ARAKAN NATIONAL PARTY PRESENTS POLICY, STANCE AND WORK PROGRAM PAGE - 6 (NATIONAL)

ARTICLE

Late Bloomer Monk in live long learning

PAGE-8-9

NATIONAL

Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo arrives back from Thailand

PAGE-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 153, 7th Waxing of Tawthalin 1380 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Sunday, 16 September 2018

International Day of Democracy observed

The pace of democracy might be slow, but it is the only way to overcome 21st Century challenges: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw observed the International day of Democracy, 2018 at Thabin Hall, Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his address at the ceremony, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said the theme of the International Day of Democracy 2018 fits perfectly with Myanmar's current context of democratic reform process.

"It is profound because an enduring and lasting democracy needs collective oversight from people of different respective roles," said the Speaker.

The theme of 2018 International Democracy Day chosen by the International Parliamentary Union is "Oversight", and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Parliament translates this as a slogan, "Cohesive Oversight for an Enduring Democracy".

On 15th September, every democratic country commemorates the International Democracy Day. Following our country's multi-party democratic reform, our country has been commemorating International Democracy Day for eight consecutive years since 2011.

In every democratic country around the world, Parliamentary legislative institutions are the souls and lifeblood foundation of the foundation of the respective Democracy.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivers the address at the ceremony to observe the International Day of Democracy. **PHOTO: MNA**

While exercising legislative power, parliaments are putting their great efforts to reflect people's voice, people's aspirations and people's will in fulfilling the needs of the people, he said. "It is only natural that the people expect and want to see instantaneous results from the democratic reform, but it is important to note that in democratic principle, the process takes time as it involves people's participation and deliberation.

> "We must continue our approach of resolving formidable challenges through dialogues and collaborations in strengthening the foundation of democracy...
>
> Speaker U T Khun Myat

The pace of democracy might be slow, but it is the only way to overcome 21st Century challenges," said Speaker U T Khun Myat.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker also urged all citizens to respect and abide by the existing laws and to set aside ethnicity, religious, regional, ideology and political party differences entirely for the sake of citizens' overall socio-economic development.

SEE PAGE-3

Myanmar Parliamentary Union meeting 5/2018 held in Nay Pyi Taw

MYANMAR Parliamentary Union (MPU) Meeting 5/2018 was held at Zabuthiri meeting hall in Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, speakers and deputy speakers from Region/State Hluttaws, directors general from Hluttaw offices and responsible officials.

MPU Chairman Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivers the speech at the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

In his opening speech, MPU Chairman Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said the meeting was held to coordinate and discuss matters related to Hluttaw works. Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Region/State Hluttaws will be informed about preparations made for the soon to be held Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) based on studying and reviewing the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) that was already conducted. Ninth regular meetings of the Hluttaws were being convened according to Hluttaw law and rules while budget law (draft) of each State/Region Hluttaws were drawn with suggestion and information of the states/regions coordinated and discussed in stages. State/Region Hluttaws are urged to discuss and coordinate with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is always ready to help and support the State/Region Hluttaws. All need to strive toward increasing the capacities of the Hluttaws personnel said the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

Next, MPU Secretary Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein explained about attending the 39th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in Singapore from 3 to 7 September, decisions made at MPU Meeting 4/2018 as well as status of works conducted by Myanmar parliament group.

Afterwards, MPU member Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung discussed and explained about matters related to Hluttaw capacity matter of state/region Hluttaws and raising the capacities of Hluttaws personnel. Head of MPU office Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office Director General U Kyaw Soe then explained about budget law (draft) of each State/Region Hluttaws and State/Region Hluttaw offices works.

This was followed by Speakers and Deputy Speakers of State/Region Hluttaws attending the meeting explaining about Hluttaw related matters and status of works conducted by each State/Region Hluttaws.

Finally, MPU Chairman Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat commented on the discussions made and ended the meeting after delivering a concluding speech.—MNA ■

MoI steps forward to republish Myanmar encyclopedias, to publish 100 classic books series

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addressed a coordination meeting to republish Myanmar encyclopedias and to publish 100 Myanmar classic books series held separately at the Printing and Publishing Department-PPD in Theinbyu Street, Yangon yesterday morning.

At the first meeting, Myanmar Encyclopedia Republishing Committee Vice Chairman Maung Khin Min (Danuphyu), PPD Director-General U Aung Myo Myint, Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Naing and attendees discussed and submitted about works conducted. The Union Minister underlined the correct facts, strengthening the editorial group and setting up a time table.

A draft format of the Myanmar encyclopedias has been completed, and the draft of the first volume of the encyclopedias is being edited as suggested by the 26-member expert team and pointed out by the editorial group.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the coordination meeting for publishing 100 Myanmar classic books series in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Meeting on publishing 100 Myanmar classic books series

The Union Minister held a meeting on publishing 100 Myanmar classic book series with members of the committee on publishing the series at the same meeting room yesterday.

The committee secretary U Than Ohn (Maung Zeya) explained about arrangements made for publishing of first, second and third volumes of the novel books series. The Union Minister and attendees then discussed matters relating to setting a timetable for publishing the first three volumes, and confirmation of novels that will be included in the next publication.

The first volume of 100 Myanmar classic (novel) books series includes "Maung Yin Maung Ma Me Ma" by James Hla Kyaw, "Chin Paung Ywet Thae Mg Hmaing" by Wun Sayae U Gyi and "Chit Yoe Ahman" by Ma Khin Aye. The second volume includes "Shwe Pyi Soe" by U Latt, "Yadanapon" by Shwe Oo Daung and "B.A. Mg Ba Lwin" by Mg Ba Than. The third volume includes "Nay Yi Yi" by P. Moe Nin, "Ta Nan Pyaw Yin Thwe Taw" by U Latt and "Hmar Taw Pone" by Thakin Kodaw Hmaing. The three volumes of novel books series are arranged to be published in December. Members of publishing committee and Sarpay Beikman's editorial board are preparing to publish the next novel books series of 100 Myanmar classic books series and other books series. — MNA ■

PHOTO: MNA

MIC issues two investment permits, one endorsement

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) issued two investment permits and one endorsement at MIC Meeting 15/2018 held at MIC meeting hall in Yangon yesterday morning.

MIC Chairman U Thaung Tun and MIC members attended the meeting. In addition to deciding and issuing two investment permits and one endorsement after scrutinizing applications made by investors, the meeting discussed general matters submitted by companies that already had MIC permits.—MNA ■

International Day of Democracy observed

FROM PAGE-1

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivers the address at the ceremony to mark the International Day of Democracy 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

"We must continue our approach of resolving formidable challenges through dialogues and collaborations in strengthening the foundation of democracy and undertaking the matter of national development," said the Speaker.

"While undertaking our respective roles in the democratic reform process, if we have sincere conviction and deliberation for the country and the people, I believe, our journey towards a democratic federal union might not be very distant," he said.

It is important to note that the freedom granted by our democracy should also be within the framework of the rule of law. The fundamental value and principles of democracy are about protecting fundamental human rights, equal rights and to secure prevalence of the rule of law.

The basic principles of the Union stated that "the union practices genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system".

The success of building a peaceful democratic federal union and prevalence of best democratic practices among citizens rely significantly upon extensive collaboration.

He urged the people of different races and ethnic groups to take the current opportunity to construct mutual understandings, trust and friendship without differentiating high land and low land, mainland and states, based on democratic moral principles and practices to consolidate a lasting peaceful democratic union.

In his concluding remarks, the Speaker called on the people of Myanmar for their active cooperation and collective participation along the journey towards a stable democracy. He expressed his thanks to the people at the end of his speech.

After delivering the speech, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker presented flower bouquets and cash rewards to artistes who had performed at the ceremony and then posed for documentary group photo.

The ceremony was attended by Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar Chairperson U Myo Nyunt, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Pyitdaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann, Union Ministers, State/Region Hluttaw Speakers, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw Affairs Committees chairmen, heads of department, representatives of political parties, diplomats, world parliaments' group, inter-parliamentary union, United Nations organizations, partner organizations of Hluttaw, teachers, students, invited guests and officials. — MNA ■

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo arrives back from Thailand

AFTER attending the International Conference on "Judicial Excellence in Response to Today's Challenges" in Bangkok, Thailand, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo arrived back Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday afternoon.

The conference was opened and addressed by Chief Justices of Greater Mekong Region countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam. The conference was also attended by legal experts, judges and observers from United States, Australia and Singapore and was hosted by Thailand.

During his visit, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo met with the President of the Supreme Court of Thailand the Hon. Chief Justice Cheep Jullamon and exchanged views over judicial issues. During the trip, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo also visited criminal and civil courts in southern Bangkok. — MNA ■

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and chief justices of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam open the conference on "Judicial Excellence in Response to Today's Challenges" in Bangkok.. **PHOTO: MNA**

Government approves establishment of fish, prawn farming zones by MFF

By May Thet Hnin

MINISTRY of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has granted permission to establish fish and prawn farming zones after the Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF) has submitted a proposal to the authorities, according to MFF. Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu announced the ministry's approval on the establishment of fish and prawn farming zones at the Union Minister's meeting with livestock entrepreneurs held at MFF office on 12 September, said U Win Kyaing, the secretary general of MFF.

"At the meeting, we are tasked with implementing the fish and prawn farming zones,and the government promised their support to us. If required, the Union Minister himself will conduct field inspection to make guidelines for the project," he added. MFF has conducted feasibility study of the project areas and will execute the projects in the Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi, Bago and Mandalay regions as well as Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Nay Pyi Taw. This fish farming zone will encompass incubate camps, feeds factories, and cold storage factories.

An all-inclusive committee will be formed to implement the project and necessary coordination with the state/region government organizations, said the Union Minister.

If we have the chance to implement the project, it will create several job opportunities for the local people and help improve the GDP growth rate. Additionally, these farming zones are likely to not only help achieve self-sufficiency in fish and prawns production but also help earn foreign currency through exports, he added. MFF will implement the project depending upon receiving necessary permission to work on the land. At first, MFF will start off by repairing old fish ponds in Ayeyawady Region to showcase the project. Of the more than 490,000 acres of fish and prawn farming areas in the country, a little over 130,000 have official authorization for fish farming while the remaining are operated illegally or without authorization. ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

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

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

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

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

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

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

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

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Work on scaffolding at Shwedagon Pagoda launched for renovation of gold plates

Scaffolding work launched at Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday, to renew the gold plates on the pagoda.

The pagoda will be covered in scaffolding during the six-month project and about 3,000 gold plates will be screwed on it.

A religious ceremony took place at the pagoda yesterday to launch the scaffolding with the Members of the Sangha sprinkling scented water on the materials to be used for the traditional scaffolding with bamboos praying for safety during the project.

Shwedagon Pagoda will undergo renovation of its golden sphere starting this October. The gold surface of the pagoda is refurbished every four years to counteract weather damage.— Ko Ko Zaw, Thant Zin Win

Job Fair 2018 held in Chin State

JOB FAIR 2018 organised by Chin State Labour Department and Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO), was held at Carson Hall, Haka Town, on 15 September in order to raise awareness, information and opportunities related to jobs for the local residents.

At the ceremony, Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the job fair 2018 ceremony. In his opening speech at the ceremony, Chief Minister said lack of job opportunities are a major issue nowadays and when the government establish and implement its reform programs reducing poverty and creating suitable job opportunities for local people plays an important role. At the moment factories and industrial zones are yet to be opened in Chin State and the job fair 2018 was held to enable employers meet employees. State Labour Department head also explained about the objective of job fair 2018. Afterwards, State Chief Minister and officials visited the job fair exhibits.

Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai and officials cut ribbon to open the Job Fair 2018 ceremony in Haka, Chin State yesterday. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

The ceremony was attended by State Chief Minister, government ministers, advocate, chief judge, state level departmental officials, representatives from companies and job seeking youths. — District IPRD ■

Two Danish visit Myanmar by motorbikes

A LARGE number of tourists are visiting Myanmar, after entering the country through international cross-border gateways, to visit Myanmar's unique natural locations, along with eco-tourism and archaeological sites.

Tourists are arriving by air, sea and road. Moreover, tourists are also coming to Myanmar by motor vehicles, motorbikes and bicycles to observe its multicultural traditions, customs and lifestyles.

Two Danish citizens visited Myanmar by two motorbikes, after crossing over the Myawady border gate.

Their travel tour was arranged by Traventure Travels and Tours Co.,Ltd., under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Their trip started on 5 September and ended on 9 September.

Along their travel route they visited many places including Myawady, Kyaiktiyo, Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan, Gangaw and Tamu. They proceeded to India, crossing at the Tamu border gate on 9 September. Although this is in the rainy season, most of the tourists are entering Myanmar through border gates using their own vehicles and motorbikes to visit beautiful places in Myanmar. — GNLM ■

Myanmar Employer Awards applicants increase two times

ACCORDING to Myanmar Employer Award Organizing Committee, the number of applications for Myanmar Employer Award was found to be double the number from previous year on the closing date of 24 August.

JobNet.com.mm, Myanmar's number one job portal, implemented the Myanmar Employer Award ceremony to promote the role of the employer in Myanmar. The first Myanmar Employer Award was given in 2017. Only 120 companies participated in the competition last year. But this year 277 companies have applied to participate in the competition. From the applications, the best of the outstanding companies will be selected and awarded the Human Resource Rising Start Awards, said Mr. Matt De Luca, Managing Director of JobNet.com.mm.

The award is given with an aim to establish and develop good practices in human resources management in Myanmar, said Mr. Justin Sway, Chief Executive Officer of JobNet.com.mm. Mr. Matt De Luca added further that the award was to recognize and support the efforts made and successes achieved by Myanmar employers in establishing and developing good practices in human resources including work site environment and workplace culture.

The Myanmar Employer Awards ceremony was introduced on 5 July at Novotel hotel, Yangon. — GNLM ■

Prices of elephant foot yams reach record high in domestic market

PRICES of elephant foot yams, locally known as Wa-U, reached a record high of Ks 10,000 per viss (3.6 lbs) in the domestic market this harvest season, due to low production and increasing foreign demands, according to merchants in Mandalay.

This year sees an upward demand for the yams, especially from China and Japan. At this time last year, the highest prices of elephant food yams were Ks 7,000 per viss. This year, the opening prices for a viss for elephant foot yams at the end of this August were Ks 7,000 in Mandalay market. The prices have been on the rise in the market.

According to the market, the dried yellow elephant food yams was sold for Ks 10,000 per viss on 15 September, while a viss of white yams was worth at Ks 9,000 and a viss of red yams was valued at Ks 8,000, said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of Soewinmyint Wholesale Shop.

"This season sees a low production of elephant food yams compared to the similar period in the last year. Demands for the yams are also high in the export market. The prices of elephant foot yams are expected to rise in the future. Usually, farmers raise their incomes from the sale of dried yams this season," he added. The elephant foot yams are commonly cultivated in Myeik, Kawthoung, Ye and Dawei in Taninthayi Region, Hpa-an in Kayin State, Myitkyina in Kachin State, Katha, Kawlin and Wuntho in Sagaing State, as well as Kanpetlet and Mindat in Chin State.

