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Thiri-Mingalar Taung-kwe Pagoda, famous religious landmark of Loikaw. With unspoiled natural and cultural heritage, local ethnic people, Kayah State has prospects for tourism development. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Kayah State Investment Forum held in Loikaw

TO promote investment in Kayah State, the Kayah State Investment Forum was held yesterday at State Hall in Loikaw, Kayah State

It was jointly organised by the Kayah State government

and the Kayah State Investment Committee, supported by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

In his opening address at the forum, Chief Minister of Kayah State U L Phaung Sho

briefed investment opportunities in Kayah State, pledging to provide the investors with good transportation and sufficient power supply and water supply.

"We want a win-win situation in the investment sector in

the state," said Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, highlighting opportunities for investment in the hotel and tourism sector, agriculture and livestock breeding sector and mining sector.

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Monsoon enters southern coastal area

A low pressure system categorised as a monsoon over the southwest Bay of Bengal persists and will head towards the coast, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology said yesterday.

The monsoon has entered parts of the southern coastal area and will advance to the delta areas over the next two days, the meteorology department said.

The monsoon is of moderate strength over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal. The weather consists of a few clouds over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. The weather bureau forecasts widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in the upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, in Kachin, northern and thundershowers in eastern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon states.

Rain in isolated areas of lower Sagaing and Magway regions are predicted for today with an 80 per cent degree of certainty. The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and neighbouring areas for today is isolated rain or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 80 per cent. For Yangon and neighbouring areas the weather forecast is isolated rain or thundershowers with 100 per cent certainty. Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar's waters.— GNLM ■



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Ancient Buddha statues found in Kyun Hla Township

ANCIENT Buddha statues were found near Kyauk-Ai Village, Kyun Hla Township, Sagaing Region, on 24 May.

Some 19 small-seated Buddha images and a jade Buddha image without a head and six inches high were discovered near the farm land owned by Maung Yar Sein in Ywar Thit Gone Village, Kanbalu Town-

ship. The small-seated Buddha images were found while cutting bamboos to make a fishing stick.

Kyauk-Ai Village Administrator U Win Zaw said the Buddha statues have been placed in the Ywar Thitgone Monastery in Kanbalu Township for public observation. —Myo Win Nyo (Kyun Hla) ■

Ceremony held for School Enrolment Week in Taunggyi

THE ceremony for School Enrolment Week for the 2018-2019 academic year was held at the B.E.H.S - 1 Taunggyi in Shan State yesterday morning.

First, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut, Shan State Hluttaw Speaker U Sai Lone Seng and other officials opened the ceremony by cutting ribbons, and singing a song titled "Let's launch school enrolment" by students of B.E.H.S -5 (Taunggyi). Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut said, "Cooperation is essential, and the education sector is concerned with all the nationals; thus, everyone should take part in it, so that all children can go to schools. Cooperation is needed among teachers and parents. As for parents, they should join together for the interests of their children."

As the mottoes go, 'All children of school-going age should enrol' and 'All should cooperate to prevent dropouts.' The educational standards will improve as long as parents and teachers join hands."

Later, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said, "The school enrolment week will be launched nationwide from 25-31 May, and headmasters and

teachers should not take any money for enrolling the children. Preparations have been made for the students, including kindergarten children, to enrol for the new academic year. Starting at the primary level, a KG+12 system has been implemented. For the academic year 2018-2019, all children aged five will attend kindergarten, while all children aged six will attend Grade-1. As for the school children of Grade-5 in the 2018-2019 academic year, they will be part of Grade-6 in the new system of teaching in the 2019-2020 academic year. Next, Director-General of the Ministry

of Education U Win Maung confirmed the school enrolments, and some well-wishers presented cash donations to the officials concerned and got certificates of appreciation in return.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut and other officials carried out an inspection of the school enrolment process at B.E.H.S 4 (Taunggyi), B.E.H.S 5 (Taunggyi), B.E.H.S 10, B.E.H.S 1 (Aye Thayar), B.E.H.S (Shwe Nyaung), and B.E.H.S (Taung Lay Lone). —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi attends the ceremony to launch School Enrolment Week for the 2018-2019 in Taunggyi, Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar's first Prime Minister U Nu's residence opened as Commemorative Museum

THE inauguration ceremony of U Nu Commemorative Museum was held on 25 May 2018 in Pyi Htaung Su Street, Bahan Township, in Yangon.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein attended the inauguration ceremony of U Nu museum, where the everyday articles used by U Nu and his photographs are displayed.

At the opening ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said, "I'm glad to inaugurate the U Nu museum for the public. The new generation should be familiar with the leaders and their movement for the independence of Myanmar. General Aung San was assassinated during the struggle for independence after he signed the Aung San-Atlee Agreement, declaring Myanmar's independence within a year. Thanks to U Nu's efforts



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein visits U Nu museum in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZARNI MAUNG**

as a second leader, the Nu-Atlee Treaty was signed, and My-

anmar became an independent sovereign state. It is with great

pleasure I speak at the opening ceremony of the museum."

U Nu's house has many rooms, including a shrine room, a living room, a reading room, a dining room and a bedroom. A photo gallery of his activities, books and other utensils are on display at the museum.

Writer Maung Thway Thit said, "The U Nu Foundation was formed in 1995, and we intend to introduce U Nu's achievements and his contributions to the country from here. We also want to show how he lived. Plans are underway to keep the residence open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. free of charge. Currently, we are trying to open the residence as an official museum."

U Nu's residence, located on 42 Pyi Htaung Su Street, Bahan Township in Yangon, was officially opened to the public on 25 May 2018. —Aye Min Thu ■

Today at this time, we are witnessing the transformation of an era and a system in accordance with democratic principles. This is just the beginning of the democratic transition. To make this transition process smooth and successful, it is very important for our peoples, government employees and civil servants to change their dogmatic mindset and habits. Those government institutions which are lagging behind in the transformation process will need to be put under tight management controls. The country's weak judiciary system would need to be strengthened. More efforts need to be exerted to stamp out corruption. More efforts need to be exerted to prevent human rights violations. More efforts need to be exerted to crack down illegal drug trade. We need to manage public funds properly so that there is no wastage. Measures need to be taken to return confiscated farmland to farmers and to give compensation to farmers for losses they have suffered in accordance with the law. We also need to improve the socio-economic life of farmers, improve the lives of workers and ensure that students gain access to higher education.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

Not only in Rakhine State which has received the attention of the world, but in the entire country let us strive collectively for security of mind and body.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Kayah State Investment Forum held in Loikaw

FROM PAGE-1

The Kayah State Government is working to establish an International Trade Centre and is planning to disclose the project step by step.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of peace in the state to bring about the development.

The main objectives of the forum are to promote investment in Kayah State effectively and develop a linkage between local businesses, and potential local and foreign investors.

U Aung Naing Oo, Secretary of the MIC, gave a presentation on "The Kayah: A state to grow," while representatives from the relevant ministries presented investment opportunities in Kayah State relating to the manufacturing, agriculture, mining, hotel and tourism and industry sectors.

In the afternoon, a business matching session was held at the same venue by bringing together local and potential investors interested in investing in Kayah State.

The participants in the forum will conduct a site visit tour to the Loikaw industrial

zone, a hydro power plant (Law Pi Ta), Ngwe Taung Dam and other places with investment potential on 27 May, as well as a sightseeing tour to Loikaw area on 28 May.

The opening ceremony of the Kayah State Investment Forum was attended by more than 500 participants, including Chief Minister of Kayah State U L Phaung Sho, Speaker of Kayah State Hluttaw U Hla Htwe, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, ministers of Kayah State government, Ambassadors, senior officials from relevant ministries, representatives from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and states and regions Chamber of Commerce and Industry, international organisations, foreign and local investors, business organisations, and media representatives.

The MIC holds yearly investment fairs on a rotational basis in the regions and states across the country to invite investments and ensure balanced economic development in the country. The fair aims to promote investments in remote areas —Kayah (IPRD) ■



Chief Minister of Kayah State U L Phaung Sho and dignitaries visit the booth displaying ores from Kayah State at the Investment Forum in Loikaw, Kayah State. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attends the 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attends 71st World Health Assembly

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe and his delegation attended the 71st World Health Assembly (WHA71) held in Palais Des Nation, Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 25 May and returned to Yangon yesterday.

The WHA71 was attended by health ministers and delegations from 194 member states, Geneva-based ambassadors of permanent member countries, head of donor organisations and other partner organisations, directors-generals and regional directors of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and high ranking officials from UN organisations.

At the opening ceremony of WHA71, Dr. David Parirenyatwa, Zimbabwe Minister of Health; Dr. Tedros, WHO Director-General; and Mr. Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, who were elected as chairman of the assembly, delivered the opening speeches.

While attending the "Towards Universal Coverage with HIV Prevention Services

in Commodities Side Event," the union minister discussed Myanmar's work and suggestions. He mentioned his satisfaction on Myanmar joining the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, learning the nature of HIV/AIDS occurrence, learning and using appropriate strategy and tactics to eliminate the disease, its appreciation towards WHO, and the UNAIDs and the Global Fund for support provided to achieve success in HIV/AIDS prevention works, as well as discussed the success of HIV/AIDS prevention work directly related to the health awareness of the public and the works conducted accordingly.

The Union Minister also attended the "Country-led and country-owned efforts on malaria elimination to achieving UHC," jointly organized by China, Sri Lanka, Laos and Myanmar and the "Ministerial call for action to eliminate malaria in GMS by 2030" and signed the "call for action."

While in Geneva, the Union Minister attended the "Informal

ASEAN Breakfast Gathering," led by the Singapore health minister, and the working dinner organized by the health and family welfare minister of India.

During the trip, the Union Minister also met with WHO Regional Director for South-east Asia Dr. Poonam Singh, Nippon Foundation Chairman Mr. Sasakawa, senior officials from the Global Fund, WHO Assistant Director-General for Special Initiatives Dr. Ranieri Guerra, officials from C/Can 2025: City Cancer Challenge, GE, Medtronic, Novartis and Varian Medical Systems and discussed the health, training and basic infrastructure development, as well as treatment and research matters conducted in Myanmar. The Union Minister also met senior officials from the World Bank headquarters and officials of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and discussed the works conducted with the loan and assistance of the World Bank and SIDA. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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Pagodas of Bagan with a procession of traditional carts in the foreground. **PHOTO-PHOE KHWAR**

Bagan Zone collects Ks7,000 mn as entrance fees last year

MORE than Ks7,000 million was collected as entrance fees at the Bagan Archaeology Zone in 2017, according to the Hotels and Tourism Ministry (Bagan Zone).

Some 300,440 foreigners visited the Bagan heritage zone, paying an entrance fee of Ks25,000 per head.

The United States sent the

largest number of visitors at 22,070, followed by the United Kingdom with 118,253 tourists. Some 17,718 Japanese, 15,356 French and 13,882 Germans were also registered among the list of visitors.

Most of the tourists are interested in enjoying the scenic beauty of ancient Bagan and rid-

ing hot air balloons, a service that is available during the open season. Tourists from European countries such as the UK, France, Italy and Germany, as well as Asian countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, China and Taiwan, have shown keen interest in collecting antique goods.

Tourists like to explore cultural zones, such as the Bagan-Nyaung U cultural zone, Ava cultural site and Pyin Oo Lwin. In a bid to enhance tourism, the hotels and tourism ministry is making efforts to launch direct flights between Cambodia's Siem Reap and Nyaung U airports.— Ko Khant ■

Erratic weather leads to fruit wastage in Ye Tsp



Erratic weather dries Lake in Ye.

LARGE volumes of vegetables and fruits were destroyed owing to the erratic weather in Ye Township, Mon State, said local growers.

The weather was hotter this year, and the monsoon season has been delayed. The areca nut, mangosteen and jackfruit blossoms have withered and fallen down, incurring losses to growers, said U Than Shein, a grower.

Villagers from Kyonlaung old village have to carry water from the creek. The yield

is likely to drop, because of the difficulty in irrigating the farms, said U Maung Naing, who comes to the creek to fetch water.

According to the Ye Township's Meteorology and Hydrology Department, Ye Township has recorded the highest temperature of 40 degrees centigrade in 54 years.

The production will decline owing to the scorching heat. Some lakes and wells have already gone dry. —Htut Htut ■

Group art exhibition held at Yangon Gallery

THE Yangon Gallery is hosting a collective art exhibition, showcasing some 100 works created by five local artists, according to the event organisers.

Five male artists, including three renowned elderly

artists, namely, Win Pe, Ko Ko Gyi and Sein Myint (Shwechihtoe), and two others Ko Thike and K2K, are part of the group show that began on 26 May and will last through 28 May.

The group exhibition titled "Moment of Expressions"

is being showcased between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily. The event organisers have invited enthusiasts to visit the gallery and enjoy the artworks of well-known artists during the three-day event.

