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**SUNDAY
SPECIAL**



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 17 December 2017

President visits Narukawa Art Museum

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin visited Narukawa Art Museum in Odawara, Japan and then viewed the night scenes of Tokyo on board a ship yesterday.

The President, the First Lady and their delegation left Kyoto yesterday morning by bullet train to Odawara.

Upon arrival at Narukawa Art Museum in Odawara in the early afternoon, they were welcomed by museum general manager Mr. Katsuyoshi Kohara, who introduced them to artist Hirohiko Hiraiwa and museum officials.

The President and the First Lady observed the displayed paintings and art works and then viewed the natural scenery of Lake Ashi at the foot of Mt. Fuji, Hakone Mountain and Fuji Mountain's natural scenery from the museum.



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin visit Narukawa Art Museum in Odawara, Japan yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

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Fake drugs destroyed in Yangon

By May Thet Hnin

OVER Ks1.8 billion worth of confiscated medicines, which were sold under the name of BPI with fake packaging in the market-

place, and Ks16.5 million worth of low-quality denatured alcohol have been destroyed within the compound of the Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) in Yangon on Saturday.

U Ko Ko Lwin, Managing Director of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, said: "We used different methods to destroy a wide variety of counterfeit medicines without environmental impact.

Dilution is one way to destroy drugs, especially for low-quality denatured alcohol. We use rollers to damage some tablets and capsules and put them in the ground, planning to destroy the

rest of the medicines by fire at Waste-to-Energy Factory in Yangon's Hlawga Township, which is currently operated by Yangon City Development Committee."

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Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends 3rd LMC FMM

MYANMAR delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, arrived back Nay Pyi Taw by air on 16th December after attending the 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Dali, Yunnan Province, China, from 14-15 December 2017.

The 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 15 December 2017 and co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of China and Cambodia. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR, Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam.

The Foreign Ministers had an in-depth exchange of views on promoting cooperation under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation framework and future of the co-operation. Ministers also had a discussion on the preparation of 2nd Mekong-Lancang Leaders' Meeting scheduled to be held in



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin poses for a documentary photo together with Foreign Ministers at the 3rd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Dali, Yunnan Province, China. **PHOTO: MNA**

January 2018 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Ministers reached consensus on the Mekong-Lancang Five-Year Plan of Action (2018-2022) and agreed to submit to the 2nd Mekong-Lancang Leaders' Meeting for adoption. A joint press communiqué was issued after the meeting.

China established a Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund with 300 million US dollar contribution aiming to

support SMEs of Mekong countries. The meeting approved the list of projects to be funded by the Mekong-Lancang Special Fund which include (10) projects from Myanmar; (1) project from the Ministry of Home Affairs, (2) projects from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, (5) projects from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, (1) project from the Ministry of Transport and Communications and (1) project from

the Ministry of Education. Total value of projects to be received by Myanmar is about 2.4 million US dollars.

On 15th November, Myanmar delegation attended the welcome luncheon hosted by Mr. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of the Peoples' Republic of China in honour of the visiting delegations attending the 3rd Mekong-Lancang Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Next, Foreign Ministers from six Mekong countries attended

the opening ceremony of Photo Exhibition displaying the achievements of Mekong-Lancang Co-operation and the launching ceremony of Mekong-Lancang China Secretariat's website at Dali Hotel. In the evening, Myanmar delegation together with other Mekong delegations attended a banquet hosted by Mr. Chen Hao, Party Secretary of Yunnan Province. In the evening of 15th November, Union Minister met with Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China at the Dali Hotel. The two Foreign Ministers cordially discussed matters relating to promote bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, enhance cooperation in the international fora and exchanged views on the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

The Mekong-Lancang Co-operation was established following the initiative put forward by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the 17th ASEAN-China Summit held in Myanmar in 2014 to establish a new type of cooperation mechanism among six Mekong-Lancang countries comprised of Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam with an aim of promoting cooperation in the areas of political and socioeconomic development.

— Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Ministry of Defence issues press release on land returned to the nation

THE Ministry of Defence has released some of the land included in a report by the Farmlands and Other Lands Acquisition Inquiry Commission that was submitted to the 1st Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Land that was not included in the complaints made to the commission are also being released on a case-by-case basis by military headquarters according to three guideline policies laid down. To keep the public informed, the Ministry of Defence announced in the 22 August 2014 issue of Kyaemon newspaper the release and return of a total of 209,062.73 acres.

As per the policy guideline set by the government on resolving issues of confiscated land as a priority, the Ministry of Defence is striving toward returning the released land in 2017. While assessing the work of returning released land, additional land that can be released was also further assessed, and as of 15 December 2017, a total of 258,013.559 acres as shown in the table below are being arranged to be returned.

Status of land released and returned (as of 15-12-2017)

Sr.	States/Regions	Released land (acre)	Designated State Land (acre)	Land permitted to be released by Central Land Assessment (acre)	Land handed over to Central Land Assessment with form 1(still under assessment by CLA) (acre)	Note
1	Nay Pyi Taw Council	577.820	391.800	69.620	116.400	
2	Kachin State	38752.440	24590.760	3432.000	10729.680	
3	Kayah State	4011.650	4011.650			
4	Kayin State	2832.070	2705.620	112.500	13.950	
5	Chin State	280.972	13.230	24.970	242.772	
6	Sagaing Region	50696.428	25451.630	23916.370	1328.428	
7	Taninthayi Region	3338.559	3338.559			
8	Bago Region	23152.580	8051.730	7372.550	7728.300	
9	Magway Region	9789.160	7857.180	1740.980	191.000	
10	Mandalay Region	12880.639	12677.263	200.060	3.316	
11	Mon State	3947.801	3940.410		7.391	
12	Rakhine State	22287.71	20034.760	1559.190	693.760	
13	Yangon Region	7497.274	7418.016	79.258		
14	Shan State	66939.690	53230.720	13180.410	528.560	
15	Ayeyawady Region	11028.766	1657.620	6122.326	3248.820	
	Total	258013.559	175370.948	57810.234	24832.377	

The Ministry of Defence has released and returned more land than initially planned, but applications to return land by departments and the public will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, said the press release.—Myanmar News Agency ■

President visits Narukawa Art Museum

FROM PAGE-1

Narukawa Art Museum was built with the aim of preserving Japanese art for future generations. The museum displays more than 4,000 paintings by Japanese artists.

Paintings and an arts show are conducted four times a year at the museum, with the natural beauty of Lake Ashi at the foot of Mt. Fuji, Hakone Mountain and Fuji Mountain visible from scenic viewing areas at the museum. More than 6 million visitors visit the museum annually.

The President and the First Lady took a commemorative group photo with museum general manager Mr. Katsuyoshi Kohara and artist Hirohiko Hiraiwa and then exchanged gifts.

They returned to Tokyo by bullet train and attended the dinner party hosted by Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Japanese special envoy for national reconciliation in Myanmar, onboard the Symphony Cruise ship.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio poses for a documentary photo together with attendees at the ceremony of pre-Christmas prayer and dinner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends pre-Christmas prayer and dinner

VICE President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan attended a pre-Christmas prayer and dinner ceremony yesterday evening at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 (MICC-2) in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was jointly organised by Christian churches in Myanmar and the event was

also attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and wife, Union Ministers and their wives, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and wife, Un-

ion Attorney-General and wife, Christian churches and special invited guests.

At the ceremony, reverend Dr. Yan Kho Paung made an initial prayer followed by Mahn John Sein Shi and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko delivering a Christmas greeting speeches.

Religious clergy in attend-

ance then recited prayers, read the Bible, and delivered speeches of thanks. Attendees to the ceremony then sang hymns together.

After the prayer ceremony, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife took a commemorative group photo, then shared dinner with the congregation.—Myanmar News Agency ■

2017 Myanmar Saemaul Leaders' workshop and prize-giving ceremony

The 2017 Myanmar Saemaul Leaders' Workshop, jointly organised by the Korea Saemaul Undong Training Center (KSMU) and Co-operative University of Thanlyin, was being held at the Excel River View Hotel, Thanlyin, in the last week of November.

U Kyaw Ngwe, Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation, urged the leaders of Saemaul Leaders' Workshop to implement the development of their families and their own villages through nearby villages and other villages across the country.

Rector Prof. Dr. Daw Ye Ye Win of the Co-operative University of Thanlyin clarified effective ways and means of finding innovations and new markets in order to use raw materials from the villages.

Members of SMU explained Myanmar Saemaul Leaders' Workshop to the attendees from Thanlyin and Hlegu townships in Yangon.

Mr. Chaung Kap Jin, head of AERDTC, explained that it was an intensive training programme to share Korea's development experiences with government officials and community leaders from developing countries. They have implemented the training programme in 45 countries including Myanmar, starting in 2012. He added that he was pleased to witness the success of the campaign in Myanmar.

This workshop has been successfully held in the villages which underwent the SMU project from 2012 to 2016. They awarded the villages which managed to hold the kind workshop in



Myanmar Saemaul Leaders' Workshop 2017 held at Excel River View Hotel, Thanlyin. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN**

their communities. Among them, Thanatpin village won the first prize of Ks75 lakhs, Ba Yet Village won the second prize of Ks40 lakhs, Say Lon Gyi Village won the third prize of Ks25 lakhs, and San Pya village and East San Pya Village jointly won the consolation prize of Ks15 lakhs each.

SMU leader U San Ngwe shared his experiences of managing to improve infrastructure

such as bridges and roads to literally pave the way to other places in the region by using the funds provided. Moreover, he learnt he could earn extra money by breeding pigs and chickens on a manageable scale. As a result, he expand his business by investing wisely. The young people in his village have begun to change to a positive attitude to their work.

"They are eager to learn the

latest technology in order to possess better standard of living", U San Ngwe said.

Attendees at the SMU were Rector Professors from Thanlyin Co-operative University and Phaung Gyi Co-operative College, Associate Professors, Head Professors, teachers and Myanmar Saemaul Leaders' Workshop campaigners. —Thant Zin Win ■

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Monsoon old Pawsan rice price increases by over Ks300,000

THE price of monsoon old Pawsan rice has increased by over Ks300,000 this year in Shwebo, Sagaing Region compared to the same period of last year, according to local farmers.

The price of Shwebo Pawsan from Sagaing region has increased because the locals like to consume the taste of the Shwebo Pawsan more than other varieties, farmers said. According to rice depots in Wahdan Street market, a bag of Pawsan rice has been sold for between Ks35,000 and Ks48,000 per bag, while Ehmata costs between Ks20,500 and Ks 23,500 per bag. The price of Nga Sein is between Ks20,500 and 23,500, while Moethuka was selling for between Ks24,000 and Ks 25,000 on 14 December.

In the Shwebo rice depots market, Pawsan is selling for between Ks40,000



Rice crop was harvested from paddies field. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

and Ks45,000 per bag, while Ayeyar Min cost around Ks40,000 and Ngwe low-quality rice cost around Ks24,000 per bag.

Last year, the old monsoon paddy was selling for around Ks1.25 million in the Shwebo

region. But this year, the monsoon paddy is selling for around Ks1.55 million, according to the rice market.

"One or two local farmers started to harvest the new monsoon paddy in Shwebo region, al-

though some have not harvested their paddy yet. The new paddy costs around Ks1.2 million per 100 baskets depending on the quality of rice", said U Tin Oo, a local farmer from Khin Oo Township.— Yaung Ni Tin Win ■

US\$1.5 million to be spent to improve work environments of Yangon garment factories

LOCAL and foreign organisations will launch a three-year project in Myanmar with the purpose of improving the work environments of Myanmar's

garment sector in Yangon, spending US\$1.5 million in the effort, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday. The project will take place

in 12 factories supplying Western brands, including Danish fashion retailer Bestseller, according to the Danish Ethical Trading Initiative (DETI), which is coordinating the project in collaboration with the British Ethical Trading Initiative, Danish trade union 3F, and Aalborg University in Denmark, with the backing of the Danish Market Development Partnerships Fund.

The purpose of the effort is to improve the efficiency, quality and working environment of textile production, and increase knowledge of human and labour rights and social dialogue for the benefit of both social and economically sustainable development of the industry. The project will run to the end of 2020, it is learnt.—GNLM ■



Employees work at a garment factory in Hlaingthayar. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Men arrested for drug smuggling in Bamauk Township

POLICE on Thursday arrested two men in Bamauk Town, Katha District, Sagaing Region, after they were found in possession of a cache of yaba tablets and opium powder, according to a police report.

Investigators say that an anti-drug squad seized approximately Ks2.2 million worth of 240 WY brand yaba pills and 0.01 grams of opium powder plus 10 grams of unknown powder believed to be heroin and Ks541,000 from the backpacks of the two men in the forest in the south of the town.

The two suspects have been charged for drug trafficking under Section 15/19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Investigation is being made by the township police in an effort to arrest those involved in the case.—Kyaw Swa (Bamauk) ■

Number of visitors to Chaungtha beach declines by 10 per cent

THE number of visitors to Chaungtha beach in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Region declined by 10 per cent this year when compared with the same period of last year, according to a report in the Myawady Daily

yesterday.

"This year, the number of guests to Changtha beach has slightly declined because there are many holidays this year and people are visiting other states and regions which they have never been

to", an official said.

With the decreased number of visitors, hotels, restaurants and vendors are making less money, prompting them to offer promotions and upgrade and clean hotel areas, officials said.—GNLM ■

967 jade lots sold at 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium

THE 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium continued yesterday at Mani Yandana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, where brisk sales of jade occurred to local and international gem merchants.

