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Traders evaluate jade stones at the 55th Myanma Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 June, 2018. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

69 gem lots sold at 1.378 euro on fourth day of gems emporium

THE fourth day of the 55th Myanma Gems Emporium continued at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

A total of 336 gem lots, with a basic price of 500 euros and above for each lot, were avail-

able for sale in an open tender system, and 69 lots were sold at 1.378 euro.

In addition to this, gem merchants were inspecting the finished jade lots with a basic price of 1,000 euros, and raw jade lots with a basic price of 4,000 euros,

that will be sold under an open tender system from 24 to 29 June and were seen submitting their bids into the tender boxes.

Among these include 14 jade lots with a basic price of one million euros and above, and one jade lot with a basic price of

15 million euros. Most of the jade lots were bought by Chinese gem merchants, and they were better represented than gem merchants from Thailand, Canada, Australia and the US, who were attending the emporium.

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Road map for New Yangon to become business-friendly, habitable city

A Q&A session organised by New Yangon City Development Company (NYCDC) to raise questions, provide answers and discuss about the New Yangon City project was held in Mingala Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

At the session, Daw Aye Aye Khine from NYCDC first explained about the new town project, phases one and two of the project covering more than 20,000 acres, NYCDC being formed and fully owned by Yangon Region government to conduct development works and drawing up a road map and implementing the project for the new city to become a business-friendly and habitable city.

Next, U Aung Chit Khin of Strategy First Institute moderated a discussion on the New Yangon City project conducted by Serge Pun, also known as U Theim Wai of NYDC Co., Ltd, U Khaing Win of Sandhi Governance Institute, Mandalay City Development Committee member U Ye Myat Thu and U Zeya Thu of the Voice Weekly Journal.

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Suggestion to submit after reviewing of MSS

May Thet Hnin

RESPONSIBLE Asia Forestry and Trade's phase 3 (RAFT 3) project organizers will submit their suggestion to the government after reviewing the Myanmar Selection System (MSS), which have been used for more than 150 years. This review is being conducted by different economic, social and technical organizations.

The Third Multi-Stake Holders Dialogue, which is related to the RAFT 3 project, was held at Lotte Hotel in Yangon on 22 June. The meeting was attend-

ed by officials from the Forestry Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise, along with RAFT 3 project organizers and Community Social Organizations (CSO).

Myanmar began participating in phase 3 of the RAFT programme in 2016. As part of the programme, the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Center for People and Forest (RECOFTC) are conducting surveys to verify the merits and problems of the MSS.

"This is the last meeting. We will submit a total of 20 points of MSS's weakness to change," said

Dr. Maung Maung Than, country director of RECOFTC.

According to MSS, the power for forestry management and production is vested only in the government, with a lack of public participation. To bring about sustainable and proper forestry management, cooperation between the state, private and public is considered essential. Additionally, from the economic dimension, it is believed that production should be based upon market demands, with input from local and foreign experts.

MSS, which has been practiced since 1856, mainly focuses

on growing natural forests, for use in forestry products.

Indonesia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, and Viet Nam are participating in the RAFT 3 project. TNC and RECOFTC are being carried out in Myanmar, in cooperation with the forest Department, Myanmar Timber Enterprise and other related organizations and people.

The RAFT 3 programme will include providing technical aid for established community forests, building networks with domestic and foreign markets, suggestions to legislative bodies to formulate laws, by laws and

regulations which encourage public participation in forest production trading, providing capacity building courses to the Forest Department, Myanmar Timber Enterprise and private companies' staffs to carry out forest management and timber evaluation activities, and help legal timber identification certification processes.

RAFT aims to reduce 50 per cent the current rate of deforestation in Asia Pacific by 2020. The RAFT 3 project is being conducted in cooperation with TNC, TRAFFIC, TFT, WWF, TFF, IGES and RECOFTC. ■

Road map for New Yangon to become business-friendly, habitable city

FROM PAGE-1

U Zeya Thu said he participated in the discussion and raised question as a member of the media, observer of the economy and on behalf of the people.

"The project is huge and could change Myanmar as a country. Details need to be provided and explained to the people. And when implemented, it needs to be successful", said U Zeya Thu.

He said yesterday's discussion was transparent, with some unknown questions answered by Mr. Serge Pun.

"We asked all that we wanted to", he said.

U Khaing Win of Sandhi Governance Institute, who participated in the discussion, said the discussion mainly covers how the project is being set up, and whether there would be an adverse effect for the people and the state. A question was raised on government participating in business.

Discussions were made on being careful when a govern-

ment-owned business is set up.

"As the project could create two million jobs, it is a very huge project and it wouldn't appear in a short moment. It is now only at the design stage and considerable time need to be spent", said U Khaing Win.

The Q&A and discussion session was also attended by business owners from all sectors including the construction sector, experts and interested persons who raised questions about the New Yangon City project.

The southwest new town project that is part of New Yangon City Project is being planned for an area west of the Yangon River and south of the Panhlaing River to the river mouth. Phase One covers 20,000 acres bordering the Panhlaing River to the north, the Twante Canal to the south, the Yangon River to the east and Yangon-Twante road on the west. Phase Two starts from south of the Panhlaing River down to the river mouth, it is learnt.

—Min Thit (MNA) ■

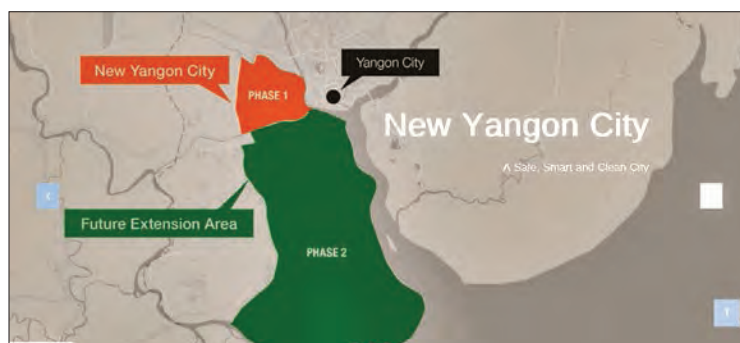


PHOTO: NYDC



Public take part in the Peace cycling event in Myeik, Taninthayi Region.

PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (MYEIK/IPRD) ■

Over 1000 cyclists take part peace cycling event in Myeik

OVER 1000 cyclists participated in a peace cycling ride yesterday morning in Myeik Town, Taninthayi Region.

The aim of the event was to raise awareness about peace among the public in Taninthayi Region, and to understand the work of the State level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-S).

At the event, Pado Bee Lae, deputy chair (1) of Taninthayi Region JMC-S, delivered an opening speech, after which Colonel Kyaw Zeya, Minister of Security and Border Af-

fairs of the Taninthayi Region Government, explained the purpose of holding the cycling event.

Deputy chair (1) of Taninthayi Region JMC-S and officials then opened the event by cutting the ceremonial ribbons, and head of Myeik District Sport and Physical Education Department U Zaw Zaw Htut started the cycling by blowing the starting whistle.

The cycling route was some 18 miles and began at the Myoma sport stadium in Myeik, continuing through

the pre-designated downtown roads and ending at Myoma sport stadium.

Deputy Chair (1) of Taninthayi Region JMC-S and members presented five bicycles, helmets and accessories to participating cyclists during a draw.

Under the supervision of Taninthayi Region JMC-S, the cycling event was jointly organized by Myeik District Sport and Physical Education Committee and Myeik Amateur Bicycle Committee (MABC).—Khaing Htoo (Myeik/IPRD) ■

NDMC Vice Chairman inspects natural disaster preparedness in Magway

NATIONAL DISASTER Management Committee (NDMC) Vice Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye arrived in Magway Region yesterday for a field trip regarding natural disaster preparedness.

Upon arrival yesterday morning, the Union Minister and officials first paid homage to the Thihoshin and Shwegu pagodas in Pakokku. Afterwards, NDMC Vice Chairman Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attended the natural disaster preparedness meeting and donation event held in Pakokku District General Administration Department, Mya Aya Hall (2). Also present at the meeting and donation event were Magway Region Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Win Maw Htay, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Myat Min Swe, district and township natural disaster management committee members and departmental officials. In his opening speech, the Union Minister said Myanmar is a country that faces regular natural disasters, for which preparedness are being made, but natural disasters were occurring more frequently nowadays as a result of climate change.

“Preparedness is the only way to ease the effects of natural disasters, and this trip is being conducted for preparedness and redevelopment works. Cooperation of the committee



NDMC Vice Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and officials observe the land condition in Magway Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

members, departments and civil society organisations (CSOs) are important. CSOs include not only the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation under the Myanmar Women's Committee, but also other groups.

CSOs represent the people and they should be aware of the danger affecting the people from natural disasters and assist in the work processes related to it. The policy of the ministry is to bring about a society that can withstand natural disasters and cooperation is very important in making this a reality. Although the ministry is low in manpower and financial resources, the entire ministry is responding without any hesitation (to every natural disaster)”, he said.

The union minister was also in Minbu (Saku), Magway Region, and Pwintbyu townships and Mon State Mawlamyine town to encourage and support people facing natural disasters. During this trip, plans were made to redirect the Shwechaung Creek that flows near Pakokku township will be conducted, as the creek causes fatalities when it overflows.

Plans for construction of a water barrage at Magyipinpu village tract, Kyun O village and provision of cash support for CSOs that helped in repairing a breach in Kantaw Lake were also made. The Union Minister requested all who were attending the meeting to discuss openly and thanked them all for their presence.

Next, Magway Region Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Win Maw Htay also delivered a

speech and then the Union Minister and party presented donations and cash support amounting to Ks12.456 million for redirecting the Shwechaung Creek, Ks5.3588 million for construction of Magyipinpu village tract, Kyun O village water barrage and Ks150,000 cash support for five CSOs that helped in repairing the breach in Kantaw Lake.

The donations and cash support were accepted by officials and villagers. The Amyotha Hluttaw representative then delivered words of thanks. After this, discussions were made by officials and CSOs and the Union Minister and Disaster Management Department Director General responded and gave detailed instructions to help the coordination efforts.

After the meeting, the Union

Minister and party inspected the Shwechaung Creek redirecting work and coordinated with departmental officials at the site on future works. From there, the Union Minister and party went to Kantaw Lake and coordinated with relevant departmental officials on matters requested and submitted by the local people.

After the site inspection, the Union Minister and party departed to Yesagyo town and first paid homage to Tharetkhan Shwegu Pagoda, made donations and signed the visitors' book. They then continued to Balaba village by the Ayeyawady River that is facing river bank erosion and inspected the preventive works conducted against the erosion by the directorate of water resources and improvement of river systems. The Union Minister and party also inspected the river bank erosion preventive works at the 823-year-old Shewbontha Pagoda and provided cash donations to the Sayadaw.

The Union Minister then met with the villagers and provided construction materials and food assistance worth more than Ks235,700 to two households that were evacuated from the river bank erosion site.

The Union Minister also provided Ks3 million cash support for improvement of river systems which was accepted by the pagoda trustees and local elders.— Myanmar News Agency ■

MNHRC officials meet displaced people in Kachin State

Officials from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) inspected the camps of displaced people in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships in Kachin State on 22 June, according to the Commission.

The inspection team was led by MNHRC members U Yu Lwin Aung and Dr. Myint Kyi, accompanied by Injangyang Township State Hluttaw representative Mayan Jar Sai Khawn and departmental officials, visited Jawmaset, Tanphre, Trinity and Waingmaw Baptist displaced person camps in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships, where they met displaced persons.

They also inspected the living areas in the camps and enquired about matters such as difficulties being faced, children's education and other requirements.

Earlier on 21 June, the in-



The MNHRC delegation visits the camp of displaced people in Kachin State. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

spection team, accompanied by departmental officials, visited Langwa KBC, Host, Langwa RC, Langwa AG, Myo U, Lawar and Kamine RC displaced person camps in Mogaung and Kamine townships, and met with displaced persons.

The inspection team talked with displaced persons in groups and individually, and recorded

the difficulties faced, such as food, clothing, shelter, education and health care conditions, the reason for being displaced and for being unable to return to their places of origin.

The inspection team also discussed matters with officials, in addition to inspecting the living conditions and preparation of food in the camps.—Zaw Gyi ■

69 gem lots sold at 1.378 euro on fourth day of gems emporium

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Mr. Law Chi Kwong, a gem merchant from China, said, “I’m inspecting the jade lots every day, and when I find anything that interests me I submit a tender. Of the earlier jade lots that I inspected, about 3,000 are not up to my requirements. This is no problem for me, as I’m not buying many lots.”

“Jades were sold in China, but I came here because no country had jade that is up to the quality of Myanmar jade. Jades sold in China also come from Myanmar, but I prefer buying from here, and that is why I’m here.

The jade market is not as good in the past two years, but it

looks like it will be better later,” said Mr. Law Chi Kwong.

Buyers and visitors were also seen teeming at high quality product booths, with trainees from gem training schools, as well as finished jade shops at the 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium.— Thura Zaw (MNA) ■



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Youths Meiktila plan to climb Mt Phonekanrazi next year

MEMBERS of the Meiktila Hiking and Mountaineering Association will climb eight mountains, including the 22,920-ft-high snow-capped Mount Phonekanrazi, during the upcoming rainy season and winter.

According to their schedule, they will climb snow-capped Mt Phonekanrazi in February 2019, the mountain in Ywangan Township next January and the remaining mountains during the year.

They will climb the East Mountain and the South-west Mountain in Myittha Township on 24 June this year, Hsin Mountain in the some township on 15 July, Myinmahti Mountain in Kalaw Township on 18 August Poppa Mountain on 22 September and Natmataung in Chin State in November.



Youths from Meiktila Hiking and Mountaineering Association pose for photo in 20017. **FILE PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKTILA)**

The association is still choosing the hiking tour for December, said Dr Myat Min from the association.

Established during the past

five years, the Meiktila Hiking and Mountaineering Association currently has more than 130 members, turning out a new generation in hiking and moun-

taineering.

The association seeks to empower young people to develop a healthy and happy lifestyle.—Chan Tha (Meiktila)■

International livestock and agriculture show held in Mandalay

THE opening ceremony for the 3rd international livestock and agriculture show was held on 23 June at the city hall in Mandalay.

At the exhibition ceremony, companies from 14 countries showcased different products, including animal feed, medicines, farm equipment, animal feed production machines and agricultural machines, rice and oil mill equipment, seeds, soil and fertilizers. Experts also delivered educational talks. This exhibition ceremony was held with the aim of increasing foreign investment, as well as

seeking to educate foreigners about livestock and agriculture in Myanmar.

The Myanmar Fruit Producer and Exporter Association showcased watermelon, muskmelon and mangos which are currently exported, international standard value-added fruits grown in the country, green, dried and dried sweet green tea.

The ceremony was attended by the secretary of Amphtha Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee ALFDC, members of Regional Hluttaw ALFDC and

the chairman of the Mandalay Region Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, chairman of the Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding Association, as well as the Republic of India Consulate-General in Mandalay. This group also toured the international livestock and agriculture show.

At the 3rd international livestock and agriculture show 2018, U Khin Soe, chairman of the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association, spoke on "To the New Developing Country Based

on Agri-Livestock", Dr. War War Han discussed "Foodstuff Factories and Reducing the Impact on the Natural Environment", U Ko Ko, chairman of Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association, will talk on "Produce of High Quality to Mango To Export", while Dr. Ei Thandar Kyaw from USAID will discuss "Livestock-Agri Strategy: Preparation for Silk Road Economy". The international livestock and agriculture show will be held for three days.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Two arrested for using counterfeit notes in Pathein

POLICE arrested two men suspected of using counterfeit money at BT restaurant on Zayyawady 4th Street, Ward 8, in Pathein town, Ayeyawady Region, on Friday.

