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Press Release on official visit of President
U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho to Nepal

PAGE-6-7

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Religious objects enshrined at Eternal Peace Pagoda

President, First Lady and State Counsellor attend religious ceremony at Eternal Peace Pagoda

A CEREMONY to enshrine religious objects and hoist a golden umbrella on top of replica stupas at the Eternal Peace Pagoda built at Yazathin-gaha Road near Gangawpan Trefic Circle, Dekhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw was held yesterday morning. The event was attended by President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Pagoda Ovadacariya Sayadaws led by State Ovadacariya Pyinmana Maha Visutarama Zaygon Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddantaka Vihara graced the event which was attended by President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice-President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Nay Pyi Taw Council members and their spouses, donors and departmental officials.

Before the ceremony began, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offered fruits, flowers and water to the Buddha image in the Dhammayone (congregation hall).

At the ceremony, President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw



President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko check the religious objects together with Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika before the golden objects are enshrined at the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Khin Thet Htay and guests took the nine precepts from the Ovadacariya Pyinmanan Maha Visutarama Zaygon Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddantaka Vihara.

Next, donors offered paritta

flowers, water, thread and sand to the Members of the Sanghas. The audience then listened to the Sanghas reciting the parittas after which donors sprinkled the paritta water and sands all over the pagoda compound and tied paritta thread around the com-

pound as protection against evil.

Afterwards President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho presented the golden umbrella to be hoisted on top of the pagoda and offerings to be enshrined in the pagoda to State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidhaja

Maharattha Guru Bhaddantaka Vihara. This was followed by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presenting offerings including an offering from Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika to be hoisted

SEE PAGE-3

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Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu inspects silted farmland due to collapse of Swa Dam spillway



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu inspects dredging silts with heavy machineries in Swa Town, Yedashe Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu inspected yesterday the houses in Shwe Thab-yay Village, Swa Town, Yedashe Township, destroyed by recent flooding caused by Swa Chaung Dam spillway collapse and instructed the officials to arrange temporary accommodation for the affected people.

The Union Minister and party went on inspect disinfection of water in wells and tube wells, applying medication tablet to purify the water in the wells/tube wells in flood affected villages and distribution of potable water with mobile water purification vehicles for villagers conducted by Department of Rural Development.

Afterwards, the Union Minister arrived at Swa Dam and inspected the site inspection works conducted to reconstruct a new spillway for the dam where responsible officials explained about the condition of the dam to the Union Minister.

Preliminary site selection, verification and approval, reconstruction as well as maintenance work to strengthen the dam are to be conducted under the dam/reservoir maintenance and safety program of Agriculture Development Support Project (ADSP) loan assistance and Korean experts from Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC) are cooperating by providing advice and technical supports so special care must be taken to make the dam safe and useful, said the Union Minister.

Next, the Union Minister went to 609 acres of farmlands silted due to collapse of Swa Dam spillway and observed the desilting with heavy machineries from Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department and Agriculture Mechanisation Department.

The Union Minister met with local people to discuss and explain about reconstruction and redevelopment works to be conducted. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects trainees attending sewing skills at women vocational training school. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEW AGENCY**

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects regional development works in Sagaing, Monywa

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung arrived at the Sagaing Region Development Management Office (Monywa) on the morning of 29 August where head of Development Management Director U Aung Htin Kyaw explained about regional development works conducted. After coordinated on the explanation, the Union Minister inspected the office.

Next, the Union Minister and party went to women vocational training schools in Yinmabin, Pale, Salingyi, Myaing and Yesagyo towns where respective training school principals explained training matters to the Union Minister. Union Minister coordinated where necessary and inspected the training schools, construction

works and products produced by the trainees.

On the morning of 30 August the Union Minister and party visited women vocational training schools in Pauk and Seikpyu towns where respective training schools principals explained about training matters and the Union Minister coordinated where necessary.

Next, the Union Minister met with staff, trainers and trainees and said the ministry is conducting trainings with the full support of the State for socio-economic and human resources development and creating job opportunities for ethnic nationals. Once the trainees complete the basic sewing course, they can attend advance sewing course and start own business or work

in garment factories. As trainees who attend other courses can work as skilled workers in companies, they should attend the courses diligently so that they can earn a good living on their own.

Principals and trainers should not only provide vocational trainings but also train toward trainees becoming systematic and healthy persons who have team spirit and continue life-long study to raise their living standard.

During the trip, the Union Minister also went to Border Areas National Races Youth Development Training School (Pakokku), met with students and staff, provided cash aid and inspected the school. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Attorney-General receives IBJ Country Program Director

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) Country Program Director Mr. Jim Taylor at the office of the Union Attorney-General in Nay Pyi Taw in the morning of 31 August.

At the meeting status of relevant entities participating according to the trial management procedure and process,

protecting the legal rights of the accused, cooperation works with legal support groups, IBJ opening justice centers and providing legal support for the accused were discussed.

Also present at the meeting were Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Director-General Daw Khin Cho Ohn. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) Country Program Director Mr. Jim Taylor in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 August. **PHOTO: MNA**



The congregation led by President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attend the religious ceremony at Eternal Peace Pagoda. **PHOTO: MNA**

Religious objects enshrined at Eternal Peace Pagoda

FROM PAGE-1

onto the pagoda and offerings to be enshrined in the pagoda to Lewe city Pauk Myaing monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatha Guru Bhaddanta Zanenda.

Later Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay presented offerings to be enshrined in the pagoda to Nay Pyi Taw Sangha Nayaka Chairman Agga Maha Gandakavasaka Pandita Tatkon city Shwe In Yeiktha monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannasami.

Finally, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and donors presented offerings to be enshrined at the pagoda to Sayadaws and Sanghas.

After presenting the offerings, President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay and the audience listened to the sermon of State Ovadacariya Zaygon Sayadaw and shared merits for donations made.

Later the ceremony continued with President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay and the audience carrying the offerings to the pandal by circling the pagoda in a clockwise direction.



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho present a religious object to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visara. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presents offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janinda. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Myint Swe presents a Buddha image to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannasami. **PHOTO: MNA**



Sayadaw Ashin Sandardika, President U Win Myint, Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko sprinkle scented water on the golden replica pagoda. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the designated auspicious time, Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Sandardika, President U Win Myint, Vice

President U Myint Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and donors placed the offerings to be enshrined in the pagoda at

the designated place. The place was then sealed by Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw and the President after which they sprinkled

scented waters.

Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw, the President, Vice President, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and donors then hoisted the golden umbrella and other offerings atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented waters on it.

Afterwards, Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Sandardika and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi provided offerings to a replica pagoda of Eternal Peace Pagoda in the Dhamma Hall and sprinkled scented waters on it. After the Sayadaws and Sanghas had finished reciting the religious verses, the ceremony came to a successful conclusion. — Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi conveys religious object at the ceremony to enshrine the objects at Eternal Peace Pagoda. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho convey religious objects at the ceremony to enshrine the objects at Eternal Peace Pagoda.

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Pearl farms in Taninthayi Region to welcome tourists in October

Worker on a pearl farm placing sand in an oyster shell to grow a cultured pearl. **PHOTO: KHINE HTOO (IPRD)**

WITH the aims of developing the tourism sector, earning foreign income and creating job opportunities for local people, local and foreign tourist will be permitted to visit farms owned by four private companies and a state-owned farm in Taninthayi Region starting from October according to Myanmar Pearl Enterprise.

A state-own pearl farm and 11 private pearl farms are located on 15 islands in Myeik and Kawthoung districts, Taninthayi Region. State-own farm on Pearl Island and private farms on Jalan Island, Golden Island, Nga Lone La Phe Island and Done Palae Island will be opened for visitors. Only one island namely Palae Island is

in Myeik District and the other four islands are in Kawthoung District. "Tourist vessels are not allowed to enter into the pearl farming area. Tourist vessels will have to anchor outside the restricted area and relevant farms will pick up the tourists using their small fiber boats. If the time of visit coincides with inserting of pearl nucleus into the oyster and extracting of the pearl from the oyster, tourist can observe the operation from a designated area. Rules and regulations for tourist industry on this matter will be announced soon," said U Myo Lwin, Deputy General Manager of Myanmar Pearl Enterprise.

"Tourists need to follow the rules and regulations set by



A view of Pearl farm in Taninthayi Region. Pearls are collected by first gathering the mussels from the nets in the Pearl farm.

authorities in order to preserve the environment, to secure the work site safety and not to affect the pearl industry. Related pearl farm will pick up the tourists using their small boats. So fuel and other service charges of Ks 15,000 for a local visitor and US\$ 15 for a foreign visitor will be collected," said U Myo Lwin.

"Once the pearl farms are opened for visitors, it will provide additional benefit to the tourism industry. Myeik region is known for pearl cultivation and many people want to visit the pearl farming. Visitors will be allowed on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays as the farm works must not be disrupted by daily visits as there is only one farm in Myeik District. If tours to other pearl

farms are arranged on alternate days, it will be more appropriate," said Dr. Thein Swe Myint, the chairman of Myeik Tourism Entrepreneurs Association. Visitors to the farms can see the processes of pearl production. Authorities will make arrangement to enable opening refreshments and souvenirs shops for visitors. According to Myanmar Pearl Enterprise, tourism agencies are to inform farm officials one day ahead of the visit. As Myanmar Pearl Enterprise and private pearl production companies cooperate to boost tourism industry in Taninthayi Region, it will certainly develop tourism industry, create job opportunities and generate income for local people.— Khine Htoo (IPRD) ■

Tachilek border hosts over 23,400 foreign visitors in last week of August

TACHILEK, a land on the border points of Myanmar and Thailand, hosted a total of 23,430 international travelers from 24 to 30 August this year, according to a report of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Of those visitors, 23,244 foreigners joined one-day return trip and overnight trip, with the majority of them are from the neighbouring Thailand, whereas 73 visitors joined Mongphyat-Kengtun trip and 113 others entered the town by air. The majority of them paid a visit to the town's famous attractions and historic destinations, observing lifestyle of residents.

Usually, foreign visitors toured to Talaw market, Bayintnaung statue, Wankaung mar-

ket, Koemyosin spirit house, the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda, Koehtet Waterfall, Padaung Village, Chinese temples and Buddhist monasteries across the town. According to the ministry's data, the number of international visitors entering the country through the Tachilek border reached about 384,600, including 377,073 day-trippers.

The town hosted about 22,300 foreign visitors in the last week starting on 17 August.

As part of efforts to raise the country's earning through tourism, the government of Myanmar is putting forth continuous efforts to develop border tourism than before, based on promoting natural scenery and a variety of cultural heritages.—GNLM ■

Industrial zone need to be established in Magway Region

An industrial zone need to be established in Magway Region by reason of some of the industries and factories are close to residential areas. Local businesses are planning to submit a proposal to the Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo for establishing an industrial zone as the noise, odor and air pollution from existing industries and factories are affecting the residents who are living nearby. "There are many industries and factories in Magway region. If we establish an industrial zone in Magway Region, it will be successful. Therefore, we will submit the proposal to the regional government to establish an industrial zone in Magway region that is beneficial for all," said U Tun Myint, chairman of Groundnut Mill Entrepreneurs Association in Magway Region. There are many small scale in-

dustries that are clustered about urban areas of Magway Region. Over 100 groundnut mills, about 50 edible oil mills, rice noodle, wheat noodle, fried bean and roasted sesame mills, iron & steel works and workshops businesses are located here and there. "We already told the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance to establish an industrial zone in Magway Region when he visited Magway and the Deputy Minister said this matter is related to the region government," he added. There are many difficulties for factories and mills that are close to residential areas. Therefore, we submit the proposal to establish an industrial zone in Magway Region said U Sein Aye Maung, chairman of Magway Township Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.—Zayyatu (Magway) ■

Authorities to levy income taxes on melon, cucumber production in Sagaing Region



A farmer works in the muskmelon farm in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Arrangements have been made to collect income taxes from entrepreneurs who export melon to China via borders and high income earners who are local and foreign producers in Sagaing Region, beginning this year, said U Aung Myint, Deputy Director of the regional Internal Revenue Department.

He added that authorities will collect income tax calculated on the net incomes of the businesses after deducting reliefs and allowances.

Melons and cucumbers are yearly cultivated starting in

September in Sagaing Region, where there are Chinese workers, including skilled employees. The department will levy income taxes on their salaries according to the existing laws. For employees, no tax is payable if their total income does not exceed Ks4.8 million per annum. Based on citizens and foreigners, tax assessments may vary.

This will be the first time authorities plan to collect income taxes from the companies which are making commercial production of melons and cucumbers in the region,

although they have employed foreign workers since the past five years.

Negotiations were made between the department and those companies in August in order to collect income taxes from Chinese agriculturalists appointed by those companies. Apart from Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun in Naga area, revenue officers from the rest townships are putting more efforts to collect income taxes from targeted individuals. No tax will be collected from small-scale farmers.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

Prices for Sesame seeds hit highest in three-year due to high demand

PRICES FOR SESAME seeds (samon variety) and black sesame seeds reached a three-year record high due to high demand when there is a shortage of supply, according to Mandalay market. Price of Sesame seeds (samon variety) was Ks155,000 per three-basket bag at the opening time in early July. Then, it was gradually increasing starting from August and reached up to Ks200,000 yesterday. Similarly, black sesame seeds hit a high of Ks175,000 per bag, said U Soe Win Myint running Soe Win Myint depot in Mandalay.

