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**SUNDAY
SPECIAL**



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The Falam (Surbung) airport is 6,000 ft. long and 100 ft. wide runway will accommodate the landing of ATR 72 aircrafts. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

VP inspects airport, road, water infrastructure projects in Chin State

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspected regional development works in Falam and Haka yesterday, stressing the importance of updated infrastructure in fostering national growth.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, accompanied by Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut, U

Kyaw Myo, U Kyaw Lin and U Soe Aung, permanent secretaries, directors general and officials, left Nay Pyi Taw by Myanmar National Airline and arrived at Mandalay International Airport yesterday morning.

First, the Vice President and party observed the airport works conducted at the Mandalay In-

ternational Airport.

Next, MC-Jalux Airport Services Co. Ltd Vice President Mr. Futoshi Hiroi gave a briefing about the airport works to the Vice President and party in the VIP hall of Mandalay International Airport.

After the explanation, the Vice President made comments

on how to improve and develop airports as the number of international tourists has been increasing.

The Vice President and party then left Mandalay International Airport by Myanmar National Airlines and arrived in Sagaing Region, Kalay Township, where they were welcomed by

Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bwe, state ministers and officials. They met with the Chin State Chief Minister, Chin State Hluttaw Speaker, state ministers and officials in the regional military command (Kalay) Aungzeya guest house.

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Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint attends discussion on development of Myanmar movie industry

A forum on the Transformation of the Censorship System, jointly organized by the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO) and Forever Group Company Limited, was held yesterday morning at the Park Royal Hotel, Alanpya Pagoda Road, Yangon.

In his speech at the forum, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said censorship before publishing is practiced only in countries where there is limited freedom. However, censorship is still practiced in the filming of movies, even in the world's most free countries, though there are differences in the way it is practiced. "With regards to the Transformation of the Censorship System, we are here to discuss the censorship system and how it will be transformed. When we met with representatives of MPA, including U Zin Wine, we didn't hear any mention of censorship being needed, that it is not required or shouldn't be in place. They accept censorship. But they talk about how it should be in place", he said.

"Today's discussions will include foreign experts and, based on our past practices, I foresee that there'll be discussions on the need to reduce (censorship) and to what extent. Arts produced by motion picture artistes are not the responsibility of the government and similar entities. Motion picture artistes are also not responsible toward the government and similar entities. They are responsible to the public, their audience or the people.

"To be responsible towards their audiences, they need to



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint poses for a documentary photo together with officials in attendance at the forum on the Transformation of Censorship System in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

think about the level of acceptance. If they are responsible to the government, the government needs to accept it. If they are responsible towards the public, the public needs to accept it. It is ok if the minority does not accept it, while the majority accepts it. All are of the understanding that they shouldn't do what the majority didn't accept. "Creators of arts need to be responsible toward their audience. It is their duty. At the same time, with a view toward continued existence and development of their art circle, and retaining their good image and reputation, they need to have a self-control mechanism developed among them. Only then will their arts and movies assure that they are sustainably developed.

"We cherish freedom. We support and uplift freedom. The Ministry of Information is ready to do the best it can for the free-

dom and development of art and literature. There are laws that have been enacted. To attain the level that ought to be reached, and when film people discuss systems to censor, the best is through enacting laws. That is why we are trying to complete the motion picture law. During the interim period, discussions should be held on how to relax censorship further, to make it more convenient and to avoid problems. There are things that we are also discussing. Based on these discussions, we'll find the best way to work according to existing laws, rules and regulations.

"MMPO members should also study the rules and regulations and find ways to increase freedom without breaking any rules and regulations. Suggest to us. Discuss. We will also cooperate to make the situation the best", said the Union Minister.

Also, Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee Secretary Dr. Than Win, Amyotha Hluttaw Government's guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee Chairman U Thein Swe and MPA Patron Sithu U Kyi Soe Tun delivered remarks on the Motion Picture Law, censorship policies and development of Myanmar's movie industry.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, senior officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and officials in attendance, along with the MMPO patron, chairman, local and foreign movie personnel and producers took a commemorative group photo. This was followed by by MPA Chairman U Zin Wine, joint secretary Academy U Zaw Myint Oo from the directors' circle, National University of Arts and Culture motion picture depart-

ment head (retired) Academy Ko Ko Lay from the script circle and Myanmar movie development department head (retired) U Thein Tun Aung from the producers circle read papers, entitled "Future aim of the motion picture circle," "The censorship policy and the wish of motion picture personnel," "Study on censorship policies and suggestions" and "Views that censor board members ought to have on censorship related to creative art works."

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint commented on the discussions.

In the afternoon, Head of Censorship of CH3 from Thailand Mr. Prapat Supthaveethanakij, Korea Media Rating Board Director-General Choon Sung, Ms. Minhee Kim on behalf of HAM, Ms. Elizabeth Rose Siguion-Reyna, Philippines Board Member of MTRCB, The Close-Captioning Committee and Ms Atty Maria Gabriela Concepcion, Philippines Board Member of MTRCB of the Revision of Laws Committee Member of the Adjudication Committee (MTRCB) participated in the Forum.

The discussions were attended by officials from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, MMPO patron, chairman and movie artistes, technicians, producers, foreign movie personnel and invited guests. Discussions and training focusing on the development of Myanmar's movie industry, will be held five times this year, while the Forum on the Transformation of Censorship met for the first time.—(Myanmar News Agency) ■

Maungtaw's development reviewed

TWO Rakhine State ministers and department officials inspected the development works underway in Maungtaw Township yesterday.

U Aung Kyaw Zan, the Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation, and U Kyaw Lwin, the Rakhine State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Mines, were the two ministers who led the group in their inspection of a project to upgrade Angumaw-Maungtaw Road. The project is supported by Asia World Foundation and is led by U Aung

Sein, the project engineer.

The ministers listened to the project engineer's presentation on the project's progress and then offered advice.

Asia World Foundation is a member of the infrastructure team, which is one of nine task forces under the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) in Rakhine. The road upgrading project began in November 2017. The road is 49.6 miles long and measures 18 feet wide and is 9 inches high. A team of 1,500 workers and 200

machines work two shifts a day on the project. The ministers and entourage also visited the batching plant where the concrete cement for the road is produced.

The group then travelled to Myinlut Village to inspect the clearance of the land and went on to Kinchaung Village to inspect the ARG rice husk grinding process. The group then travelled to Hla Poe Kaung Camp to meet with internally displaced persons (IDPs). A camp official gave a tour of the construction of 159 small buildings that can house 6 individuals each. The



Rakhine State Ministers U Aung Kyaw Zan and U Kyaw Lwin inspect upgrading the Angumaw-Maungtaw Road in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN**

official explained that in one week, the camp will be ready to house about 8,000 individuals. Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan then

gave guidance on setting up an electric grid and building roads for the camp.—Aung Ye Thwin, Ko Min ■

VP inspects airport, road, water infrastructure projects in Chin State

FROM PAGE-1

During the meeting, Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai and Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department Director U Khin Zaw explained about preventive works against flooding in Chin State, Khaikam Township.

The Vice President and party then inspected the Kalay-Taingen Road upgrading work conducted with the assistance of JICA, and the axis of a new detour road to avoid the four steps bends between milepost 27/4 and 28/4 on Kalay-Falam-Haka Road, where Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin and officials provided explanations. Upon arrival at the construction briefing hall in Taingen, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin and officials explained about the roads and bridges in Chin State.

Next, the Vice President arrived in Falam (Surbung) new air-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the construction of Falam airport project. PHOTO: MNA

port project briefing hall, where Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin and officials explained ongoing projects. The Vice President said the project was to be implemented systematically and to obtain the

assistance and support of foreign experts and technologies in constructing airports. The state government was to assist in obtaining adequate electricity and water for the project, added the Vice President.

The Falam (Surbung) airport is 8.5 miles west of Falam town and is situated on the Surung mountain range. The 6,000 ft. long, 100 ft. wide runway will accommodate the landing of ATR 72 aircrafts, it is learnt.

The Vice President went on to inspect the construction of a retaining wall between mile post 85/2 and 85/3 on Kalay-Falam-Haka road and then reached the briefing hall of Laibar Dam, where State Chief Minister, Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department Director U Khin Zaw and officials gave a presentation on the Laibar Dam, the status of lower Laibar Dam construction works, inflow of water into the dam and distribution of water to Falam and Haka townships. In response to the explanation, the Vice President said priority should be given to providing clean water, to utilize the water efficiently, to protect the natural environment in water distribution and basin area of the dam in order to use it for the long term and to conduct a feasibility study on water distribution pipework. — Myanmar News Agency ■

UEC chairman receives head of Asia Foundation

UNION Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein received the delegation led by Mr. David Dale Arnold, Chairman of the Asia Foundation, at the UEC offices in Nay Pyi Taw Friday. During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning the 2017 by-election, better arrangements for the coming election, the three main parts of the election by UEC (listing the voters, the procedures of Sub-UEC, prior-man-

agement of election process), the kind of Election System which will be adopted in Myanmar, preparations made by the UEC for holding the 2020 election, challenges which would be faced in the election process, providing assistance to voters who will disseminate election information using IT, sharing educative talks, and the condition of the elections which will be held in Myanmar.— MNA ■

KIA armed group attacks Regional Headquarters in Kachin State

ON 31 January, armed KIA militants attacked military headquarters and security camps in Moe Kaung Township in Myitkyina, using small arms and heavy guns.

On the evening of 31 January at about 11:30 p.m., armed KIA militants attacked military headquarters in Moe Kaung Township in Myitkyina, firing heavy guns from 2300 meters away, but there were no injuries. However, an unexploded-107mm-bomb was discovered some 2000 meters from the military headquarters.

Also, on the morning of 3 February at about 3:30 a.m. a force of some 15 armed militants attacked the military headquarters in Moe Kaung Township in

Myitkyina, shooting heavy arms from a distance of 5000 meters, with explosions being detonated some 1000 meters from the military headquarters.

Further, on the morning of 3 February at about 3:30 a.m. a force of some 60 militants attacked a military camp with small arms and heavy guns, and an explosion occurred about 100 meters from the camps. Moreover, on the morning of 3 February at about 4:50 a.m., a force of some 50 militants attacked military camps in Lwele village, Moe Kaung Township in Myitkyina, with small arms and heavy guns, with some injuries being reported during the attacks.—MNA ■

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko receives Chairman of HWPL

THE Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received Mr. Man Hee Lee, chairman of the Seoul, Korea-based Heavenly Culture, World Peace Restoration Light (HWPL) at the Lotus Hotel in Yangon on Friday.

In the meeting, the HWPL chairman said he and his group learned a lot from their visit to Myanmar. His group includes a women group leader and youth group leaders. He met with multiple religious representatives and multiple ethnic nationals in Myanmar and said he was impressed with the works being conducted for unity.

The HWPL chairman said he thinks peace in Myanmar can be achieved. He has seen difficulties in other countries where multi-ethnic nationals govern, when the majority governs over the minority.

“There shouldn’t be a place without peace, as the whole world is developing. For multi-religion unity, each needs to have within them the will for peace. While visiting the whole world, more than 100 religions were found.

Each are said to be good by their believers. It is important to read the soul of each religion. Individuals need to negotiate



PHOTO: MNA

with others on religion, politics and social matters to achieve unity”, he said.

Mr. Man Hee Lee stressed that multi-religion unity is required for peace. In speaking with the believers of a religion, it was found that they sometimes believed in their religion but didn’t understand their religion correctly.

“There can be progress in a religion, but if there are extreme thoughts and beliefs, there can be conflicts. Even if a country had multiple religions, there’ll be development if unity is achieved”, he said.

The chairman added that for bilateral peace, youth groups and women groups should invite one another to meet and discuss.

The Union Minister noted that attempts toward multi-religion unity are being made in

Myanmar and efforts are being made toward preventing hate speech.

