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Pull-out supplement

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Aid arrives for flood victims in Kyaikto

Volunteers clear a flooded road as a car carrying relief aid from the Amyotha Hluttaw and Mon State Hluttaw arrives in Kyaikto, whose residents are dealing with mass flooding. The flood started to recede yesterday. **PHOTO: IPRD (NEWS ON PAGE-2)**

Nine murder suspects arrested in Buthidaung

SECURITY forces on Friday arrested nine people suspected of the murder of Abdu Suwon in Maunghnama village, Nga Yant Chaung village-tract, in Buthidaung Township.

The security forces had been searching for those suspected of involvement in Abdu Suwon's 4

July murder and arrested nine suspects including Mar Maut Swe York Nul in Maunghnama village on Friday morning.

All suspects are under investigation at the local police station. Officials say Muslim insurgents are behind this and a slew of killings in the area that

has been racked by violence in recent months, with security forces accused of committing atrocities against civilians.

"It is clear that Muslim militants are taking out Muslim villagers who are perceived to be collaborating with the government," U Thauung Tun, National

Security Advisor, told diplomats in Yangon.

At least 44 civilians have been killed and 27 have been kidnapped or gone missing in northern Rakhine in the past nine months, U Thauung Tun said.

It was not possible to independently verify those figures

or establish who was behind any of the killings described to journalists. Insurgents have denied targeting civilians.

But in two cases, including that of Abdu Suwon, relatives of the victims broadly supported the official version of events.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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Aid arrives for flood victims in Kyaikto

AID from the Amyotha Hluttaw and Mon State Hluttaw has reached flood victims in Kyaikto, Mon State, who are being sheltered at six emergency camps.

Heavy rain that began in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, on Thursday has injured several people, displaced thousands and caused extensive damage.

Heavy rains near Theinzayet Village in Kyaikto Township eroded a cliff side and caused it to collapse onto the house of U Myint Htun Naing, 39.

He suffered an injury to his right foot and is receiving treatment in Theinzayet Hospital.

Similarly, another cliffside collapsed near Seikkanthar Ward in the same village and

destroyed the house of U Aye Ko, 58. In addition to numerous injuries, livestock were also lost. Over 688 houses in the combined areas of Kawsannaing Ward, Zayarmon Ward, the Northern Ward and Lone Pakkalate Village were partially submerged, forcing over 2,746 people to take refuge in temporary camps set up in local monasteries and schools.

Floods from the heavy rains in Kyaikto also submerged the railway tracks near the 77/14 and 77/20 milepost on the Yangon-Mawlamyine railroad under 2.6 inches of water. This caused a train from Mawlamyine station to halt on the tracks until floodwaters receded.

Meanwhile, the water level

in the Ngawun River at Ngathaingchaung in the Ayeyawady Region reached two feet above its danger level, forcing three schools to close.

The water levels of the Ayeyawady River have reached two feet above its danger level in Hinthada and Zalun yesterday, and the water level is expected to remain above the danger level for next three days.

The water level of the Ayeyawady River has also exceeded its danger level in Ngathaing Chaung and Thabaung.

The weather bureau has warned the people living in low-lying areas and near the river to take precautionary measures that include evacuation to higher ground. —GNLM ■



A woman carries water bottles and foods distributed by an aid organization during a flood in Kyaikto township, Mon State. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Wheelchairs donated to Children's Hospital by 13-year-old American



"Give to Live" organisation American founder Alice Le Roux donates wheelchairs to the Children's Hospital Yangon. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)**

FIVE wheelchairs have been donated to the Children's Hospital of Yangon by the organisation "Give to Live" founded by Alice Le Roux, a 13-year-old 8th grader at Hinson Middle School who lives in Ormond Beach, Florida, USA. The donations were made in collaboration with MNP Sprinkles Myanmar.

Alice has always been compassionate towards needy

people and especially wanted to help children in need. She often comes to visit Myanmar with her family.

Last year, she brought over toys she had collected in Florida and gave them to children in a Yangon orphanage.

During her visit to the orphanage, she observed a child struggling to walk and thought a wheelchair would be very useful.

Back home, Alice organized a garage sale with her friends from Give to Live to raise funds for the wheelchairs. They collected used household goods, appliances, toys, books, and clothes and sold them in a two-day garage sale.

Also in June, to raise more money, Alice worked as a junior counselor at the Halifax Youth Sailing summer camp, teaching young kids how to sail a boat.

With the money from the garage sale and the camp, she bought the wheelchairs.

"At this time, we can only give five wheelchairs, but in the near future, we intend to give many more.

In high school, I hope to expand Give to Live. If you want to join Give to Live, email us at give.to.live.myanmar@gmail.com with dots in between the words", she said." — Tin Soe (Myanmar Alinn) ■

Explosion in Momauk, Kachin State, kills one

An explosion yesterday morning in front of a tea shop in Momauk, Kachin State, killing one person and injuring four others.

At 9am, Naw San, 43, a member of Lawayang Militia Headquarters who lives in Kyanan Ward, was returning from Myoma Market. As he opened the door to his car, a nearby motorcycle exploded, injuring

five people. Naw San died from his injuries a short time later while being treated at Momauk Hospital.

Maung Soe Min Latt, 28, was seriously injured while Maung Zaw Htay Aung, 25, Ma Ah Kaining, 21 and Maung Naing Min, 16, suffered minor cuts. All were undergoing treatment in Bhamo Hospital.—District IPRD ■



One person killed and four others injured as an explosion in front of a tea shop in Momauk, Kachin State. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

Signboard opening and book donation ceremonies held

A ceremony to donate a signboard to the National Standards and Quality Department and books to its library as well as to Yangon University Law Department was held on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road yesterday.

At the ceremony, U Win

Khine Moe, the director-general of the Research and Innovation Department, explained the matter relating to the donation of the signboard and the books. U Win Ngwe, the managing director of Myanmar Ocean Win, explained the

purpose of donating the books and signboard.

Next, the donor handed over the ISO books, trade and services law books and the National Standards and Quality Department signboard to U Win Khine Moe, the direc-

tor-general of the Research and Innovation Department and Prof Dr. Khin Chit Chit, of Yangon University Law Department.

The donor from Myanmar Ocean Win Company donated only the ISO standard original

books and original books on the law as well as the other original publications.

The Ministry of Education is implementing this project with the assistance of Myanmar Ocean Win. —Maung Kyin Nar ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio arrives at Seoul, Republic of Korea yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio departs from New York

THE Myanmar delegation led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio departed from John F Kennedy International Airport, New York, by Korean Airline on 21 July and arrived in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 22 July.

The Vice President and delegation will welcomed

at Incheon International Airport by Thura U Thet Oo Maung, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and officials.

The Vice President and party then left by Singapore Airlines to Yangon via Singapore.—MNA ■

New pill and tablet factory opens in Insein

A ceremony to open a new facility that produces medicinal pills, tablets and capsules was held yesterday morning at New MPI (Myanma Pharmaceutical Industry) Project site in Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein), Insein Township, Yangon.

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry, Road and Communication Daw Nilar Kyaw, H.E. Antonio J.M. de Souza e Silva and MPI Managing Director (MD) U Ko Ko Lwin opened the ceremony by cutting a ribbon after which Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho and Dr. Myint Htwe press a button to unveil a commemorative sign of the building and poured scented water on it.

Afterward, in the meeting room, the acting factory manager explained the manufacturing process of new medicines. MPI MD then explained the project stages to increase production of medicines, present production and future plans.

Next, Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho, Dr. Myint Htwe and officials viewed the displayed medicines produced by Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein), observed the production of pills and tablets and met with local and foreign experts who implemented



Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho, Dr. Myint Htwe and officials observe the production of pills and tablets. **PHOTO: NAY LIN**

the project.

“MPI-produced medicines support the Ministry of Health, and while touring the factory, it was seen to be producing quality products. As the medicines are of required quality, Ministry of Health will purchase most of the medicines produced. Furthermore the prices are cheap and there is a time factor in importing from abroad and thus this is very convenient,” said Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. The New MPI Project was implemented in 2015 and on 20 May 2016, a new anti-venom production centre and a modern medicine storage building was opened. On 18 February, a Cephalosporin injection building and Small Volume Parenteral Production Plant was opened.

New medicines were be-

ing produced in the pills, tablets and capsule production building yesterday and morphine sulfate tablets for cancer patients were being tested. Treatment with the tablets was provided in Yangon General Hospital while a medicine registration license from FDA was also obtained.

Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) factory manager Dr. Aung Zaw said the new pills, tablets and capsule production building can produce 500 million pills, tablets, and capsules annually and was setup with an aim to increase production of required medicines for the Myanmar health sector.

Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) has produced various pills, tablets and injections since 1958 is currently producing more than 180 types of medicines. —Thi Thi Min ■

Anyeint competition and dances included in Myanmar Democracy Film Festival

ANYEINT (traditional dance) competition will be included as an entertainment programme in the Myanmar Democracy Film festival that will be held from 15 to 21 September, according to an organising committee of the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival that

The committee held its meeting yesterday afternoon at Myanmar Radio and Television meeting hall in Yangon, and it was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint.

At the meeting, director Thuya, also known as U Zargana, said Anyeint competitions will be held (for Anyeint troupes) not only in and from Yangon and Mandalay but also in and from upper Myanmar towns like Pakokku, Kyaukpadaung, Meiktila, Myingyan, Monywa, Shwebo and lower Myanmar towns such as Mawlamyine, Patheingyi, Pyaw. Arrangements are being made to send out invitations. Preliminary selections will be held simultaneously in Yangon and Mandalay on 28, 29 and 30 Au-

gust. Three Anyeint troupes from upper Myanmar and three from lower Myanmar will be selected and the competition will be held among the six. Ten prizes consisting of first, second, third prizes and three consolation prizes for Anyeint troupes, best comedian, best lead female dancer, best band prizes and audience selected best Anyeint troupe prize are planned to be awarded, said U Zargana.

Next, director Maung Thiha, who is the responsible person for organising Myanmar Democracy Anyeint competition and entertainment, said the singing and comedic acts should represent and promote peace and must not include any words or actions that are offensive to any religion, ethnic, nationality or person.

He discussed the marking scheme and general rules such as the number of dancers and comedians per Anyeint troupe. Other attendees to the meeting also offered their suggestions and remarks. —MNA ■



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivers speech at the meeting for holding Myanmar Democracy Film Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over 70,000 acres of paddies to be planted in Maungdaw

OVER 70,000 acre of paddies will be planted in the Maungdaw region during the monsoon season, according to a report of an official from the township agricultural department released yesterday.

“We are planning to plant 74,744 acres of paddy in the 2017-2018 rainy seasons. Arrangements are being made to pro-

vide fertilizer and power tillers in order to support this plan”, said U Thein Wai, an agricultural department officer in Maungdaw Township.

“In the last rainy season, 73,704 acres of paddy was planted and yielded 80 to 100 baskets per acre,” he added.

Currently, farmers in

Maungdaw region are preparing paddy saplings and plowing the fields, but some lands were unused. “In Maungdaw region, high yield paddies are planted yearly in order to meet the requirement of the increasing population of the region,” said U Thein Wai.— Myint Maung Soe/Aung Kyaw Oo ■

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Special markets for fruits, flowers and vegetables to be built

ABOUT 20 specialised markets for fruits, flowers and vegetables will be built by Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

A market survey will be conducted with an aim to help growers to prevent waste and delays, to ensure consumer convenience and healthy food.

Currently, vegetables, fruits and flowers are being sold only in the Thiri Mingalar market. Therefore,

Fruits and vegetables for sale at the market in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP) chairman U Soe Than Min Din submitted a proposal to YCDC

to construct 20 fruit and vegetables wholesale markets in all four districts.

Acting on the submitted proposal by the MFVP chair-

man, the Yangon Region government is making arrangements to conduct the market survey to receive consumer feedback.— GNLM ■

Myanmar to receive second batch of new locomotives from India in September

MYANMA Railways (MR) said the second batch of new diesel engine locomotives with a capacity of 1,350 HP will arrive in Myanmar from India in September, according to a report of the Myawady Daily on Saturday.

A spokesperson said the MR paid US\$1.8 million per locomotive manufactured by Varanasi Diesel Locomotive

Works, India, ordering 18 new locomotives. The first batch of locomotives reached Yangon earlier this year.

"This is part of the MR's plan to improve railway transportation for commuters to be able to travel more conveniently. The new locomotives are planned to replace old ones where necessary. Major railway

sections and Yangon circular railroads are high on the list of the authorities' priorities to improve them with new facilities", the spokesman said.

The six new locomotives that arrived in Yangon this May are currently at the Mahlwagone railway workshop to test their ability before official operation. After the trial period, the

new locomotives will be handed over to Mandalay Region railway authorities to use them on Mandalay-Myitkyina railway section. Arrangements will be made by the headquarters of the MR. Locomotives produced from Japan, India, China, Germany and France are currently in use in the MR railway system.—GNLM ■

Most drinkers go to mental health hospital, with over 7,000 cases in 2016

THE number of alcohol-related admissions is rising at the Yangon Mental Health Hospital (Ywathagyi), said Dr Thin Thin Aye, medical superintendent of the hospital.

The news was reported in the Myawady Daily's Saturday edition. Alcohol abuse can cause depression, anxiety, psychosis,

and antisocial behavior, both during intoxication and during withdrawal.

The majority of cases at the hospital are related to excessive drinking. According to last year's hospital records, the number of patients with alcohol-related mental illness reached around 7,400, while the hospital hosts

2,200 cases which are directly associated with drug abuse. Another 3,500 went to the hospital to seek treatment for depression.

"The brain becomes fully developed by the age of 21. It is hard for young people to quit the habit of excessive drinking, and they usually suffer from acute anxiety", said Dr Hsan Linn from

the mental health education department, Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital. Alcohol increases the risk of some mental health problems, like depression and anxiety. The risk of having a mental illness is higher for people who drink alcohol heavily than for people who do not drink, a medical professional said.—GNLM ■

Only new vehicles to be manufactured with SKD system

ONLY brand new vehicles will be permitted to be made with the Semi Knock Down (SKD) system, under which car parts are manufactured abroad but assembled in the country that makes the finished products, said the Ministry of Transport

and Communications yesterday.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications will no longer permit manufacturing of vehicles by local industrial zones. The Ministry has also checked only 274 vehicles which were manufactured with legally

imported used motor parts and with locally manufactured parts according to the rules and regulations.