Some works are available

at US\$150, but some others are worth \$500, \$2,000 and so on.

The Yangon Gallery is situated in People's Park near Planetarium Museum on Ahl-one Road in Dagon Township, Yangon.—Swe Nyein ■

Pyapon post office generates more income last FY

FOLLOWING the expansion of its parcel and postal services, the Pyapon post office in the Ayeyawady Region, operating under Myanmar Post, was able to generate more income in the 2017-2018 financial year, exceeding expectations, a spokesperson said.

For the convenience of Myanmar families living abroad, the Pyapone post office is offering express services to 102 countries and regular parcel services to 32 countries.

In the 2017-2018 FY, the Pyapon post office saw an increase in the number of international parcels compared to the previous years. This helped the post office earn more income in the last fiscal year, said Daw Moe Thida, head of Pyapon post office.

The post office earns



Postal service employee working at the post office. **PHOTO: AUNG WIN (PYAPON)**

Ks2,000 for the delivery of a local parcel, while it can earn more for the delivery of international parcels.

Officials said sometimes restricted medicines and illegal drugs were found concealed

in the postal parcels, and thus officials had to urge clients to check the list of restricted items before sending postal parcels overseas, and reduce possible disputes between post office and clients.—Aung Win (Pyapon)■

Trade with Singapore totals \$3.8bn in 2017-18 FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and Singapore was valued at US\$3.8 billion at the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), according to the latest statistics of the Ministry of Commerce.

From last April to this March, Myanmar imported a wide range of commodities amounting to \$3.1 billion from Singapore, an increase in value by \$590 million compared to the previous FY. During the period, it exported \$753.5 million worth of domestically-produced goods to the Lion City, an increase of \$280.7 million against the previous FY.

Myanmar's exports to Singapore include agricultural products, footwear, tex-

tile and clothing, minerals, animal products and other miscellaneous items. Myanmar imports food, rubber and plastics, fuel, capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer products, metals and chemicals, among others, from Singapore.

According to the ministry's data, the Myanmar-Singapore trade was \$2.967 billion in the 2016-2017 FY. The bilateral trade was its peak in the 2014-2015 FY reaching \$4.895 billion. Trade between the two countries was \$3.696 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$3.604 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$2.826 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and \$3.058 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.—Shwe Khine ■

Dockyard services turn to iron due to wood shortage

OWING to shortage of wood in Myeik archipelago in Myeik District in the Tanintharyi region, dockyard services that engage in repairing fishing vessels and boats are using iron to build or repair vessels, according to dockyard workers.

According to the workers, it is difficult to build new vessels and repair the old ones as the industry is facing scarcity of wood. The lumber shortage in the market has pushed prices to record highs. So, they are using iron instead of wood.

U Kyaw Kyaw Lynn, dockyard manager of Aung Myat Phyto International Co Ltd, said, "Located in Pahtawpahtet Island in Kyunsu Township, the company's four-acre dockyard was built in 2003 and opened in 2006. It can host 60 boats of various sizes simultaneously. Since its establishment to date, some 6,531 vessels were repaired and 151 boats were constructed at the dockyard."

Since 2015, the dockyard services have turned to tin be-



Boats docking to maintain and repair at the jetty. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

cause of the shortage of wood. Vessels made of iron are now found in the market. The builders take up to six months on an average to construct a wooden vessel, depending on its size, he said.

U Kyaw Kyaw Lynn added: "Our dockyard built six new iron vessels. Now, three new vessels are 70 per cent com-

plete. We have the permissions to make 10 more new iron vessels."

The Taninthayi Region has five dockyards in Myeik and Kyunsu townships, as well as Kawthoung Town.

Residents rely on the dockyards to repair and build various kinds of boats and fishing vessels.—Myint Oo (Myeik)■

Myanmar-Saudi Arabia trade reaches record \$176.7mn in FY2017-18

THE value of trade between Myanmar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reached a record high of US\$176.7 million at the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), increasing by \$61.113 million compared with the last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce's latest report.

The total bilateral trade included \$30.9 million in exports, increasing by \$9.36 million this FY. Myanmar's imports from top oil exporter Saudi Arabia were valued at \$145.8 million, increasing by \$51.8 million.

The trade value between

the two countries was \$99 million in the 2011-2012 FY. It decreased to \$78.9 million and \$74.5 million in the following years. The trade figure exceeded \$100 million in the 2014-2015 FY. Bilateral trade increased to \$101.8 million in the 2015-2016 FY and \$115.562 million in the 2016-2017 FY. In the 2017-2018 FY, the Myanmar-Saudi Arabia trade value reached a record high of \$176.675 million.

Myanmar emphasises its exports of farmed fish to Saudi Arabia, accounting for 30 per cent of its farm-raised fish exports.—Shwe Khine ■

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The performance of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor during the two year term of the Union Government

AFTER the enactment of the State Counsellor Law on 6 April 2016, the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor was established in accordance with this law, with the following objectives:

- (1) emergence of multi-party democracy.
- (2) flourishing of a market-oriented economy.
- (3) establishment of a Federal Union.
- (4) promoting Union peace and development.

The Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor is performing a co-ordinating and supportive function in implementing the four duties assigned to the State Counsellor stipulated in the State Counsellor Law, and in carrying out the policies laid down by the State Counsellor. It may be said that the activities performed by this Ministry and the activities of the State Counsellor are in line with each other.

The three goals laid down by the State are peace, prosperity and democracy, in short PPD - Peace, Prosperity and Democracy. The first goal Peace and the second goal Prosperity are related. Just as internal peace is needed for strong economic development, achievement of peace is related to the smooth transition towards the establishment of a Democratic Federal Republic which is our third goal. That is why in the performance of its duties, this Ministry does not act on each goal separately but looks at the three goals in relation to each other and as one integral whole.

The Peace Process

Since assuming its duties, the incumbent Government has been working on the peace process as its priority policy goal. To effectively implement the tasks related to national reconciliation and peace, it established the NRPC - National Peace and Reconciliation Centre with the State Counsellor as Chairperson. The Peace Commission was also formed to implement the policies laid down by the NRPC and to



U Kyaw Thit Swe,
Union Minister
for the Office
of the State
Counsellor. PHOTO:
MNA

conduct peace negotiations with the ethnic armed organizations.

Just as we are negotiating and co-ordinating with the ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) which have signed the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) for implementing the points agreed in the NCA for durable peace, we have left the door open for negotiations and have been in constant contact with the leaders of those ethnic armed organizations which have not yet signed the NCA, to establish mutual respect and trust.

To solve the roots causes of armed conflicts which are the political problems, it is necessary to have political dialogues. The UPDJC - Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee which has been formed in accordance with NCA has been conducting political dialogues. The UPDJC has been formed with the State Counsellor as Chairperson and with (16) representatives from the Union Government, Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, (16) representatives from the Ethnic Armed Groups and (16) from the political parties to ensure that all groups are included. The UPDJC was thus formed with 48 members. During the term of this new Government, (9) meetings of the UPDJC were held. We

were thus able to move from the path of armed conflicts to the negotiating table.

In the NCA there are two main tasks namely, to maintain the ceasefire and to continue with the conduct of political dialogues. The JMC - Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee was formed to successfully implement the tasks of maintaining the ceasefire with representatives from the Tatmadaw, Armed Ethnic Organizations, and citizens respected by the people. The Code of Conduct to be observed by military personnel of both sides as well as Ceasefire Rules and Regulations; these are being observed and practiced. This has resulted in the reduction in differences of opinion among the Ethnic Armed Organizations which have signed the NCA, and this has consolidated the ceasefire process.

Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong

The first meeting of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre - 2 Nay Pyi Taw from 31 August to 3 September 2016 with the aim of solving political problems through negotiations and to allow the positions and views of all ethnic nationalities to be presented openly and freely. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon attended and delivered a speech. Not only this, EAOs which have already signed the NCA, and leaders from EAOs which have not yet signed the NCA also attended. Since the proceedings of this conference were televised live all the people living in various parts of the country were able to see and listen to the positions and opinions of all ethnic national races and organizations. This has resulted in heightened public interest. At the same time, this has enabled the entire people to see, listen

and understand the different views of the ethnic national races which have existed for many years.

Once again, the Second Meeting of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre - 2 in Nay Pyi Taw from 24 - 29 May 2017. Based on the policy of including all groups in political dialogues, representatives from Government, Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, Ethnic Armed Organizations - EAOs, Political parties, Ethnic national races, and individuals who should be invited were all invited to attend; a total of (700) delegates attended. This Conference may be considered as 21st Century Panglong Conference where negotiations for political agreements were initiated and adopted.

In accordance with the basic guidelines, headings chosen for discussions and TOR - Terms of Reference of the UPDJC, the following meetings were held:

- (3) National level political dialogues for Races.
- (3) Region National level political dialogues.
- (1) CSO - Civil Society Organizations Forum.

The UPDJC made a summary of all the views presented at the above-mentioned meetings and has submitted these to the Second Meeting of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong as policy proposals. These policy proposals were discussed sector by sector by the respective groups stage by stage. Thus agreement was reached to incorporate these proposals as part of the Union Accord.

In part (1) of this Union Accord, there are (12) political sector proposals; (11) economic sector proposals; (4) social sector proposals; and (10) land and natural environment sector proposals; all in all a total of (37) points. In accordance with Section 20, Sub-section (e) of the NCA, all the leaders of the various groups and witnesses signed Part (1) of the Union Accord at the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong - Second Meeting.

We were able to put on record that the (37) policy proposals from Part 1 of the Union Accord may be seen as the first time in Myanmar's political history, agreement has been reached on basic federal principles. During the tenure of the new Government, political dialogues have been held to solve political problems. Furthermore, we were able to show in practical terms that we were able to work hard and thus begin to get political agreements. If we strive together with united strength there is nothing we cannot achieve. This is a big result of the success of the peace process.

Just as internal peace is needed for strong economic development, achievement of peace is related to the smooth transition towards the establishment of a Democratic Federal Republic which is our third goal.

Peace and regional development

The NRPC which is chaired by the State Counsellor is composed of Union Ministers, Peace Commission members, senior officials from the Tatmadaw, and Hluttaw members.

The NRPC has been doing coordination and support work in cooperation with the respective Union Ministries and states/regional governments to fulfill the needs of the EAO's – Ethnic Armed Organizations in the economic, social, education, health and development areas.

The Union Government has been providing funds to support the needs of ethnic nationals in the conflict zones. Additionally funds from the NRPC and funds from donors at home and abroad are being used to support the needs of ethnic nationals. In order to undertake development works in the ethnic areas and to use the Peace Fund effectively, the JCB - Joint Coordinating Body has been established with the State Counsellor as Chairperson and representatives from Government, Ethnic Armed Organizations who are signatories as well as those who are not signatories of the NCA. In using the funds donated by foreign countries for the Peace Fund, four categories have been assigned namely: - a) Ceasefire b) Negotiations c) Development works supporting peace d) peace process activities of the NRPC In order to undertake development works in areas afflicted by conflict using the PPP - Public Private Partnership model, seminars have been organized to work according to free market principles and to better understand modes of operation.

New Signatories to the NCA by EAO's

On 15 October 2018, eight EAO's - Ethnic Armed Organizations signed the NCA - Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement with the Union Government and this Agreement was confirmed and approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 8 December 2015. In order to encourage the EAO's to sign the NCA, the Peace Commission conducted (9) informal meetings and (9) formal meetings with the DPN and encouraged them to sign the NCA based on the (8) recommendations of the DPN - Delegation for Peace Negotiations. As a result of these negotiations, the NMSP (New Mon State Party) and the LDU (Lahu Democratic Union) were able to agree on (8) points and eventually signed the NCA on 13 February 2018 at a ceremony held at the MICC - 2 in Nay Pyi Taw. State leaders, leaders of Ethnic Armed Organizations and foreign and local attendees signed this document as witnesses. Thus the NMSP and the LDU went on record as the two EAO's which have decided to walk the path of peace during the tenure of the current Government. Furthermore, we are conducting negotiations with the KNPP (Karenni National Progressive Party) to urge them to sign the NCA. In addition, we have been conducting informal talks with the UWSA "Wa" Special Zones number (2) and (4), Maing La and KIA-KIO. We are coordinating with them so that they would sign the NCA. The Peace Commission



Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe shakes hands with Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Wang Yi.

PHOTO: MNA

is also conducting formal negotiations with the SSPP – Shan State Progressive Party (Wan Hai) in order to bring them to the negotiating table. The main objective of the Union Government is to work for the emergence of political dialogues and cessation of armed conflicts and thus to bring as many ethnic armed organizations as possible under the NCA umbrella and also to bring all those who should be included to the conference table. The Union Government will devote special attention to this endeavor.