During the day, of the 1,150 jade lots with base price of Euro 4,000, 967 lots were sold to local and international gem merchants.

The 967 jade lots were sold under an open tender system, fetching a total of about 37 million euros.

By the fifth day of the emporium, a total of 4,397 local and international gem merchants had

visited the emporium.

The 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium will be held until 21 December. On 17 December, jade lot Nos. 1151 to 2300, on 18 December, jade lot Nos. 2301 to 3450, on 19 December jade lot Nos. 3451 to 4600, on 20 December jade lot Nos. 4601 to 5750 and on 20 December jade lot Nos. 5751 to 6685 will be sold.

The 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium is selling 6,685 jade lots under an open tender system, while high-quality finished jade and gems are also being displayed and sold. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Merchants inspect a large jade stone on the fourth day of the 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium in Mani Yandana Jade Hall, Nay Pyi Taw on 15 December 2017. PHOTO: MNA

Japan to import Myanmar traditional paper toys by sea

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to export locally produced handmade paper toys to Japan through sea routes, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

Two containers of a wide variety of colourful, handmade toys will be transported to the

island nation from sea ports upon completion of production.

The export of traditional toys to Japan is expected to create more employment opportunities for residents especially in the country's central arid regions. This is the first step for toy makers to penetrate the international

market and to raise the productivity and value of handmade products.

For the time being, toy makers from Sagaing, Mingun and Yangon are putting forth concerted efforts to increase their production of paper toys to meet the export target.—GNLM ■

Textile Industrial Park to be launched in January

TEXTILE Industrial Park, which will be able to produce items for the garment industry, will be launched in Palate Township, Mandalay Region in the first week of January, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Textile Industrial Park will be constructed in two phrases. For the first phrase, authorities are planning to construct the

factory on a 200-acre. The Industrial Park will include the weaving factories, colouring factory, and button and zipper factory.

"For the first year, we will construct on a 200-acre.

We have planned the five-year project.

To construct the Textile Industrial Park, we have already invited the foreign direct investment", said Daw Yin Yin Moe, the

general secretary of Myanmar Textile and Garment Entrepreneurs' Association.

The Myanmar Textile and Garment Entrepreneurs' Association will implement the five-year project to further develop the garment industry.

The government has already granted permission to construct the Textile Industrial Park on the 400-acre site.—GNLM ■

Individual trade at borders exceeds Ks28.7 billion

BORDER trade values through the Individual Trading Card (ITC) reached more than Ks28.7 billion since April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As of 1 December, border export using ITCs was Ks2.488 billion, while imports were Ks26.243 billion. Among other cross-border gates, the Myawady, Myanmar-Thailand border trade station, was reported to have the

largest volume of trade with a value of more than Ks21 billion, followed by Mawtaung with \$1.7 billion, Kanpaiktee with \$1.4 billion and Tamu with \$1.3 billion.

Over eight months, border trade through ITCs was Ks651 million at Reed; Ks538 million at Kawthaung; Ks132 million at Kengtung; Ks83 million at Tachilek trade camp; Ks70 million at Lwejel border; Ks22 million at

Muse, and Ks4 million at Chinshwehaw.

Starting in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the ministry has issued ITCs to businesspersons at borders with an intention of boosting border trade. Currently, there are more than 1,300 individual cross-border traders. The trade department said it granted permission to 120 new applicants this FY.—Shwe Khine ■

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- Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
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Literary Conference 2017 concludes

LITERARY Conference 2017, conducted with the theme of “Free Literature, Free Voice” concluded yesterday at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangone Township, Yangon.

Forty proposals selected from 54 discussions from the first three days of the conference and general suggestions were approved unanimously by the attendees.

The proposals include outcomes from discussion on development of Myanmar literature, education, libraries, formation of supporting groups for development of literature, publishing, translation literature and national literary awards.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivered an address expressing his de-

light for the successful conclusion of the conference that was systematically held and attracted many literary friends nationwide.

The Union Minister also explained his personal approval for the suggestions unanimously approved by the attendees, as some of the suggestions were the same ones he requested.

The Union Minister asked for Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) libraries to become community centres and to work together with the literati in each townships and conduct literature effort for the libraries to be stocked with books, have internet access and become a full-fledged library.

The Union Minister invited all to conduct literature dis-



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the closing ceremony of Literary Conference 2017 at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangone Township, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

cussion, reading circles and book clubs activities in IPRD libraries with literature enthu-

siasts in the respective area. From this, the suggestions were made and approved in the conference and will become a reality.

After the Union Minister concluded his remarks, author Ma Sandar expressed thanks on behalf of the Literary Conference 2017 organizing committee.

The conference was held for four days from 13 to 16 December, and the decisions from the conference will be submitted to the government and respective departments via the Ministry of Information.

The Literary Conference 2017 was jointly organized by 11 Myanmar literary organizations.

Last night, the Ministry of Information hosted a din-

ner at Yangon City Hotel, Mayangone Township, in honour of the representatives of literary organisations who attended the Literary Conference 2017.

At the dinner, Dr Pe Myint extended greetings and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and vice chairman of conference organising committee Saya Maung Thwe Thit gave words of thanks.

Present at the dinner were Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and wife, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife, officials from the Ministry of Information, literary conference organising committee members, members of the literary organisations and invited guests. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers an opening speech at dinner at Yangon City Hotel in honour of the representatives of literary organisations who attended the Literary Conference 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Medicines, household goods and solar light systems donated to Rakhine State Government

A ceremony to donate 100 sets of solar lighting systems and 500 family kits containing medicines and household goods to the Rakhine State Government was held yesterday morning in the guest room of the Rakhine State Chief Minister.

“The donation made today is 500 family kits that include medicines and 19 types of household goods and 100 sets of solar lighting systems for rural villages provided by the Republic of Korea’s KDE&C Engineering company, which is working together with the Ministry of Industry on renewable energy works. The Ministry of Industry is happy to be able to make this donation for the Rakhine State people”, said U Ko Ko Tin, Di-

rector General of the Ministry of Industry.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu spoke of his appreciation to the Ministry of Industry and KDE&C Engineering for the donations during a time of great need.

“The donated items are truly required by ethnic nationals”, added the Chief Minister.

U Ko Ko Tin handed over the family kits and solar lighting systems and the Chief Minister in turn presented a document of honour. Afterwards, the Chief Minister and state ministers were briefed by experts from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy on the use and installation of the solar lighting systems.

The total value of the fam-



Officials from Ministry of Electricity and Energy explain the usage of solar lighting systems to Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and state ministers. **PHOTO: MNA**

ily kits is Ks. 13.5 million while the total value of the 100 sets of solar lighting system is US\$

10,000 it is learnt.

In addition to the aforementioned officials, the ceremony

was attended by State Ministers and the State Advocate. —Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Ex-Japan PM calls for cooperation beyond bilateral ties with China

BEIJING — Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda said Saturday the time is ripe for Tokyo to strengthen cooperation that goes beyond bilateral relations with Beijing, so as to help quicken the pace of putting them back on the right track of development.

"While the world is facing a period of significant change, Japan and China, both major countries having stable (political) foundations, are now given a golden chance to discuss, seek solutions and act together not just for bilateral issues, but also for those of Asia and the world," Fukuda said in a keynote speech at a forum on Sino-Japanese relations in Beijing.

Fukuda, who was prime minister for a year from September 2007, said China's rise is at the center of the drastic change. He added there is no other choice than to help and try to understand each other, for the sake of working toward a more peaceful and prosperous international environment.

This year's two-day forum, attended by dozens of former government officials, scholars and journalists of the two countries as panelists, comes amid the emergence between Tokyo and Beijing of the best atmosphere in years for the recovery of their relationship strained over territorial and historical issues.

In a similar vein, Jiang Jianguo, China's minister of the State Council Information Office, urged that two Asian powers should never forget "the original intent of peace, friendship and cooperation" when their diplomatic ties were normalized 45 years ago.

Jiang said that economic cooperation has been an important "booster of China-Japan relations" and that the two countries should "together actively promote regional economic integration."

To build an open world economy, he called on Japan to get deeply involved in Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious One Belt, One Road initiative aimed at expanding trade and infrastructure networks in Asia, the Middle



Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda delivers a speech on the opening day of the 13th Tokyo-Beijing Forum in Beijing on 16 December 2017. **PHOTO: KYODONEWS**

East, Europe and Africa.

The event, co-hosted by Japanese nonprofit think tank Genron NPO and the China International Publishing Group, started in 2005 as a public diplomacy

platform, with the purpose of facilitating communication even at a time of government-to-government difficulties.

To better understand each other's views, several panel dis-

cussions covering such topics as security, economics and media issues have been held each year in parallel.

Serious differences of opinion most obviously remained between security experts of the two countries, ranging from how best to approach North Korea to what is essential for maritime order.

Still, the results of an annual survey released by the two organizers on Thursday, on the back of more high-level political contacts between Tokyo and Beijing in 2017, showed significant improvements in perceiving the current status of bilateral ties.

Japanese respondents who said bilateral ties in recent months are "bad" or "relatively bad" accounted for 44.9 per cent, down sharply from last year's 71.9 per cent and dipping below 50 per cent for the first time in seven years.

The survey found 64.2 per cent of Chinese respondents held a negative perception of ties, compared with 78.2 per cent in 2016.—Kyodo News ■

Australian PM future safeguarded in crucial Sydney by-election

SYDNEY — Australia's conservative coalition government regained its razor-thin parliamentary majority on Saturday after inner Sydney voters re-elected a former professional tennis player in a special poll triggered by a constitutional crisis.

The Liberal Party victory in the blue-ribbon Sydney seat of Bennelong is a much-needed relief for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, whose leadership has been increasingly unpopular with the public over the past two years.

A loss in Bennelong would have plunged his government into a parliamentary minority, forcing it to rely on independent lawmakers to complete its agenda. A loss would also have placed Turnbull's personal position in danger.

With around 73 per cent of the two-party preferred vote counted by late Saturday, the opposition Labor Party candidate Kristina Keneally has secured a swing of about 5.6 per cent against the Liberal Party's John Alexander, according to the Australian Electoral Commission.

While a sizeable swing, that was well short of the 10 per cent plus needed to install Keneally,



Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

a high-profile former premier of New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, in federal politics, and the Labour Party conceded defeat. The battle for Bennelong was bitterly fought. Turnbull campaigned personally for Alexander in the electorate both in the run-up to the vote and on the day of the poll.

"Thank you Bennelong, the people of Bennelong have put their faith in this man," Turnbull told cheering supporters as he raised Alexander's arm in a victory celebration. "Liberals have come from across the state, across the nation."

But Keneally, who ran a robust campaign urging voters to use the by-election to punish the federal government, warned Turnbull that he should be concerned about the swing to Labour.

"The verdict is in, the message is clear; we have had enough of your lousy leadership," she said in her concession speech. "Malcolm Turnbull injected himself in this campaign, he owns this result."

Turnbull's coalition has been forced to govern in minority since October, when a citizenship crisis cost him several cabinet members and wiped out his flimsy ma-

jority. Among those forced out was Turnbull's deputy, Barnaby Joyce, who has since won back his seat. Turnbull, who has lagged in opinion polls all year, and his minority government were forced to accept a widespread banking inquiry after independent members in parliament flexed their newfound power.

The race tightened in recent days amid a diplomatic spat between Australia and China, sparked when Turnbull accused Beijing of improper interference in Canberra. One in five Bennelong voters has Chinese heritage, raising fears of a backlash.

Alexander was forced to re-contest his seat after becoming one of 10 lawmakers, alongside Joyce, to leave parliament in recent months as they were swept up in the citizenship crisis.

Alexander left parliament because he believed he might hold dual British citizenship, which he has since rescinded. Australia's constitution bars foreign nationals from sitting in parliament to prevent split allegiances.—Reuters ■

India's Rahul Gandhi takes over as opposition Congress party chief

NEW DELHI — India's Nehru-Gandhi scion Rahul Gandhi Saturday took over as the country's main opposition Congress party chief, days after being elected unopposed.

The 47-year-old assumed the reins of the Congress from his mother Sonia Gandhi, who had been the president of the 132-year-old political party since 1998, at a grand function in Delhi.

The elevation took place at 11:00 am local time when Gandhi was given a formal certificate of being elected the Congress president unopposed from the party's central election authority. Gandhi was in fact elected to the top post Monday after no one else in the Congress challenged him in the party's internal election that was held a week earlier. Till his elevation, Gandhi held the post of Congress vice-president for over three years.—Xinhua ■

Unswerving Friendship

A FRIEND in need is a friend indeed, as the saying goes. Being uncoloured friendship, their minds and goodwill will never change—now this and now that. In other words, their friendship will belong to the unswerving kind.

We, the people living in the country, will not be flawless all the time throughout our lives. Sometimes or maybe very often, we can find our weakness in many places or occasions. It is not that easy to fulfill the requirements of every individual. A government alone will find it difficult to supply the needs of all its subjects to the full, hence the need to get help, assistance and subsidies from its well-wishing eternal friends with unadulterated pure minds.

Longevity and health is among the necessities of our Myanmar citizens. Much as the government is fulfilling this requirement to the best of its ability, it cannot cover the whole country for the time being. Thus, our government is implementing a strategic plan for negotiating with the organizations from home and abroad to get sustainable financial assistance for the development of the national health system.

