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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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The 6th meeting of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

# State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee reviews report of last year efforts

THE second day of the 6th meeting of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was convened at Maha Pathana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday, discussing affairs with the code of conducts, religious affairs and teaching.

The second-day meeting was attended by State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws, State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Permanent Secretary U Htun Ohn, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Myint Oo, pro-rector (Admin) of the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University U Khin Maung Win, states and regions religious affairs heads and officials.

The meeting was presided over by Vice Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr. Bhaddanta Pyinna Nanda. Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the committee Agga Maha Gantha Vacaka Paṇṇita Bhaddanta Nanda Thara acted as the Master of Ceremonies. Also, Master of Ceremonies Sayadaw reported on the numbers of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee attending the meeting and announced the start of the meeting.

SEE PAGE-3

# Three IEDs explode in Sittway

THREE IEDs (improvised explosive devices) exploded in Sittway early yesterday morning, while three more unexploded IEDs were discovered and deactivated.

The first explosion occurred in front of the State Court in Pyitaw Thar Ward around 4:10 a.m., damaging a nearby transformer and resulting in power being cut for more than an hour.

Similarly, a second explosion occurred within a minute of the first, near the rear fence of the Rakhine State government secretary's house in Pyitaw Thar Ward. A policeman on duty suffered a cut on his head from broken glass, while the windshields of two Mark II cars parked in the compound were cracked when the cars were struck by splinters from the IED.

One minute after the second blast, a third explosion occurred near the state land record office, but there were no damage and no one was reported to have been hurt.

Officials and mine clearance personnel investigating the explosion sites discovered three more IEDS, including one about 12 ft. from the rear fence of Rakhine State government secretary house and two more outside the fence of the state land record office.

SEE PAGE-3

# Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko donates cash to monasteries

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko donates Ks 3 million to monasteries in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko made a cash donation to monasteries in Yangon Region yesterday afternoon. The monasteries receiving the donations were Sagaing Pariyatti Monastery, Thingangyun Township, Thuwunna; Maha Visudayone Shwe Kyin Tike Thit Monastery, Bahan Township, Nandawun Road and Vizawdayone Monastery, Mayangon Township, Ward 9, Mya Sabei Road.

After Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko arrived at Sagaing Pariyatti Monastery, the Union Minister and party took the five precepts from State Ovadacariya patron Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganda Vasaka Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaza Bhaddanta Dhamma Nanda. The Sayadaw and sanghas then chanted the Metta Sutta, and the Union Minister donated Ks 3 million for "soon", which was accepted by the monastery's caretaker group. Following this, Sagaing Pariyatti Monastery patron Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and merit was shared for the donation that was made. Afterwards, the Union Minister and party went to Maha Visudayone Shwe Kyin Tike Thit Monastery, and the Union Minister donated Ks 3 million for "soon" for Yaw Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Thiranenanda Bivamsa, which was accepted by monastery officials. The Union Minister and party then went to Vizawdayone Monastery and donated Ks 3 million for "soon" for State Ovadacariya patron Sayadaw, head chairman of Shwekyin sasana Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatta Guru Bhaddanta Vizawta. The events were attended by representatives of the Department of Religious Affairs, Director General U Myint Oo and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

# Meeting on development of Myanmar movie law

A meeting to discuss future plans for the development of Myanmar's new Motion Picture Law was held yesterday afternoon at the Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) meeting hall in Theinbyu Street, Yangon.

In his opening speech at the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said all parties need to work together on the establishment of a new Motion Picture Law that is in accord with modern times, and discussed moderating the censorship policy, prior to the establishment of the new Motion Picture Law.

Also, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization patron U Soe Moe (Baji Soe Moe) and Chairman U Zin Wine discussed matters to be moderated in the censorship policy and amendments to the Television and Video Law.

Additionally, Information and Public Relations Department Director-General U Ye Naing discussed details about the existing law, rules, and the code of conduct during the reformation period for the movie and video censor board, as well as amendments to the Television and Video Law for the all-level meeting to be held at the Ministry of Information on 9 March. The Union Minister coordinated the discussions.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting on development of Myanmar' new motion picture law in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

# UMFCCI, MIA hold meeting on electricity and energy sector

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce (UMFCCI) and the Myanmar Industries Association (MIA) held a coordination meeting on the electricity and energy sector yesterday in UMFCCI, Yangon.

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing said the current electricity production of 3,000MW was slated to be increased by another 3,000MW in three years. Many years have passed without the adequate supply of electricity, and thus, plans were underway to increase its production.

Together with this plan, the construction of a new electricity distribution system of 500kV was also in the pipeline. The construction works will not depend on the country's funds, and will be borne by the private sector.

As the natural gas production in the country will decline in 2021, it was decided to increase the electricity production to 6,000MW. On the other hand, the country had many resources for hydro power electricity production.

According to an MoU signed in the past, there was an installation capacity of 48,000MW, but it was unable to be implemented in practice.

Plans were underway to systematically conduct hydroelectric production, which has the least effect on the natural environment and the society. It is important to notice the obstacles that occur when working towards the development of the country. Short-term arrangements to identify a link area for providing electricity to the whole country and for household and SME usage were being conducted.

A strategic master plan on simultaneously improving electric power and road communication was also being made. The 2020 plan and 2025 plan for the two sectors were being submitted to the government.

Electricity required in industrial zones will be supplied phase-by-phase and discussions following the meeting will be coordinated, said the Union Minister. Grid extension of the power lines was being done in order to provide electricity to 60 per cent of the rural population.

Mini and micro hydro and tidal plans were also being coordinated and worked on with related ministries.

The main electricity requirement was for 40 per cent of the country, which is heavily populated, has many industries and are economic regions where local and foreign investments can enter. Thus priority was given to such regions so that electricity can be distributed.

Next, UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win and MIA Chairman Dr. Aung Thein discussed electricity and energy requirements, while officials from the electricity and energy committees of UMFCCI and MIA and officials of industrial zones discussed investments in the electricity sector and electricity and energy requirements. Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing provided an additional explanation on the ministry's arrangement for fulfilling electricity usage and the requirement of each industrial zone.

The Union Minister remarked and commented on the discussion, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

# Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint attends meeting on publishing 100 Myanmar books

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the meeting for publishing the 100 Myanmar books in Theinbyu street in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE sixth coordination meeting for publishing the 100 Myanmar Books Series was held yesterday at the Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) meeting hall in Theinbyu Street in Yangon, where Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivered a speech.

Also, the 100 Myanmar Books Series Work Committee Joint Secretary (1) U Than Ohn (Maung Zayar) explained about preparations to publish the first three series in this fiscal year, and discussed those books to be included in the second and third series.

Further, literature personnel and officials from PPD who were in attendance provided discussions and suggestions, in which the Union Minister joined in, and sought to coordinate tasks still to be done.

The 100 Myanmar Books series will include novels, short stories, poems, essays and plays. The first series, which includes novels, is to be published this year.

Afterwards, a meeting to discuss republishing the Myanmar encyclopedia was continued, and Myanmar Encyclopedia Republishing Steering Committee patron U Thein Tun explained about works that the Tun Foundation will conduct. Secretary Dr. San Win reviewed the status of works involved in republishing the Myanmar encyclopedia volume (1), while PPD Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Naing explained about the work taken on by Sarpay Beikman editorial members, who are preparing to republish the Myanmar encyclopedia volume (1).

Union Minister for Information and Patron of the Myanmar Encyclopedia Republishing Steering Committee Dr. Pe Myint commented on collecting and confirming facts about States and Regions, which are to be included in the encyclopedia.— Myanmar News Agency ■

# Three IEDs explode in Sittway

FROM PAGE-1

The bombs were then deactivated. The uncovered IEDs weighed about 36 pounds and were packed with ball bearings and scrap metal. The deactivated IEDs were found to be remotely controlled.

An investigation had been opened at the Sittway Myoma Police Station and police are conducting further investigations.— Myanmar News Agency ■

The second explosion occurs near the rear fence of the Rakhine State Government Secretary's house in Pyitaw Thar Ward. **PHOTO: MNA**

The uncovered IEDs packed with ball bearings and scrap metal. The IED were deactivated by mine clearance personnel. **PHOTO: MNA**

# State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee reviews …

FROM PAGE-1

The suggestions reported by State Central Working Committee of the Sangha were answered and explained by Joint Secretary Sayadaws of the committee Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitakadhara Bhaddanta Agga Dhamma and Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Silasara Bhivamsa before the morning session was concluded.

The meeting was resumed at 1:00 p.m., where the respective Sayadaws discussed the annual report, reviewing the work performed by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

Yesterday at the meeting, the Chairman Sayadaw called for establishing monastic education schools and for encouraging the Members of the Sangha who are taking part in the education system. —Myanmar News Agency

# Third Myanmar-India Director -General Level talks on Drug Control

Officials pose for the documentary photo at the bilateral meeting between Myanmar and India on Drug Control Cooperation. **PHOTO: POLICE INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATION**

THE third Director General Level Bilateral Meeting between Myanmar and India on Drug Control Cooperation , was opened at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon on 23 February 2018.

The Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), Myanmar Police Maj-Gen of Myanmar Police Force Aung Win Oo and Director-General of Narcotics Control Bureau, India H.E. Mr. Shri Abhay delivered opening speeches at the meeting, where 21 members, including 16 Myanmar delegates headed by Police Maj-Gen Aung Win Oo, and five Indian delegations headed by Director-General H.E. Mr. Shri Abhay, attended the meeting.

The delegates from the two nations discussed matters relating to reviewing the work to be carried out, as decided at the second Director -General level talks, along with precursor controls, promoting cooperation in border relations, the two nations' drug control activities and exchanging information and experiences related to combating drugs. —Police information and public relation ■

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# Over 853,000 foreign day-trippers visit Myanmar from Thai border this FY

Foreign day-trippers are seen near a border gate in Myanmar. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

MORE THAN 853,000 international day-trippers paid a single day visit to Myanmar through the Tachilek border between Myanmar and Thailand since last April, according to a weekly report of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

As of 22 February, the arrivals of foreign day-trippers to the country totalled 853,735. The majority of foreign travellers came from Thailand, China and third world countries. They entered Tachilek, a land border in Shan State in eastern Myanmar through the Mae Sai border, crossing Thailand, to visit the town's well-known destinations on a one-day return visit.

Between 16 and 22 February of this year, 161 foreign travelers toured the country through Tachilek and visited the town's popular destinations for a one-day trip.

With the aim of boosting the country's smokeless industry, efforts have been made to extend more marine tourism and ecotourism development projects countrywide. Among programmes, the development of cross-border trips is high on the government's list of priorities, according to the Hotels and Tourism Ministry.

Popular tourist destinations in Myanmar include archaeological sites, mountain ranges, natural forests, beaches, ancient monuments, and a diverse range of traditions and lifestyles of ethnic tribes.—GNLM■

# Coffee market observers from international to visit Ywar Ngan Town

COFFEE market observers from international countries will visit Ywar Ngan Town, Shan State (South) on 25 and 26 February to buy the Ywar Ngan coffee which has already perpetrated in international market, according to a report on Thursday in the Myawady Daily.

"The coffee which produces from Ywar Ngan Town is high quality coffee. Therefore, the coffee market observers who are planning to produce value-added coffee products in their countries will receive good results. We believe that the coffee market observers will definitely buy our Ywar Ngan coffee. We also can supply fully when they demanded Ywar Ngan coffee," said Daw Su Su Aung, the manager of YWANGAN AMAYAR Company Co Ltd.

The coffee market observation group will comprise 20 coffee market expects from America, Japan, South Korea as well as other countries. The coffee observers will record coffee quality and price from Ywar Ngan, then, they will take the sample coffee to their countries. After that, they will purchase within this year.

The Ywar Ngan Town boasts 6,600 acres of coffee plantations across over 120 villages, which has the capacity to produce over 700 tonnes of coffee beans annually.—GNLM■

# Animal feed factory to be opened in Thilawa SEZ-A

NETHERLANDS-BASED Trown Nutrition will start opening Trown Nutrition Myanmar animal feed and pharmaceutical factory in Thilawa Special Economic Zone-A on 20 February, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily.

The factory includes laboratories which can conduct laboratory tests on animal feeds. It is very first time for the company to come and invest in Myanmar.

The company has invested more than one billion Euros in the factory which will directly distribute chicken, pig, cow, fish and prawn feed to farmers. Also, it plants to distribute animal feed to neighboring countries in Asia. The factory includes laboratories which will check the quality of animal feed and raw materials, it is learnt.—GNLM■

## Black opium worth Ks130 million seized in Pinlebu Town

Police have seized black opium worth more than Ks130 million in Pinlebu Town, Katha District, Sagaing Region, on Thursday evening, officials report.
Acting on a tip, an anti-drug squad with three members waylaid a motorbike near a shop on the road between Pinlebu and Kawlin towns at around 5 p.m. on 22 February. The Canda 125 motorbike was driven by Myint Aung, 25, a resident of Nannaung Village, Loikaw Township, in Kayah State. The officers seized a plastic bag containing black opium weighing more than 46,500 grams and an estimated value of Ks139.6 million.
The police are still investigating the case and have filed charges against the suspect under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
In cooperation with the relevant government departments and local authorities, the anti-drug squad is making concerted efforts to eliminate the illegal smuggling of drugs in the region.—Myo Lwin (Pinlebu)■

## 25-year-old killed in bike accident

A 25-year-old man was killed in a motorbike accident on Meiktila-Myingyan Road, close to Kankaung Village in Meiktila Township, Mandalay region, according to a police report today.
The motorbike rider, identified as Aung Ko Oo, was travelling north along the road, when his vehicle hit a concrete block on the left side of Kankaung Creek Bridge and crashed into the gully. Aung Ko Oo, who is a resident of Umyintuyecho Village, was killed on the spot. Authorities believe speeding may have led to the accident. However, the investigation is ongoing to find the cause of the accident.—Chan Tha (Meiktila)■

## Man arrested for stealing gold jewellery

A 29-year-old man was arrested on Thursday morning for allegedly stealing gold jewellery, the police reported today. The railway police captured the suspect, identified as Than Soe Aung, at the Nanma Railway Station, while he was travelling to Mandalay from Myitkyina by train. The police found the suspect in possession of gold jewellery worth some Ks2.3 million and Ks80,000.
During the interrogation, the suspect confessed to stealing the valuables from a home in Natgyigon Ward, Mokaung Town, in Kachin State.
The police will take action against the suspect according to the relevant sections of the Penal Code.—Win Naing (Kachinmye)■

# Watermelons selling well in Myanmar-India border town

DOMESTICALLY grown watermelons have sold well this season in Rihkhawdar, a small but busy border town between Myanmar and India, according to the Myawady Daily's report.