“Those varieties are fetching the highest prices among sesame varieties. The items are recorded as the highest prices in the past three years. They are selling well in the market. China buys 90 per cent of various coloured sesame seeds while black sesame seeds



Sesame being harvested in a field. **PHOTO: ZEYATU (MAGWAY)**

are purchased by Japan. Shortage of stocks results in price hike when there is a high demand in the market”, he added.

Japan prefers Myanmar's black sesame seeds cultivated under good-agricultural practice (GAP) and purchases them after quality assessment. Meanwhile, China purchases various colour-

ed sesame seeds.

The sesame crops are cultivated throughout the year. Magway Region, gaining a reputation as oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds which are also cultivated in Mandalay, and Sagaing regions.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House) ■

Import of intermediate goods goes up by \$170 million

MYANMAR imported US\$3 billion worth of intermediate products during the period of 1 April to 24 August this year, up by \$170 million from this time last year, when the imports of the same was \$2.8 billion, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

The current figures included \$66.5 million by the public sector and \$2.94 billion by the private sector. This year saw an increase in the value of imports of semi-finished goods from both sectors. When compared with the same period last year, this year's imports of intermediate products by the public sector increased by \$10.8 million, while the private sector imports of the same went up by

\$159.8 million.

Myanmar usually imports three major groups of products, consisting of capital goods, intermediate products and consumer goods. The country spent amount of \$7.74 billion on importing the groups of products in nearly five months this year, including capital goods amounting to \$2.7 billion and consumer products valued at \$2.043 billion.

Myanmar continues overseas trade with various countries including China, India, ASEAN member countries, European states, Western nations and African countries using not only maritime routes but also land border points.

— Shwe Khine ■

Border trade with ITCs reaches Ks 16 billion as of 17th August

THE value of border trade using Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) amounted to Ks16 billion as of 17th August, during the six months interim period prior to the next 2018-2019 financial year (FY), which includes the export value of Ks 2.7 billion and the import value of Ks12 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myawady border trade is reported to have the largest volume of trade with a value of more than Ks 9.7 billion. According to the Ministry statistics, the export value with ITC was Ks 723,677 as of 17th August in this year while the import value with ITC was Ks 9.7 billion.

The trade value via ITCs at border points was: Ks 2.3 billion at Tamu trade camp; Ks 26 million at Muse border gate;

Ks 51 million at Tachilek trade camp; Ks 352 billion Kanpikete; Ks401 million at Kawthaung border town; Ks2 34 million at Reed border trade camp; Ks 2.9 billion at Mawtaung gate; Ks 60 million at Keng Tung border trade camp and Ks 0.6 million at Maese border camp.

The total trade value with ITCs was Ks 45.94 billion in the fiscal 2017-2018. The Ministry of Commerce has permitted 292 ITCs in 2012-2013 FY; 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY; 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY; 146 cards in 2015-2016 FY; 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY; 168 cards in 2017-2018 FY and 56 cards in this year as of 17th August.

Since its introduction, the ministry has issued to local merchants the cards totalling 1,488 so far.— Zwe ■

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Press Release on official visit of President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho to Nepal



President U Win Myint and Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister Mr Ishwor Pokhrel receive honorary salute from the Guard of Honor of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in Kathmandu. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

AT the invitation of Her Excellency Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and First Lady Daw Cho Cho paid an official visit to Nepal from 28 to 29 August 2018 and attended the Fourth Summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) held in Kathmandu from 30 to 31 August 2018.

The Myanmar Delegation led by President U Win Myint left Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon of 28 August 2018 by special flight. Upon their arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, the President and entourage were welcomed by Mr. Ishwor Pokharel, Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Lin, Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal, Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, responsible officials from Nepal and the Myanmar Embassy in Kathmandu. The Guard of Honour saluted the President at the Airport.

In the evening, the President, First Lady and Myanmar Delegation visited Myanmar Embassy in Kathmandu. They were welcomed by Thiri Pyan Chi U Tun Nay Lin, Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal, Staff Members and their families. At the Embassy, the President received Mr. Shiva Kumar Agrawal, Chairman of Nepal-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and members, Mr. Shanker Ghimire, Chairman of Nepal-Myanmar Friendship Association and members re-

spectively. Then, the President and First Lady cordially met with the Ambassador, staff and family members of the Myanmar Embassy and attended the dinner hosted by the Myanmar Ambassador.

In the morning of 29 August 2018, the Myanmar Delegation left for the Sacred Garden of Lumbini by air and visited Maya Devi Temple and paid homage to the holy birth place of the Lord Buddha. President U Win Myint also visited the Pandita Rama Lumbini International Vipassana Meditation Centre and the Myanmar Golden Temple. The President and entourage paid homage and offered offertories to the residing monks.

The President met with Rt. Hon. Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, at Malshree Hall of Soaltee Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kathmandu in the evening on the same day. They cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further advancement of bilateral ties and cooperation in various sectors including the exchange of high-level visits between the two countries, democratic transition and peace process as well as enhancement of bilateral trade and investment. Then, the President and Myanmar delegation called on H. E. Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal at the Presidential Palace. The two leaders discussed on promoting bilateral ties and cooperation, promoting people-to-people contacts and pilgrimage tourism. Afterwards, the President and First Lady attended the Banquet hosted by the Nepalese Pres-

ident in honour of the visiting Myanmar delegation. The two Presidents exchanged toasts at the banquet.

On 30 August 2018, President U Win Myint met with H. E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka, at the Soaltee Crowne Plaza Hotel. At the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade and investment, promotion of tourism and direct flight linkages, peace and national reconciliation, reviving of the ministerial level Joint Commission (JC) meetings, and continued closer collaboration in the regional and multilateral fora. The President of Sri Lanka also extended an invitation to the President to pay a visit to Sri Lanka.

In the afternoon, President U Win Myint together with other leaders of BIMSTEC member states made a joint call on H.E. Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal at the President Office and attended the Luncheon hosted by the President of Nepal.

Myanmar delegation led by President U Win Myint then attended the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit held under the theme of "Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region". The meeting was chaired by the Rt. Hon. Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, and attended by H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Dasho Tshering Wangchuk, Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bhutan, H.E. Mr. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

of India, H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka and H.E. Gen. Prayut Chan-ocha (Retd.), Prime Minister of Thailand.

At the Meeting, the leaders of BIMSTEC member states delivered their National Statements. In his Statement, President U Win Myint reviewed the progress and challenges of the BIMSTEC cooperation since the establishment of the BIMSTEC in 1997 and highlighted the progress of cooperation and future course of action in the areas of Agriculture and Energy which Myanmar took the role of lead country. He also stressed the need for formulation of the Rules of Procedure and Charter of BIMSTEC as institutional framework for effective cooperation, as well as for rationalization of the current cooperation in order to produce tangible results. He expressed continued and active cooperation in the areas of Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, and encouraged all member states to intensify their efforts in the core areas of BIMSTEC cooperation.

The leaders of BIMSTEC stressed that the BIMSTEC has vast potential for development as it represents 22 per cent of world's population, combined GDP of \$2.8 trillion and six per cent average economic growth and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening BIMSTEC for shared prosperity. The leaders also stated that all Member States need to overcome the challenges of development by fostering the cooperation in multiple sectors including infrastructure, trade,

business, tourism, energy, road and connectivity and highlighted the need to focus on key areas such as connectivity, trade, people-to-people contact, security, science and technology in order to make BIMSTEC more effective and result-oriented.

In the evening of 30 August 2018, President U Win Myint attended the Gala Dinner hosted by the Rt. Hon. Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal in honour of the visiting delegations to the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit. During the dinner, cultural troupes from the BIMSTEC member countries entertained with the cultural performances.

In the morning of 31 August 2018, President took part in the Retreat Session over the breakfast together with other leaders of BIMSTEC members. The leaders exchanged views on the issues of connectivity, promotion of pilgrimage tourism, climate change and natural disasters, strengthening of BIMSTEC institutional mechanisms and rationalization of BIMSTEC cooperation areas.

Afterwards, the Leaders attended the closing ceremony of the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit. The leaders witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding for Establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection by Ministers of all member states. The MoU provides a framework for the cooperation of intra-regional grid interconnection for the trade in electricity. Prime Minister of Nepal then handed over the Chairmanship of BIMSTEC to the President of Sri Lanka.

SEE PAGE-7

Press Release on official visit of President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho to Nepal

FROM PAGE-6

The Fourth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration was adopted at the end of the meeting. In the Declaration, the leaders agreed to rationalize current cooperation areas for the tangible results, to establish BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) to deal with administration and financial matters of the Secretariat, to formulate Rules of Procedure and BIMSTEC Charter as the institutional framework, to strengthen the Secretariat by raising the number of Directors from three to seven and to enhance cooperation in the areas of counter terrorism and trans-national crime. The leaders also welcomed the Myanmar's proposal to host the first ever Meeting of BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers in 2019.

On the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit on 31 August 2018, the President met with H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India. The two leaders cordially discussed the matters related to consolidation of existing friendly relations and cooperation, consolidation of democracy, India's support in the peace process, continued constructive support for the development of Rakhine State and promotion of trade and investment, and



President U Win Myint poses for the documentary photo together with heads of states and heads of governments of BIMSTEC member countries before the BIMSTEC Summit meeting in Kathmandu from 30 to 31 August 2018. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

closer cooperation in the regional and international fora.

The President also met with H.E. Mr. Dasho Tshering Wangchuk, Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bhutan. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed matters related to promoting friendship and cooperation, boosting trade, investment and connectivity, collaborating in regional and multilateral fora. Then, President U Win

Myint received Mr. Rajish Kaji Shrestha, Chairman of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and members at Soaltee Crowne Plaza Hotel.

At the meeting, the matters pertaining to the promotion of trade between the two countries and more investment from Nepalese businessmen in Myanmar, and participation of Myanmar in the forthcoming Nepal Trade Fair to be held in Kathmandu in October this

year.

BIMSTEC was initially founded in the name of BISTEC by Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand on 6 June 1997 with the Bangkok Declaration. Myanmar joined the group on 22 December 1997, and it was renamed as BIMSTEC. Bhutan and Nepal joined the group during the sixth ministerial meeting in February 2004 in Phuket, Thailand. The cooperation mechanism cur-

rently has 14 cooperation areas and two special additional cooperation areas.

After attending the Summit, President U Win Myint, and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, accompanied by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and responsible senior officials arrived back from Kathmandu to Nay Pyi Taw by special flight in the evening of 31 August 2018. — Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Myanmar information delegation visits Heyri Art Valley, CJ- CGV Company

A MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint yesterday visited Heyri Art Valley and CJ- CGV Company in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

In the morning, the delegation went to Heyri Art Valley and studied the Museum of Modern History of Korea.

Heyri Art Valley covering 495,868 square metres was created in 1998 by artistes, writers, painters, local and foreign architects.

It is home to many galleries, museums, small theaters, concert halls, bookstores, art shops,

restaurants and guest houses.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited CJ- CEV Company where officials explained about the company being the largest multiplex cinema chain in Republic of Korea, operating over 1,000 screens at 151 cinemas in the country.

It is also the fifth largest multiplex cinema chain in the world, operating over 4,000 screens in 463 cinemas all over the world, including the US, China, Russia, Turkey, Viet Nam, Myanmar and Indonesia. Establishing such cinemas plays an important role in the development of Korean

film industry and is currently transforming from Multiplex to Cultureplex, according to the company's officials.

In order to increase customers, technically innovative creative services are prepared in advance and the long term aim is to have robots conducting cleaning works in the cinema and to become a Smart Cinema. CJ-CEV also has a vision to construct some 10,000 smart cinemas by 2020 in 11 countries including Myanmar. Officials explained their wish on continuing the discussion to become a bridge in transferring the art



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits the cinema of CJ-CGV Company in Seoul, Republic of Korea yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

of the movie to teenagers in Myanmar for development of Myanmar film industry by conducting trainings. The Union Minister and party discussed

and raised questions in return.

Afterwards, the Union Minister was interviewed by Yonhap (International) News Agency. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Taking practical steps is key to solving complex issues

SINCE taking office, the Government of Myanmar has been striving to resolve the complex challenges in Rakhine State. Regarding the human rights allegations in Rakhine State, the Government of Myanmar has made its position very clear that it will not condone any human rights abuses.

The government, making commitments to accountability and the rule of law, duly formed the Independent Commission of Enquiry in July this year to undertake investigations into allegations of human rights violations and related issues.

The Commission led by Ambassador Rosario Manalo, an eminent diplomat with rich experience in the field of human rights, is tasked to investigate allegations of human rights violations and related issues following the terrorist attacks with a view to seeking accountability and reconciliation, and to formulate recommendations on steps to be taken to ensure peace and stability in Rakhine State.

Action will be taken against anyone if there is sufficient evidence. The Commission will submit its report to the President of Myanmar within a year, including its recommendations prepared on the basis of the outcomes of its investigation.

“WE WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT WE DID NOT ACCEPT THE MANDATE OF THE MISSION BECAUSE WE HAVE OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE MISSION'S IMPARTIALITY.”

At a time when we are making efforts to find a lasting solution for the Rakhine issue, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (IFFM) which has been rejected by Myanmar issued a report on 27 August 2018. Since the establishment of IFFM, Myanmar has made it clear earlier that it would not accept the results of its findings.

Again, we would like to reiterate that we did not accept the mandate of the Mission because we have our concern about the Mission's impartiality.

Besides, we have serious doubts on the intention of the timing of the release of the report.