Two year journey of the NCA and future prospects

The current peace process gradually developed based on the NCA. (8) Ethnic Armed Organizations signed the NCA and during the two year term of this NCA, two more EAO's namely the NMSP (New Mon State Party) and the LDU (Lahu Democratic Union) signed the NCA. The door to peace is open to the remaining EAO's

The only solution to end the armed conflicts which have been raging for many years is a federal system which is effective and practical and also compatible with the Myanmar situation.

and negotiations are being conducted to urge them to sign the NCA. We are working hard to adopt basic federal principles and to firmly establish the foundations for federalism at the forthcoming Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Third Meeting).

Peace Talks

The future generations of youths will be the ones who will suffer the impact of whether we attain peace or not. With this in mind and for the benefit of the future generations, the State Counsellor organized Peace Talks in the following towns and villages:-

- 1) Nay Pyi Taw – 3 times
- 2) Shan State, Panglong – 1 time
- 3) Mandalay Region, Wuntwin township, Myetaingan village – 1 time
- 4) Kayah State, Loikaw township – 1 time
- 5) Ayeyarwady Region, Myaungmya – 1 time.

Thus in total (7) times.

Informal talks, workshops and foreign visits

The only solution to end the armed conflicts which have been raging for many years is a federal system which is effective and practical and also compatible with the Myanmar situation. Furthermore, the platform for discussing and negotiating about this federal system is the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong.

That was why foreign legal experts and subject experts well-versed on the subject of federalism were invited to ensure that those representatives from Government, the Tatmadaw, and Hluttaw can acquire knowledge and gain experiences about federalism. Two workshops on the basic principles of federalism were conducted in Nay Pyi Taw. From these two workshops, advice and recommendations for the peace process as well as for the establishment of a federal union were realized.

SEE PAGE-10-11



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe exchanges the signed MoU document on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali. PHOTO: MNA

Let's work together towards community-based sustainable tourism

MYANMAR is a country rich in tourism resources. There is a lot of cultural heritage and national ethnic traditions and customs that can attract globe-trotters to the Regions and States of Myanmar.

These must be explored for the systematic, long-term development of the socio-economic life of citizens including the tourism industry, a sector that will help the national economy.

In our country, travel and tourism businesses are gradually developing. But we need to find new travel destinations which can not only benefit travel agencies, but also create job opportunities for the local people.

A travel agency honoured at the 2nd Myanmar Entrepreneurs event in December last year shared their success in village-based travel business.

Natural scenes, folk art and life, clean and hygienic accommodation and food in folk style have attracted tourists. Locals get paid for lodging as well as food, and the food is prepared by the housewives themselves, so the locals made money from this.

A popular suggestion to tourists who visit Myanmar is that you must visit rural areas of Myanmar.

To expand this community-based business, local authorities need to provide security to the travellers. Tourist friendly accommodations and arrangements should be provided from the time of their arrival to their

departure.

The tourism sector around the world is changing. The focus should be on more authentic interactions with local communities, wildlife and nature, and accessing new and lesser-known destinations in a country.

On 25 May at Pyithu Hluttaw, a lawmaker urged the Union government to establish tourism-based festivals and special events, increase the number of tourism agencies, and expand tourism districts to develop both community-based and eco-tourism throughout the country.

Countries around the world are using numerous innovative methods to enhance international tourism and boost their local economies. Tourism can cause a country to become popular, while encouraging rural areas to uphold their traditions, while generating sustainable income.

But responsible travel from the side of the tourists is also important for the long term sustainability and conservation of the tourist regions.

As tourism is wide ranging and affecting many sectors, cooperation is required between the government sector and the private sector.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, other relevant ministries, state and regional governments, the Myanmar Tourism Organization, and civil organizations are obliged to work together with the local people to boost tourism and follow the sustainable development of tourism standards set by the World Tourism Organization. ■

From the week of school enrolments towards higher education in Myanmar

By Maung Mye Moe
(Geology)

THE Ministry of Education has designated a week (from 25 to 31 May) of school enrolments for 2018-2019 academic year as a national campaign. In carrying out that aspect, all stakeholders—the Ministry, headmasters, teachers and educational staff—and students and their parents are not only included but also responsible on their parts.

In the Global Educational Monitoring Report, 2017 issued by the UNESCO, "Education is a collective responsibility for all stakeholders." Described in the introduction of the Report. The important thing in the education sector is to enroll all children of school age in their respective schools: for them to keep on pursuing their studies and no dropouts and to get quality education. The Ministry of Education has undertaken the task of carrying out the National Educational Strategy (2016-2021) for letting all children of school age to pursue their studies of quality education.

Responsibilities of the Ministry

The Ministry of Education has provided textbooks, exercise books, school stationery and teaching aids free of charge to all schools across the country in order to raise the standards of free primary, middle and high schools. In addition, extension of basic schools and upgrading of existing schools are carried out in consultation with local authorities, according to the mutually agreed principles. In doing so, over-five

old school children of primary education increased to 95.10% during 2015-2016 academic year; 96.92% in 2016-2017; 97.39% during 2017-2018 respectively.

Mobile schools are arranged for the school age children of strife refugees with the appointments of more teachers; more schools are built for children with special educational needs in the far-flung areas and at the same time they are awarded with stipends in order to continue their studies. In the level of Basic Education such as KG plus 12, new curricula are drawn according to the new education system and new textbooks and teaching aids are provided

free of charge.

Accordingly, the appointments of more teachers and provisions of benches, classrooms and teaching aids, libraries, labs, school furniture and toilets are added in accord with their requirements. Urgent needs are fulfilled for school children to get new textbooks into their hands.

Responsibilities of educational staff

They are warned beforehand not to accept cash or kind from the parents in any way; school enrollments of children aged five to a kindergarten; children aged six are allowed to attend Grade-1.

Arrangements are also made for school enrollments of those children without birth or household certificates. In addition putting more emphasis on reading, writing and arithmetic of the first, second and third graders of the primary schools. In cooperation with the parents, students are made to get involved in learning processes so that there would not be any middle or high school dropouts.

Responsibilities of the Students

As teachers are scheduled to be in their classes regularly according to their timetables, stu-

dents will have to come their class not only for learning lessons but also for cooperation, accountability and innovation so that these institutions are deemed as creative places from which future leaders are born.

Responsibilities of the Parents

The Ministry, headmasters and teachers are deemed to be responsible and accountable. Parents too are also responsible for sending their children to school, doing their homework, passing their exams and producing outstanding students in cooperation with educational staff. In order

to get students imbued with a strong social conscience, they should be encouraged by their parents to get involved in cleaning and development works of their school. Furthermore, parents are urged to take part in all activities of Parent-Teacher Association in order to help schools in different ways.

A balance between tasks and responsibilities

Enrollments of children of school age with a week are aimed at producing outstanding students for the country in the future. To create a bright future for the development of our country, pursuing further higher education and no school dropouts are indeed really necessary. Every school is like a garden where different kinds of plants and flowers are grown beautifully. In order to keep plants flourish in a garden, good climate and fertile soils are necessary; in the same way to keep schools clean and produce outstanding students, both educational staff and parents are responsible and accountable.

By struggling the balance between them and shouldering the responsibility on teachers, students and parents will surely lead to a modernized and developed country of Myanmar; improving the image of our country in the international community.

That is why starting from this week of school enrolments, let us try to raise high standards of education of our country in a great balancing and responsible manner. ■

Translated by Arakan Sein



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH



Remove and REPLACE: Eliminate trans fats, advance health and wellbeing

The use of artificial 'trans fat' in edible oils imperils health. New WHO guidelines advocate for a return to better-known, traditionally used alternatives.

Op-ed by Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh,
Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region

ON 14 May the World Health Organization (WHO) called on all countries to make the world free of trans fats by 2023. A number of countries have already accomplished this, including a range of middle- and lower-income countries worldwide that have heavily restricted or eliminated trans fats altogether.

They do so with good reason.

Industrially produced trans fats are artificial compounds formed by 'partial hydrogenation of edible oils' that are harmful when consumed, even at low levels. In the South-East Asia Region, partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (PHVOs) are the primary source of trans fats in food items.

Commercial food production, particularly with regard to bakery products such as biscuits and pastries, use high amounts of PHVOs, thus increasing the risk of trans fat consumption. Changing food patterns and the popularity of processed foods is likely to increase trans fat intake. Likewise, high levels of trans fat have also been found elsewhere, especially in food produced by informal vendors. Trans fats dramatically increase the risk of heart attack.

Replacing oils containing high trans fats with healthier options will have no impact on the taste or availability of food, and will dramatically advance health and wellbeing. It will also help achieve WHO South-East Asia's regional target and Flagship Priority of reducing noncommunicable diseases by one-fourth by 2025, and then by one-third by 2030, as per the Sustainable Development Goal targets.

Mustard, sunflower, rapeseed (canola), ground nut, and soya-based oils are all healthier alternatives. These crops are valuable, efficient and in high demand. Importantly, the increased growth, production and use of these crops will enhance the health and wellbeing of people and align the region with the global drive to restrict trans fats and save millions of lives at virtually no cost to government or consumers.

To that end, WHO's six-step REPLACE action package – launched last week in Geneva – provides all countries with proven tools to completely eliminate trans fats from their national food supply and counter increasingly changing food patterns. At present, 90% of people around the world – about 6.5 billion – are exposed to these artery-clogging substances, with little to no government support or alternatives offered. WHO's REPLACE package aims to accelerate restrictions on trans fat products via an easy six-step process. Each of these steps can be readily embraced, implemented and enforced, with game-changing effect.

First is reviewing dietary sources of trans fats and the landscape required for policy change. Second is promoting the replacement of trans fats with healthier fats and oils. Third is legislating or enacting regulatory actions to eliminate trans fats. Fourth is assessing and monitoring trans fat content in the food supply and changes in trans fat consumption in the population. Fifth is creating awareness of the negative health impact of trans fats among policymakers, producers, suppliers and the public. And sixth is enforcing compliance with policies and regulations.

If implemented effectively, the WHO REPLACE package will ensure prompt, complete and sustained elimination of trans fats from the world's food supply, thereby driving down demand. That is a good that will give many times over, saving billions of dollars in both developed and developing economies, and slashing the rate of premature deaths worldwide. But making that happen requires more than goodwill; it requires a willingness to act, and to do so decisively.

WHO's new guidelines provide the opportunity and incentive to replace oils high in trans fats Region-wide with locally made, healthy alternatives. That opportunity should be grasped, and a return to better known, traditional alternatives embraced. ■

The performance of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor during the two year term of the Union Government

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In addition we have been conducting from time to time, foreign visits for delegations composed of representatives and leaders from Government, Tatmadaw, Hluttaw and Ethnic Armed Organizations, to promote understanding, confidence and trust among delegates, and to broaden their knowledge and understanding about political dialogues and federal principles. Also, we are having frank and open informal discussions with Ethnic Armed Organizations and have moved from the stage of holding meetings to the stage of exchanging views, discussing to have advance agreements and to understand their concerns and fears.

Furthermore, with regard to national reconciliation and the peace process, we are conducting "Stakeholder Meetings" by inviting descendants of leaders who signed the Panglong Agreement, learned professionals, ethnic leaders, leaders of Civil Society Organizations and observers, to ascertain their views and advice.

Our endeavors for peace and stability in Rakhine State

To seek practical and sustainable solutions and implement them to meet the deep-rooted problems and challenges which have existed in Rakhine State for many years is one of the priority tasks of the new Government.

Therefore, the Central Committee for Stability, Peace and Development in Rakhine State was established on 30 May 2016 with the State Counsellor as Chairperson and four work committees were formed to support this central committee to work for stability, peace and development in Rakhine State. Thus these work committees have been conducting field visits continuously to know the real situation at the ground level and have been working for stability, peace and development of the region as needed on a priority basis.

The nature of the Rakhine State issue is delicate and complex. Therefore in order to find lasting solutions, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor and the Kofi Annan Foundation to establish the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State with former UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan as Chairman on 24 August 2016, to give advice and support to the Union Government in its endeavors for attainment of a comprehensive solution. This commission is composed of (6) Myanmar nationals, and (3) internationals making a total of (9) members.

As the Union Government was working for peace and development in Rakhine State, terrorist attacks occurred on 9 October and from 12 to 13 November in 2016 which further complicated the situation. An enquiry commission headed by Vice



NRPC Vice Chairman U Kyaw Tint Swe attends the coordination meeting to hold race-oriented political dialogues at the national level in Mawlamyine, Mon State. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Myint Swe with (13) members was formed on 1 December 2016 with the following tasks: a) to make an enquiry in order to find out the truth with regard to the background situation leading up to the terrorist attacks; b) to make an enquiry about allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine State; and c) to make sure that such types of events do not occur in the future.