When police searched Nyi Nyi Aung, who lives in Ward-8, and Aung Naing Win, from Aung Thidi 3 Street, they

found what appeared to be Ks615,000 in counterfeit money in Ks10,000 and Ks5,000 notes.

Currently, police are interrogating them and seeking other suspects involved in the alleged counterfeiting.—Maung Maung Myint (IPRD) ■



The seized counterfeit notes are seen. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG MYINT (IPRD)**

MRF prepares Myanmar Rice Bill to enact into law

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has prepared the Myanmar Rice Bill and will seek to enact it into law at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said MRF Secretary-General U Ye Min Aung.

Of the two main observations made at the Myanmar

Rice Trade Development Forum held in March, one was the requirement to enact a law on rice, noting that the MRF research and development committee had drafted a bill, according to the secretary-general.

The committee drafted the bill by coordinating and discussing with legal experts and

specialists.

MRF had explained the bill to the Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery committee, and to the farmer affairs committee, on 7 and 14 June, and further discussed it with the Attorney General Office and ministries. ■

Rice prices rise in Yangon market in one month

BOTH high and low quality rice rose in price by Ks2,000-Ks3,000 per bag (49 kilograms or 108 pounds) in Yangon market within a month, according to the Agriculture and Market Information Agency (AMIA).

Wholesalers in Yangon said that between 18 and 22 June, prices of first class Pawsan rice produced in Pyapon and Dedaye townships increased to Ks41,000 from Ks36,000 per bag, while Myaungmya Pawsan rice was sold for Ks40,000, an increase of Ks1,000 per bag against the previous week. The prices of other types of rice rose by Ks500-Ks1,000 per bag within the week.

During the same period, the prices of first class rice remained stable in the Patheingyi

market, though the market saw a slight increase in prices of paddy and second class rice. Limited supply and scarcity of labour during the wet season cause prices to rise in the market.

Rice tops the list of the country's export products. Myanmar continuously exports rice, parboiled rice, sticky rice and broken rice to neighbouring countries, as well as to countries such as the Ivory Coast, Senegal and other African states, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Russia, and some European countries.

To boost the country's income and promote the socio-economic status of farmers, the trade authorities are seeking new overseas markets for rice exports.—Shwe Khine ■

Myanmar earns over \$3 billion in exports in current FY

MYANMAR earned US\$3.024 billion from the export of domestic products to international countries between 1 April and 15 June of the six-month interim period which began April 1, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The country exported six major groups of commodities to its trade partners, including agricultural products and animal products, fisheries, minerals, forest products and manufactured goods.

During the period between 1 April and 15 June, Myanmar earned \$2.82 billion from the sale of six major groups of export products, an increase of over \$630 million against the same period last FY. It also received \$304 million in exports of



Wood-based products being displayed at the 4th Myanmar International Furniture Expo. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

other miscellaneous products which decreased in value by \$91 million from the previous FY.

The ministry's data indicated that this year saw a decline in export values of agricultural products, forest and miscellaneous products.

Over the first 76 days of this FY, the public sector exported \$708 million worth of goods, which was a decline in value of \$11.654 million against last FY. However, exports by the private sector went up by over \$550 million.—Khine Khant ■

China's imports from Chinshwehaw border drops by \$46 mln

THE import of goods into China from Myanmar via the Chinshwehaw border trade camp from April to mid-June reached US\$55 million, which showed a decline in value by \$46 million, as against the same time last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same time in 2017-18 FY, China imported a wide variety of goods valued at \$101.34 million through the same border gate.

Despite the decline in the

value of China's imports, its exports to Myanmar increased slightly during the period between April and mid-June this year, when Myanmar imported \$12.018 million worth of goods that rose by \$1.146 million compared with last year's total of \$10.872 million.

China-Myanmar trade is mainly conducted through five border trade stations—Muse, Lweijel, Chinshwehaw, Kankpaiktee and Kengtung. This year saw a decrease in value

of border trade, not only from Chinshwehaw but also from Lweijel. Among the cross-border trade stations, the Muse gate handled the largest volume and value of bilateral trade during the period, with over \$1 billion.

Bilateral trade between the two countries from all border points in the present FY exceeded \$1.2 billion, an increase by over \$63 million from the same period last year.—Swe Nyein ■

Prices of mung beans stable in domestic market

TRADERS sold mung beans, the marketable crop, for nearly Ks470,000 per ton between 18 and 22 June this year, with prices remaining the same as last week, according to Agriculture and Market Information Agency (AMIA).

During this period, the price of mung beans was stable in Yangon markets, as well as wholesale centres in other regions and states. However, Monywa and Nay Pyi Taw markets saw a slight decrease in prices by Ks500 per basket. In Monywa, mung beans were sold at Ks15,500 per basket, whereas the price of beans in

Nay Pyi Taw was Ks16,000 per bag.

According to local wholesalers, prices of mung beans have declined in the market since early this month. A lack of foreign demand for mung beans and a surplus of beans in the market has driven prices down.

Mung bean is a marketable export beans which is item and seasonally harvested. Domestic traders tend to make deals during the low season and stock them in their warehouses.

For the time being, merchants are still watching the market, instead of trading.—Kyu Kyu ■

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Yangon celebrates 4th International Yoga Day-2018

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe addressed the 4th International Day of Yoga, 2018 held in National Stadium (1), Thuwunna, yesterday morning.

At the event, Ambassador of India to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri explained the history of the International Day of Yoga, the benefits of practicing Yoga and thanked the government of Myanmar and the Ministry of Health and Sports for holding the event.

In his address, the Union Minister, in turn, thanked the Embassy of India for organizing and holding the event. The Union Minister also provided additional explanations about the history of International Day of Yoga.

Next, Ms. Manshu Agrey from the culture section of the Embassy of India led a Yoga demonstration for some 400 Yoga



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe poses for photo together with participants of the 4th International Day of Yoga. **PHOTO: MNA**

practitioners, which included the Ambassador of India to Myanmar.

Afterwards, the winners of a quiz on Yoga practices were

presented with awards by the Ambassador of India, while the Union Minister for Health and Sports presented documents of honor to Yoga teams that partici-

pated in the Yoga demonstration.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister went to Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital in Bahan Township and inspected

the outpatient department, patient ward, delivery room and newborn room.

From there, the Union Minister went to the Sports and Physical Education Science School in Bahan Township, and held discussions with trainers and trainees attending a course on when restricted drugs can be used to treat injured athletes.

The course was organized by the Myanmar Anti-Doping Organisation. The course trainers were Director and Senior Consultant Dr. Teoh Chin Sim of Singapore, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, the Sports Medicine Center and sports advisor of the Ministry of Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein. The course was attended by 30 psychiatrists, doctors and officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, as well as legal experts. — Myanmar News Agency



The 2nd congress of the National League for Democracy in progress in Yangon. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

NLD holds second congress in Yangon

The second congress of the National League for Democracy (NLD) was held yesterday at the Myanmar Convention Center in Mayangone Township, Yangon Region.

At the congress, attendees first saluted the national flag, Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs, and then observed eight seconds of silence to honor the monks, people and students who fell during the march toward democracy. Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu then delivered an opening speech followed by Party Central Executive Vice Chairman Dr. Zaw Myint Maung submitting and reading the Central Executive's political report.

Next, Party Central Execu-

tive member Dr. Myo Nyunt read and submitted the Central Executive's organisational report.

Afterwards, Central Executive secretariat member U Nyan Win explained the procedures and processes of the congress and the selection process of central committee members, after which central committee and alternate central committee members were selected and approved. The party congress was attended by NLD patron U Tin Oo, central executive committee members, states and region chief ministers, more than 1,000 party congress representatives from states and regions. The meeting will end today. —Zaw Gyi ■

MPs, officials inspect fire outbreak in Hlinethaya

A fire broke out in the area around Mahawgani Road in Ward-5 in Hlinethaya Township at 12:55 am on 21 June. Consequently a total of 13 huts owned by squatters were consumed by the fire and there were still about 15 households who were victimized by the conflagration.

Officials from the governmental departments opened a



Members of the Yangon Region Parliament and officials inspect the site of fire in Hlinethaya. **PHOTO: IPRD**

temporary camp to help the fire victims.

Members of the regional Hluttaw U Win Maung and other officials yesterday inspected

the fire affected areas and the temporary camp. Afterwards the officials furnished much needed relief items to the victims of the blaze. —IPRD ■

Downpours wipe out concrete bridge in Hpakant

Torrential downpours devastated a concrete bridge which was part of the Hpakant-Lonekhin route; it was also the bridge that connects Hmawsisa village and Nama village.

The bridge which was 20 feet long and 10 feet wide was knocked down at 12 pm yesterday. Consequently, the traffic was temporarily interrupted and a detour was constructed by a backhoe from Maha Gem Mining Company. Now traffic has resumed at its normal pace. — IPRD ■



In Togo, hi-tech orthopaedic care goes through crucial test

LOME — In a consulting room in Togo's capital, Lome, Geraldo Emmanuel — handicapped since birth six years ago — waits patiently on a bed while a digital scan is taken of his right leg.

Thanks to new 3D technology, he may be able to walk normally within a few months.

"The child walks on his toes so I'm scanning his leg so we can make him an orthotic using a 3D printer," said EnyonamEkpoh, from Togo's national orthopaedic device and physiotherapy centre (CNAO).

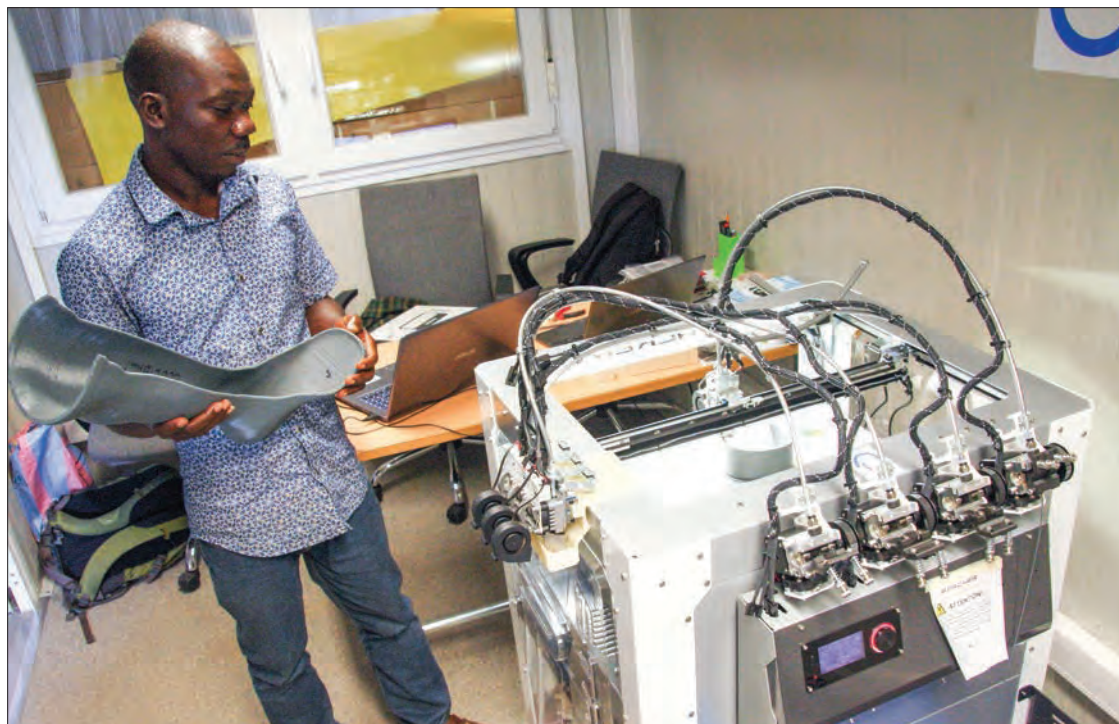
A few hours later, AdjoviKoudahe, 46, has tests to receive a 3D brace for her right leg, which has been paralysed since a car accident in 2012.

"I've stopped doing anything because I'm in pain. I can't walk properly anymore," said the former trader, who limps heavily, aided by a crutch.

"Despite all the treatment I've had, my leg won't respond and drags along the ground. But with the brace they want to make here, I've got high hopes."

Three-dimensional printing is a fast-track way to make individually-tailored prosthetics and orthopaedic supports that compensate for a lack of a limb, deformity or paralysis.

The technology, initiated by a charity called Handicap International, allows the bespoke devices to be produced faster and reach a larger number of patients.



Technician FabriceAgbelehoukoDjodji checks the work of a 3D printer used to produce prosthetic supports at the African Organisation for the Development of Centres for Disabled People in Lome. Making 3D devices locally is expected to cut costs. **PHOTO: AFP**

But if it is familiar to orthopaedic clinics in rich countries, it has yet to be introduced to poorer countries where needs are greater and the social safety net much smaller.

Only five to 15 per cent of people in low income countries who need a prosthetic limb or orthopaedic brace get one, according to the non-profit organisation based in France.

Handicap International — recently renamed Humanity & Inclusion — is pushing ahead with research and clinical trials to see how the technology can be

used in poor settings.

In 2016, it carried out clinical trials of three types of lower limb prosthetics in Madagascar, Syria and Togo, the results of which were highly encouraging.

A more ambitious project called "3D Impact" has been running in Togo, Mali and Niger since November last year, where 100 patients are getting made-to-measure 3D devices for free.

The project is backed by 700,000 euros (\$816,000) of funding from the Belgian Development Agency. Fifty of the 100 patients will be in Togo, where many hand-

icaps affecting mobility are linked to strokes or infectious diseases such as polio, said Impact 3D manager Simon Miriel.

Saving time

3D printing is revolutionary for doctors working in conflict zones or even just hard-to-reach areas: the scanner is the size of about two mobile phones and very easy to transport.

One has been tested at a regional orthopaedic centre in Dapaong, some 620 kilometres (390 miles) by road north of the capital. Normally, patients far from hospitals would have had

to travel to have casts taken.

"It saves us a lot of time," said Miriel.

"As need be, scans can be sent directly by telephone to the specialist in charge of making the digital orthotic on a 3D printer."

In all, four 3D scanners are being used in the three countries.

The project's two printers are located in a laboratory in Avepoko, some 15 km from Lome, and work non-stop to produce all the orthopaedic devices.

Togo is a good choice, said Miriel. "It is one of the few countries in West Africa which has a good structure for orthopaedic care."

Specialists from across the region are trained at the national school of medical auxiliaries (ENAM), which is a partner in the project. The test phase is expected to finish before the end of the year, and will be followed by a long evaluation about the successes and problems, costs and benefits. But, if all goes well, the cost of 3D orthopaedic devices will fall dramatically, the charity hopes.

The devices that were tested in 2016 were printed overseas and cost between 1,500 and 2,000 euros each (from \$1,745 to \$2,330) — a huge sum in West Africa, where the average wage often does not exceed \$100 a month.

But once the devices are made in-country, they will become "a lot more accessible", said Miriel. —AFP ■

Scientists develop stealth sheet that escapes infrared cameras

WASHINGTON — American researchers have developed a stealth sheet that can help objects and people hiding from infrared cameras.

The new stealth sheet, described this week in the journal *Advanced Engineering Materials*, offered substantial improvements over the heat-masking technologies. Warm objects like human bodies or tank engines emit heat as infrared light. Infrared cameras are the heat-sensing eyes that help drones find their targets even in the dead of night or through heavy fog.

