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SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers an address at the ceremony to return confiscated farmland to farmers in Toungoo. **PHOTO: MNA**

Confiscated farmland returned

VP U Henry Van Thio witnesses returning 481 acres in Toungoo

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands, attended and addressed a ceremony to return 481.92 acres of released land to their owners in Toungoo yes-

terday.

The confiscated farmland released by Ministry of Defence in Toungoo District were returned to 123 farmers.

The Vice President pledged that the government would issue temporary landuse permit

to the farmers.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vice President U Henry Van Thio urged the farmers to work on the released land for their own benefit, region and the country.

The Vice President also-

thanked and recognized the Ministry of Defence, Bago Region Government and relevant departmental officials who worked toward returning the land to the farmers who previously worked on it.

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Wives of Hluttaw Speakers donate lunch to patients in 1000-bed Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw

WIFE of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and wife of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker donated lunch to patients in Orthopedics Ward (1) and (2) of 1000-bed General Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Wife of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Daw Yin May, wife of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, wife of Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Dr. Sein Sein Thein, wife of Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Daw Thein Yin Chay and party offered patients and their helpers with lunch.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker's wife Daw Yin May donates lunch to a patient in 1000-bed General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker's wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi donates lunch to a patient in 1000-bed General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ethnic traditional cultural dances at National Landmark Garden, Nay Pyi Taw

MASS audiences came to the ethnic traditional cultural dances conducted by Fine Art Department, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture at the National Landmark Garden, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Artistes performed Yein (group dance native to Myanmar) dances, six era Yein dances, music performance, Viet Nam dance, Indonesia dance, Indian dance, Chinese dance, "We are ASEAN" dance and other Yein dances.

In addition to these dances,

puppet program, magic show, songs, traditional Myanmar duet dance and Anyeint (a traditional Myanmar entertainment form accompanied to instrumental music, song, and comedy routines in theatrical performances).

Ethnic national cultural dance performance was held as a monthly free event at National Landmark Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) and this is the seventh time.

"This free event now reaches the seventh time.

Cultural dance troupes from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Information and Ministry of Defence are conducting this free entertainment program in turn," said U Wai Yan Kyaw, an official of the National Landmark Garden.

Visitors to the National Landmark Garden enjoyed the performances and also visited the replicas of traditional houses of ethnic people established in the garden. — Ko Min/ Nay Zar Zar Tun ■



Traditional cultural dance troupe participate in the ethnic national cultural performance at National Landmark Garden in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 116/2018 13th Waxing of Wagoung, 1380 ME (24 August 2018)

Abolition of political party

In accordance with Section 12 (b) of Political Parties Registration Law and decision made at the Union Election Commission meeting 23/2018, Union Election Commission abolished People Life Development Party which failed to run for at least three vacant seats in the by-elections to be held on 3 November 2018.

Sd/Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Myanmar Investment Commission Meeting (13/2018) held

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (13/2018) was convened in Yangon on 25th August, 2018 and reviewed investment proposals consistent with the Myanmar Investment Law.

U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC and (11) members of MIC attended the meeting.

The submission of pro-

posals and endorsement applications from investors and post-permit activities of MIC-permitted companies were discussed in the meeting.

The MIC meeting (13/2018) decided to issue (3) investment permits and (2) endorsements in relation to the investment proposals.—Myanmar News Agency ■



MIC Chairman Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends the meeting of Myanmar Investment Commission in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Heroin, Yaba worth over Ks 3.5 million seized in Katha, Htigyaing

A combined team comprising of police from Htigyaing Myoma police station and natural resources conservation group seized heroin weighing 30.6 gram at the entrance of Htigyaing town, Katha district, Sagaing region on 25 August.

Acting on a tip off, the combined team searched a motorbike driven by Maung Thaung and found heroin weighing 30.6 gram worth over Ks 3,060,000 from the black plastic bag. Police from Htigyaing Myoma police station have filed charges against him under section 19

(A) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.

Similarly, the police from Katha Myoma police station searched a motorbike driven by Ye Lin Naing (alias) Naing Lin Oo near Sagargone-Kyauk Htone Gyi road, Katha Township on 24 August and found 103 Yaba tablets worth Ks 515,000. Police from Katha police station have filed charges against him under section 19 (A) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws. — Lu Aung (Katha) ■

Confiscated farmland returned

FROM PAGE-1

Present at the ceremony were Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Bago Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Yin, Deputy Ministers, Bago Region ministers, Hluttaw representatives, region, district, township level departmental officials, Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands members, farmers receiving the released lands, town elders, local people, invited guests and officials.

The Vice President said the day's event was to present temporary landuse permit form (3) to 123 farmers for 481.93 acres of land released by the Ministry of Defence in Bago Region, Toungoo District, Toungoo Township, Ottwin Township and Kyaukkyi Township.

Committees consisting of Hluttaw representatives and farmer's representatives were formed at state/region, district, township, ward and village tract

levels to scrutinize confiscated land, return unused land to former owners in accordance with the law quickly and close the cases.

At the same time, in the cases of confiscated lands being used for the benefit of the people and the country by departmental organizations, the reason for these lands being not released was being informed transparently.

To speed up the work of the committees at all levels, four confiscated lands reviewing groups were formed with deputy ministers from union ministries and these groups went to relevant state/region to assess the situation.

According to the report of these groups, ward, village and township level committees were not properly formed and did not thoroughly understand the 52 set policies. As such when the groups conduct visits, Hluttaw representative ought to participate in it.

Scrutinizing committees at



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits Taw Win Kaytumadi Cultural museum in Toungoo. PHOTO: MNA

lower levels need to assess and decide according to policies set by the central committee and reports submitted to the central committee must not be in the form of relaying information only but to include their conclusions, decisions and future programs so that cases can be resolved quickly and correctly.

Ministries that confiscated farmland should send decision makers to tours of inspection so that the work of releasing the land could be completed timely.

In conclusion, Farmers are also urged to work on the released land for their own benefit, region and the country.

Afterwards, Bago Region Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands Chairman Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein explained about works conducted to release land.

Documents related to the released land were then transferred to Toungoo District Deputy Commissioner U Moe Htat. Later, Chief Minister U Win

Thein, Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Nwe and U Hla Kyaw, Bago Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Yin, Bago Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Aung Zaw Naing presented temporary work permit form (3) to farmer's representatives of Toungoo District Kyungon village tract, Ottwin Township Maegon Ward and Kyaukkyi Township Kyaukponle village

tract. The ceremony came to a close after farmer's representative U Hla Thein spoke words of appreciation on behalf of farmers from Bago Region Toungoo District, Ottwin Township and Kyaukkyi Township who were presented with temporary work permit form (3). After the event, the Vice President and party inspected Taw Win Kaytumadi Cultural museum in Toungoo, coffee technology development farm (Leiktho) in Kyauktaing village, land to be released back by Ministry of Industry, Pharmaceutical and Foodstuff Industries in Thandaunggyi town, Thandaunggyi Tatmadaw Tea factory and visited Naw Bu Baw mountain. The Vice President and party then met with township level departmental officials in Thandaunggyi Township General Administration Department office.

From there, the Vice President inspected a land where a government technical high school will be built and returned to Nay Pyi Taw by car in the evening. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein presents temporary land use permit form (3) to farmer representative in Toungoo. PHOTO: MNA

UEC member U Soe Rae departs for Sri Lanka

Union Election Commission (UEC) member U Soe Rae and party departed for Sri Lanka yesterday afternoon to attend 4th Asian Electoral Stakeholders Forum (AESF-IV) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The party led by UEC mem-

ber U Soe Rae was seen off by officials from UEC Yangon branch office. UEC member U Soe Rae was accompanied by a seven-member party that includes UEC Office Director-General U Khin Maung Oo it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

55 dams, reservoirs overflow through spillways into rivers

THE water level in some dams and reservoirs in regions and states exceeded the full tank levels due to torrential rain and overflowed through their spillways. People have been urged not to worry about the

overflowing water as it goes through spillways into the rivers, said the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

A total of 55 dams and reservoirs including Nga

Mway Dam from Pyu Township, Taungoo District and Shwe Pyay (3) Dam from Bago Township, Bago District are currently overflowing, said the department. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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One feared dead in flash flood in Yenanchaung, two bridges washed by floods in Kyauktaga

ONE feared dead in a flash-flood in Yenanchaung, Magway Region, on 24 August, according to the township's Information and Public Relations Department.

Kyaw Win Thu, was washed away by the flash flood while he was crossing the Naungyoe Creek in Yenanchaung, but another man who helped push his motorcycle managed to escape.

Search operation is carrying out to rescue the victim who is feared dead.

The local police, soldiers, firefighters and volunteers discovered the motorcycle in the creek in the search operation.

The flood water from the

creek also inundated low-lying areas following the torrential rains on 24 August.

Two wooden bridges washed by the floods

Heavy rains pounded Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region, washing away two wooden bridges in last two days, and causing travel chaos for local people.

The wooden bridge which was constructed by local people at the cost of K10 million over the Yenwe River was washed away by the floods caused by the downstream water.

Another bridge over the same river in other area was



Firefighters and local conducting the search operation in the Naungyoe creek in Yenanchaung, Magway Region. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

also destroyed by the flood.

Six bridges over the riv-

er are facing threats by the floods.—GNLM ■

Progress on financial inclusion in Myanmar presented to industry, experts, authorities in Mandalay

FINANCIAL sector stakeholders representing Myanmar government, private sector, and development partners convened today in Mandalay to discuss the findings of a nationwide financial sector diagnostic, according to the Making Access Possible (MAP).

MAP operates through a partnership between the DaNa Facility funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Myanmar, and the Ministry of Planning and Finance (MOPF's) Financial Regulatory Department (FRD). Based on a comprehensive sur-

vey of 5,500 rural and urban households, the diagnostic aims to provide stakeholders a deep understanding of the financial sector supply and including the level of access to formal financial services at a country level.

The 2018 assessment found a significant increase in financial inclusion growth from the MAP 2013 findings, Adult access to at least one formal regulated financial service increased from 30 per cent in 2013 to 48 per cent today, or 16.5 million adults, overtaking a target set in 2014 of 40 per cent.

Moreover, Informal service only access fell by 30 per cent from 10 million to about 7 mil-

lion adults in 2018 and 2013. It showed that adults are less dependent solely on unregulated financial services (eg. money lenders or informal savings) by almost one-third since 2013.

Recent years have seen an expansion of Myanmar's formal financial sector due to an increase in private bank depositors, as well strong growth in the microfinance and cooperative sectors. MOPF Mandalay Minister U Myat Thu recognised the increase in financial inclusion within Mandalay region and the nation.

He encouraged the financial industry to increase service outreach in savings, credit,

insurance, and digital finance to broaden and deepen financial inclusion and its benefits throughout society.

"The move towards increased access to formal financial services is good news and means that people across Myanmar are more able to save, invest and prosper through their use of formal finance services.

We still have a lot to do though, as we work to make sure that people across Myanmar have the financial means and tools they need to improve the lives of their families and communities," said Liz Patterson, private sector adviser at DFID.—GNLM ■

Over 360,000 tourists visit Myanmar via Tachilek border this year

FOREIGN visitors entering Myanmar via Tachilek, a border town between Myanmar and Thailand, has reached 360,238 in total since April this year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. From 1 April through 23 August this year, the border town hosted 353,913 day-trippers, 3,524 visitors who joined Mongphyat-Kengtung trip and 2,801 foreigners entering the town by air. The majority of visitors are from Thailand.

The Thai tourists and those from third world countries vis-

ited well-known destinations in Tachilek, covering Talaw market, Chinese temples and some other Buddhist monasteries, Bayintnaung statue, Koemyosin spirit house, Myoma market in Wunkaung Ward, the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, Padaung Village and Pintork waterfall.

According to the ministry's data, a total of 22,272 globetrotters visited Myanmar from the Tachilek border between 17 July and 23 August this year.

Development of border tourism is high on the list of



Foreign travellers seen in Kengtung in Shan State. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF HOTELS AND TOURISM**

the government's priorities, with tourism authorities trying to boost the country's smokeless

industry in collaboration with their development partners.—GNLM ■

Mung beans, pigeon peas likely to remain in warehouses next year

DUE to India's restrictions on bean imports, mung beans and pigeon peas are likely to remain in warehouses in the coming year, said U Soe Win Myint, one of the wholesalers in Mandalay. India has resumed its imports of green grams, pigeon peas and mung beans since May this year. Of them, pigeon peas and mung beans are estimated to remain in warehouses next year due to an oversupply in the market.

The market is likely to see a shortfall of green grams as China is buying the same at market prices, all the year round. Myanmar exports pigeon pea

and mung bean mainly to India, which imposed limits on the import of pigeon peas and mung beans last year, causing an oversupply in the market. U Soe Win Myint said, "Growers and merchants are likely to suffer the impact of the remaining stock in warehouses. However, mung beans are expected to have potential as the Chinese daily purchase mung bean by trucks these days in Mandalay market." For the time being, the price of mung beans and pigeon peas have been decreased in the market because sellers continue to sell out the products at a re-

duced price to avoid stockpiling in warehouses, he added. India resumed the imports of 150,000 tons of mung beans, further 150,000 tons of pigeon peas and 200,000 tons of green grams from Myanmar between May and August this year.

In May, the prices of pigeon peas were Ks48,000 per bag and decreased to Ks37,000 on 24 August. Also, the prices of a bag of mung bean declined to Ks42,000 from Ks50,000, while the prices of green grams decreased to Ks98,000 from Ks128,000 a bag. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House) ■



Myanmar-Bean- Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. **PHOTO:MIN HTET AUNG**

Inflation rate rises to 5.02 per cent in July

THE inflation rate in Myanmar based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was recorded at 5.02 per cent in July, which shows a small increase compared to last month's rate of 4.58 per cent, according to an announcement released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The year-on-year inflation rate was 7.56 per cent in July 2017 versus July 2016.