The elephant foot yams from Myitkyina, Katha, Kawlin and Wuntho areas can be seen in the market between August and October. In Chin State, the yams are grown starting in September.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House) ■

Elephant foot yams for sale on the market. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Myanmar-China border trading across Chinshwehaw continues to decline

TRADING across Chinshwehaw, a Myanmar-China border trade camp, in the current six-month interim fiscal period reached US$ 137 million, which was a decline in value by over $100 million, from this time last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

When compared with the same time last year, the bilateral border export through the Chinshwehaw gate, between 1 April and 7 September this year, dropped to $114 million from $213 million, whereas import between the two countries slightly decreased by $4.8 million.

The bilateral export and import through the Chinshwehaw border station has declined since this April. The border trade from the gate in the first week of this month was valued at $4.6 million, including $3.7 million in exports and $0.9 million in imports.

Myanmar is conducting trade with China, the largest neighbouring country, from both border routes and non-border routes. As border trade, Myanmar delivers goods mainly from five border points of entry—Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpaiktee and Kengtung. Of the five, the Muse gate handles the largest volume and value of bilateral border trade. According to the ministry, the country earned $1.8 billion from the exports via the Muse border station during the 160 days, while its imports amounted to over $700 million.

During the period, the country saw an increase in value of Myanmar-China border trade by almost $270 million despite a decline in trade from the Chinshwehaw gate.—Swe Nyein ■

India-Myanmar trade tops $ 455 million in four months

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and India totalled US$455 million within the first four months of the current six-month interim fiscal period, according to the latest monthly statistical report issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period, Myanmar's imports outdid its exports in overseas trade with India. The total bilateral trade between April and July this year included $181 million in exports and $274 million in imports. Myanmar's trade with India was $1.4 billion in the 2011-2012 FY, $1.3 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, $1.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $1.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $1.7 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, $1.9 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, and $1.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY. India largely exports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials to Myanmar. Its imports from Myanmar include areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables, fishery, forest products and human hair.—Shwe Khine ■

Public sector exports of manufactured goods up by over $ 1.2 billion

THE export of manufactured goods by the public sector in the present six-month fiscal period starting this April, reached US$2.5 billion, up by $ 1.2 billion, as against the same period in the last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The total export value of manufactured goods between 1 April and 7 September this year was $3.9 billion, including $1.3 billion through the private sector. Despite an increase in value of the public sector's export of manufactured products, the private sector's export of the same decreased by $ 130 million when compared with the last year. At this time last year, the international importers bought $2.8 billion worth of manufactured goods from Myanmar. According to the ministry's data, the country's earnings from overall export of goods were $ 7.3 billion, including $ 1.2 billion from agro products, $ 148 million from animal products, $ 254 million from marine products, $832 million from minerals, $83 million from forest products and $ 907 million from miscellaneous items.—Khine Khant ■

Arakan National Party presents policy, stance and work program

Daw Aye Nu Sein of Arakan National Party.

Vice Chairperson Daw Aye Nu Sein of Arakan National Party presented its policy, stance and work program through Radio and Television in the evening of 15 September 2018.

The detailed presentation is as follows.

Respected and Esteemed People,

Allow me to extend my heartiest greetings with the words Mingalar Par and wishing for being the physical and mental wellbeing of all people.

I am Vice Chairperson Daw Aye Nu Sein of the Arakan National Party.

Our Arakan National Party (ANP) is formed and constituted to represent all Rakhine nationals and Rakhine ethnic groups.

The Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) and the Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) signed an agreement on 17 June 2013 to merge into a single party under the name of "Arakan National Party" to forge unity among the Rakhine nationals. The RNDP won (35) seats in 2010 general elections and the ALD won (11) seats in 1990 general elections. The ALD registered again as a political party in 2012.

Our Arakan National Party has laid down the basic policy as follows.

(a) The objective is for the emergence of genuine federal union. It means that the Rakhine nationals must have the rights for self-determination and self-creation. And also to build genuine federal union that is founded with the secured concept of "nationalities-based states". It includes the Bamar national having the equal rights of all nationalities in the nation.

(b) To work for the progress and development of all Rakhine ethnic races and all other nationals residing in Rakhine State, and to protect and safeguard the developments of Rakhine State.

(c) To endeavor for the development and growth of democratic system.

Respected and Esteemed People,

Since regaining independent, our nationals and people have suffered with all sorts of hardship for more than (70) years due to the civil war and the mismanagement in the country. Even today, we all are still suffering the harsh conditions. Until now, the internal armed conflict due to the demand of freedom has pushed the innocent people into distress and misery.

We strongly believed that the root cause of internal armed conflict is due to the absence of equal rights among the nationalities, the deprivation of self-determination and self-administration. Therefore, we would constantly endeavor, in broad mind with courage, for achieving internal pace by ending civil war in the country. We all need to work hand in hand to build genuine federal union based on the democratic system by amending the constitution.

Respected and Esteemed People,

Our Arakan National Party is not a party that has been based only on Rakhine nationals, and the fact is being clearly defined in the policy for the norm of enrolment and acceptance of party member. All other nationals of the Union residing in the Rakhine State including the Rakhine nationals and Rakhine ethnic groups are entitled to apply for membership. Our party would stand by and sided with all the nationalities residing in the Rakhine State and fight for their interest, and also participate actively and cooperate in the causes of the Union.

Therefore, we have stipulated (18) work programs of the Arakan National Party in its party constitution, and implementing the tasks in pragmatic ways. The summary of (18) work programs are as follows.

The tasks cover for the progress and development of education, health, social, economy, and culture and also for the emergence of workers union and farmers union. The work programs also incorporated for inviting foreign investment with large projects in which the Rakhine business entrepreneurs have the rights to take part and do business.

Moreover, the program of the party manifested that the benefits and interests gained from the international foreign investment and the natural resources of the Rakhine State must be shared fully among our nationals. It also includes the opening of opportunities through job creations and the repatriation of Rakhine nationals who left the Rakhine State elsewhere to work. The task also includes the protection and securing the rights of the women, the children, the elderly persons and the handicapped.

Respected and Esteemed people,

Although the election to be held on 3 November 2018 is only by-election, the Rakhine nationals have to participate the event with important steps. The vacant slot for the poll at the by-election in Rakhine State is the Pyithu Hluttaw constituency No (2) of Rathedaung Township in Rakhine State. It is vacated by lawmaker U Oo Pho Minn of Arakan National Party (Rakhine State Hluttaw Vice Chairman), who passed away.

In the 2015 general election, our party representatives have won and secured majority of seats, however we were unable to form the Rakhine State Government due to the limitation and crisis of current constitution. However, we could manage and control in the Rakhine State Hluttaw, and we intended to step ahead in momentum.

Lawmakers of Arakan National Party are serving at the Rakhine Hluttaw for the interest of the Rakhine nationals by submitting motions, raising questions, and approving legislation in conjunction with the tasks of observing closely over the work progress of Rakhine State government, and at the same time the party is implementing its own policy and work plan.

One of the significant case in point was concerned with the Advisory Commission of Rakhine State headed by Dr. Kofi Annan. Despite the moiton on objection against the commission was defeated at both Hluttaws, our protest at the Rakhine State Hluttaw was successful, which the voters were well aware of the result.

For that reason, the State Hluttaw constituency No (2) of Rathedaung Township in Rakhine State is an important and vital seat in strengthening the Arakan National Party, and it requires to win the seat.

In the successive eras, the Rakhine nationals have endeavoured and struggled in various methods in acquiring their lost and fadeout national rights and authority, and that our Arakan National Party is also carrying out to the best of its ability within the bound of law to achieve the objective.

Party logo.

The current electoral competition in the by-election poll is one of the steps taking for the interests of the Rakhine nationals. The Arakan National Party will compete at the upcoming by-election for the State Hluttaw seat. The seat for the Hluttaw constituency No (2) of Rathedaung Township of Rakhine State would be contested by the Rathedaung Township Party Secretary U Maung Hla Myint who hailed from Rathedaung Town.

Whenever the Rakhine nationals were encountering difficulties or in harm's way, the Arakan National Party and its party members always come up to assist and at times with other members of different organizations to lend hands for the people, mingling along with the suffering citizens, a ground reality that all the people knew about the party.

When our national brethrens were in anguish and distress due to Letpadaung copper mine crisis, our party rushed there and helped the people.

In 2010 general elections, the whole of Rakhine people stood together with the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP), making the party to achieve as the third largest winning party in the Union of Myanmar.

So also in 2015 general elections, the Arakan National Party won (45) seats out of (77) slots and stood as the third largest winning party. With these milestones of achievements in the chronicle, the "Nationalistic Spirit" of all the Rakhine nationals has been recognized by the Myanmar government, the national leaders, and the foreign governments and the international organizations.

Therefore, it is strongly believed that at the by-election to be held on 3 November 2018, the decisive winning of the Arakan National Party at the constituency No (2) of Rathedaung Township lies on the historic duty of the Rakhine people.

Respected and Esteemed People,

Among three main objectives of our party, the first objective is most important one that stands out as "the emergence of genuine federal union" for which our party would continue to move ahead in that direction without deviation and without giving up.

At the first meeting of the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference, our belief in the genuine federal union concept that we actually desired and firmly holding on tight had already been spelled out, and later it was clarified at the paper reading session.

Respected and Esteemed People,

Over the years, our country has been encountering with the outside pressure and even provocation and breach of our sovereignty and national security. In this regards, the entire people of the country has the responsibility to stand by and defend with national outlook, stance, and national alertness.

The terrorist attacks in the northern part of Rakhine State have been threatening the safety of lives of Rakhine people, and the Arakan National Party is ready to solve the problem hand in hand with the entire people. In this connection, the people of the country could view through the radio, television, newspapers, journals and other media outlets on the activities of the party leaders and lawmakers of the party.

With a view to standing tall with success as a modern developed nation, it is necessary to systematically grow and nurture the upcoming new youth generation and to hand over the national tasks are also very much vital.

Last August in 2018, our Arakan National Party organized a youth gathering and endeavoured such as that of systematic nurturing of new generation youth for Rakhine political arena; that of imparting training skills to qualified youth political force; that of their participation in Rakhine politics and Myanma politics arenas; that of constantly observing the tide of world political arena and cope with the trend in accordance with the party's work program. The formation of new youth generation as a political force is to be carried out constantly, and that is the firm conviction of the Arakan National Party. Therefore, I would like to urge the voters to support our Arakan National Party.

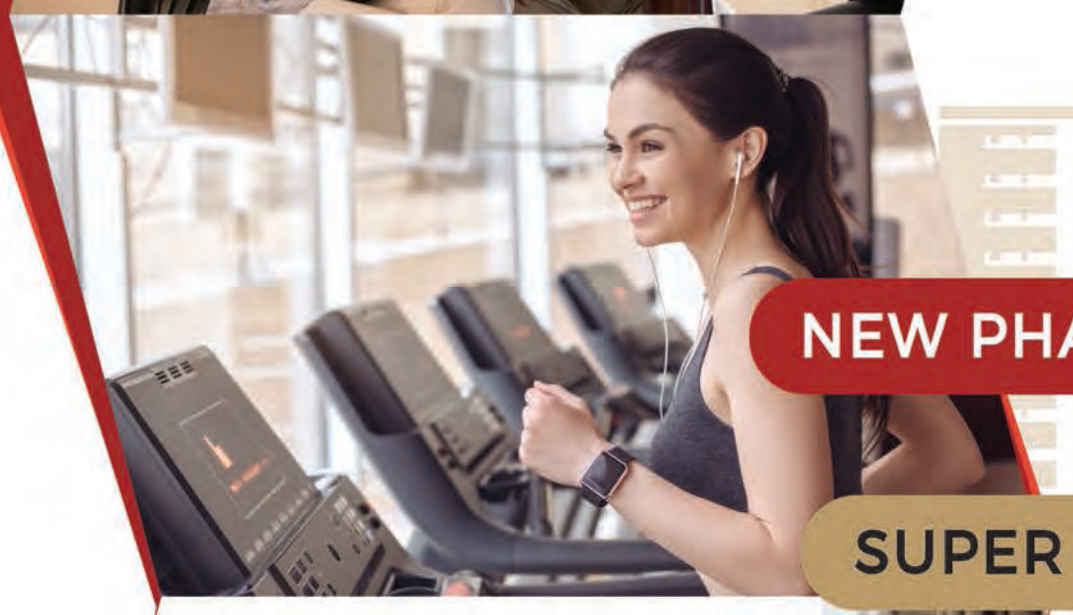
In conclusion, I wish all the people to be free from harm's way and difficulties; and the earliest emergence and establishment of genuine federal democracy in the Union of Myanmar. Thank you.

Translated by UMT (HK)

THE CENTRAL

WHERE THE FINEST MEET

THE CENTRAL executive RESIDENCE



NEW PHASE LAUNCHING

SUPER INVESTMENT VALUE

SAME LOCATION

MORE SERVICES

HOTLINE
+959 777 773 770
/THECENTRALYANGON

PROJECT LOCATION
Corner of Kabar Aye Pagoda Road
and Kanbe Road, Yankin Township,
Yangon, Myanmar

GALLERY SHOWROOM
No. 7-8, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road,
Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
www.thecentral.com.mm

All information contained herein, including but not limited to statements, drawings, designs, illustrations, photographs, visual representations, models, renderings, areas, specifications, dimensions, plans, graphic materials, features and amenities, depictions of the fittings, finishes, features and other displays in the project, buildings or units (the "Materials") are conceptual and are for reference only to portray artistic impression of the lifestyle that our project aims to create and achieve. All areas and dimensions are approximate measurements subject to final survey, construction variances, and approval by the relevant authorities. Any part or all of the Materials are subject to modification, revision, change or withdrawal at the sole discretion of Marga Landmark Development Co., Ltd. ("Marga Landmark") without any prior notice to any person, and should not be relied upon as representations or warranties, whether express or implied, as to the final details of the project, buildings or units, and consequently cannot and should not form part of a binding offer or contract in respect of the project, buildings or units. Only Myanmar citizens or persons having the investor status in Myanmar may invest in this project. Marga Landmark recommends that interested or relevant persons should seek professional advice. Marga Landmark proposes that interested persons should perform on-site due diligence to gain a better understanding of the development site, its surroundings and nearby public facilities. All intellectual property rights relating to the Materials are owned by, and shall remain the exclusive property of Marga Landmark. Any unauthorized dissemination, reproduction, display or usage of any part of the Materials shall be deemed to constitute an infringement of Marga Landmark's rights, and is strictly prohibited.

Let's work together to turn challenges of industrial revolution into opportunities in ASEAN region

LIKE previous Industrial Revolutions, this ongoing Fourth Industrial Revolution is changing the world of work at lightning speed. It is a double-edged sword, carrying both opportunities and challenges.

At the World Economic Forum on ASEAN held in Ha Noi on 12 September, the leaders of ASEAN voiced the key concerns and choices facing the region in an era of technological disruption.

The rapid change in technology and innovation has alerted the ASEAN members in particular to embrace innovation, reform and creativity to connect them in a more dynamic way for sustainable development.

> Despite development gaps among ASEAN, all member countries should work together to seek a new vision and chart out an Action Plan to respond to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

While riding the wave of the industrial revolution, the ASEAN should give stronger empowerment to the private sector and entrepreneurs.

