.

"It's a new start for me to get things going in my career and I'm buzzing to get playing and to make an impact in the team," Harrop said on Preston's official website. (www.pnefc.net)

"Hopefully I can achieve my aims and ambitions that I have set myself by coming here and that's to get promoted

with Preston North End and help the club get as high as we can." Harrop is Preston's third signing in the current transfer window as they recruited striker Sean Maguire and goalkeeper Declan Rudd earlier this month.—Reuters ■



Manchester United's Josh Harrop. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

25 JUNE 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Discrimination in education between urban and rural Universities



Nadi Win Lae
Kyonpyaw Tsp.

MY University is not well developed as much as others from urban areas and it is the one where most people think lowly of its students.

Whenever we participate in Competitions together with other students from urban Universities, some of them, especially students from Yangon look down on us as if we were the idiots.

Some judges from that Competition also treat us just like this. They consider that all students from rural Universities have no qualifications.

I don't know exactly yet why they think lowly of us. Is it impossible that we can be more outstanding than those students they look up? Qualification should be measured

I wish that may all the University students around Myanmar get equal chances!!

by place or effort? Can't we never be the qualified students even if we try harder than others? There are a lot of questions and issues that should be taken into consideration.

Here, I would like to share my experience and difficulty concerning discrim-

ination that I faced in my University life.

As we all know, there are a lot of chances for today University students to sit the interviews to go to foreign countries not only for exchange programs but also for Scholarships. In my University also, we all want to go abroad so that we tried

so hard to pass the interviews. Last year, I sat the interview in my University to go to Cambodia and it was two days before our examination. I had to read and study a lot of facts concerning that interview at the time when I should have studied for exam.

SEE PAGE-E

My Last Page



Myat Thu Aung(NZ)
University of Otago
3rd Year Maths Student (2017)

No one is great enough to glimpse his or her parts in the future. Life is drifting on the pages of a book – the book being full of traps and tricks. People are flowing the sense of urgency of death between pages without noticing that they have been reading how they would die alone since their births. This is the nature of

human beings. Being one of them, I am incapable to resist the temptation of any enjoyment and joyfulness.

On my first page, the occasion of being as a baby, no anxiety nor stress could bother me apart from the fear of sudden, loud noises and sudden drop from some height. Crying was my weapon; it was the loudest voice calling for the attention –the attention of the people I love the most, my parents. My cry had my need done or sometimes prepared to be ready. This was during my stay in cradle rocked by the hands of my moth-

er. The swing of my cradle was always rhythmic with the lullaby of my father. Communication and movement were my new additions to my capability when my stay in cradles was over. I started talking gibberish once I had some spoken words. They smiled at me and nodded their heads as if they understood my words. When I could toddle, they loved my movements the most. This was just for the time being.

By the time there are no pages left to turn over, my happiness melts into sadness. On the last page of my book, I

suddenly realized that I am now just a hopeless, dying man. I am now the frail watching the crimson sunset with the imaginary fear. Feeling the sexy touch of the warm wind blow while losing in my thoughts, my spirit of adventure stimulates my nerves to set out around the world to transcend the snow of Tamarack in California. Sadly, I have no mental strength nor physical capabilities to fulfill my wish; the worse is I am even no longer the judge of any decision that my mind asks as it will now be made passively. Meanwhile, I echo my thoughts in the abstract walls of my mind: nothing lasts forever; good things never last long enough to enjoy.

SEE PAGE-E

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



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 8: Pronouns

There are words that are very useful in our English writing and speaking. These are “**Pronouns**”.

“**Pronouns**” are words used in place of nouns.

Let’s read the following passage.

Mary and John are friends. One day, Mary told John that Mary wanted to go and see the Castle on the hill. John agreed with Mary and then Mary and John went up the hill to see the Castle. The Castle was a very big Castle in the eyes of the children. Mary and John climbed up the hill, but as the hill was so steep, Mary could not climb the hill. Mary was exhausted on the way and Mary had to take rest for awhile. John was not exhausted, so John could climb up to the hill-top.

Here, in this passage, as we mention “Mary, John, Castle and hill” again and again. This repetition makes the whole passage awkward.

So, not to sound awkward, we do not repeat the Nouns again and again and we use other words in place of them. These are called “Pronouns”.

Let’s read the same passage in the other way as follows: ..

Mary and John are friends. One day, she told him that she wanted to go and see the Castle on the hill. He agreed with her and then they went up the hill to see the Castle. It was a very big Castle in the eyes of the children. They climbed up the hill, but as it was so steep, she could not climb it. She was exhausted on the way and she had to take rest for awhile. He was not exhausted, so he could climb up to the hill-top.

Now, it sounds better.

Instead of repeating “Mary, John, Castle, hill” again and again, we use “he, she, him, her, they, it”

These words are called “Pronouns”.

Pronouns are the words used place of Nouns.

Here, in Pronouns, we use “I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, ours” for the First Person, “you, your, yours” for the Second Person, and for the Third Person, we use “he, him, his” for Masculine Gender (Male), “she, her, hers” for Feminine Gender (Female), “they, them, theirs” for plural and “it, its” for things and animals.

Here, I think, there are a lot to explain to you.

“The First Person” means “the person who speaks”,
“the Second Person” means “the person to whom we are speaking” and
“the Third Person” means “the others about whom we are speaking”.

e.g. I want to tell you that he is not a good boy.

Here, “I” is the person who speaks, “you” is the person to whom I am speaking, and “he” is the person about whom I speak.

The First Person .. I

The Second Person ... you

The Third Person .. he

Examples.

- I tell you to come with me to visit Mg Mg. He lives in Bago.
- I love all my friends. They are very nice to me.
- She likes her tea sweet, but he does not make it as she wants.
- They are playing in the field. It is so spacious.
- Will you come with us to the Pagoda? It is over there.

In these examples, I, you, me, He

I, They, me

She, her, he, it, she

They, it and you, us, It..These are all Pronouns.

Exercise 8

I. Underline the Pronouns in the following sentences.

- Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow.
- Have you finished your homework?
- He will finish his very soon.
- We like paying a visit to the seashore with our friends.
- She saw some sea-shells on the seashore. It is very sandy.
- I cannot promise you that I will come tomorrow.
- My dog likes KFC so much. It is his favorite food.
- That tree is very useful. We can eat its fruits, its leaves and its flowers and we can use its barks as medicine.
- Have you had your dinner? I have had mine.
- She can sing very sweetly. Can you?