In July, food group, tobacco and beverages group, household goods and maintenance group, transportation group and other commodities group showed a remarkable increase in CPI. Meanwhile, clothing, health, education services, recreation and culture

and housing groups are seen a slight increase. Telecommunication group indicated stable price. As Myanmar currency is depreciating against the US dollar last month, prices of imported goods were on the high side. Transportation costs has also risen with high fuel price, hiking the commodity price up. Only Chin and Shan states were registered a slight decline of CPI rate whereas the remainders including Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw showed increasing CPI rate.

In July, Mandalay City was recorded the highest inflation rate at 9.93 per cent, followed by Rakhine State at 8.87 per cent and Ayeyawady Region at 6.22 per cent. The year-on-year

inflation rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 13 per cent in Mandalay and a minimum rate of 4.06 per cent in Chin State.

Previously, the inflation rate was evaluated based on a 2006 survey and then, the base year tuned to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012. The inflation rate in the first five-year plan from 2011-2012 FY to 2015-2016 FY rose. In an attempt to reduce the inflation rate, the authorities concerned made efforts on the basis of the policies of finance, currency, trade and foreign currency control, according to the second five-year National Development plan. — Htet Myat ■

External trade with Italy increases by \$25 million this year

MYANMAR-Italy trade has reached US\$71.8 million in the first half of the current six-month interim fiscal period commencing this April, up by \$25.3 million against the same period in the last year, according to the monthly figures issued by the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar's exports outperform its imports in bilateral trade with Italy, a member state of European Union, this year.

Between April and June this year, the country exported \$53.84 million worth of commodities to Italy and imported Italian products amounting to nearly \$18 million. The ministry's data shows that Myanmar-Italy trade was valued at \$217 million in the

last year 2017-2018. The bilateral trade was \$136.8 million in the 2016-2017 FY, compared with \$73.1 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$113.6 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$124.7 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$27.8 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$23.5 million in the 2011-2012 FY. Since 2011, the EU has progressively re-engaged with Myanmar, including its trade and investment relations. Myanmar's exports to European countries include garments, coffee, tea leaves, agricultural products and aquaculture products. It usually exports machinery, transport equipment, chemicals, food and beverages, cosmetics and among other things. —Khine Khant

Import surpasses export in Myanmar-Thailand bilateral border trade

BORDER trade between Myanmar and Thailand from April through mid-August this year topped US\$480.6 million, which showed an increase in value of \$16.6 million from this time last year, when bilateral border trade was \$464 million, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Myanmar's import from Thailand is greater than its export in the period between 1 April and 17 August this year, Myanmar's export to neighbouring Thailand was valued at \$135.6 million, while its imports exceeded \$345 million.

Thailand imports agricultural, forest and animal products, minerals, manufactured goods and other miscellaneous products from Myanmar. Its exports comprise medicines, cosmetics, food and beverages, stationery, footwear, clothing, machinery and other commodities.

Myanmar delivers commodities to Thailand through shipping and cross-border trade camps. Seven border trade camps, including Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htikhee, Mawtaung and Maese, have been opened be-

tween the two nations. Apart from Myawady and Kawthoung points, Myanmar-Thailand bilateral trade increased, matched against the same period in the last year.

Among all border trade camps between Myanmar and Thailand, the Myawady gate handled the largest volume and value of bilateral border trade, with over \$300 million during the period, followed by the Myeik with \$85.98 million, the Kawthoung with \$48.97 million and the Tachilek with \$32.485 million. — Shwe Khine ■

Private sector export of forest product decreases by \$17 million

MYANMAR'S export of forest products by private sector from 1 April through 10 August this year decreased to US\$68.74 million from \$82.84 million matched against the same period in the last FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

The total export of forest products covers \$5.78 million by the public sector and \$62.96 million by the private sector. When compared with last year, the export of the same by the private sector decreased by \$17.18 million.

Despite a decline in export of forest products, the public sector export of the same products increased by over \$3 million against last year.

During the period, the over-

all exports between Myanmar and international trade partners topped \$5.98 billion, exporting \$992 million worth of agricultural products; \$116 million worth of animal products; \$209 million worth of marine products, \$710 million worth of minerals; \$3.196 billion worth of manufactured goods and other miscellaneous items worth \$687 million.

According to the ministry's yearly data report, the country's export of forest products in 2017-2018 FY was \$212 million, a decline in value by \$34.89 million as against 2016-2017 FY, when the forest product exports were \$247 million. The country's export of forest products reached its peak of \$948 million in 2013-2014 FY. —Khine Khant ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes tanks at Central Armed Forces Museum in Moscow. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FACEBOOK**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Central Armed Forces Museum in Moscow

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who is in Russia Federation visited Central Armed Forces Museum in Moscow on 24 August afternoon.

At the Central Armed Forces Museum, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party visited the arms used in 17th and 18th century exhibit, aggression against Russia Empire exhibit, arms used in Second World War exhibit, exhibits of fighters, rockets/missiles and tanks used by Russia. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services signed the visitors' book and exchanged gifts with Central Armed Forces Museum director.

The Central Armed Forces Museum was established in 1919 and display arms used by Russia and military rival countries in World War II, Russian Civil War exhibit, history of the establishment of Red Army from peasants, arms used by German forces in World War II, arms captured from Nazi forces in battle of Moscow, other history of the armed forces of Russia and outdoor exhibits.

Yesterday morning, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services met with officers, other ranks and families of Myanmar military attaché (Army, Navy, Air Force) office in Russia Federation.

At the meeting, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services spoke about performing the respective duties to strengthen the friendly relation between the armed forces of the two countries and explained about the status of going along the multi-party democracy path chosen by the people.

After the meeting, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services presented foods and gifts to the officers, other ranks and families of the Myanmar military attaché office, according to the news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services office. —Myanmar News Agency ■

MoU on Education signed between Myanmar, Austria

UNDER the education cooperation program between Myanmar and Austria, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between University of Dental Medicine, Yangon, and University of Vienna, Austria, yesterday morning at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

In the ceremony, University of Vienna Prof. Andras Moritz and University of Dental Medicine, Yangon Rector Prof. Dr. Shwe Toe signed the MoU in the presence of Health and Sport Ministry's Department of Human Resources for Health Director General Dr. Tin Tin Lay. —Myanma Alinn ■

New Dawbon bridge commissioned into service

TO strengthen the friendship between Myanmar and Japan and to enable smooth transportation, a new Dawbon bridge, constructed with a new technology by Japan, linking Mingala Taungnyunt and Dawbon townships, was commissioned into service in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the event, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivered speeches and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama and JICA Myanmar Office Chief Representative Mr. Masayuki Karasawa explained about the bridge and construction steps. A person representing the local people expressed words of thanks and pledged to help maintain the bridge.

The bridge was then formally opened by Yangon Re-

gion Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint and other officials, Chief Representative from JICA Myanmar Office, Mr. Masayuki Karasawa and Project Manager Mr. Masayuki Karasawa from Nippon Koei Co. Ltd. who cut the ceremonial ribbon followed by Union Minister U Han Zaw, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama pressing a button to unveil the stone pillar commemorating the opening of the bridge and sprinkled scented water on it.

The ceremony came to a close after officials crossed over the bridge and inspected it. —Myanmar News Agency ■



An aerial view of new Dawbon bridge constructed with a new technology by Japan linking Mingala Taungnyunt and Dawbon townships in Yangon Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Medical devices import to be exempted from commercial tax

BY May Thet Hnin

IMPORT of medical devices would be exempted from commercial tax collected by the Custom Department at ports, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

At the meeting over tax issues between Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association (MPMEEA) at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon recently, U Min Htut, Director-General of the Internal Revenue Department, said his department will negotiate with the Custom Department to give the commercial tax exemption to import medical devices.

The Director-General also explained that medical devices described in the 2018 Union Tax Law's Section 14 (a) Table 64 and 65 are exempted from paying commercial tax. "If MPMEEA has paid the commercial tax for those medical devices beginning from 1st April 2018, you can apply for a tax refund," said U Min Htut.

The Customs Department Director-General also disclosed that the department is planning not to consider the supplements for producing medicines as foods and to impose lower tax rate on the supplements under the name of other products. "This move is aimed at encouraging local pharmaceutical production industry," said the Director-General of the Customs Department. Secre-

tary of the Myanmar Investment Commission and Director-General of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration also urged the companies of pharmaceutical production to apply income tax exemption in accordance with the Myanmar Investment Law. Also present at the meeting on importing medical devices and tax issues were Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win.

At the meeting, MPMEEA chairman U Zaw Moe Khin suggested the government to give commercial tax exemption to import of medical devices described in the 2018 Union Tax Law Section 14(a) Table 64 and 65 and to import of raw materials for local pharmaceutical factories. ■

Aso, Pence may hold talks on deeper economic ties next month

TOKYO — Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso and US Vice President Mike Pence may meet in September to discuss deeper economic cooperation following bilateral trade talks to be held the same month, Japanese government sources said Saturday.

Tokyo and Washington are seeking to arrange the meeting to discuss Japan's ramping up of purchases of US defense equipment and liquefied natural gas amid the world's biggest economy's efforts to reduce its trade deficit, according to the sources. The third round of a high-level economic dialogue will also follow up talks on trade issues to be held next month between Toshimitsu Motegi, Japan's minister for economic and

fiscal policy, and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

The meeting would coincide with a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

At the previous talks, Aso and Pence remained at odds over US calls for a bilateral trade agreement. Japan has continued to state its preference for Washington to return to the multilateral Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact.

Trade issues have since been delegated to the dialogue between Motegi and Lighthizer. At a meeting earlier this month, the two sides were apart over auto and agricultural trade, according to Motegi. —Kyodo News ■



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and US Vice President Mike Pence hold a joint press conference at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 7 February, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



China's mobile payments continued fast growth in the second quarter of 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

Mobile payment on fast growth in China

BEIJING — China's mobile payments continued fast growth in the second quarter of 2018, the central bank data showed.

The country's banks processed 14.92 billion mobile payment transactions in Q2, up 73 per cent year on year, according to the People's Bank of China.

The value of these transac-

tions totalled 62.88 trillion yuan (9.15 trillion US dollars), up 60 per cent year on year.

China's online payment industry has grown quickly in recent years amid growing availability of smartphones.

Online payment transaction value by non-banking institutions totalled 48.29 trillion yuan in Q2, up 53.35 per cent year on year.

—Xinhua ■

G20 ministers prepare recommendations for development of digital economies

SALTA — Ministers of the G20 group of nations, jointly with representatives of major international organizations, have prepared a set of recommendations to encourage the development of the so-called digital economies.

Those principles were set forth in a declaration, adopted as a result of the G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting, which took place in Salta, northwestern Argentina, on 23-24 August.

Russian Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media Konstantin Noskov represented Russia at the meeting. In total, more than 30 delegations took part in the meeting, including G20 members and non-member states (Chile, The Netherlands, Singapore and Spain). The meeting was also attended by representatives of major international organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

(OECD), The World Bank Group (WBG), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The main issue on the agenda of the Salta meeting was how to use digital transformation benefits in economy, social sphere and state administration with maximum efficiency. The ministers also discussed ways to respond to opportunities and challenges of embracing emerging technologies, and methodologies to evaluate digital economies and technological infrastructure.

G20 principles of digital states

The ministers are convinced that the work to digitalize the public administration sector should be intensified, because increasing the role of Information and communication technology (ICT) in this sector will increase its efficiency and effectiveness. To that end, G20 ministers, with support of the OECD,

have formulated the principles of a digital government, which streamline the approaches to integrating digital technologies in the public administration sector.

According to those principles, state services should first of all be user-oriented and accommodate the needs of all users across society. States should do their best to offer data in an accessible, open and transparent form, but, at the same time, public administration sector systems should be well-protected. Besides, the state should increase the digital literacy of public servants, businesses, and citizens, and encourage them to interact more actively in the digital environment.

The states should also facilitate the formulation of business cases that identify expected economic, societal and policy benefits of implementing digital government strategies and a common methodology to monitor them. Besides, an efficient feedback is also required. —Tass ■

China's VR market to reach 90 bln yuan by 2020

BEIJING — China's virtual reality (VR) market is expected to continue rapid growth in the next few years, an industry expert has said.

The VR market will likely exceed 90 billion yuan (about 13.1 billion U.S. dollars) by 2020, with compound annual growth rate of over 120 percent, said Wang Peng,

deputy head of China Center for Information Industry Development with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT). China's VR market ex-

panded 164 percent year on year to reach 16 billion yuan in 2017, data showed.

"The MIIT will continue to support the research and de-

velopment of core technologies of VR, and set up industry-wide standards to promote the applications of VR," Wang said. —Xinhua ■

Investment in research programs at higher institutions of learning is welcome

HOW important research programs are in higher institutions of learning has come under the spotlight, as we discuss educational reforms during the tenure of the incumbent government.

Research means a careful study of a subject, especially in order to discover new facts. Myanmar has adopted an education policy which encourages research. Because of this, an education system without research kills the creativity of talented students.

Higher education is clearly a necessity, and one that benefits society if more widely available.

But, the narrower approach we have witnessed in the austerity years is not in the long-term interests of a healthy knowledge-based society and economy.

“

To bring back our former glory of education in this region, today is the time to encourage a research environment which drives the most creative innovations, discoveries and solutions.

Today, our country demands a research environment which is relevant to our country's needs and a pragmatic approach to research works at the universities. We should also take into consideration the best practice that a research environment where both curiosity-driven and industry focused research is adequately funded.

Encouraging adult students to develop strong research skills will prepare them to be productive problem solvers when they earn their degrees and enter the job market.