Its main objective is for every citizen living in the country to get advanced health care without any financial difficulty, regardless of race, religion or social status. To do so, support of eternal friends of the UHC membership is emerging as a healthy human society.

performances in the health system for giving advanced health care. Myanmar has laid down firm foundations for health care system which will help the public effectively in accord with the principles of UHC.

Myanmar has already committed herself for the success of the objectives of UHC in 2030, with a view to the progress of public health. Its main objective is for every citizen living in the country to get advanced health care without any financial difficulty, regardless of race, religion or social status. To do so, support of eternal friends of the UHC membership is emerging as a healthy human society.

We must acknowledge the Japanese Government, Japan International Cooperation Agency [JICA], World Health Organization, United Nations Organizations and member countries of UHC 2030 as our eternal friends, friendship of which will never be destroyed.

Accordingly, we must welcome the strategic plans which will work towards the improvement of public health, without any segregation of race, religion or social status, and simultaneously we will thank our friendly nations which will help us overcome our weaknesses forever. ■

Teachers of the World Deserve Homage

By Htun Tin Htun

OUR friends from 1970 Batch of the Yangon Institute of Economics are very energetic and enthusiastic in organizing Sayar Ka-Dawt-Pwe (Great Ceremony for Paying Homage to the Teachers) for 15th Ceremony for the year 2017. Since 2003 they have been forming a friendly support team for social welfare of the old students who attended the Institute of Economics during 1966 and 1970 and were awarded with B.Com (AA, IT, BFI) and B.Econ (PD, AE, AS, MS) and most of all our friends served the interest of the people of this planet not only at home as government employees as well as private entrepreneurs but also in abroad as International Civil Service personnel and International UNVs of the United Nations as well as staff of private enterprises/institutions/organizations/corporations. Our friends use to organize two major events among others in a year such as the Ceremony for paying merits to those who unfortunately passed away during the past period (for 2017 they organized at the Dhamma Zedi Monastery at Shin Saw Pu Road on the 10th of December) and the Ceremony for paying homage to the teachers (this year Ceremony will be held on 17th December 2017). This article is therefore written to honour the teachers of our Yangon Institute of Economics and in the world as well with great respect and to honour our friends of the organizing team (Eco'70 Batch) for both the ceremony of sharing merits to deceased friends and the ceremony of paying homage to the teachers (this is the unique and can only be seen in Myanmar) as well as the welfare of our friends in need.

Teachers play the role models for all of us in this planet and we believe that the ultimate and supreme happiness can only be attained through the good teachings of the great and good teachers who taught and teach all of us in this world in various means. "To avoid all evil, to cultivate good and to cleanse one's mind"—this is the teaching of the Buddhas. The great teachers taught that "Those who imagine evil where there is none, and do not see evil where it is upholding false views, they go to the State of Woe (Realm of Continuous Suffering) (duggati). Those who discern the wrong as wrong



and the right as right—upholding right views; they go to the Realms of Bliss (sugati)". Education for all is of great importance for our future generations (Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030) and the teachers in this world will contribute to achieve the goals of Education for All (EFA) with their great power such as wish-to-do, work-hard, will and wisdom. Always be thoughtful, enlightened, active, clear, healthy, excellent, right, smart, outstanding, friendly, timely, honest, efficient, wise, organized, reasonable, liberal, diligent, dignified, effective, sympathetic, expert, reliable, vigilant, experienced, heedful, optimistic, meditative, accountable, good

and exemplary are the some valuable words representing the TEACHERS OF THE WORLD DESERVE HOMAGE. Calm is his thought, calm is his speech, calm is his deed, he is the one who truly knowing is wholly freed, perfectly tranquil and wise. Health is the precious gain, contentment is the greatest wealth, a trustworthy person is the best kinsman and Nibbana (cessation of sufferings and sorrows) is the highest bliss. He/she who is full of faith and virtue, and possesses good reputation and wealth-he/she is respected everywhere, in whatever land he/she travels. Easily seen is the fault of others, but one's own is difficult to see, evil things are difficult to



Photo: Phoe Khwar

control, let not greed and wickedness drag you to protracted misery. Easy to do are things that are bad and harmful to oneself but exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial. Enduring patience is the highest austerity, "Nibbana is supreme," say the Buddhas. Remember that there is none in this world who is not blamed, there never was, there never will be, nor is there now, a person who is wholly blamed or wholly praised. Strive hard and strive on with diligence and vigilance and become wise! Seek no intimacy with the beloved and also not with the unloved, for not to see the beloved and to see the unloved, both are painful. Should a person do good let him do it again and again; let him find pleasure therein, for blissful is the accumulation of good. Should a person commit evil, let him not do it again and again; let him not find pleasure therein, for painful is the accumulation of evil. Speak not harshly to anyone, for those thus spoken to might retort; indeed angry speech hurts and retaliation may overtake you. (These are what the Buddha, Awakened One taught and the Buddha, Exalted One is our Great Teacher)

Our value, our culture, our custom is based on the Buddhist Teachings taught by the Buddha and we are good to observe and maintain our own calendar, our own number/figure, our own liter-

ature, our own costume, our own language, our own tradition, our own ethics, our own spirits, our own habits among others with our confidence/resolution in Five Moral Precepts (great charity to all beings), Four Universal Cardinal Virtues (Brahma Vihara) (Loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy and equanimity), Four Noble Truths (suffering, causes of suffering, cessation of suffering and the path leading to the cessation of suffering), Noble Eightfold Path (Right Understanding, Right Thinking, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration). One should do what one teaches others to do; if one would train others, one should be well controlled oneself; difficult indeed is self-control. One truly is the protector of oneself; who else could the protector be? One is one's own protector; one is one's own refuge; therefore one should control oneself, even as the horse trader controls a noble steed. Full of joy, full of confidence in the Teaching of the Buddha (the Great Teacher), the one attains the Peaceful State, the bliss of cessation of conditioned things.

The parents are recognized as the first and foremost (primary) teacher for all people in this planet and the teachers are recognized as the parent-like teachers, that is what we (the people) in Myan-

mar strongly believe and value like three Gems (the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha are called Refuge because they protect the one who takes refuge in them against all kinds of danger and misfortune). True friend is worthy friend and association of good, virtuous and faithful friend is one of the four factors for one's progress; such friendship is a necessary condition for gaining Path Knowledge and realizing Nibbana. There is no fire like lust; there is no grip like hatred; there is no net like delusion; and there is no river like craving. Hatred is never appeased by hatred in this planet; by non-hatred alone is hatred appeased; this is an Eternal Law. Easy is life for the shameless one who is as impudent as a crow, is backbiting and forward, arrogant and corrupt. Evil things are difficult to control, let not greed and wickedness drag you to protracted misery.

Wisdom is power, wisdom springs from insight meditation; without insight meditation wisdom wanes; and wisdom makes the impossible possible and without wisdom we, the people of this planet cannot differentiate evil (wrong) things and good (right) things. Our people in this world are eager to attain liberty, peace, love, joy and prosperity and they do not want greediness, disintegration, violence, hatred, delusion, poverty, religious extremism, terrorism and man-made disasters. Right understanding, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are (eight in one and unique) noble eightfold path leading to the cessation of all sorrows and sufferings and it is a great tool to solve any problems in this planet. Love to live, live to learn (lifelong learning) and learn to leave a good legacy is great concern for any individual person in every corner of this world. Discipline (Character/Morality) is power and without discipline the sovereignty of a country will be lost and we therefore need to observe the five precepts (great charity for all living beings) and four universal cardinal virtues such as loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy and equanimity for the co-existence, peace, security, harmony, dignity, reciprocal respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and development.

SEE PAGE-11

First Asia-Pacific Climate Week brings together governments and private sector to scale-up climate action

FINANCE and sector ministers and high-level officials from more than 30 countries in Asia-Pacific joined private sector leaders to identify ways to scale up climate action and find innovative financing solutions for the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies.

The Asia-Pacific Climate Week (APCW 2017) which closed in Bangkok today, culminated in a Regional Climate Action Agenda which will strengthen regional cooperation among state and non-state stakeholders to promote more ambition prior to 2020 in key economic sectors, including energy, industry, agriculture, cities and oceans, to promote the take-up of carbon pricing instruments and policies, and to ensure better transboundary data collection, and access to finance.

Participants at the three-day event, organized by ESCAP, in partnership with UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP-DTU, ADB, IETA, IGES, and TGO, also underscored the need to provide low-income, climate vulnerable countries with targeted international support to access capital markets, in order to finance the transition to low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development through enhanced regional collaboration and awareness-raising.

At the ministerial segment, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr. Shamshad Akhtar said, "Enabling vulnerable countries to gain access to international capital markets to finance the green transition can be one of the most effective ways to finance climate action. Every dollar invested will leverage many more. Tapping the capital markets to finance climate action will also enable the region to deepen its financial system and reorient it towards new growth opportunities."

In his remarks, Mr. Inia Seuriratu, High-level Champion for Global Climate Action and Minister for Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development & National Disaster Risk Manage-

ment & Meteorological Services of Fiji said, "We hope that the meaningful discussions shared during this High-Level Segment will help move key stakeholders in the region toward a clear Regional Climate Action Agenda, which unifies the region's climate ambitions with the need to ensure that financial flows are consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development."

At the opening, Mr. Dirk Forrister, CEO and President of IETA said, "Improving the quality of data and transparency are two key goals towards the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement. Achieving these goals will help finance to flow and results to be verified, and would also clear the path to market-based solutions that can vastly scale up the reductions Paris calls for."

Asia and the Pacific is emerging as a global leader that shows how growth and sustainable development can be achieved through promoting sustainable energy and carbon pricing for cost-effective achievement of the Nationally Determined Contributions. The region is a real growth area for carbon pricing and markets, and a wealth of opportunities are being created as countries look to use market forces to drive the low-carbon transition, both domestically and through Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Against this backdrop, APCW 2017 underscored the need for stronger emphasis on creating the enabling conditions to attract clean energy investment in-light of a recent decline in financing for new clean energy, and a greater focus on private sector investment, which are currently still far behind levels needed to step up to achieve the internally agreed climate goals contained in the Paris Agreement. De-risking instruments and credit enhancements were also highlighted as key to leveraging the much-needed increase in capital from private investors.—ESCAP

Fake drugs, low-quality denatured alcohol worth over Ks1.8 billion destroyed

FROM PAGE-1

Since September 2006, collaborative efforts have been made by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Special Investigation Bureau and the Ministry of Industry to inspect illegal production and distribution of fake drugs. A wide variety of counterfeit medicines amounting to over Ks2.8 billion were seized during raids at the warehouses, shops and other locations. Of the total, some confiscated drugs were firstly destroyed after final decisions for relevant cases have been made by judges.

U Ko Ko Aung said: "This is the first time authorities destroyed billions worth of those drugs with fake labelling and privately produced low-quality denatured alcohol in many years."

Those fake drugs were mostly confiscated in Yangon and Mandalay regions, with the majority of them illegally imported from foreign countries.

"Those fake drugs are likely to remain in the domestic market as we continue measures to uncover a network of counterfeit medication sales distribution chains mainly in the two big cities. Thanks to the operation, the sale of fake drugs significantly



Officials destroy fake medicines and alcohols in Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein). PHOTO: MNA

decreased in the market. Further investigation will continue in the market in an effort to eliminate counterfeit drugs," U Ko Ko Aung continued.

U Ko Ko Aung also urges people to check medicines before they buy so as to protect themselves from the possible risks of fake drugs and expired medicines.

A total of 287 kinds of medicines have been produced by My-

anmar Pharmaceutical Factory, which was previously known as Burma Pharmaceutical Industry (BPI), mainly from Yangon and Kyaukse. Those factories manufacture new medicines each year.

The majority of medicines are imported from foreign countries as Myanmar produces below 15 per cent of national requirements, including the private sector. The MPF currently produces only 10 per cent of total

consumption.

In April, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was also able to identify and seize more than Ks16.5 million worth of sub-standard alcohol (spirits) produced and distributed without permission.

The value of the confiscated fake BPI medicines are a record high throughout the history of seized fake medicines, officials said.

Some of the fake BPI medicines and sub-standard alcohol were burnt or buried yesterday at Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein).

The remaining fake medicines will be burnt and destroyed in the YCDC waste-to-energy factory in Hlawga.

Destruction of the fake medicines and sub-standard alcohol were conducted according to WHO guidelines in order to prevent damage to the environment. The sub-standard alcohol was diluted and treated in a wastewater tank, which was then discarded down the drain. The fake medicines were destroyed by roller and buried.

Medicines that are not produced according to GMP guidelines are not effective in treating illnesses and could make the patient's situation worse. Detaining and destroying fake BPI medicines will support the health of the public in addition to having good quality medicines available in the market, officials said.

According to official statistics, the MPF produced medicines worth Ks28-30 billion in 2016-2017 fiscal year. The figures increased to Ks50 billion in the current FY. ■

Myanma's lacquerware on brink of extinction

LACQUERWARE is one of Myanma's traditional arts and crafts and it is widely made in various shapes and is made in Bagan, Pintaya, Innwa, Monywa, Kyaukar, Sagaing Region and Maungthaung villages.