From now on, the Ministry will not allow manufacturing of the vehicles with used parts. The Ministry will cooperate with ex-

patriate technicians to manufacture new cars. Local private entrepreneurs and joint ventures will manufacture the brand new vehicles under the SKD system according to the rules and regulations of the Myanmar Investment Commission.— GNLM ■



Eel is the main export product in earning foreign money, as the eels can be caught year round.
PHOTO: AUNG WIN (PYAPON)

Eel exports earn foreign currency year round

OUT of all exported fisheries products, eel is the main export product in earning foreign money, as the eels can be caught year round. Eel exports are increasing in the China and Thailand markets, depending on the price.

“The supply of eel will rise from 22 July until the end of July in Pyapon Township. There are 15 eel purchase depots in Pyapon,” said U Aung Kyaw

Moe from the Aung Gabar eel purchase depot at 13th street in Pyapon Township. “The price of eel fish will fall down to Ks4,000 per viss when the eel supply increases. If the eel supply declines, the price of eels will increase up to Ks10,000 per viss. Today, the current price of the eels is Ks5,000 per viss”.

About 20,000 viss of eels are sold to Hlinethaya and Insein fish purchase depots when the

supply of eels is on the rise, whereas only the eels of big size are exported, it is learnt from the Fishery Department and the Eel Association. Currently, the China market is the main buyer of Myanmar’s eels, with Thailand in second place. Eels are most commonly caught in Bago and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State, Shwebo and Yay Oo Townships in Sagaing Region.—Aung Win (Pyapon) ■

Import from Myawady border gate declines by \$15 million

THE import value through the Myawady border port of entry this financial year totalled US\$210.4 million, a decrease of \$15 million compared with the same period last year, according to the latest report of the Commerce Ministry.

Over the past three-and-a-half months, the total trade value of Myawady, the second largest border trade camp situated between Myanmar and Thailand, amounted to \$226 million, with exports making up a feeble \$15.957

million. Myanmar mainly exports products such as sesame, beans, onion, marine products, herbal plants, and rubber to Thailand.

It imports textile and clothing, footwear, personal goods, electronic materials and many other commodities from its neighbour.

Exporters say that Myanmar is weaker than Thailand in local manufacturing, thus the exports are lower than the imports.—

GNLM ■

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International trade by sea increased by \$1.3 bln since April



PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

THE value of trade between Myanmar and international countries by sea topped US\$6.8 billion in the current financial year and the figure was \$1.3 billion more than that of last year, according to the official statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce on Friday.

Between April and mid-July of this year, the export value of external trade

through sea routes was nearly \$2.4 billion, while the import value amounted to \$4.5 billion in total, with over \$2 billion in trade deficit.

This time last financial year, the total value of foreign trade reached \$5.56 billion, including \$1.87 billion from the export sector and \$3.69 billion from the import sector, with a trade deficit of \$1.8 billion.

Myanmar predominantly

exports agricultural products, livestock, fishery products, forest products, minerals, manufacturing and other products while capital goods, consumer goods and raw industrial products are imported into Myanmar. Efforts have been made by the government to decrease the trade deficit by reducing imported commodities such as luxury products.—GNLM ■

East Timorese form long lines to vote in parliamentary election

DILI — Voters in East Timor queued up on Saturday to cast their vote in the country's fourth parliamentary elections since independence in a ballot where campaigning has focused on development and jobs in Asia's youngest democracy.

More than 700,000 East Timorese are registered to vote in the country, which has a land area slightly smaller than Hawaii and is home to 1.2 million people.

Over 20 political parties are vying for 65 seats in parliament as frustration grows over the government's failure to use the wealth generated by oil and gas sales to support development and create jobs.

The parliamentary election will determine the country's prime minister. The official results of the election is expected to be announced by 6 August, although preliminary results should come much earlier.

"I hope the party that wins this election will build East Timor to be better than before," said Maria Magdalena, 28, after casting her vote for the Revolutionary Front for an Independent



An East Timorese woman casts her ballot in parliamentary elections in Dili, East Timor on 22 July 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

East Timor, or Fretilin, one of the parties in a coalition backing the current government.

"I just want everything to run smoothly, peacefully and that there be no conflict in this country," she added.

East Timorese picked for-

mer independence fighter Francisco "Lu Olo" Guterres to be its next president in a largely peaceful election in March. Both the presidential and parliamentary elections are the first since the United Nations ended its peacekeeping operations at

the end of 2012. The former Portuguese colony was invaded by neighbouring Indonesia in 1975. An often violent 24-year resistance movement took East Timor to independence in 2002 and many of its key figures still feature prominently in running

the country.

Xanana Gusmao, another former independence fighter who was also East Timor's first president after independence, and his National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction (CNRT) party are seen as the front-runners in Saturday's vote. CNRT is also part of the current governing coalition.

"After a tiring month, I believe that we will win. If we win, we will do our best to save the nation and this country," he told reporters before casting his vote.

If his party wins, Gusmao said it would continue development focussing on agriculture and tourism as well as oil and gas.

Analysts said the challenge for any incoming government would be to wean the predominantly Roman Catholic nation away from its reliance on oil money and diversify its income sources into agriculture and manufacturing.

The energy sector accounted for around 60 per cent of GDP in 2014 and more than 90 per cent of government revenue. —Reuters ■

Reliance rattles Indian telcos again by unveiling 'free' 4G phone

MUMBAI — India's disruptive new mobile entrant Reliance Jio, backed by the country's richest man Mukesh Ambani, unveiled a low-cost 4G-enabled phone on Friday to woo tens of millions of new customers, further destabilising established telecoms players.

Jio has enjoyed a meteoric rise since its launch a year ago, with its months of free services and sharply discounted plans battering the fortunes of incumbents such as Bharti Airtel and Idea Cellular, who have seen revenues and profits shrink dramatically.

Despite Jio's rapid rise, funded by mega-profits churned out by parent Reliance Industries' core refining and petrochemicals operations, it has been unable to tap more than 500 million non-smartphone users in India, who still rely on old feature phones to make calls and send text messages, as its network only supports 4G-enabled phones.



Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, poses with wife Nita Ambani before addressing the company's annual general meeting in Mumbai, India, on 21 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Reliance sees the new handset, named JioPhone, allowing it to target India's entire mobile market for the first time.

The new phone will "effectively cost zero" as buyers would be able to get the device for a one-time refundable security deposit of 1,500 rupees (\$23.3), said Ambani, chairman of Reliance In-

dustries, announcing the launch at the conglomerate's annual shareholders' meeting. The announcement, which was greeted by applause from shareholders at a packed auditorium in south Mumbai, sent shares in rivals Airtel and Idea down 2 per cent and 3.3 per cent, respectively. —Reuters ■

6,000 around Atsugi base to sue gov't for noise pollution next month

YOKOHAMA — Around 6,000 people will sue the Japanese government next month to seek a halt to nighttime and early morning flights at the Atsugi air base near Tokyo and compensation for noise pollution, their lawyer said on Saturday.

The would-be plaintiffs in the suit to be filed with the Yokohama District Court on 4 August are mostly those who live near the air base, used by the US military and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force, and may be joined by 2,000 to 3,000 others in the fall or later.

Plaintiffs in the case may total around 10,000, according to the lawyer.

"Our lives are disrupted and are even put at risk whenever we are hit with booming noise (from aircraft flying) overhead. We will never accept the reality of the Atsugi base-related flights," Shuji Onami, head of the would-be plaintiffs' group, said at a meeting in Yamato, Kanagawa Prefecture, on

Saturday.

Those who are suing the government will seek 40,000 yen (\$360) a month for the noise pollution caused by flights to and from the air base over the past three years and until such flights are halted, according to the lawyer.

They will also seek consultations between Japanese and US officials over ways to end the noise pollution around the base.

The case will be the latest in a series of suits seeking the suspension of nighttime and early morning flights at the air base.

In a case in which about 7,000 people became plaintiffs, the Supreme Court last December upheld compensation for past aircraft noise, but overturned an earlier ruling that had ordered a halt to flights by the Self-Defence Forces and that had ordered the government to compensate for future disturbances. —Kyodo News ■

Indonesian President orders officers to shoot drug traffickers

JAKARTA — Indonesia's President Joko Widodo has instructed law enforcement officers to shoot drug traffickers to deal with a narcotics emergency facing the country.

"Be firm, especially to foreign drug dealers who enter the country and resist arrest.

Shoot them because we indeed are in a narcotics emergency position now," Widodo said in a speech delivered at an event held by one of Indonesia's political parties late on Friday.

His remarks have drawn comparison to that of Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte, who launched a brutal anti-drug crackdown about a year ago that saw many alleged drug dealers killed.

The bloody campaign in the Philippines has drawn condemnation from the international community, including the United Nations.

Indonesia also has tough laws against drugs. Widodo has previously been criticized for ordering executions against

convicted drug traffickers who were given a death penalty by the court. Rights activists and some governments have called on Indonesia to abolish the death penalty.

Friday's shooting order from Widodo came a week after Indonesian police shot dead a Taiwanese man in a town near the capital Jakarta.

The man, who was part of a group trying to smuggle one tonne of crystal methamphetamine into the country, was killed for resisting arrest, police have



Indonesia's President Joko Widodo gestures during an interview with Reuters in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 3 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

said.

After the incident, Indonesian National Police chief Tito Karnavian was quoted by

media saying he had ordered officers not to hesitate shooting drug dealers who resist arrest. —Reuters ■

Philippine Congress agrees to extend Mindanao martial law to end of year

MANILA — Philippine lawmakers on Saturday voted to retain martial law on the southern island of Mindanao until the end of the year, giving President Rodrigo Duterte more time to tackle armed extremists allied with the Islamic State group.

Some 261 legislators agreed to extend military rule in a seven hour-long joint special session of the House of Representatives and the Senate, more than the required two-thirds of the house.

Security officials had told lawmakers that martial law was needed to stabilise a region where Islamic State was gaining influence, and supporters could be inspired to stage uprisings in other areas of Mindanao, joined by foreign jihadists.

Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana warned of more serious problems if the government did not have the powers to act swiftly.

"We need martial law because we haven't addressed yet the existence of other Daesh-in-



Legislators from the upper and lower house of the Philippine congress attend a special session on the extension of martial law at the House of Representatives in Quezon City, metro Manila, Philippines on 22 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

spired groups," he said, referring to another name for Islamic State.

Duterte placed Mindanao under martial law on 23 May when heavily-armed militants belonging to the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups along with foreign fighters stormed Marawi City, sparking

the biggest security crisis of his presidency. The battle to liberate Marawi continues two months after, with more than 420 militants, 100 soldiers and 45 civilians killed. Some of those were executed by the rebels, according to the military. Government troops

pulverized and retook some of the Maute strongholds after weeks of artillery attacks and airstrikes, but an estimated 70 militants remained holed up in the downtown area. "The rebellion in Marawi continues to persist and we want to stop the spread of the evil

ideology of terrorism and free the people of Mindanao from the tyranny of lawlessness and violent extremism," Presidential Spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement.

But martial law remains a sensitive issue in the Philippines as it brings back memories of human rights abuses that occurred in the 1970s under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. He was ousted in a "people power" revolt in 1986. Saturday's vote paves the way for the first ever extension of a period of martial law since the Marcos era.

Opponents expressed fears Duterte might eventually place the entire country under martial law, but the authorities have dismissed that.

Senator Franklin Drilon said the extension until end of the year was too long and Senator Risa Hontiveros, a staunch critic of Duterte, said martial law has "no strategic contribution to the military's anti-terrorism operations".—Reuters ■

Indian musician plays guitar as doctors perform brain surgery

MUMBAI — Musician Abhishek Prasad strummed his guitar throughout his neurosurgery to help doctors zero in on the part of the brain being operated on during the first such procedure in India.

The 37-year-old had been suffering from musician's dystonia, a neurological movement disorder which leads to involun-

tary muscle contractions.

Prasad had to be kept conscious during the surgery as the doctors needed continuous feedback to work out exactly which parts of the brain were to be targeted to stop the cramps affecting the three fingers on his left hand.

So the obvious thing was to play his guitar. It is only the

eighth time in the world that such a procedure has been undertaken with the patient being conscious, a statement by Bengaluru's Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain hospital said on Friday.

"A 14-mm hole was made in the skull and a specialized electrode was passed into the brain under local anesthesia," Sharan Srinivasan, a stereotactic and

functional neurosurgeon at the hospital, said. Prasad was overwhelmed with the outcome after suffering since October 2015 with the disorder that could have ended his career. He had tried several hospitals to find a cure, but most doctors could not diagnose the problem or had focused on the cramps rather than the neurological activity causing them.

"It was a very emotional moment for me and my family. This is what I have been waiting for," said Prasad, who had quit his IT job to pursue a career in music.

"It was very disheartening and depressing for me. I used to cry often due to that. Every morning I would wake up and try to play the guitar. But after 5 minutes, I gave up."—Reuters ■

Preparation is the name of the game

Aye Min Soe

WITH many several parts of the country facing threats of rising waters from swollen rivers, local authorities and communities are on alert to possible floods and improving disaster preparedness by laying sandbags on the banks of the rivers.

Meanwhile, heavy-rain induced landslides occurred in some areas recently, destroying houses, blocking roads and injuring people over the last three days.

Such news should have been an eye-opener both for the administration as well as for those living precariously in the hill areas.

Besides, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department has alerted the people living in low-lying areas of possible flooding and were urged to take preventive measures, as the rivers have reached their respective danger levels.

So far, more than 94,000 people nationwide have been moved to safer places to escape the flooding.

Myanmar suffers from many water-related disasters such as storms and floods every two or three years, in a regular, predictable pattern.

The country also faced flash floods and landslides in several states and regions across the country in 2015.

Local authorities are in the best position to lead and engage those in their respective cities, municipalities, and provinces to establish and strengthen disaster preparedness measures as most natural hazards turn into disasters because of the lack of

preparedness.

Early warning and early action should be at the very heart of our efforts. Everyone should understand the risks we face and equip ourselves with preventive measures to lessen the impact of natural hazards that we know are coming.

Citizens can contribute to making the communities disaster-resilient and to take part in preparedness activities.

To prevent deaths this year and in future rainy seasons, the warnings should not fall on deaf ears. ■

Respect, politeness and culture

Khin Maung Myint

SINCE our childhood days, we had been taught and guided by our parents, elders and teachers to have respect to the elders and to be polite. As infants, our brains were not yet mature enough to understand or to absorb complicated things. So, just to respect the elders and to be polite seemed as easy as bowing our heads when passing in front of them and speak politely or sweetly. So, I would bow my head as low as I could when I pass in front of the elders as a show of respect and spoke very politely to them. In our Myanmar culture and also, may be in other civilized cultures, the behaviours of the children are deemed to reflect their parentages and upbringings.

