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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Win Myint meets flood victims in Bago Township yesterday. The President also met with local government officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

President meets flood victims and Bago Region officials, urges swifter reforms

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met yesterday with Bago Region administrative, legislative and judicial officials as well as district and township-level officials and urged swifter government reforms.

The meeting was held at Bago City Hall yesterday morning. Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, region ministers, (Bago) Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Yin, Bago Region Chief Judge U Maung Maung Shwe and judges, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, along with district and township level departmental officials.

In his speech, President U Win Myint spoke of the two main reasons for his coming to Bago Region -- to raise the momentum of reforms carried out by the government, and to meet with people displaced by flooding and the general inundation caused by the recent and unrelenting rainstorms.

SEE PAGE-3

Disaster Management Committee advises people in flood-hit areas

THE National Disaster Management Committee yesterday alerted the people who live near rivers and low-lying areas in Hpa-an, Bago and Shwegyin townships and Madauk to immediately leave their homes, as the water levels in the rivers near them have exceeded the danger level.

The committee also advised the people living near the rivers and low-lying areas of Taungoo in Bago Region and Bilin in Mon State to be alerted to the floods and to keep informed of rising waters.—MNA

River Bulletin

Sittoung River

The water level of the Sittoung River rose six inches above its danger level in Taungoo and seven feet above the danger level in Madauk yesterday afternoon. The water levels may continue to rise another foot in Taungoo and a foot-and-a-half in Madauk over the next two days, officials said, keeping them above their respective danger levels.

The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk hit a record, reaching two feet above its danger level yesterday afternoon in 53 years of recorded history.

SEE PAGE-6

MMA Writer's Society annual conference honours literary award-winning physician authors

By Ohnmar Thant
Photo: Zaw Min Latt

THE Writer's Society of Myanmar Medical Association's (MMA) annual conference honoured literary award-winning physician authors and held a literary talk at the Myanmar Medical Association (Central) meeting room at Theinbyu Street, Yangon, yesterday morning.

At the event honouring literary award-winning physician authors, MMA Writer's Society Chairperson, physician and writer Dr. Tin Tin Win (writer Ju) said, "Our physician authors write a lot. Outstanding authors liked by readers win awards from Tun Foundation and national literary awards. The day's event is meant to honour seven such award-winning authors. Later, there'll be a literary talk. People can learn a lot from reading. Even if they can't read for any reason, they can attend a literary talk and learn a lot. The literary talk will also encourage the habit of reading. To raise the value of literature, physician authors will talk about the benefits of reading, including benefits to the mind and body. This is something we are doing on a yearly basis. We gave literary talks in rural areas too. Through such talks, we share knowledge about work, difficulties faced, health and other matters that everyone needs to know." MMA Writer's Society Vice Chairperson Dr. Nilar Thein (writer Mya Kya Ngone) added, "MMA Writer's Society under the MMA (Central) conducts an annual conference and holds literary talks. After the literary talks, we honour national and other award-winning physician authors. We are pleased to honour award-winning physician authors. At the annual conference, executive members are elected in a transparent manner. We also conduct health talks everywhere. I would like to encourage the youth to read."

Next, seven award winning physician authors were presented with documents of honour and commemorative gifts. On behalf of the honoured physician authors, Dr. Hla Kyi spoke words of thanks.

Later, a literary talk was held, where author Nu Nu Yi (Innwa) and Professor Dr. Soe Lwin gave talks under the titles "Having the ability to thank and be thanked" and "Art in life."

In the afternoon, an annual conference was held where the annual report was read, discussed and approved; a financial statement read, submitted, discussed and approved; old executive members resigned and new executive members were selected. The conference came to a close after a speech and general discussion by the new chairman and a concluding speech by the meeting chair. ■

MMA Writer's Society Chairperson physician and writer Dr. Tin Tin Win (writer Ju) presents documents of honour to Dr Khin Maung Lwin.

Myanmar National Airlines increase flights to Mawlamyine and Dawei starting from 30 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

MNA to increase flights to flood-affected Mawlamyine, Dawei from 30 July

FOR the convenience of people from the flood-affected Mawlamyine and Dawei townships, Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) is increasing the number of flights to Mawlamyine and Dawei starting from 30 July, Monday.

Two extra flights will be added to the current single flight along the Yangon-Mawlamyine route and one extra flight will be added to the current single flight on the Yangon-Dawei route.

ATR-72 planes will fly along the routes and if the situation requires it, more planes will be added, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

New investments in July create over 3,800 job opportunities

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) granted permission to nine local and foreign enterprises this month, creating over 3,800 employment opportunities for locals, according to the MIC.

The MIC gave the green light to nine businesses, including four wholly foreign-owned enterprises, two citizen-owned enterprises and three joint ventures, according to its meetings held on 7 and 26 July. The types of new investment businesses permitted at the MIC's last meeting on 10/2018 included manufacturing and marketing of all kinds of soap; construction, operation and leasing of industrial park; construction, operation and leasing of high-end villas; breeder farms and sales of piglets and pigs; production, distribution and marketing of RBD palm, Olein and related products; and construction of jetty facilities and a storage tank and distribution of petroleum products through the BOT system. At its 9/2018 meeting, the MIC permitted only three enterprises to carry out production and marketing of iron and steel, assembling, manufacturing and sales of various kinds of four-wheel motorcycles, and providing private education using national and international curricula.

Those businesses will operate at the Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa, Hmawby and Hlaingthaya industrial zones in Yangon, Bago and Mandalay regions, Kayin State and Nay Pyi Taw. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Myanmar approved new investment amounting to $394.9 million in the past three months. The new investment went to the country's agriculture, mining, hotels and tourism, real estate, industrial estate and other services sectors.—Khine Khant

Mon State government provides cash to flood victims

AS heavy rains in Kyaikhto caused floods in the townships and villages, Kyaikhto Township's Natural Disaster Management Committee set up four rescue camps for flood victims on 27 July and provided aid and assistance to them.

Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan and party went to the camps yesterday and offered encouragement, while also presenting cash.

First, the Mon State Chief Minister and party arrived at a rescue camp set up at a monastic school in Kawt San Naing quarter and met 1,620 flood victims and presented them with Ks3,402,000.

Similarly, the minister also presented cash amounting to Ks237,300 to 113 flood victims at a Primary School in Taung Thu Su quarter and also presented Ks1,199,100 to 571 flood victims in an affiliated Basic Education High School in Zeyya Mon quarter and Ks 378,000 to 180 flood victims in a congregation hall in Phatkaleik Village respectively.—Win Maung (Kyaikhto) ■

President meets Bago Region administrative, legislative and judicial sector officials

FROM PAGE-1

The government is implementing the reform programme with an increasing momentum. Officials in administrative, legislative and judicial sectors need to perform their duties without any concerns, since now is the time to conduct reform works, as the country and the livelihood of its people will only develop when all parties are operating correctly and hand-in-hand, said the President.

The goal is to create a democratic federal union and is being put in place so that all states and regions develop proportionately and in tandem. Emphasis is being placed towards ensuring peace, development and the eternal existence of the union. The President said everyone is responsible for ensuring that justice prevails. Ensuring justice will strengthen democracy, as well as society.

It will also support the establishment of a democratic federal union. Only when a democratic federal union is established can there be unity, peace and development.

Administrations should not become machines that oppress. Human rights must be protected, and administrations must safeguard and protect the freedom and security of the people. It is required that they be responsible, dutiful, transparent, cooperative and display foresight.

In legislation, laws that are in accord with the times and democracy need to be drawn up and enacted. In the judiciary, judgment should be unbiased towards those who are rich, poor, and with or without power or authority, and should be carried out in accordance with the country's laws, rules and procedures.

Anti-narcotics enforcement must be conducted so that there is more participation and cooperation with civil society organisations and the public. Anti-narcotics work is to also be considered a national duty. The work will be more effective only with the participation and cooperation of the people, and the public needs to watch and expose shortcoming in, and flouting of, anti-narcotic works.

With regards to corruption, the anti-corruption commission is taking effective actions according to the laws, and these commissions are formed down to the state and regional levels. Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs), working to control corruption, are planned to be formed at the ministry level. All need to participate to become corruption free. Actions in accordance with the laws against corruption are taken, regardless of position or status. Work is ongoing, in a bid to become a corruption free society.

In the judiciary sector, unbiased judgments are being carried out. Responsibilities must be taken, in the states and regions, in stages within the states and regions. Judgments are to be in accord with Union Judiciary Law and enacted laws related to the judiciary. All is equal in the face of the law and action is to be taken in accordance to the law, said the President in his guidance speech.

Next, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein explained about the status of the government's oversight of regional development works and future projects.

Bago Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Yin then discussed legislative works conducted, and to be conducted, followed by Bago Region Chief Judge U Maung Maung Shwe explaining about judicial works conducted now and planned for the future.

In response to the explanations, President U Win Myint commented on the requirement to consistently to oversee all work to ensure that there are no violations of human rights in the judiciary sector, to manage at all stages so that the judiciary sector is level and upright, and to conclude all cases quickly and correctly.

Regarding the legislative sector, the President said motions that have been earlier tabled are to be handled in accord with Hluttaw law and rules. Pledges previously made need to be implemented and laws enacted need to be in accord with the Constitution. In the administrative sector, evaluations of farmlands are to be made in accordance with national policies. The carrying out of projects needs to meet regional requirements and benefit the people.

Public servants are enjoying the salaries and wages from the union budget and along with these benefits, public servants need to take responsibility for their work. Rights are to be obtained, while duties are to be performed responsibly. Public servants enjoying salaries and wages from public funds need to perform their duties and responsibilities according to the law, and they are to serve and provide service to the people.

Public servants are to treat the public fairly, and must not waste public funds. Furthermore, administrative, legislative and judicial sectors are interlinked and have the responsibility to check and balance one another.

After the session, President U Win Myint greeted those attending the meeting.

After the meeting, the President, Union Ministers, Region Chief Minister and officials went to meet and encourage those people displaced by floods in the Buddha Voice Dhamma Beikman and hand over to Region Chief Minister U Win Thein Ks. 100 million for the Bago Region Natural Disaster Management Committee fund, provided by the National Disaster Management Committee. Following this, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye provided 100 rice bags to the Bago Region Chief Minister for flood affected people and relief kits for 1,000 families, consisting of six types of relief materials.

The President then met with flood affected people and gave words of encouragements.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Win Myint greets attendees at the meeting with departmental officials of the Bago Region administrative, legislative and judicial sectors in Bago yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Natural disasters cause damage and losses in states, regions

FOLLOWING heavy rainfall in Nay Pyi Taw, Lewe Township, on 27 July 2018, the water level of the Yenilay creek rose, sweeping away a 15 ft. section of a 130-feet-long bridge connecting Bokolone Village and Yenilay Village, leading to damages worth a total of Ks3.5 million. In Zabuthiri Township, an uprooted tree fell on a lamp post and caused damage to another, leading to damages worth some Ks150,000.

In Shan State, Mongmit Township, strong water current in the Nantkri Creek due to heavy rainfall led to the collapse and sweeping away of a 70-ft. section of a 200-ft-long concrete bridge connecting Mongmit town and Kyaridagaw Village and a 270-ft-long steel cable suspension bridge connecting Kyingin village and Namtsai village. The damages are still being assessed, it is learnt.

Similarly, in Kayin State, Hpa-An Township, water inundated the low-lying areas of Krekanna Village, causing 16 households to relocate to the homes of their relatives living in higher areas. Due to the erosion of the Thanlwin River, a kitchen in Shwegun Village, Hlaingbwe Township, was swept away, causing damages worth a total of Ks150,000. The water level in the Yebote Dam in Htilone Village was 3.2 inches above the 63 inches spillway level and the overflowing water flowed into the low-lying livestock breeding zone in Thanban Village, reaching a water depth of some 4ft. A total of 4,000 chickens from seven chicken farms, 60 pigs from six pig farms and 43 goats from a goat farm had to be moved to higher grounds.

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe,
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR
Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail .com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM
Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Nyi Zaw Moe, Hnin Pwint,
Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Yangon Region Health Department cracks down on illegal Chinese clinics in Dawbon Township

By May Thet Hnin

THE Yangon Region Health Department cracked down on illegal clinics run by Chinese doctors in Dawbon Township, and filed charges against them at Dawbon Township police office.

A clinic called Friendly Clinic on Min Nanda Road in Dawbon Township was inspected on 25 July and was found to be operating illegally.

Only one person, who identified himself as the person in charge of the clinic, was present at the scene when the Yangon Health Department conducted a surprise check. The Chinese doctors were not at the clinic, and were not arrested.

"We found the place suspicious following excessive advertising on their Facebook page and conducted a surprise check," said Dr. Tun Myint, head of the Yangon Region Health Department.

That clinic opened in January 2017 with a business licence valid for only two floors: the ground floor and first floor. However, officials found the clinic running up from the ground to the sixth floor, instruments used for surgeries and in laboratories, unidentified machines and pharmaceuticals, patients' history and medical records, computers and identification cards and documents considerably belonging to the Chinese doctors, said Dr Yan Naung Tun, Deputy Director of Yangon Region Health Department.

According to data, patients from Yangon, Mandalay, Pyin-Oo-Lwin, Monywa, Hmawby, Pathein and other towns come to the clinic for various kinds of treatments.

The pharmaceuticals found at the clinic were labelled only in Chinese, which were sent to the laboratory of the Food and Drugs Administration, Nay Pyi Taw, for an examination. And 15 of 45 kinds of medicines are related to cosmetics.

On that day, a patient came to the clinic for his appointment with the doctor and said the pharmaceuticals and medical records were not issued by a legal laboratory. The patient complained that he spent above Ks1 million on treatment for a few days but there was no improvement.

Information about the doctor, who diagnosed and treated the patient at the clinic, has already been sent to international airports and border checkpoints of immigration, said Dr. Tun Myint.

"We are responsible for public health and individual persons also have their own responsibility. Therefore, they need to cooperate with us if they find any suspicious clinics, which are running illegally," he maintained.

General clinics are not allowed to accommodate inpatients and operation rooms. Foreign medical practitioners need to register with the Myanmar Medical Council and get a practicing licence before they can practise medicine in Myanmar. Foreign doctors need to be assigned with a local doctor.

Legal action under the National Drug Law, Law on Private Medical Health Service and Myanmar Medical Council Law is being planned to be taken against the Chinese doctor who escaped from the clinic.

Nay Win clinic from Lanmadaw Township and Yaungnioo clinic from Hline Township were sued for operating an illegal clinic in March and April this year.

There are 13 registered private hospitals, 41 general hospitals, 230 special clinics, and 2,663 general special clinics in Yangon Region. ■

Strong winds damage houses in Paung Township

ON the evening of 26 July, strong winds damaged more than 40 houses in Paung Town. The following morning, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan and officials arrived to provide cash and relief materials to these households, according to the township General Administration Department.

Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan, State Disaster Management Department head U Thaung Shwe and officials provide aid to local affected by strong winds in Paung Township. **PHOTO: KO HEIN (PAUNG)**

The Mon State Chief Minister, Minister for Social Affairs, Minister for Bamar Ethnic Affairs, and State Hluttaw representatives provided each of 49 wind damaged houses, along with 221 residents, more than Ks 100,000, while state Disaster Management Department head U Thaung Shwe delivered Ks 100,000 to each household, along with 49 sets of relief materials. The Township Red Cross also provided 49 sets of relief materials. The total value of support was valued at Ks 10,728,200, according to officials.

Regarding the winds, Paung Township chief administrator U Zaw Moe Aung said, "Last evening, a little past 5 p.m, strong winds and rains fell for only about 5 minutes. But houses collapsed, roofs were blown off, trees uprooted and lamp posts upturned. The majority of the damage was caused by roofs being blown off. Kada Ward had roofs blown off from 40 houses, and two completely collapsed. Kadonsi Ward had roofs blown off from two houses. Also, a woman was slightly injured. This morning, five more houses collapsed in Kada Ward. A total of 49 houses were damaged or destroyed. The losses were placed at some Ks 22,370,000."

The Paung Township chief administrator, Township Fire Department head U Soe Kyaw Thu and personnel, the fire brigade reserve, township Police Force personnel, township electric power department personnel, Red Cross personnel, welfare group members and the public were helping to clear the wind damaged areas, while those left homeless were being resettled in nearby houses of relatives.

According to the Township General Administration Department, strong winds caused the most damage in Paung Township in 2018. —Ko Hein (Paung) ■

Workers carry bags of rice at the Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon on 7 June. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Price of Paw Kyawe rice reaches three-month record high

WITH the increase in prices of rough rice and good-quality rice in the past three months in the Yangon rice market, the price of Paw Kyawe rice reached a record high, said Ko Win Naing, a rice trader from the Bayinnaung rice wholesale market.

The price of Paw Kyawe rice reached Ks40,000 per bag in July, up from Ks 30,000 per bag. In the rice market, the price of monsoon and summer rough rice was unstable between the end of April and July. The price of rough rice saw a difference of 1,500 to 2,000 per bag during those three months. The price fluctuation of rough rice is Ks 21,000-21,500 and Ks 23,000 – 23,500.

The price of monsoon rough rice, which is mostly cultivated, was some Ks 25,000 per bag after the water festival. But the price of monsoon rough rice has increased to Ks27,000 per bag, as of the end of July.

There are about 17.9 million acres of paddy farms crossing the country, including some 1.3 million acres of Paw San paddy farming in Myanmar.

Summer paddy farming only represents about 20 per cent of monsoon paddy farming. The difference in prices between Paw San Yin and old Paw San was Ks 8,000-10,000 per bag during the first week of December. Paw San Yin rice entered into the rice market beginning in the first week of December.

The price of Shwebo Paw San has increased to Ks 57,000-58,000 per bag in July, from Ks 52,000 and 53,000 per bag after the water festival. The price of Myaungmya paw san and Dedaye paw san Kyar Pyan has also increased to Ks 47,000 from Ks 42,000 per bag.

The price of Pharbon Paw San San has also increased to Ks 44,000 per bag from Ks38,000 per bag at the end of July. The Monsoon rough rice harvest is held at the end of September. The storage of monsoon rough rice has two months to sell in the market.

The sale of exported rice through the Muse border earns more profits than via sea routes. But currently, the sale of export rice is normal. As of the end of July, the price of rough rice has declined slightly, while the price of good-quality rice has shown a small increase in the local market.

In the three months after the water festival, the price of rough rice has fluctuated, while the price of Paw Kyawe and Paw San San rice has increased. The price of Paw Kyawe has increased to some Ks 10,000, while the price of Paw San San has increased to about Ks 5,000, and the price of rough rice increased to Ks 2,000 per bag. —Maung Say Aung ■

Myanmar imports foreign goods worth $6 billion since April

MYANMAR'S imports from foreign traders in the current six-month interim fiscal period amounted to US$6 billion, including $417 million by the public sector and $5.6 billion by the private sector, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

The country buys three main groups of commodities from international trade partners. Between 1 April and 20 July, the country imported capital goods valued at $2.148 billion, intermediate goods worth $2.468 billion and consumer products valued at $1.392 billion.

The current total import figures increased by $494 million in comparison with the same period last year, when imports were $5.514 billion.

According to official trade data, this year saw a decrease in the value of private sector imports of capital goods by $28 million, while public sector imports of consumer products also declined by $15 million.

Myanmar's imports are increasing year after year. According to the ministry's annual trade report, the country's imports in the financial year (FY) 2017-2018 were $18.6 billion, which saw an increase in value by $1.472 billion as against the previous 2016-2017 FY.—Swe Nyein ■

Banana growers from NyaungU reap healthy profits this season

BANANA growers in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, said they earned a handsome profit from the sale of Pheegyan, a popular banana variety in Myanmar that looks like a large ladyfinger, this harvest season.

This variety of banana is usually cultivated in March-April and harvested during the same months.

U Aung Htay, a banana grower from Letpanchepaw Village in NyaungU Township, said, "Growers in the village cultivate the marketable Pheegyan banana on a commercial scale. Currently, we sell a bunch of bananas between Ks550 and Ks800."

Bananas produced from Letpanchepaw Village are sent mostly to wholesalers in Bagan-NyaungU, Pakokku, Myingyan and Ngathayauk.—Ko Htain (Ngathayauk) ■

Growers arrange banana bunches that will be sold in markets.
PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAYAUK)

Myanmar's border exports reach almost $1.6 billion in current FY

BORDER exports between Myanmar and its neighbours in the current fiscal period increased by $316 million against the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Exports usually outdo imports in border trade. From 1 April to 20 July this year, the country's exports from all borders totalled US$1.588 billion, with $880 million in imports. During this time last year, border exports were $1.3 billion, with $849 million in imports.

Myanmar is trading with four neighbouring countries, including China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh, not only through marine routes but also cross-border points of entry. Currently, Myanmar opens 16 land borders, conducting trade with China via five borders, with Thailand from seven borders, with India through two borders and with Bangladesh from two borders. The Muse, Myanmar-China border, is the largest border trade camp of its kind.

During the period, the Muse border gate handled the largest volume and value of border exports worth over $1.2 billion, followed by Chinshwehaw with $84.8 million, Kanpaiktee with $68.1 million, Myeik with $57.7 million and Lwejel with $57.2 million.

According to the ministry's annual statistical report, Myanmar's exports from border points were $5.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, $4.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, $4.5 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, $4.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $2.7 billion in the 2013-2014 FY and $2.1 billion in the 2012-2013 FY.

The trade authorities are planning to open new trade camps in order to boost border trade.—Shwe Khine ■

Residents near rivers in Hpa-an, Bago, Shwekyin, Madauk urged to evacuate

FROM PAGE-1

Shwegyin River

The weather bureau announced yesterday afternoon that the water level of the Shwegyin River has exceeded its danger level by about 6 feet at Shwegyin. It may continue to rise another two feet over the next two days, keeping the river well above its danger level.

Bago River

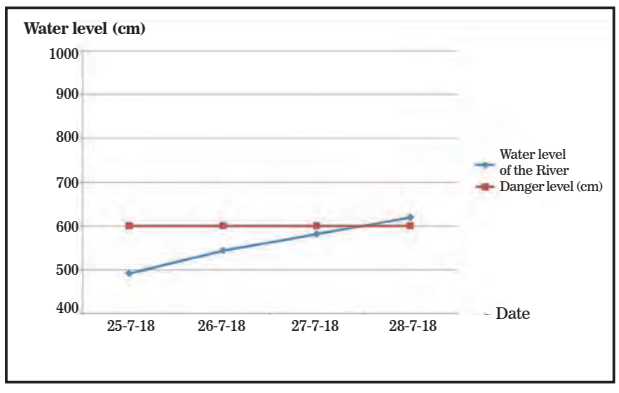
According to observations made at 2:30pm yesterday, the water level of the Bago River is about three feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise another half-a-foot over the next day and remain above its danger level. The rising of the water level of the Bago River at Bago reached 968cm at 12:30 yesterday, its highest level in 54 years. The previous highest water level of Bago River at Bago was 960 cm on 10 August 2011.

Thanlwin River

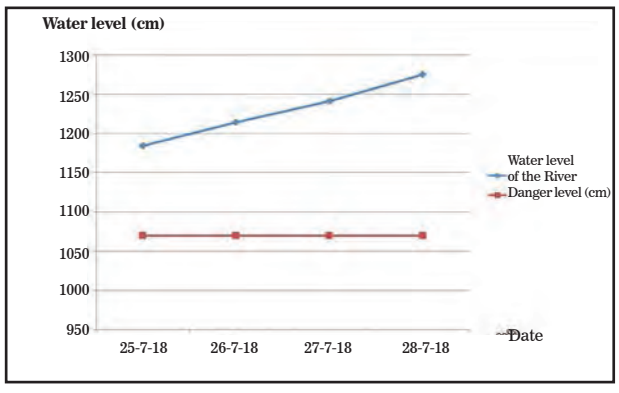
According to observations made at 12:30pm yesterday, the water level of the Thanlwin River has exceeded its danger level by about five-and-a-half feet at Hpa-an. The water levels could rise another foot over the next two days.

The water level of the Bilin River exceeded its danger level by about two feet at Bilin yesterday afternoon and may remain above its danger level over the next two days.—GNLM ■

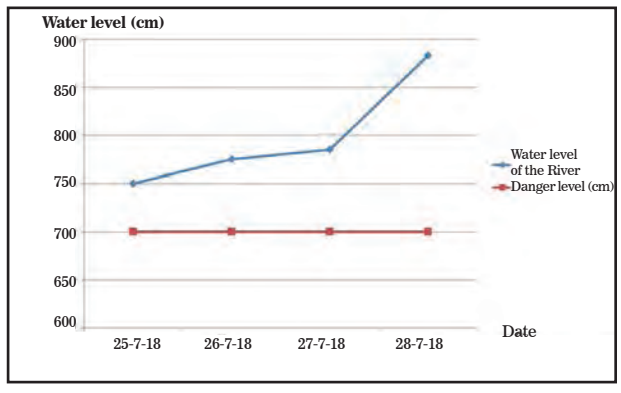
Sittoung River in Taungoo, Bago Region Exceeding danger Level



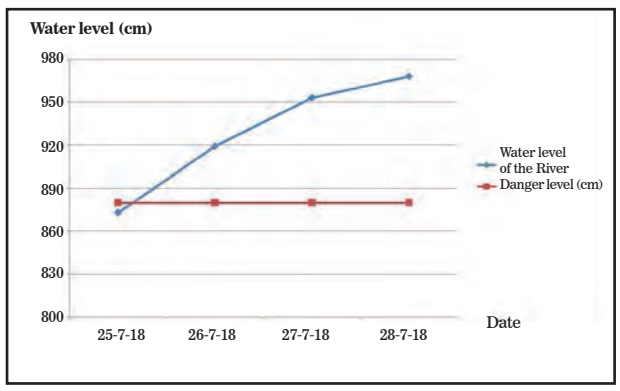
Sittoung River in Madauk, Bago Region Exceeding danger Level



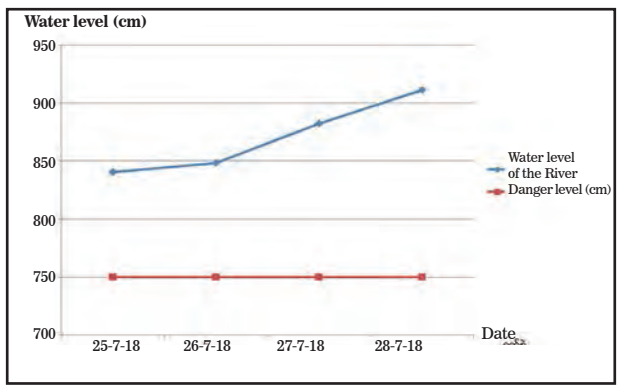
Sittoung River in Shwegyin, Bago Region Exceeding danger Level



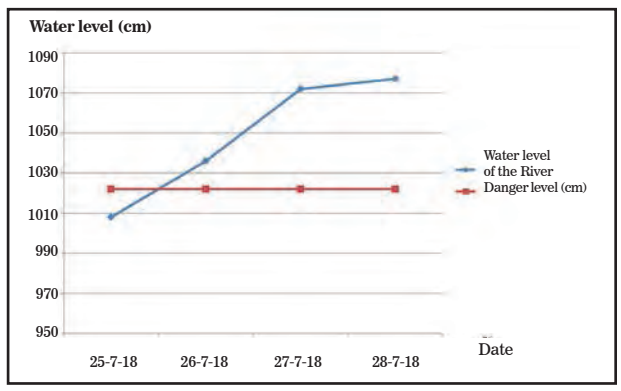
Sittoung River in Bago, Bago Region Exceeding danger Level



Thanlwin River in Hpa-an, Kayin State Exceeding danger Level



Bilin River in Bilin, Mon State Exceeding danger Level



Natural disasters cause damage and losses in states, regions

FROM PAGE-3

In Thandaunggyi Township, heavy rain caused the road shoulder of the Yado-Kaykaw asphalt road near Kalawta village to collapse. The earth from the collapsed road shoulder covered farmlands, causing Ks2.6 million worth of damages to crops. In Myawady Township, a 30-ft. section of a concrete bridge of the Wheyshan-Pawlaw village road collapsed, causing damages worth Ks5 million. At the entrance to Htiwa Palaw village, a 30-ft-long concrete culvert bridge on the Zayatphyukone-Htiwapalaw village connecting road was swept away causing some Ks2.5 million worth of damages.

In the same way, in Bago Region, Shwegyin township, rain caused the Sittaung River and Shwekyin creek to rise above danger levels, putting 23 wards and villages under 4 ft. of water. Some 1,772 households affected by the water had to be moved to the homes of their relatives or to monasteries, offices and schools. Due to strong winds, 23 houses in two villages in Thanatpin Township had their roofs blown off, while six houses, a chicken shed, and two sheds sheltering tractors collapsed causing some Ks17,825,000 in damages. On the evening of 27 July, heavy rain and strong winds caused 30 houses, four toilets of a monastery and a village administrative office to collapse, roofs to be blown off 184 houses, a village administrative office, a cowshed and a rice barn and a wooden bridge to be swept away causing Ks48,490,000 worth of damages.

On the evening of 27 July, heavy rains and whirlwinds led to the collapse of many houses and monasteries and their roofs to be blown away, causing damages worth some Ks200 million. A man was slightly injured and had to be treated at Bago People's Hospital. Earlier in the day, water overflowed onto the bank of the Bago River causing water to flow up to a depth of some 5 ft. into Kanmyint village requiring 25 households to relocate temporarily to the village post primary school. In addition to this, heavy rains and the overflowing Bago River submerged Okktha Myothit (9) Ward leading to 357 households being relocated to monasteries. Yangon-Mandalay road was under one-and-a-half feet of water between mileposts 43 and 44/7 but vehicles were still plying along the road.