Lacquerware is a Myanma traditional craft made from raffia bamboo; and Myanma lacquerware such as Hsun okk, Daun-glun, cups, plates and kettles were used during 12th and 13th centuries. Lacquerware is made from bamboo, which comes from Homalin and Kanti in Sagaing Region. Then, the bamboo is cut out and softened and given the shapes of the desired objects. The process takes over six months, going from raw material to becoming lacquerware. The lacquerware was mostly used in previous time periods because it's heat-resistant and long lasting but also light-weight and beautiful. Now, there are few skillful lacquerware artists today and the raw materials have become scarce.



Moreover, the process of making lacquerware takes a long time, so glassware, ceramics, plastic and steel items are now more prominent in the Myanma lacquerware market. Gradually, Myanma lacquerware is facing extinction.

"Classic lacquerware is a traditional business in the Kyaukar village. Now, there are 10 people who make lacquerware in the village and they can send their work to foreign countries such as Thailand, France, Germany and Spain,

where there is a demand for lacquerware. Most people use modern items such as glassware and ceramics because lacquerware is now very expensive. So Myanma lacquerware will disappear from the local market" said an owner of Golden Lacquerware U Soe Moe Kyaw. The lacquerware from the Kyaukar village is being exported to foreign countries, and also it's sent to Mandalay, Taunggyi and Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Mount Kyaik Htee Yoe cable car opening ceremony in Mon State

MON State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan and party attended the cable car opening ceremony at the Kyaik Htee Yoe pagoda yesterday morning in Yathetaung, near the Kyaik Htee Yoe pagoda.

Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan spoke at the opening ceremony and Managing Director of Sky Asia Co., Ltd. explained the process of the cable car project.

Then Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and officials pressed the button of the cable car to officially open the service.

Sky Asia Co. Ltd. undertook this project with a US\$ 21 million investment, permitted by the My-

anmar Investment Commission (MIC) to construct the cable car system on 13.5 acres of land on Mount Kyaik Htee Yoe.

It is the first cable car of its kind in Myanmar and provides easy access to the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda.

The company built six towers, each 2,850 feet high, from Yathetaung to the Kyaik Htee Yoe pagoda. One cable car can hold 8 passengers, with total of 44 cable cars.—MNA ■



Central Myanmar villages becoming popular for fossil ornaments

U Than Zaw @ Mg Thar Nyan (Natogyi)

PARTS of a prehistoric animal or plant hardened into rock are usually a very peculiar find, but not in some remote villages in central Myanmar.

Fossilized sal-tree plants can be commonly found in the rural villages of Natogyi Township, Myingyan District, Mandalay Region. The names of those villages are Phayargyi, Naywetaw, Zitaw, Thaminbay, Htanzin and Htan Gwa.

The villages are only a few minutes drive by car from Pynzi, about six miles away in the east of Natogyi. From Pynzi you need to drive south until you come upon a series of villages, one after another, before arriving in Phayargyi. Some foreigners have discovered the availability of these plentiful fossils.

In 2015, visitors from the neighbouring country of China came to these villages and bought large amounts of the fossilized sal-tree rock, paying very good prices. In addition to the fossilized rocks, they bought various sorts of ornaments made of these fossils. The villagers made a lot of money and were quite happy with their sales. Many of them were able to build brick houses with their windfall.

Word has slowly spread, and more visitors are coming to this remote area. The villagers have



PHOTO: U THAN ZAW @ MG THAR NYAN (NATOGYI)

learned over the years how to decorate the fossilized rocks so they can be sold as ornaments. They use their own human milk as a solvent for the pigment they use to stain the fossil rocks different colours. This time-consuming technique seems to be the

only way to colour the fossilized rocks. That is why the products are very costly but worth buying.

All customers from far or near are now warmly welcomed by the villagers for sightseeing and to buy these strange, unique ornaments in the villages of Na-

togyi Township. Visitors who find themselves in Yangon take the Famous or Shwe-Set-Kyar buses in the late evening and arrive in Natogyi Township early the next morning, before dawn. A motel is available just opposite the Natogyi bus stand. From there,

a motor vehicle can be hired for a round trip, usually returning to Natogyi in the evening. In addition to the exotic fossil ornaments, visitors often go to worship at the very noted and omnipotent Shin-Pin-Thar-Tun-Oo Pagoda. ■

Teachers of the World Deserve Homage

FROM PAGE-8-9

Difficult is life for the modest one who always seeks purity, is detached and unassuming, clean in life, and discerning. Do not give way to heedlessness; do not indulge in sensual pleasures, only the heedful and meditative attain great happiness. Drop by drop is the water pot filled, likewise, the wise man gathering good little by little. Easily seen is the fault of others, but one's own is difficult to see. Should a person do good, let him do it again and again; let him find pleasure therein, for blissful is the accumulation of good. Speak the truth; yield not to anger; when asked, give even if you only have a little; by these three means one can reach the presence of the gods. Even the gorgeous royal chariots wear out, and indeed this body too wears out; but the Dhamma of the Good

does not age; thus the Good make it known to the good. Repeated contemplation, constant mindfulness of ten things consists of: reflecting on the virtues of the Buddha, the virtues of Dhamma, the virtues of Sangha, the perfection of morality, the one's charitable deeds, the one's virtue and thinking of celestial beings as precedent, the sublime attributes of Nibbana, the constituent parts of the body, the nature of death and being mindful of out-breath and in-breath need to be learned and practiced by all human beings daily for attaining inner peace. Victory begets enmity; the defeated dwell in pain; happily the peaceful live, discarding both victory and defeat. Ever grows the glory of him who is energetic, mindful and pure in conduct, discerning and self-controlled, righteous and heedful.

Hard is it to be born a human; hard is the life of mortals; hard is it to gain the opportunity of hearing the Sublime Truth, and hard to encounter is the arising of the Exalted Ones, the Buddhas. Hunger is the worst disease, conditioned things are the worst suffering; knowing this as it really is, the wise realize the Nibbana, the highest bliss. One who, while himself seeking happiness oppresses with violence other beings who also desire happiness, will not attain happiness hereafter. One who, while himself seeking happiness, does not oppress with violence other beings who also desire happiness, will find happiness hereafter. One will always be happy by not associating with fools. Overcome the angry by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness; overcome the miser by generosity;

and overcome the liar by truth. Mind precedes all mental states; mind is their chief; they are all mind-wrought; if with an impure mind, a person thinks, speaks or acts, suffering follows him like the wheel that follows the foot of the ox; if with a pure mind a person thinks, speaks or acts, happiness follows him like his never-departing shadow. Man matters most and mindset is of great importance for all citizens of the nation to build a federal democratic union and the teachers play the crucial role in nurturing, cultivating, educating and training of the children and youths who are our future leaders. A well-guarded mind brings happiness, let the discerning man guard the mind, so difficult to detect and extremely subtle, seizing whatever it desires. Abandoning the dark way, let the wise man cultivate the

bright path. All tremble at violence; all fear death, life is dear to all; putting oneself in the place of another, one should not kill nor cause another to kill. Good it is to see the Noble Ones; to live with them is ever blissful. Good is virtue until life's end, good is faith that is steadfast, good is the acquisition of wisdom, and good is the avoidance of evil. Exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial.

May the Dhamma (the teachings of Buddha) be with you!!! May all teachers in this planet be free from fears, all dangers, man-made disasters, violence, physical and mental suffering, enmity, aversion, conflicts and terrorism!!! May you all be healthy, happy, prosperous and peaceful!!! Wishing all of you a Very Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year 2018!!!

Russian diplomat worried over war threat on Korean Peninsula



Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzya. PHOTO: TASS

UNITED NATIONS—The threat of an armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula is big as never before and any reckless step may trigger deplorable consequences, Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzya said on Friday at a UN Security Council meeting dedicated to the situation in that region.

The world, in his words, is living through "a most acute and dramatic phase of the development of the situation on the Korean Peninsula." "It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that peace in that region is going through serious trials and the threat of the confrontation's developing into a hot phase is big as never before," he said.

"Belligerent rhetoric and reckless show of muscle have led to a situation when the whole world is making guesses about the probability of a war," the Russian diplomat said. "It is a fact of life that in such a tense situation any reckless or wrongly interpreted step may trigger deplorable consequences."

He stressed that attempts to resolve the crisis on the Korean Peninsula

by military means are inadmissible and called to abandon the policy of mutual pressure and intimidation.

According to the Russian diplomat, North Korea will never abandon its nuclear programme as long as it "feels direct threat to its security." He called on the United States and South Korea to refrain from regular military drills near the Korean Peninsula and on North Korea to stop nuclear tests.

He expressed doubts in the United States' commitment to peace settlement of the crisis, pointing to the fact that whereas North Korea had refrained from provocative steps for more than two months, Washington and its allies had stages "unprecedented big maneuvers and drills near the North Korean border." More to it, the United States had imposed further unilateral sanctions on Pyongyang and listed North Korea among terrorism sponsor countries, Nebenzya added.

UN SC resolutions

Russia is committed to United Nations Security Council resolutions on

North Korea and strictly implements international sanctions against that country, he went on.

"As for the international sanctions against North Korea, we would like to once again reiterate our commitment to their implementation," he said, adding however that such restrictions should not be "a goal in itself but rather an instrument of encouraging that country towards constructive talks on the current problems."

He noted that along with the sanctions that cannot resolve the Korean Peninsula's nuclear problem, the diplomatic arsenal "includes a range of other methods." He stressed that such measures must not be used to worsen either economic or humanitarian situation in North Korea. "It especially concerns unilateral restrictions that target civilian industries that have nothing to do with that country's nuclear programs," Nebenzya stressed.

He stressed that such measures must not be used to worsen either economic or humanitarian situation in North Korea. "It especially concerns

unilateral restrictions that target civilian industries that have nothing to do with that country's nuclear programmes. Such sanctions seriously worsen living standards," Nebenzya stressed.

Earlier this week, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson accused Russia of violating its liabilities concerning the implementation of the United Nations sanctions as it allegedly employed workers from North Korea. Speaking at the UN Security Council's meeting on Friday, he called on Russia and China to toughen pressure on Pyongyang and use measures beyond the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

North Korean nationals work in Russia on the basis of intergovernmental agreements that guarantee their rights, he added.

"I would like to tell the esteemed Secretary of State that North Korean laborers have never worked in 'slave-like conditions' in Russia. They are working under the intergovernmental agreements with North Korea that guarantee their rights," he said.—Tass ■

Venezuela talks to resume in January after government, opposition fail to reach deal

CARACAS — Venezuela's government and opposition leaders will hold a new round of talks in January after failing on Friday to reach an agreement to ease a deep political and economic crisis in the troubled OPEC country. Expectations have been low for the talks being held in the Dominican Republic. Some critics have described them as a stalling tactic by the ruling Socialist Party which is struggling to control a worsening economic crisis.

"We will meet again on 11 January for a meeting with the Venezuelan opposition," said Information Minister Jorge Rodriguez, leader of the government delegation, in a brief statement released by state television. Opposition leaders are demanding that President Nicolas Maduro accept humanitarian assistance from abroad

to ease the crisis, which has left millions of people unable to eat properly due to triple-digit inflation and chronic product shortages. They also want the release of several hundred jailed opposition activists. Government leaders want the opposition to help seek the elimination of sanctions by Washington, which have been levied this year by the administration of US President Donald Trump on accusations that Maduro is undermining democracy. An initial round of talks two weeks ago in the Dominican Republic also ended without a agreement. "We want an agreement that can be fulfilled," said opposition legislator Luis Florido. "Because we have not concluded discussion of all the issues, we need another meeting so that there can be a permanent agreement."—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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China National Democratic Construction Association to elect new leadership

BEIJING — The China National Democratic Construction Association (CNDCA), one of China's eight non-communist political parties, will elect a new leadership at its 11th National Congress, which opened on Saturday.

Wang Yang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and vice premier, met with the congress delegates and gave a congratulatory speech on behalf of the CPC Central Committee.

Wang said that the CNDCA had played a constructive role as a think tank in the past five years in the fields of urbanization, financial risks control

and development of the Yangtze River economic belt.

"The CPC will uphold and improve the system of CPC-led multiparty cooperation and political consultation in accordance with the spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress," Wang said. "In handling its relationships with other political parties, the CPC will adhere to "the principles of long-term coexistence, mutual supervision, sincere treatment with each other, and sharing the rough times and the smooth."

"The CPC would support these parties in performing their duties in accordance with the requirements of socialism with Chinese characteris-



Wang Yang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and vice premier, gives a congratulatory speech on behalf of the CPC Central Committee at the opening meeting of the 11th National Congress of the China National Democratic Construction Association (CNDCA), one of China's eight non-communist political parties, in Beijing, capital of China on 16 December, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

tics for their participation in state affairs, and consolidate and develop the broadest possible patriotic united front," he said.

Wang called on the CNDCA members to "implement the spirit of the

19th CPC National Congress, fully understand the historic significance and rich connotation of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, bring their close connection with business circle into full play and advise on key economic issues."

Chen Changzhi, executive chairperson of the congress presidium, called on CNDCA members "to learn the spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress earnestly, implement new development concepts and contribute to the country's development," while delivering a work report on behalf of the 10th CNDCA Central Committee at the opening session.

At the congress, delegates will also hear and deliberate the work report of the party's 10th Central Committee, as well as review and approve an amendment to its constitution.

Chen Zhu, vice chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee and chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, also delivered a congratulatory speech, on behalf of other non-communist parties and All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce. The CNDCA was founded by patriotic industrialists, businessmen and intellectuals in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality on 16 December, 1945.—Xinhua ■

Japan to seek nonpermanent UN Security Council seat for 2023-2024

NEW YORK — Japan will contest the election for a nonpermanent member seat on the UN Security Council for the 2023-2024 period, with its current two-year term ending at the end of December, Foreign Minister Taro Kono said on Friday.

