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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Indian President Mr. Ram Nath Kovind. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

# State Counsellor, President of India discuss cooperation

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Mr. Ram Nath Kovind, the president of India, in Rashtrapati Bhavan (the Presidential Palace), in New Delhi yesterday morning. In the meeting matters relating to increasing bilateral cooperation, contact between the people of the two countries, conducting basic infrastructure projects of road communication between the two countries, closer cooperation in the agricultural, energy, transport, human resources and cultural sectors and India's assistance in the development of Rakhine State were discussed.

The State Counsellor then explained about the peace process and national reconciliation process in Myanmar and invited the President to visit Myanmar.

**SEE PAGE-3**

# Mangrove forests to be planted along Mottama Gulf

THE Yangon Region Fishery Department is conducting field surveys to plant mangroves along the Mottama Gulf to protect people from natural disasters, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"The department is planning to grow more than 27,700 acres of mangrove forests along the Mottama Gulf. Currently, the department is conducting field surveys in the areas of Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan, Thonegwa and Kunchangone Townships," said U Tun Win Myint, head of the Yangon Region Fishery Department.

The forestry department will choose the coverage area for protected forests under the management of the regional government. The regional government will also pay compensation and provide land substitutes to the local farmers.

The Township General Administration Department has prohibited land reclamation, land digging and tree cutting in the chosen areas.

Mangroves are crucial for the coastal areas, serving as buffers between the land and the sea.

Coastlines of the gulf are facing problems of coastal erosion and threat of the rising sea levels. —GNLM ■

# Message from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to the rally to welcome and support the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong

**27th January, 2018**

*Following is the unofficial translation of the message.*

I send my good wishes for peace of mind to our citizens, representatives, honored guests, members of the ceremony organizing committee, those who gave assistance the ceremony, all those who have the same desire for peace, all of you who have come to this event to support the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong

I am confident that this rally would be over flowing with the hopes and dreams of our people who love and value peace. This rally has expressed our loyalty to our patriots who were not able to enjoy internal peace, our sympathy to victims of armed conflicts in our country and our "metta" which wishes to remove bad legacies and pass down good legacies for our future generations.

In our country, armed conflicts have occurred for nearly 70 years. Efforts were made to bring peace to the country in successive eras. While taking lessons from failures due to some reasons, we must write a new chapter of our history of our era with collective efforts.

Support from the people and their active participation are sine qua non for bringing peace to our country. Peace cannot be achieved without the participation of all communities. Achieving sustainable peace is meant the development of a country and the first step towards a Democratic Federal Republic that we have all aspired for, for decades.

Peace is not just for an individual, for an organization and for an ethnic group, but for the whole Union. Peace is for security and safety of the lives of our brethren who have been residing in the country through thick and thin. Peace is a priceless jewel. To achieve this peace, we must work hard with strong desire, with relentless efforts, with strong spirit and with the wisdom to distinguish right from wrong. To prevent our country from being deprived of democracy and human rights and not to become a Union where people are not happy due to lack of peace, we must work hard with the above four mindsets. My special thank goes to those who volunteered for this rally which bring pride to our country, democratic forces which have struggled for democracy amidst obstacles and challenges and the people who support us so that we would not deviate from our path to peace.

Let me conclude my message while urging the people to cooperate with us so that we can make our own history of efforts for peace of the Union with dignity and bravery to march towards our common goal of a Democratic Federal Republic while maintaining mutual friendship, mutual respect and mutual cooperation. ■

# Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker opens peace event in Yangon

**Htin Paw Win (Kamayut)**

AN entertainment show featuring musical entertainment and a "Stop Hate, Spread Love" football match attended by people from all walks of life was held yesterday afternoon at Yangon Thuwunna Stadium in support of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong.

After the initial entertainment programmes, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint read a message from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. (The complete text of the message appears separately).

Event organising committee member and 88 Generation student leader U Min Ko Naing then explained the aim of the event that he described as "held by the people and the people who were dutiful throughout history".

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint reads State Counsellor's message at the event in Thuwunna Stadium in support of the Union Peace Conference –21st Century Panglong. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALIN)**

"They want peace, and there is no one among the armed organisations of our country that rejects peace", he said.

This was followed by more entertainment programmes that included performances of students from Basic Education Middle School No. (2) Thingangyun, in addition to actors, actresses and artists, after which blue-and-white balloons fashioned into the shape of a peace symbol were released.

A football match between the Stop Hate Team and the Spread Love Team that included former political prisoners, former Myanmar footballers, actors and artists was then held. Before the start of the match, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, (Yangon) Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, central executive committee member U Aung Soe greeted the players from both teams. After the match, the participants were presented with gifts. The day's event was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, (Yangon) region ministers, Hluttaw representatives, artists and people from all segments of society. ■

Football players prepare to release peace dove shape hot air ballon at the peace event in Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein greet football teams. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor, President of India discuss …

**FROM PAGE-1**

In the afternoon, the delegation led by the State Counsellor departed from New Delhi by air and was seen off at Palam Airbase by the Minister of State for Family Welfare H.E. Mrs. Anupriya Patel, Ambassador of India to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri, Ambassador of Myanmar to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and wife, Military Attache Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, staff and families of the embassy and the military attaché.

The State Counsellor arrived in Nay Pyi Taw at 5 p.m. and was welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Myo Aung and wife, Ministry of the President's Office Deputy Minister U Min Thu and other officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye coordinate preparation work for responding to natural disaster

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended and addressed a coordination meeting on preparation work for responding to natural disaster held in the meeting hall of Magway Region government office yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung continued with explanations after which Magway Region natural disaster management committee members, (Magway) region government ministers, region Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and officials from civil society organisations discussed about their requirements and difficulties.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye hands over fund for disaster preparedness to officials in Magway. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Minister then presented Ks 359.72 million to prevent embankment erosion in Myedaw Village, Yesagyo Township; Ks 60 million to construct a concrete bridge on a villages connecting road in Myothit Township; Ks 112 million to prevent Manchaung creek embankment erosion in Min Village, Minbu (Saku) Township; Ks 32.4 million to repair Paukayaw Bridge; Ks 131 million to prevent bank erosion from Yin creek in Pauk Township, Bedaw village; Ks 87 million to construct a retaining wall in Myoma Ward, Gangaw Township and two motorboats and related items for natural disaster management works in Sedoktara Township from the National Natural Disaster Management fund and Ks 19 million to drill a tube well in Natmauk Township and lubricants worth Ks 1 million for civil society organisations conducting welfare works in Magway Town from Relief and Resettlement Department fund to officials after which Magway region minister for natural resources, environment Dr. Khin Maung Aye said words of thanks. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## First successful kidney transplant operation in Yangon Children Hospital

THE first kidney transplant operation in Yangon was performed yesterday at Yangon Children Hospital.

The kidney transplant operation was conducted on 10 year old Ma Nan Yu Wei, daughter of U Nay Aung and Daw Htay Htay Win who lived on Pale (1) Road, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon. She had been undergoing dialysis treatments three times per week before the transplant operation. Her 23 year old brother, Ko Aung Zaw Zaw, donated a kidney for this operation.

Regarding the operation, Yangon Children Hospital Superintendent Dr. Su Su Dway said, "This operation has been performed three times in Mandalay, but this is the first time it was done in Yangon, making a total of four operations.

Initially we planned for two operations, with one operation in reserve, for a total of three. But the donor for the second patient had dengue fever before the operation, and the operation could not be conducted. The second child patient has also undergone dialysis treatment three times a week for about two years. We all attended meetings and discussion about this child, and then submitted to the government permission to obtain a donor."

The kidney transplant operation was jointly conducted under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports by the Yangon Children Hospital kidney transplant team and Singapore National University Hospital (NUH) kidney transplant team, led by Prof. Yap Hui Kim. The operation took six hours, while Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Then and doctors were on hand to encourage the operating team.

The operation was conducted with the aim to help children with chronic kidney disease live normal lives, and to establish a kidney transplant treatment that will become routine and improve the health care sector in Myanmar.

Some of the expenses for the operation had been paid by the government and donors, There are about 10 children with chronic kidney disease waiting to obtain transplants. —Zaw Gyi

## National Press Awards to be presented in May

THE Myanmar Journalism Association (MJA) will hold the 2018 Myanmar National Press Awards Ceremony on 3 May 2018.

At the ceremony, the National Press Awards Organizing Committee, along with MJA's executives, will select and present The Hero of Journalist Award, Best News Story Award, Best Feature Award, Best News Photo Award, Best Newspaper Photo Cartoon Award, Best TV News Story Award and Best Editorial Award.

News agencies, reporters and interested persons on behalf of original reporters, must send three articles, cartoons, news photos and TV news stories under each name to the National Press Awards Scrutinizing Committee no later than 20 March. The National Press Awards Scrutinizing Committee will nominate the award winners prior to May.

The proposed articles, cartoons, news photos and TV news stories must be pieces which were published or broadcast by print media and broadcast media from 1 April to 31 December 2017. A copy of the print media and website links of the broadcast media are also to be submitted.

The names of the articles, cartoons, news photos and TV news stories must be emailed to info@mjoumalistsa.org or sent to Myanmar Journalism Association (MJA), No. 173/ 175, Pansodan Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. —Aung Thura ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**ACTING CHIEF EDITOR**
Aye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**
Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail .com

**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**
Kyaw Myaing

**SENIOR TRANSLATORS**
Khin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

**TRANSLATORS**
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

**REPORTERS**
May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com

**PHOTOGRAPHER**
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

**COMPUTER TEAM**
Tun Zaw ,
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

**EDITORIAL SECTION**
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**
( +95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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**gnlmdaily@gmail.com**
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# Discussion underway to build more sunset viewpoints in Bagan region

The Lawkananda pagoda is erected on the bank of the Ayeyawaddy River in Bagan. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

THE Archaeology and National Museum Department will convene a meeting to discuss whether more locations to watch the sunset can be built in the Bagan region, according to a report in the City News Daily.

Currently, three sunset locations have been built in the Bagan-Nyaung U region. Watching the sunset is an important attraction for foreign tourists, as well as local visitors to the Bagan region.

"The ministry of culture banned visitors from climbing ancient pagodas after an earthquake in August 2016. At that time, some pagodas with viewing sites were damaged. Therefore, the authorities have built sunset watching locations in the Bagan region," said U Aung Kyaw Kyaw, director of the Archaeology and National Museum Department.

"Currently, we have built three sunset watching locations. However, we still need to discuss whether new locations can be built, and whether we will allow visitors to climb the ancient pagodas," he added.

Authorities do not allow visitors to climb ancient pagodas, though some continue to climb them to watch the sunset.

The government is planning to submit a final application to have the Baganarchaeologicalzone listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, by the end of January.—GNLM ■

# Under 4k people buy farmers' life insurance in Mandalay

ONLY 3,578 people bought farmers' life insurance and only 682 people bought snake insurance in the Mandalay region, according to the regional branch of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.

The two types of insurance have been sold to farmers since 1 October 2017.

"Myanmar Insurance and Agricultural Development Bank are providing the insurance. The number of farmers buying the insurance is low. Currently, the bank staff are raising awareness on insurance options among farmers. We don't want to coerce any farmers into buying life insurance packages. Instead, we will highlight the advantages and importance of buying life insurance.

We want them to make their own decision," said U Win Myint, manager of the bank's regional branch.

"We believe the farmers will opt for the insurance if they are aware of its benefits. Apart from farmers and their families, those who work in the agricultural industry are eligible for this insurance. We pay compensation according to the type of accident," he added.

The bank offers insurance coverage from 100,000 kyats to 5 million kyats.—GNLM ■

# Two passengers fall from hover-craft in Hainggyigyun Town

TWO passengers fell off a Pathein Thu-8 hovercraft between San Pya jetty and Myat Thitsa Jetty, Hainggyigyun Town, Pathein District, Ayeyawady region, on 26 January. One of the victims was rescued by local fishermen while another is still missing.

The two passengers have been identified as Maung Pai Myo Wai, a second-year student from Tamadaw Computer and Technology Science Training School in Hopon (Shan North), and Sergeant Thet Paing Soe, assigned to Thanlyin Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters.

According to the investigation, Thet Paing Soe and Maung Pai Myo Wai were having a conversation in the front part of the hovercraft.

They fell from the craft due to its high speed. Maung Pai Myo Wai shouted for help and was rescued by the local fishermen. However, they could not find Sergeant Thet Paing Soe.

Currently, the Hainggyigyun town police are looking for the body of Sergeant Thet Paing Soe. — Kyaw Thu Hein (Hainggyigyun) ■

# JICA completes study tour for construction of new specialist hospital

THE Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has completed its feasibility study tour to construct a new 500-bed specialist hospital near the University of Nursing, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The construction of this hospital has already been discussed in detail. The construction of the hospital buildings and the facility will be jointly implemented by both governments. The Japanese government will contribute to some 70 per cent of the hospital's construction costs, while the Ministry of Health and Sports will provide 30 per cent.

Using the results of a survey, JICA Chief Representative Masayuki Karasawa and the ministry of health and sports discussed matters related to the hospital management, open cardiac surgery department, neurological surgery department and neurological treatment department, Myanmar's budget for the installation of machines, as well as the equipment and machines contributed by Japan.