"The watermelon is in high demand in both local and foreign markets, with growers earning a handsome profit for fruits this season," border merchants say.

One of the local merchants noted, "We chiefly purchase watermelons cultivated in Kalay Township and nearby areas in Sagaing Region.

Based on size and freshness, watermelon is sold for Ks2,500-Ks4,000 per fruit. We see a massive inflow of watermelons into the town. Demands for this kind of fruit are increasing during the season between winter and summer."

A farmer waters patches of watermelon in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Watermelon is a warm, long-season crop, and is now grown commercially in many parts of the country. The fruit is mostly cultivated for its fresh juice and sweet flesh. Among other places, melons grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions mostly go to export partners.

About five trucks loaded with watermelons enter the border town from Sagaing Region every day. The fruits have been exported to neighbouring India, with exporters receiving Ks150 to Ks200 Indian rupees for a fruit.—GNLM ■

# Imports through Myawady border decline by US$21 million

THE IMPORT of commodities from Thailand to Myanmar via the Myawady cross-border gate reached US$700 million, a decrease of $21 million as against the same period in the last FY, the Commerce Ministry reported.

Between last April and this February, bilateral trade through the Myawady border gate totalled $766 million, including $66.223 million in exports, which was an increase in value of $15 million over the last FY. In the past 10.5 months of this FY, the overall trade value between the two countries from this border point decreased by over $6 million.

At this time during the last financial year, Myanmar imported a wide range of products worth more than $722 million from Myawady.

Products from the Kingdom of Thailand flow into the country from the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese border points of entry. Thailand's imports from the seven border trade stations were worth $883.719 million, in total.

Myanmar primarily imports a wide range of consumer products, food, soft drinks, cooking oil, plastic ware, and cosmetics, while exporting marine products, agricultural commodities and other items to neighbouring country.—Swe Nyein ■

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the construction of Thirimingla Maha Sasana Beikman Taw in Insein, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF**

# Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects construction of Thirimingla Maha Sasana Beikman

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing and officials went to Kyauktaw Gyi Pagoda on the hill at Min Dhamma to view the progress in the construction of Thirimingla Maha Sasana Beikman Taw at Insein Township in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The Beikman Taw, which is being built, was funded through donations by families of the Tatmadaws. The construction began on 1 March 2017 and is reported to be nearly completed. —Myanmar News Agency ■

# Stress mostly causes gastrointestinal disease

THERE is an increase of more patients with gastrointestinal disease due to stress, which produces more acid in the stomach said the professor Dr. Thein Myint, specialist of gastrointestinal disease.

"Many patients saw me, half of the patients experienced gastrointestinal disease. Patients experienced stomachaches and felt hot in the chest however no disease could be found. Some patients were under the observation of doctors who were following their recovery. Patients had already been X-rayed and blood tests were done, however doctors could not find the root cause in the body. Patients still suffered heat in the chest, so we used many techniques to cure the patients" he added.

Gastrointestinal disease that's brought on by stress mostly occurs in people between the ages 20 and 40 and most patients are women and cancer patients. Gastrointestinal disease was mostly found in the older folks but nowadays it's mostly found in middle aged people. The main causes of cancer are chewing betel nut, smoking and drinking alcohol.

In 2017, there was three times the number of gastrointestinal patients than in 2016. Stress can occur everywhere so we need to think positively and lower our stress levels. Also, people should see a specialist, become more knowledgeable about health issues and stick to a nutritious diet so their chances of getting gastrointestinal disease is greatly reduced the professor Dr. Thein Myint advised to the public.

The patients who suffer regurgitation of blood, stomach cancer, abdominal pain, stomach virus, diarrhea and constipation were admitted to the Department of Gastroenterology Yangon General Hospital. —Myanmar Digital News ■

## Lat Khat Than Exhibition and Forum to be held in Amarapura

The Lat Khat Than Exhibition and Forum will be held for five days from February 24 to 28 at the Saunders' Weaving and Vocational Institute in Amarapura, Mandalay Region.

The event is jointly organized by the British Council, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Embassy of Switzerland, and the Saunders' Weaving and Vocational Institute, with the support of the Small-Scale Industries Department which is under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Textile designers, business people, and experts from the weaving industry will hold discussions in the forum which is free to the public and will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Interlocutors will talk about how to seek out ways to strengthen developmental strategies in the weaving industry. Myanmar's textile and traditional style and design, and capacity building and female entrepreneurship will be addressed on 24 February while new markets for traditional textiles and good practices to make Myanmar's textile industry successful will be discussed on 25 February. —Myanmar Digital News ■

# Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief honors Aung La N Sang

MIXED Martial Art (MMA) ONE Middleweight World Champion Aung La N Sang knocked out Brazil's Alexandre Machado in the first round of the ONE Light Heavyweight World Championship bout at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium yesterday evening.

For becoming both the ONE Middleweight World Champion and ONE Light Heavyweight World Champion, and honoring the nation, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Tatmadaw (army, navy, air force) officers, personnel and family members honored Aung La N Sang. On behalf of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone presented Aung La N Sang with a Ks 10 million cash prize, as well as a certificate of honor sent by the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, at an event held yesterday evening at the Rose Garden Hotel inYangon.

After accepting the awards, Aung La N Sang thanked the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and Tatmadaw (army, navy, air force) families. He said the cash award will be used for the education of children in the My Me Project and charity programmes in Kachin State, adding that he will continue to do his best in future competitions. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon Command commander Maj-Gen That Pone presents Ks 10 million cash prize to ONE Light Heavyweight and Middleweight World Champion Aung La N Sang. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF**

# Authorities testing water quality of Bago River Basin

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has conducted a laboratory test to determine the water quality of Bago River Basin in lower Myanmar, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Friday.

Dr Toe Aung, assistant director of the forest department, operating under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, said, "This is part of the Norway-Myanmar bilateral environmental conservation programme being implemented in the country. Under the programme, the ministry is testing the water quality of Bago River Basin."

The bilateral environmental programme includes hazardous waste management, biodiversity management and water resources management; preservation of biodiversity and forests in Myanmar; promotion of cooperation with non-governmental organisations for environmental conservation tasks; and capacity enhancement programmes for departments and organisations.

Regarding the conservation of water resources, the three-year project (2015-2018) mainly focuses on Bago River and Inlay Lake. Myanmar is rich in biodiversity and has abundant natural resources. Today, the country is facing pollution problems as its water resources are not being conserved efficiently.

With respect to the conservation of Bago River, collaborative efforts are being made between the regional government, parliamentarians and experts, who are trying to increase public participation in the programme.—GNLM ■

# Philippines summons US envoy over Duterte 'threat' report

President Rodrigo Duterte. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANILA — The Philippine government summoned the US ambassador over an American intelligence report that listed President Rodrigo Duterte and his deadly war on drugs as a "regional threat", Manila said on Friday.

US envoy Sung Kim met Duterte's chief aide on Thursday to discuss the US "Worldwide Threat Assessment" released last week, the two nations said.

Under a section headed "regional threats", the report listed Cambodian leader Hun Sen's crackdown on dissent, Duterte's war on crime and corruption as well as the flight of the Bangali minority from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

Duterte's spokesman Harry Roque said in a statement that Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea summoned Kim over the report, which has drawn sharp criticism from the president's camp.

"Duterte is no autocrat or has autocratic tendencies. He adheres to the rule of law and remains loyal to the constitution," Roque said this week in response to the report.

Duterte was elected in 2016 in part on a vow to kill tens of thousands of criminals in a bid to rid the country of narcotics.

The International Criminal Court this month launched a preliminary examination into allegations of thousands of extrajudicial killings committed during the president's narcotics crackdown.

A US embassy statement said its ambassador met Medialdea to explain the nature of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence report, which the statement said was "based on widely available information".

"Their discussion focused on the references to the Philippines in the report, including clarifying that the information about the Philippines had been previously reported by media sources," the embassy said.

"The United States will continue to collaborate with the government of the Philippines," it added.

Ties between Washington and its former colony had suffered under previous US president Barack Obama following his criticism of Manila's drug war, with the fiery Duterte calling him a "son of a whore".

The two governments say relations have improved since the election in 2016 of US leader Donald Trump.—AFP ■

# Abe's adviser, China's top diplomat vow to tackle N Korea

BEIJING — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's national security adviser Shotaro Yachi and China's top diplomat Yang Jiechi agreed Friday to cooperate to achieve denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, the Foreign Ministry said, with inter-Korean ties apparently improving.

During their talks in Beijing, Yachi and Chinese State Councilor Yang also confirmed the importance of building the East China Sea into a sea of "peace, cooperation and friendship," the Japanese ministry said.

The meeting between Yachi and Yang, regarded as a key person in charge of "Great Power Diplomacy" under President Xi Jinping's leadership, was held as the two Koreas have gotten closer following Pyongyang's decision to join the Pyeongchang Olympics in the South.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry kept mum about how Yachi and Yang evaluated the recent moves by Seoul and Pyongyang.

China, which is believed to have influence over North Korea as its main economic lifeline, has called on North Korea and the United States to engage in dialogue for the sake of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan, meanwhile, is concerned that Pyongyang is trying to weaken international economic sanctions against it by cozying up to South Korea and to buy more time to advance its missile and nuclear technologies, warning against North Korea's "smile diplomacy."

Abe's government has pledged to put maximum pressure on North Korea in tandem with the United States and South Korea, as Pyongyang has still expressed eagerness to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles that can reach the US mainland. The visit by Yachi, who heads the secretariat of the National Security Council, comes almost a month after Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono met with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing and proposed resuming reciprocal visits by the two countries' leaders.

China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted Yang as telling Yachi that he hopes both sides will work together toward restoring amicable ties and further developing them.

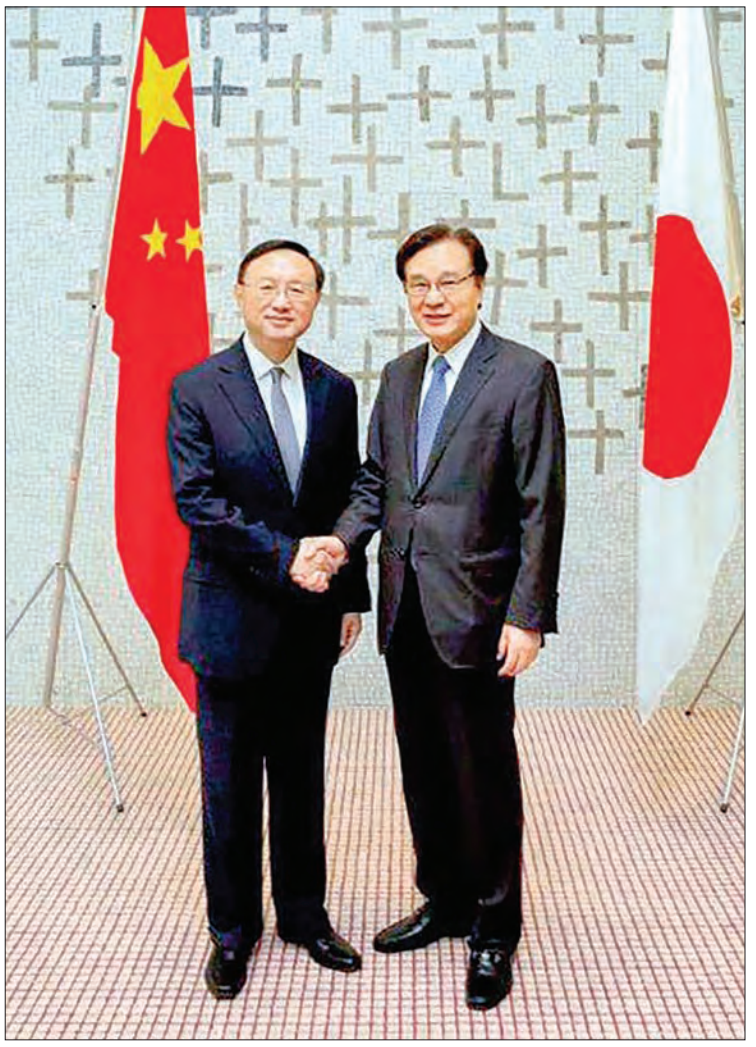
Yachi and Yang reached agreement to bolster talks between Japan and China at various levels as well as economic cooperation and private-sector exchanges, the ministry added.

Tokyo and Beijing have been mired in a territorial row over the Senkakus, called Diaoyu in China, for years. The dispute escalated particularly after the Japanese government led by then Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, Abe's predecessor, decided to effectively put them under state control in September 2012.

Relations between Japan and China, however, have been showing signs of improvement despite the lingering territorial dispute, with this year marking the 40th anniversary of the signing of a bilateral friendship treaty. But it is uncertain whether Japan and China can find ways to resolve the territorial issue in the near future, as Beijing challenges the sovereignty of the Tokyo-controlled Senkakus.

Last month, Kono lodged a protest over the entry of a submerged Chinese submarine into the contiguous zone around Japanese territorial waters near the Senkakus, urging Beijing to take preventive steps.

During Friday's talks, Yachi and Yang also had discussions on how to realize a postponed trilateral summit including South Korea, which Tokyo wanted to host last year, according to sources well versed in Sino-Japanese relations.



Shotaro Yachi (R), head of the secretariat of Japan's National Security Council, and Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi.
**PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Yang visited Japan and held talks with Yachi in May last year.—Kyodo News ■

# Implementation of low-cost and affordable housing units for people

THE essential needs of people -- food, clothing and shelter -- are basic for daily life. It is therefore natural that people in need aspire for an improved quality of life. Sustainable development requires meeting the basic needs of all and extending to all the opportunity to satisfy their aspirations.