The 4IR should be tapped to benefit people of all ages and from all areas.

The World Economic Forum and ADB have already warned that emerging technologies will transform the Southeast Asian landscape, and ASEAN leaders should be prepared to handle the intense transformation that lies in the near future.

There is indeed a danger that ASEAN business will be facing with stronger competition from challengers from outside the ASEAN region.

ASEAN is fully cognizant of this danger. The current ASEAN Chair, Singapore, has also rightly selected the theme of "Innovative and Resilient ASEAN". We also have ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2020 which has laid down a foundation to propel ASEAN towards a digitally-enabled economy.

ASEAN member countries including Myanmar should be prepared to be ready to take advantage of the new and huge opportunities that would be brought by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

This is because ASEAN is targeted to become the fourth-largest economy in the world by 2020.

ASEAN's 10-member regional grouping is home to more than 630 million people, with a collective GDP of $2.8 trillion – making it the sixth-largest economy in the world

Despite development gaps among ASEAN, all member countries should work together to seek a new vision and chart out an Action Plan to respond to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Together ASEAN can overcome the challenges posed by the new Revolution as a group, and we can turn the challenges into opportunities for our Region.

Late Bloomer Monk in live long learning

By Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

INTERNATIONAL Literacy Day 8 September 2018 was fitting celebrated not only at Nay Pyi Taw, but also across the country. The occasion at Nay Pyi Taw was graced by the presence and inaugural address of H.E Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education. He was reminded of the award of the UNESCO's Mohammed Reza Pahlavi Prize for Literacy in 1971 to Myanmar for successful conduct of people based 3 R movements.

The writer of this article was actively involved in such literacy campaigns together with his history student.

Here the writer is inspired to present the history of Myanmar Literacy especially in the Bagan dynasty of 55 Kings. Thanks to the monastic education patronized by royalty and supported by the public, literacy rate was and is always high then and today. The British Colonialists were amazed to find that literacy in Myanmar was much higher than that of their country of that time.

Buddhism being a literate religion, the three R's Reading, Writing and Arithmetic is basic and compulsory for the three Sasanas _ Pariyati, Patipati and Pativeda. The Three Baskets (Bodies) of Literature (1). Three Bodies of Suttas (Discourses) (2).Five Bodies of Vinia (Disciplinary Rules for monks) and (3).Seven Bodies of Abhidhamma) must be thoroughly learnt and understood. Therefore literacy is a must.

Due to joint efforts of Kings, Monks and Public literacy and Buddhist scholarship read its peak in Bagan comparable to Taxila and Nalamda Universities in India those days.

King Kya Swa (1234-50 A.D) even abdicated throne to devote himself full time to learning. It was during his reign that one late bloomer monk U Kyi Pwey emerged. One old monk of Bagan, one morning, noticed that the pit into which he discarded bamboo toothbrush every morning was filled up. He got a lesson, "I have been lazy and idle these years, not proceeding to higher learning. Had I learnt bit by bit, like that pit, I would have leant much.

So the old monk made up his mind to learn high literature. He went to King Kya Swa and requested to donate him soft stone pencil as he wanted to learn high literature. The King donated what the monk asked. At that time the King gave the old monk a wooden pestle. "Old monk, come back to me when wooden pestle gives out green sprouts". The old monk knew the meaning. He returned with the wooden pestle.

After some years of intensive efforts, the old monk became a full-fledged learned monk, mastering all Tipitaka Treatises. His name spread far and wide.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

A group of highly literate monks want to test if the old monk was really literate and learned. They invited the old monk to a water tank near Sulamani Temple Pagodas. They asked the old monk to submerge for few minutes and come up above water. As the examiner monks were about to ask the old monk question, they tried to clear up their mouths and throats, thus producing the sounds.

Aham, Aham, Aham, Aham. အဟမ်း၊ အဟမ်း၊ အဟမ်း၊ အဟမ်း။

The old monk thought he was asked to explain the meaning of the Pali word, "Aham". Without much ado and without delay, he rattled out non-stopped the meaning derivation, the grammar and all historical and literacy aspects of the word "Aham".

All examiner monks jointly paid homage to old monk recognized him learned and educated. The old monk was acclaimed "Shin Ditha Pamaukha" learned monk known in all directions.

The old monk cut a green shoot and tied it to the wooden pestle and appeared before King Kya Swa, saying. "Your Majesty, the wooden pestle you gave me was some years ago now green shoots". The King examined the old monk by himself to their satisfaction. He apologized for what he had done. He promised he would be supporter of him and requested him to compile Treatises. The first treatise the old monk compiled was Thinbone Gyi Dika (သင်ပုန်းကြီး ဒီကာ). But in the list of literacy works of Bagan (ပုဂံပဋိကတ်တော်များသမိုင်း) his name and works appeared.

Today the water tank in the monastery near the Sulamani Temple Pagoda is well-known as Aham Kan or Sar-mai Kan (Aham tank or Examination Tank). အဟမ်းကန်၊ စာပေကန်.

This old monk is more well-known as U Kyi Pwey (Mr. Pestle) than Shin Dithapamaukkha ဦးကျည်ပွေ့၊ ရှင်ဒီသာပါမောက္ခ. The second Shin Dithaukkha. He was the first Shin Dithapamaukkha. The second Shin Ditahpamaukkha was the monk envoy sent by King Narathihapate to lead his peace mission to Chinese Emperor Kublai Khan of Mongol Dynasty.

The first Shin Dithapamaukkha U Kyi Pwey left his examination Tank or Aham Kan at Bagan and his literacy works in Pitakattaw Thamaing. Whereas the second Shin Dithapamaukkha, the monk envoy left his stone inscription recording in detail of his peace mission and successful diplomacy. The inscribed stone is displayed in the Bagan Site Museum.

U Kyi Pwey (Mr. Pestle) Shin Dithapamaukkha gives us the lesson "ပညာလို၊ အိုသည်မရှိ (There is no age limit for learning, live long learning). The lesson we got from the Second Shin Dithapamaukkha monk envoy is "Peace from diplomacy settles all conflicts".

Campaign talks of three parties on 18,19,20 Sept

The Mirror Daily, the Myanma Alinn Daily and the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily will present campaign talks of the Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS), the Shan-Ni & Northern-Shan Ethnics Solidarity Party (S.N.S.P) and the Zo National Region Development Party on 18, 19 and 20 September respectively. — MNA

Social change can come from art

Traditional hand weaving of textiles in Chin State. **PHOTO: SALAI KYAW MOE TUN**

By Aye Min Soe

IN Myanmar, about 60 per cent of the handicrafts or folk art comes from ethnic areas in the hilly regions and rural areas. But one of the main problems we are facing in Myanmar today is that the country's younger generation is not interested in making handicrafts or learning the folk art of their ancestors. Many have turned to easy ways for making money, including cutting down trees illegally. Some have become drug addicts, mostly in ethnic areas because there are so few decent jobs for youths. The kind of utensils we use on a daily basis could be a barometer of the possible extinction of our folk art. Instead of using the utensils made in the traditional way using chemical-free products such as dyes made from seeds, fruits and trees from forests, the local people today in the "Yaw" region in upper Myanmar have turned to utensils made using modern chemical methods. The "Yaw" longyis, which were very popular in the country in the past and known for its hand-made quality using chemical-free methods, are now lacking in the original quality as the products are chemically dyed. This is also occurring with the traditional hand weaving of textiles in hilly areas, especially in Chin and Kachin State, handicrafts in Mon State, and ceramics in Kyaukmyaung near Mandalay and in Twantay near Yangon. Pinni, or saffron-coloured textiles for Burmese national dress (a colour that is also the trademark for the democracy struggles against the military in Myanmar), were originally woven from red cotton and made by hand in rural areas. This is no longer the case. Traditionally made products, despite their high quality and safe methods, is disappearing from the market as they cannot compete with the products made using modern techniques. Another example can be found in Inle lake. Local crafters used to make a living producing furniture and other products with an antique appearance. But the market for these items disappeared as cheaper plastic products became popular. This has forced many artisans to pursue the wrong path toward fighting and illegal activity. With the youths of the country facing hardship to get jobs, the successive government can create jobs by fostering a market for folk arts. There is an opportunity to market and sell products for a fair price that are valued elsewhere. For example, we can buy a Chin traditional hand-made textile for Ks50,000 in Chin State, but the price reaches around Ks200,000 at the Bogyoke Aung San Market in Yangon. There is market opportunity in many similar places. We have also already observed how social change can come from art. The technique of creating sand paintings in Bagan was taught to Myanmar artists, resulting in local people earning income from selling their works of wall paintings on canvas with the use of new techniques disseminated by the artist. This has empowered these artists, creatively as well as commercially. To sum up, if we can promote the folk arts and find a market for them, the country's new generation, including the marginalized ethnic youths who are currently holding arms and undertaking illegal business, will be helpful for peace process.

While demand for some traditional animal papier mâché toys is falling fast, papier mâché cows are still popular for children in Myanmar.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Union Minister for Information meets with newly elected members of Press Council

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with newly elected members of Myanmar Press Council at the Printing and Publishing Department in Theinbyu Street, Yangon yesterday.

The first meeting between the Ministry of Information and new MPC focused on transfer of duties and responsibilities from the old MPC to the new one and taking oath by the new MPC in the presence of the President in accordance with the News Media Law .

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun discussed about the ministry's work for the benefit of the country and development of news media sector and status of cooperating with MPC.

Afterwards, newly elected MPC Chairman U Ohn Kyaing (Hanthawady U Hon Kyaing) explained about works conducted in the old MPC and future works to be conducted, the new MPC's work for the benefit of the country and development of the news media sector.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the meeting with newly elected Myanmar Press Council members in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

New MPC members introduced themselves at the meeting and discussed about participating in the new MPC.

MOI's readiness to cooperate with new MPC

In his conclusion remark, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint expressed the Information Ministry's readiness to cooperate with the new MPC, urging the newly elected members to seek good ways for achieving good results during the term of the MPC.

Three-year term of outgoing MPC will expire on 11 November.

According to the News Media Law enacted on 14 March 2014, the term of the MPC lasts three years and the present MPC's term will expire on 11 November. The 29 new MPC members were elected on 8 September.

The processes of submitting the list of the elected MPC members to the President, Presidential Office's issing notification on formation the new MPC and MPC members to swear-in in the presence of the President within 30 days of the forming MPC. —MNA ■

Broadcasting Governing Body holds coordination meeting 5/2018

BROADCASTING Governing Body (BGB) coordination meeting 5/2018 was held at Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) meeting hall, in Pyay Road, Yangon yesterday morning.

At the meeting Deputy Minister for Information and BGB Chairman U Aung Hla Tun delivered an opening speech.

Next, BGB Vice-Chairman Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and MRTV Director General U Myint Htway discussed about works conducted and illegal satellite dish matters.

Afterwards, master of ceremony explained about implementing decisions of meeting 4/2018 while sub-department officials explained about future works.

Following this, BGB members discussed illegal satellite dishes, future works and online TV matters.

The discussions made were then coordinated by the Deputy Minister and officials. — MNA ■

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun addresses the meeting of Broadcasting Governing Body in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

1st Korea Traditional Music festival held in Yangon

Dancer troops perform traditional culture dance at the 1st Korea Traditional Music Festival . **PHOTO: MNA**

1st Korea Traditional Music festival was held at National Theatre in Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday.

The festival was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and wife Daw Khaing Nwe Oo, Yangon Region Chief Minister and ministers, officials from Ministry of Information, Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa and embassy officials, Korean Association in Myanmar officials and Korean citizens.

First, Korea traditional music association chairman presented flower bouquets and commemorative certificates to Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Myanmar and Korean Association in Myanmar Chairman Mr. Chun Sung.

Next, Ambassador of Republic of Korea presented a flower bouquets and commemorative certificates to Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and then read a message sent to the festival by Republic of Korea.

Entertainment programs follow with performances by artistes from Korea traditional music association and students from National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon).

The festival, a cultural exchange of Myanmar and Korea, was organized by Korean Association in Myanmar with support from the embassy of the Republic of Korea.—MNA ■

US says denuclearization talks ongoing with NKorea

WASHINGTON—Talks with North Korea are ongoing over the country's potential denuclearization, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Friday, despite the appearance that discussions had stalled.

"We are still continuing to have many conversations with the DPRK about how to effectuate achieving all the commitments that were made during the Singapore summit," Pompeo told journalists.

At a landmark meeting on 12 June with US President Donald Trump, North Korea's Kim Jong Un pledged to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

However, no details were agreed, and Washington and Pyongyang have sparred since over what that means and how it will be achieved.

Last month, Trump abruptly canceled a planned visit by Pompeo to Pyongyang.

But new ground appears to have been broken, as the White House talks of a possible second summit with the US president.

Top US diplomat Pompeo on Friday said the United States is "as committed as ever to continuing to enforce those UN Security Council resolutions."

"We believe they are central to President Trump's efforts to convince Chairman Kim that full, final denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is necessary."—AFP ■

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says the US remains committed to enforcing UN Security Council resolutions against North Korea. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Huge challenge' to halt DR Congo Ebola outbreak : Red Cross

GENEVA (Switzerland)— Efforts to rein in an Ebola outbreak raging in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are being complicated by the geographical spread and growing suspicion towards outsiders fighting the epidemic, the Red Cross said on Friday.

Since the outbreak of the deadly virus was declared on August 1 in the eastern North Kivu province, 137 confirmed or probable cases have been registered, including 92 deaths, according to DRC health authorities.

Kinshasa last week said the outbreak was "under control", with the speed of transmission slowing significantly since mid-August.

But while the number of cases and deaths are not currently surging, Red Cross's disaster chief warned that the growing geographical spread of cases, as well as increasing community resistance was deeply worrying.

"This has not been contained geographically. That is a huge challenge," Pascale Meige told AFP in a telephone interview after a visit to the affected areas.

The epicentre of the outbreak remains in Mabalako and Beni in North Kivu, but six other areas in that province have also been affected, as well as one in neighbouring Ituri province, according to the World Health Organization.

The recent spread of Ebola to Butembo in North Kivu, an important commercial hub of one million people, is particularly concerning since it is close to Goma, a large city that borders Rwanda.

'Risk of further spread'

"The risks are really high in terms of further spread," Meige said.She also warned that rumours were spreading in affected communities that were harming efforts to halt the outbreak, she said, including that Ebola was a hoax aimed to enrich foreign health workers, or a political ploy connected with looming DRC elections.

"The level of mistrust is extremely high," said Meige, who heads disaster and crisis response and recovery at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

She hailed the "extremely sophisticated response" so far by the DRC health ministry, the WHO and others, but warned that each time a case appears in a new place, those efforts must be duplicated.—AFP ■

Russian diplomat accuses Bellingcat of leaking special services' misinformation

MOSCOW—British investigative journalism website Bellingcat is leaking misinformation of special services under the cover of investigations, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova wrote on her Facebook page on Friday.

The Russian diplomat commented on Bellingcat's report that the group's experts found out using the Russian Federal Migration Service's data that two suspects in the Skripal poisoning case, Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, were linked to the Russian military intelligence service GRU.

Zakharova noted that she has no doubt that Bellingcat is tied to special services. "Moreover, it is most likely that this is a special agency, which is leaking misinformation under the cover of investigations."

