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Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein visit Bogyoke Aung San Museum in preparation for opening the museum on Martyrs's Day. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

NLD holds first Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress in Nay Pyi Taw

The National League for Democracy (NLD) held its first Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress at Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC-2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the event were former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Union Ministers, officials from NLD and invited guests.

The ceremony began with the attendees saluting the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and observing an eight-second silence to honour Bogyoke Aung San, martyrs and those who sacrificed their lives in fighting for democracy.

Later, U Win Htein, member of the Panel of Patrons of the NLD, delivered an opening speech.

Next, Secretary of NLD Central Executive Committee U Han Tha Myint, Chairman of the Union Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, and Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Su Su Lwin delivered speeches.

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Chairman of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee inspect Martyrs' Day ceremony sites

THURA U Aung Ko, the chairman of the 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture addressed the committee meeting held at Arzani Beikman (Martyrs' Mausoleum) in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday. After the address of the Chairman, committee vice chairman and work committee chairman Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein explained

in detail the work of the work committee. Next, officials from the sub-committees explained their respective works via a PowerPoint presentation. Committee Chairman and the Union Minister coordinated the necessary works, and then he went to Arzani Beikman and inspected the preparation works. From there, he went on to the Bogyoke Aung San museum in Bahan Township, where Department of Archaeology and National Museum Director General U

Kyaw Oo Lwin explained the preparations made.

The Union Minister gave necessary instructions to ensure coordination among all the relevant committees and sub-committees to ensure smooth displays, prevent security breaches, improve the weaknesses of the previous year and to ensure there was no lapse in all the works.

The Bogyoke Aung San Museum is open daily to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except

Mondays and public holidays. During the 2018 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day period, arrangements will be made to open the museum to the public from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. from 19 to 21 July. A group led by Special Work Committee Chairman U Nyunt Maung San of Myanmar Engineering Society inspected the structural strength of the museum to ascertain the opening of the museum to the public during this period.

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Loikaw District IPRD upgrades library to community centre

A CEREMONY to upgrade the Loikaw District Information and Public Relations Department library to a people-based community centre and the opening of a mobile library, both jointly organised by the Ministry of Information, Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, was held at Loikaw District IPRD office yesterday morning.

Firstly, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, State Hluttaw Speaker U Hla Htwe, State Minister for Development and Social Affairs Dr. Aung Kyaw Htay, IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing and U Tun Hla Soe from Daw Khin Kyi Foundation cut the ceremonial ribbon in front of the Loikaw District IPRD office, while students provided entertainment with a band and a pom pom troupe.

Next, the union ministers



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits the Community Centre at Loikaw District IPRD. **PHOTO: MNA**

and officials sprinkled scented water on the people-based community centre signboard.

Later, inside the temporary pandal in the people-based community centre compound, the second part of the opening ceremony was continued. In his opening speech, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the Ministry of Information was conducting the

work of providing information, knowledge and entertainment to the public. Information is provided through television and radio broadcast by the Myanmar Radio and Television, through the print media by News and Periodicals Enterprise and on-line by Myanmar Digital News (MDN). News from across the country provided by IPRD offices

were published in state-owned media, as well as on the MOI website. For the development of Myanmar literature, Printing and Publishing Department is presenting the National Literature and Sarpay Beikman awards, arranging a paper reading and book street, and publishing 100 Myanmar books series and a Myanmar encyclopedia. IPRD is increasing the works of establishing direct contact with the people. In addition to establishing children's reading rooms and small museums in IPRD offices and libraries, training courses, talks, discussions, meetings, paper reading circles are being conducted so the places are upgraded and become people-based community centres that are beneficial to the people, where people can gather. Daw Khin Kyi Foundation is also cooperating by setting up a mobile library.

Arrangements are being made to establish book clubs,

youth clubs and woman's clubs at the community centres. More than a hundred public talks were held with the people so far, in line with the democratic practice, said the union minister.

Following this speech, Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho delivered a speech and U Tun Hla Soe from Daw Khin Kyi Foundation spoke about the opening of the mobile library.

On behalf of the local populace, U Moses Aung Lay expressed thanks for the opening of the community centre and the mobile library, and pledged his wholehearted cooperation.

The Union Minister, State Chief Minister, State Hluttaw Speaker and the State government ministers then presented toys to children in the children's reading room and inspected the community centre, library hall, small museum, the training class equipped with laptops, and the discussion rooms. — Kayah State IPRD ■

Myanmar to seek grant from GRF to fight climate change

MYANMAR will seek a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the small grant programme of GEF, said Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win.

"The small grant programme conducted by GEF is an effective programme, and Myanmar will discuss and coordinate with the relevant civil society organisations to submit and conduct it," he said in his speech at the sixth assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Da Nang, Viet Nam which was opened on 27th June.

The opening ceremony of the assembly was held at Ariyana Convention Centre, Da Nang, on the morning of 27 June, where Viet Nam Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc delivered an opening speech. Next, GEF CEO Naoko Ishii delivered an opening remark and explained the schedule of the assembly.

Union Minister U Ohn Win spoke of numerous man-made environmental problems and humans demanding more than the world could provide. At this stage, the support of GEF in abiding by the international environmental agreements is important. Myanmar is participating and cooperating in many international envi-



Union Minister U Ohn Win delivers the speech at the sixth assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Da Nang, Viet Nam. **PHOTO: MNA**

ronmental agreements. However, as Myanmar is one of the least developed countries (LDCs), the support of GEF helps to include environmental matters in the development sectors of Myanmar, and Myanmar is fulfilling its pledges on climate change and sustainable development.

During the GEF-7 replenishment period, based on experience obtained from GEF-5 and GEF-6 periods, arrangements were made to resolve climate change and environmental problems effectively, said U Ohn Win.

A transparent cooperation with GEF agencies to utilise effectively the GEF funds, provided according to the requirement of

each country, is important. Myanmar recognises the efforts of the GEF secretariat and the GEF council during the GEF-6 period. The works of the GEF secretariat and GEF council is important to resolve the world's environmental problems.

The GEF and developed countries will acknowledge the provision of funds to LDCs for them to successfully fulfil the international environmental and climate change pledges, resolve the climate and environmental problems and achieve sustainable development. The union minister and delegation also attended the plenary sessions and round-table discussion of

high-level officials during the 6th Assembly of the GEF.

The union minister and delegation separately received International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Director Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji and party, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Deputy Director-General Mrs. Maria Semedo and party, a delegation led by Ms. Srabani Roy of Conservation International (CI) and Fauna and Flora International (FFI), and a delegation led by Dr. Yoji Natori of GEF Satoyama Initiatives on 27 June, European Investment Bank (EIB) Director Ms. Maria Shaw-Barragan and

delegation, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) US President Mr. Carter Roberts and delegation, and World Bank Senior Director Ms. Karin Kemper and delegation on 28 June to discuss possible future cooperation, environmental protection, management matters and proposed projects during the GEF-7 Replenishment period.

On 29 June, the union minister visited Hao Khanh Ecopark in Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, where DIC Da Nang company produced roofing materials and studied the management of waste products. The visit was jointly organised by the government of Viet Nam and GEF. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Unity in its real essence

Unity must have a common interest, a common sense of working together and a common objective, for the independence of the whole country and the interests of the whole populace. Unity must work for the people so that they can enjoy shared well-being and shared cause in working together. It is not enough just to say that we want to be united. Labour must be shared, and interests must be shared. Our objective must be the same. Only this kind of effort is worth calling "Unity".

(Excerpt from the speech addressed by Bogoyoke Aung San at the AFPFL Conference on 23rd January 1946)



NLD holds first Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress in Nay Pyi Taw

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Later, Chairman of the Central Women's Committee Dr. May Win Myint read the Central Women's Work Committee report, followed by Dr. Mya Thida and Dr. Pyone Mo Ei reading and discussing their team's works.

Following this, the attendees took a commemorative group photograph.

After the opening ceremony, a congress was held where state/region women's work committees read their respective reports. The first Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress of NLD will be held for three days from 30 June to 2 July. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Attendees pose for the commemorative photo at the Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Meeting held to implement work for rehabilitation of drug addicts

WITH the National Drug Control Policy enacted to prevent the abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances, a work coordination meeting to systematically rehabilitate drug addicts was held yesterday in the meeting hall of the Department of Social Welfare, Yangon Region. Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended and addressed the meeting.

In his address, the Union Minister said that the rehabilitation of drug addicts supports the rule of law in the country and socio-economic development and thus is one of the priority works. In the speech delivered by the President at the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 June, one of the future work processes to be conducted was the treating of drug addicts and increasing cooperation with



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye addresses the meeting for rehabilitating drug addicts in Yangon.

PHOTO: MNA

philanthropic organisations, civil society organisations and the public.

"The cooperating organisations, departments and altruistic people need to conduct this with

patients, with determination and with forfeit of their own comforts", he said.

The Union Minister also spoke about establishing a fund for rehabilitating drug addicts,

providing livelihood training so that the addicts do not return to drugs, creating staff and youth volunteers who can provide mental and physical training systematically and drawing up

a good programme for future works.

Next, officials from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA) and anti-drug associations from Mandalay explained their respective works, discussed a training course guide and training course handbook that are in accord with international guidelines and conducting capacity building courses within a short time frame.

The coordination meeting was attended by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control members and rehabilitation work group chairman Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, officials from UNODC, MANA and Mandalay anti-drug association, officials from Department of Social Welfare and Department of Rehabilitation, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Myanmar living condition survey 2017 issued in Nay Pyi Taw

By Nyein Nyein

THE government issued the Myanmar living condition survey 2017 for the first time in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 June, with the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

The survey is a comprehensive study of how people in Myanmar live. The survey data can provide the much needed national data for selected targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as well as formulate a responsive policy for the future development of the country, according to the

UNDP. The Myanmar living condition survey 2017 was conducted in 296 of the 330 townships of Myanmar from December 2016 to December 2017. The survey is representative of the union territory, its states and regions, as well as urban and rural areas.

The report shows the development of the living conditions in Myanmar in the past 10 years. Especially, Myanmar has witnessed more development during the term of the incumbent government in the last two years. The developments were in the fields of electricity access, education, accessory

ownership and the use of technology.

In 2015, only 3.4 million households had access to electricity in Myanmar. However, in 2017, some 4.5 million households have access to electricity. The local people are using more household items, according to the report.

Between 2010 and 2017, the middle school enrolment rates in rural areas increased by some 20 percentage points, while the high school enrolment rate nearly doubled in the rural areas during the same period.

The gap between rural and urban areas in phone owner-

ship expanded in the period immediately following the telecommunications reforms in 2014, but it had contracted by 2017. The report showed the supportive data to determine the condition of the people across the country, said Mr. Peter Batchelo, director of UNDP (Myanmar programme).

The Myanmar living condition survey 2017 was issued in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 June. The ceremony was attended by Health and Sports Union Minister Dr. Myint Htway and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye. ■

Illegal areca nut found from three trucks in Kayin State

ILLEGAL areca nuts were recovered from three trucks in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, on 28 June, by an Illegal Trade Controlled team that was checking the vehicles with a mobile system to control illegal trading in Kayin State.

According to the investigation, the team was checking the vehicles at the Myaing Kalay junction, Hap-an -Thaton road, Hap-an township, on 28 June around 12:45. The team stopped a truck driven by Myint Thut Aung, 31, along with a truck conductor identified as Sai Myo Aung, 29, on board, and found 305 areca nuts weighing 16,165 viss from the truck. Then, the team stopped another truck driven by Aung Moe Thu, 27, with Sithu, alias Zaw Thint, 20, on board and

found 305 areca nuts weighing 16,165 viss from the truck.

The team also stopped a third truck driven by Thet Wai Lin, 25, along with a truck conductor identified as Thet Naing Lin, 25, on board, and found 408 areca nuts weighing 19,584 viss in the last truck. The team found that the areca nuts were illegally imported from other countries. The police have filed charges against them at the Hpa-an Myoma police station.

The Kayin State Illegal Trade Controlled team, comprising officers from state-level related departments, was formed on 13 June by the Kayin State government. Recently, the team was led by the Kayin State Police Col- Kyi Lin.—Min Thu/ Tun Tun Htway (Hpa-An) ■



Seized illegal truck loaded with areca nut bags in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, on 28 June. **PHOTO: MIN TUN**

260 apartments available for civil servants

THE Aung Myay Mandalay residential complex with 260 apartments that have been constructed with funds of Mandalay Regional government will provide accommodations for civil servants.

Staff and teachers who earn a low income in Mandalay Region will be prioritized at the Aung Myay Mandalay staff complex. "Since the con-

struction of these apartments has been completed, civil servants will be able to move into the new apartments as soon as electric meter boxes are installed" said director U Thet Naing from the regional urban and housing development department.

There are over 1,000 applicants who wish to reside at the residential complex but

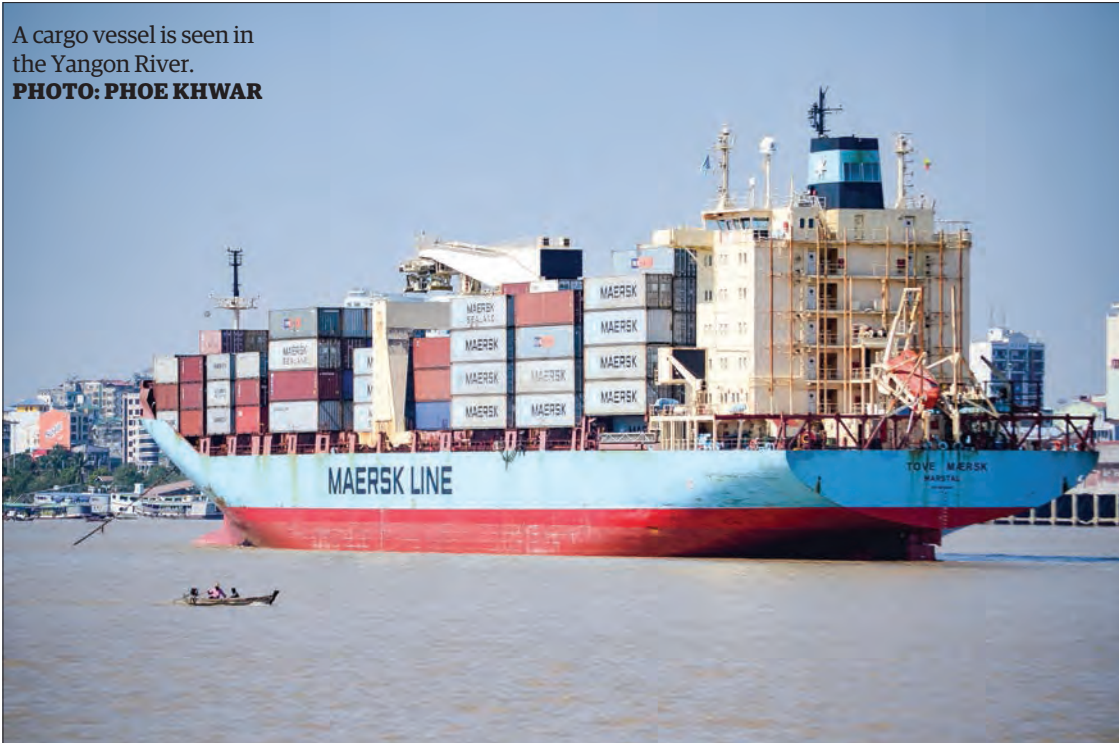
the number of applicants will decrease because some civil servants have resigned, been transferred to a new location or have retired.

"There are 529 application forms and the members of regional Hluttaw and officials are selecting the application forms in accordance with the designated rules and regulations. The list of those who

can reside at the civil servant housing complex will be announced soon" he added.

Now, there are 56,162 civil servants in Mandalay Region, however 3,030 apartments have been constructed so only 5.39 per cent of residential buildings have been constructed for civil servants in the Mandalay Region.—Myanmar Digital News ■

A cargo vessel is seen in the Yangon River.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



Maritime trade up by \$886 million in current FY

MYANMAR'S maritime trade with international traders in the current financial year (FY) was valued at US\$6.24 billion, which saw an increase by \$886 million compared to the same period in the last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

This time last year, the country's external trade by sea was worth \$5.35 billion.