As I grew up, I began to understand that we should respect everyone who deserves to be respected though they may be younger or junior to us or in other words, have mutual respects irrespective of age. Also, I came to realize that just showing respect and speaking politely are not enough as behaviours, mentalities and attitudes also define a person's character. Thus, such bad mannerisms should also be avoided.

Every culture has its own norms or standards for respect and politeness, but they will differ from one another. Certain behaviours may be acceptable in one culture, but that same behaviour may not be acceptable and seen as rude by another culture. So, it is important that we should know what is acceptable and what is not by certain people of different cultures.

Different countries have different cultures and even in the same country, different communities have different cultures. These cultures are evolved gradually since time immemorial and become the accepted norms to be observed where respect and politeness are concerned, for that particular community. In some communities they may

even be found incorporated into their religions.

For instance, in Buddhism, we have "The Mangala Sutta", where the "Thirty Eight Mangalars", which can be roughly translated as "auspiciousness" that every good Buddhists must observe, are outlined. According to that Thirty Eight Mangalars, giving respect to those who deserved to be respected is one of the Mangalars. Those that deserved to be respected includes the Buddha, Dhammas—the teachings of the Buddha, Sanghas or monks, Teachers and Parents. As being Buddhists, we are also being taught to respect anyone who is older by "one day or one morning". There are also guidances to be polite in speech and behaviours in the Mangala Sutta. Likewise, every other cultures and religions too may also have their own teachings related to respect and politeness.

However, today, we are witnessing the deteriorations in many cultures around the world including our country, as more and more people are getting unpolite to the point of rudeness and have no respect or regards whatsoever for others, including the elders. This trend is more common among the younger generations. This statement can be proven by just having a peek at the social media pages. As the Facebook is the most popular and extensively used by the Myanmar, if you should surf its pages you are bound to realize, within minutes, how rude and low-down many Facebook users, both males and females have become. Abusing and cursing in the filthiest and foulest of languages are becoming the standard language of the Facebook for Myanmar.

There, you can find all kinds of unimaginable foul and filthy languages being used, readily, in making comments or in many cases they are not even comments, but just obscene remarks to vent their perverted minds. Obscene languages used openly on the Facebook are

Taught to respect anyone who is older by "one day or one morning". There are also guidances to be polite in speech and behaviours in the Mangala Sutta. Likewise, every other cultures and religions too may also have their own teachings related to respect and politeness.

worse than those found in pornographic materials. The four-letter words, or obscene words, which are taboo in the print media are becoming common place on the social media.

Recently I was involved in a heated debate on an important issue related to a certain profession on the Facebook. An old acquaintance and a Facebook of mine made a very important advice to the authorities concerned. He is one of the authoritative and respected person in that profession and used to share his experiences and valuable advices with the new generations of his profession. I see him as a widely respected person by the new generations of that profession. As I have had some experience in that field early on in my career, I made a comment on his post. My comment was a bit contradictory to his ideas, so, out of politeness I ended my comment with an apology to that person by writing "I may be a bit outdated. Pardon me if I'm wrong".

I was shocked to see an unexpected response to my comment. It wasn't from my friend, who posted on the Facebook, but a young upstart officer from that profession who I don't know. He wrote

that I was not only a bit outdated but totally outdated and wrong, without pointing out in what way I was wrong. If he should have given sound reasons for his remarks, to convince me I was wrong, I would have admitted that I was wrong and thanked him. I wasn't angry at him, but pitied him for his ignorance and thus I tried to explain to him the reasons behind my comments. He became more arrogant and replied that old persons don't want to admit their mistakes and added that just being old didn't make one a leader, a common usage popular on the Facebook among our young people of today. Though he was arrogant and rude, at least he didn't use abusive language. For that I thank him.

In this case, I wasn't the only one, who was rudely insulted or attacked by young individuals, but the person who initially made the post, too, was openly challenged and insulted by some who are very junior to him in that profession. This is just an example of the deterioration of the behaviourism of our young people today. They have no respect for age or the wisdoms of the older generations and thought that we are the extinct dinosaurs. I am game to criticisms and arguments and challenges to my views and outlooks, if done in a gentlemanly manner with mutual respects to one another. However, being rudely insulted without discussing the matter reasonably, is quite unacceptable.

I was wondering, how our cultural traits, that we used to take much pride in, had become so low-down and who or what are to be blamed. Is it the parentage or the upbringing of the individuals or the systems they had been subjected to for decades or the unrestricted freedom provided by the social media? Though we might be able to find the answer to that question, it wouldn't be easy for the mentalities or the mindsets of the people to be changed overnight. However, it should be attempted before it's too late ! ■

US researchers discover how CRISPR proteins find their target

SAN FRANCISCO — US researchers have discovered how Cas1-Cas2, the proteins responsible for the ability of the CRISPR immune system in bacteria to adapt to new viral infections, identify the site in the genome where they insert viral deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) so they can recognize it later and mount an attack.

While CRISPR is short for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, Cas stands for CRISPR Associated Protein.

These proteins rely on the unique flexibility of the CRISPR DNA to recognize it as the site where viral DNA should be inserted, ensuring that “memories” of prior viral infections are properly stored.

Detailed in a paper published in the 21 July issue of journal Science, Jennifer Doudna and her colleagues reported their use of electron microscopy and X-ray crystallography, performed at the Advanced Light Source at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and the HHMI electron microscope facility at UC Berkeley, to capture structures of Cas1-Cas2 in the act of inserting viral DNA into the CRISPR region.

Doudna is a professor of molecular and cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley.

The structures reveal that

a third protein, IHF, binds near the insertion site and bends the DNA into a U-shape, allowing Cas1-Cas2 to bind both parts of the DNA simultaneously.

The research group discovered that the reaction requires that the target DNA bend and partly unwind, something that occurs only at the proper target.

CRISPR immune system allows bacteria to adapt and defend against the viruses that infect them. CRISPR refers to the unique region of DNA where snippets of viral DNA are stored for future reference, allowing the cell to recognize any virus that tries to re-infect.

The viral DNA alternates with the “short palindromic repeats,” which serve as the recognition signal to direct Cas1-Cas2 to add new viral sequences.

Specific recognition of these repeats by Cas1-Cas2 restricts integration of viral DNA to the CRISPR array, allowing it to be used for immunity and avoiding the potentially fatal effects of inserting viral DNA in the wrong place, explained UC Berkeley graduate student Addison Wright and one of the paper’s lead authors.

While many DNA-binding proteins directly “read out” the nucleotides of their recognition sequence, Cas1-Cas2 recognize the CRISPR repeat through more indirect means: its shape and flexibility.—Xinhua ■



The logo of Bayer AG is pictured at the Bayer Healthcare subgroup production plant in Wuppertal, Germany, in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bayer says asbestos-related tumour treatment misses key goal

FRANKFURT — Germany’s Bayer said on Friday a cancer treatment for patients with a type of tumor often caused by asbestos had failed to meet its main goal in a clinical trial.

The compound, known as anetumab ravtansine, “did not

meet its primary endpoint of progression-free survival” for patients with mesothelioma, Bayer said, adding it was disappointed by the results.

“Malignant pleural mesothelioma is a very difficult-to-treat tumour, and we had hoped for a better outcome for

patients,” said Robert LaCaze, executive vice president and head of the oncology strategic business unit at Bayer.

He said Bayer would continue to study the usefulness and safety of the compound for other tumour types.—Reuters ■

Janssen-Cilag’s HIV drug gets EU regulatory panel’s nod

LONDON — A European regulatory panel recommended granting approval to a treatment for HIV infection developed by Janssen-Cilag International, a unit of US drugmaker Johnson & Johnson.

The drug, Symtuza, is a combination of four active substances darunavir, cobicistat, emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide.

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, interferes with the body’s

ability to fight infections.

More than 35 million people have died from AIDS-related illnesses and an estimated 78 million have become infected with HIV, since the disease surfaced 36 years ago.—Reuters ■

Scientists find genetic evidence that distinguishes dogs from wolves

LOS ANGELES — Three genes on chromosome 6 are closely correlated with dogs’ friendliness, which are distinct from wolves, according to a new study, published in the journal Science Advances this week.

These three genes can also make some people hyper-social, the Los Angeles Times reported on Friday. Researchers from Princeton University and Oregon State University selected 18 dogs and ten gray wolves, who had the experience of socializing with humans, to do a series of behavioral tests. When given a puzzle box and sausage hidden inside, only two dogs opened the box regard-

less of whether a human was on the scene or not. Meanwhile, eight of the ten wolves opened the box when a human was present, and nine of them opened the box when the human had left.

The researchers concluded that dogs are not as independent as wolves are, and are more easily distracted by social stimulation, which also confirmed the conclusions of previous studies.

During the sociability test, the researchers arranged strangers and owners to spend two minutes with the dogs and wolves respectively, to find out how much time the canines would spend with humans. In the first

round, both the strangers and owners stayed passively without talking or eye contact with the canines, and in the second round, they interacted with the canines.

The result showed that when their owners or caretakers showed up, dogs spent a median of 93 per cent of their time with humans, while wolves spent only 36 per cent of their time with them. However, when strangers appeared, dogs cuddled with humans for 53 percent of the time, yet wolves did so only 28 per cent.

In order to find the connection between the sociability of each canine and the structure of their DNA, the researchers took

blood samples from 16 dogs and eight of the wolves to further analyze their DNA on chromosome 6.

Researchers found that the canines who were more social had much more mutations in those three genes. The two wolves which socialized more with humans also had more mutations in these three genes, which are named GTF2I, GTF2IRD1, and WBSR17. It is interesting that the mutations in the same three genes can cause a rare developmental disorder in humans, called Williams-Beuren Syndrome, or WBS.

“People with WBS are typically hyper-social, meaning they

form bonds quickly and show great interest in other people, including strangers,” the Los Angeles Times said.

Some scholars pointed out the sample of the study was small and a larger sample size might be more convincing. The authors of the study acknowledged that their sample size was not large enough, but they would do a larger sample in the future, and they believed that the correlation between DNA and social behaviors is obvious.

They would continue to explore related questions in more detail, such as how genetic mutations result in increased social behavior.—Xinhua ■

Iran says maintains right to react if US does not comply with nuclear deal

VIENNA — Iran would maintain its right to response to US if it does not comply with the nuclear deal in the future, an Iranian official said on Friday after the meetings with world major states in Vienna.

Abbas Araghchi, deputy foreign minister of Iran, told media that the 2015 Iran nuclear deal should be implemented completely in all aspects, noting that Tehran is not satisfied with US regarding the sanctions imposed on Iran Tuesday over its ballistic missile programme.

He stressed Tehran maintains its right to show any reaction if US does not follow up its obligations under the deal.

During the US presidential election, Donald Trump doubted the Iranian nuclear deal which was achieved during Obama's administration. Trump administration now is reviewing policy on Iran.



Representatives from six world powers and Iran attend a meeting on Iran's nuclear deal in Vienna, Austria, on 21 July 2017. Iran would maintain its right to response to the United States if it does not comply with the nuclear deal in the future, an Iranian official said on Friday after the meetings with six world powers in Vienna. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday new US sanctions contravened the nuclear deal reached after a lot of diplomatic efforts with world

major states in 2015.

Iran and six world powers, namely Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US, reached an agreement on the

Iranian nuclear issue in July 2015, which put it on the path of sanctions relief but with more strict limits on its nuclear program.—Xinhua ■

WORLD BRIEFS

56 militants killed in Afghan security operations

KABUL — Up to 56 insurgents have been killed and 30 others injured during military operations conducted by Afghan security forces across the country, the Defense Ministry said on Saturday.

"In past 24 hours, Afghan National Security and Defense Forces launched several cleanup and military operations to clear some of the areas from enemies. As a result, 56 armed militants were killed and 30 others were wounded," the ministry said in a statement.—Xinhua ■

Nine killed, 22 injured in bus accident in Western India

NEW DELHI — At least nine people were killed and more than 22 others injured in a bus accident in western Indian state of Rajasthan Saturday, police said.

"The accident occurred when the bus turned turtle near Nehla village, 10 km from Udaipur city, after the driver lost control of the vehicle while trying to avoid ramming into a biker," local police chief Rajendra Prasad told the media.

While nine people, including six women, died on the spot and those injured have been admitted to a local government hospital where the condition of some are said to be serious, the official said.—Xinhua ■

Death toll rises to five in Shanghai demolition accident

SHANGHAI — The death toll has risen to five after an accident during the demolition of a multi-story building in Shanghai Friday afternoon, the local government said Saturday.

Six people were pulled from debris, however, five of them later died in hospital. The sixth victim remains in a serious condition.

The accident occurred when a multi-story building in Jiading District was being demolished and fell onto a neighbouring hotel.—Xinhua ■

Trump's new hire Scaramucci makes conciliatory debut with media

WASHINGTON — If President Donald Trump, who refers to the media as "fake news," wants his staff to use a more conciliatory approach with journalists, new communications director Anthony Scaramucci may be implementing such a shift - for now.

The Wall Street financier and Republican fundraiser walked into the White House briefing room on Friday and immediately did what Sean Spicer, the outgoing press secretary, did not do on his first day in January: engage, in a friendly manner, with reporters.

Wearing a blue tie and an American flag pin on a dark suit, Scaramucci bantered with correspondents, pledged to be transparent and even made respectful remarks about CNN, the cable network with which Trump and Spicer have sparred repeatedly.

He made fun of himself, joking about his short stature and apologising to Trump from the podium for having called the New York businessman a hack politician in 2015.

"He brings it up every 15 seconds, all right?" Scaramucci



New White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci addresses the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, US, on 21 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

said to laughter, referring to the president. "I should have never said that about him. So, Mr. President, if you're listening, I personally apologise for the 50th time for saying that."

Trump was probably listening.

Reporters peppered Scaramucci with questions on press-related issues that have dogged the relationship between the Trump presidency and the journalists that cover it.

Did he support having briefings televised? "I obviously am committed to being transparent because I'm standing here. But I'd like to talk that over with the president," he said.

He noted that CNN had apologised when it reported something false about him and that he had accepted the apology.

"There feels like there's a little bit of media bias, and so what we hope we can do is de-es-

calate that and turn that around. And let's let the message from the president get out there to the American people," he said.

