NATIONAL

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin signs Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance at Delhi Dialogue

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SUNDAY SPECIAL

Pull-out supplement

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Meeting of 7th State Sangha Committee concludes

THE 17th meeting of the 47-member leading committee of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held its second day meeting at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the committee Agga Maha Gandavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Nandasara acted as the Master of Ceremonies.

During the meeting, the members of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee reviewed the decisions by sub-Sangha Maha Nayaka committees over disputes, and discussed religious and educational issues carried out by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (first sub-group) before giving final decisions over the issues.

Before the meeting came to an end, the Joint Secretary Sayadaw sought the approval

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The second day of 17th meeting of the 47-member 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

For investors, challenges in Myanmar can be turned into opportunities

At the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission U Thaung Tun attended Myanmar Insight 2018 economic seminar, held at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok on Friday morning.

At the Seminar, Union Minister U Thaung Tun delivered a Keynote Speech on "Myanmar's Political and Economic Climate: Enabling Environment for International Investment".

The Union Minister spoke of how Myanmar and Thailand can complement each other and take advantage of the existing comparative strengths in the changing global and regional landscape. He also highlighted kinship and long standing close ties between the peoples of two neighboring countries.

The Union Minister also stressed the urgent need to work together to develop economies through innovation and increased cooperation across the board and emphasized: "It is vital that countries in our neighborhood remain connected and benefit from the globalization process".

Explaining the change and transformation taking place in Myanmar, he shared recent legal, procedural and structural reforms taken by the government to further improve investment climate in Myanmar.

Union Minister said, "New management at the MIC is determined to turn Myanmar into a major regional trade and investment destination".

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UEC Chair meets election sub-commissions in Shan State

Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein meets with chairmen and members of Shan State self-administered region, district and township election sub-commissions in Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein met with the self-administered region, district and township election sub-commissions in Shan State at the Shan State government office yesterday in preparation for holding the by-election which is slated to be held on 3 November.

At the meeting, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein urged the chairmen and members of the sub-commission to complete the preparation for the by-election process timely.

The by-election for 13 vacant seats will be held on 3 November 2018. In Shan State it will be held for the Laikha constituency.

"The district, township, ward/village tract commissions are required to conduct preparations for the election process works, according to the set timetable," said U Hla Thein.

At the moment, political parties have submitted a list of candidates and State sub-commissions and UEC is to be informed and coordinated in assessing and confirming the candidates transparently and in a timely manner, according to enacted procedures, rules and laws, he added.

Commission and various levels of the sub-commission could not hold the election successfully without the participation and cooperation of relevant ministries, political parties, civil society organisations, media and the public.

The UEC Chairman also called for carrying out election procedures with good will and without bias.

He also urged the sub-commissions that do not have by-elections to assist the other sub-commissions in holding by elections.

He also called for preparation for the 2020 general election. Afterwards, the state, self-administered region, district and township election sub-commission chairmen delivered individual speeches and explained the election process, as coordinated by the UEC Chairman.

The meeting was attended by Shan State (South), self-administered region, district and township election sub-commission chairmen and members. —Myanmar News Agency ■

New tar road opened in Pinlaung, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung and officials cut ribbon to open new tar road in Pinlaung Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN opening ceremony for a new three mile tar road built during the fiscal year 2017-2018 Union Budget in Pinlaung Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, was held on the morning of 20 July.

First, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Chairman of the Pa-O Self -Administered Zone leading body chairman U Khun San Lwin and a Shan State Hluttaw representative cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new tar road and inspect it.

Afterwards, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut and U Khun San Lwin delivered speeches on the aim of constructing the road, after which local residents expressed their appreciation for the newly built road. Also, the Union Minister and party presented 142 solar lamps for use in 142 households in six villages in Pinlaung Township.

The Ministry of Border Affairs has spent Ks 12,055.754 million, allocated from the Union budget, for work on 94 roads and bridges, 62 water access works, 11 power stations, five religious missionary works in Pinlaung Township, Pa-O Self- Administered Zone, from fiscal year 2015-2016 to 2017-2018, and the ministry will continue its support work in fiscal year 2018-2019 with not less than the amount spent, to date. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Kayin community to hold white thread festival next month

By Nyein Nyein

THE Kayin traditional white thread festival (Kayin Chi Phyu Pwe ceremony) will be held on 18 August at MCC on Min Dhamma Road in Yangon.

A negotiation meeting over the celebration of the festival was held on 18 July at meeting hall 2 of the Yangon Region government office. Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs, gave the opening speech.

"Frankly I say, we have been divided by religion during colonial times. When you look back at history, we were separated based on religious differences.

This has been a hurtful experience for us in profound ways for decades. This is why we hope people will appreciate this festival.

Hopefully, they will not relate it with religion. It is our sincere request, as we have seen some unwanted cases in the past, she said.

The senior officials, 28 ethnic affairs ministers of the regions and states and Karen National Union leaders have been invited.

"This festival is meant to celebrate our tradition and culture. It will help introduce our culture to other ethnic people. Kayin people in Yangon have united to develop their socio-economic status. I often mention to them to exert efforts into literature, culture and economic development," she maintained.

Stalls highlighting Kayin history, musical instruments, culture, classic photos and literature of the Kayin people will be showcased at the Kayin traditional white thread festival.■

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends Delhi Dialogue in New Delhi, signs Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance

THE Myanmar Delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening after attending the 10th edition of Delhi Dialogue, held in New Delhi, India on 19-20 July 2018.

The Delhi Dialogue is an annual forum where political leaders, policy makers, researchers, academicians and leading figures from various business circles from ASEAN member states and India gather and exchange views on politico-security, economic and socio-cultural issues for enhancement of ASEAN-India relations.

This year's Dialogue was convened under the theme of "Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation" and officiated by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India. Along with Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Mr. Abdul Mutalib Yusof, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam, Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam and representatives from ASEAN countries delivered their statements in the Ministerial session of the Dialogue.

In her keynote address, Minister of External Affairs of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj said that this year's Delhi Dialogue was unique, as it was the first ASEAN- India meeting following the Commemorative Summit of the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Partnership, which was held in New Delhi in January 2018. As ASEAN and India are maritime partners and neighbours, both sides must work together for security and sustainability of oceans, seas and waterways. She also mentioned that India has been working together with ASEAN Member States towards evolving a regional security architecture which is focused on ASEAN's centrality.

In his statement, the Union Minister U Kyaw Tin expressed that being a country with a long coastal line, Myanmar places great importance to the security of sea lanes and maritime-dependent activities such as maritime trade, transport, offshore oil and gas production, fishery, maritime tourism for the economic development of our region. He highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation through information sharing, exchange of experience in preservation of ecosystem and

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin presents the framework agreement to Minister of External Affairs of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi, India. **PHOTO: MNA**

addressing maritime security matters such as combating illegal fishing, piracy, arms and drugs trafficking. Furthermore, the Union Minister stressed that thanks to its geographical location, Myanmar can serve as a land bridge between India and South Asia Region. India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project will serve as India's major gateway to Southeast Asia countries and it will eventually extended to Cambodia, Laos PDR and Vietnam. The Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project which will connect Northeastern Region of India to Sittwe Port in Myanmar, will provide an attractive access from the landlocked region of India to the Bay of Bengal and ASEAN Member States after the completion of the Project. Myanmar's infrastructure project such as Thilawa economic zone and Dawei Deep Sea Ports project, was completed will also make a game changer in maritime transport and connectivity corridors in the region. He also mentioned that Myanmar will continue its close cooperation with India under the framework of ASEAN-India strategic partnership and looks forward to commencing its cooperation under India Ocean Rim Association(IORA) framework soon.

During the visit, the Union Minister met separately with Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India and held discussion on strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation and briefed the recent developments in Rakhine State.

The Union Minister signed the Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance in New Delhi and deposited the instrument with Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India.

Myanmar has thus become the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement paving the way for the country to receiving solar energy-related external assistance. — Myanmar News Agency ■

For investors, challenges in Myanmar can be turned into opportunities

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The Union Minister further underscored that, Myanmar, one of the most isolated countries until 2011, is one of Asia's fastest-growing economies in 2017, according to the World Bank, turning faltering steps of reforms into firm strides. He said that Myanmar still has challenges which are holding back progress in realizing its potential for development such as poor infrastructure and lack of sufficient and stable electricity. He said:

"For investors, these challenges can be turned into opportunities".

Explaining several strengths of Myanmar including strategic geographical significance, natural resources, young labor force, young generation with talent, growing middle class, he said:

"The time is ripe to invest in Myanmar".

The Myanmar Insight seminar, jointly organized by the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon and the Thai Business Association of Myanmar (TBAM) for the third year, was part of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of Thailand-Myanmar diplomatic relations. This seminar comprises of five panels: Overseas Investment, Tourism Industry; Electricity and Energy Sector; Trading in Myanmar; Food Security.

The Seminar was opened with the Welcoming remarks by H.E. Mr. Jukr Boon-long, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, followed by the Opening remarks by H.E. Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung, Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission Director-General U Aung Naing Oo and Director-General Daw Mi Mi Khaing from Ministry of Electricity and Energy also participated in the Panel discussions.

MIC Chairman Union Minister U Thaung Tun is greeted by Minister of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj in Bangkok. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over 600 senior representatives including CEOs from leading Thai Companies and Banks attended the Seminar.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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FMI Air vows to give employees new jobs

FMI Air, an airline operating domestic scheduled and charter services, announced on Friday that it will temporarily suspend its air services after less than six years in operation due to a reorganisation, a move that will affect 134 employee.

The airline pledged that, where possible, these employees have been given the option to transfer to another business operation under the group, saying that all other employees will be given due notice and severance pay, in line with the country's existing labour laws.

Due to its temporary suspension, FMI Air will refund fares to its passengers with reservations for travel after 20 July. There will be one charter flight operating on 23 July, 2018, after which all charter flights will also temporarily suspend operations, according to the airline.

"Operating in Myanmar's aviation sector has become increasingly challenging and, after much deliberation, we have decided to temporarily suspend the operations of FMI Air. This will give us time to carry out a thorough restructuring of the airline, as well as to create an operational model capable of delivering future success," said U Theim Wai, Chairman of FMI Air.

The airline may resume operations at a future date, subject to reorganisation and market conditions.

FMI Air was established as FMI Air Charter in 2012 to offer the first flight service between Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. In 2015, FMI Air started commercial operations. In addition to the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw route, the airline has also served other destinations, such as Dawei, Myeik, Kawthoung and Thandwe. First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd. holds a 10% stake in FMI Air.—GNLM ■

95 seized tortoises conserved at Ban Bway tortoise conservation camp

THE authorities have seized 95 tortoises, which were illegally being exported to other counties via a vehicle. The authorities then seized and conserved them at the Ban Bway tortoise conservation camp.

A combined team comprising staff from Yaypu checkpoint and the forestry department searched the vehicle and found 95 tortoises, which were illegally being exported to China. The illegal tortoises have been sent to the Ban Bway tortoise conservation camp. Once they recover, they will be released into their natural habitat after being examined carefully and marked.

Of the 95 tortoises, 79 yellow-footed tortoises, eight six black turtles and one Arakan forest turtle have received treatment, hydration, injection, deworming and antibiotics, said Dr. Kalyar, director of Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA).

Tortoise conservation camper giving medical treatment to a turtle. **PHOTO: WCS**

All the tortoises are almost extinct. We protected them in time, she added.

The seized tortoises have been conserved at Ban Bway tortoise conservation camp in cooperation with the forestry department, WCS and TSA. —GNLM ■

Mandalay Zaycho to become Myanmar's first toxic free market

ONE of the largest markets in Mandalay Region will be established as the first ever toxic- and chemical-free market in Myanmar on 25 July, said Dr Kyaw Kyaw, deputy director of Mandalay Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Mandalay Zaycho market is the largest market in central Myanmar and it is the trading hub for merchants from many regions and places. It will earn a good reputation as an ideal toxic-free market. This plan will then proceed to other markets and shops.

"Zaycho market will be announced as a toxic free market on 25 July by the regional government and the respective ministries," he added.

Additionally, awareness campaigns regarding non-nutritious food products also need to be conducted. This toxic free market plan should continue in other places. The plan was initiated in March 2016 and dye-fee certificates were given out to 124 shops. The remaining 164 shops will be issued dye-free certificates on 25 July.

Officials will continue to implement dye-free area projects in other markets of Mandalay Region. The Zaycho market was rebuilt in 1903 with a masonry structure designed by an Italian, Count Conte Calderari. There are 27 buildings with over 2,000 shops.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House) ■

Yangon Region attracts FDIs worth US$370 million in past three months

By May Thet Hnin

Aerial view of Thilawa Special Economic Zone. **PHOTO: MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL TERMINALS THILAWA**

FOREIGN direct investments, including investments in special economic zones, worth over US$370 million were brought into Yangon Region between April and June 2018, said U Myo Khaing Oo, secretary of Yangon Investment Committee.

During the past three months, 16 foreign enterprises made investments of $222 million, while three foreign investments invested some $149 million at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The manufacturing sector absorbed the most number of foreign investments in Yangon Region. The enterprises are engaged in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes and garments on Cutting, Making and Packing (CMP) basis, U Myo Khaing Oo said.

"Around seven more garment enterprises on CMP basis made investments in Yangon Region, mostly the extended businesses. The bonded warehouse business and producing metal and hangers for use in garment enterprises on CMP basis were also seen," he maintained.

The main investors in Yangon Region are China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Viet Nam.

Some 26 foreign enterprises were approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission in the past three months, with capital of some $395 million. Yangon Region received the largest investments of $370 million.

MIC gave the green light to a total of 46 domestic enterprises with estimated capital of Ks704 billion. Yangon Region attracted 14 of them, receiving Ks525 billion. ■

China's demand for chaste tree seeds continues to rise

CHINA'S demand for chaste tree seeds has been high in the market this season, according to growers in Ngathayouk Township in Mandalay Region.

Growers and farm workers in the township earned a handsome profit from the sale of chaste tree seeds, which are popular in the Chinese market, said a female retailer from ward-1 in the town.

A retailer from Mraukgon ward-1 said that Chinese businesspersons have been purchasing chaste tree seeds from a while ago through brokers. Sometimes, Chinese businessmen directly purchase the seeds from farmers. This year, some growers sold their products to brokers from the Chinese side, while some others sold the same items to wholesale centres in Pakokku Township.

She noted that she does not know how Chinese buyers use these herbal seeds. The period between June and October is the busiest time for local producers, as well as farm workers. There are some three local brokers in Ngathayouk Township. A broker buys an average of over 2,000 viss of chaste tree seeds per year (a viss is equivalent to 3.6 lbs).

Daw Shwe Kyan from Taungphattan Village in NyaungU Township said that a basket of dried chaste tree seeds includes six viss. Currently, a viss of dried seeds is sold for Ks3,000, whereas dried chaste tree leaves are worth Ks500 per viss.

Chaste trees are considered small trees such as shrubs and don't need much water to grow.—Ko Htain (Ngathayouk) ■

Myanmar's bilateral trade with Germany worth $101 million in first two months

MYANMAR'S trade with Germany in the first two months of the current interim period (April to September), prior to the fiscal year (FY) 2018-2019 amounted to US$10 million, comprising $63.7 million worth of exports and $37.6 million valued in imports, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Germany was ranked first among the EU countries, reporting the largest trade value with Myanmar, followed by the UK with some $79 million. France was listed in the third place with trade values of some $62.5 million

Beyond the regional trade regime, Myanmar has established trade links with EU member countries.