Given the fact that most university students, which are considered victims of the weak education system, are weak in research skills, what existing abilities do adult students have that can help them

as they strive to become better researchers? The faculty members are obliged to develop their capacities for critical thinking while putting them on the path of the new education system.

Meanwhile, universities have three missions — teaching, research and community service. They exist to create knowledge through research and innovation. They are meant to transform people's well-being and their country's fortune by bringing new ideas and skills to confront daily social and economic challenges.

A university that does not have research at the heart of its operations is like a referral hospital without an operating theatre.

When we think about research programs at our universities, subjects which are relevant to our countries should be given priorities.

But, survival and progress of the institutions depend on their investment on research and innovation. We need assistance and aid to develop research in our higher institutions of learning.

Hence, we are ready to welcome support and private investment in research programs at the universities today.

To bring back our former glory of education in this region, today is the time to encourage a research environment which drives the most creative innovations, discoveries and solutions.



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Lots casting Festival recipients of alms

By Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

WAKHAUNG (August) means the mid of Buddhist Lent. In the stone inscriptions of ancient Bagan, this month was called "Nan Kala" which means the time for ploughing. There is a Myanmar saying ဝါဆို၊ ဝါခေါင်၊ ရေတောင်တောင် (in Waso and Wakhaung there are billows of rain water). The entire countryside is inundated with rain water. Astrological name of this month is Simha and the zodiacal symbol is Leo or lion. The designated flower of this month is Khat-tar (ground lily, crinum amounum).

Sayey Tan Pwe is the traditional festival of Wakhaung. Loosely translated into English, Sayey Tan Pwe is casting lots festival to choose recipient monk of food, or alms or any religious offering. It was originated in the lifetime of Lord Buddha. While Lord Buddha was residing in the Weiluwn Vihara at the capital of Yazagyo, famine hit the city causing food scarcity. Devotees were unable to provide food for all monks of the Vihara. Some chose few monks. Some cast

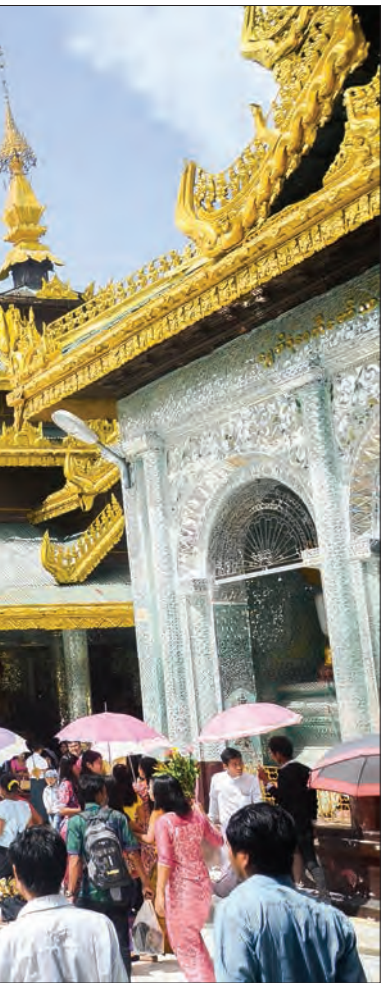
lots to choose recipient monks. Some provided food only on Sabbath days and others only on the day after the Sabbath. Then they referred this mate to Lord Buddha whereupon Lord Buddha expounded seven kinds of offering food to the monks as follows: (1) Sangha-hata which is the food offered to all monks. (2) Uddesa-bhat which is the food offered particularly to one or two monks. (3) Nimantana-bhat which is the food offered to the invited monks. (4) Salaka-bhat which is the food offered to the monks chosen by casting lots. (5) Pakkhika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the waxing and waning moon days. (6) Uposathika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the Sabbath day. (7) Patipadika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the day after the Sabbath day.

Lord Buddha approved all seven kinds. Since that time all Buddhists devotees chose Salaka-bhat offering food to the monks chosen by casting lots. With the direction and permission of Lord Buddha, monks chose one monk from among them and appointed him "Bhat-



tuddesaka" to take the charge of allotting food offered by the devotees. The appointed monk must have special qualifications such as good health, activeness, and managerial skill, freedom from bias and prejudice and being able to keep the list of the allotted and unallotted monks.

The first monk appointed to that charge in the life time of Lord Buddha was Maha Thera Ashin Datba, the son of the Mala king. He carried



al to choose ms meal



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

iority of their Vasa (ordained age), to draw the lot. Monks go to the addressed house to partake food. Myanmar kings chose Wakhaung, the month of casting lots because they thought that this month being the mid of lent was the difficult time for sufficient monks' meal.

Though originally monks' food was the main reason for casting lots, in course of time eight monkish utensils, other cash and kind and Vihara (monasteries) were also donated by lot casting. In the reign of King Thalun (1629-48 A.D) of Nyaungyan dynasty (1599-1752 A.D), there appeared two translations namely Culavapali Nisaya and Culavapali Athakatha Nisaya by the most Venerable monk Shwe Umin Sayadaw of Pakhan Gyi town. In his translation he explained the two Pali words "Salaka" and "Bhatta" as "Sayey Tan" and Swan (ဆွမ်း - monks' meal) respectively. The earliest evidence of offering of food

low robe (2) The girdle (3) the alms bowl (4) the razor (5) the water dipper and (6) the needle.

In Pinya Period (1298-1364 A.D) of Myanmar history, King Thihathu (1298-1312 A.D) donated a big five story wooden monastery to Hsu-Twin Sayadaw monk by lot casting. Myanmar literature and chronicles either mentioned composed or recorded the festival of lot casting in the month of Wakhaung. Different forms of Verses such Loota, Lay Cho, Eh Chin, Tey Htat, that Phyan etc by eminent bards like U Yar, Pho Thu Daw U Min, Lu U Min, Mei Khway U Ponnya had penned on Sayey Tan Pwe Festival of Wakhaung month.

One page 229 of one Myanmar chronicle titled "Konbaung Set Maha Yazawun Taw Gyi" volume two, the holding of Sayey Tan (casting lots) festival at the Palace of King Bagyidaw (1819-37) was recorded as follows: - "On the 8th waning day of the month of "Wakhaung, Village monks (Gama wa thi) and forest monks (Arin nya wa thi) were invited to the palace. Eight priestly utensils (ပရိက္ခရာ ရှစ်ပါး) and other offeries were hung on the two hundred and sixty Padeithabins. His Majesty the King and the Chief Queen donated them to the monks and poured the libation water. Then Their Majesties offered Salakabhat Sayey Tan Hswan (ဆွမ်း) meal to the monks."

As usual, festive atmosphere is created when events of religious activities take place. Myanmar people of all ages participate and perform their inborn artistic talents music, song, dance and friendly jokes plus feeding gratis. Myanmar today is losing many of her good traditions and customs. Some young people do not know what Sayey Tan really is. They mistakenly think that Sayey Tan is Stationary (တရားကိုရိယာ) slates, slate pencils, books and ball pens, let alone having watched Sayey Tan festival or having seen casting lots တရားတံခဲ.

In some remote villages and towns especially in Upper Myanmar, Sayey Tan festivals still take place in the month of Wakhaung. The writer gives demonstrative lectures on the twelve traditional monthly festivals in his classes Hons, M.A, Ph.D and Diploma in the Syllabus on Myanmar Culture and History also in classes at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

■

out the duty of allotting Udessa-bhat, Nimantana-bhat and Salaka-bhat with fairness and correctness. The lots are either wooden sticks or bamboo slats, or bamboo slips or palm or pei leaves on which the names and addresses of food donors are written. The lots are put into the basket which is shaken up side down so that the lots are thoroughly shuffled up. The monks queue up either according to their serial number or the sen-

to monks by casting lots was found in the stone inscription of ancient Bagan. In lines 22 and 23 of Saw Hla Wun Pagada stone inscription dated 1256, 1290 and 1291 A.D. There are mentions of Sayey Tan (casting lots).

Though originally casting lots was to offer food (swan ဆွမ်း) to the monks, later not only alms food but also eight priestly utensils ပရိက္ခရာ ရှစ်ပါး are also donated by lot casting. They are (1) Thera pieces of yel-

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 25th August, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 26th AUGUST, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states, isolated heavy falls in Bago and Yangon regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th AUGUST, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Warning

(Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 25-8-2018)

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observations today, the water level of Ngawun River at Thabaung is observed as about (1) inch below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (1) day.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying area at Thabaung Township, to take precaution measure.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 25-8-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (3) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may rise about (1) foot from the present water level during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (3) feet at Hpaan above its danger level. It may fall about (½) foot from the present water level during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying area in Madauk and Hpaan Township, to take precaution measure.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Kofi Annan to receive state burial in Ghana on 13 September

ACCRA (Ghana) — Former United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan will receive a state funeral and burial in Ghana on 13 September, the Ghanaian president said on Friday, calling it “a major event for our country”.

The announcement was made by President Nana Akufo-Addo following a meeting with Annan's family in Accra.

Annan, a Ghanaian national

and Nobel peace laureate, died on Saturday at the age of 80 after a short illness.

“Kofi Annan was one of the most illustrious people of this generation. He was like an elderly brother,” Akufo-Addo said.

“It's going to be a major event for our country... I expect many leaders to be present,” he said, adding that he would be buried in Accra's new military cemetery.

Born in Kumasi, the capital city of Ghana's Ashanti region, Annan devoted four decades of his working life to the UN and was the first chief from sub-Saharan Africa.

Following his death in Switzerland, where he lived not far from the UN European headquarters in Geneva, Akufo-Addo announced a week of mourning for “one of our greatest compatriots”. —AFP ■



Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan shows an AK-47 assault rifle that has been transformed into a guitar in front of workers at Vienna's United Nations headquarters. Annan was guest of honour at the naming ceremony of the Kofi Annan Building. **PHOTO: AFP**

Under fire, Iran's Rouhani calls for unity

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called for unity on Saturday in the face of criticism from all sides of his handling of an economic crisis and tensions with the United States.

“Now is not the time to unload our burdens on to somebody else's shoulders. We must help each other,” Rouhani said in a televised speech at the shrine of late revolutionary leader Ruhollah Khomeini.

“The country's problems and resisting foreigners' conspiracies is the responsibility of every one of us.”

With rapidly rising food prices, a dramatic currency collapse and the reimposition of US sanctions after it abandoned a 2015 nuclear deal, many Iranians are in a bleak mood. Much of his electoral base among reform-minded urbanites has lost faith in him, while working-class areas have seen months of sporadic strikes and protests that have occasionally turned violent.

Some of the most virulent criticism has come from the hardline religious establishment who long opposed Rouhani's efforts to rebuild ties with the West.

On 16 August, an image went viral of a protest by seminary students in the shrine city of Qom, at which one placard warned Rouhani would meet the same fate as former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was found dead in a swimming pool last year.

Rouhani sought to play down the differences, saying: “The clerical, religious institutions and the government are alongside each other.”

But he added a typically cryptic warning: “No one can walk into the sea and not expect to get his feet wet.”

Hardliners have been blamed for stoking economic protests that have sometimes turned against the Islamic system as a whole.

Rouhani still has the support of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who says he must remain in power to avoid further disorder.

But Khamenei has also blamed government mismanagement, rather than foreign hostility, for the current crisis.

“We are aware of people's pain, suffering and problems and all our efforts are geared at reducing these problems,” Rouhani pledged. —AFP ■

Ebola spreads to DR Congo city surrounded by rebels: WHO

GENEVA — The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has spread to a city surrounded by rebels, creating challenges responders were “dreading,” the World Health Organization said on Friday.

One probable case and one suspected case have emerged in the city of Oicha in DRC's North Kivu province, WHO's emergency response chief, Peter Salama, told reporters.

While Oicha itself is not under rebel control, Salama said the city is entirely surrounded by territory held by a feared Ugandan insurgent group known as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

“For the first time we have a confirmed case...in an area with high insecurity,” Salama said.

“It really was the problem we were anticipating and the

problem at the same time we were dreading.”

Large numbers of civilians have been killed by unrest around Oicha, while aid workers, priests and government employers are currently being held hostage there by insurgents, according to Salama.

The outbreak, the 10th to hit DRC since 1976, began on August 1 in the North Kivu town of Mangina.

The virus has killed 63 people so far — out of 103 confirmed or probable cases — but Salama warned health workers were expecting “at least one additional wave of cases.”

The Oicha cases have made containing the virus more difficult.

“We are going to have to operate in some very complex

environments,” Salama said.

UN teams are only allowed to travel to Oicha with armed escorts.

If the number of patients, or contacts of patients, in the city surges, the logistical hurdles and costs will mount.

After its widely-criticised handling of the 2013-2016 West Africa Ebola epidemic that killed 11,300 people, WHO pledged to revamp its response systems.

The UN agency was widely praised for quickly containing an outbreak in DRC's northern Equateur province earlier this year, but said from the outset that restive North Kivu in the east of the country posed additional challenges.

“We are at quite a pivotal moment in this outbreak,” Salama said. “We are truly at the crossroads.” —AFP ■

Egypt arrests former diplomat and six others: lawyer

CAIRO (Egypt) — Egyptian authorities have arrested seven people including a former diplomat who had proposed a referendum on the regime of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, a defence lawyer said on Friday.

Masom Marzok, a former assistant foreign minister who had publicly criticised Sisi, called this month for a poll on the former military chief remaining in power.

Marzok and the other detainees were arrested Thursday and remanded for 15 days pending investigations, defence lawyer Khaled Ali wrote on his Facebook page.

They were accused of several crimes including partnering with a terrorist organisation and colluding to commit terrorist acts, he said. One of them, Amr Mohamed, was accused of joining a terrorist group.

Ali said Marzok's had fam-

ily called him on Thursday and told him that a large number of security personnel and vehicles had surrounded the house.