“Various religious leaders led by Multi-Religion Unity and Friendship Organisation Chairman Dr. Tha Nyan are cooperating with responsible officials to achieve multi-religion unity. It is an honour to see HWPL as a private entity, drawing up a Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War, opening HWPL WARP (Heavenly Culture, World Peace Restoration of Light World Alliance of Religions-Peace) offices for religious unity and establishing a HWPL peace academy school”, the Union Minister said.

They then exchanged views on raising religious unity, matters relating to multi-religion unity, culture, world peace and internal peace. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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Rental market active in Yangon real-estate market

ONLY the rental market is active in the Yangon real-estate market, according to U Sai Khon Naung, chairman of Yangon Region Real-Estate Entrepreneurs' Association.

"The rental market is leading in six downtown townships, as well as outside the downtown area. Some are renting as residences while others are renting to open companies and shops," he added.

The rental price of a house in the downtown area costs between Ks180,000 and Ks300,000 per month, depending on the floor level and room condition. The rental price of a condominium costs between Ks1.5 million and Ks2.5 million, depending on the location and floor level.

The rental price of a house outside the downtown



The real estate market in Yangon is leading in downtown than other towns. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

area costs between Ks65,000 and Ks150,000. Most people rent houses for six months, 10 months or a year. Few people are renting

rooms that require deposits.

These days, people are renting rooms for the long term, because if they want to stay another

year, they have to make a new contract, as well as pay the broker, said a renter who lives in Mayangone Township.—GNLM ■

Prices of green gram decline in Thonegwa market

THE price of green grams has steadily declined during the first week of February due to a massive influx of green grams into the market this month, according to wholesalers.

Prices of green gram fell to Ks33,000 on 3 February, from

Ks36,000 per basket of 20 viss (approximately 32 pounds) on 31 January.

Growers cultivate green gram beginning in mid-November, and it is normally harvested in the middle of February.

The region mainly grows

two types of green grams—Yayzin and Shwewah. Of the two crops, Yayzin usually is assured a good price in the market. Farmers often store their crops, while waiting for market prices to rise.

U Myint Naing, one of the growers from Nankhale Village, said he planted 10-acres of Shwewah green gram this season, spending Ks244,500 per acre of plantation. Thanks to the good weather, growers in the village are expecting a bumper harvest this season. An acre planted with green gram can produce roughly 14 baskets, with an estimated value of Ks2.175 million.

Myanmar imports green grams to China, Viet Nam and other countries.—Ko Kyaw (Thonegwa) ■



Harvested green gram. **PHOTO: KO KYAW (THONEGWA)**

Government's imports of intermediate goods decline slightly

THE imports of intermediate goods by the Myanmar government during the current fiscal year totalled US\$146.595 million, a small decrease in value of US\$3.842 million against the same period in the last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The country imported more than \$6 billion worth of intermediate goods to international trade partners, as of 26 January, 2018, which was an increase of \$1.412 billion over the similar period in the last FY. Despite the decrease in the value of intermediate goods by the government sector, private sector imports of intermediate goods increased by \$1.416 billion. At the same time during the last FY, private importers purchased \$4.511 billion worth of similar products. The ministry's figures report that the country's total import value exceeded \$15.126 billion in the current FY, comprising \$841 million from the government, plus \$14.284 billion from private importers.

When compared with the previous FY, total import figures increased by \$2.042 billion.

Myanmar conducts external trade primarily through sea routes, as well as importing capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer products.—Khine Khant ■

Foreign demand leads to high corn prices this year

WITH the Chinese New Year approaching, corn prices are high this year, double that of last year, according to a report yesterday in Myawady Daily .

A viss (1.6 kg) of corn seeds produced from Naungcho, northern Shan State,

fetches Ks560-600, before quality testing. Therefore, the price of corn is likely to rise in the domestic market.

One ear of corn was worth below Ks100 last year, whereas this year, it has reached Ks130 to 140. China's high demand

has contributed to the rising prices.

Pathein and Nyaungdon towns in Ayeyawady Region supply corn to the Yangon market. Some merchants export corn to China through the border gates. — GNLM ■

Gold entrepreneurs happy over gold import-export permit

May Thet Hnin

GOLD and jewellery products are allowed to be exported and imported, leaving gold entrepreneurs satisfied, according to the Commerce Ministry's announcement released on 22 January.

"There was illegitimate import and export via border channels. It is great that the government has now given a green light to the import and export of gold and jewellery products," said U Kyaw Win from U Htone Goldsmith and Jewellery shop, and chairman of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

This permit will not cause any adverse effect to the gold market, he added.

U Ohn Myaing, vice-chairman of the Myanmar Gold Development Public Company Limited,

said that businessmen selling and buying gold are interested in this announcement. At present, it does not apply to them, but they might prepare for it in the near future.

"Gold prices fluctuate within hours and so, a quick response from the departments concerned is needed. Related officials told us that they will make efforts to provide a one-stop service," said U Kyaw Win.

Export and import of gold and jewellery products are valid for sea routes, border trade and air routes. International buyers can transfer payments, Letters of Credit (L/Cs) or telegraphic transfer systems, regulated by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Seeking import and export licences and registration, and

evaluating price, value, quality and volume, are obligatory for importers and exporters.

Registration requires a certificate from the Myanmar Gems Enterprise and the Department of Mines, or a business permit from the Yangon City Development Committee.

A committee to observe and control the market, including officials from the Planning and Finance Ministry, Commerce Ministry, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Ministry, Education Ministry Research, and representatives from the Myanmar Central Gold Committee will appraise the quality, value, price and volume of gold and jewellery products, and give approval for their import and export.

If unscrupulous activities

are discovered, those committing fraud will be given one warning. If they commit an offence a second time, their import-export licence will be revoked and actions, according to the law, will be taken against them.

This permit for gold imports and exports aims to eradicate illegal trade, earn revenue for the country and maintain the market's stability. It also seeks to assure that Myanmar's gold products are able to penetrate the global gold market, according to an official statement of the Commerce Ministry.

Otherwise, gold products of good quality might flow into the local market from abroad. Local goldsmiths and entrepreneurs need to upgrade the quality of gold and works of art, said gold businessmen.

"Myanmar's gold quality can compete with that of foreign countries. However, we cannot keep up with their goldsmith techniques and printmaking techniques. Only 30 per cent of goldsmiths have upgraded their artworks and techniques, whereas the rest still stick to traditional techniques. Our gold products will only meet international quality standards with the concerted efforts of goldsmiths engaged in the supply chain," said U Ohn Myaing.

Foreign gold products are created with the use of print-making techniques, so, they are neatly manufactured. These techniques require more volume than Myanmar's traditional goldsmiths use, and can produce beautiful designs with a small volume of gold. ■

YSX stock trading value drops in Jan 2018



People seen outside Yangon Stock Exchange in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

DESPITE the debut of TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd. on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX), the trading of stock by five companies listed on YSX in January 2018 reached Ks1.21 billion, a decrease by half, as compared to the last Fiscal Year (FY).

In the similar period last year, the value of traded stock was Ks2.82 billion. The decline in stock-trading value was attributed to decreasing share prices.

TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd. debuted on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) on 26 January, 2018, trading some 9,788 shares, valued at Ks31.4 billion. The base price of TMH

is Ks3,000, which is much lower than those of four other listed companies. A unit of TMH shares now costs Ks3,100.

Shares of five listed companies—First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB) and TMH—are currently being traded on YSX.

A single share price of FMI declined from Ks14,000 on 2 January, 2017, to Ks12,000 on 29 December. A share price of MTSH decreased from Ks4,500 on 2 January to Ks3,000 on 29 December. MCB's price also declined from Ks9,600 to 8,200.

More than 2.5 million

shares were traded in 2016, with estimated values of Ks70 billion. In 2017, despite the increase in stock-trading volume of 2.6 million, trading value was only Ks22 billion, according to YSX's statistics.

The stock-trading value hit the highest point of Ks3.4 billion in March, whereas trading in December reached an all-time low of some Ks850 million.

YSX failed to attract local stock traders, even after publicity campaigns and discussions, expos and educational talks about the stock market. YSX was criticized and had to face a cool market, while reducing the share prices of listed companies. —GNLM ■

Myanmar plans to import California's Hass avocado variety

TO penetrate more foreign markets, the Hass avocado variety of Californian origin may be imported into the country, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

"China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Thailand have proposed a purchase order for this variety of avocado. They will buy as much as we supply. So, we are planning to grow this variety. We can get this variety if the concerned authorities help bring it in. Apart from the Hass variety, foreign buyers place orders for other local varieties too," U Lin Thant Aung, secretary of southern Shan State Avocado

Growers Group, told Myawady Daily. The Hass variety needs to be grown at 3,000 feet above sea level to produce quality avocados; Shan State is suitable for this.

This variety comprises 80 per cent of the global market. High consumption across the globe drives local growers to adopt this variety in the country. The avocado varieties, which are the choices at Myanmar's avocado competition, will be reproduced by grafting. To satisfy foreign demand, the Hass variety and the local varieties will be distributed to 10 towns in southern Shan State. —GNLM ■

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Pho Kyar Elephant Camp increases visitors during holidays

THE number of visitors to Pho Kyar Elephant Camp is increasing during the holidays, according to an official from Myanmar Timber Enterprise.

The admission fee for a local visitor is Ks1,000 and a foreign visitor is Ks10,000, while fees for elephant riding are Ks3,000 for local residents and Ks 10,000 for foreign visitors.

"As a special program, entertainment by the elephants is being arranged for visitors at the camp.

The number of visitors increases at the camp during holidays. We present elephant performances two times a day, in the morning and evening.

We also arrange for visitors to feed elephants and bathe elephants by themselves.

Visitors can also relax at lodges at our camps. The rental fee for a lodge is Ks25,000. Souvenir shops are also open in our camp," said U Lin Aung Soe from Myanmar Timber Enterprise.



Visitors enjoy riding on a elephant at Pho Kyar Elephant Resort. **PHOTO: HANNY**

The elephant camp is located in Yedashe Township, Toungoo District, Bago Region. There are 13 adult elephants and one baby elephant in the camp. —Shin Min ■

Individual imports from borders exceed Ks31 billion in current FY

BORDER imports using individual trading cards (ITCs) topped Ks31.349 billion this fiscal year, while individual exports were Ks3.509 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Of the nation's 15 active borders, Myanmar imported a wide variety of commodities through 11 borders, including at Tamu, Muse, Myawady, Tachilek, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpaiktee, Kawthaung, Reed, Htantalan and Mawtaung.

At the cross-border gates, individual imports from Myawady border gate ranked first, both for its volume of trade and its value, followed by Kanpaiktee with Ks1.6 billion, Mawtaung at Ks996 million, Reed at Ks760 million, Kawthaung reported at Ks674 million, Htantalan with Ks628 million and Tachilek at Ks600 million.

The ministry's statistical report indicated that the value of trade from the remaining border points was lower than Ks400 million. The total individ-

ual trade from the 12 border entry points, as of January 19, reached Ks34.859 billion.

Since the 2012-2013 FY, the Ministry of Commerce has issued ITCs to border traders, as part of its efforts to boost cross-border trade. From the beginning of the programme, to date, there are some 1,405 ITC holders at the cross-borders. The trade authorities have issued 141 cards

to individual traders this FY.

The ministry is working to expand trade through regional and international cooperation, promote measures to increase exports, and expand trade by means of advanced ITCs, as well as formulate trade policies, in line with the market economic system, and improve the trade environment under its trade policy objectives. —Shwe Khine ■



File photo shows cars passing through the Myawady Border gate. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Police inspector killed in road accident

A POLICE inspector was killed during a collision between a motorbike and a car on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road in Bago Township on Friday evening, according to a police report.