II. Say which are the First Person, the Second Person and the Third Person from the following sentences.

- My friends and I like to go on trips.
- I do not understand what you are talking about.
- She told you the truth, but you did not believe it.
- They will come to see you. Do you want to see them?
- We are going out on Sunday, a visit to his house in the country.
- Have you got any money to pay for the clothes we bought?
- Will you attend the classes regularly? Yes, I will.
- I have a little puppy. Its tail is short and curly.
- Have you ever been to Mandalay? No, we have not. We have never been to Mandalay.
- He will never obey my words although these are good for him.

When we use pronouns in place of Nouns, there are three Cases. These are:...

- Subjective Case (when you use it for the Subject)
- Objective Case (when you use it for the Object)
- Possessive Case (when you use it to show the possession)

In the following sentences, we will find all these cases.

(1) He is going to UK to see his friend. She lives in London. He will go and see her at her home and if she agrees to work with him, she will come to Paris to work in his company.

Here, “He” is “Subjective Case” as it is in the place of the “Subject”,

“She” is also “Subjective Case”, “He” is “Subjective Case”, “her” is “Objective Case”, because it is the “Object”.

The next “her” in “her home”, shows “the possession”, it is “Possessive Case”. The word “she” is “Subjective Case”, “him”, “Objective Case”,

“she, “Subjective Case” and the word “his” shows the possession, so it is “Possessive Case”.

Here come the Exercises.

Exercise 8

III. Mention the cases of Pronouns in the following passages.

- He was going fishing one sunny day, and he saw some fishes in a very big pond. As it was a very big one, he thought he will get so many fishes. He even saw these swimming to and fro in the pond. He wanted to eat them all.
- Will you come to my house tomorrow? Then we will go to see him in his office. His office is near his apartment.
- They like playing football in their University. It is on the other side of the river and we will go and watch them playing.
- Our headmistress is so patient and nice. She will not scold you if you do something wrong. But she will explain about the discipline of her school to you.
- Once upon a time, he was quite handsome, but now as he grows older, you will find him smart and wise. All his friends come to see him to seek for his advice.

You can show these in three columns.

IV. Change the Nouns in the following passages into Pronouns wherever it is necessary to do so in suitable cases.

- When Ma Ma saw Maung Maung playing in the dirty mud, Ma Ma called Maung Maung to come out of the mud quickly. Maung Maung is Ma Ma’s younger brother, so Ma Ma scolded Maung Maung why Maung Maung was playing with dirty mud. But, as Maung Maung was only a young little boy, Maung Maung liked playing in the mud very much.
- Mary had a little lamb and the lamb’s fleece was white as snow and everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go.
- Peter Piper picked a pack of pickled pepper and a pack of pickled pepper was picked by Peter Piper.
- Susan saw some seashells on the shore. The seashells were bright and beautiful in the sunshine. Susan liked to carry the seashells to Susan’s home.
- Oh! Look at the Moon. The Moon was shining up there. Oh Mother the moon looks like a lamp in the air. Last week, the moon was smaller and shaped like a bow, but now the moon grows bigger and round as an O. Are the little stars around the Moon, the Moon’s little babies.

There are a lot to learn more concerning “Pronouns”. But, let’s stop for now as you’ve learned a lot this week. We will continue next week.

Bye for now and hope that you have done your Exercises well when we meet again next week. See you then! Bye Bye!

Your English Teacher, GNLM.

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

SEE PAGE-H for the answers to the last week’s exercises.

How to Improve and What to Improve in Our Education System

Dr. Nu Nu Win
(Retired Professor and Head of Department)

Now is the time to improve our Education System. So, we need to know what to improve, how to improve and when to improve. We need to improve both in quality and quantity. So, let us think together which quality and quantity we want to improve.

Concerning with Quality, we need to mention some of the important ones, such as quality of students, teachers, curriculum, courses, text books, school buildings, teaching methods, exam systems or assessment systems and so on.

As well, concerning with quantity, the writer wants to mention some such as: less drop-out rates, more students reaching the end of Basic Education, better results in Matriculation Examinations, higher quantity of teachers, higher quantity of trained teachers, better students-teacher ratio, higher quantity of schools and so on.

For all these qualitative and quantitative improvements, in other words, what to improve, we should think of how to improve and when to improve. There can be different ways and means to improve all these factors, but the key point is which way or means we should do our improving. We should also think of the effects of our chosen ways and means. There can be repercussions and side effects in some ways and means, because Education is the field in which most of the public is concerned as stakeholders. That's why it is very important to take care to listen to the responses by the public on which any changes in Education will effect. Most of the public are some kind of stakeholders as students, parents, teachers and donors in the field of Education.

And the other point is when to do it. Some are necessary to be changed as soon as possible, but some are the things need to be done regularly or we can take time and do these slowly and steadily, until we have a perfect condition to do so. Therefore, if we do quickly to some changes which should be done regularly or slow and steady, it can have unnecessary mistakes. So also with the factors that are necessary to change as soon as possible. If we take time to do so, there can be harmful effects on these matters.

For all these what to improve, how to improve and when to improve are very important in the field of Education for all decision makers or responsible persons. So, these persons also need to have expertise in Education and experience in Education.

Let's discuss some of them.

The first factors the writer wants to discuss here is the quantity and quality of teachers.

For all primary, middle and secondary schools in our country, we have shortage of teachers. That's why we have to appoint such un-cert. or untrained teachers, what we call "Nay-sar La-pay or Swe Khant Teachers" or "Teachers with Contract" for some schools in some regions. Let's see the first type of teachers. They have daily allowance, but paid monthly. The next name was really improper for "Swe-khant" we take what we get and appoint anyone who is available to do so, not seeing or taking account about their quality.

From the writer's point of view, although "something is better than nothing", that means having teachers trained or untrained is better than having no teachers or not enough teachers.

From the point of view as an Educationist and an Educational Psychologist, frankly saying, the writer does not like it, just because the primary children who are very cute and young, should only be taught by trained teachers, who know Child Psychology. Because children are so soft and so timid during this age in their very first years in schools, the writer believes that they should be handled very carefully as if we were handling very fragile things. If their first experiences in school in their very first periods of time they leave their homes and mothers were very bad for all these gentle little ones, they will be afraid of school and they will not be enthusiastic to attend school any more. Then the school cannot be a Child-friendly School anymore. It can have bad effects on the child's school life.