He announced the new press secretary to take over from Spicer, who resigned earlier on Friday, would be Sarah Sanders.

Spicer's debut at the White House podium in January featured a long scolding of reporters for their portrayal of Trump's Inauguration Day crowd numbers.

Asked on Friday whether he agreed with Trump's contention, for which there is no evidence, that 3 million people voted illegally in the 2016 election, Scaramucci answered carefully.

"So if the president says it, let me do more research on it, but my guess is that there's probably some level of truth to that," he said.

"I think what we have found sometimes the president says stuff, some of you guys in the media think it's not true or it isn't true, and it turns out it's closer to the truth than people think."—Reuters ■

Iraqi bridge is sole link for Mosul residents rebuilding lives

MOSUL, (Iraq) — On a pontoon bridge connecting East and West Mosul, residents of a city shattered by the battle to expel Islamic State cross back and forth trying to rebuild their lives from the rubble.

The temporary structure, known as the Victory Bridge, is the only crossing over the Tigris River in the city itself. Other bridges, including the landmark Iron Bridge, were wrecked in nine months of urban warfare which saw Iraqi government forces fight the militants street-by-street and house-by-house.

With Mosul back in government hands, hundreds of people stream over each day to check homes in the devastated west side, salvage belongings or find a place to stay in the east.

All have tales of hardship and suffering under three years of Islamic State rule and, despite their relief that is over, now they are worried about their present predicament and the future.

Many people from West Mosul, where whole neighbourhoods were flattened in air and artillery strikes by a US-led coalition, are struggling to pay rent in temporary accommodation. Often they have no work and are running out of funds.



Iraqis cross the floating bridge between east and west of Mosul, Iraq, on 21 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Safwan al-Habar, 48, who has a house in al-Zinjili district, had spent a morning seeking help for a particularly alarming problem — Islamic State had booby-trapped his house.

“Two bombs attached to each other with wire. If you put your leg on it, it will explode,” he said.

“Do you know anyone who can remove it?” he asked. “Every

day I go to the military and every day they say come back tomorrow. I am in a mess. I’m paying rent but I want to go home.”

Civilians must walk across the bridge, which was erected for military purposes. Taxis halt on the east side about half a km (mile) away for soldiers to check papers. People must then walk past the ruins of the Nineveh Hotel — once a luxury hang-out

for Iraqi generals — and down a slope to the pontoon where more soldiers lounge in the sun. Taxis also wait on a patch of open ground on the other side.

In the cavalcade coming the other way, people toted televisions, cookers, bags of clothes and other items retrieved from wrecked homes. One man had reclaimed some notebooks and an English-Arabic dictionary which

he carried in a plastic bag.

Another man, Mirsur Dannon Hassan, 53, said his house had been destroyed in an air strike.

“I don’t have a salary. I need help to rebuild it,” he said.

He was living in rented accommodation with his wife, five daughters and son in the east but the landlord had just increased the rent from \$100 per month to \$200.

They said life was miserable under Islamic State, also known as Daesh, which seized Mosul in July 2014 and declared it the capital of a self-styled caliphate spanning parts of Iraq and Syria.

“It was living hell,” said 31-year-old Mohamad Zuhair. “Daesh denied you everything. You did not have the right to have a phone or wear jeans. I had to have a long beard.”

There were beatings and executions for transgressions. As the fighting worsened, gunmen opened fire on people trying to escape.

Zuhair’s children were traumatised by the experience.

“They stayed in a basement for two weeks and are still afraid,” he said. “If the government helps me, I’ll go back. But if not, I’ll stay here.”—Reuters ■

Lebanon’s Hezbollah, Syrian army advance in border offensive

BEIRUT — Lebanon’s Shi’ite militia Hezbollah and the Syrian army advanced against Sunni militants on Saturday, the second day of an assault to drive them from their last foothold along the Syria-Lebanon border, pro-Damascus media reported.

The operation has targeted Sunni Muslim insurgents from the former Nusra Front, a group that was aligned to al Qaeda and who have controlled the barren, mountainous zone of Juroud Ars al.

A military media unit run by Hezbollah said its forces captured Jwar al Sheikh, Wadi Kriti and other areas in the southern part of Juroud Ars al.

Syrian warplanes struck militant positions on the Syrian side of the border, near the Syrian town of Fleita, it said.

The offensive began on Friday and killed at least 23 Nusra militants on the first day, the



Lebanese army soldiers are seen inside a military vehicle in Labwe, at the entrance of the border town of Ars al, in eastern Bekaa Valley, Lebanon on 21 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hezbollah unit said. At least five Hezbollah fighters were also killed.

A security source put Hezbollah’s death toll at 15 early on Saturday, and said at least 43 militants had been killed.

The Lebanese army has taken up defensive positions around

Arsal town, ready to fire at Sunni militants trying to break through its lines, and has beefed up security in the area.

The Lebanese army is not taking part in the operation, according to a commander in the pro-Damascus military alliance and a Lebanese security source.

The army is facilitating the passage of Syrian refugees fleeing the area, with UN supervision, the security source said.

UN refugee agency UNHCR and aid groups are preparing for an influx of Syrian refugees from Juroud Ars al and Ars al town. Only a handful of refugees were reported to have fled on Friday.

Several thousand Syrian refugees occupy camps east of Ars al.

Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran’s Shi’ite government, has played a critical part in previous campaigns against Sunni insurgents along Lebanon’s border, part of a wider role it has played in backing President Bashar al-Assad in the Syrian war.

Hezbollah’s role has drawn criticism from its Lebanese political opponents, including Sunni Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri, who is a Sunni.—Reuters ■

Egypt court sentences 28 to death over 2015 prosecutor killing

CAIRO — A Cairo criminal court on Saturday sentenced to death 28 people over the 2015 killing of Egypt’s top prosecutor and handed 15 others jail sentences of 25 years each.

The court had in June recommended passing the death penalty to Egypt’s top religious authority, the Grand Mufti, who can approve or reject the recommendation.

The sentences, confirmed by the court in Saturday’s hearing after the Grand Mufti’s approval, can be appealed.

Public prosecutor Hisham Barakat was killed in a car bomb attack on his convoy in Cairo, an operation for which Egypt blamed the Muslim Brotherhood and Gaza-based Hamas militants. Both groups have denied it.—Reuters ■

Mercosur urges end to violence in Venezuela's 'humanitarian crisis'

MENDOZA, (Argentina) — The members of South America's Mercosur trade bloc called for an end to violence in Venezuela in a joint statement on Friday, while Brazil and Argentina expressed wariness about following the United States in preparing possible economic sanctions.

Mercosur members Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay again called on Venezuela to release political prisoners and offered to facilitate talks between President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government and the opposition in the statement, issued as the nations met in Mendoza, Argentina to discuss trade and regional integration.

Associate Mercosur members Chile, Colombia and Guyana, as well as Mexico, also signed the statement, which called on both the government and the opposition to "not take any initiative that could divide Venezuelan society even more, or aggravate institutional conflicts."

The statement comes days after US officials said they were preparing sanctions against Ven-



Chile's President Michelle Bachelet, Uruguay's President Tabare Vazquez, Brazil's President Michel Temer, Mendoza's Governor Alfredo Cornejo, Argentina's President Mauricio Macri, Paraguay's President Horacio Cartes and Bolivia's President Evo Morales (front row, L-R) alongside Peru's Ambassador to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Luis Quesada, Colombia's Commerce, Industry and Tourism Minister Maria Claudia Lacouture, Guyana's Foreign Minister Carl Greenidge, Ecuador's head of the delegation Diego Rivadeneira Espinoza and Mexico's Ambassador in Argentina Mabel Gomez Oliver (L-R) pose for the official photo at the Mercosur trade bloc summit in Mendoza, Argentina on 21 July 2017. **PHOTO REUTERS**

ezuelan government figures.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes and Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie told reporters Mercosur countries were hesitant to follow suit.

"None of us are willing to apply any sanctions that will affect, above all, the Venezuelan people," Faurie said.

Nunes said any Mercosur decision would be "autonomous" of

US action, and said interruptions of food shipments from Brazil to Venezuela could "aggravate the humanitarian crisis even more."

Venezuela was suspended from Mercosur last December

amid concerns about human rights. Since then, four months of anti-government unrest has taken around 100 lives. On Friday, millions joined a 24-hour shut-down as part of a civil disobedience campaign against Maduro. In April, Argentine President Mauricio Macri warned that Venezuela could be expelled from Mercosur if it did not change its behaviour.

The joint statement did not refer to Maduro's plan to hold a 30 July vote to elect a constituent assembly with powers to rewrite the OPEC nation's constitution. Mexico on Thursday had called on Maduro to shelve the vote.

Bolivia, whose President Evo Morales is one of Maduro's few remaining allies in the region, is in the process of becoming a Mercosur member.

At the meeting, Mercosur members agreed to establish common legal conditions within the bloc to encourage investment and took steps to boost trade ties with the Pacific Alliance countries of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. —Reuters ■

Mexico City spike in crime, violence sparks fears of cartel warfare

MEXICO CITY — The sight of vehicles set ablaze by cartels has mostly been confined to lawless stretches of Mexico's provinces, so the appearance of burning buses in Mexico City this week has stoked fears that the drug gangs' violence is spreading to the capital.

The so-called narco-blockade on Thursday in the tough Mexico City suburb of Tlahuac occurred after Mexican marines gunned down eight suspected gangsters in broad daylight, a highly unusual incident that underlined a recent spike in violent crime. "The city's authorities have lost control of the situation," said Jose, a veteran Mexico City policeman who spoke on the condition his surname be withheld.

"Now the cartels are getting stronger; they can't control them any more. That's why they asked the marines to come in."

All told, 206 murder investigations were opened in Mexico City between May and June, making it the bloodiest two month-period on record in the capital, official data show. Mexico

City and its urban sprawl form the economic heart of the country, accounting for roughly a quarter of gross domestic product, according to the OECD, and the rise in violence is a major embarrassment for the Mexican government. The crime spree mirrors a rising tide of violence nationally that has exposed major law and order shortcomings by Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and his ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, less than a year before the next presidential elec-

tion. Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera, who harbours his own presidential ambitions, has also come under fire for not doing enough to protect the capital, and for saying repeatedly that drug cartels do not operate in the city.

In a news conference on Friday, Mancera said the suspects belonged to a "a big, violent criminal organisation whose operations were no longer confined to Tlahuac," noting they traversed the city in armed convoys. —Reuters ■



A Mexican marine soldier stands guard outside the Mexican Servicio Medico Forense building, after bodies of suspected gang members who were killed on Thursday in a gun battle with Mexican marines were transferred for an autopsy, in Mexico City, Mexico, on 21 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Canada sends more troops to tackle British Columbia wildfires

CALGARY, (Alberta) — British Columbia may ask for more help if its wildfires worsen, the western Canadian province said on Friday after the federal government sent 225 additional soldiers to battle blazes that have been spreading rapidly in hot, dry weather.

While rain is expected over the weekend, many parts that are burning are expected to miss it entirely, and winds in some parts could escalate the blazes, fire information officer Navi Saini said on a conference call.

"We also are in ongoing discussions with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre," she said. "We do have the option of requesting more resources."

In total, there are now 375 Canadian soldiers along with 3,600 firefighters and emergency responders tackling the flames, which have forced around 45,000 people to evacuate their homes over the past two weeks.

Nearly 170 wildfires are

blazing across the heavily forested province, affecting 405,000 hectares and prompting the provincial government to declare a state of emergency.

The province has spent C\$117.9 million (\$94.05 million) tackling the fires, whose numbers on Friday included 32 new ones since Thursday, Saini said.

Federal government ministers promised to send more help as the situation unfolds.

"We are committed to providing a coordinated federal response to the people of British Columbia," Canada's public safety minister, Ralph Goodale, said in a statement.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokeswoman Annie Lin-teau said an advance team from the military has been working with local authorities for the last 36 hours.

"Our Canadian forces colleagues will be joining us, the RCMP and other police personnel, at various checkpoints ... by tomorrow morning," she said. —Reuters ■

Dollar slide deepens, world stocks' hot streak ends

NEW YORK — The weakening US dollar fell to its lowest in more than a year against key world currencies on Friday as investors assessed comments from the European Central Bank and obstacles to US President Donald Trump's domestic agenda, while a global gauge of stocks snapped a 10-session streak of gains. Gains in the yen, gold and US Treasuries pointed to moves into safe-haven assets rather than stocks, which are considered riskier. Oil prices slid more than 2 per cent.

The euro built on sharp gains from a day earlier, rising to near two-year highs against the dollar and undermining European stocks, with Germany's DAX.GDAXI equity index falling 1.7 per cent.

ECB President Mario Draghi said on Thursday financing conditions remained broadly supportive, and that the euro's appreciation had "received some attention." However, he did not cite that as a problem nor did he directly try to talk the currency down.

"The fact that Draghi didn't necessarily argue too much against the strength of the euro ... certainly gave the green light for individuals to want to own the currency again or actually add to their positions," said Dean Poplewell, chief currency strategist at Oanda in Toronto.

MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe .MIWD-00000PUS shed 0.19 per cent, falling after 10 days of gains.

US stock indexes ended marginally lower, pulling back from record high levels reached earlier in the week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, US, on 19 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

fell 31.71 points, or 0.15 per cent, to 21,580.07, the S&P 500 .SPX lost 0.91 point, or 0.04 per cent, to 2,472.54 and the Nasdaq Composite .IXIC dropped 2.25 points, or 0.04 percent, to 6,387.75. General Electric (GE.N) shares dropped 2.9 per cent after the industrial conglomerate's profit report. Visa (V.N) shares gained 1.5 pct after the payments network operator's results, as a big week of corporate earnings came to an end.

"The market is pausing after another stellar run to record high levels, as people take modest profits off the table and cut back on risk just a little bit going into the weekend," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives for Charles Schwab in Austin, Texas.

Next week, investors will be focusing on a meeting of Federal Reserve policymakers, the release of second-quarter economic growth data, and another flood of corporate results.

In Europe, the pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index .FTEU3 lost 1.10 per cent.

In currencies, the dollar index .DXY fell 0.38 per cent, falling to its lowest point since June 2016. The dollar index is now down 8.1 per cent this year.

The euro EUR= was up 0.3 per cent to \$1.1664. The Japanese yen strengthened 0.68 per cent versus the greenback JPY= at 111.14 per dollar.

Aside from the ECB comments, investors were also assessing whether Trump's recent legislative setbacks and developments involving a probe into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election were threatening his domestic plans for tax cuts and infrastructure spending.