Between 1 April and 22 June this year, Myanmar exported domestic products worth \$2.45 billion to partner trading countries via the sea route, while it

imported goods with a value of nearly \$4 billion.

Myanmar conducts export/import trade not only through the maritime route but also through border crossings. During the period, Myanmar's total external trade topped \$7.98 billion, with border trade amounting to \$1.744 billion.

The country principally imports three groups of products from foreign countries — capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods. The country's major exports are divided into

six groups, consisting of agriculture products, animal and fisheries products, minerals, forest products and manufacturing goods.

According to the ministry's yearly statistical reports, Myanmar's maritime trade totalled \$25 billion in the last FY of 2017-2018. The country's foreign trade by sea was \$14.7 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, \$20.4 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$22.4 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$20.6 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, and \$21.4 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.—Shwe Khine ■

Private sector exports of agricultural products continue to decline

THE export value of agricultural products by the private sector dropped by almost US\$130 million in the current six-month interim fiscal year starting this April, according to the commerce ministry's weekly statistical report.

The value of agricultural product exports this year declined to \$614 million from \$743 million during the same period last year.

The public sector did not conduct any export deals this year. Usually, the vast majority of agricultural exports is conducted by the private sector via both border and non-border routes.

From 1 April through 22 June, the country exported animal products worth \$54.8 million, marine products worth \$134.4 million and mineral products worth \$281.4 million. The export value of manufactured goods was es-



A man fertilizing bean plants at a farm. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

timated at \$1.694 billion, of forest products at \$41 million and of other miscellaneous items at \$304 million.

Trade authorities are making concerted efforts to boost the country's agricultural exports, in cooperation with pri-

vate businesspersons, seeking suitable methods of cultivation to increase productivity. Myanmar conducts trade with ASEAN member states, East Asian countries, some European nations and African states, mainly through sea routes.—Swe Nyein ■

Myanmar-Malaysia trade tops \$85.8 million this April

TRADE between Myanmar and Malaysia totalled US\$85.8 million in the first month of this fiscal year (FY), according to the monthly data report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The total bilateral trade included nearly \$20 million in exports and \$65.8 million in imports.

Normally, Myanmar exports marine products, clothes, forest-based products and agricultural commodities to Malaysia. Its imports from the ASEAN member state include oil, consumer products, intermediate goods, plastic ware, chemicals, stone and glass, footwear, minerals, metals, construction appliances, wire, medical products and electron-

ic devices, among other things.

The commerce ministry's yearly statistics showed that the Myanmar-Malaysia trade topped \$1.09 billion in the last 2017-2018 FY. The bilateral trade was valued at \$980 million in the 2016-17 FY, \$750 million in the 2015-16 FY, more than \$1 billion in the 2014-15 FY, \$948 million in the 2013-14 FY, \$458 million in the 2012-13 FY and \$455 million in the 2011-12 FY.

Myanmar received Malaysian investments worth \$21.877 million in the last 2017-2018 FY; however, there was no investment from Malaysia in the first month of this FY, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Khine Khant ■

Myanmar-Singapore job expo to be held on 14-15 July in S'pore

A MYANMAR-SINGAPORE job expo with more than 2,000 job vacancies is planned to be held in Singapore in the middle of this month, welcoming job seekers to come and join the event, according to JobNet.com.mm, an online job and career website.

The new job fair will focus mainly on Myanmar migrant workers in Singapore to help them find the best professions that fit their personalities. The event is due to take place at Raffles City Convention Centre in Singapore between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on 14 and 15 July.

Nearly 20 Myanmar-based local and foreign companies, including Co-operative Bank (CB), Capital Diamond Star

Group (CDSG), Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), Myanmar Net and Oway, will offer more than 2,000 jobs to eligible job hunters through the two-day event.

It is also aimed at creating suitable employment opportunities for skilled migrant workers to attract them to return to their homeland, as companies operating in the country need more qualified employees to extend their businesses.

According to JobNet.com.mm, the most in-demand jobs are in the manufacturing, administration, human resources management, engineering, ICT, sales and marketing, and the public relations sectors.—Kyu Kyu ■

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Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and officials inspect the preparation works for convening the 71st Anniversary of the Martyrs' Day at Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Chairman of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee ...

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As the building was built for the family of Bogoyoke Aung San only and the building was already 97 years old, the first floor was found structurally weak to support a large numbers of visitors. During a single day of the 2017 70th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day, there were 72,268 visitors and such large numbers would be beyond the bearable load of the structure. As per the sugges-

tion of the Myanmar Engineering Society, only the ground floor of the museum will be opened to the public during this year Martyrs' Day period and the displays on the first floor will be shown via an LED Board in the compound instead. From 22 July, except for Mondays and public holidays, the museum will be opened from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the public will be able to access both the ground floor and first floor.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Loikaw community centre holds Book Club reading circle

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended and addressed a Book Club reading circle held in the Loikaw District people-based community centre yesterday morning.

The reading circle was also attended by Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, State Hluttaw Speaker U Hla Htwe, state ministers, officials and books and journals enthusiasts.

At the reading circle, a book review on Author Aung Thin's book was conducted by Book Club chairman U Soe Yazar Win (writer Saya Soe Nyunt Wai-Loikaw), members Dr. Zin Min Tun (Shwe Loikaw philanthropic association), Dr. Yu Yu Tun (Loikaw University), U Aung Naing (Shwe Baho Clothes Store) and Sai Aung Thu Lin (high court advocate).



Book Club reading circle held at the Loikaw District community centre in Loikaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterwards, questions raised by books and journals enthusiasts in attendance were answered by the Book Club reading circle participants.

District/township offices and people's libraries of the Ministry of Information, Information and Public Relations Department

were being upgraded to people-based community centres with an aim toward developing Myanmar literature through the gathering of literature enthusiasts there, forming Book Clubs and conducting reading circles, literature conferences and book reviews.—Kayah State IPRD ■

Workshop held to amend 1995 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rule

THE opening ceremony for a workshop to amend the 1995 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rule was held in Nay Pyi Taw at the Park Royal Hotel on Saturday.

The meeting was attended by Myanmar Police Force Deputy Chief (1) Police Brig-Gen Myo Swe Win, representatives from Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, commander of Anti-Narcotics Task Force Police Brig-Gen Myint Aung and high ranking officials, related ministerial departments, invited representatives, National

Programme Specialist Dr. Win Mar of the Yangon-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) office and representatives. At the ceremony, Myanmar Police Force Deputy Chief (1) Police Brig-Gen Myo Swe Win and UNODC National Programme Specialists Dr. Win Mar delivered opening speeches. At the workshop, Brig-Gen Myint Aung chaired the workshop and discussed in detail how to amend the 1995 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rule, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Journalists leave Sittway for Yangon. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

Myanmar nationals released from detention in China transferred back through Muse

Myanmar nationals released after being detained in China for various reasons were transferred back to Shan State (north), Muse Town, the Myanmar-China border gate (Shwe Nan Daw gate), on 28 June.

The detained Myanmar nationals were from various regions of Myanmar and entered and worked in Chinese towns such as Ruili and Mangshi by crossing the border illegally or legally with seven-day red pass books.

They were detained for crossing the border illegally, working or staying illegally, and

it was learnt that there will be more restrictions against such activities.

A Kachin national, Ko Gam Sai Aung, from Momauk Township, Kachin State, who was released from detention said: "I crossed into China from Kachin State's Kampaikti border gate with a red pass book and worked as a daily wage mason at a Mangshi construction site. I received a daily rate of 80 yuan (Ks16,000). The Chinese police from Mangshi arrested me after I worked there for more than half a month, some 17 days. My employer didn't bail

me out, and I was detained. I have not received my wages yet."

More than 300 detained Myanmar nationals were released, and they were assessed and accepted by the Myanmar immigration officials at the Shwe Nan Daw gate.

The detained persons were first checked to determine if they were drug users. Drug users are being sent to the Chinese prison to do hard labour. Those found to be not using drugs were detained at detention centres and then released. —District IPRD ■

Media group reports IDP camp in Rakhine State

LOCAL and foreign media groups, who were in Sittway, Rakhine State, went to the internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Thetkel Pyin Village yesterday morning.

The media group met the

families staying at the IDP camp and discussed their difficulties in boarding and lodging, education and healthcare.

In the afternoon, the media group left for Yangon from Sittway Airport.—Aung Thura, Han Lin Naing ■



The Seonamsa temple in South Jeolla province is one of seven ancient South Korean temples to be listed by UNESCO. **PHOTO: AFP**

UNESCO lists Korean mountain Buddhist temples as World Heritage sites

MANAMA (Bahrain) — Seven ancient Korean mountain temples, which typify the way Buddhism in the country has merged with indigenous beliefs and styles, were listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites on Saturday.

The seven mountain temples — Seonamsa, Daeheungsa, Beopjusa, Magoksa, Tongdosa, Bongjeongsa, Buseoksa — were all established during the Three Kingdoms period that lasted until the 7th century AD.

UNESCO made the announcement at a meeting in the Bahraini capital Manama.

“These mountain monasteries are sacred places, which have survived as living centres of faith and daily religious practice to the present,” UNESCO said in a press statement.

Buddhism was imported to the Korean peninsula in the

fourth century and accepted by the ancient kingdoms of Goguryeo, Baekje and Silla, establishing it as the national religion for more than 1,000 years.

During the religion’s heyday in the fifth and sixth centuries many houses of worship were built under strong state patronage, accelerating the importation of Buddhist culture, architecture and style.

Over time elements of traditional Korean beliefs merged into the religion, forming the Tong Buddhist doctrine, meaning consolidation or integration, and temple architectural layouts followed suit.

Buildings were constructed in supposedly auspicious locations and many temples set up in hilly areas, in line with the traditional Korean reverence for mountains and the Zen focus on meditation in a calm envi-

ronment. Temples were built on high positions protected by hills and commanding an open view over other mountains.

A typical mountain temple has a long winding entrance path up the slope, buildings laid out in a square with an inner courtyard in the middle.

The most important hall is on the highest level at the back, and halls for meditation, everyday living areas for monks, and a pavilion form the other three sides.

But Buddhism’s influence began to wane after the Chosun dynasty, which took over in the 14th century, adopted Confucianism as its ideology and launched an extensive and enduring crackdown on the religion. It forced many urban temples to close, leaving only those in remote hills to survive. —AFP ■

Revenge of a forgotten medical ‘genius’

BUDAPEST (HUNGARY) — It’s not an uncommon fate for a pioneering scientist: languishing unrecognised in his time before dying in obscurity. But as his 200th birthday approaches, the life-saving work of a Hungarian obstetrician is finally getting its due.

Decades before Louis Pasteur won widespread acceptance for the germ theory of disease, Ignaz Semmelweis was battling his peers to accept what is today medical orthodoxy — doctors should thoroughly disinfect their hands before treating patients.

Born on July 1 1818, Semmelweis joined the obstetrics department of Vienna’s general hospital in 1846 and was immediately struck by the extremely high maternal mortality rate in the wing where student doctors trained: it stood at more than 10 percent, at times going up to almost 40 per cent.

By contrast, in the neighbouring wing where midwives trained, the rate stayed under the contemporary average of three percent. “This disparity troubled Semmelweis enormously and he started a thorough epidemiological study,” says Bernhard Kuenburg, president of Vienna’s Semmelweis Foundation.

In 1847, the penny dropped when a colleague died of septicæmia after carrying out an autopsy: Semmelweis surmised that dead bodies must hold invisible but potentially deadly “particles”.

“At the time, medical students went directly from an autopsy to assist with a labour without disinfecting their hands,” Kuenburg told AFP.

With soap not being enough

to fix the problem, Semmelweis imposed a more rigorous regime of hand-washing for five minutes with a harsh chlorinated lime solution.

With this “very simple method” Semmelweis slashed the mortality rate “to almost zero,” Kuenburg says.

Fiery disposition

But instead of plaudits, Semmelweis suffered the wrath of the grandees of Vienna’s medical fraternity and in 1849 his contract was not renewed.

“The self-estimation of the doctors was very high back at this time. Of course they were offended because they didn’t like the idea that they were guilty of causing this terrible mortality rate,” Kuenburg says.

Moreover, it would still be a quarter of a century before Pasteur was finally able to prove the existence of “microbes”.

Other doctors demanded evidence, according to Kuenburg. “They said: ‘No, Mr Semmelweis cannot be right. He cannot show us the pathogens so something is fishy with this theory.’”

And Semmelweis’s fiery disposition and lack of tact didn’t help — he did not shrink from calling colleagues “killers”. Towards the end of his life his mental health deteriorated and he died in an asylum in 1865, at the age of 47.

100 deaths a day in the EU

At the end of the 19th Century Semmelweis’s reputation began to be rehabilitated after the discoveries of Pasteur, Robert Koch and Alexandre Yersin bore out his theories. In 1924 the French writer Louis-Ferdinand Celine dedicated a medical thesis to him and hailed him as a “genius”. —AFP ■



With his 200th birthday approaching, the life-saving work of Hungarian obstetrician Ignaz Semmelweis is finally getting its due. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sri Lankan PM says southern port to trigger mega economic development

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe Saturday said that the Hambantota Port in southern Sri Lanka will trigger off much needed economic development of backward districts and dismissed allegations that it would be used for military purposes by any foreign country.

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority signed an agreement with

China Merchants Port Holdings in July last year to manage the port.

In a statement released by the Prime Minister’s Office, it said the agreement over the Port deal was beneficial to both Sri Lanka and China and there was no need for concern as the security of the port would be under control of the Sri Lanka Navy.

The statement further said

that no navy in the region had the capacity to land an army division in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka’s Ports Minister Mahinda Samarasingha also stressed on Friday that the agreement to manage the Port between China and Sri Lanka was purely commercial and refuted allegations that the port would be used for military purposes. —Xinhua ■

Safety helmet standard should be within reach of every user

THREATS to road safety are increasing, and the world is putting great emphasis on better safety to contain these threats. In Myanmar, the National Road Safety Action Plan (2014-2020) has been drawn and implemented.

The road and vehicle safety work processes of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) are of great importance for Myanmar, where there are more cars on the road and where many people ride motorcycles, especially in rural areas.

Traffic and road accidents cannot be foreseen but are preventable. We saw that fatalities and injuries from traffic and road accidents were reduced during the 2018 New Year Thingyan period due to strict enforcement of traffic rules and cooperation of the people.

The NRSC has specified the curriculum, layout, number of training cars and qualification of the trainers in a training school.

For the success of these processes, there is a need to train and educate road users, enact vehicle and traffic rules, provide encouragement, perform inspections and take action to obey the rules.

Meanwhile, we have seen an increase in the number of deaths of motorcycle users for not wearing helmets or wearing low-quality helmets.

With many people using motorcycles, the drive toward wearing quality helmets is the work that would allow the NRSC Action Plan to be successful.

The NRSC will conduct a Development of Myanmar Motorcycle Safety Helmet Standard Workshop to specify what a quality helmet is. When a standard is set, it should be within reach, both financially and literally, of the majority of the people and ensure the safety of the users.

If drivers and road users follow the vehicle, traffic and road rules, loss of property, lives and limbs could be reduced significantly.

Authorities are carrying out surprise checks and taking action against unlicensed motorbikes and traffic rule breakers nationwide, but they still face challenges.

Nationwide, people ride motorbikes because they can afford to buy them. Motorbikes are dangerous, but people continue to use them.

They cannot afford cars, and using motorbikes as taxis is an easy way for them to earn money. They are good for business, but not good for their safety.

Programmes need to be drawn up and implemented to reduce road accidents and fatalities first. Road safety will be achieved only with the cooperation of the people.

For the success of these processes, there is a need to train and educate road users, enact vehicle and traffic rules, provide encouragement, perform inspections and take action to obey the rules.

Theoretically, awareness-raising and education can be seen as the key in reducing the number of road accidents and deaths.