The country mainly exported rice, pulses, tea leaves, coffee, apparel from the garment sector on a Cut-Make-Pack basis and fisheries, while cosmetics, food and beverages and consumer goods were imported into Myanmar.

Myanmar reinstated EU's Generalised Scheme of Preference (GSP) starting from 19 July 2013. Myanmar can enjoy GSP for the export of fisheries, rice, pulses, agro products, bamboos and rattan finished products, forestry products, apparels and finished industrial goods.

The trade value with Germany was some $584 million in the 2017-2018 FY, $342 million in the 2016-2017 FY, $153 million in the 2015-16 FY, $147 million in the 2014-2015 FY, $123 million in the 2013-2014 FY, $187 million in the 2012-2013 FY and $137 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

EU member countries made investments in petroleum and natural gas enterprises, manufacturing, transportation, hotels and tourism and livestock businesses. — Ko Htet ■

Myanmar-Poland trade exceeds $25 million this FY

BILATERAL trade with Poland, a member of the European State, in the first two months of the current fiscal year (FY) reached US$25.6 million, with $20.191 million in exports and $5.414 million in imports, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Myanmar-Poland external trade has been increasing year after year. The bilateral trade totalled $72.771 million in the 2017-2018 FY, including $64.204 million worth of exports and $8.567 million worth of imports. The number increased by $33.05 million when compared to the 2016-2017 FY when bilateral trade was $39.721 million.

Trade between the two states was $2.456 million in the 2011-2012 FY, $0.731 million in the 2012-2013 FY, $3.056 million in the 2013-2014 FY, $15.804 million in the 2014-2015 FY and $19.675 million in the 2015-2016 FY.

Myanmar exports aquaculture and agricultural products, garments, coffee and tea leaves to the European community. Cosmetics, food and beverages, medicines, transport equipment, machinery and consumer goods are usually imported into the country.

The government is still trying to introduce other kinds of value-added products to the European community in cooperation with private entrepreneurs. The majority of investments from EU member countries mainly enter the country's petroleum and natural gas enterprises, hotels and tourism firms, manufacturing and transport sectors, and the livestock breeding industry.—Shwe Khine ■

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Film Development Centre opened in Yangon

IN a bid to develop the country's film technology, know-how and exchange of views among professionals, a Film Development Centre was opened at No. 50 Golden Valley, Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Patron Bagyi U Soe Moe and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Chairman U Zin Waing opened the Film Development Centre by cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and ceremony attendees then toured the studio, outdoor sites, as well as training and meeting rooms.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to open Film Development Centre in Bahan Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

In addition to training and discussion rooms, the Film Development Centre has a reference library containing literature and books on the history of films.

In establishing the Film Development Centre, the Ministry of Information formed a management group with movie experts to ensure that training, discussions and contacts could be conducted at a single location.

Furthermore, participants will have use of the auditorium, theater, studios, cameras and associated materials at the Film Development Centre, Film Club, Cinematheque Programs and through Grant Programs.

At 10 a.m., an opening ceremony for the film copyright workshop was held in the Film Development Centre. In his speech at the opening ceremony, the Union Minister said the Ministry of Information had a responsibility in movies and films and in the work of film development. To that end, it is working together with businesses related to movies, people in the film industry and other relevant persons.

"It is an auspicious day because a Film Development Centre with studios, training, discussion rooms and a theatre has been opened", the Union Minister said. "In addition to this, conducting a film copyright workshop that will support the important sector of intellectual property rights protection is also seen as a valuable sign. This workshop is the start of discussions toward establishment of a law".

After the opening address by the Union Minister, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Chairman U Zin Waing agreed that the opening of the Film Development Centre is auspicious and discussed film copyright protection.

The workshop on film copyright continued with Academy Daw Swe Zin Htike leading a discussion with intellectual property rights business association vice chairman U Thein Aung, executive member U Than Maung and Save Myanmar Film project director U Okka. They discussed the titles used when creating a movie, as well as copyrights, copyright matters currently violated, international copyright protection practices, opportunities and challenges of copyright works. Officials then answered questions.

The workshop was also attended by officials from the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Patron, Chairman and members, movie and video censor members.

A report on the outcomes, suggestions and discussions made at the workshop will be published, and works continued for the development of Myanmar's motion picture industry.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for Industry on inspection tour in Yangon

UNION Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, accompanied by officials, travelled to Shwe Pyi Tha Padamya market and inspected the sales of manufactured goods from the private sector. The Union Minister remarked that there must be no disruptions in moving manufactured goods to the market, selling products systematically, and urged the use of computer aided account systems in area enterprises. He later presented commemorative gifts to the buyers.

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho inspects the sales of manufactured goods in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Also, the Union Minister visited the Daewoo vehicle production factory, jointly operated with No. 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise in Htauk Kyant, where officials from the Myanmar Trade Center explained about assembling Daewoo buses and mini-buses.

The Union Minister spoke of the importance of properly manufacturing the vehicles and requested that the enterprise systematically protect the environment, beginning in the early construction stages.

Afterward, the Union Minister and party went to Myat Miba Company, which is jointly operated with No. 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise packing paper factory in Thanlyin, and urged that squatters be prevented from entering the factory compound. He also discussed using those empty lands in the compound for the benefit of the state, and to release lands not being used to the people, according to stated rules and regulations, to ensure that the people can perform beneficial works on these lands.— Myanmar News Agency ■

MCDC to launch sale of Myayinanda lowcost housing units to civil servants

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) will begin selling apartments at its newly developed Myayinanda low-cost housing project in Myayinanda Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay.

Carried out by the MCDC, the Myayinanda low-cost housing project is made up of 672 housing units, offering 661 square feet per apartment.

In selling those apartments, priority will be given to government employees and retired civil servants across Mandalay Region. The authorities will sell an application form at a price of Ks500 to eligible persons between 24 July and 7 August, including public holidays. Applicants have to submit their forms to the committee within 14 days, commencing on 1 August. Application forms are available at the hall within the compound of the MCDC in Chanayethazan Township.

The government accelerated its attempts to provide for the housing needs of low-income citizens by building affordable housing projects, particularly in big cities, in Yangon and Mandalay.— Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

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Union Minister meets historians, script writers, authors

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meeting with authors of history, script writers and historians in Pyay Road, Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with authors of history, script writers and historians at the Myanmar Radio and Television meeting hall on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday.

Dr. Pe Myint said arrangements have been made to establish a movie studio and training school in Nay Pyi Taw, for which experts, movie personnel and businesses are cooperating. The aim of the meeting was to develop movies and series based on Myanmar history, said the Union Minister.

Also, Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, author Tekkatho Sein Tin, historians U Than Swe, Dr. Kyaw Win, and Minbu U Aung Kyaing, directors U Kyi Soe Tun, Zinyaw Maung Maung, U Myo Zaw Aung and Kyi Phyu Shin, script writer-director U Zaw Myint Oo, script expert Mya Myint Mo and attendees discussed producing movies and developing series based upon Myanmar history.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Meeting of 7th State Sangha Committee concludes

FROM PAGE-1

for a brief report on the accomplishment of work done by the working group of the leading committee on its performance in the fifth period.

The meeting was attended by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and members of Sangha, as well as, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Myint Oo, pro-rector (Admin) of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University (ITBMU) U Khin Maung Win and officials and staff from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The meeting was presided over by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa. On day one of the meeting on Friday, Chairman Sayadaw Dr. Kumara Bhivamsa urged the regulatory bodies of the Sangha in region and states to carry out their tasks effectively in attempts to prevent some monks and novices who have been acting against the religious rules of Theravada Buddhism. There are about 500,000 members of the Sangha in Myanmar. Nearly 90 per cent of Myanmar's population practices Theravada Buddhism, the more conservative of the two major branches of the religion.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Users can avoid receiving unwanted SMSs

PUBLIC mobile phone users can avoid receiving unwanted short message services (SMS), following a discussion held between the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce, Directorate of Telecommunications under the Ministry of Transport and Communication, and Communication Service Companies. An MPT mobile user can avoid receiving unwanted SMSs by typing *2007#. Telenor mobile users can send an SMS by typing DNDON to 500, while Ooreddo users can send an SMS by typing DNDON to 5059. Sending SMSs to the related operators to avoid receiving unwanted SMSs will not be chargeable.

"There are many complaints related to communication services. Our Consumer Affairs Department is solving these complaints," said U Soe Aung, Deputy Director of the Consumer Affairs Department.

They are related to packages, phone calls and messages. Users complain that they receive too many messages.

Therefore, we held a discussion with the communication service companies at the Yangon region meeting hall on 25 June. Then, the Yangon region Consumer Affairs Department sent a notification letter to the Myanmar Communication Enterprises (MCE). The MCE replied that they have already made arrangements to get rid of unwanted SMSs to ensure users are satisfied.

Therefore, the outcome is a result of the discussion between the Consumer Affairs Department, directorate of communication department and Communication Service Companies, said U Soe Aung.—Shin Min ■

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects development works

THE Rakhine State Chief Minister, accompanied by state ministers and other officials, went to Ponnagyun, Kyautaw and MarukU townships and inspected regional development works.

The Chief Minister and party first went to Guwa embankment in Ponnagyun Township and inspected the status of construction, water storage, strength of the embankment and water distribution into Ponnagyun. The reservoir can store about 110 million gallons of water and was constructed with allocation from 2017-2018 budget to distribute water to wards in Ponnagyun it is learnt.

From there they went to Kyauktaw and inspected the construction of town hall, the pouring of concrete on Bogyoke Road and the construction of staff quarters. It was noted that good construction standards and early completion of the work were being maintained.

They then went to MraukU Township's Tane Nyo Bridge construction site on Yangon-Sittway Road (An-Sittway road section) where officials from the Department of Bridge, Construction 2, Bridge Special Group 7, explained the status of bridge construction. after which the construction site was inspected.

Next, the Chief Minister and party inspected the laying of gravel on Nankya Road on Yangon-Sittway Road, preparation of rice saplings for an experimental planting system in Pipinyin village tract beside Yangon-Sittwe Road by the Department of Agriculture and the repairing of a road in MraukU's Koe Thaung pagoda.

Afterwards, they inspected the work on improving water flow in Phayapaw Creek conducted by the MraukU town development committee, where officials explained the status of work and the Chief Minister remarked on necessary matters. They then continued on to inspect the construction of reinforced concrete bridge 1/113 on Minbu-An-Sittway Road. —Myint Maung Soe ■

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects construction of a bridge on Nankya road on the Yangon-Sittway Road in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

Flood warnings as river levels at Zalun, Madauk close to danger levels

FLOOD warnings for the river banks and low-lying areas in Zalun Township in Ayeyawady Region and Madauk Township in Bago Region were issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) yesterday.

The water level of the Ayeyawady River at Zulun has reached about 1 foot below its danger level, whereas the water level in the River at Madauk rose to about one-half foot below its danger level, according to the DMH's observation yesterday. The weather bureau forecast that water levels at Zalun and Madauk townships would reach their danger levels during the next two days. —GNLM ■

22 JULY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Clean government needs righteous staff members

TO bring well-being to our country and its people, it will take a lot to end poverty: strong growth, more infrastructural investments, increased agricultural productivity, a better business environment, jobs, education, and quality healthcare.

Challenges await on the road to this goal. A responsible government with clean governance does not shy away from the challenges. Among these challenges is corruption.

Merely free from corruption is not enough for the government, which guarantees responsibility and accountability, to earn trust from the people. The cleanliness of the government should be beyond doubt by the people.

The number of cabinet members of the incumbent government is less than 30. Hence, the civil servants in the administrative sector who have to directly provide services to the people are required to be free from corruption to secure our image as a developed country with integrity.

> A clean government does not let its righteous go hungry, though it does not have magic power to fulfill the needs of its righteous overnight. Still, it is obliged to promote the well-being of its civil servants as best it can.

To tackle corruption, taking action against officials and civil servants in the administrative sector is not easy, as it is taking action against members of the government.

Hence, all staff members of the civil service sector should commit themselves to be free from corruption and malpractice, and should maintain their reputations.

We should be aware of the fact that a country that does not deliver "clean" services will choke its engine of growth.

There is no doubt that corruption remains a problem and has a corrosive effect on trust and on good governance, and it also undermines the central principle of democracy.

To grasp the opportunities and to tackle the challenges on the path we embarked toward a federal future, trust between civil servants and the communities that they serve is sine qua non. To build trust with the communities demands our civil servants to act with integrity, impartiality and accountability in all that they do.

At the same time, civil servants deserve the right to be treated with respect and courtesy by the public. Establishing this mutual trust may take time, but will bring real and tangible benefits for all concerned.

A clean government does not let its righteous go hungry, though it does not have magic power to fulfill the needs of its righteous overnight. Still, it is obliged to promote the well-being of its civil servants as best it can.

If our civil servants work in the best in the interests of the people, realising their own individual and collective potential, our country will enjoy the fruits of development within a short time. ■

Listening to the people's voice for development

By Dr. Wah Wah Maung
(Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning and Finance)

WE need to target people-centred institutions for our society to be transparent with political maturity, respectful towards each other, and to create a modern society in which all of us can participate. Now we are cooperating in the process to the development of a Democratic Federal Union with respective people including the public.

We need to listen to the voice of the people to implement people-centred development policies, improve their livelihoods, and identify beneficial operations. We can take random samples and collect surveys from each sector to listen to the people's voice. The Central Statistics Organization conducted a survey of living standards in Myanmar over four quarterly periods with financial and technical support from the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and the World Bank in 2017.

Before conducting that survey, we held three meetings regarding the survey questions preparation process, the surveying technology, and states and regions to be covered. Specially trained teams were assigned around Myanmar to conduct the survey. During the process, specially assigned staff deeply focused on the survey the whole year without performing regular duties of the department.

The Myanmar living conditions survey is a multi-sector survey of how people in Myanmar live. According to regions and states, we can find out the living standards of the people. By identifying regions, states, townships, urban and rural, we aimed to take the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2017- MLCS to get the figures and index needed to conduct calculations of consumer prices and inflation for reduction of poverty, imposing of policies and projects for social and economic development, and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2017- MLCS included over 13,000 households in the 330 townships of regions and states of Myanmar over four quarterly periods. It was finished in the second week of December 2017 and screening data was inserted to calculate the index and present social and economic conditions. The main indicator report will be released at the end of May 2018 and the social and economic conditions report will be released in November of 2018.

This survey collected data on occupation and income, and how people use their income for livelihoods, health, education, and needs of family. The collected data will be used to make any necessary amendments concerning imposing of policies for the future development of the country. In addition, it can support the validity statistics of the country, national comprehensive development, and calculating the index of social and the economy.

The photo mentioned was taken while giving knowledge of the survey to the public and to participants in the survey.

We would like to answer the following questions.

> The Myanmar Living Conditions Survey was conducted by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance and took financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Program and World Bank. The specially trained staffs were sent to conduct the survey throughout Myanmar.

A. Where did we take the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey?

The Myanmar Living Conditions Survey represents the whole country and it was taken in all districts and townships, so urban, rural, hills and flatlands are valid. Although we planned to survey 13,824 households, we managed only 13,730 due to some absences. Thus, we achieved 94 per cent of responses on this survey.

The influence of this survey affected all of the country except for Maungtaw and Buthidaung in Rakhine State, and the 'Wa' region in northern Shan State. Although we did not have a chance to ask survey questions in the northern Rakhine and 'Wa' regions due to area security, we replaced those survey areas with similar community areas. Total Enumeration Area (EA) data collected numbered 1,145.