The water level in Kyaukkyi River rose due to heavy rain inundating four villages and wards in Kyaukkyi Township, causing 49 households to relocate to monasteries and homes of relatives. A 150-ft-long wooden bridge connecting Ma U Dan village and Ayethukha village collapsed and was swept away, causing damages worth Ks5 million. Two wards in Madauk town, Nyaunglebin Township, were also under 4 ft. of water requiring 266 households to relocate.

In Mon State too landslides caused damages worth Ks380,000. Strong winds also caused damages worth more than Ks19.3 million in Paung and Bilin townships. Water rose 3 ft. above the Mawlamyine-Yangon road between mileposts 126/4-6 and 129/0-5 leading to the temporary closure of the road. Water inundated farmlands in Thaton Township up to a depth of some 6 ft. leading to the relocation of 28 households in the farmlands.

River bank erosion in Yangon Region, Taikkyi Township, forced 17 households to relocate. The whirlwind also led to the collapse of four houses, leading to roofs being blown off in Hlegu Township. Two pagodas were also damaged. The total cost of the damages was estimated to be some Ks3,080,000.

In Rakhine State, heavy rain on 27 July submerged roads in Thandwe town wards 1, 2 and 4 under some 1 to 2 ft. of water, according to a report from the Myanmar Police Force.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends coord meeting on recent flooding and inundation

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who is also the Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, attended and delivered a speech at an emergency coordination meeting on the recent flooding and inundations that occurred in Myanmar. The meeting was held yesterday morning at the National Disaster Management Committee in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Aung Thu; Deputy Ministers U Min Thu, Maj-Gen Aung Thu, U Win Maw Tun and U Soe Aung; permanent secretaries; directors general and officials.

This meeting was held to ensure necessary coordination on the flooding and inundation currently occurring. Much was lost and damaged in the recent flooding and inundation. At the moment, flooding and inundation are rampant in Bago Region, Taninthayi Region, Mon State and Kayin State. Necessary assistance and relief works are also being provided. The assistance and relief works for affected people require to be coordinated so that quick response to the natural disaster can be taken.

Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee Vice President U Henry Van Thio checks images from the satellite on weather conditions received at the emergency management centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Systematic measures for prevention, rescue and relief should be taken in expectation of disasters, said the Vice President.

Next, National Natural Disaster Management Committee members Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Aung Thu; Deputy Ministers U Min Thu, Maj-Gen Aung Thu, U Win Maw Tun and U Soe Aung; Permanent Secretaries U Tin Myint, U Tin Maung Oo and U Myo Myint Maung; Directors-General U Khin Maung Win and Dr. Kyaw Moe Oo and officials explained the status of providing assistance and relief to people affected by natural disasters, arrangements for continuing assistance and relief works, arrangements for conducting rehabilitation works, status of emergency response works, plans and arrangements for assistance, security, information, education, health, transport, construction and the electricity sector, and current cooperation of the Tatmadaw in flood-hit areas.

Later, National Natural Disaster Management Committee Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio coordinated over the discussion and explanations. Vice President U Henry Van Thio then inspected the satellite images on weather conditions received at the emergency management centre.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Education minister participates in China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week

UNION Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi attended the opening ceremony of the 11th China-ASEAN Education Week in Guian New Area in China on 25 July.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi appreciated the development and cooperation between China and ASEAN in the education sector in 25 years, acknowledging that the cooperation had contributed to the development of the socio economy of the people of the China and the ASEAN, and peace and stability in the region.

He also stressed the important role of quality education in the future to produce skillful workers and to reduce inequalities. He also called for encouraging applied research and deep learning for students and to promote their innovation in the cultural, science and technology sectors. Following the opening ceremony, the union minister, together with education ministers from ASEAN-member countries and China, opened the international cooperation department for collecting data in China, ASEAN and neighbouring countries.

The 11th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week ran from 25 to 30 July in Guian New Area. The event is more than just a platform for educational cooperation and exchange, but has also been an important platform for cultural communication since it began in 2008. It primarily engages with countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.

This year's event held a total of 57 activities spanning across education, culture, sports and health.

Later, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and education ministers visited the demonstration of the skills of students and booths.

The union minister arrived back in Yangon on 28 July. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the opening speech at the opening ceremony of the 11th China-ASEAN Education Week in Guian New Area in China on 25 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

Flood warnings must reach at-risk communities

FLOODS are common during the rainy season in Myanmar, and throughout the Asia/Pacific region.

Every year around this time, we see photos of people wading through waist-high waters from flood-hit areas nationwide. Then, aid and money is delivered to residents who had to leave their homes and take refuge in monasteries or emergency flood centres.

Meanwhile, the weather bureau has alerted the people living near rivers in Hpa-an, Bago, Shwekyin and Madauk to take precautionary measures because the water level of the rivers there has gone above the danger level. The level is expected to rise at least one feet further over the next two days because of heavy rain.

In 2015, when the worst flood in decades hit central Myanmar, the response to the floods was limited, and flood warnings did not reach all the people.

The 2015 floods displaced over 217,000 people nationwide and inundated over 1 million acres of farmland, damaging over 426,000 acres and destroying over 56,000 acres.

The death toll from the disaster reached nearly 100.

Weak response to the disaster led to misunderstandings about evacuation efforts.

While the people are in the midst of facing floods, the local authorities should make sure that the weather warnings issued by the weather bureau reached the at-risk communities well ahead of time.

Ensuring weather warnings reach the populations who remain the most vulnerable to floods should be a priority.

> Another important thing is that the people facing the floods should be urged not to believe any rumours when floods hit their areas. It is a common misunderstanding among some people that dams release water due to damages at the dams

Another priority should be shifting from "a response-recovery approach" to a "risk-sensitive development approach." This includes replacing outdated drainage and sewage infrastructure, as well as enforcing land use plans and zoning regulations to keep buildings and households out of danger zones.

Another important thing is that the people facing the floods should be urged not to believe any rumours when floods hit their areas. It is a common misunderstanding among some people that dams release water due to damages at the dams. In the rainy season, all dams nationwide are monitored around the clock by engineers and staff. Overflow water in the dams goes through spillways into the rivers.

Engineers continually inspect the condition of the dams and they also stockpile emergency materials in order to be able to carry out preparedness and response in a timely manner, if necessary. Machinery and labourers are arranged to be ready to quickly respond to any damage to dams.

When a dam drains out water from its spillway, an alert is made on radio, television and via social media through smartphone notifications. Keep a close watch on weather updates and warnings during the rainy season.

PHOTO : KAMAMAUNG IPRD

TAMING DISASTERS AND DISEASE OUTBREAKS

By Mitsuaki Toyoda,
Save the Children's Country Director in Mongolia.
By Miyuki Akasaka,
Program coordinator in Save the Children Japan.
By Dr Unni Krishnan,
Director, Emergency Health Unit, Save the Children.

WHILE we can't stop most hazards from happening, we can stop hazards leading to disasters and we can reduce the deaths and suffering hazards cause. It is a truth that earthquakes don't kill people; bad buildings do. Ebola and flu outbreaks, increasing number of water borne and vector borne diseases in post flood and storm settings also remind us that people's health is often the first casualty in a disaster.

The World Disasters Report 2016 (WDR) highlighted the Asia-Pacific region as the most disaster-prone in the world.

> ... post flood water leads to water borne diseases. Flood waters are also a breeding ground for mosquitoes leading to Malaria and other vector borne disease outbreaks.

Improved collaboration and a stronger partnership between health actors and disaster responders can make the world a healthier and safer place. We believe this is the best way to save lives and multiply the impact of investments in both sectors. Furthermore, it can bolster the resilience of communities who are on the frontline of disasters and disease outbreaks.

CONSIDER THE FACTS:

The WDR paints a picture of a world facing complex challenges. The number and scale of disasters triggered by natural hazards are increasing. The impact of climate change is taking their toll. 2015 was the hottest year on record with 32 major droughts-compared to an annual average of 15 over the previous decade.

During the last decade, many countries in Asia and the Pacific have made progress in disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness by investing in better early warning systems, strengthening school buildings, preparing local communities to anticipate and manage the impacts of hazards and building better awareness amongst children, who are among the most vulnerable during disasters.

DISEASE OUTBREAKS AND DISASTERS: A COMMON CAUSE

Storms are becoming more ferocious and they are one step ahead of efforts to tame them. Policy and aid agencies often ignore the interplay between disasters and health. Disasters often destroy health facilities and limit access to health care in times of greatest need. Furthermore, post flood water leads to water borne diseases. Flood waters are also a breeding ground for mosquitoes leading to Malaria and other vector borne disease outbreaks.

Disease outbreaks and other health crises are becoming harder to contain. Movement of people and urbanisation are other catalysts which amplify health impacts of disasters. This makes it essential for doctors, health workers and disaster responders alike to understand and prepare for the impact of disasters on health.

For the best possible health outcomes, it is necessary to place disaster risk reduction and preparedness on the agenda of health actors. It is also necessary to place health as a key agenda for disaster responders. The idea is to develop a culture of health and safety. In practise, this means learning first aid straight from school days onwards and including disaster response in the medical and para-medical curricula.

TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE RESPOND TO DISASTERS

The capacities of health actors and disaster responders are transformable, with the right orientation and training. Eradication of polio is a success story in the health sector. What if the millions of barefoot polio health workers and campaigners take up the cause of disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and humanitarian action and get themselves trained to save lives before, during and after the impacts of hazards? Preparing for one disaster (say a typhoon) will go a long way to prepare communities for other disasters (say a disease outbreak).

> While schools and hospitals need to be made stronger and safer, investments are also needed to take care of needs such as mental health and emotional wellbeing of children living in disaster prone areas.

FAST FORWARD TO FUTURE:

Investing in solutions and partnerships that produce future resilience, livelihoods and social cohesion, health and psychosocial well-being, supporting communities to withstand future shocks and adversity is key to make the world a safer place for future generations. While schools and hospitals need to be made stronger and safer, investments are also needed to take care of needs such as mental health and emotional wellbeing of children living in disaster prone areas. Such investments are often the best shock absorbers since they bolster confidence and help survivors bounce back quicker. They can further be a catalyst in relief and recovery efforts.

Disasters and disease outbreaks need not be death sentences. Disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness, partnerships and collaborative action and prioritising investments for children can make the difference between life or death – that is the way forward, the future.

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PHOTO : KAMAMAUNG IPRD

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 15:00 hrs M.S.T on 28-7-2018)

Flood conditions of Sittoung River

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River have exceeded by about (½) foot at Taungoo and (7) feet at Madauk above their respective danger levels. The water levels may continue to rise about (1) foot at Taungoo and (1½) feet at Madauk during the next (2) days and may remain above their respective danger levels.

The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk (1278) cm observed at (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, is the highest of (53) years record. The previous highest water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1244) cm observed on (2.8.1997).

Flood condition of Shwegyin River

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Shwegyin River has exceeded by about (6) feet at Shwegyin above its danger level. It may continue to rise about (2) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Bago River

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Bago River has exceeded by about (3) feet at Bago above its danger level. It may continue to rise about (½) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

The water level of Bago River at Bago (968) cm observed at (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, is the highest of (54) years record. The previous highest water level of Bago River at Bago is (960) cm observed on (10.8.2011).

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (5½) feet at Hpaan above its danger level. It may continue to rise about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Bilin River

According to the (14:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Belin River has exceeded by about (2) feet at Belin above its danger level and may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and lowlying areas in Hpaan, Bago and Shwegyin Townships and Madauk, to avert due to the rise of water level and Taungoo and Bilin Townships, to take precaution measure.

Trade Mark Ads 09251022355, 09974424848

US-backed Kurd-led alliance in first talks with Damascus

DAMASCUS — A US-backed Kurdish-led alliance is holding talks in Damascus for the first time on the future of the swathe of northern Syria under its control, an alliance official said on Friday.

Between them the Damascus government and the Syrian Democratic Forces control some 90 percent of the country, after a series of Russian-backed victories over rebel groups in recent months saw the government reassert its authority over much of the south.

The delegation from the SDF's political wing is discussing the future of the autonomous administrations it has set up in areas of northern and northeastern Syria under its control, the alliance official said.

"A delegation from the Syrian Democratic Council is paying a first official visit to Damascus at the invitation of the government," the council's Arab co-chair Riad Darar said.

"We are working towards a settlement for northern Syria.

"We hope that the discussions on the situation in the north will be positive," Darar said, adding that they were being held "without preconditions".

Western ally

The SDF controls more than 27 per cent of Syrian territory, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group.

It holds not only Kurdish-majority areas along the northern border with Turkey but also the Arab-majority city of Raqa, made infamous by the Islamic State (IS) group as its former de facto Syrian capital.

SDF fighters captured the city with support from a US-led coalition last October in their most high-profile victory of the war.

The SDF has since lost the Kurdish enclave of Afrin in northwestern Syria to Turkish-backed rebels, who have also threatened to seize other territory held by the alliance west of the Euphrates river.

Only intervention by Washington has prevented Turkish troops from seizing the hard-won town of Manbij from the SDF, whose Kurdish units have pulled back.

Ankara views the Kurdish-led alliance as a terrorist group because of its links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), an outlawed rebel group that has been fighting Turkish troops since 1984.

Damascus too views Kurdish aspirations with suspicion and President Bashar al-Assad in late May threatened to resort to force if necessary to prevent SDF-held areas breaking away.—AFP ■

Syrian Democratic Forces commander Rojda Felat celebrates the October 2017 capture of the Islamic State group's notorious de facto Syrian capital Raqa. **PHOTO : AFP**

Zuma corruption case postponed until end November

Zuma is one of the rare former African leaders to be facing trial. **POHTO: AFP**

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's former president Jacob Zuma appeared in court on Friday over a $2.5-billion (2.15-billion-euro) corruption case linked to a 1990s arms deal, but the judge adjourned the trial until the end of November.

Zuma, who was forced to resign in February, has been charged with 16 counts of fraud, racketeering and money laundering relating to an arms deal involving French arms company Thales.

Judge Mjabuliseni Madondo of the Pietermaritzburg High Court said the defence should have adequate time to prepare an application for a permanent stay of the proceedings and set the next hearing for November 30.

Zuma, 76, is one of the rare former African leaders facing trial after his ouster.

The ruling ANC party stalwart has made two earlier appearances in the court, located in his homeland in KwaZulu-Natal province where he commands huge support, but this was his first court hearing with his new legal team.

"We will deal with this matter. Give us an opportunity to have a proper case," his new lawyer Michael Hellens said.

Zuma is accused of taking bribes from Thales during his time as a provincial economy minister and later as deputy ANC president.

He allegedly pocketed around four million rand ($340,000, 280,000 euros) from 783 payments handled by Schabir Shaik, a businessman who acted as his financial adviser.

On Friday, the French firm said it had no knowledge of any transgressions by any of its employees.

The company said it believed it "cannot obtain a fair trial" in South Africa owing to the lengthy judicial process which began in 2006 and other factors.

"Thales intends to consider all legal options available to it under South African law in order to present its defence," it said.

Judge Madondo meanwhile delivered a stern reminder to Zuma, saying he should not think of shunning future court proceedings.

"I'm sure you know what will follow if you don't attend court," he said.—AFP ■

New wave of protests sweeps Iraqi cities

BAGHDAD — Thousands of people took to the streets of Baghdad and cities across southern Iraq on Friday in the latest protests against corruption, social ills and political leadership.