However, without the cooperation of the people, we cannot solve the problem. Public campaigns alone will not eradicate the deaths and injuries. We hope that the country will achieve success in reducing road accidents thanks to the cooperation of the people. ■

Listen, watch, learn : increase awareness of drug abuse dangers

By Shin Min

ILLCIT drug use is increasing in Myanmar, and a sophisticated approach is needed to combat this scourge that includes addiction treatment, appeals to the public to report drug trafficking and matching the technology of drug dealers in order to apprehend them, President U Win Myint said on the International Day Against Drug Abuse.

“Organised crime groups continue to use the drug business as their primary source of funding and use more advanced technology. In term of new modus operandi committed by the groups, much more needs to be done to use technology-led investigation and to intensify synchronised coordination among governmental departments”, said President U Win Myint at a speech marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in

Nay Pyi Taw on 27 June.

The President said that drug abuse was increasing and ruining the lives of youths. Therefore, more efforts are needed to combat the drug abuse as a national duty. Moreover, work needs to be conducted according to the UN Convention and must be done in cooperation with UN member countries, international organisations, regional organisations, local and international non-governmental organisations and the people.

“People are aware of the menace of drugs and it is necessary to focus our attention on the large operators who are engaged in production, distribution and storage of these drugs. In cases where we have an individual who turns a blind eye or knowingly fails to take action, while narcotic and psychotropic drugs are being traded freely, we need to take action against the person who has primary

responsibility. At the same time we need to take stringent action in cases where we lose track of the perpetrators, and cases of abandoned ownerless drugs. We need to give more authority to drug enforcement police officers and on the other hand we need to make the reward and punishment system more effective”, the President said.

The dangers of drugs need to be communicated widely to the public, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts needs to be conducted. In addition, effective punishment must be made for planting, producing, possessing, transporting, distributing and selling drugs, he said.

The President's Office has formed the “Drug Abuse Reporting Department” with executive order (187/2018) on 22-06-2018 so that the public may provide information relating to the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

without fear of repercussions or threat to personal safety. As a result, anyone with information that can assist in preventing the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances can contact the department's telephone, fax or email, shown below, during hours.

Arrangements are being made to properly reward any informants who will report the department regarding drug abuse and illicit trafficking, in return, no information would be released about those who provided secret information for their personal safety. Moreover the government would provide appropriate shares of money as a reward.

As for the Drug Abuse Reporting Department, they will carry out operations against those planting opium poppies, manufacturing drugs, or involvement in drug trafficking. In order to carry out more effective changes by paving the way for local people and civil society groups to participate and by revising the performance of these organisations.

In order to tackle drug problems, the successive governments made efforts against drug problems. Myanmar had signed three international drug control conventions, the drug laws also had been promulgated and the drug control authority established in compliance with the international conventions and the drug control projects have been implemented in various area of drug control.

The new drug policy encompasses all aspects including supply reduction and alternative development aiming to reduction of opium cultivation and drug production; demand reduction and harm reduction to reduce the drug use; international cooperation; improving research and analysis sectors and finally respect to human rights; and the policy prioritises the focus towards the development of livelihood of all citizens by



Office of the President Drug Abuse Reporting Department “Safely report on drug use and abuse”

1. The President's Office has formed the “**Drug Abuse Reporting Department**” with executive order (187/2018) on 22-6-2018 so that the public may provide information relating to abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, without fear of repercussions or threat to personal safety.
2. Anyone with information that can assist in preventing the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances can contact the department's telephone, fax or email, shown below, during working hours.

Contact Info
Telephone - 067-590200
Fax - 067-590233
Email - antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

means of reducing level of drug problem.

The government has made concerted efforts in rural development and to enhance the livelihoods of indigenous people under the national poverty alleviation programme in order to develop areas that are currently being used for opium poppy cultivation. Moreover, the relevant ministries have been providing assistance to local farmers to establish the livestock and agriculture farms that would be adopted with local situation. Apart from the centre-based treatment; it has been carrying out community-based treatment and also undertaking one stop service programmes to access all services in one place. Furthermore, harm reduction programmes have been implemented in cooperation with UNAIDS, INGOs and NGOs in order to reduce the prevalence of HIV, Hepatitis B, C and blood-borne diseases which came out as a consequence of injecting drug use.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has established Rehabilitation Centres and is providing vocational trainings and other rehab programmes in order for addicts to reintegrate into their community. After reintegration into the community, CoC services are being delivered by the voluntary drug supervising associations in order to prevent

relapse. Preventive education is an effective way to reduce illicit drug use. Thus, knowledge on the dangers of drugs must be provided to students at the beginning of an early age.

The theme of this year for International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking “Listen First” to help children and youth grow healthy and safe.

“In accord with this year's motto, we hereby call on our people to listen to the concerns and needs of our youth and simultaneously support their development and health by reducing drug abuse. It is an initiative to increase support for prevention of drug use that is based on science and is thus an effective investment in the well-being of children and youth, their families and their communities”, the President said. “With the aim of raising awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society, the government has adopted a new drug control policy which is in compliance with the outcome document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly of Special Session on World Drug Problem in order to continue sustainable efforts on drug control interventions”. ■

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung



100% chance of isolated rain, thunder showers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay

THERE is 100 per cent chance of isolated rain or thunder showers in the neighbouring areas of Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay in the next two days, as the monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily weather report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar's waters, and the wave height will be some 3-7 feet off and along the Myanmar coast.— GNLM ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 30th June, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1st JULY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, Southern Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3- 7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st JUNE, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st JUNE, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st JUNE, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

Trump administration says longstanding court decree allows detaining migrant families

WASHINGTON — The White House intends to detain migrant families together but might therefore hold children longer than previously allowed, according to new court documents filed by the US Justice Department.

“The government will not separate families but detain families together during the pendency of immigration proceedings when they are apprehended at or between ports of entry,” the Justice Department said in documents filed Friday as the Donald Trump administration struggles to quell fury over the controversial separation of minors from their families.

In Los Angeles, a decades-old federal court settlement known as the Flores Agreement mandates immigration officials release detained minors if they are held more than 20 days.

In a separate case a US district judge in San Diego on

Tuesday ordered that divided families be reunited within 30 days — and two weeks in cases involving children under five. The Justice Department submission to the US judge in charge of the Flores Agreement calls attention to what it sees as a conflict between the two cases, saying the longstanding agreement “put the government in the difficult position of having to separate families if it decides it should detain parents for immigration purposes.”

“The rulings work together to permit detention of parents with their minor children with whom they are apprehended,” the government said, adding that an “amendment of the Flores Agreement is appropriate to address this issue.”

The filing does not say outright that the White House will detain families longer than 20 days but rather for the “penden-

cy” of immigration proceedings — which could last months.

Faced with a barrage of criticism both at home and abroad Trump last week signed an executive order to halt the family separation practice, but made no specific provisions for those already split apart.

Some 2,000 children remain split from their parents, according to official figures released last weekend in the wake of international outrage over the stripping of minors from their parents believed to have crossed illegally at the US-Mexico border.

Trump has made fighting immigration — both illegal and legal — one of the most sacred mantras of his fiercely US-centered policy agenda. Many trying to cross the US-Mexico border are destitute people fleeing gang violence and other turmoil in Central America.—AFP ■



Lieutenant General Hun Manet (L), the eldest son of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, speaks to Cambodia's Military Police chief Sao Sokha (R) during a ground breaking ceremony at the Ministry of National Defense in Phnom Penh on 30 June, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cambodian strongman's son assumes powerful military roles

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia) — The son of Cambodia's long-serving Prime Minister was promoted to two senior military posts on Saturday as his father looks to widen his family's influence.

The move comes just weeks before elections that veteran Cambodian leader Hun Sen is expected to easily win given the main opposition party has been dissolved.

Hun Sen, who has ruled for 33 years, is accused of trying to build a political dynasty by priming his three sons for top posts.

On Saturday his eldest son Lieutenant General Hun Manet was promoted to acting chief of joint staff and commander of the army headquarters, according to defense ministry spokesman Chhum Socheat.

The 40-year-old West Point trained officer will keep his current roles as head of the defence ministry's anti-terrorism unit and the deputy commander of Hun Sen's personal bodyguard unit.

He will soon be promoted to a four-star general, a required status for the jobs.

The defence spokesman said Hun Manet's promotion was merit-based and not because of his family name.

“There is nothing strange, his promotions have been made based on his qualifications and experience in the army,” Chhum Socheat told AFP on Saturday.

Several others were moved in the military shuffle, including military police commander-in-chief Sao Sokha who was appointed acting supreme commander of the Royal Cambodian

Armed Forces. Two others — Pol Saroeun and Kun Kim — stepped down from their senior military roles to run for parliament in the 29 July vote.

Both are close allies of Hun Sen and were among 12 generals accused in a Human Rights Watch report this week of carrying out rights abuses, war crimes and crimes against humanity for decades to prop up Hun Sen.

“These 12 men are the backbone of an abusive and authoritarian political regime over which an increasingly dictatorial Hun Sen rules,” the reports said.

They were accused of “violations of human rights, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed from the 1970s to the present,” it said.

“Most of the 12 have been implicated in the use of unnecessary, excessive, and sometimes lethal force against protests about unfree and unfair elections, land confiscations, labour abuses, and low wages.”

The Cambodian ministry of defence denied the HRW's allegations, calling it a “deranged report”. Hun Sen's second son Hun Manit is the head of a powerful military intelligence unit and his youngest Hun Many is a parliamentarian who oversees the ruling party's far-reaching youth movement.

One of the world's longest serving leaders, Hun Sen is seeking to prolong his grip on power in national elections next month.

He has paved the way for an almost certain success, dissolving the main opposition tipped to win the year's ballot. —AFP ■

Air pollution plays significant role in diabetes

PARIS — Air pollution caused one in seven new cases of diabetes in 2016, according to a US study, which found even low levels raised the chances of developing the chronic disease.

Diabetes has primarily been associated with lifestyle factors like diet and a sedentary lifestyle, but research by the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis said pollution also plays a major role.

The study estimated that pollution contributed to 3.2 million new diabetes cases globally in 2016 — or around 14 per cent of all new diabetes cases globally that year. “Our research shows a significant link between air pollution and diabetes globally,” said Ziyad Al-Aly, the study's senior author.

Pollution is thought to reduce the body's insulin production, “preventing the body from converting blood glucose into energy that the body needs to maintain health,” according to the research. Al-Aly said the research, published in the *Lancet Planetary Health*, found an increased risk even with levels

of air pollution currently considered safe by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). “This is important because many industry lobbying groups argue that current levels are too stringent and should be relaxed. Evidence shows that current levels are still not sufficiently safe and need to be tightened,” he added.

‘A strong link’

Researchers working with scientists at the Veterans Affairs' Clinical Epidemiology Center, examined data from 1.7 million US veterans who did not

have histories of diabetes and were followed for a median of 8.5 years. Patient information from the veterans was compared to air quality information to examine the relationship between pollution and diabetes risk.

The scientists found the risk of developing diabetes “exhibited a strong link to air pollution”. They then devised a model to gauge diabetes risks over different pollution levels and used data from the annual worldwide Global Burden of Disease study, to estimate the prevalence of diabetes caused by bad air.—AFP ■



Air pollution contributed to 3.2 million new cases of diabetes globally in 2016, the study found. **PHOTO: AFP**

Afghan forces resume offensive operations after govt ceasefire ends

KABUL—Afghan security forces resumed offensive operations on Saturday after President Ashraf Ghani declared an end to the government's unilateral ceasefire with the Taliban.

Ghani said the ceasefire, which lasted 18 days after it was extended once and overlapped with the Taliban's unilateral three-day truce for Eid, had been "98 percent successful".

"The ceasefire is over. The Afghan security and defence forces are allowed to restart their military operations," Ghani told reporters. The three days of no fighting were unprecedented in the nearly 17-year conflict and triggered jubilant scenes across the war-weary country.

Taliban fighters and security forces spontaneously celebrated the holiday that caps the holy month of Ramadan, hugging each other and taking selfies.

The militants were also mobbed by relieved civilians, who



The renewed violence has poured cold water on hopes the truce would provide a clear path to peace talks. **PHOTO: AFP**

have borne the brunt of the war, raising hopes of a renewed push for peace talks.

Ghani said the ceasefire had shown that the majority of the

insurgents wanted peace and it was the "Taliban's turn to give a positive response".

"I am ready to extend the ceasefire anytime when the Tal-

iban are ready," he said at a press conference.

But the sight of its fighters openly mingling with security forces and civilians over Eid

appeared to alarm the Taliban's leaders, who on Sunday ordered their men back to their posts.

The Taliban vowed on Tuesday to continue their bloody fight against the government and their foreign backers, brushing aside rising civilian casualties.

The insurgents returned to the battlefield last week after refusing a government request to extend their ceasefire, launching attacks across the country that have seen scores killed or injured.

The renewed violence has poured cold water on hopes the truce would provide a clear path to peace talks, with the Taliban refusing to bow to pressure to lay down their arms until foreign forces withdraw from Afghanistan. The truces did not extend to the Islamic State group, which has a relatively small but potent presence in Afghanistan, and launched two deadly attacks on ceasefire revellers during Eid.—**AFP ■**

Three dead in attack on Mali HQ of G5 Sahel anti-terror force

BAMAKO, (Mali)—A suicide bomber in a vehicle painted in UN colours attacked the Malian headquarters of an international anti-terror task force, the G5 Sahel, on Friday, killing two soldiers and a civilian, according to a security source and a local leader.

The building's entrance wall was destroyed, with the force of the blast throwing the vehicle inside it, according to witnesses and pictures of the scene.

The Al-Qaeda-linked Support Group for Islam and Muslims, the main jihadist alliance in Africa's Sahel region, claimed the attack in a telephone call to

the Mauritanian news agency Al-Akhbar.

UN secretary general Antonio Guterres condemned "the complex attack perpetrated against the G5-Sahel Joint Force's Headquarters", his spokesman said in a statement.

It was the first attack on the headquarters of the five-nation force, set up with the backing of France in 2017 to roll back jihadist insurgents and criminal groups in the vast, unstable Sahel region.

"Shortly after Friday prayers, a suicide bomber in a vehicle painted with UN colours blew up at the entrance to the G5 base in Sevare. It was a huge

blast," a military source in the G5 Sahel force told AFP.

Two soldiers from the force and a civilian were killed, as well as two attackers, according to a source within the force and the governor of Mopti, the regional capital. The Malian government later said that the two soldiers killed were members of its armed forces.

A previous toll of six people killed was revised down.

Governor Sidi Alassane Toure said there had been "confusion" in the morgue.

"We have arrested four suspects," he told AFP, adding that search operations would take all night.—**AFP ■**

Libya oil output faces further cuts: NOC

TRIPOLI—Libya's National Oil Company said on Friday it expected to halt operations at two key export terminals at the weekend, slashing crude output by some 800,000 barrels per day.

The announcement came after Libya's unity government on Tuesday urged the UN to block any "illegal" oil exports from the chaos-hit country after a rival administration seized the ports in eastern Libya's oil crescent.

The NOC said it "anticipates 'force majeure' will have to be declared" on the ports of Zweitina and Al-Hariga on Sunday.

Force majeure is a legal measure that frees a company from contractual obligations due to circumstances beyond its control.

The oil ports at Ras Lanuf and Al-Sidra were seized from local militias last week by military strongman Khalifa Haftar, who said all future revenues from the terminals under his control would be handed over to an unrecognised administration in the east of the country.

The NOC, which is controlled by the United Nations-recognised unity government in Tripoli, on Friday accused Haftar's forces of blocking vessels from entering the ports.

The blockades "are crimes under Libyan and international law, and are costing the Libyan nation tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue every day," it said.

Clashes had already forced the NOC to suspend operations at the two other ports, slashing output by 450,000 bpd.

The shutdown of Zweitina and Hariga raises those losses by a further 350,000 bpd.

Armed groups led by militia leader Ibrahim Jadhran seized Ras Lanuf and Al-Sidra on June 14, before they were recaptured by Haftar's forces.

The NOC warned of further disruption on Friday, saying the eastern Sarir refinery "may be forced to cease operations, which will restrict local fuel supplies".