B. Who conducted the survey?

The Myanmar Living Conditions Survey was conducted by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance and took financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Program and World Bank. The specially trained staffs were sent to conduct the survey throughout Myanmar.

C. Where did we conduct the survey questions?

The conducted questions were about the number of people per household, their income and expenses including purchasing power and brand selection, seasonal work, number of dependents, students, education and health; access to electricity and energy, water supply, and clean toilets, transportation, assets, use of technology, presence of people with disabilities and migrant citizens. Therefore, we came to discover that the income of people and jobs depend on seasonal changes because the majority of our country's business is based on agriculture.

D. When did we begin conducting the survey and when was it finished?

The survey was conducted for 12 months beginning in December 2016 and ending in December 2017. We discussed with people who conducted the surveys, those who compiled and reviewed the data, those who calculated the index and wrote the reports, and the participants.

E. How will the data from survey be used?

The main indicator report will released at the end of May 2018 and government can consider using it in any necessary amendments concerning imposing of policies and planning. After November 2018, the socio-economic report for Myanmar, including data relating to districts and states, will be released.

By using the data from the survey, researcher can do analysis living standard of Myanmar in detail and civil society can notify and discuss for needs of vulnerable people in Myanmar. For example, the production design can be adapted by changes in consumption of patterns of households and how we can accommodate in which forms of production for improving in rural area. How can we express whether agriculture or other business activity in which regions?

F. Was it first time conducting this kind of survey in Myanmar?

We have conducted various types of household surveys in Myanmar before. This includes the Comprehensive Survey about Livelihoods in Myanmar (2005 and 2010), the Household Income and Consumption Survey (1989 and within 2012) and the Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey (2015).

All these previous household surveys were added into Myanmar Living Conditions Survey to create a more compact survey with a robust design and system.

(G) How did we control the statistical quality related to the survey?

A Master Sampling Frame of survey was used to cover the population from the census using skillful interviewers, language experts and local graduates from relevant regions. They were grouped as interviewers to ask survey questions. Data entry and supervisors in each region and the accountants from the central statistics of relevant states and regions took responsibilities for contact actions.

We developed the quality of survey by asking to specially assigned staffs to deeply focus without taking regular duties of the department during the survey work, checking survey quality and the way they conducted survey with spot check by director general and survey supervisor organization, immediately reviewing and scrutinizing the date collected in the field back at our headquarters using a double entry verification process, continuous inspection by experts supported from UNDP and World Bank, use of GPS system, solving challenge and difficulties with head quarter and quarterly survey development, completion, coordination meeting to resolve by the central statistics, UNDP and World Bank.

(H) What kind of difficulties and challenges did we face in the survey?

Survey questions consist of 13 parts and we have to organize households to answer patiently because interview time-taken is long for over 2 hours. We saw people in rural and urban area who answered the survey questions with earnest enthusiasm but we faced difficulties with some people in metropolis like Yangon not giving time for the interviews. We conducted the survey once three months by four quarters come rain or shine. Especially heavy rain and landslides at rainy season in Chin State, cars were sunk in mud and we have to travel with boat under storm in Taninthar Yi district and Ayeyarwady District. However, we followed the important of statistics and voice of people, and we will continue to education for the importance of identification for needs of people.

(I)Was there any upgrading technology relevant to survey?

We have to do well transitioning to better technology while our country is getting development aid. The Central Statistics got transition to newer technology in management to survey, filtering practices to the quality of data, calculation of index, use of software while filtering data, use of GPS, analysis and writing report of number and index from the calculation. The survey staffs got the knowledge of local area as they have to go throughout Myanmar.

(J) How can we know other information, statements and time to be announced relevant to survey?

The main index relevant will be announced at the end of May and we have plan to announce index of Myanmar poverty, social, report of economic conditions including imbalance index at the end of November 2018. Survey report will be submitted to be able to download on the website of The Central Statistics, www.mmsis.gov.mm and website of Ministry, www.mopf.gov.mm.

The performance data of survey can be available at the website of The Central Statistics, United Nations Development Program and World Bank. The privacy questions can be inquired at dgcsomopf@gmail.com. The Central Statistics will still collaborate to release the survey with relevant departments, organizations and the experts.

While executing to be an organization with transparent form of freedom with sustainable development and emergence of dominant national economy which has benevolence to people through the peace process, democracy survival and rooted strengthening, the right to equality in the diverse society, mutual respect, the emphasis of majority to wants from minority, being able to enjoy of fruits of development with the opened, free and stable political process, the high growth of job opportunities, the reconnection with regional business center, world business center, including international trade and foreign investment are very important process. By listening to the rhythm of the Myanmar People, The Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2017 can perform people-centered policy and while setting policy for nation building and development, we will report policy recommendations with regards to consider for social and economic development. Now draft of survey has already finished and we will early report that we will extract and report survey findings if it officially releases.■

Translation by
Myat Thandar Aung

Depression intensifies over Northwest Bay of Bengal

The low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal has intensified into a depression, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology reported yesterday.

The state weather bureau said the depression is centered at about 66 miles East-Southeast of Balasore, India, 46 miles South-Southeast of Digha and is forecast to move North-Northwest. A monsoon remains strong-to-vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Because of the depression, rain or thundershowers will be seen in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and neighboring areas. The degrees of certainty is 100 per cent.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speeds in squalls may reach 40 m.p.h., while wave heights will be about 9 - 14 feet along the Myanmar Coasts. — GNLM ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 21st July, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs M.S.T today, the depression over Northwest Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwest and crossed to the Odisha coasts(India) near Balasore and Digha.Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22nd JULY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions and Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 - 14) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd JULY, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd JULY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Rebels reach north Syria after south evacuations

MOREK (Syria) — Hundreds of rebels and their families evacuated from southern Syria after a deal was struck with the regime arrived on Saturday in the country's northwest, an AFP correspondent said.

The evacuations from Quneitra province, which borders the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, came after a Russia-brokered agreement was reached earlier this week to see rebels hand over the territory to the Syrian regime.

Around 50 buses transporting fighters and their families reached the Morek transit route in the north of Hama province, which links regime and rebel-held territories, an AFP correspondent at the scene said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said the first convoy to reach Morek transported around 2,800 people.

They were to be transferred to other buses run by local NGOs, before travelling further north to temporary camps in rebel-held areas in Idlib and Aleppo provinces, the Britain-based monitor said.

"More than half of the evacuees are women and children," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman.

"A second wave of departures is expected from Quneitra," he added.

Near the parked buses in Morek, a woman and five children waited by a cluster of small suitcases, the eldest among them carrying bottles of water and a blanket.

Syrian rebel fighters from the Quneitra province walk with their rifles as they wait at the Morek crossing point to be transfered in the provinces of Idlib and Aleppo, in Morek on July 21, 2018. **PHIOTO: AFP**

Men with light weapons slung on their backs shared a bite to eat and some water as they stood around waiting. Several wearing scarves wrapped around their faces.

The evacuations follow a deadly regime offensive on Quneitra, a thin, crescent-shaped province that lies along the buffer zone with the Israel-occupied Golan to the west.

The rebel surrender negotiated by Russia, a vital regime ally, also saw fighters hand over heavy and medium weapons and return government institutions to the area. Syrian forces launched their southern offensive on 19 June, targeting the province of Daraa before turning their attention to neighbouring Quneitra. With a mix of military power and negotiated surrenders, President Bashar al-Assad's troops this month captured more than 90 percent of Daraa, where protests against him first erupted in 2011.

Regime forces backed by Russia have continued their campaign in Daraa, aiming to retake areas still controlled by the Islamic State group.

On Friday 11 children were among 26 civilians killed in air strikes which hit several towns in the area, the Observatory said.

Regime bombardment on the IS-held area continued on Saturday, with clashes between both sides killing 13 regime fighters including eight in a car bombing, it said.

Syria's conflict has killed more than 350,000 people and displaced millions since it began in 2011 with a brutal government crackdown on protesters. —AFP ■

Ethiopia hopes Eritrea peace will bring prosperity

ZALAMBESSA (Ethiopia) — Eighteen years after the guns fell silent following Ethiopia's bloody border war with Eritrea, the frontier town of Zalambessa is a quiet, rubble-strewn outpost crossed by a road to nowhere.

But change could be on the horizon after the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea agreed to re-establish relations, raising hopes that trade will resume and towns like Zalambessa will boom again.

"There's no question," said Tirhas Gerekidan, a hairdresser in the town. "If the road opens, things will change."

Both small and large businesses in Ethiopia, one of Africa's fastest-growing economies despite widespread poverty, would be expected to benefit from the border re-opening.

But analysts warn that Eritrea, which under President Isaias Afwerki has become one of the world's most closed societies with an unwelcoming business climate, may not share the economic spoils of the new era of engagement.

"The potential for this accord... to revitalise its economy is huge," said Seth Kaplan, a professor at Johns Hopkins University in the United States who has studied Eritrea's economy. "The great unknown is what will Isaias do."

Eritrea, once a province of Ethiopia that incorporated the single nation's entire coastline, fought a decades-long independence war before voting to leave in 1993.

The decision landlocked Africa's second-most populous country — although Ethiopia continued to export through Eritrean ports until a border dispute erupted into war in 1998.

'Systematically bulldozed'

Eritrean troops poured south into Zalambessa which is the last Ethiopian town on the main road between the countries' capitals.

Eritrea then "systematically bulldozed" it, the local Catholic bishop wrote in a 2003 letter to the United Nations Secretary General.

"There wasn't anything left. All we found were rocks that weren't even a metre in size," said Taema Lemlem, the owner of a cafe in the town.

A peace treaty ended fighting in 2000, but hopes that the frontiers would re-open were scuppered when Ethiopia rejected a UN-backed effort to definitively settle the border question two years later.

The road from Zalambessa to Eritrea is blocked by the military, and the once-bustling trade hub where cactuses sprout from conflict-damaged buildings is eerily quiet.

Barred from Eritrea's ports, Ethiopia shifted its sea trade to neighbouring Djibouti, investing heavily in a railway and other infrastructure as it became one of the fastest growing economies in Africa.

But facing soaring debt and a foreign exchange shortage, Ethiopia's new prime minister Abiy Ahmed announced in June that he would privatise key state-owned companies including Ethiopian Airlines and Ethio telecom.—AFP ■

Gaza truce holds after Israeli strikes over soldier death

GAZA CITY — A ceasefire announced by Hamas largely held on Saturday after a wave of deadly strikes across the Palestinian enclave sparked by the death of an Israeli soldier shot near the border.

Israel did not confirm the deal announced by Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas, which went into effect around midnight Friday.

Since then there have been no reports of Israeli air strikes on the blockaded enclave or of mortar fire from Gaza toward Israel.

"With Egyptian and UN efforts, we reached (an agreement) to return to the previous state of calm between the (Israeli) occupation and the Palestinian factions," Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said in a statement.

He gave no details of the deal. Israel's army and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office declined to confirm a truce was reached.

"All we can say is that there have been no incidents or Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip since the last wave of airstrikes on Friday night," a military spokeswoman told AFP. On Friday, three Hamas militants were killed as air raids sent fireballs exploding into the sky over Gaza, while Israel said rockets had been fired back at its territory. A fourth Palestinian was shot dead in protests near the border.

The United Nations urged all sides to step "back from the brink" after months of increasing tensions. The soldier, shot dead along the border in southern Gaza, was the first to be killed in and around the Palestinian enclave since a 2014 war between Israel and Hamas.

Friday's flare-up is the latest as demonstrations and clashes on the frontier since March have seen at least 149 Palestinians killed. The Israeli army said they struck 60 Hamas sites including weapon manufacturing sites, a drone warehouse and a military operations room. The ceasefire is the second since in a week. Last weekend saw the most severe exchange of fire between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza since the 2014 war.—AFP ■

Trump accuses China, EU of currency manipulation

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday launched a fresh attack on American trading partners, saying the EU and China were manipulating their currencies, and he threatened to hit all imports from China with high tariffs.

The comments also signaled an undiminished appetite for battle on multiple fronts after a week dominated by coverage of the fallout from his dealings with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The harsh comments took fresh aim at pillars of the international economic system and underscored Trump's break with long-established norms by again openly rebuking the Federal Reserve for raising interest rates.

The outbursts were another crosswind for Wall Street, which struggled to find direction and finished the day a hair's breadth in negative territory.

In a pair of tweets, Trump said China, the European Union and others had been "manipulating their currencies and interest rates lower" while the US dollar strengthened, eroding "our big competitive edge."

He said the Fed's course of tightening monetary policy now "hurts all that we have done."

The Fed has raised the benchmark lending rate twice this year after three increases in 2017 and two more rate hikes are expected this year as the central bank removes stimulus from the economy to keep a lid on inflation.

US President Donald Trump arrives at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland prior to boarding Air Force One on 20 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

The chance inflation might accelerate has increased after the massive tax cut Trump championed last year, which has raised the US debt and budget deficit.

He again said he was willing to ramp up his attacks on China, potentially imposing punitive tariffs on all of the $505.6 billion in goods imported from that nation.

"I'm ready to go to 500," Trump said in a CNBC interview that was broadcast on Friday. "We've been ripped off by China for a long time."

The White House in June already threatened to extend punishing US duties progressively to up to $450 billion in Chinese imports. Steep tariffs already are in place on $34 billion in Chinese goods, and a second tranche of $16 billion in products is under review and could soon be added.

Washington also is now targeting another $200 billion in imports which see fresh tariffs imposed as soon as September.

Beijing has vowed to hit back dollar-for-dollar and accused the United States of starting the "largest trade war in economic history."

Escalating trade fight

In the CNBC interview broadcast Friday, Trump reiterated his claim that the United States is "being taken advantage of" on issues including trade policy.

The US-China spat is the largest and broadest of several trade fights picked by Trump.

The growing share of international trade under threat — including the tariffs on autos and auto parts now under consideration — could harm the global economy by disrupting manufacturing supply chains, raising prices and causing firms to hold off on new investments.

In the CNBC interview, Trump also said he was "not happy" the Fed planned to continue raising benchmark lending rates.

"I'm not thrilled," he said. "Because we go up and every time you go up they want to raise rates again."

He likewise also took aim at the dollar, saying a higher value "puts us at a disadvantage" and adding that the Chinese yuan "has been dropping like a rock."

"The US should be allowed to recapture what was lost due to illegal currency manipulation and BAD Trade Deals," Trump said on Twitter.

The comments, plus Trump's criticism of Federal Reserve interest rate hikes, had sent the dollar tumbling against a basket of currencies.

After sliding recently to its lowest levels in a year in April as the Sino-US trade conflict heated up, the yuan strengthened to around 6.77 by the close on Friday.

Despite Trump's claim, the yuan has been rising steadily if gradually in recent years, as most economists and officials say Beijing actually has been intervening in currency markets to keep the currency from weakening.

However, analysts said China may be willing to allow further depreciation as the trade war rumbles on.

"The (yuan's) slide against the US dollar will substantially cushion the impact on Chinese exporters from the planned next round of US tariffs," Rajiv Biswas, chief Asia economist with IHS Markit, told AFP.

The US dollar, meanwhile, continued its decline against the euro and pound.

"Currency is now part of the trade war folks," said Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at AxiTrader.—AFP ■

Ex-Colombian rebels take up seats in congress hostile to them

BOGOTA, Colombia — Former leftist guerrillas in Colombia took up seats on Friday in a congress dominated by conservatives opposed to a peace accord that ended a 50 year war and provided for the ex-guerrillas' representation in the legislature.