Surrounded by a cordon of anti-riot personnel equipped with electric batons, protestors in Baghdad's Tahrir Square accused leaders of being "thieves" and "corrupt", AFP journalists said.

Several hundred people shouted "No to corruption!" and "Iran out!".

Fourteen people have been killed in nearly three weeks of unrest as demonstrators have railed against power shortages, unemployment, a lack of clean water and state mismanagement.

Adding to tensions, the country still awaits the results of a partial recount of 12 May elections, while political factions jostle to cobble together a coalition under the watchful eyes of regional powers including Tehran. In oil-rich Basra, the southern port city where the protests began on 8 July, several thousand demonstrated in front of the governorate. "We live in catastrophic conditions — we need food and water," said 33-year-old history graduate and labourer Hassan Hantuch, one of the protestors.

"No to corruption, yes to change!" proclaimed banners held up by protestors in Nasiriyah, southern Iraq, an AFP correspondent said. Protests also took place on Friday in Najaf and Maysan provinces, south of Baghdad. A spokesman for Iraq's highest Shiite authority Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani called at midday on the outgoing government to meet protestors' demands. —AFP ■

Trump thanks Kim for 'keeping word' and delivering US remains

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Friday praised North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for "keeping his word" and handing over the remains of more than 50 American servicemen.

The US leader announced that Vice President Mike Pence would meet families of soldiers killed in the Korean war when the remains land back in the United States.

"I want to thank Chairman Kim for keeping his word," Trump said.

At a June summit in Singapore, Trump and Kim agreed to "commit to recovering" the remains of US service members killed in the war of 1950-1953.

That is something that US veteran's groups have long demanded.

More than 35,000 Americans were killed on the Korean peninsula during the war, with 7,700 of these US troops still listed as missing in action -- most of them in North Korea.

As a C17 carrying the remains landed in South Korea on Thursday, the White House announced that a formal repatriation ceremony will be held on 1 August.

North Korea has previously been accused — most notably by the Japanese government — of faking the remains of foreign citizens and using them as a bargaining chip.

But with apparent North Korean commitments to quickly denuclearize faltering, the White House has welcomed the repatriation as evidence that the Trump-Kim summit was a success. "We are encouraged by North Korea's actions and the momentum for positive change," said White House spokesperson Sarah Sanders. —AFP ■

US President Donald Trump announed that Vice President Mike Pence would meet families of soldiers killed in the Korean war when their remains land back in the United States. **PHOTO: AFP**

Doctors sacked in Nicaragua for treating wounded protesters: medic

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — More than a dozen doctors, nurses and technical staff in a public hospital in Nicaragua have been sacked because they treated wounded anti-government protesters and were seen backing their cause, medical sources said on Friday.

Those fired "without any legal justification" worked at the Oscar Danilo Rosales Hospital in the northwestern city of Leon, surgery and endoscopy department chief Javier Pastora told AFP.

The hospital is run by the health ministry.

The allegation bolstered reports that those perceived to back protest claims calling for the ouster of President Daniel Ortega were being persecuted by his government and sympathizers.

Nicaragua has seen more than three months of unrest as those protests were brutally countered by police and armed pro-government paramilitaries.

More than 300 people have been killed and thousands have fled to neighbouring Costa Rica for safety, according to rights groups.

Pastora, who has worked in Nicaragua's public health system for 33 years, said the staff members were fired because they were deemed to support the protesters by treating them.

"They said we were people showing solidarity and support for the people's fight," he said.

Pastora said at least nine medical specialists were among those fired.

Dismissed in surgery

"I was in surgery when they came from human resources to tell me I could no longer stay because I was fired," said one of the dismissed medics, cancer surgeon Aaron Delgado.

A dismissed pediatrician, Edgar Zuniga, called the axings "arbitrary."

They were fired "for thinking differently, for saying Nicaragua needs democracy, freedom, that the repression and killings must stop and there has to be dialogue," he said.

The staff and residents in Leon held a protest in front of the hospital demanding the sackings be reversed.

Leon used to be a bastion of support for the Sandinista movement Ortega leads, but as the unrest took hold, there too paramilitaries and anti-riot police have stormed the city several times to crush protests.

Rights groups say more than 2,000 people have been hurt across the country since the clashes erupted mid-April.

Many of them sought medical attention for their wounds from volunteers outside the state health system, which was said to have received orders to turn them away.—AFP

Trade Mark: 09251022355

Mexico's president-elect earmarks 9.4 bln USD to revive energy sector

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Friday unveiled a 9.4-billion-US dollar programme to revive the country's languishing energy sector.

The four-pronged plan, requiring an investment of 175 billion pesos (9.39 billion US dollars), calls for boosting oil output, rehabilitating six refineries, building a new refinery and modernizing hydroelectric plants.

"We don't want to be an alarmist, but ... 14 years ago, oil production was at 3.4 million barrels a day and today it is at 1.9 million barrels. In 14 years, we lost 1.5 million barrels a day in output and it's declining because the energy sector and the oil industry were abandoned," Lopez Obrador told reporters at a press conference.

"That is why we are going to urgently intervene and invest from the first year an additional 175 billion pesos in exploration and drilling," said Lopez Obrador, who will take office on 1 December.

Mexico's six existing refineries will be revamped "to operate at 100 percent of their capacity in two years," he said.

A new refinery will be built in Dos Bocas, in southeast Tabasco state, and when completed in three years, Mexico should be able to stop importing costly gasoline, he added.

Existing hydroelectric plants need to be upgraded to make the most of the "underutilized" infrastructure, said Lopez Obrador.—AFP ■

Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

We, **Yadanar Theingi Co.,Ltd .** would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by **SUPERNOVA INTERTRADE PTE .,LTD .** to **Pesticide Registration Board**,Myanmar), to **Taung Paw Thar Yee Shinn (Agriculture) Co.,Ltd .** If any object or enquiry, please contant to Pesticide Registration Board, Department of Agriculture from here to next 14 days .

No.	Trade Name	Ative Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	GC Spade 75 SP	Acephate 75% SP	Provisional	2014-1958
2	GC Cyper 10 EC	Cypermethrin 10% EC	Provisional	2014-1963
3	GC Mida 10 WP	Imidacloprid 10%WP	Provisional	2014-1966
4	GC Mida 70 WP	Imidacloprid 70% WP	Provisional	2014-1967
5	GC Mono 30 EC	Pretilachlor 30% EC	Provisional	2014-1968
6	GC Azobin 25 SC	Azoxystrobin 25% SC	Provisional	2014-1969
7	GC Furan 3 GR	Carbofuran 3% GR	Provisional	2014-1970
8	GC Cartap 4 G	Cartap Hydrochloride 4% G	Provisional	2014-1971
9	GC Laung Mae 44 SC	Chlorothalonil 40% + Metalaxyl 4% SC	Provisional	2014-1972

Yadanar Theingi Co.,Ltd

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
Invitation for Bids

Date: 29th July, 2018
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM
Contract Title: Concrete Poles for NationalElectrification Project
Reference No.: C1-G11

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Concrete Poles for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of concrete pole 10 meter and 12 meter, for the total quantities of 138,212 poles to be delivered in calendar year 2018 and 2019 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 12 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include:

- Minimum average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) shall be 75% of the bid price in over the last two years per each lot. In case of a bidder bidding for multiple lots, the minimum average annual turnover requirement of those multiple lots will be cumulatively applicable.
- The Bidder should have past experience of having satisfactorily completed during the last 5 years, at least one contract for supply of similar goods; with the value of such contract not less than 50 % of the Bid Price for the offered goods.
- More information is included in the bidding documents.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.53, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, email : **nep.pmomoep@gmail.com, telephone : +95 67 3431176** and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours Myanmar time.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:
Director General, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City	:	Nay Pyi Taw
Country	:	The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Email	:	nep.pmomoep@gmail.com
Telephone	:	+95 67 3410480
Facsimile	:	+95 67 3410480
Web site	:	http://www.moee.gov.mm

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **11st September, 2018,** 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below on **11st September, 2018,** 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.

9. The address referred to above is:

Attention	:	Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Place	:	Office No. 27, Ground Floor, Meeting Room, Ministry of Electricity and Energy

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Putin invites Trump to Moscow after US delays summit

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Vladimir Putin said on Friday he had invited US leader Donald Trump to visit Moscow and was ready to travel to Washington, seeking to put on a brave face after the US delayed a new summit with the Kremlin chief to next year.

Speaking after the Helsinki summit with Trump sparked a political crisis in the United States, Putin said the two leaders planned to meet on the sidelines of a summit in Argentina later this year and possibly at other venues.

"I am ready to go to Washington," Putin told reporters following a summit of the leaders of the BRICS group — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — in Johannesburg, adding that he had also invited Trump to visit Moscow.

"(Trump) has a desire to conduct meetings in the future and I am ready," Putin said, stressing, however, that conditions should be in place for such events to go ahead.

The Kremlin chief spoke after the US administration earlier this week delayed a second summit between Putin and Trump to next year under fire from critics at home and was visibly at pains to demonstrate he had taken no offence.

Russian President Vladimir Putin holds a press conference at the end of the 10th BRICS summit (acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) on 27 July, 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. **PHOTO: AFP**

He said he understood the US leader's position, adding they planned to meet on the sidelines of a G-20 meeting in Buenos Aires starting late November. Trump and Putin could also meet at other international events, the Russian leader said without naming them.

"Life goes on and our contacts are continuing despite all the difficulties — the difficulties in the US domestic political life," Putin said.

Face-to-face contacts needed

He said the two leaders needed to see each other face-to-face to discuss a host of bilateral and international issues like Syria, Iran and nuclear arms control.

He said talks should begin on the possible extension of a nuclear arms treaty which was signed by Trump and Putin's predecessors, Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev in 2010 and which will expire in 2021.

"Are we going to extend it or not?" he asked.

"Contacts at the highest political level are needed," Putin said. "You cannot discuss everything by phone."

The summit between the US and Russian leaders in the Finnish capital this month unleashed political turmoil in Washington, with some critics accusing the US president of betraying America's interests.

Trump faced particularly intense criticism after the news conference, during which he appeared to support Putin's "extremely strong and powerful" denial of subverting the 2016 US presidential election.

'Disputes damage dollar'

In South Africa, Putin also said "political disputes" were damaging the dollar as a reserve currency, speaking shortly after Moscow exited the list of the biggest foreign holders of US government debt. "With regard to our American partners and the restrictions they have put in place, especially with regard to dollar payments, it is a big strategic mistake, because it undermines confidence in the dollar," he said.

US Treasury Department data released this month showed Moscow held $14.9 billion worth of Treasury notes in May, well below the $48.7 billion held by Russia in April.

Putin said Russia was not abandoning the dollar altogether but "must minimise risks."

The heads of the BRICS group met in Johannesburg for an annual summit dominated by the risk of a US-led trade war, although leaders did not publicly mention Trump by name.—AFP ■

Slovak far-right leader charged with promoting extremism

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — Slovak prosecutors said on Friday that they had charged the leader of a far-right party that holds seats in parliament with promoting extremism after he handed out cheques for a figure allegedly known as a neo-Nazi symbol.

Lawmaker Marian Kotleba was charged with "promoting sympathy towards a movement aimed at suppressing fundamental rights and freedoms," prosecutor's office spokeswoman Jana Tokolyova told AFP on Friday.

The charge stemmed from a 2017 charity event organised by the Kotleba-People's Party Our Slovakia (LSNS), where Kotleba handed out cheques to families in need made out for 1,488 euros ($1,733).

"In a school located in Banska Bystrica, Kotleba handed out the three larger-than-life, symbolic cheques for 1,488 euros to three families in front of nearly 400 guests," Tokolyova said. "The number 1,488 is a well-known neo-Nazi symbol," she added. If a court accepts the charges, Kotleba will be tried and faces up to three years in prison if convicted. The former governor of his native central region of Banska Bystrica, who has been charged with hate speech in the past, is known for having led street marches with party members dressed in black neo-Nazi uniforms.

He is hostile to both Slovakia's large Roma minority and the established elite and has spoken warmly of former president Jozef Tiso, who agreed to deport tens of thousands of Jews to Nazi Germany during World War II.

His party has campaigned heavily against letting migrants into the country and won seats in parliament for the first time in March 2016.

Last year, prosecutors also set in motion a case asking the Supreme Court to ban the LSNS.

There is evidence that it "is an extremist political party with fascist tendencies," Andrea Predajnova, a spokeswoman for the prosecutor general, said at the time.—AFP ■

Polls open in Australia 'Super Saturday' by-elections

SYDNEY, Australia — Australia's political leaders made last-gasp bids to sway voters on Saturday as polls opened in five by-elections that could see the conservative government boost its wafer-thin parliamentary majority.

The seats are being contested following a string of forced resignations in the opposition Labor party after the High Court reaffirmed an obscure provision in the 1901 constitution that bars dual citizens from elected office.

Picking up just one of them will double Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's parliamentary majority to two.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. **PHOTO: AFP**

The outcome is also being seen as a barometer on Turnbull's re-election prospects and whether opposition Labor leader Bill Shorten should potentially be replaced ahead of national polls due by May next year.

Half a million people are eligible to vote.

Two of the five seats are considered Labor strongholds while another looks likely to remain with the independent Centre Alliance.

The others — Longman in Queensland state and Braddon in Tasmania state — are too close to call, although an opinion poll in Saturday's The Australian newspaper suggested Labor could cling on.

Should Turnbull's Liberal coalition win a seat, it would be the first time a government has clinched one from the opposition at a by-election in 98 years. Turnbull has framed the polls as a referendum on the government's "jobs and growth" agenda while Labor is campaigning on better health funding.

"All of our candidates are standing for stronger economic growth, lower taxes, more jobs, higher wages, guaranteed funding for essential services that comes from a stronger economy," Turnbull said during a final pitch in Braddon.

"Labor is a threat to all of that."

"We're saying to Australians voting today; don't put your essential services at risk. Don't put your jobs at risk. Don't put stronger economic growth at risk."

While the government continues to trail Labour in opinion polls, the deficit has been narrowing and Shorten's personal popularity has been waning. "I accept that when these campaigns started, Labour was the underdog in both Braddon and Longman. But Labour never gives up," said Shorten, also campaigning in Braddon.

"The critical question to ask yourself when you cast your vote in these by-elections, is whether or not you want more of the same? Or do you want to see this government do better?

"Do you want to see better for our hospitals and schools? Better for our wages? Or do you just want to see more tax cuts for the top end of town?"—AFP ■

India excavators find over thousand 18th-century war rockets

BANGALORE — Over a thousand rockets belonging to an 18th-century Muslim warrior king have been found by excavators in an abandoned well in India's southern Karnataka state, an official said on Friday.

The excavation of the open well in Shimoga district led to unearthing of rockets and shells that were stored by Tipu Sultan for use in wars, according to the state's assistant director of archaeology.

The powerful ruler was killed in the fourth Anglo-Mysore war in 1799 after a string of victories in battle against the British East India Company.