Teachers should have genuine love for children and youths. What we should take into consideration is, if an un-cert. or untrained teachers have genuine love for children and youths, we should have some leniency to them.

But, it's a great but because a teacher who knows Child Psychology, knows very well, when and how much he/she should be lenient or be strict. So, if it is in wrong timing or in wrong way, the effect will be what we do not want to get. This is an important factor we should take it into consideration.

That is just mentioning an example concerning quality of teachers.

Let's think of other factor the quantity of teachers.

We need to have enough teachers. And something is better than nothing. And if the classrooms are of right size

(i.e. with a Teacher-Pupil ratio of 1:40, it can be the right size). If the ratio is better, may be 1:20-25, it will be better. So, we need to have enough teachers for our schools.

Then the next question to ask at this point is this: how can we get enough teachers for our schools.

Can we have enough trained teachers in the coming ten years or not? It is an important issue to solve in time.

If we get teachers both in quality and quantity, it will be the best way to solve this issue.

So, what can we do with this issue?

According to the writer's point of view with an experience of teaching nearly fifty years, the writer wants to suggest a suitable way to get enough trained teachers in 5 or 10 years. This is as follows:-

We have about 24 Education Colleges which train primary and lower-secondary teachers. In these Colleges, the training goes like that. For the first six months, the student-teachers are trained in their College classrooms, and for another 6 months, they have practical teachings in the public schools in their native regions. So, the classrooms are free and available during these 6 months. So, we call for another batch of trainees during these 6 months, we can get a double number of trained teachers for primary. (Just because, the second batch will go for practical trainings to schools and the first batch will come up to attend another year for training.) In this way, we can double the number of trainees for primary teachers (that means a double in number of primary teachers we can get in one year.)

After two years, we can get a double in number of trained teachers for lower secondary classes (middle schools).

But, according to our teacher training systems at the present, there can be some 600 trainees, who get higher marks to join the Universities of Education for their B.Ed. degree to become Senior Teachers for Upper Secondary classes. If we can take a pending for one or two years on them to attend B.Ed., we can get a double number of Junior Teachers for Lower Secondary classes. After some one or two years, they can join the Universities of Education for their B.Ed. degree to become senior teachers for Upper Secondary classes.

And for the time being, in their places at the Universities of Education, we can accept more number of Direct Intakes for B.Ed. students. That will also lead to

a double in number to get more senior teachers for the Upper Secondary classes.

The writer believes that, in this way, we can double the number of trained teachers for all primary, lower and upper secondary in some years.

We have now more than 100 thousands untrained teachers in our field of Education, so it is a great burden for the Education Colleges to train these un-cert. or untrained teachers.

Now, they are planning to train all these primary and secondary teachers as B.A.(Edn.) degree holders in 4 years in 4 or 5 Education Colleges which will be upgraded into Degree Colleges.

But, one question, the author wants to ask is, if we cannot get enough trained primary and lower secondary teachers by a training of two years, how can we get enough trained teachers in 4 years' time?

And all these Education Colleges have recently a big burden of training to the already appointed un-cert teachers in our schools, how will we able to do for a new higher course for 4 years? The writer is afraid, whether it will become a bigger burden onto these Colleges of Education. What a big thing to accomplish!

And do we need to wait another 4 years (instead of two years with the present course) to get more trained primary and lower secondary teachers? What are we going to do then? Do we get more un-cert or untrained teachers for our primary and lower secondary children?

The knowledge of Child Psychology is important not only for primary children, but also for lower secondary children who are teenagers, a very critical period in life.

And with more and more un-cert. or untrained teachers in the field of Education, there will be more and more burden on the Education Colleges?

These are the factors we should take it into consideration, concerning quantity of teachers. It is also how or in which ways and means we are going to solve our present issue. It is important that we choose the correct technique with proper sequencing and perfect timing.

These are just one or two examples in our field of Education. In practical life, we could face much more issues than what the writer has just mentioned for which we need to have practical solutions readily available.

That is why the writer said that when we are going to improve our Education System, we should see and decide what to improve, how to improve and when to improve.

Other pertinent factors will be discussed in the coming weeks.

Dr. Nu Nu Win (Retired Professor and Head, Department of Educational Psychology, SUOE - Sagaing University of Education)

Land of Mon brethren



Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

By Soe Soe Naing
(The Mirror)

WITH smooth transportation, Mon State in southern Myanmar attracts local pilgrimage and foreign tourists with its famous stupas and pagodas, ancient cultural heritages, natural scenic beauties and Mon's traditional lifestyle. The capital of the state, Mawlamyine, is 187 miles from Yangon lying along Yangon-Mawlamyine-Da-

wei road. You will enter into the Mon State also known as Yamanya Land, after getting across the Sittoung Bridge in Bago Region. May be Kyaikto, about 120 miles from Yangon, is the first stop along the long journey. From Kyaikto you can get to famous Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, nine miles from Kinpun camp at the foot of the hill by car and seven miles and seven furlongs on foot. Situated



Kyaikkami Yele Pagoda located in a resort in Mon State.



The locomotive displayed at the Death Railway Museum in Thanbyuzayat.

on top of Paunglaung Mountain which is 3615 feet above the sea level, the pagoda is built on a hermit's head-like balancing rock protruding about five feet from the bedrock towards the ravine.

The Gautama Buddha, in the eighth year after attaining Buddhahood paid a visit to Suvarnabhumi Thaton Land at the request of sacred Gawunpati monk. As Buddha had a vision of Buddha Sasana to be prolonged, gave his hair to the devotees and Taik Tha, a hermit was no exception. The hermit had tucked it in the tuft of his hair safely and when he was at the death's door he planned to build a pagoda. His plan was realized by celestial king who brought a granite boulder with the weight of 611.45 tons, height of 26.75 feet and girth of 84 feet from the floor of the ocean and placed it on the top of Kyaiktiyo Mountain which is about 80 feet in girth and 124 feet in height. It is said that when the celestial king placed the boulder at the top of the mountain there was gap between the main mountain and the boulder measuring the height of a broody hen.

Hermit Taik Tha enshrined the hair in a treasure casket and put it in a hole with 4.5 feet in depth and six inches in diameter dug at the middle top of the boulder. That was in 1183 Maha Era in the year Kyaiktiyo Pagoda was built.