Under a 2016 accord that ended the conflict, five seats each in the upper and lower chambers have been set aside for members of the FARC, a rebel army turned legal political party, although it only occupied eight of them.

Outgoing president Jose Manuel Santos presided over a ceremony in which all new lawmakers elected in May elections took up their seats.

"Here they are, for the first time, five senators and five representatives of Common Alternative Revolutionary Force, born of the demobilization and disarmament of the FARC," Santos said, alluding to the name of the FARC political party, which has the same acronym in Spanish as the rebel army.

But former FARC rebel commander Ivan Marquez declined to take up his designated seat in the Senate on Friday, in part because a fellow former rebel leader, Jesus Santrich, who also has a congressional seat reserved for him, has been arrested and jailed and is wanted by the US on drug trafficking charges.

The peace accord, for which Santos won the Nobel peace prize, has deeply divided Colombians, with conservatives saying it goes too easy on the former rebels.

In the May election Santos, who could not seek another term, was succeeded by the right-wing politician Ivan Duque, who has vowed to amend the accord, calling it too lenient toward the rebels.

The ex-rebel delegation got an icy reception from Duque's party, the Democratic Center, as they took up their seats. It is led by former president Alvaro Uribe, a fierce critic of the outgoing president and the peace accord.

"Congress with people convicted of atrocious crimes, without paying reparations, without fulfilling symbolic sanctions," Uribe said in a tweet posted just as Santos was speaking.

"In Colombia, growing crime and criminal reorganization of FARC. Peace in appearance only," he added.

In a light moment of the inaugural congressional session, a Green party senator who opposes the incoming government, Antanas Mockus, walked up to the podium where the outgoing conservative senate president was giving a speech, turned around, dropped his pants and flashed his naked buttocks.

Mockus, a former Bogota mayor and former presidential candidate, later dressed himself and returned to his seat. The speaker, Efrain Cepeda, called him to order and kept talking.

Duque is to take office on 7 August.

The peace accord was reached after four years of negotiations in Cuba. The FARC were Latin America's last major rebel group.

Some 260,000 people were killed, 60,000 disappeared and 6.9 million displaced during the 53-year conflict.—AFP ■

France, Russia to jointly deliver humanitarian aid to Syria

PARIS — France and Russia will jointly deliver humanitarian aid to the former Syrian rebel enclave of Eastern Ghouta, the French Presidency said in a statement with Russia on Friday.

A Russian cargo plane arrived late Friday in Chateauroux in central France to load 50 tons of medical equipment and essential goods provided by France, said an AFP videographer at the scene, to be transported to the former rebel area which was recaptured by Syrian troops this spring.

Undertaken as part of a UN Security Council resolution, "the aim of this project is to enable civilian populations better access to aid," the joint statement said.

The French foreign ministry said that the cargo plane would take off from Chateauroux later in the evening and head towards Russia's Hmeimim air base in the west of Syria.

It will be the first joint humanitarian aid operation between Russia and a western country.

The aid will be distributed on Saturday under the supervision of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA). "Humanitarian assistance is an absolute priority and must be distributed in accordance with principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence across all Syrian territory without exception, where international humanitarian law must be fully respected," the joint statement said.

France had secured "guarantees" from Russia that the Syrian regime would not obstruct the distribution of the aid, and that it would not be misappropriated or diverted for political purposes, the foreign ministry said.

Damascus regained control of Eastern Ghouta, a rebel enclave on the outskirts of the Syrian capital, in April, ending a five-year siege.

More than 1,700 civilians were killed during the Syrian regime's operation there in March and April. According to the Russian military, more than 160,000 people, both military and civilians, were evacuated from the region. —AFP ■

A forklift moves humanitarian supplies to be loaded onto Russian military officer stands by as an Antonov An-124 Ruslan – Widebody at the former Chateauroux-Deols Marcel Dassault Airport in central France on 20 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Taliban bomb-maker jailed for 40 years for UK parliament plot

LONDON — A 28-year-old man was sentenced on Friday to a minimum of 40 years in jail for making explosives for the Taliban and for plotting a knife attack at the Houses of Parliament in London. Khalid Ali, from north London, was dramatically arrested by armed police on a street outside parliament in April 2017 with three blades tucked into his clothes.

He was moments from launching an attack on police, politicians or the military, England's Old Bailey central criminal court in London heard during his trial last month.

The plumber was on Tuesday found guilty of preparing terrorist acts in Britain and two charges of possessing explosive substances with intent abroad.

On Friday, judge Nicholas Hilliard handed Ali three life sentences, to run concurrently: one for each charge.

He gave a minimum of 40 years for making improvised explosive devices for the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan in 2012 and 25 years for the plot to kill in Britain. "I am absolutely sure you were in Afghanistan.

You were a valued member of a team making IEDs that were detonated in combat before January and July 2012," Hilliard said.

The judge said the plotted attack in London was designed to attract "maximum publicity and instil terror".

"I have no doubt whatsoever that there is a very considerable risk of your committing offences of violence in the future and cause death or serious injury as a result."

During the trial, prosecutor Brian Altman told jurors that Ali, who had returned to Britain from Afghanistan in late 2016, planned a "deadly terror attack at the very heart of this country's democracy".

Metropolitan Police deputy assistant commissioner Dean Haydon said he was "an incredibly dangerous individual".

He had returned from a training camp in Afghanistan "with a determination to kill," he added. In police interviews, Ali said he wanted to deliver a "message" to British authorities.

"Jihad is what we do," he told officers. During his trial, the court heard Ali admitted involvement in making explosives in Afghanistan, even bragging he detonated more than 300 devices.

In November 2016, he was stopped at Heathrow Airport, interviewed by police and his fingerprints and DNA samples were taken.

The FBI in the United States subsequently matched his fingerprints to caches of explosives recovered by Afghan forces in 2012, and Ali was placed under surveillance in Britain.

The Old Bailey heard he was seen conducting reconnaissance at various sites around London in March and April last year, before making several purchases of knives.

Police moved in to arrest Ali on 27 April not far from Prime Minister Theresa May's Downing Street office.—AFP ■

Russian Navy takes delivery of 49 cruise missiles

MOSCOW — Three most advanced warships were accepted for service in the Russian Navy along with 49 Kalibr cruise missiles in the first half of this year, Deputy Defence Minister Alexei Krivoruchko said on Friday.

"Three newly-built combat ships, two support vessels and one warship that had undergone repairs and the Bastion coastal defence missile system were accepted in the interests of the Navy," the deputy defence minister said.

The Russian Navy also received 49 Kalibr tactical cruise missiles and four anti-ship missiles, he said.

As Commander of the 13th Brigade of the Baltic Fleet's Leningrad naval base Captain 1st Rank Grigory Chernetsky said, the Project 18280 medium reconnaissance ship Ivan Khurs recently accepted for service "is ready to accomplish its assigned missions for the designated purpose."

"The Project 18280 ship is designated to provide for communications and the fleet's command and control, carry out radio-technical reconnaissance and conduct electronic warfare," he said.

As the officer said, the ship is currently in a roadstead off Kronshtadt and is preparing for a naval parade.

The Russian Navy also received the Project 21631 missile corvette Vyshny Volochyok.

"The warship is furnished with modern strike, missile, air defense and artillery systems and has successfully passed all types of trials in the Black Sea," Commander of the 41st Brigade of Missile Boats of the Black Sea Fleet's Crimean naval base Captain 1st Rank Igor Vorobyov said.—TASS ■

PHOTO: TASS

LDP gearing up for leader's race, Abe eyes constitutional revision

TOKYO — Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is stepping up preparations for its leadership race, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe saying on Friday constitutional revision will be a major issue in the election.

While Abe, who heads the party, was not clear about whether he will run in the presidential race in September and seek another three-year term, he said at a press conference on the de facto final day of the Diet session that he wants to "speed up discussions" on revising the Constitution.

Amending the postwar Constitution, including the war-renouncing Article 9, is a longtime political goal of the conservative party and of Abe.

As the country grapples with the aftermath of the torrential rain that devastated western Japan this month, Abe also pledged to accelerate government efforts to rebuild the affected areas.

"The central government will do its best in cooperation with municipalities so the survivors could resume their safe lives as soon as possible," Abe said.

The prime minister added he will visit Hiroshima, one of the hardest-hit prefectures, on Saturday to listen to the needs of disaster victims in the wake of the massive floods and landslides that claimed more than 220 lives.

Asked about whether the government will compile an extra budget for reconstruction measures, Abe said the government will first use around 400 billion yen ($3,600 million) in a reserve fund to deal with the matter.

After the Diet session formally ends on Sunday, Abe is expected to devote his energy to winning the LDP's presidential election, which would set the stage for him to become Japan's longest-serving prime minister.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at his office in Tokyo on 20 July, 2018.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Abe declined to say when he will announce his candidacy, merely saying he will consider the matter well "over the summer season."

Former LDP Secretary General Shigeru Ishiba, the party's policy chief Fumio Kishida and internal affairs minister Seiko Noda are also considered possible candidates. But so far they have not had enough support from LDP members to beat Abe.

Abe's government has now succeeded in pushing through bills, including a contentious bill that authorizes the opening of casino gambling in Japan, in the Diet controlled by the Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito party.

Shortly after the ordinary Diet session began on 22 January, opposition lawmakers resumed grilling Abe over favoritism allegations related to a pair of school building projects carried out by people with ties to him or his wife Akie.

Opposition lawmakers and a majority of the public found Abe's explanations over the allegations in the Diet were inadequate, and his Cabinet struggled with lower approval ratings at one point.

The government also came under pressure in the wake of the Finance Ministry's falsification of official documents and sexual harassment against a TV reporter by a top bureaucrat of the ministry.

Despite risks of facing additional questions over the scandals, for the purpose of passing major government-sponsored bills, including one aimed at reforming working styles, the government extended the 150-day Diet period, which was originally scheduled to end on 20 June.

While a solid majority held by the ruling parties in the two Diet chambers made it possible for the government to pass the bills despite attempts by opposition parties to stop them, the Cabinet's approval ratings have somewhat picked up in recent months, staying above 40 per cent.

On 29 June, the labour reform bill was adopted, which consists of three key pillars — setting a legal cap on overtime work, realizing "equal pay for equal work" for regular and nonregular workers and exempting skilled professional workers with high wages from working-hour regulations.

Opposition lawmakers criticized the third pillar as encouraging long working hours and leading possibly to an increase in "karoshi," or death from overwork.

On Wednesday, the Diet passed a bill to increase the number of upper chamber seats for the first time in nearly five decades.

The increase is widely seen as an LDP attempt to "bail out" its lawmakers who will not be able to run in the election next summer from their constituencies as a result of an electoral system reform.—Kyodo News ■

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medicine and Consumables in the (2018) (April to September).

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (24.7.2018).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (21-8-2018)15:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Nepal allows foreign companies to borrow short-term advances from abroad for infrastructure projects

KATHMANDU — Nepal's central bank has allowed foreign companies involved in Nepal's infrastructure development to receive Short-Term Advances from foreign countries through their parent companies abroad. The Nepal Rasra Bank (NRB), the central bank of the Himalayan country, said the facility was extended to help them sustain their administrative expenses during the construction of infrastructure projects. "Foreign investors and foreign contractors can benefit from the new provision," spokesperson of NRB Narayan Paudel told Xinhua on Saturday. "The short-term advances will help them address their short-term need for working capital and administrative expenses." Foreign companies are involved in Nepal's big infrastructure projects, such as hydropower, road, airport and drinking water project. Paudel said the facility was provided after receiving a few requests from foreign companies. In order to receive the short-term advance, a company has to fulfill a number of conditions as per the NRB. The borrowed fund should be interest free and the repayment period of short-term advances should be less than one year. Likewise, the companies can borrow such money only through their parent companies abroad. "It means, the parent company should secure funding for the company working in Nepal," said Paudel. The advances should enter Nepal through banking channel only. The borrowing company should submit details including an agreement signed between the borrower and lender, Swift Message and the bank statement within 15 days after the fund enters Nepal. The concerned infrastructure project should write recommendation letter to the NRB for allowing the foreign company to borrow and repay the amount borrowed, according to the central bank.—Xinhua ■

At least 10 dead in Viet Nam floods

HANOI, Viet Nam — At least 10 people have died after floods spurred by Typhoon rains struck central and northern Viet Nam, authorities said on Saturday.

The southeast Asian country is prone to monsoon storms and floods, which frequently claim hundreds of lives every year. Typhoon Son Tinh — the third tropical storm to hit Viet Nam since the start of the year — made landfall Wednesday night, damaging infrastructure and crops through Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces. Heavy rains have continued in the wake of the typhoon, unleashing floods and landslides across vast areas of the country, including in the capital Hanoi. According to a latest online report by the disaster office, at least 10 people have been confirmed dead and another 11 are missing in the mountainous northern provinces of Yen Bai and Thanh Hoa. About 4,000 houses have been damaged and tens of thousands of hectares of crops destroyed, the office said, warning of more heavy rains to come. State media ran images of floods in remote areas where villagers are using boats to move around. Several communities are still isolated, reports said.—AFP ■

Poetry in motion: enter the world of the 'scrap metal poet'

The "Universe of the Scrap Metal Poet" is located in the western French region of Brittany. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIZIO (FRANCE) — With its fairytale towers, quirky animated sculptures, fantastical constructions and musical fountains, the inventive world crafted out of discarded junk by the man known as the "Scrap Metal Poet" is tucked away deep in the northwestern French countryside.

"It's an extraordinary place in my imagination," says its creator Robert Coudray, who has let his imagination run wild for nearly three decades, turning his ideas into reality.

With its fairytale towers, quirky animated sculptures, fantastical constructions and musical fountains, the inventive world crafted out of discarded junk by the man known as the "Scrap Metal Poet" is tucked away deep in the northwestern French countryside.

"It's an extraordinary place in my imagination," says its creator Robert Coudray, who has let his imagination run wild for nearly three decades, turning his ideas into reality.

Now to the sounds of chiming bells and flowing water, visitors can wander around his little timeless world of scrap creations, peeking inside some of the 15 towers and admiring some 70 figures that move, laid out over a hectare (2.5 acres) of land in the village of Lizio.

Coudray, 65, said it all began out of boredom.

"One day, I was bored so I started to make cabins, little cabins... and since I was bored, I made them bent," says the sculptor, whose previous jobs ranged from stonemason to farmer.

Next he began creating sculptures and fountains that move and come alive.

To build them he scours junkyards for his main materials, scrap metal and wood, and lets his imagination soar in his workshop.

"I love everything which is not normal, everything that is quirky," he says.

And each year his world grows, for he says he's not done yet.

"I have a vision of where I want to go and that's going to take another 15 to 20 years," he says.

Though located off the usual tourist route in Brittany, Coudray attracts around 35,000 visitors every year, both youngsters and those young at heart.

As one visitor put it: "It's enchanting, it's as if we rediscover the spirit of childhood through all he has done."—AFP ■

"Get Out" star Daniel Kaluuya. **PHOTO: PTI**

Daniel Kaluuya to star in romantic drama 'Queen and Slim'

LOS ANGELES — "Get Out" star Daniel Kaluuya is all set to star in independent romance drama "Queen & Slim".

The film marks the feature directorial debut of Melina Matsoukas, who is best known for helming shows "Insecure" and "Master of None".

The script has been penned by Lena Waithe, who most recently starred in Steven Spielberg's "Ready Player One".

The project is based on an original idea and treatment from bestselling author James Frey and a story by Frey and Waithe, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Described as a Bonnie and Clyde story, the film is about black man and black woman who go on a first date that goes awry after they are pulled over by a police officer at a traffic stop. They kill the police officer in self-defence and rather than turn themselves in, they go on the run.