Libya's economy relies heavily on oil, with production at 1.6 million barrels per day under former dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

Kadhafi's 2011 ouster saw production fall to about 20 per cent of that level, before recovering to more than one million barrels per day by the end of 2017.

OPEC has estimated Libya's oil reserves at 48 billion barrels, which makes them the biggest in Africa.—**AFP ■**

Abu Dhabi attracts tourists from Kazakhstan, Ukraine amid relaxed visa policy

DUBAI—A tourism delegation led by the Department of Culture and Tourism — Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) took a promotional roadshow to Kazakhstan and Ukraine to attract more tourists, DCT Abu Dhabi said in a statement on Saturday.

The government-controlled tourism body of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s capital said that Kazakhstan's largest city

of Almaty as well as Ukrainian capital Kiev were two key destinations within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The promotional activities aimed to reinforce ties with key stakeholders in these markets and capitalize on newly-relaxed visa rules for both countries to attract more tourists.

Since the beginning of this

year, Ukrainian travelers have been receiving a visa on arrival when reaching Abu Dhabi while Kazakh visitors can now get a free visa for 30 days when they land.

The delegation consisted of representatives from UAE's national carrier Etihad Airways and Yas Experiences, along with local and international hotels located in Abu Dhabi.—**Xinhua ■**



US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Trump eyes completing auto tariff probe in 3-4 weeks

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said on Friday he expects the administration to complete “in three to four weeks” an investigation into whether imports of automobiles and auto parts pose a risk to US national security. The results of the investigation could significantly affect Japanese, European and other foreign automakers if they lead to the imposition of new tariffs.

There is speculation that Trump, whose “America First” trade policy has fueled concerns about a global trade war, may announce any tariffs resulting from the probe before November’s midterm elections.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One en route to New Jersey, Trump said the United

States has not been treated fairly by the World Trade Organization, but that he is not considering withdrawing from it. Trump said that while the WTO helped China rise as an emerging economic powerhouse, the United States has been treated “very badly” by the Geneva-based global trade watchdog. “I’m not talking about pulling out,” he said. “I’m saying they haven’t treated us fairly.”

Citing the US trade deficit with China, Mexico and the European Union, the president said, “We’re not being treated fairly on trade, by almost any country.”

Trump said previous US administrations “have let it get away, missing in action,” but that his administration “will be treated fairly.” He did not elaborate.

Referring to his planned meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on 16 July in Finland, Trump said the two leaders will discuss the civil war in Syria, the situation in Ukraine and Moscow’s alleged interference in the 2016 US presidential election — issues that have raised tensions between the two powers.

“We’ll be talking about world events. We’ll be talking about peace. We may even talk about saving millions of dollars on weapons,” Trump said. “Perhaps the world can deescalate, with China, Russia...maybe the world can somewhat deescalate,” he said. Asked if sanctions on Russia could be lifted, Trump only said, “We’ll see what Russia does.” — Kyodo News ■

Speed limits on Europe’s roads

PARIS, (France) — France, which on Sunday reduces its speed limit on two-lane highways to 80 kilometres per hour (50 mph) from 90 km/h, will join the tier of European countries where such limits are lowest.

Albania, the Baltic States, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain all have a 90 km/h limit on such roads, which often do not have a separating guardrail. In other countries, the limit can be as low as 70 km/h or as high as 100 km/h.

Here is a panorama:
Countries in the fast lane

In Germany, the authorised speed on two-lane highways outside urban areas is 100 km/h. On motorways there is no limit, but in reality the average speed comes down to around 120 km/h due to roadworks. In Austria, the limit is 100 km/h on highways and 130 km/h on motorways.

In Britain, the maximum speed on two-lane highways is 60 miles per hour (96.6 km/h) and 70 mph on motorways.

In Ireland, the speed is limited to 100 km/h on all national roads, including those with two lanes, to 80 km/h on secondary roads and to 120 km/h on mo-

torways. In Poland, the limit is 140 km/h on motorways and 90 or 100 km/h on other roads. The strictest nations

In Sweden, the maximum authorised speed is usually 70 km/h outside towns, and 110 or 120 km/h on motorways. Some regions have since 2017 introduced limits of 80 km/h on two-lane highways. In Belgium, the speed limit differs according to the country’s regions. The limit on two-lane highways was decreased to 70 km/h in Flanders in January 2017 but remains 90 km/h in Wallonia and in the capital Brussels. Like France from Sunday, the maximum speed on two-lane highways is 80 km/h in Bosnia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland.

Link between limits, fatalities

Some countries, such as Sweden, have both a very low number of road deaths — 2.6 dead per 100,000 inhabitants in 2015, according to Eurostat — and the European Union’s toughest speed limits.

But others, including Germany (4.2), Britain (2.8) and Ireland (3.5), are among the top of the class when it comes to road safety in Europe while at the same time allowing speeds of 100 km/h on highways.—AFP ■

Not up to US to decide on Assange asylum, Ecuador says

QUITO, (Ecuador) — It’s not up to Washington to decide the fate of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, Ecuador’s top diplomat said on Friday, following the visit of US Vice President Mike Pence.

Pence “raised the issue” of the Australian anti-secrecy activist — holed up at Ecuador’s embassy in London since 2012 — when he met with Lenin Moreno on Thursday, an official with the US vice president’s office confirmed.

“Ecuador and the United Kingdom, and of course Mr Assange as a person who is currently staying, on asylum, at our embassy” will decide the next steps, Foreign Minister Jose Valencia told reporters.

“It does not enter, therefore, on an agenda with the United States.”

Pence and Moreno “agreed to remain in close coordination on potential next steps going forward,” the US official told reporters traveling with Pence.

Assange, 46, sought refuge in Ecuador’s London embassy in 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden to face sexual assault allegations, which he denies.



Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has been holed up inside the Ecuadoran embassy in London since 2012. PHOTO: AFP

Assange claims the accusations were politically motivated and could lead to his extradition to the United States to face imprisonment over WikiLeaks’s publication of secret US military documents and diplomatic cables in 2010.

Swedish authorities dropped their investigations last year, but British authorities still want to arrest him for breaching bail conditions.

In March, Ecuador cut off Assange’s ability to communicate with the outside world after he broke a 2017 promise to not interfere in other

countries’ affairs while in the mission.

And in May, Ecuador withdrew additional security measures at its London embassy following an investigation that found that the previous administration of Rafael Correa had spent \$5 million on a spy operation to protect Assange.

Last week, Valencia said that Ecuador “is hoping to solve this problem, because in principle an asylum is not eternal, one cannot conceive of an asylum that lasts for years.” —AFP ■

Search teams practise evacuation for missing Thai boys

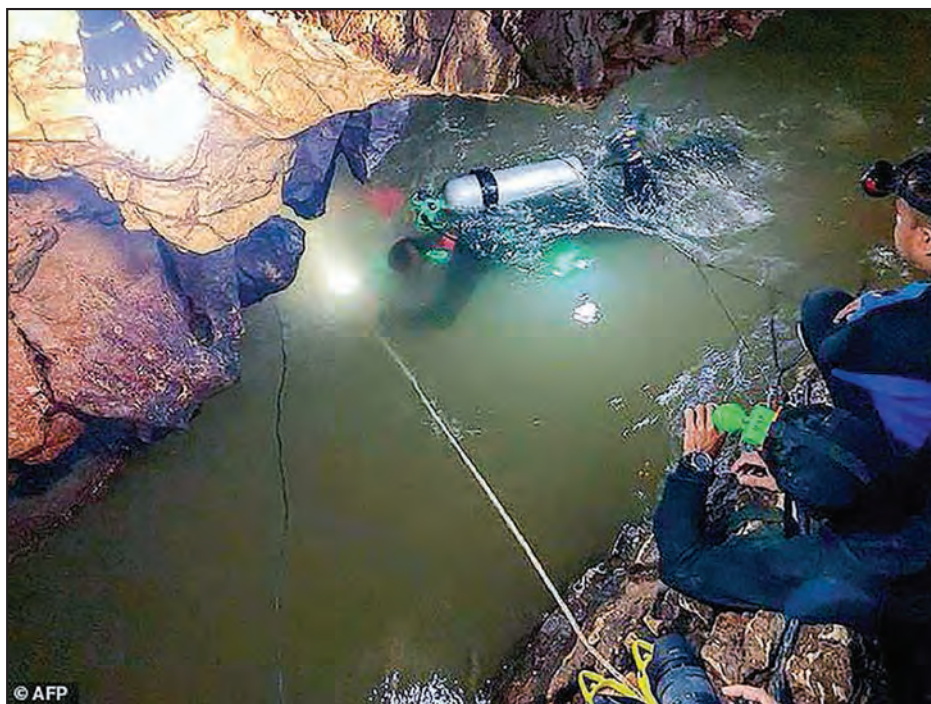
CHIANG RAI—Thai rescue teams searching for 12 boys trapped in a waterlogged cave practised evacuation and medical procedures on Saturday, as the desperate search went into seventh day.

There has been no contact with the boys, aged 11 to 16, and their coach since they went into the cave last weekend and were hemmed in by heavy rains that blocked the entrance.

Those downpours have continued all week, hampering the enormous rescue efforts to find the youngsters and their 25-year-old coach.

Medical teams staged drills on Saturday to prepare for their possible rescue as worries loomed over how the boys might be pulled out of the Tham Luang cave if and when they are found.

Ambulances and heli-



Rescue divers continue to fight against muddy, fast-flowing waters while water pumps work around the clock to try and keep water levels down. PHOTO: AFP

copters were on standby for the drills Saturday morning at the bustling rescue site in northern Chiang Rai province.

"It's to set up a system to practice what to do until

we can get them to hospital," Chiang Rai governor Narongsak Osottanakorn said late Friday.

As the search for the boys hit its seventh day, attentions turned to their

chances of survival inside a cave with little or no food and light.

The boys likely have access to fresh water — either dripping in through rocks or rushing in through

the entrance — but experts warned that runoff water from nearby farms could carry dangerous chemicals or bacteria. "If they drink the water in the caves and it makes them sick it could hasten the problem that they're in, but if they don't drink it then they're also in trouble," Anmar Mirza, coordinator of the US National Cave Rescue Commission, told AFP.

But even without food he said young, athletic boys could "easily live for a month or a month and a half" but the main challenge now would be mental resolve. "The biggest issue that they're facing right now if they're alive is psychological because they don't know at what point they might get rescued," Mirza said from Indiana.

'Promising' chimney

Thai Navy SEAL di-

vers explored the entrance of the cave where muddy, fast-flowing waters complicated the search and water pumps were working around the clock to try and keep water levels down. But it was a losing battle as a second chamber remained submerged.

"Whenever the water recedes divers enter the cave immediately," Thai Navy SEAL said on its Facebook page.

Several teams trekked into the thick jungle above the cave desperately looking for new openings that might lead to the trapped boys.

They found one "promising" entrance on Friday that led to a muddy chamber 40 metres (130 feet) down, Narongsak, the governor said.

But there was still no indication it linked to the main cave complex.

—AFP ■

Privately developed Japanese rocket fails shortly after liftoff

KUSHIRO, Japan—The launch of what would have been Japan's first privately developed rocket to reach outer space failed on Saturday after it burst into flames seconds after liftoff, the rocket developer said.

Officials of Interstellar Technologies Inc, founded in 2013 by former Livedoor Co President Takafumi Horie, said the rocket, MOMO-2, exploded in midair at around 5:30 am shortly after liftoff from a test site in the town of Taiki on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

No injuries were reported in the explosion of the unmanned rocket, which was about 10 metres long, 50 centimetres in diameter and weighed 1 ton.

This is the second launch failure in a row for Interstellar Technologies. Last July, it attempted to send the MOMO-1 into space to an altitude of over 100 kilometres, but had to abort the launch after contact was lost some 70



MOMO-2 explodes after liftoff. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

seconds into the flight.

The latest failure suggests that a difficult road lies ahead for privately developed rockets. People involved in the project expressed shock and dismay.

"I could not immediately understand what happened," Interstellar Technologies President Takahiro Inagawa told a press conference, while venture founder Horie called it "an unprecedented failure."

"We could not accomplish what we were expected to do. I feel sorry for that," Inagawa said.

While noting that nothing has been decided regarding another launch, he said, "I feel that I would like to keep giving it a shot." Horie also showed willingness to make another attempt, saying, "We have to find ways to improve" ahead of the launch of a third rocket.

According to Inagawa, the rocket lost thrust four seconds after liftoff, with the main engine believed to have encountered a problem. The company plans to analyze the launch data for answers as to what went wrong. "Since the

first rocket flew to some extent, the latest failure right after liftoff was unexpected," an official of the space venture said.

The cost of the launch ran into the tens of millions of yen. The space venture raised about 28.4 million yen (\$257,000) through crowd-funding. MOMO-2, which did not carry a satellite, was scheduled to fall

into the sea after reaching outer space. Equipment developed by Kochi University of Technology to gauge how sound waves propagate at high altitude was installed in its nose.

The launch of MOMO-2 was originally planned for late April but was pushed back due to a nitrogen gas leak. MOMO-2 used ethanol, liquid oxygen and helium for fuel.

About 600 people who had gathered to observe the launch in the Hokkaido town watched as the rocket fell from the sky in flames with loud crashing sound.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY.NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY.NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FENJA VOY.NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS FENJA VOY.NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Phone No: 2301185

'Sicario' star Isabela Moner on getting the measure of Del Toro

PARIS—Actress Isabela Moner got no kid-gloves treatment filming her role as a kidnap victim in the fierce, emotional and R-rated "Sicario: Day of the Soldado"

Taller than Danny de Vito but much shorter than the average household refrigerator, child star Isabela Moner is the first to admit that she hardly cuts an imposing figure.

But the five foot (1.5 metre) Cleveland native steals scenes alongside seasoned veterans like Josh Brolin and Benicio del Toro in the brutal action sequel to 2015 crime thriller "Sicario."

The actress, who turns 17 in a few days, got no kid-gloves treatment filming her role as a kidnap victim in the fierce, emotional and R-rated "Sicario: Day of the Soldado."

"Basically, I was treated the same way that the adult actors were, which I appreciated a lot, because I can handle it," the actress told AFP in an interview in Beverly Hills about her latest role.

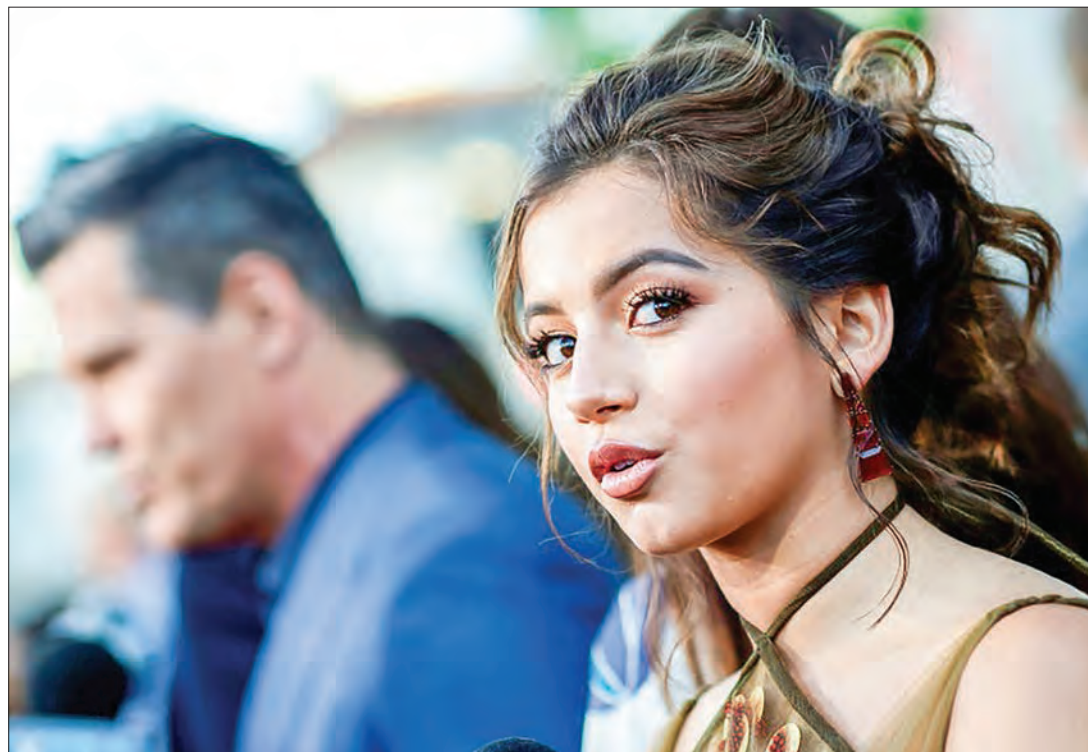
Filming for the highly-topical story of drugs, terrorism and human trafficking at the US-Mexico border began on a cold November morning in late 2016 at a ramshackle adobe house in Albuquerque.