IFFM's report has only served to strengthen the Government's concerns. Not only is this Report detrimental to social cohesion in Rakhine State, it also undermines the Government's own efforts to bring peace, national reconciliation and development to the entire country.

We did not feel that the establishment, composition and mandate of IFFM and its report are in keeping with the needs of the region in which we are trying to establish harmony and understanding, and to remove the fears that have kept the two communities apart for so long.

Despite the complex challenges that we face, the Government will continue with its unwavering commitment to work towards peace, national reconciliation, development and democracy for all the people of Myanmar.

Experts: coal cl

By Mark Angeles

A coal-fired power plant shouldn't invoke images of belching black smoke or polluted waters, coal energy experts said recently. In fact, the use of coal as a source of energy has come a long way, they said. The coal that is burned in a boiler is more efficient, and the resulting emissions are cleaner, and should be a significant part of Myanmar's energy solutions, experts told journalists recently during a trip sponsored by GE, which has pioneered the latest technologies for converting coal to electricity. For those who believe coal-fired power plants are bad for Myanmar's environment, the experts from GE said that technology has improved dramatically since Myanmar's first power plants were built years ago, to the point that harmful emissions such as sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) are significantly reduced. Upgrading its energy grid is critical for Myanmar, which has surging electricity needs for residents as well as potential foreign investors. Coal, GE experts say, should be strongly considered to be an integral part of the country's energy mix because of its reliability, safety, abundance and relatively low cost. But demonstrations over the last few years protesting against coal-fired power plants have halted or postponed the construction of several facilities across the country, including a 1,280-megawatt plant near Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State in eastern Myanmar. The demonstrations have protested coal-fired plants past shortcomings including air pollution, water pollution, disruption of local livelihoods and land disputes. Energy experts from GE, who sponsored an educational trip for about two dozen reporters to visit a state-of-the-art coal-fired power plant in Malaysia earlier this month, said the latest cleaner coal technology can result in much lower emissions and meet or exceed the strictest environmental regulations in the world. The state-of-the-art energy producing centres are known as ultra-supercritical power plants, using technology developed by GE. Ultra-supercritical technology improves on previous supercritical and subcritical technologies, bettering the efficiency of coal burning that is converted to steam, which in turn powers turbines that produce electricity. Manjung 4, the largest coal-fired



The Manjung power plants in western Malaysia. One of the power plants, Manjung 4, is the only ultra-supercritical power plant in Southeast Asia. **PHOTO: MARK ANGELES**



A bulldozer and backhoe on a mountain of coal that will be burned for electricity at the Manjung power plant in Manjung, Malaysia. **PHOTO: MARK ANGELES**

power plant in Southeast Asia and the only ultra-supercritical power plant in the region, is on the western coast of Malaysia in the state of Perak, about a four-hour drive from Kuala Lumpur. On 1 August, 27 journalists from the Middle East, Africa and Asia were

livelihood. “We are aware of the need to sustain the environment we are in, and we will do our best to safeguard and sustain it”, said Datuk Shamsul, the managing director of TNB Janamanjung, which owns and operates Manjung 4. Datuk Shamsul said TNB

“The purpose of a balanced portfolio of energy sources is to reflect availability, reliance, cost and flexibility. Each country is unique in its power needs and should be evaluated accordingly: Experts

flown to Malaysia to visit Manjung 4, which was built from the ground up by GE three years ago. It now provides enough electricity for nearly two million households in Malaysia. As a bus full of journalists and GE communications experts drove through a small fishing village near the Manjung 4 plant, there was no dark smoke belching from the power plant, no unpleasant smell, and the water appeared to be clean enough for fishermen to continue their

Janamanjung has also engaged with the local community, provided jobs and maintained an ongoing relationship with those in the community in which Manjung 4 was built. According to World Health Organization data, Myanmar has by far the most polluted air in Southeast Asia. In fact, all of the 10 ASEAN cities with highest particulate matter levels are found in Myanmar. Coal combustion is one of the major sources of particulate matter pollution globally, emitting

cleaner than ever



Journalists in safety helmets descend a staircase after a tour of the Manjung 4, a coal-fired power plant that uses ultra-supercritical technology. **PHOTO: MARK ANGELES**



The jetty at the Manjung power plant, at which coal from Indonesia is delivered by cargo ships. **PHOTO: MARK ANGELES**

much higher levels of SO₂, NO_x and dust. Power plant emissions also include large amounts of heavy metals such as mercury, arsenic, lead, cadmium, chromium and nickel. But, according to GE, ultra-supercritical power plants meet and exceed the world's strictest environmental regulations, resulting in 20 per cent less CO₂ emissions, which is equivalent to taking 3.5 million cars off the road. Environmentalists, however, advise that, while ultra-supercritical power plants are more efficient, a country's emissions regulations should still be stringent. "Why are the coal industry and its advocates always going on about ultra-supercritical coal plants and not about emissions regulation?" asked Lauri Myllyvirta of Greenpeace East Asia in an article for *reneweconomy.com*. "Simple: ultra-supercritical plants are usually more profitable than subcritical plants, since they have lower fuel and other operating costs. Stringent emission regulation, in contrast, increases both investment and operating costs." The GE energy experts point out that they do not want any country, Myanmar included, to rely solely on coal-fired power plants, which GE refers to as steam power.

"Any country, including My-

anmar, should have a balanced representation of energy sources, without an over-reliance on one form of energy," said Dr. Sacha Parneix, Commercial General Manager, Steam Power, for GE. "I can guarantee that no modern country has just one source of energy". Myanmar has an abundance of natural gas and hydropower, but currently relies too heavily on hydropower, experts said. The purpose of a balanced portfolio of energy sources is to reflect availability, reliance, cost and flexibility. Each country, GE experts said, is unique in its power needs and should be evaluated accordingly. Myanmar seems to be in agreement with a multi-source energy approach, with coal as an integral part of the mix. Government officials have said that the critical need for electricity in the country is not just for the people in rural areas, but for attracting important foreign investment. "An insufficient power supply is the biggest problem in our country. If possible, we should accept coal-fired power generation rather than generating power with diesel engines," MP U Maung Myint of Minkin constituency told the Pyithu in January. "Clean, coal-fired power plants should be established for the industrial zones". Myanmar's

energy currently comes from hydroelectric (62 per cent), gas (35 per cent) and coal (3 per cent), according to Andrew Lee, Myanmar country leader for GE. That reflects an over-reliance on hydro and under-reliance on coal, he said. Myanmar produces power using 29 hydro-power stations, 14 gas-fired and energy-from-waste plants and one coal-fired power plant. Last year, the Myanmar government announced it would follow the Generation Mix Plan, which would coordinate power delivery from a combination of sources, with 38 per cent from hydro-power stations, 20 per cent from the natural gas-fired power plants, 33 per cent from the coal-fired power plant and 9 per cent from renewable sources. "This encourages use of resources proportionally to produce electricity," said Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, at a Pyithu Hluttaw meeting in August 2017. Myanmar sells most of its abundant natural gas, a major source of revenue. Increasing the percentage of gas-derived energy would be economically unwise, experts said. Hydroelectric power, while abundant, should be reduced for security, economic and geopolitical reasons, the GE experts said. "Geopolitically, there could be a case where countries upstream could disrupt the flow of water; and suddenly the country would not be able to produce electricity from a major source. That's the theory of a more balanced approach," said Amir Mujezinovic, GE's Global Product Leader for Steam Power.

The electricity produced from renewable sources such as wind and solar energy is small, and should probably remain so because of Myanmar's weather, the experts said. During the long rainy season, electricity could not be made in sufficient amounts because of a lack of steady sunlight. Unlike nuclear energy facilities, a coal-fired power plant can be built in less than five years, an important factor when considering Myanmar's urgent need for electricity. Coal represents only 3 per cent of Myanmar's current energy portfolio, a number that should be higher because of its reliability, relative low cost and cleanliness due to recent technological advances, GE's experts said. "People need electricity," said Dr. Sacha Parneix. "I cannot imagine a modern society that can prosper without it".



Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons



Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

The entire public needs to participate,
Trafficking in persons to eliminate...

2018 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives

- ❖ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- ❖ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ❖ To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ❖ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders – government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 1st September, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 2nd September, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Northern Shan, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd September, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd September, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 1-9-2018)

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 (1½) feet at Taungoo above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (4) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may rise about (½) foot from the present water level during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Shwegyin River

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Shwegyin River has exceeded by about (1) inch at Shwegyin above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (1) day.

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 (4) feet at Hpaan above its danger level. It may rise 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 areas in Shwegyin and Hpaan Townships and Madauk, to take precaution measure.

Suicide bomber kills 2 Iraq policemen: security official



Iraqi protesters clash with security forces firing tear gas during a protest against the government and the lack of basic services on 31 August, 2018 in the southern city of Basra. **PHOTO: AFP**

KIRKUK (Iraq) — A suicide bomber has killed two Iraqi policemen near a former bastion of the Islamic State group, days after IS claimed a similar attack near Syria's border, a security official said on Friday.

On Thursday morning a "suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest drove a booby-trapped car into a federal police checkpoint" near Hawija, north of Baghdad, one official said.

"Two policemen were killed

and a third one wounded," in the attack, the official added.

Hawija is one of the last IS holdouts retaken by government troops a year ago and has long been a bastion of radical Sunni Muslim groups.

On Wednesday an IS suicide bomber blew a vehicle at a checkpoint on the outskirts of the Iraq border town of Al-Qaim, near the Syrian frontier, another of the last towns in Iraq to be recaptured from IS.

Also on Thursday, three members of Iraq's Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force, which played a key role in fighting IS, were wounded in a blast near Hawija, another security official said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Thursday's attacks but IS said it was behind Wednesday's suicide bombing.

In a purported new audio message released last week, IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi called on his followers to "not give up the jihad against their enemy".

According to Hisham al-Hashemi, an expert on radical Islamist groups, about 2,000 IS jihadists are still active in Iraq, which declared victory over the jihadists in December last year.—AFP ■

Four militants killed in clashes with Iran's security forces

TEHRAN — Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) killed four members of a "terrorist" group in clashes in the country's southeastern border with Pakistan, Press TV reported on Friday.

The clashes with the "terrorists" occurred near the Iranian city of Saravan in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, the IRGC said in a statement.

The "terrorist team" sought to enter the country from the border area with Pakistan aiming to carry out "destructive and anti-security measures," it said.

Three of the militants were also wounded in the clashes, it added.—Xinhua ■

Flights suspended from Libyan capital Tripoli's only working airport: source

TRIPOLI (Lebanon) — The only operational airport in the unrest-hit Libyan capital Tripoli suspended all flights on Friday, an airport source said, after fierce fighting near the city that has left at least 39 dead this week.

Hundreds of people have been injured in the clashes between rival militias, which broke out on Monday in suburbs south of Tripoli, according to a new toll by the health ministry released on Friday.

Fighting had temporarily ceased on Thursday following a ceasefire deal, but reignited in the evening and continued into Friday, with intermittent bursts of heavy fire.

Witnesses and Libyan rescue services said rockets and shells had hit multiple areas around and within the capital, causing civilian casualties.

Several rockets landed near Tripoli's Mitiga airport, forcing authorities to suspend flights for at least 48 hours for security reasons, according to the airport official.

The UN in Libya said it

"strongly condemns the loss of civilian lives" in the city and called on all parties to prevent further casualties and cease hostilities in a statement on Twitter.

Flights were temporarily rerouted to the airport in Misrata, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) east of Tripoli, the airport source said.

The Libyan capital has been at the centre of a battle for influence between armed groups since the fall of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011.

A former military airport, Mitiga was opened to civil air traffic after the destruction of Tripoli's international airport in the south of the city during clashes in 2014.

The internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) has charged forces from the west and centre of the country with enforcing the ceasefire.

But a commander of these forces has declared that he has to wait for a pause in the fighting to be able to re-enter the capital and intervene between the rival factions.—AFP ■

Saudi Arabia hints at plan to turn Qatar into an island

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia) — A Saudi official hinted on Friday the kingdom was moving forward with a plan to dig a canal that would turn the neighbouring Qatari peninsula into an island, amid a diplomatic feud between the Gulf nations.

"I am impatiently waiting for details on the implementation of the Salwa island project, a great, historic project that will change the geography of the region," Saud al-Qahtani, a senior adviser to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, said on Twitter.

The plan, which would physically separate the Qatari peninsula from the Saudi mainland, is the latest stress point in a highly fractious 14-month long dispute between the two

states.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar in June 2017, accusing it of supporting terrorism and being too close to Riyadh's archrival, Iran — charges Doha denies.

In April, the pro-government Sabq news website reported government plans to build a channel — 60 kilometres (38 miles) long and 200 metres wide — stretching across the kingdom's border with Qatar.

Part of the canal, which would cost up to 2.8 billion riyals (\$750 million), would be reserved for a planned nuclear waste facility, it said.

Five unnamed companies that specialise in digging ca-

nals had been invited to bid for the project and the winner will be announced in September, Makkah newspaper reported in June.

Saudi authorities did not respond to requests for comment and there was no immediate reaction on the plan from Qatar.

After the dispute erupted last year, Qatar — a small peninsula nation — found its only land border closed, its state-owned airline barred from using its neighbours' airspace, and Qatari residents expelled from the boycotting countries.