After losing control of his car, driven by 31-year-old Maung Zaw and carrying one passenger, the car struck the rear of a motorbike driven by Police Inspector Kyaw Moe, 52, while travelling to Phayagyi Town from Waw Town.

The accident happened between mile posts No. 62/0 and 61/1 near Pauktawa Village at around

5.35 p.m. on Friday.

Due to the collision, the police inspector was thrown off the road on impact and was immediately taken to the nearest hospital by local residents, while the driver of the car fled from the scene.

Police Inspector Kyaw Moe died at about 8.35 p.m. at Yangon General Hospital, according to officials.

Charges to be filed against Maung Zaw include hit-and-run and reckless driving, as defined in Section 304 (a) of the Penal Code. —Tin Soe (Bago) ■

Elderly couple found murdered, police seek suspect

AN elderly couple was found dead in their home in Thayetkyin Village, Depeyin Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Region, on Friday evening, according to the police.

Investigators say the 81-year-old man and his 77-year-old wife had serious injuries and were found by villagers as they lay in separate pools of blood in their home at around 5.30 p.m. on Friday. Tun Win, 47, has since been charged with the murder of the couple under Section 302

of the Penal Code. According to a police report, the suspect has a serious mental illness and was treated for 15 days at Mandalay's Mental Health Hospital during the past four years. According to the investigation, Tun Win bludgeoned the old man while he was asleep in his bed. The suspect later killed the wife when she returned from a neighbour's house.

The investigation is continuing, prior to arresting the suspect. —Myo Min Tun (Monywa) ■

Yaba tablets seized in Meiktila

POLICE have seized yaba tablets from the houses of two persons in Meiktila on 1 February.

Acting on a tip, the police searched the house of a person identified as Ma Mi khine, alias Ma Win Khine, at 9 Street, Pyay Tha Yar Ward, in Meiktila on 1 February. Ma Mi Khine escaped from the house before the police arrived. The police raided the house and seized 250 yaba tablets, weighing 25 grams and worth Ks750,000, and 25 juice pipes. On the same day, the police searched the house

of another person identified as Wanna Kyaw, 25, in Pyay Tha Yar Ward in Meiktila and seized 350 yaba tablets, weighing 35 grams and worth Ks1,050,000; 35 juice pipes; Ks240,000 in cash; and a mobile phone SIM card from the house. The police also captured Ma Lwan, alias Ma Lwan Lwan Khine, 38, along with the host. Charges have been filed against all the suspects under section 15/19-A /21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — U Chan Thar (township reporter) ■

Continuous isolated rain likely in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State

CONTINUOUS Isolated rain is expected in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, according to the Daily Weather Report from the Department of Methodology and Hydrology.

The outlook until noon today is for rain in isolated areas in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. There is a cer-

tainly of rain of 80%, as there is expected to be few clouds, to partly cloudy, over the Andaman Sea and South Bay, and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters, with wave heights of 2 to 5 feet along Myanmar Coasts. —GNLM ■



Troops of the Tatmadaw take part in a military exercise at Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Troops of the Tatmadaw take part in a military exercise at Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief observes second part of Sinbyushin military exercise

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observed the second part of the Tatmadaw army, navy, and air forces combined military exercise, named Sinbyushin, held in the Southwest Command Pathen cantonment.

The exercise was conducted to assure the security and defence of the country and to raise the capability of the military in conducting conventional warfare.

Upon the arrival of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party at the observation post to observe the exercise of the assault across river, the river crossings were conducted according to schedule by the river crossing assault force, special naval operation forces, infantry and armored forces. At the same time, Tatmadaw air conducted battlefield area search and rescue operations.

While these operations were underway, helicopter borne troops conducted a surprise attack on enemy camps, while airborne troops parachuted and captured enemy command and logistic bases. Tatmadaw air fighters and helicopters attacked enemy positions as heavy artillery struck enemy positions. Infantry and armor then crossed the river, as Tatmadaw naval ships attacked enemy ships that were bringing reinforcements.

Assigned forces attacked and occupied designated positions, after which ammunition and rations were air dropped.

Also, wounded troops were transported by ambulance, while critically wounded troops were evacuated by helicopter. The exercise then came to a conclusion.

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing commended the Tatmadaw personnel who participated in the exercise, and remarked on reviewing the exercises to correct those weaknesses and faults he observed. Similar combined exercise of Tatmadaw were twice conducted 20 years ago.

To conduct this exercise, preparations were held and, based on the experience of those preparation exercises, the combined exercises of Tatmadaw was held. The defence of a country could not be conducted without systematic exercises. Exercises need to be conducted individually, with sections, platoons, regimental and finally be combined into a combined exercise of army, navy, and air forces, noted the Senior General.

Afterwards, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief was presented with a Tatmadaw joint military exercise (Sinbyushin) commemorative medal by Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Maung Maung Aye. The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief later met with the news media and answered questions. The day's exercise is the second part of the army, navy and air combined exercise, and included water crossing assault exercises. — Myanmar News Agency



Troops of the Tatmadaw take part in a military exercise at Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Troops of the Tatmadaw take part in a military exercise at Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Work guidelines for Hluttaw representatives

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has pointed out that it is correct to say that democracy starts from the Hluttaw.

For the smooth running of the government machinery and stability of the country, laws are enacted in the Hluttaw, and for laws to be enacted, Hluttaw representatives from all over the country coordinate for the entire union. The State Counsellor noted that the Hluttaw includes representatives from various ethnic groups and political parties, and the differences between representatives are recognized and accepted in order to achieve the unity required to maintain the union. The State Counsellor made these statements in order to point out the essence of a democratic system.

The State Counsellor added that all Hluttaw representatives, including the Tatmadaw representatives, need to cooperate and work together in the spirit of being of the same nationality, which is one of the main points of the democratic transition and national reconciliation.

The statement of the State Counsellor on democracy noted that the system is not without its faults, but remains the best system that respects all people, which is something all ethnic nationals and the public should bear in mind.

Hluttaw representatives need to take note of the differentiation made by the State Counsellor between those who are focused only on politics and those who work for the good of the country. The State Counsellor pointed out that those who play politics are only concerned about the next election, while those who are in the political arena for the good of the country consider the next election as a voice of support for their work for the next generation.

Responsible officials from the judicial, legislative and administrative sectors need to ensure that no one is doing anything wrong, in

a spirit of comradeship that is based upon trust, said the State Counsellor. All who serve the country need to bear in mind this point and carry it out in daily practice.

With regards to the words “opposition” and “opposition party,” the State Counsellor pointed out that, “The Opposition sometimes helps for the sake of the country. Sometimes, they cooperate. Sometimes, they point out. Sometimes they criticize, when criticism is due. An opposition should not be considered as the enemy. Unity needs to be built on diversity.” The State Counsellor added that all Hluttaw representatives, including the Tatmadaw representatives, need to cooperate and work together in the spirit of being of the same nationality, which is one of the main points of the democratic transition and national reconciliation. In conclusion, all Hluttaw representatives should bear in mind the words of the State Counsellor: “In marching towards the Federal Democratic Republic that all yearn for, Hluttaw representatives should be at the forefront when needed. If they need to, they should also be at the back to cover the rear. If they need to, they should also be at the side to cover the flanks” as a work guideline. ■

Union Day, celebrating national spirit

By Thein Tun (IR)

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar commemorates 71 years of Union Day, which has passed through many decades and different political systems in the history of Myanmar.

Compared to the human lifespan, Union Day seems like an elderly man who has had many life experiences. Therefore the assumption can be made that the young should learn more from the elderly men who have knowledge and experience in life. So it is with Union Day, which has gone through bittersweet experiences over the years.

Union Day is regarded as a fortuitous day in Myanmar's history, and it also represents the future.

The essence of Union Day can awaken the Union Spirit, which can achieve internal peace and stability for the country.

No one can deny the fact that this auspicious day can foster the establishment of a democratic federal union, which can enhance the national spirit among the ethnic races.

At the time of the British annexation of Myanmar in 1886, Myanmar was not a unified country. The central parts of Myanmar were indeed settled by the Myanmar people, but the peripheral areas were populated by various smaller tribes and ethnic races.

After World War II, Bogoyoke Aung San led a group that opposed both fascism and British colonial rule. He had essentially become head of the state and led the peace



negotiations that culminated in the Panglong Agreement of February 12th, 1947.

The Panglong Agreement was negotiated among Bogoyoke Aung San, leaders from the Shan, Kachin, Chin, and other states, and the British government.

Looking back at the history of the independence of Myanmar, it can be seen that ethnic national leaders signed the Panglong agreement in unity and achieved

independence.

Union Day shows the unity of ethnic brothers and sisters and has been celebrated every year for 71 years.

Union Day has been celebrated every year so that the future generations know that independence was achieved when unity was achieved, and thus to value the unity of the ethnic nationals in the same way as valuing our own lives.

In order to carry out this ob-

The European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC), formed from national science academies of EU members, has reviewed scientific evidence about several options for removing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere with so-called negative emission technologies.

Examples of such technologies include the direct capture of CO2 and trapping it underground (carbon capture and storage); afforestation and reforestation; land management to increase and fix carbon in soils and ocean fertilisation.

The EASAC, which advises European policymakers, said these technologies have “limited realistic potential to remove carbon from the atmosphere” and not at the scale in some climate forecasts, such as several gigatonnes of carbon each year after 2050. Their deployment on a large scale would also involve high economic costs and have major impacts on terrestrial or marine ecosystems, the EASAC said in a report.

“Technologies capable of taking out CO2 from the atmosphere are certainly no silver bullet - a point that should drive

Union Day is regarded as a fortuitous day in Myanmar's history, and it also represents the future.



He said that the people trying to sow discord among them have underestimated them.

“We are not dumb. We will risk our lives to realise the freedom we desire!” he is said to have said.

I feel his words were full of patriotism and hope. Perhaps we should view the entire story of that day, rather than focus on just the treaty.

In 2011, most of Myanmar unanimously started on the track to a democratic transition. There are still some who wish to, but have yet to join this peace process. Peace is not the absence of conflict, but rather it is finding a

solution to conflict without the use of violence. Thus, it would be more wholesome for the future of Myanmar to be constructed by all of the people of Myanmar, all ethnicities from all regions.

Even after 70 years, we are still caught in the aftereffects of imperialism, squabbling amongst ourselves. We should be careful not to destroy what Bogoyoke Aung San had envisioned for us. This doesn't mean we need to risk our lives as he did. Instead, we need to keep our egos and pride in check. ■

Translation by
Win Ko Ko Aung and
Zaw Htet Oo

CO2 removal ‘no silver bullet’ to fighting climate change-scientists

- * CO2 removal technologies have limited contribution to make
- * More effort needed to reduce CO2 emissions

By Nina Chestney

LONDON— Technologies to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to help tackle global warming only have limited potential and more effort should be made to reduce emissions, European scientists said in a report on Wednesday.

Proposals to use climate technologies, ranging from spraying sun-dimming chemicals high above the Earth to

capturing and storing carbon dioxide underground, have been gaining more attention as the urgency to act on climate change mounts.

Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, world governments have agreed to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels but a large gap remains between countries' emissions plans and the reductions needed.

policymakers to renewed efforts to accelerate emissions reductions,” the report said.

However, the world will need all possible tools to limit warming and some of these technologies can make contributions to remove CO2 from the atmosphere even now, while further research, development and demonstration may allow others to make a limited future contribution,” it added.

Commenting on the report, Andrew Watson, Royal Society Research Professor at the University of Exeter said that while some technologies for removing

CO2 from the atmosphere could have a role to play in reducing climate change, all have drawbacks making them difficult to use them on a large scale.

“So our main focus and best hope for avoiding the worst effects of climate change still needs to be reducing our emissions,” he added.