The construction of the new specialist hospital near the University of Nursing will start in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. — GNLM ■

A worker checks textiles at the weaving factory in Mandalay. **PHOTO: CHAN THAR**

# SME trade fair to be launched in 10 states, regions

A SMALL and medium enterprises (SMEs) trade fair will be launched in the third week of February, said Daw Aye Aye Win, Director General of the department of small and medium, Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department (DISI), operating under the ministry of industry.

The trade fair will be held in 10 states and regions, including the Mandalay, Magwe and Yangon regions.

An SME competition will also be held at the trade fair, and the national award will be presented in Nay Pyi Taw.

"Recently, our country has been importing many products. Therefore, we want to promote domestic production to replace foreign imports. To match our products with the foreign ones, we have to focus on the quality, brand, packaging and price of our products. We will launch the trade fair to encourage SMEs to produce more import substitution products," she added.

All the SMEs from across the country are allowed to compete in the fair. Three prizes each will be awarded to micro-level, medium-level and small-level winners.

"Previously, the advertising cost for the products was high. Displaying their products at the trade fair can help them save money. Also, it can serve as a forum for businessmen to exchange their knowledge," she added.

SMEs make up some 90 per cent of the businesses in Myanmar. Of them, some 64,000 SMEs have registered, while the remainder have yet to register.— May Thet Hnin ■

# Sesame seed prices decline following halt in imports to China

CHINA temporarily halted its imports of black and brown sesame seeds, leading to a decline in the price of the seeds in Myanmar, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Besides sesame seeds, China also purchases Myanmar beans and pulses.

At present, the price of sesame seeds is down by some Ks3,000 per three-basket bag.

The price, however, will not fall more than the current price, as demand is expected to pick up soon. Demand fell due to the festivals currently being celebrated in China. Chinese merchants primarily purchase black sesame seeds, U Win Ko Ko, a sesame merchant told Myawady Daily. Since Chinese merchants offer good prices for high quality sesame seeds, growers in Myanmar are adopting new techniques to meet these requirements.—GNLM ■

# Bilateral trade with Japan hits $1.24b in eight months

TRADE value between Myanmar and its development donor Japan as of November this fiscal year (FY) totaled US$1.24 billion, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's exports to Japan fetched $591 million, whereas imports were worth $650 million.

The bilateral trade value with Japan amounted to some $2.03 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, $1.84 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, $2.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $1.8 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $1.49 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and $822 million in the 2011-2012 FY. Agro products, including rice and broken rice, various types of peas, soy beans, sesame seeds, ginger and fruits, as well as apparel from the garment sector on a Cut-Make-Pack basis are exported to Japan, whereas machinery, raw materials for garments, consumer products and electronic tools are imported by Myanmar.

Japan has made investments of $96 million in Myanmar to date.—Ko Htet ■

# Vice President inspects regional development works in Kawthoung

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who is also Chairman of the Central Committee for Development of the National Tourism Industry, was in Taninthayi Region, Kawthoung town, and visited the Palone Tone Tone Bridge project, Maliwon Shwephyu Company rubber factory, and Kawthoung Township One Stop Service (OSS-public service) office. He also met with local business persons.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio meets with officials from the Region Hotelier Association and travel association in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Yesterday morning, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, accompanied by Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Lei Lei Maw, Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Nwe and U Kyaw Myo, and other officials, inspected the status of the Actdaman Island travel development works.

Later, the Vice President arrived at the briefing hall of the Palone Tone Tone Bridge project. The Palone Tone Tone Bridge project is being carried out by the Ministry of Construction, Department of Bridges. This bridge connects Kawthoung Township with Palone Tone Tone village.

In the briefing hall, Deputy Chief Engineer U Myint Thein Maw gave a briefing about the project. Following the explanation, the Vice President said that despite limitations in funds, the government is building this bridge for regional development and requested that best efforts be made toward meeting all construction standards and norms. He also urged those involved to learn from past bridge construction experiences, and then visited the project site and Palone Tone Tone village.

The 2,400 foot long Palone Tone Bridge is a reinforced concrete bridge. The path for vehicles on the bridge is 24 ft. wide, while the pedestrian path is 3 ft. wide. Once the bridge is completed, vehicles of various sizes will travel across it and ease the flow of commodities, while developing the travel business, as well as the economies of local residents.

Afterwards, the Vice President inspected the production of high quality rubber at the Maliwon Shwephyu Company rubber factory in Maliwon village, where the Department of Agriculture (Taninthayi) regional director explained about planting rubber, production and export.

To date, Taninthayi Region has more than 347,000 acres of rubber plantations, out of which more than 63,000 acres is in Kawthoung District. Due to the processing at the factory, high quality rubber is now produced, allowing rubber planters to earn higher incomes.

After the visit to the factory, the Vice President went to Kawthoung OSS office to view those services being provided to the local people and then personally handed out national identification cards to the public.

The Vice President then met with business persons from Taninthayi Region at the Victoria Cliff Hotel, Kawthoung Town.

At the meeting, officials from the Region Hotelier Association and travel association explained about assistance being requested due to the difficulties they were facing. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo discussed arrangements made for tourists to visit by chartered flights, while Permanent Secretary U Myint Kyaing explained about the status of issuing visas on arrival.

The Vice President commented on the beauty and abundant travel resources in Taninthayi Region, and urged all related departments and groups to work together for the development of the travel industry in the region. Tourists are interested in new travel destinations, and there is a need to provide new transport systems, as well as security systems. General access needs to be improved, while hotels and restaurants need to be upgraded. Emphasis also needs to be placed on retaining the sustainability of tourist areas, said the Vice President.

By implementing nature-based and village-based travel programs, jobs will be created for residents in rural areas, reducing poverty and supporting the nation's economy, noted the Vice President.

Later in the afternoon, the Vice President departed by air from Kawthoung. —Myanmar News Agency

# Children's Literature Festival in Myeik

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint opened the Myeik Children's Literature Festival and book sale, jointly organized by Taninthayi Region government, the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) and Basic Education Department, yesterday in Myeik Basic Education High School No. 1.

The opening ceremony was held in front of the school, where Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Taninthayi Region Minister for Social Affairs and Development U Ho Pin, Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister U Saw Lu Kar, IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing, joined two youths in cutting the ceremonial ribbon to open the festival, as children released balloons into the air.

The opening ceremony was then continued in Pyinya Beikman hall in the school, where Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, in a speech, said the Ministry of Information is providing information and entertainment to reflect the advancements in technology, changing systems and the times. IPRD libraries are being upgraded and turned into people-based community centres. Children's Literature Festivals are now being held so that, in the future, the youth who will one day manage the country will have become well educated.

Region Minister for Social Affairs and Development U Ho Pin then delivered words of thanks, followed by entertainment programs presented by students from basic education schools, private schools and universities in the region.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party visited display booths at the festival and viewed the children's competitions.

The Children's Literature Festivals was jointly organized by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and related states and regional governments in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Taunggyi, Monywa and Yangon, while related governments, IPRD, Basic Education Department, civil society organisations, literature enthusiasts and donors jointly organized festivals in 11 district towns during 2017. This year, festivals will be held in 12 district towns.

The Children's Literature Festival in Myeik will be held on 27 and 28 January and will include exhibitions, competitions and entertainment, and is open to the public.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and officials inspected the Myanmar Radio and Television Retransmission Station (Myeik), District IPRD office-library and News and Periodicals Enterprise sub-printing house (Myeik). In addition to this, the Union Minister and party went to Pataw Padet Island and visited the Pyae Phyo Tun Company Limited's 1,000 ton cold storage factory, the Aung Myat Phyo Company Limited's soft shell crab breeding works, the Padet village library and Padet high school library. — District IPRD ■

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and officials cut ribbon to open Children's Literature Festival in Myeik, Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint inspects soft shell crab breeding works of Aung Myat Phyo Company Limited in Myeik. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Japan, France reaffirm closer defense cooperation

TOKYO — The Japanese and French defence ministers reaffirmed closer defence cooperation in a meeting on Saturday after agreeing the previous day to hold the countries' first joint maritime defence exercises next month. During their meeting in Tokyo, Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said France is a "special partner" that shares fundamental values with Japan, while French Minister for the Armed Forces Florence Parly said the meeting was a good opportunity to deepen discussions on defence ties.

The meeting followed the fourth "two-plus-two" ministerial security talks involving the Japanese and French foreign and defence chiefs on Friday, at which the countries agreed to start negotiating a bilateral acquisition and cross-servicing agreement that would allow them to share defence supplies.

France's overseas territories include islands in the Pacific such as New Caledonia and French Polynesia.

At a joint press conference after the meeting, Onodera said the bilateral exercises will involve both ground and maritime forces.

Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera (R) and his French counterpart Florence Parly hold a press conference after their talks at the Defence Ministry in Tokyo on 27 January, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Regarding China's construction of new military facilities on disputed islands in the South China Sea, Parly said France will continue freedom of navigation activities.

Foreign Minister Taro Kono and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian also met on Saturday.—Kyodo News ■

## Japan's Kono arrives in Beijing, aiming to improve ties with China

BEIJING — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono arrived in Beijing on Saturday, the ministry said, amid hopes the country's ties with China will improve as this year marks 40 years since the signing of a bilateral peace and friendship treaty.

Kono is expected to try to lay the groundwork for reciprocal visits by the two nations' leaders during talks Sunday with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, State Councilor Yang Jiechi, the country's top diplomat, and a member of its senior leadership.

He is also aiming to promote arrangements with China to hold as soon as possible a postponed trilateral summit involving South Korea, the Foreign Ministry said.

The trip is Kono's first to China as foreign minister and the first by a Japanese foreign minister since his predecessor Fumio Kishida visited in April 2016.

In addition, North Korea's missile and nuclear ambitions are likely to be on the agenda during the meetings, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe having repeatedly called for China to fully implement UN sanctions imposed on Pyongyang.

With regard to the Tokyo-controlled, Beijing-claimed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, Kono may touch on the entry of a submerged Chinese naval submarine into the contiguous zone around Japanese territorial waters near the uninhabited islets earlier this month.

For years, Tokyo and Beijing have been mired in a territorial row over the Senkakus, called Diaoyu in China. The dispute escalated particularly after the Japanese government led by former Prime Minister Yoshiko Noda, Abe's predecessor, decided to purchase most of the islands from a private Japanese owner and put them under state control in 2012.

Kono, meanwhile, is seeking to reach a broad accord during his visit on a bilateral social security agreement that would eliminate dual pension payments by Japanese expats in China and vice versa. He plans to return to Tokyo early morning on Monday.—Kyodo News ■

## Pakistani, Indonesian presidents agree to work for Afghan peace

ISLAMABAD — The visiting Indonesian President Joko Widodo and his Pakistani counterpart Mamnoon Hussain have agreed to work together for peace in the war-shattered Afghanistan.

Joko Widodo, who arrived in Pakistan on two-day state visit on Friday, held talks with Hussain and proposed a joint role of religious scholars of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Indonesia for peace in Afghanistan, the president office said.

"Pakistan has always played an important role for peace in the neighbouring country. Pakistan and Indonesia can jointly promote moderation in the world," he said.

Hussain said Pakistan will welcome Indonesia's peace role in Afghanistan, the president office said.

Widodo's comments came amid reports that Indonesia wants to play a role in Afghan peace.

In fact in November last year Chief of Afghanistan High Peace Council Karim Khalili visited Indonesia where he held discussions with high-ranking Indonesian officials including Joko Widodo on the peace process in Afghanistan.

Afghan ambassador in Qatar, Faizullah Kakar, had stated in October 2017 that Indonesia wants to help in peace.

Earlier addressing the joint session of the parliament in Islamabad, the Indonesian president said economic activities will never take place if there is conflict or war.

"Conflicts and wars benefit no one and people mainly women and children become most impacted in such situations," he said.—Xinhua ■

# North Korea condemns latest US sanctions

SEOUL — North Korea on Saturday condemned the latest US sanctions announced this week aimed at curbing the isolated nation's development nuclear weapons.

The US sanctions are "a manifestation of heinous intention to throw a wet blanket over the inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and to aggravate the situation," an unnamed North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said in a report by the Korean Central News Agency. It also said the United States should stop such "anachronistic" policy towards North Korea. The United States announced new sanctions on Wednesday aimed at stopping North Korea's nuclear weapons development and urged China and Russia to expel North Koreans raising funds for the programmes.

The US Treasury imposed sanctions on nine entities, 16 people and six North Korean ships it accused of helping the weapons programs. It said two China-based trading firms were involved in exporting millions of dollars worth of metals and other goods used in weapons production.—Reuters ■

28 JANUARY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR


# Good friends are really needed!

PROGRAMS for repatriation of displaced people from Maungtaw region had already been made on the Myanmar side. With the firm determination to keep our pledges, we have constantly been implementing what we have to do, hence our readiness for accepting those who will come back, according to the agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar. In spite of the fact that we are ready to implement the repatriation program as included in the agreement, there are delays on the other side, for some reasons.

Members of the advisory board for the Committee for implementation of recommendations on Rakhine State, staff from the secretariat and reporters from local and foreign media went to Maungtaw and Kyaukphyu regions in Raknine State to witness situations on the ground concerning the arrangement for the repatriation of returnees. The advisory board led by Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, former deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Thailand, with experts from home and abroad as members, inspected the area for the first time since the formation of the advisory board on 14th December, 2017.