"What we have shown is an ultrathin stealth sheet. Right now, what people have is much heavier metal armor or thermal blankets," said Jiang Hongrui, professor of electrical and computer engineering at the Univer-

sity of Wisconsin-Madison. "It's a matter of the weight, the cost and ease of use." Less than one millimeter thick, the sheet absorbs approximately 94 per cent of the infrared light it encounters and trapping so much light means that warm objects beneath the cloaking material become almost completely invisible to infrared detectors, according to the study.

Also, the stealth material can strongly absorb light in the so-called mid- and long-wavelength infrared range, the type of light emitted by objects at approximately human body temperature.

By incorporating electronic heating elements into the stealth sheet, the researchers have also created a high-tech disguise for tricking infrared cameras.

"You can intentionally de-

ceive an infrared detector by presenting a false heat signature," said Jiang. "It could conceal a tank by presenting what looks like a simple highway guardrail."

To trap infrared light, Jiang and his colleagues turned to a unique material called black silicon, which is commonly incorporated into solar cells.

Black silicon absorbs light because it consists of millions of microscopic needles called nanowires, all pointing upward like a densely-packed forest. Incoming light reflects back and forth between the vertical spires, bouncing around within the material instead of escaping.

Although black silicon has long been known to absorb visible light, Jiang's team were the first to see the material's potential for trapping infrared. —Xinhua ■

Oil, gas methane emission 60 pct higher than estimates

CHICAGO — The US oil and gas industry emits 13 million metric tons of methane from its operations each year, nearly 60 per cent more than current estimates, according to a national study involving University of Michigan (UM) researchers.

The study, posted on UM website Thursday, estimates that the current leak rate from the US oil and gas system is 2.3 per cent, as against the Environmental Protection Agency's current inventory estimate of 1.4 per cent.

The percentages may seem small, but the volume represents enough natural gas to fuel 10 million homes, with lost gas worth an estimated 2 billion dollars, the researchers say.

"This work pulls together an extensive set of analyses

done in the last five years to determine our current best estimate of methane emissions from the oil and gas sector in the US," said study co-author Eric Kort, UM assistant professor of climate and space sciences and engineering. Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas, with over 80 times the warming impact of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it is released.

"This is by far the most comprehensive body of research of its kind," said EDF chief scientist and co-author of the study Steven Hamburg. "Reducing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector is the fastest, most cost-effective way we have to slow the rate of warming today." The study has been published in the journal *Science*. —Xinhua ■

Now is the perfect time to invest in Myanmar

MYANMAR relies on foreign capital and trade for its socio-economic development. Therefore, foreign direct investment (FDI) becomes the main driver in promoting the inflow of much-needed foreign capital into the country.

The Union Government enacted the Foreign Direct Investment Law to attract foreign investors, and the country is ready to help them solve their problems and difficulties in investment.

Investments flowing into the least developed regions will help create job opportunities, raise living standards, and reduce poverty and socio-economic disparity, besides ensuring sustainable development.

The newly formed Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) pledged yesterday that it will be “transparent”, take a “proactive approach” and promote “responsible investment”.

With the launching of a number of significant steps, the MIC pledged that it will be more efficient and investor-friendly.

We understand that we are responsible for creating favorable situations for foreign investors who are greatly interested in doing business in Myanmar to enter the country energetically. They are necessary to create the best investment systems which will suit Myanmar.

We do not want to be a resource-exporting country. The only resource that we want to truly develop is human resources. Myanmar always welcomes responsible foreign investment. Development of green and responsible investment plays a significant role in creating income and job opportunities for Myanmar. Myanmar has made great achievements in company law and investment law and rules and regulations. The private sector is also being given priority for getting the sector getting more involved in drafting and assisting with bringing other Myanmar laws up to world-class standards. As the private sector is the key driving force for the economic development of a country, resources from the private sector should be effectively utilized.

The key to success of a business is trust, which can only be earned through doing things the right way. We would like to let the world know we’re doing business in the right manner.

There are many investment opportunities in the special economic zones especially in Dawei, Thilawa and Kyaukpadaung as well as in industrial zones in various regions across Myanmar and other large-scale projects.

We would like to urge foreign investors to take advantage of the changes. Now is the perfect time to invest in Myanmar. ■

Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan—MSDP

By Theint Thaw

ACRONYM MSDP stands out as “Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan” covering motley assortments of (250) plans with State priorities such as that of national reconciliation, that of better justice system, and that of reform on the state owned economic enterprises. In other words, it is a superior plan with a vision of sustainability and balanced development arrangement.

Since April 2016, all relevant ministries have had designed and implemented their sound planned projects and tasks during the two years period under the new NLD government.

However, it is yet to create a final master plan or strategic plan to coordinate and hooked up the ongoing projects and plans in the country.

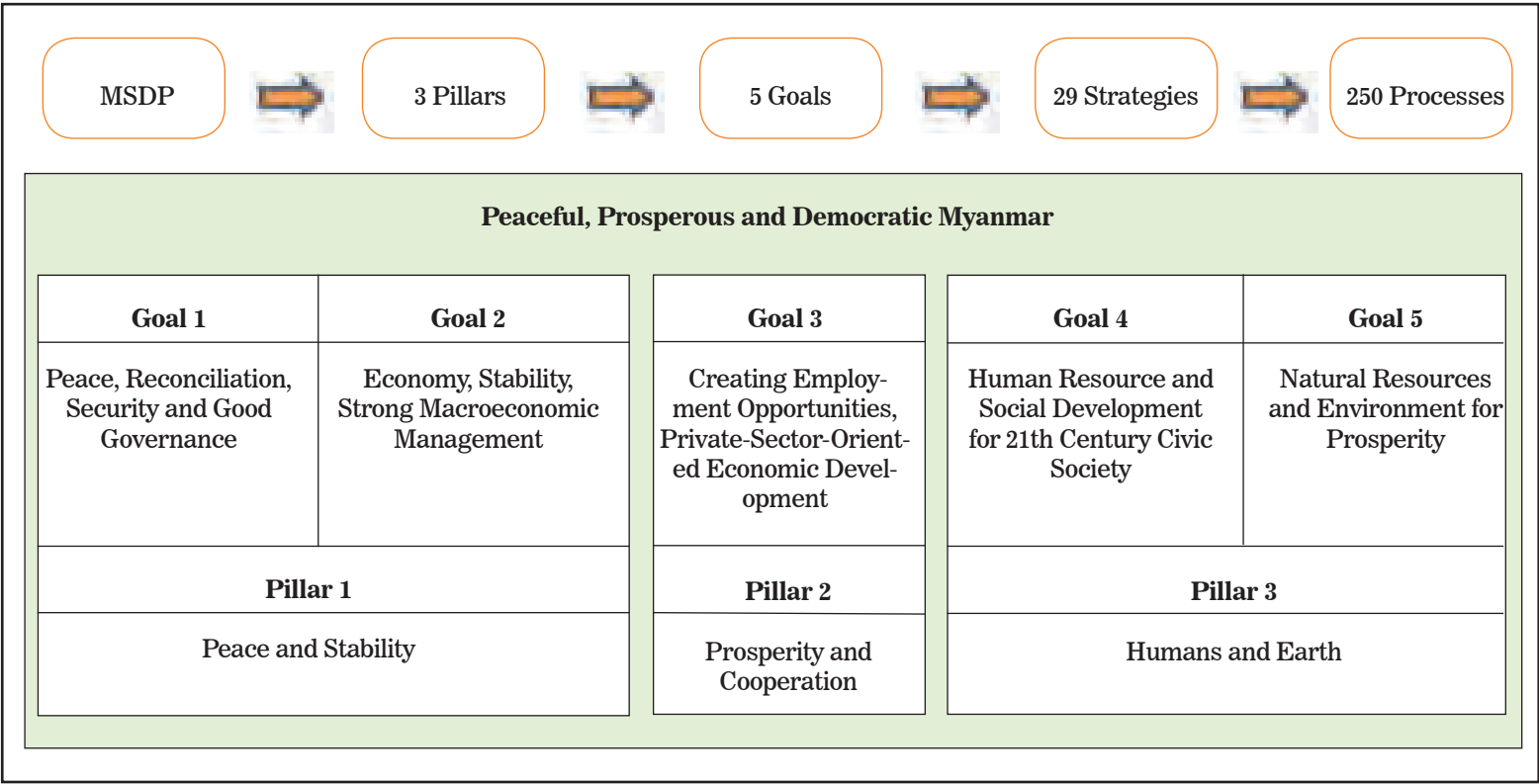
Up till now, the union level ministries, the state and regional government departments are mainly putting up proposals for allocation of budgets without submitting development strategies for their states and regions.

Moreover, the projects and plans are not clearly considered and defined on the path of implementation whether it is solely by the government, whether it is under Government and Public Private Partnership (PPP) or whether it is mainly under the assistance of Development Partners.

Unfortunately, there is weakness regarding connection and linkage on the part of primary planning and on the part of identifying projects for practical implementation.

At the meeting on Development Effectiveness Roundtable (DER) held in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 February 2018, Planning and Finance Deputy Minister U Set Aung spelled out that the MSDP is in the pipeline which will be effective and instrumental for co-ordination of various the projects **Fundamental concept and framework of MSDP**

The MSDP embraces the



theme such as that of all inclusiveness of relevant parties and stakeholders, that of pragmatic economic development, and that of logical and necessary policies. Moreover, the MSDP encompasses on the sustainability, the correct policy guideline of Myanmar in dealing with global and regional bodies, and the strategic national policy for development of the country.

The essence and core of MSDP is to remain in line with the well known Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the ASEAN Economic Community, and the Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Cooperation (GMS EC).

Goals of MSDP are as follows.

- Three Pillars
- Five Goals
- Twenty Nine Strategies
- Two Hundred Fifty Action Plans

The comprehensive framework of MSDP has three pillars as follows.

- Peace and Stability
- Prosperity and Partnership
- People and Planet

Goal one defines as follows.

- Peace, National Reconciliation, Security and

The MSDP is designed for better quality of life for the people by creating best opportunities in addition to solve and redress the existing difficulties of the citizens.

Good Governance Goal two defines as follows.

- Economic Stability, Strengthened Macroeconomic Management
- Goal three defines as follows.

- Job Creation, Private Sector Led Growth

Goal four defines as follows.

- Human Resources and Social Development for a 21st Century Society

Goal five defines as follows.

- Natural Resources and the Environment for National Prosperity

Therefore, the MSDP is on the same track with the SDGs, while it synchronizes the plans and projects drawn by relevant ministries.

The MSDP emerges as an important instrument; and that

each and every goal under the strategic master plan must be fully successful in its implementation. The involvement and commitment of development partners and the international organizations as well as the private sectors are very much essential and vital in the implementation of development tasks in Myanmar. The implementation work is to be shouldered and shared by government, parliament, private sector; international development partners, an all stakeholders.

State and Public Investment Program-PIP

When the MSDP is being approved and adopted, the projects under the PIP would be unfolded to the public.

Firstly, the projects of the

country depend on the financial resources, and that it is necessary to work out whether it is to be borne by government budget or public private partnership or under the Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Secondly, the implementation approach is to be considered either through the action plan or through the strategy.

Thirdly, criteria must be attached to the projects.

Each and every plan must be assessed and evaluated with first, second and third priority and then earmark with short term or long term implementation. When the project is to be implemented through the budgeting process, the ministry concern is to ensure yearly expenditure which is to be adjusted in accordance with the accounting and budget procedures.

The projects under the ODA assistance are to be discussed with the development partners and to submit to Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU).

It is much expected that we could win the trust and confidence of the investors when the action plans and the projects are systematically implemented by the relevant ministries with clear

approach and transparent paradigms in line with the PIP so as to uplift the investment in the country.

Such practice of PIP is good for the basis of development plan and also fundamental for multi-year budgeting process. More development aids for the country are likely to flow in as the Development Assistance Policy (DAP) is already adopted.

Expected results

The MSDP is designed for better quality of life for the people by creating best opportunities in addition to solve and redress the existing difficulties of the citizens. The MSDP could be termed as a framework of sheltered umbrella for all the existing policies.

Since it stands out as a master plan, it will be instrumental link between the existing plans and the forthcoming future plans. The MSDP will have all the explanations spread out for the future proposal plans, the selection of plans, and the implementation approaches including the application of financial resources by the relevant ministries.

By shifting from an old usual stereotype manner to a new modern type of approach, the investors will have more confidence and faith. As a result, government and public ventures would be more dynamic, and more development assistance would be on the agenda. The other advantage would have a better window for budgeting and financial management.

The writer of this article would like to conclude that the Planning and Finance Ministry has credibly accepted that the strategies and the implementation programs mentioned in the MSDP as the fruits of economic advantages and reality culminated from the emerging democratic system. It is hereby promises and pledges to the people of the country, that we are on our way working together to show with convincing evidences in the implementation of the goals mentioned the MSDP. ■

Translated by UMT of Ahlon

Rain to increase in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon states

AS monsoon, described as moderate, is currently active over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, while rain is forecast to increase in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and neighboring

areas for today is to expect some rain or thundershowers, with a degree of certainty of 100 per cent, whereas Mandalay and neighboring areas will see isolated rain or thundershowers with a degree of certainty of 100 per cent.

Also, seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters, and wave heights will be about (5-8) feet along Myanmar Coasts. —GNLM ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 23rd June, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 24th JUNE, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, fairly widespread in (Northern and Eastern) Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw and Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5- 8)feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th JUNE, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th JUNE, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th JUNE, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Greece hails 'historic' deal to end debt crisis

ATHENS — Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on Friday hailed an agreement by Eurozone ministers that will put an end to the country's eight-year bailout program as an "historic" step.

Eurozone states declared the severe debt crisis that has weighed heavy on the country since 2010 to be over, allowing Athens to escape some of the supervision of its creditors from August.

Wearing a tie for the first time since becoming prime minister in 2015— after pledging to wear one only when Greece's debt was cut — Tsipras told a celebratory meeting of coalition lawmakers on Friday night that the country could return to being a "social state".

"Austerity will gradually be replaced by social justice," he promised.

However, removing his tie at the end of the speech, he argued that "the Greek people had won a battle but not the war".



Greece's Alexis Tsipras wearing a tie for the first time since he became prime minister in 2015, after pledging we would only don one once Greece was out of debt. **PHOTO: AFP**

Coming nearly a decade after Greece's finances spun out of control, sparking three bailouts and threatening the country's euro membership, he earlier declared the deal as an "historic agreement".

"We are turning a page," he added, but cautioned that the country "must not destroy the path taken on the reforms and

on budgetary efforts."

The eurozone ministers' hard-fought agreement was declared earlier Friday, slating Greece to leave its third financial rescue since 2010 on 20 August.

"The Greek crisis ends here tonight," said EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici, after the marathon talks in Luxembourg.

The deal was expected to be an easy one, but last-minute resistance by Germany — Greece's long bailout nemesis and biggest creditor — dragged the talks on for six hours.

The ministers agreed to extend maturities by 10 years on major parts of its total debt obligations, a mountain that has reached close to double the country's annual economic output.

'Congratulations, comrades'

They also agreed to disburse 15 billion euros (\$17.5 billion) to ease Greece's exit from the rescue programme.

This would leave Greece with a hefty 24 billion euro safety cushion, officials said. "The agreed debt relief is bigger than we had expected," Citi European Economics said in a note.

"In particular, the 10-year extension of the EFSF loans' maturity and most importantly the grace period on interest payments is a significant development," they added.

"The Greek government is happy with the agreement," Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said after the talks.

But "to make this worthwhile we have to make sure that the Greek people must quickly see concrete results... they need to feel the change in their own pockets," he added.

Tsakalotos' predecessor in the government, maverick economist Yanis Varoufakis, was more scathing in his assessment.