Last week, a leaked draft U.N. report said there is a high chance that the levels of CO2 removal which might be required to meet the Paris goals might not be feasible due to the required scale and speed of technology deployment. —Reuters ■

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

The global E-commerce and paypal account

Htay Win

E-commerce is the transaction for selling or buying through online. In other words, E-commerce is doing business using the internet. We can sell and buy services and products through online. The fast internet system, the international banking system and good logistics reinforce to become the healthy ecommerce. The history of the ecommerce started around 1960s. But, Ecommerce was stronger and popular in 1980s across the world.

Trading played the important role for the human civilization. So, the first marketplace for the trading in the world history was the open air market. From the first idea, the humans invented super markets and shopping malls. They are easy to buy and sell in the same place with convenience and efficiency. The last marketplace in the world now is online. We can save time and we have a variety of choices for the products and services with honest reviews. Nowadays, the founders of the ecommerce are getting richer and richer in the world.

To have strong and healthy economy in the country, the banking reforms should follow the telecommunication reforms. Thank you, President Thein Sein for your amazing telecommunication reforms after waiting for many years. Now, everybody can use the smart phones. Previously, the experts from the telecommunication sector said, “ It is impossible to get the Sim card number with one USD”. Myanmar people had to give two thousand USD for one Sim card number while the people from other countries were using the Sim card with one USD. There is no country with unique characteristics in the world. There are no people with unique characteristics in the world. Every country is the same with different systems. Everybody is the same with greed, anger and ignorance. Myanmar is a Buddhist country. We should have the less greed, anger and ignorance.

Life is limited. We, our generations, need time for getting good jobs, enough money, married and reproducing children. We have been waiting for the banking reforms for a long time. Gradually, we are getting older and older waiting for the banking reforms in Myanmar. The countries which can use Paypal account can participate in the global ecommerce. Every country in the Southeast Asia can participate in the global ecommerce apart from Myanmar. Fresh graduates with good English in Myanmar are desperate for the jobs. The global ecommerce can provide the employment for them.

The global E-commerce is impossible without paypal account. Paypal account is an online payments system which is widely used in the world to transfer the money. It is secure and fast to make the payments. To open the paypal account, we need Master or Visa card. In my country, we cannot receive the payments through paypal account because we cannot receive the foreign transaction through the card system such as Master or Visa. But, we can make payments to the foreign countries through the card system such as Master or Visa. So, the people can buy things, but they cannot sell them. Thus, it is a barrier to participate in the global E-commerce for getting the foreign exchange for the country. ■

With an eye on Russia, US to increase nuclear capabilities

WASHINGTON — Concerned about Russia's growing tactical nuclear weapons, the United States will expand its nuclear capabilities, a policy document released on Friday said, a move some critics say could increase the risk of miscalculation between the two countries.

It represents the latest sign of hardening resolve by President Donald Trump's administration to address challenges from Russia, at the same time he is pushing for improved ties with Moscow to rein in a nuclear North Korea.

The focus on Russia is in line with the Pentagon shifting priorities from the fight against Islamist militants to "great power competition" with Moscow and Beijing.

"Our strategy will ensure Russia understands that any use of nuclear weapons, however limited, is unacceptable," the document, known as the Nuclear Posture Review, said.

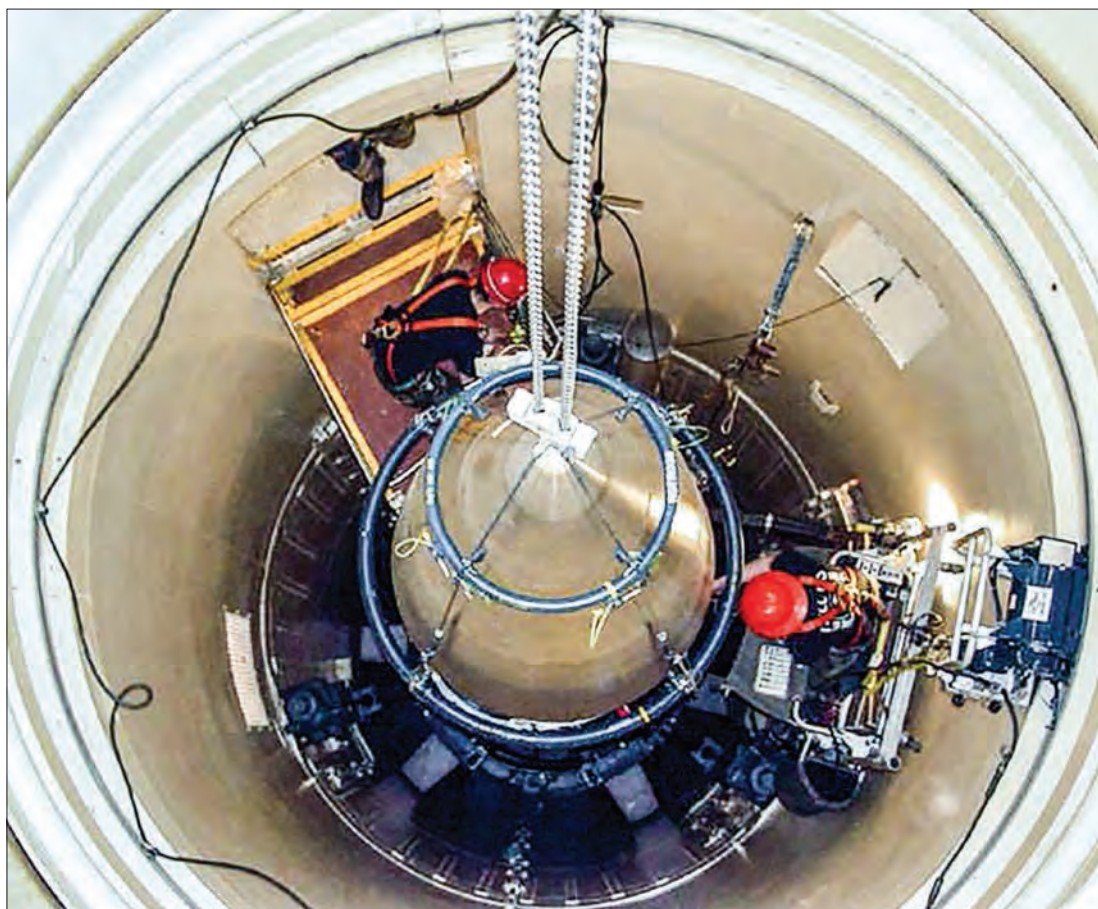
The rationale for building up new nuclear capabilities, US officials said, is that Russia currently perceives the United States' nuclear posture and capabilities as inadequate.

By expanding its own low-yield nuclear capability, the United States would deter Russia from using nuclear weapons, US officials argue.

Low-yield nuclear weapons, while still devastating, have a strength of less than 20 kilotons. The atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima had about the same explosive power.

The argument for these weapons is that larger nuclear bombs are so catastrophic that they would never be used and do not work as an effective deterrent. With less power and destruction, the low-yield option would potentially be more likely to be used, serving as an effective deterrent.

The Pentagon document, which is largely in line with the previous review in 2010, said the United States will modify a small number of submarine-launched ballistic missile warheads with low-yield options.



A US Air Force missile maintenance team removes the upper section of an intercontinental ballistic missile with a nuclear warhead in an undated USAF photo at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. Reviews of the US nuclear arsenal show significant changes are needed to ensure the security and effectiveness of the force, a Defence Department report said on 14 November, 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

In the long term, the US military will also develop a new nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile. The missile could have the less powerful option, but a decision has not been made, and will take up to a decade to develop, officials said.

Greg Weaver, deputy director of strategic capabilities at the Pentagon, said the United States would be willing to limit developing the missile if Russia would "redress the imbalance in non-strategic nuclear forces."

Weaver said the most difficult task for those working on the review was trying to address the gap between Russian and American non-strategic nuclear weapons.

Russia has a stockpile of 2,000 non-strategic nuclear weapons, according to the Pentagon. The US has a few hundred active low-yield weapons deployed in Europe.

The US State Department said it had briefed Russian and Chinese officials on the review.

RESPONDING TO RUSSIA

US officials argue that since the last nuclear review, Russia has expanded and modernized its non-strategic nuclear weapons, annexed Crimea in 2014, and deployed a ground-launched cruise missile that breaches the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty. The treaty bans testing and fielding missiles with ranges of 500-5,500 km (310-3,417 miles). The report also, for the first time publicly, said Russia was developing a hypersonic, nuclear-powered undersea torpedo.

"The US is not arms racing, we are responding to Russian initiative here," Weaver said.

Some experts have questioned the expansion.

Jon Wolfsthal, a former top advisor to President Barack Obama on arms control, said there was a possibility that it could lead to a miscalculation.

"If we put nuclear weap-

ons on cruise missiles and we launch conventional cruise missiles, how does Russia know that they are conventional?" he said.

The document argues that by developing US nuclear responses, it raises the Russian threshold for using the weapons, rather than lowering the US threshold.

Kingston Reif, director for disarmament research at the Arms Control Association advocacy group, said the document could bolster a new kind of arms race.

"It's not an arms race in terms of numbers like during the Cold War, but is an arms race that involves more than just the United States and Russia and it involves upgrading and improving the capability of existing nuclear forces," Reif said.

The review called for continuing the B-83 bomb, the largest nuclear weapon in the US stockpile, until a replacement is found, reversing plans to retire it.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein not expected to leave —White House

WASHINGTON — Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein is expected to remain in his job, a White House spokesman said on Friday, after a memo by congressional Republicans was released alleging bias against President Donald Trump in a probe of Russian meddling in the US presidential election. "No changes are going to be made at the Department of Justice. We fully expect Rod Rosenstein to continue on as the deputy attorney general," White House spokesman Raj Shah told CNN.—Reuters ■

Trump 'inclined' to permit release of Democratic memo after review —White House

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump "would be inclined" to permit the release of a memo written by Democrats that rebuts a Republican document alleging anti-Trump bias at the FBI, if it passes a security and legal review, a White House spokesman told CNN on Friday. "I think the president would be inclined to release the Democratic memo should it come to us and should it be reviewed and gone through the same process and if national security and legal equities review it and say it doesn't challenge sources and methods, the information in it" is accurate, White House spokesman Raj Shah told the network.—Reuters ■

One dead, one missing in chemical plant explosion

JINAN — One person died and another went missing after an explosion ripped through a chemical plant Saturday in east China's Shandong Province, local authorities said. The blast occurred at around 10:50 am at the plant in an economic development zone in Linshu County while maintenance work was under way, according to the county government.—Xinhua ■

Egypt opposition slams President Sisi's warning to opponents

CAIRO — A political coalition including several high-profile Egyptians sharply criticized President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Friday for a speech in which he warned off anyone seeking to challenge his rule, amid growing calls for a boycott presidential elections.

Earlier this week Sisi said additional steps would be taken against anyone looking to upset Egypt's security and warned that the protests of seven years ago, which toppled longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak in 2011, would never happen again.

In a rare public rebuke of Sisi's own remarks, the Civil Democratic Movement called the speech an attempt "to spread fear among Egyptian voters" which "undermines ... the integrity of the electoral competition".

Former military commander Sisi was elected in 2014, a year after leading the army to



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. PHOTO: REUTERS

the ousting of Islamist President Mohamed Mursi. He is expected to easily win a vote slated for 26-28 March.

The Civil Democratic Movement includes several notable figures, including a former presidential contender as well as Hesham Genena, a former anti-corruption watchdog head who had been campaigning for

former military chief of staff Sami Anan, Sisi's top opponent before he was arrested.

The statement follows growing calls to boycott the March vote after all major opposition campaigns withdrew citing intimidation. Anan himself was arrested and halted his presidential bid after the army accused him of breaking the law

by running for office without permission.

Sisi now faces a single opponent, who is himself a Sisi supporter, in the March contest.