Mediation efforts led by Kuwait and the US, which has its largest Middle East air base in Qatar, have so far failed to resolve the dispute.—AFP ■

Airstrikes kill 2 Taliban commanders in Southern Afghanistan

QALAT (Afghanistan) — Two Taliban senior commanders namely Mullah Asad and Mullah Sangari were killed as fighting aircraft targeted the militants' hideout outside Qalat city, the capital of the southern Zabul

province on Friday, provincial police chief Mohammad Mustafa Mayar said on Saturday.

According to the official, the aircraft of the US-led coalition forces conducted the sorties against Taliban hideouts in Amki

area, a suburban of provincial capital Qalat city on Friday afternoon, killing both the commanders on the spot and injuring few others. Mayar, however, didn't provide more details. Taliban militants haven't commented.—Xinhua ■

Trump to skip Asian regional summits, Pence to travel instead

WASHINGTON (United) — US President Donald Trump will not attend regional summits with Asian allies in November but will send Vice President Mike Pence instead, the White House announced on Friday.

Pence will travel to Singapore to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit and the East Asia Summit, it said. He will then go on to Papua New Guinea for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings, the White House said.

Trump attended the ASEAN summit in the Philippines and the APEC summit in Vietnam last year. —AFP ■

Lula's Workers' Party to 'fight with all means' for his presidential candidacy

BRASÍLIA (Brazil) — Lula's Workers' Party (PT) vowed late Friday to "fight with all means" to secure the leftist's candidacy in October's critical presidential election, moments after a court majority disqualified the jailed former leader from running.

"We will present all appeals before the courts for the recognition of the rights of Lula provided by law and international treaties ratified by Brazil," said the party in a statement, adding that "we will defend Lula in the streets, with the people." —AFP ■

Americans bid McCain solemn farewell with US Capitol honour

WASHINGTON (United States) — Americans paid their final respects Friday to John McCain as the national icon lay in state in the US Capitol as part of a momentous sendoff for the war hero and statesman.

McCain's widow Cindy, his seven children and his 106-year-old mother Roberta McCain joined scores of members of Congress, state governors, diplomats and other dignitaries to bid the senator farewell.

President Donald Trump, who had feuded bitterly with McCain, was notably absent from the somber ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda, an honour accorded to just 30 Americans throughout the nation's history.

The last visit to Washington by McCain — who died last Saturday at age 81 after a year-long battle with cancer — is being spread out over two days with former presidents George W Bush and Barack Obama to eulogize him during a memorial service Saturday at the city's National Cathedral. Just before 11:00 am (1500 GMT) Friday, a military honour guard carried the flag-draped casket up the Capitol stairs, moving one deliberate step at a time, while inside the Rotunda dark-suited mourners stood at silent attention.

The silver-haired Roberta McCain — whose presence was only confirmed on the eve of the ceremony — appeared composed as she drew near her son's casket in a wheelchair, making the sign of the cross on her chest.

Seated beside her granddaughter Meghan McCain, she held the young woman's hand and appeared to comfort her as she wept.

Final rebuke to Trump

Vice President Mike Pence — who represented Trump at the ceremony — began his tribute with an address to McCain's family, and particularly his mother.



Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (c) stands with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (l) and US Vice President Mike Pence (r) in the Rotunda of the US Capitol prior to the ceremony honoring the late US Senator John McCain on 31 August, 2018 in Washington, DC. PHOTO: AFP

"It is deeply humbling to stand before you today at the United States Capitol to commemorate the life and service of an American patriot, senator John McCain," Pence said.

"The president asked me to be here, on behalf of a grateful nation, to pay a debt of honor and respect to a man who served our country throughout his life, in uniform and in public office."

It was an awkward message to deliver from a president who has studiously refrained from praising McCain, either during his illness or since his death.

Guests included former secretary of state Henry Kissinger, riding in a wheelchair at age 95; the actor Warren Beatty, a McCain friend; and former senator Joe Lieberman, who in 2008 McCain came close to naming as his running mate.

The former aviator spent more than five years in a Vietnamese prison camp, returning home to launch a political career that saw him win the Republican presidential nomination in 2008.

He will be buried on Sunday

at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The funeral services were planned in advance by McCain, who made clear the US president was not welcome, in what was seen as a final rebuke to Trump.

Their feud took root during Trump's 2016 campaign, when he questioned the notion McCain was a war hero — because he had been captured after his navy fighter jet was shot down over Hanoi in 1967.

The enmity was clear in the fracas this week over whether the White House would keep its flags at half staff in McCain's honor — which Trump finally agreed to do under heavy pressure from politicians, veterans groups and reportedly his own aides.

McCain meanwhile took a final swipe at Trump in a farewell message to the nation, delivered posthumously on Monday, warning not to "confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries."

The president was unusually quiet in the White House Friday, not tweeting during the McCain ceremony, then departing for a

political event in North Carolina.

While Trump stayed away, Pence was joined by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, National Security Advisor John Bolton and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Thousands of people queued outside for hours, many holding umbrellas to shield themselves from the sun, waiting their chance to honor a patriot.

"I wanted to pay my respects to John McCain," Mike Holy, a Vietnam war veteran sporting a Hillary Clinton button, told AFP as he waited in a line that snaked down the street.

Holy, 67, is a Democrat but felt compelled to vote for McCain in 2008, and he sides with the senator in not inviting Trump to the funeral remembrances.

"I think McCain was expressing a legitimate view, that he did not want somebody who is for the most part all fluff and no substance," he said. McCain's remains were flown by military aircraft to Washington on Thursday from Arizona, which he had represented in Congress since his first election in 1982. —AFP ■

New high-rises spark land battle in Paris

COURBEVOIE (France) — A group of tenants near Paris whose apartments are to be destroyed to build the tallest skyscrapers in western Europe are refusing to leave after fighting for years to save their homes.

The Hermitage towers, two 320-metre (1050-foot) buildings proposed by a Russian property developer, are due to be completed by 2024 in the La Defence business district to coincide with

the city's hosting of the Olympic games. Designed by British architect Norman Foster, the towers will stand just four metres shorter than the Eiffel Tower (324m from base to tip) on a location currently occupied by a social housing block which was built in 1974. But twelve of the 250 apartments in the Damiers block are still occupied, according to the landlord, holding up construction in a battle pitting them against de-

veloper Emin Iskenderov and his 2.8-billion-euro (\$3.3 billion) project. "I was a political refugee," one defiant resident, anaesthetist Tatiana Dinulescu, told AFP as she recalled how she fled the former dictatorship in Romania. "It took time for us to build a new home, and now they're doing this. It's unacceptable."

She has lived in the Damiers flats for more than 20 years.

The struggle over the Her-

mitage towers comes amid a push to expand office space and residential sites in the Defence area, a centre of the French financial industry.

France is eager to attract banking jobs from London after Britain leaves the European Union, with lobby group Paris Europlace forecasting an estimated 3,500 finance and banking positions could cross the Channel to the French capital.

The Defence area west of the capital is the main high-rise zone of the French capital which has tight restrictions on tall buildings and a chronic shortage of space in its historic centre. Future projects in the business district include "The Link", a new 244-metre-high head office for French oil giant Total, as well as the 165-metre-high Saint-Gobain tower to house the eponymous French construction business. —AFP ■

Japan, US considering Abe-Trump summit on 25 September



US President Donald Trump (R) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands during a press conference following their talks at the White House in Washington on 7 June, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO — Japan and the United States are considering arranging a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Donald Trump around 25 September in the United States, Japanese government sources said on Friday.

The envisaged summit, the eighth for the two leaders, would come as Abe is expected to be re-elected leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party on 20 September, and soon after attend the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in New York, according to the sources.

Abe and Trump are expected to discuss the North Korea nuclear and missile issues as well as its past abduction of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Japanese leader will likely seek to coordinate bilateral efforts to break what is increasingly seen as a stalemate in US-North Korea denuclearization talks as US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo recently canceled his trip to North Korea, the sources said.

Trade will also likely be on the agenda given that Trump has taken issue with the massive US trade deficits with countries including Japan.

Tokyo and Washington have launched high-level trade talks and Japan is weighing the possibility of holding another round before the summit to discuss issues related to the auto and agricultural sectors, the sources said. Japan remains wary of the US push for a bilateral free trade agreement as Tokyo is pursuing multilateral ones.

The LDP's leadership race effectively decides who will be Japan's next prime minister. Abe's securing of another three-year term will boost the likelihood that he will become the longest-serving prime minister in Japan. —Kyodo News ■

Japan central bank chief says no rate hike for 'long time'

TOKYO (Japan) — The Bank of Japan will not raise interest rates "for quite a long time", its chief said in an interview published on Saturday even as its US and European peers tighten monetary policy.

Haruhiko Kuroda dismissed speculation that the central bank was planning to adjust its super-loose policy, aimed at keeping long-term interest rates around zero percent and short-term rates at minus 0.1 per cent.

"We don't intend to raise them for quite a long time," he told the mass-circulation Yomiuri newspaper.

The BoJ has struggled for years to reach the 2.0 per cent inflation rate thought necessary to turbocharge Japan's economy, and has defended its decision to maintain monetary easing even as other central banks tighten policy.

After its last policy meeting in July, the BoJ said it "intends to maintain the current extremely low levels of short- and long-term interest rates for an extended period of time."

Kuroda told the Yomiuri that "an extended period" — a phrase borrowed from the US central bank — meant "quite a long time."

"We don't specify the period, such as whether it is one year, three years or five years," he was quoted as saying.

"It's a commitment that we will maintain the current low levels (of rates) as long as uncertainty lingers."

His remarks are in sharp contrast to the direction the US and European central banks are taking. The US Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates twice more by the end of the year while the European Central Bank is exiting massive monetary easing.

Kuroda argued that the continuation of the BoJ's easing policy would "naturally" lead to 2.0 per cent inflation even if later than earlier thought, the Yomiuri said.

The prospect that Japanese interest rates will stay low for the foreseeable future should keep the yen low, but the currency has often rallied in recent times due to safe-haven buying in times of financial uncertainty.

Mostly recently the yen rose against other major currencies when the Turkish lira plunged due to Ankara's frictions with Washington, rattling financial markets. —AFP ■

Think tank scholars seek way out of US-China trade disputes

WASHINGTON — More than 40 think tank scholars and former officials from China and the United States gathered in Washington and New York this week to discuss proper ways to solve current trade disputes and other issues concerning China-US bilateral ties in a constructive manner.

The two-day dialogues were hosted on Wednesday and Thursday by Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China and several US think tanks, including the Asia Society Policy Institute, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, and the Brookings Institution.

Among attendees were Fu Ying, a veteran diplomat and chair of academic committee of National Institute for Global Strategy of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China's former Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao, former Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei, John Allen, president of the Brookings Institution, Josette Sheeran, president and CEO of Asia Society, and former US Defence Secretary William Cohen.

In their exchanges, participants of the two sides agreed that at this critical juncture, candid dialogue between Chinese and US think tanks are crucial for both nations to communicate on their concerns and clear

up misunderstandings, so as to enhance the government-to-government understanding, properly settle bilateral trade disputes and secure China-US relations at large.

Attendees noted during the dialogues that economic and trade relations remain an important basis of the China-US ties, which are one of the most important bilateral relations in the world.

They said that the current trade friction between the two countries have not changed the mutually beneficial and win-win nature of China-US trade ties, and their trade has boosted the economic development in the two nations.

The experts added that the two nations should further consolidate the foundation of the two countries' win-win ties, and that the two countries still have a broad prospect of economic and trade cooperation.

As to the US government's relentless moves to escalate its trade friction with China, Chinese scholars said that the United States needs some major overhaul to address profound challenges under the pressure of socio-political division and transformation, and that Washington could not solve their problems by making China a scapegoat.

China stands firmly against US trade bullying, and China will

not and cannot yield to bullying tariffs, they said.

Chinese scholars also said that they don't think the idea of "decoupling" China from the United States or the world economy is realistic at all.

China is an integral part of the global economy, and its increasingly mature market is an indispensable source of future global economic growth. Any "decoupling" attempt will seriously hurt the world economy, including that of the United States, they said.

US scholars said they believed that Washington eventually would have to solve its trade disputes with China through negotiations.

They suggested that the two nations should deal with their ties properly through expanding cooperation areas, managing differences and engaging in constructive dialogue, all in a bid to prevent the two nations from sliding towards confrontation.

Chinese and US participants also discussed short-term and long-run policy solutions to ease the current trade tensions between the two countries.

They hoped that the two governments could stay rational and strengthen communication, so as to stop imposing additional tariffs against each other and avoid further escalation of bilateral trade disputes. —Xinhua ■

Most land-based ecosystems at high risk of major transformation due to climate change: study

CHICAGO—Without dramatic reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions, most of the planet's land-based ecosystems, from forests and grasslands to the deserts and tundra, are at high risk of "major transformation" due to climate change, according to a study from an international research team.

To determine the extent of the vegetation change following the last glacial peak, the researchers first compiled and evaluated pollen and plant-fossil records from 594 sites worldwide—from every continent except Antarctica. All of the sites in their global database of ecological change had been reliably radiocarbon-dated to the period between 21,000 and 14,000

years before present.

Then they used paleoclimatic data from a number of sources to infer the corresponding temperature increases responsible for the vegetation changes seen in the fossils. That, in turn, enabled them to calculate how various levels of future warming will likely affect the planet's terrestrial vegetation and ecosystems.