On the other hand, we feel sorry for those who went away with their backs toward us. They have proven themselves to be fair weather friends.

After attacks by extremist terrorists in Maungtaw on 25th August last year, efforts were being made for establishing stability, peace and rule of law in the region. At that time, a great number of displaced persons left for the neighboring country. At that time members of the international community and those who encouraged the displaced persons, claiming that they should be accepted urgently, tried to change their tune just at the present time when preparations for repatriating returnees systematically had already been made. We can now see signs and symptoms to put global pressure on Myanmar after labeling new titles, so that inconveniences and problems can be created.

The advisory board led by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai had discussions with the State Counsellor on 22nd January and with Vice President U Myint Swe and party on 23rd January respectively, making a trip to Rakhine State on January 24 and 25 to study situations on the ground and to meet with the local people. During the meeting on 22 January, Governor Bill Richardson, a member of the advisory board went beyond the framework of the advisory board, focusing on his personal agenda and self-interests. And, there were false allegations concerning the advisory board in meeting with international media.

The affairs of Maungtaw, a part of Rakhine State are actually the affairs of our nation. Accordingly, we ourselves are required to perform the tasks of bringing about peace and stability of the region, security of the local people, and regional development. In doing so, we have to acquire suggestions and necessary assistance from good friends with correct understanding towards us. On the other hand, we feel sorry for those who went away with their backs toward us. They have proven themselves to be fair weather friends. ■

# Sector of the National Ethnics among the National Reforms

By Htoo Htoo [Weibargi]

Kayin dance troupes perform traditional dance in Bago. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Padaung women in Loikaw. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

BEING a country consisting of different national ethnics, every individual belonging to the above-said national ethnic groups living in Myanmar has equal rights of citizens and other rights granted by the Constitution to the full. Accordingly, the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw promulgated "Law Protecting Ethnic Rights," in 2015.

At the time when the incumbent government commenced to take office, there were slight reduction in forming the Ministries, but as the national unity is the most fundamental necessity in the Union of Myanmar, in which a variety of national ethnics are co-existing the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs had been formed as one of the Union-level Ministries to separately deal with ethnic affairs in accord with the "Law Protecting Ethnic Rights." Similarly, ministers for ethnic affairs had been assigned in Region and State Cabinets. By seeing these, we can be well convinced that the Government is laying great stress on the national unity, national reconciliation and internal peace.

At such a time when efforts are being made for acquiring the internal peace through the political round-table negotiations, the emergence of the Union-level Ministry which will focus the implementation of the benefits of the national ethnics will greatly help bringing armed conflicts to a complete end, bringing about the national peace and national reconciliation.

The Ministry has been learnt to have committed itself to accomplish the tasks for all the national ethnics to equally acquire all the citizen's rights, to eternally co-exist with loving kindness to each other, based on the genuine unity spirit, to maintain literature, art, cultures, traditions and customs of the ethnic people, national characteristics and historical heritages of the national races, to develop the national unity, mutual respect and support among each other, to bring about the multi-sector development such as health, education, economy and transport and to fully acquire the rights of national ethnics included in the Constitution.

Personnel from the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs are the staff working under various ministries, consisting of national races with different knowledge, experiences and educational backgrounds to enthusiastically contribute their physical and mental efforts for the development of the national races.

The Ministry had been set up with the Office of the Ministry, the Department of the Ethnic Literature and Culture and the Department of Protection for the Ethnic Rights. Just at a glimpse of these names obviously enough, the Ministry had been formed with a view to bringing about long-standing benefits of the national races.

The Office of the Union Minister is dealing with ethnic affairs, in consultation with other ministries, Region and State Governments, regional ministries, NGOs from home and abroad. Such performances as negotiation for opening branch offices of the department in Regions and States, conducting trainings on capacity building of youths, collection of professional advices by holding discussions on principles of conservation of ethnic national's literature and workshops on federalism, with the aids and supports of NGOs from home and abroad are being made.

Tasks for the emergence of national-level policy on languages under the aegis of UN and UNICEF are underway. With the contribution of voluntary labour of UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, governmental organizations in Regions and States, parliamentarians, civil societies and universities in cooperation, languages and literatures of ethnic national are going to develop very soon, to be of great help for their education.

In bringing about the benefits of ethnic nationals, operations are being made by linking with other ministries, region and state governments, global development institutions, ethnic literatures and cultural organizations and civil societies performing the tasks of regional development.

Department of ethnic literatures and cultures is performing the tasks of propagation of ethnic languages and literatures, acquisition of freedom to learn local people's languages and literatures, rights to freely publish periodicals in their own languages and conservation of ethnics and their languages which are on the brink of extinction.

It has been learnt that performances are to be carried out in cooperation with ministries, regional governments and ministries, NGOs, civil societies and donors from home and abroad, for achievement the multi-development such as education, health and socio-economic development and for the convenience of roads, bridges, electricity and drinking water in the regions where ethnics are residing.

Peace and dispute settlement supporting branch under the department of protection of ethnics' rights is to help the Union Government, Region and State Government and administrative bodies at different levels in the tasks of building up internal peace and regional peace, in cooperation with the respective organizations.

The Ministry will carry out the tasks of bringing about regional peace and stability, socio-economic development of ethnics, finding ways and means after making researches to get rid of difficulties on socio-economy, culture and literatures being experienced with the assistance of the Union Government and above-said organizations.

For national ethnics to acquire full rights of ethnics and opportunities as promulgated in the Law for Protection of Ethnics' Rights and for them to systematically exercise these rights and opportunities, by-laws are being drawn up, with the first draft discussed at the workshop held at the Royal President Hotelf r o m 31st January 2017 to 1st February 2017 and the second draft at the workshop held at Mingalar Thiri Hotel from 22nd June 2017 to 23rd June 2017.

In drawing up a by-law, responsible persons including ministers for ethnics' affairs in Regions and States, representatives from self-administered regions and Hluttaw Representatives and those from civil societies transparently took part in discussions. In by-law, Union-level and Region-and-State-level tribunals are formed, with the intention of hearing, trying and solving violation of ethnic rights. Upon completion of enactment of the by-law, it will be of great help for the national ethnics to get their rights and opportunities to the full, including freedom of worship, expression and choice to cultivate culture, arts, literature they like, provided that they do not go against rule of law, national security, rules and laws promulgated for keeping people's morality and ethics. And, they will come to have an access to research, creations, learning, conservation of their cultural heritages and etc.,.

The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs is opening Region and State Departments to implement policies, objectives and obligations of the Ministry, initially operating in Mon and Kayin States. Very soon, similar offices are to be opened in other regions and states. In appointing staff in those areas, local residents with the knowledge of respective languages are to be selected, it was learnt.

So as to wholeheartedly bring about objectives of the Ministry—conservation and up-gradation of literature and culture of ethnics, protection of their rights and socio-economic development of the national brethren by making the Union Spirit strong, good ideas, supports and cooperation are urgently needed from respective ministries, regional governments, international institutions, NGOs and civil societies from home and abroad, ethnic culture and literature associations, intellectuals and local populace. Then, it will be of great support for the emergence of the federal democratic union that the national ethnics greatly longed for. ■

*Translated by*
*Khin Maung Oo*

## Four Objectives of the 71th Anniversary Union Day

1. To develop the Union Spirit
2. To make the internal peace process a success with unity of ethnic people
3. To build a Federal Democratic Union through the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong
4. To boost the economy of the Union by encouraging small and medium enterprises

## WHO lauds Global Partnership to Stop Leprosy; will help renew efforts for zero leprosy

**27 January 2018**

NEW DELHI Welcoming the launch of the 'Global Partnership to Stop Leprosy', the World Health Organization today said a stronger force with a common vision was much needed to accelerate efforts to end leprosy.

"A collaborative approach by leading partners to address remaining challenges with innovative solutions, is expected to provide renewed energy and impetus to accelerate efforts against leprosy. This is a turning point, we must harness this energy to free the world of leprosy forever," said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia, who also steers WHO's Global Leprosy Programme.

The new partnership, launched ahead of the World Leprosy Day 2018, brings together leading agencies and organizations working towards zero leprosy in various parts of the world. The partnership is expected to boost collaboration between national programmes, technical partners, academic sector, patient advocates and donors as it aims to support roll-out of global policy options, scale up interventions and mainstream leprosy under the aegis of universal health coverage.

The Global Partnership to Stop Leprosy is also expected to enhance implementation of WHO Global Leprosy Strategy 2016-2020 "Accelerating towards a leprosy-free world" which focuses on stronger political ownership, enhanced disease control and eliminating stigma and discrimination.

While globally, elimination of leprosy as a public health problem was achieved in 2000 with its prevalence reduced to less than one case per 10 000 population, every year on an average more than 200 000 new cases are reported. Though there is progress, it is very slow.

Advocating for enhancing efforts against leprosy, World Leprosy Day is observed on the last Sunday of January every year. This year, the day focuses on the critical target of zero leprosy-related disabilities in girls and boys by 2020.

In 2017 as many as 18 472 new child cases of leprosy were reported to the World Health Organization worldwide. These girls and boys must be diagnosed and given multidrug therapy (MDT), provided free of cost by WHO, before visible deformities and disabilities manifest. Dr Khetrapal Singh said, "disabilities inhibit development, limit life-long productivity and result in stigma and discrimination. Given the ongoing presence of deformities and disabilities among new cases of leprosy, including in girls and boys, decisive action must be taken to detect and treat cases earlier."

Reaching zero leprosy-related disabilities in children means tackling stigma and discrimination head-on, the Regional Director said, adding that fear of social exclusion continues to be a major cause of delay in diagnosis and treatment. It is, therefore, a major cause of deformity and disability.

"On World Leprosy Day this year we must reflect on and renew our focus on ending leprosy-related disabilities in girls and boys and on accelerating towards a leprosy-free world. We must renew our commitment to achieving a world where no child is left behind," Dr Khetrapal Singh said. The Global Partnership to Stop Leprosy makes us confident as together we will be able to move closer to a leprosy-free world.— *World Health Organization, South-East Asia Region* ■

# US's Mattis - Diplomacy should impose reason on North Korea's Kim

US PACIFIC COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, Hawaii — US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis stressed diplomacy as the way to deal with the North Korean crisis on Friday during talks with his South Korean counterpart in Hawaii, a day after Seoul's top diplomat said a military solution would be unacceptable.

"Diplomacy should (impose) reason on Kim's reckless rhetoric and dangerous provocations," Mattis said, referring to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

He added that the response to the threat remained "diplomacy led, backed up with military options available to ensure that our diplomats are understood to be speaking from a position of strength."

US Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The administration of US President Donald Trump has said all options are on the table when it comes to North Korea's pursuit of a nuclear-tipped missile capable of striking the United States.

But Mattis has consistently stressed non-military actions, including international sanctions. He renewed that message as he met South Korean Minister of Defence Song Young-moo at the US Pacific Command headquarters in Hawaii.

Song said he expected to discuss North Korea with Mattis, but noted firm coordination between the two militaries.

"We both understand each other well and that as an alliance, we always go together," he said, speaking through a translator.

The exchange came a day after South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said the standoff over North Korea's nuclear programme must be resolved diplomatically, and added that she was certain Washington would consult her government first if a military option were to be considered.

She declined to comment if Washington had given Seoul clear assurance but added: "This is our fate that is at stake. Any option that is to be taken on the Korean Peninsula, cannot be implemented without us going along."

After their first formal talks in more than two years this month, officials from the two Koreas have been visiting each other to facilitate the North's participation in the Olympics, to be held in the South's alpine resort town of Pyeongchang.

North Korea has waged a publicity campaign around its attendance, calling on Thursday for "all Koreans at home and abroad" to promote inter-Korean cooperation.

Kim's regime has also set a new anniversary to mark the formation of its military on Feb. 8 - the day before the start of the Games. Analysts say the nation may observe the day with a large military parade.

US Vice President Mike Pence, who will represent the United States at the Olympics, said on Tuesday he would seek to counter what he described as an effort by North Korea to "hijack" the Games with a propaganda campaign. —Reuters ■

# Irish Prime Minister says he will campaign for liberalisation of abortion laws

LONDON — Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said on Saturday that he would campaign for a liberalisation of the country's restrictive abortion laws ahead of a referendum in the coming months, adding that his views on the issue had evolved.

Varadkar's government plans to hold the referendum as soon as May to loosen some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the world. His Fine Gael party has agreed to let individual members campaign on either side of the debate. While the country remains overwhelmingly Catholic — a complete ban on abortion was only lifted in 2013 — public opinion has become far more socially liberal in recent years.

Varadkar, a medical doctor by training, in 2014 described himself as pro-life, but also said that the rules in Ireland, where terminations are only allowed in cases where the mother's life is in danger, were too tight.

"I believe Ireland's abortion laws are too restrictive and need to be liberalised," Varadkar said in an interview with BBC radio on Saturday. "I'll be campaigning for them to be changed."

Asked about his previous position, Varadkar said that his views had evolved in recent years. "I think sometimes that pro-life and pro-choice can be misunderstood ... I think even people who are in favour of abortion in certain circumstances are pro-life," he said.