"Clearing the political space of candidates in the name of preserving security is unconstitutional and does not promote security," the statement said.

Sisi said in the speech that he may call on Egyptians to take to the streets to give him a "mandate" in the face of what he described as "villains," without specifying who he meant.

"We affirm that states are not run by mandates and the mobilization of supporters in orchestrated gatherings, but rather by constitutions and respect for freedoms," the statement said.

"Is this a mandate in order to uphold freedoms? Or to crush opposition? Or to violate the constitution?" it said.—Reuters ■

Syrian Kurdish forces say fighter mutilated by Turkey-backed rebels

BEIRUT — Kurdish forces in Syria said on Friday one of their fighters was mutilated by Turkey-backed rebels, referencing a video circulating on social media.

Turkey launched an air and ground offensive last month against Kurdish fighters who control the northwest Syrian region of Afrin on the Turkish border, opening a new front in Syria's multi-sided war now approaching its eighth year.

The Kurdish-led administration of northeast Syria said Barin Kobane, a fighter with the Kurdish YPJ militia, was killed by Turkey-backed rebels who "played with her corpse and cut it up" as cameras rolled. The YPJ is the all-female affiliate of the Kurdish YPG militia.

"We hold the Turkish government responsible for this heinous act.

We salute the soul of the free resistance (fighter)," it said.

Reuters could not immediately reach Turkish military officials for comment.

The footage showed a bloodied body on the floor. Parts of her torso appeared to have been cut.

The video has caused anger amongst the Kurdish population of northern Syria, a witness said.

Memorial pictures of her are being circulated widely on social media.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said she was killed during fighting in the north of the Afrin region near the Turkish border where Turkey-backed forces have taken some territory since launching its operation last month.

Kobane — her nom de guerre — was in her mid-twenties and joined the YPJ in 2015, a YPG official said. He said she was killed alongside three other fighters near the town of Bulbul.—Reuters ■

Peru rights victims' families ask court to annul Fujimori pardon

SAN JOSE — The families of victims of human rights abuses under former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori testified on Friday at an international human rights tribunal, asking the court to annul the controversial pardon of the former leader late last year.

Fujimori, who served as president during the 1990s, was less than halfway into a 25-year prison term stemming from convictions on human rights abuses when current President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski issued the pardon to the ailing 79-year-old.

While groups such as Amnesty International harshly criticized the pardon, about 65 per cent of Peruvians support it, according to a recent poll.

The pardon was issued on Christmas Eve, and met by thousands of enraged protesters who took to the streets to criticize what many viewed as a miscarriage of justice.

Shortly after he announced his decision, Kuczynski, who was also facing his own possible removal from office by Peru's Congress, described it as a "hu-



Carmen Condor, sister of Amaro Condor, victim of repression amid the ruling of Alberto Fujimori, gestures during a hearing convened by the judges of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San Jose, Costa Rica on 2 February, 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

manitarian pardon."

Critics who accompanied victims' families before the Costa Rica-based Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) on Friday described it very differently.

"The pardon was contrary to law and a measure of impunity that must be revoked," said Viviana Krsticevic, head of the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL).

Krsticevic argued that

Kuczynski's reasoning behind the pardon, details of which were publicly revealed for the first time on Friday, was full of inconsistencies and contradictions.

Lawyers representing the Peruvian government denied the pardon was the result of a political pact between Kuczynski and the Fujimori family, which continues to maintain considerable political influence in the Congress.

"Speculation should be kept

outside the court," said lawyer Adrian Simons.

In late January, Reuters reported that three months before he granted Fujimori the pardon, Kuczynski met the former leader's son, lawmaker Kenji Fujimori, to discuss his release.

At the meeting, Kenji Fujimori offered Kuczynski political support in Congress in return for the pardon.

Simons added that any disagreement over the pardon should be resolved by Peru's justice system and he alleged that the IACHR was being used as a "shortcut."

If the court's resolution, expected in the next few weeks, revokes the pardon, Peru's government is obligated to accept it.

"We hope Fujimori goes back to prison to serve his sentence," said Carmen Amaro, sister of Armando Amaro, who was killed in a 1992 massacre during Fujimori's rule that was cited in his conviction.

"This isn't hatred or revenge," she said. "It's justice."—Reuters ■

Russian machine builder vows to fulfill deliveries of Terminator AFVs by early 2019



The Russian Defence Ministry signed a contract to deliver Terminators during the Army-2017 forum.
PHOTO: TASS

MOSCOW — The implementation of the contract to deliver Terminator tank support armored fighting vehicles will be completed in early 2019, and the army will get the first batch in March-April 2018, the Research and Production Corporation Uralvagonzavod told TASS.

"It [the contract — TASS] is long-term. We plan to deliver the first batch of the tank support fighting vehicles this March-April.

The whole contract will be completed by early 2019. The volume of deliveries is confidential, but overall it provides for the organization of operational testing for these specified products," the corporation said.

Chief of the Main Armored Directorate of the Russian Defence Ministry Lieutenant Gen-

eral Alexander Shevchenko earlier said that the Terminator AFV would become operational in 2017. He noted that "this is a brand-new class of vehicle" "that many countries, chiefly Israel and Syria, are interested in." The general specified that the AFV had successfully passed all test operations.

The Russian Defence Ministry signed a contract to deliver Terminators during the Army-2017 forum. The agreements that the defence ministry and Uralvagonzavod inked then are worth over 24 bln rubles (\$426.3 mln) The Terminator has a 44-tonne combat weight, according to the producer's website. The vehicle is outfitted with two 30-mm-caliber 2A42 automatic guns and 7.62-mm-caliber PKT coaxial tank machine gun.—Tass ■

British Business Bank to provide 100 million pounds to firms hit by Carillion collapse

LONDON — The British Business Bank will provide up to 100 million pounds of lending to small businesses and workers affected by Carillion Plc's (CLLN.L) liquidation, the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) said on Saturday.

The package will benefit businesses, including the construction and outsourcing company's subcontractors who may not have sufficient assets as security for conventional loans.

Carillion's 200-year-old

business collapsed last month when its banks pulled the plug, triggering Britain's biggest corporate failure in a decade and forcing the government to step in to guarantee public services from school meals to roadworks.

The banking sector's trade body, UK Finance, has also confirmed an additional multi-million pound package for small businesses and personal banking customers, BEIS said.

"We want to signal very clearly to small and medium

sized businesses who were owed money by Carillion that they will be supported to continue trading," Business Secretary Greg Clark said in the statement.

The package is in addition to the range of measures already announced by Britain's biggest banks including Lloyds Banking Group Plc (LLOY.L), HSBC Holdings Plc (HSBA.L) and Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc (RBS.L).

Lloyds had said that it would make 50 million pounds



A worker operates a crane on Carillion's Midland Metropolitan Hospital construction site in Smethwick, Britain on 29 January, 2018.
PHOTO: REUTERS

available, while RBS and HSBC said they would open funds worth 75 million pounds and 100 million pounds respectively.

The banks had said any business customers experienc-

ing financial difficulty as a result of Carillion's collapse would be able to apply for payment holidays, fee support or, in the case of Lloyds, working capital.—Reuters ■

Hundreds of stranded tourists freed as roads reopen in New Zealand

SYDNEY — Hundreds of tourists trapped in a remote New Zealand town for 48 hours after a strong storm damaged roads were freed on Saturday after authorities cleared a highway.

About 600 tourists are now able to leave the remote town of Haast, 426 km (265 miles) northwest of Dunedin on the

west coast of the South Island, a world heritage area famous for rugged scenery, after the road was cleared.

State Highway Six reopened at 11 am, the NZ Transport Agency told Reuters in an email.

"All stranded motorists have now been able to leave," it said.

The road was hit by landslips as wild weather from former tropical cyclone Fehi wreaked havoc across the west coast, uprooting trees, felling power lines, collapsing a bridge and blocking roads.

A further 117 motorists stranded at Fox Glacier were also able to move on Saturday after roads were repaired, West

Coast Civil Defence officials said by telephone.

The storm flooded the southern city of Dunedin and the west coast town of Buller, forcing authorities to declare a state of emergency and ask people not to travel by road.

Health authorities warned people to avoid contact with flood waters that could be con-

taminated by sewage, Radio NZ said.

Weather forecaster Metservice said storm-damaged areas on the west coast of the South Island would get a reprieve on Saturday with sheltered, sunny weather before more rain arrives, while heavy rains were forecast for the North Island around Auckland.—Reuters ■

German parties edge closer to coalition with migration deal

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and their would-be partners, the Social Democrats (SPD), have made major progress in talks on forming a coalition government but remain at odds on issues like labour rules, a senior SPD member said on Friday.

As he emerged from lengthy talks that Merkel hopes will ultimately secure her fourth term and end political impasse in Europe's largest economy, SPD General Secretary Lars Klingbeil said the parties had taken a "leap forward."

"But we also saw that we have differences on some topics," he said.

Senior conservative Peter Altmaier said Friday's talks had been good and the parties were optimistic but a "very tough stretch of road" lay ahead.

The parties became embroiled in another dispute over migration on Friday, with some SPD members saying they wanted to revisit January's coalition blueprint that said the parties did not expect annual migration to exceed 220,000 per year because they were annoyed that Merkel's CSU Bavarian allies seemed to be considering this as an upper limit.

But SPD deputy Ralf Stegner later said the parties had reached a deal. In an apparent defeat for the SPD, the wording of that migration prediction



German Chancellor Angela Merkel of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) arrives for coalition talks at the Social Democratic Party (SPD) headquarters in Berlin, Germany on 2 February, 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

remained the same — as pushed for by the CSU, which calls for a migrant cap.

Stegner said the figure described "expected migration numbers" and beyond that the parties stood by the right to asylum enshrined in Germany's constitution.

He said the SPD had had to make compromises: "We can't make progress on our issues without giving something in return."

But he trumpeted an agreement on a "modern and transparent immigration law" as a success for the migrant-friendly SPD. The parties agreed

to encourage skilled migration using criteria such as qualifications, age and language skills.

The two camps aim to finalise a deal for four more years of a "grand coalition" by the end of the weekend or early next week, some four months after an inconclusive election plunged Germany into unaccustomed political uncertainty.

But Merkel said, upon arriving for talks, that they faced divisions in crucial areas, adding: "We have goodwill to overcome them, but there is still a lot of work ahead for us."

The parties have

agreed some eye-catching measures, including a 50 per cent tax write-down for fleet electric cars and a 12-billion-euro public investment programme to improve sluggish data networks, documents seen by Reuters showed.

In the field of labour rights, where the SPD wants to signal to its members that it has set its stamp on the deal, the SPD and conservatives agreed to the right for employees in companies with more than 45 employees to move seamlessly back and forth between full- and part-time work.

But long lines of text

highlighted in yellow showed the parties had yet to decide on the exact wording of that agreement.

Other agreements included to raise child benefits by 25 euros per child per month. Senior SPD member Katarina Barley said there would be a women's quota for management in the civil service after the last government focussed on this for firms.

The parties also agreed to give German authorities the ability to deprive people with dual citizenship of their German citizenship if they fight abroad for an extrem-

ist organization.

They said they wanted to start allowing collective lawsuits. Consumer associations and politicians had called for class-action lawsuits to be made possible during the Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) diesel emissions scandal.

As he arrived for talks, SPD leader Martin Schulz said his party would insist on more progress in labour law and healthcare, where the party hopes to reduce differences in the service experienced by the privately and publicly insured.

They made some progress by agreeing to boost funds for hospitals for restructuring, digitalisation and new technologies.

The centre-left SPD has sagged further in polls since suffering its worst postwar result in the 24 September election.