"Compounding the (weaker dollar) move is this latest news on the political front in the US about the Russia investigation expanding to Trump's business affairs," said Alvis Marino, FX strategist at Credit Suisse in New York. "This is on top of the fact that the Senate has not been able to pass anything meaningful on the healthcare front." —Reuters ■

India to quiz Philip Morris on marketing of Marlboro

NEW DELHI — India plans to seek an explanation from Philip Morris International Inc about its marketing practices after Reuters reported that the tobacco giant used tactics that government officials say flout the country's law, a health ministry official said on Friday.

Philip Morris advertises Marlboro cigarettes, the world's best-selling brand, at tobacco shops in India and distributes free smokes at nightclubs and bars frequented by young people to promote the brand, Reuters reported earlier this week.

The strategy is laid out in hundreds of pages of internal documents reviewed by Reuters that cover the period from 2009 to 2016.

Indian government officials previously have said these marketing activities violate the country's Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act and its accompanying rules, but companies get away with it because enforcement is weak.

The government now plans to write letters to Philip Morris' India unit as well as other tobac-

co companies and take "action as per law", said Arun Kumar Jha, a federal health ministry official who oversees tobacco control in the country.

Jha added that the ministry will also ask states to take action against advertisements that violate regulations.

"Our basic objective is to reduce deaths caused by tobacco," Jha told Reuters.

Philip Morris previously described its advertising as "compliant with Indian law". It did not respond to a request for comment on Friday.

India has about 100 million smokers. Of those, about two-thirds smoke traditional hand-rolled cigarettes, government data showed. Tobacco use kills more than 900,000 people a year in the country. The cigarette industry is dominated by ITC Ltd, which also uses some of the same marketing tactics, such as advertising at kiosks, Reuters had found. ITC has said it complies with Indian regulations. It did not immediately respond to a request for comment late on Friday. —Reuters ■



A packet of Marlboro cigarettes made by Philip Morris are pictured in this photo illustration on 3 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Three behaviors vital to people's life expectancy: study

CHICAGO — If you want to have a longer life expectancy, advice from researchers are: keep weight down, don't smoke and drink alcohol moderately.

A study of the University of Michigan (UM) shows that people of fairly normal weight who never smoked and only drank moderately at age of 50 have a life expectancy that is seven years longer than the average American.

These people can also delay disability up to six years.

Using data from UM's Health and Retirement Study of Americans aged 50 and older that began in 1992, and with research sample in 1998 including nearly 15,000 respondents aged 50-74, the researchers at UM defined the low-risk category as those who never smoked, drank moderately and had a body mass index that was less than the clas-

sification for obese (30+).

For definition of drinking moderately, it is fewer than 14 drinks per week for men and fewer than 7 drinks per week for women.

The researchers found that non-obese people who had quit smoking for 10 years prior to the study and who drank moderately had overall and disability-free life expectancies that were only one year shorter than non-obese

people who had never smoked and drank moderately.

"It's important to convince people to improve these behaviors in order, not only to live a longer life, but live a long life free of disability," said Neil Mehta, assistant professor of health management and policy at the UM School of Public Health.

Of course, people who have avoided these unhealthy behaviors are not the norm. "80 per

cent of Americans in their 50s either have smoked or been obese. That's huge," Mehta said. "Our study speaks to the importance of prevention at whatever level that can occur in community health or in public policy."

Current life expectancy in the US is about 78 years for men and 82 years for women. But for the low-risk group, they are 85 and 89, respectively. —Xinhua ■

‘Not appropriate’ for Justin Bieber to tour China because of ‘bad behavior’

BEIJING — It is not appropriate for Canadian pop star Justin Bieber to visit China because of his bad behavior and he needed to improve his conduct to become a singer “truly loved” by the public, a Chinese state office has said.

Bieber’s lifestyle overseas and his “words and actions” when he last performed in China had generated “public dissatisfaction”, Beijing’s Municipal Bureau of Culture said, without specifying what behavior had caused offense.

Given efforts to “purify” the performing arts environment in China, “it was not appropriate to bring in artists with bad behavior”, the bureau said on its website, responding to a question from a fan asking why Bieber was not being allowed to tour.

“We hope Justin Bieber will continue to improve his behavior as part of his growth, and become a singer truly loved by the public,” it said.

It is unclear whether the



Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber (R) performs during his world tour concert in Beijing, China in 2013. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

comments, which were carried on an official government website, constituted a ban, or if the singer had sought

to tour China.

Bieber’s management company did not immediately respond to request for com-

ment.

Bieber performed in China in 2013 when media coverage centered on him stripping on

stage in Beijing to reveal his bare torso, being carried up the steps of the Great Wall of China, and riding a segway, again shirtless, through the streets.

Bieber, 23, has become notorious for a string of indiscretions and scandals in recent years, shedding the clean-cut image he had when he burst onto the scene as a teenager.

He also posted a photo on social media showing him visiting Japan’s controversial Yasukuni war shrine in 2014.

The singer removed the image but not before it had attracted 660,000 likes on Instagram and had been tweeted out to his 50 million-plus followers on Twitter.

Chinese media reported in January that Bieber was set to return this year, but no Chinese dates have been announced. He is due to perform in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore in September and October, according to his website. —Reuters ■

Illusionist Criss Angel gets Hollywood star, says inspired by Houdini

LOS ANGELES — Illusionist Criss Angel received a star on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame on Thursday, saying he drew inspiration from another famous magician, Harry Houdini.

“It’s unbelievable. Houdini died in 1926 and this star will remain here for as long as this planet is here,” Angel said during a ceremony in Los Angeles.

“You realize that all of these people that are on this street are just like you and me, except they worked their ass off”, Angel said, standing on the star-studded boulevard. Born Christopher Sarantakos, Angel earned his fame on the 2005 A&E Network show “Mind-freak” with an act that included walking on water, levitating and being set on fire.

In one memorable performance, Angel floated more than 150 meters (500 ft) above the Luxury casino’s pyramid in Las Vegas. Angel was named Magician of the Century by the International Magicians Society in 2010.

Starting out dressed in gothic outfits, with long, black

hair and black nail polish and make-up, Angel has since meliowed his image.

“The man who I have come to know is a kind, gracious soul,

beyond generous with his time and who is on an unending mission to give back,” said British actor Gary Old man.

Magician Lance Burton and

Ultimate Fighting Championship (CFC) fighter Randy Couture were among others who turned out to honor Angel at the ceremony. —Reuters ■



(L-R back) Actor Gary Oldman, magician Lance Burton, mixed martial arts athlete and actor Randy Couture, (L-R front) Jeff Zarrinam, Chair of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, illusionist Criss Angel and Leron Gubler, President/CEO of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce attend a ceremony honouring Angel with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, in Los Angeles, California, US, on 20 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

‘Gambit’ is still happening: Channing Tatum

LONDON — Actor Channing Tatum has confirmed that “X-Men” spin-off “Gambit” is still in works.

Created by writer Chris Claremont and artistes Jim Lee and Mike Collins, Gambit made his first appearances in 1990’s Uncanny X-Men Annual #14 and Uncanny X-Men #266, reported ComicBook.com

“Yeah, of course (it’s still happening). We’re working on it right now,” Tatum said.

It has not been an easy ride for “Gambit”. There was a point when it seemed Remy LeBeau just was not going to happen especially last summer when latest director Doug Liman quit the project.

This was after first director Rupert Wyatt left due to scheduling projects. —PTI ■

Princess Diana's personal music collection among items to go on show at palace

LONDON — Rarely-seen possessions belonging to Britain's late Princess Diana including her music collection and ballet shoes are to go on display this summer at London's Buckingham Palace to mark the 20th anniversary of her death.

Many of the objects selected to feature in the display were chosen by Diana's sons Princes William and Harry "to reflect their mother's commitment to duty and their personal

memories of her", the Royal Collection Trust said on Friday.

Diana, the first wife of heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, was killed in a car crash in Paris in August 1997 and a number of commemorative events have been planned to mark her death.

William and Harry attended a private service earlier this month to re-dedicate her grave and the brothers have also commissioned a statue to

be erected in her honour outside their official London home.

Among the possessions to be featured in the display are a leather photo frame with pictures of family and friends, a burgundy leather briefcase, and her school "tuck box", which she used to keep sweets and other treats in while she was away at boarding school, which has the name "D Spencer" written on it.

The tribute also includes a case of cassette

tapes, featuring albums by artists such as George Michael, Diana Ross and Elton John, who famously sang at her funeral.

The exhibition opens on Saturday and visitors to the palace will also be able to see a collection of more than 200 gifts made to Queen Elizabeth during her 65-year reign including a paperweight made from a dinosaur bone and a Union Flag badge worn in space by British astronaut Major Tim Peake. —Reuters ■



Britain's Princess Diana holds Prince Harry during a morning picture session at Marivent Palace, where the Prince and Princess of Wales are holidaying as guests of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, in Mallorca, Spain, on 9 August 1988. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Winning toilet paper gowns offered to brides-in-need

NEW YORK — A toilet paper wedding dress with 1,500 hand-cut butterflies made by a mother of two in her spare time won the \$10,000 first prize in a quirky New York fashion competition on Thursday and a bride-in-need may have the chance to wear it down the aisle.

Ripley's Believe It or Not!, which exhibits winning entries every year, is donating about 20 of the top gowns to brides whose plans were shattered by the sudden bankruptcy of wedding dressmaker Alfred Angelo last week.

Kari Curletto said she spent three months on her



Models present wedding dresses made out of toilet paper during a fashion show in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, US, on 20 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

submission "Quilted Enchantment," with its six-foot cathedral train.

It was her first entry, one of 1,517 this year, in the 13-year-old toilet paper dress competition sponsored by Cheap Chic Weddings and Quilted Northern toilet paper.

"It kind of feels like I'm dreaming right now," Curletto said in an interview after her win. "Half-way through I was going to quit. I was crying and thinking, 'Well, I just can't do it. It's too much,' and a butterfly flew into my yard and landed on my hand."

Curletto, an actress living in Las Vegas, fash-

ioned the dress from toilet paper, glue, glitter and tape, working at night after her children went to bed.

Brides-in-need should contact Ripley's by 28 July for a chance to get a paper gown, spokeswoman Suzanne Smagala-Potts said by phone.

The exhibitor has yet to choose which ones will be donated, she added. Florist Roy Cruz of Chesapeake, Virginia, won in 2015 and 2016. His submission this year, a two-piece floral ball gown featuring snowflake cut-outs was voted fan favourite. —Reuters ■

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(23-7-2017, Sunday)

6:00 Am ♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	2:35 Pm ♦ This week's Special Interest
7:00 Am ♦ Breakfast News	4:20 Pm ♦ Analysis For Myanmar Movie
8:35 Am ♦ Peace Music Festival (Mawlamyine)	4:35 Pm ♦ Sunday Talk
9:20 Am ♦ Nine Perfect	5:05 Pm ♦ Road to SEA Game
9:40 Am ♦ MRTV Travelogue	5:45 Pm ♦ 2018 AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers (Live) (Australia & Myanmar)
10:00 Am ♦ Sunday Talks	8:00 Pm ♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report
10:35 Am ♦ Women in Myanmar Society	8:30 Pm ♦ Peace Music Festival (Live) (Mawlamyine)
11:00 Am ♦ Beautiful ASEAN	
11:10 Am ♦ Poen for Children	
12:45 Pm ♦ Myanmar Movie	

mitv

Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(23-7-2017 07:00am - 24-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
07:26	Am	Snow Flakes... Scenic Confluence... to Kachin State	(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
07:47	Am	Buddha Image Built Of Bamboo Strip	
08:03	Am	News	
08:26	Am	Shrinking Footprints	
08:50	Am	Myanmar Masterclass "Artist Chan Aye"	
09:03	Am	News	
09:26	Am	The Precious Lands of Myanmar (Mandalay Region)	
10:03	Am	News	
10:26	Am	Kayah Style	
10:35	Am	19 Hours	

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:24	Pm	Travelogue: Ngwe Saung Beach
07:44	Pm	Writer
07:52	Pm	Today Myanmar: Monsoon Tree Planting Season
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Music Icon Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-2)
08:49	Pm	MONASTERY (Shwe In - Pin Kyaung)

(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)



Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt poses with Lifetime Achievement Trophy at Louis II Stadium, Monaco, on 21 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Bolt breaks 10 seconds for first time this season in Monaco win

MONACO — Usain Bolt ran under 10 seconds for the first time this year as he narrowly won the 100 metres at the Monaco Diamond League meeting on Friday.

The eight-times Olympic sprinting champion was slow out of the blocks, just as he was in his last race in Ostrava last month, and never managed to put a big gap between him and the field.

He won in 9.95 seconds, three hundredths of a second ahead of American Isaiah Young. South Africa's Akani Simbine was third in 10.02.

Before the meeting, the Jamaican went to Germany to have treatment for back issues that have troubled him for years. It was his last outing before next month's world championships in London where he will race in the 100 metres and 4x100m relay.

"It was good, I'm going into right direction, still a lot of work to do," said Bolt, who is scheduled to retire after the world championships. "I'm always here for the fans, and of course I will miss the vibe around the track. Mixed emotions always — happy for my career, sad that it is ending. Sub 10 is always good. It was an exciting race, lots of energy."

Olympic and world champion Wayde van Niekerk won a titanic battle against Botswana's Isaac Makwala to take the 400 metres.

The South African, also the world record holder in the event, made a lightning start, then Makwala recovered to lead coming off the final bend before Van Niekerk powered down the final straight to win in 43.73 seconds.

Makwala's time of 43.84 was a personal best.

Van Niekerk's fellow South African, Caster Semenya, won a dramatic women's 800 metres in a season's best and meeting record time of 1:55.27.

The Olympic champion snatched the win in the last few metres ahead of Burundi's Francine Niyonsaba and Ajee Wilson, who both set national records. The trio had been neck and neck down the final straight.

Wilson's 1:55.61 shattered the previous US record of 1:56.40 set by Jearl Miles-Clark in 1999.

Elijah Manangoi upstaged a strong field to win the men's 1500 metres in a year's best time of 3:28.80. He sped past compatriot Timothy Cheruiyot on the final straight after the two broke clear of the field while Olympic champion Matt Centrowitz was well beaten in ninth. —Reuters ■

Barcelona manager Valverde quashes Neymar 'rumours'

HARRISON (New Jersey) — Barcelona manager Ernesto Valverde, who will lead the club for the first time in Saturday's pre-season match against Juventus, has dismissed speculation linking Neymar with a move to Paris Saint-Germain.