"Japan will contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security by attempting to be a nonpermanent member of the council as frequently as possible" until reform is achieved, he told media at the UN headquarters when announcing Tokyo's intention to run in the 2022 ballot.

Kono is visiting New York to preside over Friday's ministerial-level Security Council meeting on North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, which he did earlier in the day.

The Security Council consists of five permanent veto-wielding members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 nonpermanent members that serve two-year terms.

During a news con-

ference, he called for an overhaul of the powerful council, saying it is an "urgent task" needed to address threats to global peace and security more effectively.

"The Security Council still does not reflect the realities of the international community in the 21st century, as we can see from the fact that Africa, which is broadly and frequently discussed in the Security Council, is underrepresented," he said.

While welcoming the progress of changes to the UN Secretariat, Kono said, "No reform of the United Nations will be complete without the reform of the Security Council."

He called for text-based intergovernmental negotiations on revamping the council to begin during the current session of the UN General Assembly, saying the push is not solely motivated by Japan desiring a permanent seat.

Together with Brazil, India and Germany, Japan is one of a quartet of countries collectively known

as the Group of Four that aspire to become future permanent seat holders on a restructured council.

Despite general agreement among UN member states that the current structure of the Security Council is outdated, there has been no agreement on how to realize the structural changes.

The Group of Four, for example, believes that it is necessary to enlarge the council by adding more permanent and nonpermanent seats.

Uniting for Consensus, a grouping that counts countries such as Italy, Pakistan and South Korea among its members, has been pushing only for an increased number of nonpermanent members, although it has proposed extending their term beyond the current two years.

Tokyo is serving its current term as a nonpermanent Security Council member after being elected in 2015 for the 11th time, a record for any nation. —Kyodo News ■

Wounded North Korean defector transferred to S Korean military hospital

SEOUL — A North Korean soldier who suffered critical gunshot wounds during a defection dash across the border to South Korea has been transferred to a military hospital, a South Korean intelligence official said on Saturday. The North Korean soldier, 24-year-old Oh Chong Song, was transferred to the military hospital on Friday from a trauma centre at Ajou University Hospital south of Seoul, where his treatment for gunshot wounds and pre-existing conditions included two major operations.

"Oh has been transferred to South Korea's military hospital and South Korea's intelligence services will soon schedule the security questioning process depending on Oh's condition," the intelligence official told Reuters. The official, who declined to be identified, also declined to provide a specific schedule for Oh's questioning. Oh was shot and badly wounded by his fellow North Korean soldiers while fleeing across the border into the South in November.

Three South Korean soldiers brought Oh to safety and he was immediately taken aboard a US Black Hawk military helicopter and rushed into surgery. —Reuters ■

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‘The Post’ is about the state of America, star Hanks says

WASHINGTON — Steven Spielberg’s new movie “The Post” isn’t just a 1971 tale of press freedom or the place of women in the workplace.

It poses key questions about the United States today, star Tom Hanks says.

“I think it’s a very good patriotic movie about ‘what is the state of America?’,” Hanks told Reuters at the world premiere in Washington DC on Thursday night.

“This is about a women’s place and equality in the workplace ... It is definitely about the legacy of the Vietnam War and what 40 years of policy did to the United States of America. And it’s also about the journalistic integrity of people who view it as not their job, but their responsibility to go out and get the truth,” Hanks added.

Starring Hanks as Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee and Meryl Streep as Washington Post

publisher Katharine Graham, “The Post” dramatizes the battle by newspapers in 1971 to publish the leaked Pentagon Papers detailing the US government’s misleading portrayal of the Vietnam War.

Spielberg has said he rushed to film and release the movie within a year because the parallels between 1971 and 2017 were “terrifyingly similar.”

The movie, opening in US movie theaters on 22 December, arrives at a time when the media has been under attack by US President Donald Trump since his election in November 2016.

On Thursday, Spielberg said the theme of press freedom goes beyond any single government.

“Everybody goes through a tug of war with the media, with the press. Obama went through it. Bush goes through it, Clinton went through it. The current administration is going through it,” he said.



Actor Tom Hanks speaks on stage. PHOTO: REUTERS

“The Post” was nominated this week for six Golden Globes

and is seen as a front runner for Oscar nominations when

they are announced in January. —Reuters ■

‘The Last Jedi’ cruises toward \$200 million domestic debut

LOS ANGELES — “Star Wars: The Last Jedi,” the new film in the beloved space saga, opened with massive ticket sales that put it on track to ring up around \$200 million at domestic theaters over the weekend, distributor Walt Disney Co said on Friday.

The movie brought in \$45 million in the United States and Canada on Thursday night, second only to the \$57 million from 2015’s “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” That film went on to

generate more than \$2 billion worldwide.

“Last Jedi” is the eighth movie in the saga created by George Lucas in 1977. It picks up from the end of “Force Awakens” with the scavenger Rey asking Luke Skywalker to come out of seclusion to help fight the evil First Order.

The new film features actress Carrie Fisher’s final performance as Leia, the famous princess who has become a gen-

eral leading resistance forces. Fisher died of a heart attack in December 2016.

Fans’ love of the franchise, and Fisher, is expected to drive heavy ticket sales for “Last Jedi” over the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays, according to box office analysts.

“Last Jedi” began rolling out on Wednesday in international markets, where it has brought in \$60.8 million in its first two days, Disney said.—Reuters ■



Praetorian Guards on the red carpet. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nine foreign language films advance to next round of voting in 90th Oscar race

LOS ANGELES — Nine features will advance to the next round of voting in the Best Foreign Language Film category for the 90th Academy Awards, or the Oscars, organizers said Thursday.

Among 92 films originally being considered in the category, nine are listed for the next round, namely Chile’s “A Fantastic Woman,” Germany’s “In the Fade,” Hungary’s “On Body and Soul,” Israel’s “Fox-trot,” Lebanon’s “The Insult,” Russia’s “Loveless,” Senegal’s “Felicite,” South Africa’s “The Wound” and Sweden’s “The Square.”

“A Fantastic Woman,” “In the Fade,” “Loveless” and “The Square” have been nominated earlier this week for best foreign language film in the 75th Golden Globes.

Three Chinese-language films in the Best Foreign Film competition did not make it to the next round, including the action blockbuster “Wolf Warrior II,” which has become the highest-grossing Chinese film ever released.

This year’s foreign language film nominations are

determined in two phases, said the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, which organizes the Academy Awards.

In the first phase, a committee consisting of Los Angeles-based Academy members screened the original submissions in the category between mid-October and 11 December. The group’s top six choices, augmented by three additional selections chosen by the Academy’s Foreign Language Film Award Executive Committee, constitute the shortlist.

Academy members eligible to participate in the nominations round of voting in New York, London, Los Angeles and, for the first time, the San Francisco Bay Area, will screen the nine shortlisted films in theaters over a three-day period from 12 to 14 January, with three films screened each day, and winnow down the shortlist to five nominees.

Nominations for the 90th Academy Awards will be announced on 23 January, 2018, and the ceremony will be held on 4 March at Hollywood’s Dolby Theater in the western US city of Los Angeles.—Xinhua ■

Santa traffic cop sleighs it with Manila dance routine

MANILA — Directing motorists at busy intersections in Manila isn't the easiest job, but traffic cop Ramiro Hinojas makes it fun by adding dance to his beat.

This Christmas, Hinojas, 51, is performing his regular routine dressed as Santa Claus to bring a little holiday cheer for passers-by.

"We are dressing up as Santa Claus to make people feel that it's Christmas again, that we need to be giving and loving to one another, and be respectful of other motorists on the road," Hinojas said on Friday morning, as he twirled and dipped while trucks, buses and jeepneys sped past him. Hinojas, who started directing traffic on Manila's congested highways in 2005, first thought of dancing his second year into the job as a method of keeping fit.

Over time, he noticed that motorists paid more attention to his hand signals when they were matched with flashy footwork.

The added benefit to Santa's dance routine is that it keeps things light-hearted, for both Hinojas and others around him.

"Our traffic here is so bad, so this is our small way of bringing joy to people," said the policeman dressed in a red-and-white Santa costume, paired with a vest bearing reflective yellow and green stripes.

Onlookers are certainly amused by Hinojas' moves, pedestrians stopping to take snapshots.

"Everyone loves what he's doing", said jeepney driver Frankie Gustilo. "All traffic enforcers should be like that so that everyone will be happy."

—Reuters ■

HUAWEI unveils the HUAWEI nova 2i blue colour



HUAWEI announced the blue colour of HUAWEI nova 2i series, which has been announced at Huawei Annual Media Thank You Party in Yangon on 13 December.

The edition Huawei nova 2i comes in a new Blue color. This

isn't the first time Huawei has introduced a device in blue, with the Huawei P10 and its sister brand has launched a few blue devices. Aside from the new color back, the Huawei nova 2i is the exact same device as the stand-

ard Huawei nova 2i which comes in Graphite Black and Prestige Gold.

The edition Huawei nova 2i in Blue color is available in the market starting from 14 December.—GNLM ■

Zoo starts crowdfunding campaign to protect endangered bird

TOYAMA (Japan) — A central Japan zoo has launched a crowdfunding campaign to collect funds to protect an endangered Japanese bird designated as one the nation's special natural treasures.

To supplement funding from the state and local governments as well as a private fund, the three-month campaign started on 1 December with an aim of raising 10 million yen (\$88,780) to breed rock ptarmigans, called "raicho" (thunder bird) in Japa-

nese, according to the Toyama Municipal Family Park Zoo.

As of Saturday, 1.65 million yen had been collected. Contributions from 3,000 yen can be made and donors will be rewarded with gifts such as pins of the bird, pictures, name plates and tours to see the species on Mt Tateyama in Toyama. "We want to solicit wishes to save rock ptarmigans. It will be great if we get support from across Japan and abroad," said Yuji Ishihara, curator of the zoo. The Toyama zoo will also

install donation boxes, while nine other zoos across Japan engaged in the conservation of rock ptarmigans will also join the fund-raising drive.

Rock ptarmigans, which on average are around 37 centimetres tall, have brown feathers in summer which turn white in winter. In Japan, they only live in high mountains in the central part of the country, such as Mt Tateyama and Mt Ontake.

In the 1980s, around 3,000 rock ptarmigans were found in Japan but the number is believed to have fallen below 2,000 in the 2000s because of increased attacks from predators such as crows and foxes. Under a Ministry of Environment conservation project which started in 2012, the Toyama zoo, the Ueno Zoological Garden in Tokyo and three other facilities have reared Japanese rock ptarmigans and conducted artificial breeding for the birds.

The Suntory Fund for Bird Conservation has made an annual contribution of up to 3 million yen for three years, but its donations will expire at the end of March 2018.—Kyodo News ■



A file photo taken on 6 July, 2017, shows a male wild rock ptarmigan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

British Museum's China and South Asia Gallery reopens after renovation

LONDON — The British Museum's China and South Asia Gallery fully reopens to public on Thursday after renovation and refurbishment.

The gallery explores the cultures of China and South Asia through a range of magnificent objects. One half of the gallery presents the histories of China from 5000 BC to the present. From iconic Ming dynasty blue-and-white porcelain to delicate hand scrolls, from exquisite Tang dynasty tomb figurines to contemporary ink paintings, the displays feature calligraphy, painting, jade, silk and porcelain. Some of the modern artworks are on display for the first time in this gallery as the museum seeks to present a glimpse of present China.

The other half of the gallery presents South Asia's many histories chronologically and by region, from early human occupation to the present. Highlights include seals from the Indus civilization, superb south Indian sculptures of Shiva and one of the finest statues of the goddess Tara from Sri Lanka, sophisti-

cated paintings and objects from the courts of the Mughal emperors, and paintings by the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Hartwig Fischer, the Director of the British Museum told Xinhua that the museum has upgraded the floor, the air-conditioning, light and exhibition structure in a bid to allow the collections to be better seen and understood by the Museum's seven million annual visitors.

"Obviously, it's about China and its glorious history in its different epochs. It's about giving visitors to the British Museum the opportunity to engage with these much more than five thousand, six thousand years of history. Because it goes all the way back to prehistory and taking it up to the present," said the director. The gallery also has incorporated various rotating light-sensitive objects such as paintings, prints, and textiles.

The gallery, located at Room 33, the largest in the museum at a length of 115 metres, has its phased opening from 10 November when the Queen Elizabeth II visited it.—Xinhua ■



Viet Nam (white) and Myanmar (red) vie for the ball in yesterday's match at Can Tho Stadium in Viet Nam. **PHOTO:MFF**

Myanmar defeated by Viet Nam in Thanh Nien Challenge Cup

THE Myanmar U-21 national football team was defeated by the host team Viet Nam by a score of 0-2 in the Thanh Nien Challenge Cup at Can Tho Stadium in Viet Nam yesterday.

Myanmar lined up with keeper Phone Thitsar Min, Kyaw Thu Tun, Ye Yint Aung, Win Moe Kyaw, Than Htike Zin, Zayar Nang, Kyaw Myint Win, Aee Soe,

Zin Min Tun, Myat Htun Thit and Hein Htet Aung.

Yesterday's playing style by Myanmar seemed lackluster and the strikers appeared to be tired, perhaps because of their previous match play.