Moner soon discovered that playing a victim of violent crime meant putting up with all the privations that the adult actors endured, including being bound and gagged.

"It was really intense. For the first few takes of that scene, they actually used duct tape on me because I was okay with it for some reason," she told AFP.

"Now I'm like, 'Why would I do that? Why would I agree to that?' But back then I was like, 'Oh yeah, sure, let's get into it.'"

Moner was best known for



Actress Isabela Moner got no kid-gloves treatment filming her role as a kidnap victim in the fierce, emotional and R-rated "Sicario: Day of the Soldado". **PHOTO: AFP**

the Nickelodeon series "100 Things to Do Before High School" before she became a bona fide movie star with last year's "Transformers: The Last Knight."

Big head

In "Soldado," which hit US theaters on Friday, she plays the innocent but spoiled 12-year-old daughter of a Mexican gangster leading one of the cartels suspected by the US of trafficking jihadists across the border.

Alejandro, with federal agent Matt Graver, portrayed once again by Josh Brolin.

Del Toro, who shares most of his screen time with Moner after kidnapping her, has a reputation for his intense approach to his craft, but his young co-star says this is just "his exterior."

"It took a bit for him to warm up to me, and for me to warm up to him, kind of like in the movie. It was kind of like

sizing each other up, kind of like, 'What are you about?'," she said.

"But once the filming process happened we were forced to be buddies, because we spent hours in the Humvee, all of us. He's not that hard to get along with, to be honest. He's just kind of quiet."

As for man-of-the-hour Brolin, who has starred in "Deadpool 2" and "Avengers: Infinity War" this spring, the first thing Moner noticed, she says, was his literally, physically, anatomically big head.

"He's so funny, oh my gosh. And he's like a little kid," she said, breaking into a broad grin.

"I think he stopped aging at one point inside, and he's just like this really fun guy and I'm so happy for him."

'Little tomboy'

Moner grew up in Ohio and still lives in Cleveland, but says she feels more in touch with

her Peruvian mother's culture, despite her "Americanized" accent when she speaks Spanish.

"I don't think I related to the Irish Catholic surroundings that was my environment when I was growing up. (Mom) raised me speaking Spanish in the household and we ate Peruvian food a lot."

Moner's transformation into a TV star was somewhat ironic, given that she grew up in a home where cable TV was banned in favour of sending the young girl and her brothers to play outside.

"I was a little tomboy growing up but we had to go to the library every weekend if we wanted some form of entertainment," she said.

"And I would gravitate towards the Shirley Temple, Judy Garland section of the library, and I would just pop that in and watch on replay because kids can watch movies over and over again."—AFP ■

Rafe Spall to feature in 'Men In Black' spinoff

LOS ANGELES— "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" actor Rafe Spall has joined the cast of "Men in Black" spin-off.

The film, to be directed by F Gary Gray, will feature Chris Hemsworth and Tessa Thompson in the lead.

Spall, 35, is joining the cast along with street dancing duo Les Twins, Laurent Nicolas Bourgeois and Larry Nicolas Bourgeois.

Other cast members include Hemsworth's older brother Liam, who recently featured in "Westworld", and "The Big Sick" star Kumail Nanjiani.

Hemsworth and Thompson, who reunite after starring in "Thor: Ragnarok", are not playing the alien-fighting and world-saving characters portrayed by Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones in the initial film trilogy.

Earlier, veteran actor Liam Neeson also joined the project and will be playing the head of the Men in Black organisation in London, where the story begins.

Walter F Parkes and Laurie MacDonald, who produced the original movies, return as producers, while Steven Spielberg is coming back to executive produce.

The Sony studio film is slated to release on 14 June next year.—PTI ■

Edgar Wright says 'Baby Driver 2' might happen soon

LOS ANGELES— Director Edgar Wright is celebrating the one-year anniversary of his hit film "Baby Driver" and has teased a possible sequel to it.

The 44-year-old director took to Twitter to mark the occasion and said that a sequel could happen "soon".

"Baby Driver" was released one year ago today. Had a wild ride with it in the last 365 days. So I thank you for all your beautiful responses, it means everything. And who knows, maybe he could get back on the road soon," Wright tweeted.

The crime action film featured Ansel Elgort as the protagonist Baby who works as a getaway driver. It also starred Kevin Spacey, Lily James, Eiza Gonzalez, Jon Hamm, and Jamie Foxx.—PTI ■

Johnny Depp's son Jack 'doesn't have a health issue'

LOS ANGELES— Jack Depp, son of Hollywood star Johnny Depp and his ex-partner Vanessa Paradis, is said to be doing fine after multiple reports claimed that he was dealing with "serious health problems".

The reports surfaced after Paradis missed the premiere of her film, "A Knife in the Heart",

to be with her 16-year-old son.

"Unfortunately, Vanessa Paradis was not able to join us tonight — she had to be absent because of her son's serious health problems," director Yann Gonzalez had said at the red carpet event, according to French outlet Public. However, a source close to Paradis told People magazine that Jack is

now on the mend and is apparently doing okay.

"He's fine and doesn't have a health issue," the source said.

Jack was also spotted walking around with a female friend close to Paradis' apartment, and apparently looked "a lot better".

Depp is currently on a European tour with his rock band,

The Hollywood Vampires.

"He will spend time with both of his kids once the tour is over in July," the source said.

Depp and Paradis started dating in 1998 and ended their relationship in 2012. They are parents to 19-year-old Lily-Rose Depp and Jack, whose real name is John Christopher Depp III.—PTI ■

Japan Christian sites added to UNESCO World Heritage list

MANAMA — A dozen Christian locations in parts of southern Japan where members of the faith were once brutally persecuted were selected for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage list on Saturday.

The 12 sites include Oura Cathedral, a Catholic church in Nagasaki that is dedicated to 26 Christians who were executed for their beliefs over four centuries ago.

Christianity in Japan dates back to 1549, when European Jesuit missionary Francis Xavier arrived in the country with two companions and the religion began spreading in western Japan.

As more missionaries arrived and the faith spread, Japanese military leaders became increasingly suspicious of its growing influence and a crackdown against Christians began from 1589.

The Christians commemorated at Oura — 20 Japanese and six foreigners — were executed in Nagasaki in 1597 as the persecution intensified.



For Japanese converts, hiding their religion became a matter of life and death, with Christianity banned. **PHOTO: AFP**

For Japanese converts, hiding their religion became a matter of life and death for the next 250 years, with Christianity banned and Japan closed to the outside world.

As they practised their faith but tried to blend in, the Christians created a blended religion that incorporated elements of Buddhism.

It wasn't until 1865 that these

“hidden Christians” or Kakure Kirishitan became known outside of their communities.

A group of nervous peasants approached a French priest at Oura Cathedral and one woman

whispered “our hearts are the same as yours”, prompting the discovery of what turned out to be tens of thousands of Japanese Christians who had kept their faith a secret.

Gothic-style Oura, which was built in 1864 by French priests and was known by locals as the “French temple,” is the oldest Christian-related building in Japan.

It was designated a national treasure by the government in 1933, but was partly damaged by the atomic bomb dropped by the US on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, three days after the bombing of Hiroshima.

The other locations in the Japanese entry include Sakitsu village in Amakusa, in southwestern Kumamoto, where Christians practiced their faith in secret in the Edo period.

The martyrdom of hidden Catholics and Jesuit missionaries in Japan in the 17th century was the subject of the 2016 Hollywood film “Silence”, directed by Martin Scorsese.—AFP ■

The ancient giants of Yosemite, under a billion stars

LOS ANGELES — The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, at the heart of California's Yosemite National Park, is home to 500 of the towering trees — many at least 2,000 years old, having sprouted around the time of Jesus Christ.

One of the world's 65 remaining natural sequoia groves, and the largest in Yosemite, Mariposa Grove reopened in June,

three years after the start of a \$40 million restoration project to protect the ancient giants for future generations.

The oldest sequoias can live for more than 3,000 years, their bark resisting insect attacks and helping them survive countless wildfires over the millennia.

Gone are the gift shop, suffocating fumes from a chugging

diesel tram and 115 spaces of parking lot asphalt that once cluttered the site, a major tourist destination four hours' drive from San Francisco.

Only a small parking lot remains alongside new restrooms.

The removal of asphalt helps protect the trees' shallow root system from compaction, allows water to flow naturally

again, and reduces damaging air pollution from excess vehicles.

Four miles (6.5 kilometres) of new trails and bridges have been constructed. A new boardwalk through part of the grove is elevated over sensitive areas and facilitates handicapped access to view the trees.

During most of the day, free shuttle buses ferry tourists to the heart of the grove from a new visitor center two miles away. People stand in line to photograph one another at the California Tunnel Tree, a surviving sequoia through which a wagon-sized hole was long ago bored.

But like the rest of the forest, Mariposa Grove never closes, so after the last shuttle bus returns and the road gate is reopened, more adventurous visitors can drive to the tiny parking lot and hike through the night in the ancient woods.

And as day becomes night, billions of stars shine down on the 300-foot (90-meter) tall trees, the 1,800-year-old Grizzly Giant and its age-old fellows towering over the silent scene.—AFP ■



Huge crowds flock to see famed Yosemite sequoias like the Grizzly Giant. **PHOTO: AFP**



A shinkansen bullet train featuring Hello Kitty livery starts services on 30 June, 2018, with the first train arriving in Shin-Osaka Station in western Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Hello Kitty bullet trains start services

FUKUOKA — A shinkansen bullet train featuring Hello Kitty livery started services on Saturday, with some 400 people observing the departure of the first train at Hakata terminal in southwestern Japan.

The eight-car train, whose white body is decorated with images of pink ribbons to mimic the look of the popular character of Sanrio Co, operates one round-trip between Hakata and Shin-Osaka a day. When the specially-designed train arrived at Hakata Station in Fukuoka Prefecture, passengers and others welcomed it. Kayo Honda, 33, came to see the high-speed train with her 4-year-old son from neighboring Kumamoto Prefecture. “It is cute. I want to board it next time,” she said.—Kyodo News ■

France end Messi's World Cup dream in World Cup classic

KAZAN (RUSSIA) — France roared back against Argentina to reach the World Cup quarter-finals on Saturday as wonderkid Kylian Mbappe sent Lionel Messi home empty-handed following a seven-goal thriller.

The 1998 champions won 4-3 and looked a different side from the one that struggled to find their cutting edge in the group stage, pouring forward with pace and purpose to stretch the ageing Argentine defence in Kazan.

Antoine Griezmann gave France the lead from the penalty spot but the South Americans levelled after a sweet hit from Angel Di Maria and edged ahead shortly after half-time through Gabriel Mercado. But defender Benjamin Pavard equalised with a thunderous strike to pull France level and once more change the complexion of the game.

That set the scene for 19-year-old Mbappe, who netted two goals in four second-half minutes to become the first teenager to score at least twice in a World Cup match since Pele in 1958.

Sergio Aguero gave Argentina late hope but they ran out of time and head home after a rollercoaster ride in Russia that ultimately ends in bitter disappointment for the two-times former champions.

Man-of-the-match Mbappe



France forward Kylian Mbappe celebrates his second goal against Argentina. **PHOTO: AFP**

brushed off the Pele comparisons. "I'm very happy and it's flattering to be the second teenager (to score twice in the knock-out rounds) after Pele but let's put things in context: Pele is in another category, but it's good to be among these people," he said.

Ragged Argentina

Beaten finalists four years ago, Argentina only reached the last 16 by the skin of their teeth after a shambolic group phase and despite a brave effort against France, their ageing squad and lack of balance ultimately caught up with them.

Messi, at the age of 31, may have played his last World Cup game in a career curiously unful-

filled at international level despite his astonishing achievements with Barcelona and his multiple individual awards.

France will play either Uruguay or Portugal in the last eight.

Cristiano Ronaldo — with his eternal rival Messi now out of the way — will be looking to further burnish his reputation against Uruguay in Sochi. Ronaldo tore out of the blocks in Russia, smashing a hat-trick in his first game against Spain and he added another goal in the 1-0 win against Morocco. But Portugal's problem against a Uruguay team with the meanest defence of the tournament could be their over-reliance on the 33-year-old five-time world player of the year.—AFP ■

MNL II best player award goes to Leon Sullivan

THE best player award for the month of June in Myanmar National League II goes to Leon Sullivan, a player from Royal Thanlyin FC, after completion of the MNL II matches in June.

Leon Sullivan is the top most scorer in the MNL II this season with a total of 11 goals scored and also recognised as the best player on his team.

Thanks in part to Sullivan, Royal Thanlyin sits atop the

league standings with 21 points earned after 6 wins and 3 draws out of 9 matches played.

The best coach of the month award was garnered by University's head coach U Zaw Min, who managed his team to a no-loss record with 2 wins and 1 draw in June.

The University team is in third place with 15 points from 3 wins, 6 draws and 1 loss out of 10 matches played.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Mpande's goals lift Hanthawaddy over Rakhine

Hanthawaddy defeated Rakhine United yesterday by a score of 2-1, with both of Hanthawaddy's goals scored by Joseph Mpande at Grand Royal Stadium in Bago.

In yesterday's MPT Myanmar National League football match, Hanthawaddy forced play from the start, with the first goal scored by striker Joseph Mpande at the 32-minute mark.

As a result of Rakhine United's defensive error, Joseph

Mpande scored Hanthawaddy's second goal at 60 minutes.

Rakhine United got their lone goal just before the final whistle with a score by Mathew Sunday Idoko.

With yesterday's win, Hanthawaddy stands in the third place with a total of 26 points. Yangon United remains in first place followed by Shan United.

Rakhine United is in ninth place with 21 points earned.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Belgium pip England to top spot as Japan sneak into World Cup last 16

KALININGRAD, (Russia) — Belgium beat England to top spot in their World Cup group on Thursday after Japan sneaked into the knockout phase on the back of their superior disciplinary record.

The 1-0 win for Roberto Martinez's much-changed team in Kaliningrad earns a second-round tie against Japan while England have a trickier-looking match against Colombia.

But the result also means Gareth Southgate's young side avoid the top half of the draw in Russia, which contains heavyweights France, Argentina, Portugal and Brazil.

The two managers made a

combined 17 changes to their starting line-ups, with World Cup top-scorer Harry Kane missing for England and Romelu Lukaku, Eden Hazard and Kevin De Bruyne all absent from Belgium's team.

Former Manchester United forward Adnan Januzaj made the difference, curling a superb shot past the outstretched hands of Jordan Pickford in the 51st minute.

Belgium's Martinez was delighted with the win, saying it was impossible to plan the ideal scenario as the World Cup unfolds.

"Many debutants were desperate to be involved and that pleases me," he said. "We have a stronger team than we did 90

minutes ago."

Southgate described England's last-16 match against Colombia as his side's biggest game for a decade.

"It was a strange game to prepare for," he said. "Our key objective was to get the players who haven't been playing, some game time."

"We want to win football matches and we also know the big game is the knockout tie to come, so it was difficult to balance all of those," he added.

In the other match in Group G, Tunisia notched their first win at a World Cup for 40 years, beating debutants Panama 2-1 to leave Russia on a high.—AFP ■



**FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018**

20:30 MST (1.7.2018)

Spain





Russia

00:30 MST (2.7.2018)

Croatia





Denmark

World Cup 2018 Results

France

4 - 3

Argentina

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

1 JULY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Laughing Under The Clouds

“Ever changing,
Never staying still,
The Clouds.”