This enquiry commission came up with (48) recommendations for providing security and ensuring the human rights of the people. This has given much support in working for stability and rule of law in the region.

The final report of Dr. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General based on field visits and interviews made by members of the Advisory Commission of Rakhine State was submitted on 24 August 2017. Eighty eight recommendations were presented by the Commission. These recommendations would be of much support in finding good and lasting solutions for the issues of Rakhine State.

As work was being done by various levels of committees for regional stability, ARSA extremist terrorists, the original root cause of the Rakhine issue, staged simultaneous attacks on (30) security outposts on 25 August 2017. As a result large numbers of people from Rakhine State left their homes which led to misguided accusations from the international community. The Union Government had to work for stability among racial groups professing different religions and for rule of law.

After this, an Implementation Committee to implement the recommendations of the Inquiry Commission headed by Vice President (1) and the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State headed by Dr. Kofi Annan was established with Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on 9 October 2017.

As it is a requirement that the pro-

gress report of the Implementation Committee for implementing the recommendations related to Rakhine State needs to be submitted every four months, we were able to release such a report to the public on the 13th and 17th of February 2018 through the government newspapers.

Furthermore, the UEHRD – Union

As work was being done by various levels of committees for regional stability, ARSA extremist terrorists, the original root cause of the Rakhine issue, staged simultaneous attacks on (30) security outposts on 25 August 2017.

Enterprise for Relief, Resettlement and Development was established on 17 October 2017 with the State Counsellor as Chairperson and relief, resettlement development works for the displaced persons were undertaken with the cooperation of the relevant ministries and the people.

So that the Committee for the Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State could carry out its implementation tasks based on the actual ground situation with good results and effectiveness, an Advisory Committee for the above committee headed by former Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai was established on 8 December 2017 composed of local and foreign experts to give necessary advice.

To monitor and study the provision of humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State, the implementation of tasks related to the Myanmar-Bangladesh agreements and the verification process for displaced persons, a Special Task Force was formed on 7 January 2018 headed by U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor. Likewise, a Committee for Repatriation and Resettlement of Displaced Persons was formed on 15 March 2018 headed by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement respectively.

In the performance of tasks for rehabilitation and provision of humanitarian assistance to both communities in Rakhine State, the Union Government has taken the lead in distribution operations through the Red Cross Movement, AHA Centre (ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance), the Philippines Red Cross, Thai Red Cross and local volunteers. International organizations such as the WFP – World Food Programme have been given permission to operate and approaches have been made to UNHCR and UNDP to cooperate in this effort.

Since efforts have been made to further elevate the relations between the two countries with respect to border affairs and bilateral relations, an "MoU on establishment of Border Liaison Office – BLOs" and "MoU on Security Dialogue and Cooperation" have been signed. Furthermore, we have been cooperating with Bangladesh to repatriate displaced persons successfully; in this regard, an "Agreement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State" was signed by the Union Minister from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor and the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh.

The TOR (Terms of Reference) for the implementation of the said agreement was signed in Bangladesh on 19 December 2017, the “Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh Under the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State” was signed in Myanmar on 16 February 2018 step by step.

In accordance with the agreement reached between the two countries in the “Physical Arrangement”, reception centers were built in Taungpyo Letwe and Ngakhuya and a Transit center was built in Hlaphokhaung and arrangements were made to receive the displaced persons beginning from 23 January 2018. To ensure that the process of verification and handing over of displaced persons is carried out in a smooth and easy manner, the particulars of the first batch of refugees namely 508 Hindus and 750 Muslims were handed over to Bangladesh. However, as the duly filled in prescribed forms were not received from the Bangladesh side even though the agreed date had passed, this operation could not be completed. With regard to the first group to be handed over by Bangladesh, out of 1673 families, the name list and personal details of 8032 were sent. However, the forms used were not the forms agreed between the two countries in the “Physical Arrangement”, the main points namely that the return was voluntary and that the returnee would abide by prevailing laws of the country were not filled up. Furthermore, these forms did not have signatures and detailed particulars of each individual. The Bangladesh side have therefore been informed to send back the requested information in the agreed prescribed forms. Although the returned forms were not the mutually agreed ones, with a view to making the process more efficient, verification work was done with great difficulty. Up to now more than (700) persons have been verified. The Bangladesh side have been informed that if they were ready to hand over the said displaced persons, the Myanmar side was

ready to receive them. Negotiations have also been made with the Bangladesh side to receive those displaced persons living along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border line in Taungpyo Letwe, and resettle them on the Myanmar side. It is hoped that a solution would be found through cooperation between the two countries. Efforts are being made to resolve this problem using the best possible methods. Regarding the closure of IDP (Internally Displaced Persons), the Thetkaepyin IDP camp in Sittway and the IDP camp in Myebon township have been closed according to international standards and work for resettlement is being done.

To ensure that the real situation on the ground could be studied, a total of (10) visits have been arranged for the benefit of Ambassadors, Heads of Mission, Heads of UN Agencies and International Organizations beginning from 2016 to present. Visits of local and foreign media groups were also arranged for (9) times. We have also arranged for local and foreign media groups to visit twice a month to allow them to gather news. In order to release news about progress and developments in Myanmar including events in Rakhine State on a real-time basis, an Information Committee has been set up and genuine news are being disseminated via the media as well as through social media networks to the public.

Although the Rakhine State issue is an internal conflict, since it is under the scrutiny of the United Nations and the countries of the world, it is indeed an important issue. We have to strive to ensure that all communities in spite of their differences coexist in peace. Furthermore, if the conflicts could not be resolved, it would cause great difficulties for the people and their difficulties would grow bigger; therefore it is vital to handle and solve the said problems successfully. Thus it is important to be able to implement initiatives for ensuring peace, justice and development. In this situation when pressures from the United Nations and the international com-

munity are mounting, the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor is working strenuously for the success of the leadership provided by the State Counsellor for the perpetuation of State Sovereignty and safeguard territorial integrity.

Although the Rakhine State issue is an internal conflict, since it is under the scrutiny of the United Nations and the countries of the world, it is indeed an important issue.

Meeting with foreign diplomats

During the two-year period from July 2016 to February 2018, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor held (108) meetings with foreign diplomats and representatives of international organizations.

During these meetings, explanations have been given regarding the guidance provided by the State Counsellor; current implementation works being undertaken by the Union Government, matters relating to Rakhine State, and matters relating to internal peace with a view to informing the rest of the world.

During the meetings with foreign diplomats and various representatives, the following matters were discussed in a frank and cordial manner so that they would know the current situation of the

country.

- Humanitarian assistance.
- Citizenship matters for Muslims in Rakhine State.
- Providing food, medicines and other necessities in conflict zones of Rakhine State.
- Establishment of industries in zones free from conflicts in Rakhine State.
- Provision of Vocational Training opportunities for returnees.
- Development of Rakhine State and Rule of Law.
- Closure of IDP camps

With regard to the Peace Process, the Peace processes of the current government, the need to encourage more EAO's to sign the NCA, the progress made in the area of achieving ceasefires, including how they could participate and support the peace process were explained.

Actions taken to fight against corruption

In a country the absence of corruption is one of the main fundamental and vital factors for the emergence of good governance, rule of law, development of the economy and increase in foreign investments.

To eradicate corruption in various organizations of the government machinery, the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor has been working in accordance with the instructions of the State Counsellor to accept registered letters, faxes and emails sent by the people to take action against the corrupt and improper practices of various levels of government personnel. A total of (2516) letters were submitted during the two-year period. The majority were land cases, administrative/management cases, corruption, judiciary and improper conduct in social relations. Action is being taken in cooperation with the Office of the President regarding the complaints submitted by the people.

As the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor is a Ministry which came into being to provide assistance and support to the State Counsellor; during the two-year term of the incumbent Government, it has been performing the following duties in accordance with the guidance given by the State Counsellor in the following areas – matters relating to national reconciliation and the peace process were given special attention; furthermore, implementation of the policies of the State Counsellor; carrying out the duties given by the State Counsellor; performing coordination duties between the State Counsellor and the various Union Ministries and state/regional governments, performing intermediary and coordination duties as needed between Myanmar and the international community. In addition, we wish to submit that during the remaining three-year period of the new Government, the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor will be diligently performing its tasks for the successful implementation of the policies and guidance given by the State Counsellor.



Ambassadors and diplomats led by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe talk to villagers in Ngakhuya village, Maungdaw. PHOTO: MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, right, with Defence Minister, General Vladimir Padrino Lopez during a military honour ceremony in Caracas. **PHOTO: AFP**

President asks for international help to boost Venezuela's oil output

CARACAS — Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro has been sworn in for a second term as President of the crisis-racked Latin American country, just days after winning an election boycotted by the opposition and decried abroad.

Mr Maduro promised to defeat US sanctions and take steps to correct the course of an economy in ruins, including seeking OPEC support to nearly double its oil output.

The socialist leader vowed to lead Venezuela to "the peace, prosperity and happiness of our people".

Striking a rare conciliatory note, Mr Maduro admitted a fresh take on Venezuela's problems was needed. "We need a profound rectification, we have to do things anew and better, we are not doing things well and we have to change this country," he said. He admitted that tighter sanctions imposed by Washington after his re-election would bring more difficulties to the oil producer, not least because they would prevent "necessary

— imports". "I cannot deceive anyone; they are going to create serious difficulties for us, painful difficulties, that we will face gradually — we will defeat them," Mr Maduro said. Venezuela is going through the worst economic crisis in its history. Hyperinflation has crippled the country, leading to shortages of food and medicine. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled to escape the growing deprivation. Despite sitting on the world's biggest oil reserves, Venezuela has suffered from a catastrophic fall in oil production to a 30-year low of just 1.5 million barrels a day, largely due to its lack of investment in infrastructure. Oil accounts for 96 per cent of the nation's foreign revenues

Turning to Oil Minister General Manuel Quevedo, Mr Maduro said Venezuela would have to increase its output by one million barrels a day. "This year we have to increase one million barrels. If we have to ask for support from OPEC, ask for it, Major General — support from Russia, China,

the Arab countries, let's ask."

Mr Maduro also promised to work for reconciliation and offered to free political opponents who had not committed serious crimes, to "overcome the wounds" of the protests against him, which have left 200 dead since 2014. He announced the arrest of an unspecified number of troops for allegedly conspiring against the elections, in an operation "financed and directed from Colombia and promoted by the United States government". The 55-year-old former bus driver's re-election last Sunday in a vote boycotted by the main opposition was widely condemned by the international community, including the US, which denounced it as a "sham".

Mr Maduro, whose term extends to 2025, leads a government facing international isolation, with the US, the EU and the 14 countries of the Lima Group — which includes Argentina, Brazil and Canada — refusing to recognise the election result. —AFP ■

Canada hunts two suspects in restaurant blast that left 15 hurt

TORONTO — Police in Canada on Friday hunted for two men believed to have detonated explosives at an Indian restaurant near Toronto, wounding 15 people, but police said there was no indication the blast was an act of terror.

The explosion late Thursday at the Bombay Bhel restaurant in Mississauga in Toronto's western suburbs, which was reportedly felt more than four kilometres (2.5 miles) away, also did not appear to be a hate crime, authorities said.

"Two men wearing hoodies were seen entering the restaurant with an IED," or improvised explosive device, Peel Regional Police Chief Jennifer Evans told a news conference.

"The men were seen fleeing the scene immediately following the explosion," Evans added. "Every police resource is being used right now to locate the people responsible for this horrendous act."

Evans added: "We haven't ruled anything out as we start our investigation."

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said there was "no connection to national security at this point."

The pair, who were also wearing jeans and face coverings, did not say anything in the restaurant, where two birthdays were being celebrated. They just dropped off the device and left, authorities said.

The incident is nevertheless likely to provoke jitters in the nation's biggest metropolitan area — it comes just one month after a man in a rented van plowed into pedestrians on

a crowded sidewalk in Toronto, killing 10 people.

Bloodied and limping victims

Pictures and video footage showed victims being escorted in wheelchairs and stretchers to waiting ambulances, or limping out of the restaurant, bleeding from wounds caused by flying glass and shrapnel.

The blast reportedly destroyed the inside of the restaurant. Its front doors were shattered but still clinging to their hinges.

Witnesses said the bomb looked like a paint can or a bucket and, according to police, was filled with projectile objects.

Three of the wounded — a 35-year-old man and two women aged 48 and 62 — were taken to hospital in critical condition, but later improved to stable condition. India's High Commissioner to Canada, Vikas Swarup, said all three were dual nationals.

Other victims were treated for minor injuries after the blast at the eatery in a strip mall that is surrounded by houses, grassy fields, and condo towers under construction.

"This was a family restaurant and a place where celebrations take place," Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne said, calling the event "shocking."

On its website, the restaurant posted a message that said: "It was an extremely horrific and sad incident."