Viet Nam mounted several attacks in the first half and the Myanmar team played defensively, resulting in the lack of goal

scoring opportunities.

Myanmar did have two opportunities to gain goals, but Myanmar star Aee Soe could not convert.

Viet Nam had an opening goal scored by Nguyen Duc Chien just before the end of the first half.

Myanmar made more of an offensive effort in the second half

after a few substitutions.

Myanmar defenders made a careless error in clearing the ball in the penalty area of their opponents, resulting in a penalty shot for Viet Nam at the 64-minute mark.

Viet Nam scored a second goal with the penalty shot scored by Le Min Soung.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Yangon beats Mahar in football friendly

YANGON United defeated Mahar United 2-1 in a football friendly match at the Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday.

Yangon lined up with its reliable player Kyi Lin and his teammates.

Yangon got the icebreaker in the early minutes of the match with a score by its stellar player Anthony with the support of Kyi Lin by a foul ball. Nevertheless, Mahar United's star player Samuel equalised at the 31-minute mark.

Six minutes later, Mahar got a penalty kick but Yangon's goalie Wai Lin Aung was able to stop the shot.

Yangon got its second goal just before the end of the first half with a score by Yangon's Zun Moe Aung.

Yangon changed tactics with some player substitutions in the second half.

The Mahar strikers attempted to level the score, but Yangon's defenders blocked the ball well.

The match ended with 2-1 score, as both teams appeared exhausted.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Ishikawa makes quarterfinal exit at Grand Finals

ASTANA, (Kazakhstan) — Kasumi Ishikawa, Japan's top-ranked player, made a quarterfinal exit in the women's singles at the season-ending ITTF World Tour Grand Finals on Friday.

Fifth-ranked Ishikawa beat Germany's Han Ying 4-2 in her first-round match but lost 4-2 to 17th-ranked Gu Yuting of China in the quarterfinal.

"I was on the defensive -- I didn't play aggressively by taking risks," said Ishikawa. "The match itself wasn't too bad."

Gu, who will face Chinese

No 2 Chen Meng in the semifinal, took down Japanese world bronze medalist Miu Hirano on Thursday. In the men's singles, Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto swept past Kirill Gerassimenko of Kazakhstan 4-0 in the first round to set up a meeting with Germany's Dimitrij Ovtcharov, who defeated Japan's Koki Niwa in his first match at the meet.

Japanese women's pair Mima Ito and Hina Hayata advanced to the final, while Hitomi Sato and Honoka Hashimoto were defeated in the semifinals.

In the men's doubles, world

silver medalists Yuya Oshima and Masataka Morizono also booked spots in the final after beating Taiwan's Chen Chien-an and Chiang Hung-chieh.

The World Tour Grand Finals features the best players from the 2017 ITTF World Tour, which comprises 12 events in 12 countries throughout the year.

The top 15 men (plus one host nation representative, from Kazakhstan in this case) and the top 16 women, together with the top eight men's and women's doubles pairs participate in the event.—Kyodo News ■



Kasumi Ishikawa of Japan plays in a singles quarterfinal at the season-ending ITTF World Tour Grand Finals in Astana, Kazakhstan on 15 December, 2017. Fifth-ranked Ishikawa was defeated 4-2 by 17th-ranked Gu Yuting of China. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Just Educated or Really Educated?



Khaymar
Kyaukse University

“EDUCATION ... Education...” it is the most popular words during these periods. The words “Education and Educated person” have been used widely since the past centuries. We all know “Education” is vital to survive and struggle throughout our life. And we all well know that “if we are uneducated, we will always be hiding between the crowds”. Against this “if we are educated, we will actually bright like the pole star”. Even we can direct the way to others in the dark. We know about “Educated” like that generally. The facts are true, not wrong.

But we should know and realize “What is the deeply meaning of an educated person?” Someone gets the Master or PhD degrees “Is him or her named an educated one?” Yes! I agree he or she is educated but don’t accept as “a real educated”. So, good ... one may ask me “What and who is a real educated person?” In my view, it does not concern with the normal or high degrees. It concerns with brain, our sapient brain. And also sapience doesn’t depend on colors, ethics, and religions. It only depends

on the conscience comes from both heart and brain.

There is no problem we can or can’t pass the school education. Because school education can only give the degrees to get good jobs for money and just a good name in the society till now. Here I don’t mean that the school education is entirely bad. I just want to mention about the inner education in heart. Some educated guesses make the Side- Effects. For instance, the earth is highly demolished by humans who make air, water and soil pollutions because our advanced technology flows from the experts’ ideas. And again, other some educated may think of that. These cases are because of human beings. We must kill all them to clean and care for the Mother Earth. If so, can we call both are educated? Yes! I agree again. They

are educated “Extremist Educated”.

Ideas becomes thinking
Thinking become words
Words become manners
Manners become habits
Habits become characters

Characters become personality. Personality describes our own life.

So the most important and needed thing in a person is the first idea to think.

We start the good thinking, we will do the good things. We begin the bad thinking; we surely become the evil minded persons for the lovely world. All right! How do we make the good thinking? In our brain, if input is good, output will be great. Thus, we are responsible for our own thinking by ourselves. “How about children?” Even children have responsible by themselves? No, they aren’t.

Parents, teachers and the atmosphere around them have responsible and should be accountable to take. Such as White is easily to dye, Children can easily copy everything, the good or bad habits from their nearest persons.

Here I urge that everyone must change the evil mind firstly before we change the new society. Our Myanmar Society is good or bad, depends on us. After we have already decided to change, the first we must do is reading good books. It is an energy pill. It gives vitamin to posses the healthy brain. And it can also pour the poison liquid on the reader(evil minded person) whom have never compassion and never seem a spark of pure spirit in their heart. Therefore, I said about the important of thinking above.

So, if everyone have conscience skills, our manners will be valuable, will benefit our surrounding, children (new generation) will copy and our society will be beautiful with diamond blossoms. The men who are rich or poor, well or disabled, got degree or not and whatever occupations, we can be the real educated persons because of our pure spirits. Finally, I would like to urge “Let we build towards our Federal Union of Myanmar together with the essence of all of our efforts”.



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

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Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 31: Voices (Active Voice and Passive) 3

Hello Class !

Today's Lesson is another Lesson on Active and Passive Voices. We have already studied how to change from Active Voice to Passive Voice for Simple Tenses (Simple Present, Simple Past and Simple Future) and Continuous Tenses (Present Continuous, Past Continuous and Future Continuous).

Today, we are going to study about Perfect Tenses (Present Perfect, Past Perfect and Future Perfect).

Let's see the following examples.

- (a) The girls have plucked the flowers.
The flowers have been plucked by the girls.
- (b) Children have eaten ice-creams.
Ice-creams have been eaten by the children.
- (c) Mother has cooked rice and curry.
Rice and curry have been cooked by mother.
- (d) She had fed the cats.
The cats had been fed by her.
- (e) They had played football.
Football had been played by them.
- (f) Daddy had practiced tennis.
Tennis had been practiced by Daddy.
- (g) I will have watered the plants.
The plants will have been watered by me.
- (h) She will have written the letter.

- The letter will have been written by her.
(i) They will have done the cleaning.

Cleaning will have been done by them.

Here, in the above examples, the first three (a, b and c) are Present Perfect Tenses, the second three (d, e and f) are Past Perfect Tense and the last three (g, h and i) are the Future Perfect Tense.

Let's see how we did it step by step.

- Step (1) Put the Object into the front of the sentence.
- Step (2) See whether it is Singular or Plural. If it is Singular, use "has been" for Present Perfect Tense and if it is Plural, use "have been" for the Present Perfect Tense.
- Step (3) For the Past Perfect Tense, use "had been" for both Singular and Plural.
- Step (4) For the Future Perfect Tense, use "will have been" for both Singular and Plural.
- Step (5) Put the Past Participle of the Verb.
- Step (6) Put "by" and the doer of the Verb (the Subject) at the end of the sentence.

By studying these steps together with the example, you will come to know how to do it very easily. Just study thoroughly.

Here come the exercises for you.

Exercise 31.

I. Change the following sentences into Passive Voice.

- (a) Children have played football.
- (b) I have sung a new song.
- (c) We have had our breakfast.
- (d) You have done your homework.
- (e) He has watered the plants.
- (f) Aunt Mary has baked cheese cakes.
- (g) Uncle Sam has driven his new car.
- (h) She had painted a new portrait.
- (i) They have packed up their clothes.
- (j) Teachers have prepared their lessons.

II. (A) Change the sentences in No. I into Past Perfect Tense first and then
(B) Change them into Passive Voice.

III. (A) Change the sentences in No. I into Future Perfect Tense first and then
(B) Change them into Passive Voice.

That's all for today.

Hope that you can do the exercise very easily.

See you next week Class ! Bye for now !

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

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

Here are the answers for the last week's exercises.
Exercise 30.

I. Change the following sentences into Passive Voice.

- (a) Football is being played by children.
- (b) A new song is being sung by me.
- (c) Our breakfast is being had by us.
- (d) Your homework is being done by you.
- (e) The plants are being watered by him.
- (f) Chocolate cakes are being baked by Aunt Mary.
- (g) His new car is being driven by Uncle Sam.
- (h) A new portrait is being painted by her.
- (i) Their clothes are being packed up by them.
- (j) Their lessons are being prepared by teachers.

II. (A) Change into Past Continuous

- (a) Children were playing football.
- (b) I was singing a new song.
- (c) We were having our breakfast.
- (d) You were doing your homework.
- (e) He was watering the plants.
- (f) Aunt Mary was baking chocolate cakes.
- (g) Uncle Sam was driving his new car.

- (h) She was painting a new portrait.
- (i) They were packing up their clothes.
- (j) Teachers were preparing their lessons.

(B) Change into Passive Voice.

- (a) Football was being played by children.
- (b) A new song was being sung by me.
- (c) Our breakfast was being had by us.
- (d) Your homework was being done by you.
- (e) The plants were being watered by him.
- (f) Chocolate cakes were being baked by Aunt Mary.
- (g) His new car was being driven by Uncle Sam.
- (h) A new portrait was being painted by her.
- (i) Their clothes were being packed up by them.
- (j) Their lessons were being prepared by teachers.

III. (A) Change into Future Continuous Tense.

- (a) Children will be playing football.
- (b) I will be singing a new song.
- (c) We will be having our breakfast.
- (d) You will be doing your homework.
- (e) He will be watering the plants.

- (f) Aunt Mary will be baking chocolate cakes.
- (g) Uncle Sam will be driving his new car.
- (h) She will be painting a new portrait.
- (i) They will be packing up their clothes.
- (j) Teachers will be preparing their lessons.

(B) Change into Passive Voice.

- (a) Football will be being played by children.
- (b) A new song will be being sung by me.
- (c) Our breakfast will be being had by us.
- (d) Your homework will be being done by you.
- (e) The plants will be being watered by him.
- (f) Chocolate cakes will be being baked by Aunt Mary.
- (g) His new car will be being driven by Uncle Sam.
- (h) A new portrait will be being painted by her.
- (i) Their clothes will be being packed up by them.
- (j) Their lessons will be being prepared by teachers.

Hope that you have done well !

That's all for today. Bye Bye Class!

See you !

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

AS teachers are the most important persons in carrying out the very good plans practically in the schools, we need to attain Mental Health of Teachers so that they will always be alert and active in their jobs.

To attain Mental Health of Teachers, the author thinks the following factors are necessary ...

(1) Well-paid Salary or Efficient Salary

To work as a teacher in any school, the main thing we should think for teachers is about their salary. The salaries of teachers should be well-paid and these should be efficient for the teachers' families just for the basic needs for their lives. Most teachers who have families of their own have the responsibility to support their own families. Usually, fathers are bread-winners of the families, they need to try hard to meet the ends what the families needs. These basic needs will include enough for basic foods (i.e. enough salary to buy things for rice and curries, cooking oil, fuel for cooking and basic ingredients as salt, sugar, pepper, dried prawns, fish paste etc. in our country), basic place to live in for the family, basic needs for clothing, and basic needs for health care for the family.

If we think well, these are the very basic needs of human beings. In some Western countries, the basic food supply for all citizens such as loaves of bread and chicken and vegetables are delivered as rations. (especially in some socialist and communist countries). So, as we are now a Democratic country, we need to supply all citizens to have sufficient amount of basic food or to give salaries enough to buy all these basic food up to the amount they can maintain their health.

As we have already calculated, a salary of 5000 Kyats per day cannot meet the ends for a family of 5 members. (Usually a family has at least 2 parents + children, but sometimes we have more as we have grand-parents, aunts and uncles in the same family in our country.) So, let's think of it. For a month, we need at least more than 150000 Kyats. It means The lowest salary for a lowest worker, we need to have a salary of more than 150000 Kyats.

As teachers (may be PTs or JTs or STs), as we are more educated than such the lowest worker as a cleaner, housemaid, a gate-keeper etc., we need higher salaries. Think of how much we teachers get as salaries at the present. Even me, as a Retired Professor with a service of 40 years in the Ministry of Education, the author gets only 150000 Kyats as pension salary now a days. Calculate whether it is enough for me to get basic food to maintain my health. It is just telling about the basic food.

But, as men are social animals, we need more to do donation, to buy medicines for our health, to use for some other things for our social life and so on.