Many SPD activists, who must ratify any coalition deal in a postal ballot, would prefer to see their party reinvent itself in opposition rather than join another coalition with Merkel after serving as junior partner from 2013 to 2017. Several politicians from both blocs suggested they may need until Monday and Tuesday to reach an agreement, with Schulz stressing they were not under time pressure. But Horst Seehofer, Merkel's Bavarian ally, said: "So far, there is no reason to expect we will need longer than Sunday."—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACIFIC ABILITY VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACIFIC ABILITY VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-02-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 CA SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-2-2018 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 NEW GLODEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

From sewing machine to silver screen: meet the amateurs who acted with Day-Lewis

LONDON — Living thousands of miles from Hollywood and lacking any acting experience, Susan Clark and Joan Brown seemed unlikely candidates to land roles opposite Daniel Day-Lewis.

But, experts with a needle and thread, Brown, 74, and Clark, 67, have speaking roles in “Phantom Thread,” in which the triple Oscar winner Day-Lewis plays a couturier.

The film is set in a fashion house in 1950s London, a world the pair experienced, Brown as a ladies’ seamstress and Clark as a dressmaking teacher.

The pair’s involvement in the film began when they were consulted for their fashion expertise — in their capacity as specialist sewing volunteers at London’s V&A Museum, but did not initially realize who they were dealing with.

“I was talking to this very nice gentleman about one of the pieces of costume that they’ve got out and I looked down at his security pass and it said ‘Daniel Day-Lewis’ and I looked up into his face and I thought — oh, it is, isn’t it?” Clark said.

Initially, the pair were recruited as technical advisors, but were subsequently asked to play seamstresses working for Day-Lewis’ character, small



Actor Daniel Day-Lewis arrives for a news conference before the first screening of the movie “Phantom Thread” in Athens, Greece on 1 February, 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

roles, but ones in which they appear regularly throughout the film.

Day-Lewis, known for his meticulous preparation, studied with designers for months and made a couture dress in preparation for his role as designer Reynolds Woodcock.

During production he sought to draw on Brown and Clark’s knowledge to ensure the accuracy of period details, as Clark found when she pointed out that a garment was being assembled in an inauthentic way.

“I sort of said ‘no, it’s not like that — do it like that,’ and (Day-Lewis) said ‘you must tell us — you must tell us because it’s got to be right,’ ... because he’s such a method actor.”

With “Phantom Thread” nominated for six Oscars — will Brown and Clark’s Hollywood adventure stretch all the way to the film world’s most prestigious event? “I think we haven’t been invited yet, so we’re just going to wait and see. My passport is out of date at the moment,” Clark said. —Reuters ■

Lawsuit claims Wiz Khalifa copied other rapper’s song

NEW YORK — The rapper Wiz Khalifa was accused in a lawsuit on Thursday of copying much of his 2016 song “Most of Us,” from another rapper’s song with the same title from six years earlier.

Khalifa’s version “unmistakably copies the essential elements” of the song by Cymple Man, according to a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court against Khalifa and his record labels, including Warner Music Group’s Atlantic Records.

A spokeswoman for Khalifa did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Atlantic Records had no immediate comment.

Cymple Man, whose given name is Dustin Bennett, said he had given Khalifa a demo of his song “Most of Us” in April 2012 at Salt Lake City International Airport, while both were travelling to performances, so Khalifa could decide whether they should collaborate.

Khalifa never followed up, but he incorporated some lyrics, the refrain and the chorus of the plaintiff’s song into his

own song without permission or paying royalties, the complaint said.

“Moreover, Khalifa utilizes the term ‘most of us’ to introduce the audience to the same theme of sinful behaviour with the same expression” in a manner “distinctively original to Bennett’s work,” the complaint said.

The plaintiff, who lives in southeastern Georgia, said he had copyrighted his song in March 2010, and that the defendants have refused to enter any licensing or royalty agreement.

He is seeking unspecified damages, including profits from the alleged infringement.

Khalifa, whose given name is Cameron Thomaz, included “Most of Us” on the 2016 album “Khalifa,” which peaked at No 6 on the Billboard 200 list of popular US albums.

The song has also received more than 30 million views on Google’s YouTube. The case is Bennett v Thomaz et al, US District Court, Southern District of New York, No 18-00922. —Reuters ■

Helen Mirren delves into the haunted mystery of ‘Winchester’

LOS ANGELES — With its 160 rooms and rumoured ghosts hiding among the darkened corners, the mystery of Winchester House, built by Sarah Winchester, the widow of rifle company magnate William Winchester, still draws droves of people to San Jose to try and uncover the building’s secrets.

In the new film “Winchester,” out in theaters on Friday, it is Oscar-winning actress Dame Helen Mirren who attempts to shed a light on the enigma of Winchester, who died in 1922 leaving her labyrinth of a home to be-

come an attraction.

Mirren compared the widow Winchester, whom she called “fascinating,” to jilted spinster Miss Havisham from Charles Dickens’ “Great Expectations,” a literary character famous for being an eccentric, distraught recluse who lives in the past.

“Winchester” follows psychologist Dr Eric Price (Jason Clarke), who is hired by the Winchester rifle company to evaluate the sanity of the black-veiled Sarah, after she hired

carpenters to work around the clock to build more and more rooms in her mansion.

“One of the legends that grew up around her was the legend that she bought the house to placate the ghosts who had been murdered or killed by the Winchester rifle, and the sense of guilt, the pressure and the weight of those spirits upon her,” Mirren said.

As Dr Price’s

investigations continue into the house, more and more spooky events happen in the house, which is known as one of the most haunted houses in America.

“Ghost stories have been told by people over fires for thousands of years so the world of the spirits is very present in the human experience. We talk about it, we think about it, it’s in our art, it’s in our culture. It’s an authentic part of the human experience,” Mirren said. —Reuters



Actress Helen Mirren poses for a portrait in promotion of her role playing the heiress to the Winchester fortune in the upcoming film “Winchester” in Los Angeles, California, US on 29 January, 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Ancient statues return to Lebanon as war on smuggling intensifies

BEIRUT — Ancient sculptures that were missing for decades after being stolen during Lebanon's civil war are to go on display in Beirut thanks to a global fight against antiquities smuggling that has been stepped up since wartime looting in Iraq and Syria.

The five marble statues were among a haul of hundreds that Lebanese militiamen took from a storehouse in 1981, some of which are only now emerging onto the shadowy global arts market and even into the world's greatest museums.

Three of the five sculptures unveiled at a ceremony in Beirut on Friday were spotted in New York's Metropolitan Museum — where they were on loan from a private collector — by a curator who identified them using Art Loss, an online register of stolen artefacts.



A five ancient sculptures are displayed inside Beirut National Museum in Beirut, Lebanon on 2 February 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

One of the people instrumental in getting them sent back to Lebanon was Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Matthew Bogdanos, an Iraq war veteran who led the investigation into looting at the national museum in Baghdad during the chaos of the US-led invasion to topple Saddam

Hussein.

Outrage at looting there and in Syria, and fear that art trafficking was funding militant groups, has driven countries to work together to stop it, said Bogdanos, who was in Beirut on Friday for a ceremony to unveil the statues.

"It has resulted in greater

attention, greater scrutiny and greater resources, all of which we desperately need in order to fight such an entrenched global network," Bogdanos, whose office has recovered thousands of stolen antiquities in recent years, told Reuters at the ceremony at Beirut's National Museum.

One of the other statues was identified last year by a gallery in Germany, which noticed it on the Art Loss register. The fifth was seized in a container entering Lebanon's port of Tripoli last month.

Archaeologists excavated all the statues in the 1960s and 1970s in Sidon at the Temple of Eshmoun, a god of healing.

They were carved between the sixth and fourth centuries BC, when Lebanon's Phoenician civilization was ruled by the Persian empire but influenced by Greek art and culture.

One of the statues, a bull's head, was from the capital of a pillar in the temple.

The other statues, of youths and children, included one dedicated to the temple by fond relatives in thanks for the recovery from illness of their child. —Reuters ■

Singapore takes a jab at Time Out ranking as boring city

SINGAPORE — Singapore's tourism agency has hit back at lifestyle magazine Time Out for ranking the wealthy city state among the world's least exciting cities, by releasing a video that mockingly declares, "There is nothing exciting to do."

The magazine's City Life Index 2018, published this week, ranked Singapore 31st out of 32 cities, one spot above Istanbul, based on a survey of more than 15,000 people.

Chicago topped the index, followed by Porto in Portugal and New York City, scored on factors such as food, drink, cul-

ture, friendliness, affordability, happiness and liveability.

Singapore won praise for safety and public transport, but was rated the lowest for its arts and culture scene, with just 17 per cent of respondents saying, "There is always something to see and do."

In response, the Singapore Tourism Board posted a 56-second video on its Facebook page, opening with the tongue-in-cheek claim, "Singapore is boring ... there is nothing exciting to do." (here) The message backdrop features Universal Studios Singapore, the Formula One race, and

the city's ArtsScience Museum, as well as a newly-opened A J Hackett bungy jump at Sentosa island.

"Yeah, Time Out London, we're pretty 'unexciting'," it continues, turning the spotlight to Singapore's delicacies, including a S\$2 (\$1.52) Michelin-star soy sauce chicken meal at a Chinatown food stall with the caption, "Everything is so expensive."

Terrence Voon, the Singapore Tourism Board's digital and content director, said, "We created this light-hearted response to let the audience have a glimpse of what Singapore can offer." —Reuters ■



A view of the skyline of Singapore on 26 March, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

NYC children's museum launches interactive Japan exhibit

NEW YORK — An exhibit that lets children explore Japan's contemporary "kawaii" culture as well as traditional Shinto beliefs about nature opens Saturday at the Children's Museum of Manhattan in New York.

The "Hello from Japan!" exhibit, which has toured children's museums across the United States since its 2015 debut, returns to Manhattan with new attractions including a manga studio and origami workspace.

"The whole idea of 'kawaii' or 'cuteness' is something I think kids can connect with," exhibit designer Tim Cramer told Kyodo News.

"There's so many bright colors to the style, and it was mainly a child-oriented and centered thing," he said, noting the early trend of Japanese students individualizing their school uniforms with cute pins and decorations.

Inspired by the Harajuku district of modern Tokyo, the "Kawaii Central" portion of the exhibit includes interactive stations where children can sing karaoke, practice writing in katakana, design mascots and serve up Japanese meals with toy sushi pieces.

A bridge, modeled as a hybrid between the stone bridge at Tokyo's Meiji shrine and

the wooden one at Ise, leads to an area with an indoor Shinto-themed park featuring a traditional-style shrine with hanging bell, a tree for leaving wishes and an authentic dispenser of "omikujii" or fortunes.

"The 'kawaii' area is a more urban theme, so I created this with aluminum and steel, and clear lines," Cramer said. "When you get to the Shinto area, I wanted something more natural, with wood and curvature. I wanted that contrast."

In developing the original exhibit, the museum created its own animated character who appears on various signs to teach Japanese words and customs. The young girl is dressed up as a mascot on signs in the urban area, and appears as a shrine caretaker in the Shinto park. The museum also decided to present its written displays in Japanese as well as English and Spanish.

"We thought it was really important that there was Japanese in the exhibit," Ellen Bari, the exhibit's writer and a senior consultant, told Kyodo. "This makes it feel like you're somewhere else."

"Some of these things (from Japanese culture) may be unfamiliar. Once (visitors) have been exposed, it is no longer unfamiliar." —Kyodo News ■

Yangon ties Ayeyawady in MPT MNL 2018

YANGON played Ayeyawady United to a 2-2 draw yesterday, the very first tie for Yangon of the 2018 season of the MPT Myanmar National League.

Yangon United's lineup included star defender David Htan, midfielders Saun Lam Mang, Kousuke and Maung Maung Lwin and two of Yangon's most reliable players, Emmanuel and Sylla.

Ayeyawady United scored at the 16-minute mark after the referee awarded a foul ball and Aung Hein Kyaw touched the ball into the net.