Kaluuya, best known for starring in horror thriller "Get Out" and Marvel's "Black Panther" will play Slim in the new film.

Matsoukas, Waithe and casting director Carmen Cuba are currently looking for a new face to play Queen.

The film is expected to start shooting early next year.—PTI ■

Taylor Swift in all-star film version of 'Cats': reports

NEW YORK — Pop superstar Taylor Swift will take to the silver screen alongside Jennifer Hudson in a film adaptation of the popular hit musical "Cats," reports said on Friday.

The movie is the latest project for British filmmaker Tom Hooper, who brought novel-turned-musical "Les Miserables" to the big screen and won an Oscar for directing "The King's Speech."

"Cats," composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and featuring the classic musical ballad "Memory," opened in London in 1981 and originally was staged on Broadway from 1982 to 2000, the fourth-longest run in history.

Based on poems by TS Eliot, "Cats" tells of a feline tribe — in human form on stage — called the Jellicles who decide who among them will make a fateful ascent into a new life.

Cinema industry news site Variety said that Hudson, who won an Oscar for the 2006 film musical "Dreamgirls," would play Grizabella, a formerly glamorous cat who longs for acceptance. Variety and several other film sites said that "Cats" would also star, in roles to be determined, Swift, actor turned late-night comedian James Corden and veteran British actor Ian McKellen. Film studio Universal did not respond to a request for comment. No release date has been announced for the film.

Taylor Swift – shown here accepting the Top Female Artist award at the 2018 Billboard Music Awards in May in Las Vegas – has reportedly been tapped to star alongside Jennifer Hudson in a film adaptation of 'Cats'. **PHOTO: AFP**

The 28-year-old Swift, who is touring through the end of November, is one of her generation's highest-grossing singers, but she has also branched out into supporting roles on film. She played a chaste girlfriend in the 2010 romantic comedy "Valentine's Day" and, in a darker turn, appeared in the 2014 science-fiction film "The Giver." Swift is also known for her love of real-life cats. She frequently posts pictures on social media of her cats, Olivia and Meredith, who recently made a Hollywood debut in a scene in superhero film "Deadpool 2."— AFP ■

Turning off a gene in cell can reverse skin wrinkles, hair loss in mice

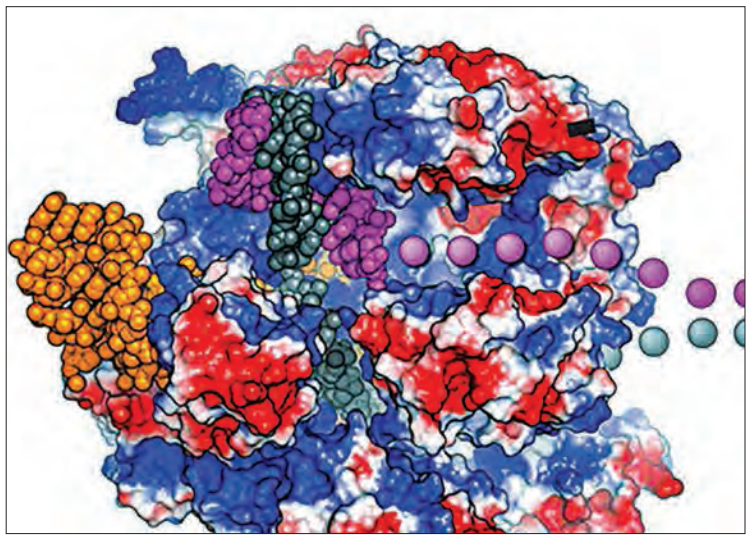


PHOTO:XINHUA

WASHINGTON — A study published on Friday in the journal Cell Death & Disease showed that the mice developed with wrinkled skin and visible hair loss could be restored by turning off a gene, lending a clue for potential therapy against aging.

When a mutation leading to mitochondrial dysfunction was restored, the mice retuned to smooth skin and thick fur, indistinguishable from a healthy mouse of the same age, researchers from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) found.

In humans, a decline in mitochondrial function is seen during aging, and mitochondrial dysfunction can drive age-related diseases.

"This mouse model should provide an unprecedented opportunity for the development of preventive and therapeutic drug development strategies to augment the mitochondrial functions for the treatment of aging-associated skin and hair pathology and other human diseases in which mitochondrial dysfunction plays a significant role," said Keshav Singh, a professor of genetics in the UAB School of Medicine who led the study.

The mutation in the mouse model is induced when the antibiotic doxycycline is added to the food or drinking water and this causes depletion of mitochondrial DNA because the enzyme to replicate the DNA becomes inactive, according to the study.

In four weeks, the mice showed gray hair, reduced hair density, hair loss, slowed movements and lethargy.

Also, wrinkled skin was seen four to eight weeks after induction of the mutation, and females had more severe skin wrinkles than males.

According to the study, the skin of induced-mutation mice showed increased numbers of skin cells, abnormal thickening of the outer layer, dysfunctional hair follicles and increased inflammation.

These are similar to extrinsic aging of the skin in humans. The effect of external factors include skin wrinkles that develop from excess sun or long-term smoking.

The mice with depleted mitochondrial DNA also showed changed expression of four aging-associated markers in cells, similar to intrinsic aging, or the natural process of aging.

However, this hair loss and wrinkled skin were reversed about a month later after doxycycline was stopped, allowing restoration of the depleted mitochondrial DNA.

They found that the reversal of the mutation restored mitochondrial function, as well as the skin and hair pathology. This showed that mitochondria were reversible regulators of skin aging and loss of hair.

Mitochondria in cells, known as the powerhouses of the cells, produce 90 per cent of the chemical energy cells need to survive.—AFP ■

Japanese researchers use AI to identify early-stage stomachcancer

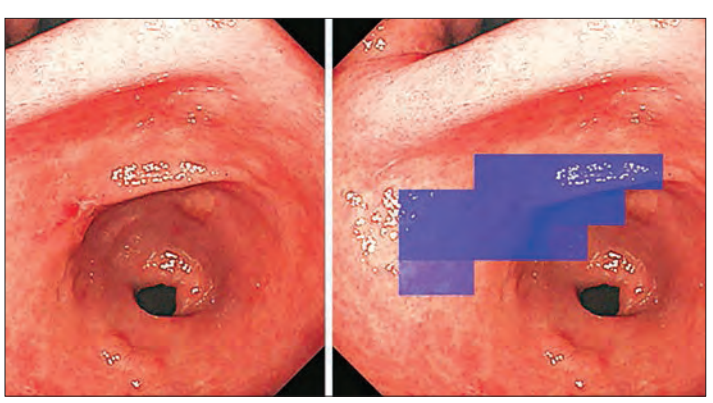
TOKYO — Two Japanese national research institutes said on Saturday they have succeeded in using artificial intelligence to identify early-stage stomach cancer with high accuracy.

According to Riken and the National Cancer Centre, it took AI only 0.004 second to judge whether an endoscopic image showed stomach cancer in the early stages or normal stomach tissue. AI correctly detected cancer in 80 per cent of cancer images, while the accuracy rate was 95 per cent in correctly judging normal tissue.

The accuracy rates were as high as those of veteran doctors, the institutes said, adding that they will aim to put AI into practical use as a device supporting doctors in making diagnoses.

Stomach cancer causes few symptoms and is often found only after it becomes advanced. When it is in the early stages, the cancer is difficult to be distinguished from inflammation, even by a specialist physician.

A team of researchers at the institutes prepared 100 endoscopic images of early-stage stomach cancer and 100 images of normal stomach tissue for testing how AI spots cancer, through a method known as deep learning.—Kyodo News ■



Endoscopic image showed early-stage stomach cancer, detected by an AI system developed by researchers of Riken and the National Cancer Centre. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Cloud brightening, 'sun shields' to save Barrier Reef

SYDNEY — Australia announced plans on Friday to explore concepts such as firing salt into clouds and covering swathes of water with a thin layer of film in a bid to save the embattled Great Barrier Reef.

The UNESCO World Heritage-listed reef, about the size of Japan or Italy, is reeling from two straight years of bleaching as sea temperatures rise because of climate change.

Experts have warned that the 2,300-kilometre (1,400-mile) long area could have suffered irreparable damage.

While the government has pledged to tackle climate change — the greatest threat to the world's largest living structure — there has also been a push to explore shorter-term measures to buy the reef some time.

Canberra in January offered Aus$2.0 million (US$1.5 million) to attract innovative ideas to protect the site, which is also under pressure from farming runoff, development and the predatory crown-of-thorns starfish.

Six schemes selected out of a total of 69 submissions will be tested to see if they are feasible.

One selected concept is cloud brightening where salt crystals harvested from seawater are fired into clouds, making them more reflective and therefore deflecting solar rays back into space. David Mead, a researcher at the Australian Institute of Marine Science, said the idea might seem wacky but the proposal has real potential.

The Great Barrier Reef has been battered by bleaching caused by rising sea temperatures. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The team have been looking at using a very fine nozzle to pump small droplets of salt water at the rate of several billion per second," he told national broadcaster ABC.

"The water vaporises and you're left with a salt particle which will float around, and if you can introduce those into the system you can increase the amount of sunlight reflected back."

Another idea was a biodegradable "sun shield", where an ultra-thin film containing light-reflecting particles covers some reef waters to protect corals from heat stress.

"The great thing about the film is it is only a molecule thick so you can swim straight through it and it'll just keep self-forming," Andrew Negri from the Australian Institute of Marine Science told the ABC. Other short-listed projects include mass producing coral larvae with the aid of 3D-printed surfaces to support new growth, and large-scale harvesting and relocation of larvae.

The experimental commissions came as Canberra said Friday it was updating its Aus$2.0 billion "Reef 2050" plan — first unveiled in 2015 — to protect the reef, with further measures to improve water quality.—AFP ■

Myanmar's Futsal team wins bronze in AFF Futsal Club Championship

THE MIC Futsal Club won the bronze medal in the AFF MNC Futsal Club Championship 2018 yesterday by beating SKN Futsal Club, the home team representing Indonesia.

Bangkok BTS FC from Thailand won their first ever championship title when they beat Australia's East Coast Heat FC 7-1 in the final played in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The match between MIC and SKN was decided by a penalty shootout. The result of the shootout was 11-10.

The score was 3-3 at the end of regulation, with goals for Myanmar scored by Hlaing Min Tun at the 5-minute mark, Aung Thu at 22 minutes and Min Tun at 25 minutes.

Representing Myanmar, MIC Futsal team seen with bronze medals in AFF MNC Futsal Club Championship 2018 in Indonesia. **PHOTO:MFF**

The match was close throughout, including in the shootout, as both teams converted all 10 attempts before Johanis Mustamu of SKN missed to give the win to MIC.

The win was secured in large part to the Myanmar keeper, Yan Paing Hein , who blocked multiple kicks on goal from the Indonesian team, and the efforts of MIC's Pyae Phyo Maung, who did not miss his chance in the shootout that ensured the Myanmar futsal team of third place of the tourney.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Royal Thanlyin crowned MNL II champions

Royal Thanlyin FC, a standout football team from Myanmar National League II, won the championship title before the end of the MPT Myanmar National League II 2018 season. After the completion of Week 13 of the 2018 MNL II season, the team secured the title by earning 25 total points, five points more than second place team Dagon FC. Third place football club University gained 19 points.

As a MNL II Champion, Royal Thanlyin now steps up to MNL I.

Royal Thanlyin Football Club was founded in 2015. This is the third MNL II season of Royal Thanlyin. City Stars FC changed their name to Royal Thanlyin and is based on Thanlyin, Yangon.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Dortmund ease past Man City in Champions Cup opener

CHICAGO — Pep Guardiola's start to his pre-season campaign ended in defeat as Borussia Dortmund captain Mario Gotze's first half penalty was enough to see off the Premier League champions Manchester City 1-0 at Soldier Field in Chicago on Friday.

Guardiola was able to call on the likes of new signing Riyad Mahrez and German Leroy Sane but his otherwise highly inexperienced, young team were unable to get the better of a Dortmund side who have already played one game this summer and looked far sharper in the opening match of this year's International Champions Cup tournament.

Gotze's winner came in the 28th minute when American international Christian Pulisic was hauled down in the box allowing the midfielder who famously scored the winning goal in the 2014 World Cup final to beat Claudio Bravo.

Mahrez showed flashes of his quality yet Guardiola will be disappointed about the lack of cutting edge on show.

With the bulk of his Premier League title-winning squad enjoying an extended break after their exertions at the World Cup, it was a vastly inexperienced side sent out by the Spaniard at Soldier Field.

Manchester City's Leroy Sane (L) vies for the ball with Borussia Dortmund's Nuri Sahin during the 2018 International Champions Cup at Soldier Field in Chicago on 20 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mahrez, the $75 million signing from Leicester, made his debut while the precocious young English midfielder Phil Foden also started.

There was a healthy crowd of 34,629 inside Soldier Field and although a young City side held their own early on, Dortmund created the better chances with Gotze pulling the strings together with Pulisic.

Mahrez was City's best player, who showcased his attacking threat with a decent run and cross midway through the first half.

A satisfied coach

But on 28 minutes the Germans were ahead.

Alex Zinchenko, who is set to leave the club before the start of the English domestic season, brought down the lively Pulisic in the box and Gotze beat Bravo from the spot before Alexander Isak almost made it two soon after.

Jack Harrison should have done better just before the interval when he miscued a shot from close range and then Mahrez forced a great save from Dortmund keeper Marwin Hitz.

Nevertheless, Guardiola would have been all too aware of his side's lack of killer instinct.

Jadon Sancho, who quit the Premier League club for Dortmund last August following a fall-out with Guardiola, was introduced in the second half and began promisingly.

Joe Hart, the former England keeper, was making his first City appearance since August 2016 but it was opposite number Hitz who was almost beaten on 55 minutes when another Mahrez set-piece flew just past the post.