There are other pagodas on top of Kyaiktiyo Mountain – Muhsotaung, Kyaukhysiyo pagoda, Naga and Pha pagoda and Kyee-ganpasat cave.

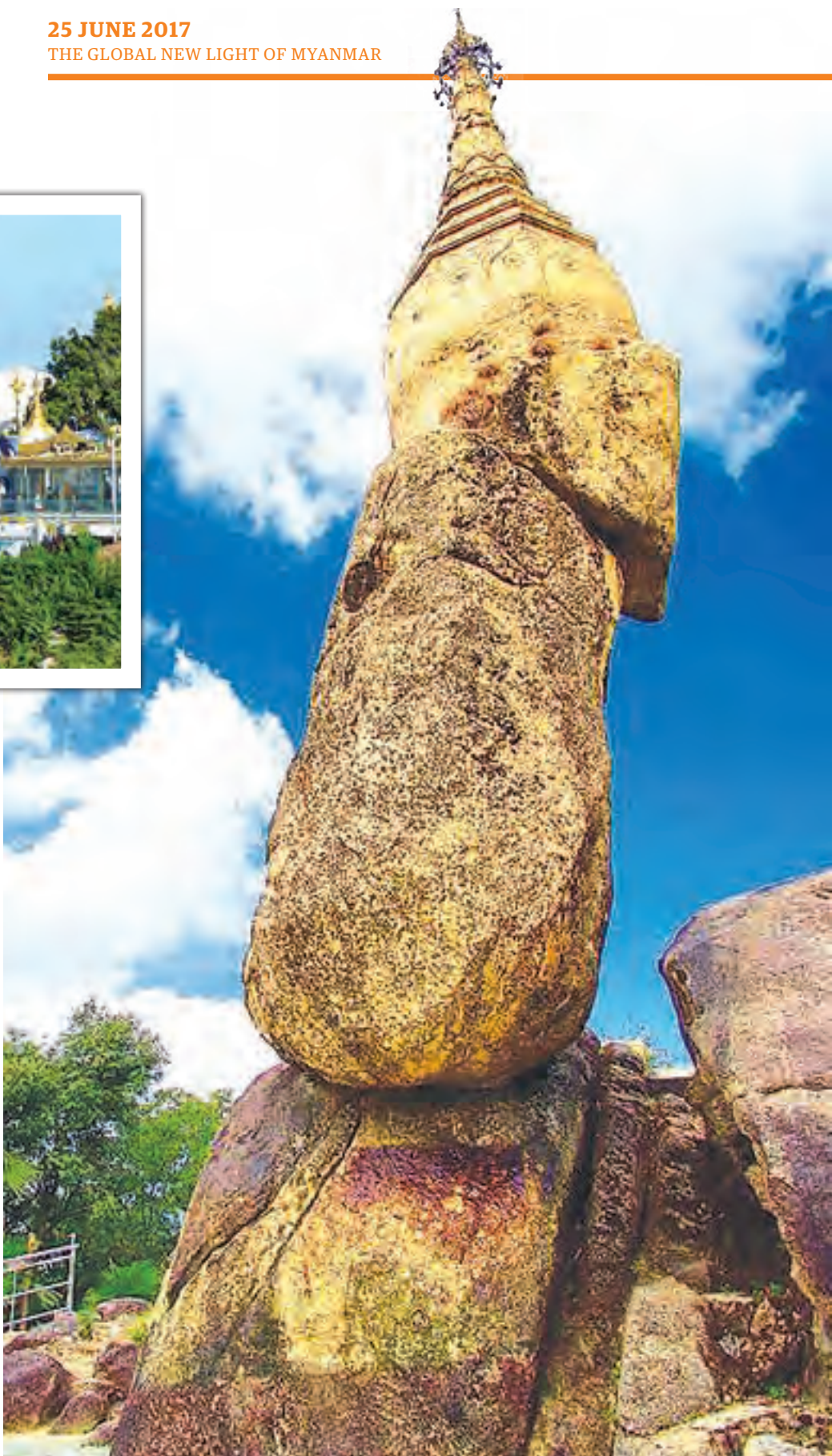
On the way back from Kyaiktiyo, pilgrims can also visit Kyaikpawlaw [Hmeshindaw (moving mole) image]. History says that King Devanan Piya Taiktha who established royal capital at Ceylon island made a vow and floated teak raft, Thingan raft, Peinne raft and Kyaukhlebi raft which carried four Buddha images into the sea. The teak raft arrived at Pathein bank and the image named Ceylon Shin

Phonedawpyi Paya was housed at a prayer-hall of Shwe Muhtaw pagoda. The Thingan raft docked at Dawei and the image was named Shin Mutti. Peinne raft arrived at Kyaikkami shore and the image was named Kyaikkami Yele Paya. Kyaukhlebi raft carrying an image stopped at Kyaikto and the image was named Kyaikpawlaw pagoda. Later the named was changed into Kyaikpawlaw Myetshidaw Pagoda because the eye of the image is crystal clear. Again it was called Hmeshindaw image named after the mole appeared on temple of the image.

After paying homage to pagodas in Kyaikto, pilgrims can visit Kaylartha Hsandawshin pagoda in Taungzon village in Bilin Township, Kyaikhtihsaung Pagoda in Zokthok village, historic latrite images, Maelan Hsandawshin on Maelan Mountain, Kyaukpi pagoda and Kyauktaga Ceti, and Kuthinayon Hsandawshin Ceti.

Maelan Hsandawshin Ceti is situated on the top of Nagapappa hill which is 860 feet high. The hill is 14 miles and furlongs from Bilin-Hpapun motorway. It can be reached on foot from the base of the hill climbing along laterite steps. Mountain cars can also be used to climb the hill through 13 feet wide concrete road. The pagoda is built on a smaller boulder stacked on the bigger one. The hair of Buddha is enshrined in the reliquary of the pagoda. There is a bell cast in 1259 which is decorated with ancient architectural styles. There are also brick tablets at the pagoda.

If you make a pilgrimage to Mon State don't miss a chance to visit Thaton 25 miles from Bilin because there are many ancient pagodas and historic hills there namely Shwesayan pagoda, Myathabeik pagoda, Naymeinda hill, Alantayar pagoda, Hnee pagoda, and Mahamyatmuni image. Paung Township is also famous for its natural beauties and ancient pagodas. Zinkyaik Waterfall in the township can fresh you



Bandithaylar Santawshin Pagoda in Mon State.

when you are feeling weary during your trip. There also are other ancient pagodas as well as natural bird museums which are home to over 10,000 birds.