They found that under a "business as usual" emission scenario, in which little is done to rein in heat-trapping greenhouse-gas emissions, the probability of large-scale vegetation change is greater than 60 per cent. In contrast, if greenhouse-gas emissions are reduced to levels targeted in the 2015 Paris Agreement, the prob-

ability of large-scale vegetation change is less than 45 per cent.

The researchers further deliberate that much of the change could occur during the 21st Century, especially where vegetation disturbance is amplified by other factors, such as climate extremes, widespread plant mortality events, habitat fragmentation, invasive species and natural resource harvesting. The changes will likely continue into the 22nd century or beyond, the researchers concluded.

The changes would threaten global biodiversity and derail vital services that nature provides to humanity, such as water security, carbon storage and recreation.—Xinhua

MIT scientists develop new way to remove ice without power, chemicals



PHOTO: Xinhua

WASHINGTON—American researchers have developed a completely passive, solar-powered way of combating ice buildup without energy-intensive heating systems or chemical sprays that are environmentally harmful.

The study published on Friday in the journal *Science Advances* described the simple system based on a three-layered material that can be applied or even

sprayed onto the surfaces to be treated. It collects solar radiation, converts it to heat, and spreads that heat around so that the melting is not just confined to the areas exposed directly to the sunlight, according to the study.

Once applied, it requires no further action or power source and it can even do its de-icing work at night, using artificial lighting.

"Icing is a major problem for aircraft, for wind turbines, powerlines, offshore oil platforms, and many other places," said the paper's co-author Kripa Varanasi, associate professor of mechanical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "The conventional ways of getting around it are de-icing sprays or by heating, but those have issues."

The usual de-icing sprays for aircraft and other applications use ethylene glycol, a chemical that is environmentally unfriendly. Plus airlines tend not to use active heating, both for cost and safety reasons.

Varanasi and other researchers resorted to the energy given off by the sun. They found that it was not necessary to produce enough heat to melt the bulk of the ice that forms.—Xinhua

Japan holds nationwide disaster drills assuming major quakes



Police officers conduct an annual disaster drill in Kawasaki near Tokyo based on the scenario of a massive earthquake originating in the Nankai Trough in the Pacific rocking wide areas in central and western Japan. PHOTO: KYODO

TOKYO—Annual disaster drills were held across Japan on Saturday, with the central government-led exercise based on a scenario that a massive earthquake originating in the Nankai Trough in the Pacific had rocked wide areas in central and western Japan.

Local governments also conducted their own drills assuming major quakes and tsunami in a bid to improve preparedness for the natural disasters that often strike the island nation.

The nationwide exercises are held every 1

September, or Disaster Prevention Day, which marks the anniversary of a magnitude 7.9 temblor that devastated Tokyo and its vicinity in 1923.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe assembled his entire Cabinet and ordered full efforts to save lives based on the scenario of an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.1 occurring at 7:10 am off the coast of the western prefecture of Wakayama.

"I urge you to quickly assess the damage and address this critical situation through cooperation," Abe said.—Kyodo News

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALTONIA VOY. NO. (1804N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALTONIA VOY. NO. (1804N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-9-2018 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FRIDA VOY. NO. (1090 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS FRIDA VOY. NO. (1090 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1107W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1107W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-9-2018 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1090 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1090 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185



Festival Director Alberto Barbera (bottom c) and President of the Venice Biennale, Paolo Baratta (4th R bottom) are pictured with women working in the film, television and media industry in Italy, after signing a pledge on gender parity at the Venice Film Festival. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Toxic’ Venice signs up for women’s equality in film

VENICE — The Venice film festival signed up Friday to an equality charter for women days after it was accused of “toxic masculinity”. The organisers had been slammed for only having one female film director among 21 competing for the Golden Lion top prize for the second year running.

But festival director Alberto Barbera, who declared last month that he would “rather quit” than give in to pressure for a quota for women, signed up on Friday to a gender equality protocol already backed by the Cannes, Toronto

and Locarno festivals.

While the 50/50 by 2020 goals drawn up by the leaders of a campaign launched by women stars at Cannes stops short of quotas, it does call for transparency in selection and an even gender ratio in top management.

The vice president of Women in Film, TV & Media Italia, Margherita Chiti told the Hollywood Reporter, “With this signature, it is clear that Italy intends to have an active role in the worldwide conversation that will lead to greater equality and inclusiveness for women.” —AFP ■

Stung by critics (and low sales), Eminem releases surprise album

WASHINGTON (United States) — Less than a year after his last album was panned by critics and snubbed by some fans, the American rapper Eminem caught the entertainment world off guard with the surprise overnight release of a new album called “Kamikaze.”

It was the Detroit rapper’s 10th solo album, and it came just eight months after “Revival,” which had his worst sales to date. The eight-month gestation of “Kamikaze” was the quickest in which Eminem has recorded any album.

“Revival” had both critics and fans grumbling that the rapper also known as “Slim Shady” had gone too commercial, surrounding himself with pop stars like Ed Sheeran and Beyonce whose musical world is in a different universe.

The artists collaborating with Eminem on “Kamikaze” are less well-known, but they lend the short album (13 titles) greater coherence and restraint. In the album’s explosive introduction, an

irritated-sounding Eminem — real name, Marshall Mathers — says he wants to “punch the world” the face.

The 45-year-old rapper again lashes out at his favourite targets: the critics, rappers who have shunned him and US President Donald Trump.

The album, recorded in secret and produced by Eminem and his long-time mate

Dr Dre, was released at midnight (04H00 GMT Friday) on streaming platforms.

The record’s cover illustration, showing an album crashing into a mountain, pays tribute to the 1986 Beastie Boys album “Licensed to Ill,” a rap classic. The New York rappers infused their music with a punk spirit that seems to still inspire Eminem. —AFP ■



Eminem surprised the entertainment world with the release of his new album “Kamikaze”. **PHOTO: AFP**

Writers true rockstars of cinema: Sonam Kapoor

MUMBAI — As someone who grew up with a love for the written word, actress Sonam Kapoor believes good literature is the backbone of films and writers should be given their proper due.

Early in her career, Sonam worked in “Aisha”, a story inspired by Jane Austen’s famous novel “Emma” and the actress, who has been named the brand ambassador for Jio MAMI festival’s ‘Word to Screen’ initiative, says she is always open to good book adaptations. Sonam said the ‘Word to Screen’ initiative can be a great platform for those looking for good content.

“Hopefully, we can make content the king. Writers are the rockstars. Technicians in general are not given their due credit because when you are behind the scenes, you are less in the public eye. Writers are the backbone of any film and they should be given more due,” she told PTI.

Sonam and her sister, producer Rhea Kapoor, have bought the rights to two books — “Battle for Bittora” and “Govinda”.



Sonam Kapoor. **PHOTO: PTI**

“Both are amazing books. ‘Govinda’ is a fictionalised version where Krishna is being superhero. We have not thought about how to get this ahead. ‘Battle for Bittora’, we got the rights three years ago. It will happen next year. I don’t know if I will be a part of it or not as an actress, hopefully. It depends on how it is written.”

Sonam believes there is more fun in adapting book to screen as there is a familiarity with the characters but also the scope to interpret and imagine.

“I feel sad that younger generation of people do not read many books. We are trying to

promote the fact that through books, we get amazing films. Film adaptation is an important market for the industry.”

The actress said one of her childhood aspirations was to become a librarian as she thought it was the best way to be surrounded by books all the time.

“Words are mightier than sword. Today, when there are polarising views on social media and in media, where people are using words without even understanding the consequences of it, more importance should be given to how words can affect and impact the way people think. —PTI ■

Neil Armstrong film accused of being unpatriotic

LOS ANGELES — Neil Armstrong’s sons and the director of a new biopic on the space hero are hitting back against criticism that the film is unpatriotic because of the lack of a flag-planting scene.

In a statement issued on Friday, Rick and Mark Armstrong said “First Man,” starring Ryan Gosling, was intended to depict their father’s journey to the moon and delve into “the man behind the myth.”

“This story is human, and it is universal,” the brothers said

in their statement issued jointly with “First Man” author James Hansen. “Of course, it celebrates an American achievement. It also celebrates an achievement ‘for all mankind,’ as it says on the plaque Neil and Buzz (Aldrin) left on the moon.”

The trio added they did not feel the movie was “anti-American in the slightest.”

“Quite the opposite,” they said. “But don’t take our word for it. We’d encourage everyone to go see this remarkable film and see for themselves.” —AFP ■



NASA photo taken on 20 July, 1969 shows US astronauts Neil Armstrong and “Buzz” Aldrin deploying the US flag on the lunar surface during the Apollo 11 mission. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mars dust storm clears, raising hope for stalled NASA rover

TAMPA (United States) — One of the biggest Martian dust storms on record is clearing up after nearly three months, raising hope that NASA's stranded, solar-powered robotic vehicle, Opportunity, will soon come back to life.

The storm was first detected on 30 May, and the US space agency's 15-year-old rover was last heard from on 10 June, when it went into "sleep" mode as dust blocked out the Sun and darkness enveloped the Red Planet.

A NASA statement issued late Thursday called the situation "critical," but added that "the rover team is cautiously optimistic, knowing that Opportunity has overcome significant challenges during its 14-plus years on Mars."

If no successful contact can be made, NASA says it will give up active efforts in mid-October.

"If we do not hear back after 45 days, the team will be forced to conclude that the Sun-blocking dust and the Martian cold have conspired to cause some type of fault from which the rover will more than likely not recover," said John Callas, Opportunity project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"At that point, our active phase of reaching out to Opportunity will be at an end."

However, "passive listening efforts will continue for several months," Callas said, because of the "unlikely chance that there is a large amount of dust sitting on the solar arrays that is blocking the Sun's energy."

Twin rovers on Mars

Opportunity and its twin rover, Spirit, are a pair of unmanned robotic vehicles designed by NASA to tool around on the Martian surface and transmit data about conditions there back to Earth.

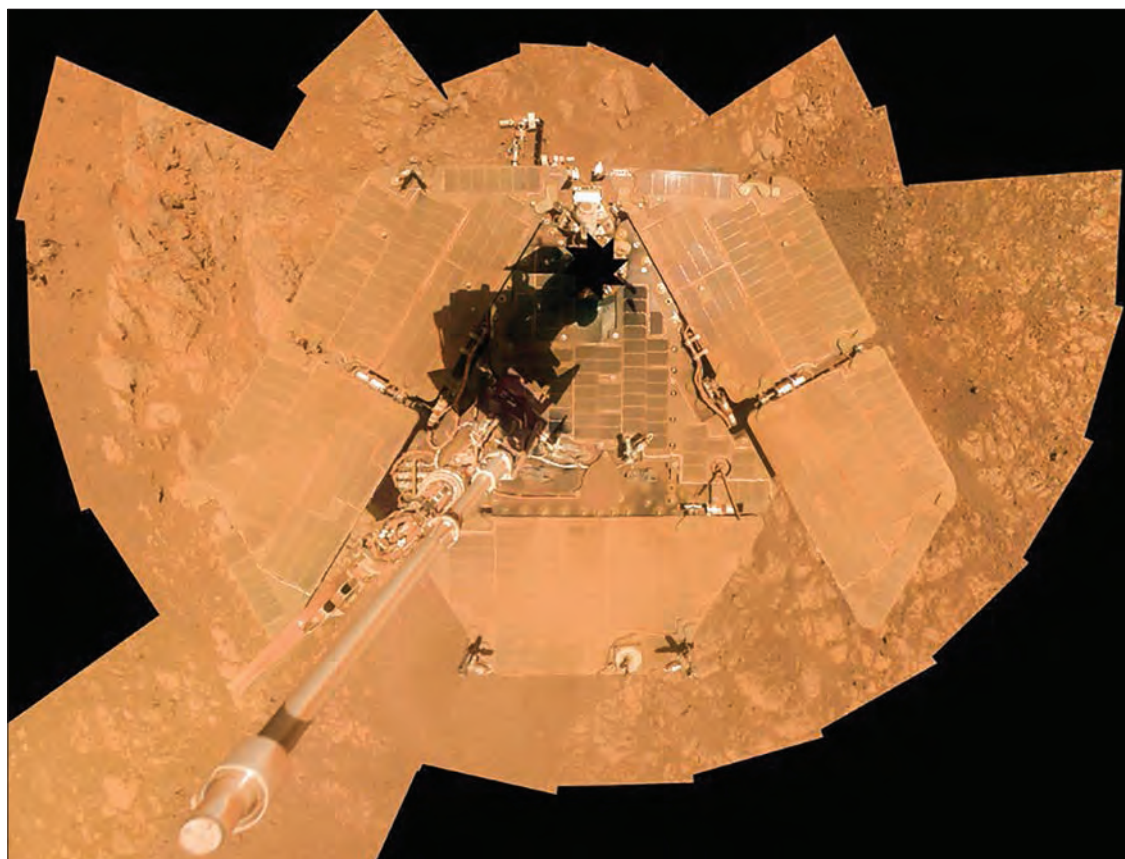
They landed on Mars in 2003 on a mission meant to last 90 days and span 1,000 yards (meters).

Spirit lasted 20 times longer than that. It became stuck in soft soil in 2009, and its mission was formally declared over in 2011.

Opportunity is going on 60 times its planned mission life, has traveled 28 miles (45 kilometers) and found evidence of water on Mars and conditions that may have been suitable for sustaining microbial life.

And even though it is hobbled, having lost the use of its front steering and 256-megabyte flash memory, not everyone is ready to give up so fast.