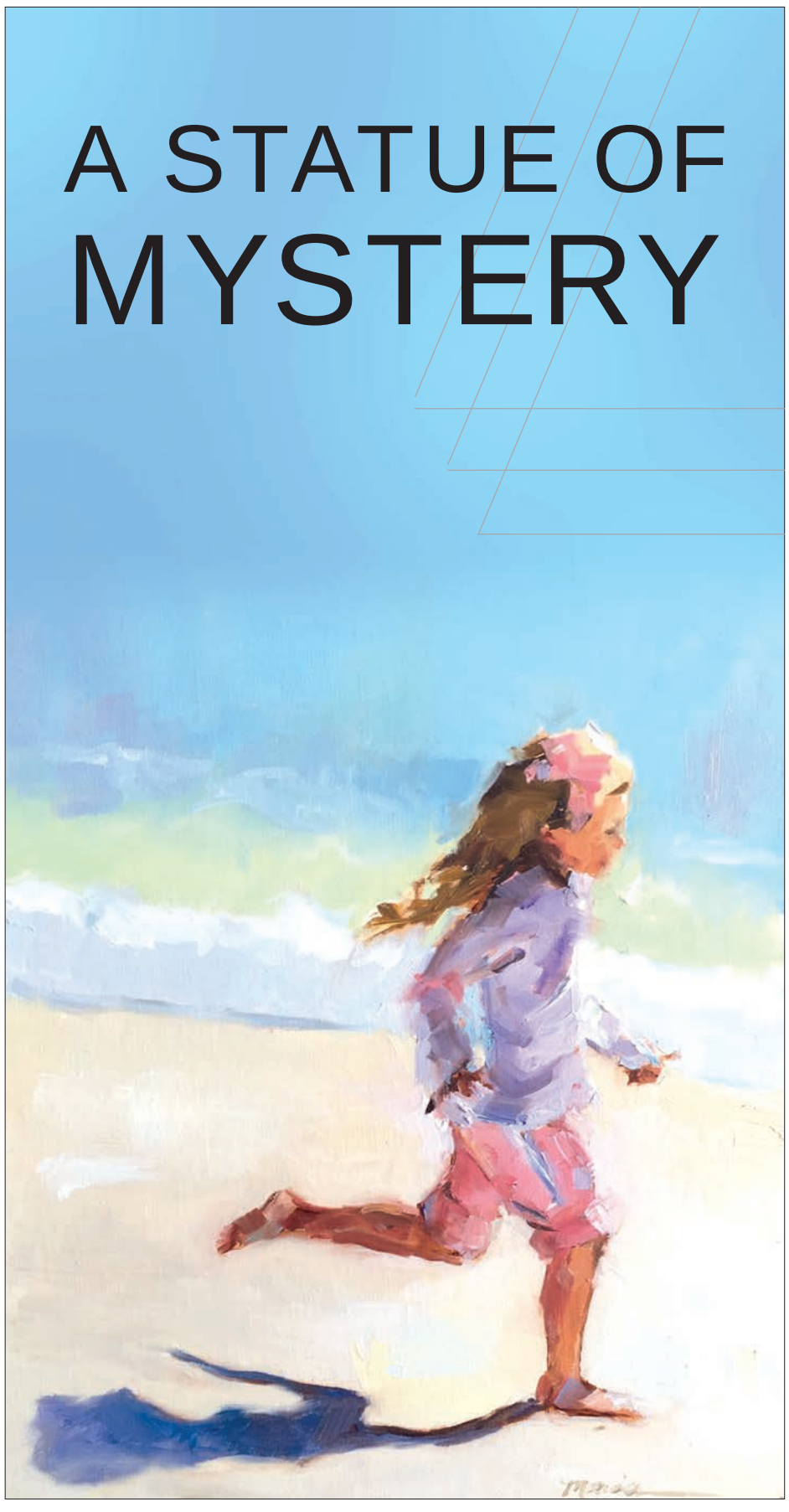
Guardiola said his team played well despite not having a lot of time to train together.—AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Daniel
Technological University
(Hmawbi)

A STATUE OF MYSTERY



"Oh! please, somebody take that disgraceful statue away," Daw Khin Saw Mu cried. She looked very much distracted and frustrated. This was caused by a statue that was on the coffee-table and it was looking at her, showing his big disgusting smile and holding a sword on his right shoulder. It was the figure of a man but it was more like an ogre because of his big mouth and extremely large eyes. It looked so freakish to the landlady who was grieving for her husband Ko Min Khaung who passed away a couple of weeks ago, unfortunately. She had also lost her son.

Daw Khin Saw Mu was a good housewife for Ko Min Khaung and the mother of a 10-year-old boy called Phoe Khwar. They were a happy family at first, but the situation changed when Phoe Khwar brought the statue home. One evening, Phoe Khwar came back from school and he looked so happy because he picked a statue up by chance and he just thought it was a toy holding a sword on the shoulder.

"What's this, darling?" his mother asked, and he replied," Nothing, mom! It's my toy." Then at night, Daw Khin Saw Mu accidentally saw a man walking into the kitchen, but she did not care about this because she thought it was her husband Ko Min Khaung but it was not. Ko Min Khaung was sleeping on the bed at that time. She was amazed seeing him asleep because she just saw him going into the kitchen a minute ago. So she rushed into the kitchen and found nothing. The next morning when she was in the kitchen and preparing for the breakfast, she felt like somebody was staring at her.

She said to her husband, "You know what, I feel something during these days. Have you guys also felt that?"

"No, my dear," he answered." I think, you just need to rest", he added. He said, "Well, my dear, I'll take my son to school today."

"Thank you, darling" she said.

The clock on the wall was showing 6pm and Ko Min Khaung got back home with his son, but he found that all were quiet. He called out his wife," Khin! Where are you?" No one replied and everything in the house were in their right places, except the statue, because it had fallen on the floor. He put it back, right side up, and went to bed. There he found his wife, lying on the bedroom floor and with blood dripping from her mouth. It looked like she was dead. He was so surprised and called out her name.

"Khin! What has happened to you...? Khin....Khin....!!!"

Daw Khin Saw Mu woke up exhausted and sweated. She just took a nap and got a terrible dream. It actually was 2pm, and still nobody else had come back home. She went into the dining room and found something mysterious. It seemed like somebody was having a meal because on the dining-table, there were some plates with some food in them. Besides, the statue of her son was on the floor lying. She was amazed and she thought that someone had trespassed when she fell asleep. She checked the whole house but everything, except the dining-room, was normal.

Then, her husband and son came back and she told her husband what had happened in the house. While they were talking about that mystery and the statue, a Saint stood in front of their house and said,

"Oh, Instability (Anei' sa), Trouble (Dou' kha), Insubstantiality (Ana' ta), Everything we do is what everything we get. Karma is not a liar,"

As soon as the Saint had left, the statue on the floor was right side up by itself, and its big eyes were so shining and looking at the family who didn't notice them but were doing their own business by themselves.

SEE PAGE-S-8

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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 work 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)** Own 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.

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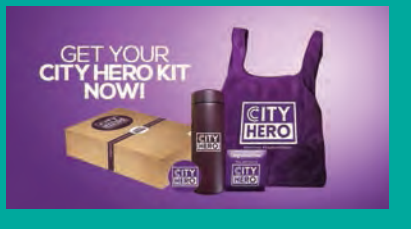
City Hero Kit provided by **City Mart Holding Co,. Ltd** is available free of charge at **The Global New Light of Myanmar** for those who contributed their works to our Next Generation Platform of the Sunday Special Pull-out of **The Global New Light of Myanmar**.



ENGLISH LESSON (5)

By C. T. O

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

Essay Writing

အင်္ဂလိပ်လို စာစီစာကုံး အရေးလေ့ကျင့်စတွင် **am, is, are, was, were,** များကို ဖြစ်ခြင်းပြကြိယာနှင့် ရှိခြင်းပြကြိယာအဖြစ် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော ဝါကျများကို အများဆုံးသုံး၍ လေ့ကျင့်သင့်သည်ဟု ယခင်လက တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။

ကြိယာများနှင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော စာကြောင်းများနှင့် **am, is, are, was, were** တို့ကို ကူညီသော ကြိယာအဖြစ် သုံး၍တည်ဆောက်ထားသော ဝါကျများကိုလည်း လိုအပ်သလိုသုံးရပါမည်။ တိုတိုနှင့်လွယ်လွယ် စာကြောင်းများရေးပါ။

နမူနာတစ်ခုပေးပါမည်။

My Native Town

My name is Min Lwin: I am reading at Lanmadaw No. I State High Level School .. I am in the 10th Standard. I live with my parents on Lanthit Street., Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Division. But Yangon is not my native town.

I was born about 16 years ago at Taungwaing in Bago Division. It is a small town about 18 miles from Bago. It lies on the right bank of the Sittang River. It has a population of 4,000 people. Most of the people are farmers, workers and fisherman. The houses are mostly made of wood and bamboo. There is only one market in my native town. It is in the centre of the town. It is opened from sunrise to sunset. It is always crowded. There is only one cinema hall in our town. It is near the market. Our town has only one hospital. It is by the river, on the north of the town. It has 24 beds, three doctoers and 11 nurses. One of the doctors is a specialist. The hospital is a brick building. It is in a large compound. There are two schools in our town. One is a State High Level School and the other is a State Primary School. The high school is near the hospital. It has over 1,000 students and 24 teachers. I read up to the seventh standard in this school. The State Primary School is near the market. It has about 500 children. The people of our town are neither too poor nor too rich. Most of them are Buddhists. They are religious. They are simple and honest. They are friendly and helpful.

I visit my native town every summer. I stay at my uncle's house. I meet my old friends. Sometimes we go round the town. Sometimes we go swimming and sometimes we go to the cinema. I love my old friends. I love my old school. I love my native town.

Glossary

my native town	ဇာတိမြို့
township	မြို့နယ်
division	တိုင်း
population	လူဦးရေ
Sunrise	နေထွက်ချိန်
sunset	နေဝင်ချိန်
crowded	လူစည်ကားသော
compound	ဝင်း
religious	ဘာသာကိုင်းရှိုင်းသော
specialist	အထူးကုဆရာဝန်

They are neither too poor nor too rich.
သူတို့သည် သိပ်လည်းမဆင်းရဲကြ၊ သိပ်လည်းမချမ်းသာကြ။
a brick building အုတ်အဆောက်အအုံ

အထက်ပါ စာစီစာကုံးမှာကဲ့သို့ဖြစ်သည်။ ရှိသည်နှင့်ဆုံးသော စာကြောင်းများ အများဆုံးသုံး၍ စာစီစာကုံးများ အရေးလေ့ကျင့်ပါ။ **myself, my family, my school, my teacher, my best friend** စသည့် စာစီစာကုံးများ ရေးကြည့်ပါ။

နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာ စကားတစ်ခုကို သင်ယူရာတွင် စာများများ ဖတ်ရန်၊ ဖတ်ပြီးသည်တို့ကို ထပ်တလဲလဲ ဖတ်ရန်နှင့် အချို့ကို ကျက်ရန်လိုသည်ဟု ယခင်လက တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။

ဥပမာ၊ **Newspapers** (သတင်းစာများ) ဟူသော စာစီစာကုံးကို ရေးရတော့မည်ဆိုလျှင် အချက်အလက် နှင့်အသုံးအနှုန်းများ သိရန်လိုလာသည်။ အခြေခံပညာရေး အဆင့်မြင့်တန်း **English Textbook** တွင်ပါသည့် **Newspapers** ကိုတစ်ခေါက် နှစ်ခေါက် ဖတ်ထားသူသည် လုံးဝ ဖတ်မထားသူထက်ပို၍ ရေးနိုင်မည်။ အကြိမ် ကြိမ်ကျေညက်အောင် ဖတ်ထားဖူးသူကား ပို၍ရေးနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်သည်။

"သတင်းစာများသည် တိုင်းပြည်၏နားနှင့်မျက်စိဖြစ်သည်။"

အထက်ပါစာကြောင်းသည် အင်္ဂလိပ်လိုတိုက်ရိုက် ဘာသာပြန်၍ရေးနိုင်သော စာကြောင်းမျိုးဖြစ်သည်။

Newspapers are the eyes and ears of a nation.
ဤနေရာ၌မြန်မာက 'နားနှင့်မျက်စိ' ဟူသုံး၍ အင်္ဂလိပ်က **eyes and ears** ဟုသုံးသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။

ထို့ကြောင့် တိုက်ရိုက်ဘာသာပြန်၍ မရဘဲ၊ အင်္ဂလိပ်အတွေးမျိုးရမှ ရေးနိုင်မည့် အသုံးအနှုန်းများကို ကျက်ရန်လိုသည်ဟု တင်ပြခဲ့ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။

အခြားအရေးကြီးသော အချက်တစ်ချက်မှာ အချက်အလက်များ ရှာဖွေစုဆောင်းလေ့လာရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ အခြေခံပညာရေး အဆင့်မြင့်နှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်၊ ကောလိပ်ကျောင်းသားများသည် စာတတ်မြောက်မှုလုပ်ငန်း **(Literacy activities)**၊ လူငယ်လုပ်အားပေး စီမံကိန်း **(youths voluntary services scheme)**၊ လယ်ယာလုပ်ငန်း လူထုပါဝင်မှု **(mass participation in agricultural work)**၊ စသည်တို့နှင့် ပတ်သက်သည့် အချက်အလက်များကို မြန်မာလိုသာမက အင်္ဂလိပ်လိုအသုံးအနှုန်းပါ လေ့လာကျက်မှတ်ထားသင့်သည်။ **The Myanmar Farmar** နှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ လွန်ခဲ့သည့် အနှစ်-၂၀က အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ ရေးခဲ့ကြဖူးသည်။

The Myanmar farmer is simple. He is busy all the year round. His wants are few. He is contented. He loves his family. He loves his village. He loves his cows and oxen. He loves his field.

မြန်မာလယ်သမားသည်ရိုးသည်။ သူသည် တစ်နှစ်ပတ်လုံးအလုပ်များသည်။ သူမှာလိုအင်ဆန္ဒနည်းပါ၍ ရောင့်ရဲသည်။ သူသည် သူမိသားစုကိုချစ်သည်။ သူရွာကို ချစ်သည်။ သူ့ကျွဲနွားများကို ချစ်သည်။ သူ့လယ်ကွင်းများကို ချစ်သည်။

သို့ရာတွင် ယခုခေတ်၌ ဤမျှနှင့်မလုံလောက်တော့ပေ။

အောက်ပါတို့မှာ ယနေ့ခေတ် လယ်ယာကဏ္ဍ၌အရေးပါသော အရာများဖြစ်၍လေ့လာကျက်မှတ်သုံးစွဲ တတ်ရန်လိုသည်။

Our aim is to turn Myanmar into an agricultural-based industrial country.

ငါတို့၏ရည်မှန်းချက်သည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကို လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးအခြေခံသော စက်မှုနိုင်ငံအဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းလဲပစ်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

Modern scientific methods of farming must be more extensively applied (used).

ခေတ်မီသိပ္ပံနည်းကျ စိုက်ပျိုးရေးနည်းစနစ်များကို ပိုမိုကျယ်ပြန့်စွာ အသုံးချရမည်။

We are trying to increase production by growing (cultivating) paddy and other crops on more acres of land on the one hand and by raising per-acre yield on the other.

တစ်ဖက်တွင် စပါးနှင့် အခြားသီးနှံများ စိုက်ကေကိုတိုးချဲ့ခြင်းဖြင့် လည်းကောင်း အခြားတစ်ဖက်တွင် တစ်ကေ အထွက်နှုန်းတိုးခြင်းဖြင့်လည်းကောင်း လယ်ယာထွက်ကုန်ကို တိုးပွားစေရန်ကြိုးစားလျက်ရှိပါသည်။

Special high-yield paddy is now being cultivated in many townships.

အထူးအထွက်တိုး စပါးကိုမြို့နယ်များစွာတွင် စိုက်လျက်ရှိသည်။

More chemical and natural fertilizers are being used.

ဓာတ်မြေဩဇာ၊ သဘာဝမြေဩဇာတို့ကိုလည်း ပိုမိုသုံးစွဲလျက်ရှိသည်။

We should take up livestock breeding on manageable scale.