After winding up your visit to the inner part of Mon State, you can go back to Mawlamyine passing through Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), the longest of its kind in the country. Near the Mawlamyine airport on Taungnyo range, there exist 500 statues of monks. The Pa-auk Forestry Monastery where foreigners practise meditation is situated on Mawlamyine-Mudon motor road. There also is the one of the world largest reclining Buddha Zina Thukha Yanaung Chantha image. The image with 600 feet in length and 100 feet in height is lying at the site 14 miles from Mawlamyine. Pilgrims can climb to the upper terrace of the image and see Buddha Jataka.

Kyaikmaraw Hsutaungpyi Pagoda, the Buddha image built by Mon Queen Shin Sawpu, is located Kyaikmaraw 12 miles from Mawlamyine. The feature of the image is too rare to see in Myanmar as it sits in the position of

the legs hanging down as if sitting on a chair.

The famous scenic beauty of Kyaikmaraw is row of palm trees on both sides of road at the entrance to town. There also are limestone caves with stalactites and stalagmites in the vicinity of Kyaikmaraw town and mineral springs in nearby Yebu (Hot Water) village.

One of the tourist attractions is the Death Railway which was built under Fascist rule at Thanbyuzayat 40 miles from Mawlamyine. The Common Wealth War cemetery in Thanbyuzayat is also famous for its historical backgrounds. Another famous places are Wareru old town, Setse beach and Kyaikkami Hsutaungpyi pagoda.

As Mon State is a wetland area there are biodiversities, and it can control climate change and balance the ecology. From the mouth of Sittoung River to the east of Kyaikto and Bilin reaching to the beach with approximate area of 45,000 hectors was designated as Ramsar Site on 10 May and it will surely bring about socioeconomic development of locals. (Translated by Wallace) ■

Discrimination in education between urban and rural Universities

FROM PAGE-A

Then, I passed the interview and in the next day, I had to type and give my personal details and some other necessary things that's why it wasted my time for two days to study for the exam. So, I couldn't sleep at all before and during the exam.

However, nothing's happened even though the date to go there was so close. When I investigated about it, I knew that they called for the next interview but for only those from urban Universities not us and they had selected from them.

Why didn't they inform us for the next interview? If they didn't want to select us, why did they inform us for the first interview? Why do they want to waste our time and effort? There are many students from ru-

ral Universities who have also the same experience like me. I passed the interviews for Korea, Japan and Thailand too, but all was just like it.

We can satisfy if we have chances to sit the next interview and they didn't select us because of our lack of qualification. But now, we all had to give up and we were depressed without knowing anything and later, we all don't want to attempt any longer because they didn't recognize ours. Do they notice that they are breaking the minds and future of ours who want to try hard?

What I want is that the concerned authorities know these facts and reduce this discrimination. And I wish that may all the University students around Myanmar get equal chances!! ■

My Last Page

FROM PAGE-A

Yesterdays of yesterdays were gone. When the innocence of mine caresses the back of my neck, I suddenly feel young once again with the discovery of the value of youth. Nevertheless, the youth of my days has been passing years by years without showing any sign. They are all gone as invisible as rings of smoke varnish into thin air.

Life is a magic show in the absolute darkness in which a cigarette can light thousands of faces: my face is indeed one of them. By the time I suddenly awaken in the show, my life is about to be blown away forever like a leaf fallen from the branch of a tree into the cool autumn breeze in a snowy day. The sun is no longer bright to my eyes as light rays passing through them are reflected in the mirror of darkness – the kind of darkness with which I was never intended to be friend. The wind whispered through leaves, but I am almost deaf to sense their rustling.