Photo: Nyi Zaw Moe



A.W Khin Myat Phone
Grade - 10(A), B.E.H.S (4), Botahtaung.

WHENEVER we look up to the blue, blue sky and whenever we give a quick glance up to the endless sky, they also beam back to us. That's when we feel a feeling called, “overjoyed”. They, the clouds, are somehow watchers. They see what we do. They know the difficulties we have gone through. They sight us cry. They watch us shine.

It can be nothing more than a simple cloud but if we all stare up carefully, we all will start to wonder how it would feel to spend a day in the ocean of clouds. Everyday, I can see little birds playing run and tag with those clouds. I would like to join them too. Only if I had those wings. Yes. The clouds need no tickets for the flight, yet they need nothing for a ride. They travel around the world all day and night. Those are the clouds which make a beautiful day more classy. Those are the clouds which show us the right way for our lives. We can't say that the

sky is charming without those clouds.

The days flow under them. Though no one knows, no one seems to notice about them, they do care about us. They are the ones which bring us the rain. There are still many days without them. But I wish every day would be like a fantasy with them. The words-

‘There are clouds for you to treasure the sunshine’, tell us that it is necessary to have clouds for the warm sunshine. Indeed.

To classify, there are lots of them such as Cirrus, Stratus, Cumulus, Cumulonimbus and etc. Some are even like little cotton balls sticking on the blue sky above of us, meaning the fine weather for the rest of the day. The cloudy days can give a different taste to us out of the days with all sunshine and rain.

Wouldn't it be fun to build a castle with stiff towers above the rolls of clouds? Wouldn't it be nice to sail around in the ocean of clouds? I bet it would be a great day of time to run

around in the fields of them. If I had a chance like that, I would certainly feel paroxysm of happiness. Somehow we still have full chance to look up to the sky with colourful fluffy clouds. They are sometimes other than white or grey. They can be pink, yellow or orange with a ray of sunlight glowing through their thick layers in the atmosphere which in some way look like a stairway to the heaven up in the clouds. So dalisay. The sky can be so alluring with them in pure white colour with blue background. It looks like a three-dimension portrait in real life. I feel like hugging them, touching them, deeply in my bones. I have an ardor for them and I hope you adore them as well.

Clouds can change the weather conditions too. They can make the angry thunderstorms and they can make the atmosphere mild, sometimes pink skies and often yellow ones. Who can say the clouds are the trusted ones to split our secrets?

SEE PAGE S-8

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

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CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

Essay – Writing

- (e) ဤကြိယာပုံစံ (Verb Form) သည် အတိတ်နှင့်ပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကို တွဲဖက်သုံးစွဲခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
1. He has just gone out.
သူ့ယခုလေးတွင် အပြင်ထွက်သွားသည်။
 2. It is only 1 p.m. but Ma Ma has already cooked dinner.
ယခု နေ့လည် တစ်နာရီမျှသာ ရှိသေးသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် မမ ညစာချက်ပြီးနေပြီ။
 3. I have not done my homework yet.
ကျွန်တော် အိမ်စာ မလုပ်ရသေးပါ။
 4. He has read this book five times.
သူ ဤစာအုပ်ကိုငါးကြိမ်ဖတ်ပြီးပြီ။
 5. Have you ever been to Taunggyi?
သင် တောင်ကြီးရောက်ဖူးသလား။
 6. I have never travelled by plane before.
ကျွန်တော်ယခင် ဘယ်တုန်းကမှ လေယာဉ်ဖြင့် ခရီးမသွားဘူးပါ။

SINCE – FOR

7. She has not spoken to me since Monday.
သူမ ကျွန်တော့်ကို စကားမပြောသည်မှာ တနင်္လာနေ့ ကတည်းကပဲ။
8. They have not swum in this lake since June.
သူတို့ဤရေကန်တွင် ရေမကူးသည်မှာ ဇွန်လ ကတည်းကပဲ။
9. He has not written to me for two months.
သူက ကျွန်တော့်ထံ စာမရေးသည်မှာ နှစ်လရှိပြီ။
10. I have not practised running for four days.
ကျွန်တော်အပြေး မလေ့ကျင့်သည်မှာ လေးရက်ရှိပြီ။

အထက်ပါ Simple Present Tense, Present Continuous Tense, Simple Past Tense နှင့် Present Perfect Tense (Simple) တို့ကို Passive Voice နှင့်လည်း ရေးနိုင်သည်။

Passive Voice အကြောင်း ဆွေးနွေးသောအခါ တင်ပြပါမည်။
ကျန် Verb Form များကိုလည်း ရှေ့တွင် ဆက်လက်တင်ပြပါမည်။

ယခုလေ့ကျင့်ခန်းများ လုပ်ကြည့်ပါ။

1. U Maung Maung (go) for a walk every morning.
2. She (pick) flowers now.
3. He (know) her name now.
4. They (visit) Maymyo last summer.
5. He (not go) to school yesterday.
6. She (not yet return) the book to the library.
7. I (no see) her since May.
8. She (be) ill for five days.
9. Look! They (repair) the road.
10. Where (she live)?
11. What (he do) now?
12. He (never go) to bed early.
13. He (never see) snow before

Essay-writing စာစီစာကုံးရေးသားခြင်းကို ဆက်လက်တင်ပြပါမည်။

စာစီစာကုံးရေးသားခြင်းသည် အတတ်ပညာတစ်ရပ်ဖြစ်သည်။
(Essay writing is an art.) လေ့လာရန်လိုသည်။

အတော်အသင့် ကောင်းမွန်သော စာစီစာကုံးများရေးနိုင်ရန် ပထမအချက်မှာ စာများဖတ်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ ကျောင်းသားများဖြစ်လျှင် မိမိ Text books များကို အလွတ်ရသည့်နီးပါးအထိ အကြိမ် ကြိမ်ဖတ်သင့်သည်။ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာသည် နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာ တစ်ခုဖြစ် သဖြင့် မိမိနှင့်အကျွမ်းတဝင်ရှိနေစေရန် ခဏခဏဖတ်ရန်နှင့် အသံထွက်ဖတ်ရန် လိုသည်။ အပြင်စာကိုလည်း တတ်နိုင်သမျှ ဖတ်ရန်လိုသည်။ စာပေ၌ ဝါသနာပါလာရန် လေ့ကျင့်ယူသင့်သည်။

ဒုတိယအချက်မှာ ဆရာများပေးထားသည့် နမူနာ စာစီစာကုံး များကိုလေ့လာရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ စာမေးပွဲတွင် တိုက်ရိုက်တိုးပါက ဖြေရန် ကျက်သည်မျိုးမဟုတ်ဘဲ လေ့လာရင်းဖြင့် ကိုယ်တိုင် ရေးတတ်လာအောင် လေ့လာခြင်းမျိုးဖြင့် လေ့လာပါ။ ရေးပုံရေးနည်းအတုယူပါ။

အထက်တန်း၊ ကောလိပ်နှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသားများ အများစုမှာ အကြောင်းအရာကို မြန်မာလို စဉ်းစားကာ အင်္ဂလိပ်လို ဘာသာပြန်ရေးကြခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် မြန်မာလိုရှင်းရှင်းလင်းလင်း တွေးပါ။

အတွေးရှင်းမှ အရေးရှင်းသည်။ Clear-writing comes from clear-thinking စာကြောင်းတိုများဖြင့် အရေးကျင့်ပါ။

ထို့ကြောင့် တတိယအချက်မှာ အင်္ဂလိပ်အတွေးမျိုးရမှ မှန်အောင် ရေးနိုင်မည့်စာကြောင်းများကို ကျက်ထားပါ။ ဥပမာ ယခင်အပတ်က ပေးထားသည့် “လာကြိုသည် (meet me at the station)၊ လိုက်ပို့သည် (see me off) မြင်းလှည်းငှားစီးသည်။ (took a pony-cart)၊ မြို့ထဲလျှောက်လည်သည် (went around the town)” စသည်မျိုးများ၏ အင်္ဂလိပ်အသုံးအနှုန်းအလိုက် မှန်ကန်စွာသုံးစွဲနိုင်အောင်ကျက်ရန်လိုသည်။

နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတစ်ရပ်ကို သင်ယူရာတွင် အလွတ်ကျက်ရန်နှင့် ကျက်ပြီးသည်ကို မကြာခဏသုံးစွဲရန် များစွာလိုအပ်ပါသည်။

- There is a man in the boat on the river.
မြစ်ထဲက လှေပေါ်မှာ လူတစ်ယောက်ရှိသည်။
(မြန်မာအသုံးအနှုန်းနှင့်မတူသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)
- He left Yangon for Mandalay.
သူ ရန်ကုန်မှ မန္တလေးသို့ထွက်ခွာသွားသည်။
left နောက်တွင် from မလိုပါ။ ‘သို့’ အတွက် for သုံးရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။ စသည့်လွယ်သော်လည်း မှားတတ်သော စာကြောင်း မျိုးများ၊

- He took an active part in literacy activities.
သူ စာတတ်မြောက်မှု လုပ်ငန်းများတွင် တက်ကြွစွာပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲခဲ့သည်။
- They contributed voluntary services last summer.
သူတို့ ယမန်နှစ်ဧရာသီတွင် လုပ်အားပေးခဲ့ကြသည်။
- Not every doctor in Myanmar is rich.
မြန်မာပြည်ရှိ ဆရာဝန်တိုင်း ချမ်းသာသည်မဟုတ်ပါ။
- Every doctor in Myanmar is not rich.
ဟုဆိုလျှင် ဆိုလိုသောအဓိပ္ပါယ်နှင့် တက်တက်စင် အောင်လွဲလိမ့်မည်။ စသည့် အတော်အတန်ခက်သည့် အသုံးအနှုန်းများနှင့်
- They have gone back to India for good.
သူတို့ အိန္ဒိယနိုင်ငံသို့ အပြီးအပိုင် ပြန်သွားကြပြီ။
- He passed away last night.
သူ မနေ့ညက ကွယ်လွန်သွားသည်။
- She is short of money.
သူမမှာ ငွေပြတ်နေသည်။

စသည့် idioms မျိုးများကို ကျက်ထားမှသာ သုံးစွဲတတ်မည်ဖြစ်သည်။

စတုတ္ထအချက်မှာ အရေးလေ့ကျင့်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ မရေးတတ်၍ မရေးလျှင် မရေးတတ်တော့ဘဲ နောင်တွင် ရေးရမည်ကို ဝန်လေး လာတတ်ကြသည်။

အရေးလေ့ကျင့်ကာစတွင် ယခင်အပတ်က တင်ပြခဲ့သည့် am, is, are, was, were များကိုဖြစ်ခြင်းပြနှင့် ကူညီသော ကြံယာများအဖြစ်သုံး၍ တည်ဆောက်ထားသည့်စာကြောင်းများ အများဆုံးသုံး၍ရေးသင့်သည်။

ဥပမာ-

My ambition (ကျွန်တော့်ဘဝ ရည်မှန်းချက်) ဟူသော စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးတွင် ဘဝ-တန်း ကောလိပ်နှင့်တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသား အများစုခေါင်းတွင်းသို့ ဝင်လာမည့်အတွေးမှာ -

“လူတိုင်းတွင် ဘဝရည်မှန်းချက်တစ်ခုရှိသည်။ ဘဝ ရည်မှန်းချက် မရှိသောသူသည် ပဲ့မပါသော လှေနှင့်တူသည်။ သူသည် ဘယ်ကိုမျှ ရောက်မည်မဟုတ်။ ဘဝမုန်တိုင်းများကြားဝယ် နစ်မြုပ်သွားမည်သာဖြစ်သည်။”

ယင်းကို အင်္ဂလိပ်လိုရေးနိုင်ရန်မှာ ကျက်ထားမှသို့မဟုတ် လေ့လာမှု များမှ ဖြစ်မည်။

"Everybody has an ambition. A person without an ambition is like a boat without a rudder. He will get nowhere. He will be lost in the storms of life."

ထိုကဲ့သို့ မရေးနိုင်သေးစဉ်အတွင်း အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ လွယ်လွယ် ရေးနိုင်အောင်ကြိုးစားပါ။

Everybody has an ambition. Some want to be doctors. Some want to be engineers. Some want to be writers and some want to be artists. But I want to be a modern farmer.

လူတိုင်းမှာ ဘဝရည်မှန်းချက်တစ်ခုရှိသည်။ အချို့သည် ဆရာဝန် ဖြစ်လိုကြသည်။ အချို့သည် အင်ဂျင်နီယာဖြစ်လိုကြသည်။ အချို့သည် စာရေးဆရာဖြစ်လိုကြ၍ အချို့သည် ပန်းချီဆရာဖြစ်လိုကြသည်။ သို့ရာ တွင် ကျွန်တော်သည် ခေတ်မီလယ်သမားတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်လိုသည်။

ဤကဲ့သို့ စခဲ့သဖြင့် အောက်ပါစာကြောင်းမျိုးများကိုဆက်ရေး နိုင်သည်။

Myanmar is an agricultural country. Most of her people are farmers. They grow all kinds of crops. But our main product is rice. It is our staple food. We export plenty of rice every year.

“မြန်မာပြည်သည် လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးသောနိုင်ငံဖြစ်သည်။ မြန်မာပြည် ၏ လူများစုမှာ လယ်သမားများဖြစ်ကြသည်။ သူတို့သည် သီးနှံမျိုးစုံကို စိုက်ပျိုးကြသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် မြန်မာပြည်၏အဓိက ထွက်ကုန်မှာ ဆန်စပါး ဖြစ်သည်။ ဆန်စပါးသည် ကျွန်တော်တို့၏အဓိကအစားအစာဖြစ်သည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့သည် ဆန်စပါးအမြောက်အများကို နိုင်ငံခြားသို့ နှစ်စဉ် တင်ပို့ရောင်းချကြသည်။

ထိုကဲ့သို့ပင် My ambition ကဲ့သို့စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးတွင် အောက်ပါ ကဲ့သို့ရေးနိုင်သည်။

I want to be a doctor because I want to look after the health of the farmers. Myanmar is an agricultural country and most of her people are farmers. They give us all the food we eat. They are our benefactors. If they are healthy, they can work harder. If they work harder, they will produce more. The more they produce, the more we can export. The more we export, the more foreign exchange we shall earn. If we get more foreign exchange, we can import what we need.

ကျွန်တော်သည် ဆရာဝန်တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်ချင်သည်။ အဘယ်ကြောင့်ဆိုသော် ကျွန်တော်သည် လယ် သမားများ၏ ကျန်းမာရေးကို စောင့်ရှောက်လိုသည်။ မြန်မာပြည်သည် လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးသော နိုင်ငံတစ်ခုဖြစ်၍ လူအများစုမှာ လယ်သမားများဖြစ်သည်။

သူတို့သည် ကျွန်တော်တို့၏ ကျေးဇူးရှင်များဖြစ်သည်။ သူတို့ကျန်းမာလျှင် ပိုမိုပြင်းထန်စွာ အလုပ်လုပ်နိုင် မည်။ သူတို့အလုပ်လုပ်လျှင် ကုန်ပို့ထုတ်လုပ်ကြလိမ့်မည်။ သူတို့တတ်လေလေ ကျွန်တော်တို့နိုင်ငံခြားသို့ ပိုမိုတင်ပို့ရောင်းချနိုင် လေလေ။ ကျွန်တော်တို့နိုင်ငံခြားသို့ တင်ပို့ရောင်းချနိုင်လေလေ ကျွန်တော်တို့ နိုင်ငံခြားငွေ ပိုရလေလေ။ ကျွန်တော်တို့နိုင်ငံခြားငွေပိုရလျှင် ကျွန်တော်တို့လိုသည်တို့ကို တင်သွင်းနိုင်မည်။

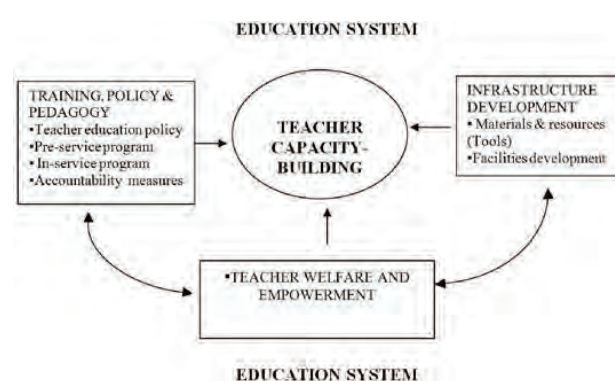
Building Capacity of Teachers for Improved Teaching & Learning

Dr Thazin Lwin
Professor & Head of Department of Chemistry, Yangon University of Distance Education

Concept of Capacity Building

The concept of capacity building has become a buzzword in education reform discourse internationally, both in developed and emerging economies. However, despite its wide usage, it is an often misunderstood social construct. At its most basic, capacity building has to do with the allocation of, and investment in, resources - physical, intellectual or human - especially when other intervening variables have failed within a given institutional or social context. To a certain extent, a systematic focus on capacity building within a given social sector in most societies is an indication of disequilibrium within that particular sector, even though capacity building should, ideally and proactively, be an integral part of strengthening social institutions and providing enabling conditions for premium performance by the individuals within the sector.