He is credited with developing an early, indigenous rocket known as the Mysorean rocket, a prototype of British Congreve rockets used in the Napoleonic wars.

"Excavation of the open well led to unearthing of over 1,000 corroded rockets that were stored during Tipu's times for use in wars," R Shejeshwara Nayaka told AFP from the site, some 385 kilometres (240 miles) northwest of state capital Bangalore.

"Digging of the dry well where its mud was smelling like gunpowder led to the discovery of the rockets and shells in a pile."

It took three days for the 15-member team of archaeologists, excavators and labourers to unearth the armoury and the ammunition. The rockets, measuring between 23 and 26 centimetres (12-14 inches), would be kept for public display at a museum in Shimoga. According to archeological records, the fort area in Shimoga was a part of Tipu Sultan's kingdom and the rockets were used in the wars that the ruler fought against the East India Company.—AFP ■

Excavation of an open well in India's southern Karnataka state led to unearthing of rockets and shells that were stored by 18th-century Muslim warrior king Tipu Sultan. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V HAJAU SAMUDERA VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HAJAU SAMUDERA VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC DAHKA VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC DAHKA VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (004 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (004 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Phone No: 2301185

Indian megastar Priyanka Chopra engaged to Nick Jonas: report

Priyanka Chopra is one of the few Bollywood stars to achieve success in the West. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK — Indian film superstar Priyanka Chopra is engaged to young American singer Nick Jonas after a whirlwind two months of dating, a report said on Friday.

People magazine, citing unnamed sources close to the pair, said Jonas, 25, proposed to Chopra in London for her 36th birthday after shutting down a Tiffany store in New York to choose a ring.

Representatives for the two stars did not respond to requests for comment.

But director Ali Abbas Zafar appeared to allude to the engagement when he announced that Chopra was leaving the film "Bharat," a historical drama about modern India.

"The reason is very very special," he tweeted. "She told us in the Nick of time about her decision and we are very happy for her."

Chopra, who won the Miss World pageant in 2000, has become one of Bollywood's most identifiable stars and, more recently, one of the few to achieve success in the West.

She has starred in the thriller series "Quantico" on US network ABC and, in her career as a singer, has released songs with US chart-toppers including Pitbull and The Chainsmokers.

Jonas first found success as a child as the frontman of The Jonas Brothers with his two siblings.

Also an actor on theater and in television, Jonas returned to music as a young adult with a new, mature image and has often been seen as a sex symbol. He has been romantically linked to a number of prominent women including Miley Cyrus and Selena Gomez.

People magazine said that, while Jonas and Chopra have known each other for some time, they began dating just two months ago and the relationship was serious enough that she introduced him to her mother in India.—AFP ■

Rapper Cardi B. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cardi B pulls out of Bruno Mars' tour

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Cardi B, who recently gave birth to her daughter, has pulled out of Bruno Mars' 24K Magic tour.

The rapper was announced as a special guest for the last leg of Mars tour in February.

Cardi took to Twitter and said that she thought she would be physically capable of returning to the stage but she underestimated the "whole mommy thing". "I thought that after giving birth to my daughter that 6 weeks would be enough time for me to recover mentally and physically. I also thought that I'd be able to bring her with me on tour, but I think I underestimated this whole mommy thing," the rapper said.

"Not only am I just not ready physically, I'm not ready to leave my baby behind since the doctors explained it's not healthy for her to be on the road," she added.

Cardi also thanked Mars for understanding her decision.

"I hope you guys understand .This have been such a hard decision. I want to thank @brunomars for understanding," she wrote.

In return, Mars shared some kind words of support for Cardi and said she is doing the "right thing".

"I know the fans will understand. You are absolutely doing the right thing. I also know we'll share the stage when the time is right. We love you Cardi and we will play Bodak Yellow every night in your honour," the singer wrote. Cardi was scheduled to join Bruno's tour in September. The two musicians had teamed up for their collaborative song "Finesse (Remix)" earlier this year.—PTI ■

Carrie Fisher makes posthumous return to 'Star Wars'

LOS ANGELES — "Star Wars: Episode IX" begins filming next week, Disney said on Friday, in a shock announcement revealing it will feature both Carrie Fisher in a posthumous appearance and series star Mark Hamill.

The final installment of the Skywalker saga — which began in 1977 with "Episode IV: A New Hope" — is due for release worldwide in December next year.

It picks up the saga after the protagonist, Hamill's Luke Skywalker, appeared to have been killed off in the last episode. Fisher's Princess Leia was still alive at the end of 2017's "The Last Jedi" but the actress herself died a year earlier, in December 2016.

"We desperately loved Carrie Fisher," said JJ Abrams, who is back at the helm for "Episode IX," having directed "Episode VII: The Force Awakens" in 2015.

"Finding a truly satisfying conclusion to the Skywalker saga without her eluded us. We were never going to recast, or use a CG character," he added in a statement. Disney said Fisher's role would be gleaned from previously unreleased footage from "The Force Awakens," with the blessing of her daughter, Billie Lourd. It is not the first time Fisher's likeness has featured in a "Star Wars" movie despite being absent from its filming.

"Rogue One," a 2016 spin-off from the main series, directed by Gareth Edwards, had been in theaters for a couple of weeks when Fisher's death from a heart attack was announced.

A much younger version of Fisher as Leia appears in that movie, thanks to the controversial application of computer wizardry to animate her image.

Returning cast members for the final episode include Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Lupita Nyong'o, Domhnall Gleeson, Kelly Marie Tran and Joonas Suotamo.

Naomi Ackie and Richard E. Grant are among the new faces, while old "Star Wars" hands Anthony Daniels and Billy Dee Williams return as C-3PO and Lando Calrissian. Composer John Williams, who has scored every chapter in the "Star Wars" saga, continues his unbroken run for the next adventure. —AFP ■

Late US actress Carrie Fisher will make a posthumous appearance in "Star Wars: Episode IX," Disney announced. **PHOTO: AFP**

Twitter dives on warning of shrinking user base

WASHINGTON — Twitter shares took a pounding on Friday as a warning of a shrinking user base overshadowed news of a third straight quarterly profit.

Twitter said it posted a profit of $100 million in the second quarter, following a loss of $116 million a year earlier, as revenue rose 24 per cent to $711 million.

But the San Francisco-based firm said its base of monthly active users fell by one million from the past quarter to 335 million in the period amid a purge of fake and abusive accounts and a crackdown on "bots" that manipulate the platform.

Twitter shares came under pressure after reporting it lost users in the past quarter amid a crackdown on bots and fake accounts. **PHOTO:AFP**

Twitter said it also expected user declines in the current quarter which would likely be in the "mid-single-digit millions."

The drop in users comes from "prioritizing the health of the platform, and, to a lesser extent, GDPR," Twitter said, referring to Europe's General Data Protection Regulations that limit how internet firms can handle user data.

Shares in Twitter slumped as much as 20 per cent in pre-opening trades in a market jittery following a weak outlook from social network leader Facebook, later paring the loss to around 12 per cent.

Chief executive Jack Dorsey said the results reflect investments "in the long-term health" of Twitter, noting efforts to weed out abusive and inappropriate behaviour.

"We'll continue to invest heavily in making Twitter a healthier place because that's the right thing to do," Dorsey told analysts on a conference call.

Dorsey noted that Twitter is investing in "new tools to address problem behaviours that distort and distract from the public conversation."

Twitter in recent weeks has stepped up efforts to weed out accounts that promote violence or hate speech, and some reports suggested this could lower the user base by millions.

The company has said most of the blocked accounts were revoked within the first 30 days, and thus not part of the user base count.

Twitter shares have more than doubled over the past year as it shows signs of sustaining profitability after years of losses.

But a lingering concern has been the stalled user base, with Twitter struggling to move beyond its core of celebrities, journalists and politicians.

Both Twitter and Facebook moved to crack down on bots and fake accounts after learning of efforts to manipulate the social platforms during the 2016 US presidential election.

Dorsey told analysts Twitter had a "solid quarter" and suggested that daily usage was a better measure of its future growth.

Twitter said daily active users rose 11 per cent from a year ago, without giving a specific figure. — AFP ■

Red planet and 'blood moon' pair up to dazzle skygazers

PARIS — Skygazers across the globe will be treated to a thrilling celestial spectacle on Friday when the longest "blood moon" eclipse this century coincides with Mars' closest approach in 15 years. Unlike with a solar eclipse, viewers will need no protective eye gear to observe the rare display.

"All you have to do is... go outside!", the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) in London said, adding that binoculars will be useful to observe the phenomenon up close.

For about half the world, the moon will be partly or fully in Earth's shadow from 1714 to 2328 GMT — six hours and 14 minutes in all.

The period of complete eclipse — known as "totality", when the moon appears darkest — will last from 1930 to 2113 GMT.

"Totality will last for 103 minutes, making it the longest eclipse of the 21st century," the RAS said. At the same time, Mars will hover near the moon in the night sky, easily visible with the naked eye.

Our neighbouring planet will appear unusually large and bright, a mere 57.7 million kilometres (35.9 million miles) from Earth on its elliptical orbit around the sun.

"We have a rare and interesting conjunction of phenomena," Pascal Descamps, an astronomer with the Paris Observatory, told AFP.

"We should have a coppery red tint on the moon with Mars the 'Red Planet' just next to it, very bright and with a slight orange hue itself."

Amateur astronomers in the southern hemisphere will be best-placed to enjoy the spectacle, especially those in southern Africa, Australia, India and Madagascar, though it will also be partly visible in Europe and South America.

The website www.timeanddate.com offers the exact locations and timing of the eclipse as it moves from Friday into Saturday.

Celestial bodies align

A total lunar eclipse happens when Earth takes position in a straight line between the moon and sun, blotting out the direct sunlight that normally makes our satellite glow whitish-yellow.

The moon travels to a similar position every month, but the tilt of its orbit means it normally passes above or below the Earth's shadow — so most months we have a full moon without an eclipse.

When the three celestial bodies are perfectly lined up, however, the Earth's atmosphere scatters blue light from the sun while refracting or bending red light onto the moon, usually giving it a rosy blush.

This is what gives the phenomenon the name "blood moon", though Mark Bailey of the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland said the colour can vary greatly.

It depends partly on "how cloudy or transparent those parts of the Earth's atmosphere are which enable sunlight to reach the moon", he told AFP.

"During a very dark eclipse the moon may be almost invisible.

"Less dark eclipses may show the moon as dark grey or brown... as rust-coloured, brick-red, or, if very bright, copper-red or orange."

The long duration of this eclipse is partly due to the fact that the moon will make a near-central passage through Earth's umbra — the darkest, most central part of the shadow.

'Eerie and beautiful'

Our constant companion will also be at the farthest point on its orbit from Earth, making its movement across the sky slower from our perspective, thus spending longer in the dark.

NASA, meanwhile, has called out social media hoaxers claiming that Mars will appear as big as the moon during the eclipse.

"If that were true, we'd be in big trouble given the gravitational pulls on Earth, Mars, and our moon!" the NASA website states. —AFP ■

EU door opens for generic version of AIDS medicine Truvada

European patents expired on 25 July for Truvada, allowing EU authorities to clear the way for cheaper generics to enter the market. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS — Patient associations on Thursday lauded an EU decision to allow the sale of generic versions of Truvada, an anti-retroviral medicine used by those diagnosed HIV-positive, the virus causing AIDS.

"This decision is historic ... ending an inherent monopoly," said the Coalition PLUS and Aides associations in a statement.

Truvada, made by US lab Gilead, is one of the most widely used medicines to treat patients with the HIV virus and was to date the only one enjoying Europe-wide clearance for patients deemed high infection risk.

But European patents on the medicine expired on Wednesday, providing a window of opportunity for generics. In some European states, however, Gilead retains a monopoly owing to a complementary certificate of protection (CCP) which extends the period of exclusivity afforded a product.

Four rival labs — Teva, Accord Healthcare, Lupin and Mylan — had sought to have that overturned in the courts in Britain — which called on the European Court of Justice to make a ruling.

The ruling, which came down on Wednesday, highlighted the fact that Truvada contains two active substances — emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil — but only the second of the two is explicitly mentioned in the basic patent. The judge argued that as a result, the conditions for a CCP were not met. French authorities had reached a similar conclusion last September in rejecting a Gilead demand to prevent commercialisation of a Truvada generic developed by France's Mylan laboratory. Five generics are now available in France, resulting in a significant price drop — around 160 euros ($190) a bottle compared with more than 400 euros for Truvada under its monopoly.

The Aides association said the appearance of generic options had resulted in more than 760 million euros of savings, adding that Europe-wide the benefit could run into the billions while offering heightened protection against infection for thousands of people.—AFP ■

Iwobi boost as Emery looks to reload Gunners

SINGAPORE — Arsenal boss Unai Emery on Friday said Nigeria's Alex Iwobi was set to sign a new deal, in a boost to his efforts to fire the Gunners back to the big time.

Emery has been busy in the transfer market in his first weeks in charge but he said Iwobi, 22, was staying put for the post-Arsene Wenger era — on a reported five-year deal.

"My information is he's going to sign to continue with us," said Emery, who will face his previous club, Paris Saint-Germain, at the International Champions Cup on Saturday.

Emery also hopes Wales international Aaron Ramsey will sign a fresh deal while Uruguay midfielder Lucas Torreira, German goalkeeper Bernd Leno and Frenchman Matteo Guendouzi are among the new arrivals.

Arsenal's Alex Iwobi is staying put for the post-Arsene Wenger era on a reported five-year deal, according to his new manager. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Spanish manager was reported to have tangled with Neymar, the world's most expensive player, in the French capital before quitting and being handed a rebuilding role at Arsenal.

But he said he would maintain his egalitarian approach at Arsenal, whose teenagers Emile Smith Rowe and Guendouzi stood out in Thursday's penalties defeat to Atletico Madrid.

"I have my way and there's an opportunity here to work with the same mentality I want in my career: to bring the team a new spirit and a good energy with very good quality players and that's my idea, my work," he said in Singapore.

"Every player is important — young players who have the opportunity to work with us and show their quality, and the new players at this moment are doing very well," Emery added.

"Every player for me is the same. That's the only way I'm going to find the best performance, the best way to improve quickly but with common sense — not looking at certain players, looking at every player."

Emery has been tasked with returning Arsenal to trophy-winning ways and the Champions League, after they finished sixth in the Premier League last season. —AFP ■

Veteran Scolari named Palmeiras coach for third time

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Brazilian World Cup winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has been named as Palmeiras boss for the third time at the age of 69, the Brazilian giants announced.

Scolari, who led Brazil to 2002 World Cup glory in Japan and South Korea, was hired just hours after the Sao Paulo based side fired Roger Machado on Thursday, a day after his side lost 1-0 to Fluminense.

Luiz Felipe Scolari. **PHOTO: AFP**

Former Chelsea manager Scolari "has signed a contract until 2020," Palmeiras said. He previously coached the nine-time Brazilian champions from 1997 to 2000 and 2010 to 2012, leading them to their only ever Copa Libertadores success in 1999.

He last worked as a coach in China at Guangzhou Evergrande from 2015-2017, winning the Chinese league three years in a row and leading the side to Asian Champions League victory in 2015.