"Neymar is with us and we absolutely want him to stay here. The rest is just rumours," Valverde told reporters at a news conference at Red Bull Arena on Friday ahead of Barcelona's first game in the International Champions Cup.

"This is a time for rumours," he added.

Valverde, who played for Barcelona as a forward between 1988 and 1990 under Johan Cruyff, said he had not even discussed the speculation with the Brazilian forward. "We've talked about other stuff such as tactics and other stuff. It's a player we love and we want. Not only football-wise, but also the

things he brings to the locker room."

Sitting alongside Valverde at the news conference, Sergio Busquets said there was no reason for his team mate to move.

"I don't think he could be in any better place. I hope that he stays here for many years," Busquets said.

After the news conference, Neymar joined team mates Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez among the rest of the Barcelona squad in warm-ups and practice on the New York Red Bulls field ahead of the match against Juventus at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium.

Valverde said he was still learning about his new side. "I'm getting to know them little by little in the practice sessions we've had.

"It's not an official competition and Juve and ourself are not in form yet, but I'm eager to see what my players can do on the pitch." —Reuters ■

Players picked for 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers



Myanmar national team's senior player Kyaw Ko Ko. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

In preparation for 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualification, 19 players have been picked for the Myanmar national football team, including star players mainly from the Myanmar National League All Star team.

Myanmar began training yesterday and will start play against Kyrgyzstan on 5 September.

As nearly all Myanmar U-22 players have been chosen for the 29th SEA Games, most of the senior players from Myanmar National League including Thiha Sithu, Thein Than Win and Tin Win Aung will participate in the qualification rounds.

Myanmar's star player Yan Paing along with Thet Naing and Zin Min Tun will also participate among the All Star players.

Myanmar will be headed by Coach U Kyaw Lwin and Coach U Soe Myat Min.

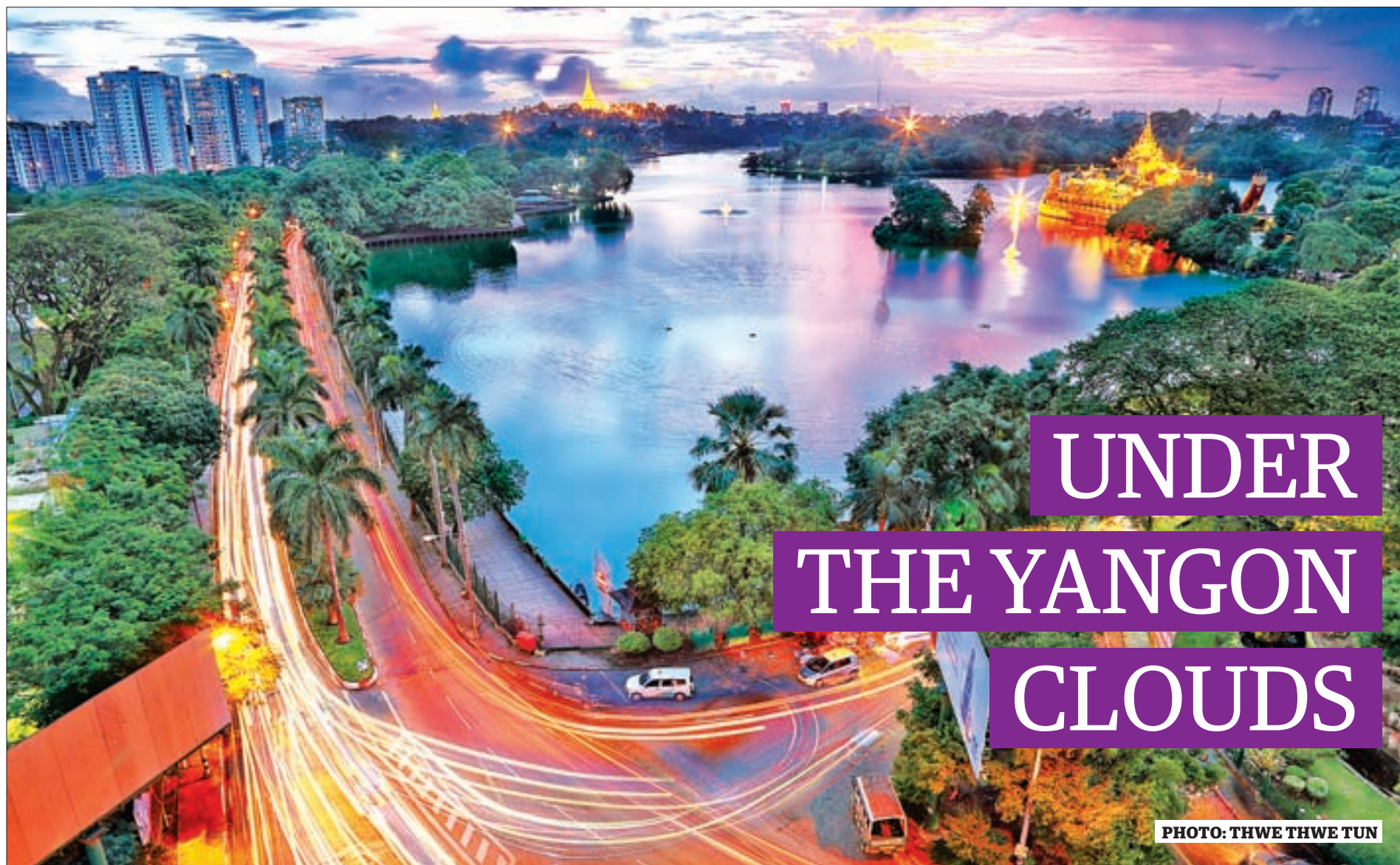
Myanmar has received a total of 3 points, losing to India 0-1 and trouncing Macau 4-1, making the match against Kyrgyzstan vital for advancement to the next step of qualification. — Shine Htet Zaw ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

23 JULY 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



UNDER THE YANGON CLOUDS

PHOTO: THWE THWE TUN



A.W Khin Myat Phone
Grade 9 (A),
BEHS-4 (Botahtaung)

WHY is the weather very important to us? Because it can change our mood. I suppose so. When the weather is bright, our mind becomes light. That's way, I believe that the weather plays an

important role in our daily lives. In Yangon, there are three season but mostly is rainy and sunny. For me, rain is my best friend!

Rain, rain, rain... It is good and cool when my best friend comes. Right now when I am writing these words on this paper, it is with me. Its raindrops makes the environment green and lovely green leaves feel the taste of cool rain anxiously. It is a great feeling when the rain falls

angrily and heavily. It does not come alone as it always brings its beloved partner along, the wind. If they come together, they always perform like dancing on the dance floor. Their favourite kind of dance is Cha-Cha or often they choose Waltz.

They almost often perform for several hours without stopping. When they do that, I look out of my window up to the sky and dream about life. Asking the grey

sky what my future would be. The rainy morning sky teaches me how to classify the good things and bad things. The rainy evening sky makes my heart hollow. But however, still I have got a very awesome behavior and that is throwing myself onto my bed of roses, squeezing myself into the warm blankets and getting ready to enter my dream-world where my imagination is kept.

SEE PAGE-B

Our field trip



Aung Khant Maw @
Andy
Year 4 (M.I.S)

It was a bright sunshine. The sky was crystal clear. Students were lining up to get on the bus.

Yeah! Today is our field trip to the orphanage. We all were excited and energetic. Mr. Kory, our homeroom teacher, ordered us to stay closed and not to wonder around.

When I got on the bus, I sat beside my close friend, Ethan and started chatting

like a mouse. When we arrived at our destination, an old lady with white hair greeted us and also showed us around the area, inviting us to the orphanage. We tried to talks with the orphans.

Shortly, we were having a whale of time. While I was distributing some candies, a moppet smiled at me and tugged at my elbow and I thought she wanted more candies. So I gave her hand full

of candies. With the best smile that I have never seen, she stated chatting with me, as high as a kite. The time had gone quickly. It was time to go back home. I bade farewell to my new friends with a heavy heart. Their beautiful smile would be etched on my memory. When I returned home, I felt down in the dumps. I wished I could celebrate my birthday at the orphanage. ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 12: Prepositions

Hello, Dear Students !

Up to Lesson 11, we have studied a lot concerning “Eight Parts of Speech”. Let’s do a brief revision.

Among the “Eight Parts of Speech”, we have studied the following:

- (1) Nouns
- (2) Pronouns
- (3) Adjectives
- (4) Verbs
- (5) Adverbs

And together with these five parts of speech, we have also studied:...

Singular and Plural Numbers, Masculine and Feminine Gender, Sentences, Parts of Sentences (Subject and Predicate) , (Subject + Verb + Object) , and Articles too . So, among the Eight Parts of Speech, we have three more to study. These are: - Prepositions, Conjunctions and Interjections.

Today, we are going to study about “Prepositions”. Prepositions are the words that show the relationship between two things.

e.g. (1) There is a child in the room.
Here in this sentence, the word “in” shows the relation between two things : child and room. (Noun and Noun)

e.g. (2) I am fond of coffee.
Here in this sentence, the word “of” shows the relation between two things: fond and coffee. (Adjective and Noun)

e.g. (3) The cat jumped off the chair.
Here in this sentence, the word “off” shows the relation between two things: ... jumped and chair. (Verb and Noun)

Therefore , a “Preposition” is a word placed before a Noun or a Pronoun to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by it stands in regard to something else. (The word “Preposition” means “that which is placed before”.

It will be noted that

In example (1), the Preposition joins a Noun to another Noun.

In example (2), the Preposition joins a Noun to Adjective, and

In example (3), the Preposition joins a Noun to a Verb. The Noun or Pronoun which is used with a Preposition is called its Object.

A Preposition may have two or more Objects as,
The river flows through hills and plains.

Here comes exercise now.

Exercise 12

- I. Write down ten Prepositions you know.
- II. Underline the Prepositions in the following sentences.

- (a) I saw an apple on the table.
- (b) He runs through the town.
- (c) Ko Ko is fond of KFC.
- (d) The horse jumps over the fence.
- (e) Will you come to my house?
- (f) Do you see him walking before the gate?
- (g) Put your book in the cupboard.
- (h) Mi Mi will take care of you.
- (i) Oh! Look at the moon.
- (j) The maid is sweeping off the floor.

A Preposition is usually placed before its object, but sometimes it follows it, as in

- (1) Here is the watch that you asked for.
- (2) That is the man whom I was speaking about.
- (3) What are you looking at?
- (4) What are you thinking of?
- (5) Which of these cups you drank from?

Exercise 12.

- III. Underline the Prepositions in the following sentences.

- (a) Who is the man I am looking for?
- (b) What are you looking at?
- (c) Why is he riding about?
- (d) When are you coming towards the village?
- (e) This is the holiday which I am looking forward to.

- IV. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable Prepositions.

- (a) The girl is going school.
- (b) I am looking the place to find him.
- (c) When are you thinking this problem?
- (d) Are you going to walk the school compound?

- (e) She is putting all her clothes the suitcase.
- (f) The soldiers are coming the enemy’s camp.
- (g) They are fighting their country.
- (h) The cat jumps the window.
- (i) You have to cross this hill.
- (j) Please switch the air-con.

Although there are so many more to study about “Prepositions”, we will stop for this Lesson 12 here.

Bye Bye Students!
Hope that you can do your Exercises well!
See you next week!
Your English Teacher (GNLM).
Email: dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

Here come the answers to the last week’s exercises Exercise 11

- I. To underline

(a) well	(b) silently	(c) here, tomorrow
(d) well	(e) daily	(f) early
(g) often	(h) beautifully	(i) rarely
(j) hard	(k) hardly	(l) loudly
(m) slowly	(n) silently	(o) still

- II. examples of ten Adverbs : .. quickly, slowly, briefly, early, hardly, late, smoothly, hard, kindly, timidly

- III. Fill in the blanks

(a) sweetly	(b) beautifully
(c) early	(d) late
(e) ancient and beautiful (or) hot and dusty	
(f) Pyin Oo Lwin	(g) hardly, always
(h) hard	(i) quickly
	(j) softly

- IV. timidly, wisely, early, lightly, loudly, sharply, clearly, timely, shortly, briefly

- V. Underline the Adverbs

(a) early, in time	(b) sweetly, beautifully
(c) frequently	(d) hardly
(e) quickly	(f) tomorrow
(g) Wherever	(h) up there
(i) for a week	(j) quickly

That’s all for today class . Bye !

Under the Yangon clouds

FROM PAGE-A

Otherwise, rain means freedom. The more it becomes heavier, the more freedom I get. The school’s overing times and the rain’s schedule are the same. I walk home under the grey sky together with a red umbrella over my head. I really don’t mind even if my feet are wet. Looking back to my past, I used to hate rainy days due to the muddy and soaked roads. But as the time flies, I grow older and my

tastes start to change. At the moment, I am so in love with it. Whenever it is June, July and August, I always wait for my best friend to come and visit Yangon for three months before touring around the globe again. Honestly, I don’t even want it to leave.

Rainy nights under the Yangon clouds are the excellent deep and sleepy nights that I never mis s. These rain clouds teach me how to feel the joyful life time of my

youth. Some may say rain delays their jobs or disturbs in their important ways but whoever what, I still love it. Not because I am not an outgoing person but because I love its flavor. Of course, I do hate staying indoors for most of the days but comparing it to burning hot and bizarre days, it is better. The smell of the moist soil makes my legs anxious for the game in the rain and browny mud. I want to go outside and get crazy with the rain drops but when I

think about myself, I realize that I am a bit old for this sort of thing.

Our moods are changed by the weather. In my opinion, rain is the best for my family and me. There is no more other things like relaxing in this chilling weather. And hence, there is nowhere like a place under the Yangon clouds. I am proud to be a Myanmar citizen because our country is the only one country which has very perfect weather unlike the others. ■

What to Improve and How to Improve Our Education System (4)

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

In the previous articles, the writer has mentioned the different steps to be taken for improving the Education System of a country.

First of all, the Education Philosophy of a country which goes together with the Political Policy of the country should be stated. This should be done by Educational Philosophers. As our country's policy is "Democracy" the Education Philosophy should be a "Democratic Philosophy of Education". Only after that should we draw the Rules and Regulations for Education in different sectors. Then only should we lay down the Educational Plans and Projects for detail improvement.