"This is a heinous crime," echoed Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie. —AFP ■



Police just outside Toronto released a surveillance camera image of two hooded men carrying a device and entering an Indian restaurant where a blast occurred, wounding 15 people. **PHOTO: AFP**

Colombia to become first Latin American NATO 'global partner'

BOGOTA (Colombia) — Colombia will next week formally become NATO's first Latin American "global partner," President Juan Manuel Santos announced on Friday.

Santos, who won the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end a half-century of armed conflict with the former rebel movement FARC, said the move would

improve Colombia's image on the world stage. "We will formalize in Brussels next week — and this is very important — Colombia's entry into NATO in the category of global partner.

We will be the only country in Latin America with this privilege," the president said in a televised address. In addition to Colombia, NATO lists Afghani-

stan, Australia, Iraq, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Pakistan as "partners across the globe" or simply "global partners."

Each country "has developed an Individual Partnership Cooperation Program" with the 29-country US-led alliance, with many contributing actively to NATO missions. —AFP ■

Peace treaty with Japan possible as economic ties deepen: Putin

ST PETERSBURG—A post-World War II peace treaty between Russia and Japan is possible if bilateral relations deepen through planned joint economic activities on a group of Moscow-held islands claimed by Tokyo, Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

The Russian President revealed his thoughts on the matter in an interview with Kyodo News and other news agencies, the first such occasion involving Japanese media since he won re-election in March.

Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, due to meet in Moscow on Saturday, are expected to agree to accelerate preparations for the joint economic activities they have decided to conduct on the islands off Japan's northernmost main island

of Hokkaido.

Putin reiterated that the only solution to a bilateral territorial row would be through Russia's return of the two smaller ones — Shikotan and the Habomai islet group — after the conclusion of a peace pact in line with the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration.

“Japan unilaterally rejected the implementation” of the agreement, Putin said.

Tokyo maintains that the islands — called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia — are inherent Japanese territory and were illegally seized by the Soviet Union following Japan's surrender in August 1945. The spat, also involving the larger Etorofu and Kunashiri islands, has kept the countries

from concluding a bilateral peace treaty. But Russia will look for a compromise that both sides will be able to accept, Putin said.

The president said Russia will work to promote visa-free visits to the disputed islands by former residents by removing all restrictions. The visa-free programme began in 1992 as part of efforts to promote relations between present and former residents of the islands and deepen mutual understanding.

In the interview, the Russian president also signaled his intention to step down after his current term expires in 2024, saying he will respect the Russian Constitution which bans any president from serving more than two successive terms.

Putin has been in pow-



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Russian President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

er since becoming president for the first time in 2000, including the period from 2008 to 2012 when he served as prime minister.

He won a fourth term in a landslide victory in March, extending his rule for six more years.

He also said the de-

sired crude oil price for Russia is \$60 per barrel. The country's economy relies heavily on output of gas and oil.—Kyodo News■

S Korea welcomes prospect of 'reignited' US-North Korea talks

SEOUL—South Korea on Saturday welcomed the renewed prospect of a summit between the United States and North Korea after President Trump cancelled talks with Kim Jong Un only to suggest they might still take place.

“We find it fortunate that the embers of the North Korea-US talks are reignited. We are watching developments carefully,” Presidential Blue

House spokesman Kim Eui-gyeom said.

Trump's cancellation of the summit blindsided treaty ally South Korea, which had brokered the remarkable detente between Washington and Pyongyang.

President Moon Jae-in had to scramble his national security team when news of Trump's decision first reached Seoul late Thursday evening as he called Washington's

u-turn “shocking and very regrettable”.

On Friday, Trump turned on his heels again, saying the meeting with Kim could go ahead after all — and would “likely” happen on the originally scheduled date of 12 June in Singapore.

The summit would be an unprecedented meeting between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader, which Washington hopes

will result in full denuclearisation of the reclusive state.

South Korea's Moon has pushed diplomacy as he desperately sought to calm spiralling tensions on the Korean Peninsula and an escalating war of words between Kim and Trump last year sparked by Pyongyang's detonation of its largest nuclear bomb to date and a series of intercontinental ballistic missile tests. —AFP■

DPRK vows to build world-class beach resort

PYONGYANG—Kim Jong Un, the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), has called for building a world-class beach resort in the eastern port city Wonsan, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said on Saturday.

While inspecting a construction site at the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area, Kim said new miracles of construction were again taking place, said KCNA. “It is the determination of the Workers' Party of

Korea (WPK) to wonderfully build the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area as a Korean-style coast city ... to make our people enjoy the highest civilization at the highest level,” he was quoted as saying. The WPK said in a plenary session last month that the DPRK would concentrate all its efforts on economic construction to improve the people's livelihood.

Wonsan, facing the Sea of Japan, is known for its beautiful beach scenery. —Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1007W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1007W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V GEE YANGON VOY. NO. (1085 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GEE YANGON VOY. NO. (1085 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (016 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (016 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

I am proud of my glamorous image: Kareena Kapoor

MUMBAI—Actress Kareena Kapoor believes the secret to her longevity in the film industry is striking a balance between commercial and alternative cinema.

Kareena says that one should never get stuck to any one genre as that gets boring and there is the added risk of getting typecast. Her aim is to cater to all sorts of audience.

"I am always proud of my glamorous image. One has to enjoy some commercial success. If I have done an 'Udta Punjab', then I have also done the 'Golmaal' series. I have always tried to balance things out.

"To sustain in the film industry for 18 years one has to keep doing exciting work. I do films that suit my personality, my time limit. I do films that I like," Kareena told PTI.

The actor says she has been a risk-taker right from the beginning of her career despite being a commercial heroine.

"When I was 22-year-old, I

did 'Chameli' and people thought I would not do it. For me, it is all about having the right balance of things — commercial and being part of different kind of movies."

Citing the example films such as "Udta Punjab", "Ki and Ka", "Chameli" and "Omkaara", Kareena insists that she has always picked up stories that "no mainstream commercial heroine" would do.

"I just see — is this film entertaining, is the script good? Can I see myself in it and do I have a good part? When all these things fall in place I tick a film and I am on board." For her, there is a difference between being an actor and a star and she says she has always looked at herself first as an actor and then as a star.

"I don't think anyone joins the industry thinking, 'I want to become a star'. You join it because you like acting, you like movies, you are passionate about cinema. I enjoy acting and people like me, my work and that is why

I am a star."

She also credits a loyal fan-base for standing by her in her successes and failures.

"I have a loyal fan following and I feel lucky to be one of those few actors to have the support of fans. I am a fan-built star as I have had successes and failures and nothing has deterred my fans. My fans have stood by me every time." But there is a change in her priorities after the birth of son Taimur.

"It is interesting when directors write roles for you, but maybe I can't do all kind of roles. Now I look at how much time a film would take. I have limited amount of time because I have to give lot of time to family and my son. So I will do one film a year because now I can't do three films."

Her next release is "Veere Di Wedding", a story about four female friends played by Kareena, Sonam Kapoor, Swara Bhasker and Shikha Talsania, and their trials and tribulations in the society.



Actress Kareena Kapoor . PHOTO: PTI

"It is a fun film and people are talking about women empowerment and feminism. The story is about four girls. The director came up with this concept. So what is wrong (in that) as there was a 'Dil Chahta Hai' and 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara'. This story is from the female point of view... that's it!," Kareena says.

The four protagonists in the film use cuss words but Kareena says she fails to understand why

there is so much focus on that.

"Saif Ali Khan was the villain in 'Omkaara' and he was bad mouthing. He won lot of awards for the film. It is required in the film, so it is there. Nobody is doing it just for the sake of it.

"This film's language and platform is different. The audience we are catering to is also different. We are not forcibly saying anything, the tonality is such. —PTI ■

Filmmaker, AIDS orphan Carla Simon on Spain's 'lost generation'

BACELONA—Catalan filmmaker Carla Simon remembers little of the day that, aged six, she joined the ranks of countless orphans left behind by Spain's "lost generation" of AIDS victims.

Her parents were among 50,000 Spaniards who contracted HIV from 1981, when the virus first appeared, until its peak around 1997, with needle-sharing by drug addicts the largest cause of transmission.

"As a kid, when something like that happens to you it's like the memory erases or blocks and I don't remember specific things," the Catalan director told AFP.

"I remember emotions, like I remember that I didn't cry the day that my mom died and this made me feel very bad."

Simon went back to that traumatic period for her feature directorial debut "Summer 1993," looking through old photographs and piecing together half-remembered images and snatches of conversation.

Premiering at Berlin's annual festival and winning best debut feature, the Catalan-language movie made a respectable \$1.2 million in Spanish box offices.

It has been gaining momentum in recent months, picking up



Catalan filmmaker Carla Simon. PHOTO: AFP

prizes for best feature, director and writing as well as awards for its cast at festivals around the world ahead of its US release on Friday.

The movie follows a six-year-old Simon reimagined as the fictional Frida, who looks on in silence as the last objects from her recently deceased mother's apartment in Barcelona are placed in boxes.

Her aunt, uncle, and three-year-old cousin, Anna, welcome her with open arms — but it is only very slowly that Frida begins to get used to her new home in the countryside.

New liberties

Critics have raved about the

performances of Laia Artigas as Frida and Paula Robles as her surrogate sister Anna, who make for the film's emotional heart despite being too young to learn their lines.

"I talked a lot during the takes. I would tell them what to do or what they had to say and they would repeat," Simon told AFP.

"They got used to just hearing my voice, not looking at me and following instructions. And then in post-production we took my voice out." By 1997, Spain had 120,000 HIV/AIDS cases in an adult population of around 21 million — the highest rate in the European Union and triple the average.—AFP ■

Ariana Grande gets bee tattoo in memory of Manchester Arena attack

LOS ANGELES—Signer Ariana Grande has got a bee tattoo to remember the victims of Manchester Arena attack, two days after the one year anniversary of the tragic incident that killed 22 fans at one of her shows.

The "No Tears Left to Cry" singer tweeted a photo of her new ink and captioned "forever," in memory of the victims of the bombing at her Manchester Arena concert last May.

The bee has become a historic symbol of the city of Manchester, dating back to the Industrial Revolution when

their factories were often nicknamed "beehives" due to their busy productivity.

The bee is also a symbol of diligent teamwork, and has become a popular tattoo in support of Grande and the attack victims.

The 24-year-old singer acknowledged the one year anniversary on social media on Tuesday. "Thinking of you all today and every day," she tweeted, complete with a bee emoji. "I love you with all of me and am sending you all of the light and warmth I have to offer on this challenging day.—PTI ■



Signer Ariana Grande. PHOTO: PTI

Myanmar labour delegation to participate in 107th Session of Int'l Labour Conference in Geneva

A Myanmar delegation comprised of labour representatives will attend the 17th Session of the International Labour Conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, which will open on 28th May and end on 8 June.

The delegation met the press in Yangon on Friday briefing their agenda to be discussed at the international conference.

"We, representatives of the Confederation of Trade Union of Myanmar, will discuss setting a standard of violence and harassment in the work place", said

Daw Phyo Sandar Soe, Assistant Secretary of the CTUM.

The agenda of the conference also includes a recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social dialogue and tripartism, under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008.

A total of 12 representatives from CTUM, one representing employers and governmental officials will participate in the international conference.—GNLM



U Maung Maung, President, Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar, who will participate in the 17th Session of the International Labour Conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, talks to media at the press conference. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWA**

Picasso's ties to the kitchen explored at Barcelona show

BARCELONA — A deformed bottle of wine, a colander in the place of a woman's head or a ceramic plate with inlaid fish bones: For the first time, the intimate connection between Pablo Picasso's work and gastronomy is on display in his Barcelona museum.

"It's a new vision of Picasso," Emmanuel Guigon, director of the Picasso Museum in the Mediterranean seaside city, told AFP at Wednesday's inauguration of the exhibition "Picasso's Kitchen."

"It seems weird but it isn't. Cooking is a theme that is in all Picasso's work and in all formats: paintings, sculptures, pottery and even poetry."

Strolling through the exhibition is like making one's way through a multi-course meal, with more than 180 works of art — some of them borrowed from other museums or private collections — scattered in 10 rooms.

Cherry on the cake — one room has been designed by Spanish gastronomy's Picasso, molecular gastronomy chef Ferran Adria, who has imposed his vision of the creative process in the kitchen with diagrams and photos of his dishes.

Adria, founder of the El Bulli restaurant which was voted world's best five times before closing in 2011, said Picasso and former FC Barcelona player and coach Johan Cruyff, one of football's most visionary figures



A woman walks past "Still Life with Cherries" — another manifestation of the intimate connection between food and the extraordinary art of Pablo Picasso. **PHOTO: AFP**

who died in 2016, were his "two creative references".