"These terms pro-life and pro-choice don't really comprehend the complexity of this issue, which is a very private and personal one and one, I think, that contains a lot of grey areas."

Ireland has yet to decide the exact wording of the referendum. A cross-party parliamentary committee last month recommended that the state legislate to allow terminations with no restrictions up to 12 weeks into a pregnancy, a more liberal position than some had anticipated.—Reuters ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

### DPRK Foreign Ministry delegation leaves for Sweden

PYONGYANG — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) sent a diplomatic delegation to Sweden Saturday, said the country's official media.

According to a report from the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), the delegation was led by Han Song Ryol, vice-minister of the DPRK Foreign Ministry. The delegation will have an exchange of views with the Swedish side on bilateral relations and DPRK-European Union relations, said the KCNA.—Xinhua ■

### German regional wage talks for industrial workers end without agreement

STUTTGART — Overnight wage talks for industrial workers in the southwestern German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg ended with no agreement on Saturday, the regional employers' association said, raising the prospect of nationwide walkouts.

Powerful German union IG Metall had said on Friday it would hold off on its threat to call all-out strikes to hold last-ditch talks with employers over higher wages and the right to shorter working hours for industrial workers. Any deal in Baden-Wuerttemberg would typically be applied in other states as well.—Reuters ■

### Saudi billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal released — family sources

DUBAI — Saudi Arabian billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal has been released from detention, family sources said on Saturday, more than two months after he was taken into custody.

One family source said he has arrived home.

His release came hours after he told Reuters in an exclusive interview at the opulent Ritz-Carlton hotel in Riyadh that he expected to be cleared of any wrongdoing and be released from custody within days. —Reuters ■

# Scores killed, wounded in ambulance blast in Afghan capital Kabul

KABUL — A bomb hidden in an ambulance killed at least 40 people and wounded about 140 in Afghanistan on Saturday when it blew up in an area of the capital near foreign embassies and government buildings.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast, a week after it claimed an attack on the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul in which more than 20 people were killed.

"It is a massacre," said Dejan Panic, coordinator in Afghanistan for the Italian aid group Emergency, which runs a nearby trauma hospital. In a message on Twitter, the group said more than 50 wounded had been brought in to that hospital alone.

Health ministry spokesman Wahid Majroh said at least 40 people were killed and 140 wounded in the blast, which tore through a crowded street in a busy part of the city at lunchtime. Saturday is a working day in Afghanistan.

Mirwais Yasini, a member of parliament who was nearby when the explosion occurred, said the ambulance approached the checkpoint, close to an office of the High Peace Council and several foreign embassies, and blew up. Buildings hundreds of metres (yards) away were shaken by the force of the explosion, which left torn bodies strewn on the street nearby amid rubble and debris. People helped walking-wounded away as ambulances with sirens wailing inched their way through the traffic-clogged streets of the city centre. The latest attack will add pressure on President Ashraf Ghani and his US allies, who have expressed growing confidence that a new more aggressive military strategy has succeeded in driving Taliban insurgents back from major provincial centres.

The United States has stepped up its assistance to Afghan security forces and increased its air strikes against the Taliban and other militant groups, aiming to break a stalemate and force the insurgents to the negotiating table.

However, the Taliban have dismissed suggestions that they have been weakened by the new strategy and the latest attacks have demonstrated that their capacity to mount deadly, high-profile attacks remains undiminished.—Reuters ■

Smoke rises after a car bomb explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan on 27 January, 2018 in this image obtained from social media. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

# US to end weapons support for Syrian Kurdish YPG, Turkey says

ANKARA — The United States has told Turkey it will not provide any more weapons to the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, the Turkish presidency said on Saturday, as Turkey's offensive against the US-backed YPG in Syria entered its eighth day.

The Turkish incursion in northwest Syria's Afrin region against the YPG has opened a new front in the multi-sided Syrian civil war, but has also further strained ties with NATO ally Washington.

Washington has angered Ankara by providing arms, training and air support to the Syrian Kurdish forces. Turkey sees the YPG as an extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has waged a deadly insurgency in Turkey's largely Kurdish southeast for three decades.

The Turkish presidency said in a statement on Saturday that Ibrahim Kalin, spokesman for President Tayyip Erdogan, and US National Security Adviser HR McMaster held a phone call on Friday in which McMaster confirmed the United States would no longer provide weapons to the YPG.

On Thursday, the Pentagon said it carefully tracked weapons provided to the YPG and would continue discussions with Turkey, after Ankara urged Washington to end its support for the YPG or risk confronting Turkish forces on the ground in Syria.

On Friday, Erdogan said Turkish forces would sweep Kurdish fighters from the Syrian border and could push all the way east to the frontier with Iraq — a move which risks a possible confrontation with US forces allied to the Kurds.

Since the start of the incursion, dubbed "Operation Olive Branch" by Ankara, Erdogan has said Turkish forces would push east towards the town of Manbij, part of Kurdish-held territory some 100 km (60 miles) east of Afrin, where US troops were deployed to deter Turkish and US-backed rebels from clashing.

Any Turkish advance towards Manbij could threaten US efforts to stabilise northern Syria, where the United States has about 2,000 troops, officially as part of the international coalition against Islamic State.

In a sign of growing bilateral tensions, Ankara and Washington disagreed over the main message of a phone call between Erdogan and US President Donald Trump held on Wednesday.

The White House said Trump had urged Erdogan to curtail the military operation in Syria, while Turkey said Erdogan had told Trump that US troops should withdraw from Manbij. Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said she had seen media reports about the phone call, but was not aware of any change in US posture. The Turkish presidency said Kalin and McMaster had agreed for Turkey and the United States to remain in close coordination to "avoid misunderstandings". —Reuters ■

# Leading member of Egyptian opposition Hisham Genina attacked and badly injured

CAIRO— A leading member of an opposition campaign which was until this week challenging Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in upcoming elections was attacked and severely wounded outside his home on Saturday, his wife, lawyer, and a campaign spokesman said.

Hisham Genina, a former anti-corruption watchdog chief, was working to elect former military chief-of-staff Lieutenant General Sami Anan, the last challenger seen as a potential threat to the re-election of Sisi in elections slated for March.

Anan's campaign was abruptly shuttered after he was arrested this week and accused of running for office without military permission.

Genina had just left his home in a suburb outside Cairo when two cars stopped him and five men attacked him with knives and sticks, Anan's spokesman, Hazem Hosny, told Reuters. The identity of the men is unknown.

The Interior Ministry could not be immediately reached for comment.

"His knee is broken and he is bleeding from several parts of his body ... they were trying to kill him," his wife, Wafaa Kedieh, told Reuters.

On Tuesday, an army statement read on state TV said Anan's presidential bid amounted to "a serious breach of the laws of military service" because as a military officer he was required to end his service and get permission before seeking office.

As Egypt's top auditor, Genina had stirred controversy by publicly concluding that government corruption has cost the country billions of dollars. He was sacked by Sisi in 2016.—Reuters ■

PHOTO: TASS

# Russia's 5th-generation fighter jet starts flights with cutting-edge weaponry

MOSCOW — Russia's Sukhoi Su-57 fifth-generation fighter jet has started flights with the most advanced air-launched weaponry on its board, Tactical Missiles Corporation CEO Boris Obnosov said in an interview with the TASS-published Bulletin of Military and Technical Cooperation.

"Tense work is underway. The entire set of precision weapons for this aircraft, both inside the fuselage and on an external sling, is being developed by the Corporation's enterprises. We have switched to practical flights and I believe that we will see the result in the imminent future," Obnosov said, responding to a question about progress in implementing the program of developing air-launched weapons for the Su-57 fifth-generation fighter.

According to the Corporation's chief executive, the protocols of information interoperability with almost all types of weapons have been agreed.

"The basic work, ie launches, is forthcoming," the chief executive said.

The Russian fifth-generation Perspective Aviation Complex of Frontline Aviation (PAK FA, also known as the T-50) fighter jet took to the skies for the first time in 2010. As was reported earlier, the cutting-edge fighter performed its first flight with a new engine on 5 December.

Currently, the so-called first stage engine 117S is mounted on the Russian fighter. A new engine has not yet received its name and is conventionally designated as "the second stage engine."

It was reported earlier that Russia's T-50 (PAK FA) fifth-generation fighter jet had received the serial index of Su-57. The experimental design work on the most advanced fighter jet should be completed in 2019 and its deliveries to the troops should begin at that time. As United Aircraft Corporation CEO Slyusar said, the pre-production batch will consist of 12 such planes. —Tass ■

# British judge to decide next month on Assange's bid for possible freedom

LONDON — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, holed up in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London for over five years because he fears extradition to the United States, will learn next month if he has succeeded in having a warrant for his arrest dropped.

Assange, 46, fled to the embassy in the wealthy Knightsbridge district of the British capital in 2012 after skipping bail to avoid being sent to Sweden to face an allegation of rape, which he denied.

The Australian-born Assange had feared Sweden would hand him over to the United States to face prosecution over WikiLeaks' publication of a large trove of classified military and diplomatic documents — one of the largest information leaks in US history.

In May last year, Swedish prosecutors dropped their investigation into the allegation and withdrew their European Arrest Warrant (EAW). But British police have insisted Assange would still be arrested for breaching bail conditions should he leave the embassy.

On Friday, Assange's lawyer, Mark Summers, told Westminster Magistrates' Court that the withdrawal of the EAW meant the British bail arrest warrant could no longer apply.

"We say it's lost its purpose and its function," he said.—Reuters ■

# Flu still widespread in US, worst season since 2014/2015 —CDC

CHICAGO — Flu continues to be widespread across the United States and the season is on track to be one of the most severe since 2014/2015, when 34 million people were sickened by the virus and 710,000 were hospitalized, US health officials said on Friday.

During most flu seasons, older people have been hit the hardest, followed by very young children. But during this flu season, baby boomers, or those aged 50-64, have been the hardest hit after seniors.

"Baby boomers have higher rates (of hospitalization) than their grandchildren right now," Dr Dan Jernigan, director of the influenza division at the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters on a conference call. He said influenza activity had begun to taper off in some parts of the United States, particularly in California and other states on the West Coast, but the season was far from over.

Flu activity "remains high for most of the US, while some areas are still writhing," he said.

Indeed, this season may feel more severe than in prior years.

"We often see different parts of the country light up at different times," said Jernigan, "but for the past three weeks, the entire county has been experiencing lots of flu, all at the same time."

Another seven children died of the flu in the week ended on 20 January, bringing total pediatric deaths to 37 for the season.

The CDC does not track adult flu deaths directly, but Jernigan said 9.1 per cent of death certificates listed flu or pneumonia as the cause of death last week, a figure that has risen steadily for the past three weeks.

The number of people visiting doctors' offices and emergency rooms was rising, with 6.6 per cent of such visits related to flu.

"This is the highest level of activity recorded since the 2009 pandemic, which peaked at 7.7 per cent," Jernigan said. A surge in cases in January may have coincided with children returning to school after their winter break. Some states have seen high rates of hospitalization, with California seeing about four times as many as at the same time during the 2014/2015 flu season. Minnesota has seen twice the hospitalization rates as it did during the 2014/15 season, and more patients are now being hospitalized in New York as well, he said. California has had higher levels of flu activity for a longer period of time than other parts of the country, which likely explains the higher hospitalization rates, he said.—Reuters ■

Shanghai's financial district is seen at the Bund promenade as snow falls in Shanghai, China on 26 January, 2018.
**PHOTO: REUTERS**

# Heavy snow in central, southern China causes travel havoc

BEIJING — Heavy snow continued to affect parts of China on Saturday, closing highways, causing train and flight cancellations, and even interrupting a soccer match between Viet Nam and Uzbekistan in a southern Chinese province.

In central Hubei province, sections of more than 30 highways were closed due to icy conditions, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The three railway stations in Wuhan, Hubei's provincial capital, cancelled more than a hundred train journeys.

By about noon (0400 GMT), 95 flights had been cancelled at the Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, stranding some 1,200 passengers.

The airport at Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, also cancelled many flights.

In Changzhou city in southern Jiangsu province, the second half of the Under-23 Asian Cup final was interrupted for an hour on Saturday afternoon as snow covered the pitch.

Viet Nam, long seen as an underdog, had defeated Australia, Iraq and Qatar to face Uzbekistan in the final, cheered on by Vietnamese at home and at the Changzhou Olympic Sports Centre.

The National Meteorological Centre renewed an orange alert on Saturday for snowstorms in central and eastern China. The orange alert is the second-highest in a four-tier weather warning system.

Heavy snow or sleet was expected in parts of Henan, Hubei, Guizhou and Hunan provinces and regions along the Yangtze River and Huaihe River.

Blizzards will strike parts of Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Hubei and Hunan provinces.

On Friday, a unit of China's State Oceanic Administration issued a blue alert for sea ice in a key port area in the north of the country, potentially disrupting commodities shipments.—Reuters ■

# Philippines prepares for three-month-long volcano emergency

LEGAZPI CITY, (Philippines) — The Philippines is bracing for a possible three-month-long emergency in areas around an erupting volcano, which has already displaced more than 81,000 and led to overcrowded temporary shelters, the disaster agency said on Friday.