On the other hand, "home" should be more than shelter for us. It should also be a safe and family-friendly environment where we can spend our leisure time with our family.

It is of crucial importance that people want to possess their own houses and plots of land because they can then be able serve the interests of the country and its people, with a spirit of patriotism for their motherland.

'The Ministry of Construction plans to implement low-cost housing, and will finance the loans with low-interest rates'

With cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), plans are under way to take out loans in the amount of 15 billion yen from JICA. It aims to provide housing for people across the country.

There are so many families who need a home, but they cannot afford the down payment. If they get mortgage loans, they can be able to buy a home more easily. Therefore, the Ministry of Construction has planned to implement housing development plans including low-cost housing, and will finance the loans with low-interest rates.

According to the government's housing development plan, the Ministry will implement 11,914 housing units across the country from the 2017-2018 to the 2019-2020 fiscal years. Moreover, the bank will finance loans for the people at an interest rate of 8.5 per cent.

Those who want to get the loan must have salaries of at least Ks300,000 monthly, and those who want to buy low-cost housing should have an income of at least Ks500,000 monthly.

They will need to repay 80 per cent of the loan at the interest rate of 8.5 per cent in 10 to 15 years.

The Ministry of Construction will take the lead for the initiative, and the government will contract out housing development plans including low-cost and affordable apartments in a good location.

The Government has been focused on this development plan to provide 11,914 housing units across the country.

All in all, it is heartening to ascertain the needs for construction of low-cost and affordable housing projects across the country which can promote socio-economic development of the people. ■



# Tabaung Festival of Shwe Dagon Pagoda, Yangon

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

The Sacred Shwe Dagon Pagoda. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

MYTHS, legends and histories shroud the world renown Pagoda Shwe Dagon in Yangon, Myanmar. Its location is the subject of geological interest. Sitting on a triangular area within three summits of Sriguttara hill-lock, the highest among the 99 hill-locks around it, covering the entire space of Yangon Region, Shwe Dagon Pagoda is the landmark of the country, visible from quite a far distance by travelers coming either by sea, by land or by air. Originally name Trigumpa means "Three summits". Down deep right under the solid structure of the Pagoda "is a natural pool fed by and connected with a subterranean creek activated by the tide of the sea. We can still witness the evidences of its tide and sea connection, if we walk around the surroundings and the hillock of the Pagoda. The depressions, especially the one on the westside where we now have the shrine of saint monk Shin Upagupta on a raft afloat on the water in the depression. The level of its water changes in tune with the tide. Olds records say that pilgrims came by boat to Tabaung Festival of Shwe Dagon Pagoda. Even at the turn of the 20th century, travelogues by some foreign tourists mentioned that they came by boats.

The mystery of a water pool right down under the solid structure of Shwe Dagon Pagoda seems to be proved true by the account of an Armenian elderly man who published his "Letter to the Editor" in the "Working Peoples Daily" News Paper in about 1966. According to him, he was a school boy of early teens at St. Paul's Roman Catholic missionary school in Yangon_one weekend the happened to be loitering about on the compound of Shwe Dagon Pagoda, very early morning. He met an elderly hermit. The two greeted each other the hermit asked him if he would like to join him to go down underneath the Pagoda. The boy agreed the hermit made him promise not to take or steal anything and to leave when allocated time was up. Then the two went into a Tazaung at the southwest corner of the compound. They slowly pushed aside one stone Buddha statue. It moved and an entrance of a tunnel appeared. Dark but just enough space for one person to crawl in. The hermit leading and the boy holding his staff crawled in. After some steps and right turns and left turns, they could walk up right and see each other in the light coming in and could breathe normally. They kept on walking clockwise but going down and down finally they saw quite a large pool in which a golden barge with a casket was afloat. On closer look they saw strands of hair in the casket. The hermit told the boy that strands of hair were the sacred relics of Gotama Buddha brought by the two merchants brothers long long ago. They saw heaps of crown jewelleries, regalia and several other offertories of treasures. The hermit asked the boy if he wanted any of them. The boy said no, but he was never tired of seeing all those strange things. The water level in the pool began to rise. The hermit knew that their allotted time was about to be over and they should leave. The boy was reluctant to leave as he would like to see other places there.

Both safely came out of the same entrance and the two replaced the stone Buddha statue on its original place totally covering the entrance. It was already noon time when they departed.

In his capacity as the Director-General of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture, the writer had the following experience.

One early morning he got a phone call from his school mate U Nyunt Yee who was then a member of Shwe Dagon Pagoda Trustees, to come to his office right now. When the writer turned up at his office on the Pagoda Compound, U Nyunt Yee showed a 12 strings gold sash which was discovered that early morning by Pagoda Patrols right in front of the stone Buddha statue in the south-west corner Tazaung, the exact place where the hermit and the Armenian boy went down into the Pagoda.

The writer reported the matter to General Ne Win who after examining the gold sash told him to be sent to National Museum to display for the public but not to mention where and how it was discovered. He also asked the writer to block the entrance tight, to rearrange the Buddha statues in the Tazaung and to redesign the Tazaung as well. It seemed that the robber went into the same turnel and took the gold sash he found near the pool and came out to escape with it, unfortunately he saw the Pagoda Patrols coming around so he left the gold sash and fled.

Later, in his capacity as the Director-General of Archaeology Department he read an old report by Dr. Charles Forchammer, then superintendent of the Epigraphies Office, Burma Branch of Archaeological Survey of India. In that report, Dr. Forchammer supported the myths of Shwe Dagon Pagoda. Its hillock, he said, "has an underground pool connected with the sea by tide".

Now we should turn to Tabaung Festival. In the Maha Sakarit year of 103 [ Buddhist Era] on full moon Day of Kasone [May] Gotama Buddha became enlightened under the Shade of Bodhi Tree [Bannyan] in Gayga, India. This happy tidings reached out to all directions of the Universe. It was that time that Taphusa and Ballika the two merchant brothers, natives of Pokkaravati town in Ukkalapa Province of the country Ramanya came with 500 bullock carts to trade at seaport towns on the east coastline of India Hearing the good news, they went to worship the Enlightened Gotama Buddha and offered Him honey cakes. Lord Buddha gave them his teachings [Dhamma] and the two brothers embraced Buddhism. They requested Lord Buddha to give them some representation of him. The Buddha brushed his head with his right hand and came out 8 strands of hair from his head and offered them to the two brothers Encased the sacred hair relics in a ruby studded gold casket the two brothers set sail homeward bound. During, the long adventurous voyage, they encountered hardships and two hair relics were stolen.

On arrival at the jetty, King Ukkalapa with one thousand army officers welcomed the sacred relics. The jetty is now called Bo-ta-htaung Seik Kan [The Jetty of one thousand army officers]. After deep prayers and vows the two lost sacred hair relies returned into the casket. The king sent out the search party to find Theinguttara hill where Lord Buddha bade the two brothers enshrine his sacred hair relics. Sakka Deva showed the hill to the brothers and a ruined stupa in which three relics of the three previous Buddha were enshrined. The three Nat Devas- Sule, Yawhane and Dekkhina, received staff from Kakusandha Buddha, the water dipper from Konagamana Buddha and a bathing robe from Kassapa Buddha respectively when the spot was excavated these relics were found enshrined in a ruined stupa. The ruined stupa was repaired and renovated. The previous three sacred relies and the eight hair relics of Gotama Buddha were put inside the casket and enshrined in the rebuilt Pagoda. The casket had many enclosures, a silver, tin, copper, lead, marble and iron enclosures, each swallowing another. Finally, a solid structure was built on it.

Next, its history records the religions works of the Buddhist Kings, starting with Emperor Asoka right down to the British Colonial Period. Legends and stories of the bells on the platform are also history of other interest that waits research. The Singu Min Bell, the Thayawaddy Min Bell and the mysterious Dhamma Zedi Min Bell are well known.

Lay su dat pone Shwe Dagon လေးသွယ်တိုင် ရွှေတိုဘုံ enshrines two types of sacred relies- Hair relics of Gotama Buddha and utensils used in the life times of 3 previous Buddhas- so it is datu zedi stupa as well as paribawga zedi Pagoda.

When the first stupa was built on the triangular area between the three summits, and completion and consecration ceremony was held by putting a decorating gold umbrella and diamond bud on top, date and time were the full moon day of Tabaung in the early morning.

So that great event on that date and time is celebrated as Tabaung Festival of Shwe Dagon Pagoda.

Most famous Pagodas in Myanmar hold their Festivals in Tabaung. So Tabaung Festival is relavent not only to Shwe Dagon Pagoda but also to other pagodas across the country. ■

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# Education for young generation (Youth and Education)

EDUCATION plays a vital role in development. In addition, Education will improve the lives of young people globally. Education is important in eradicating poverty and in promoting sustainable development. Education provides the youth with the basic skills that need to escape poverty and stimulate sustainable development.

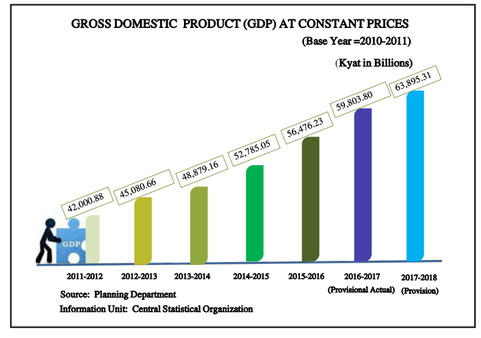
Education encompasses formal education, informal education and non-formal education (NFE). Firstly, formal education is classroom based and provided by trained teachers running from primary school through the University. In addition, general academic studies such as variety of specialized programs and institutions for full-time training. Formal education systems are inadequate to meet the needs of the young people and the community. It may need to offer more and better education at all levels especially in least developed countries. However, properly designed formal training programs involve a variety of techniques to appeal to all learning styles. When properly designed, the course content would be precise and up to date.

Secondly, informal education happens outside the classroom or can occur outside of a structured curriculum. Moreover, informal education occurs in after school programs, community based organizations, libraries, museums, and at home etc. Informal education is focus on spontaneous process of helping young people to learn. It is lifelong process where every young people acquire attitudes, values, skills and knowledge from daily experiences. Informal education works through conversation and exploration of experience. Informal learning can be more personal and subject-matter experts can be more willing to share their knowledge with others.

Thirdly, non-formal education refers any form of systematic learning conducted outside the formal setting. For example, community based sports programs and conference style seminars, which don't have the level of curriculum, syllabus and certification, are non-formal learning. In addition, non-formal education provides young people the possibility to develop soft skills such as their values, skills and competencies other than the ones developed in the framework of formal education. Soft skills comprise a wide range of competencies such as interpersonal skill, team building, organizational behavior, conflict management, intercultural awareness, leadership, and problem solving, so forth. Moreover, non-formal learning has experiential learning activities that nurture the development of skills and knowledge for the youth. Non-formal education supports in building the confidence and abilities among the young people of today. Non-formal learning also benefits in development of personal relationships not only among the young people but also among the adults. Non-formal learning assists in developing interpersonal skills among the youth outside the class and with the adults in the society.

Furthermore, non-formal education shows a significant role on the personal development of young people. However, the diplomas and certificates of formal education don't give the full picture of someone's and competences. As a result, different organizations, and institutions develop different tools that will support the visibility of the skills and competences acquired through non-formal education. On the other hand, some disadvantages, which comprise that non-formal learning, is not based on curriculum but based on experience.

In conclusion, regardless the name non-formal or informal education has been given, it is an essential instrument of a life long learning for young people and adults.—Win Aung Kyaw ■



President Donald Trump described the new sanctions on North Korea as the 'heaviest' ever in an address to a conservative conference near Washington. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Trump announces 'heaviest ever' sanctions on North Korea

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump has rolled out fresh sanctions against North Korea-linked shipping assets, hailing the package as the "heaviest sanctions ever" levied on the Pyongyang regime.

Trump used a speech to conservatives just outside Washington to step up his campaign of "maximum pressure" designed to force North Korea to roll back its weapons programs.

"We imposed today the heaviest sanctions ever imposed on a country before," Trump claimed at the end of a lengthy campaign-style address on Friday.

In light of past US embargoes, that is likely an overstatement, but Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin confirmed the sanctions covered "virtually all the ships" North Korea is "using at this moment in time."

Speaking to reporters in Pyeongchang on Saturday on a visit to the Winter Olympics, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said: "Hopefully we'll see a change on the part of the North Koreans to start to denuclearise the peninsula, that's what our focus is."

She added: "I can tell you the president won't make the mistakes the previous administration has and be soft or weak."

Trump's administration is locked in a nuclear standoff with Pyongyang, which is trying to develop missiles that could deliver an atomic weapon to major US cities.

The latest sanctions are designed to put the squeeze on North Korea's already precarious economy and fuel supply.

In his speech on Friday Trump had been expected to provide details of measures that target "56 vessels, shipping companies, and trade businesses," but skipped that part of his prepared remarks.

"Frankly hopefully something positive can happen," he said instead.

During a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Trump said sanctions were only the first step.

"If the sanctions don't work, we'll have to go to phase two. Phase two may be a very rough thing," he said, without elaborating.

Mnuchin said there were signs the punitive measures were starting to have an impact, but did not elaborate.

The North Korean military and broader economy depend heavily on imports of coal and oil from China and Russia.

China, Pyongyang's only major ally, has steadfastly rebuffed Washington's calls for a full oil embargo — fearing the chaotic collapse of the Pyongyang regime — but has accepted caps agreed at the United Nations.

**- Reaffirming ties with Seoul -**

The timing of the new measures coincides with the arrival in South Korea of Trump's daughter Ivanka.

She is attending the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics, which have taken place against the backdrop of the crisis.

The 36-year-old businesswoman and now top aide to her father has been tasked with reaffirming US ties with South Korea, which have been strained over how to deal with the North.

She was hosted in Seoul by President Moon Jae-in, who has long advocated talks rather than confrontation with North Korea.

"Mrs Trump delivered a personal message to President Moon from President Trump about today's North Korea related sanctions announcement at a small meeting at the Blue House," the White House said.

"They also discussed the continued effort on the joint maximum pressure campaign against North Korea."

South Korean officials, who sit in a capital well within range of conventional North Korea artillery, have been spooked by Trump's talk of military confrontation.