Currently in Portugal, Scolari is due to arrive at his new club "next week", Palmeiras said.

Having won the Brazilian title in 2016 and finished runners-up last year, Palmeiras currently sit seventh in the 20-team Brazilian top flight, eight points behind leaders Flamengo after 15 matches.

Scolari had a second stint in charge of Brazil but was at the helm for their humiliating 7-1 World Cup semi-final defeat to Germany on home soil. He also coached Portugal, guiding them to the European Championships final in 2004, where they lost to Greece.—AFP ■

3rd Myanmar Lethwei World Championship to be held in Yangon

THE Third Myanmar Lethwei World Championship will be held at Thein Phyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon on 19 August, according to a Myanmar Media Group official announcement.

There will be seven main bouts featuring Myanmar Lethwei fighters competing against fighters from Thailand, Belarus and Congo.

In the 65 kg bout, TunLwin Moe (Myanmar) will fight against Kerrati Sririttidet (Thailand).

In the 70 kg weight class, Phyan Thway (Myanmar) will fight against Saw Gaw Mu Do (Myanmar).

In the 57 kg bout, Ye Thway Ni (Myanmar) will fight with Hamamoto Yuta Cat (Japan)

In the 73 kg match, Shwe-Yar Man (Myanmar) will face Kohei Tokeshi (Japan)

In the 80 kg category, Dave Leduc (Myanmar) will fight with Diesellek (Thailand) while TunTun Min (Myanmar) will face Daryl Lokuku (Congo).

And in the 60 kg class, Vo Ro Ni Ka (Myanmar) will fight Elena Mischuck (Belarus).

The Championship will be start at 2pm on 19 August.— Lynn Thit (Tgi)

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

THE TREES' WHISPER

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

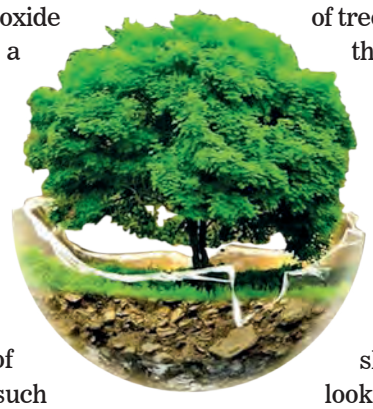
THE future of our world is counting on the trees. They are the ones which provide us oxygen. If there weren't any of them, who would chase away the poisonous carbon dioxide and give the oxygen back as a free gift? Ain't nothing like trees.

Trees, they are so vital. For you, for me and for everybody; we all need them for our lives. They are of several shapes and sizes.

On this planet, there are many different species of trees that are playing such leading roles for our ecosystem. Their wood help us slow down the rate of global warming, a major problem for other living beings, including humans.

As well, people are starting to seek for wide open spaces to expand their homes. Since then, they have been cutting down the trees and at the same time they are forgetting that they are cutting off the heads of other living things. Trees, or woods, they are very important to us. They prevent adverse soil conditions. They colour our environment so true and pure. Making it look so green with irreplaceable wildlife. Forests are the home sweet homes for all small and great creatures.

These tall trees are the guardians of our world, Midgard (the world of humanity among the nine worlds). They are the oldest living things which have experienced every age. "Trees are the poems that the earth writes on the sky", words that highlight the role of trees around us beautifully. And those little leaves are the romantic dramas. All these are painted by the artists of the nature.



Imagine a classy world all surrounded by friendly enchanted woods which leaves are of all orange, red, green and purple shades. How magnificent they look as the heavenly ray of sun shines through their countless leaves of colourful shades. Listen to the jazzy tunes of blue birds singing in the trees standing strong and stiff. Watch the magic show that the woods perform as you walk pass them. Wouldn't it be a dreamy dream to wander around in the cimmerian woods? Wouldn't it be a catchy moment to fancy around the great, great waterfall? Or follow those little fireflies? Or have a safe and sound daydream near the little creek which is flowing steadily while ignoring those burning hot curses of this unkind world? To consider deeply, woods are somehow like a xystus garden walk planted with trees.

We have to take time and listen to the stories which the trees are whispering slightly to us. I heard one of them say, "I supply oxygen for up to four people. Don't you think I'm worth living?" It would be a kind of darkest nightmare to imagine our world without them, isn't it? Walking under or playing hide and seek under the umbriferous trees late in the evenings with our best friends will later become unforgettable memories of our charming childhood which we can never go back after we get old.

SEE PAGE S-3

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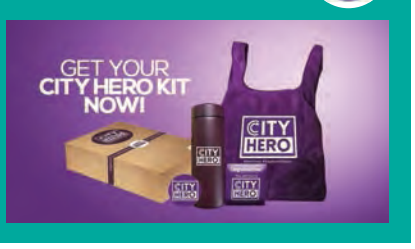
City Hero Kit provided by **City Mart Holding Co,. Ltd** is available free of charge at **The Global New Light of Myanmar** for those who contributed their works to our Next Generation Platform of the Sunday Special Pull-out of **The Global New Light of Myanmar**.



ENGLISH LESSON (5)

By C. T. O

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

(F) အချို့သော စကားလုံးများကိုအကြမ်းဖျင်းအားဖြင့် **ure** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်များအဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင် သည်။

fail	failure	ကျရှုံးမှု
please	pleasure	သာယာမှု
mix	mixture	ရောနှောမှု၊ အရောအနှော
depart	deaprture	ထွက်ခွာခြင်း
press	pressure	ဖိအား
proceed	procedure	လုပ်ငန်းအစီအစဉ်
sign	signature	ထိုးမြဲလက်မှတ်
enclose	enclosure	အဝိုင်းအဝန်း

(G) အချို့သော စကားလုံးများ **ance, ence** နောက်မှကပ်ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်များ **Noun** အဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင် သည်။

assist	assistance	ဝင်ရောက်ကူညီခြင်း
resist	resistance	ခုခံမှု၊ တော်လှန်ရေး
appear	appearance	ပေါ်လာခြင်း၊ အသွင်အပြင်
disappear	disappearance	ကွယ်ပျောက်သွားခြင်း
perform	performance	တင်ဆက်ကပြခြင်း၊ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း
disturb	disturbance	နှောင့်ယှက်ခြင်း၊ အနှောင့်အယှက်
ignore	ignorance	လစ်လျူရှုခြင်း၊ အသိဉာဏ်ခေါင်းပါးခြင်း
observe	observance	လိုက်နာခြင်း
rely	reliance	အားကိုးခြင်း
differ	difference	ခြားနားခြင်း
depend	dependence	မှီခိုခြင်း၊
	independence	အမှီအခိုကင်းမဲ့ခြင်း၊ လွတ်လပ်ရေး
confer	conference	ညီလာခံ
refer	reference	ရည်ညွှန်းခြင်း၊
prefer	preference	ဦးစားပေးခြင်း၊
exit	existence	တည်ရှိခြင်း
coincide	coincidence	တိုက်ဆိုင်ခြင်း
correspond	correspondence	စာပေးစာယူပြုလုပ်ခြင်း
excel	exellence	အလွန်အလွန်ကောင်းမွန်ခြင်း

အချို့သော **t** ဖြင့် အဆုံးသတ်သည့် **adjective** (နာမဝိသေသန) များကို **t** နေရာတွင် **ce** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်အဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

violent	violence	ပြင်းထန်ခြင်း၊ အကြမ်းဖက်ခြင်း
distant	distance	အကွာအဝေး
patient	patience	စိတ်ရှည်ခြင်း
silent	silence	တိတ်ဆိတ်မှု
important	importance	အရေးကြီးခြင်း

(H) အချို့သော **adjective** (နာမဝိသေသန)များကို နောက်မှကပ်၍ **ness** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်များ **(Noun)** အဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

kind	kindness	ကြင်နာခြင်း
ill	illness	နေမကောင်းဖြစ်ခြင်း
happy	happiness	ပျော်ရွှင်မှု
near	nearness	နီးခြင်း
narrow	narrowness	ကျဉ်းမြောင်းခြင်း
fat	fatness	ဝခြင်း
careful	carefulness	ဂရုစိုက်ခြင်း
caresless	carelessness	ဂရုမစိုက်ခြင်း
lazy	laziness	ပျင်းရိခြင်း
ready	readiness	အဆင်သင့်ဖြစ်ခြင်း

(I) အချို့သောနာမ်များကို နောက်မှကပ်၍ **ship** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် အခြားနာမ်အဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

leader	leadership	ခေါင်းဆောင်မှု
guardian	guardianship	အုပ်ထိန်းမှု
teacher	teachership	ဆရာဖြစ်ခြင်း
member	membership	အဖွဲ့ဝင်ဖြစ်ခြင်း
scholar	scholarship	ပညာချွန်ဆု

(J) အချို့သောနာမ်များကိုမူ နောက်မှ **hood** ကပ်ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် အခြားနာမ် အဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

girl	girlhood	မိန်းကလေးဘဝ
man	manhood	ယောကျ်ားဘဝ
woman	womanhood	မိန်းမဘဝ
boy	boyhood	လူငယ်ဘဝ
child	childhood	ကလေးဘဝ

(K) ကြိယာများကို **ing** ထည့်ခြင်းဖြင့် နာမ်များ **(Nouns)** ရရှိသည်။ **Verbal nouns** (ကြိယာနာမ်) ဟုခေါ် သည်။ **Gerund** ဟုလည်းခေါ်သည်။ မြန်မာလို ပြန်ဆိုရာတွင် "ခြင်း" ဖြင့်အဆုံးသတ်သည်။

1. **Reading is a pleasure.**
   စာဖတ်ခြင်းသည် ပျော်ရွှင်မှုတစ်ခုပင်။
2. **Smoking is a bad habit.**
   ဆေးလိပ်သောက်ခြင်းသည် မကောင်းသော အကျင့်တစ်ခုဖြစ်သည်။
3. **Singing is her hobby.**
   သီချင်းဆိုခြင်းသည် သူမ၏ဝါသနာ။
4. **Swimming is a good exercise.**
   ရေကူးခြင်းသည် ကောင်းသောလေ့ကျင့်ခန်းတစ်ခုဖြစ်သည်။
5. **I love travelling.**
   ကျွန်တော် ခရီးသွားခြင်းကို နှစ်သက်သည်။
6. **We have walking in the rain.**
   ကျွန်တော်တို့ မိုးရေထဲလမ်းလျှောက်ခြင်းကို မုန်းသည်။
7. **I like her style of walking.**
   ကျွန်တော် သူမလမ်းလျှောက်ဟန်ကို သဘောကျသည်။
8. **He began reading. (He began to read).**
   သူ စာစဖတ်သည်။
9. **He stopped reaping.**
   သူ ကောက်ရိတ်ခြင်းကို ရပ်လိုက်သည်။
10. **There is no sorrow greater than parting.**
    ခွဲခွာရခြင်းထက် ပို၍ကြီးမားသော ကြေကွဲမှုမရှိ။
11. **Longing comes from lacking.**
    တမ်းတခြင်းသည် မရှိခြင်းမှလာသည်။
12. **Clear-writing comes from clear-thinking.**
    ရှင်းရှင်းရေးသားခြင်းသည် ရှင်းရှင်းတွေးတောခြင်းမှ လာသည်။ (အတွေးရှင်းမှ အရေးရှင်းသည်။)
13. **Seeing is believing.**
    မြင်ခြင်းသည် ယုံခြင်းတည်း။
14. **He had an opportunity of going abroad last year.**
    သူ မနှစ်က နိုင်ငံခြားသွားရန် အခွင့်အရေးရခဲ့သည်။
15. **He is afraid of going out at night.**
    သူ ညအခါ အပြင်ထွက်ရမည်ကို ကြောက်သည်။
    He is afraid of being blamed.
    သူ အပြစ်တင်ခံရမှာကိုကြောက်သည်။
16. **I thanked her for helping me.**
    ကျွန်တော့်ကို ကူညီခြင်းအတွက် ကျွန်တော်သူမကို ကျေးဇူးတင်ကြောင်းဖော်ပြခဲ့သည်။
17. **He went to bed without taking off his jacket.**
    သူအပေါ်အင်္ကျီမချွတ်ဘဲအိပ်ရာဝင်ခဲ့သည်။
18. **She cried without being beaten.**
    သူမ အရိုက်မခံရဘဲငိုသည်။
19. **After reading the letter, she tore it.**
    စာဖတ်ပြီးနောက် သူမ ဆုတ်ပစ်ခဲ့သည်။
20. **After being punished. Mg Mg did not fall asleep in class.**
    အပြစ်ပေးခံရပြီးနောက် မောင်မောင် အတန်းထဲမှာမအိပ်တော့။
21. **Instead of doing his homework, Ko Ko read a novel.**
    ကိုကိုသည် အိမ်စာလုပ်ရမည့်အစား ဝတ္ထုဖတ်ခဲ့သည်။
22. **Instead of being punished, he was given a prize.**
    အပြစ်ပေးခံရမည့်အစား သူ ဆု တစ်ခုအပေးခံရသည်။
23. **The police are watching his comings and goings.**
    ရဲများသည် သူ့အသွားအလာများကို စောင့်ကြည့်နေသည်။
24. **The meetings were simultaneously held in mang towns.**
    အစည်းအဝေးများကို မြို့များတွင် တစ်ပြိုင်နက်တည်းကျင်းပခဲ့သည်။
25. **He gave away all his winnings.**
    သူအနိုင်များ အားလုံးကို ပေးပစ်ခဲ့သည်။
26. **She spends all her earnings every month.**
    သူမသည် လစဉ်ဝင်ငွေအားလုံးကို သုံးပစ်သည်။

(L) အချို့သော စကားလုံးများ **(Verbs and Adjective)** ကို နာမ်များ **(Nouns)** အဖြစ်သို့တစ်လုံးချင်း အလိုက် ပြောင်းရသည်။ အောက်ပါတို့ကို လေ့လာပါ။

give	gift	လက်ဆောင်
speak	speech	ပြောခြင်း၊ မိန့်ခွန်း
sell	sale	ရောင်းခြင်း
fly	flight	ပျံသန်းခြင်း
contain	content	ပါဝင်သောအရာ
succeed	success	အောင်မြင်မှု
feed	food	အစားအစာ
sing	song	သီချင်း
think	thought	အတွေးအခေါ်
lose	loss	ဆုံးရှုံးမှု
hate	hatred	မုန်းခြင်း
live	life	ဘဝ၊ အသက်
produce	product	ထွက်ကုန်
strike	stroke	ရိုက်ချက်
shoot	shot	ပစ်ခတ်ချက်
proud	pride	မာန
hot	heat	အပူရှိန်

(M) အချို့သော စာလုံးများကို ကြိယာအဖြစ်လည်းကောင်း နာမ်အဖြစ်လည်းကောင်း နှစ်မျိုးစလုံး သုံးနိုင် သည်။ အောက်ပါတို့မှာ နမူနာမျှသာဖြစ်ပါသည်။

desire	ဆန္ဒရှိသည်၊ ဆန္ဒ
help	ကူညီသည်၊ အကူအညီ
hope	မျှော်လင့်သည်၊ မျှော်လင့်ချက်
support	ထောက်ပံ့သည်၊ ထောက်ပံ့ခြင်း၊ ထောက်ခံသည်၊ ထောက်ခံခြင်း
demand	တောင်းဆိုသည်၊ တောင်းဆိုချက်
spread	ဖြန့်သည်၊ ဖြန့်ခြင်း၊ ပျံ့နှံ့ခြင်း
flow	စီးဆင်းသည်၊ စီးဆင်းခြင်း
wait	စောင့်သည်၊ စောင့်ခြင်း
interest	စိတ်ဝင်စားစေသည်၊ စိတ်ဝင်စားမှု
shock	ထိတ်လန့်စေသည်၊ ထိတ်လန့်စေခြင်း
show	ပြသည်၊ ပြခြင်း၊ ပြပွဲ
plan	စီမံသည်၊ စီမံကိန်း
return	ပြန်လာသည်၊ ပြန်လာခြင်း
reply	ပြန်ပြောသည်၊ ပြန်ကြားခြင်း
answer	ဖြေသည်၊ အဖြေ
question	မေးသည်၊ အမေး
smile	ပြုံးသည်၊ အပြုံး
love	ချစ်သည်၊ အချစ်

Verb Form အဖြေ၊

1. has been washing
2. were singing
3. had had
4. was walking
5. had left
6. has been buying and selling
7. have been swimming
8. had read
9. was still ironing
10. were drinking
11. had been
12. has been learning
13. cut
14. joined
15. had lost

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

Education for Children and Youth

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

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

WHEN we use the word "Education", first of all, we need to know what "Education" is and what happened when we "Educate" an individual. To educate a person, is to change that individual for the better. When we educate a person, we can see some changes (physical or mental or both) and by these changes, there can be seen changes in all their attitudes, the way they think, their behaviour, their work and so on.