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova. **PHOTO: TASS**

According to Zakharova, Bellingcat's experts failed to provide evidence that Petrov and Boshirov were linked to the Salisbury poisoning case.

Zakharova also recalled that earlier this website almost monopolized the right to the truth in investigating the MH17 crash in Donbass in 2014. "They provided such details, which could not have been collected by the entire scientific and research institute, not to speak about a private company."—AFP ■

Poland rejects EU criticism of controversial court reform

WARSAW (Poland)—Poland on Friday rejected EU criticism of its controversial Supreme Court reforms, challenging Brussels to take its case to the bloc's top court.

The European Commission in August gave Warsaw a month to review a controversial law forcing the court's judges to retire at 65.

Critics argue the reform puts the judicial system under government control and so threatens democracy in the former communist state.

However, Poland's right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government argues the changes are needed to tackle corruption and overhaul a system still marked by the communist era.

Poland said EU doubts about the reform were "unwarranted", adding that under "EU treaties the organisation of justice is an exclusive competence of the member states.

"If the Commission has further doubts, it may refer its complaint to the Court of Justice of the EU, which will ultimately decide the case," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Poland could face huge fines if the EU's top court rules against it.

The controversial retirement law came into effect in July and lowers the pension age of judges from 70 to 65.

It affects 27 of the Supreme Court's sitting 73 judges including chief justice Malgorzata Gersdorf, who has refused to step down, slamming the measure as a "purge" that breaches her constitutionally guaranteed six-year term ending in 2020.

Brussels launched infringement proceedings against Warsaw on 2 July over the changes, part of a bitter, long-running confrontation over the rule of law in Poland.

Poland faces co-called Article 7 proceedings over "systemic threats" to the rule of law, a measure launched by the EU executive in December 2017 over other controversial PiS reforms to Poland's Constitutional Tribunal and its common courts.

Steps taken under Article 7 of the European Union Treaty, known by some in Brussels as the "nuclear option", could ultimately strip Poland of its EU voting rights.—AFP ■

Bhutan seeks more happiness in third election ever

NEW DELHI — Voters in Bhutan, "Land of the Thunder Dragon", went to the polls on Saturday in the first round of only the third election in the small Himalayan nation wedged between rivals India and China.

The two parties with the most votes will contest a runoff on 18 October, with Harvard-educated Tshering Tobgay, 52, hoping for a second consecutive term as prime minister.

But the keen mountain-biker's People's Democratic Party (PDP) faces a tough challenge from the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT), winner of Bhutan's first election in 2008, and two other parties.

The 800,000 inhabitants of Switzerland-sized Bhutan got television in 1999 and democracy arrived only in 2008 when its "dragon kings" ceded absolute power.

But it has tried to shield itself from the downsides of modernisation, striving for Gross National Happiness, being carbon-negative and keeping tourist numbers down with a daily fee of $250 per visitor in high season.

Opinion polls are banned and analysts are thin on the ground but an observer told AFP that the PDP had an edge over its handling of the economy, with growth strong and unemployment low.

Corruption, rural poverty, youth unemployment and the prevalence of criminal gangs remain challenges, however.

"I think the core issues in 2018 are the same as 2013 and 2008 — the economy, rural development, infrastructure and, to some extent, tourism," Tenzing Lamsang, editor of The Bhutanese daily, told AFP.

Bhutan is heavily dependent on its neighbour India for aid, infrastructure investments, imports and as an export market, in particular for electricity it generates using hydroelectric power.

During the last election campaign in 2013 India abruptly withdrew subsidies for kerosene and cooking gas imports, in what was seen as an attempt to ensure a change of government.

Bhutan has held national elections only twice before, after its monarchy ceded absolute power in 2008. **PHOTO: AFP**

India is unhappy about China's growing influence in Bhutan. Last year India and China became embroiled in a military standoff over the Doklam plateau high in the Himalayas claimed by both China and Bhutan.

India itself does not claim the territory but has a military presence in Bhutan. It stepped in to prevent Chinese border guards from building a road there, prompting Beijing to accuse it of trespassing on Chinese soil. —AFP ■

China to rectify problems of Internet bars in rural areas

BEIJING — China will launch a campaign to address problems of Internet bars in rural areas in a bid to create a healthy cyberspace community, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The ministry requires local law enforcement authorities to intensify the crackdown on Internet bars who admit minors, fail to check customers' ID cards, and operate bars without a license.

Data showed that more than 490,000 law enforcement personnel across the country have inspected more than 190,000 bars, settled 3,573 cases, suspended 244 Internet bars for rectification and revoked the licenses of 18 bars.

The ministry has blacklisted 52 Internet bars whose licenses were revoked for admitting minors.

The legal representatives or owners of these Internet bars are forbidden from opening another Internet bar for five years.

The ministry said it will continue to strengthen the management of Internet bars, step up routine inspections and improve the blacklist system. —Xinhua ■

Pulse revolution happening in India: Agri scientist

JORHAT (Assam) — A pulse revolution is taking place in the country with a quantum leap in its production since 2009-10 to reach 25.23 million tonnes in 2017-18, a MULLaRP project coordinator has claimed.

The production of pulses had remained stagnant at around 14 MT for two decades continuously, Dr Sanjeev Gupta, Project Coordinator of All India Coordinated Research Project on MULLaRP (Rabi Crops) said here on Friday.

He was speaking at the inaugural day function of the Annual Group Meet at the Assam Agricultural University (AAU). Lentil, lathyrus, rajmah, peas and some other minor pulses are secondary winter legumes which together contribute 14 per cent of the total pulses production, he said.

There is ample scope for bringing additional area under these pulses in newer niches areas such as rice fallows, tal (lake) areas, hill agriculture and in intercropping for remunerating cropping system, Gupta said.

An estimated additional 3.0 million hectare can be brought under such pulses cultivation across the country. The improvement work on these crops was initiated in the country at the beginning of the 20th century particularly with the establishment of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa in Bihar in 1910, he said.—PTI ■

Indonesian ferry with 147 on board catches fire, ten killed

JAKARTA — Ten people were killed and 11 others are missing after a passenger ferry with 147 people on board caught fire Friday and sank in central Indonesia, a government official said on Saturday.

The Fungka Permata V was on its way from the port of Bau-Bau in Southeast Sulawesi Province to the port of Sanana in North Maluku Province, about 520 kilometers away, when it caught fire in waters off Central Sulawesi Province's Banggai Regency, Gus Rional, spokesman at the Directorate General of Sea Transportation, said. It sank at 4:45 pm.

Rescuers only reached the site at 7:30 pm due to high waves and rescued 126 passengers, the spokesman said.

The cause of the incident was not known. —Kyodo News ■

Police officer drops loaded gun while guarding PM Abe's motorcade

WAKAYAMA (Japan) — A police officer dropped a loaded pistol while guarding Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's motorcade in Wakayama, western Japan on Friday night, police said, adding the gun was returned about an hour after it was mislaid.

The officer's automatic weapon slipped out of its holster and dropped onto the road when he was leaning out of a police car window to control traffic at around 7:50 pm on Friday, the police said on Saturday.

A local resident taking a walk found the gun and handed it at around 9:10 pm to one of around 50 officers who were searching the area for the lost weapon.

Abe was on his way to Kyoto after attending a meeting for the upcoming Liberal Democratic Party's leadership election.

The officer in his 20s was not using a strap designed to prevent a gun from falling at the time.

It was not against gun-carrying protocol because he was working in plain clothes rather wearing a uniform, according to the police.

The police announced the incident around 2:30 am on Saturday.

"It is very regrettable that such an incident occurred. We will make every effort to prevent a recurrence," Katsuro Matoba, security division chief at the prefectural police, said in a statement. —Kyodo News ■

Super Typhoon Mangkhut smashes through Philippines

TUGUEGARAO (Philippines) — Super Typhoon Mangkhut — the biggest storm of the year — smashed through the Philippines on Saturday, and claimed its first death as a woman was swept out to sea off Taiwan.

Mangkhut tore through the northern part of Luzon island, where it made landfall in the predawn darkness, ripping off roofs, felling trees and knocking out power.

The area is home to around 10 million people, many of whom live in flimsy wooden shelters.

As the powerful storm left the Southeast Asian archipelago and barrelled towards densely populated Hong Kong and southern China, search teams in the Philippines began surveying the provinces that suffered a direct hit.

"We believe there has been a lot of damage," said Social Welfare Secretary Virginia Orogo as thousands of evacuees took refuge in emergency shelters.

Mangkhut was packing sustained winds of 170 kilometres (105 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 260 km per hour as it left the Philippines.

An average of 20 typhoons and storms lash the Philippines each year, killing hundreds of people and leaving millions in near-perpetual poverty.

Thousands of people fled their homes in high-risk areas ahead of the storm's arrival because of major flooding and landslide risks.

In Taiwan, a woman was swept away by high waves caused by the typhoon, the government said.

'We are terrified'

Residents had started lashing down their roofs and gathering supplies days before the arrival of the storm.

"Among all the typhoons this year, this one (Mangkhut) is the strongest," Japan Meteorological Agency forecaster Hiroshi Ishihara told AFP on Friday.

"This is a violent typhoon. It has the strongest sustained wind (among the typhoons of this year)."

After blasting the Philippines, Mangkhut is predicted to hurtle towards China's heavily populated southern coast this weekend.

"They (authorities) said this typhoon is twice as strong as the last typhoon, that's why we are terrified," Myrna Parallag, 53, told AFP after fleeing her home in the northern Philippines.

"We learned our lesson last time. The water reached our roof," she said, referring to when her family rode out a typhoon at home in 2016.

The country's deadliest on record is Super Typhoon Haiyan, which left more than 7,350 people dead or missing across the central Philippines in November 2013.

Poor communities reliant on fishing are some of the most vulnerable to fierce typhoon winds and the storm surges that pound the coast.

"The rains will be strong and the winds are no joke... We may have a storm surge that could reach four storeys high," Michael Conag, a spokesman for local civil defence authorities, told AFP.

Rescue workers clear a road of debris and toppled electric posts caused by strong winds due to super Typhoon Mangkhut as they try to reach Baggao town in Cagayan province, north of Manila on 15 September, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

As the storm heads for China's southern coast, Cathay Pacific airline said it expects more than 400 flight cancellations over the next three days.

The Hong Kong government said Mangkhut will pose "a severe threat to the region" as many residents in the city and neighbouring Macau stocked up on food and supplies.

The president of neighbouring Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen, pushed citizens to be ready.

"The typhoon is powerful and even it's not expected to make a landfall in Taiwan, we should be well prepared and not... take it lightly," she wrote on Facebook. —AFP ■

YANGON GOLF CLUB

Hole In One Club

HOLE IN ONE

Congratulation Min Thein!

Congratulation to our member below who shot a Hole-In-One while playing on 13 September, 2018 (15th Hole) at Yangon Golf Club.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (1806N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (1806N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1060 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1060 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-9-2018 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 OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (109N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (109N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (006 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EF ELENA VOY. NO. (006 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Nicolas Cage says R-rated 'Ghost Rider' could be hit today

Actor Nicolas Cage. **PHOTO: PTI**

LOS ANGELES — Actor Nicolas Cage believes that his 2007 superhero film "Ghost Rider" would have been a hit if it was made and released in the present era.

The 54-year-old actor told Yahoo Entertainment that an R-rated "Ghost Rider", made on the lines of "Deadpool", would be "enormously successful" today.

"Had 'Ghost Rider' been made in R-rated format, the way they had the guts to do with 'Deadpool', and they did it again today, I'm fairly certain it would be enormously successful," Cage said.

Upon its debut, Cage's film was panned by the critics and grossed USD 115 million in the US against a USD 110 million budget

Cage, however, insists that the 2007 film and its 2012 sequel, "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance", did well post its box office run.

"I still think the movies were a hit. People don't look at the subsidiary outlets, like DVD and streaming and whatnot. When you look at what (directors) Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor did (on 'Spirit of Vengeance') for USD 50 million, and they got a USD 250 million return, you begin to see the genius of the sequel," he said.

The actor also admitted that the films never guaranteed any box office success.

"The problem is, it's very hard to take a family of children to a movie and they made it a PG-13 movie about a superhero who, oh, by the way, also happens to have sold his soul to Satan," Cage said.

"(It's not the) most commercial concept or vehicle. But it certainly is the most interesting, and the most thought-provoking. I think if you look back on the movies today, they age well," he added. —PTI ■

Australia PM to chill backstage with US rapper Fatman Scoop

SYDNEY — Australia's new prime minister Scott Morrison late Friday welcomed an unlikely backstage invite from US rapper Fatman Scoop, after the conservative leader stirred a social media storm when he took exception to the entertainer's lyrics.

Morrison — an evangelical Christian who has been prime minister for just a few weeks — on Thursday deleted a video on his social media accounts showing lawmakers raising their hands in parliament to the lyrics from Fatman Scoop's hit song "Be Faithful".

The meme has parliamentarians agreeing to legislation in synchronisation to the lyrics: "You got a hundred dollar bill, put your hands up! You got a fifty dollar bill, put your hands up!"

But the song also contains explicit lyrics and references to casual sex — not mentioned in the meme — which many social media users pointed out.

After just a few hours online the meme was removed, with a Twitter apology from Morrison saying the full lyrics were "just not OK".

"It's quite clear that that is not a song on my playlist," he later told reporters in Sydney.

The uproar prompted a response late Friday from Fatman Scoop, who tagged Morrison in a Instagram post saying: "I am humbled to have my voice rocking in the highest offices of the Australian Government!"

The rapper defended his lyrics: "It's a fun PARTY SONG that has no NEGATIVITY or HARM in it!!", before extending Morrison an invite to a November festival appearance in Australia, "to watch, dance, and after in the backstage area discuss politics with me".

Morrison, a staunch proponent of family values who has softened his image in recent years, was quick to respond, saying he was "definitely keen" for the event but requested a family friendly rendition of the song.

"Btw, probably best to send me the PG (parental guidance) radio version next time," he tweeted. —AFP ■

Rapper Fatman Scoop invited Scott Morrison'to discuss politics' backstage after an upcoming gig in November.photo: AFP

Ariana Grande pays tribute to rapper ex-boyfriend Mac Miller

NEW YORK — Singer Ariana Grande paid a poignant tribute on Friday to rapper Mac Miller, a week after her former boyfriend died at age 26.

"i adored you from the day i met you when i was nineteen and i always will," Grande wrote on Instagram in her first public reaction to Miller's death from a reported overdose.

The two split up in May, and Grande has faced attacks on social media by people claiming she was the cause of Miller's death. "you were my dearest friend. for so long. above anything else. 'm so sorry i couldn't fix or take your pain away. i really wanted to," Grande wrote.

Miller, who released his fifth album in August, spoke openly about his struggle with addiction.

"the kindest, sweetest soul with demons he never deserved. i hope you're okay now. rest," Grande wrote. —AFP ■

Singer Ariana Grande and rapper Mac Miller split up in May. **PHOTO: AFP**

Canada top court rules Hollywood must pay to chase internet pirates

OTTAWA (Canada) — Canada's high court on Friday ruled that Hollywood studios and other copyright holders must pay internet service providers to chase down Canadians who illegally download movies or other online content.