US officials worry meanwhile that North Korea is luring Moon into talks that are designed to go nowhere.

North Korea's delegation at the closing ceremony will be headed by top general Kim Yong Chol, who is widely blamed for a series of attacks against the South including the 2010 sinking of a warship, with the loss of 46 lives.

The White House spokeswoman said Ivanka would probably sit apart from the North Korean delegation at Sunday's closing ceremony.—AFP ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

### S African police kill seven suspects involved in police killing

CAPE TOWN — A multi-disciplinary team tasked to investigate the murders of five police officers and an off-duty soldier made a major breakthrough after they fatally shot dead seven suspects, police announced on Saturday.

More than 10 other suspects were arrested while others managed to escape, the South African Police Service (SAPS) said.

One police officer was wounded in the leg during the shootout with the suspects, and he is recuperating in hospital, according to the SAPS.

The task team which comprised agents from various law enforcement agencies stormed a church where the suspects were hiding at Ngcobo, Eastern Cape Province Friday evening, the SAPS said. The suspects were cornered inside the church premises and a gun battle between suspects and police ensued, leaving seven suspects dead and a police officer wounded, SAPS spokesperson Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi said.–Xinhua ■

### Suicide bombing rocks Afghan capital

KABUL — At least one people was killed and six others wounded after a suicide bombing rocked a diplomatic district in central Kabul Saturday morning, a spokesman of the Interior Ministry said.

The attacker also died on the spot and two of the wounded were in critical condition, spokesman Najib Danish told local Tolo News TV. –Xinhua ■

### Nine students killed, many injured after vehicle hits them in India

NEW DELHI — At least nine students were killed and many others injured, some of them critically, on Saturday, after an over-speeding vehicle ran them down in India's eastern state of Bihar, police said. –Xinhua ■

# Russia ready to vote for Syria ceasefire resolution at UN but guarantees needed

MOSCOW — Russia is ready to vote at the United Nations Security Council in favour of the resolution on a humanitarian pause in Syria but there are no guarantees that militants will observe the ceasefire, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday.

Lavrov pointed out that the UN Security Council "is attempting to pass a resolution declaring a 30-day humanitarian pause should be established immediately."

"At the same time, there is no answer to the question 'Where is the guarantee that militants will hold that humanitarian pause and that they will not shell Damascus' residential areas?'," he said. "There have been no guarantees provided."

"For the resolution to be effective, and we are ready to negotiate such a text, we have put forward a principle that will enable the ceasefire to become real and based on guarantees of all those inside Eastern Ghouta and beyond Eastern Ghouta," he added.

The Russian foreign minister pointed out that the guarantees "should be substantiated by external players' assurances and

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. **PHOTO: TASS**

first of all by those who have an influence on extremist groups holed up in that area outside Damascus."

"Therefore, unless Americans and their allies are driven by a desire to cloud the atmosphere and create additional excuses to push their idea of ousting the regime in Syria, but if they are driven by concern over the humanitarian situation in Eastern Ghouta, there is every opportunity for the agreement to be achieved," Lavrov added.

"Nevertheless, they are still refusing to take the amendment which shoulders on them the responsibility for getting clearly-defined assurances from militants that shelling will stop," he said.

Eastern Ghouta, controlled by militants and besieged by Syrian government forces, is included in one of the Syrian de-escalation zones established in accordance with the 4 May decision made by Russia, Iran and Turkey, the three guarantors of the Syrian ceasefire.

On Wednesday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged to halt fighting immediately in Eastern Ghouta in order to enable humanitarian deliveries and evacuation of injured civilians.—Tass ■

# Death toll rises to 38 in Mogadishu bombings

MOGADISHU — Two car bombings killed 38 people in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Friday, the city's main ambulance service told AFP on Saturday.

"We have seen at least 38 people dead," said Abdukadir Abdurahman Aden of the Aamin Ambulance of the bombings that targeted the presidential palace and a hotel.

The first blast, followed by gunfire, occurred at a security checkpoint close to Villa Somalia, the name for the seat of government, while a second followed soon after at a hotel, according to police.

The Shabaab Islamist militant group claimed the attacks in a statement posted online, saying it was targeting the government and security services.

The blasts follow weeks of relative calm in Mogadishu.

According to officials, the main attack involved the use of a vehicle loaded with explosives attempting to breach a checkpoint leading to the presidential palace, but security forces prevented the assault.

"The security forces foiled the intent of the terrorists. They were aiming for key targets but they could not even go closer, there were five of them killed by the security force," said Abdulahi Ahmed, a security officer.

The Shabaab is fighting to overthrow Somalia's internationally-backed government. In October it carried out its deadliest-ever bombing, killing over 500 people.

In the wake of that attack Somalia's government declared a fresh offensive against the group and US drone strikes have increased in frequency.

While the militant group was pushed out of the capital in 2011 by an African Union force it continues to control large parts of the countryside and launches regular attacks on government, military and civilian targets.—AFP ■

# US to open Jerusalem embassy in May for Israel's 70th anniversary

WASHINGTON — The United States said on Friday it will relocate its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem in May, bringing forward the contested move to coincide with the Jewish state's 70th birthday — and enraging Palestinians, who called it a "blatant provocation."

Palestinians object to recognition of the disputed city as Israel's capital and say the embassy move could destroy a two-state solution to the decades-old Middle East conflict.

Palestinians also object to the date chosen for the embassy move — they call 14 May, on which Israel declared independence in 1948, Naqba, their "day of catastrophe."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the announcement and thanked US President Donald Trump for his "leadership" and his "friendship."

The embassy move is expected to complicate efforts to restart peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians — and jeopardize the traditional, if disputed, US role as an "honest broker" in efforts to resolve one of the world's most intractable conflicts.

"In May, the United States plans to open a new US embassy in Jerusalem. The opening will coincide with Israel's 70th anniversary," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert in a statement.

Until now, the US embassy has been located in Tel Aviv with a separate consulate general located in Jerusalem that represents US interests in the Palestinian territories.

The new embassy will be initially located in a US consular building in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood while Washington

The US announces a May date for the relocation of its embassy to Jerusalem, a disputed city holy to three major religions . **PHOTO: AFP**

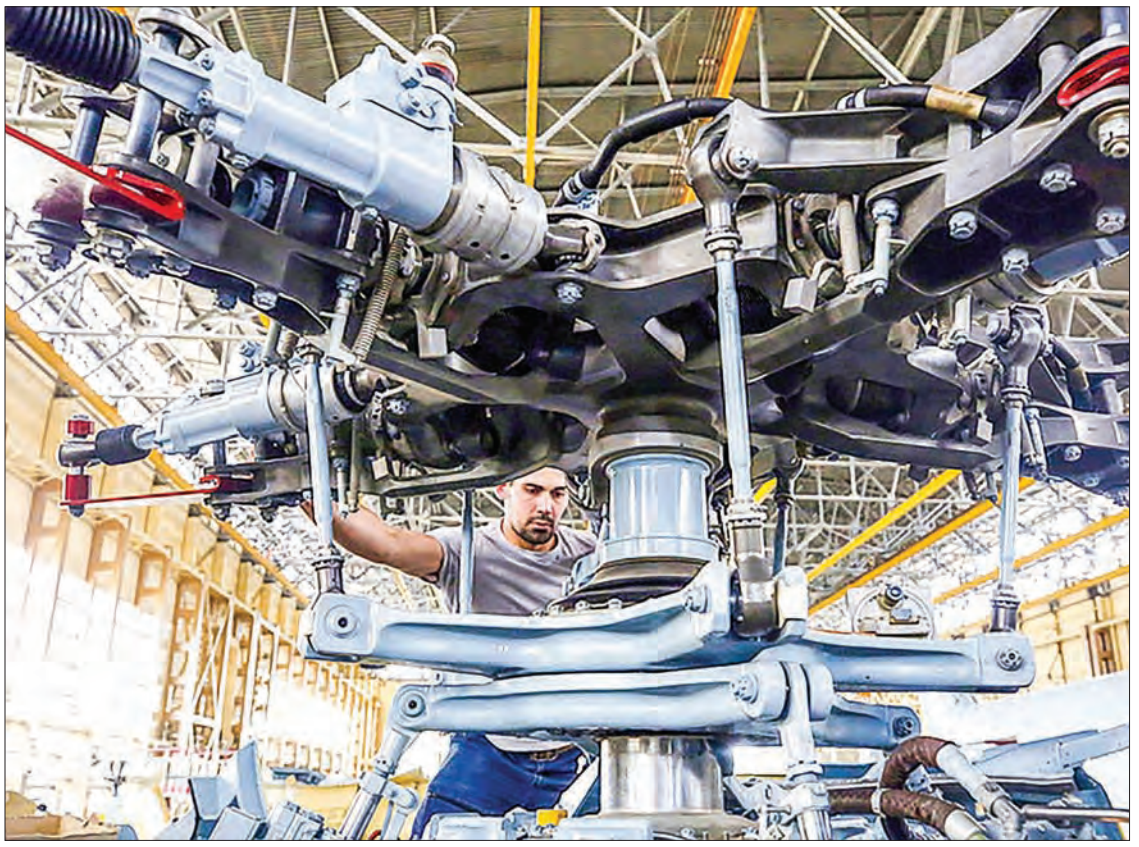
searches for a permanent location, "the planning and construction of which will be a longer-term undertaking," Nauert said.

The interim embassy will contain office space for the ambassador and "a small staff," she said.

"By the end of next year, we intend to open a new embassy Jerusalem annex on the Arnona compound that will provide the ambassador and his team with expanded interim office space," she added.

Trump broke with decades of policy in December to announce US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and a pledge to move the embassy, drawing near global condemnation, enraging the Palestinians and sparking days of unrest in the Palestinian territories.

It ruptured generations of international consensus that Jerusalem's status should be settled as part of a two-state peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.—AFP ■



The new helicopter will be able to develop a speed of over 400 km per hour. **PHOTO: TASS**

# Russia's new high-speed combat helicopter prototype to perform debut flight in 2019

MOSCOW — The prototype of the new high-speed combat helicopter being developed by Russian Helicopters rotorcraft manufacturer (part of hi-tech corporation Rostec) for Russia's Defence Ministry will perform its debut flight in 2019, Rostec CEO Sergei Chemezov told TASS on 22 Thursday February.

"Next year, we will continue experimental design work. We have developed quite substantial potential.

The first flight tests of the experimental helicopter may take place during 2019 or closer to its end," the Rostec chief executive said. The new helicopter will be able to develop a speed of over 400 km/h, he added.

As was reported earlier, the Mil Moscow Helicopter Plant, part of Russian Helicopters Group, is carrying out R&D work on a combat helicopter with great potential for Russia's Defence Ministry.

Some technological solutions within the project have been tested on serial-produced models.

According to Russian Helicopters Group, specialists of the Mil Moscow Helicopter Plant have developed a revolutionary design of the main rotor's blade for this gunship.—Tass ■

# EU opens door for Balkan states, but hurdles remain

BELGRADE, (Serbia) — The European Union has offered some of the six Balkan states who hope to join the bloc the prospect of becoming new members by 2025, but warned them they still have many obstacles to overcome.

The European Commission's roadmap for the region unveiled earlier this month said the countries must root out problems with corruption and the rule of law, and, especially, settle a series of simmering territorial disputes.

"The EU door is open to further accessions when, and only when, the individual countries have met the criteria," the plan said.

European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker will start a tour of the region on Sunday to discuss the new strategy, which stresses "implementing fundamental reforms and good neighbourly relations".

Montenegro and Serbia are the frontrunners to join, with Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo and Macedonia lagging behind, but all are getting impatient after the EU put expansion on hold four years ago.

The EU has been wary of admitting new members before they settle their differences, and the border rows will be a particular point of contention in a region still bedevilled by the aftermath of the bloody break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said the chance to join by 2025 was "very important as an incentive for Serbian citizens".

But he warned that it would take some "difficult decisions" to solve the country's outstanding issues — first and foremost, Serbia's dispute with Kosovo.

Serbia has refused to recognise its former breakaway province since it declared independence a decade ago.

## 'Ball in our court'

Montenegro has reason to be satisfied with the EU's strategy, according to Prime Minister Dusko Markovic, but the European Movement Montenegro found it was "discouraging" that the plan considered 2025 to be an "extremely ambitious" prospect.

Juncker has warned Serbia and Montenegro against too much "excitement", saying that 2025 "is an indicative date, an encouragement date so that the people concerned can consistently set out on their way".

The deadline for the other Balkan nations is less clear.

Albania, a candidate since 2014, hopes to open talks with Brussels this year and is willing to speed up reforms to catch up with the others, according to Prime Minister Edi Rama.

"We want to make progress faster and, why not, join EU at the same time" as Serbia, Rama said.

But Albanian political analyst Lutfi Dervishi warned that joining the EU "is a national desire but it is not a lottery".

"The ball is in our court," Dervishi told AFP, referring to the pace of reform, particularly in the fight against organised crime and corruption, seen by the EU as a priority for Albania.

## 'Locked in the waiting room'

Macedonia, an EU candidate since 2005, will have to resolve a festering 25-year row with Greece over its name.

Athens, which can block Macedonia's EU membership, argues its neighbour's use of the name suggests Skopje has territorial claims to Greece's historic northern region.

But Macedonia has made significant progress recently and the EU said it is "very confident" the dispute will be settled before July.

Prime Minister Zoran Zaev has praised the EU's new plan, saying that "according to this strategy Macedonia is on the right track".

He added it would provide motivation "to work and catch up with Serbia and Montenegro, who already negotiate" with the EU.

But Macedonia's Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov said earlier this month that it was difficult for countries to keep moving in the right direction if they are "locked in the waiting room".

In Bosnia, which applied for membership in 2016, Muslim leader Bakir Izetbegovic said he was confident "we can catch up with those currently ahead us on the path towards the EU".

But the country will have to tackle ongoing tension with Bosnian Serbs, including their leader Milorad Dodik, who regularly threatens secession.

Kosovo was the most disappointed with the EU's strategy.

Media in the capital Pristina pointed out that rather than employing terms like "accession" and "candidate status" used for other countries, the document said Kosovo could "advance on its European path" once "circumstances allow".