"To be here is a dream, twenty years ago this would have been impossible," he said.

"But today in art there are people who are interested in what we are doing, an entire generation of chefs who want to be on the forefront." "In a 100 years my dishes can't be shown in any museum," Adria joked.

"But to understand his system of creation and how he worked helps us to analyse and compare it to ours."

'Metaphor of creation'

The exhibition, which will run until 30 September, "is not a catalogue of ingredients...it is a metaphor of creation", of how an everyday objects becomes art or a memory, said the curator of the show, Androula Michel.

Everyday objects such as a bottle of wine, a roasted chicken or fish are depicted by Picasso as disfigured still lifes in his cubist style. A colander represents the head of a woman in one sculpture while a painting of two leeks next to a skull depict the hardships in Paris during the Second World War. The exhibition has borrowed works from around 30 museums and private collections, including some of Picasso's most famous creations such as his 1914 sculpture "Glass of Absinthe" and his 1914 painting "Restaurant".

Also on show is his "Bullfight and fish" ceramic plate in which Picasso incrustated the fish bones of a sole. It is displayed alongside a photo taken by David Douglas Duncan of Picasso while he ate the fish in Cannes.—AFP

Wild elephant found dead in Thabeikkyin

A wild elephant was found dead near Thanakha creek, four miles away from the north of Kyaukkyl Village in Thabeikkyin Township in the Mandalay Region on Friday.

A local farmer found the dead elephant and alerted the authorities. Authorities, including officials from the township forestry department and the local police force, arrived at the scene and found the male

skinned elephant lying on the ground. They then inspected the surroundings and found four hunters (poachers). However, the poachers escaped the authorities, leaving their weapons behind. The police seized the weapons of the poachers, including two arrows, one axe and four poisonous bottles. The police and officials are trying to nab the elephant poachers. —Soe Naing Win (Thabeikkyin)



China beats Myanmar 1-0 in football friendly

AS part of a friendship-building effort, the Myanmar national football team played China's football team yesterday at Jiangning Sports Centre Stadium in Nanjing, China.

China, a powerhouse football team in Asia known for fast and accurate play, faced off against Myanmar, who played hard with great tactics set up by its new head coach Antione Hey.

Myanmar lined up with Kyaw Zin Htet, David Htan, Htike Htike Aung, Zaw Min Tun, Thein Than Win, Hlaing Bo Bo, Maung Maung Soe, Ye Ko Oo, Maung Maung Lwin, Aee Soe and Dwe Ko Ko Chit.

Though China's strikers played fast and accurately with both counter attacks and middle passes, Myanmar was very good in the first half with a near-complete defensive style of play. At the end of 40 minutes of play, the score was 0-0. China did come close at the 38-minute mark, when they earned a free kick, but the kick was palmed away



Myanmar's star Maung Maung Lwin (white) poised to touch the ball in yesterday's friendly with China at Jiangning Sports Centre Stadium in Nanjing. **PHOTO: MFF**

by Myanmar's keeper Kyaw Zin Htet. China gained their opening goal with a header by Wu Lei.

Myanmar's keeper Kyaw Zin Htet made several important saves against China.

In the second half, China

used the power play along with sharp striking.

Myanmar never gave up, and attacked with slow passes, but nearly all the chances were blunted by the strong, fast China defenders and keeper.

Though Myanmar came up short, the game was worth watching, and contributed to the continuing development of the national team under the control of its current head coach Antoine Hey.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar celebrates Int'l Day of Football and Friendship with Young Ambassadors

The young ambassadors from Myanmar will join the kids from across 211 countries and regions, in Moscow for the F4F Programme conducted between 8 to 15 June this year. Min Khant Thu, selected in the role of a young footballer, will join other young footballers from around the world, in Moscow.

The children will be a part of the 32 International Teams of Friendship that play against each other in the Gazprom Football for Friendship International Championship.

He will be joined by Thant Tay Zar, who will act as a young journalist and cover all the local and global activities of the F4F program as part of the International Children's Press Center.

The International Day of Football and Friendship is celebrated by the participating countries, as a part of the F4F Programme. On this day, the young ambassadors promote the key programme values (friendship, equality, fairness, health, peace, devotion, victory, traditions and honour), among their peers.

It was celebrated by the MFF by conducting an event at Monywa, to congratulate the young footballer recently. Min Khant Tu also got an opportunity to meet Dr. Myint Naing, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, who gave his best wishes to the young ambassador for the programme in Russia. **_GNLM**

MFF Youth Football Referee Course launched in Yangon

UNDER the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and its football referee committee, the opening ceremony for a new referee course batch (2/2018) was launched at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by the referee officials from MFF including the Director of the Referee section of MFF, Director U Aung Hla Tun, Chairman of the referee committee U Win Cho and other officials from the MFF.

Opening speeches were

delivered by the chairman of the referee committee U Win Cho and the course instructor U Than Win. There were a total of 20 attendees, and the course will be conducted from 26 May to 1 June, according to the official from Myanmar Football Federation.

All qualified referees who successfully complete the course will be registered as official referees in Myanmar and will be able to work as MFF referees or other States and Regions referee duties, he added.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Iniesta tells Vissel Kobe fans Japanese and Asian titles are his goals

KOBE — J-League side Vissel Kobe welcomed marquee signing Andres Iniesta in a ceremony at the club's home ground in western Japan on Saturday.

The Barcelona legend delighted more than 8,000 cheering fans at Noevir Stadium in Kobe, walking a red carpet onto the pitch before demonstrating his

juggling skills and kicking a ball into the stands.

Iniesta, who will wear the No 8 jersey for Vissel, said he had lofty goals for the club, which is currently sixth in the table midway through the J-League season.

"It's a big challenge for me. I want to win the J-League and

become the Asian champions with Kobe," the 34-year-old midfielder said. A four-time UEFA Champions League winner with Barca and a World Cup winner with Spain, Iniesta signed his contract with Vissel at a press conference in Tokyo on Thursday.

He was presented by Vissel

chairman Hiroshi Mikitani, who is also CEO of online shopping giant Rakuten Inc., the current shirt sponsor of Barcelona.

A member of the Spain squad for the World Cup starting next month in Russia, Iniesta is believed to have agreed a three-year contract with Vissel worth around 3 billion yen (\$27.4

million) a year.

"The reason I chose Vissel Kobe is because their project interests me. They trust me as a player and person. I want to get used to Japan as fast as possible. I love everything about the country," Iniesta told the press conference in Tokyo. —Kyodo News ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

27 MAY 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Younkers can make the world brighter



Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University

YOUTHS are also being alive as human beings in the world. As they are also humans, they can do whatever they want by fulfilling their wish. Some of the youths, however, are being alive under the roof of the parents. Therefore, they cannot fulfill all of their wants. The reason: their parents forbid when they are going to implement their wish. So, the way of youths are seem closed by their parents for some extent. They do not have opportunity or chance to carry out the works what they want to do. So, some of the youths do not dare to follow their dreams. Some youths

may be high school students, some may be university students. So, they do not have any income. They are just eating the salt of their parents or their guardians. Because of that reason, they are just keeping their wish in their heart. Some youths are very lucky since their parents can understand their sons' and daughters' wish. They give them chances to go through their wishing.

Some youths, unfortunately, cannot follow through their wishing because of the family issues such as financial problem. So, they have to work what they are not interested, even though they have to attend their respective schools or universities. Those ones, nevertheless, can be remarked as the persons who are not selfish for their only wish. They are just helping their family by using an appropriate mean. Some of the youths in Myanmar, espe-

cially the matriculated students, cannot choose the university what they really want to attend. I am sure that most of the people do not agree on this fact. If we want to really motivate the youths, the country's future leader, they should have a chance to choose the universities what they are interested. Some students are interested in medicine but they cannot choose the university of medicine because of their low marks. Some students, however, want to attend the university of engineering according to their interest but they cannot choose because their parents do not accept to choose it. They just want their sons or daughters to attend the universities they choose. Thusly, some youths are encountering those difficulties. This is one of the facts that youths cannot implement what they want.

Apart from these facts, some youths

are being oppressed by the older people in their respective work places. The older persons use the fact (they are the seniors, so, the juniors have to accept the things what they mention). So, even if something they mention is wrong, the youths have no chance to argue it. As everybody knows, today is the modern society which is full of creative ideas and update things. Therefore, youths are the essential ones for the world because of their creative ideas and new and new ideas and curiosity. There are a lot of youths who are leading in their own jobs and who are going through their interests. And they can help the world to be brighter by using their both mental strength and physical strength. Since youths can change the world by their capabilities, they should be given many chances to see the world's brighter future.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

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





(ယခု Lesson (2) တွင် **am, is, are, was, were** တို့ကို “ရှိခြင်းပြု” ကြိယအဖြစ် သုံးပုံနှင့် “ကူညီသောကြိယ” အဖြစ်သုံးပုံကို တင်ပြပါမည်)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

(i) အချို့သော စကားလုံးများကို **ENT** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမဝိသေသနများ (Adjectives) အဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

excel – excellent	အလွန်အလွန် ကောင်းမွန်သော
absorb – absorbent	စုပ်ယူသော
differ – different	ခြားနားသော
depend – dependent	မှီခိုသော
independent	လွတ်လပ်သော

(j) အချို့သော စကားလုံးများကို **ISH** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် (Adjectives) များအဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

child- childish	ကလေးဆန်သော
womanish	မိန်းမဆန်သော
selfish	တစ်ကိုယ်ကောင်းဆန်သော
foolish	မိုက်မဲသော
yellowish	အဝါဘက်များသော

(k) Verb (ကြိယ) များကို **ing** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် (Adjectives) (နာမဝိသေသန) များရရှိသည်။ ယင်းတို့ကို **Present Participle Adjectives** ဟုခေါ်သည်။ ‘နေသော/လျက်ရှိသော’ ဟု အဓိပ္ပါယ်ရသည်။

the meeting place	တွေ့ဆုံသောနေရာ
the rising sun	တက်နေ
a flying machine	ပျံသန်းသောစက်
a talking machine	စကားပြောသော စက်
a speaking class	စကားပြောသင်တန်း
a loving son	ချစ်သောသား
the boiling point	ရေဆူအမှတ်
the freezing point	ရေခဲအမှတ်
the opening speech	အဖွင့်မိန့်ခွန်း
the closing speech	အပိတ်မိန့်ခွန်း
the dining room	ထမင်းစားခန်း
the living room	ဧည့်ခန်း
a winding road	ကွေ့ကောက်သောလမ်း
a training school	လေ့ကျင့်ရေးကျောင်း
the gambling spirit	လောင်းကစားစိတ်ဓာတ်
a weaving mill	ရက်ကန်းစက်ရုံ
a hiding place	ပုန်းသောနေရာ
a fishing village	တံငါရွာ
coming Sunday	လာမည့်တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့
a smiling girl	ပြုံးနေသော မိန်းကလေး
a wedding reception	မင်္ဂလာဧည့်ခံပွဲ
the selling price	ရောင်းချေး
the sporting spirit	အားကစားစိတ်ဓာတ်
running water	စီးဆင်းနေသောရေ
a losing game	ရှုံးနေသောကစားပွဲ

(l) ကြိယာသုံးလုံးအနက် နောက်ဆုံး အလုံးဖြစ်သော **Past Participle** များကိုလည်း နာမဝိသေသန (Adjectives) အဖြစ်သုံးနိုင်သည်။ ‘ပြီးသော/ခံရသော’ ဟု အဓိပ္ပါယ်ရသည်။

a broken chair	ကျိုးပျက်နေသော ကုလားထိုင်
a broken home	လင်မယားကွဲနေသော အိမ်ထောင်
broken rice	ဆန်ကွဲ
used cars	တစ်ပတ်ရစ်ကား (အသုံးချခံရပြီး)
salted fish	ငါးဆားနယ် (ဆားသိပ်ထားသော)
pressed fish	ငါးပိ
pounded rice	ဆန်မှုန့် (ထောင်းထားသောဆန်)
boiled water	ရေကျက်အေး
fried chicken	ကြက်ကြော်
dried fruits	သစ်သီးခြောက် (အခြောက်လှန်းထားသော)

the lost world	ပျောက်ဆုံးသောကမ္ဘာ
fallen leaders	ကျဆုံးလေပြီးသော ခေါင်းဆောင်များ
trained soldiers	လေ့ကျင့်ပြီးသော စစ်သားများ

(m) တစ်ခါတစ်ရံ နာမ်များကိုလည်း နာမ်နာမဝိသေသနအဖြစ် သုံးနိုင်သည်။

rain water	မိုးရေ
university students	တက္ကသိုလ် ကျောင်းသားများ
a village girl	ကျေးရွာသူ
a science teacher	သိပ္ပံဆရာ