ငါတို့သည် တစ်နိုင်မွေးမြူရေးလုပ်ငန်းကိုလည်း လုပ်ကိုင်သင့်သည်။

For Study

Verbs (ကြိယာ) နှင့် **Adjectives** များကို **Nouns** (နာမ်) အဖြစ် ပြောင်းလဲပုံဆက်လက်တင်ပြပါမည်။ ယခင်လက အချို့စကားလုံးများကို **ment** နှင့် **ion, sion, ation,** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် **Noun** (နာမ်) ပြောင်းပုံပေးခဲ့ပါသည်။

(C) အချို့သော စကားလုံးများကို **y, ty, cy, ity,** နောက်မှကပ်ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်များ **(Noun)** အဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

honest	honesty	ရိုးဖြောင့်ခြင်း
safe	safety	လုံခြုံမှု
certain	certainty	သေချာမှု
difficult	difficulty	ခက်ခဲခြင်း၊ အခက်အခဲ
equal	equality	ညီမျှခြင်း
able	ablility	အစွမ်းသတ္တိ
real	reality	စစ်မှန်ခြင်း
secure	security	လုံခြုံရေး
pure	purity	သန့်စင်မှု
similar	similarity	တူညီမှု
popular	popularity	လူကြိုက်များခြင်း
national	nationality	လူမျိုး
active	activity	လုပ်ငန်း
simple	simplicity	ရိုးခြင်း၊ လွယ်ကူခြင်း
possible	possiblity	ဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း
sincere	sincerity	ရိုးသားဖြောင့်မတ်ခြင်း
anxious	anxiety	စိုးရိမ်ခြင်း
vary	variety	အမျိုးမျိုး
responsible	responsibility	ဝတ္တရား
dense	density	သိပ်သည်းခြင်း
discover	discovery	ရှာဖွေတွေ့ရှိခြင်း
curious	curiosity	စူးစမ်းခြင်း၊ သိလိုခြင်း
fish	fishery	ငါးမွေးမြူရေးဌာန
slave	slavery	ကျေးကျွန်စနစ်
nurse	nursery	ပျိုးခင်း၊ ကလေးသူငယ် ပျိုးထောင်ရာကျောင်း
vacant	vacancy	လစ်လပ်မှု၊
recover	recovery	ပြန်လည်သက်သာခြင်း၊ ပြန်လည်ရရှိခြင်း

(D) အချို့သော စကားလုံးများကို **th** နောက်မှကပ်ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်များ **(Noun)** အဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

warm	warmth	နွေးထွေးမှု၊ လှိုက်လှဲမှု
true	truth	အမှန်တရား
wide	width	အကျယ်
deep	depth	အနက်
broad	breadth	အနံ
die	death	သေခြင်း၊
bear	birth	မွေးဖွားခြင်း၊
grow	growth	ကြီးထွားမှု၊ ပေါက်ဖွားမှု
long	length	အလျား
strong	strength	ခွန်အားအင်အား

(E) အချို့သောစကာလုံးများကို နောက်မှ **al** ကပ်ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်များ **(Noun)** အဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင် သည်။

arrive	arrival	ဆိုက်ရောက်ခြင်း၊
try	trial	စမ်းသပ်ခြင်း၊ စစ်ဆေးခြင်း၊ အမှု
refuse	refusal	ငြင်းဆိုခြင်း၊
remove	removal	ဖယ်ရှားခြင်း
withdraw	withdrawal	ရုပ်သိမ်းခြင်း
revive	revival	ပြန်လည်ဖော်ထုတ်ခြင်း၊ ပြန်လည်ပေါ်ပေါက်စေခြင်း
deny	denial	ငြင်းကွယ်ခြင်း

* * *

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

Developing reading skill

By Dr Myo Win
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ONE of the objectives of teaching English in Basic Education in Myanmar is to develop four language skills: listening skill, speaking skill, reading skill and writing skill. In general, these four skills can be divided into only two groups: receptive skills and productive skills. Receptive skills are listening and reading skills. We receive language in the form of listening and reading. They are also called input skills. We produce what we want to say in the form of speaking and writing. These skills are also called productive skills. Therefore, language learners cannot develop productive skills without receptive skills. In other words, language inputs are basic for developing language outputs. Therefore, students should develop listening skill for the development of speaking skill. In the same way, they should read as much as possible for fluent writing.

Although the objective of teaching English is to develop four language skills, in practice, the reading and writing skill are more emphasized than the other two skills. This fact is clear if we study prescribed textbooks and questions. Again, reading skill is basic for the development of writing skill. Therefore, reading skill is said to be more important than any other skills. To know the ability of students' reading skills, some reading comprehension questions are set in almost all English papers at each level. In the matriculation examination English subject test, questions No 1 and No 5 are reading comprehension questions. It is learnt that unseen passage will be given for No 5, starting from the 2019 English test. The objective of this article is to suggest teachers and students how to develop their reading skills.

As reading skills have many sub-skills, such as skimming, scanning, inferencing, etc., this article is emphasized on the level of matriculation students. To make it clear, a reading passage which is included in the 2019 English test question will be used as an example. The given passage is mentioned below:

Thailand is situated on the gulf of Siam, bounded on the east by Laos and Cambodia, on the south by Malaysia and on the west by Myanmar. Bangkok is the capital of Thailand and is regarded as a shopper's paradise. Some of its restaurants stage cultural shows where one can enjoy the twin pleasure of Thai cuisine and classical dance. The dancers use their movements to interpret the stories of the 'Ramakien', the Thai version of the Ramayana. While in Bangkok, culture lovers can watch dance or drama at such venues as Thailand's National Theatre, the Thailand Cultural Centre and the Monthienthong Theatre.

There are many opportunities for sports too. The beach resorts at Pattaya and Phuket offer a wide range of activities from scuba diving and windsurfing to golf. Thai boxing has gained increasing worldwide popularity in recent years. A Thai boxing match is noisy and exciting, accompanied by orchestral music and is well worth experiencing.

(A) Write the correct word or words to complete each sentence.

(1) People regard Bangkok as a paradise for ----------.
(2) The twin pleasure of Thai cuisine and classical dance can ---------- at some restaurants in Bangkok.
(3) The 'Ramakien' is ---------- of the Ramayana.
(4) Thai boxing has become very --------- throughout the world.
(5) Orchestral music ---------- a Thai boxing match.

(B) Answer each question in one sentence.

(6) What are the neighbouring countries of Thailand?
(7) How do the Thai dancers interpret the stories of the 'Ramakien'?
(8) Where can culture lovers watch dance or drama?
(9) What examples of water sports are given in the passage?
(10) What characteristics do Thai boxing matches have?

To be able to answer No.1, students should read the sentence in the given passage – *Bangkok is the capital of Thailand and is regarded as* **a shopper's paradise**. This sentence is written in passive voice. In the question, this sentence is changed into active voice – People regard Bangkok ------. Such a change is usually asked in reading comprehension. In the passage, **a shopper's paradise,** the noun 'paradise' is modified by possessive adjective-shopper's. In the question, it is transformed into an adjective phrase- '**a paradise for shopper**'. So the blank must be filled with the word 'shopper'. In order to answer this question, students should have the knowledge of language form and its function. In other words, teachers should explain them language form and its function. An adjective can be used as an attributive adjective and a predicative adjective in a sentence. If an adjective is used to modify a noun, such a usage is called attributive adjective. If an adjective is used as a verb with the help of verb to BE, such a usage is called a predicative adjective. For example, in the phrase 'a **brave** boy', the word 'brave' is used as an attributive adjective. But in the sentence- 'The boy is **brave**.', it is used as a predicative adjective. When a noun is modified by an adjective, it can be modified in three ways, using simple adjective, adjective phrase, and adjective clause without changing the meaning. For example, a **diamond** ring, a ring **made of diamond**, and a ring **which is made of diamond** have the same meaning**.** All the bold words show what kind of ring it is. Students should also know that there are four different kinds of adjective phrases. Some examples used in Grade Ten English text are mentioned below.

1. noun+ to Vinf
   time to get up (unit 4), **something** to cook and eat (unit 2), **tasks** to be carried out (unit 2)
2. noun +prep
   travellers to the moon (unit 3), the **weight** on the pendulum (unit 4), **scientists** in Egypt (unit 1)
3. Noun+ V3
   The **pot** and the **grain** given to them by their professor (unit 2), the **sum** given in payment (unit 5), **money** spent on advertising (Unit 8);
4. Noun+ Ving
   youths studying under the famous professor (unit 2), an **alarm** ringing in your ears in the morning (unit 4), **servants** carrying trays of candy (unit 7)

When a noun is modified with the use of relative pronouns such as who, which, that, etc., such a usage is called adjective clause. Some examples used in the prescribed text are mentioned below.

the **medico** who was coming back empty-handed (unit 2), cosmic **rays** that are unfiltered by an atmosphere (unit 3), **products** which are available on the market (unit 8), **time** when you get up (unit 4), the **calendar** we use today (unit 1)

Such changes can be checked in old questions. For instance, 'scientists in Egypt' is transformed into 'Egyptian scientists'. 'A watch that runs slow' is transformed into 'a slowly running watch'.

To answer No (A) 2, students should read the sentence – *'one can enjoy the twin pleasure of Thai cuisine and classical dance.*' This sentence is written in active voice. In the question, this sentence is changed into passive voice. Therefore, the blank should be filled with 'be enjoyed'. Students should have the knowledge of 'nouns in apposition' structure so that they will be able to answer No (A) 3. In this sentence, the missing word is complement of verb. In other words, this blank must be filled with noun. To know this noun, students must know that 'Ramakien' and 'the Thai version of the Ramayana' are the same because this sentence is written using nouns in appositions.

Students should read the sentence -*'Thai boxing has gained increasing worldwide popularity in recent years*' to answer No (A) 4 which is transformed by changing word form. In answering this question, the noun 'popularity' has to be changed into adjective 'popular' because the linking verb 'become' is usually followed by adjective. To be able to answer this question, students must have the background knowledge of linking verbs. The verb in this question is called a linking verb, such as *be*, *become, get, look*, etc. After linking verb, the complement can be adjective or noun.

To answer question No (A) 5, students should read the sentence- *'A Thai boxing match is noisy and exciting, accompanied by orchestral music*'. In the question, the given sentence is transformed into active voice. So the blank must be filled with 'accompanies'.

Part (B) is to answer each question in one sentence. To be able to answer these questions, students should understand wh- question words, such as who, whom, whose, what, when, where, how, how often, etc. Teachers should explain students why these questions are asked. For example, in question No (6) – "**What** are the neighbouring countries of Thailand?", the question word '**What**' asks for complement of verb. So the answer is "The neighbouring countries of Thailand are **Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar**." Wh-question words will be discussed separately.

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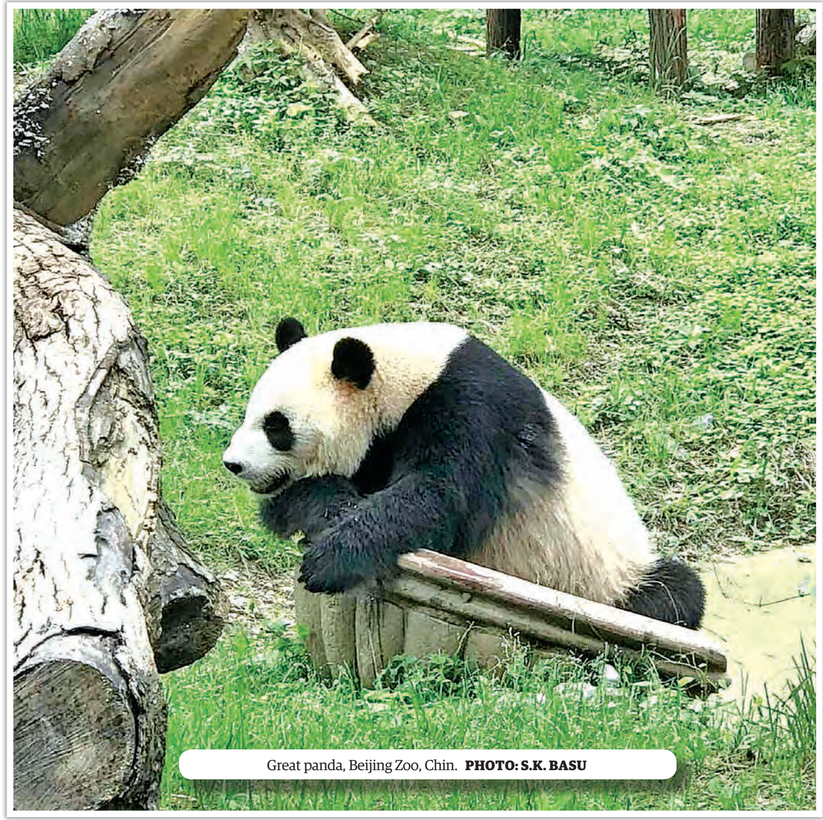
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Modern zoos: serving as Noah's Ark for saving endangered species

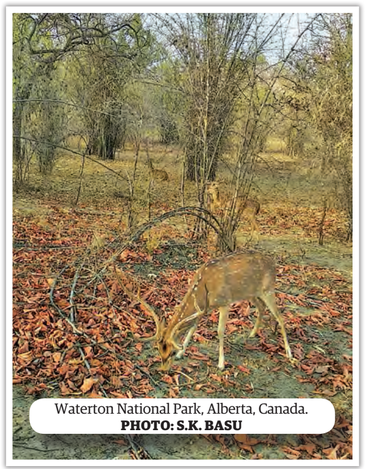
By Saikat Kumar Basu

THE perennial question that still revolves around the concept of zoos or zoological gardens is whether it is moral and acceptable for humans to confine animals in cages for entertainment or education or awareness or captive breeding. Several respected and dedicated animal right activists around the planet have been demanding complete closure of zoos, and to set the animals back into their natural ecosystem and habitats or advocating for more progressive animal rights.
On one end of this spectrum are conservationists, foresters, and ecologists who sincerely believe that zoos have an important role to play in educating the public and making them aware of the spectacular biodiversity of the planet so that the public become more caring and responsible towards conserving natural ecosystems and environment.

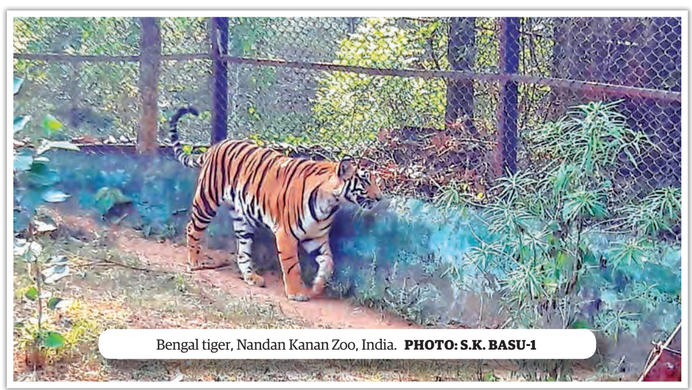


Great panda, Beijing Zoo, Chin. **PHOTO: S.K. BASU**

Red panda, Beijing Zoo, China.
PHOTO: S.K. BASU



Waterton National Park, Alberta, Canada.
PHOTO: S.K. BASU



Bengal tiger, Nandan Kanan Zoo, India. **PHOTO: S.K. BASU-1**

Indian lion, Nandan Kanan Zoo, India. **PHOTO: S.K. BASU-1**

While the other extreme end calls for freedom for animals and advocating for the animals to live and thrive in their own natural ecosystems and habitats, free from any confinement or cage or enclosure, they insist that no matter how progressive and animal friendly modern zoos are in their basic philosophies, and no matter how great the zoo infrastructure is for mimicking natural ecosystems, they can never be equal or anywhere near the quality of wild natural habitats. Hence, any confinement in the zoos actually violates the right of a helpless and defenseless animal as an individual species co-inhabiting the planet with us, and must be returned to the wild. The debate will continue as is expected in any democratic society, however, honestly speaking, we could not possibly undermine the role of modern zoos in education and awareness of the public. Furthermore, we also cannot underestimate the need for modern zoo facilities for the purpose of multiplication through captive breeding of several endangered species for the purpose of conservation as well as restoration of degraded natural habitats and ecosystems.