Therefore, when a person is educated, there should be changes for the better for that person. For example, when a young child is educated to write a "Wa lone" perfectly, we can see the changed behaviour in his writing perfect "Wa lone" and his skillfulness in doing so. When a child is taught to solve the mathematics problems and if he is really educated, he can solve such kind of mathematics problems.

Up till now, what we are talking about up to this level is only teaching skills in writing and skills in calculating. But, "Education" is much, much more than that. Not only "skills", we need to teach our children and youth more than that very simple skills. There are also, skills, knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, critical thinking, creativity and so on, for the young and children to learn. So, when we educate them, they should have the ability to do all these above.

So, when we say "Education for children and youth", we should educate not only for the mental betterment of them but also the betterment of others, such as physical, mental, emotional, social, moral, ethical, aesthetical, vocational and so on. That's why we have a saying in Myanmar "ကာယ၊ ဉာဏ၊ စာရိတ္တ၊ ရသ၊ သက်မွေး၊ ဘက်စုံပညာရေး", which means "all-round development of an individual".

Therefore, when we are saying about "Education for children and youth" we should mean to bring their all-round development. For this purpose, we have to take care of our children and youth not only to get higher and higher marks, but also to develop into an all-round developed individual.

Among all these all-round developments through teaching and learning, the very basic are knowledge and skills, but not without comprehension, but with full comprehension. They should also have the ability to apply what they have already known and comprehended into the real life situations. Then moreover, these children and youth should have the ability to analyze and synthesize on what they know and are skillful. They also should have critical thinking to evaluate which is right and which is wrong, that is the ability to make decisions. This is the highest learning, after all, for an individual to develop in an all-rounded fashion.

Whether one should be a leader or a follower, one should have the ability to decide whether something is right or wrong, which is the highest ability in learning. Therefore, in educating children and youth, we need to let them learn up to the stage where they should have the ability to stand on one's own feet.

That is the "True Education for children and youth".

The Trees' Whisper

FROM PAGE S-1

Trees give us better sense of adventures. Soil erosion is proudly protected by the grateful roots. Children can get educational resources by either doing practical projects or playing alone happily in the woods. The trees with strong roots, of course, laugh at those storms and storm water. By looking up at those trees standing so tall, we can get many positive advices for our lives. Like they face up the bizarre weathers, we should learn how to go over the tough and high mountains of struggle. Like they donate free oxygen to the surroundings, we must teach ourselves to have sympathy and show mercy on the others. Like they depend on their roots, we should never forget where we come from and where we are rooted. Though the dry leaves say goodbye, the new ones come out immediately to face this world so mean and so cold. The branches and trunks of the trees are tall enough to reach the heaven, while down in the soil, the roots grow till they meet the hell.

I want to make a change. The nature is banking on us now. We are all responsible to look after the trees, aren't we? Everyone needs to think twice now before it's too late to save ourselves and heal the wounds of the weeping shore of our earth. Time, it goes so fast. We have to make the trees laugh again like they did before, from the years and years ago.

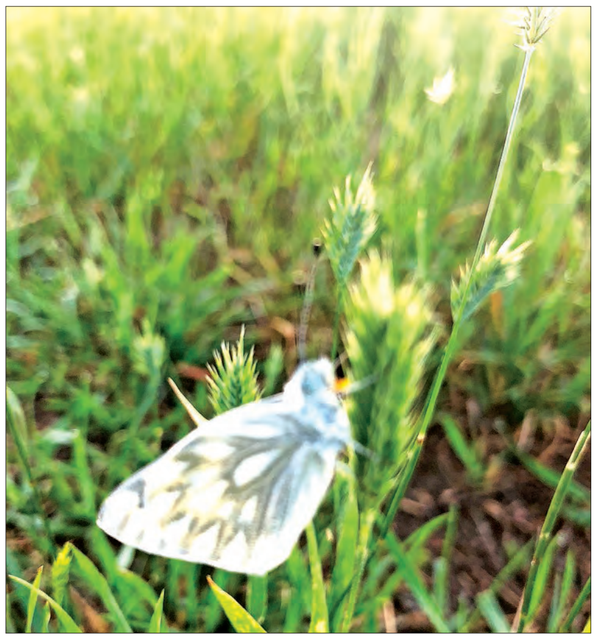
July is otherwise known as the monsoon tree-planting month among the twelve months in our country. Everyone is planting little seedlings which will later grow into the mighty trees one day. We all must cross our fingers and continue the story of the magical trees for our next generations.

29 JULY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Need for pollinator conservation by establishing sanctuaries

By Saikat Kumar Basu

Honey bee foraging on canola flower. **PHOTO: S. K. BASU**



Butterfly resting on Crested wheatgrass. **PHOTO: S. K. BASU**

INSECT pollinators like bees (honey bees and native bees), moths and butterflies, and pollinator friendly species of beetles and flies are showing a trend of gradual decline across Canada, including the province of Alberta. A number of natural and anthropogenic factors are responsible for this, but the bee populations, in particular, are the worst impacted. Environmental pollution, over application of agro-chemicals, changes in the land use patterns, industrial agriculture, parasitic diseases, lack of sufficient foraging plants, and access to adequate multi-species nutrition are some of the factors impacting bee population significantly. The gradual decline of insect pollinators like bees is alarming since they have direct implications on our future agricultural productivity and also on the stability of fragile natural ecosystems.

It is important to note that a large number of crops and wildflowers are exclusively dependent on natural (biological) pollinators like insects, snails and slugs, small birds (humming birds), and mammals (like bats) for pollination. Among all these insect pollinators, bees perform the most significant role in the natural cross pollination of a wide diversity of crops. Under these circumstances, it is absolutely necessary that we conserve our precious insect pollinators to secure the future of crop production and apiculture industries. It is time for us to develop a long term, comprehensive, cost effective, and sustainable conservation model to protect natural pollinators.

It is therefore important to establish Pollinator Sanctuaries, Pollinator Gardens or Pollinator Habitats at suitable sites by using appropriate custom-designed Pollinator Mixes. Such Pollinator Mixes could include selected native wildflowers and grasses as well as pollinator-friendly annual/biennial/perennial forage legumes and grasses in different proportions suitable for various agro-climatic zones. Plant species selected for the mix must be flowering in sequence, one after another, to extend the pollinator (bee) foraging period, and provide them with adequate supply of nectar and pollen. Pollinator Mixes need to be developed based on appropriate agronomic parameters of the target growing region based on local agro-climatic conditions, and keeping in mind the local pollinator diversity and their foliage preferences.

Pollinator Mixes constituting of native wildflowers only, currently available commercially, are not a viable option due to their poor adaptability to local agronomic conditions, high-yield fluctuations (based on locality and annual production variation), as well as high management and production cost. Suitable Pollinator Mixes could be used to create Pollinator Sanctuaries along farm perimeters, hard to access and unused areas of a farm, forest fringes, adjoining highways, boulevards and wetlands, city and municipal parks and gardens, golf courses, unused or agronomically unsuitable areas, remediation sites, and unused available sites in both rural and urban areas. Development of suitable eco-friendly Pollinator Mixes for different agro-climatic regions could therefore have both positive ecological and economic implications in terms of ecological services and environmental cost-benefit ratio.

Benefits:

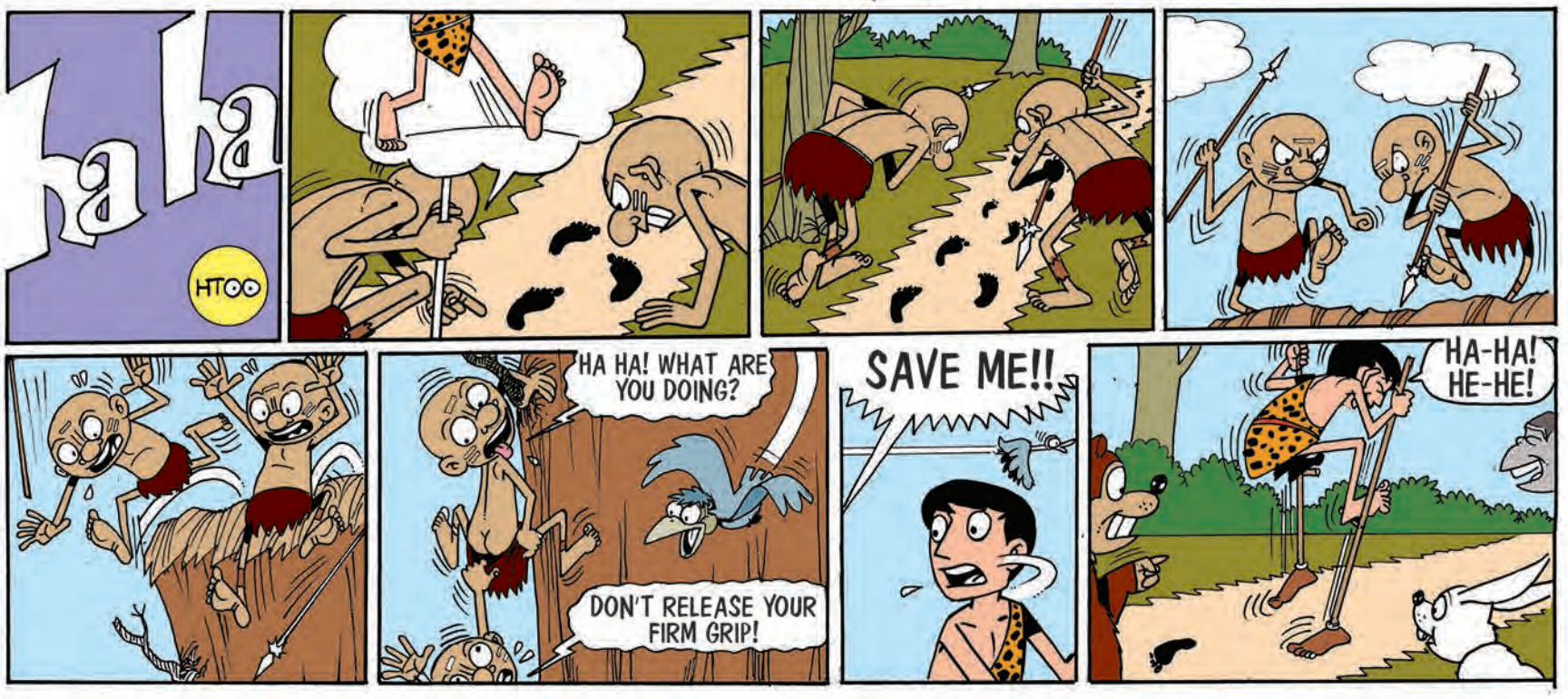
1. Establishment of low cost, low maintenance, highly affordable dynamic natural ecosystems that can cater to the nesting and foraging needs of a wide diversity of insect pollinators, including honey bees and native bees.
2. Long term production benefits for local and/or regional agriculture, forestry and apiculture industries.
3. Pollinator Sanctuaries, once established, can slowly develop into highly biodiverse, complex, natural ecosystems.
4. Well established Pollinator Sanctuaries will also attract several other local invertebrates and vertebrates (like small reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals) helping to conserve not just insect pollinators (like bees) but local biodiversity in general.
5. Pollinator Sanctuaries, especially along roadways, would create natural pathways between various remaining natural "islands" so that species could move from one natural habitat to another and, thus, find food, nesting habitats and breeding partners to continue genetic diversity within species.
6. Since forage species are included in the proposed Pollinator Mixes they could be used by ranchers as pastures for late fall grazing of animals.
7. Pollinator Sanctuaries, integrated with wetland development, can develop into suitable aquatic habitats for aquatic birds, especially if the accompanying water body is well stocked with fishes.
8. Mixtures of long and short grasses in the mix can attract both small passerine and ground nesting birds to Pollinator Sanctuaries over time which would add to the local biodiversity.
9. The forage legumes in the mix would enrich soil quality through biological nitrogen fixation.
10. Species like different Brassica members and salt tolerant grasses would help in phytoremediation of previously agronomically unsuitable areas.