Initially they said they just wanted to talk to Marzok, but later they detained him and took him to a location they did not disclose at the time, Ali told AFP.

He said questioning of the detainees would continue until Monday.

Former armed forces chief Sisi won the presidency in 2014 after leading the ouster of former president Mohamed Morsi, of the Muslim Brotherhood, following mass protests against the Islamist's rule.

Sisi was re-elected with 97 per cent of the vote in March, beating a single opponent widely seen as a token challenger.

Critics say Sisi's government has carried out a widespread crackdown on dissent. —AFP ■

Veteran US senator McCain halts cancer treatment

WASHINGTON (United States) — Veteran US senator and war hero John McCain — a towering figure in American politics for decades — has stopped treatment for brain cancer, his family announced on Friday, one year after the Republican went public with his diagnosis.

The announcement signals the beginning of the end of a tough battle with an aggressive form of cancer — and of a storied life that took the Naval Academy graduate from a Hanoi prison to the doorstep of the White House.

“The progress of disease and the inexorable advance of age render their verdict,” the 81-year-old senator’s loved ones said in a statement.

“With his usual strength of will, he has now chosen to discontinue medical treatment.”

McCain has spent more than three decades in the upper chamber of Congress, looming large in debates over war and peace and the moral direction of the nation.

The Navy fighter pilot spent years as a prisoner of war in Viet Nam after being shot down while on a bombing mission over Hanoi.

He lost the 2008 presidential election to Barack Obama, and was pilloried for selecting controversial Alaska politician Sarah Palin as his vice presidential runningmate.

“No man this century better exemplifies honour, patriotism, service, sacrifice and country

first than Senator John McCain,” said fellow Republican Mitt Romney.

“His heroism inspires, his life shapes our character. I am blessed and humbled by our friendship.”

Trump critic

With no more elections to run, since 2016, he has been a rare and outspoken Republican critic of President Donald Trump.

Known for his combustible temper, he has accused the 45th president of “naivete,” “egotism” and of sympathizing with autocrats.

Following Trump’s recent summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, McCain caustically described the US leader’s behaviour as “one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory.”

That has earned him the ire of Trump, who regularly blames McCain for his failure to reform Obama-era health care laws and refused to say his name when signing the eponymous “John S McCain National Defence Authorization Act.”

‘Strength to carry on’

McCain has not been on the Senate floor in months, remaining at his Arizona home for treatment of glioblastoma — the same form of brain cancer that took the life of another Senate giant, Democrat Ted Kennedy, in 2009.



In this file photo taken on April 11, 2017, US Senator John McCain addresses the media during press conference at the US Embassy in Sarajevo. PHOTO: AFP

“I love my husband with all of my heart. God bless everyone who has cared for my husband along this journey,” his wife Cindy said.

His daughter Meghan thanked the public for an outpouring of support.

“My family is deeply appreciative of all the love and generosity you have shown us during this past year,” she tweeted.

“Thank you for all your continued support and prayers. We could not have made it this far without you—you’ve given us strength to carry on.”

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he was “very sad to hear this morning’s update from the family of our dear friend.”

“John, Cindy and the entire

McCain family are in our prayers at this incredibly difficult hour.”

Democrats, too, weighed in.

“Senator John McCain is a warrior in every sense of the word,” said Congressman Joe Kennedy III — a scion of the American political dynasty.

“To an inspiring man and a loving family, our thoughts are with you.”

‘Untreatable levels’

John Boockvar, director of the Brain Tumor Centre at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, said the type of cancer is “incurable.”

“He is probably at the terminal part of his disease,” Boockvar, who has not treated McCain but is an expert in the field, told AFP

“They have decided not to extend any other options to him for treatment because at some point, the risks outweigh the benefits.”

Treatment usually consists of chemotherapies, with a low chance of success.

Boockvar said the cancer had likely “spread to untreatable levels and he is seeking comfort care, which is a very reasonable point of his battle against this disease.” In an interview with CNN last year, when asked how he might like to be remembered, McCain said of himself: “He served his country and not always right. Made a lot of mistakes. Made a lot of errors, but served his country. And I hope we could add honorably.”—AFP ■

Trump chat for new Australia PM on first full

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australia’s new prime minister began his first full day on Saturday with a phone call to Donald Trump as he set about restoring faith in his “battered and bruised” government after a tumultuous week.

Scott Morrison was sworn in as the country’s 30th leader late Friday after a bitter Liberal Party revolt against moderate Malcolm Turnbull driven by a hardline conservative faction.

The former treasurer, a Turnbull ally who upset right-wing challenger Peter Dutton in the internal party ballot, said he had had a warm chat with the US president.

“Had a great discussion with @realDonaldTrump this morning,” he tweeted.

“We affirmed the strength of the relationship between the

US and Australia.”

Morrison said he shared with Trump the story of Australian soldier Leslie “Bull” Allen “who is a symbol of our 100 years of mateship”.

Allen famously carried to safety 12 wounded Americans during an attack on Japanese positions at Mount Tambu in New Guinea during World War II in 1943.

Trump also took to Twitter to congratulate Morrison.

“There are no greater friends than the United States and Australia,” he said.

With their pleasantries out the way, Morrison began work on nailing down a ministerial frontbench after a series of resignations as he looked to put a torrid week of political manoeuvring behind him.

“There’s a lot to do today,

so I’m looking forward to getting there and making sure we get everything in place that we need to,” he told Channel Nine television.

“The stability of government — that continues, and I’ll be meeting with some colleagues today as we pull the ministry [cabinet] together and make some announcements about that over the weekend.”

Turnbull blamed Dutton, former leader Tony Abbott and other Liberal “insurgents” for destabilising the party in their challenge to his leadership and Morrison must decide whether they should return to the frontbench.

The internal bickering infuriated many inside the Liberal party and renewed public disgust towards the political class.—AFP ■

Italy threatens to pull EU funds over migrant boat crisis

ROME (Italy) — Italy’s deputy prime minister has threatened to pull the country’s EU funding if the bloc does not come to the aid of 150 people stranded aboard an Italian coastguard ship.

The migrants have been blocked at the Sicilian port of Catania on the Diciotti vessel since Monday night because the Italian government is refusing to allow them to disembark without commitments from the EU to take some of them in.

A meeting of high-level representatives from around a dozen EU member states is due to be held on Friday to discuss the issue, according to the Commission.

“In recent months we have had the chance to see how a

soft line with the European Union worked and how a hard line works,” Italy’s Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio said in an interview published on Facebook on Thursday.

“If tomorrow (Friday) nothing comes out of the European Commission meeting, if they decide nothing regarding the Diciotti and the redistribution of the migrants, I and the whole Five Star Movement will no longer be prepared to give 20 billion euros (\$23 billion) to the European Union every year.”

EU figures for 2016 say Italy contributed just under 14 billion euros to the EU budget — less than one percent of its gross national income — while the bloc spent 11.6 billion euros in Italy.—AFP ■

Treasurer Scott Morrison to become new Australian PM

SYDNEY—Treasurer Scott Morrison will become Australia's new prime minister after winning a leadership contest within the ruling Liberal Party, a party lawmaker said on Friday.

Morrison will replace Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who became the nation's leader in September 2015 after successfully challenging the party leadership of then Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

Turnbull had faced growing pressure following a record succession of poor opinion polls. All the while, the conservative wing of the party continued to undermine his support base within the party. Earlier Friday, Morrison was voted to become the new prime minister at a meeting of party lawmakers, according to party whip Nola Marino.

The meeting was called after Turnbull was provided with a request for such a meeting containing the signatures of the majority of party members in parliament.



The Treasurer Scott Morrison speaks during Question Time in the House of Representatives on 20 June, 2018 in Canberra, Australia. **PHOTO: Kyodo News**

In a press conference on Thursday, Turnbull said that if he received such a request, a party meeting would be called and a leadership challenge be able to go ahead, while adding that he would

not run in the leadership contest.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton unsuccessfully challenged Turnbull for the party leadership on Tuesday, prompting the challenger's resignation

from the Cabinet.

Since then, Morrison and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, both of the conservative party, had put their hand up for the top job. —Kyodo News ■

Pompeo plans to stop in Japan for talks with Kono after N Korean trip

TOKYO—Tokyo and Washington are arranging a meeting between Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Tokyo next week right after Pompeo's visit to North Korea, Japanese government sources said on Friday.

The meeting is expected to take place on Tuesday as Pompeo will likely fly to Japan on Monday following his fourth visit to North Korea, according to the sources.

Arrangements are also under way for Kono and Pompeo to also meet with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha, possibly also on Tuesday, the sources said. During the stop in Japan, Pompeo will brief Kono and Kang on what was discussed during his meeting with North Korean officials, the sources said.

Pompeo and Kono are also expected to reaffirm the close cooperation between the two allies,

as well as cooperation trilaterally with Kang, and their policies aimed at compelling the complete denuclearization of North Korea.

On Thursday, Pompeo said he will visit North Korea next week in an attempt to accelerate negotiations on dismantling the country's nuclear weapons program. He will be accompanied by Stephen Biegun, who has just been named as the US special representative to North Korea.

Pompeo is heading to Pyongyang as frustration is increasing in Washington over what it sees as North Korea's failure to move resolutely to terminate its nuclear weapon and ballistic missile development programs, despite leader Kim Jong Un's commitment to "complete" denuclearization in a landmark summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore on 12 June. —Kyodo News ■

Thailand can learn from China's development model: Thai deputy PM

BANGKOK—Chinese experiences and investment are one of the most important factors in supporting Thailand's economic development, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said here on Friday.

Addressing "Thailand-China Business Forum 2018" here in Bangkok, Somkid welcomes more investment from China. He also expressed thanks to Chinese enterprises, especially high-tech enterprises, which have actively invested in Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) project. According to Somkid, Chinese enterprises have invested more than 60 billion Baht (1.9 billion US dollars) in this area in the past two years.

Somkid, also known as Thailand's economic czar, said Chinese enterprises are playing a major role in helping Thailand's economic transformation and its efforts in building up a digital society.

"Thailand is rich in natural and human resources, and has a competitive business environment. The EEC will be the premier destination for Chinese investors," the deputy prime minister told the forum attended by more than 400 Chinese businessmen and entrepreneurs.

He said: "In the past 40 years, China has achieved tremendous success in urban development and eradicating poverty, Thailand can learn and follow China's successful model in its development." Amid rising unilateralism and protectionism, China walks on its own path to advocate multilateralism and free trade and has played a leading role in global economic and social development through creating new connectivity, said Somkid.

He said China has been very successful in developing economy by accelerating infrastructure construction, digital economy and economic structural reforms. This experience will be helpful for Thailand to find its own way of development.

The EEC project is a centerpiece of the Thai government's policy to lift growth and targets high-tech investment within the 13,300-sq-km area, which embraces three Thai eastern coast provinces of Chonburi, Rayong and Chachoengsao. —Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 25 August, 2018 shows the site of the fire accident at a hot spring hotel in Songbei District of Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. **PHOTO: Xinhua**

Hotel fire kills 18 in northeast China city

HARBIN—A hotel fire that broke out Saturday morning in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, has left 18 people dead, the provincial fire department confirmed.

The deadly fire started at 4:36 am on Saturday at Beilong Hot Spring Leisure Hotel in Songbei District. It was put out at 7:50 am.

During the search, firemen cleared the area twice, finding 18 bodies and sending 19 people injured to hospital. Further investigation is underway.

The Ministry of Emergency Management has urged all-out efforts in the rescue and investigation, and sent a work team to Harbin to guide the site work. —Xinhua ■

German firefighters stop spread of huge blaze, warn of ongoing threat

BERLIN (Germany) — Firefighters battling a large forest fire near Berlin had stopped its spread on Friday, a local official said, warning the danger from the blaze had not yet passed. “The situation has not yet calmed down,” a spokesman for the interior ministry of Brandenburg state told the DPA news agency. Around 600 people fled their homes in three villages in Brandenburg 50 kilometres (30 miles) southwest of the capital late Thursday as firefighters battled the blaze from the air with water-bombing helicopters. The smell of acrid smoke reached Berlin as more than 400 hectares (1,000 acres) of woodland burned outside the nearby city of Potsdam.

Residents of one of the villages were able to return home late Friday, but those

from the other two will not be able to do until Saturday.

However they would be allowed to briefly visit their homes to feed their animals, said local official Christian Stein.

“Our main goal remains to protect the evacuated areas from the flames,” Stein told DPA.

“We haven’t been able to push back the fire yet but no building has been affected.” About 440 firefighters will be deployed to beat back the fire over the weekend, when no rain has been forecast and strong winds could increase the fire’s intensity.

Efforts to contain the fire were complicated because the affected terrain is still littered with munitions from World War II, regional emergency response coordinator Michael Knappe told public broadcaster RBB.

He called the situation “dramatic”, saying there had already been small explosions from ordnance buried in the ground. An enduring drought and heat-wave have left European rural areas particularly vulnerable to wildfires, which wrought devastation in Greece and Sweden earlier this summer.

As the flames came within 100 metres of one of the German villages, residents were told to take only the most essential belongings like medication and documents before fleeing.

Emergency hotline operators received hundreds of calls from residents of Berlin saying they could smell smoke.

“The entire urban area is now affected. The cause is the large fire in Brandenburg,” the Berlin fire brigade tweeted. —AFP ■



Around 600 people fled their homes in three villages in Brandenburg 50 kilometres (30 miles) southwest of the capital late Thursday as firefighters battled the blaze from the air with water-bombing helicopters. **PHOTO: AFP**



The monsoon rains upon which farmers in the southwestern state depend for their food and livelihoods dumped two-and-a-half times the normal amount of water across the state last week, according to Indian meteorologists. **PHOTO: AFP**

India’s devastating rains match climate change forecasts

PARIS (France) — Once-a-century rains that have pounded the Indian state of Kerala and displaced 1.3 million people are in line with the predictions of climate scientists, who warn that worse is to come if global warming continues unabated.