"Congratulations, comrades. (Eurozone creditors) extend the Greek state's bankruptcy into 2060 and they call it debt... relief," he tweeted.

The eight-year crisis toppled four governments and shrank the economy by 25 per cent. Unemployment soared and still hovers over 20 per cent, sending thousands of young educated Greeks abroad. Optimism is tempered by Greece's remaining fiscal obligations, which will demand serious discipline, observers say.—AFP ■

Ten days after Trump-Kim summit, hard work yet to begin

WASHINGTON—The landmark summit between President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un ended with a pledge of "complete denuclearization," but ten days on no timetable for action has emerged.

After flying back to Washington last week, giddy with success, the US leader tweeted "There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea" — a bold claim with Kim's arsenal still in place.

But senior US officials admit there is much work to be done as negotiators thrash out the details of what they hope will be Pyongyang "complete, verifiable and irreversible" disarmament.

Many observers were disappointed that the short statement of intent signed by the two leaders was not more clear on the definition of denuclearization, fearing Kim plans to keep his hard-won deterrent.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo angrily insists that the term "complete" in the document "encompasses" the con-

cept that the denuclearization will be "verifiable and irreversible."

Trump has gone further, claiming on 12 June that the process will start very quickly, then on 21 June confusing the issue: "It will be a total denuclearization, which is already taking place."

Pompeo has been only marginally more cautious.

On 13 June, he said "We believe that Kim Jong Un understands the urgency ... that we must do this quickly" and added that he hopes for "major disarmament" with two-and-a-half years.

So far, however, this confidence rests solely on trust in the assurances that Kim gave Trump at the summit, and his reported promise to China to "implement the summit's consensus step by step."

When Pompeo said of Kim's pledge, "I was there when he said it. He made a personal commitment. He has his reputation on the line," Thomas Wright, a senior fellow at Brookings, was

scathing.

"This is one of the most naive statements ever made by an American diplomat," Wright wrote on Twitter. "I hope he is trying to mislead us because it would be truly frightening if he believed it."

Abraham Denmark of the Wilson Center warned a congressional hearing: "Considering North Korea's repeated history of violating past agreements, there is little reason to trust them this time."

And, despite his professed faith in Kim's word, Pompeo knows he has work to do to establish a roadmap towards concrete steps and that he will have to speak to Kim again, probably in Pyongyang.

Highlighting this apparent gap between Trump's rhetoric and facts on the ground, the administration Friday cited the "unusual and extraordinary threat" from North Korea's nuclear arsenal to extend decade-old sanctions on Kim's regime in a statement to Congress.—AFP ■

Argentine police find fake gold World Cup trophies packed with COCAINE in Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES—Argentinian police busted a drug smuggling gang after finding cocaine and marijuana hidden inside replica World Cup trophies.

Six people were arrested during raids carried out in Isidro Casanova in La Matanza Partido, Greater Buenos Aires.

Officers found 1.5kg of cocaine and marijuana hidden inside the gongs. In addition, police seized two vehicles and two guns during the bust, Clarin reported.

The gang took advantage of the merchandising boom of the World Cup to pedal the drugs around different neighborhoods of La Matanza.

This morning, the Buenos Aires security minister, Cristian Ritondo, said: "The drug convictions must be strictly complied with, they do not go out of business, those who are imprisoned have to be imprisoned and serve their sentence."

"It is important that they be imprisoned, that they not return to the business."

Argentinian fans will still be hurting after the 2014 World Cup runners up suffered a heavy



The cocaine had a street value of nearly £100,000. Police arrested six people during the bust in Isidro Casanova, La Matanza Partido, Greater Buenos Aires. **PHOTO: AFP**

defeat last night.

Argentina looked destined to exit the World Cup at the group stage for the first time since 2002 after their embarrassing 3-0 defeat to Croatia.

However, Nigeria's 2-0 victory over Iceland has blown Group D wide open, and keeps the World Cup dreams alive for Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero and their team-mates. —AFP ■

Erdogan, rival Ince trade blows on eve of crunch Turkey polls

ISTANBUL (Turkey) — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his main rival Muharrem Ince on Saturday traded blows in mass rallies on the final day of campaigning for Turkey's most fiercely contested elections in years.

Turks vote on Sunday in snap twin presidential and parliamentary elections called by Erdogan one-and-a-half years ahead of schedule, with the president seeking a first round victory for a new mandate and a strong parliamentary majority.

But the emergence of the energetic Ince as candidate for the Republican People's Party (CHP) and a wide-based opposition alliance have made the elections tighter than many analysts — and likely Erdogan — envisaged.

After mega meetings by Ince in Izmir and Ankara over the last two days, hundreds of thousands packed the vast Maltepe shore-side on the Asian side of Istanbul for his final rally.

Ince claimed that five million people had surged to the Istanbul rally but it was not possible to immediately confirm the numbers.

He painted a bleak picture of Turkey if Erdogan wins the elections, saying its currency would remain weak, prices high and the issue of 3.5 million Syrian refugees unsolved.



Muharrem Ince (bottom L), presidential candidate of Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), delivers a speech at Maltepe in Istanbul during an election rally in Istanbul on 23 June, 2018. Turkish President Erdogan is facing an unexpectedly tight contest in Turkish elections scheduled for June 24, 2018, with opponents showing a new-found unity and his charismatic main rival building campaign momentum. **PHOTO: AFP**

"But if Ince wins, it will not just be Ince who wins... 80 million people will win! Turkey will win!" said Ince, who boasted of holding 107 rallies in the last 50 days.

While Ince in the last days of campaigning opted to hold a single mass rally a day in Turkey's three major cities, Erdogan

has been holding a sequence of smaller but well-attended rallies in Istanbul.

"God willing, tomorrow evening we will be able to experience this happiness together," Erdogan told a rally in the Istanbul district of Esenyurt. "Are you ready to bring victory?"

He lashed out at Ince, who has vowed to camp outside the headquarters of Turkey's election commission on Sunday to ensure a fair count. "Mr Muharrem, we are living in a state of law," he said, adding "all measures" had been taken for voting security.

Turkey's opposition can-

didates have repeatedly complained over the lack of airtime offered by largely pro-government media. State-run TRT Haber news channel did now show Ince's speech live at all while only parts were broadcast on privately-owned CNN-Turk. —AFP ■

Scores injured in grenade blast at Ethiopian PM's rally

ADDIS ABAB, (Ethiopia) — Scores of people were hurt in a grenade blast at new Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's first mass rally in the capital that sent crowds fleeing in panic.

Abiy had just wrapped up his speech in the heart of Addis Ababa before tens of thousands of people when the explosion went off, sending droves of supporters towards the stage as the prime minister left hurriedly, an AFP correspondent said.

In an address broadcast afterwards on state television, Abiy said the blast was orchestrated by groups who wanted to undermine the rally but did not name them.

"The people who did this are anti-peace forces. You need to stop doing this. You weren't successful in the past and you won't be successful in the future."

He said several people had been killed, but his chief of staff Fitsum Arega later said on Twitter that there were no deaths.

"As of now, based on reports

from police and hospitals, 83 people are injured. Of the 83 injured, six are in critical condition. No death so far has been reported," Arega said.

"Some whose heart is filled with hate attempted a grenade attack," he added, vowing that the perpetrators will be brought to justice.

The AFP correspondent said the blast happened stage

right from Abiy and sent up a small puff of black smoke.

More than 100 people then stormed the stage, hurling various objects at police, shouting: "Down, down Woyane," and "Woyane thief", using a pejorative term for the government, the AFP correspondent said.

Police later used tear gas to clear the area, while an AFP photographer saw two men and

two women taken into custody on suspicion of being involved with the blast.

The rally in the central Meskel Square was Abiy's first public speech in the capital since he took office in April, although he has made several in provincial areas. In the past three months, Abiy has made major changes in Ethiopia including shaking up the security services, releasing jailed dissidents, moving to liberalise the economy and to resolve a two-decade conflict with arch-enemy Eritrea.

"Ethiopia will be on top again, and the foundations will be love, unity and inclusivity," he declared, dressed in a green T-shirt and a hat.

Opposition ends 'armed resistance'

Abiy succeeded Hailemariam Desalegn, who resigned in February amid a wave of anti-government protests led by the country's two largest ethnicities, that started in late 2015 and left hundreds of people dead.

While it remains unclear how deep Abiy's support runs within the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), his actions thus far represent dramatic shifts in the power balance within Africa's second-most populous country.

Political rallies of Saturday's scale are rare in Ethiopia, where the EPRDF controls all seats in parliament and opposition parties complain of harassment.

But at the rally people openly displayed flags of banned groups such as the Oromo Liberation Front, an act that would usually result in arrest.

Abiy's reforms have spurred some anti-government groups to seek rapprochement.

After the release of top official Andargachew Tsige in May, anti-government group Ginbot 7 announced on Friday it would cease armed attacks in the country, citing Abiy's reform agenda. —AFP ■



Ethiopian security forces intervene on Meskel Square in Addis Ababa on 23 June, 2018 where a blast killed several people during a rally called by the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. **PHOTO: AFP**

US Navy planning new camps to support immigration crackdown: report

WASHINGTON — The US Navy plans to build sprawling detention centres for tens of thousands of immigrants on remote bases in support of President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy against unlawful migration, a report said on Friday.

According to a draft memo obtained by Time magazine, the navy plans to build "temporary and austere" tent cities to house 25,000 migrants across three abandoned air fields in Alabama, 47,000 people at a facility near San Francisco, and another 47,000 at a training center in southern California.

The document estimates the navy would spend \$233 million to run a facility for 25,000 over six-months.

Asked for comment, Pentagon spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jamie Davis said: "The Department of Defence is conducting prudent planning and is looking nationwide at DoD installations should DHS (Depart-



A US Border Patrol vehicle illuminates a group of Central American asylum seekers before taking them into custody near the US-Mexico border on 12 June, 2018 in McAllen, Texas. **PHOTO: AFP**

ment of Homeland Security) ask for assistance in housing adult illegal immigrants.

"At this time there has been no request from DHS for DoD

support to house illegal migrants."

The fate of 2,300 children wrested from their parents at the US border with Mexico remained

unclear on Friday two days after Donald Trump ended migrant family separations.

While the US leader bowed to global outrage over the split-

ting of families, conflicting messages were contributing to a sense of chaos in the handling of the crisis.

But having been forced into a climbdown, Trump swung back into fighting mode — insisting he remained committed to the "zero tolerance" policy that aims to deter the flow of migrants from Central America.

"We must maintain a Strong Southern Border. We cannot allow our Country to be overrun by illegal immigrants as the Democrats tell their phony stories of sadness and grief, hoping it will help them in the elections," he tweeted.

Trump also met at the White House with parents of victims killed by undocumented immigrants.

The parents standing with Trump have been "permanently separated from their loved ones," the president said, "because they were killed by criminal illegal aliens." —AFP ■

Boris Johnson warns against 'bog-roll Brexit'

LONDON — Britain's foreign minister Boris Johnson, who campaigned to leave the European Union, on Saturday warned Prime Minister Theresa May against a Brexit that was "soft, yielding and seemingly infinitely long" like toilet roll.

Writing in The Sun on the second anniversary of the historic vote, Johnson urged against a "bog-roll Brexit", British slang for toilet roll, and called on his boss to "fulfil the mandate of the people and deliver a full British Brexit".

May's team is about to enter into the next round of negotiations with EU counterparts, but is still to define exactly what it wants from Britain's future relationship with the continent, particularly in the area of customs regulation.

Anti-Brexit campaigners were due to mark the anniversary later Saturday with a demonstration in London demanding a "people's vote" on whether to approve the final deal May strikes with the EU,



Britain's foreign minister Boris Johnson. **PHOTO: AFP**

if an agreement is struck at all.

Trade minister Liam Fox, an arch eurosceptic, insisted that the prime minister was still prepared to walk away from the talks if no satisfactory deal was reached.

"The prime minister has always said no deal is better than a bad deal," Fox told the BBC in an interview aired on Saturday.

"It is essential as we enter the next phase of the negotiations that the EU understands that and believes it... I think our negotiating partners would not be wise if they thought our PM was bluffing."

'Half-hearted'

Johnson, who was the most prominent face in the campaign to leave the EU, wrote that the

British people "just want us to get on with it".

"They don't want a half-hearted Brexit," he wrote.

"They don't want some sort of hopeless compromise, some perpetual push me-pull you arrangement in which we stay half-in and half-out in a political no man's land.

"Two years ago the people of this country recorded a verdict about themselves — that they had the guts to believe in Britain.

They were right and will be proved right in the decades ahead," he added.

However, aviation giant Airbus warned on Friday it could pull out of Britain if it leaves the EU without a deal, while carmaker BMW also warned that uncertainty was affecting the investment climate.

The march against Brexit will end outside the Houses of Parliament, and is part of a "summer of action" planned by campaign groups to put pressure on political leaders to hold a vote on the final deal. —AFP ■

European car shares skid after Trump tariff threat

PARIS — Shares in European Union car manufacturers fell on Friday after US President Donald Trump threatened to impose a 20 per cent tariff on cars imported from the bloc, traders said. Fiat Chrysler shares lost more than three per cent in Milan. In Germany BMW was down around two per cent while Daimler and Volkswagen both dropped by more than one per cent. European auto stocks had already come under pressure in recent days on expectations that Trump would seek to hit the sector with tariffs in response to retaliatory tariffs by Brussels which kicked in on Friday. Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler was the first among Germany's auto industry titans to lower its profit forecasts this week. High-end competitor BMW says it is following the international situation "more closely than ever". Shares in French carmakers Renault — which does not sell cars in the US — and Peugeot were also weaker, but only marginally. —AFP ■

Cambodia strongman delights as orangutans dance and kickbox

PHNOM PENH, (Cambodia) — Cambodia's strongman leader Hun Sen took a brief break from electioneering on Saturday to watch orangutans roller skate, kickbox and dance provocatively as he opened the first major zoo in the capital.

The premier — one of the world's longest serving leaders — is seeking to prolong his 33-year grip on power in the national vote set for 29 July and has used the courts to cripple his opponents.

But he has also tried to cultivate a lighter side.

"Today we are all happy to inaugurate the animal zoo, the Phnom Penh Safari," Hun Sen said in a speech to thousands at the park before a ribbon-cutting ceremony, adding that the site of the sprawling complex was a former ammunition depot for remnants of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime.

The \$9 million safa-



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen holds an orangutan after a kick boxing performance during the inauguration of Phnom Penh Safari on 23 June, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

ri will house 89 types of animals, including bears, ostriches, kangaroos, giraffes, tigers and deer.

The zoo is run by a company owned by tycoon

Ly Yong Phat, a senator from the ruling Cambodian People's Party.

After the official unveiling Hun Sen took a tour of the grounds and

sat down to watch the orangutan show, a common form of entertainment at Southeast Asian zoos that animal rights activists have long been critical of.

event they drubbed one another over the head and delivered a series of punches, knees and kicks, while a presenter narrated the fight.

Afterwards Hun Sen congratulated one of the fighters by holding up the orangutan's arm as bodyguards loomed nearby.

The day was not entirely devoid of politics as Hun Sen used his opening remarks to ask people to vote for his party.

Yet Hun Sen will face little competition at the polls.

The country's main opposition party was dissolved under a court order last year as part of the sweeping crackdown of dissent, and western democracies have withdrawn support for the vote.

Former opposition lawmakers — mostly those who fled the country in the wake of the crackdown — have also urged voters to boycott July's poll in protest.—AFP ■

Ex-S Korean premier Kim Jong Pil dies at age 92

SEOUL — Former South Korean Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil, who played a pivotal role in paving the way for normalization of relations between Japan and South Korea, died of old age on Saturday. He was 92.