Mount Mayon in central Albay province remained at alert level 4, a notch below the highest level, as it continued to spew lava, ash and other superheated material, volcanologists said.

"We're gearing up for three months" of emergency, said Romina Marasigan, spokeswoman of the country's disaster agency, citing similar situations during previous eruptions of the 2,462-metre (8,077-foot) volcano. Displaced families may need to stay in evacuation centres for that long, she said. Food and other supplies remain adequate but concerns are growing over health and hygiene conditions at all the 69 temporary shelters away from the danger zone.—Reuters ■

**Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides**

Distribution and registration processes of pesticide produced by Iprochem Co.,Ltd are transferring from 7Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd to Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the following Pesticide within (7) day.

| No | Trade Names | Active Ingredients | Registration Types | Rigistration Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dinga 5WDG | Emamectin Benzoate 5%WDG | Provisional | P2017-3995 |
| 2 | Killer 50 SL | Glyphosate Potassium salt 500g/ISL | Provisional | P2017-3997 |

**7 Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd**

**Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides**

Distribution and registration processes of pesticide produced by Iprochem Co.,Ltd are transferring from Closed Friend Co.,Ltd to Myanmar Byter Agro Tech Co.,Ltd.Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the following Pesticide within (7 )day.

| No | Trade Names | Active Ingredients | Registration Types | Rigistration Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Roking 0.6 SL | 4-Indol-3-ylbutyric acid 0.6% SL | Provisional | P2016-3265 |
| 2 | Soldier 48 SL | Glyphosate salt 480 g/ISL | Provisional | P2016-3268 |
| 3 | Fight 27.6SL | Paraquat Dichloride | Provisional | P2016-3269 |

**Closed Friend Co.,Ltd**

**Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides**

Distribution and registration processes of pesticide produced by Iprochem Co.,Ltd are transferring from Closed Friend Co.,Ltd to Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the following Pesticide within (7)day.

| No | Trade Names | Active Ingredients | Registration Types | Rigistration Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Naza 20 WP | Dinotefuran 20%WP | Provisional | P2016-3264 |
| 2 | Guaking 30 SL | Choline Chloride 30%SL | Provisional | P2016-3266 |
| 3 | Moking 0.4 SL | Kinetin 0.4% | Provisional | P2016-3267 |

**Closed Friend Co.,Ltd**

**Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides**

Distribution and registration processes of pesticide produced by Iprochem Co.,Ltd are transferring from Seven Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd to Myanmar Byter Agrotech Co.,Ltd. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the following Pesticide within (7) day.

| No | Trade Names | Active Ingredients | Registration Types | Rigistration Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | SAR 15 SL | Glufosinate-ammonium 15% SL | Provisional | P2017-3996 |

**Seven Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd**

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V PACITA VOY. NO. ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AIPT 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V SINAR VOY. NO. (035)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR VOY. NO. (035) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 FAR SHIPPING LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

Former US President Bill Clinton (L) and Neil Portnow (R), President & CEO of The Recording Academy, stand with honorees (2nd L-2nd R) Stevie Nicks, Lindsey Buckingham, Christine McVie, Mick Fleetwood, and John McVie during the 2018 MusiCares Person of the Year show honouring Fleetwood Mac at Radio City Music Hall in Manhattan, New York, US on 26 January, 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

# Bill Clinton repays a favour to Fleetwood Mac at MusiCares ceremony

NEW YORK — Their 1977 song "Don't Stop" helped power Bill Clinton into the White House in 1992, and on Friday it was the former US president doing the honours for Fleetwood Mac.

Clinton presented Fleetwood Mac with statuettes as the 2018 MusicCares honourees, making them the first band to win the annual award given to a musician for creative achievements and charitable work.

Clinton chose the British-American band's single "Don't Stop" as the theme song for his 1992 presidential campaign, helping to revive their popularity and encouraging the fractious soft rock band to reunite for his inaugural ball in 1993.

"They let me use it as a theme song and I have been trying to live by it ever since," Clinton told the audience at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

"I owe a great deal to all of them," he added.

At the concert and ceremony on Friday, Miley Cyrus, Lorde, Keith Urban, Harry Styles and Juanes were among musicians across genres to perform their own interpretations of Fleetwood Mac's biggest hits over a 50-year career.

Band members Mick Fleetwood, John McVie, Stevie Nicks, Christine McVie and Lindsey Buckingham ended the three-hour celebration by taking to the stage to perform "Go Your Own Way" and "Little Lies."

Fleetwood Mac formed in London in 1967 and went on to become one of the best-selling bands in the world, with more than 100 million records sold, including Grammy-winning 1977 album "Rumours" and hit singles "Songbird," "Rhiannon" and "Dreams."

After romantic and creative tensions, some members going solo and several changes of line-up, Fleetwood, McVie, Nicks, Buckingham and Christine McVie put their differences behind them and reunited in 2014 for the first time since 1998, and embarked on a sell-out world tour. "Fleetwood Mac is well known for being a dysfunctional family... and it was certainly much of the fuel for our material," said Buckingham.

"But what we are feeling really more now than ever in our career is love," he added.

Proceeds from the annual MusiCares gala support members of the music industry in times of financial and medical need. Friday's event, held two days before the Grammy Awards, raised some $7 million for MusiCares, Recording Academy chairman Neil Portnow said. Previous recipients include Tom Petty, Bob Dylan, Barbra Streisand, Bruce Springsteen and Paul McCartney. — Reuters ■

# Covered on the catwalk: modest fashion struts its stuff in Paris

PARIS — Models in brightly coloured pant suits and ankle-length dresses graced a Paris catwalk this week in what organizers said was the city's first show of modest fashion that highlights styles popular with Muslim women.

The event was part of the Oriental Fashion show held on the sidelines of the city's haute couture fashion week, which showcases designers from Asia and the Middle East.

Organizers said modest fashion had met resistance in France because of its religious associations but there was demand for the styles in the country and beyond.

"We're French and in France we want to address this French demand, because firstly there's a French market for this and also an export market," Oriental Fashion Show general director Hind Joudar told Reuters.

"France's resistance to modest fashion has nothing to do with the fashion itself it has to do with religion," Joudar said.

Modest fashion conforms to conservative social standards common in the Middle East. In recent years, it has attracted mainstream interest and brands including Dolce & Gabbana, Uniqlo and Burberry have entered the sector.

Spending by Muslims on clothing and apparel is projected to reach $368 billion by 2021, according to the 2017 Reuters State of the Global Islamic Economy report.

France, under former conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy, was the first European country to pass a law banning burqa and niqab garments that conceal the face in public. Belgium later followed suit, as did the Swiss canton of Ticino.— Reuters ■

# Pushing her own boundaries, China's Oprah hails US star's influence

DAVOS, Switzerland — Dubbed China's Oprah Winfrey, Jin Xing says she respects the American talk show host's decision not to run for the US presidency, adding that while looking to push boundaries herself she, too, draws the line at politics.

"Her influence (on) American society is tremendous," Jin, one of the most famous people in China to undergo gender reassignment, told Reuters Television in an interview at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"I fully respect her personal decision and choices." Jin said Winfrey had been a role model when she turned her own attention to television. A former child dance protege, the 50-year-old Jin shot to fame as a male ballet dancer before becoming a woman in 1995. The former People's Army colonel now plays a leading role in LGBT awareness in China, where she hosts TV programmes including a popular dating show. Her own talk show between 2015 and 2017 drew an estimated 100 million viewers weekly.

"I was the best male dancer of the country ...(so when I) started to become the best female dancer, that's a big topic for the society," Jin told Reuters.

"I told myself (in order to) really become myself in such a tough society, environment, I need to make myself special, in some way." The dancer, actor, writer and television star sees China slowly becoming more acceptive of the LGBT community and finds hope in the more relaxed, outward-looking younger generation. "(The fact) I'm existing in China already means a lot, the society is changing gradually," Jin said.— Reuters ■

# Two new teams to energize Myanmar Culture

A press conference was held yesterday to announce the composition of the Myanmar Mingala Media Culture Art team and Myanmar-Chinese Culture Development team, followed by a pre-Chinese New year party at City Star Hotel.

The ceremony was jointly held by the Myanmar Mingala Media Culture Art team and Myanmar-Chinese Culture Development team. During the meeting, team founder Daw Kyi Lin @ Meng Fei delivered a welcoming speech and discussed the team's composition.

Also, Chief Editor from Democracy Today Newspaper U Hlaing Win Maung, Myanmar Motion Picture Academy winner Zaw Myint (Hantha Myay), Artist Moe Kyaw Thant and Artist U Po Oo spoke.

Additionally, U Moe Tun, a member of the Myanmar-Chinese Culture Development team, explained the composition of the team.

An official from Oppo Mobile Phone Co., Ltd (left) donates money to Artist Moe Kyaw Thant (right). **PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN**

Later, Artist Moe Kyaw Thant handed out certificates to the Myanmar-Chinese Culture Development team (temporary) to Daw Kyi Lin @ Meng Fei, founder of the Myanmar Mingala Media Culture Art team.

After that, artist Ni Po Oo presented a souvenir picture to Daw Kyi Lin, and officials from Oppo Mobile Phone Co., Ltd donated Ks 5 Lakh to Artist Moe Kyaw Thant for holding the Myanmar Khitsan Painting Century Ceremony for the Myanmar Arts and Craft Association.—Saw Thein Win

# 'Doomsday Clock' closest to midnight since Cold War over nuclear threat

WASHINGTON — Scientists on Thursday moved ahead by half a minute the symbolic Doomsday Clock, saying the world was at its closest to annihilation since the height of the Cold War due to world leaders' poor response to threats of nuclear war.

It was the second occasion the timepiece, created by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists as an indicator of the world's susceptibility to cataclysm, was moved forward since the 2016 election of US president Donald Trump.

At two minutes to midnight, the clock is at its closest to catastrophe since 1953, due to dangers of a nuclear holocaust from North Korea's weapons programme, US Russian entanglements, South China Sea tensions, and other factors, the Chicago-based group said in a statement.

"Hyperbolic rhetoric and provocative actions on both sides have increased the possibility of nuclear war by accident or miscalculation," the group said of North Korea's nuclear programme and the Trump administration's response to it.

Unchecked dangers linked to climate change were another factor scientists cited for moving the clock forward.—Reuters ■

Lawrence Krauss (L), chairman of the "Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists" Board of Sponsors, and board member Thomas Pickering (R), a former US Under Secretary of State as well as US Ambassador to the United Nations, Russia and other countries, during a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, US on 26 January, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

# Continuous isolated rain expected in Taninthayi Region

CONTINUOUS isolated rain in the Taninthayi Region is expected, along with a few clouds over the North Bay, and the skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and their neighboring areas for today remains partly cloudy. Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave heights will be some 3 to 5 feet along Myanmar's coasts. —GNLM

# Oldest human remains outside Africa found in Israeli cave

WASHINGTON — A partial jawbone bearing seven teeth unearthed in a cave in Israel represents what scientists are calling the oldest-known Homo sapiens remains outside Africa, showing that our species trekked out of that continent far earlier than previously known.

Researchers on Thursday announced the discovery of the fossil estimated as 177,000 to 194,000 years old, and said the teeth bore telltale traits of Homo sapiens not present in close human relatives alive at the time including Neanderthals.

The fossil of the left part of the upper jaw of a young adult — the person's sex remains unclear — came from Misliya Cave on Mount Carmel's western slopes about 7.5 miles (12 km) south of Haifa. Also found inside the large collapsed cave, once inhabited by humans, were blades and other stone tools that were sophisticated for the time, several hearths and burned animal bones.

Homo sapiens first appeared in Africa, with the earliest-known fossils roughly 300,000 years old. A key milestone was when our species first ventured out of Africa en route to populating the far corners of the globe.

Until now, the oldest Homo sapiens fossils outside Africa had come from two other cave sites in Israel, including one also on Mount Carmel, about 90,000 to 120,000 years old.

The new discovery supports the idea that humans migrated out of Africa through a northern route, the Nile valley and the eastern Mediterranean coast, and not a southern route across the Bab al-Mandeb strait, the southern coast of Saudi Arabia, the Indian subcontinent and East Asia, said Tel Aviv University paleoanthropologist Israel Hershkovitz, who led the study.

"This is an exciting discovery that confirms other suggestions of an earlier migration out of Africa," added paleoanthropologist Rolf Quam of Binghamton University in New York, a co-author of the study published in the journal Science. "Now we finally have fossil evidence of this migration, in addition to inferences drawn from ancient DNA studies and archaeological sites," Quam said, referring to genetic research suggesting a migration from Africa at least 220,000 years ago and probably earlier.

Hershkovitz said he believes Homo sapiens may have originated some 500,000 years ago.

The Misliya humans were likely nomadic, moving around the landscape following the movements of prey species or according to the seasons of the year, Quam said. "They were capable hunters of large-game species including wild cattle, deer and gazelles. They also made extensive use of plant materials, including perhaps for bedding," Quam added.—Reuters ■

A close-up view of the teeth accompanying the left maxilla of human remains from Misliya Cave in Israel, the oldest remains of our species Homo sapiens found outside Africa, is provided in this photo released on 25 January 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

# Viet Nam comes second at Asian U23 Championship

HANOI — Viet Nam finished at second place in the AFC U23 final against Uzbekistan after the latter scored in the last minute of extra time, brining the score to 1-2.