Five of the EU's 28 member states still do not recognise Kosovo's independence, and President Hashim Thaci has blamed them "for the lack of a unique stand for Kosovo" in the new plan.

"But Kosovo will not sink into despair," Thaci said. —AFP ■

Montenegro and Serbia are the frontrunners to join the EU, with Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo and Macedonia lagging behind. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Trump says China ties 'best ever' but trade a problem

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump papered over superpower rivalries with China on Friday, saying relations had never been better but trade was a major problem.

"I don't think we've ever had a better relationship with China than we do right now," Trump said, using trademark hyperbole.

"Other than the fact that they've been killing us on trade for the last long period of time. Killing us."

Trump regularly claims that his presidency has led to the "best ever" relationship with countries from Australia to Britain to China.

"The only thing that can get in its way is trade. It's so one sided, it's so lopsided," he said, tearing into his predecessors.

"The people that stood here so many years in this position, right where I am right now should never have allowed that to happen. It's very unfair to the United States."

Trump also boasted about his relationship with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

US President Donald Trump (L) and China's President Xi Jinping. **PHOTO: AFP**

"My personal relationship," he continued, "with President Xi is quite extraordinary. He is somebody that I like. I think he likes me.

"With that being said, he likes China and I like the United States... as much as I like and respect President Xi, we have to straighten out the trade imbalance. It's too much," Trump added.

The US Commerce Department recently recommended imposing heavy tariffs on China and other countries to counter a global glut in steel and aluminum.

Beijing has warned it could take retaliatory action if necessary.—AFP ■

# Japan approves new drug that can kill flu virus in one day

TOKYO — The Japanese Ministry of Health approved a new drug on Friday that allegedly kills the flu virus in just 24 hours, which would be a major breakthrough in combating influenza. The tablet, which is called Xofluza, could soon prove to be a significant competitor to Swiss drug giant Roche's Tamiflu, one of the most common drugs used to treat the flu.

According to the Japanese drug maker Shionogi, Xofluza requires far fewer doses than Tamiflu. Patients only need to take just a single pill instead of two doses per day for five days.p Shionogi also says that Xofluza can kill the flu virus within 24 hours as it stops virus replication in its tracks by inhibiting an enzyme that the flu virus needs to multiply. China announced the research and development of a vaccine to protect people against four subtypes of seasonal influenza viruses last week. It is expected to be available on the Chinese market in the second half of 2018, a Chinese health official said.

The World Health Organization says seasonal flu is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses which circulate in all parts of the world. Annual epidemics of influenza are estimated to result in 3 to 5 million cases of severe illness and 290,000 to 650,000 deaths worldwide. The ongoing flu season has strongly affected several countries with at least 129 deaths having been reported in total in January.—Xinhua ■

# China plans to revamp Party and state institutions

BEIJING — Leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Saturday discussed a structural reform plan of the Party and state institutions.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee met to revise the draft and decided to submit it to the third plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, to be held between 26 and 28 February, for review.

The leaders agreed that the Party and state institutions form an important part of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and should be reformed to strengthen the Party's leadership, improve state governance and make the system efficient.

While acknowledging its contributions, the leaders said the current structure of Party and state institutions was not good enough to meet the requirements for various tasks of the new era. The Party should resolve to tackle institutional obstacles to give full play to the advantages of China's socialist system, they said. Details of the plan were not disclosed.

China has typically initiated cabinet structural reforms every five years since the early 1980s. Seven such reforms have slashed a number of ministries and agencies to make the central government leaner and more effective.—Xinhua ■

# Ex-Trump aide paid Europeans to lobby for pro-Russia Ukraine: papers

WASHINGTON— Donald Trump's ex-campaign chief Paul Manafort secretly paid a group of former senior European politicians more than two million euros ($2.5 million) to lobby for Ukraine's then-leader backed by Russia, according to an indictment filed on Friday.

The charges, lodged in a Washington federal court by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, said Manafort retained the so-called Hapsburg Group of one-time politicians to "take positions favorable to Ukraine, including by lobbying the United States."

The group, which operated from 2012-2013, was managed by an unnamed "former European chancellor," who along with other members of the group lobbied US legislators and White House officials, the indictment alleged.

They were to "appear to be providing their independent assessments of government of Ukraine actions, when in fact they were paid lobbyists for Ukraine," according to the indictment.

Manafort has been accused by the team investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections and possible collusion with the Trump campaign of money laundering, tax fraud and banking fraud connected to work he did for Viktor Yanukovych from 2006-2014.

Yanukovych was Ukraine's president beginning in 2010.

Backed by Moscow, the billionaire Yanukovych was eyed suspiciously at the time in much of Europe for his pro-Russia stance and widespread accusations of deep corruption.

He was overthrown in a 2014 uprising and exiled to Russia. After that, Manafort stopped working for him, returned to the United States and, in 2016, joined Trump's presidential election campaign.

The Hapsburg Group was meant to "act informally and without any visible relationship" to the Ukraine government, a memorandum written by Manafort in June 2012 read.

While the latest indictment did not charge Manafort with any crime specifically tied to the Hapsburg Group, those activities were cited to show Manafort had been actively lobbying for Ukraine and had allegedly broken laws by not registering as such in the United States.—AFP ■

# Berlin films journey into agribusiness wastelands

BERLIN — From bulldozers ripping through virgin forests to planes spraying pesticides on village schools, documentary film-makers in Berlin are showing the high toll of modern industrial agriculture.

They take viewers on road trips through Big Food's wastelands, from Indonesia where rainforests are razed for palm oil plantations to Argentina's soy and grain fields that produce cash crops for export and as animal feed.

The vast scale and numbing uniformity of monocultures is the visual subject of "Imperial Valley — Cultivated Run-Off", a short film which uses a drone for a rare bird's eye view of endless plantations on the US-Mexican border.

Set only to electronic music, the hypnotic aerial footage scans across endless planted rows as symmetrical as an Excel table, and follows irrigation pipelines and dead-straight canals that dump the run-off into a lake. The Austrian artist who made the film, Lukas Marxt, told AFP that "the idea is to show that we are already living in a kind of post-apocalypse — to show the dimensions, scale, impact, fatal cause and ironic beauty" of the corporate farmlands that feed us.

High-yield monocultures are the ultimate "commercialisation of nature," said Kathrin Hartmann, who was at the Berlin film festival for the premiere of another ecological documentary, "The Green Lie".

"In the end, they're just vast industrial areas, you can't call it nature."

**- Hungry planet -**

To its proponents, intensive, mechanised agribusiness offers the economies of scale needed to feed a hungry planet.

Modern industrial farming has vastly increased yields and made food cheaper and available to more people worldwide.

But to its critics — including the unashamedly activist film-makers at Berlin's cinema festival — they destroy species-rich habitats, impoverish soils and wreck family farms and local communities. "Monocultures require huge amounts of pesticides, they degrade the soils and consume incredible amounts of water," said Hartmann. "The cash crops are usually not even food, they're mostly animal feed or energy crops."—AFP ■

# French group in bid to ban young children watching 'Fifty Shades Freed'

The film stars Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS — A Catholic group which succeeded in having Lars von Trier's ultra-violent film "Antichrist" banned from French cinemas, is now taking a case against the erotic romance "Fifty Shades Freed".

The traditionalist Promouvoir (Promote) lobby group wants the film version of the last of E L James' trilogy on a sadomasochistic love affair banned for under 12s.

The blockbuster, starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan, can be watched by anyone in France even though only over 18s can see it in Britain.

US censors gave it an R rating, meaning under 17s must be accompanied by a parent.

"It's crazy that this film should be seen by seven-year-old children. It has to be banned for children under 12," the group's lawyer, Andre Bonnet, told AFP late Thursday.

"The courts must judge if showing an adult film — especially when it is about this sadomasochistic relationship — is right for children," he added.

The group has scored several court victories by using a clause in the French film classification rules which allows films to be pulled from cinemas if they might affect "the emotional development of children".

Gaspar Noe's erotic odyssey "Love" was banned by the courts in 2015 and the permit for "Blue is the Warmest Colour", which won the top Palme d'Or prize at the Cannes film festival in 2013, was also withdrawn the same year over its lesbian scenes.

While "Love" was re-released with a revised 18 certificate, Tunisian-French director Abdellatif Kechiche's much-praised love story was left in legal limbo.

It prompted the French culture ministry, which has generally overturned the bans, to order a rethink of the rules.

Von Trier, the notoriously provocative Danish director, who revels in putting audiences and his actors through the wringer, admitted that "Antichrist" was not for the faint-hearted when it was first shown.

It opens with a passionate sex scene between a couple played by Willem Dafoe and Charlotte Gainsbourg, who are so absorbed in their love making they fail notice their toddler falling to his death from a window.

Promouvoir also tried to have the age classification for the first of the E L James' movies, "Fifty Shades of Grey", raised when it was released in 2015, but without success. —AFP ■

# Wes Anderson, Norway teen massacre films lead Berlin fest race

BERLIN — Wes Anderson's "Isle of Dogs", an animated movie with political bite, and a controversial dramatisation of Norway's 2011 massacre of teenagers by a neo-Nazi gunman led the award favourites on Saturday at the Berlin film festival.

The Berlinale, Europe's first major cinema showcase of the year, will hand out its coveted Golden and Silver Bear top prizes at a gala ceremony starting at 1800 GMT.

A six-member jury headed by German director Tom Tykwer ("Run Lola Run", Netflix series "Babylon Berlin") will choose among 19 contenders from around the world.

Anderson's "Isle of Dogs" opened the festival on 15 February, delighting audiences with an all-star cast voicing a pack of pooches expelled from a fictional Japanese city by a corrupt, fear-mongering mayor.

British actress Tilda Swinton (R) and US actress Greta Gerwig with US director Wes Anderson at the opening of the Berlinale with the premiere of "Isle of Dogs", a favourite to win a top prize. **PHOTO: AFP**

Britain's Guardian called the movie "hugely enjoyable", showing an "indefatigably fertile imagination letting rip in inimitable style — and packing an eco-themed, antibigotry message as well". The picture led an international critics' poll at the Berlinale published by industry magazine Screen.

Reviewers were also impressed with the gut-wrenching drama "U-July 22" about the mass murder of 69 mainly teenage victims on the Norwegian island of Utoya by far-right militant Anders Behring Breivik.

The film, featuring in a chilling single 72-minute take, recounts the carnage in real time with fictionalised characters.

It premiered just days after one of the worst school shootings in US history, killing 17 in Florida. The movie sparked a heated debate among viewers, victims' families and survivors about whether it was too soon — or even necessary at all — to reenact Norway's most traumatic tragedy since World War II on screen. However, US website Indiewire said the "almost unbearably harrowing recreation" in Erik Poppe's movie honoured the victims while rallying societies to do more to protect their young. "Movies have the power to re-sensitise us to violence, restoring some terrible shape to the mass horrors we've negligently allowed to become abstractions," it said.

**- 'Blind faith in authority' -**

Acclaimed Filipino director Lav Diaz, who scooped the top prize in Venice two years ago with "The Woman Who Left", won admirers for his new picture, "Season of the Devil".

The four-hour-long folk musical, filmed in black and white, depicts the suffering unleashed on rural communities by a sadistic government-backed militia under Ferdinand Marcos in the late 1970s.—AFP ■

# French WWI soldier identified by DNA laid to rest

METZ, (France) — A century after the Battle of Verdun a French soldier who was left behind on the battlefield got a proper burial Wednesday after being identified by DNA samples from his relatives.

Sergeant Claude Fournier is the first French soldier who died in World War I to be identified by DNA analysis — a process already used by Britain to identify 10 servicemen in 2014.

Fournier's remains were found in May 2015 during construction work at Douaumont memorial, which contains the remains of soldiers who died during the 10-month scorched-earth battle between French and German forces.

An earthmover uncovered three skeletons "almost entirely preserved, completely entangled," Bruno Fremont, the site's forensic scientist, told AFP.

Hobnail boots, bayonets, bullets, helmets and a small flask of mint liqueur were also found at the site — along with a military tag belonging to a certain Claude Fournier, who was killed on 4 August, 1916, at the age of 35. The find triggered a quest to formally identify Fournier, who was decorated for his bravery in the longest fight of the war.

Forensic scientist Bruno Fremont said three skeletons uncovered by an earthmover at the Douaumont memorial were 'almost entirely preserved'. **PHOTO: AFP**

Born on 27 November, 1880 in Colombier-en-Brionnais, about 400 kilometres south of Verdun, he worked as a gardener in the Lyon area before enlisting in the French army in 1900. Little was known about the infantry soldier who was married with a teenage daughter when he fell under enemy fire.

One of the three skeletons bore some of the traits listed in his army file, but historians could not be sure they had their man until they had a DNA match.

On learning that a local man who died during the war might have been found a century later the mayor of Colombier-en-Brionnais, Jean-Paul Malatier, went looking for his family.

With the help of historical associations he managed to track down a 75-year-old grandson, Robert Allard, to the Riviera, as well as a woman in her 80s who thought she was related to Fournier but no longer lived in the area.

Of some 300,000 men who died in 300 days of fighting in Verdun, around 80,000 are believed to still lie buried in the surrounding forests and fields.

On Wednesday, Fournier was laid to rest with full military honors in his own tomb at Douaumont memorial.—AFP ■

# Tasmanian tiger just another marsupial in the pouch

SYDNEY — Australia's ill-fated Tasmanian tiger looked like any other marsupial when born but assumed dog-like features by the time it left the mother's pouch, scientists said Wednesday in shedding new light on its puzzling evolution.

Using CT technology, they scanned all 13 juvenile specimens of the extinct carnivore found in collections around the world, developing the first 3D models of the tiger from birth to adulthood.

"These scans show in incredible detail how the Tasmanian tiger started its journey in life as a joey that looked very much like any other marsupial, with robust forearms so that it could climb into its mother's pouch," said Christy Hipsley, from Museums Victoria.

"But by the time it left the pouch around 12 weeks to start independent life, it looked more like a dog or wolf, with longer hind limbs than forelimbs."

Kangaroos, koalas, wombats and the Tasmanian devil are also marsupials.

The animal's resemblance to the dingo, a wild dog native to Australia, is one of the clearest examples of "convergent evolution" in mammals, which is when two unrelated species evolve to look very similar.