The monsoon rains upon which farmers in the southwestern state depend for their food and livelihoods dumped two-and-a-half times the normal amount of water across the state last week, according to Indian meteorologists.

It is difficult to attribute any single extreme weather event — such as the Kerala flooding — to climate change, said Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pashan, near

Mumbai.

At the same time, “our recent research shows a three-fold increase in widespread extreme rains during 1950-2017, leading to large-scale flooding,” he told AFP.

Across India, flooding caused by heavy monsoons rainfall claimed 69,000 lives and left 17 million people without homes over the same period, according to a study he co-authored, published last year in Nature Communications.

In Kerala, all 35 of the state’s major reservoirs were brimming with rain water by August 10, forcing local authorities to open the sluice gates on the Idukki Dam for the first time in 26 years.

“These floods that we are seeing in Kerala right now are basically in line

with climate projections,” said Kira Vinke, a scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

“If we continue with current levels of emissions — which is not unlikely — we will have unmanageable risks,” she told AFP.

The weather patterns behind these destructive downpours are well understood, even if the fingerprint of global warming is still hard to distinguish from what scientists call “natural variability”.

Rapid warming in the Arabian Sea and nearby landmass causes monsoon winds to fluctuate and intensify for short spans of three-to-four days, Koll explained. During those periods, moisture from the Arabian Sea is dumped inland. —AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ARCA VOY. NO. (1801N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ARCA VOY. NO. (1801N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-8-2018 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1059 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1059 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/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 OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1816N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1816N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Hollywood actor Vincent Cassel ties knot with model

BIDART (France) —Hollywood actor Vincent Cassel, 51, married 21-year-old model Tina Kunakey in a low-key ceremony in his native France on Friday.

The actor, who appeared in “Black Swan” and two of the “Ocean’s” series of heist films, shot to fame in the mid-1990s as the troubled young man from the Parisian suburbs in the critically acclaimed “La Haine”.

Cassel, wearing dark sunglasses, a cream jacket and open-

necked pink shirt, tied the knot with Kunakey in front of around 100 guests in Bidart, a small coastal village near Biarritz in southwestern France.

His bride wore a white tulle gown with strapless bodice, full skirt and long train, arriving for the ceremony in a black Bentley.

Cassel was previously married to Italian actress Monica Bellucci with whom he has two children. The couple split in 2013 after 14 years of marriage.—AFP ■



French actor Vincent Cassel and model Tina Kunakey tied the knot in front of around 100 guests in Bidart, a small village in southwestern France. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bernstein feted by Boston Symphony on centennial



Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich (l) performs during a rehearsal conducted by US conductor Leonard Bernstein (r) for a concert at the Champs Elysees theatre in Paris on 8 November, 1976. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK—Top names in the classical music world are converging on the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s summer home of Tanglewood to celebrate the legacy of Leonard Bernstein on his centennial.

On what would have been the 100th birthday on Saturday of Bernstein, widely seen as musical history’s most influential US-born conductor, the Boston Symphony Orchestra will throw one of its biggest-ever galas at Tanglewood, its restful oasis in the Berkshire hills of western Massachusetts.

The orchestra will take the celebrations to France on 15-16 September with the “Boston Weekend” at the Philharmonie de Paris, playing Bernstein’s “Serenade” based on Plato’s “Symposium” alongside other

works including symphonies of Mahler and Shostakovich.

The events cap a year of commemorations for Bernstein’s centennial that included the publication of a revealing memoir by his daughter on growing up with her larger-than-life father and a festival inspired by Bernstein at the New York Philharmonic, the institution with which the conductor is most closely identified.

Bernstein was born in Massachusetts and had a long association with Tanglewood, where he studied and conducted his final concert before his death in 1990.

Conductors for Saturday’s Bernstein celebration will include Andris Nelsons, the star music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, as well as leading American conductor Michael Tilson Thomas and John Williams,

best-known as the composer of scores to “Star Wars” and other Hollywood hits.

Among soloists will be leading cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Kian Soltani, violinist Midori and mezzo-soprano Susan Graham.

The performance will be recorded by US public broadcaster PBS for its “Great Performances” series to be aired later in the year, the Boston Symphony said.

The orchestra—which, like most US cultural bodies, constantly works to secure funding—said that a gala dinner ahead of the concert raised \$780,000, a quarter more than its goal.

Bernstein became the epitome of an orchestra conductor for many US audiences as he lived out the music with a palpable intensity while wielding the baton.—AFP ■

‘Ghoul’ lets you explore themes that get cut in films: Manav Kaul

NEW DELHI—Manav Kaul says the format of a series like “Ghoul” allows an actor to explore the character and delve into diverse themes to enhance one’s performance.

The 41-year-old actor, whose Netflix horror outing started streaming from today, says the three-episode series will help viewers peel off the various layers of his part of colonel Sunil Dacunha.

“He has a lot of layers and that’s what a series does. It gives you a little breathing time. A breather. Lets the actor do all the detailing, add sub-text and develop sub-plots. You can play with the psyche and all. You get to explore those themes that usually get cut out in films. And ‘Ghoul’ is horror. Everything is grey in horror, nothing is black and white,” Kaul told PTI in an interview.

The actor says he always wants to be part of “well-written” projects and he was blown away by director-writer Patrick Graham’s vision.

“I was attracted to the script. It was stunning. The moment I read the script, you know this is something you haven’t seen it before. And you always want to be a part of something really fresh. Also Patrick was clear about how he wants to treat the show and the characters. He had a specific look for Sunil Dacunha in his mind,” he says. It is Netflix’s first horror series and is based on Arabic folklore.

“Ghoul” follows a prisoner who arrives at a remote military interrogation centre and turns the tables on his interrogators, exposing their most shameful secrets.—PTI ■



PHOTO: PTI

Tech giants aim to coordinate fight on misinformation: report

WASHINGTON—Major technology firms including Facebook, Google and Twitter were set to meet Friday as part of an effort to coordinate the battle against misinformation campaigns by foreign agents, a media report said.

The report by BuzzFeed based on a leaked email said the companies were set to meet at Twitter's headquarters in San Francisco.

Microsoft, Snapchat and other tech firms were expected to participate in the gathering called by Facebook cybersecurity head Nathaniel Gleicher.

"As I've mentioned to several of you over the last few weeks, we have been looking to sched-



PHOTO: AFP

ule a follow-on discussion to our industry conversation about information operations, election protection, and the work we are all doing to tackle these challenges," Gleicher wrote, according to BuzzFeed. Twitter declined to comment on the report. Facebook

and Google did not immediately respond to an AFP query.

The news follows actions by Facebook, Twitter, Google and Microsoft blocking accounts from Russian and Iranian entities which the companies said were propagating misinformation

aimed at disrupting the November US elections.

On Thursday, Google said that working with the cybersecurity firm FireEye, it linked the accounts to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting as part of an effort dating to at least January 2017.

Earlier this week, Facebook announced it removed more than 650 pages, groups and accounts identified as "networks of accounts misleading people about what they were doing."

Separately, Twitter said it suspended 284 accounts "for engaging in coordinated manipulation," adding that "it appears many of these accounts originated from Iran. —AFP ■

Materials can shift shapes via light, heat: study

WASHINGTON—American researchers developed a new material that could transform into complex, pre-programmed shapes via light and temperature stimuli, allowing a square peg to morph and fit into a round hole before fully reverting to its original form.

The study published on Friday in the journal *Science Advances* described the controllable shape-shifting material that could have many applications for manufacturing, robotics, biomedical devices and artificial muscles.

"The ability to form materials that can repeatedly oscillate back and forth between two independent shapes by exposing them to light will open up a wide range of new applications and approaches to areas such as additive manufacturing, robotics and biomaterials", said Christopher Bowman, senior author of the new study and a Distinguished Professor at Colorado University (CU), Boulder.

The new material achieved readily programmable two-way transformations on a macroscopic level by using liquid crystal elastomers (LCEs), the technology underlying modern television displays.—Xinhua ■

NASA spacecraft approaches asteroid, snaps first pic

TAMPA (United States)—Two years after launching from Florida, a NASA spacecraft is closing in on an ancient asteroid, Benu, for a sample of space dust that could reveal clues to the start of life in the solar system.

The spacecraft, OSIRIS-REx, has even snapped its first, blurry pic of the cosmic

body, which is about the size of a small mountain, about 500 yards (meters) in diameter. The spacecraft is designed to circle Benu, and reach out with a robotic arm to "high-five" its surface, then return the sample it collects to Earth in 2023.

The first images of Benu were taken on 17 August at a

distance of 1.4 million miles (2.3 million kilometers) from the \$800 million spacecraft.

"This is the closest we have even been to Benu," said Dante Lauretta, OSIRIS-REx principal investigator at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

"This is significant in that we are now in the vicinity of the aster-

oid, closer than we have ever been even during the close approaches of the asteroid to the Earth."

Benu was chosen from the some 500,000 asteroids in the solar system because it orbits close to Earth's path around the sun, it is the right size for scientific study, and is one of the oldest asteroids known to NASA. —AFP ■

Russia launches 2nd stage of Vostochny spaceport construction

KUBINKA (Moscow Region)—The construction of a launch pad for the Angara carrier rocket is underway at the Vostochny spaceport in the Russian Far East, according to the materials presented by the Khrunichev Space Center at the Army-2018 international military and technical forum on 21 August.

"Work is underway at the Vostochny spaceport to build infrastructure for preparing launches of Angara carrier rockets and the universal launch compound of the Amur space and rocket center," the materials say.

Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos earlier said that a contract with the construction company Kazan for building the second stage of the Vostochny cosmodrome would be signed in late August and work would begin in early September.

Roscosmos earlier said that

the construction of the launch pad for the Angara carrier rocket at the Vostochny spaceport should begin in June 2018. Before that, there were plans to start the launch pad's construction in early 2018, about which then-Head of the Center for the Operation of Ground-Based Space Infrastructure Rano Dhurayeva told TASS in November 2017. Technological equipment for the construction was delivered to the cosmodrome in August last year. The launch of an Angara rocket from the new pad is expected in 2021.

The first launch site at the Vostochny space center was built in 2012-2016 for Soyuz rockets and the first launch from it was carried out on 28 April, 2016.

The Army-2018 international military and technical forum is opening in Kubinka outside Moscow on Tuesday and will run through 26 August.—Tass ■



The launch of an Angara rocket from the new pad is expected in 2021. PHOTO: TASS

Hazard is here to stay says Sarri as Chelsea star eyes first start

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Eden Hazard is set to make his first Chelsea start this season against Newcastle on Sunday after Blues manager Maurizio Sarri insisted there is no chance of the Belgian star being sold.

Hazard has been the subject of interest from Real Madrid amid talk of a possible £200 million (\$257 million) bid before the Spanish transfer window closes next week.

But Sarri is adamant the Chelsea playmaker won't follow in the footsteps of his compatriot Thibaut Courtois's move from Stamford Bridge to Real earlier this month.

After using Hazard as a substitute for Chelsea's Premier League wins over Huddersfield and Arsenal while he recovered from his

World Cup exertions, Sarri is set to start the midfielder at St James' Park this weekend.

"I think Eden is ready for 50 or 60 minutes, I don't know for 90 minutes, but he can start," Sarri told reporters on Friday.

"I am the coach of a very good team, a very great club, and so I think with such an important player I cannot sell without the possibility to buy another player at the same level.

"So I think Eden will stay with us for the whole season."

The long-term futures of Chelsea duo Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Gary Cahill remain unclear however, with Sarri revealing he has held talks with both.

England midfielder Loftus-Cheek was left out of the squad against Arsenal last weekend,

but Sarri will keep him at Stamford Bridge at least until the next transfer window opens.

"It was only a decision about the positions I chose to put on the bench to win," Sarri added.

"I have spoken with him twice this week, after I spoke to the club, so I think that Loftus-Cheek will remain with us.

"We can speak again about his situation, but only in December." England defender Cahill has yet to figure in the Chelsea squad this season.

There are reports from Turkey that the 32-year-old is a target for Galatasaray and Sarri admitted he can't find a place for him in the team ahead of David Luiz and Antonio Rudiger at present.

"With Cahill I think at this moment for a defender it's more

difficult to play in my team after only

20 days

of

training,"

Sarri said.

"It's easier for an offensive player, but for a defender it's more difficult so at this moment he needs to have much more training with us. "I told him that he needs to be patient now but that he is very important for us." — AFP ■

Chelsea's Eden Hazard is set to start against Newcastle this weekend. **PHOTO: AFP**



Ten years on, Federer focused on sixth US Open title

NEW YORK — Roger Federer, a decade removed from the 2008 triumph that marked his fifth straight US Open title, is eager to hoist a trophy at Flushing Meadows again.

"It's even a bigger priority this year, the US Open, than it has been last year," the 20-time Grand Slam champion said Friday as he addressed reporters on the new Louis Armstrong Stadium court.

"Not that it wasn't last year, but Wimbledon was key for me. That was where I wasn't well the year before that, so last year we wanted to be ready for Wimbledon. Even skipped the French for that.

"And then obviously not feeling 100 per cent last year was hard," added the Swiss great, who was ousted by Juan Martin del Potro in the quarter-finals in New York in 2017.

"I knew from the get-go it was not going to be possible for me to win. Everything would have had to fall into place. Guys would have had to retire against me or played the worst match of their life against me, and maybe then I would have had a chance,



Good old days! Roger Federer holds the US Open trophy after winning the 2008 final against Andy Murray. **PHOTO: AFP**

but later stages of a tournament is not feasible anymore.