The hashtags #SaveOppy and #WakeUpOppy have gained



A self-portrait by NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity, seen from above, released in January 2014. PHOTO: AFP

popularity on Twitter, with appeals to keep trying to contact the rover led by a former flight director and Earth-based rover driver for Opportunity, Mike Siebert.

For Siebert, 45 days is too short, considering that NASA spent up to 15 months listening for contact from Spirit before

giving up.

"100% Grade A B.S. the amount of time given to recover Opportunity is woefully insufficient," he tweeted late Thursday.

"Whoever made this decision is a coward."

NASA is the only space agency to have successfully landed a robotic vehicles on Mars.

Its larger, newer vehicle, Curiosity, touched down in 2012 and has been largely unaffected by the dust because it operates using a nuclear-powered battery.

Martian dust storms are common, and can be more easily whipped up there than on Earth because Mars has a thinner atmosphere. —AFP ■

Soyuz-5 will restore Russia's status of leading space power, deputy PM says

KOROLYOV (Moscow Region) — Creation of the Soyuz-5 space rocket will enhance Russia's status of a leading space power, Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov said on Friday.

"We are to cope with a unique and technically complicated task, but once we've done that, Russia will regain and enhance its status of a leading world space power," he told a conference on manned

space programmes at the space rocket corporation Energia's office on Friday. Borisov said the task on the agenda was to lay the basis of manned programs for exploring deep space. Under the presidential decree Energia was named the main architect of a super-heavy space rocket of the future. "On this spacecraft we pin our plans for exploring deep space. Creation of the medium

class rocket, Soyuz-5, will be a major part of that project," he said.

Russia's space corporation Roscosmos earlier approved the rocket's sketch design. Soyuz-5 is to be created by 2021. The first flight tests at the Baikonur site are due in 2022. The rocket will be used to put the yet-to-be developed spacecraft Federatsiya into low near-Earth orbits. — Tass ■



Soyuz-5 is to be created by 2021. PHOTO: TASS

Experimental drug slows brain's shrinking: study

CHICAGO — A phase two clinical trial of the investigational drug ibudilast shows that the drug slows brain shrinkage.

The study involves 28 clinical sites including Washington University School of Medicine, where 255 patients were randomly assigned to take up to 10 capsules of ibudilast or a placebo daily for nearly two years. Every six months, the participants underwent MRI brain scans. The researchers applied a variety of analysis techniques to the MRI images to assess differences in brain changes between the two groups. The researchers found the brains of patients in both groups continued to atrophy over the course of the study, but the decline was slower in the ibudilast group. Reducing the rate of atrophy may delay the worsening of symptoms.

"The study was not large enough to prove a clinical effect, but the data suggest that people's disabilities may not have worsened as rapidly in the treatment

group," said co-author Robert T. Naismith, an associate professor of neurology at Washington University School of Medicine.

The most common side effects reported by participants included nausea and diarrhea, as well as headaches and depression. There was no significant difference between the groups in the number of patients who reported adverse effects.

People with a progressive form of multiple sclerosis (MS) face a gradual decline of brain function that slowly strips away the ability to walk and may cause problems with speech and vision. The finding provides a glimmer of hope for people with a form of MS.

Future research will test whether reducing brain shrinkage affects thinking, walking and other problems in people with MS, and will examine whether ibudilast slows the progression of disability in MS patients.

The study was published on 29 August in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. —AFP ■

Promotion hopefuls Leeds, Middlesbrough share stalemate

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Leeds and Middlesbrough battled to a 0-0 draw at Elland Road on Friday as the Championship promotion chasers cancelled each other out.

Table-toppers Leeds went into the clash between the Championship's top two sitting ahead of Middlesbrough on goal difference and they retained that position after a tense encounter.

Both sides remain unbeaten after six matches of their race towards the Premier League, with

third-placed Bolton able to close the gap on them to one point if they win at Preston on Saturday.

Middlesbrough threatened first when Jonny Howson dribbled his way through the Leeds defence before unloading a curling effort that was well saved by Bailey Peacock-Farrell.

Britt Assombalonga should have put Middlesbrough ahead from the resulting corner, but the striker nodded over from a good position.

Leeds gradually began to

take charge and Middlesbrough's Adam Clayton cleared off the line against his former club when he scrambled away Luke Ayling's header from a Barry Douglas corner.

Kemar Roofee appealed for a penalty after going down under a challenge from Daniel Ayala, but the Leeds striker's protests were waved away.

Jack Harrison curled narrowly wide after the interval as Leeds kept pressing, but neither team could find a winner.— AFP ■

Myanmar squad ready for CFA Tournament in China

THE Myanmar national U-21 football team has released the names of the players who will compete in Chinese Football Association (CFA) U-21 Men's International Football Tournament 2018 that will be held in China this week.

There are a total of 22 selected footballers from different

Myanmar local clubs.

Goal Keepers are Soe Arkar, A Zin Mhue and Aung Myo Htwe.

Defenders are Kyaw Myo Naing, Soe Ko Ko, Kyaw Thet Oo, Hein Htet Sithu, Zin Ye Naung, Zwe Khant Min, Thet Paing Htwe, Zwe Htet Min.

Midfielders are Zaw Win Maung, Thet Aung, Aung Naing

Win, Min Ko Ko, Nan Htike Zaw, Kyaw Zeya, Arkar, Aung Zaw Myint and Zaw Mon Aung while the strikers are Chan Nyein and Htet Arkar Lin.

Myanmar will play against China on 4 September, Uzbekistan on 6 September and Tajikistan on 8 September.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■



Getting there: Victoria Azarenka on the way to a US Open third-round loss to Sloane Stephens on Friday. **PGPHOTO: AFP**

Azarenka optimistic despite US Open third-round ouster

NEW YORK (United States)—Victoria Azarenka was having trouble finding positives in the immediate aftermath of a third-round US Open exit, but the former world number one firmly believes she can raise a Grand Slam trophy again. "Trust me, I wouldn't be sitting here if I didn't believe that," Azarenka, 29, said after bowing out in straight sets to third-seeded defending champion Sloane Stephens on Friday.

"I would be home doing a bunch of different things and being successful at those things,

but I want to do this." Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open winner and runner-up to Serena Williams at Flushing Meadows in 2012 and 2013, hadn't played in the US Open since giving birth to her son, Leo, in 2016.

Her return to tennis was complicated by custody issues that limited her ability to travel.

Having painstakingly climbed back to 79th in the world, Azarenka said she isn't that far away from producing the aggressive game that was one of the most feared on the WTA tour.— AFP ■

Hall takes three-shot lead in Oregon



PORTLAND—England's Georgia Hall surged into a three-shot lead at the halfway stage of the LPGA Tour's Cambia Portland Classic on Friday, firing a nine-under-par 63 on another day of low scoring in Oregon.

The 22-year-old newly minted British Open champion played flawlessly in a bogey-free round which included nine birdies and nine pars at the Columbia Edgewater Country Club.

Hall, who had shot a six-under-par 66 on Thursday, made her move on the back nine, unfurling a string of five consecutive birdies from the 12th hole to vault up the leaderboard.

At one stage Hall was 10 shots clear of her playing partners, and she later admitted she had been determined to keep building her advantage as a series of long putts kept dropping in for birdie.

"I just thought, I just want to keep going. I want to get as far ahead of the others as I can," Hall said.— AFP ■

Newly minted British Open champion Georgia Hall played flawlessly in a bogey-free round which included nine birdies and nine pars at the LPGA Tour's Cambia Portland Classic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Judo Course at Yangon University concluded

WITH the aim of promoting the judo sport in Myanmar, a judo course, under the arrangement of the Myanmar Judo Federation (MJF) and the sport team from Yangon University, was conducted at Yangon University from 10 July to 29 August.

The course concluded on Friday. At the conclusion ceremony, chairperson of the Myanmar Judo Federation U Tun Tun, awarded certificates to 28 judo trainees and yellow belts to 16 outstanding judo athletes.

A total of 46 persons attended the course but only 28 passed with normal marks and 16 qualified for yellow belt. There are varieties of belts in Judo and they are green belt, yellow belt and brown belt,



Myanmar Judo athletes seen with officials and judo trainers at Yangon University. **PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN**

black belt said a judo trainer.

The Myanmar Judo Federation was founded in 1958. The sport originated in Myanmar in 1941 with the effort of 30 men (Thirty Comrades) who went for military training in Japan.

Judo was introduced at

Yangon University in 1965.

Now with the aid of award-winning coaches and modern judo equipment, the MJF is training and nurturing new and talented judo fighters in Yangon University. — Saw Thein Win ■



Bag full of stars

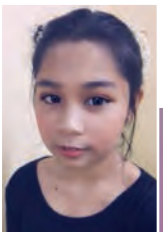
I WAS amazed when I opened the bag. It was full of stars. It was so warm, too. Warmer than the warmest thing to touch. They were glowing yellow. Some twinkling and some shining brightly. I wondered who had picked them up from the dark sky and put them there. I looked around but found no one. I was there all alone on a grassy hill. Darkness was all around me. Everything was silent. I gazed up to the sky above me. All inky and without stars. Seeing the starless sky made me miss those starry nights.

Then, I looked down into the bag. The little stars were still there. So puzzling! While thinking what to do, I stepped towards my shed where I was staying, still waiting for my return. In my hands was the bag full of stars. When I reached to my shed, I gently put the bag down. A winking light bulb was the only thing which gave me light during the gloomy nights. With a mug of warm cheap tea in my left hand, I sat down quietly on my back-broken only chair. I had many questions rushing in and out of my head. My eyes were stuck on the bag that was at the corner. I stood up and opened it again. Still, my eyes met the flickering stars. Nothing else!

The wind, it came in swiftly and made me cool, then went out again. The night was soundless. Though there wasn't much furniture at my place, I had a clock to tell me the time. Despite the chilly breath of wind running around the room, I dozed off for a while. When I opened my lazy eyes again, I saw the clock showing me the time, eleven o'clock. Nearly midnight. All in my head were the questions asking myself what I needed to do with this bag. "Should I bring it back and replace it in its place?" I questioned. "Or should I just keep it here always?" No answer. I sighed and stared out to the distance from my frameless window. Time was flying by.

Then, I decided to take the bag back to its own place so that if its owner came and searched for it would be found there. I grabbed it and nosed out into the lonesome night. I knew that everybody else would be sleeping soundly at such a late, late time like this. Nobody knew what was happening, except the night and I. Going back to the hill where I found it seemed a bit

SEE PAGE- S-5



By AW Khin Myat Phone
Grade 11 A, BEHS 4,
Botahtaung

Design: BT



(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

4. What did Ko Ko find in the old box?
What was found in the old box by Ko Ko?
5. What has Ko Ko broken?
What has been broken by Ko Ko?
6. How much money does Ko Ko need?
How much money is needed by Ko Ko?
7. How many apples has Ko Ko eaten?
How many apples have been eaten by Ko Ko?

C. **Active Voice** တွင် **who** နှင့်မေးခွန်းကို **Passive Voice** တွင် **by whom** သို့ပြောင်းရသည်။ **Simple Past Tense** တွင် ၎င်းနောက်တွင် **was, were** တပ်ထည့်၍ **was, were** နောက်တွင် **noun + V3** လိုက်ရသည်။

1. Who took Ko Ko to the cinema?
By whom was Ko Ko taken to the cinema?
အထက်ပါကဲ့သို့ တစ်ခါတည်းမပြောင်းတတ်လျှင် ထပ်အစားထိုးဖြေ
သည့်နည်းဖြင့် ပြောင်းကြည့်ပါ။
X took Ko Ko to the cinema.
Ko Ko was taken to the cinema by X
Was Ko Ko taken to the cinema by X?
By whom was Ko Ko taken to the cinema?
2. Who has done the homework?
By whom has the homework been done?
3. Who will announce the news?
By whom will the news be announced?
4. Who is ringing the bell?
By whom is the bell being rung?
5. Who prevented the boy from going out?
By whom was the boy prevented from going out?

Exercises: လေ့ကျင့်ခန်း

အဖြေကို အောက်တွင် ပေးထားပါသည်။

1. Did the boy break the glass?
2. Has the girl done the homework?
3. Will the doctor examine the patients?
4. Is Ma Ma making tea for us?
5. When did Ko Ko buy the new car?
6. Where did they send the boy?
7. How will the girl carry the big box?
8. Why are they holding the meeting?
9. Whom did the players choose as their captain?
10. Whom has mother beaten?
11. Whom will the police arrest?
12. Whom is Ma Ma waiting for?
13. What did Edison invent?
14. What must we do to prevent wars?
15. How many cups of tea did you drink this morning?
16. How much money has Ko Ko spent since September?
17. Who drove out the dog?
18. Who has forgotten her name?
19. Who will train the horses?
20. Who is playing the piano?

Answers

1. Was the glass broken by the boy?
2. Has the homework been done by the girl?
3. Will the patients be examined by the doctor?

4. Is tea being made for us by Ma Ma?
5. When was the new car bought by Ko Ko?
6. Where was the boy sent?
7. How will the big box be carried by the girl?
8. Why is the meeting being held?
9. Who was chosen as their captain by the players?
10. Who has been beaten by mother?
11. Who will be arrested?
12. Who is being waited for by Ma Ma?
13. What was invented by Edison?
14. What must be done to prevent wars?
15. How many cups of tea were drunk this morning?
16. How much money has been spent by Ko Ko since September?
17. By whom was the dog driven out?
18. By whom has her name been forgotten?
19. By whom will the horses be trained?
20. By whom is the piano being played?