The decision will make slightly more difficult efforts to fight infringements under Canada's new 2015 copyright law.

The amount that internet service providers should be reimbursed to dig up information on subscribers suspected of infringing on copyrights, however, must still be determined at a future court hearing.

The case was triggered by a group of film producers who got together to fight illegal sharing of their films.

Led by Voltage Pictures, the production company behind "The Hurt Locker" and "Dallas Buyers Club," sought to know the identity of a customer of Canadian internet service provider Rogers so that they could sue that person. Eventually they planned to sue about 55,000 more Rogers customers, so this was the first of many requests.

Rogers collected the information, but asked the producers to pay a fee of Can$100 (US$77) for it.

In court, Voltage argued that charging for the information would make it cost-prohibitive to track down tens of thousands of alleged law breakers.

Rogers says it receives more than two million requests from rights holders per year to send notices to customers alleging breaches in an effort to discourage ongoing infringement.

Taking the additional step to identify those customers to rights holders risked multiplying its administrative costs, it argued. The Supreme Court in its ruling said Rogers is entitled to "reasonable costs" for complying with so-called Norwich orders, and sent the matter to a lower court to determine the amount. —AFP ■

NASA counts down to launch of laser study of ice sheets

WASHINGTON—NASA counted down on Saturday to the launch of its $1 billion ICESat-2 mission, using advanced lasers to uncover the true depth of the melting of Earth's ice sheets.The mission will inform sea level rise forecasts and is "exceptionally important for science," according to Richard Slonaker, ICESat-2 programme executive at NASA.

The half-ton satellite should reveal unprecedented detail about the current thickness of ice at the vulnerable polar regions as the climate warms. The weather forecast was 100 per cent favourable for the 40-minute launch window opening at 8:46 am (1246 GMT) on Saturday from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The measurements will be "extremely precise," down to the width of a pencil, said team member Kelly Brunt.

It has been nearly a decade since NASA had a tool in orbit to measure ice sheet surface elevation across the globe. The preceding mission, ICESat, launched in 2003 and ended in 2009. From it, scientists learned that sea ice was thinning, and ice cover was disappearing from coastal areas in Greenland and Antarctica. In the intervening nine years, an aircraft mission, called Operation IceBridge, has flown over the Arctic and Antarctic, "taking height measurements and documenting the changing ice," NASA said. But an update is urgently needed.

Humanity's constant reliance on fossil fuels for energy means planet-warming greenhouse gases are continuing to mount. Global average temperatures are climbing year after year, with four of the hottest years in modern times all taking place from 2014-2017. Ice cover is shrinking in the Arctic and Greenland, adding to sea level rise that threatens hundreds of millions of people along the coastlines. ICESat-2 should help scientists understand just how much melting the ice sheets are contributing to sea level rise.

"We are going to be able to look at specifically how the ice is changing just over the course of a single year," said Tom Wagner, cryosphere program scientist at NASA.

Advanced lasers

ICESat-2 is equipped with a pair of lasers—one is on board as a back-up—that are far more advanced than the kind aboard the preceding ICESat mission.

Though powerful, the laser will not be hot enough to melt ice from its vantage point some 300 miles (500 kilometres) above the Earth, NASA said.

The new laser will fire 10,000 times in one second, compared to the original ICESat which fired 40 times a second.

The result is a far higher degree of detail, akin to taking 130 images of a single football field, compared to one shot of each goal post. — AFP ■

First Krispy Kreme opened in Yangon

KRISPY Kreme's Myanmar was opened at Times Link Mall in Bahan Township at 8 am on 16 September. The first 300 customers will receive prizes including a year's supply of donuts for the first person to arrive.

The Krispy Kreme shop will offer the highest-quality doughnuts including its signature Original Glazed doughnut and great-tasting coffee at Timeslink Mall at the corner of Dhammazedi road and Link road in Bahan Township.

Krispy Kreme, through its Myanmar franchisee, is one of only a small number of western restaurant brands that will have outlets in Myanmar.—GNLM ■

A man order off a menu at a fast food restaurant. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Samsung sets new Galaxy device launch for October

SAN FRANCISCO—Samsung sent out invitations on Friday for an 11 October event to launch a new mobile device under its Galaxy line. The invitation offered few details but the mention of "4x fun" led to speculation the about a new smartphone with four cameras or possibly a foldable handset.The South Korean electronics giant, the world's leading smartphone maker, unveiled its latest flagship Galaxy Note 9 in August.Samsung and other device makers are looking for ways to boost momentum in a sluggish smartphone market.

Research firm IDC expects worldwide smartphone shipments to decline 0.7 per cent in 2018 to 1.455 billion units, with growth likely to resume as 5G devices become available.

Despite its leadership position, Samsung saw a 22 per cent drop in mobile technology sales in the second quarter.

The news from Samsung comes days after Apple unveiled a new lineup of iPhones focusing on the premium smartphone segment at prices starting between $749 and $1,099 for US customers.

Apple recently slipped to third place in the smartphone market behind Huawei, even though the Chinese firm's sales in the United States are limited.

Google, which is looking to gain ground in the premium segment with its own branded handsets, has scheduled a media event on 9 October expected to unveil its updated Pixel handsets.— AFP ■

Russia, US discuss flights of ISS international crews

Russia and the US are discussing the possibility to continue flights of international crews to the International Space Station. **PHOTO: TASS**

ZVYOZDNY GORODOK (Moscow Region)—Russia and the US are discussing the possibility to continue flights of international crews to the International Space Station (ISS) after the start of the use by Americans of their own spaceships, said head of the Gagarin Research & Test Cosmonaut Training Center Pavel Vlasov in a conversation with reporters.

Russia remains the only country that is currently delivering crews to the ISS.

"There is a discussion currently to enable us fly as mixed crews. That is, NASA astronauts continue to fly aboard Soyuz spacecraft one by one, and our [Russian cosmonauts] will fly aboard NASA spaceships as well," he said.

It will enhance the reliability of ISS missions in case of any launch delays, Vlasov said. After the closure of the Space Shuttle project in 2011, the US lost independent access to space. US astronauts have been flying to the ISS onboard Russian Soyuz aircraft only since then. Boeing and SpaceX are expected to make the first piloted flight before the end of 2018 or in mid-2019, with not strict timeline determined yet.—Tass ■

Designed enzyme conquers sulfite reduction: study

CHICAGO—Researchers at the University of Illinois (UI) have removed one hurdle toward environmental cleanup of certain contaminants with a newly designed synthetic enzyme that reduces the compound sulfite to sulfide. In the study, the researchers used an enzyme as a scaffold to anchor clusters of iron and sulfur atoms that behave like tiny molecular batteries, transferring the electrons needed to push the redox reaction.

"We focused on the functionality of our synthetic enzyme, not rebuilding the simplest possible structure," said UI chemistry graduate student Evan Mirts. "We accounted for interactions that are typically thought of as secondary, or less important to the overall redox reaction. It turns out that these interactions are extremely important."

"When we accounted for those so-called weaker interactions in our designed enzyme, we suddenly saw redox reaction activity that was very similar to that of the naturally occurring sulfite-reducing enzyme," said Yi Lu, a professor of chemistry at UI.—Xinhua ■

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho launched an impassioned defence of his use of Marcus Rashford. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mourinho turns on media 'lies' over use of Rashford

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho turned on the media once more on Friday as he launched a detailed defence of his use of England international striker Marcus Rashford.

The 20-year-old forward impressed for the Three Lions over the international break as he started, and scored, against both Spain and Switzerland.

That led to questions over whether Mourinho was making the most of Rashford's abilities as he has struggled to hold down a regular place in the United side where he faces stiff competition from Romelu Lukaku, Alexis Sanchez and Anthony Martial.

Rashford will definitely be missing when Mourinho's men travel to Watford on Saturday, though, as he begins a three-match ban after being sent-off against Burnley before the international break.

"I think I can expect that Sunday I'm going to be highly criticised for not playing him tomorrow because some of the boys are really obsessed with me and, some of them, they have I think a problem with some compulsive lies," said Mourinho.

The Portuguese coach then reeled off a stream of statistics detailing Rashford's 105 appearances in Mourinho's first two seasons in charge before pointedly suggesting other managers should be quizzed for their use of young English players. — AFP ■

Players picked for 2019 AFC U-16 Women's Championship qualification

A total of 20 footballers have been selected for Myanmar U-16 national women football team to play in the 2019 AFC U-16 Women's Championship qualification, according to an announcement of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

Goal keepers are Sein Lat Lat Oo, Khin Myat Moe and Po Ou.

Defenders are May Thet Mon Myint, Phu Phu Zin Zaw, Lar Ell War, May Thawe Ko, Phyu Phyu Win and Htet Htet Win.

Midfielders are Zin Mar Htwe, Sone Hnin Phwe, Pont Pont Pyae Maung, Kay Kay, Yadnar Oo, Win Win and Wai Phoo Eain.

Attackers are July Char, Su Pyae Pyae Kyaw, Swe Mar Aung, and Myat Noe Khin.

The 2019 AFC U-16 Women's Championship qualification is a women's under-16 football competition which decides the participating teams of the 2019 AFC U-16 Women's Championship.

A total of eight teams qualify to play in the final tournament held in Thailand, four of which are decided by qualification.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Brazil midfielder Lima resisting offers from China, Europe

SAO PAULO—Brazil international midfielder Lucas Lima has reiterated his desire to remain at Palmeiras despite interest from clubs in Europe and China.

The 28-year-old, who signed a five-year deal with Palmeiras last December after leaving Santos as a free agent, said he declined several lucrative offers from foreign clubs during the northern hemisphere summer.

"Football is dynamic and you never know what could happen," Lima said. "But right now I just want to be happy at Palmeiras. I had some offers in the middle of the year but my head is here."

Palmeiras are currently third in the 20-team Serie A standings and are unbeaten in the league since former Brazil boss Luiz Felipe Scolari replaced Roger Machado as coach in late July.Lima's own form has also improved and he said that he is relishing the opportunity to play under Scolari.

"I think that under Felipao we are passing the ball more through me," he said. "When I'm on the pitch he always asks my teammates look for me."

Palmeiras' next match is a Sere A clash against Bahia in Salvador on Sunday.—Xinhua ■

Guardiola keen to tie down Sterling with new deal

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Pep Guardiola has urged Raheem Sterling to end his prolonged contract talks with Manchester City and sign an extended deal with the Premier League champions.

The England forward is expected to be back in action for City against Fulham this weekend after missing the Three Lions' clashes with Spain and Switzerland over the past week with a slight back injury.

But it is Sterling's long-term status Guardiola wants resolved.

Sterling and City's hierarchy spent much of last season in contract negotiations before the player, whose current deal expires in 2020, put them on hold, preferring to concentrate on England's World Cup campaign.

The 23-year-old was also hoping that a strong personal showing in Russia might strengthen his bargaining position.

But having failed to find the net as England reached the last four, talks have re-opened.

"It's well-known we're delighted with him and would like to continue," said Guardiola.

"The club asked me my opinion and we shared our opinions and, after that, it is the club and the agent. I'm not involved.

"Sometimes this kind of thing needs its own time. But it's important that Raheem and his people know how delighted we are with him."

Reports have suggested that the former Liverpool forward, currently on a reported £175,000 ($229,000) a week, is seeking a pay rise of £100,000 a week.

That would still leave Sterling considerably short of the club's highest-paid player, Kevin De Bruyne.

De Bruyne's contract can reach £400,000 a week, according to reports, when signing-on fees and bonuses are factored into the lucrative new deal he signed midway through last season.

The Belgian is currently sidelined by a knee injury that was expected to keep him sidelined for three months when first diagnosed in August.

And Guardiola remains hopeful of having De Bruyne back before the end of the year. — AFP ■

Newcastle United's US defender DeAndre Yedlin (L) vies with Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Newcastle United at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 1 September, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Please forgive me grandpa

By Alicia
Third year civil engineering,
Hmawbi Technological University

I DON'T know whose fault it is, grandpa...Is this me? You? Or your privileged grandson? But I know, I am also guilty though. I want to say sorry for everything I did even though you can't hear me anymore. I know… it's too late now…

My family, my uncle's family and my grandparents are living in the same yard. Uncle and his family live in my grandparents' house and our house is next to them. There are no vales between the two houses but rivalries and different beliefs in religions have made a deep distance between the two families. And this becomes the reason why little me made something cold-hearted to leave me now grieving.

One evening when I got back from school, I saw grandpa was sitting silently under the dim light on the bench in front of his house, unconsciously staring at somewhere. It wasn't the way he used to be. In the pleasant evenings like this, he was always active to talk about his tedious adventures to his wife or my uncle or his old fellows, or he would soulfully sing hymns and pray to God to bless the family. Unlike the way he's supposed to be, he seemed weary and stilled as a stone.

"What's wrong with grandpa? He seems lonely." I thought."Maybe I should go and talk to him…" I told myself."Well… why shall I do it for whose good sake? He has got the family he loves the most by his side. What he does is none of my business since he has ditched me!"

I just ignored and got into my house. Of course, there was no point of accompanying somebody who hurt my feelings. From the time my cousin, the second grandchild, got to school, I could never hear the words like, "You did great.", or, "That's my grand-daughter!" I fell over backwards to win his love. But I failed… Even at the time showing him off my achievements, he would boast me how his newly grand-son is doing great with his crappy routines. Oh how much I hate him!

Since my parents were usually picking fight, my grandparents had become my new shelter. Besides, as the eldest grandchild, I don't wanna lose that place of mine as the family's favorite kid. Most of my sweet childhood memories were sculpted with grandpa, grandma and their big black oil-painted wooden house. It was like a second home to me. Later, in those heavenly days, dad lost his job and our family got into crisis, things turned out upside down. Instead of giving a hand, Uncle seemed pleased to become the breadwinner and we were looked down on like the underdogs. Rivalries got more vigorous and I was no longer welcomed there. There's no more place for me to sit down with them at their breakfast table. I felt like I was kicked out, replaced and discriminated by my trusted and beloved people… Since then, I guess all those pitiful feelings were turned into jealousy, hatred and frustration. Oh how awesome my childhood was! Well, these don't matter anymore, though. Those bitter days had gone. Besides, my family got back to a good condition since dad went abroad.

Honestly, in the early days, I didn't give a damn about what grandpa had been acting … day by day; grandpa was still acting the same every evening and I started feeling bad about myself for turning a blind eye.

"Shall I talk to him? He looks sad."

All the good times flashed upon my mind and eased my bitterness toward him.

"Yeah… I was his grand-daughter. We used to have good times though." I murmured myself. "But what shall I say?"

It wasn't easy to make a joyful sweet small talk to somebody who wasn't in touch for years.

Anyway, I braced myself and greeted him. "Hey grandpa, what're you doing?" "Sitting." He replied me short but with normal voice.

"Aww… I see. Where's grandma?"