It is the first time a Vietnamese national team has made it this far in a continental championship, attracting attention from global football fans.

Fans react to the game as they watch live from Quang Nam Province in central Viet Nam.
**PHOTO: VNEXPRESS**

### Extra time

Uzbekistan's Andrey Sidorov scored their second goal at the 120th minute.

Viet Nam replaced midfielder Phan Van Duc with left winger Nguyen Phong Hong Duy at the 109th minute.

Uzbekistan replaced defender Abbosjon Otakhonov with striker Bobur Abdukhalikov at the 103rd minute.

### Second half

At the 80th minute, Viet Nam replaced striker Nguyen Cong Phuong with midfielder Bui Tien Dung III.

At the 59th minute, Viet Nam replaced midfielder Pham Duc Huy with striker Ha Duc Chinh.

After the first half, Uzbekistan replaced it's top goal scorer Jasurbek Yakhshiboev with midfielder Doniyorjon Narzullaev.

### First half

Midfielder Nguyen Quang Hai scored Viet Nam's equalizer from a free kick in the 41st minute. It was his fifth goal at the game, making him one of the top scorers at the Asian championship.

Uzbekistan scored the first goal with a header at the eighth minute by defender Rustamjon Ashurmatov.

The game started at 3 pm amid heavy snow despite earlier news that the weather condition might threaten to delay the match. The Vietnamese team is in their official color red.

Viet Nam, considered the underdog at the beginning of the Asia Federation Corporation (AFC) game, has won numerous "wows" by winning its bigger competitors to earn the place close to the champion cup. The team defeated Australia 1-0 in the group stage. They won Iraq in the quarterfinals and Qatar in the semifinals with penalty shootouts.

The Saturday match is not the first time the two teams have met. Just last month, Viet Nam's U23 team lost 1-2 to Uzbekistan U23 at the M150-Cup in Thailand. Uzbekistan then went on to defeat Japan in the final, while Viet Nam came third after beating Thailand.

At this year's AFC U23 cup, Uzbekistan has fared better in terms of goals stats than the more defensively minded Viet Nam.

Many fans saw Uzbekistan as a tough player with better physical strength and possibly skills as well. But many believed in the fighting spirit of coach Park Hang-Seo's forces and the unexpected results they have brought prior to the final.

In Hanoi and Saigon, fans had brought red flags and T-shirts to the streets, after the official colour of the Vietnamese team.

Houses of captain Luong Xuan Truong and goalkeeper Bui Tien Dung in northern rural Viet Nam were packed with fans while the streets saw the biggest crowds ever.

Entering the final game of an Asian championship is the best achievement in the football history of Viet Nam as well as the Southeast Asia. —VnExpress ■

# Leopalace 21 Myanmar Open Golf Tournament goes to Finals

Japanese Golf star Yusaku Miyazato, standing in second place, with nine shots below par.
**PHOTO:PHOE THAW ZIN**

THE third day of the Leopalace 21 Myanmar Open Golf Tournament 2018 continued yesterday, as the Day 3 Preliminary at Pun Hlaing Golf Club in Yangon reached the finals today.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the tournament was sponsored by the Myanmar Golf Federation, Asian Tour, Japan Golf Tour and Myanmar PGA.

According to yesterday's results, the standing changed as Lionel Weber gained the advantage, taking the lead with 10 shots below par.

Paul Peterson from the USA and Rattanon Wannasrichan from Thailand gave up their points yesterday, and Lionel Weber passed them to reach the top of the score chart in yesterday's game.

Peterson is now in third place, while Rattanon Wannasrichan is in sixth place.

Yusaku Miyazato is also standing in second place, with nine shots below par.

Masahiro Kawamura, Paul Peterson and Suradit Yongcharoenchai are in the third place, at 8 shots below par.

Myanmar golf star Ye Htet Aung is standing in 34th place, at 1 shot below par.

The final match, along with the awards ceremony, will be held today (28.1.2018), which is open to the public at no charge.—Ye Yint Shine ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar



# Be a Hero for Your Environment

Kyaw Zin Myo
Trash Hero Mandalay

Photo: Nyi Zaw Moe

MARGARET Mead said, "We would not have a society if we destroy the environment". As she said, the environment is very important for our society not only for human beings but also for other species. Unquestionably, the world faces many challenges because people are treating the world badly every day by creating many issues to the environment and affecting society as an individual or as a whole. But "Do we really think about the environment?" absolutely not, we did not think about that because we have been creating many kinds of pollution such as air pollution, water pollution, and soil pollution which created climate change and global warming. The consequences of what we did for the environment will eventually affect us indirectly or directly.

Over 4 billion tons of wastes are inappropriately disposed of every year and more than 8 million tons of plastic waste makes its way into our ocean every year. Less than 20 % is recycled and that is mainly in economically developed countries and about a third is purely getting rid of into rivers, burned or on the street. This is damaging to our public health, polluting to our environment, making our society ugly and poisoning the fishes. In the past, you and I did not care about these entire problems. However now, we are the people who are challenged with this issue in daily life. "Where does Trash come from? And where does it go?" Nowadays, most products are made out of plastic and people use plastic bags to carry out their materials easily and plastic became an essential need in social life in order to use. Moreover, we consume many foods which are packaged in plastic and then where we throw them. Some goes in the rubbish bin and some people just carelessly throw them away then it is ultimately destroying our environment. Consequently, plastic rubbish is found everywhere not only into our society but also in the oceans plus they become a big problem for all living things. Many people are fighting to eliminate plastic wastes by many different ways but whatever they try if we do not become aware about this, the next generation will still face this problem.

"What is the Problem?" Is trash the problem or are we, the humans, and the problem? This is very obviously people's problem because we do not take our accountability to keep the environment clean Even though we have rubbish bins around in our communities, in some places there are many signs like "Please Don't Litter –Help Keep your Environment Clean" whatever they write people wanted to throw more rubbish in that areas. We cannot blame other people who throw the plastic because we do the same like them sometimes. "What do we need to change the people?" the people need to develop their manners as the people who care about the environment from deepest of heart. Human behavior seems easy to change but it is the most difficult. Taking individual obligation is very important for all people. Another reason is the lack of awareness in the community. Some do not really discern about the consequences of rubbish in the environment.

SEE PAGE S-8

## 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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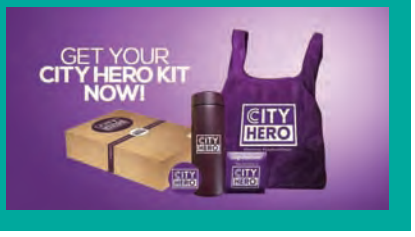
**City Hero Kit** provided by **City Mart Holding Co,. Ltd** is available free of charge at **The Global New Light of Myanmar** for those who contributed their works to our Next Generation Platform of the Sunday Special Pull-out of **The Global New Light of Myanmar**.



# Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

## Lesson 37: Sentences: Types of Sentences (5)

Hello Class !

In the last Chapter 36, we have studied how to change the Statements into Questions.

Today, we are going to study how to make Negatives to the Statements. We have already known how to change in Statements with the Verbs to be (am, is are, was, were) and Verbs to have (has, have, had). It is very easy to do so, i.e. just put the Negative word "not" after these Verbs.

e.g. (1) The rose is red.
Neg. The rose is not red.
(2) I am a King.
Neg. I am not a King.
(3) You are a good boy.
Neg. You are not a good boy.
(4) He was good at painting.
Neg. He was not good at painting.
(5) We were in the University in 1966.
Neg. We were not in the University in 1966.
(6) I have a small dictionary.
Neg. I have not a small dictionary.
(7) She has a piano.
Neg. She has not a piano.
(8) We had all the texts.
Neg. We had not all the texts.

It is very easy to put the Negative word "not" after these Verbs to be and Verbs to have.

Here come the exercises.

## Exercise 37.

**I.** Change the following Statements into Negatives.

(a) I am a footballer.
(b) You are a Prince.
(c) He is good at singing.
(d) She was a beautiful girl in her youth.
(e) We were experts in this game.
(f) She has some roses in her hand.
(g) He had chocolates to give her.
(h) I have some problems to solve.
(i) She was a Queen.
(j) We have our breakfast.

Now let's think of the Statements with only one action Verb.

Here, the same procedure is going to be used.

V with s (Present) = does + V1
V without s (Present) = do + V1
V. Past Tense (Past Tense) = did + V1

So, we just need to divide the Verbs into two parts and then put the Negative word "not" between these two.

e.g (1) He goes to Yangon.
Neg. He does not go to Yangon.
(2) She taught us English.
Neg. She did not teach us English.
(3) The dogs run after the cat.
Neg. The dogs do not run after the cat.

**Here comes the exercises again.**

**Exercise 37**

II. Change the following Statements into Negatives.

(a) The girl plucks the flowers.
(b) The boys played football yesterday.
(c) I write my Essay alone.
(d) She starts her journey to the West.
(e) They bring the fruits.
(f) We sang the Christmas songs.
(g) He plays the piano beautifully.
(h) You see the truth.
(i) Mg Mg likes the movies.
(j) Ma Ma cooks delicious curries.

Here comes the Action Verbs with more than one word as in …

Perfect Tense (Present Perfect, Past Perfect, Future Perfect)

Continuous Tense (Present Continuous,Past Continuous, Future Continuous)

Perfect Continuous Tense (Present Perfect Continuous, Past Perfect Continuous, Future Perfect Continuous)

And also Verbs with Auxiliaries or Helping Verbs (can, could, shall, should, will, would, may, might, ought)

For all these Verbs, to make into Negatives, just put the Negative word "not" after the first part.

e.g.(1) She has done her homework.
Neg. She has not done her homework.
(2) He had drawn the picture.
Neg. He had not drawn the picture.
(3) We have won the game.
Neg. We have not won the game.
(4) I am writing the letter.
Neg. I am not writing the letter.
(5) She is walking down the lane.
Neg. She is not walking down the lane.
(6) He was reading a nice novel.
Neg. He was not reading a nice novel.
(7) They were watching the Video.
Neg. They were not watching the Video.
(8) The boy had been writing an article.
Neg. The boy had not been writing an article.
(9) She has been dancing in the theatre.
Neg. She had not been dancing in the theatre.
(10) I can play the piano.
Neg. I cannot play the piano.
(Note that "cannot" is only one word.)
(11) She would go home today.
Neg. She would not go home today.
(12) She might speak well.
Neg. She might not speak well.
Here comes the exercises.

**Exercise 37.**

III. Change the followings into Negatives.

(a) She had done all her work.
(b) He has helped her a lot.
(c) I have finished cooking.
(d) The younger sister is going back home.
(e) Jack will fetch a basket of fruits.
(f) I can organize these people.
(g) She was dancing beautifully on the stage.
(h) I shall remember all these days.
(i) I may play this part.
(j) He could believe his eyes.

That's all for today Class.

Hope that you can do all these Exercises very well. These are not difficult.

---

**Here are the Answers to last week's Exercise.**
**Exercise 36.**

I. Change into Questions.
(a) Is he a bad guy?
(b) Are the leaves still green?
(c) Am I on my way home?
(d) Was he in the car?
(e) Were you in the class at that time?
(f) Have I a pretty bag?
(g) Had they some nice books to read?
(h) Has she a lovely doll?
(i) Have you some words to say?
(j) Are we Boy Scouts?

II. Change into Questions.
(a) Does she sing sweetly?
(b) Does he run marathon?
(c) Do we start walking?
(d) Did he stay home last night?
(e) Do they play football?
(f) Did the woman water the orchid?
(g) Did my father drive the car?
(h) Did his aunt write that letter herself?
(i) Do you ride on horseback?
(j) Did he sleep late last night?

III. Change into Questions.
(a) Has she done all her work?
(b) Had he helped her a lot?
(c) Have I finished cleaning the room?
(d) Is Mary going to school?
(e) Will John fetch a basket of fruits?
(f) Can I organize these people?
(g) Was she dancing beautifully on the stage?
(h) Shall I never forget those happy days?
(i) May I play this part?
(j) Could he hardly believe his ears?

That's all for today Class.