(n) အချို့သော စာလုံးများကို **ic** ကပ်ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမဝိသေသနများအဖြစ် သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

history	historic	သမိုင်းဝင်သော
volcano	volcanic	မီးတောင်နှင့်ဆိုင်သော
economy	economic	စီးပွားရေးနှင့်ဆိုင်သော
science	scientific	သိပ္ပံနှင့်ဆိုင်သော၊ သိပ္ပံနည်းကျသော
art	artistic	အနုပညာလက်ရာမြောက်သော
climate	climatic	ရာသီနှင့်ဆိုင်သော
base	basic	အခြေခံကျသော

Lesson 3

Lesson (1) တွင် **am, is, are, was, were** များကို ‘ဖြစ်ခြင်းပြု’ ကြိယအဖြစ်သုံးပုံကို တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။ ယခင် Lesson (2) တွင် **am, is, are, was, were** များကို ‘ရှိခြင်းပြု’ ကြိယအဖြစ် သုံးပုံနှင့် နာမဝိသေသနများ (adjectives) နှင့် တွဲဖက်၍ ကူညီသောကြိယအဖြစ် သုံးပုံကို တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။

ယခု Lesson (3) တွင် နာမဝိသေသန (adj) များကို တူညီသော ကြိယများ (helping verbs) ဖြစ်သည့် **am, is, are, was, were** များဖြင့် တွဲဖက်၍ ကြိယအဖြစ် အချိန်ကာလအမျိုးမျိုး သုံးပုံကိုဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

ထို့အပြင် ကြိယများဖြင့် စာကြောင်းတည်ဆောက်ပုံကို တင်ပြပါမည်။

Tenses အချိန်ကာလ

(A) **am, is, are** တို့သည် ရိုးရိုးပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကာလကို ရည်ညွှန်းသည်။

1. **She is fat.**
သူမ ဝသည့်။
2. **I am healthy.**
ကျွန်တော် ကျန်းမာသည်။
3. **They are bright.**
သူတို့ဉာဏ်ကောင်းသည်။
4. **We are united.**
ကျွန်တော်တို့ ညီညွတ်ကြသည်။
5. **Time is precious.**
အချိန်သည် အဖိုးတန်သည်။
6. **Her poem is interesting.**
သူမ၏ကဗျာသည် စိတ်ဝင်စားဖွယ်ကောင်းသည်။
7. **The Myanmar are friendly and hospitable.**
မြန်မာလူမျိုးများသည် ဖော်ရွေ၍ ဧည့်ဝတ်ကျေပွန်ကြသည်။
8. **Ma Ma is kind and generous.**
မမသည် ကြင်နာ၍ ရက်ရောသည်။
9. **The train is late.**
မီးရထားနှောင့်ကျသည်။

(B) **was** နှင့် **were** တို့သည် ရိုးရိုးအတိတ်ကာလ (Simple Past Tense) ကိုရည်ညွှန်းသည်။ အတိတ်တစ်ချိန်ချိန်တွင် ဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့၍ အတိတ်၌ပင်ကျန်ရစ်ခဲ့သောအကြောင်းအရာများကို ဤကာလဖြင့် ဖော်ပြရသည်။
(တိကျသော အချိန်ပိုင်းပြ စာလုံးများ၊ စကားစုများနှင့်တွဲ၍ သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။)

1. **He was busy yesterday.**
သူမနေ့က အလုပ်များခဲ့သည်။
2. **They were ill last week.**
သူတို့ယခင်အပတ်က နေမကောင်းဖြစ်ခဲ့ကြသည်။
3. **She was angry with me yesterday.**
သူမ မနေ့က ကျွန်တော့်ကို စိတ်ဆိုးခဲ့သည်။
4. **Ma Hla and Ma Mya were very thin last year.**
မလှနှင့် မမြတို့သည် မနှစ်က အလွန်ပိန်ခဲ့ကြသည်။

(C) **Present Perfect Tense** အဖြစ်သုံးလိုလျှင် **is, are** အစား **has been** ကိုသုံး၍ **am, are** တို့အစား **have been** သုံးရသည်။

1. **He has been busy since Monday.**
သူအလုပ်များနေသည်မှာ တနင်္လာနေ့ကတည်းကပဲ။
2. **She has been ill for two weeks.**
သူမ နေမကောင်းဖြစ်နေသည်မှာ နှစ်ပတ်ရှိပြီ။
3. **They have been poor since the end of the war.**
သူတို့ဆင်းရဲကြသည်မှာ စစ်ပြီးကတည်းကပဲ။

(D) အနာဂတ်ကာလ (Future Tense) တွင် **am, is, are** တို့အစား **shall be, will be** ကို သုံးရသည်။

1. **I shall be free tomorrow.**
ကျွန်တော် မနက်ဖြန် အားလပ်ပါလိမ့်မည်။
2. **He will be busy next week.**
သူ နောက်တစ်ပတ်တွင် အလုပ်များလိမ့်မည်။
3. **They will be late tomorrow.**
သူတို့ မနက်ဖြန်ခါ နောက်ကျလိမ့်မည်။

Verb Form

Go, come, play, eat, write, sell စသည့် ကြိယများဖြင့် အကြမ်းအားဖြင့် စာကြောင်း ရှစ်မျိုးတည်ဆောက်နိုင်သည်။ မည်သို့ တွဲဖက်တည်ဆောက်ထားသည်ပထမဆုံးလေ့လာသင့်သည်။ ပုံစံနှင့်အတော်အတန် အကျွမ်းဝင်ပြီးမှ ယင်းတို့ကို မည်သည့်အခါတွင် သုံးစွဲရသည်ကို လေ့လာရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

- ပုံစံ
1. (Simple) **He writes a letter.**
သူ စာတစ်စောင်ရေးလေ့ရှိသည်။
 2. (Perfect) **He has written a letter.**
သူ စာတစ်စောင်ရေးပြီးပြီ။
 3. (Future) **He will write a letter.**
သူ စာတစ်စောင်ရေးလိမ့်မည်။
 4. (Continuous) **He is writing a letter.**
သူ စာတစ်စောင်ရေးနေသည်။
 5. (Perfect Continuous) **He has been writing a letter.**
သူစာတစ်စောင် တစ်လျှောက်လုံးရေးလာသည်။ (ယခုလည်းရေးဆဲ)

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

ဤအင်္ဂလိပ်စာသင်ခန်းစာများသည် ၁၉၈၁-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လမှ ၁၉၈၃-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလအထိ ဂ်ဒီဒီယန်း မဂ္ဂဇင်းတွင် ဖော်ပြခဲ့သော သင်ခန်းစာများဖြစ်ပါသည်။
ကျောင်းသားကျောင်းသူများနှင့် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာကို လေ့လာလိုက်စားသူများ လက်မလွှတ်သင့်သော သင်ခန်းစာများဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အပတ်စဉ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း အပိုင်းလိုက် ဖော်ပြပေးသွားပါမည်။

THE Author is starting a Project to introduce or to promote Vocational Education in the Ba Ka schools.

The main idea is that nearly all children from Ba Ka Schools come from the poor family. Just because the parents cannot send their children even to the public schools, they have to send them to Ba Ka Schools and it is not sure for these children to attend up to the end of Primary, Lower Secondary or Upper Secondary, as some parents have to depend upon these children for their everyday living. Therefore, the Author wants them to gain some kind of Vocation, one or the other, before they leave the school when the time comes for to do so.

Although they are dropouts, if they have something or some way to earn their livings and they can support their own family if they have some vocation to earn for their family. And also, the Author believes that this can reduce all corruptions and crimes if everybody have one or the other way to earn their livings and to support their own families.

That is why the Author started to start her Project by herself if or if not she gets any help or funding from others.

As for the First Phase, the Author decided to go and see the respectable Sayadawgyis (Venerable monks) who are going on with their plan and operation Ba Ka (Monastic Education) Schools to receive their Venerable's words, ideas and opinions about this project. Therefore, the Author went to Sagaing and Mandalay regions to see all these Sayadawgyis, the regions really have many Monasteries and Ba Ka Schools in abundance.

The Author's thanks and respects go to these Sayadawgyis as all of them have good cetana (well wishes) for these poor children, some are orphans, some are not, but they have to leave their natives where there are still no peace, full of battles (civil wars) and to take refuge under the spreading metta of the Ba Ka Sayadawgyis and monks of these monasteries, so that they can study and also so that they would not be taken away from their parents to join the armies (from both sides) as careers or soldiers. So also with the girls who need security and opportunity to study.

That's why the Author wants to do this project.

The Author had to see Shwethamar Monastery Sayadawgyi, who is the President of all Ba Ka Schools in Sagaing Division ; and Phaungdaw Oo Saydawgyi, who is the President of all Ba Ka Schools in Mandalay Division. And accidentally met the President of all Ba Ka Schools in Ayadaw Township and other important Sayadawgyis who are carrying out their work on these Ba Ka Schools in their regions with their own ways, as Taung Philar Sayadawgyi (the Taung Philar Monastery very near to our Sagaing University of Educa-

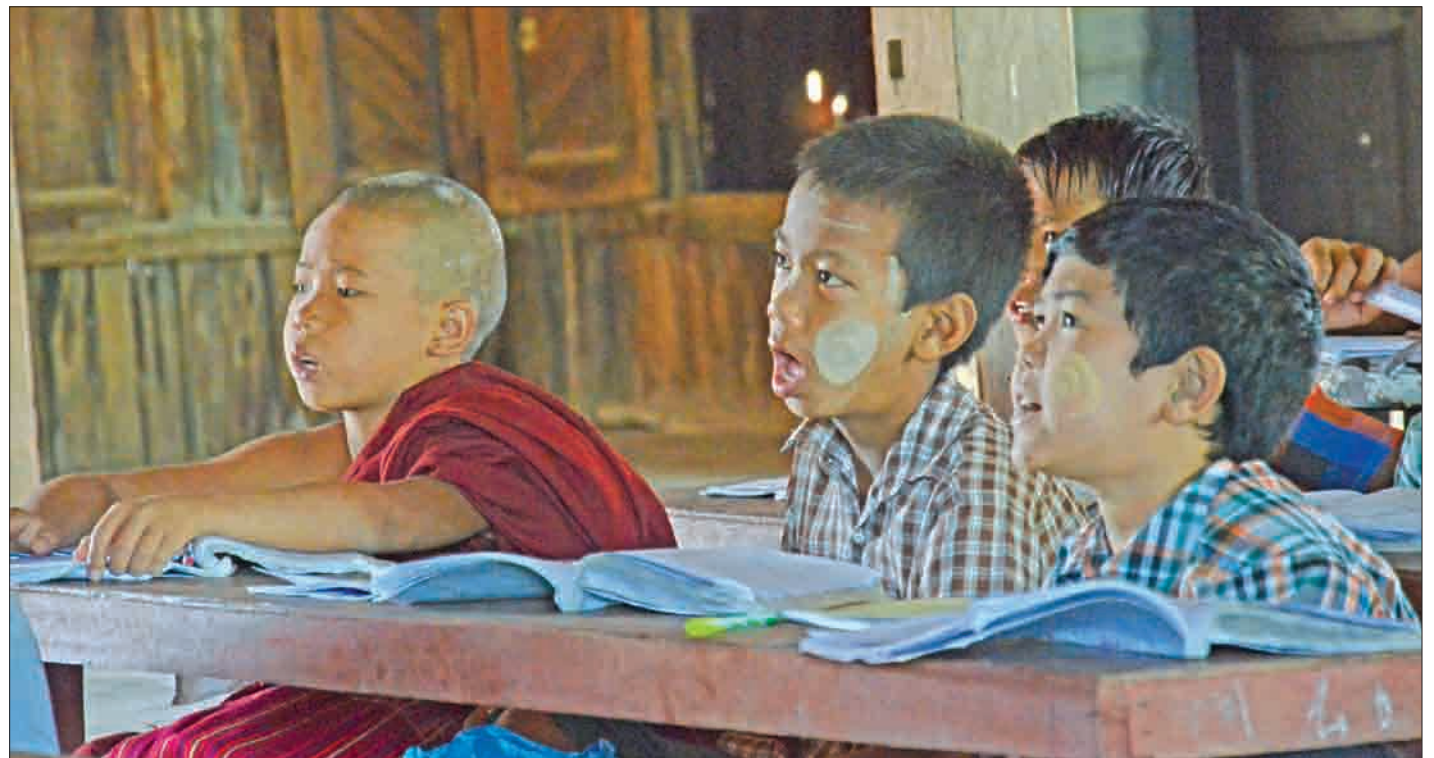


Photo: Phoe Khwar

Vocational Education in Ba Ka (Monastic Education) Schools (1)

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

tion), the Asia Light (Asia Alinyaung) Monastery Sayadawgyi from Pyin Oo Lwin (just on phone), Myakyauk Sayadawgyi from Mandalay and some other Saydawgyis from some other Ba Ka Schools in Mandalay, Sagaing and Pyin Oo Lwin. So also with some leading Nuns (Thilashin Sayagyis) from some Nunneries which have Ba Ka Schools.