SEE PAGE- S-7

Design: BT

ENGLISH LESSON 7

By C. T. O

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Essay-writing

အခြေခံပညာရေးအဆင့်မြင့်တန်း၊ ကောလိပ်နှင့်တက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းသားများ၏ တောင်းဆိုချက်အရ ဤအခန်းကို ထည့်ခြင်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။

Notes မဟုတ်ပါ။

ယခင်လများက တင်ပြခဲ့သည့်အတိုင်း **am, is, are, was, were** များကို 'ရှိခြင်းပြ' ကြိယာနှင့် 'ဖြစ်ခြင်းပြ' ကြိယာအဖြစ် သုံးထားသော စာကြောင်းများကို အများဆုံးသုံးထား၍ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာစီစာကုံးအရေး လေ့ကျင့်ပါ။

အခြေခံပညာရေးအဆင့်မြင့်တန်းနှင့် ကောလိပ်တက္ကသိုလ်စာမေးပွဲများတွင် ကျောင်းသားကျောင်းသူ အတော်များများ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာစီစာကုံးမရေးတတ်သည်ကို တွေ့ရသည်။ အမှန်မှာ မဖြစ်မနေကြိုးစားရေးသားသင့်သည်။ လွယ်လွယ်နှင့်မှန်မှန်ရေးသားနိုင်လျှင်အမှတ်ကောင်းကောင်းရနိုင်ပါသည်။

လွန်ခဲ့သော **23-24** နှစ်က တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲတွင် **My House** ဟူသော စာစီစာကုံးကို ကျောင်းသားတစ်ယောက်က အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ရေးသွားဖူးသည်။

There are seven persons in my house. There are six rooms in my house. There are many tables and chairs in my house. There are many books in my house. There are three bicycles in my house. There are two dogs and three cats in my house.

There is, there are နှင့် စတင်သော စာကြောင်း **20** ခန့် ရေးထားသည်။ **Essay** တစ်ပုဒ်တော့ ဖြစ်သွားသည်။ အမှားမပါသော်လည်း ကောင်းတော့ မကောင်းပါ။ ထိုကျောင်းသား စာမေးပွဲအောင်သွားသည်ကို တွေ့ရသည်။

ဤဥပမာကို တင်ပြရသည်မှာ ကျောင်းသားများမဖြစ်မနေ ကြိုးစားရေးသားရန်လိုအပ်ကြောင်းကို လေးနက်စေလိုသဖြင့်သည်။

အခြားကျောင်းသားတစ်ယောက်ရေးထားသည့် အောက်ပါ စာစီစာကုံးကို လေ့လာပါ။ 'ဖြစ်ခြင်းပြ' ကြိယာနှင့်'ရှိခြင်းပြ' ကြိယာကို အများဆုံးသုံးထားသည်ကို တွေ့ရပါမည်။

MY HOME

There are seven members in my family. There are Father, Mother, two elder brothers one elder sister, one younger sister and, I (မှားသည် **myself** ဟု ရေးရန်ဖြစ်သည်). Father is an engineer. Mother is a teacher. My two elder brothers are University students.

My elder sister is a nurse. I am a student. I am in the 10th Standard. My younger sister is in the 7th Standard. We live in Pyapon Street, Sanchaung, Yangon. Our house is a big house. (**Ours is big house** ဟုရေးသင့်သည်။). It is a wooden house. There are eight rooms in it. The living room is very large. There are tables and chairs in it. There are many books and a radio in it. The kitchen is behind the house. We also have a dining room . Father loves gardening. There is a small garden behind the kitchen. Father works in it every morning. He has grown some fruit trees and vegetables in it. We have many neighbours. We like them and they like us. There is a badmiton court in front of the house. My sisters and I play bidminton there every evening.

We usually have our dinner at about 7. After dinner we sit in the living room. Sometimes we listen to the radio. Sometimes we read magazines. Sometimes we talk about many things. (ဤစာကြောင်းမှာသိပ်မကောင်းပါ။) We are a happy family.

အထက်ပါစာစီစာကုံးမှာ အကောင်းကြီးထဲက မဟုတ်ပါ။ သို့သော် အများနည်း၍ နေအိမ်နှင့်ပတ်သက်သောအကြောင်းအရာများအတော်ပါသည်။ ၁၅ မှတ် အနက် ၉ မှတ် ၁၀ မှတ်ရနိုင်သော စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးဖြစ်ပါသည်။

How to keep ourselves healthy

Health is a gift of nature. It is the most important thing for a person in life. But we know the value of health only when we fall ill. We must therefore keep ourselves healthy. To keep ourselves healthy, we must do a number of things ourselves.

Firstly, we must eat nutritious food. We must eat our meals regularly. We must eat neither too much nor too little. If we overeat, we will get indigestion. We must avoid eatng over-ripe fruits and half cooked meat. We must also avoid drinking impure water and mil. Secondly, we must take rest. When we rest, we regain the strength used up by work. Sleep is the best form of rest. When we sleep both our brains and muscles get the rest they need. Thirdly, we must take exercise. We may walk, run or swim. We may play games such as football and badminton. Physical exercises make us healthy and keep us fit. We should go to bed early and get up early. Fourthly, we must be clean. We should bathe twice a day and wear clean clothes. We must keep our houses and their surroundings clean. There are germs which cause diseases. They live and grow well in dirty places. So cleanliness is very important.

A healthy man is a happy man. He can do his work well. He can eat what he likes. He can go where he wishes to. He can enjoy life. We should always remember that good health cannot bought. It can not be given as a gift. So we must keep ourselves healthy.

အထက်ပါစာစီစာကုံးကို ကြည့်လျှင် ၉ တန်း ၁၀ တန်း အင်္ဂလိပ်ဖတ်စာအုပ်ထဲမှ Health and Disease ကိုအခြေခံ၍ ရေးသားထားသည်ကိုတွေ့ရပါလိမ့်မည်။ မည်သည့်အတန်းတက်နေသည်ဖြစ်စေ Text-books ကိုကျေညက်အောင် အကြိမ်ကြိမ်ဖတ်ပါ။ အသံထွက်ဖတ်ပါ။ လိုအပ်သလို ပြန်လည်အသုံးချတတ်အောင်ကြိုးစားပါ။

Glossary

nutritious	အဟာရဖြစ်သော
indigestion	အစာမကြေခြင်း
a gift of nature	သဘာဝ၏လက်ဆောင်
physical exercise	ကာယလေ့ကျင့်ခန်း
germ	ရောဂါပိုးမွှား
disease	ရောဂါ
surrounding	ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်
fit	ကြံ့ခိုင်သော
avoid	ရှောင်သည်

MOTHER

Mother is the most wonderful woman in the world. She gives us life. She gives us love. She gives us strength. She protects us from dangers. She teaches us everything.

My mother is Daw Thuza Nwe. She is a tall beautiful woman of about 40. Her eyes are large and always smiling. Her face is round and full and her teech are like pearls. She is neither too fat nor too thin. Though I am only 17, people say we are like sisters. She loves Father very much.

She loves us, too. Her other daughter and two sons are younger. Mg Swe Moe is the youngest and is only 8. He is Mother's favourite. Mother cooks our food, wasihes our clothes and does all the house work. But she is always neat and tidy. She reads when she is free. She is a great reader. She reads all kinds of books. She never shouts at us. She speaks in a soft voice. She never quarrels with Father and she never weeps. She knows how to make us happy.

We all love her. She wants us to be good men and women when we grow up. She sometimes takes us to the Shwedagon. She is very religious. She keeps sabbath once a week. She also writes once a week to her mother who lives in Maymyo with her eldest son. To us, Mother is a protector, guide, friend and companion.

Wonderful	အံ့ဩဖွယ်ကောင်းသော
protects	ကာကွယ်သည်
pearl	ပုလဲ
favourite	အနှစ်သက်ဆုံးသော
free	အားလပ်သော၊
shouts	အော်ဟစ်သည်
quarrels	စကားများ (ရန်ဖြစ်) သည်။
guide	လမ်းပြ
companion	အဖော် (အပေါင်းအဖော်)
weep	ငိုသည်

MY PARENTS

My parents are U Ko Ko and Daw Ma Ma Lay, Father is about 50. He looks youthful. His hair is still black. He is tall and handsome. He is neither too fat nor too thin. He walks every morning. He sometimes swims. He is a writer.

Father is well-known in Myanmar. He reads a lot. He spends most of his time writing. He also travels a lot. He is also a musician. He plays the piano. He is a good pianist. Mother is a teacher. She teaches fourth standard children Burmese. She is about 42. She is now getting fat. She also keeps house. She gets up early, cooks the meal the keeps the house clean. She goes to her work at about 8. The school is not far and she walks there. She comes back at 3. She loves father and takes good care of him. She does not talk much. She also reads a lot. I have two younger sisters. One is Moe Moe. She is in the 8th standard, the other is Khin Khin. She is in the fifth standard.

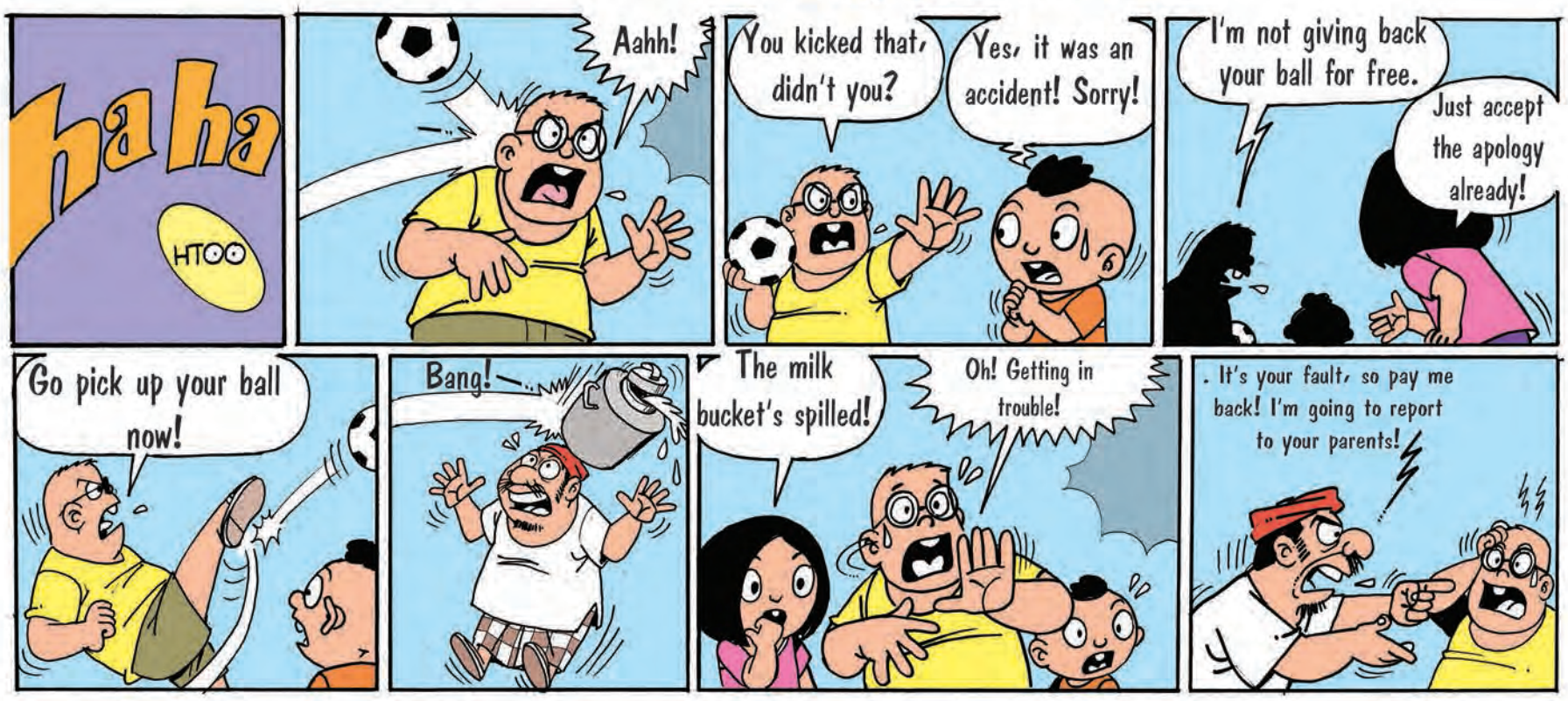
We all love reading. Our house is full of books. We are a happy family.

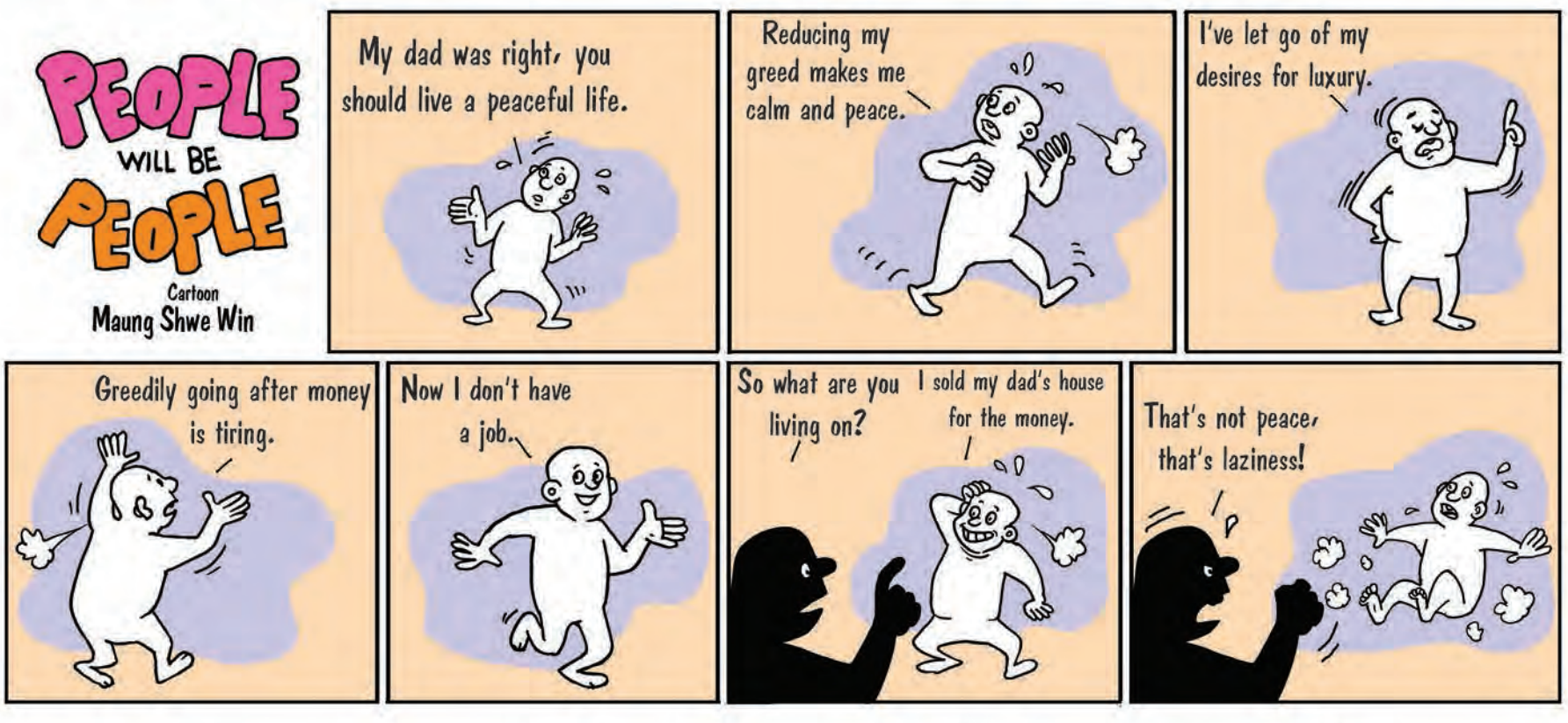
youthful	ပျိုမြစ်သော
handsome	ရုပ်ချောသော (ယောကျ်ားများနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍သာသုံးလေ့ရှိ)
travels	ခရီးသွားသည်
musician	ဂီတပညာရှင်
pianist	စန္ဒရားတီးသူ
take good care of	ကောင်းစွာစောင့်ရှောက်သည်။
clean	သန့်ရှင်းသော