The Tasmanian tiger last shared a common ancestor with dogs and wolves around 160 million years ago.

Once ranging throughout Australia and New Guinea, Thylacinus cynocephalus disappeared from the mainland around 3,000 years ago, likely due to competition with humans and dogs.

The remaining population — isolated on the island of Tasmania — was hunted to extinction in the early 20th century. The last known individual died at Hobart Zoo in 1936.

The juvenile specimens, representing five stages of postnatal development, were scanned using non-invasive X-ray micro-CT scanning technology to create high-resolution 3D digital models.

University of Melbourne professor Andrew Pask said it was an incredibly effective technique to study the skeletal anatomy of the specimens without causing any damage.

"This research clearly demonstrates the power of CT technology. It has allowed us to scan all the known Thylacine joey specimens in the world, and study their internal structures in high resolution without having to dissect or cause damage to the specimen," he said.—AFP ■

**In memoriam**

**Pray on Maung Zaw Win Latt alias Maung Tutpi who passed away two months ago**

In memory of Maung Zaw Win Latt alias Maung Tutpi who left us two month ago (25 December 2017) at 2114 Howard gap rd apt, 16 Hendersonville, NC 28792, in the United States of America, we: your parents, wife, brothers and sisters and relatives, remember you. We, your family members, share with you the merits gained.

**Grandmother - Daw Khin Sein**
**Father and mother - U Khin Maung Win + Daw Khin Mar Kyi receding at 4th floor, No45, Thittaw Street, Ahlon Township, Yangon**
**Wife - Ma Khin Myo New (NY, USA)**
**Friends and Relatives**

# Stolen Degas painting found on a bus near Paris

PARIS — A Degas painting stolen from a museum in Marseille nine years ago has been found on a bus near Paris, the French culture minister said on Friday.

Francoise Nyssen said customs officials found the pastel — thought to be worth around 800,000 euros ($893,000) — hidden in the luggage compartment of a bus stopped in a motorway layby.

None of the passengers on the bus admitted to knowing anything about the painting, she added.

Experts from the Musee d'Orsay in the French capital later confirmed that the depiction of a group of opera extras was "Les Choristes" — sometimes called "The Extras" — which was stolen in 2009 from the Musee Cantini in the southern port city.

It was the only time non-dancers ever appeared in the aristocratic ballet-loving artist's work inspired by life at the opera. Degas was at the height of his powers when he created the piece in 1877, just before his sight began to decline.

The confirmation of the find comes as a major exhibition about the artist's relationship with the dancers at the Paris Opera closes at the Musee d'Orsay this weekend after attracting nearly half a million visitors.

## 'Wonderful happy ending'

"It is a wonderful happy ending to the story," said a spokeswoman for the museum, which holds the world's largest collection of Impressionist art.

"It is the centenary of his death, and we are organising a huge show about Degas and the opera for 2019. It would have been a terrible loss for us to do it without this painting," she told AFP.

Nyssen said that the painting — which shows a scene from "Don Juan" — will now have a "special place" in the "Degas at the Opera" show, which will open in September 2019.

The painting mysteriously disappeared from the Marseille museum on New Year's Eve 2009. It was on loan from the Musee d'Orsay for an exhibition on art and theatre.

The police's specialist anti-art crime unit said there had been no trace of the painting during the intervening years.—AFP ■

This handout photo shows a French customs officer holding the recovered painting . **PHOTO: AFP**

# Magwe beats Ayeyawady in MNL matchup

MAGWE FC defeated Ayeyawady by a score of 2-1 yesterday at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon in a week 7 match of the MPT Myanmar National League 2018. The win allowed Magwe to maintain their standing near the top of the 2018 MNL rankings.

Yesterday's match was an exciting one to watch as good players from both teams played well. Reliable players Myat Htun Thit and Thiha could not participate for Magwe FC, but other star players such as Swan Htet Aung and Zayya Naing played very well with great communication on the field. Ayeyawady lined up with its stars Naing Lin Htun, Min Min Thu, Thiha Zaw and Phyo Ko Ko Thein. The match was scoreless in the first half as both teams could not convert multiple opportunities into goals.

Magwe changed tactics in the second half in the striking position, which resulted in the first score of the match. At the 54-minute mark, Aung Myint Htun scored for Magwe after a marvelous pass through multiple defenders.

Magwe scored again at the 60-minute mark when Soe Lwin Lwin connected with a penalty shot. Down by two goals given, Ayeyawady mounted a concerted comeback effort. Their determined play resulted in a goal at the 75-minute mark with a surprise score from midfielder Cassio Horta Maga Lhaes, who kicked the ball far from the net.

For the rest of the match, Magwe's defenders blocked every scoring opportunity by Ayeyawady. Yesterday's win put Magwe in second place of the league table with 14 points.—KyawZin Lin ■

Magwe star Aung Myint Tun attempts to head the ball in yesterday's MNL match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO:MNL**

# Takeuchi bounced in parallel GS quarterfinals

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Sochi Olympic silver medalist Tomoka Takeuchi crashed out in the quarterfinals of the women's snowboard parallel giant slalom at the Pyeongchang Winter Games on Saturday.

Now a five-time Olympian, Takeuchi qualified sixth for the knockout phase of the competition at Phoenix Snow Park, beating Sochi Olympic parallel slalom champion Julia Dujmovits of Austria in the round of 16.

But in the final eight, the 34-year-old Takeuchi was eliminated by eventual silver medalist Selina Joerg of Germany. Joerg lost in the final to the Czech Republic's two-sport star Ester Ledecka, who also won the gold in the super-G in alpine skiing. Another German, Ramona Theresia Hofmeister, took bronze.

As disappointed as she was to have missed the podium, Takeuchi was at peace with herself. "It's too bad I lost, but I came here in good shape, feeling good about myself," Takeuchi said. "It's a shame I went out because of one, critical error I made but apart from that, I thought I rode well today.

I fell out of line and dug right into the soft part of the snow, and that was it."

"The loss hurts, but I have a sense of fulfillment from the way I've spent the last four years."

After the qualifying — the top 16 from the 29-woman field advanced — Takeuchi said she has not felt better all season but she had to settle for fifth place overall. Ledecka became the third athlete, and first woman, to win gold in two different sports at a single Winter Games. The 22-year-old also is only the fifth athlete to win golds in multiple sports at the Winter Olympics in any year. Nevin Galmarini of Switzerland won the men's parallel giant slalom gold, pipping Lee Sang Ho of South Korea and Slovenia's Zan Kosir, who took silver and bronze, respectively. It was the first medal on snow at the Pyeonchang Games for the host. Japan's Masaki Shiba failed to go through after finishing 27th in qualifying. —Kyodo News ■

Japanese snowboarder Tomoka Takeuchi competes in a women's parallel giant slalom elimination race at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea on 24 February, 2018. **KYODO NEWS**

# Football Association formed in Kyaungon

The Football Association of Kyaungone was formed recently in Ayeyawady Region with the efforts of football officials.

The association hopes to recognise and develop football skills in players from across the region.

The association was formed in the township of Kyaungon by a delegation led by one of the players from the golden era of Myanmar football, U Ye Nyunt, along with other members of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) including the MFF Secretary U Ko Ko Thein and departmental officials of the township. There were a total of about 40 attendees in the meeting. The association was led by President of the association U Thein Tun and chaired by U Myint Tun, a township elder, and 15 other members, all of whom are considered experts in football education. The association is the 18th association in the region. Kyaunggon is a town in the Ayeyawady Division of south-west Myanmar. It is the seat of the Kyaunggon Township in the Pathein District. —KyawZin Lin ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar



# Reading can give us advantages

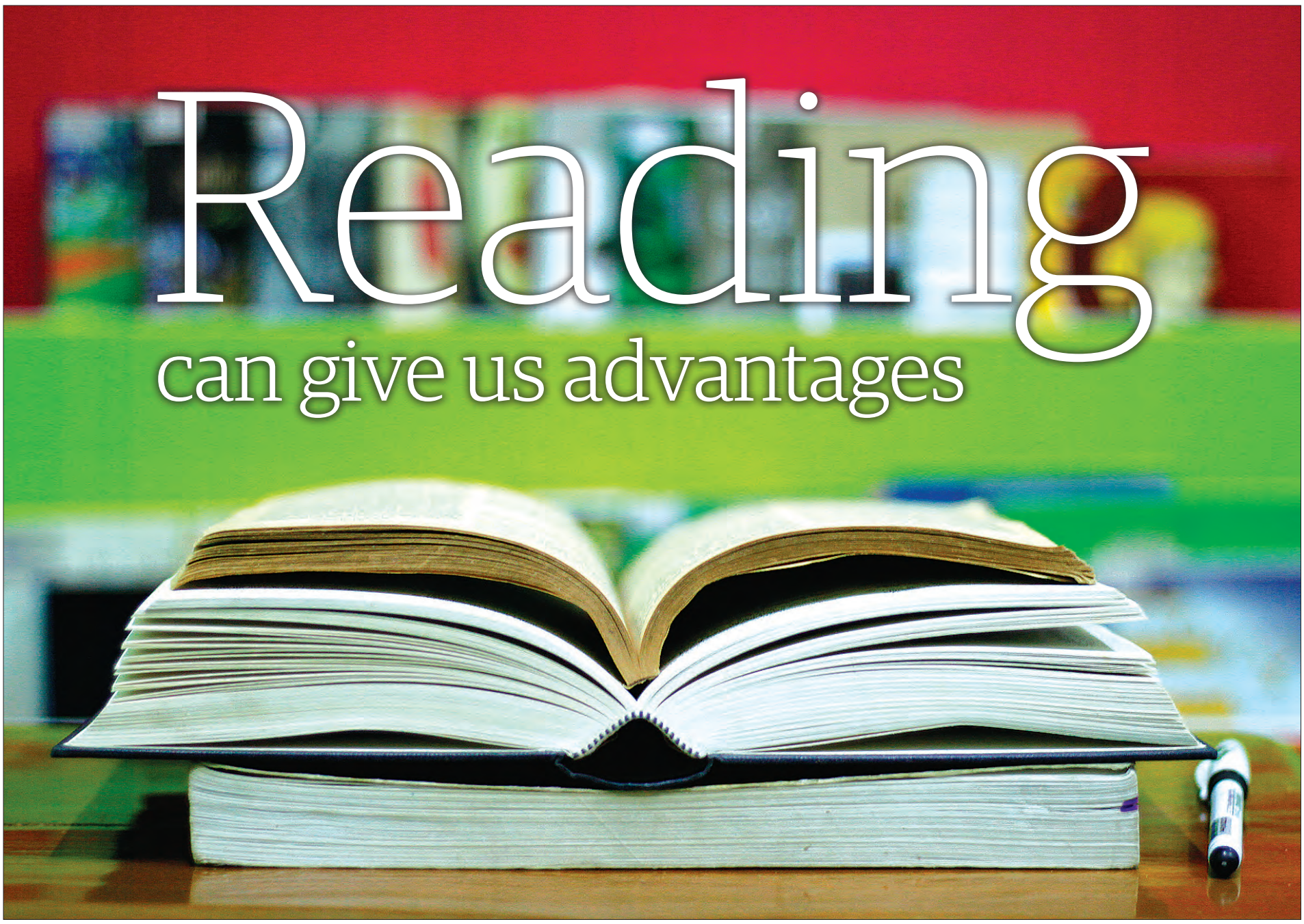


Photo: Nyi Zaw Moe

Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University

READING is a kind of relaxing what can give us a lot of precious things. As we, human beings, are going on our life by doing our daily works like getting up, going to works or school, having meals, getting back home and going bed. These are our daily doings. Even though most of the people are surviving by following the ordinary way, some of the people are surviving by seeking precious things without going anywhere. They just observe the good things by just sitting somewhere. It is called reading. We can receive invaluable things by reading. Because we can know different means of success by reading. People can seek wealth by reading suitable books for their respective works. Moreover, they can get fresh and creative ideas for their works by reading. They can manage their work well and they can work systematically by integrating their capabilities and reading.

We can also travel all around the world by reading. We can go where we want by reading respective books. We do not need to worry to bring money, food, clothes to go there. We just need to sit some quiet places and read books with concentration. By doing so, we can see the different scenery with our sixth sense. Moreover, we can know many subject matters about the places where we want to go. It is not easy to travel all around the world because we can cost a lot of money for accommodation, eating, travelling cost and also for many other things. Reading can help us to solve this problem.

SEE PAGE S-8

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

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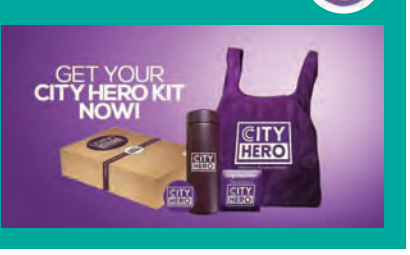

# Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

## Lesson 41: Different Kinds of Sentences (1): Simple Sentences

Hello Class!

Up to this Lesson, you all have already learned quite an amount of Basic English Grammar, let's study about different kinds of sentences.

There are three types of sentences named :…

(1) Simple Sentences
(2) Compound Sentences and
(3) Complex Sentences.

So today let's study about "Simple Sentences" first.

**(1) Simple Sentence**

A Simple Sentence is a sentence which has only one main Verb.

e.g. (1)The boy goes to school.
(2) She wrote the letter.
(3) Father will drive the car.
(4) He is singing a sweet song.
(5) She was swimming in the pool.
(6) She will be going to the University next week.
(7) He has done his homework.
(8) Mother had cooked all the dishes.
(9) You will have come back for the holidays.

Look at all these sentences, every sentence has only one main Verb. All these main Verbs in the above example sentences are underlined.

When a Sentence has Subject + Only one Main Verb, this is a "Simple Sentence", whether there is an Object or not.

"She sings." is also a "Simple Sentence".

When these two "Simple Sentences" are connected together with the following Conjunctions ; such as "and, but, for, or, nor, either or, neither nor, because, still, else", these already connected sentences are called "Compound Sentences".