How to Attain Mental Health for Teachers

We all retired teachers are lucky enough that all our old students who can or cannot do well, lay down to support us as honorary to pay homage to us, to take care of the health of old teachers, and so on. That's why we can stand still as retired teachers at the present.

Not only about food and medical care, but we need to think of a house or a home for the teacher and his or her family to live in.

Some are lucky enough that the parents of the teacher has an own home (may be good or bad), it can be a shelter where the family can live in. But, for the unlucky ones whose parents have no house at all?

Up to this day, in the Basic Education Department, there are no decent homes or shelters for the teachers to live in where they have to go and serve at the schools there. Sometimes, they need to hire houses for their own families. For these hiring or rental fees, where should the money come from?

In some regions, even the young female teachers cannot get decent houses to rent, where they need security when they are away from their own home and family. And for rental fees where can they get from? Just from their own parents as there's no consideration for these in their own salaries.

In such conditions, do you think teachers are happy in their own jobs? How can they have the will to be alert and to be active in such conditions?

Every day and every month, all these stresses and strains influence them in their own thoughts.

Do you think, we can get very active and alert and very good service from such kinds of teachers?

Here, the author is discussing only about basic food and basic shelter and just the basic health. There can be so many many more factors that can cause

the teachers just for the very basic ones.

Even for these basic ones, some teachers are forced by their family needs to give tuitions to the students who are in need of extra teaching. But, according to the present law and order, it will be a great fault if a teacher gives tuition

Then where is the way out from these poverties?

Now, let's think of another factor.

(2) Conditions of Security

Here, security means both physical and mental. A teacher should have a place of security where he or she works. If these areas are places where we have no peace, it is a danger point for the teachers. As most of the teachers are females or males who have no weapons at all to defend themselves, they all can be in great danger if all these insurgents or terrorists harm teachers, what can we do to take care of them. Does the Ministry of Education take responsibility to defend them? Does anybody from the villages they are working take responsibility for their security?

No, not at all, up to the present.

That's why teachers do not want to go to the far far away regions and remote areas where security is very poor. Even the regional people or the ethnic people from these areas cannot dare to say a word to help them. Even they are so timid to say a word just because of their own security.

In such a condition, nobody wants to go and serve there.

Then what about the Education for the children in these regions? What can we do for them?

That's why some upper persons get bribes from those who can afford to give money and who do not want to go and serve in these regions.

Some use power to save their daughter not to post in such kinds of areas.

All these cause the corruptions among the upper persons in the Ministry of Education. Another difficulties come about the transportations and the conditions on the way to those schools in the remote areas.

Most who can afford to do so, usually do not go to such kinds of areas. But, young teachers (both males and females), who need to get jobs after their graduation from their Institutes, have to accept wherever they are posted, and take risks to go and serve there. But, the unlucky ones have to give their lives just because of these insecurity matters.

How can we teachers can serve well lonely in such kinds of conditions?

Another important factor is

(3) Fairness from the Upper-hands.

Here, the upper-hands mean all persons in authority and power who can give harms to the teachers. The headmasters or the headmistresses, the village heads, (sometimes the village powerful monks), ATEOs, TEOs, District and Regional Education Officers, Persons in Authority from the Basic Education Department, and Persons in Authority from the Ministry of Education.

If all these persons are fair and square, everything will go on smoothly. But, if not all difficulties and harms and threatening and crisis will appear.

In such a condition, how can a teacher can serve well his duty?

The above are just the three little factors, but the very basic factors, that can cause the Mental Health of Teachers to be good or bad.

So many many more will come on soon.

(to be continued next week.)

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



Photos are Supplied by Ministry of Hotel and Tourism.

Museum to showcase heritage of Salon

By Shin Min



ON 9 December, a workshop concerning the Salon Museum to raise awareness and promote conservative efforts for the disappearing Salon ethnic group was held.

Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Dr. Daw Le Le Maw said that there are around 4040 total households in Salon villages combined. She said there are only 1582 ethnic members left and she said the cause of decline could be drug abuse and alcoholism. A collection of Salon artifacts from the past 60 years were on display at the workshop.

A researcher of the Salon people, Dr. Fabienne Galangau said that there are also intangible heritage of the Salon people such as their songs, stories and music on display at the museum. He said they have about 30 films on the Salon people. He said that one of the difficulties in researching the Salon people is their lack of a writing system and hence written records.

The Salon museum is currently vied to be built in Kawthaung City. Last year there was an estimated 3.4 million tourists visiting the Tanintharyi

State and the most entered route was through Kawthaung. Even though the Myeik Archipelago is designated as the territory of the Salon people, their pearl fishing trade requires them to lead a nomadic life thus leading to a disappearance of their settlements and history.

Ko Aung Thant Zin, a hotel and tourism businessman, said there should be efforts to raise the tourism sector and at the same time help the livelihood of the Salon people. U A Mhat, a Salon ethnic member of Ma Kyone Galak Village, said the Salon had first stayed in Pale Island and then moved to La Ngan Kyun and now reside here but he said from experience that the current rising number of residents moving into their village may hinder the development of the Salon people.

As recent as of October this year, the number of tourists visiting Dawei, Myeik and Kawthaung numbers at 272,920 people. The Ministry of Tourism will work with the State government to boost tourism in Taninthayi Region for the development and preservation of the Salon people.



Salon, Sea Gypsies

The only inhabitants in Myeik or Mergui Archipelago of Myanmar are Sea Gypsies, namely Salon (Moken). They live on boats during dry season and remain on land during rainy season. They still practice the same fishing and boat building techniques used for generation. Even they are living in the sea for most of the time, they have their traditions, customs, cultures and their localized traditional festival. During the festival, all villagers gather at the villages, offer foods and pray for their better on business, good luck, for good health and more prosperous for coming season. They are

also enjoy their meals, drink and dance traditionally during their festival.

The Mergui Archipelago

The Mergui Archipelago, which consists of more than 800 untouched islands, is part of the Taninthayi Region. All islands lie in the Andaman Sea off the coast of southern Myanmar. Since 2016, the natural, unspoiled islands have become increasingly popular among international tourists, most of whom enter through neighbouring Thailand.

Motorboat tourists from Asia, Africa and some European countries enjoy visiting Myeik Archipelago for its beau-

tiful landscapes along the coast such as coral reefs, mangroves and a diverse species of birds and aquatic animals and traditional culture, such as the sea-based life of the Salon, also known as the sea gypsies, a seafaring ethnic minority.

Tourists also visit the country's first marine national park on Lampi Island, 115 Island, Nyaungwee Island, Philar Island, Myaukni Island, Bocho Island, Nanatthi Island, Tower Rock Island, Cave Island and Satan Island.

Tourism in Myanmar is growing rapidly. International tourists arrivals have increased significantly every year since 2011.

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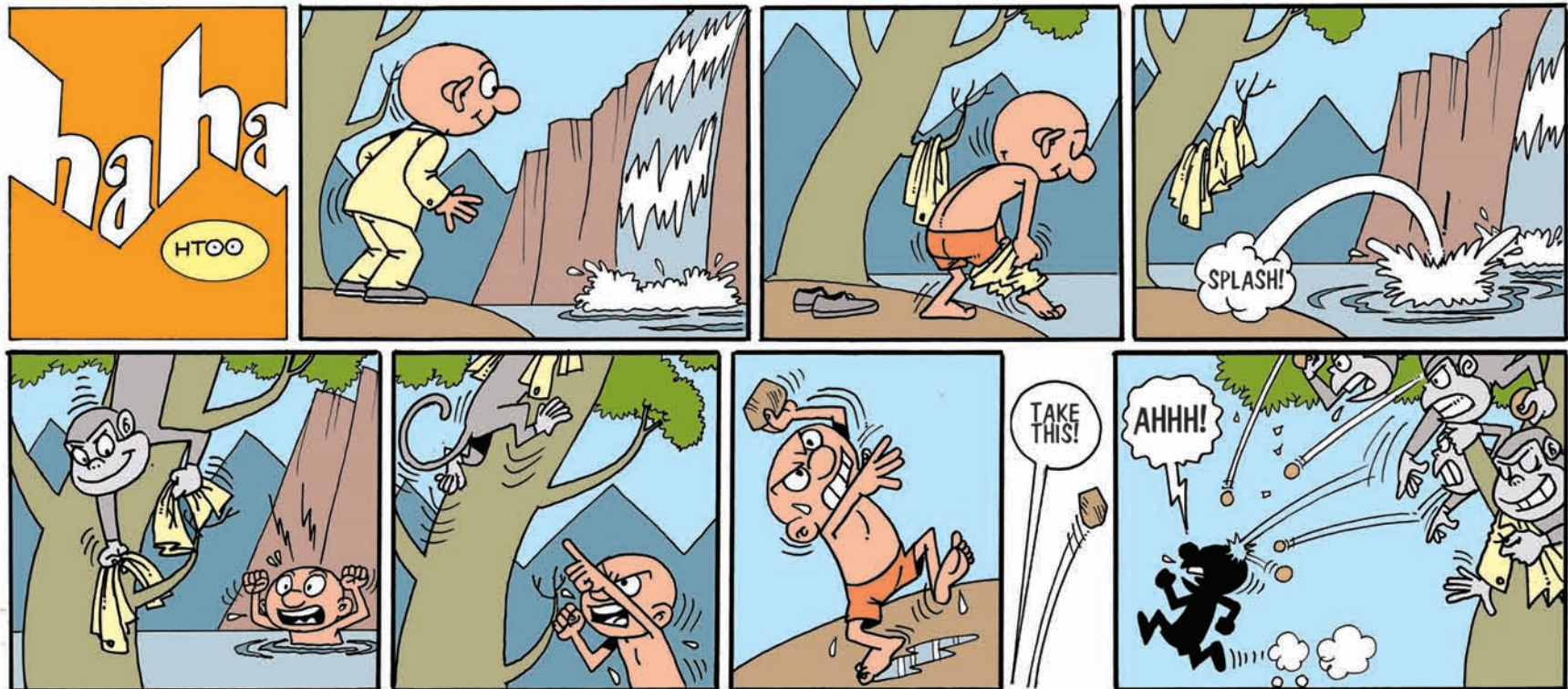
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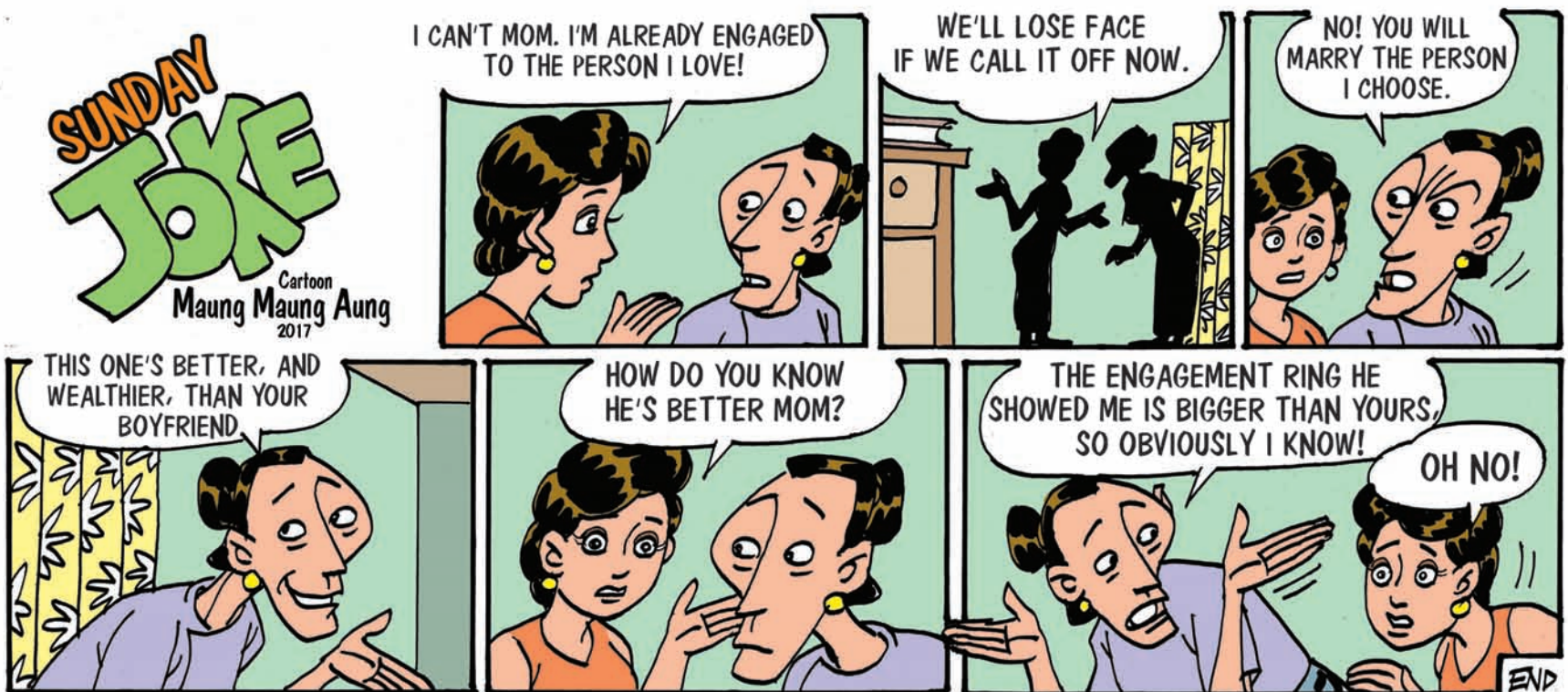
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2017



Refugee crisis: It's not Muslims versus Buddhists, says writer Bertil Lintner

The journalist, who spent decades reporting on the excesses of the military junta in Myanmar, explains what the refugee crisis means for India and the region.