Verb Form

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် **Tenses** များမှာ အလွန်အရေးကြီးသဖြင့် ပိုင်နိုင်စွာ နားလည်အောင် ဆက်လက် လေ့လာပါ။ အောက်ပါအခြေခံ **Tense** ရှစ်မျိုးကို (active and passive) ထပ်မံလေ့လာပါ။

1. (simple present tense)
They usually hold this festival in March.
This festival is usually held in March. (passive)
2. (present continuous tense)
Ma Ma is polishing the shoes now.
The shoes are being polished by Ma Ma now. (passive)
3. (present perfect tense)
They have not yet signed the agreement.
The agreement has not yet been signed. (passive)
4. (present perfect continuous tense)
I have been learning English for four years. (no passive)
She has been working as a nurse since 1973. (no passive)
5. (future tense)
Ko Ko will publish the book next month.
The book will be published by Ko Ko next month. (passive)
6. (simple past tense)
The engineer drew up a new plan.
A new plan was drawn up by the engineer. (passive)
7. (past perfect tense)
Ma Ma washed the plates after she had cooked the dinner.
The plates were washed after the dinner had been cooked by Ma Ma. (passive)
8. (past continuous tense)
He waited outside while the teacher was writing exercises on the blackboard.
He waited outside while exercises were being written on the blackboard by the teacher. (passive)

အောက်ပါတို့မှာ အထူးသတိထားရမည့်ပုံစံများဖြစ်၍ ဂရုတစိုက်လေ့လာပါ။

1. She hopes that she (get) the first prize.
She hoped that she (get) the first prize.

- (1) တွင် **hopes** မှာ **Simple Present Tense** ဖြစ်၍ **will get** ထည့်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ (ရလိမ့်မည်ဟု မျှော်လင့်သည်။)
- (2) တွင် ဖော်ပြထားသော **verb hoped** မှာ **Simple Past Tense** ဖြစ်၍နောက်မှ **would get** လိုက်ရသည်။
2. He let the girl (use) his pen.
She made the boy (carry) her bag.
Let နှင့် **made** ပါသော စာကြောင်းတွင် အခြား **verb** တစ်ခု ပါပါက၊ မူရင်း **verb** ကိုသာ ပြန်ထည့်ရသည်။ **He let the girl use his pen.**
She made the boy carry her bag.
3. She saw the boy (jump) off the bus.
She saw the boy (swim) across the lake.
saw (noticed, found, heard) နောက်တွင် အခြား **verb** တစ်ခုပါပါက လှုပ်ရှားမှုမြန်လျှင် မူရင်း **verb** လိုက်၍ လှုပ်ရှားမှုကြာလျှင် **Present Participle (is, are, was, were)** မပါသော **ing** ပုံစံ လိုက်ရသည်။
She saw the boy jump off the bus.
She saw the boy swimming across the lake.
4. (a) The boys (stand) up when the teacher came in.
(b) The boys (fight) when the teacher came in.
(a) တွင် ဆရာဝင်လာမှ မတ်တတ်ရပ်ခြင်းဖြစ်၍ **Simple Past Tense** သာသုံးရသည်။
The boys stood up when the teacher came in.
(b) တွင် ဆရာဝင်မလာခင်ကတည်းက သတ်ပုတ်နေကြ၍ ဆရာဝင်လာသောအခါလည်း သတ်ပုတ်ဆဲဖြစ်သဖြင့် **Past Continuous Tense** သုံး ရသည်။
The boys were fighting when the teacher came in.
5. (a) She (listen) to the radio now.
(b) She (like) tea now.
(a) တွင် ယခုလောလောဆယ် အချိန်ကိုရည်ညွှန်းသဖြင့် **Present Continuous Tense** သုံးရသည်။ (is listening)
(b) တွင် **like** မှာ **ing** ပုံစံနှင့်သုံးလေ့မရှိသဖြင့် **Simple Present Tense** သာ သုံးရသည်။ (likes)

Exercises: လေ့ကျင့်ခန်း

အဖြေကိုအောက်တွင်ပေးထားပါသည်။

1. He (seldom drink) tea in the evening.
These fields (cover) with water in the rains now.
2. They (make) preparations for the festival now.
Listen! The results (announce) over the radio.
3. She (not speak) to me since October.
This film (show) in Yangon 11 times.
4. He (look) for a job since 1980.
They (do) this experiment for five weeks.
5. Ko Ko (visit) Ngapali next month.
A new hospital (build) in our town next year.
6. I (receive) your letter yesterday.
She (no study) her lesson last night.
(He join) the army in 1965?
Millions of people (kill) in the Second World War.
(He punish) yesterday?
7. She tore the letter after she (read) it twice.
When I arrived at the bookshop, every copy of The Guardian (sell) already.
He (get) his degree when he joined the army in 1969.
She said that my shirts (already iron).
8. He was knocked down by a car while he (cross) the road.
He waited while her car (repair).
We (have) dinner when the lights went out.
The tea (still make) when I went into the dining room this morning.
9. (a) He (come) to me whenever he needs money.
(b) She (come) to me when she hears the news.
(c) She will come here when she (finish) the work.
(d) He (run) away when he saw the policeman.
10. He (do) business with us for over 15 years.
They (move) away to that house since June.
11. Ko Ko let his sons (play) football.
She made all her pupils (copy) the exercises.
He saw the man (fall) off the train.
He saw the soldier (stand) in front of the building.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

Crossing the Mountain of Swords and Half Above and Half Underneath novels juxtaposed

By Dr. Myint Zan

ON 15 November 1973 and 28 November 1973 issues of the now defunct *The Working People's Daily* (WPD) and *The Guardian* (English language newspapers), respectively, there appeared two book reviews of a novel written in the Burmese (as it was then called officially) language.

The book reviews in the two English language daily officially published by the then Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) government was on the late *Saya* (Hsayar) Mya Than Tint's (23 May 1929-18 February 1998) novel *မားတောင်ကိုကျော်၍ မီးပင်လယ်ကို ဖြတ်မည်* *Dah Taung Go Kyaw Ywei Mee Pin Lae Go Phyat Myi* ('Crossing the Mountain of Swords and the Sea of Fires'). (Initially this writer thought that the two different reviews appeared on the same date—28 November 1973 issues of *The Guardian* and *The Working People's Daily*. After he checked the old newspapers at University of Mandalay library—to which he expressed his thanks to the kind library staff for their assistance—he discovered that

the first review appeared in the WPD on 15 November 1973 and the review was written by the late Maung Tin Mya, one of the editors of the WPD and the review in *The Guardian* appeared on 28 November 1973.)

The review in *The Guardian* was written by Mya Zin (U Win Pe) himself a poet who also wrote, among others, under the pseudonym 'Epsilon' on matters concerning science in the WPD. Though the writer has photographed the reviews by Maung Tin Mya and Mya Zin he has not re-read them—as yet—as he does not want to be influenced by the reviews written over 44 years ago in writing this—though not quite-comparative 'reviews' of two Burmese books, the second one being (in Burmese) *အောက်တောင် အောက်တောင်* *Ahtet Ta Wet Aught Ta Wet* ('Half Above and Half Underneath'), written by the late novelist Maung Thar Ya (1931-2016).

Fast forward from November 1973 to August 2018. The first literary talk State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had with a selection of students from universities near Manda-

lay was held at the University of Mandalay on 11 August 2018. Two young students, during the discussion, mentioned *Saya* Mya Than Tint's novel as their favorite novel. Again, in another literary talk with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi that was held at University of Yangon on 28 August 2018, the novel *Crossing the Mountain of Swords* 'cropped up' in the comments and discussions.

The writer did read the English and Burmese languages reviews of *Saya* Mya Than Tint's book when it appeared in 1973 but it was only in 1999 while living abroad that I have had the chance to read *Crossing the Mountain of Swords* in its entirety. (A signed copy of the book was kindly presented to me by medical doctor-writer Dr. Zaw Than who, among others, had translated Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*—first published 1932).

This writer has not had the chance to re-read *Saya* Mya Than Tint's novel and the sketches and comments below are from what he recalls reading it some time in 1999. To begin with a 'bang'

so to speak and not with a whimper (in Myanmar saying *စေ့ချင်းဆောက်နေ့ထွင်း*) 'me thinks' *Saya* Mya Than Tint's novel is (somewhat) over-rated. He himself stated either in the Preface of his book or elsewhere that he wrote it (somewhat in haste, so to speak) 'within 17 days'. Around 21 months earlier before *Crossing the Mountain of Swords* was published, *Saya* Mya Than Tint was released from incarceration by the then BSPP regime (can we use that term now?). Mya Than Tint was incarcerated from about 1966 to February 1972.

In most of the time he was incarcerated, Mya Than Tint was held together with other political prisoners (and they were political prisoners) on Cocos Island. No doubt *Saya* Mya Than Tint's experiences formed parts of his descriptions of 'island life' for in the novel, the four protagonists though not political prisoners held on an island were marooned or ship-wrecked on a small island.

The efforts to escape from the island was made especially

by the main protagonist (shall we say 'hero') Than Joung, a rugged and strong youth apparently of rural origin. Than Joung sacrificed his life (from my recall of the novel's plot) when he died as a result of sharks' attacks. Than Joung helped save his three other desert-island fellows, including what has been depicted as 'the greedy, exploitative, selfish, factory owner', the virtually 'evil' U Ba Yan.

Though Mya Than Tint did not apparently use the word 'evil', I would like to extrapolate it since near the end of the novel it was revealed that Ba Yan had raped or sexually molested the hero Than Joung's mother and killed his father. (This is what I recall reading from the novel; in the off-chance that I got the plot of the story wrong, I will stand corrected.) If this plot is true, then *Saya* Mya Than Tint has over-dramatized (in Burmese *ဇာတ်နာအောင်လှ*) and perhaps even in the context of a novel it is taking too much of a 'novelist license' and that license was based on an ideology.

SEE PAGE S-7

Kyin: the traditional Rakhine wrestling

KYIN wrestling is a favourite sports of the Rakhine people since the ancient times. Kyin wrestling, being a kind of national identity for Rakhine people, is one of the national sports in the State of Rakhine that is very popular up to this day. Kyin means a spinning top in Rakhine language. Some point out that Kyin was derived from Kyar Yin. The Kyar Yin was being corrupted to Kyin. Literally, Kyar means the tiger and Yin means the fly. But, some people there called the wrestling Jun. In many parts of Rakhine any large festivity wouldn't be complete without a Kyin tournament.

In the first round, one athlete has to act like a tiger or as an offensive wrestler while another one is acting like a fly or as a defensive wrestler. During the second round, the defensive one in the first round becomes the offensive one while the offensive one in the first round becomes the defensive one. They change the roles

By Htay Win



PHOTOS: Nyi Zaw Moe



alternatively until the game is over. In a Kyin wrestling tournament, it needs two athletes to compete for the first session. And the winner has to compete against another opponent in the second session. Thus, the winner competes against a new opponent in each session, eliminating them until he reached the final session for getting the trophy. The offensive wrestler is called Aphan and the defensive wrestler is called Akhan in Rakhine language. In neighbouring India there was an ancient art of wrestling called Malla-Yuddha. That art after combining with the Iranian and the Mongolian wrestlings became the present-day wrestling, which is called Pehelwani in India. The ancient civilization between Southern India and ancient Arakan was inseparable in terms of the trade and military relations.

The demonstrative stone sculptures of Kyin wrestling can be seen in the pagodas and temples built between 15th and 18th centuries in the state of Rakhine. But, ac-

cording to the oral tradition, it dates backs to earlier periods than those centuries. During the Vesali period, the kings preferred the wrestlers and the boat rowers for the military service. It was probable because Rakhine kings already possessed a formidable navy in the Bay of Bengal in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Kyin wrestling is slightly similar to Pehelwini wrestling of India but, actually, it is different from that, with its own creations and styles. Rakhine dynasties prioritized their own creations and styles in the architecture, the culture and the sports.

During the tournament, the person who falls on the ground or whose hand touches the ground during the alternative rounds is the loser in the competition. But, the person who is capable to fell his opponent on the ground or able to make his opponent's hand touches the ground during the alternative rounds is the winner in the competition.

In the State of Rakhine, the Kyin wres-

tlers come from four provinces to participate in the famous religious festivals. Among them, the wrestlers from Tawphyarchaung area in Ponnagyun Township and the wrestlers from Yanpyay Township are famous and mostly, they won the trophies. The first class wrestler can get the golden trophy and the second class wrestler can get the silver trophy. Actually, the Kyin wrestlers in the State of Rakhine are not professionals, but they participate in the Kyin wrestling tournament as a tradition.

In terms of quickness, mindfulness, stamina and wits, the wrestlers have great powers to fight against their opponents. (A Kyin wrestler is called a Kyin Thann, meaning a strong wrestler).* There are two or three referees to decide who the winner is and to monitor the wrestlers whether they abide by rules and regulations or not in the tournament. The offensive wrestler can kick the opponent's leg and wrap around his leg to throw him to the ground. But, the defensive wrestler has to try to escape from him. And sometimes, the defensive wrestler can also slam down his opponent using his arms while he is struggling for the fighting. All wrestlers in the state of Rakhine compete with the sporting spirits although they come from different provinces they are friendly to one another. They use force and aggressive tactics in the competition, but they are very kind to each other outside of the tournament. This is a lovely tradition there.