But Yangon equalized in less than a minute when Sekou Sylla scored with an assist by Kosuki from the left wing.

Yangon went ahead again as Ayeyawady defenders made a big mistake in the defensive line at 39 minutes. The goal made the score 2-1 in favour of Yangon.

In the second half, both teams continued to play well. Ayeyawady responded with a goal by Cassio at the 59-minute mark.



Yangon's star player Maung Maung Lwin poised to kick the ball in yesterday's MPT MNL 2018 match. **PHOTO:MNL**

Yangon had a final chance to break the tie when Zon Moe Aung crossed the ball to Sylla,

who was heading for the net, but the shot was too high and went over the crossbar.

Yangon United's next match will be against Rakhine United on Friday.—KyawZin Lin ■

Newcastle can focus now window is closed, says Benitez

LONDON — Newcastle United can focus on their fight for Premier League survival without any more distractions after the close of the January transfer window, manager Rafa Benitez has said.

Newcastle sealed loan deals to bring in midfielder Kenedy from Chelsea, striker Islam Slimani from Leicester City and goalkeeper Martin Dubravka from Sparta Prague in January.

Striker Aleksandar Mitrovic and winger Rolando Aarons were among those who departed on loan and Benitez said the team had to get their priorities in order after a 1-1 draw with Burnley in midweek extended their winless run to three games.

"From now, there are no distractions, and everybody has to be sure they are ready," Benitez told the club's website (www.nufc.co.uk).—Reuters ■

Gandamar beats ISPE in women's league football

GANDAMAR FC defeated the Institute of Sport and Physical Education (ISPE) by a score of 1-0 in week 6 of the KBZ Bank Women's League 2017-2018 played at Aung San Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The win rested on the single goal scored by star footballer Khin Zar Zar Win, who was named best player of the match.

Both teams used their most reliable players at kickoff. It became evident that the teams were evenly matched, and the contest turned into a thriller. The two teams exerted maximum effort to show their abilities in front of their respective fans. There were goal chances in the early minutes of the game, but efforts to convert them into goals were blunted, as the defensive lines were too strong for both teams.

Gandamar's young star Khin Zar Zar Win scored the icebreaker for her team at the 40-minute mark, with the ISPE keeper help-



Ladies from Gandamar team celebrates their 1-0 victory over ISPE. **PHOTO:MWL**

less to prevent the goal.

The struggle for the equalising goal was impressive, with

strikers from ISPE making brilliant efforts.

But ISPE could not convert,

and time expired, resulting in the single-goal win for Gandamar.—KyawZin Lin ■

Man City players butchered by poor tackles — Sterling

LONDON — Manchester City's attacking players have been "butchered" by dangerous tackles this season and officials must look to offer them more protection, winger Raheem Sterling said. West Bromwich Albion winger Matt Phillips was booked for a wild tackle on midfielder Brahim Diaz in City's 3-0 league win in midweek.

It followed a caution for winger James McClean after his lunge on City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne.

Forward Leroy Sane was ruled out for at least six weeks with ankle ligament damage suffered in City's 2-0 win at Cardiff City in the FA Cup fourth round last month.—Reuters ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

4 FEBRUARY 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Illustrated by Moe Pwint Tin.

A Silent Night

In a dark, silent night,
the moon is gleaming and bright,
but that is not the only thing
I can see with my own eyes.

The wide eyes of three owls,
carefully looking for prey on the ground,
while the silver wolf howls,
but, still, that's not all that is found.

The green frog croaks then leaps,
like a ball thrown over the moon,
and snoring between the trees,
is a sleepy little baboon.

A silent night is always dark,
so every hour, I shiver with fright,
but when I look up at the moon so bright,
my face shines in the yellow moonlight.

What I see with my own eyes,
is only in my dream,
so now I have to wave, goodbye!
Then I cross the sleeping stream.



Moe Pwint Tin
Grade 3 (I.S.M)

More experience, more advantages



Thit Thit Zaw
Grade-11 (I.S.M)

In today's modern world, numerous people have been conducted around the world in order to improve the influence and the development of an individual. It is clearly shown that the influence and development of a person are likely to depend on the characteristics that they are born with as compared to other experiences in their life. However, I believe that experiences of a person will have a greater impact on their influences and development.

Certainly, if we could use the experi-

ence we gain from working or travelling abroad, we would be more mature and more open-minded. Whenever we arrive in a new place, we can learn the cultures and traditions from the locals in order to gain more information about the lifestyles of others and become more knowledgeable. Besides, we may learn how to respect and not to criticize the customs of other races, which may be different from ours. By doing that, we can actually get benefits by being able to look at the problems from a various perspective.

We may also become more self-independent than others if we live in a harsh environment when we were young. People who face a lot of hardships in their live will have a detailed plan of what to do next. For

instance, they will organize their spending well, which in other words; they will not spend money on unnecessary things, especially those luxurious items. Therefore, it is apparent that experiences gained from various fields in their lives have a huge influence on one's development.

It is right. No one can live alone forever. Even at home, we have to stay together with family members, eating food, talking about something, watching TV and so on. In school also, we cannot be separated from classmates and teachers. As all know, our house is surrounded with other houses. There may be several kinds of neighbors for us. Therefore, if we work in a company, you may be associated with other staff and managers. In hospital too,

we have to deal with doctors, nurses and patients. Even if we go abroad, we have to face with others. As a result, we may surely have new environments, new experience, new manners, new views and new living styles. Whether they are good or bad and fit or unfit, we may gain a lot of experiences. Here, we have to receive suitable feature points to improve in life. Besides, we may be influenced unconsciously by new and strange life-style.

In conclusion, life experience has major consequences on our influences and developments than the characteristics that we are born with. We will be able to think from different perspectives and make wise decisions if we use the experiences that we gain in our daily live.

Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 38: Sentences: Types of Sentences (5)

Questions or Interrogative Sentences with Question Words

Hello Class!

We have studied a lot to form different kinds of sentences and how to change Statements into Negatives and Questions.

Today, we are going to study how to make sentences into Questions by using Question Words.

These Question Words are: Which, What, When, Where, Why, Who, Whom, Whose, How and How much/How many.

Among these words, "Which, What and Who, Whom" are used for Nouns. Which, Who and Whom are used for Nouns (Persons) and Which and What are used for nouns (Things and sometimes animals).

Which, What and Whom are used for the Subjects of the sentences, whereas Whom is used for the Objects of the sentences, and Whose shows the possession.

Where is used for the places and When shows the Time and Why shows the reasons.

How is used for the manner of the actions and How many and How much for the Quantity.

Let's see the following examples.

- (1) Children are playing football.
Q. Who are playing football? (Subject, Person)
- (2) The box is under the bed.
Q. What is under the bed? (Subject, Thing)
- (3) The English Text is on the table.
Q. Which book is on the table? (Subject, Specific book)
- (4) The teacher scolded the naughty boy.
Q. Whom the teacher scolded? OR Which boy, the teacher scolded?
(Object, Person) (Object, Specific boy)

- (5) The Rich man's house is on the hill.
Q. Whose house is on the hill? (shows the Possession)
- (6) He will come up at 5 o'clock.
Q. When will he come up? (shows the Time)
- (7) Their school is over there at the foot of the hill.
Q. Where is their school? (shows the Place)
- (8) He was late for school, because he missed the first train.
Q. Why was he late for school? (shows the Reason)
- (9) He came into the classroom very quickly.
Q. How did he come into the classroom. (shows the Manner)
- (10) I like much sugar in my coffee.
Q. How much sugar do you like in your coffee? (Quantity of sugar)(uncountable)
- (11) There are 10 bottles on the wall.
Q. How many bottles are there on the wall? (Quantity, Countable)

So, as we have explained in the above example sentences, we need

- (1) To choose which Question Words to use (It depends on which we want to ask questions for)
- (2) Put the Question Word at the beginning of the Question.
- (3) Then change the sentences into Questions as we have already studied in the last lessons.
- (4) If we use the Question Words as "Who, What, Whose, Which" (which are usually used for the Subject) no need to change the sentence pattern.
- (5) But, for other Question Words, if in case, we

need to change the pattern of the sentences a little as we have already studied in the last lessons.

So, it is not very difficult to change sentences into Questions by using Question Words.

Now do practically in your Exercise.

Exercise 38.

- I. What are the Question Words?
- II. Explain which Question Words are used for Which Ones.
- III. Change the following sentences into Questions by using suitable Question Words for the underlined words.
 - (a) Children love cakes.
 - (b) He is the leader today.
 - (c) He will come back in the evening.
 - (d) He is absent from school, because he is ill.
 - (e) The teacher is scolding the whole class.
 - (f) She likes this musical movies so much.
 - (g) I'd love to visit my friend's house.
 - (h) She can run very quickly.
 - (i) The industry is on the hill.
 - (j) I don't like much milk in my coffee.
 - (k) There are 12 books in a dozen.
 - (l) I have plenty of flowers.
 - (m) The bell tolls for all the fallen soldiers.

Hope that you can do very well Class!

That's all for today. Bye Bye Class!

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

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

Here are the Answers to the last week's Exercises.
Exercise 37.

I. Change into Negatives.

- (a) I am not a footballer.
- (b) You are not a Prince.
- (c) He is not good at singing.
- (d) She was not a beautiful girl in her youth.
- (e) We were not experts in this game.
- (f) She has not some roses in her hand.
- (g) He had not chocolates to give her.
- (h) I have not some problems to solve OR I have no problems to solve.
- (i) She was not a Queen.
- (j) We have not our breakfast.

II. Change into Negatives.

- (a) The girl does not pluck the flowers.
- (b) The boys did not play football yesterday.
- (c) I do not write my Essay alone.
- (d) She does not start her journey to the West.
- (e) They do not bring the fruits.
- (f) We did not sing the Christmas songs.
- (g) He does not play the piano beautifully.
- (h) You do not see the truth.
- (i) Mg Mg does not like the movies.
- (j) Ma Ma does not cook delicious curries.

III. Change into Negatives.

- (a) She had not done all her work.
- (b) He has not helped her a lot.

- (c) I have not finished cooking
- (d) The younger sister is not going back home.
- (e) Jack will not fetch a basket of fruits.
- (f) I cannot organize these people.
- (g) She was not dancing beautifully on the stage.
- (h) I shall not remember all these days.
- (i) I may not play this part.
- (j) He could not believe his eyes.

That's all for today Class !

Hope that you've done well !

Bye Bye Class !

(continued from last week's article)

ACCORDING to Learning Theoretician Hilgard, a strategy of innovation should be developed including the following steps :...

Provide :...

(a) A sound research-based program, validated in tryout ;

(b) The program packaged in such a way as to be available, as in good textbooks, supplementary readings in the form of pamphlets, films, programs for the teaching machines, and guides for the teacher;

(c) Testing materials by which it can be ascertained if the objectives of the program have indeed been realized, with appropriate normative data on these evaluative instruments;

(d) In-service training of the teacher to overcome the teacher's resistance to something new and to gain his enthusiastic acceptance of the program as something valuable as well as to train him in its use;and

(e) Support for the program from the community, school boards, parents, and others concerned with the Educational Institutions or the school.

Organizational Change

Systems concepts have a number of implications for Educational Change. Using systems theory as a model, D.E.Griffiths formulated the following propositions for Educational Organizational Change.

In a practical operating systems approach to instruction, an Educational Organization in support of a system should establish the following functional arrangements:...

(1) A problem-posing function in which prototype, model instructional systems would be developed for experimental purposes;

(2) A research and development (R&D) function underlying model instructional systems, and a continuous research and development activity that would be designed to bring about innovations in instructional practice;

(3) A logistical function which can support the R & D function with funds,

materials and manpower;

(4) A coordinating function which can implement the problem-posing,R & D, and logistical functions.