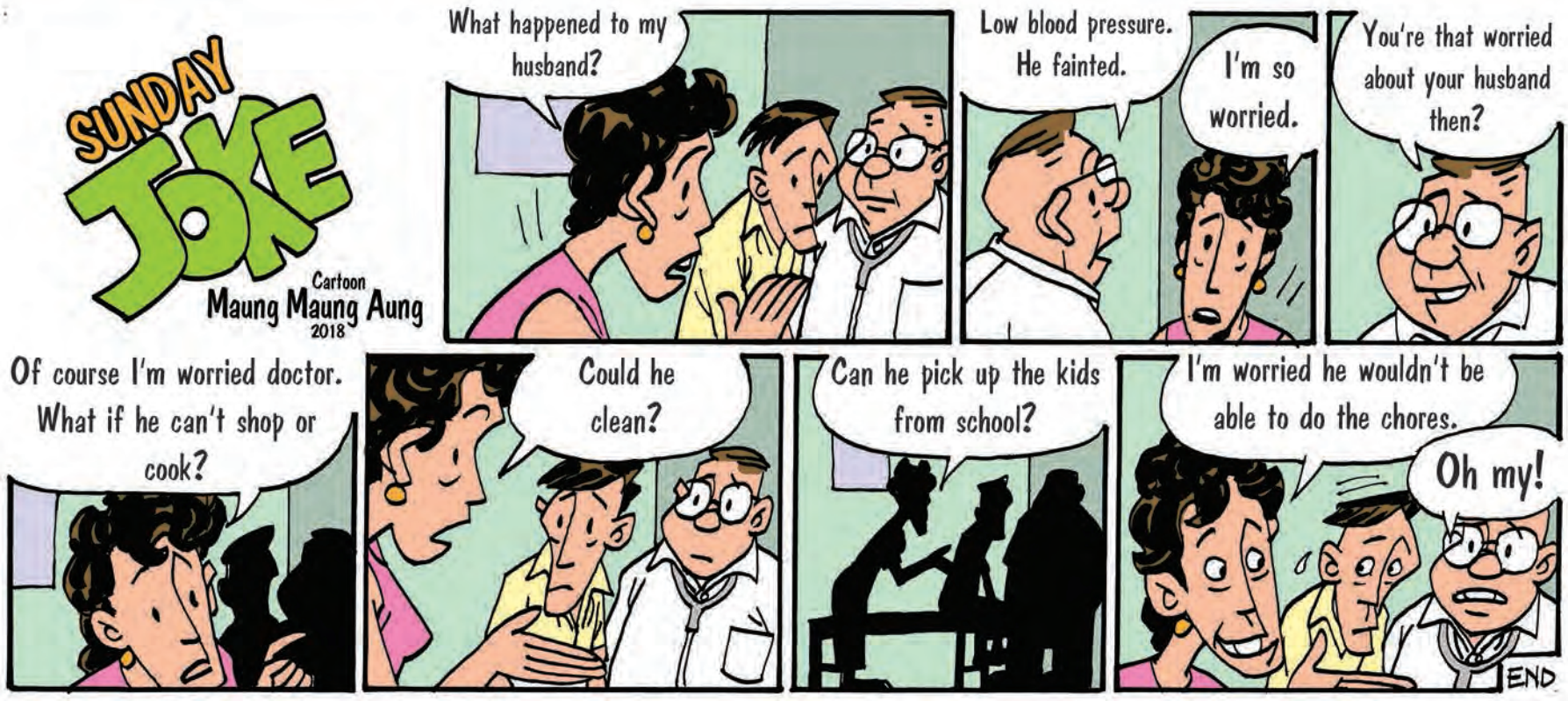
****

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY COMICS







16 SEPTEMBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Challenges for wildlife conservation

By: Saikat Kumar Basu
Lethbridge AB Canada

Tropical forest inhabited by langur monkeys, southern India. **PHOTOS: SAIKAT KUMAR BASU**

THE situations of forest, wildlife and biodiversity conservation across South and Southeast Asia are deplorable and reaching alarming heights due to a number of natural as well as anthropogenic factors. It is indeed sad to note that we are losing the majestic tigers in the Chitwan National Park in Nepal due to over population, mismanagement and shortage of suitable prey bases. Similar conditions of Asiatic lions in the Gir Sanctuary in western India in the state of Gujarat is being neglected for decades due to political reasons of having the unique lion habitat tag for the state, jeopardizing future security of a vulnerable lion population that is getting alarmingly over crowded in the Gir. We are possibly waiting for natural catastrophes or disease outbreaks in these wild populations prior to deciding to take any credible actions to protect and conserve these rare endangered species before it is too late.

The death of a helpless tiger by marauding group of tribal hunters in neighboring West Bengal (WB) stare in India is sending a very depressive and negative image of the state towards the global communities. Violence has been the lifeblood of the state. The lack of credibility of the forest department, its unskilled and untrained ground staff and more importantly incapable, irresponsible and useless higher authorities whose only responsibility is enjoying fat government salary, perks and a hefty pension post retirement is disturbing! The obnoxious behavior of the chief wildlife warden of WB who never once visited the site where the tiger presence was being investigated speaks volume of the level of under preparedness, lack of initiates and enthusiasm; and the trend of the higher authorities under the support of their political masters to fire guns keeping the barrel on the shoulder of low level staff members is atrocious and open to stir criticism.

The role of WB state government is highly questionable, too; in the sense that no arrest or proper investigation of the brutal gang murder of a helpless endangered species is being seriously conducted in the name of voter or tribal appeasement. The prejudiced socio-cultural custom of the so-called tribal communities of the land to kill helpless wildlife in the name of tradition and custom is pathetic and totally unacceptable. People who committed this heinous crime should be tried under the law of the land. Failing to do this will only demonstrate the poor human and animal rights legacy of the state. If foreign investors do not think WB to be an investment destination, they have reasons for that. Violence only begets violence, and sweeping problems under the carpet only makes them come back time and again, haunting those who like keeping their eyes shut to violence and injustice ! Appeasement politics, political gimmicks, misguided and short-term political planning, allowing such unacceptable and destructive activities in the forested areas across various countries is absolutely alarming. Blind superstition and cultural traditions with no connection to truth and factual figures are also turning out to be detrimental for forest, wildlife and biodiversity conservation across South and Southeast Asia.

Bush meat exploitation in Nepal is a serious threat to local wildlife.

One-horned rhino in Kazranga, Assam, India.

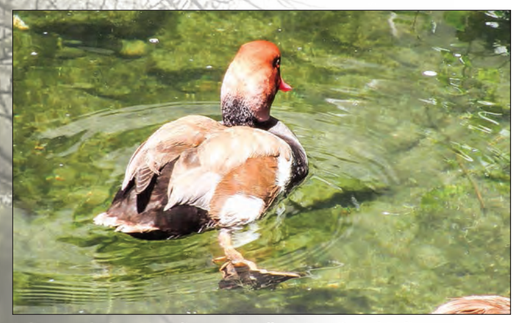
Poaching pressures in large parts of Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives are on the rise. The poaching and hunting pressures on the local wildlife and biodiversity in Bangladesh across all its premier wildlife habitats and ecosystems, including the Sunderbans, are extremely pathetic. A new threat to wild herds of Asiatic elephants across Southeast Asia, including Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia and Malaysia, has been reaching monumental proportions for harvesting elephant skins that have huge demands in neighboring China for use in traditional medicinal practices as well as in manufacturing natural body jewellery. Furthermore, various species and sub species of fishes (freshwater, brackish water, estuarine and marine), amphibians (frogs, toads, salamanders and newts), reptiles (turtles, tortoises, fresh water crocodiles, salt water crocodiles, gharials, snakes, geckos and other lizards), birds (resident and migratory), and endangered and critically endangered mammalian species, like elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, leopards, snow leopards, clouded leopards, smaller wild cats, deer and antelopes, wild goats and sheep, bears, primates (apes and monkeys), pangolins, etc. are being virtually pushed towards extinction due to over harvesting, trafficking, poaching and illegal export to wildlife and wildlife body parts market operating in China and designated pockets of Southeast Asia.

Some of the factors contributing towards such widespread crisis are over population of humans and encroachment of the forested areas by poor rural inhabitants, illegal immigrants and insurgents for their daily sustenance; over and above the local tribals, forest fringe residents and forest dwellers and remote rural residents. This over arching mounting pressures on the local forest and on major and minor forest resources for food, fodder, forage, fertilizer and fuel is destroying natural forests. Furthermore, natural and anthropogenic unrestricted and unmonitored forest fires, poaching, wildlife and human trafficking in forest belts with poor economic developments and destabilized political systems is further deteriorating forest habitats indiscriminately across South and Southeast Asia. The high demand for forest and wildlife products, live wildlife as well as wildlife body parts from China is putting unprecedented anthropogenic pressures on local wildlife, biodiversity and forest conservation efforts across all the countries in South and Southeast Asia.

Extreme poverty, political disability, lack of economic empowerment and economic opportunities, lack of education, awareness and health care, lack of proper monitoring and surveillance as well as lack of credible buildup of intelligence network and rise of insurgent activities across South and Southeast Asia are some of the mostly important anthropogenic factors that are threatening the forests, wildlife and biodiversity of the region as well as the long term socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-ecological future of the region. Lack of coordination and cooperation between adjacent countries are helping criminals, poachers, wildlife, drug and human traffickers to move freely through dense forests and challenging topography separating international borders. Unless a comprehensive plan is designed soon, the region could face serious irreparable damages to the local forests, wildlife and biodiversity in the not so distant future. ■

Tropical Southeast Asian bird, St Louis Zoo, US.

Wooly hare, Phuentsholing, Bhutan.



Indigenous duck species, Alipore Zoo, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

South Asian geese, Rangpur, Bangladesh.

Quail in Bangladesh.

Deer adjacent a village in Northeast India.

Landmark Indian and Burmese Supreme Court decisions given exactly fifty-seven years apart

By Dr Myint Zan

As I write, international news and social media are reporting with enthusiasm a landmark ruling given by the Supreme Court of India. On 6 September 2018, a five Judge bench of the Supreme Court of India, in a decision given by Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice A.M. Khanwilkar -- in which the three other Justices joined—delivered a unanimous decision which held that parts of Section 377 of the Penal Code of India which criminalizes 'carnal intercourse against the order of nature' (as written in the Section) between (to be specific) consenting adult males and males as well as males and females in private is unconstitutional and is therefore invalidated.

In the modern legal history of India or at least in the history of the Indian Supreme Court, this is a landmark if not (as the ruling's admirers enthused) 'historic' decision. There would naturally be admirers and detractors, indeed critiques, perhaps even condemnations of the decision. (In the web page of The Independent newspaper from the United Kingdom at least at the time the writer read it, it was wrongly mentioned that 'carnal intercourse' was prohibited under 'Section 377 of the Indian Constitution'. In fact the Section was not from the Constitution of India but from the Indian Penal Code drafted and enacted initially in the late 1850s – around 160 years ago by the then British colonial administrators. With modifications, revisions, deletions and additions throughout the ensuing decades, many parts of the Indian Penal Code is still applied in former British colonies in Asia including—but not limited to—what is now India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Singapore and Malaysia).

The name of the Indian Supreme Court case is Navtej Singh Johar and others (petitioners) v The Secretary Ministry of Law and Justice, Union of India (respondents). The unanimous ruling (from the web) is 166 pages long (roughly around 43,000 words) and is written in English.

This article is not to comment, 'celebrate' or even critique this landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of India which attracts a lot of national (within India) and international attention.

It is partly to briefly narrate about a decision giving by the late Supreme Court of the Union of Burma exactly 57 years ago to the day before the Navtej Singh Johar case was delivered by the Supreme Court of India. In the year 1961 when fax machines – not to say the world wide web from which the Indian Supreme Court decision can be 'downloaded' perhaps even contemporaneously as it was being announced —was in the (then) quite distant future. Regardless of its impact, news of any decision of the nature and significance of the Navtej Singh Johar case could not have 'spread' that fast and that extensively. Though in the context of pre-1962 (only) Burmese jurisprudence the particular Burmese Supreme Court decision decided on the same date exactly 57 years earlier was significant it made much less impact nationally and internationally. It definitely was and is much less well-known compared to the historic Indian Supreme Court decision.

On 6 September 1961, 57 years to the day that I write, the late Burmese Supreme Court issued a ruling authored (mainly) by the late then Chief Justice of the Union U Myint Thein (22 February 1900-3 October 1994) in the case of T.N. Ahuja v Commissioner of Income Tax as reported in the 1961 Burma Law Reports (BLR) Supreme Court (SC) at page 185.

The judgment written in English is indeed the last case dealt by then highest court of the Union and dealing with the now long-defunct 1947 Constitution. Apart from the late Chief Justice U Myint Thein the bench consists of the late Justice U Bo Gyi (1898- May 1982) and late Justice U Aung Tha Gyaw.

The case in part deals with Section 90 of the 1947 Constitution where it is required 'that any changes in the rules and regulations of an Act promulgated by Parliament made by delegated legislation or other means must be laid before the next session of Parliament' and approved by it. The changes to the rules of Income Tax Act made in 1954 was not tabled before the next session of Parliament in 1954 and they were tabled and approved by the then Burmese Parliament only in 1958. (Delegated Legislation is legislation that is not made by the Parliament itself but is delegated to other sub-legislative and executive bodies to make 'subsidiary legislation' that has to be eventually approved by the Parliament.)

The late Burmese Supreme Court rejected the contention of counsel for appellants T N Ahuja that since the changes in the rules of the Income Tax Act were not tabled in the immediate next session of Parliament, the rules are null and void. The late Supreme Court held that 'to lay the rules before Parliament is not a condition precedent for them to have the force of law and in point of fact they became effective on promulgation'.

Less than six months after the judgment was given, the Burmese Army led by General Ne Win (6 July 1910?- 5 December 2002) took over State power in a military coup. One of the first things the coup plotters did was to arrest Chief Justice U Myint Thein – at the same time as then President the late Mahn Win Maung and the Prime Minister the late U Nu and many other important but soon to be former leaders—in the early morning hours of 2 March 1962. I have read in Burmese language materials that Chief Justice U Myint Thein asked for a 'warrant' when he was arrested and the arresting officer had to contact his superior. The superior told the elderly Chief Justice that it was a military coup and there was no need for an 'arrest warrant' to arrest even a personage who was second (after the President) in the then State hierarchy.