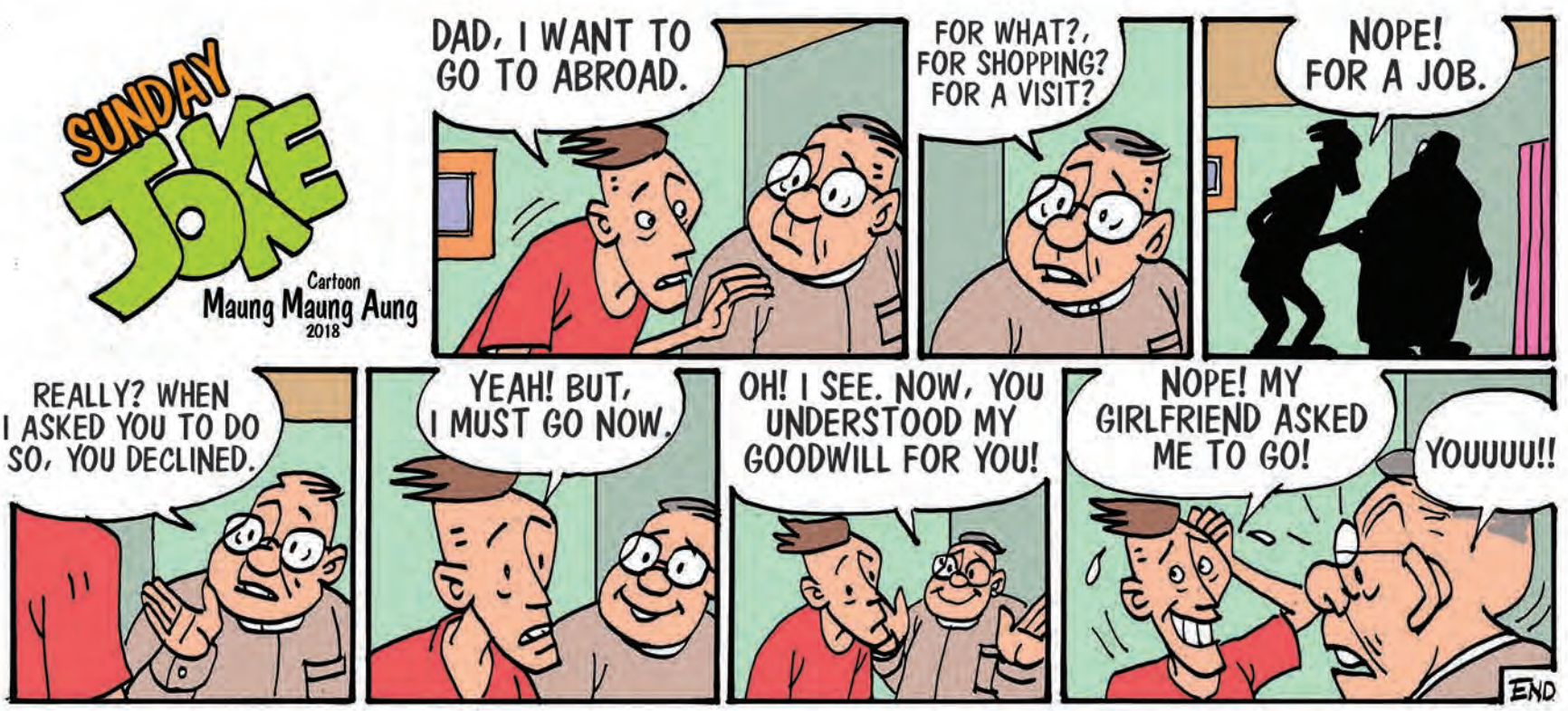
Bee foraging on Gaillardia flowers. **PHOTO: S. K. BASU**

A pollinator moth visiting volunteer alfalfa plant in full bloom. **PHOTO: S. K. BASU**

Pollinators like butterflies and bees visiting Pollinator Sanctuaries established on farm perimeter. **PHOTO: S. K. BASU**

SUNDAY COMICS





THE FATE OF AN AGED

By Laura Htet
UDE English

NO one wants to be aged. Ko Ko Kyaw not only is disgusted but also fears the aged state. As it is natural for man to get aged, one can ask whether being aged is fearful. However, for Ko Ko Kyaw, as he has not only seen those who got old earlier than him and their troubles but also remembered their incidents, the thoughts of him in their conditions make him scared.

An aged period is important for everyone. For the young and the middle-aged, although they work hard for their living, they become poor only when they become physically and mentally weak. They are not poor in food, clothing and shelter, but they are the ones who suffer from mental unhappiness every day.

Among those is Ma Ma Win, Ko Ko Kyaw's next door neighbour, who could be seen and heard, even if one wishes not to. Since he was young, Ko Ko Kyaw addressed her intimately as Ma Ma Win. Once, Ma Ma Win was a government servant and so was her better-half. When their department was shut down by the government, many of the employees, including Ma Ma Win, were forced to retire. However, as Ma Ma Win was a well-experienced woman, she was active and alert, and both she and her husband were able to struggle on with their life.

At present, her eldest son is a retired officer from a government department. She has two daughters – the elder one is a junior officer, also in a government department. The younger one is not a government servant but she got married to a government staff and is settled in the same ward, earning her living from running a licensed pub. With all her children settled, Ma Ma Win suffered a paralytic stroke. She who was always alert and active has now suddenly become disabled. She cannot move her right limbs properly now, neither she can move about outside her house. It's been seven or eight years now that she's been confined to the indoors.

At first, her son and daughters tried to cure her ailment with physicians, and initially there was some progress, though she did not regain a perfect recovery. After some years, her condition took a turn for the worse, and she spent most of her time on bed instead of moving about here and there in the house. Just before the stroke, Ma Ma Win got her youngest daughter to come and live together with her, and so nursing her mother through her suffering fell solely on the shoulders of this daughter. As time lingered, she could not bear it more and she seemed to become impatient at times. She would even occasionally shout at Ma Ma Win, her mother. Ko Ko Kyaw saw all these happenings, and he sympathized with both Ma Ma Win suffering a chronic disease and her youngest daughter who took it upon herself to look after her mother.

One day, Ma Ma Win's youngest daughter happened to travel to Yangon. One of her aunts in Yangon was unexpectedly hospitalized, and she left her mother with her husband for over two weeks, so that she could take care of her aunt. During that period, the weather was quite cold causing Ma Ma Win just to lie in bed. Ma Ma Win's son-in-law became tied up preparing meals, running the pub and nursing his mother-in-law. He, too, became impatient, and he could often be heard shouting and scolding at Ma Ma Win.

One night, Ko Ko Kyaw heard Ma Ma Win's faint voice calling for someone.

"Ah, Tun, come over to me… Ah, Tun, come over to me." She was uttering the same thing again and again, calling out to Tun Oo, a regular at the pub.

"Please come quickly, son, I wish to pee."

As she was aged and paralyzed, she was concerned that she would pee in her bed, so she was calling out for someone who would be nearby. However, no one seemed attentive to Ma Ma Win. Although there were four or five drunkards in the pub, not one of them paid attention to her. After a while, her son-in-law walked to her and a harsh voice could be heard.

"How come? I helped you pee only just now. Now, you want to do it again, how dare you? Not now. You have to wait until 9pm."

"I might pee in bed, son. Please help me get up," said Ma Ma Win.

"I can't let you do it. You just have to wait until 9," said her son-in-law irrevocably and left.

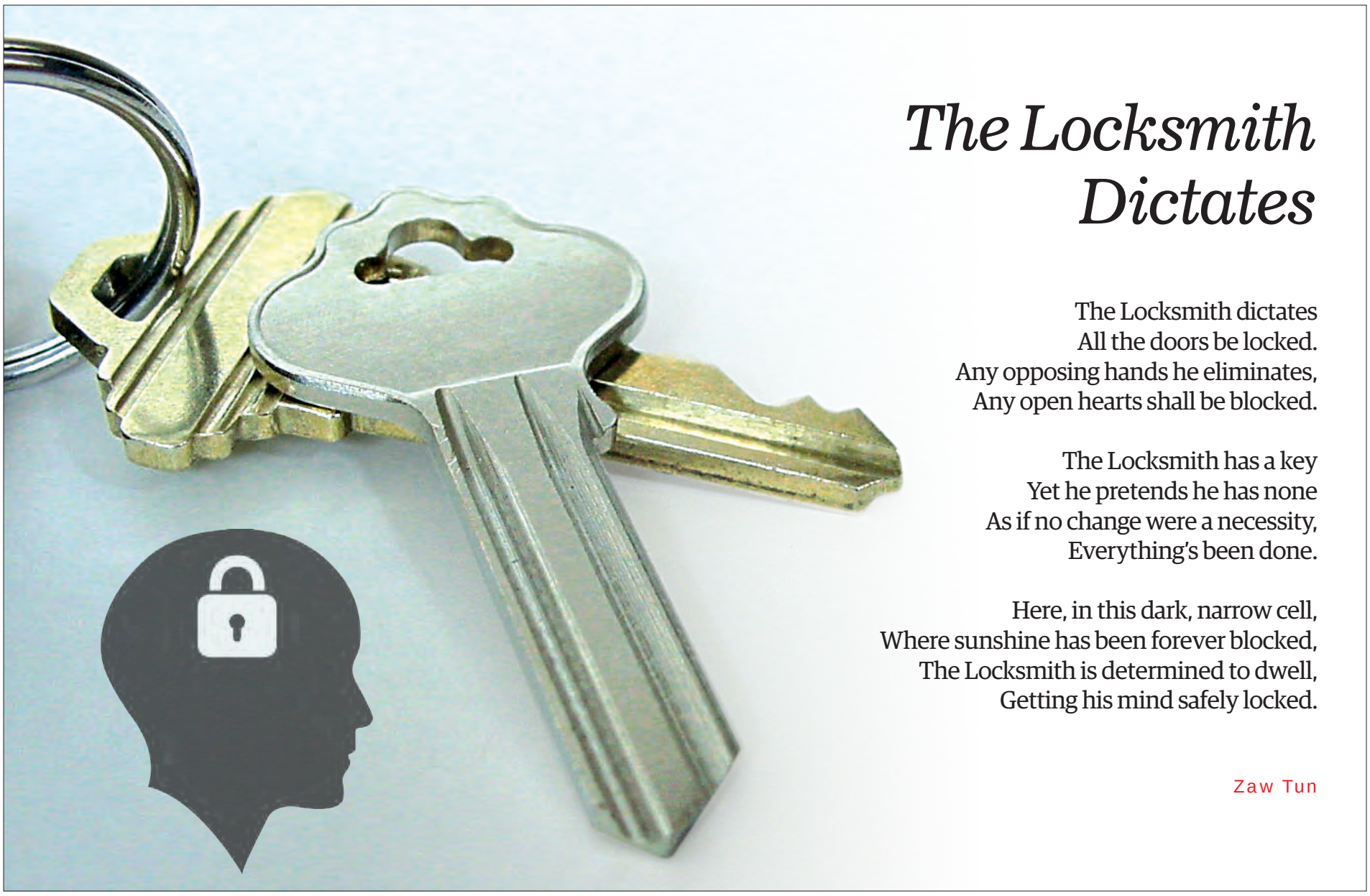
Ko Ko Kyaw sadly reflected on the thought that healthy ones were not able to have sympathy on those who were aged and sick. In his mind, Ko Ko Kyaw was imagining himself becoming old and sick and thinking who would be looking after him and what kind of relationship he would encounter then. Becoming aged cannot be escaped. However, he does not want to meet the severe torture of infirmity. He is not able to prevent it, although he doesn't know what fate has prescribed for his life. Whenever he hears Ma Ma Win's groans, he fears the time of when he himself would become aged and weak ahead of time.

Meanwhile, her youngest daughter came back from Yangon. Her son-in-law expressed a sigh of relief, now that he did not have to do the housework anymore. However, one can hear Ma Ma Win being scolded more when her youngest daughter arrived home. She accused Ma Ma Win for not doing the exercises, for not walking and for just lying in bed. It seemed Ma Ma Win did not gain favour staying with her son-in-law nor in the presence of her youngest daughter. I guessed Ma Ma Win's feeling in bed in such a situation. She would definitely be not happy.

One night, at about eight, her elder daughter came to her house and gave her a device to listen to religious sermons. It seemed to be an MP3 device.

"I downloaded many sermons into this device in order that you can listen to them in bed, Mother. Listen to these sermons conveniently in bed. You just have to press this button to hear the sermons," the elder daughter said.

SEE PAGE S-8



The Locksmith Dictates

The Locksmith dictates
All the doors be locked.
Any opposing hands he eliminates,
Any open hearts shall be blocked.

The Locksmith has a key
Yet he pretends he has none
As if no change were a necessity,
Everything's been done.

Here, in this dark, narrow cell,
Where sunshine has been forever blocked,
The Locksmith is determined to dwell,
Getting his mind safely locked.

Zaw Tun

The fate of an aged

FROM PAGE S-7

Although it is nothing for a healthy young person to press a button, what the youngsters would not understand is how complicated it was for an aged person to press a button. Ko Ko Kyaw sympathized with Ma Ma Win that if she had pressed the wrong button, she would not have an idea how to correct it. No doubt, aged people do not want to handle or utilize modern electronic devices. Although Ko Ko Kyaw heard a sermon for a while that night, that was it. There were no more sermons to be heard.

Last night was different, Ko Ko Kyaw thought, as Ma Ma Win had not gone to bed yet. Her elder daughter was heard questioning in a loud voice outside the front door whether her mother had already gone to bed.

"I just came back from a trip. Is Mother already in bed?"

"No," the younger daughter replied.

Ko Ko Kyaw heard the elder one entering the house and uttering without any interruptions…

"I'll tell you, Mother. You're too considerate for yourself. No doubt, you are going through such a life. We tell you to do your exercises, but you don't, and just sleep. After sleep, you want to pee. After peeing, you go to sleep again. This is your daily life routine. You do not pay homage to the Lord Buddha. You never observe the Five Precepts. You told Father to practise Dhamma before his death, I heard. We still remember it. Now it's your turn. You do not practise any Dhamma. You don't listen to any sermons, even though you're given a device to do so. What Dhamma have you attained?"

"Nothing!" interrupted her son-in-law, which Ko Ko Kyaw heard.

The elder daughter continued…

"When you pass away, where will you go? If you don't practise Dhamma yet, even at such a state where you have to be lying on the bed, when will you start doing it? In spite of being in bed with illness, you can sleep and eat well. You have good consciousness and mindfulness. Your memory is still good. You remember everything, starting from your childhood days up to now. Even in this situation, aren't you able to listen to the sermons?" Ko Ko Kyaw heard her words of goodwill, mingled with anger.

The younger daughter added a single word or two, but those words were only in support of her elder sister's.

As their two houses were adjacent, Ko Ko Kyaw could hear almost every word. He did not know for sure whether Ma Ma Win, who is now around eighty years, have attained a certain state of Dhamma or not. But what he realized was he had already got many lessons on Dhamma, just by observing what was going on at his neighbour's. Listening to those words associating with Ma Ma Win's daughters and son-in-law, and their way of expressing them, Ko Ko Kyaw had already attained for a long time the Dhamma of being infirm and old. In reality, the state of being weak and aged is not easy at all. Parents who have nurtured their children, taking the trouble for many years, are now in a situation, where for just a mouthful of rice, you get a beating with a stick, when their children look after them. Again and again, this lesson is being attained.

Ko Ko Kyaw remembered the words told by a friend of his who works at a home for the aged in Singapore. Singapore's society is such that children often do not look after their parents. The aged are sent to the homes for the aged. All-round responsibilities for the aged are taken by those homes. The aged home where his friend works is supported by an international organization that bears up all expenses. The organization donates a sum of two million US dollars for this home for the aged and the home has to use up all the donation. If not, those who are responsible would be investigated why they didn't do it. Ko Ko Kyaw wonders whether the members of that organization practice Buddhism or not. He doesn't understand, if those who do not practice Buddhism, wholeheartedly donate and spend their money taking care of the aged people who are not their relatives or their next of kin, why sons and daughters who are real Buddhists look after their parents in a manner where for just a mouthful of rice, you get a beating with a stick?

If Ma Ma Win were in Singapore, she would surely be sent to such a home for the aged. Ko Ko Kyaw gazes and realizes that the status of old age for Ma Ma Win would be much, much better if she was sent to such a home for the aged.