**Example:**

(1) She will go to school and he will go to the office.
(2) The sister is lovely, but her brother is quite naughty.
(3) She will come back soon for she has forgotten her purse here.
(4) Mi Mi will come home or he will go and fetch her.
(5) He nor his brother will not pass the exam.
(6) Either you go home or go to the hospital.
(7) Neither Mother nor Father will go out.
(8) He will not go to school, because he is ill.
(9) She tried her best, still she failed.
(10) He will find the doctor or else he will fetch his mother.

Here, in these sentences, if you divide the above sentences into two separate parts without any linking words, these different sentences have their own complete sense.

**Example:**

(1) She will go to school. He will go to the office.
(2) The sister is lovely. Her brother is quite naughty.
(3) She will come back soon for she has forgotten her purse here.
(4) Mi Mi will come home. He will go and fetch her.
(5) He will not pass the exam. His brother will not pass the exam.
(6) You go home. You go to the hospital.
(7) Mother will not go out. Father will not go out.
(8) He will not go to school. He is ill.
(9) She tried her best. She failed.
(10) He will find the doctor. He will fetch his mother.

So, if two or more Simple Sentences which already have their own complete sense, are combined together by using the linking words, "and, but, for, or, nor, either or, neither nor, because, still, else", these already combined sentences are called "Compound Sentences".

If you break these sentences apart, all these different parts can be still Complete Sentences with Complete Sense.

**Here comes the exercises : …**

## Exercise 41

**I. Make 5 Simple Sentences of you own.**

**II. Make 5 Compound Sentences of your own.**

**III. Connect the following sentences into Compound Sentences.**

(a) She will wake up early. She will cook the rice.
(b) Maung Maung can do the Maths. Hla Hla cannot do the Maths.
(c) You can go home now. Your brother cannot go home now.
(d) She cannot sing sweetly. Her sister cannot sing sweetly.
(e Mother will come back home. Father will come back home.
(f) She has a fever. She will not go out today.
(g) He tried a lot. He failed.
(h) The rich man has to pay the ransom money. They will kill his only son.
(i) Cats are noisy. Dogs are noisy.
(j) Will you bring the money? Will you bring back the longyi?

That's all for today.

Hope that you all can do very well!

Bye Bye Class! See you next week.

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

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**Here comes the answers to the last week's Exercise. Exercise 40.**

**I.** Put the "Tag Questions" to the following Statements.

(a) Maung Maung isn't a nice student, is he?
(b) Our children aren't clever, are they?
(c) We are not intelligent, are we?
(d) They weren't in the class, were they?
(e) My brother wasn't very weak these days, was he?
(f) All my friends are not funny, are they?
(g) They aren't good girls, are they?
(h) He wasn't handsome indeed, was he?
(i) They were not very young last three years, were they?
(j) He isn't feeling bad, is he?

II. Put "Tag Questions" to the following Statements.

(a) I haven't a lovely sister, have I?
(b) You have not a nice brother, have you?
(c) She has not some nice books, has she?
(d) He hadn't different flowers in his garden, had he?
(e) She hasn't got very nice parents, has she?
(f) I had no aunts at that time, had I?
(g) They haven't good neighbours, have they?
(h) They had not dry clothes, had they?
(i) You hadn't a little puppy, had you?
(j) The girl hasn't a lovely puppy, has she?

III. Put "Tag Questions" to the following Statements.

(a) You can't solve the problems, can you?
(b) I couldn't answer that different questions, could I?
(c) He won't come up soon, will he?
(d) They wouldn't find the lost child, would they?
(e) I shan't fetch the water, shall I?
(f) They shouldn't speak politely, should they?
(g) He mightn't sell that car, might he?
(h) You can't organize them easily, can you?
(i) He couldn't read very well, could he?
(j) They shouldn't take rest, should they?

IV. Put "Tag Questions" to the following Statements.

(a) He doesn't write these good books, does he?
(b) She didn't write that lovely poem, did she?
(c) I didn't say it to you, did I?
(d) You do not warn me about him, do you?
(e) She doesn't like cooking, does she?
(f) He didn't try a lot in this case, did he?
(g) They do not run away at the end, do they?
(h) He didn't paint that beautiful picture, did he?
(i) They didn't laugh out loud, did they?
(j) We didn't like the stories so much, did we?

Hope that you all have done ! That's all for today Class.

Bye Bye ! See you next week!

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# Introduction to Cybernetics in Education

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

As we are now reaching Cyber-age, here is something about Cybernetics, which is just the Introduction to it.

## Origins of Cybernetics

**Introduction**

In the long history of evolution, 100 million species of plants and animals have been known to have inhabited the earth.

Of those, more than 98 percent are now extinct, unable to survive the challenges of a changing environment. Man himself is today facing such a life-and-death test. Remarkable advances in the diverse realms of atomic fusion, genetic and bio-engineering, and computerized cybernetic systems all point to this ultimate test of homo sapiens.

The challenge and the danger are both becoming more and more real in 1995, because of the recent emrgence of ultra-modern machines / systems such as computers that think like himself and world-wide networking.

Yale University's Professor H.Kaufman has asserted that a major new branch is sprouting on the evolution tree.

Work on neural networks portends computers that can learn from experience. Computers are near the point of passing logician A.M.Turing's test for true thinking machines … the ability to answer questions in a fashion so human that interrogators cannot tell whether the respondent is a person on a machine.

Machines that think and learn will have the capacity to fulfill the predictions of pioneer computer scientist and mathematician John von Neumann that "automata" will one day "reproduce themselves, or even construct higher entities". When they do, they will evolve much as organisms do. Evolution's spectacular creativity will have produced another line of desent. Evolution has brought forth life from inorganic matter, diversity and complexity from the first forms of life, and the human mind in descendants of primordial primates.

The second challenge comes from computer net-working.. or the NET.

If twentieth century science can be said to have a single icon, it is the Atom.

As depicted in the particular mind, the symbol of the Atom is stark : a black dot encircled by the hairline orbits of several smaller dots. The Atom whirls alone, the epitome of singleness. It is the metaphor for individuality. At its centre is the animus, the life force holding all to their appropriate whirling situation. The Atom stands for power and knowledge and certainty. It conveys the naked power of simplicity.

The iconic reign of the Atom is now passing.

The symbol of science for the next century is the dynamic Net. The icon of the Net, in contradistinction to the Atoms, has no centre. It is a bunch of dots connected to other dots, a cobweb of arrows pouring into one another, squirming together like a nest of snakes, the restless image fading at indeterminate edges. The Net is the archetype displayed to represent all circuits, all intelligence, all interdependence, all things economic and social and ecological, all communications, all democracy, all groups, all large systems.

This Net, otherwise known as the Internet, or world-wide computer networking, the overpowering symbol of modern science, is the brainchild of cybernetics, automation and / or systems thinking.

Origin and Development

The science of Cybernetics, though still a relative infant among the established disciplines, has had a profound impactupon the modern world, touching directly upon many areas of social and scientific concern.

Variously described as the science of automatic control or the science for explanation of the functions of the human brain, cybernetics is more accurately a near pantology of interdisciplinary character originally dealing with the problems of automatic fire control for the interception of military aircrafts. Because of the complexity of such control, the originators of the discipline turned to organisms (e.g. the defense and offense of the mongoose against the adder ) capable of performing analogues functions and, through scientific description of the activities of the organisms, attempted to derive the necessary mathematic formulation for their automata.

The word "Cybernetics" originated from the Greek "KUBERNETES", the Latin "GUBERNATOR", the French "GOUVERNAIL', and the English "GOUVERNER", all meaning, in one sense or another, STEERSMAN or CONTROL.

In 1834, French Physicist Ampere used the word "cybernetique" in his essay on the "Philosophy of the Science" to describe the study of the means of government.

British scientist James Clerk Maxwell published his scientific paper "The Theory of Governers", dealing with self-regulating or FEEDBACK machenisms. These had earlier been named "governers" by the Scottish inventor of the steam engine, James Watt.

Germany's H.Schmidt also in 1941 of a new discipline that can be used in controlling complex systems.

The cybernetic revolution began rather quietly.

It was started in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the late 1939s, by a group of scientists who met once a month under the guidance of the Mexican Physician, Dr.A. Rosenblueth, to discuss the scientific method, a logical, objective and systematic approach to the physical world. To these lively and informal discussions came the American mathematician,Norbert Wiener, who is today called "the Father of Cybernetics".

Wiener and Rosenblueth were both interested in the unexplained border areas between the specialized scientific or academic fields. Here, where the separate sciences arerelated or even overlap, lies the possibility of again unifying them.

Man has been learning so much about the physical world that it is becoming harder all the time to know more than a little of the vast information that is accumulating recently. Scientists and other scholars usually concentrate on one area so that they can learn it thoroughly, but this means that they also tend to learn less and less about other fields.

People who travel to foreign countries frequently have trouble in making themselves understood when they can only speak one language. In the same way, scientists have trouble or problem when they try to travel into another scientific field. A biologist may talk about his work using one kind of technical language, a chemist … talking about the same general area.. will use another, and a physiologist yet a third.

This difference in the way scientists approach a problem and in the words they use to describe it has meant that basic work that may be much the same in several sciences has been done over again a number of times, and because of the sharp divisions among the sciences, important work has been held up because men in one field did not know about vital discoveries made in another.

Dr. Rosenblueth and others felt that in order to explore the frontiers of science effectively it would be necessary to have teams of scientists who are experts in their own field and also familiar with the language and concepts of their colleagues.

World War II created the first real need for these teams, and it also supplied the opportunity to organize them. As these teams of scientists from different fields worked on problems, they found that, for example, the way in which some machines regulate themselves is similar to certain activities of the animal nervous systems. Men who were studying the human brain found that they could learn much from communications theory, which had been developed by engineers and mathematicians.

From this early work during and after the war years, the ideas of Wiener et al grew, and in 1948, Dr. Wiener published the book that named this new science. His book was called "Cybernetics" : or Control and Communication in the Animal and the Machine".

It must be noted also that Russia's Andrel D.Kolmogorov, a Professor of Mathematics at the famed State University of Moscow (MGU), had been, by many other experts, credited with the independent discovery and subsequent development of Cybernetics as a new discipline in the Eastern Bloc.

Taking the name from the aforementioned Greek word for controlling or steersman, Wiener and Kolmogorov regarded it as symbolizing the art of the pilot or literally "steersmanship".

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Pilgrims visit Mawtinson Pagoda in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: WIN KYAING (IPRD)**

The beach at the foot of the Mawtinson Pagoda is one of the attractions for holiday makes to take relaxation. **PHOTO: WIN KYAING (IPRD)**

Sea shells and oyster souvenirs are available at Mawtinson Pagoda Festival. **PHOTO: KYAW THU HEIN**

# Beautiful sea shells art at Mawtinson Pagoda Festival in Pathein

By Kyaw Thu Hein
(Haigyigyun Island)

TURNING a sea shells into a home decoration ornaments and souvenirs is a lucrative business for the people living near the sea. They have to collect beautiful sea shells all year round and combine them skillfully with the art of hand stretching to produce different types of shapes and design.

Sea Shell souvenir are available at Mawtinson Pagoda Festival in Ngaputaw Township in Ayeyawady Region.

Seal shell souvenirs makers from villagers on islands and in the coastal areas in Ayeyawady Region gathered at the annual festival of Mawtinson Pagoda in Pathein in February. There are than 20 sea shell souvenirs shops and most are from villages from islands and near beaches.

Art of Embroidery

With their traditional skills for craftsmanship, the daily-wage workers make oyster shells souvenirs of several decorations including shell partitions, hair bands, necklaces, hats table lamps and so on to attractive byers at the festival. The shell decoration business can be considered a micro or small enterprises. The sales of souvenirs increases just four to five days before the end of the festival every year, said Daw Khin Ohn Myint who owns a shop at the festival.

The small-scale business needs one-year investment and the businessmen have to wait to see the fate of their business until the pagoda festival. But, the villagers in remote areas don't understand how to apply for loans from the government though they heard that the government is granting loans to small businesses, said Daw Khin May, another shop owner.

Anyway, the villagers' sea shells and oyster shells decoration businesses will last forever as long as the beautiful creatures are stranded on the beach.

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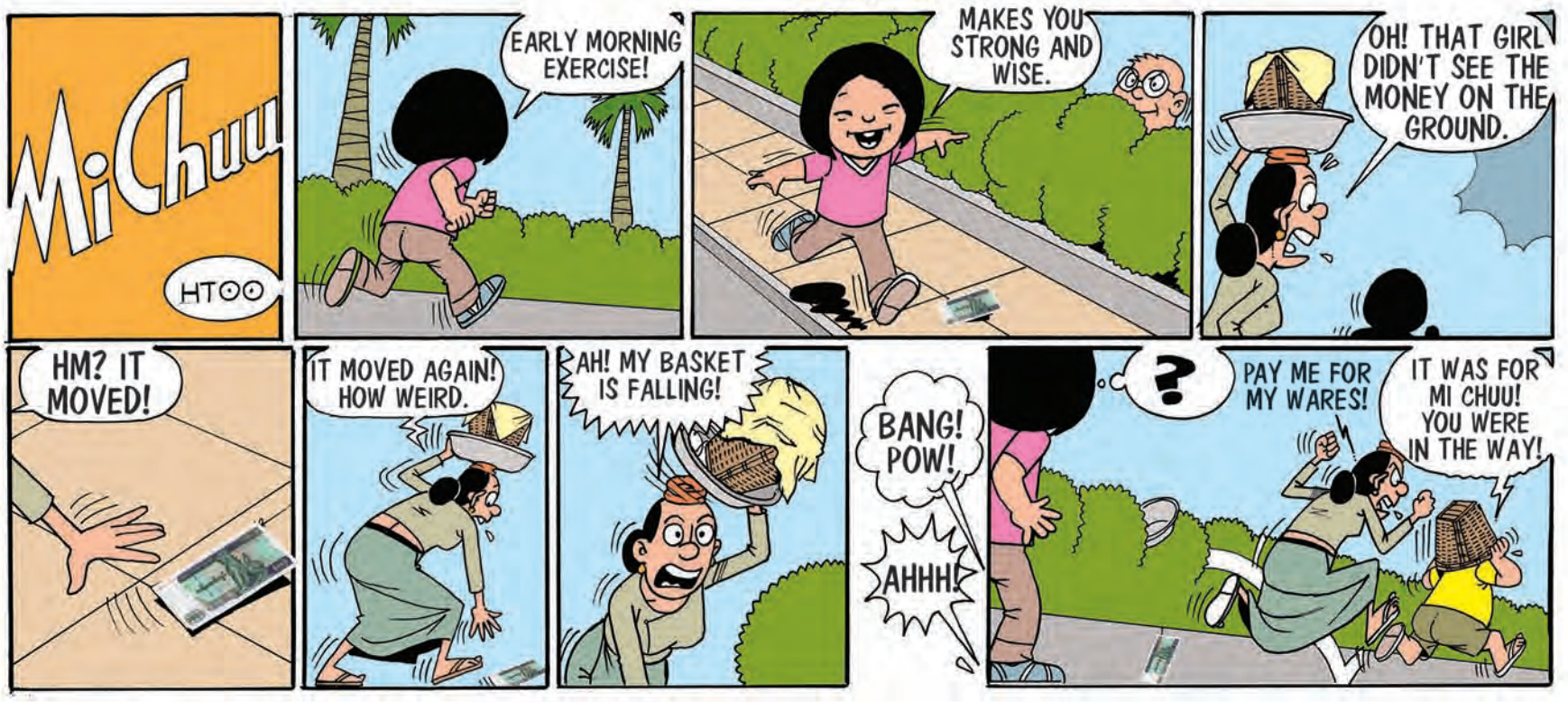