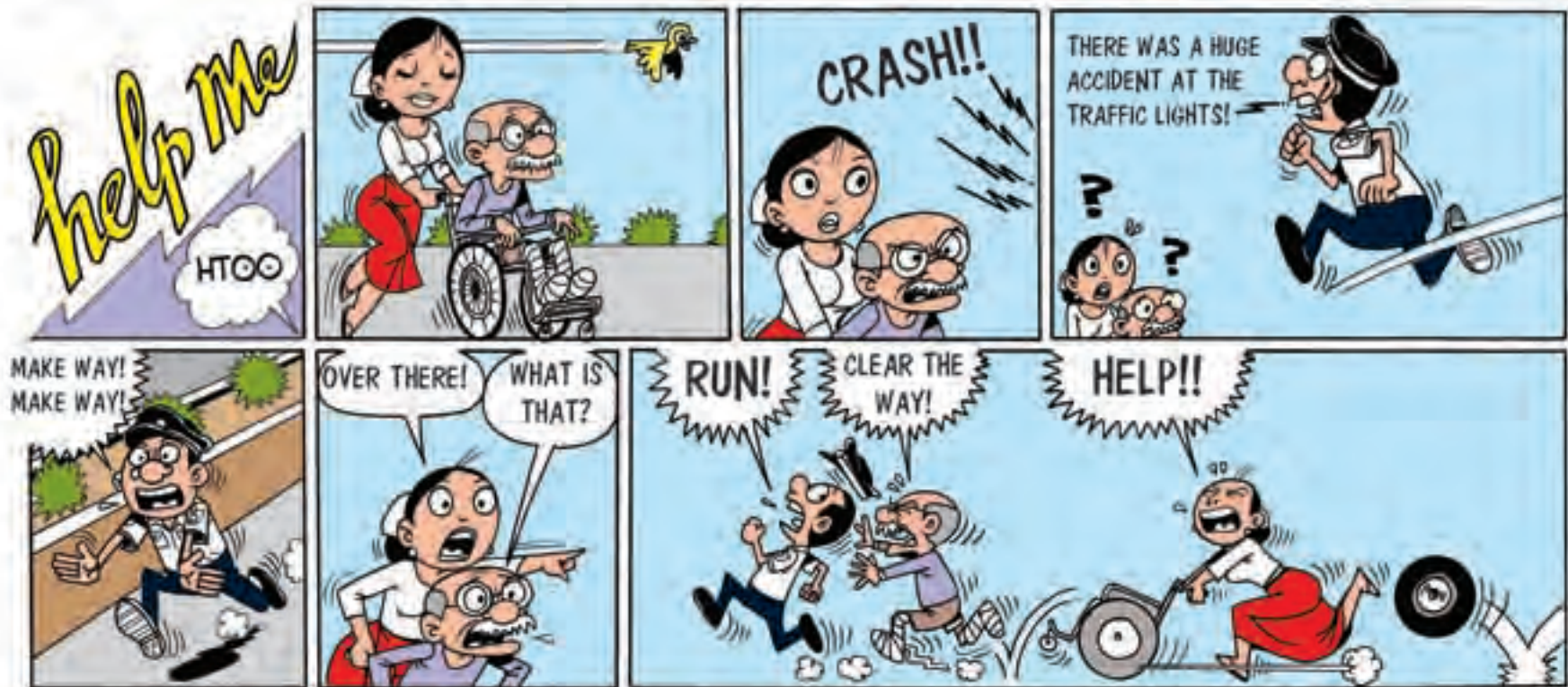
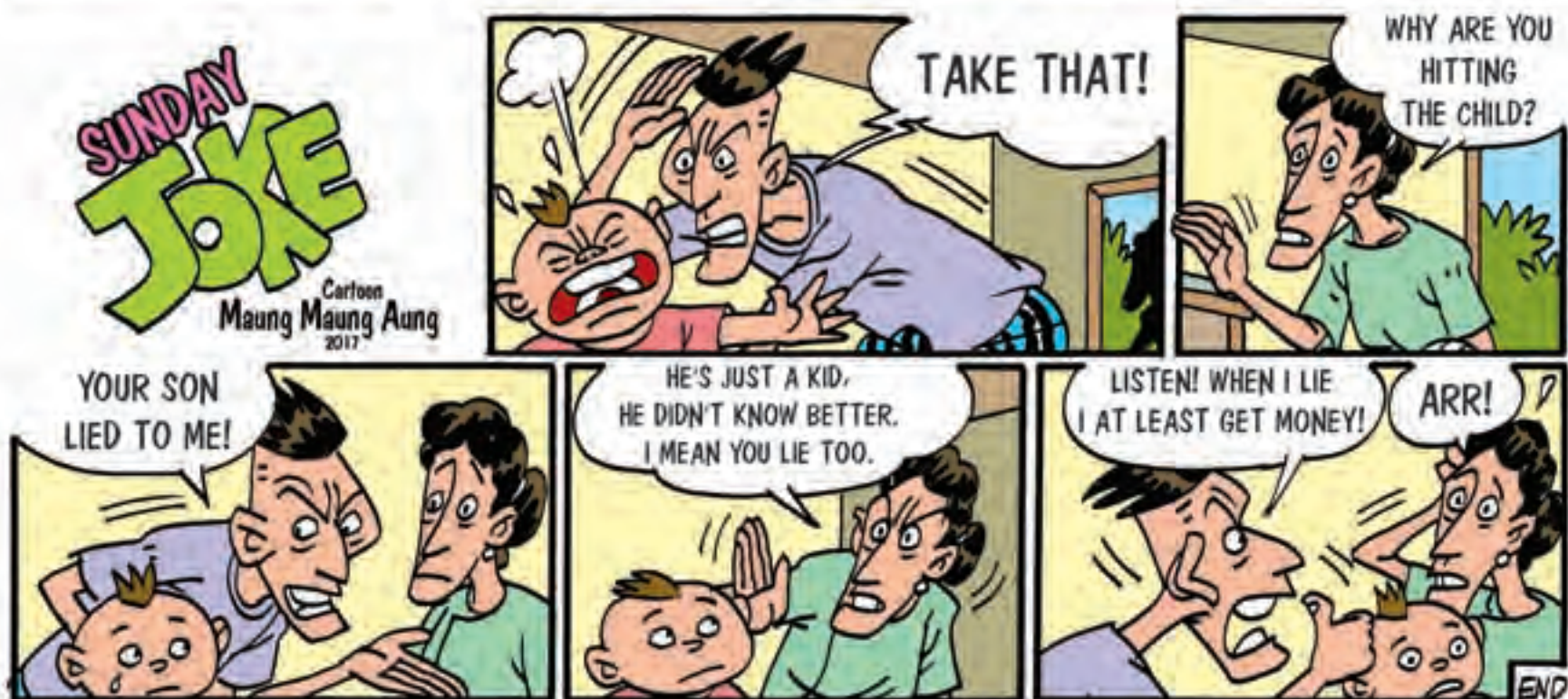
My energy is now being drained to the almost emptiness. Despite this, I continue struggling for the last fight with my last might. The chill of winter, the sounds of the hall, including the ticking clock on the wall and the announcement of my death are the last of the last things that I will remember forever and always. While searching for carpe diem in order to seize another day, I am getting sick of all, including my hypocrite – the declaration of fearlessness in the mind throughout my life.

Moments later, I am dramatically changing into 'a tiny drop of

snow', which is going to melt once the sun rises. Despite longing for an extra day to happily pass through with my boys and my beloved, the Grim reaper has been on the way of bringing death to me without showing any mercy on me. For the meantime, a lifetime of my memories runs through my head – with the speed of light – from the beginning to the end. With the disappearance of people's chattering voices, my world has become silent. The air of their sympathy has overwhelmed the atmosphere of my dead body's area. Eventually, my life is completely done together with the end of crimson sunset story despite echoing self-encouraging words in my mind to seize the day of tomorrow.

Simple realisation has come to my mind: seasons are always changing and so am I. There is the one and only one difference: seasons are never-ending but living beings are stopped when their ration of karma runs out. Life has two fixed points: birth and death. In travelling between these two points, the worst abstraction is attachment – the attachment to loved ones which can be persons or things. I paid attention not much enough to untie the knot of attachment, which should have been untied while being alive; consequently, my spirit must drift to somewhere she belongs. She is now sailing as randomly as a wreck in the middle of sea does, without knowing exact destination nor its direction, perhaps the place where she can rest to think of my past deeds over and over again, or perhaps Tamarack as it is my last desire to be fulfilled. ■

SUNDAY COMICS



Interview with Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Daniel Zonshine

A wide-ranging interview with Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Daniel Zonshine by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Israel and Myanmar.