This interview originally appeared on Scroll.in, an independent website.

BERTIL LINTNER, former Myanmar correspondent of the now-defunct news-magazine *Far Eastern Review*, first visited the country at the age of 24 in 1977. He spent most of the next three decades reporting on the excesses of military rule, which stretched from 1962 to 2010.

Lintner's work got him banned by the Myanmar military in 1985. Defying the ban, he sneaked into the country from the Naga hills in Indian territory along with his wife, Hseng Nong, an ethnic Shan from Myanmar, who had just given birth to their daughter. They spent the next 18 months travelling in the Shan and Kachin states of the country to finally reach China, braving not only inhospitable territory but also various armed ethnic groups.

The result was the book *Land of Jade: A Journey from India through Northern Burma to China*, considered one of the most insightful works on Myanmar's many ethnic groups and conflicts. The Swedish journalist is the author of several books on South East Asia and its politics. He spoke to Scroll.in on the Rohingya refugee crisis and what it means for India and the region.

Excerpts from the interview:

As a long-time observer of Myanmar, what do you make of the current crisis?

Well, it is not a new issue. Basically, there are two questions here. One is of illegal immigration – whether it is real or imagined. And the other is the question of Islamic militancy. On August 25, this group that calls itself the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army in English attacked police posts in Rakhine state. That provoked a massive response from Myanmar's security forces. More than 600,000 Rohingyas have since fled to Bangladesh.

Of course, the humanitarian aspect is very important here. People have been subjected to enormous brutality by the Myanmar Army. But it does not really stop there. Following the military crack-down, a spokesperson for the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army actually said in an interview that the attacks were aimed to invoke a response.

What do they gain from it? One, international attention. Two, more money from funders in West Asia, mainly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. And three, they can expect many more angry young men to join them. Maybe they got a little more than they had bargained for.

They may not have anticipated such



Bertil Lintner. PHOTO: VIA YOUTUBE

a vicious response from the Army, but they have achieved all those three aims, I would say. And, of course, the people who are suffering are these ordinary people – poor Muslim peasants from the north-western corner of Rakhine state. And they have now become pawns in a much larger game.

But there seems to be enough evidence to suggest the Rohingyas in Myanmar have been subjected to systematic oppression for years. Myanmar does not even recognise the Rohingyas as an ethnic community. Doesn't that point to a deliberate attempt to undermine the legitimacy of a community that has lived in the country for a long time?

Yes and no. There have been Muslims living there for a long time. That is for certain. If you look at the nature of that area, that is where the Indian subcontinent ends and South East Asia begins. There is the Naf river, which is now the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar. For centuries, there have been Muslims and Buddhists living on both sides of the river. There was nothing wrong at all. And there have been Muslims living in the north-western corner of Rakhine state for a long time. There is no question about that at all.

Then during the British era, a Muslim population of labourers were brought into that area from the other side of the river. But they were not called Rohingyas. They were called Chittagonians. Yes, there is a document by Francis Buchanan-Hamilton from 1799 that uses the word, but there is only one.

Hamilton was sent by the East India committee on a mission to Burma. But he never went to Rakhine state. He went to Awa and Amarapura, cities near what is now Mandalay. There he met people from

Arakan [as Rakhine was called earlier] who called themselves Rohingyas. After that there is no reference to the word for almost 150 years.

But that does not make it wrong for anyone to use it, of course. However, the question of having a separate identity for Muslims in the north-western part of Rakhine who speak a Chittagonian dialect of Bengali is a new concept. You must remember that not all Muslims, even in Rakhine state, identify themselves as Rohingyas. The people who do have also obviously been there for a long time. The identity, though, has been used for political benefit by radical groups. And it seems only recently that a lot of these people have started identifying as Rohingyas.

How recently?

A couple of years ago, for some of them. Actually, it was in the 1990s that it really became popular.

But back in the 1950s, the Burmese government used the term Rohingyas.

Yes, they did, but you must also remember that not all of them were happy about that term. After independence in 1948, there was a Muslim rebellion in the north-western corner of Rakhine state. But even at the time, the rebels did not call themselves Rohingyas, they called themselves mujaheds [fighters]. They wanted to join East Pakistan. That rebellion sort of fizzled out.

Then, during the 1950s, some of these people started calling themselves Rohingyas, but not everyone. It was believed to have a separatist tinge to it. If you look at pro-Rohingya literature, they say there were several Rohingya ministers in the government in the 1950s. That is not true. There was actually one from that part of the country – Sultan Mahmud. He was a

Muslim. But he did not call himself a Rohingya. He called himself an Arakanese Muslim. Also, U Nu, who was the prime minister then, wanted Muslim votes. That was one reason why he promoted that term.

Irrespective of what the situation was in the 1950s, a large section of the Muslim population in Rakhine identifies itself as Rohingya now, and have been persecuted. How would you explain that?

First of all, you have to realise that Burma has a big Muslim population. Most Muslims live in urban areas. They own businesses, have Burmese names and speak Burmese, and they are Burmese citizens. Muslims have a long history and have played an important role in the country. U Razak, a Muslim leader in the 1940s, was assassinated with Aung San [premier of the British colony of Burma] and is considered a martyr. Another leading Burmese Muslim was U Raschid, who was born in Allahabad. He was a highly respected student leader in the 1930s. Then there was Upi U Pe Khin, the leading architect of the Panglong Agreement [a 1947 treaty that established autonomy in the internal administration of the Shan, Chin and Kachin people in what was then called the Frontier Areas].

So, it is not Muslims versus Buddhists. The Rohingyas are different, though. They do not speak Burmese. They speak a Chittagonian dialect of Bengali spoken on the other side of the border in Bangladesh. So, a majority of Burmese people see them as illegal. That is unfair, though, because most of them have been living in Rakhine for a really long time.

You had written earlier that the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army "leaders and extremist group links point towards a wider regional agenda". Why do you say so?

The name itself. In their dialect, they call themselves Harakah al-Yaqin, which translates into the "the faith movement". If you are an ethno-nationalistic group you do not call yourself a faith movement. Also, the leader of this group, whose name is Ataullah Abu Ammar Junjuni, is not from Rakhine. He was born in Karachi [Pakistan]. He later lived in Saudi Arabia where he was an imam. Sometime around 2012, he started to get interested in the issue. His parents are most probably from Rakhine state, he is not.

SEE SUPPLEMENT-H

It's not Muslims versus Buddhists, says writer Bertil Lintner

FROM SUPPLEMENT-G

So, he does trace his ancestry to the region then.

Yes, sure. I have been listening to some of his tapes. He cannot pronounce the name of a single place in Rakhine state correctly. He speaks a Chittagonian dialect of Bengali peppered with Urdu words. Most of his close associates in the organisation are also from either Karachi or Bangladesh.

Apart from that, are the group's methods any different from other ethno-nationalist insurgent groups in Myanmar?

Well, all the other ethno-nationalist insurgent groups in the country operate more or less like the traditional Army. All of them are dressed in uniforms, they have ranks, they are organised in platoons and companies and brigades. They carry automatic rifles or machine guns.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army's methods are very different, the August attack demonstrated, as did their earlier attack in October 2016. They basically mobilise hundreds of villagers, surround their targets and give an impression that they are many more than they actually are. They have very few firearms. They mostly have daggers, spears, knives. Their ways are much more similar to the Maoist groups in Nepal and Central India than any other ethnic group in Myanmar.

What would the strength of the group be in your estimate?

We do not really know. Before August 25, the strength was in the hundreds. Maybe 500-600 organised cadre who had received some training in camps in Bangladesh. The trainers were all Afghan war veterans. A lot of them, around 150, are regarded as foreigners, including Bangladeshis. In addition, some of their fighters are from Pakistan, Indonesia, two from Uzbekistan, and a few who identify themselves as Malays, but we do not know if they are from Malaysia or southern Thailand.

If they are a motley group of people who are probably not even from Rakhine, what brought them together to fight for an independent Rakhine state?

Well, the rank and file of the group does include several local recruits. There are angry young men who are fed up of being treated the way they have been treated for years. But why would Pakistani and Uzbeks and Malays come there? Those guys are actually talking about a jihad.

Do they enjoy popular support among people in the region who identify themselves as Rohingya?

Not much. I think it is very divided. They are blaming the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army for the August 25 attack. They are saying, "Why did you do it, why did you provoke them?"

One must note that the timing of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army was well thought out. The Kofi Annan committee report on the crisis, which actually criticised the Myanmar state, had just come out a few hours ago. The attacks completely killed the report. It was by no means a coincidence. They want a more militarised space. So, on one hand, while people are blaming them for provoking the Army, on the other, a lot of angry young men have turned to them as they had hoped.

The Western media has been particularly critical of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's handling of the crisis. What would you say?

Although Myanmar had fair elections in 2015, the military is still in the driving seat with three important ministries in its hands. What is happening is completely out of her hands. So, she really cannot do much in terms of ordering anyone. The military takes orders from its commander-in-chief, not from any elected leader.

She has to tread a really delicate balance. Let's say she came out for the Rohingyas. It would be political suicide. It is clear where most of her electorate stands on the matter. If she came out in support of the hardline Arakan National Party, she

would get flak from the Western press. If she does not do anything, she would get flak too, as she has. It is an extremely delicate situation for her.

The only thing she could have done but has not is that she could have gone to Sittwe [the capital of Rakhine state] and met some elected politicians. She does not like the leaders of the Arakan National Party, so she will not do that. But she had to just show that there is a civilian space in Rakhine too. She did not have to say anything, she could have gone to a hospital, met people from all communities. In the process, she could have widened a very limited civilian space.

Unlike many Western democracies, India's response to the crisis in Rakhine has not been of outright condemnation. Is that right on the Indian government's part?

Right or not is not for me to say, but Myanmar's two most important neighbours, China and India, have not joined in the Western condemnation. That is obviously for strategic reasons. For China, Myanmar is important for its access to the Indian Ocean. For India, the country is the gateway to South East Asia.

The Indian government has taken a very hardline stance on Rohingya refugees of late. It has even suggested that the Rohingyas could be a security threat. What do you make of that?

It is probably motivated by security concerns. Are they a security risk currently? There is so far no evidence to say that. So, not really. But with almost 800,000 refugees in Bangladesh, where are they going to go? Bangladesh is already overpopulated. There is only one slightly less populated area, and that is the Chittagong Hill Tracts. And if my information is correct, the Chakmas and Marmas, both Buddhist communities, are very worried.

What does the crisis mean for South Asia?

It is probably a little early to say. Suddenly you have a huge refugee community in the area. It is no secret that a large number of extremist Islamic groups are looking to take advantage. Groups in Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan have been fishing around for recruitment opportunities. If there is a militant response, it could have a very adverse impact on the region.

Also, it is important to remember that there are elections in Bangladesh very soon. Remember that Bangladesh once offered to do joint operations with the Myanmar Army against Rohingya rebels and had initially even refused to take in Rohingya refugees. But when the trickle became a tsunami, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League government changed their stance. This was to prevent the fundamentalist Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami party from exploiting the situation.

If the Bangladesh Nationalist Party comes to power with support from the Jamaat, which is known to be close to Rohingya insurgents, there could be a serious security concern. That is why Sheikh Hasina is so eager to show that she is on the side of the refugees.

What do you make of the recent repatriation agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh?

Oh, that is play for the galleries. It is not going to happen. First of all, there has to be verification. And most of these people have no such papers. The other reason is: do they want to come back? I think the brutality the Army unleashed was meant to ensure that these people never come back. And what will they come back to? Their houses are all burnt down.

Do you see a solution to the crisis in the near future?

That is the big question. I do not know, to be honest. Can they stay in Bangladesh? Yes, they can but that may mean trouble in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. A third country? Who will accept them?—scroll.in

NEXT GENERATION

Views on The Robots



Min Zaw Thit
Grade-8, I.S.M

On modern days, technology has been more advanced in many things like computers and tracking devices, especially the robots.

The robot, in other countries has been recently used to do house cleaning, and other related things. It is very helpful

for a lot of people who cannot handle their chores. Even though, it is helpful for a lot of people, the robot isn't a good use in many cases. For example, it doesn't have feelings and it cannot think, have feelings and express them. They cannot move heavy things either. This is bad because in meeting with people of different standards in living, the robot might not do well for expressing words in the right way or suitably, like meeting a teacher VS a student or a monk VS a friend.

The robot is precise in doing and

working some things. So, if you want it to be neat or tidy, the robot is a better think to use. It is also good for doing things such as using hands and feet continuously for long because the robot doesn't know the meaning of tiredness. But your hands start to get tired, so it is good to use the robot invented in the case. Unlike humans, the robot cannot plan ahead. You cannot do what you want with a robot because it has a limited around of time in working. You cannot make the robot think what to do next, it isn't natural and

you cannot teach the robot a way of living. These things are needed because if you doing have them like the robot, this can be useless in many ways because you have to be looking at every step the robot does and there is no looking in it.

The robot doesn't have a heart. So it is bad because there are no personal things and you need personal stuff to think about them to use them in you need and outside.

In conclusion, the robot can replace a large amount of things but you need to use it wisely to gain a good robot in your hand.