Involved in this process is the development of a technology of instructions, the modifications of Educational Programs by research and development, and the evaluation of instruction.

In order to implement such important functions in instructional systems development, educational research and

development centers will need to be established from which a technologically oriented science of instruction can emerge.

(to be continued)

Reference.

- (1) H.N. Brickell, "Organizing New York State for Educational Change", 1961.
- (2) Dr. Khin Zaw, "Systems Thinking", 1983

Educational Change

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

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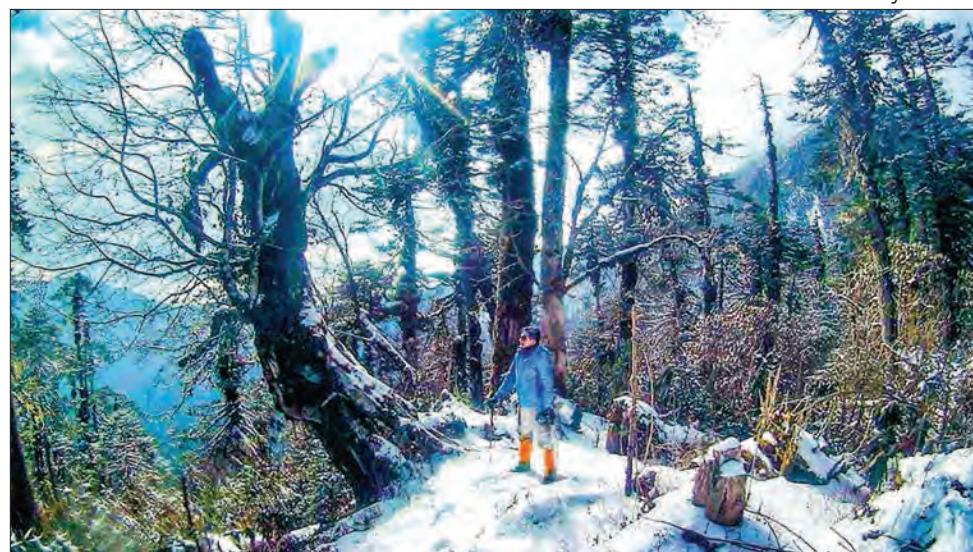
Photo: Dr Myint Min



From Mt. Popa to Mt. Phonkanrazi



Photo: Dr Myint Min



TWO mountain climbers reached the top of Mt. Phonkanrazi in Putao, Kachin State on 29 January.

Dr Myat Min and Ko Naing Min Shein are members of KanLetMyar Mitarsu (Beacon), a philanthropic organization based in Meiktila, and the Meiktila Mountain Trekking Group. They ascended the 11,920 foot Mt. Phonkanrazi to mark trails for other members of their groups, who will also ascend the mountain. The following is an interview with Dr. Myat Min on the icy journey to the top of the mountain.

Q: How do you feel about being the first to ascend Mt. Phonkanrazi?

A: After ascending about 10,000 feet, it gets a bit harder to breathe and you're knee-deep in snow, so it takes more energy to move through that. But you get a feeling of elation when you reach the top.

We've been training the whole year for Mt. Phonkanrazi. We trekked up Mt. Popa, Mt. Pyaka Shway near Myittar City, and Elephant Mountain in Kalaw, to name a few. We also walked around a lake with all our equipment once a day for a month, as part of our training. I want to do the trek again with all my team members.

Q: How long did it take to get to the summit from Putao?

A: It was a 4-day trip to the base of the mountain. On the first day, we stayed in WanSamDam village, on the second day we stayed in Ziyadem

Village, on the third in Thitpin Gyi camp, since we couldn't find a village on the way, and we camped at the base of Mt. Phonkanrazi on Day 4. We walked for 6 to 7 hours a day.

On 27 January we started our trek up the mountain. We started around 8 in the morning, and due to adverse weather conditions we reached the summit around 1.30pm. I was so overjoyed when we reached the summit and planted our flag.

Q: What future plans do you have for mountain trekking?

A: We will provide training for those who want to ascend Mt. Phonkanrazi. It's one of the goals of the Meiktila Mountain Trekking Group to attract people to mountain trekking, and to raise awareness about environmental conservation. Plus, it encourages a healthy lifestyle among young people.

Q: Will there be another trip up Mt. Phonkanrazi this year?

A: That depends on the Meiktila Mountain Trekking Group and weather conditions at the mountain. We do have an aim to trek up the mountain as a team this year.

When both the mountain trekking group and philanthropic group were formed, there were only 20 members, though it has since risen to 140. They organize treks to Mt. Popa, Mt. Pyaka Shway near Myittar City, and Elephant Mountain in Kalaw. —Chan Tar (Meiktila)



Photo: Dr Myint Min



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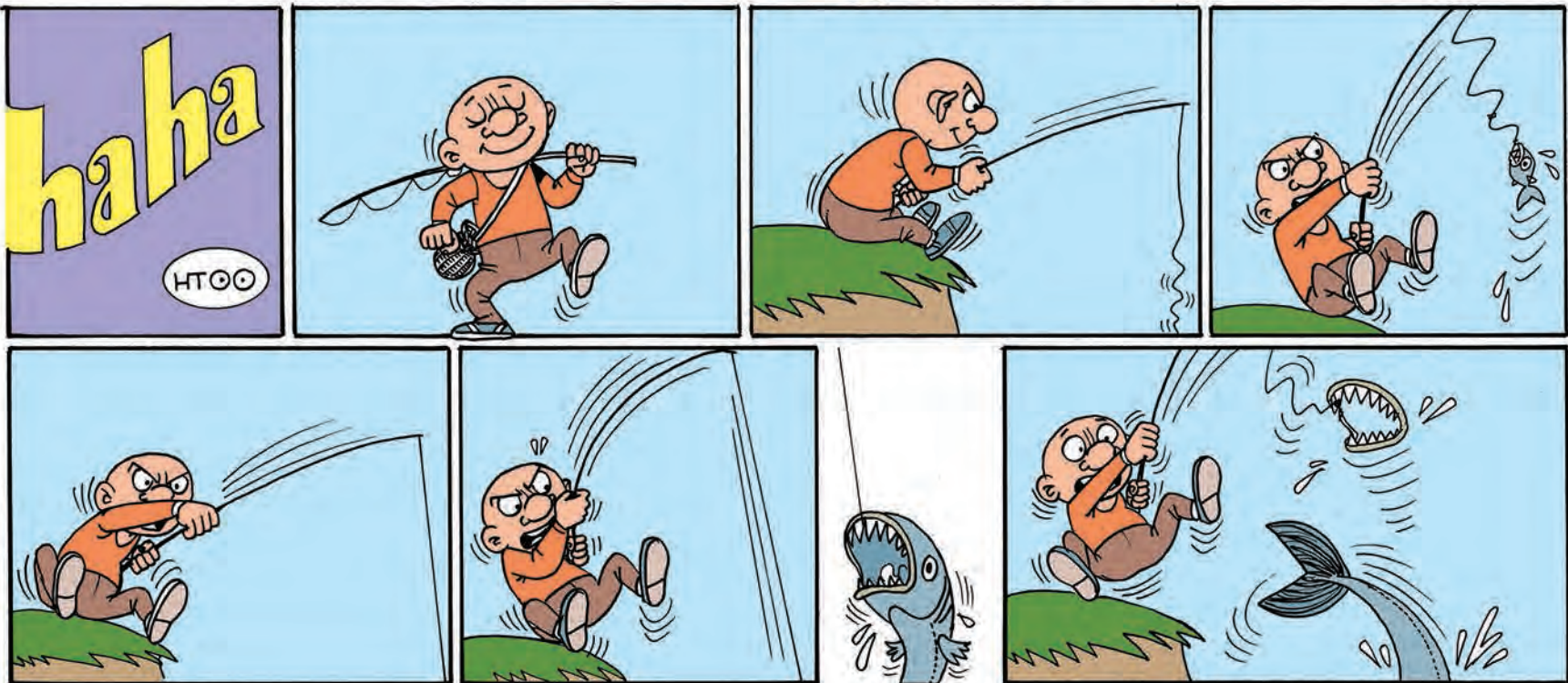
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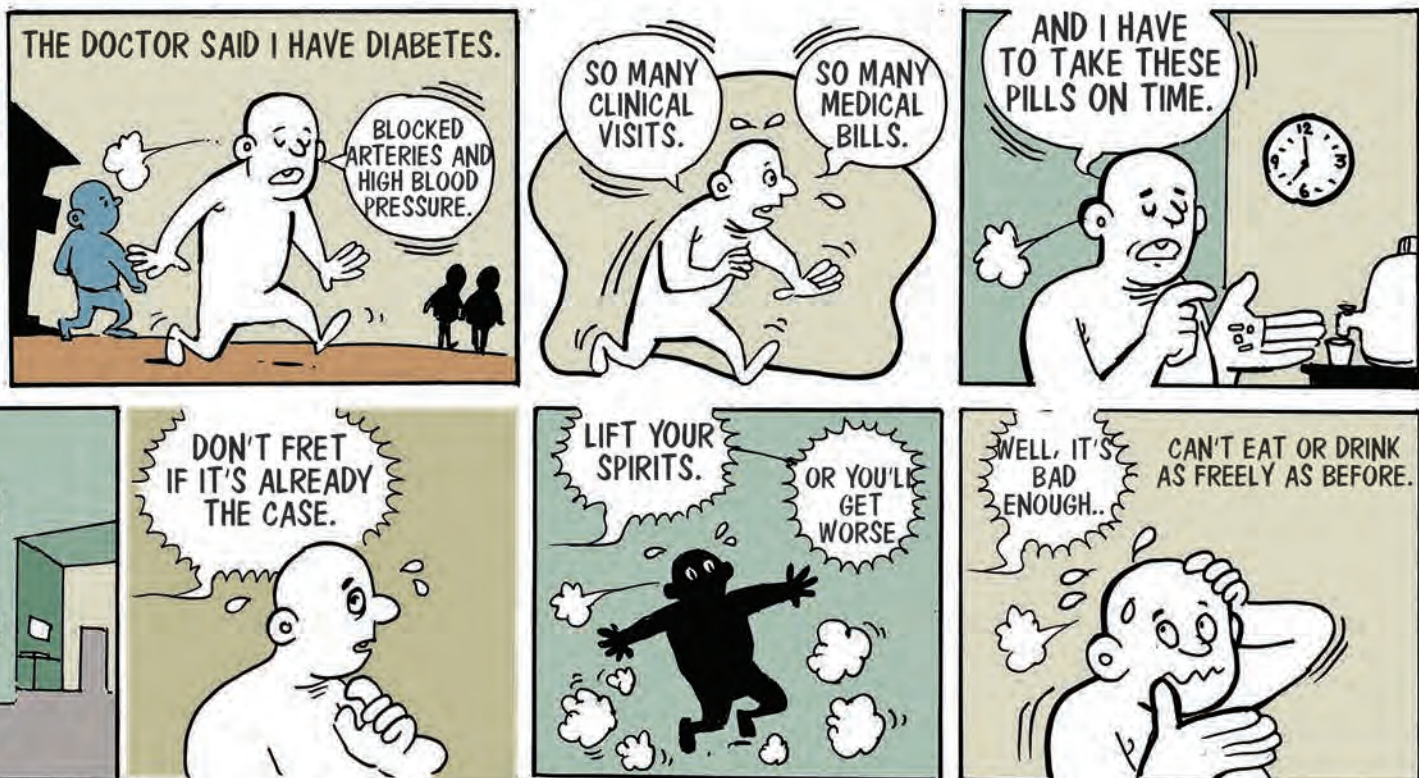
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2018



The author would like to wrap up that it is worth trying in creating voluntary “Sunday English Corners” without budget spending with the help of good citizens in building the nation.

Kyaw Orwell