Then comes the different sectors of Education such as Teacher Education, Curriculum development, Text Books, Access to Education Systems, Assessment Systems, Teaching Methodology, Quality and Quantity of Teachers, Infrastructures in Education, Different Departments or Sectors as Basic Education and Higher Education, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Sectors, and so on. Each different sector should be planned and decided by different specialists well-experienced in their own fields.

After that comes the organization of the Administrative Sector for the authority and responsibility and the decision making. It should also be aligned with the political objectives of the country. As we are intending to have a Federal Union, our Education policy and organizational set-up should also go well with this intension.

For all these top positions who will become the decision makers? We need to get the right persons, who know Education very well with an appropriate experience in the field of Basic Education and Higher Education. And the organizational set-up and chain of command should also be clear-cut, i.e. who will give orders to whom and who is the person to accept the order and implement the plans and projects.

All these should be clear-cut very well before starting the process of improving the Education System. Then only all plans and projects will go on smoothly and not as trial and error. Up to this day, our efforts to improve our Education System are like what we call "Trial and Error Method" and that is why all our "children and youths" became guinea pigs and suffered a lot these days.

For all these "Trial and Error Methods" the first ones who suffered a lot are "our students" in our system. The second ones who suffered a great deal are "our teachers" in this field. The third persons are "the parents" of these children. So, we need to think of it again thoroughly not to hurt anyone.

Instead of "Trial and Error Method", we should find who will be the proper decision makers to plan all these. They are the ones who know very well about Education and who know very well all the different sectors of Education.

e.g. For the Field of Technical disciplines, the experts from that field and the Educationists should have to discuss. But, for the Tertiary level, i.e. there is no need to deal with Educationists, except they want to have the advice from the Educationists.

So also with the Medical field, Economic field, Agricultural field and so on.

That is how every expert should have the General Ethics and Professional Ethics in his or her own field.

Only when special experts from every field together with the Educationists, discuss together, work together and decide together with the results of different researches in their own fields, can have the good results and sound implementations to different sectors of Education.

Here, the role of "research" is very important. To do research in different sectors of Education, not only international experts from different countries and from the UN organizations as UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP and so on, but also National Experts from our own country from different specialized fields should be allowed to coordinate and cooperate together. Then only can we have international outlooks and the latest research results and also what and how other countries are doing or have done in a different field from the international experts and also how the conditions in our own country are, different limitations and advantages in different regions, the past experiences in different fields, what kind of difficulties and issues were found in the past, how to overcome these difficulties and so on from the national experts.

One more important thing is the reliability and validity of the research findings. If the researcher is a real researcher in his own field, he is loyal to the findings, however he likes or dislikes

the findings, he will present the real situations and findings and he will think out how to improve the situations and how to solve all these problems in each sector. The loyalty of the researcher in his presentation is very important indeed. It should of course be understood here that these arguments are equally applicable to female researchers.

In every research, there is always a hypothesis by the researcher, before doing the research. But after the research and when analyzing the research findings, sometimes, some findings are very painful findings for the researcher. Maybe he did not get what he expected, maybe what he unexpectedly found was another kind of result which he had not expected, and so on. Anyhow, the researcher has to accept its painful findings and then think a lot how to overcome all these issues, how to solve all these problems and so on.

Then only, he or she is the real and loyal researcher. They did not change the results stealthily or they did not leave out all these painful findings. Only then we come to know how to improve our Education System thoroughly.

After all these presentations of the researchers, then comes the role of the decision makers. Only when the decision makers have the experiences in their own field, can the correct decision be made. That is why the writer had pointed out that these decision makers should have adequate experience in his or her own sector.

For example, if an English expert or a Mathematics expert or a Law expert or an Economist decide in the field of Teacher Education, it can have an upside down result. For this field, the Educationist or Teacher Educationist is the most suitable person, the right man in a right place, so to speak.

So also, if the Educationist decided what to do in the field of Technology, there can be another upside down decision.

That is why, experts in each different field are important to be chosen.

The Implementation Stage comes next. Here, the question is who are the persons who are going to implement these projects after decisions have been made?

Can they implement all these projects? Can we be sure that the projects will be implemented in accordance with the wishes of the decision makers? Do we need to train the persons who are going to implement these projects? Who will give training to the trainers, and so on There are lots of programmes to implement one after another.

And here comes the next step, "Monitoring and Evaluation".

Then comes the questions, who will be the monitors? What are they going to monitor and evaluate? How are they going to do? How are they going to modify if it does not go well as it should be? What advantages and disadvantages are found, and so on

So, by learning what we need to do to improve an Education System, the readers will find that it is not a very easy job to do. What a long and burdensome job.

But, if it is necessary to do so, I mean to Improve our Education System, we have to do so. We have to pass all these different stages one after another and we need to take time, and so also we need to choose the right man in the right place.

Therefore to Improve the Education System is a great job, we cannot shun to do, but it is what we have to know what to improve, how to improve, when to improve and so on. Only then we can have better results to fulfill our objectives and goals in our Education System.

(to be continued)

Dr. Nu Nu Win, Retired Professor and Head of Department, Department of Educational Psychology, SUOE.



Moving Hline River to downtown Yangon or dreaming of Yangon Satellite Town

By Aye Maung Kyaw

YANGON Region Minister of Electricity, Industry, Road and Communication has made explanation about Yangon satellite town. This time the plan will be realized and her explanation at the meeting of Yangon Region Hluttaw made many welcoming remarks, and also raised concerns.

The welcoming remarks are made due to the concept of many people that Yangon should be expanded. If the concept is accurate and on the right track Yangon should be expanded as necessary. On the other hand the concept is not beneficial to the current situation or there exist any other options, expansion of the city will be a burden not only for region government but also for the Union Government.

Explanation at the meeting of region Hluttaw means the decision has been made to establish satellite town. The project is vast and thus it will surely raise the socio-economic status of people and create job opportunities in the areas that left far behind in development. A few companies will be not allowed to monopolize the project but citizen entrepreneurs under the supervision of Yangon Region government will have the right to participate in implementing the project. News came out that an agreement made between former Yangon Region government and companies will be terminated and this can be said that this is the good start of the project.

The project of establishing new satellite towns has been popular in the country during the previous government term. Such projects are of unpleasant experience and we should learn lessons from this experience as we have experienced many dos and don'ts from them. In the previous time it was very easy to establish new satellite but just needed three or four backhoes. After an axis of the main road was built a new satellite town emerged. The branch roads were to be built on self-reliant basis and if there was no strength to build a road the dwellers were to live under the situation as it is.

The dwellers had to make water and electricity supply by themselves. As a result it took nearly 20 years for a satellite



The aerial view of downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

town to be settled. Until now we can see many streets in the satellite towns in Yangon and Mandalay that are not paved.

Another problem is that the soil in the satellite towns is loose. Even the foundation of a wall is needed to be dug as deep as possible. If not the walls will be cracked and the house too. Soil filling works were to be carried out on the streets in the satellite towns and this caused a situation that the road became higher than the house. Apartments built around 1995 are now lower than the level of roads and this caused problems in the rainy season.

Only one good result came out from these projects was that a government servant with 20 or 30 years service got a chance to possess own plot. But it could be seen that the plot allocation was very much unfair. Some officials of township or district levels got many plots which they themselves could not remember. The

plots at the satellite towns were the gifts to be given to authorities. At that time a plot worth just 10,000 kyat is now sold at the price of tens of thousands of millions in Myanmar kyat. The so-called "Ma" plots of one-acre plots situated to the east of Yemon Hill in Mandalay were sold at the price of just 2.8 million kyat to those the authorities had acquaintance with. The prices of these plots are skyrocketing now reaching hundreds of millions of kyat. It is therefore, far from the reach and power of ordinary business or people. When industrial zones have been established, those who have acquaintance with authorities got the chance. Skyrocketing land prices, difficulties in renting plots, many procedures to build a factory, etc. are the reasons why foreign investors are reluctant to enter into our country. This is the great lesson to be noticed for building new satellite towns

in Yangon.

The first step to be taken is to sift out those who used to get the chance but not engaged in the actions. Then foreigners are to be allowed to rent a plot with the price at nearly free of charge. The procedures need to be easy and short. Such infrastructures as water and power supply in the industrial zones must be created by giving more priority than those at the satellite towns. As most of the labours in garment factories and low skilled labours are from Hlinethaya and Ayeyawady Region, they will get job opportunities no need to cross the river.

Another problem to be settled is buying the plots and storing them. Persons who are engaged in such businesses are needed to be dubbed as manipulators. They are needed to be given chances not more than a chance a farmer gets. Previously, a man whose plot was confiscated got just a plot with the

measure of 40 by 60 feet. Now, a standard should be set.

In the international arena, it can be seen that a palace of Ming dynasty in downtown area of Beijing is preserved as it was in 800 years ago. So the population density is decreased in that area and it is very rare to see traffic jams. Qingdao, in China's eastern Shandong province, is a port city of skyscrapers, parks and beaches bordering the Yellow Sea. It's known for its beer, a legacy of the German occupation (1898-1914). The Tsingtao Beer Museum celebrates the namesake brewery, founded here by Germans in 1903, and the Qingdao International Beer Festival is major event. There's also German-style architecture in the old city center.

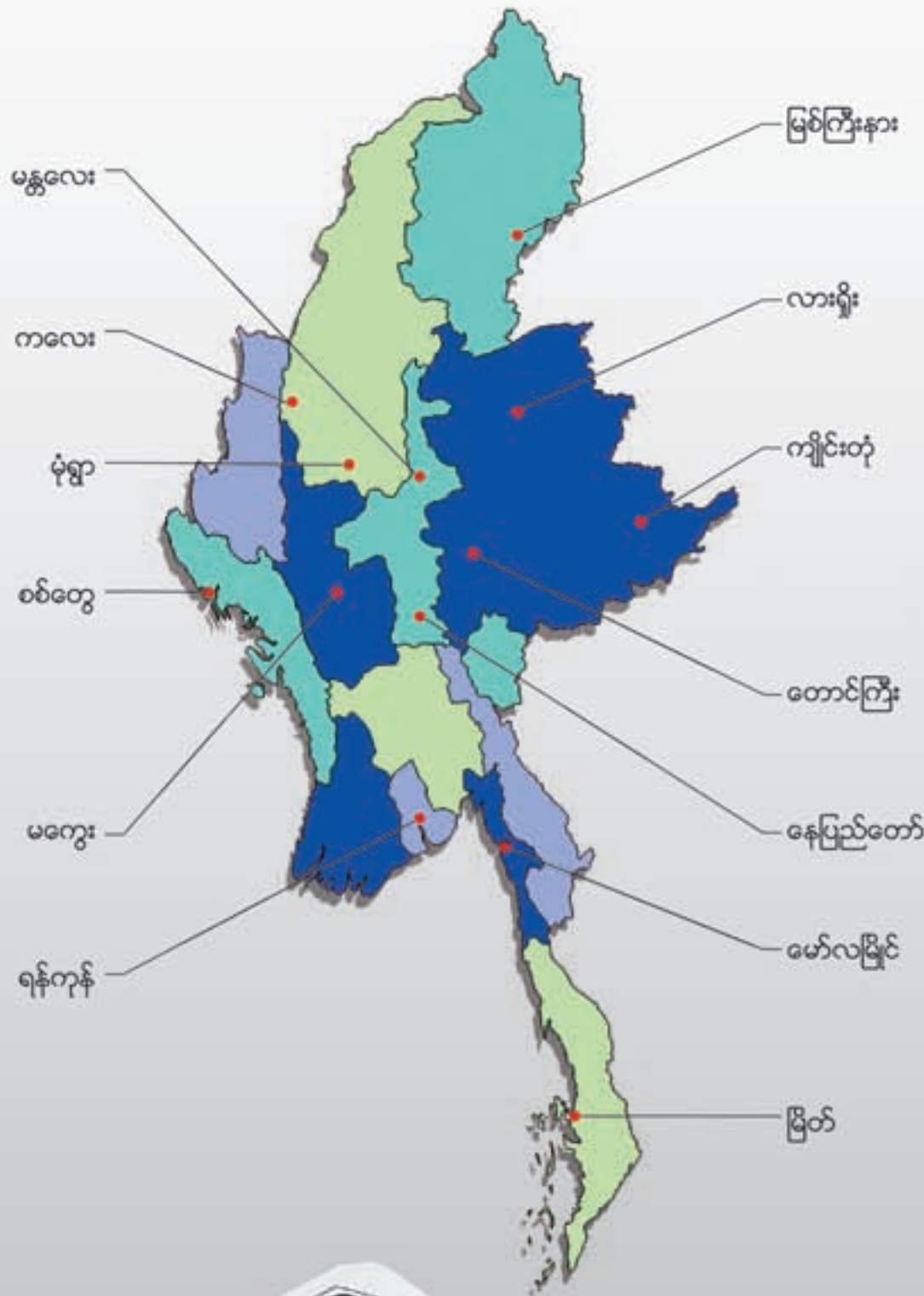
If there is a desire to move Hline River to downtown Yangon like Thames in London and Chaophraya in Bangkok, the region government needs to pay attention to the voice of experts and the public, they need to take lessons from the experience of 20 years ago, they need to prevent self seekers in own circle, must study cities of international standard and to dream of a new city totally different from the old one. Therefore, they need to commit to this plan with man, material and capital powers. — Translated by Wallace ■



Vessels are seen in Hline River in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **SUNDAY SPECIAL** အချပ်ပို(၈)မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်မှာယူနိုင်ပါပြီ



နေပြည်တော်

မြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ဖုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော် သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်

နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တက်ကန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ဓရပင်လမ်းခွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်

The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက် အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ စတန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၈၆၀၄၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး

လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲငွေရောင်ရပ်၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၅၀

တောင်ကြီး

မိုးကြိုးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၂၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး

နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်စွဲအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

ကချင်တုံ

မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကချင်တုံမြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး

အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြစ်ကြီးနား

အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ဓရာရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ

ရဟ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်မြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး

ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရွှေအဝေရာလမ်းမ၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ဗြိတ်

မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ဗြိတ်မြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်

ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

မုံရွာ

နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃



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SUNDAY COMICS



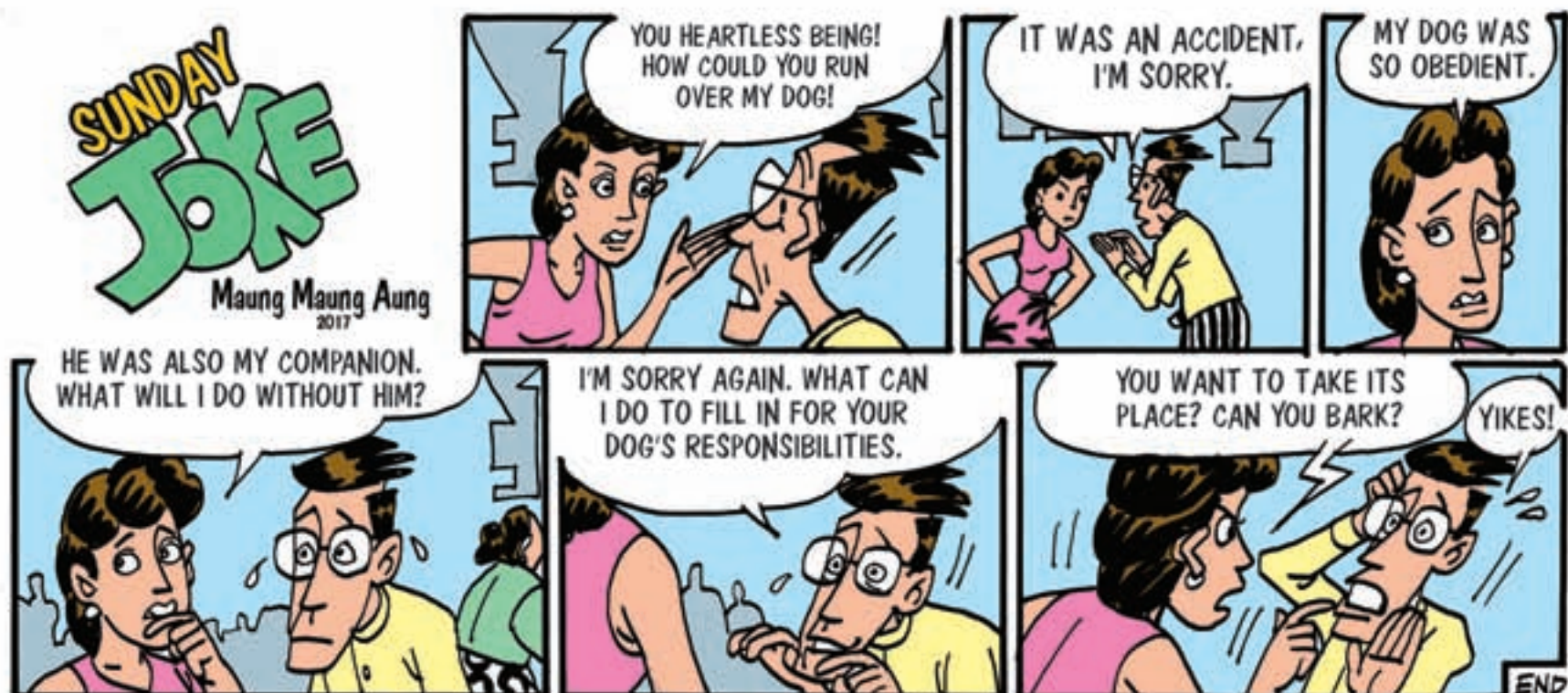
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Maung Maung Aung
2017



Interview with Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong

A wide-ranging interview with Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Vietnam and Myanmar.

Q: Please share your reflections on Viet Nam-Myanmar diplomatic relations.

A: This year we're celebrating the 42nd anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and the 70th anniversary of the first Viet Nameese Representative Office in Myanmar. I think this is a very important mark in our relationship. We have shared success in all types of sectors: political, economic, social science and technology and cooperation. In economics, we have had success not only in trade but also in investment.

Recently we've had a lot of our social science and humanitarian institutions come to Myanmar and from Myanmar to Viet Nam to exchange views. So our relationship is not only marked in stone over the number of diplomatic years but also in a lot of development. We will soon exchange more highest-ranking visits and we will try our best to intensify our framework of cooperation. The relationship is not only on diplomatic terms but will be people-to-people contacts, party-to-party contacts, and society-to-society contacts and it will be mutually beneficial to our two countries.

Q: After the Viet Nam War, North and South Viet Nam reunified in 1975, so please share your experience with regards to Myanmar's endeavor on its peace process.

A: Our country reunited in 1975 after 30 years of struggling for national independence and our sovereignty. I think that Viet Nam and Myanmar shared a common purpose of struggling for national reunion. We underwent a long line of wars so we lacked a lot of capacity and we needed much assistance from the people and we needed to solidate the people in one front that we called it the National Front for national reconciliation. We share that experience with Myanmar.

However I think we had some differences in national reconciliation because the histories of our two countries are different. The way we move forward is also different because Viet Nam don't have as much serious ethnic issues and conflicts.

Q: Based on your experience we would also like to know your impression on Myanmar's democratization process and the peace process.

A: Firstly, talking about the democratization process, I have been here in Myan-



Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong speaks during the interview at the Embassy of Viet Nam in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/ AYE MIN SOE**

the peace process is a process. It needs more time and it needs more efforts because peace is not something that can be just gained on the table but we need to bring it to reality.

mar for ten months, and I can see obvious democratization taking place everywhere. I'm most impressed with seeing the rise in civil rights and civil society but I think that for democratic transformation to be ensured for long, the Myanmar people need to do more. They especially need a legal system to ensure that happens.

Talking about the peace process in Myanmar, I can see the government, the people and also the ethnic groups have tried all their best for the peace process in Myanmar. We can see some progress especially with the second Panglong. It demonstrated not only the increasing number of the participants but also the outcomes of some commitments and some unanimous agreements among the participants on the essential principles.

I think that the principles are very important and critical because they are set up for economic development, for social development, for environmental

and land reforms. So, it is essential for the sustainability. We all know that the peace process is a process. It needs more time and it needs more efforts because peace is not something that can be just gained on the table but we need to bring it to reality. I strongly believe Myanmar's peace process will gain success because the Myanmar people are peace-loving people.

Q: We have learned that in 1986 Viet Nam initiated political and economic reforms like market-oriented reform heading towards integration into the international economy. Myanmar is also striving for political reform in parallel with economic reform so what is your opinion on that?

A: Talking about our Renovation or as we called it in Viet Nameese the Đổi Mới, we can see that Myanmar is now exactly in that time we were in 1980s (when we initiated economic reforms). We can share experience on how we can trans-

form from the state-controlled economy to market-oriented economy. But there were some differences as Myanmar already passed the stage with market-oriented economic developments long ago and the political system of Viet Nam and Myanmar are different. I also can see a lot of good points in the period Myanmar is carrying out renovations and integration into the world, especially in terms of social management and economic administration. So, we can learn from Myanmar as well.

Q: Please share your experience in tackling issues like human and drug trafficking and so on.

A: I think now drug trafficking and national crimes are universal issues. No country can deal with these issues by themselves; we need to cooperate with each others. Viet Nam cooperates much with its neighbors and other ASEAN countries. We have a very close cooperation with China, Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia and now with Myanmar as well. That is why we have had the annual dialogues between the two public security ministries of Viet Nam and Myanmar on countering transnational and transborder crimes. Viet Nam and Myanmar should talk with each other and set up the framework to work and to cooperate in this field with more details.

Q: Terrorism is a great threat to regional security; can you talk more about that?

A: We can say that terrorism now is a very serious concern all over the world. Religious extremist from all kinds of religions, not only from Muslims, not only from Buddhists, but from a variety of religions, are taking advantage of religious beliefs from the people and they threaten the lives of the people. That is why we need to work with all our peoples, all our forces and all our goodwills and we need to work every day, everywhere. I think the most important factor in counter-terrorism is cooperation among countries in terms of legal systems. The second thing is we need to cooperate among forces to deal with crimes and terrorism. For example, defence, public security, and also civil society. But more importantly, I think we should not have a kind of religious discrimination whenever and wherever we are. Religious belief belongs to the people but we need to educate the people to understand the values of religions must be for fairness, equality, for development and for mutual benefits of all the peoples in the world.

Q: We heard Viet Nam has plans for cooperation on agriculture especially on processing and cultivation on rubber, coffee and pepper for export in Myanmar. Could you tell us more about this bilateral cooperation?

SEE PAGE-H

Getting Agriculture Moving

By Htun Tin Htun

GOOD governance is of paramount importance for the growth and development of any country. Enhancement of the productivity of agriculture sector of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar needs more attention for the raising of the quality of life and standard of living of the farmers. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar makes various reforms with earnest and concerted efforts. The agricultural sector still plays a crucial role in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the nation. Innovative approach needs to be done for the boosting of agricultural produces both quantities and qualities. Nothing is impossible to a nation with wish-to-do, work-hard, wish and wisdom according to the Lord Buddha, the Awakened One. Good agricultural practices need to be learned from both neighbouring countries, ASEAN and other countries and practically practiced in the real situation.

All available land, labour, capital, technology and management in a village need to be pooled as a group or a cooperative enterprise to get the best benefits

of working together (cooperation). Good education, training and information on good agricultural production and marketing techniques need to be disseminated to the farmers and family members throughout the nation. Right fertilizers, right seeds and right insecticides need to be easy access by the farmers through the good distribution systems for right price at the right place and at the right time. Integration (vertical and horizontal) of agricultural product chain needs to be developed through the good networking of cooperative enterprises or public/private companies. Cooperation, coordination, collaboration, compromising are of importance for any organization to achieve success. Unity is strength, united we stand and divided we fall so that all farmers in the nation needs to be united to make a change in the agricultural sector for the prosperity of the nation. Lifelong learning to make a change in our lives is important and we live to learn, learn to love and leave a legacy for the posterity. Together Everyone Achieves More-TEAM building and development nowadays is

of great importance for everywhere and we must come, work, stay, strive, enjoy together for our goal. Understanding post-harvest technology is also important and practices in the ground efficiently and effectively can make definitely raising the products' value. Rural development is our concern and the infrastructure of the rural communities needs to be improved and projects for rural development need to be expanded for the agricultural sector development. Efforts make the impossible possible so that strenuous efforts need to be done for the agricultural sector development by all stakeholders of the nation.

Man, money, material, method, machine, market are resources for doing businesses getting things done through the effort of the people (management) and out of these resources man (human resource) is of vital importance. "One for all and all for one" is one of the famous mottos for cooperative enterprise and cooperative enterprises can build a better world and it would certainly be said that the agricultural sector can produce its products double if we form agricultural

cooperative enterprise in each and every village of the country with the financial and technical aid from the Government through agricultural mechanization system. Victory is not far away and the cooperative system can do much more than expectation and please refer to the speech of Bogoyoke Aung San, our national hero, as mentioned in the GNLM in the third week of July, on the importance of cooperatives for the Union of Myanmar. ICT plays the crucial role in this fast changing world and majority of farmers and their family members get easy access to mobile network and Internet so that agricultural extension works need to be expanded to translate and interpret the modern farming techniques. No one is perfect but practice makes perfect so that the farmers need to change their attitude and behaviour through the learning of modern knowledge and updated skills. Getting agricultural moving can make the country's GDP double/ triple during the near future with the enhancement of agricultural productivity through the good agricultural practices. ■

A TALE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10

Why the Hippopotamus (hippo) wide open the mouth and eat wind

By Khin Maung Phone Ko

In the jungle of Africa where a stream was flowing and many hippo submerged in the water hole (small stream) and find small plant to eat. There, flied came a male red-wing black bird who was a friend of one of the hippo arrived to find food on the skin of hippo. The black bird greeted when he arrives. Good day to Hippo and hippo reply greeting.

The black bird looked out on hippo skin insects to eat. As soon as found

one and hold with claws and sing a song looking's up above. The bird used to sing whenever it found food. But when the hippo heard this time he was quite disturbed and he said to his friend "why are you always singing a song, always on my skin. The black bird replied, "I sing because I find food. Hippo responded angrily "why bother to sing a song when you find it on my skin? By the way, for whom you sing it, not even to me. The food you must find was nothing to do with me, either."

The black bird explained to hippo, "I sing a song not to you friend, but to the creator God who provide me food to eat". Then, Hippo rebutted the bird "you had to find your own food and I have find mine. Why trouble to sing a song to the unseen creator God. I will not do like what you are doing as, I must find my own food".

The male red-wing black bird replied finally. "do you know the creator God provide us food to eat, whenever I found food, thank him with a song, that I sing."

From that day on wards, we can hear

the black bird sing songs whenever he finds food on the skin of hippo, and we can see the hippopotamus open his mouth wide up ward and eat wind.

The Bible verses:

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God", They are corrupting their deeds are vile. There is no one who does good. (Psalm 14:1, NIV)

To have a fool for a child brings grief; there is no joy for parent of a godless fool. (Proverbs 17:21, NIV)

Interview with Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong

FROM PAGE-G

A: We need to intensify our bilateral cooperation not only for traditional friendship but also for partnership. For that I think we should take advantage of all current existing mechanisms we have so far. We already have a kind of annual regular dialogue in political events and public securities, trade and etc. but we need to have more mechanisms on co-operation between the two countries. For agricultural products, scientific technologies, vocational training, public health and etc. That is why we will sign more MOU documents on cooperation between the two countries. We also need more joint committees on these fields of cooperation.

The other thing is we should have more people-to-people contacts and we should have exchanges between the younger generations. In that way, the cooperation between the two countries is not just on the papers and agreements but it will come in reality.

Q: ASEAN is going to celebrate its 50th anniversary in August this year, so what is your inspiration for ASEAN solidarity on regional peace and stability?

A: Since the establishment of ASEAN, we have been talking about solidarity among ASEAN but also talking about unity in diversity. It means that ASEAN is a group of countries with a lot of diversity and we need to enhance unity and

solidarity with all the efforts from ASEAN members. I think our two countries have done a lot for ASEAN's solidarity in terms that we always struggle for the principles of ASEAN. We have done a lot for the projects and series of cooperation among ASEAN. Our two countries will continue our efforts and now in the new context of the development of the ASEAN region, Viet Nam and Myanmar will do more and enhance our cooperation in many issues across the region. For example, counter-terrorism, countering environment pollution and peaceful sustainability in the region.

Q: Regarding terrorism and outside media, they are trying to accuse

Myanmar as being religiously discriminating. As resident ambassador here what is your impression about these criticisms?

A: I think that there have been criticisms on religious discriminations in Myanmar but I myself don't see as much because here in Yangon I can see that people with different religious beliefs still live together in a peaceful environment. They share the common values of equality. However, there have existed criticisms, the government and the people and society need to do more to solve the issues. In some of these issues I think the legal systems and social policies are most important. ■