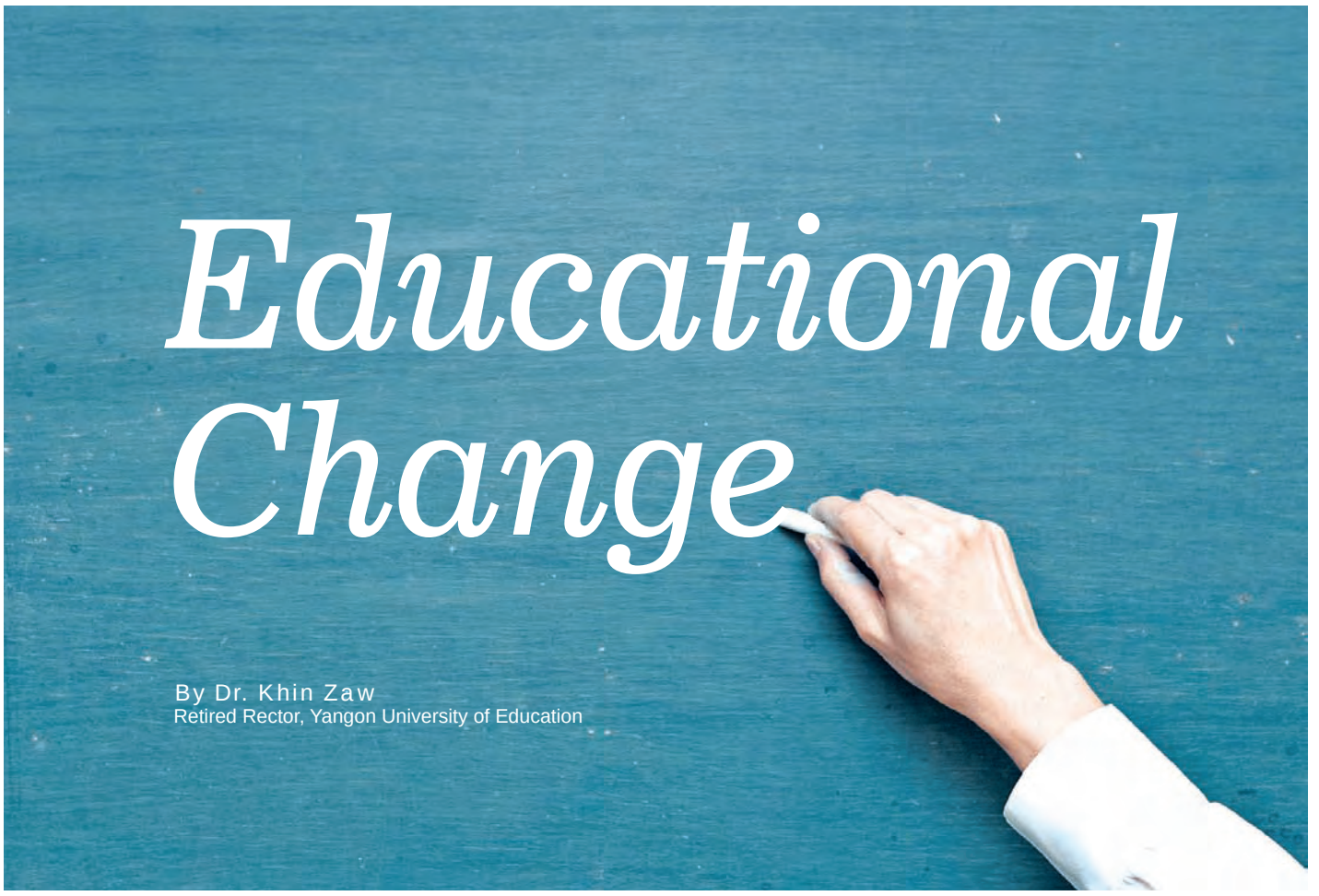
Hope that you have done well easily !

Did you forget to put a Question Mark (?) at the end of every question?

Bye Bye Class !

See you next week !

Your English Teacher (GNLM)
Email : << dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com>>



# Educational Change

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

THE basic theoretical constructs of systems analysis and its subsequent applicative innovations in Education have been outlined briefly.

An attempt shall now be made to focus on the prospects and implications of systems thinking for Educational Change.

School systems have long been relatively resistant to needed reforms and change. Looked as from an innovative or technological viewpoint , pedagogues everywhere will have to admit that the school and the college present a woebegone spectacle.Only in Education , can they find an antediluvian technology which would not survive in any other field, economic, medical or engineering. Evidently , people cannot expect much from this kind of rusty , creaky , and antiquated educational industry , utilizing outmoded and outdated means and methods of organization, production, etc.

For centuries many educators have advocated systematic technologies of instruction and education ; here were pioneers who experimented with this new educational technology, its new media and developments, and they made history. But, the impact of their efforts on the broad or the main stream of Education caused little more than a ripple on the surface.

Educational technologist Saettler has stated that the role of the teacher had changed little in the last century. The typical teacher or pedagogue with thirty learners (a few more or less) in a series of of equalized boxes (conventional classrooms) spread out on the ground or stacked on top of each other persists as the basic unit of formal instruction. The textbook is still at the center of classroom activity and is the major determinant of curricular contents.

Brickell's survey of change in New York State schools following the Russian Launching of Sputnik revealed that despite the number of new programmes introduced , most of the accompanying changes took place within the existing framework of the schools.. in short , schools as structured institutions had remained stable.

As regards instructional change , the systems concept cannot have a significant impact on instructional or pedagogic practice until new approaches to instructional methodology are explored. For example , solutions to learning or teaching problems cannot be found by investigating class size or grouping learners by ability. Such approaches are usually devices of administrative convenience and are often based on the false assumption that there should be stable classrooms consisting of one teacher with a number of learners.

*(to be continued)*

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Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda in Inle Lake, Shan State. **PHOTO: MYANMAR.TRAVEL**

A man seen in front of his house on Inle Lake. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

# Inlay Lake and the Innthar people

By Moore Zack

NYAUNGSHWE, the principal town in the Inlay Lake area, tops the list of most popular international travel destinations in Myanmar, followed by Bagan-NyaungU.

Local and foreign visitors enter Nyaungshwe daily to visit Inlay Lake, the popular inland freshwater lake.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has put forth concerted efforts to promote interest from international visitors by establishing tourism and recreational facilities as well as exposing more destinations.

There are about 90 registered hotels and guesthouses in Nyaungshwe, including floating structures on the lake.

A foreigner has to pay US$10 to enter the town, which helps raise the country's foreign currency income. The country receives over Ks7.8 million ($6,000) daily from the town. Visitors and tourists metaphorically call Inlay Lake the Venice of the East. In that case, Venice, Italy deserves the title "Inlay Lake of the West". Marco Polo, a Venetian adventurer-travellrr of renown who accompanied the Tartar warriors and Mahayana Buddhist monks sent to Tampadipa [Ancient Bagan Kingdom] by Emperor Kublai Khan of China, wrote in his travelogue of his wonderful eyewitness accounts of the glory and greatness of the Bagan monuments. If he had stretched out his travels to Inlay Lake he possibly would have been the one to describe Inlay as the "Venice of the East".

The writer of this article, who had been to Inlay Lake in his country and Venice in Italy no less than five times, would like to share with the readers his knowledge and experience of the "two Venices" or "the two Inlay Lakes".

After Indaw Gyi Lake in Kachin State, Inlay is the second largest body of water created by falls, streams and rivers of the surrounding mountains to the East and West. Geologists say that the lake used to be a hundred square miles in area, but due to climatic, geographical and human impacts the lake today measures nine miles long and three-and-a-half miles wide. It is 2,915 feet above sea level. Its depth varies from 20 feet in high monsoon season and 12 feet in summertime. It is not a still lake. Many streams flow into it and many flow out of it, of which the Bilu Chaung is the principal outlet to operate the Lopita Hydro-electric Power Plant in Loikaw, Kayah State.

Recently both Indaw Gyi Lake and Inlay Lake have received their deserving place on the list of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage wetlands.

These two places have the following commonalities:

The Inntha, local ethnic people of Inlay Lake, are believed to have come from the Dawei area, the southernmost part of Myanmar. They speak an archaic dialect of Burmese and often live on Inle Lake and support themselves through the tending of vegetable farms on floating gardens. Also, the Inthar people are known for their leg-rowing techniques and are traditionally Buddhists.

Photo: Chan Thar (Meikhtila)

Innthar men catch fish in Inlay Lake. **PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKHTILA)**

Photo: sriasiamyanmartravel.com

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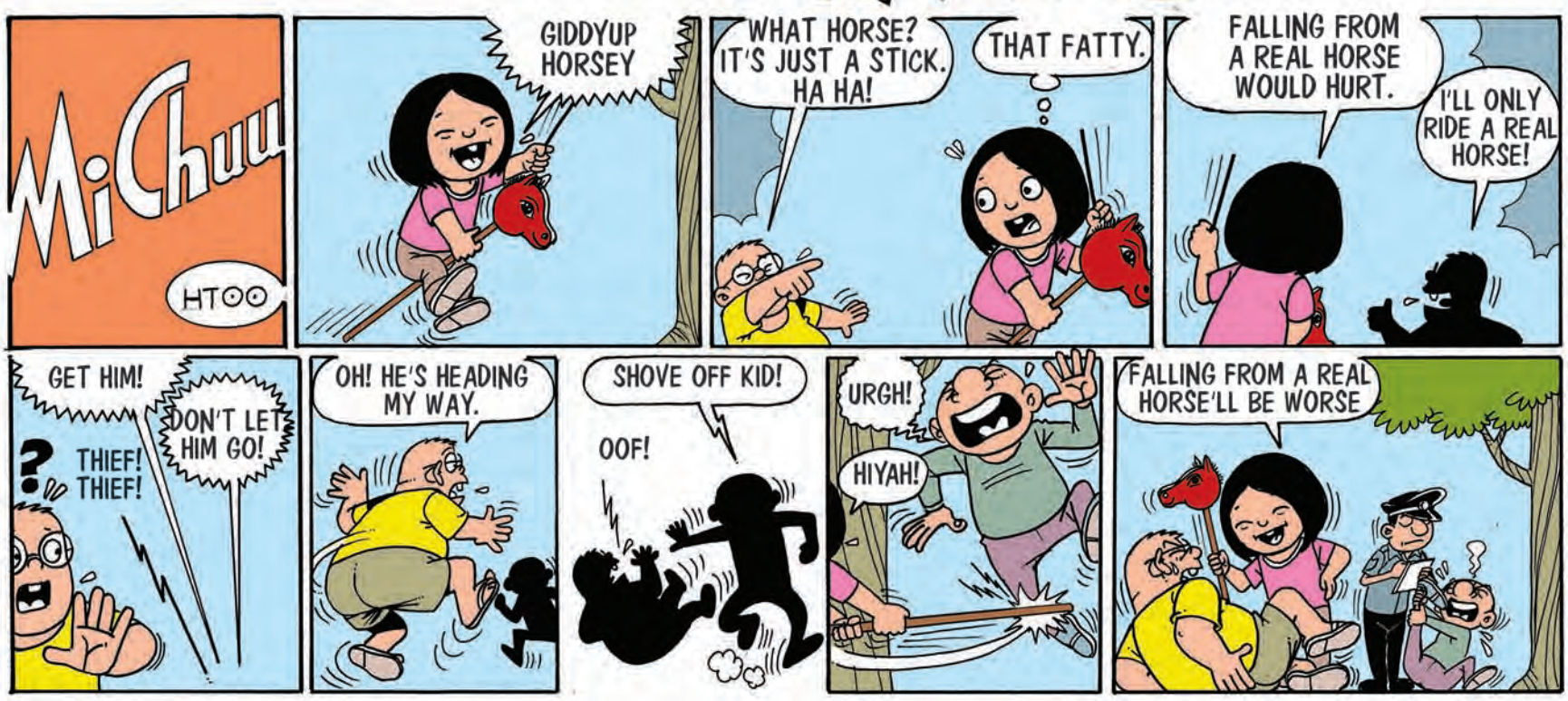
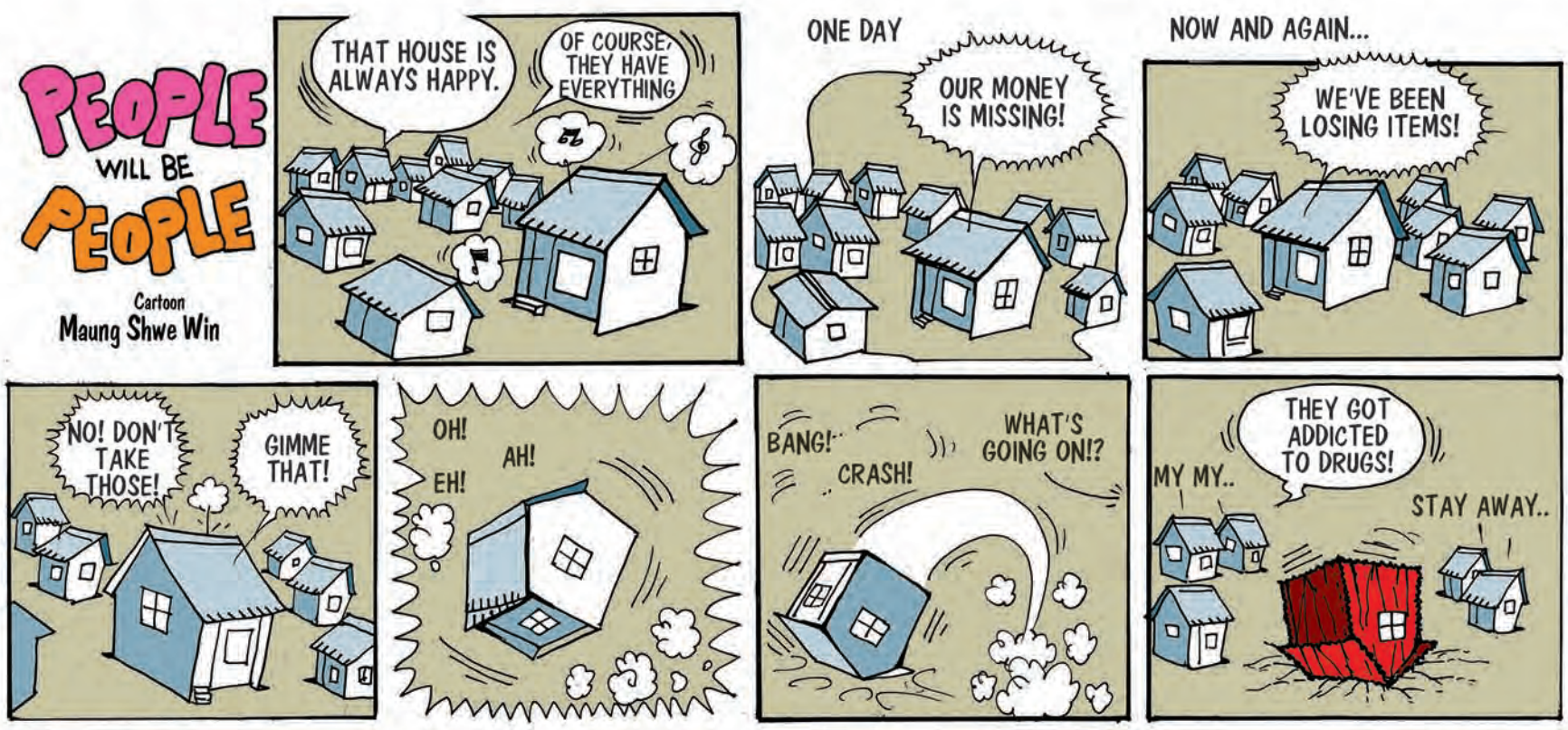
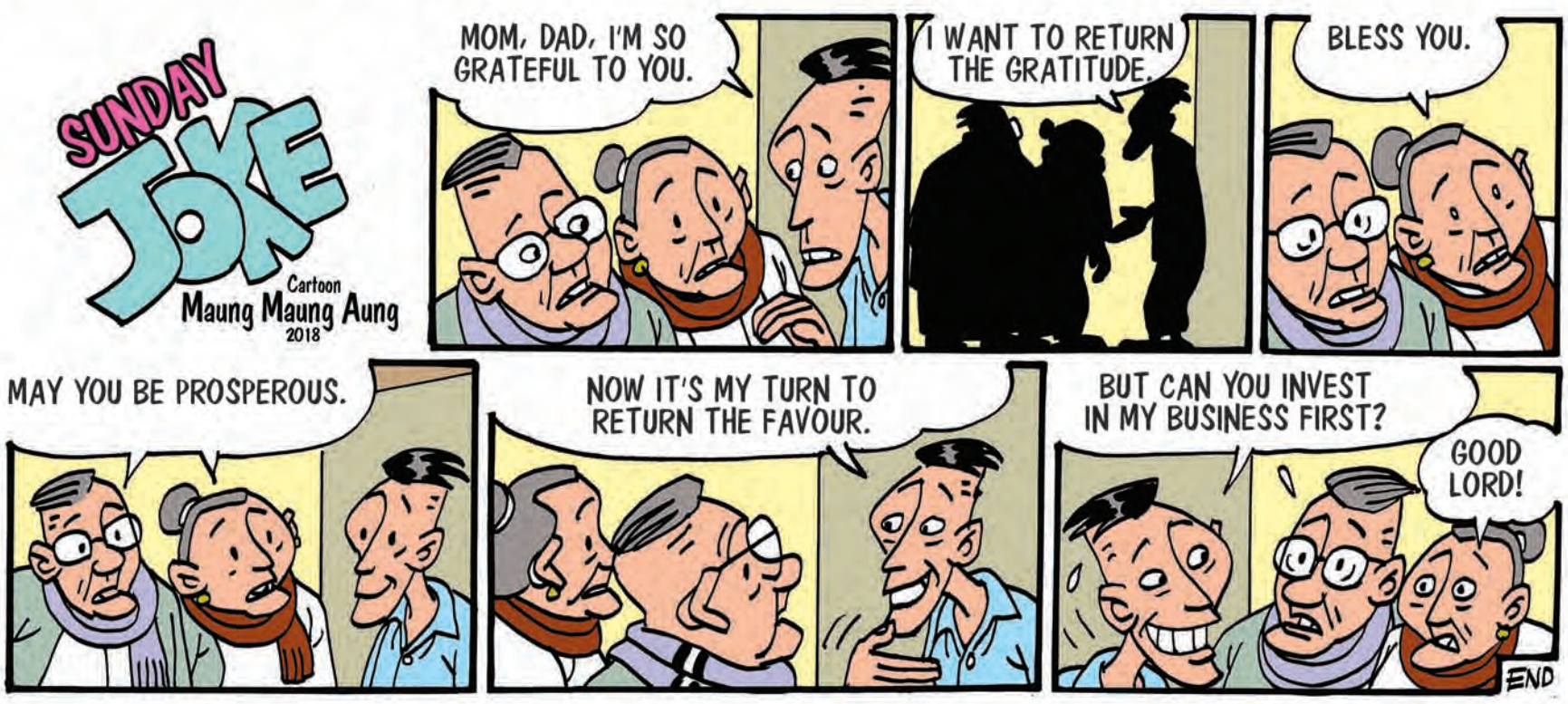
# SUNDAY COMICS