"So the last two years — especially two years ago when I couldn't play at all — have just been difficult.

"I'm really excited and happy to be back here healthy again and feeling good and take it one match at a time and see what happens."

The draw has done Federer no favors in his pursuit of a sixth

US Open title.

Seeded second behind world number one and defending champion Rafael Nadal, Federer could meet the talented if erratic Australian Nick Kyrgios in the third round, while a renewal of his long rivalry with Novak Djokovic could come in the quarter-finals.

The 37-year-old was, if not happy with the draw, at least resigned. — AFP ■

Liverpool 'not for sale' after £2 billion bid

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Liverpool owners Fenway Sports Group insisted Friday the Premier League club is not for sale after details emerged of a failed £2 billion (\$2.6 billion) takeover bid from a cousin of Manchester City owner Sheikh Mansour.

Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reported that Abu Dhabi-based Sheikh Khaled Bin Zayed Al Nahyan approached the club over several months in late 2017 and into early 2018.

He then made the £2 billion offer that would have been the most expensive takeover in the history of the game.

Liverpool — 18-times English champions — said the club was still open to new outside investment but is not for sale.

Britain's Press Association said it understood that the interest — one of a number of approaches FSG have received in recent years — did not get past the vetting

stage because it was deemed neither credible nor worthy of being put to the ownership.

"FSG have been clear and consistent: the club is not for sale," said a Liverpool statement.

"But what the ownership has said, again clearly and consistently, is that under the right terms and conditions we would consider taking on a minority investor, if such a partnership was to further our commercial interests in specific market places and in line with the continued development and growth of the club and the team."

Malcolm Glazer's £790 million purchase of Premier League rivals Manchester United in 2005 remains the most expensive football takeover deal.

Liverpool, bought by their owners, then known as New England Sports Ventures, for £300 million in 2010, were valued at £1.42 billion by business services group KPMG in May. — AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

26 AUGUST 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Flower and Lover



By Laura Htet
UDE English

AT the moment of a tender embrace, here comes a blossom. I love flowers and would like to cherish them. I am terribly mad of watching her—like a mirror. I wish them not to be withered, only to be fresh and rejoiced forever. Moreover, I am worried of her being sun-burnt or even a tiny petal would fall down in a whirlwind during a rainstorm. In a cool and mild breeze, may its odour be subtle and fragrant, I wonder! These are secret words of heart that could hardly ever be known.

The days that I met her at random are being reminded. It was too lovely, too young. Her rounded staring eyes, I could never forget. Was she afraid of something? I could not be able to blame her for the unspoken words as I could manage to see her innate nature in her heart. Although I am not a grower of the flower-seed, I still was not a flower-plucker. A drop, a spill I like to pour...to exhilarate with the fragrance redolent and pleasant.

The bud has just blossomed alive in the changes of seasonal growth. Has she grown in a chance of logical and justified situation? Would she have encountered troubles sometimes in her life? Let a smile be on her face; imagination takes place in mine. “Humans are all the same,” it is said, but “breathings are not quite alike.” I am not fond of destroying the beauty. Not only for a while, I want her satisfied more and more. May she be pleased, I repeatedly whisper!

As I am well-experienced with the worldly nature, this day...it is an expected day. Here comes blossom. Oh, dear! Approach me so close. Youth, in other words...non-stop curious age: the time of learning. So love she is. With clear and bright eyes with eagerness, untiringly she asks and she asks ... And explain as long as she could listen. I am afraid if she would feel tired a bit. I would like to console her to be happy in my love, deep and sincere, willingly I desire. Tender touch of wind conveys its sweet scent enchanted, competing smiles are endless. I am cordially and gently welcoming the flower’s delicate approach.





(g) They are raising a fund to build a hospital for the Sangha.

ကံ (object) ကို ရှာတတ်ရန်လိုသည်။ ကြိယာနောက်တပ်၍လိုက်သော နာမ် (Noun) သည် Object ဖြစ်သည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အထက်ပါစာကြောင်းတွင် a fund to build a hospital for the Sangha ကို object အဖြစ်ယူရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

သံဃာတော်များအတွက် ဆေးရုံတစ်ရုံဆောက်ရန် ရန်ပုံငွေကို ကောက်ခံနေပါသည်။

A fund to build a hospital for the Sangha is being raised.

လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းလုပ်ကြည့်ပါ။ အဖြေကို နောက်ဆုံးတွင်ပေးထားပါသည်။

Exercises: (Change the following into Passive Voice)

1. Khin Khin waters the plants every morning.
2. Columbus discovered America.
3. Father has milked the cows.
4. Ko Ko will take the eggs to town.
5. Ma Ma is cleaning the kitchen now.
6. They are going to build a new hospital.
7. Ko Ko is showing her a painting.
8. Nobody will ever solve this problem.
9. The girl did not find anything in her desk.
10. Ko Ko did not kill anybody in the last battle.
11. Nobody is to touch the paintings.
12. They dress their children very well.

Verb form တွင် Passive Voice နှင့်လည်း လာတတ်သဖြင့် အောက်ပါလေ့ကျင့်ခန်းများလုပ်ကြည့်ပါ။

Passive Voice နှင့်ရေးရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

Exercises (Verb Form)

1. School examinations (usually hold) in March.
2. This book (publish) 40 years ago.
3. Rice for the month (already distribute).
4. A new factory (build) next month.
5. A new lesson (teach) now.
6. The players were sent to a training camp after they (select).
7. She waited while her essay (correct) by the teacher.
8. The essay (write) by tomorrow evening.

Answers: (Verb Form)

1. She plays tennis every evening.
2. He sometimes takes me to the cinema.
3. They are reaping the paddy now.
4. Look! The girl is coming towards us.
5. He joined the army in 1964.
6. She did not take the medicine last night.
7. Did he buy the car in 1979?
8. He has just arrived.
9. They have already heard the news.
10. She has not ironed the clothes yet.
11. I have read this book eight times.
12. Have you ever seen snow?
13. She has never worn trousers before.
14. He has not visited Yangon since 1975.
15. I have not had a holiday for five years.
16. He has been learning Japanese since 1979.
17. We have been listening to the radio for two

hours.

18. He went to bed after he had done his homework.
19. Mother had already laid the table when I returned home yesterday evening.
20. He said that he had been to Ngapali.
21. She burnt her hand while she was cooking.
22. He came in while we were talking about him.
23. She was picking flowers in the garden when I first saw her.
24. The girls were still sweeping the room when the bell rang.
25. They will hold the festival next month.
26. He will have got his degree by 1984.

နောက်တွင် Verb Form, Active & Passive Voice နှင့် Essay-writing ဆက်လက်တင်ပြပါမည်။

Answers to the Passive Voice:

1. The plants are watered by Khin Khin every morning.
2. America was discovered by Columbus.
3. The cows have been milked by father.
4. The eggs will be taken to town by Ko Ko.
5. The kitchen is being cleaned by Ma Ma now.
6. A new hospital is going to be built.
7. She is being shown a painting by Ko Ko.
8. The problem will never be solved.
9. Nothing was found by the girl in her desk.
10. Nobody was killed in the last battle by Ko Ko.
11. The paintings are not to be touched.
12. Their children are very well dressed.

Answers to Verb Form (Passive)

1. School examinations are usually held in March.
2. This book was published 40 years ago.
3. Rice for the month has already been distributed.
4. A new factory will be built next month.
5. A new lesson is being taught now.
6. The players were sent to a training camp after they had been selected.
7. She waited while her essay was being corrected by the teacher.
8. The essay will have been written by tomorrow evening.

Passive Voice ကို Active Voice သို့ ပြောင်းရာတွင် Subject ကို မြှုပ်ထားပါက ပြန်ဖော်တတ်ရန်လိုပါသည်။

ဥပမာ -

- (1) His car was stolen last night.
သူကားမနေ့ညက အခိုးခံရသည်။
Someone stole his car last night.
သူကားကို မနေ့ညက (တစ်စုံတစ်ယောက်) ခိုးသွားသည်။
(Subject ဖြစ်သော Someone ထည့်ရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)
- (2) U Ba was arrested yesterday.
ဦးဘ မနေ့က အဖမ်းခံရသည်။
The police arrested U Ba yesterday.
ရဲတို့သည် ဦးဘကို မနေ့က ဖမ်းသွားသည်။
- (3) Wars can be prevented.
စစ်များကို တားဆီးနိုင်သည်။
We can prevent wars.

ငါတို့ စစ်များကို တားဆီးနိုင်သည်။

(4) Paddy is sold to the buying centres.

စပါးကို အဝယ်ခိုင်းများသို့ ရောင်းသည်။

Farmers sell paddy to the buying centres.

လယ်သမားများသည် စပါးကို အဝယ်ခိုင်းများသို့ရောင်းသည်။

(Passive Voice တွင် by farmers ကို မြှုပ်ထားသည်။)

Active Voice တွင် Subject အဖြစ် ပြန်ထည့်ရသည်။)

Lesson 7

Active and Passive Voice ကိုတင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။ ယခုမေးခွန်းများကို Passive Voice သို့ပြောင်းပုံပေးထားပါသည်။ ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

(simple) Ko Ko writes a story every month.

A story is written by Ko Ko every month.

(perfect) Ko Ko has written a story.

A story has been written by Ko Ko.

(future) Ko Ko will write a story.

A story will be written by Ko Ko.

(continuous) Ko Ko is writing a story.

A story is being written by Ko Ko.

(future perfect) Ko Ko will have written a story.

A story will have been written by Ko Ko.

(A) 1. Ko Ko wrote the letter.

The letter was written by Ko Ko.

2. Did Ko Ko write the letter?

Was the letter written by Ko Ko?

ရိုးရိုးအတိတ်ကာလတွင် active စာကြောင်းကို မေးခွန်းအဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းလဲရန် did သုံးရသည်။ Passive တွင် was/were ကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့ဆုံးတွင်ထား၍ Noun လိုက်ကာ ၎င်းနောက်မှ ကပ်၍ V3 ထည့်ရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

Did Ma Ma eat the mango?

အဖြေ - Ma Ma ate the mango.

The mango was eaten by Ma Ma.

Was the mango eaten by Ma Ma?

တစ်ခါတည်းနှင့် မပြောင်းတတ်လျှင် မေးခွန်းကိုဖြေကြည့်ပါ။ အဖြေကို Passive ပြောင်းပြီးမှ was/were ကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့ထုတ်၍ မေးခွန်းအဖြစ် ပြောင်းပါ။

3. Has Ko Ko found the book?

Has the book been found by Ko Ko?

4. Will Ko Ko take the money?

Will the money be taken by Ko Ko?

5. Is Ko Ko drawing a picture?

Is a picture being drawn by Ko Ko?

6. Did Ko Ko write the letter?

Was the letter written by Ko Ko?

အထက်ပါ yes, no နှင့်ဖြေ၍ရသော မေးခွန်းများကို 'လဲ' နှင့် အဆုံးသတ်သော မေးခွန်းအဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းလိုလျှင် When, Where, How, Why စသည်တို့ကိုရှေ့မှကပ်ထည့်ရသည်။ Passive တွင်လည်း ၎င်းတို့ကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့မှ ထည့်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

1. When did Ko Ko write the letter?

When was the letter written by Ko Ko?

2. Why did Ko Ko write the letter?

Why was the letter written by Ko Ko?

3. Where has Ko Ko left the car?

Where has the car been left by Ko Ko?

B. Active Voice တွင် whom နှင့်လာလျှင် Passive Voice တွင် who သို့ပြောင်းရသည်။ Who ကို သုံးရာတွင် မည်သူမည်ဝါဟု မသေချာသဖြင့်အနည်းနာမအဖြစ်ယူရသည်။

ထို့ကြောင့်

1. Whom did Ko Ko take to the cinema?

Who was taken to the cinema by Ko Ko?

2. Whom have they chosen to lead the team?

Who has been chosen to lead the team?

3. Whom will the teacher punish?

Who will be punished by the teacher?

Whom are the police watching?

Who is being watched by the police?

What, how, much, how many တို့ကိုလည်း အထက်ပါပုံစံအတိုင်းပြောင်းရသည်။

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

He Little Narcotic

By Alicia

THIS is one more sleepless night for me. The moonlight is shining outside, awakening a matter of this evening. A talk with a little junior fresher, a drug addict, a drug dealer, but I would metaphorize him as a young innocent soul with an empty heart, who I met through a volunteering job has taken my thought captive.

It was a pleasant evening. We were sitting side by side on a bench in Yangon University campus after our classes were dismissed, talking this and that. Suddenly, out of the topic, he said,

"You wouldn't know how to understand somebody unless you listen to their words with all of your ears and heart."

Actually, I am more like a counselor to him. We both are majoring in psychology. He usually bares heart to me about his problems with his family.

his neighborhood and things like that and I never get annoyed of listening to him. He seems like a childish little freak to me who usually do clumsy mistakes.

"I can feel you. Tell me how you are feeling."

I replied him with a warm smile, looking into his chestnut eyes staring at the sky.

"Actually, you don't know anything about me, my sister. I'm not as you see."

He replied with a smile, looking down at the grass under his feet.

"But whoever you are, I can feel that you have a beautiful heart from all good deeds you're doing."

He grinned. "Mary, my sister, I'm just a mess."

We were in silence for a while. I wonder what he

would be thinking, staring at the sky of twilight.

"You know, Ma Mary, I am a drug dealer and used to be an addict."

"You do?"

I wasn't too surprised, though. There is no wonder a wealthy young teenager used some drugs to drop away his stresses.

"But I have given myself a word that I would give up on drugs, smoking weed, which could always make me feel paradise whenever I had messed up with my life. But I don't know if I'm going to need again. I enjoyed selling drugs with my cousins at clubs since I was 15, and I didn't feel guilty at all. Because I got everything I wanted from it; fun, friends, superiority, and it could make me a place I feel I belong to."