He was one of the "three Kims" — the others being late presidents Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam — who dominated South Korean politics during the country's turbulent transition from dictatorship to democracy.

In a post on Facebook, Prime Minister Lee Nak Yon described Kim as "the very person who embodied the honour and disgrace," adding that he was a person blessed with "a lot of capabilities and attractiveness."

Local media remem-



Photo taken in March 2001 shows former South Korean Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil, who died of natural causes on 23 June, 2018, aged 92. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

bered him as a "politician of troubled times."

In 1962, Kim, then head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, met privately with Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ohira to settle the issue of reparations for Japan's 1910-1945 oc-

cupation of the Korean Peninsula, which had been a sticking point in negotiations to normalize ties.

The meeting in Tokyo produced the so-called "Kim-Ohira Memo," which became the starting point for the subsequent stages of the normalization talks, culminating in the 1965 Treaty on Basic Relations Between Japan and the Republic of Korea.

In Tokyo, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a condolence message to South Korean President Moon Jae In, praising Kim's "direct" role in negotiations to normalize ties between Japan and South Korea, the Japanese government said.

Abe lauded Kim for having "built the foundation of the present

Japan-South Korea relations" and thereafter "contributing greatly" to further develop bilateral ties.

Kim was born in 1926 in Buyeo County, South Chungcheong Province, and graduated from the Korea Military Academy in 1949. He was a key figure in the 16 May, 1961, coup that put Maj. Gen Park Chung Hee in power.

Following the coup, he established the KCIA, now known as the National Intelligence Service, and served as its first chief from 1961-1963.

He served as prime minister, the country's No 2 post, twice, from 1971 to 1975 and from 1998 to 2000. In 1976 he became the first chairman of the Korea-Japan Parliamentarians' Union.—Kyodo News ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY.NO. (1056W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Michael Jackson didn't identify as one gender, says personal photographer Harrison Funk

LONDON — Michael Jackson's personal photographer Harrison Funk has claimed the singer was "gender fluid".

Funk, who worked with the pop legend from the 1970s until his death in June 2009, said that Jackson's make-up routine was a sign that he did not solely identify with one gender.

"Him and Jermaine (Jackson) loved putting on their own makeup.... It wasn't so much femininity on Michael's part as androgyny he was fluid around gender. Michael had no interest in assigning a gender to anybody. He didn't overtly identify as one particular gender," Funk

Michael Jackson.
PHOTO: PTI



told the Guardian.

However, when Jackson had kids —Prince, Paris and Blanket— his image changed

to that "of father".

"He became a strong man in that sense," Funk added.

The photographer also re-

vealed the "Beat It" hitmaker became prone to dramatic outbursts during his Victory Tour of the US and Canada in 1984.

"Michael had very demanding moments.

If he didn't like something, he let you know. Michael was never ridiculing to me ever, but if someone messed up the design of his stage, then he would yell at them. He expected perfection."

During the 1990s, Jackson's music became more socially conscious, with hits such as "Earth Song" and "Black or White".

However, he also attracted

controversy when he struck a Jesus-like pose in one of Funk's most famous photographs.

"People say Michael had a Jesus complex, but that p***es me off, as it just wasn't true. There was a practical reason for me taking that photo.

"Michael had huge hands and I wanted to make the most of them as they were expressive — and a good way for him to embrace the world. At that stage, his whole existence was geared towards healing the world, so having big, expressive hands was a very important way to speak to the people," Funk said.—PTI ■

Priyanka Chopra arrives in India with Nick Jonas

MUMBAI — Priyanka Chopra and rumoured beau Nick Jonas are in India.

Days after the American singer introduced the Indian star to his family during a cousin's wedding, the 35-year-old Bollywood diva has brought him to India reportedly to meet her family and friends.

The duo were clicked driving out of the airport here last night by paparazzi.

Photographer Viral Bhayani posted pictures of the couple on Instagram.

"Remember I mentioned #NickJonas is coming to Mumbai. Yes he just did along with #priyankachopra as they arrived secretly but they did not do any

pictures," he captioned the photographs.

To avoid getting clicked together, Priyanka and Nick left the airport in a car with tinted glasses and black curtains.

Priyanka and Nick, 25, have been spending a lot of time together lately days after they were first spotted on a yacht on Memorial Day weekend. —PTI ■

Berlinale film festival to get new leadership duo



Carlo Chatrian and Mariette Rissenbeek in Berlin on Friday after it was announced they will take over the reins of the Berlinale film festival. PHOTO: AFP

BERLIN — Italian Carlo Chatrian (left) and Holland's Dutch Mariette Rissenbeek after the announcement in Berlin they will be the future artistic director and the future managing director of the International Berlinale Film Festival.

Berlin authorities on Friday named a duo, including the director of the Locarno film festival, to jointly lead the Berlinale from 2020, taking over from long-time chief Dieter Kosslick.

Carlo Chatrian, who has directed the Swiss festival since 2013, is appointed artistic director of the German capital's annual cinema showcase.

Mariette Rissenbeek, who has headed Germany's film promotion office, will take over as managing director at the Berlinale. "With our two new directors, we will make sure that the Berlinale will continue beyond 2019 — the last year under Dieter Kosslick's direction — to be an audience-oriented festival with a political focus and

an ambitious film programme, while continuing to evolve," said Germany's Culture Minister Monika Gruetters.

Chatrian will bring his expertise in curating an arthouse film festival and experience in uncovering new talent, said Berlin's cultural authorities.

Rissenbeek, meanwhile, has a strong network in the film circuit, they added. She also becomes the first woman to head one of Europe's top film festivals. Kosslick, 70, is credited with sharply boosting the international profile of the Berlinale since he took the reins in 2001, winning fans for his quirky humour and stellar connections in Hollywood. The Berlinale is the only major festival to sell tickets for all of its featured films to the public. Kosslick had said in an interview with AFP that it was "problematic" that in the history of the A-list festivals since World War II, including Cannes, Venice and Berlin, none had had a female chief.—AFP ■

Japan dancer snags silver medal at int'l ballet competition in US

JACKSON, Mississippi — A Japanese male dancer won the silver medal on Friday in the junior male division of an international ballet competition held in Jackson, Mississippi.

The winner, 17-year-old Hyuma Kiyosawa who lives in San Francisco, expressed his joy over his achievement at the USA International Ballet Competition. No gold medal was awarded in the competition.

"While I am frustrated at failing to have won the top prize, I am happy with the good result at the contest," Kiyosawa, who hails from Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture, told Kyodo News.

Chisako Oga, a 21-year-old who was born in Dallas and represented the United States in the senior women's category, won the bronze medal. Oga, who lives in Cincinnati, said she was surprised as she did not expect to win any medal.

The competition was a two-week long event from 10 June. Eighteen dancers from eight nations were given awards or medals, organizers said. Held once every four years, it is known as one of the three prestigious ballet competitions in the world along with the Varna competition in Bulgaria and one in Moscow.

At the Jackson contest, dancers aged 14 to 18 compete as juniors and those aged 19 to 28 as seniors in three stages.—Kyodo News

Chisako Oga performs at the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi on 21 June, 2018. Oga secured bronze in the Senior Women category. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Cracking art: the Viet Nam craftsman making World Cup mascots from eggshells

HO CHI MINH CITY—Football scarves, shirts and... eggshell art? World Cup swag has taken a quirky turn in Viet Nam where a retired schoolteacher is making mascot memorabilia from hollowed-out eggs, meticulously crafted by hand.

Nguyen Thanh Tam, 67, spends hours every day making the models, driven by his football fanaticism — a passion shared by millions across Viet Nam glued to the World Cup since the tournament kicked off in Russia earlier this month.

Most of his tiny statues are of tournament mascot Zabivaka, a wolf in sports goggles kicking a football, and he has models of football heroes Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi in the works.

“Over the past few years, I have been spending my time making football mascots with eggshells as a way for me to show my love for football,” Tam told

AFP, speaking before a basket of eggs in his Ho Chi Minh City home.

Though not widespread in Viet Nam, using eggshells in art is not unheard of: traditional lacquer works often feature inlaid eggshell in lieu of white paint.

Tam says working with the fragile shells requires sharp focus.

“I love this work because it requires me to be creative, observant, meticulous and relaxed,” Tam added.

He first developed the unique hobby around Christmas in 2002, when he was looking for the right material to make a Santa statue with his 13-year-old students.

Tam decided that an eggshell perfectly captured Saint Nick’s rotund belly.

He eventually married his passion for crafts and football and started making World Cup mascots during the 2010 World



Most of the tiny statues are of tournament mascot Zabivaka, a wolf in sports goggles kicking a football. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cup in South Africa.

Now he has about 1,000 of the small figurines scattered throughout his apartment, some commemorating the 2016 Rio Olympics and Euro 2016 in France.

Others are of celebrities — Charlie Chaplin, Barack Obama, and Gangnam Style’s PSY all feature in his collection — or birds and animals, like his porcine series to mark the Year of the Pig

in 2019.

Tam says the biggest challenge is finding the right egg shape to fit the creation, so he has expanded beyond chicken eggs to include ostrich and quail.

He has also widened his repertoire of egg recipes to use up all the yolks and whites he discards to make his art.

Tam doesn’t sell the delicate dolls, preferring instead to keep them on display to wow his visi-

tors. “I make eggshell art to satisfy my passion, not for commercial purposes,” he said.

He has already received a nod from Viet Nam’s record centre for the most eggshell art created — believed to be a niche category — though he has global ambitions.

“I hope one day my eggshell art will be recognised as a world record,” he said with a smile.— AFP ■

Famed sign-language gorilla Koko dies in California

SAN FRANCISCO—The famed gorilla Koko, known for mastering sign language and building a rapport with humans, has died in California, a research centre has announced. She was 46.

Born Hanabi-ko (Japanese for “Fireworks Child”) on US independence day in 1971 at San Francisco Zoo, she was widely known by her nickname. Animal psychologist Penny Patterson began teaching Koko sign language in 1972.

The western lowland gorilla became one of the most famous subjects of research into how apes use language, reputedly learning more than 1,000 words in American Sign Language, and becoming the subject of books and television shows.

“Koko touched the lives of millions as an ambassador for all gorillas and an icon for interspecies communication and empathy,” The Gorilla Foundation announced in northern California.

Koko passed away on Tuesday morning in her sleep, the centre said.

“She was beloved and will be deeply missed,” it added.



This undated handout photograph obtained on 21 June, 2018 courtesy of The Gorilla Foundation shows the gorilla Koko and her lifelong teacher and friend Dr Penny Patterson. **PHOTO: AFP**

Robin Williams, the late actor, was one of those with whom Koko built a rapport. The pair were filmed tickling each other, with Williams laughing, in 2001. Koko tried on Williams’ glasses and lifted up his shirt to tickle him.

Williams later called the experience “mind-altering.”

“We shared something extraordinary: laughter. Koko understands spoken English and uses over 1,000 signs to share her feelings and thoughts about daily events: life, love, even death. It

was awesome and unforgettable,” he said.

Critics

Patterson started to teach Koko sign language a year after she was born, and with collaborator Ronald Cohn moved her to Stanford in 1974, going on to establish The Gorilla Foundation.

Koko appeared in documentaries and twice appeared on the cover of National Geographic. The first cover, in 1978, was a photograph that Koko had taken

of herself in a mirror.

In 1985, the magazine wrote about Koko and a kitten she had been given, called All Ball. Their relationship became the subject of a book, “Koko’s Kitten,” taught in schools. She also took part in Internet chats.

Besides Williams, she met other celebrities such as the now Oscar-winning Leonardo DiCaprio and Star Trek actor William Shatner.

But there were also detractors and Patterson’s methodology became the object of lively debate.

Critics dispute the extent to which apes use language in the same way that humans do, arguing that Koko’s signs were not spontaneous but prompted by Patterson. The psychologist vigorously defended her work.

In 2005, two sacked female employees sued the foundation for allegedly ordering them to bare their breasts to Koko in a bonding effort. The center denied the allegations and an out-of-court settlement was reached.—AFP ■

Acclaimed musician to play piano-Peking opera fusion

BELJING—Acclaimed Chinese pianist Yin Chengzong is expected to give his audience a unique experience mixing Peking opera with Western music in his upcoming recital.

The recital will be performed at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) on Sunday night.

Yin will play Austrian composer Franz Schubert’s pieces in the first half of the program and a piano adaptation of Peking opera classic “The Red Lantern” in the second half. Joining him are three opera singers and one drummer.

The NCPA said the adaptation was a new experience that will show the modernization of Peking opera, as well as the localization of piano in China.

Yin, born in 1941 in south-east China, is regarded as one of the greatest pianists in the country. Aged 20, he won second prize for piano in the Moscow International Tchaikovsky Competition.—Xinhua ■

Real Madrid sign teenage Ukrainian goalkeeper

MADRID — Real Madrid have signed 19-year-old goalkeeper Andriy Lunin from Zorya Luhansk, the European champions announced on Saturday.

“He is distinguished by his size, 1.91 metres (6’3”), and has signed for six seasons,” Real wrote on their website, adding that Lunin was “young but experienced,” having already made his international debut.

According to the Spanish press, Lunin will start with Real Madrid Castilla, the club’s B team which plays in the Spanish second division.

With the club also pursuing Brazil’s World Cup goalkeeper Alisson Becker of Roma, who is 25, the youngster’s arrival increases the pressure on Costa Rican Keylor Navas, who started for Real in the Champions League final and is 31. In the short term, Lunin could be a replacement for 20-year-old Frenchman Luca Zidane, who was third-choice goalkeeper last



Andriy Lunin gained European experience with Zorya Luhansk. **PHOTO: AFP**

season when his father, Zinedine was coach, but Zidane senior has left.

Lunin’s arrival continues Real’s recent investment in youth which has brought in two

high-priced Brazilians, 17-year-old Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo.—
AFP ■

Women's football squad preps for 2018 Asian Games

THE Myanmar national women's football team has been assembled for the matches of the 2018 Asian Games, scheduled to be held from 14 August to 2 September 2018 in Palembang, Indonesia.

The 23 members of the squad include goal keepers May Zin Nwe, Zar Zar Myint, and Thin Thin Soe, and defenders Aye Aye Moe, Khin Than Wai, Ei Yadana Phyto, Wai Wai Aung, Khin Myo Win, Zin Mar Win, Ngwe Ngwe Htwe and Yamin Lwin.

The midfielders are Naw Arlo War Phaw, Nilar Myint, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Thandar Moe, Khin Mar Lar Tun and Than Than Htwe.

The strikers are Win Theingi Tun, Yi Yi Oo, Nu Nu, July Kyaw, Nilar Win and Khin Moe Wai. Gelora Sriwijaya Stadium will host the women's football gold medal match.
—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Hataoka 1 shot off lead after 1st round at NW Arkansas C'ship

ROGERS, Arkansas — Japan's Nasa Hataoka finished on Friday the first round of the NW Arkansas Championship among the seven players tied for second place at 7-under-par 64, with Mexico's Gaby Lopez holding a one-shot lead.

While Lopez shot a career-low 63 to take sole possession of the lead at the Pinnacle Country Club, the 19-year-old Hataoka carded eight birdies and had only one blemish on her scorecard, a bogey on the par-5 14th hole.

Hataoka said she had planned to play aggressively in the three-day, 54-hole event and did so, jumping out early and sinking a 23-foot birdie putt on the par-4 fifth.

She read the greens with improved accuracy after the turn and made four birdies from No 15.



Nasa Hataoka of Japan hits an approach shot during the 18th hole in the first round of the NW Arkansas Championship at Pinnacle Country Club in Rogers, Arkansas on 22 June, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

“I made my short putts and played a good round,” said Hataoka, who is making another bid for her first LPGA Tour victory.