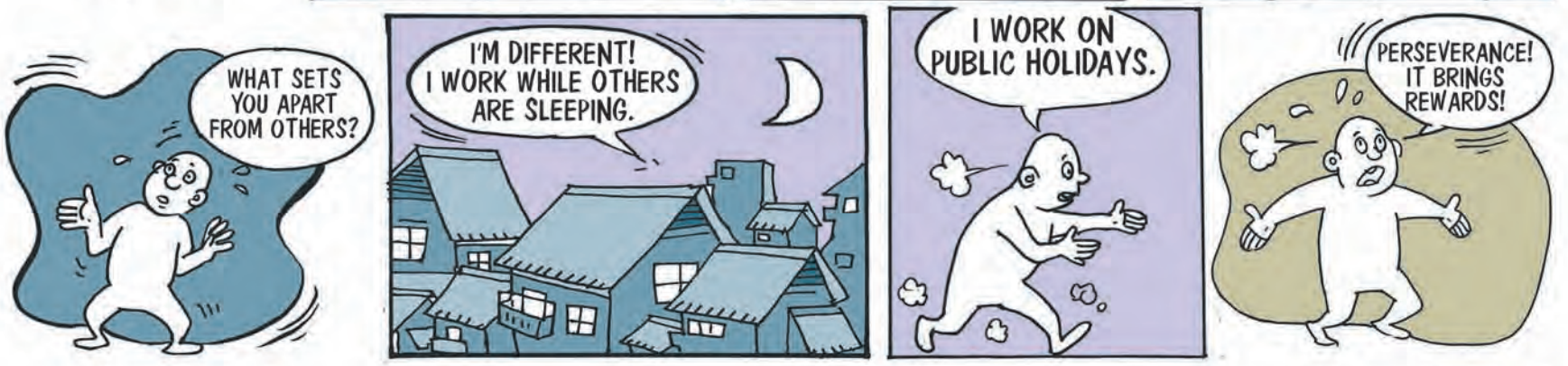


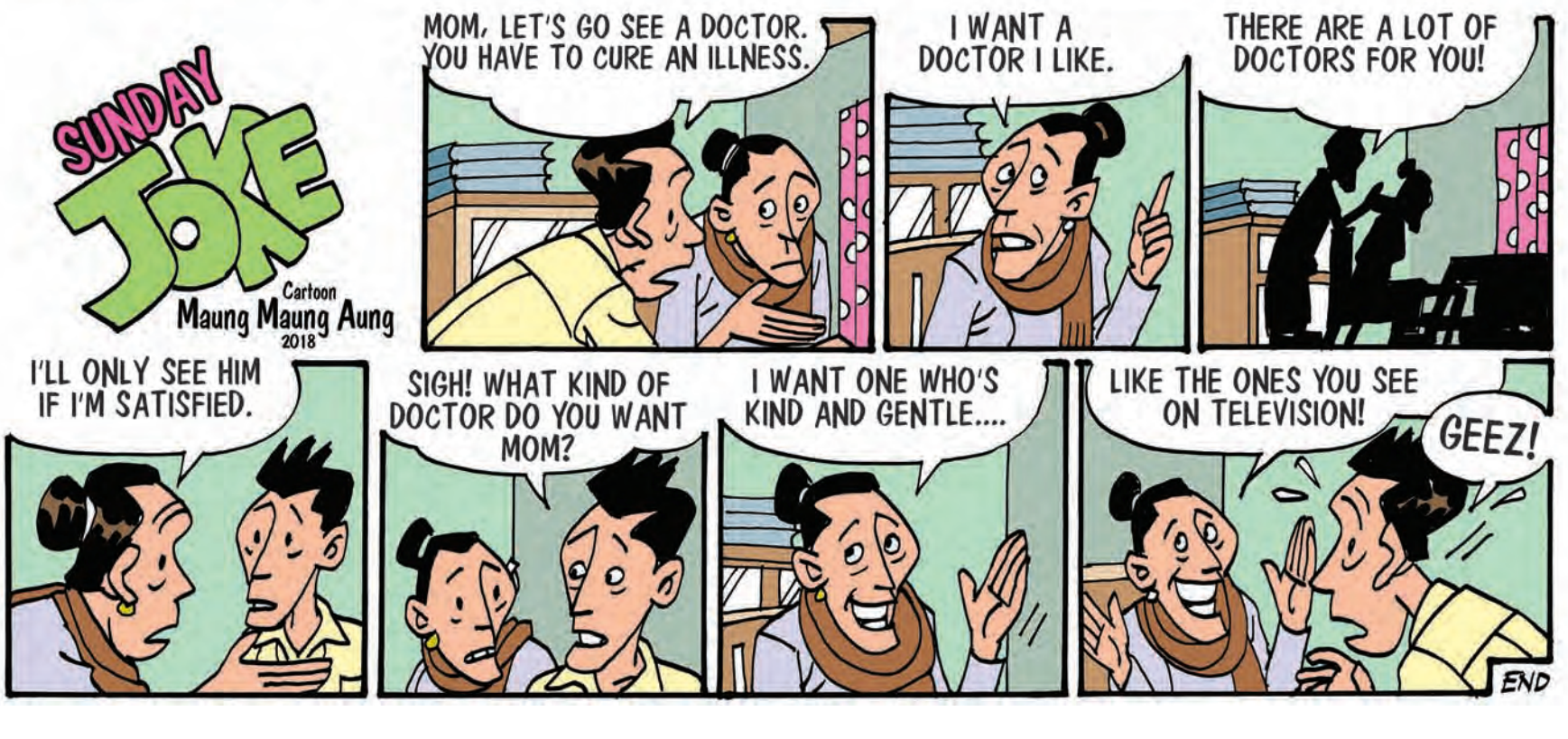

A young visitor poses for a photo in front of the 65-meter long Chauk Htat Gyi Buddha image in Bahan Township, Yangon.

# Impressive pagodas not named Shwedagon

By Mark Angeles

SHWEDAGON Pagoda is clearly the shining star in the constellation of pagodas in Yangon, but there are notable, albeit lesser-known, pagodas with impressive Buddha images in Myanmar's commercial capital.

Two examples of smaller but still stunning pagodas worth a visit are located within walking distance of each other on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township,

The first is Chauk Htat Gyi pagoda, home to Yangon's largest reclining Buddha. The Buddha image in an outstretched position is 65 meters long and 16 meters high, originally built in 1907 and restored in 1966, at which point 5 metres were added to its total length.

The soles of the feet contain inscriptions describing the 108 lakshanas, or auspicious characteristics, of the Buddha.

The oval face of the Buddha image is adorned with dark red lips and blue eye shadow. The fingernails are painted a lighter shade of red, and the entire image is clothed in a golden gown.

Around the Chauk Htat Gyi Buddha image are a number of shrines, one for each of the eight days of the week in Asian astrology (Wednesday is split in two days). Buddhists pray to the shrine according to the day of their birth.

A five-minute walk further south on Shwegondine Road is Ngar Htat Gyi pagoda, which houses an equally impressive seated Buddha that is 14-meters tall.

The Ngar Htat Gyi Buddha image is housed in a large pavilion topped by a gold golden and a multi-tiered hti, an ornamental spire shaped like an umbrella.

Seated on a pedestal with a massive carved teakwood screen, the white Nga Htat Gyi image stands out and makes for beautiful photographs. Also known as the "five-storey Buddha" because of its immense size, the image was built in 1900. Perhaps one of the main attractions for these two pagodas are fewer tourists and a cheaper admission fee, unlike the famous Shwedagon, which charges foreigners Ks10,000 to enter and is often crowded with tourists. While the admission fee is often not collected because of a lack of staff, a donation of US$5 is strongly recommended in order to maintain the revered religious structures and to pay for renovations.

Ngar Htat Gyi Buddha image in Bahan Township, Yangon, is also known as the "five-storey Buddha" for its impressive height of 14 meters.

Because these pagodas are a bit off the beaten path and are less crowded with tourists, a visit is more peaceful and calming. On a recent Saturday, it was possible to sit in front of the beautiful Buddha images and engage in quiet reflection.

A Western visitor who visited both sites said it was difficult to pick a favourite.

"I visited Chauk Htat Gyi first, and it is impressive because it's not as common to see such a large reclining Buddha, but the seated Buddha at Ngar Htat Gyi is the more beautiful Buddha image, though maybe not as large, in my opinion", said Joy Plemmons, a visitor from Atlanta, Georgia in the southern United States.

Photo: Phoe Khwar

# In The Shadow of The Sun

A.W Khin Myat Phone
Grade 9 (A),
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LISTEN! Listen to the sound of the wind. You may hear summer calling your name. In a low pitch. It's telling you that it is coming again for this year. Softly,it is going to kiss winter's tears again. And it is telling you to get ready for this year's summer carnival.

Time has flew. No one can break the wings of time. It will fly and fly always. It may never stop,though we know. The white and sparkling curtain of Yangon has gone up. Soon,red-green-orange-yellow-painted-curtain will come down. Again,the performers of summer will act their best play for this year. How fun it would be to welcome summer again! And how sorrowful to say goodbye to winter? Oh. . . something sad in my heart. However,the world goes on and one day at the certain time we may have to meet winter again. Yes. The cold breeze at the top of the trees slows down as the month January arrives. The long nights will be gone and the red sun will wake up early from his bed for us to start our new days. The leaves,once at winter,they were new but now they have slowly withered. Getting ready to leave trees as they look forward to fall to the ground where the leaves before them had fallen. Well,death is always waiting for the livings. One day,we all are going to face this kind of situation too. Sooner or later. . . .

However,the birds have woken up from their long sleeps to enjoy the carnival of summer together with the humans. They may fly here and there. They may climb up and down. Summer is the time for them to dance tango. It is time for them to sing happy songs. You may see them flying in groups high up in the endless sky. Your summer morning will be awaken by their sweet melodies. Imagine waking up in the morning with plenty of sunhine by your window. The smell of air has suddenly changed now. The cold and mild air has gone away as winter has left us. The warm and humid air has filled in our environment. Coming March,it is going to be colourful,beautiful and joyful. The mist in the early morning has gone as the yellow sunlight comes in. Everything is changing slowly and soundly. Summer is coming. Otherwise,in Myanmar we call it, 'The Hot Season'. It is quite odd among the three seasons we have. It can make our souls feel light and free. It makes us feel energetic;full of energy to fight any challenges coming ahead of us.

Now February has over together with final exams. The little students are all looking forward for the three-month-long holiday. How fun!My childhood memories flash back. Just after the exams,I used to rush to the playground. Wish I could turn back time to good old days. The three-month-long-holiday used to be long in my childhood but not any more now.

The beauty of summer is strange,though. As we all know,it is going to be burning hot. The heat is going to be stronger than usual. But we are getting used to this,aren't we? In this time of year,families love to go on journeys. In and out of each city. Some go around their own country whilst the others visit to the foreign countries. It is the best time to escape from every day life's struggles. No matter where you go. Summer belongs to you. Some people make schedules for summer. What to do next and then. But I prefer to follow my heart's desire—

"Friends, sun, sand and sea,
That sounds a summer to me. "

I really love that quote. Honestly,-during my free time I want to go to the place where the sky touches the sea. How pleasant it would be? Well,well winter (the cold season) is my best friend but I have to wave goodbye to it. It'll be like—

"You are my favourite hello
and my hardest goodbye. "

But the memories will be kept forever. Every day is one step closer to summer now. Every summer has a story to tell to us. So,again we have to listen to its new story this year while being busy bees in the shadow of the sun.

I believe that you are also looking forward for summer,the time we celebrate our Thingyan (new year) festival and the time we dance in the sun's shadow. So,lets welcome summer's sunshine. Sunshine on my mind and bye,bye to winter.

Summer,summer I am waiting for you.

# Reading can give us advantages

FROM PAGE S-1

We can also go back to the previous times by reading. We can know what happened in the history. And also, we can know our ancestors' doings, how they served for their respective countries. We cannot get back our previous times but we can know what happened in the previous times by reading.

From the point of view of a Buddhist, we, today people cannot see Buddha in reality. We, however, can not only see but also hear Buddha's teachings. It is because of reading. By reading, we can know what our Buddha, the enlightened one, said and taught his followers. And so, we can share with each other what we have read. We can also bear fruit because of reading the Buddha's teachings.

Even though there are so many advantages of reading, most of the today people cannot give their time for reading. Because they are unable to read because of their daily routines, works and duties. They cannot separate their own time easily because of these ones. In my opinion, they should add reading in their daily routines. If so, they can have time to read. However, the saying, " Easier said than done " reveals that it is not able to do easily. If we want to be alive preciously and consciously, we should give our own time for reading by regarding as a must-do duty. The more we give our own time for reading, the more we will get advantages from reading. Finally, what I want to describe is that " Reading can give us advantages".