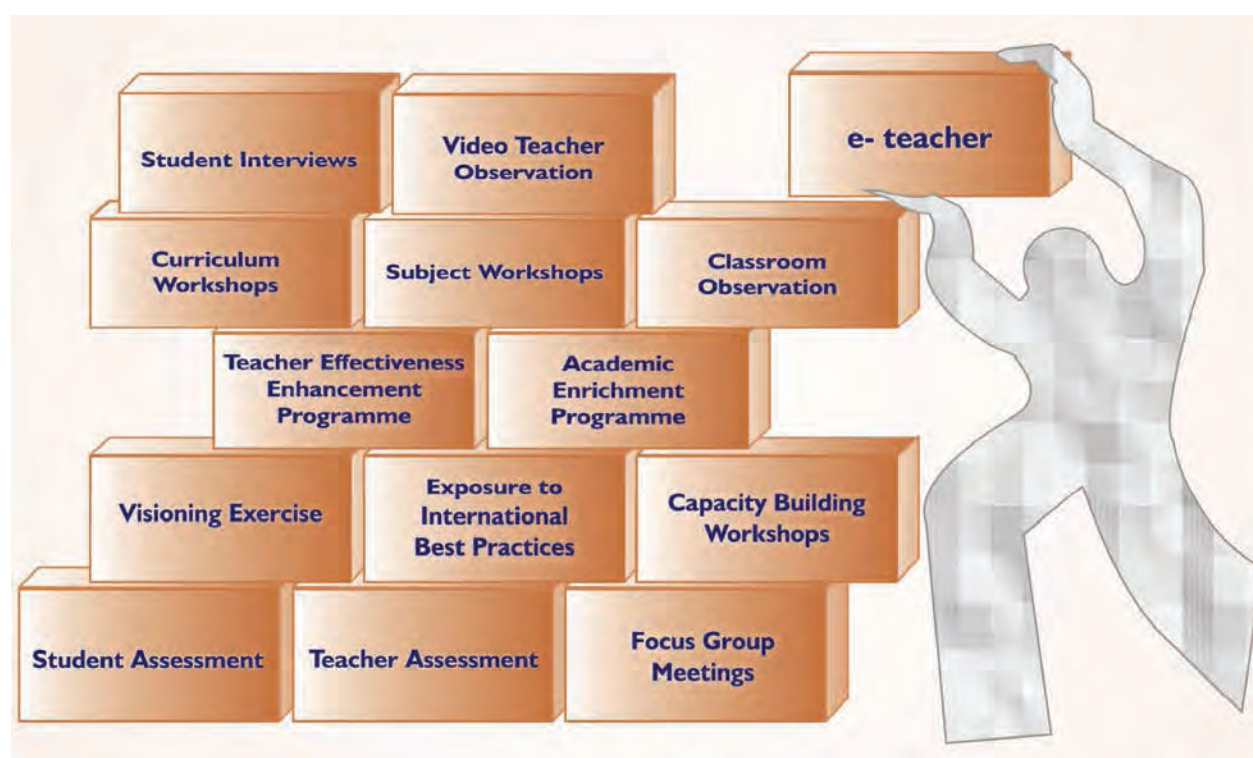
According to McDonnell and Elmore (1991, as cited in Delaney, 2002) the benefits of capacity building are consequential "in the short term, to the specific individuals and institutions that are their recipients, but the ultimate beneficiaries are future members of society, whose interests cannot be clearly determined in the present". Crucially, for capacity building to be effective, it must respond to the growth and development needs of the individual as well as those of the relevant institutions. For all practical purposes, building teacher capacity is, ultimately, engendering development, growth and excellence within an education system.



A Contextualized Model of Teacher Capacity Building

Teaching and Learning

Teacher education is the education process through which all teachers in the nation are professionally trained to be qualified for the education tasks as well to be able to keep abreast of changes or innovations in teaching subsequent to technological developments that impact on teaching and learning. The two complementary components of teacher education were alluded to by Abimbola when he said that "all teachers should not consider themselves finished products upon graduation (after professional training, certification and pre-service teacher education). They must continually update their knowledge (skills and competencies) within their discipline during this era of scientific and technological advancement and information and communication technology that is impacting on all facets of teaching and learning".



The primary and ultimate goals of teaching and learning involve transfer and the acquisition of skills and the ability to function within the world of work or in society in general. Every organisation has a set of goals which it strives to achieve. Schools are no exception. The goals of the school as an organisation comes under the word "teaching and learning", a motive the teacher and students pursue by interacting with materials and their physical environments. Environment means different things that we come across, handle and observe around us. They include the various amenities that are around us in our homes, schools and the community where we are located. The environment moulds our lives, determines what we learn and how we learn it and also helps in shaping our behaviour. In the process of education, a child is influenced by the home which is the child's first window to the outside world, peer group members, relatives, the culture of his/her immediate society and most especially by his/her school environment. School environment has been described as one important factor that affects the school system greatly.

Teaching is any interpersonal influence aimed at changing the ways in which other persons will behave. It is the process of providing learning experiences which entail mental and physical involvement. Learning is conceptualised in terms of behavioural change, and Bidwell (1993) defined it as a relatively enduring change in behaviour that is a function of prior behaviour.

Quality Teaching for Quality Learning

The teachers' job is to teach, and teaching is an activity which can be carried on successfully or otherwise. The question of teaching arises when something can be done to help bring out learning by someone, and the teacher does not only bring out learning but accepts responsibility for failing to do so. The learner needs to provide the necessary motivation in the classroom through his ingenuity. The success of every education process depends on the wisdom and knowledge of the teacher and on the teachers' sensitivity to the students. No education system can rise above the quality of the teachers. It is therefore necessary to consider the quality of teachers in every discussion concerning education. This is imperative because:

- A qualified teacher is not necessarily a competent teacher.
- A competent teacher is not necessarily an efficient teacher.
- An efficient teacher is not necessarily an effective teacher.

A qualified teacher is one that has the minimum condition and certification for entry into the teaching

profession. A competent teacher is one who has mastered the art of teaching, while an efficient teacher is one who can apply the art of teaching as instructed. An effective teacher is one who applies knowledge of the arts of teaching creativity and consequently in maximises student learning.

Teacher Needs Analyses for Capacity Building

Needs analyses essentially are methods that identify and determine the type of capacity that needs to be built in teachers. Teacher needs for capacity building could be established in the following ways:

- Student Assessment
- Teacher Assessment
- Background questionnaires
- Focus Group Meetings
- Classroom Observations
- Visioning Exercises

Teacher Capacity Building and Student Performance

Educators globally are aware of the need for effective teaching in order to improve the students' learning achievement. The emerging empirical evidence shows that countries in the developed world are concerned with school effectiveness and teacher effectiveness. Accountability for student performance is mandatory. As such, the strategies employed by the teachers to improve student learning is important and must meet set educational and teaching standards. Building teacher capacity involves investing in human capital to enable teachers to teach effectively. Improving student performance will enhance the acquisition of skills in cognitive, psychomotor and affective domains, which are critical for intellectual and social development.

Evidence from empirical literature indicate that teachers who attend seminars, workshops and conferences gain experiences that help in enhancing teaching skills and results in improvement of teaching approaches in the classroom. Capacity building in the context of the study is an intervention strategy for improving human and school resources. The domain considered several dimensions; building teacher knowledge and skills, seminars, workshops and conferences and resource persons.

The independent, dependent, intervening variables interact to contribute to student performance and which in turn influence student outcomes. The students' performance is considered as the dependent variable which is explained through the interplay of the independent variables such as capacity building strategy and the intervening variable, which is the attitude of the administrators, attitude of the teacher and attitude of the students.

Some Mythical Images at Shwedagon Pagoda



The two big lions at North Entrance, Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE



People Praying From Wish Fulfilling Square or Victory Land at Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

By Meiji Soe
(Culture & Beyond Myanmar)

(Continued from the previous Sunday Supplement)

Wish fulfilling square

If you go to Shwedagon pagoda from north entrance by lift and walk the main platform around the pagoda, you may see people sitting and praying within a square. That place is called the wish fulfilling square. People strongly believe that it is more effective if you pray from that place and your wishes with good intention will be fulfilled sooner or later. That place is also called 'victory land' (Aung Myay).

Why are two big lion sitting in front of the pagoda?

When we go to the pagoda in Myanmar, we can see two big lions sitting in front of the pagoda entrance. Why? Most of the people think that the two giants are put there as guards to the pagoda, but that is not the whole truth. There is a hidden story behind these two lions. Shall we unfold the history about it?

Once upon a time, a princess and her followers visited a forest. At that time, she was pregnant. Unfortunately, they bumped into a lion there. Once they saw the lion, the faithful followers quickly ran away and could not protect the princess anymore.

But the princess could not run due to her mature pregnancy. Instead of eating the princess, the lion brought her into a cave because he felt great sympathy for her. The lion took care of the princess until the baby was born by protecting her from danger and bringing her food everyday. It was a baby boy, and the lion loved the boys as if he were his own child. He had to find enough food for two human beings now. Sometimes love is very mysterious. The lion did not allow them to go back to the palace as he already had a great attachment to the princess and the boy. (Some sources say that that lion was originally the lover of the princess.)

Time went on and the boy reached the age of reason. One day, the boy asked the mother, with great curiosity.

"Mother, why are we here? Why is my father a lion instead of a human being?"

His mother explained the whole story. "My dear, you are not an ordinary boy. Your grandpa is a King, the ruler of this country, but nobody knows that we are here..."

The boy was very excited with the mother's explanation and said, "Don't worry mother, we will not be like this for our whole life. I am strong enough already. We will run away while the lion goes out to find good."

Mother and son quickly ran away once they got a chance. When the lion came back, he realized what had happened and

quickly chased after them. When the lion saw them, they had just crossed a river. The lion pleaded (by roaring) with them to come back to him. The boy shouted, "Please do not follow us or I will shoot you!". When the boy shot his arrows, they changed into bananas and coconuts in front of the lion, and could not hurt the lion. As the lion's love for the boy was so deep, the arrows could not penetrate the power of his love. The lion roared and roared and the boy kept on shooting at the lion. All of the arrows changed into fruits like offerings (Ka-dawt-pwe-တန့်တော့).

But once, a single thought entered into the lion's mind. "Oh, this boy is very ungrateful and all my love and affection for him is in vain now". With that thought, an arrow hit the lion's head and was killed.

They reached the palace and the king was overjoyed at the unexpected return of his long-lost daughter and his grandson. After the King passed away, the grandson ascended the throne, but the story is not finished yet. Later, the new King suffered from a terrible migraine and could not be cured. All the royal physicians gave up. So the King's wise men sought solution to the problem. They found out that the incurable disease was due to the sin of killing the lion. There was no remedy to cure the migraine except the lion's forgiveness. So the king asked, "How can I ask forgiveness from the lion? He is dead already." The wise men ad-



A Buddhist devotee prays in front of Wishing Stone. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

vised the king to make a lion statue, put it in a shrine, and pray for forgiveness. The king accepted that advice and paid obeisance to the lion statue every day and night. He also decided to build big lion statues in front of the pagodas to remind him of the gratitude he owed to the lion.

The tradition of erecting the lion statues at pagoda entrances began from that time.

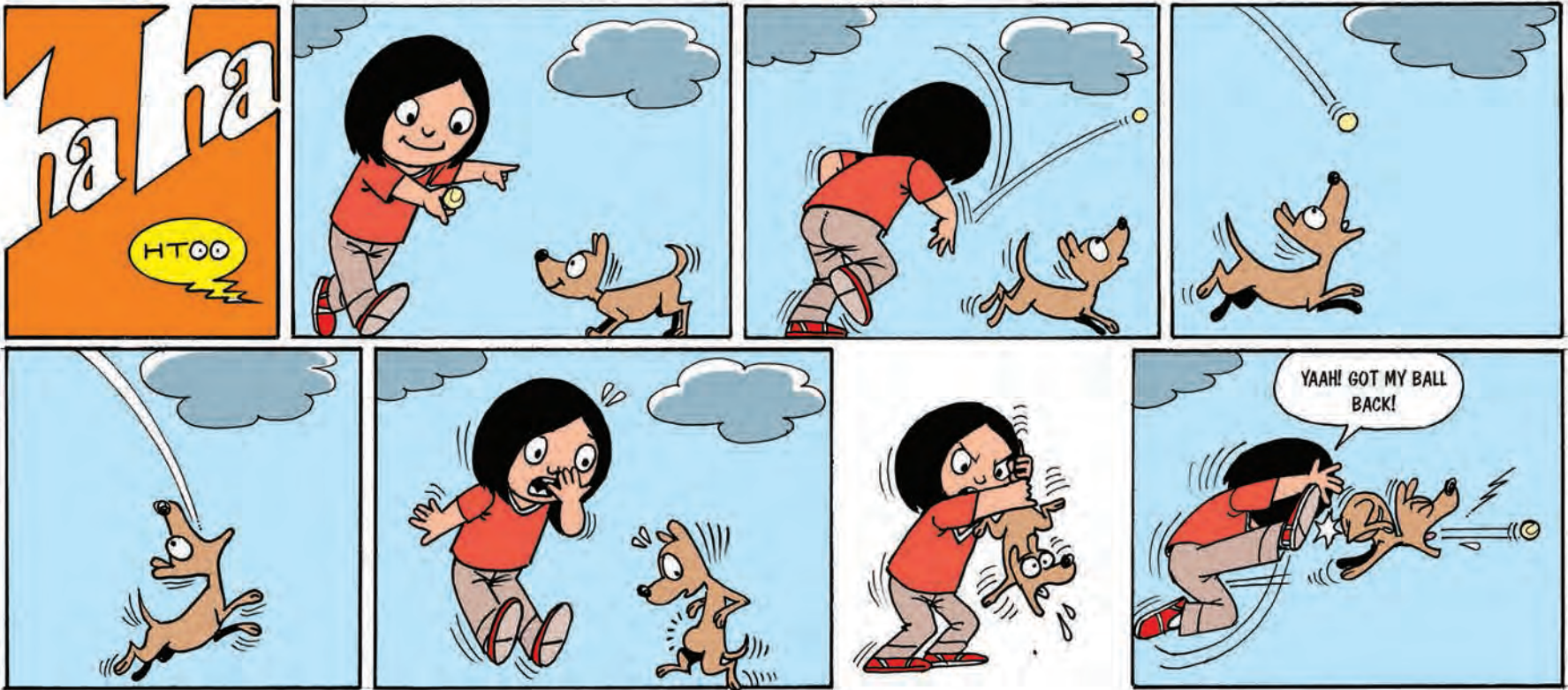
Wishing Stone

You may find smooth round stone in front of some Buddha statues or stupas, near the worshipping place of those pa-

godas. What is that stone for? It is not an ordinary stone. We sit in front of that stone and make a vow. For example, we make a vow like "If will pass the exam, may the stone be as light as a feather; if I be as heavy as a mountain", and then slowly lift the stone. We believe that we get the answer if we have strong faith. If you want to be sure of the stone's answer, you can pray in reverse and lift again, "If I will pass the exam, may the stone be as heavy as a mountain; if I will fail the exam, may this stone be as light as a feather".