What the Author saw and felt was that all these Venerable Saydawgyis and leading Nuns have good will (cetana) and metta on those poor souls. And they tried their best to feed these, to treat these and to teach these. In their Ba Ka Schools, although most are little monks (novices) and nuns, but others are just laymen (just boys and girls) who are attending their Primary and Secondary Classes.

And they all welcomed me warmly to go on with my project and gave me all good advice and also gave me the opportunity to go round and study some of their schools.

According to my study during my trip, the Author saw that to give all these students (whether they are or not novices and nuns) Vocational Education (directly speaking... some kind of Vocation for their whole lives) is important for all of them.

Most of them, after reaching or passing Basic Education, they usually went back to their natives to their parents and they have to support their

parents from that time onwards. That's why they should have some kind of Vocations to support their families.

For the time being some schools already have some kind of Vocational trainings, but others have not. Their programmes are starting from making straw hats, some accessories from beads and seeds, sewing and making accessories and beautiful things for in-door decorations, preparing motor cycles and motor bikes, making face-foams and shampoos, and so on.

But, although very small amount of monasteries have enough funds and teachers who used to teach as volunteers, but others are not.

So, some can start very well, but others are not.

Therefore it is necessary to help those schools and to support some poor schools.

e.g. We can donate a sewing machine for their study sewing, so that one day they can earn their living as a tailor.

And these can also help back again to their schools as Volunteer teachers for sewing.

Or We can try to do some network among these schools, as one can share one or two of their sewing machines to other schools (if not share, we can hire for some months) and the sewing teacher from that school can come and teach in the schools who cannot afford the monthly salary of those sewing

teachers. If we can form a network altogether, we can exchange facilities and expertise.

That is what the Author saw during the trip.

And the Author wants to emphasize that we can find ways and means to use the resources in the region so that we can produce products which can stand on behalf of their respective regions, and the products should also have market to sell their productions.

All these should be taken into consideration for this project.

And so also we have to invite donors who have good will for those poor children's future as our country's citizens.

We also need to ask help and aid from the regional governments who will take care for their regions too.

And our National Leader, our State Counsellor has also mentioned about the importance of Vocational Education for our youth and children, we have to think seriously about it too.

Now, the project is just launching and according to the Author's plan, it can all be spread throughout the country in three years' time.

Hope all the Best for our children and youth's Future!

Dr. Nu Nu Win, Retired Professor and Head of Department, Department of Educational Psychology, Sagaing University of Education.

Konbaung-era cultural heritage at Mondaing Village in Meikhtila District.



Konbaung-era cultural heritage in Hthilaing Village in Meikhtila District.



A traditional earthen pot making at Thipington Village in Meikhtila District has attracted tourists.



Meikhtila, a tourist destination in central Myanmar

By Chan Tha (Meikhtila)

MEIKHTILA, is a town in an arid zone in central Myanmar. But, Meikhtila Lake in the city turns Meikhtila into an Oasis in central Myanmar's dry zone. Meikhtila is a district comprised of four townships Meikhtila, Wundwin, Mahlaing and Thazi. The region had been part of various Bamar kingdoms at least from 11th century CE to 19th century CE before the British Empire took over all of Upper Myanmar in 1885.

Meikhtila city sits at the junctions of the Bagan-Taunggyi, Yangon-Mandalay and Meikhtila-Myingyan highways. To the west of Meikhtila is Bagan, to the north is Pakokku and Myingyan, to the south is Nay Pyi Taw, to east of Kalaw, Nyaungshwe, and Inle and to the north east is Mandalay, Sagaing, PyinOoLwin and Mongok.

Taking the advantage of the town's cultural heritage, Meikhtila Lake and tourist attractions are being upgraded to attract visitors.

Meikhtila has a population of more than 300,000, higher rural population than that of urban area of the town.

Meikhtila Lake

Among many aquatic bodies of natural formation and artificial creation in Myanmar Meikhtila Lake is the largest and prominent.

Myanmar people call water bodies with different names, depending upon how they are formed. Water bodies of small, medium or large sizes formed by springs or falls are called Aine (tkdif). Those formed by floods are called Inn (tif). Those formed both by nature, rain water and water through man-made canals are called Kan (uef) or Lake.

Meikhtila Lake is formed both naturally and artificially. In the arid zone of central Myanmar a vast plain of land, surrounded by hill and mountain ranges at remote places has a big depression, into which rain water flows naturally or made to flow into it by man-made canals.

Today Meikhtilar Lake is to the west of Meikhtilar Town. It measures 7 miles long 1/2 mile wide, covering an area of 31/2 square miles. It is now composed of two Lakes-north Lake and south lake and a rail line crosses between them. But they are connected. In monsoon, water flowed into North Lake stays until it is silted and clear before it flows into South Lake. There are 11 sluices and a 30

feet wide water gate. It supplies water for human consumption and irrigation. Many monuments, stone inscriptions and Nat spirit shrines surround the Lake, recording its long history.

Mondaing or Htila Bagan

There are many Konbaung-era pagodas in Mondaing Village located about seven miles west of Meikhtila and the area is well known as Htila Bagan.

Destination for Japanese visitors

Maha Bodhi Pagoda built by Japanese Buddhist monks has attracted Japanese people to pay obeisance to their fallen ancestors during the World War II. The World War-II era Japanese tank placed near the pagoda has brought back the memories of the war.

Because of its strategic position, Japanese troops headquartered in Meikhtila during the World War-II. Meiktila is home to Myanmar Air Force's central command and Meiktila Air Force Base. The country's main aerospace engineering university, Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University is also located in Meiktila.



The beauty of Meikhtila Lake.



Local people enjoy boat ride in the Meikhtila Lake to collect lotus.

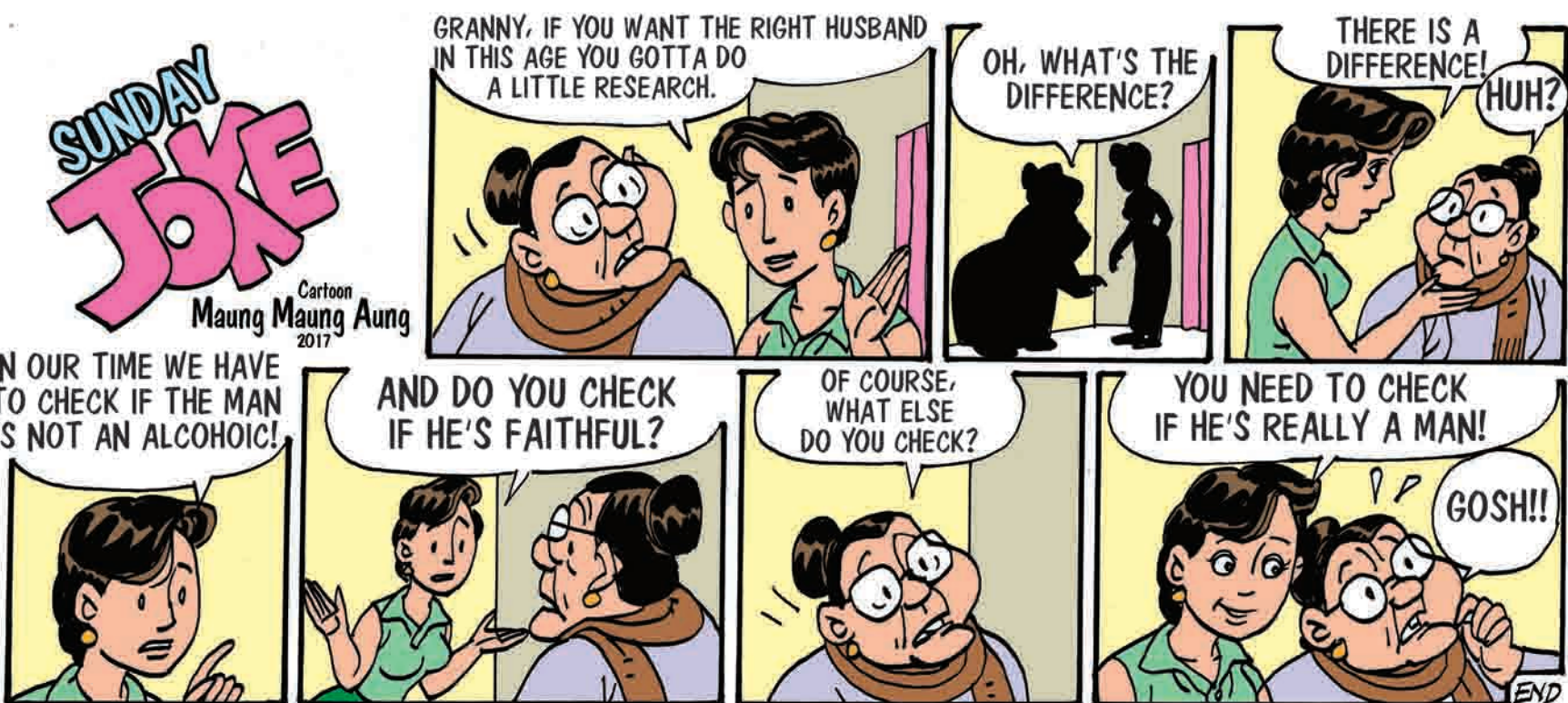
SUNDAY COMICS



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2017

IN OUR TIME WE HAVE
TO CHECK IF THE MAN
IS NOT AN ALCOHOIC!



END



The Flower Moon of May



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Botahtaung.

COMING Tuesday of May is going to a full moon night again. I believe it will be so stunning. As we all know, the moon is the queen of the night and the stars all around her are her best ladies-in-waitings. There are some people who have already faced with full moon nights while some have never experienced them yet.

Moon, otherwise, is also the satellite of our earth. A beautiful night is not complete without the moon and the stars in the dark sky. This kind of night is like a fantasy for those who are dreamers and who love to imagine.

The mellifluous song of the night breeze wonders around our environment. Going and coming here and there. For little babies, it can even become a lullaby saying, "Go to sleep, go to sleep my dear!" or "Lu, lu, lu I see the moon, the moon sees me." Yes, a very pleasant lullaby

after all. There are as well many songs about the moon such as "The Moon Represents My Heart" by Teresa Teng and "Moon River" by Andy Williams. These songs become so famous because of the true love of the composers and the singers on the moon.

No matter how high our buildings can be, we can still feel the zephyr of the night. It can make us feel bright. Right! If you imagine a full moon night in your eyes while closing them, you will start to know the taste of the moonlight on your skin and the soft kiss of the moon on your cheeks.

In the countryside where large lakes can be found, a full moon night is dreamier than ever. We can see moonglade and sometimes even a moonbow, which is formed by the refraction and the reflection of the light from the moon. The moon is so beautiful that the blue ocean holds up the mirror every, every night. I want to advice that instead of being someone like the sun to lighten up someone's life, why not become someone like the moon to brighten in the darkest hours? You and I, everybody should consider it. At the full moon night, the villagers look up the sky

and compose such happy songs and tell the legends of the moon. The advantage of staying in the countryside is that we can feel the full moon nights together with our beloved families, unlike in the city. The kids there can happily play around under the full moon's ray of love.

There are thousands of stars around the moon. But have you ever wondered when the brightest stars are produced? Certainly, the darkest nights when the full moon shines brightly produce the brightest stars.

The full moon nights are the time when the selenophiles (people who love the moon) have their party in the ocean of the fireflies under the sky full of stars. There's a saying-" The moon sees your soul ", which means the moon knows what is inside of you. How you are feeling and how you have determined yourself to the world. There are so many charming sights to see during the full moon nights that I can't describe all of them.

The full moon nights are also the time when I look up to the night sky where the fully-sized moon is smiling sweetly down on me. At the same time, I really

believe that somebody at somewhere else is staring to the moon as well. Just like the way I am doing. Sometimes I feel so annoying due to the everyday life that I want to escape to the place where the full moon kisses the earth. We should never underestimate the healing power of the full moon. She waters the fire in our hearts and she wipes the tears in our eyes. Some couples kill their times watching the clouds as they dance around the full moon and they tell the story about how the sun loved the moon so much that he died every night to let her breathe.

However, no matter what our differences are, we all look at the same moon. The moon, she always comes to say good night to us even though everyone ignores her kindness by sleeping deeply. But we still cannot blame it on ourselves. All in all, the full moon night is the night to harvest the intentions and wishes of the past moon. So, we will all harvest our intentions while looking forward for the next new moon.

As we all are living on the earth, still, we have to hug and sleep soundly under the warmth of the moon.

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