“I was able to improve my long game in the back nine. I hope to hit consistent tee shots again and increase my iron distance tomorrow,” she said.

Also for Japan, Ayako Uehara and Harukyo Nomura sit in a tie for 79th at 1-under 70.

Uehara, who only had one birdie, regretted that she was not able to enjoy a birdie-fest like many others in the field, saying “if I don’t convert chances I won’t score well. I hope to do better tomorrow.”

Nomura said missing short putts hurt her score, and mistakes in key situations ruined her rhythm. “I want to close out at 5-under tomorrow,” she said.—Kyodo News ■

 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018			
18:30 MST (24.6.2018)			
England			Panama
21:30 MST (24.6.2018)			
Japan			Senegal
00:30 MST (25.6.2018)			
Poland			Colombia
World Cup 2018 Results			
Serbia	1 - 2	Switzerland	
Belgium	5 - 2	Tunisia	
Korea Republic	1 - 2	Mexico	

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All the Stars deserve the Sky



Daniel
Technological University
(Hmawbi)

"I do not know who I am but what I know is to sell all these boiled eggs and quails' eggs. I just woke up this morning as usual and now I am doing every stuff I am accustomed to. What? You want to know what I am doing now? Oh, I am just waiting the train where my life begins, I guess."

Phoe Cho's life was not simple as much and even worse than you can think. He was one of the children who were living near Da Nyin Kone (Jengkol Kone) Railway Station. There's a market called Da Nyin Kone Market and everybody in the Market knew him very well for he did everything diligently for money, except bad things when some of messy children at his age were doing nasty things so he was not vagabond at least. His living was to sell boiled eggs and quails' eggs but it was not easy for a 12 year old child for real. He did not know who his parents were because he was lost from his parents ever since he was 8 years old so no one knows who he was. He lived near train station and worked for U Mya Hlaing who was giving jobs to children to sell boiled eggs and quails' eggs. His jobs was not very easy because he had to make sure that he got profits from it.

Most of children like Phoe Cho could not deny this job because they did not have anything to eat. They had

to sell them and give the money to him then, they would have what they should get. Even though they were children who should be sitting in the classroom and have fun, they were facing how to be still alive tomorrow. Some of them had parents but they did not even remember who their parents were because they were discarded since a long time ago. And the only place where they did their business was the circular train that always comes at 7AM every day.

"Hay, the train is coming. Come here. Be ready!"

Phoe Cho shouted. Then, his colleagues were ready to get on the train and each of them had a tray on their belly attached to their neck with strong rope so that they could run easily when there would be a ticket inspector because they did not buy any ticket. Phoe Cho was so excited because he just escaped hardly from inspector yesterday and he even had leg pain as result of jumping from train while it was moving.

"Hay, should I buy a ticket today?" He asked his friends.

"Nahh! If I were you, I will have some breakfast instead of buying ticket. Please, don't be silly Man!" They responded.

Of course, none of them had breakfast because they did not want to miss the train, besides, they had no money to buy, eat. This would not be very special because they were get used to it. They including Phoe Cho had nothing to eat most of the morning. That was the beginning of their whole wild day and they got on the train then.

And on the train, they started their business wandering here and there. Sometimes, they have to move from first house to second house even the train was moving. Children like Phoe Cho faced many problems when they saw people who sold bric-a-brac or odds and ends because they had many things to sell and they even discounted so they could have sold more than Phoe Cho. He felt inferiority when he met with children at his age were wearing school uniform. They were sitting on seats with their parents and when he came near them, they looked down their noses at him. But he became happy when someone bought his things then, he had got angry when they did not give full price for it. If he shouted at them for not paying full for things, ticket inspector would hear and ask them what was happening. So he could not do that for he did not buy the ticket. Even though it was morning, the train was full of smell like sweat, flowers, foods and perfume. There existed no problems about smell for Phoe Cho and his colleagues.

Finally, the train arrived at Yangon railway station where more people they would find and they wished to sell all things. Even though they were kids, Phoe Cho and his colleagues were experts at business and knew where to go. Some of them went to Mahar Bandula Park or near Sulae Pagoda. And some of them went to Strand road or near Bo Gyoke Market while some stayed at Pansoedan. They all went to different places but all they want

to do is to sell these boiled eggs and quails' eggs, to get enough food for today, to sleep this night peacefully. One thing, they worried was that they could not do it. For this reason, sometimes, they did fight for a place to sell. They got hurt but it did not hurt more than losing a meal.

Phoe Cho went to Mahar Bandula Park from Pasoedan road because he knew that near 12AM was the perfect time to sell these things because it was near lunch time and people who were so busy would have no time and then buy, eat his stuff. Even though he was so hungry, he rushed to there immediately lest someone would take the chance. But fortune did not give a favor to him that he was hit by the car when he was trying to cross the road. Then, the driver hit and ran. People did not even know what to do after driver ran away. Besides, there was nothing to do for a messy, nasty child who looked like a thief either.

Finally, Phoe Cho was gone forever. May be he was happy for that because he did not need to care about food anymore, place to cover him from rain and snow was not matter now. His friends did not even know where he went and where to find him, besides, they did not want to find him because they were busy to sell things themselves.

Now, it was 5:00PM and the colleagues were waiting the last return train at Yangon railway station. Some of them may notice that Phoe Cho was missing but they could not do anything except waiting. After a while, the last train departed from Yangon station and all of them went home happily, forgetting what had happen today and imagining about tomorrow how to survive again.

We said that "Today's youth is Future's leader" but sometimes they are not meant to be. In this way, a star fell from the sky again though that star did not even know what the sky is.

(Wishing to eliminate child labor)

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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CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

(e) အကျင့်၊ ဓလေ့၊ စရိုက် (Habitual Action)

အကျင့်၊ ဓလေ့၊ စရိုက်၊ ဖြစ်တတ်သော သဘောကိုပြဆိုသော စာကြောင်းများတွင် အောက်ပါ ကြိယာဝိသေသနများ (Adverbs of Frequency) ကို တွဲဖက်သုံးစွဲလေ့ရှိသည်။ မြန်မာစာကြောင်းများတွင် 'တတ်၊ လေ့ရှိ' ဟူသော ကြိယာထောက်များဖြင့် တွဲ၍သုံးစွဲလေ့ရှိသည်။ (သို့ရာတွင် ထိုစာလုံးများပါတိုင်း ဤကာလကို သုံးစွဲရန်မဟုတ်၊ စာကြောင်းသည် အကျင့်၊ စရိုက်၊ ဓလေ့များကို ဖော်ပြသောအခါမှသာ ဤကာလ ကိုသုံးရန်ဖြစ်သည်။)

1. She always tells the truth.
သူမသည် အမြဲတစေ အမှန်တရားကိုပြောလေ့ရှိသည်။
2. He never lies to me.
သူ ကျွန်တော့်ကိုဘယ်တော့မှ လိမ်ပြောလေ့မရှိပါ။
3. She often goes to the cinema.
သူမ ခဏခဏ ရုပ်ရှင်ကြည့်လေ့ရှိသည်။
4. Ma Ma sometimes sings Indian songs.
မမသည် တစ်ခါတစ်ရံ အိန္ဒိယသီချင်းများ ဆိုလေ့ရှိသည်။
5. Ko Ko swims every morning.
ကိုကိုသည် နံနက်တိုင်းရေကူးလေ့ရှိသည်။
6. I usually get up early.
ကျွန်တော်သည် များသောအားဖြင့် စောစောထလေ့ရှိသည်။
7. He generally drinks tea in the morning.
သူသည် အများသောအားဖြင့် လက်ဖက်ရည်ကို နံနက်ခင်းတွင် သောက်လေ့ရှိသည်။
8. Whenever he comes to Yangon, he stays at my house.
သူ ရန်ကုန်လာသောအခါတိုင်း ကျွန်တော့်အိမ်မှာ တည်းခိုလေ့ရှိသည်။
တစ်ခါတစ်ရံ အထက်ပါ ကြိယာဝိသေသနများ မပါသော်လည်း ဖြစ်တတ်သောသဘောကို ပြဆိုသော စာကြောင်းများကို ဤကာလဖြင့်ဖော်ပြရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

- (1) The Ayeyawady flows from north to south.
ဧရာဝတီမြစ်သည် မြောက်မှတောင်သို့စီးဆင်းသည်။
- (2) Birds fly in the air.
ငှက်များသည် လေထဲတွင် ဖျံသန်းသည်။

မှတ်ချက်။ go, come, eat, play စသည့် ကြိယာများဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော စာကြောင်းများကို မေးခွန်း အဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းလိုလျှင် အများကြိယာအတွက် Do အနည်းကြိယာအတွက် Does သုံးရသည်။ အငြင်းဝါကျတွင်လည်း do, does နောက်ကပ်၍ Not ထည့်ရသည်။

1. They love travelling.
Do they love travelling?
They do not love travelling.
2. She eats meat.
Does she eat meat?
She does not eat meat.

(Do, does, did တို့ဖြင့်ဖော်ပြသောအမေးဝါကျနှင့် အငြင်းဝါကျ တို့၌ မူရင်းကြိယာကိုပင် ပြန်သုံးရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)

(B) Present Continuous Tense
(am/is/are + V+ing)

- (a) အကြောင်းအရာ တစ်ရပ် လောလောဆယ်တွင် အချိန်အတန်ကြာ ဆက်တိုက်ဖြစ်ပျက်နေသည်ကို ဤကာလဖြင့် ဖော်ပြရသည်။ ပြောနေသည့်အချိန်၌ပင်လျှင် ထိုအကြောင်းအရာဖြစ်ပျက်နေသည်။
- (b) မြန်မာစာတွင် 'နေ/လျက်ရှိ' ဟူသော ကြိယာထောက်နှင့်တွဲသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
- (c) အင်္ဂလိပ်စာကြောင်းများတွင် Now (,ck) At this moment (ယခုအခိုက်အတန့်တွင်) At present (လောလောဆယ်) Look! (ကြည့်စမ်း) Listen! (နားထောင်စမ်း) စသည်တို့ဖြင့် အများအားဖြင့် တွဲသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

ဥပမာ -

- (1) Mother is cooking dinner now.
အမေ ယခု ညစာချက်နေသည်။
- (2) He is now repairing the car.
သူ ယခုကားပြင်နေသည်။
- (3) They are resting at the moment.
သူတို့ ယခုအခိုက်အတန့်တွင် နားနေကြသည်။
- (4) She is looking for a job at present.
သူမ လောလောဆယ် အလုပ်ရှာနေသည်။
- (5) Look! The boys are playing foot-ball.
ကြည့်စမ်း၊ လူကလေးများ ဘောလုံးကစားနေကြသည်။
- (6) Listen! Ma Ma is singing.
နားထောင်စမ်း၊ မမသီချင်းဆိုနေသည်။
- (7) Don't make noises; Father is sleeping.
မဆူပါနဲ့၊ အဖေအိပ်နေတယ်။
- (8) They are having dinner now.
သူတို့ ယခုညစာစားနေကြသည်။
- (9) At present, he is writing a novel.
ယခု လောလောဆယ် သူ ဝတ္ထုတစ်ပုဒ်ရေးနေသည်။

မှတ်ချက်။ ။သို့ရာတွင် အောက်ပါကြိယာများကိုမူ (ing) ပုံစံ သုံးခဲ့သဖြင့် now, နှင့်တွဲ၍ Present Continuous Tense သဘောမျိုးသုံးသော်လည်း Simple Present Tense (ရိုးရိုးပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကာလ) ဖြင့်သာ ဖော်ပြ ရသည်။ See, hear, love, like, hate (မုန်းသည်) know, understand (နားလည်သည်) believe, think ထင်သည်။ (စဉ်းစားသည် အဖြစ်သုံးခြင်းမဟုတ်) hope, live

ဥပမာ -

1. He understands this lesson now.
သူ ဤသင်ခန်းစာကို ယခုနားလည်ပြီ။
2. I like tea now.
ကျွန်တော် ယခု လက်ဖက်ရည်ကြိုက်သည်။
3. She now hates him.
သူမ ယခု သူ့ကိုမုန်းသည်။

(C) Simple Past Tense
ရိုးရိုးအတိတ်ကာလ

- (a) အတိတ်တစ်ချိန်ချိန်တွင် ဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့၍ အတိတ်၌ပင် ပြီးဆုံးခဲ့သော အကြောင်းအရာများကို ဤကာလ ဖြင့်ဖော်ပြရသည်။ အတိတ်၌ဖြစ်ခဲ့ဖူးသည်ကိုသာ ဖော်ပြလိုရင်းဖြစ်သည်ကို အထူး သတိပြုပါ။

- (b) ထို့ကြောင့် သမိုင်း၊ ရာဇဝင်၊ ဝတ္ထု၊ အထုပ္ပတ္တိတို့ကို ဤကာလဖြင့် ရေးလေ့ရှိသည်။
- (c) ဖြစ်ခြင်းပြု၊ ရှိခြင်းပြုနှင့် ကူညီသော ကြိယာများတွင် was, were ပိုင်ဆိုင်မှုပြ ကြိယာတွင် Had နှင့် ကျန်ကြိယာများ၏ ဒုတိယစာလုံးတို့သည် ဤကာလကိုပြဆိုသည်။
- (d) တိကျသော အချိန်ပိုင်းပြ စာလုံးများ၊ စကားစုများဖြစ်သည့် yesterday, in 1966, last year, five days ago စသည်တို့နှင့် တွဲ၍သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

ဥပမာ-

1. He was a collegian in 1965.
သူ ၁၉၆၅-ခုနှစ်က ကောလိပ်ကျောင်းသားတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
2. They were busy last week.
သူတို့ ယခင်အပတ်က အလုပ်များခဲ့ကြသည်။
3. She had a car last year.
သူမမှာ မနှစ်က ကားတစ်စီးရှိသည်။
4. Ko Ko joined the army six years ago.
ကိုကိုလွန်ခဲ့သောခြောက်နှစ်က စစ်ထဲဝင်ခဲ့သည်။
5. I received her letter yesterday.
ကျွန်တော် သူမ၏စာကို မနေ့က လက်ခံရရှိခဲ့သည်။
6. He was in London in 1960.
သူ ၁၉၆၀-ခုနှစ်က လန်ဒန်မှာရှိခဲ့သည်။
7. Did she go to the cinema last Sunday?
သူမ ပြီးခဲ့သော တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့က ရုပ်ရှင်ကြည့်ခဲ့သလား။
(မေးခွန်းတွင် Did သုံး၍ နောက်မှမူရင်းကြိယာ go လိုက်ရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)
8. He did not listen to the radio last night.
သူ မနေ့ညက ရေဒီယိုနားမထောင်ပါ။
(did not သုံး၍နောက်မှ မူရင်းကြိယာ listen လိုက်ရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)

(D) Present Perfect Tense (Simple)
(Has, have + V3)