Q: Mingalabar, welcome to our exclusive interview with Israeli Ambassador Mr. Daniel Zonshine. Israel and Myanmar have established relationships since 1953, so it's been a long history together. We want to know the progress of diplomatic relationships between our two countries

A: As you've said, we've had relations and representations since '53 here in Myanmar. This relationship is, from our point of view, very strategic in this area. Our first representative here was a politician with a lot of experience and he started activities that were the beginning of the development at that time.

The first State Visit that we had in Israel was Burmese Premier U Nu in 1955. During those years, we've developed a lot of connections, a lot of activities, exchange of people, of training and of sharing knowledge of both sides. All along the years we kept good relations and we've always had our embassy here and never closed it nor changed the level, the level of ambassador. In the last few years we've seen more possibilities and more potential for cooperation. Based on the good relations from the '50s we tried to plan cooperation for the future and I think there is a big potential for that.

Q: So after the reflection of our bilateral relations I also want to know your impression on Myanmar's transition to democracy and Myanmar's endeavors for the peace process.

A: Well, it's a heavy issue. Coming from a country that is democratic and sitting in an area where democracy is not very common, we look at democracy in a very wide context. It's not just about elections and voting but it's a state of mind and it has to do with freedom of expression, freedom of press and many issues that are related and derive from democracy. This is a process that will take time and I think to change the mindset of the people, it's not something that you can do overnight by declaration or by signing an agreement. It has to do with education and preparing the minds of the people.

If I can use an example from our history from the biblical times when the Israelites who were in Egypt and slaves for 400 years. When they got free and left Egypt, it took them 40 years to wander in the desert. The way from Egypt to



Israeli Ambassador Mr Daniel Zonshine speaks during the interview at the Israeli Embassy in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH**

I think here in Myanmar, most agriculture is traditional and to be able to look at it from an innovative point of view is very important.

the land of Israel is much shorter; you don't need 40 years but it took 40 years to change the mind of the people from slavery to free people.

So, changing the minds of people is a process that will take time. The expectations are high, they're skyrocketing and there may be some kind of conflict between the expectations and the possibilities and reality. But once you have a national agreement, that this is the direction and the way to implement it, I think in the long run you can achieve it. Not just in elections but a democracy as a way of life, democracy as running a society, democracy as balancing the different forces in society and in the country. This is something that I wish Myanmar will have as soon as possible, but again we need patience.

Now when you talk of peace, the peace process is not a very short thing

and Myanmar has been dealing with it for quite a long time. I think that this is something that needs a top-down approach, meaning building the trust which is essential for that sort of thing, starting from the heads, the leaders. This is something that should start from the top - the government, the military, the minorities, looking at the vast interest of the country and of the people. When you take into consideration the interests and when you can bridge the differences in interest naturally not each side or party of the discussion has the same interest - it is essential for a progress. If you manage to bridge it and in this regard trust is essential, then it's top-down because when in the top there are disagreements - the price is paid mostly in the lower levels. People who are either fighting or killing or are killed, or people who have to move away from the areas of their houses, damage of property and to the lives of people and the environment where they are living. So all will benefit when the top-down approach reaches down to society and the country in general.

Talking about our experience, in '73 we had fierce war with Egypt and Syria in what we call the Yom Kippur War and four years later the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat arrived in Israel. Of course there were some preparations for that, but his arrival to Israel changed the minds of people. And we are talking about countries that were fighting from the very beginning, from 1948, since our war of independence, fighting with Egypt in '48 and '56, in '67 and then again in '73, a war that so many lives from both sides

were lost. This move from the head of state, at least in Israel, changed the mind of the people and that's why I'm taking the top-down approach.

I don't think people hate each other in the personal level but if the leadership is screening some kind of trust or readiness to sit down, to negotiate, to have peace which is more natural than to have war, this can bring and change the minds of people and enable to move forward to the next step. There are sentiments that exist from the past, so many years of fighting and disagreement and different interests, if you have the change coming from the top to the people, than I believe it is much easier to achieve this peace we are talking about.

Q: That's very interesting and it's a good lesson.

A: I think We should always look at others and see and learn from other countries and their mistakes and also learn from the good things that are happening in the area and see what is suitable for us, what is suitable for Myanmar as a society, as a country with different groups and interests. Take the experience of others and even get help from others in order to promote and to make things better than they are now.

Q: We have learned that there is a lot of cooperation between our two countries, especially in the field of education, health-care, agriculture and technology so please elaborate more about these cooperation programs, especially human resource development programs.

A: This is something that we really put an emphasis on and share our knowledge and experience with other countries and in this regard Myanmar is a priority country in our approach and in our ministry. I can divide it into cooperation and development on one hand and relations in the commercial area on the other hand. Yesterday I came back from a short visit to Bangkok and on the plane with me were a few dozens of young Myanmar people who just came back from an 11-month stay in Israel. They were there in a project that is ongoing for twenty-three years of receiving young Myanmar people for studying and working in agriculture in Israel.

I think this period of time, when they are exposed to the Israeli methodologies and technical innovations and especially technology, I think the mindset of Israeli farmers helps to get a better understanding of modern agriculture, a better understanding of the importance of planning, experience, research and the know-how that accompanies agriculture.

FROM PAGE-G

I think here in Myanmar, most agriculture is traditional and to be able to look at it from an innovative point of view is very important. And since it is more than 20 years that people coming and going to Israel for this purpose, I think it has some contribution not only to each person in his or her own area but also to society and I believe it can create some kind of critical mass. Two hundred people, more or less are going every year to Israel and coming back with these experiences and exposure to Israeli agriculture.

When I was chatting with the young people, most of them were quite happy with the experience they gained there in Israel. This is one program that's been ongoing and I think we now have more than two thousand people who already participate in such programs. Wherever I go in Myanmar I meet people who were in Israel during these 20 years. Last week I was in Yezin Agricultural University and one of the professors said she was there in 2000 and was exposed to this experience.

In other areas when we are talking government to government, just last week we had a visit of the deputy head of our international corporation agency and he was sitting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, trying to identify some of the areas of priority from the Myanmar side, in what way can Israel be relevant to Myanmar. We have experiences in several areas, agriculture is one of them and maybe the most visible but it's not the only one. We have experience in water management, last year we translated into Myanmar language a book about Israeli's experiences in water management and I think it's very relevant to Myanmar because some parts of Myanmar have difficulty with access to water during some period of the year.