I didn't do it for money; I did because I felt myself great.

No one there would look down on me because I'm a lovechild and my mother has a second marriage. I got some good friends

there."

"I see."

"Now you would be thinking that I am a filthy dishonorable person."

"Of course not. It was reasonable for you though. Most of the rich kids would use it as a way out. If I were you, I can't guarantee that I wouldn't choose that way. So, tell me about it."

"Well, I had just finished my exam when I got involved in it with my cousins. They took me to bars and clubs when mom was not at home. Sometimes, I sneaked out to the clubs by myself at night because my friends are there and it was fun. Mom was always busy and never had a time for me. My stepdad might be even better than she was. But you know, he's not my blood relation. Mother said my own dad had died since I was born, if I asked more about him, she beat the crap out of me. When I was little, she once beat me on the market street in front of many people. I got scared of crowds since then. She is a strong woman who conquered many obstacles as a single mother and started her own business. But her boldness makes her too icy and that scares me. I must admit this is the first time I am doing volunteering job with some

normal people. I call them normal, because I know I am not."

"Dear, you're doing well now, though."

I responded with a delightful voice. But I was flashing my eye lashes fast not to shed a tear. I empathized him and his mother. I could feel how hard it would be for his mother to endure those criticisms of the conservative society who are thinking virginity as the only value of a woman's life. I could see how his childhood would be as a lovechild, a son who wasn't properly loved by his own mother.

"You know, my parents, I mean mom, only gives me things, but what I really want is my mom's love. I just want my grandpa, mom, and my father around me. I want to make my mom proud of me."

I felt dumb for a while, trying to find a proper word to comfort him.

"You will someday. I wanna listen more about you but it's almost 6pm. I'd better get back. My hostel is going to close."

We both stood up.

"Thanks for always listening to me. No one is as nice as you are. Why do you care about me?"

SEE PAGE S-7

Integrated habitat development for conserving bees, birds, fishes

Saikat Kumar Basu
Lethbridge AB Canada



Fish conservation could be an important part of integrated habitat development.
PHOTOS: Saikat Kumar Basu

INTEGRATED habitat development is a new concept in which ecosystem development is initiated, using nature-based measures and/or approaches, catering to multiple species from a sustainable, long term environmental perspective. This is an approach where small ecological habitats are being developed on already existing degraded ecosystem by using simple, economically efficient, low maintenance natural methods and/or approaches in developing complex ecosystem that can grow into a natural environment for local pollinator insects, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, terrestrial and aquatic birds, small mammals and local wildlife over a period of time. Such integrated habitat development could be initiated in unused farmlands, hard to access and unused areas of croplands and farming units, agronomically unsuitable areas, marginal or low quality agricultural lands, along the perimeter of agriculturally and non-agriculturally suitable lands, orchards, gardens, lawns, forests, over exploited parts of local forests, woods and areas earmarked for social forestry, and under afforestation or revegetation programs following land disturbances (like landslides, earthquakes, newly land filled areas, added areas belonging to cities and towns, etc), unused rural and urban areas, gardens and lawns belonging to different municipalities and corporations, unused areas or open spaces of local golf gardens, around water bodies (like dug outs, pools, ponds, irrigation canals, roadside ditches, swamps, bogs, artificial and/or natural lakes and waterfalls, streams, rivulets etc), city and rural parks and gardens, city boulevards, reclamation sites, abandoned industrial and mining sites, power plants, etc., to mention only a handful.

Hence, one could see that the potential of the integrated habitat development is huge and the opportunities with sky as the limit. For example, it is important to conserve freshwater aquatic habitats to preserve the rich local biodiversity and thereby conserve natural ecosystem and environments associated with it. Such an endeavor is not technologically complex or is either a huge drain on economy and resources if planned and executed judiciously. Simple innovative, nature based approach without sophisticated technological expertise, labor, funding and creative awareness and love and passion for envi-



Pollinator Mix attracts honey bees and indig



Both resident and migratory birds could be attra

ronment can be easily achieved by using a comprehensive multi-tier conservation project, such as Multiple Tier Conservation Model (MTCM). A comprehensive but simply nature based integrated aquatic habitat development program can thus be successfully achieved under MTCM that can provide a dynamic conservation program, including bees, birds and fishes -- like Integrated Ecological Habitat Development for Bees, Birds and Fishes (IEHD-BBF). Such a dynamic and innovative model can provide an effective conservation umbrella to a number of species (bees, birds and fishes) by transforming natural and/or artificial water body with simplistic nature based



Honey bees fo



Foraging on bird's foot trefoil flower.



Bumble bee foraging on globe thistle flower.

germination and viability, rapid emergence, quick and successful establishment, competition with local weeds, ability to regenerate, reproduce and continue flowering across different seasons to attract pollinator insects and other farmer friendly insects to such newly established Bee or Pollinator Sanctuaries. The use of multiple species of plants representing a wide diversity of plant families could contribute towards positive soil health and help in preventing soil erosion, increase the biodiversity of soil flora and fauna, enhance soil nutrient level, help in better aeration and hydration of the soil by active root biomass and also help in soil remediation by removing toxic chemicals from the soil and produce a rich, organic layer, sustaining plant growth and the habitat over the years.

When integrated with freshwater



Foraging on bird's foot trefoil flower.



Ground nesting birds can find excellent nesting sites in such Pollinator Sanctuaries.



Integrated habitat development can attract birds in large numbers.



Exposure to such biodiversity rich ecosystems.



Canada geese visiting water body in Lethbridge, AB, Canada.

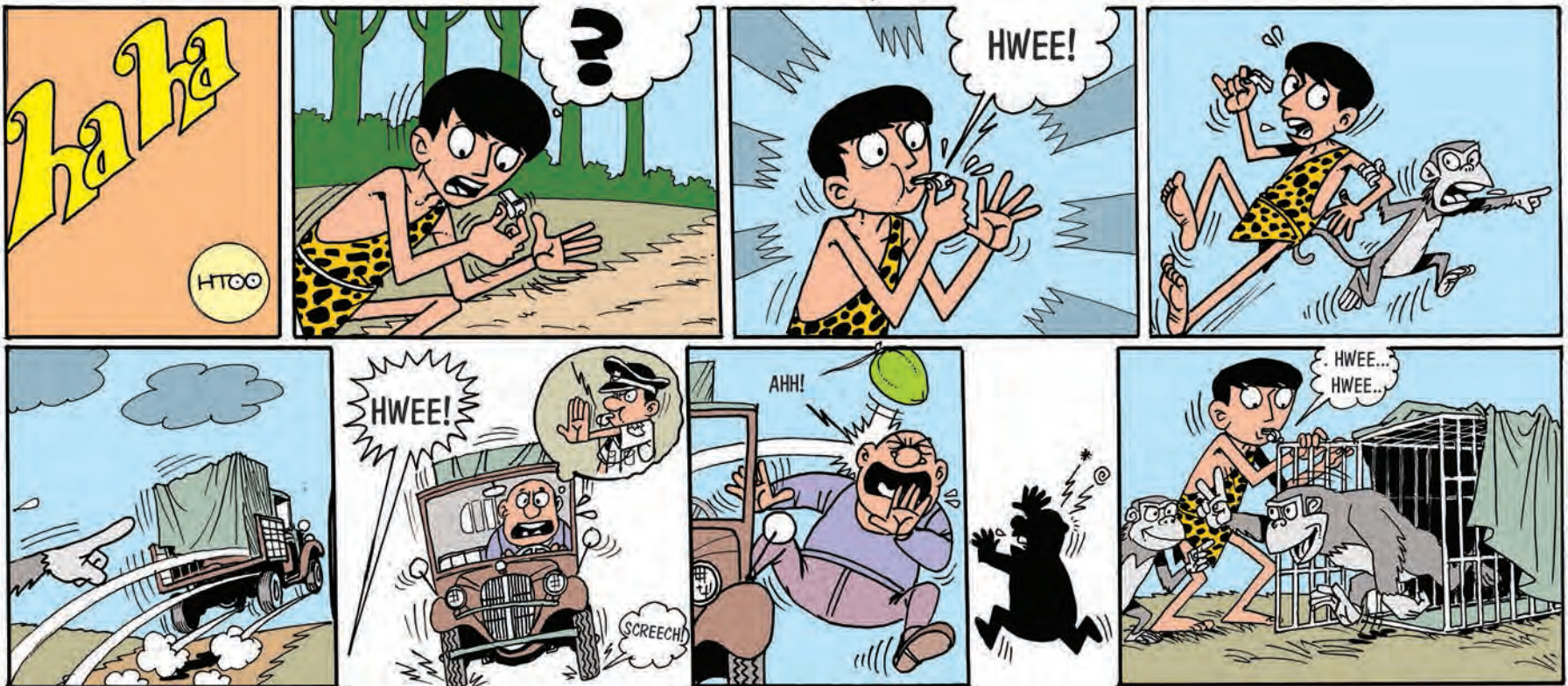
aquatic ecosystem development, local or indigenous fish species could be introduced in accompanying water bodies to further enhance and expand natural ecosystems and environments. Pollinator Sanctuaries established adjacent or around water body thus could slowly integrate over years and develop into a complex ecosystem that will attract pollinator insects (honey bees, indigenous or native bees, moths, butterflies, beetles, flies), non-pollinator insects as well as small birds feeding on such insects and terrestrial birds, enjoying nesting, foraging and breeding in such naturally protected integrated habitats. Over time, such aquatic habitats rich with both terrestrial and aquatic plants, algae and fungi, aquatic insects, crustaceans, insect and amphibian larvae as well as fishes will also attract aquatic and semi-aquatic birds to such ecological niches, rich in biodiversity. In due course of time, such land-water integrated artificial or natural habitats will also attract local amphibians and reptiles as well as smaller mammals, further providing protection to the local biodiversity. This could successfully transform into multi-layered food chains and complex food webs for the multitude of species surviving in these new ecosystems over and above bees, birds and fishes through the Integrated Ecological Habitat Development for Bees, Birds and Fishes (IEHD-BBF) program.



Bee, bird and fish conservation can be easily integrated through Pollinator Sanctuary development.

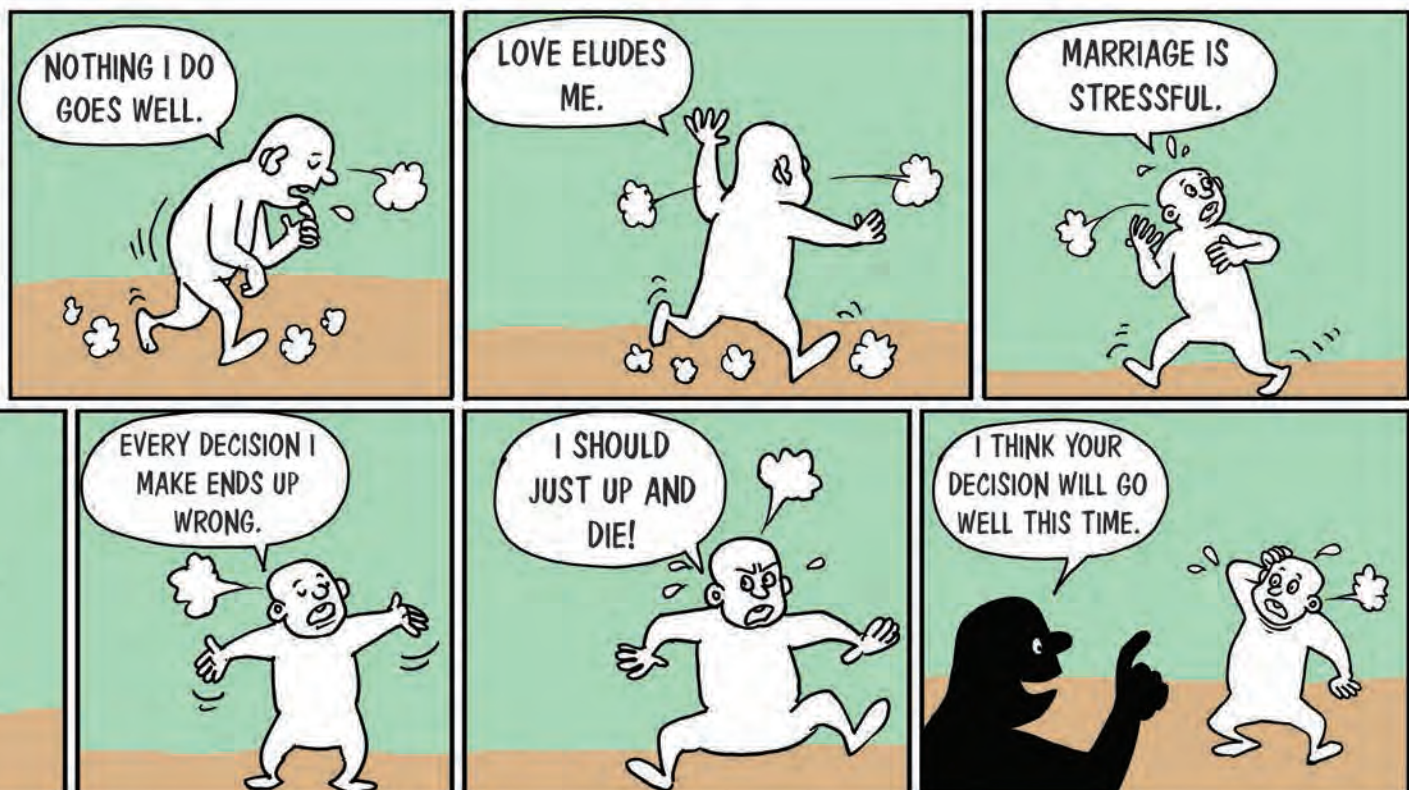
alternative by protecting multiple trophic levels within a freshwater ecosystem (both natural or artificial).
Developing suitable Pollinator Mixes could be an effective and environment based, cost friendly approach in establishing such ecological units like Pollinator or Bee Sanctuaries. This could be achieved by developing suitable mixes comprising of native wildflowers and wild grasses, annual and/or perennial legumes, Brassica members, warm season and cool season forage grasses, salt or acidity tolerant grass species, etc. for different agro-climatic or ecological regions, based on parameters, like their adaptability to specific regions,