# Opinions on safety from women

The recent brutal rape and murder of a 25-year-old Myanmar woman in Yangon allegedly by a taxi driver who has been arrested has put women on high alert in the city. The following are excerpts from interviews of women who live and work in Yangon.

By Zaw Gyi

**Daw Swe Swe Nyein, a resident of No.1 Ward, Mayangone Township**

From the current criminal news, I heard of many homicide cases of young girls. As a result, we feel insecure in our daily life and have to think twice before taking a taxi, especially at night time. I feel worried for my children. All women must be aware of it. If they are obliged to go out, they should ask someone to accompany them. Or else, their parents who remain at home will be worried all the time. I suggest that authorities concerned need to make special arrangements for protection and must punish the criminals who commit the crimes.

**Daw Khin Lay Swe, Chairperson of Women's Affairs Association, No.1 Ward, Mayangone Township**

Now that many women have become victims of crime and violence, it's high time for the authorities to cope with this problem urgently. Some were robbed and even murdered. With the advance of Information Technology, some people get into trouble by going online. If we happen to meet someone who wants to help me, I am not in a position to believe anyone because I cannot decide who is good or bad. As for me, I rarely heard of such kinds of criminals in my younger days. We should be careful not to accept offerings from the strangers.

**Daw Su Su Naing, Kamayut Township**

I hear of many criminal cases lately, especially the murder. Some women are killed owing to their jewelleries. I am shocked to hear about such incidents. Whenever I go out, I usually go with a companion. Those who go back home late from their work ought to go together. In case you are alone, it is better to make a phone call to your parents or relatives so as to be free from any misfortunes.

**Daw May Than Oo, Hlinethaya Township**

For the young girls, I would like to advise them to wear proper and decent clothing or dresses when they go outside from their homes. Be alert all the time. It is essential to inform your home when going out. As for me, I normally call my daughters to ask where they are and what they are doing. It goes without saying that children also need to tell the truth to their parents. If they tell lies, they can become the innocent victim of someone with bad character in one way or another. So mutual-respect and frankness should be built between parents and children.

**Daw Mya Htwe Nu, western part of Ywar Ma, Insein Township**

As for our womenhood, we dare not go outside alone at nighttime due to the recent bad news. We feel insecure and have lost self-confidence. Whatever I work and do, I have to be cautious more than ever. Consequently, I have to keep a watchful eye on my surroundings. I dare not believe anyone. It is of great importance to restore law and order and criminals must be punished severely according to the laws. It is necessary to take care of the women as much as we can. If the women go out at night, it is best not to wear expensive jewellery. It may cost some girls their lives due to their valuable belongings. They should avoid going out alone at night without any companions. Try to keep in touch with the people at home. They should tell their guardians where they go and when they go back so that they can get any help in case of trouble.

# Keep in Mind is Being Optimistic

Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University

AS everybody knows, human beings can change their mind at anywhere and anytime. We, human beings, however, need to keep our mind to be stable even though it is very difficult to do it. Ordinary human beings are not like holy men. We, human beings are living around the world and are working for living. So, we can confront with many other issues and many cases which are dealt with other people. We can feel dissatisfied or feel disagreed when we communicate with each other. Our society is full of different kinds of people with different mind. As we are living in a big society today, we have to face good or bad situations. Nevertheless, we need to face those situations in anytime and anywhere. When we meet those situations, the thing that should be kept in mind is being optimistic.

Some of the people want to criticize on everyone and everything. It is not a good thing. Because different people have different ideas, they can express or they can do something what they think that is suitable for their doings. We should not criticize as if that is wrong or that is so bad. We should think for everyone like " Your idea is good but the thing what I think is you should add this or that ". Everyone in the world is surviving doing what they want to do or what they have to do and thinking freely. If we make stop their idea, we can be the ones who break human right.

**be optimistic.**

We need to think that why people are quarrelsome and why the world is full of greed, anger and why the world has not possessed peace yet. We can know the reason: each and every person does not agree other's idea and still thinking " I am right, I am right ". As I am still a oridinary person, I cannot stand when someone told me that I am wrong. But, sometimes, I thought that I am also telling the others that they are wrong. So, I reflect myself that I need to try to see from the other side and need to try to care about other's ideas.

As we are human beings, we can change our feelings and ideas easily. We, human beings, however, are weak in changing our bad feeling like being pessimistic into good feeling like being optimistic. Whatever, we need to keep in mind that being optimistic is a must-do duty for a human. If we can create being optimistic, we can change our mother world a better place. We should not be suspicious on everyone. Being suspicious is a thing that can cause a lot of problems. When we lose belief in someone, it is difficult to get it back. By that case, many problems have appeared in many fields. Therefore, the another thing that we need to keep in mind is not to be suspicious on everyone without having strong evidence.

Finally, we should reflect ourselves that we need to share our feelings and thoughts with each other without having bad thinking. Moreover, we should try to be careful about other's ideas to make a good society. Therefore, the thing what I would like to express my opinion is "Let's try to keep being optimistic to make the world possess a better future".

# *The Awesome Day Brings a Milestone to Ketu*

That day,
His heart was
full of joy.

That day,
His strength was
the strongest.

That day,
The first day
in which the Sasana
of Ketumati was
graceful and grand.

That day,
The human flowers
who lacked a future
could see the rays of light
and bloom the right way.

That day,
The blooming day
of the colorful flowers
produced the sweet
fragrance.

That day,
The making day
produced the key
to open the door of the
world.

That day,
The first day
of the first steps
which are intended
for the peaceful world,
for the quiet world,
for the bright world with
Dhamma,
for the insight world
with the teaching of the
Buddha.

That day,
The starting forth of
Sitagu,
was the brightest.
The Sitagu moon was
the brightest.

That...
That...
That...

That day,
On the fifth of Vaso
in one....three....seven....
eight,
was full of the moon and
smelled of the scent of
the Vaso flowers.

Ven-Aggadhamma
2nd Year, Sitagu Ketumati Buddhist Academy (Toungoo)

# Be a Hero for Your Environment

FROM PAGE S-1

The government is also helping for this as much as they can clean. This responsible is not only for government but also we, the citizens, need to participate on that.

To start with, you need to change as an individual start from yourself. If everyone takes responsibility for this issue we can solve this easily. It is not difficult to do, when we throw away the rubbish or plastic, just throw it in bins and collect the trash systematically in your home. Burning the plastic is not a good idea to do because it can affect to our health. We can use reusable things when we buy something instead of using plastics every time. You can reduce buying plastics like plastic water bottles, foods packaged in plastic, plastic bags, etc. If you buy 20 plastic water bottles in a month, those 20 bottles will go into the environment or may be4 % will reuse but it is not only you, many people who use plastic water bottles. If 20 people use plastic water bottles in per month 400 plastic bottles will go to your environment recently. With this model, we can imagine how we create many wastes into our environment. The best solution is you can buy a reusable water bottle which is not make by plastic and which you can use more than once and you can refill water again. You can do like that to reduce plastic water bottle in your community or if not you can reuse your plastic water bottles in other ways. When you go to shopping or market to buy something just refuse the plastic bags they give you to carry out your things. It is easy, everyone can do this. If you can do this you are reducing the plastic wastes for your environment because the world needs you.

Noticeably, we can see rubbish in public like in the City Park, Zoo, Garden or festival where there are crowds. Many types of people come to relax and to spend their meaningful time in the park together with their families, friends, boyfriends or girlfriends and then they eat snack, enjoy themselves, and dance in there. Then, they just leave their rubbish in the areas when they go back to their home. Some do really care not to throw wastes in the ground but some people do not. We can see clearly that people are becoming less responsible to throw the plastic into the rubbish bin. As you care for yourself you need to care for your environment where you relax, where you spend your valuable time and where you grew up. And be careful not to let your community become covered in garbage. To conclude, please remember that you are the one who creates the wastes for your environment and who will save your environment with your hands. When you see the rubbish on the ways you go please do not leave it- pick up and throw into the rubbish bin. You are the one who is the hero of your environment. Let's try to reduce plastic wastes and become a Trash Hero.

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