So I think some of the lessons of Israel can be applicable in Myanmar. Some months ago we had trainings in a Yezin University on water management and how we use some technologies and planning for using water in more efficient ways. It's not just about saving water but it's about using water in more effective ways and that will both use less water and the right amount of water that the plants need, manage the water reservoirs and water resources. It will keep them clean and available and keep them from contamination needs a holistic approach and technology the combination of both is something that we can share our experience with in that area.

When we talk about cooperation in general, we would prefer to concentrate on cooperation that will

be a long-term project with more investments and more focus from Israel. The main contribution of Israel in this regard will be the area of capacity building. The experts in agriculture, for example, will not just stay in class but also will be going out into the fields talking about agriculture and water and showing how things are being done there practically.

In the health sector we have some activities - two Myanmar neonatal doctors visited an Israeli hospital for a month and we are discussing with the Minister for Health to prolong it and to make it a long-term project. We have an ongoing cooperation in the ophthalmology sector, where there were nine Israeli delegations of eye doctors coming to Myanmar during the last decade. It's an NGO but with the support of the government they are coming here to share know-how and to conduct surgeries in more sophisticated areas of ophthalmology. We also had a senior doctor staying in Israel for six months of experience gaining program. There are many areas that we have on cooperation and they are mainly based on capacity building.

Q: Myanmar is striving for political reform in parallel with economic reform, so I want to know Israel's support like investment for them.

A: Investment will mostly be something to do with the private sector from Israel and we try to keep the private sector in Israel informed about what's going on in Myanmar. I think the best way to be informed is not only through reading and open sources but also about visiting. So we encourage people to come here and we encourage Myanmar people to come visit Israel.

Last month we had a delegation led by the director-general of DICA (Directorate of Investment and Company Administration) U Aung Naing Oo to meet Israeli establishment, government, public and private sector in order to expose the possibilities and challenges here in Myanmar and to create business to business connections. Apart from that there are Israeli companies here in the area of telecommunications, health, agriculture and technology. As a government we encourage but we're not investing in Myanmar because this is the way our government is working. We are not coming here in very big programs like other countries but focusing on training and capacity building at the government level and we leave the investing to the private sector.

Myanmar is undergoing a very interesting time and there have been discussions on whether development will bring peace

or peace will bring development. I do not think you can put one aside and focus on only the other and then wait till later to deal with the other. This is a challenge where you need a lot of attention and learn from the experience from others, which means using the help of the international community to see how to make shortcuts, to expedite the process, because you don't have the time and the luxury of developing things in an organic way.

Q: In the recent Panglong Peace Conference, the State Counsellor mentioned that civil war is not made by us but we have to start making peace for the new generations. Also globalization is going on and this will not wait for us so we have to keep going on. She also mentioned people's participation so according to your suggestion we may have to look for shortcuts.

A: Yes, like I said, you don't have the luxury of developing things very slowly. You should look around and see how you're becoming part of the world economically, academically and from other point of view. You have to develop your economy while keeping your assets. It may sound like a conflict but it's something that I believe you'll have to deal with.

Q: If it goes into good hands then challenges will become opportunities.

A: Challenges are always there, you cannot refrain from them. If you look around the world there are no countries free from challenges or of the need to deal with the economy, society, internal or external peace. Even developing countries have their own challenges like immigration or world trade.

Q: My last question is about the strengthening of bilateral relationships between Myanmar and Israel.

A: As I've mentioned before, some of the challenges will be left to the private sector like Israeli investors and companies to come here. Some of it will be in the government level and I think what we will concentrate on is the relative advantages of Israeli experience like water management, agriculture, education and medicine. We are talking about agriculture in the dry zone, which has been present along the years but it will be more focused. Again, we are not coming to impose anything like saying this is what you need or this is the right way to do things but we can offer our experience, our know-how and our goodwill, no strings attached. We have some cooperation and projects already in progress, but the intention is to focus our efforts according to the preferences and needs of Myanmar authorities. ■

A TALE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10

Four-week-old little one which refuses to listen to the mommy-Deer

By Khin Maung Phone Ko

IN the African jungle, all the animals were feeding on their food. Among them were a flock of deer with their newly added little ones. There was One mother deer and her four-week-old (a baby deer) are grazing on a dry grass.

A young little one was named Bimbee who was not so happy to eat dry grass and grumbling about it. It looks around here and there. Wah! It sees a green grass right under the tall big tree and told mom deer." There! mon a fresh green grass under the big tree". None (animal) was there too. May I go there, mom please", Bimbee said. Mommy dear reply was no! But Bimbee insisted again and again to go there. Then mom deer says that no other deer were there, it shows that place was not a safe for you too. But Bimbee ignored mom's warning and went under the big tree to

eat the green grass. While it is happily grazing on the grass there came down from the tree a big leopard and a sound of gun fire together from the hunter nearby.

Bimbee must jump and run for its life to wards mom deer. Wooh! Then saw a leopard waiting on the tree has jumped on the stubborn Bimbee for a meal. By a stroke of the mercy of the creator God, a gun fire from a hunter who was aiming to kill the leopard with his gun.

This event has save Bimbee from the victim of the leopard's meal.

The theme of the story is off-springs or children should listen to mother or father, so that they are to honour them.

The Bible verses:

"Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. (Genesis 20 :12, NIV) ■

Here are the answers to the last week's lesson "Sentences" exercises .

- I.** (a) , (c), (d), (f), (g) , (i) and (j) are sentences.
II. You have to write 10 sentences.
III. Subjects Predicates
 (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) You Do know the Ugly Duckling?
 (j) The moon is shining up there.

The Objects in these sentences are: ..

- (a), (b) all these mangoes, (c) this book, (d) our mistakes
 (e) a little puppy, (f), (g) that cake, (h),
 (i) the Ugly Duckling, (j)

IV. You have to make your own sentences.

e.g. The boy saw a small dog on the street.

The boy (Subject), saw a small dog on the street (Predicate), a small dog (Object).

V.(1) Five examples of Phrases are : ...

on the road, in the garden , on the wall, outside the stadium, up there

(2) Five examples of Clauses are:..

Who sang heavy metal, which is on the table, when the moon shines, where he goes, whose book I have hired

V. Phrases Clauses

- (a) who got 100 marks in Mathematics
 (b) on the tree
 (c) up there
 (d) under the rain cloud
 (e) in the meat-safe
 (f) who sang "Bo Aung Din"
 (g) which are delicious
 (h) in the field
 (i) who lies late
 (j) on the wall