SUNDAY COMICS



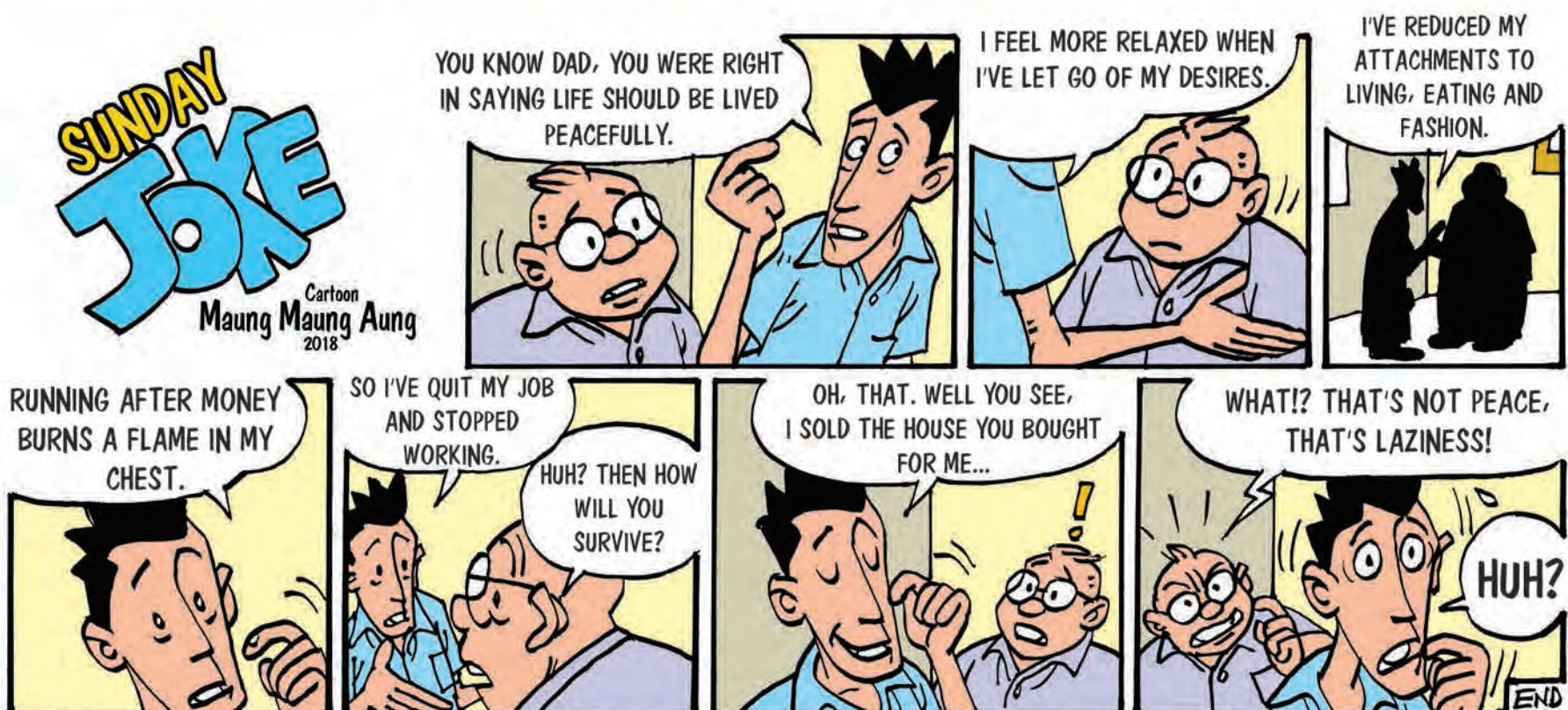
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Aung
2018



Nirvana Exhorter



By Laura Htet
UDE English



LOOK over there. Walking down and reciting pleasant prayers, there is a white-garbed person. In his hand, there hangs a triangular brass gong. From his lips, he is reciting the words of pleasure.

The man is a Nirvana exhorter. Early dawn at four, he is performing for others' interests. Well done! Well done! Sadhu! Sadhu! At the moment, has he no bad temper. How highly pleased he is! Let us enter into the home of his mind for a while and just imagine his ecstasy. How great his rapture, it would be, you would sense. He would have a great happiness as if he were on the top of the world.

Summons of the triangular brass gong and meritorious exhortation of that man awakens the world. Sounds have pretty worked enough to arouse them up from their beds to cook the 'Aar-yon-soon' (morning food offering for the monks).

Daw Mya, the old lady, from the corner house is washing her face.

U Ba Su, the old man, who is from the front house, begins paying obeisance to the Lord Buddha in a loud voice.

Alarms of his voice and his brass gong repercussions become the auspicious sounds. Alike the strikes of the recently heard 'Kaladet' (traditional time keeping) of the monastery from the head of the village, they are 'Harbingers of the Sun'. Due to those audible sounds, those who are aiming to commit burglary, return back to their homes. Therefore, those sounds are barriers to bad deeds. Seemingly, for those bad ones, they sound as evil cries of birds or demons. However, it is sure to be thankful to those sounds, if the cogitation of faculty would ever be made. For those sounds' sake, bad deeds have not been done. Even on the margin of impending imprisonment of committed crimes, only they could save and ban in time from present danger.

Those cheerful sounds have been faded away and left behind. They are the usual sounds of our village in the early hours of the day, before the Sabbath day. Deeming those matters, I am lying awake in bed. I think I have to get up early for the new-born day. I have to do my daily routine. After such early morning pleasant moment, everyone from our village also comes into their gestures each. Everyone cannot be able to stay in ease for the three important things, viz food, clothing and shelter, which no one can avoid. Thinking that it would be a must to face and enter again into the daily heat of one's earning, I slowly get up from bed.

Sithu Daw Kyan Ma Ma Centenarian

By Ba Than

What a miracle indeed,
To live to be a hundred;
And the more serendipitous
To be thus blessed.

Of sound mind and healthy body,
In peace and serenity
All through the ups and downs of life.
The one and the only
Myanmar Scholar of the Century.

After years of schooling complete,
She chose the life of celibacy;
Vowed to stay single
She plunged single-mindedly;
Into the literary Odyssey.

With devotion, dedication, perseverance,
Vision, mission and resolute passion;
Leaving no stone unturned
In the endless quest for perfection.

Years mellowed into maturity,
As her prolific pen poured forth gems of wisdom,
Keeping readers enthralled young and old alike
From streams of society.

As honours and citations flowed in appreciation,
She exuded humility, grace, elegance and
virtuosity.
To thee, the poet humbly bows in deep respect.

May she live beyond a hundred,
And be a role model for succeeding generations!

FROM PAGE- S-3

"Maybe I can feel you. You know it. I am also a child with family problems."

I replied with a light smile and turned back. I glanced back as he walked towards his car, hoping he would get a bit better by baring his soul to me. The dying sun of dusk was painting the sky vividly colorful before it was gone. The moon is awaiting for her turn to shine.

One day, his painful memories would end just as a sunset. He'll meet the stars and the moon. He will see the light of dawn. He'll be a happy man. I'll help him out.

The phone rings suddenly and cut my train of thoughts. It was already 1am. What kind of scum is phoning me in the middle of the night! Heavens, it's from Jack!

"Hello."

"Mary, you know me well, right? I'm trying to be a good man."

His voice is trembling. Is he sobbing?

"Yes, Jack. I know you well.

Tell me what is happening, kid?"

"Mom, she told me to die. She says I am a coward who dares not to die. How could a mother tell her own son to die? I miss my dad. I don't believe that he had passed away. Mom must be cheating on me. I must find my father. I know he would love me, for sure."

"Jack, I'm sorry."

I felt sorry for not being able to know how to comfort his pain. I'm nervously walking to and fro at the corridor outside of my room.

"You know, Ma Mary, she's not at home. She's at a business trip but phoning me every night, upbraiding me for being her son. I couldn't sleep without pills for several nights. I can't take it anymore. I want to run away from my life. Everyone I cherish hates me. Every person leaves me after knowing my miserable life. Are you too going to leave me, my sister?"

"Jack, I will never leave you. You know I can understand you well, right? So, please don't do anything bad to yourself. We'll

talk about it later, when we meet."

Tears start to shed and wet my cheeks. We say nothing more but sobbing quietly. I keep listening to his gasping sound through my earphones, till he hangs up. It was half past three in the morning already and I haven't taken a snap of a nap. With a heavy heart, I get back into my bed and lie down on my back, spending the rest of the time by thinking how to help him out of these traumatic events.

I get up at 6 and prepare to go to class but can't stop thinking about last night's call. At lunch break, I call his phone, but he doesn't pick up. So, I go to his class, but I don't see him. His friends said he is absent today. That makes me sick of worrying about him. I'm afraid if he would do something terrible.

"No, he'll be fine."

I comfort myself and get back to my class. I'd better be optimistic. Worries help nothing.

In the evening, an unknown phone calls me. I pick it up and it is him!

"Mary, will you meet me at

the place where we talked yesterday?"

I go there half running. Thank goodness, he is fine!

"Jack!"

I look at him with dewy eyes, pleased to see him alive.

"I'm sorry I disturbed you last night. It won't happen again."

"Are you kidding? I'm just glad to see you're okay. Now tell me everything."

"Ma Mary, forget everything about last night and don't tell anyone. I will forget about it too. I give you a word that I won't commit suicide. I won't run away and I'm not going to give up on something I like for anybody."

I get numb. I know what he is talking about -- the narcotic substance he was addicted before. I become speechless. I dare not tell him to give up. He is not a kid who doesn't know the effects of narcotic drugs, but what he needs is just some dopamine which he couldn't get from any other place. How could I find a better substitution than this psychedelic distraction?

"What do you mean, Jack? You're not talking anything about

that drug, right?"

He says nothing but smiles, looking down at the grass under his feet. I know that smile: babyish, but mysterious smile with loads of meanings.

You might wonder why I am taking so much care about a boy whose mess is none of my business. But you don't know that I used to be in those shoes; a person with a childhood craving of an act of love and kindness. You might think he is too weak, too cowardice. No he is not. I know it well.

Something I want to mention is traumas can affect more than you think, even causing severe mental disorder, such as PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder. I wonder how a move of tongue could make a huge change in someone's life. A quote I saw from a movie appears in my mind, "You either die a hero or live long enough to see yourself become a villain." He loved a lot, cared a lot. He stood still in the storm of cruel words, protecting his innocence and had to fight against suicidal thoughts. Then... he chose to live.

Is obsession on Facebook good or bad for you?

By Tommy Pauk

TREMENDOUS communications technology contributes us to communicate each other globally within a few seconds. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Facebook Messenger and WeChat are all social networks, and we may opt for the one we like. Adults and youths alike are obsessed with Facebook and spending many hours on it in their daily life. Facebook, a social networking service, was founded by Mark

Zuckerberg with his college roommate and fellow Harvard University student Eduardo Saverin. This service was launched on 4 February 2004. Since then, world internet users use Facebook for making friends and spreading news online within a few seconds. A super social networking service! It seems that this social network has become one of our everyday activities.

Mostly, youths in Myanmar nowadays use Facebook obsessively. They may have different purposes to use it. Normally, Facebook users aim to find their necessities or expressions or

exchange knowledge or comments or share knowledge on various subjects. Nevertheless, they spend too much time on using Facebook in their daily life. Some youths and adults show off on Facebook in order to attract attention. Facebook is being used by millions of people around the world. It is obviously a social media network and also known as citizen journalism website. Some users stick to Facebook for pleasure or fun.

Psychologically, humans are pleased with the attention given by each other on certain concept or act or mutual agreement among themselves. Every one of us likes popularity, fame

and credit in life. Facebook users of all matured ages enjoy or expect to gain these honors among Facebook friends. They make friends with people around the world through this social media network. We agree up to this point as it is logical and acceptable. According to statistics, as of 2011, there are 500,000,000 active Facebook users. Approximately, 1 in every 13 people on earth. Half of them are logged in on any given day. We cannot deny that Facebook is helpful for us in this internet-age, whereas the power or attraction of Facebook overwhelms us.

Users spend much of the time viewing on the pages of Facebook which contains lots of fake news and unethical expressions, uploaded personal video character assassinations toward others, unreliable commercial advertisements of medical products, etc. Among them, some intend to exploit or scam gullible Facebook users for their personal gains and benefits. Even then, the person who uses Facebook obsessively waste his or her precious time achieving a little amount of knowledge. In other words, the addiction to Facebook can affect the concerned users' precious time and health indeed. Most of the teenagers have tendency to become obsessed with Facebook pages. There is a new term called FAD—described as Facebook Addiction Disorder. This has been coined by psychologists in the United States. Teenagers should spend time in using Facebook moderately so that they have enough time to do the important stuff in their daily life. Especially, all levels of students ought to spare time for studying and doing suitable parts rather than being obsessed with Facebook usage. A healthy balance of individual life is essential, so they should spare their time beneficially. Parents, teachers and medical doctors should suggest people who are addicted to Facebook that such addiction would lead to negative impact in their lives. Actually, it is obvious that spending too much time in using Facebook will surely give us bad consequences or results. We should use Facebook properly and should not spend too much time in using Facebook in our everyday life!