Traditional or conventional zoos have travelled a long distance over time in transforming into knowledge centers for animal health, nutrition, behavior and conservation. They have been serving as interpretation centers for better understanding of the delicate human-animal interactions and contributed greatly in the species conservation program through captive breeding around the planet. All these could not be achieved by releasing confined animals overnight into the wild. Furthermore, many zoo-bred animals are completely cut off from their wild instincts and habitats for generations, and may not even be able to adapt to their natural ecosystems, and even die, thereby, further compromising their dwindling numbers.

The knowledge gathered in the zoos and aquariums by dedicated keepers, curators, vets, breeders, ecologists, conservators and researchers over several centuries, across different generations, in closely studying wild animals, like mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes, could be actually used in saving them in the wild. To be successful in proper conservation of a species that is threatened or endangered or critically endangered in the wild, we need to know about them in detail. Zoos provide some, if not all, opportunities to know them intimately. That knowledge could be applied in saving the species in their wild habitats and ecosystems. Hence, undermining the value of modern zoos for their role as Noah's Ark [in the Genesis flood narrative, Noah's Ark is the vessel in which God spares Noah, his family, and a remnant of all the world's animals from a world-engulfing flood] for saving endangered species around the planet is not advisable and appreciable.

Several species around the planet have been hit hard due to anthropogenic impacts, like pollution, global warming and climate change, human encroachment into sensitive wildlife habitats, over exploitation of natural habitats, rampart poaching, demand for bush meat, trafficking of wildlife and wildlife body parts (like vital organs, glands and reproductive parts, fresh animal excreta, skin, fur, pelt, horns, nails, bones, skulls, scales, etc.) for illegal wildlife black markets as well as private zoos and entertainment parks, unmonitored forest fires, over grazing in restricted forested areas, diseases and infections, destruction of wildlife corridors for transboundary and migratory species, to mention only a few. Under these circumstances, several species of invertebrates and vertebrates, like insects, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, are showing signs of alarming decline beyond the point of natural recovery.

Many endangered or critically endangered species are suffering from genetic bottlenecks due to extremely small size of their populations, and need planned breeding for their future genetic vigor and stability based on modern animal breeding and genetics research. In some cases, artificial insemination of the females is necessary to give birth as viable breeding males may or may not be available in the current populations or sub populations or existing males could have less genetic vigor or impacted with communicable diseases and, hence, genetically inferior for natural breeding purposes. Several endangered species have become so vulnerable in their natural ecosystems due to several anthropogenic factors as discussed above, and could not possibly survive in their natural ecosystems or habitats without human help. For others, the numbers have dwindled to such record low in centuries, that only safe breeding and multiplication in closed enclosure can help the species to survive.

All these scenarios need the support of the modern zoological gardens to bring the species back from the brink of extinction. Several successful examples of species revival through zoo interference can be cited around the planet, like Asiatic cheetah, red panda, giant panda, snow leopard, clouded leopard, Siberian tiger, Malayan tiger, Indochinese tiger, Indochinese leopard, pangolin, as well as several species of birds, deer and antelopes, endangered rodents, primates, amphibians and reptiles. Hence, in spite of many negative criticisms, the role of modern zoos or zoological gardens in helping to protect and conserve endangered species cannot be underestimated at all.

Zoos around the world now collaborate, cooperate, communicate and compensate (4Cs) with one another in several multi-nation based captive breeding programs by exchanging genetic pools for generating high vigor individuals for stabilizing their genetic future. Young animals reared and saved through the zoos could then be released into their natural wild habitats. Zoos, therefore, can indeed serve as the biblical Noah's Ark in multiplying, protecting and conserving several endangered species around the planet, while serving as a tool for mass education and awareness regarding natural world for the public.

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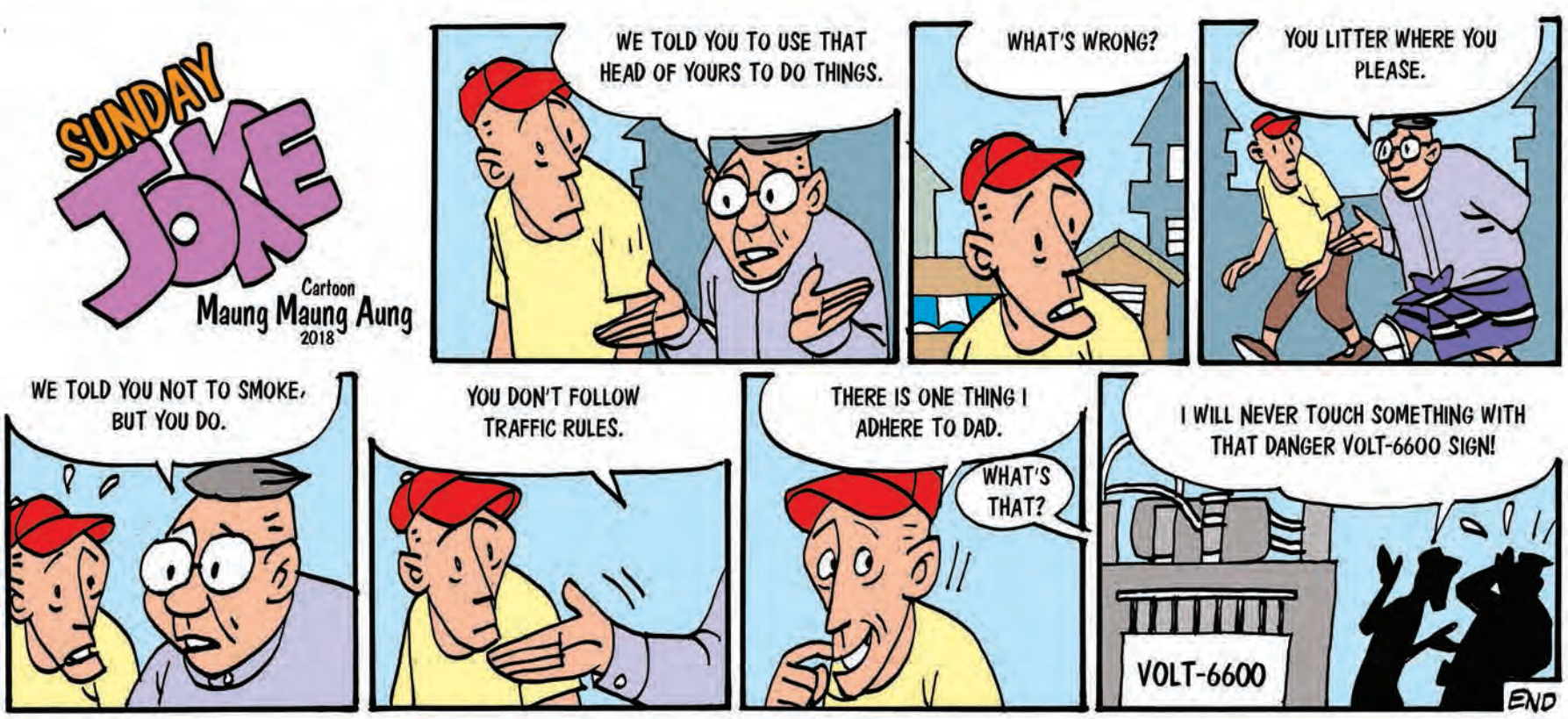

A fish vendor is preparing fish for sale on a street market in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

More new municipal marketplaces

By Lokethar

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and private construction companies have contributed much to the development of the city. We see grand hotels, condominiums, apartments, houses, department stores, modern shopping complexes with parking facilities, etc., all over the city. There are some beautiful and well maintained 'green areas' as well. No doubt, they have contributed to enhancing the image of Yangon City. The 'household market floors' at the department stores and shopping complexes, usually located on the ground level or the basement, are well stocked with meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, fruits and other provisions. They are packed and stored well and could be purchased at reasonable prices. The 'food floors', at the department stores and shopping complexes, usually located in the upper floors accessible by lifts and/or escalators, have clean and decent shops serving wholesome and affordable food of many different varieties to suit all tastes and pockets. Both the market and food floors are well patronized every day by many people.

However, it seems that many more people go to the ordinary markets to buy their daily kitchen requirements, including fish, poultry and meat. Even with the population explosion in Yangon and an increasing number of people going to the markets, the municipal marketplaces seem not to be fully patronized. Most of them are almost empty by midday. Instead, many people seem to prefer buying from 'street markets', occupying the streets and pavements, selling meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, fruits, and even lottery tickets and clothing, some right in the middle of the street. Many of these 'street markets' are operating near municipal markets. In fact, many 'stall holders' at the municipal markets may be 'outsourcing' their wares to the 'street markets' which are well patronized.

No doubt, 'street markets' are fulfilling the needs of many market goers. However, it seems 'street market' sellers are unaware of the rights of street users, and the unhealthy situation they create with the waste and affluence they generate. Some would say that the street markets are the lively hood of the sellers. Nevertheless, breaking the law should not be condoned. Not only that, the crowded 'street markets' would greatly hinder evacuation of the residents of the buildings lining the street, in the event of a fire or earthquake, thus endangering innocent citizens including the 'street market' sellers themselves. Besides, turning a blind eye to the continued proliferation of 'street markets' will only lead to a downward spiraling vicious circle and an alarming increase of 'street markets.'

A street market in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

For the sake of a more clean, green and healthy Yangon City with less traffic congestion, and for the citizens to use the streets and pavements safely, it is necessary to get the 'street markets' into buildings and marketplaces that have all the requirements of a decent marketplace, like clean floors, running water, proper drainage system, proper display stands made of bricks and lined with white impervious tiles for displaying and selling the 'wet' goods, adequate spaces between the display stands for the buyers to move around without bumping into each other, proper lighting and ventilation, proper waste disposal systems. The ground floors of the markets should accommodate fish, meat and poultry sellers as well as vegetable and fruit sellers. The ground floor should also have a separate area demarcated for the 'food stalls' and should also be made accessible to wheelchair users with ramps for their wheelchair access (as some of the well-designed department stores have). The clothing and miscellaneous goods shops should be accommodated on the upper floors.

Perhaps private developer companies in a Private Public Partnership arrangement with YCDC, could now turn to investing in development and operation of the not too sophisticated, but well-designed, new public marketplaces, of two to three floors, in the more populous townships to relocate the 'street markets'.

Myanmar's Literary Heritage

By Lokethar

DURING Myanmar's history, beginning with King Anawrahta, there have been many literary luminaires, whose works have become classics of Myanmar literature. It started with the literary monks of the Theravada Buddhist Order. They wrote chronicles of the advent of Buddhism and it's perpetuation in the land, now known as Myanmar. Some wrote tomes of proses and poetry of various kinds in Pali, Pyu, Mon, Myanmar and possibly other scripts, relating to the Buddhist religion.

There were also ministers of the kings as well as learned nobles and laymen who were well versed in literature and were themselves writers of history, events and happenings. Their writings have also entered the realms of Myanmar literary heritage. There were the princesses and court ladies as well as commoner ladies who composed beautiful songs for the ears of their lovers. There were also renowned warriors who composed memorable poems and songs.

The kings of Myanmar promoted and encouraged literary talent among the monks of the religious order, the literary luminaires in the king's service as well as literary persons of the laity. They were offered rewards and showered with praises for their contribution to literature. Many wrote the inaugural messages and inscriptions of the pagodas and shrines (in paysars and on stone) built and donated by the kings, ministers, nobles, the wealthy and the laity.

Among the ministers of the royal courts, there was once a minister by the name of Ananda Thuriya, who due to some lapses roused the anger of the king who then ordered his execution. The minister, on the point of being beheaded, gave the executioner a poem to be presented to the king. The executioner, however, carried out the execution and only afterwards presented the poem to the king. Upon reading the poem, the king was filled with remorse and ordered the immediate release of the minister. But, alas! The deed was done and the executioner had to pay with his life for his omission.

I read Minister Ananda Thuriya's poem in my college days, as part of the Burmese subject syllabus. Since then I have never forgotten it. Following is the translation into English of the poem. I hope I have done justice to the writer.

Minister Ananda Thuriya's Last Supplication

One's status in life to rise causes another's to fall,
that is the profound law of nature accepted by all.
Even if Your Majesty take pity on me and set me free
I may regain my life now, but I'll face death eventually.
That is the law of nature I cannot escape certainly
as all beings have to face that ultimate destiny.

The life of a king in his grand palace verily,
surrounded by his ministers with all the luxury
and regalia of a king is like the momentary
air bubble on the face of the sea.
I bow to Your Majesty in humble submission
and offer Your Majesty my last supplication.
My fate is the result of my previous life's omission
that I have to face in this life of my reincarnation.

But in 'Samsara'- life's cycle of existence
should we ever chance to meet again
my noble master, I shall seek not revenge,
for I accept my fate's happening
as the impermanence of my blood and being.

Translation by Lokethar

A statue of mystery

FROM PAGE-S-1

Now, it was 11pm and the family were in a sound and deep sleep. But at the corner of the sitting-room, the statue was moving by itself directed to the bedroom of the couple with shining eyes. Surprisingly, the right hand of the statue that was holding a sword was moving like a man and went into the bedroom. It climbed onto the bed on which the couple were sleeping.

Suddenly, Ko Min Khaung was awake and found the statue, but at that time, all parts of the statue were normal. He, then, had no idea why it was on the bed and hurled it away to the corner of the bed, while going to the toilet drowsily. He did not notice that the statue was staring at him furiously. It followed him to the toilet. He sat on the toilet seat, eyes closed, and the statue climbed up his body, but he was unaware as he was so sleepy. Finally, something that was sharp cut his throat off so cruelly, and he called out his wife's name in a frightened way.

"Khin!....Khinnn!.....Help...me!..." But she did not wake up and, finally, Ko Min Khaung was gone because of the evil statue.

In the morning, Daw Khin Saw Mu woke up as usual but when she found out her husband's death, she could not control her mind and she cried like a baby. But her son, Phoe Khwar did not cry. There were no culprits who did it. Now, her son and she were left alone in this world. And the mysterious things kept happening on and on. Then one day, she found out the culprit when she was doing the laundry and her son Phoe Khwar was playing in the sitting room. She went to the sitting room and she heard her son's voice telling to a stranger,

"You are very good, my friend. But you don't need to tell anyone back. Ok? Now, only my mother needs to be sent away to Heaven. Can you do it, my friend? Oh, I know, you can do it."

She could not believe what she heard at first and she was more surprised when she knew that the child was talking to the statue. She could not understand what actually was going on. But she tried to be calm and called out her son,

"Phoe Khwar, what are you doing, my son?"

"Nothing, Mom," he responded. "Then, do your homework, baby," she added. While he was doing his homework, she took the statue and was planning to go outside of the house to throw the statue away, but she did not notice that her son was chasing after her. When she was at the top of the stairs, Phoe Khwar gave her back a hard push and made her fall down the stairs. With a deep scream, she fell down. She was dead because of her own son.

At the top of the stairs, Phoe Khwar was laughing happily. He laughed and laughed and then he started to cry. He cried too much that his voice was lost. And on the floor, the statue's eyes were shining and his big mouth was smiling as usual.

At a hospice for mental illness, a boy was laughing and then he started crying instantly. And he said, "Good boy, I'm a good boy. But my mother and father don't know how good I am." It was Phoe Khwar. Yes, he was suffering mental illness. He was suffering bipolar disorder and that made him to talk to the statue and his parents because he believes that heaven exists and he wanted to send his parents there. And the statue was no longer with him because...

A 10-year-old girl was running home from school. She accidentally falls down on the ground and she finds something. That is a statue that looks like a man but more like an ogre and now it's smiling at her. She guesses.