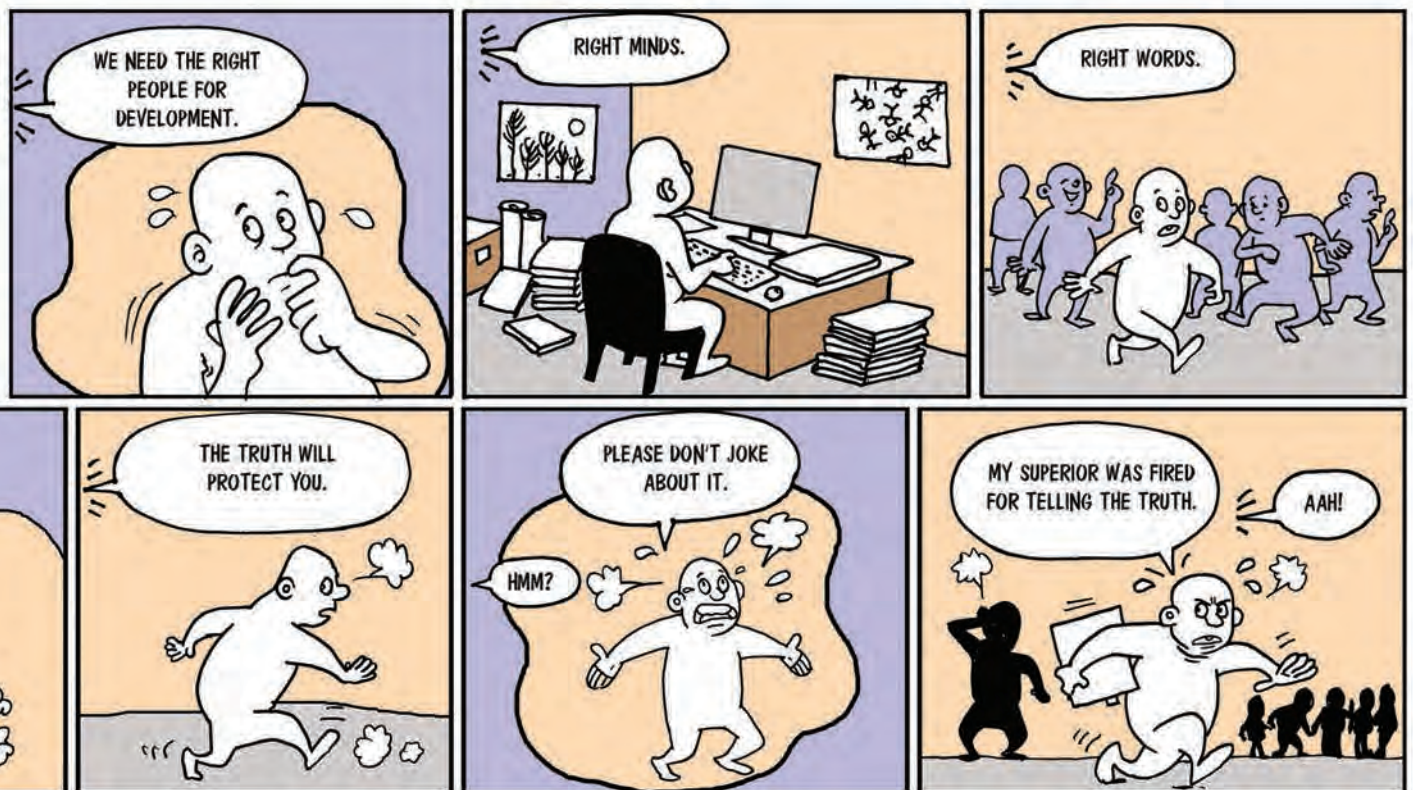
(This article is from "Culture and Beyond Myanmar" book by Meiji Soe)

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



Gyaw Orwell

MR. Messi was a frugal soul. He knew the value of the kkyat and adopted stringent means to save money. His nephew Ronaldo, a student of grade eight, must have found it hard to find a satisfactory bargain in the market.

Mr. Messi had the greatest difficulty in procuring free items, though he had no wife or close relatives, except Ronaldo.

They lived in a poorly maintained but strong house in which stood a huge steel safe. Mr. Messi always lectured his only nephew, "We have no close relatives. Therefore, you must not spend my income."

Ronaldo was always complaining behind his uncle's back about the constant lecture he had to hear.

However, Mr. Messi had a purpose. He wanted to ensure Ronaldo acquired higher education before he died.

Mr. Messi took great pleasure in watching football matches. He liked watching the games of popular footballers, regardless of their clubs and countries of origin. The actual name given to him by his parents was not Messi; it was Ba Pu. He called himself Messi after his parents passed away, and on this occasion distributed free food to his friends and neighbours, which was the only time he had distributed free food in his entire life.

After changing his name, he never allowed anyone to call him U Ba Pu, and would insist he be called Messi. He

also changed his nephew Mg Aye's name to Ronaldo, the popular footballer from Portugal, who was his second favourite player.

Now, Mr. Messi is working at the Ministry of World Cup as a marketing manager. He was offered a handsome salary several times to work in other ministries, but he refused the offers, as he was fond of the name of his ministry, though the work there was not related to football, the sport he loved.

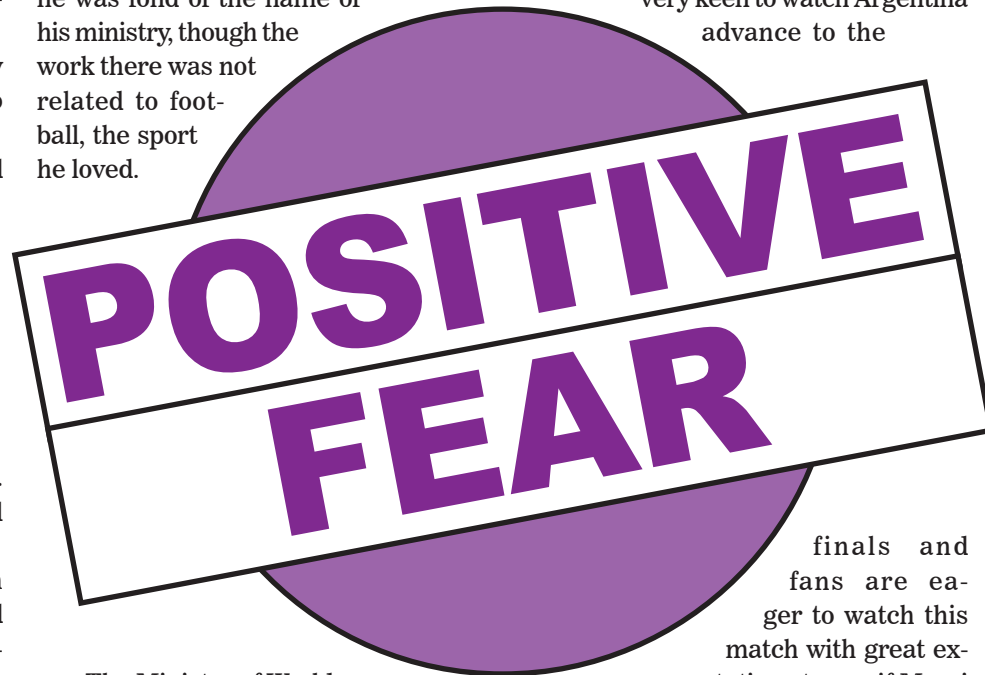
The Ministry of World Cup trades in various sizes and designs of cups across the world through online shopping systems.

After Ronaldo's parents were killed in an accident, Mr. Messi started taking care of him. He would watch all the football matches, but strictly prevented his nephew from watching the football matches during his school days, as he wanted his nephew to focus

on his studies.

The World Cup 2018 matches are being played now. U Ba Pu aka Mr. Messi would catch up on the matches after sending his nephew to tuition classes or sending him to bed.

The final match of the World Cup is early Sunday night. Argentina will compete against another team. Mr. Messi is very keen to watch Argentina advance to the



finals and fans are eager to watch this match with great expectations to see if Messi can win the Golden Boot award after scoring a goal in this match.

In the past few days, he didn't take much interest or ask his nephew anything about his studies, as Mr. Messi was busy with his job and the World Cup matches. On Saturday evening, he accompanied his nephew to his teacher's house.

The teacher informed Mr. Messi to

take care of Ronaldo during the exams, especially on the night before the Mathematics exam, which will be held on the following Monday, as Ronaldo is very weak in the subject. During the last exams, Ronaldo aka Mg Aye failed several times in Mathematics, but the teacher said he could pass the exam if he does well in the subject this time around.

Mr. Messi was confused over whether he would watch the World Cup finals or guide his nephew on the night before the mathematics exam day, as it is also the night of the World Cup final.

In the evening, when Ronaldo came back from tuition, Ronaldo said to his uncle, "Uncle! During the previous exams, you didn't guide me when I was studying. If you don't guide me on the remaining nights of my exams, I won't do any lessons. You are always watching football matches but I don't watch any matches. It is not fair."

On the night of the World Cup finals, as well as the night before Ronaldo's Mathematics exam, Mr. Messi's neighbours watched the final match and cheered in loud voices. Mr. Messi feels pained.

At first, he decides to go and watch the match but he fears his nephew Ronaldo might fail in his exam. Therefore, he sits besides Ronaldo and guides him.

Mr. Messi thinks to himself, "I don't want to leave my nephew alone in this world until he completes his higher education."

The fear of his nephew not completing his higher education is always on Mr. Messi's mind. This is a sort positive fear.

Patient

Patient
Not only the kind of Noun
That sounds sick

Patient
Also that of Adjective
Which seems positive

If somebody goes under the term: Patient
The second will come along with it

Because they are patients
Patients are meant to be patient

Patient with the ever-busy therapist
Patient with the never-ending waiting-list
Patient with the long-running diagnosis
Patient with the quick-tempered assistants
Patient with.....

Patients are called patients
Because they are patient



Honey Soe
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University of
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MAHAW THAHTAR

(Based on the Sixth of the Ten Great Jatakas)

By Ye Dway

Mahaw Thahtar, a Bodhisattva or the future Buddha, was the son of a rich man of a big and prosperous village. Even when he was young, he organized many young boys of his age to construct a lake. A pavilion was also built near the lake. From his childhood days, he was extremely wise and the fame of his wisdom spread far and wide and even reached the ears of the king. Before he became a minister, he not only solved the problems of the four chief ministers of the palace and he always emerged victorious.

The following story (episode) known as the “Solving of Finding out the Real Mother of a Son” was excerpted from the Mahaw Thahtar Jataka, the Fifth of the Ten Great Jatakas.

One day, a woman, carrying a baby in her arms, came to Mahaw Thahtar’s lake to bathe and swim in the water. After cleansing the baby, she laid him down on the lawn to make him sleep near the lake.

At that time, an ogress, in the guise of a woman came to the lake and saw the baby. Desiring to eat the baby, the ogress Shouted to the woman in the water how lovely was her baby and asked the mother to allow her to hold the child in her arms for a few minutes. The woman happily gave her permission and the ogress picked up the baby and held him in her arms and pretended to fondle him. Then, suddenly, the ogress ran away with the ogress, shouting on the way that a woman stole away her baby. The mother begged the ogress to give the baby back to her, but, the ogress said that the child was her son. The woman and the ogress loudly disputed and quarreled and Mahaw Thahtar, hearing the noises of women, came out of the pavilion and asked what was the matter with them.



The woman and the ogress said that the baby belonged to them and each accused the other of stealing the baby. Mahaw Thahtar gave his judgement only after the two disputants agreed to abide by his decree.

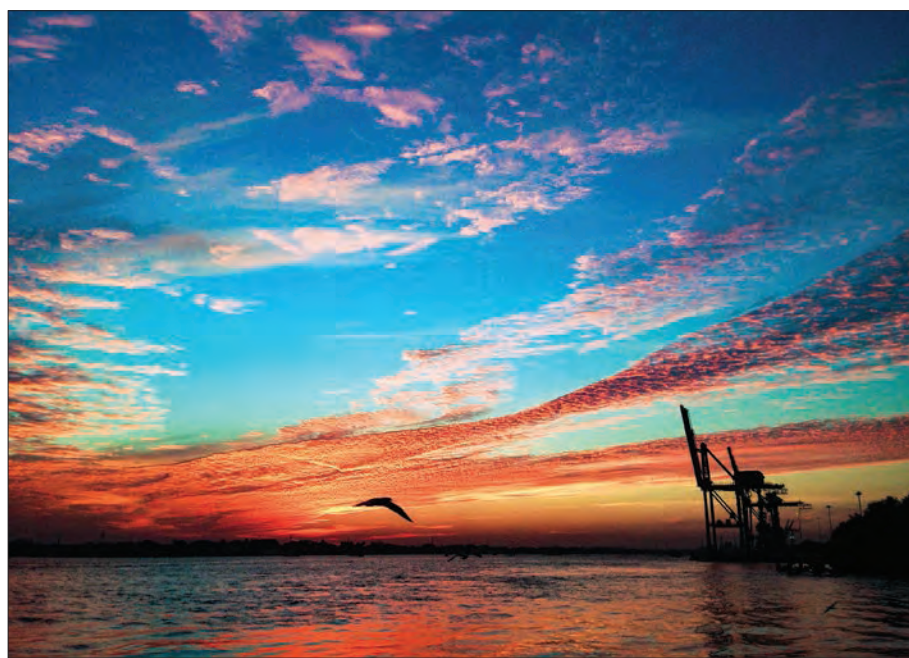
Mahaw Thahtar, by his wisdom and observation, knew that the woman but not the ogress was the mother of the baby. He also knew that the seeming woman who stole the baby from the mother was an ogress. Mahaw Thahtar placed the baby on the ground. He then asked the ogress to hold the hands and made the mother hold the feet of the baby. He told the women that they were to pull the baby and the one who let go the child from her hand will be the loser and the one who firmly got hold of the baby without letting the hands or feet of the baby slip out of

the hands will be the winner. The sound of a gong as the signal is given, and the two women began to pull the baby, but, the mother gave up pulling the feet of the baby because the child cried in pain and she wept bitterly imploring Mahaw Thahtar to reconsider his decision. However, the ogress happily shouted to declare that she was the winner.

Mahaw Thahtar, addressing the villagers, asked them which woman really loved her baby, the real mother or the false mother. The villagers answered that only the real mothers loved their babies very much and that they did not wish to see them hurt by any means. Mahaw Thahtar further asked the people of the village whether the woman who mercilessly and roughly handled the baby or the one who gave up pulling the child was

the real mother. The villagers replied that the woman who gave up pulling the baby because she could not see her child cry in pain was the mother.

Moreover, Mahaw Thahtar said that the woman who pretended to be the mother of the baby was an ogress because she never blinked her eyes and because her eyes were red. The ogress admitted that what Mahaw Thahtar said about her was true and that she stole the baby from his mother because she wanted to devour him. Mahaw Thahtar told her that because she committed many sins in her previous lives, she became an ogress, that if she did not stop committing sins, she will never stop escaping from the lower forms of life. He exacted a promise from the ogress not to kill others and allowed her to go away.



Laughing Under The Clouds

FROM PAGE S-1

As the sunshine needs a little bit of clouds, a seven-coloured rainbow also needs those of them to settle on. Like the quote-

‘Try to be a cloud,
for them to shine like rainbows’,
teaches us to give support to the others in one way or another. In our everyday society, we should have sympathy so that the days will be more magical with heavenly clouds.

Behind every cloud is another cloud. There are days after days as the night changes. We all are aging. Life is like clouds, always changing as some become rich and some change into positive changes as well so before it’s too late, find a little time and fix your bright eyes to the sky to seek for those clouds which are beaming at you. Laughing always echoes. Enjoy your graceful days while laughing under the sempiternal clouds.