- (a) အကြောင်းအရာ တစ်ရပ်သည် အတိတ်တစ်ချိန်ချိန်မှစ၍ ယခုအထိတစ်လျှောက်လုံးဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့သည်ကို ဖော်ပြလိုလျှင် ဤကာလကိုသုံးရသည်။
- (b) အတိတ်တစ်ချိန်ချိန်မှ စတင်ဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့သော်လည်း ယခုတိုင်အောင် အကျိုးသက်ရောက်မှုရှိနေသေး သည်ကိုဖော်ပြလိုလျှင်လည်း ဤကာလကိုသုံးရသည်။
- (c) ထို့ကြောင့် ကျအ (ယခုလေးတွင်) already ပြီးပြီ၊ yet (သေးဘူး)၊ ever (ဘူးသလား)၊ never (ဘယ်တော့မှ) နှင့် once/ twice/ seven time (တစ်ကြိမ်၊ နှစ်ကြိမ်၊ ၇-ကြိမ်) စသည့်အကြိမ်ပြကြိယာဝိသေသနများနှင့် တွဲ၍တွေ့ရတတ်သည်။ ဤစကားလုံးများပါတိုင်း ဤကာလမျိုးသုံးရန်မဟုတ်၊ ပြောလိုသော အကြောင်းအရာပေါ်မူတည်၍ သုံးရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ သို့ရာတွင် များသောအားဖြင့် ဤစကားလုံးများနှင့်တွဲ၍တွေ့ရတတ်သည်။
- (d) ထို့အပြင် အဓိကအားဖြင့် Since (ကတည်းက)နှင့် For တို့နှင့်တွဲ၍ သုံးစွဲလေ့ရှိသည်။
- (e) ဤကြိယာပုံစံ (Verb Form) သည် အတိတ်နှင့်ပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကို တွဲဖက်သုံးစွဲခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

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

How to Teach Cloze Procedure

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CLOZE procedure is the question that is included in the Matriculation Examination English paper. This question is usually set in No. II. Students have to fill 20 blanks in the given passage with the help of 20 given words. (In new question format, 25 words will be given.) The objective of this question is to encourage students to develop their thinking skill, using their grammatical knowledge and vocabulary. However, in practice, it is informally learned that most of the students answer this question by reading the passages by heart. Some teachers seem to encourage students to read the passages by heart. Therefore, this article is to advise how to answer this question. First, all the given words should be classified as whether they are nouns, verbs, adjectives, preposition, etc. In fact, all the words in English can be divided into two groups: content words and structure words. (Some call them eight parts of speech.) Content words are noun, verb, adjectives and adverb. Structure words are pronouns, determiners, prepositions and conjunctions. Students should also know the functions of these words in a sentence. For example, a noun functions as a subject before a verb and either as an object or complement after a verb. Moreover, it also acts as a propositional object after a preposition. Matriculation Examination English paper 2018 will be used as an example. All the given words to be filled in the passage are as follows:

a (article)	and (conj)	and (conj)
are (BE)	been (BE)	circular (adj)
customers (n)	herself (pron)	kept (vb)
of (prep)	operators (n)	perfect (adj)
self-service (n)	self-service (n)	shelves (n)
shops (n)	space (n)	the (article)
tubed (adj)	with (prep)	

During the last few years, there has —(1)— an enormous increase in the number of —(2)—, stores and supermarkets which provide facilities for —(3)—. Their general purpose is to provide goods —(4)— every description attractively and hygienically and in —(5)— condition, so that the customer can serve —(6)—, and then pay for the goods with —(7)— minimum of delay.

The organizer of a —(8)— store have their difficulties. They must display —(9)— great number of goods in a minimum —(10)— without covering up anything. They must deal —(11)— perishable foodstuff requiring different ranges of temperatures; —(12)— they must arrange a speedy flow of —(13)— past the cash registers without overtaxing the —(14)—.

For the purpose of display, many devices —(15)— used such as long lengths of adjustable —(16)— to take various sizes of packs, rotating —(17)— shelves, islands of display stands, racks for —(18)— foods, and multi-tiered mobile stalls. Perishable foodstuffs —(19)— quick frozen fruit, vegetables and meat are —(20)— in refrigerated self-service cabinets, which keep goods at the required temperatures.

Blank 1 should be filled with 'been' because the tense is present perfect which indicates the action started in the past and goes on at present.

To be able to fill blank 2, preposition 'of' before the blank helps the students to know the missing word is noun. Moreover, the two nouns 'store' and 'supermarkets' also help students to guess that the missing word must be noun. Here, the grammar rule- there is noun or noun group after preposition helps students to guess that the missing word is noun. But there are seven nouns in the list. Which noun should be chosen depends on the meaning. This fact points out that students should also have as much vocabulary as they can. Preposition 'for' before blank 3 helps students know that the missing word is noun. According to the meaning, 'self-service' must be filled. But it should be noticed that most of the words in English have more than one meaning and more functions. For instance, the word 'for' can be either preposition or conjunction, depending on its use in the sentence. In the sentence 'He has lived in Labutta for thirty seven years.' the word 'for' is preposition. But in the sentence 'He succeeds in life, for he works hard.' 'for' is conjunction which is the same as the word 'because'. There is another example. In the sentence 'The wind blows in the east.' the word 'wind' is noun. But in the sentence 'Did you remember to wind the clock?' 'wind' is used as a verb. Therefore, teachers should explain their students 'vocabulary in context' which means the meaning of the word also depends on the context in which it is used.

To be able to guess the missing word for blank 4, students should notice the words 'every' and 'description'. The word 'every' is adjective and 'description' is noun. Therefore, before the noun group 'every description' the blank should be filled with preposition 'of'. Another possible hint for this blank is that the noun 'goods' is modified by adjective phrase 'of every description'. In the same way, students should know that blank 5 should be filled with either adjective or article because the blank is between preposition 'in' and noun 'condition'. According to the meaning, it should be filled with 'perfect'. The phrase 'customer can serve' helps the students that the missing word for blank 6 is an object. In this sentence, the subject and the object are the same. Therefore, reflexive pronoun 'herself' should be filled. Blank 7 should be filled with 'the' because the noun 'minimum' becomes definite as it is modified by 'of delay'. Here, students should know the use of 'the'. 'The' is often used before an of-phrase.

Blank 8 is between article 'a' and the noun 'store'. Therefore, the blank should be filled with an adjective. According to the meaning, the noun 'self-service' should be filled. Here, students should also know different forms that are used as adjectives. In compound nouns, the first noun modifies the second noun. Some examples in Grade Ten English text are silver tray, robot body, car factory, beach lovers, mosquito season, etc. Past participle and present participle can also be used as an adjective. Some examples used in the text are the required ghee, a broken pot, frozen food, industrialized countries, a striped candle, descending constellation, breathtaking view, fascinating churches, cooking pot, curling waves, etc. The use of -ed/-en forms of some verbs as adjectives can be studied in Unit 5 of Grade Ten English text. Moreover, teachers should let students know that adjectives can be used in two ways- attributive adjective and predicative adjective. An attributive adjective modifies a

noun. For example, a brave boy. A predicative adjective is used as a verb with verb to be. For example, the boy is brave. Blank 9 is after verb 'display'. So the blank may be object. After this blank, there is adjective and noun 'great number'. Therefore, the missing word must be article 'a'. The phrase 'in a minimum' before blank 10 is the hint for students to be able to guess that the missing word must be a noun. According to the meaning, this blank must be filled with the noun 'space'. In the same way, the phrase 'perishable foodstuffs' after blank 11 is the hint for students to guess which word should be filled in this blank. The blank should be filled with either preposition or article because it is before the noun group 'perishable foodstuffs'. Out of possible answers, this blank should be filled with the preposition 'with'. Another possible hint for this blank is the verb 'deal'. This verb is often followed by the preposition 'with'. Blank 12 should be filled with a conjunction because the first sentence before this blank and the second sentence after it is joined by conjunction. Therefore, this blank is filled with 'and'. The missing word for blank 13 is a noun because it is the prepositional object. According to the meaning, this blank must be filled with the noun 'customers'. The blank 14 is after 'the'. Therefore, it is clear that the blank must be filled with a noun. The suitable noun is 'operator'.

As the sentence with blank 15 is written in passive voice, this blank must be filled with verb to BE. Out of 5 verbs to BE- am, is, are, was, were- 'are' must be filled in this blank as the passage is about the present state of supermarkets and the object is plural noun. To be able to guess the missing word for blank 16, the words 'of adjustable' is the hint. So the blank must be filled with a noun because it is followed by an adjective. The suitable noun for this blank is 'shelves'. The missing word for blank 17 is 'circular' as the blank is before the noun 'shelves'. In the same way, the missing word for blank 18 is also an adjective 'tubed' because of the noun 'foods' after the blank. Blank 19 is between two noun groups 'Perishable foodstuffs' and 'quick frozen food'. So the blank should be filled with conjunction 'and'. The last blank 20 should be filled with a verb and this verb must be past participle as the sentence is written in passive voice.

In fact, the teaching learning process is more complex than we think. Many influencing factors should be considered when there are some weaknesses in the process. In teaching cloze procedure, theoretical level has no weakness. The objective of teaching cloze procedure is to encourage students to have the habit of thinking skill which is very important in 21st century. The weakness lies in the fact that how it is taught. As mentioned in introduction, some teachers ask students to read the passage by heart. Most students can get full marks in this question. But they seldom have reasons why these blanks are filled with these words. Thus, the objective of teaching this cloze procedure is not fulfilled at the performance level. Teachers should realize the objectives of teaching this procedure. Another weakness is because of the given passage. The passage is taken directly from the prescribed text. This fact encourages students to read the passage by heart. If unseen passage is given, the objective of teaching cloze procedure will be more effective. Then students will have no chance of rote learning.

The Shwedagon Pagoda and Some Mythical Images



Night scene of Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

By Meiji Soe
(Culture & Beyond Myanmar)

THERE is a saying, "A visit to Myanmar is incomplete without a visit to the Shwedagon". The Shwedagon pagoda is one of the wonders of the world and it never fails to enchant visitors. It is believed to be the earliest pagoda of the Gautama Buddha Era and is said to have been built on Theinguttara Hill around 400 BC. The perimeter of the base of the pagoda is 1,420 feet and it reaches a height of 326 feet above the platform. It is comprised of not only a single stupa but also a complex of many stupas. The best is surrounded by 62 small stupas with four larger ones facing each of the cardinal directions. There are four entrances to the pagoda and the staircases are lined with shops selling flowers, candles, incense sticks, local-made toys, souvenirs, handicrafts, religious accessories, and lacquer wares, which attract both young and old. When you walk around the pagoda platform, you will see that people are offering water, flowers, candles and incense sticks at their birthday corners. The best time to go to the Shwedagon pagoda is sunset, when the gilded stupa is bathed in the fading rays of the sun and takes on a magical glow.

Two thousand six hundred years ago, several weeks after the Buddha attained enlightenment, two merchant brothers, Tapussa and Bhallika from Okkalapa (an ancient city near Yangon), arrived in India where the Buddha was residing. Both of them were very delight-

ed to hear the Buddha's perfect preaching and offered rice cakes and honey to Him. Some sources said that they were the first two people who paid respects to the Buddha, and the first snacks that Buddha took after his enlightenment were Myanmar rice cakes and honey. They brought eight strands of His sacred hair (four strands of hair for each) of the Buddha, from India, across the ocean. On their way to Myanmar, the two brothers were relieved of two strands of hair by the King of Ajetta. Two more were stolen by the King of the Nagas, who had transformed himself into a human being, and boarded the ship at night. So, by the end of their journey, they had only four strands of hair left. But when they arrived at Okkalapa and opened the casket they had carried the strands of hair in, the two brothers miraculously found eight strands of original hair.

In arrival in Myanmar, a great festival was celebrated by the King for several days in honour of the sacred strands of hair. At first, the King of Okkalapa and two merchant brothers could not find Theinguttara Hill, which was where the Buddha had asked them to enshrine His hair. The Buddha had explained that the relics of three previous Buddhas were previously enshrined there. So, Thag-yarmin (the King of celestial beings) came down to earth and assisted in finding the place. He had to invoke the aid of four spirits; Sule, Amyitha, Yawhani, and Dakkhina. When he discovered the site, it was just a lake and he created the hill within one night. So legend tells us that the Shwedagon is built with the help of

heavenly beings and it is beyond human efforts alone.

In short, not only the participation of the whole city, but also heavenly beings, came into action to fulfill the pagoda's completion. After the pagoda was finished, the earth shook in celebration. The year which the Shwedagon pagoda had been erected was the same with

the year which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment. The Shwedagon pagoda is 2606 years old in 2018.

Nowadays, you can see King of Okkalapa's statue at the north-west corner of the platform and the statue of the king's parents, Thag-yarmin and Mae Lamu, standing at the south-west corner. When you go to the Shwedagon

pagoda, you will see several mythical images including elephants, Nagas (Dragon), Galon (Garuda), Hinthia (Brahminy duck), Kainnara (a couple of mythical birds with human head and body), lions, serpents, ogres, zawgyi (alchemist) and so on. The following are some of the outstanding mythical images at the Shwedagon pagoda.



Manussiha (Lion Man) statue sits at the Tuesday corner of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Manussiha (Lion Man)

One day, while I was working at the office, two of us (Ma Lwin and I) were assigned to send some Singaporean visitors to the Shwedagon pagoda, as the staff of the Protocol department was occupied by another assignment at the time. When we arrived at the Shwedagon pagoda, both of us tried to explain as best as we could. We walked around the pagoda from the right side, as usual. At first, they asked only simple questions. Unexpectedly, I was asked by one of them, "What is that outstanding creature?" indicating the "Manussiha" (မနုဿိဟ). That statue sits at the Tuesday corner of the pagoda. The visitor could not control his curiosity and, to his eyes, it might seem very strange. It is a fabulous creature, with a man's head and the lion's bodies, squatting on forked haunches and looks very similar to the "Sphinx's" in Egypt. The visitor's question was very simple, but the problem was, I didn't know the history of it. I know it only as a mythical being from history. I replied his question simply, "It is a mythical being from history called Manussiha". Luckily, he did not ask me again. I knew that the visitor wanted to know more about it and I, myself, was not satisfied with my answer to him. So one day I asked my uncle who was working in a travel agency about it.

He explained to me. "Manussiha is a very mighty, fabulous creature with a man's head and the lion's hindquarters, always seen squatting on forked haunches. "Manussa" means "human" and "Siha (Thiha)" means "lion" in the Pali language. It means that this mythical being possesses a man's wisdom and a lion's bravery and strength. "Manussiah" has a story, too.

Over two thousand years ago in the capital of "Suvannabhumi", near "Tha-ton", there was a crisis that whenever a baby was born, an ogress would arise from sea to eat the baby. The whole country was in a hopeless situation. At that time, two Buddhist monks, Sona and Uttara, arrived at the capital. These two were the persons who first brought Buddhism to Suvannabhumi. Soon after their arrival, the queen delivered a baby and she asked the monks for help. The two monks prayed and created three thousand "Manussiha" with the help of other holy beings. As usual, a group of ogresses entered the capital to eat the royal baby. When they saw the wonderful creatures "Manussiha", which were much stronger than they were, they ran away. That's the reason why. When a baby is born, people do not say "too fat" or "too heavy", because the ogress might hear and come to give trouble to the baby. Sometimes you may see a small Manussiha pendant hangs around the baby's neck.

I was quite satisfied with his explanation and was as happy as a student who had just passed the examination.