According to the village tradition, the wrestlers practice Kyin wrestling on the bank of the lake in the late afternoon when the girls come to the lake to fetch the water with the zinc water pots which are still used in India. And they share their experience from the competitions one another in the evening conversations. Kyin wrestling tournaments are held in the religious festivals and the merrymaking, especially, in the winter and summer times.

In conclusion, Rakhine people take much pride in this sport as a national identity and they desire to preserve Kyin wrestling as an ancient Rakhine culture by being listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Lists.



FROM PAGE- S-1

further than coming back home before. I breathed my favourite song into the air on the way there. I didn't know where my song went to as it disappeared into the night as soon as I finished. I carried on whispering some melodies from my lips as my feet walked steadily towards my destination. I followed the same path although after travelling for a few minutes, I still couldn't see any shadow of the previous hill.

"Have I gone the wrong way?" I wondered and looked high and low for it. No, no. It couldn't be found anywhere then. And I hadn't followed the wrong way as well. Certainly.

While then, I ran here and there to find it. Without being careful, I tripped over a stone that was beneath my feet and I fell down with my face on the ground. As I fell, the bag went flying into the air and it as well dropped down onto the ground, then landed beside me. I feared that the stars would be all broken. So I immediately crawled near it to see if they were fine. Abruptly, I saw the tiny glowing stars moving slowly up to the plain unilluminated sky. Up and up they went. I watched them with my widely-opened eyes. The scene was so heavenly.

After some time, I caught a glimpse of the sky. There, I saw them twinkling and shining, brighter than ever. Again, our Earth had another starry night. Seeing them in the sky again made me feel so pleasant, with no such worries and fears. But still there is a question left. Who picked the stars from this endless night sky and put them in the bag?

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

SUNDAY COMICS



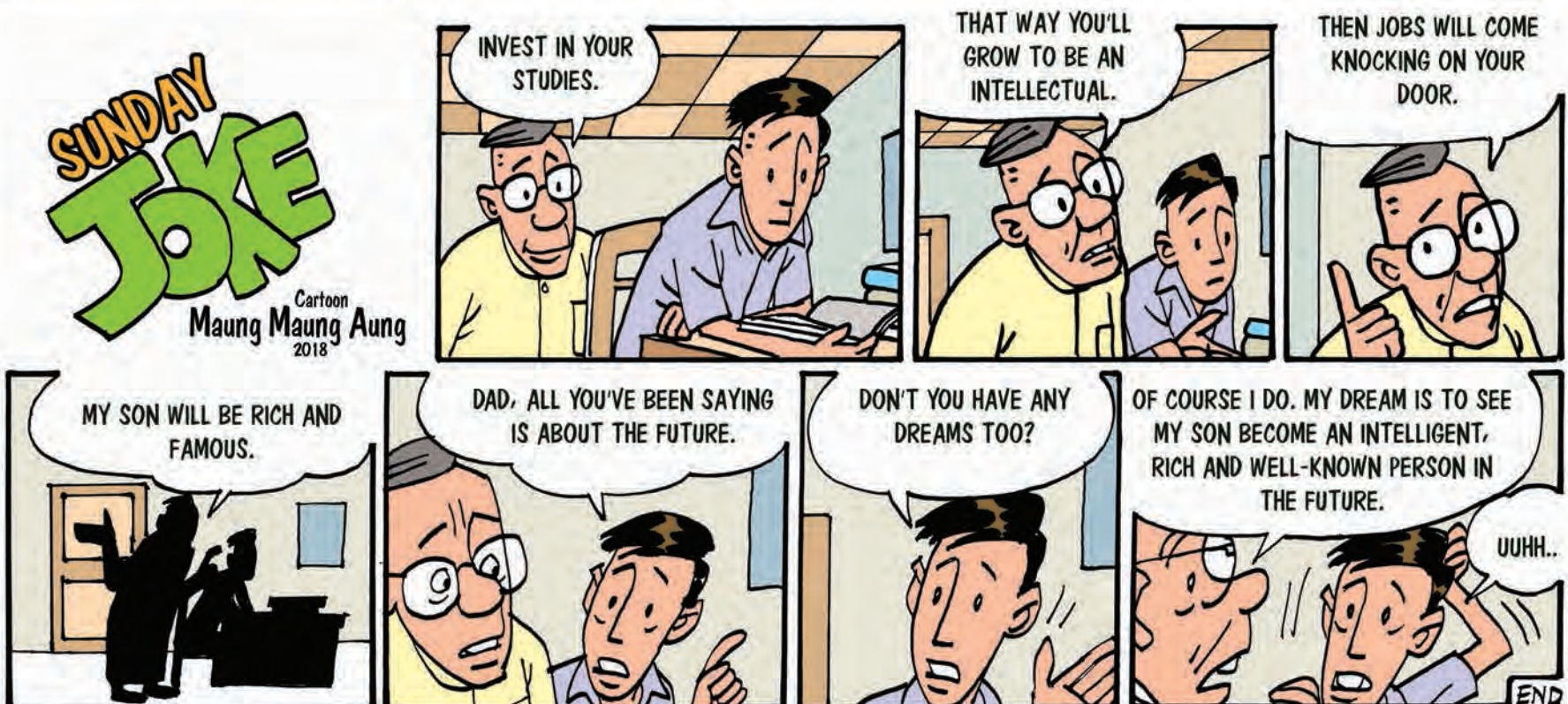
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



FROM PAGE-S-3

Indeed the novel is, if not almost wholly, then it is largely ideological. And, for want of a better phrase or term, it is based on the leftist ideology in vogue in Burma and to a certain extent most of the developing world in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and part of the 1980s. 'Socialist/communist' ideology seems to permeate at least parts, if not most parts, of the novel. (I realize that it is somewhat ironic that Mya Than Tint, a person who was incarcerated without charge or trial by a 'socialist' regime for apparently being a 'leftist destructionist', would also espouse a different type of 'socialism'.)

In this regard, I definitely recall reading in the preface of *Saya* Mya Than Tint's novel that as a general almost unexceptional rule (and the exceptions Mya Than Tint implied are few and far between and almost negligible) 'capitalist' class to which the 'villain' of the novel U Ba Yan belongs is generally (again for want of a better word 'bad') and the worker, the proletariat and the peasants 'class' to which Than Joung belongs is 'good'.

Un(?)connectedly, this writer is reminded of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's pronouncement on 27 August 2018, in a meeting with 'business leaders' or the entrepreneurs (the word 'capitalists' and other synonyms have been officially eschewed for a few decades now), that they can also make (great) contributions for the welfare and uplift of the society and country.

This writer cannot help but ponder whether *Saya* Mya Than Tint, who passed away in February 1998 and who did witness the fall or at least decline

of Burmese (way to) socialism as an economic and also—to a lesser extent—political doctrine, would still have adhered to this 'capitalists almost all bad' and 'proletariat almost all good' binary ideological thinking in his later days. One also wonders whether the young students at the literary talks who admire the novel as well as the entrepreneurs who might have read Mya Than Tint's book would agree—or not—with the particular classification or 'dichotomy' that Mya Than Tint espouses.

It seemed that Mya Than Tint's novel is 'liked', indeed admired, across age groups. It not only impresses but also inspire at least two young students, aged apparently in the early 20s, but those who are older by more than one and a half generation, also.

Several months ago, the 'legal columnist' U Han Nyunt (Law) wrote a short piece in a Myanmar language article (regarding law) praising the book. When I telephoned U Han Nyunt to express my (to use a legal term) 'demurrers' from the unexceptional positive review of *Crossing the Mountains*, he said all he wanted to do is not to praise the book on a political or ideological basis but to exhort youth and others to emulate the steely determination (shall I say again) exhibited by the hero Than Joung (perhaps 'martyr' also since he gave his life so that his fellow humans would escape) if need be by 'crossing a mountain of swords and sea of fires'. Perhaps that was also the main reason or rationale for the younger generation students' admiration of the novel.

If that be the case, i.e. to

inspire youngsters (and middle-aged and elderly persons alike), then William Ernest Henley's *Invictus*, poem translated into Burmese by the late journalist U Nyo Mya (1914-October 1985) with the assistance and guidance of the late *Sayagyi* Minthu-wun (10 February 1909-15 August 2004) could be a shorter reference or exemplar. I understand that *Invictus* is or was taught in second-year English major at least at the University of Mandalay English Department and the Burmese translation, first published in *Oway* magazine in the mid to late 1930s when Ko Aung San was the Editor, can also be found in at least a few libraries in Myanmar (if the old magazines are not kept locked!).

In contrast to *Crossing the Mountain of Swords*, I have read twice *Saya* Maung Thar Ya's *Ahtet Ta Wet Aught Ta Wet* ('Half Above and Half Underneath'), the first time when it was published around 1970 and the second time in the late 1990s. It is much less well-known than Mya Than Tint's book. At least some of the young persons in their twenties and even early thirties who have some literary interests that I have met have not even heard of it. The University of Mandalay library does not have a copy.

Like Mya Than Tint, Maung Thar Ya was also incarcerated albeit not by the BSPP regime but by then Anti Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL)



government from 1953 to 1955. During the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) era, around July 1999, he went to self-imposed 'exile', first in Thailand and India and then in the United States, where he passed away in 2016.

Half Above and Half Underneath is a novel about fish mongers. Maung Thar Ya's national literary prize winning novel for 1969 was in Burmese language မတ်တတ်ရပ်လို့ လမ်းမှာငို ('Standing in the Road, Crying': about a day in the life of a taxi driver). The title of 'Standing in the Road, Crying' novel is a 'clever' (or is it brilliant?) use or incorporation of a nursery rhyme. (Incidentally, Somerset Maugham's initial title of his 'masterpiece' *Of Human Bondage*, first published in 1915, was 'Beauty from Ashes'. Maugham wrote that he changed the title taking it from a heading of a Chapter of the Dutch-Jewish philosopher Spinoza's posthumously published tome *Ethics*. How lucky Maugham was to incorporate

Thar Ya, unlike Mya Than Tint, did not ideologize so to speak nor (to be somewhat pompous) 'pontificate' about how oppressed the poor fish mongers were. The protagonist of the novel was Thin Thin Kyi (a 'fish mongeress'?). Even though Maung Thar Ya portrays her and her fellow fish mongers' predicament, foibles and shenanigans, he does not—at least not entirely—portray her as a 'victim' of a 'capitalist system of oppression'. At least to this reader, Maung Thar Ya does not write solely or largely from an ideological 'oppressive capitalist' v 'innocent and clean fish mongers/ fish mongeress' dichotomy (so to speak).

It might be protested that the orientation and direction of the two novels are different. This writer is aware that it is. Still, as far as the main protagonist of *Crossing the Mountain of Swords* and *Half Above and Half Underneath*—Than Joung and Thin Thin Kyi respectively—are concerned they can generically be classified as emerging from the 'proletariat' class.

At the end of Maung Thar Ya's novel, Thin Thin Kyi was raped and her earnings also exploited by 'other' fish mongers. Though I do not recall off-hand either the opening or closing sentences of the novel of Mya Than Tint, I do recall those sentences from Maung Thar Ya's novel.

That perhaps is an indication that, at least to me, Maung Thar Ya's novel, published around 1970, has affected me more than Mya Than Tint's novel, published two to three years later in 1973. Though I would not say that either novel is in the deep sense of the word 'affecting' for me, I personally would choose or 'prefer' *Half Above and Half Underneath* to *Crossing the Mountain of Swords*.





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Humans among humans

LIVING in a colorful world is a special chance for human beings. According to Buddhism, there is a saying, "To be a human being is very difficult". We have become a human being because we did the good doings in the past life. So, we should be proud of being a human being. We can think what we want because we are human beings. We can do what we want because we are human beings. And we can communicate with each other through different means because we are human beings. Some people, however, are being alive by thinking themselves in pessimistic ways. They think they have weaknesses and they cannot do whatever they want because of these weaknesses. In my opinion, they are

dismissing from the mind that "nobody is perfect".

According to the doings of the past lives, we, human beings possess different lives. Some people may be affluent and healthy. Some people may be poor and unhealthy. Some people may be in good health, but they do not have adequate money. Some people may not be in good health, but they are wealthy. Some people possess strong hands and legs; however, they do not have any abilities. Some people do not possess strong hands and legs; however, they have great intellect and capabilities. Each and every person cannot be the

same. As the world is made up of different people with different qualities, we can see that we can create a better world with our own capabilities and intellect.

Some disabled think that they are nothing in the world, and that they are just the extra ones for the world. Actually, what they are dismissing from their mind is they have their own abilities. They can provide their good qualities to develop the world. The world is waiting for

their doings by using their power. There are many people who are being alive in an optimistic mood. Even though they cannot act like the ordinary people, they are doing the best not only for themselves but also for the world. Sometimes, they may be better than the ordinary people. Some of the ordinary people look down

on the disabilities without any sound reasons. What they are thinking is, "disabled are extra

people for the world". Because of their actions and expressions, some of the disabled think, "Am I really an extra one for the world?" By seeing this situation, we can see that it is a kind of breaking human rights. Each and every person in the world should have equal rights because they are also human beings.

We need to help people who are suffering from that situation by sharing their feelings together. Helping each other is a kind of goodness. When we see people who are doing his or her best for the world, we do have to be happy and be in an optimistic mood. Because we can live with these people in this colorful world, we should be proud of ourselves. And we have to do our best to have a better world by uniting and sharing feelings together. We should not discriminate against the disabled because they are "humans among humans". ■