U Myint Thein was put in detention for nearly six years and was released only on 27 February 1968. Associate Justice of the Supreme Court at that time of the military coup the late U Bo Gyi was later appointed as the new 'Chief Judge' (the nomenclature of the apex Court in English was changed from 'Supreme Court' to Chief Court and Chief Justice to 'Chief Judge' in April 1962 only to revert back to the previous terms in the early 1970s) at the new Chief Court of Burma, effective 1 April 1962, and served in that post until early June 1965.

On 30 March 1962, General Ne Win, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, abolished, by decree, the Supreme Court and High Court, the top Burmese apex courts, 'effective from noon 31 March 1962'. (Hence the term 'late Supreme Court' as referred above.)

From the very first decree announcing the formation of the Revolutionary Council, no decrees issued by the Revolutionary Council would require any 'tabling' of these decrees 'having the force of law' to be 'tabled before the Parliament' and that includes a decree issued within days of the 1962 military coup which abolished the then Parliament!

SEE PAGE- S-7

FROM PAGE- S-6

Hence the rule of law and constitutionalism which had existed prior to 1962 ceased to exist if not within days of the coup then in the ensuing years. None dare challenge the validity of the numerous laws (or rather military decrees) issued by then Revolutionary Council in its apex courts either during or indeed after the 'transfer of power' from the Revolutionary Council to the Burma Socialist Programme Party on 2 March 1974 -- 12 years to the day after the 1962 military coup. (Both the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Chairman of the Burma Socialist Programme Party was U Ne Win.)

Indeed, when the 1974 one-party Constitution was adopted, one of its key provisions stated in effect that all 'laws, decrees, by-laws made by the Revolutionary Council devolves upon the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma and shall be considered to have been taken in accordance with this [i.e. now defunct 1974] Constitution'.

After the adoption of the 2008 Constitution decrees and laws made by the three military Councils (Revolutionary Council, 2 March 1962-2 March 1974), State Law and Order Restoration Council (18 September 1988-15 November 1997), State Peace and Development Council (15 November 1997-30 March 2011) remain in force until they are repealed. None of these laws made during the military Councils can be said to have been enacted by an 'elected' Legislature (even by a Legislature where only candidates from one political party can become legislative members as in the March 1974 to September 1988 period). Indeed, none has been challenged as amendments to the Income Tax Act was in the T N Ahuja case of 1961. Political (and therefore judicial) realities on the ground (absolutely) militate against even seriously contemplating such challenges.

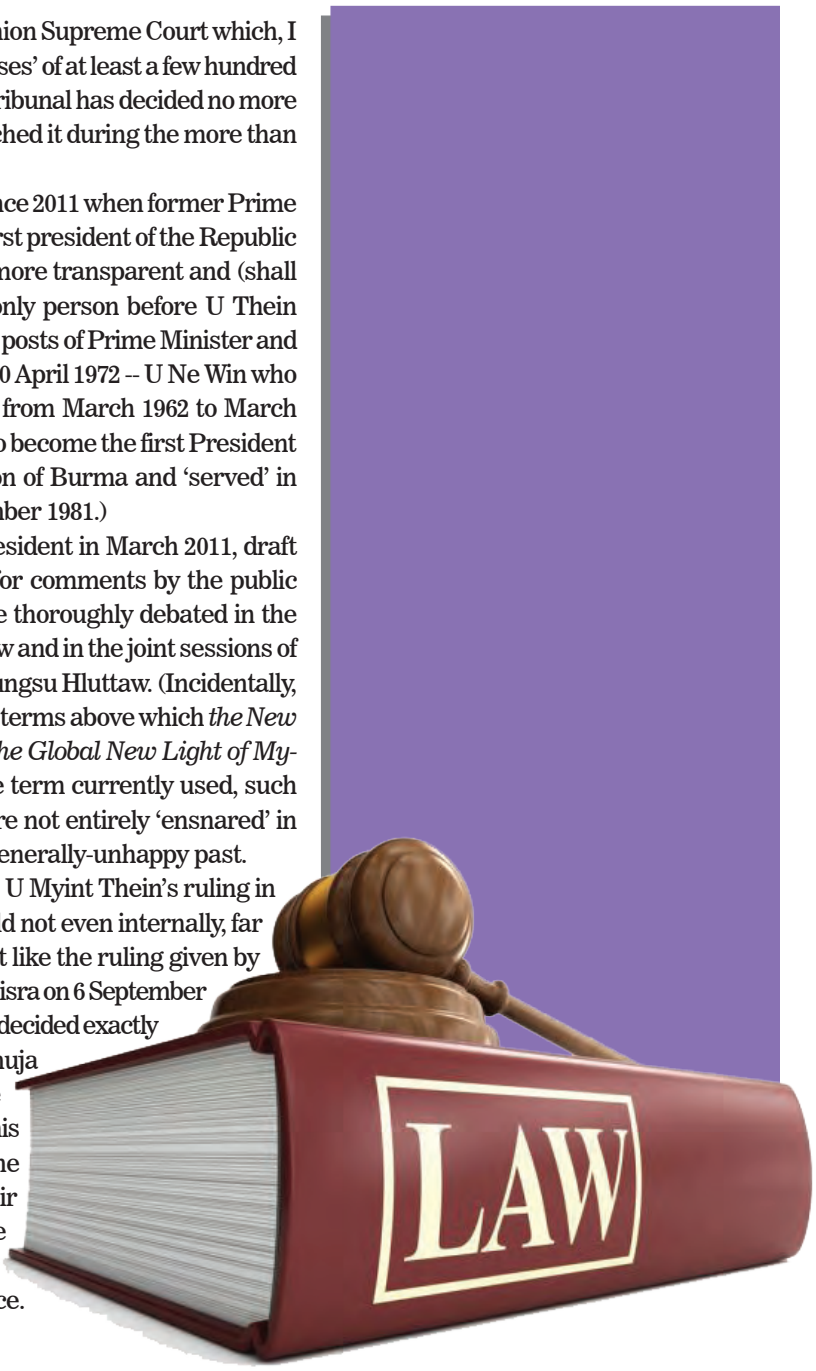
Having stated that under the current 2008 Constitution, there is now a new institution of the Union Constitutional Tribunal where, among others, disputes between and among other States and Divisions concerning constitutional issues can be brought to the Constitutional Tribunal for its 'opinion, resolution or decision'. (Incidentally, the English translation of the 'Union Constitutional Tribunal' should preferably be 'State Constitutional Tribunal' since in the Myanmar version the term used is Naing Ngan Daw 'State' and not Pyidaung Su 'Union' Constitutional Tribunal.) I understand that in contrast to the Union Supreme Court which, I surmise, deals with, decides or 'disposes' of at least a few hundred cases each year, the Constitutional Tribunal has decided no more than (perhaps) thirty cases that reached it during the more than 7 years of its existence.

Also, the law-making process since 2011 when former Prime Minister U Thein Sein became the first president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been more transparent and (shall we say) 'less undemocratic'. (The only person before U Thein Sein who held consecutively both the posts of Prime Minister and President was General -- and since 20 April 1972 -- U Ne Win who was Prime Minister, among others, from March 1962 to March 1974, before relinquishing that post to become the first President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma and 'served' in that post from March 1974 to November 1981.)

Since U Thein Sein became President in March 2011, draft laws are published in newspapers for comments by the public and at times the draft laws are quite thoroughly debated in the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and in the joint sessions of these two Union Legislatures Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. (Incidentally, this writer prefers the transliterated terms above which *the New Light of Myanmar,* predecessor to *the Global New Light of Myanmar* used till about 2013, than the term currently used, such as 'Union Parliament'). Hence we are not entirely 'ensnared' in the deadwood of the (shall I say)—generally-unhappy past.

The late Burmese Chief Justice U Myint Thein's ruling in T N Ahuja did not, does not and would not even internally, far less externally, make such an impact like the ruling given by current Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra on 6 September 2018 in the case of Navtej Singh Johar decided exactly 57 years to the day after the T N Ahuja decision. Still, I give my tribute to the late Chief Justice U Myint Thein and his brethren (or brother) judges and the then Burmese Supreme Court for their landmark decisions and rulings made between the years 1948 to 1962 which had enriched Burmese jurisprudence.

■



FROM PAGE- S-1

"She's upstairs, watching TV." He replied and kept looking somewhere far away as if his eyes were fixed to it. He was like waiting for somebody to return…. If so, that somebody might be uncle, I guess.

"Aww… yeah... so I have to go. Bye!"

I left him, feeling awkward and weird as I walked back to my home. The goodbye of that evening lasted for months. I tried not to look at the place he usually sits to avoid the awkward eye contact.

One Sunday evening I got back from downtown, I saw two Christian preachers outside of grandpa's house.

"Why are they here? Ugh… I wish this is not another preaching and thanksgiving." I murmured. Speaking of these, my grandparents and dad, their son, are Baptists and mom is a Buddhist. Well… I chose to become an agnostic. As the family culture, the eldest grandchild needs to be at the place of family thanksgiving.

"I'm home mom. Do you happen to know what is going on at grandpa's house? I saw the preachers there."

"Aww… you don't know yet. Grandpa is suffering from TB. You should go and be around them while praying. In fact, you're the eldest grand-daughter."

Mother said with no emotion in her tone of voice.

"Aww… I see. I'm not into mood to go." I said nothing more and got into my room. Actually, I was frightened a bit, thinking if this would become a goodbye forever to my grandpa. But irresponsibly and heartlessly, I didn't show up at their praying…

Thinking about those days, I can feel the ambivalence of my feeling; the feeling of love and hatred (or pride inside the unconsciousness). After that day, he had become a part of my midnight thoughts. Mom sometimes went and cooked for them. The only family member who still wasn't showing up is me! Though every time I tried, something inside my mind pulled me back and tied up my feet.

One smoky evening of January, on my depressing birthday, I decided to get out of my room to see grandpa. He used to come and pray for me on my disappointing birthdays. He was sitting on the bench. Unlike the old days, he looked so boney and couldn't even say those long stories he always loved to tell. I saw grandma beside him.

"How is he? Is he getting better?"

"As you see, we are going to hospitalize him next week."

I got numbed for a while… sitting silently beside my grandparents for some minutes then I left.

But I wanted to give him a hug and pray for him to get well soon… More than this, I wanted to tell him that I love him. By packing back the words I wanted to say, the feelings I wanted to show, the steps toward my house seemed so heavy and guilty. With an aching heart and weary head, I closed the door of my room and wept. I felt so unforgivable though I couldn't conquer the unknown feeling pulling me back. What is that feeling? Is that pride? Or hatred? Or do I just become a coldblooded animal?

Now… the person who I hate became me, myself. I was way too despicable as a grandchild who wasn't good enough to her own grandparents!

I heard that grandpa was in the hospital, but I didn't go and spend time with him even for a minute. I spent my time from home to school on weekdays and gloomily sat inside my home on weekends, but giving all ears to the outside world. I got to hear my aunt from the next house, muttering how frustrating it was to cook for the whole family, the way she disrespectfully talked to grandma and their fights I'd never seen before. I had to hear grandma crying on the phone while talking with dad. I don't know if I were pleased to see these scenes. I'm not sure. But deep inside, I know I was feeling guilty and hating myself somehow.

"Grandpa has rest in peace in heaven this afternoon." Mom said as I got back from school. "Will there be a funeral in a traditional way at home?" Calmly, I asked.

"No, there won't, as he passed away in the hospital." She replied and went outside in a rush. I felt nothing that much. Suddenly, mom's phone rang, and it was from dad. "Mya May, I can't believe it. I didn't get a chance to see him at his last breath." I heard his sobbing voice as I picked up the phone. Then he cried painfully.

"Papa…"

"I can't speak to you now Tha-mee. I'll call you later."

He hanged up as he knew it was I. I guess he didn't want me to hear him weeping. I couldn't stand any longer as I heard his voice. "Please forgive me daddy. I wasn't good enough to him." Three days later, we, our family, relatives, and friends of grandpa gathered with long faces at Yay-way cemetery to send off grandpa together to peaceful heaven. Yes… it is today….

As I am the eldest grandchild, I got the chance to see him before they closed the coffin. In the coffin, white as snow, I see him peacefully lying in the traditional costume among white flowers. I'm now trying too hard to not cry as I look into his face while the priest is reciting the prayer.

"Oh Holy Spirit, now thou have taken back thy loving son to peaceful heaven. Thou made human from dust and…." I couldn't conceal myself any longer. All those memories flash back, making a scenario of the beautiful days we had together and tears burst out unstoppably… Those words I never tell him are screaming and swirling inside my mind.

"Grandpa… I am so sorry. I wasn't good enough. I was such a devil. I tried grandpa. I tried. I do love you. I wanted to take care of you. I wanted to be your favorite grandchild. I just couldn't make it. Please forgive me grandpa… Please forgive me."

Longevity for pot-bellied people

By Dr Nay Myo Oo

WHENEVER I visit my parents in Yangon, I have had a chance of treating patients; some are about 40-50 years of age, married with good profession and doing well in their respective businesses. They said they were slim and energetic in their young days; as they are now successful in business, their lifestyles have changed, making them less active and pot-bellied.

Once you have a lot of money, good food is followed by bad habits of smoking and drinking. Besides, once you are over 35 years of age, the physiology of your body has gradually slowed down, thereby making the fats from food intake accumulate near around the stomach. The accumulated fat in the stomach are different from those in the limbs; the former ones are known as visceral fat which make your belly jut out. If a Myanmar person of 70 kilograms is compared to an English person of the same weight, the former has 30% of visceral fat, whereas the latter has 20%. Why has this happened? It is a n interesting comparison of consumption between Myanmar and English: the former eats a lot of rice with curry and vegetables, whereas the latter eats one or two slices of bread and a lot of meat, fish and vegetables.

Myanmar, Chinese and Indians eat a lot of rice which contains 80%starch, whereas the English people eat a slice of bread with a lot of vegetables, cheese, meat and fish. Rice, of course, encourages to form fats which transform into visceral fat during slow physiological functions of one's body. According to recent findings more visceral fats will make less consumption of sugar, thus leading to cause some kinds of diseases, e.g. diabetes. These visceral fats secrete dangerous and toxic hormones which could cause several diseases, such as hypertension, heart disease, paralytic stroke and kidney disease.

When we were young, we went to an obituary to console grief-stricken relatives of a 40-year-old man who died of heart attack or a paralytic stroke. I have to admit I didn't know the cause of these diseases when I was young. Now I come to realize that Myanmar of 30-40 years of age happen to suffer from diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and kidney failure not because of bad luck but due to their pot bellies.

Therefore, when you are nearing 30 or 40 years of age, you will have to avoid the following:

1. Stop smoking
2. Take up some kinds of physical activities
3. Reduce your alcohol intake
4. Eat food with less salt
5. Eat less food for dinner
6. You should consult with a physician at least once a year whether there is cholesterol in the blood, diabetes or hypertension.

Very strong stomach muscles, popularly known as six-pack, are there in your belly; but you must try not to be swollen-bellied in order to live a normal lifespan with your loving family.

Translated by Arakan Sein

Design: BT