(This article is from "Culture and Beyond Myanmar" book by Meiji Soe)

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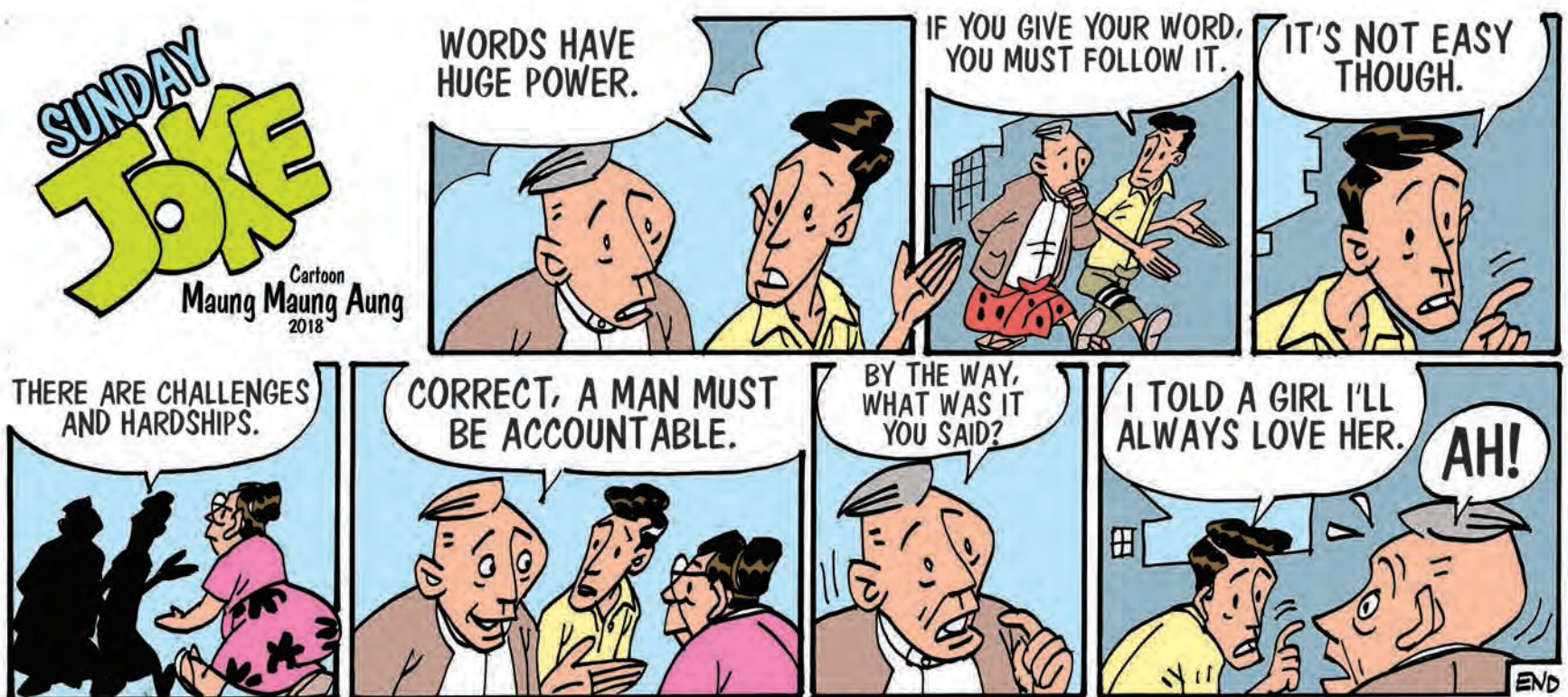
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



Morality that I want to teach our children in the future

Gyaw Orwell

Good morals are necessary for human societies. We must make it, because we need it. How we teach our children today determines the destiny of our future nation. Without being the people of good conduct, a nation cannot prosper.

Some may argue that today popular subjects such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are of most importance. These subjects should be studied first instead of prioritizing the teaching of good morality.

I personally don't agree this view and am going to oppose by firmly saying that our children should be taught first morality instead of other subjects.

The one who don't know the values of integrity may object my opinion and can ask what will be after learning and living with moral values and integrity. Even they will tell me, "You don't know most people are under the control and direction of powerful people and organizations. What are the benefits of teaching good moral to children? And we don't see the benefits of holding good moral ever."

They may be right on their side but they are like a fish in the story that I was told by my friend.

Once there was a fish and a tortoise in the river. The tortoise used to go to land very often. One day, his friend fish asked him, "How you swim on the land." The tortoise replied, "On the land you don't need to swim, you just need to walk." The fish said "walk?" It is like a swimming. The tortoise tried to explain but the fish was unable to understand.

The fish has never been to land. Therefore, he doesn't know what is walking on land. Similarly, the people with bad moral may be still hard or unable to understand the value of good moral. But if they want to understand, it is easy to understand.

They don't know the values of good integrity and they only know about the powerful and successful are their main problems.

Also, Ben Franklin said "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

According to Ben Franklin, the role of virtuous people is visible and essential. Therefore, we should teach



Photo: Phoe Khwar

our children good moral both in schools and at home when they are young and eager to learn.

The prime purpose in our lives is to be good moral person as possible as we can, developing honesty, kindness and compassion as all human beings need these treatments. If you can't do that at least don't teach your children to hurt other.

I believe we can create the peaceful, abundant, reasonably fair nation by giving our children high moral education. We may be at least moderately educated in the future, but we must be the best in morality in the world. We must daily remind our children that "Honest is the best policy. Always be honest." This is the best sentence to change our nation. Thank you.

Always remember where you come from



By Mee Mee
(R.A.S.U)
M.Sc

Each and every time I visit my homeland, I learn and hear more about my father's daily life in Myanmar. One of my memories of him that will stay in my heart is his "Country of Origin" reminder. My father keeps on reminding us that you can be thousand miles away from your home, you can change your dress code, and speak many other languages but you can't forget your "Country of Origin" - Myanmar. This is where you belong and where your life began.

Since childhood, we learn to respect and help each other, and also forgive one another. This is one of

the beautiful national characteristics of Myanmar that is in our blood.

There are many reasons some of us have been away from our homeland. But we can't replace the family that we love, the golden land where we were brought up, the delicious food that we enjoy and the festivals we annually hold.

Our traditional way of wearing longyi, placing thanaka on our faces and adorning our heads with fresh flowers are still in fashion for us. No matter how advanced the technology in the country that we live in, no one can take away our heart, body and soul that was made in Myanmar. Yes father, what you spoke of when we were children of the soil we will never forget, and we will always be proud to be a Myanmar, which is our true "Country of Origin".

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Myanmar Ramayana

(Based on the Sixth of the Ten Great Jatakas)

By Ye Dway

Dasagiri (Rawana), the king of Theinko (Sri Lanka) rudely molests and insults the Ghandaba she-deva on Kelathapha Mountain. The she-deva curses him and descending the earth, is engulfed by hold flames.

Where she died in flames, a lotus-bud appears. Dasagiri, fearing the terrible curse of the she-deva as well as the lotus-bud, puts the lotus-bud in a box and sinks it in the ocean hoping that it would reach the acean-floor.

However, the ocean-current carries it away and eventually reaches the shores of Mithila, the city of being ruled by King Janaka. The king, while holding the ceremony of Ploughing, finds the box and from the lotus-bud is born a beautiful baby-girl. King Janaka names her as Sita and adopts her as his own daughter.

In the meantime, the powerful guardian devas of the earth discuss the destruction of the wicked Dasagiri. Bodhisattva Deva and three others in Tusita celestial adode incarnate as Rama and his three brothers namely; Bharata, Lakhana (Lakshman) and Thatrugana (Satru-ghana) as sons of King Datharatha in Ayuthaya (Ayodhya). Other devas incarnate as Vanaras (apes) in Kitha Kinda country.

Hermit Kotamba goes to King Datharatha in Ayutthaya accompanied by Rama and Lakhana to punish Kakawunna the demon crow causing trouble there with the help of the two brothers. Rama blinds one eye of Kakawunna and drives it away.

Meanwhile, Sita has grown up into a very beautiful maiden and there are a hundred suitors (all of them are kings) for her hand. Janaka solves the problem by sending letters of invitation with pictures of Sita to all of them in order for them to participate in the Bow Lifting, Stringing and Shooting Contest. One letter of invitation reaches Prashu Rama (Purasu Rama) while he is fasting. Angrily, he throws away the invitation letter which, carried away by the wind, reaches Dasagiri.

In the contest, Dasagiri alone is able to lift the bow. Although he cannot string and shoot the bow, he insolently demands the hand of Sita. Rama comes to the rescue, simply to defy Dasagiri. He enters the contest, lifts the bow, strings it, fixes an arrow to it and aims at Dasagiri. Dasagiri goes away in fright.

After the marriage ceremony of Rama and Sita, the couple and Lakhana return to Ayuthaya. On the way, Prashu Rama (Parasu Rama) attempts to fight Rama but he loses and vows allegiance to Rama.

At Ayutthay, Queen Kaike (Kaikeya), being persuaded by the court maiden Kuppaci, reminds King Datharatha of

an earlier solemn promise made by him, and demands that he banishes Rama and enthrone their son Bharata. The king is agonized but Rama begs his father to keep his promise. Amidst deep sorrows of the people of Ayutthaya, Rama departs accompanied by Sita and Lakhana to Hmawyon forest (Dandaka). They arrive at the hermitage of Balamigi (Valmiki).

Grief-stricken, Datharatha dies. Bharata goes to the Hmawyon Forest to seek Rama and begs his half-brother to accept the throne. Bharata has to return to Ayutthaya only with Rama's sandals to symbolize his authority. Rama refuses to break his father's promise and decides to stay in the forest for twelve long years.

Hanuman is a great and powerful Vanara. Hanuman tries to fetch sun mistaking it for his kinbon-fruit. Indra (king of devas) strikes him down with his thunder bolt. But, at the request of his father the god of wind, he is blessed with the boon of immortality. Then, he becomes an ordinary Vanara as a result of the curse of the hermits. Later, at the request of Zambuman (Jambavan) the hermits prophesy that Hanuman would regain his size and strength when he meets a human king of virtue.

After a lapse of eleven years, Rama, Sita and Lakhana arrive at a forest near the sea on their return journey to Ayutthaya. Meanwhile, in the Vanara Kingdom of Kitha Kindha, the monkey king Thugyeik (Sugriva) has to flee from the menace of his elder brother Bali (Vali) who not only has usurped his throne but forcibly married his consort also. Thugyeik, in fleeing reaches the forest where Rama is and hides in a kyo-tree.

As Rama, Sita and Lakhana continue their wandering, Dasagiri's sister Gambi (Thighata) and her two sons Kharu (Khara) and Tuthara (Dushana, Dutha) are also wandering through the same forest and on seeing Rama, attempt to fight Rama's group and they are slain by the two brothers.

Gambi vows vengeance on Rama and runs in haste to Dasagiri and breaks the news of the death of his nephews, and they make plans to abduct Sita. As planned, Mericha, the uncle of Dasagiri, assumes the form of a golden deer and asks Rama to catch it for her as she wishes to keep it as her pet. Rama tells Sita that the deer is not a real one but she would not hear of it. So, Rama goes out after the supposed golden deer. Mericha, imitating Rama's voice, cries for the help of Lakhana. Mericha is then killed by Rama by Rama with an arrow. Rama's seeming cries makes Sita send Lakhana to his brother's rescue. Lakhana also knows that it is a trick but at Sita's insistence, has to go away leaving her alone, protected only by a magic line drawn by him on the ground around her abode and cautioning her not to step out of

the lines under any circumstances, goes away. Dasagiri, in the guise of a hermit, knowing too well the power of Lakhana's magical line, lures Sita outside and abducts her away. Thugyeik, while hiding in the kyo-tree, sees Sita being carried away by Dasagiri in his flying chariot. She manages to drop her emerald shawl down to Thugyeik and asks him to convey it to Rama if he comes across him.

Rama and Kakhana meet again in the forest and they wander in search of Sita. By and by, they come and rest under the kyo-tree on which hides Thugyeik. Rama, tired after long and rough walking in the forest rests his head on one of the laps of Lakhana and sleeps soundly. Then, a giant gadfly comes upon the back of Lakhana and sucks the blood. Lakhana, in spite of the great pain on his back, remains motionless and unflinching lest he should disturb his brother in his peaceful slumber. Thugyeik, seeing love, respect and attachment of the two brothers, thinks of the wicked Bali and as he weeps, and his big tear-drops fall on Rama. Rudely, awakened by the tears, Rama wakes up, sees Thugyeik and takes up his bow. Thugyeik comes down and presents the shawl of Sita to Rama and relates his woe-ful tale. Thugyeik enters into allegiance with Rama and he seeks Rama's help to punish his brother Bali. Rama helps Thugyeik kill Bali and Thugyeik's throne is duly reinstated.

Rama, together with Lakhana, Thugyeik and the Vanara army marches on to the shores of the sea. Rama wishes to send someone as a scout to Theinko-island but the monkey warriors are not capable of leaping across the sea and reach Lanka. Zambuman introduces Hmnuman in the form of a small monkey and explains about his curse. Rama gently strokes three times on his back and Hanuman regains his original size and strength.

Hanuman leaps across the sea, reaches Theinko-island and goes in search of Sita in Dasagiri's palace. In the Theinko palace-garden, he witnesses Sita rejecting Dasagiri's amorous advances. When Sita and Hanuman meet, Hanuman presents her Rama's signet ring.

Then, Hanuman, fights with Indasitta (Indrajit), son of Dasagiri. The demon warriors, after capturing Hanuman try to kill him in many ways but without success. Hanuman tells them that the only way to end his life is to set his tail on fire. He then goes about setting the whole city of Theinko ablaze with the flames on his tail. Then, Hanuman returns to Rama.

Vanaras led by Hanuman build a causeway across the strait and the Vanara army marches on to Theinko. Dasagiri's brother Bibizana (Vibbishana), suggests the demon, king that there will be peace if he surrenders Sita. Dasagiri angrily

banishes Bibizana from his kingdom. Bibizana goes away, meets Rama and pledges allegiance to him.

Rama fights with Indasitta and falls unconscious when hit by the demon's serpent noose. Hanuman goes in haste to Gandamana Mountain and brings back a gigantic chunk bearing Suvanapata roots that revives Rama. Indasitta is invisible to all except someone who has not looked at the face of any woman in twelve years. Lakhana points his finger at Indasitta and Rama shoots an arrow and slays Indasitta. Then follow encounters with Vanaras led by Rama and Dasagiri's demon-warriors.

In the last encounter between Rama and Dasagiri, Rama, at the suggestion of Bibizana, takes up the Divine Bow. Dasagiri, while attempting to fly and flee is shot down by Rama's Divine Arrows.

After the great victory of Rama in Theinko-kingdom, he doubts the chastity of Sita who has been away for a long time in Theinko Island. Sita proves her chastity by making a solemn oath and entering the holy lambent flames without being harmed by the fire.

Bibizana is enthroned as the new king of Theinko kingdom, amidst the jubilation of the people. Rama, Sita and Lakhana accompanied by Hanuman return to Ayutthaya and Rama is crowned as the new king of the great kingdom.

Gambi, vowing greater vengeance on Rama's family in the guise of a woman, enters Sita's palace as a court-maiden and soon becomes of a favourite of the queen. Sita draws a picture of Dasagiri to satisfy the curiosity of Ghambi and Rama learns about it. As Rama goes about in the city incognito at night, he overhears a man doubting the fidelity of his wife who has been away for a long time from home.

Rama, believing Sita to be a faithless woman in spite of her ordeal by fire, banishes her to Balamigi's hermitage. There she gives birth to two sons, Lona and Kusha, and they grow up to become of adulthood there.

Rama, wishing to test the power of his reign, sends out an Athahto Horse all over his kingdom with orders that those who owe allegiance to him shall, on seeing the Horse, send gifts to him while those who do not will be vanquished.

The two sons of Rama, Lona and Kusha, manage to capture the Horse. Fights ensue among Lakhana and Lona and Rama and both of his sons. Sita is grief-stricken, but, later, misunderstanding between Rama, Sita, the two sons and Lakhana is cleared up. All the people who died in the battle are restored to life by the holy water of Balamigi. Finally Rama, Sita, their two sons and Lakhana return to Ayutthaya and the story ends here.

(Excerpts from Stories from the Myanmar Classical Theatre by Ye Dway)