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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Nation Building

In the process of establishing a peaceful, prosperous and resilient nation, we must take account of the need to strengthen the mechanisms and institutions of government. It is of paramount importance to uphold rule of law, ensure the mental and physical wellbeing of our citizens, provide for equality of taxation, deliver basic services to our people, including education, health and social services, transportation, communication and infrastructure development, and to strengthen the administrative mechanisms of government.

(Excerpted from the report on the current work of the government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

332 acres of confiscated farmland returned to 27 farmers in Thandaunggyi, Kayin State

A TOTAL 332 acres of farmland released by the Myanma Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise of the Ministry of Industry were returned to 27 farmers in Tawpyagyi Village-tract, Thandaunggyi Township, Hpa-an District, Kayin State, yesterday in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vice President U Henry Van Thio called on the farmers to practice the contract farming system with the private sector as part of efforts to move towards a mechanized farming system.

By doing so, private businesses would provide farmers with seeds, fertilizers, farm machinery and capital to grow crops and to produce value added goods and to transport the produce to factories and



SEE PAGE-3 Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the ceremony to return the 332 acres of farmland to 27 farmers in Thandaunggyi Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Well Shweyitun (2) 100 km northwest of Patheingyi appraises natural gas

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing accompanied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing, Ayeyawady Region Minister for electricity, energy, industry and transportation U Win Htay and officials visited the Dhirubhai Deep Water KG2 (DDKG2) offshore drilling rig that was drilling Appraisal Well Shweyitun (2) in offshore block A-6 about 102 km northwest of Patheingyi yesterday morning.

The Union Minister and party were welcomed onboard the drilling rig by officials from Myanmar Oil & Gas Enterprise, officials from shareholder companies MPRL E&P, Woodside and Total and were explained

about the status of appraisal well.

Drilling of Appraisal Well Shweyitun (2) in offshore block A-6 was started on 20 July 2018 and reaches the target depth of 4,850 meter (15,912 ft.) and tested commercially viable natural gas at a depth of 4,373 meter in a sand bar 40 meter thick.

Offshore block A-6 was jointly explored by MPRL E&P Pte Ltd, Australia Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd and France Total E&P Myanmar Co., Ltd. with investments ratio of 20 percent, 40 percent and 40 percent. Appraisal Well Shweyitun (2) is the fifth well to be drilled in offshore block A-6 and works will be continued to reach the production stage it is learnt.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Win Khaing inspects the Dhirubhai Deep Water KG2 (DDKG2) offshore drilling rig. **PHOTO: MNA**

Opening of Six-story Cardiac Complex in Yankin Children Hospital

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the opening ceremony of six-story Cardiac Complex in Yankin Children Hospital, Yangon yesterday morning.

First Union Minister for Health and Sports, Union Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Ministry of Health and Sports Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win, Director General (Union Minister Office) Dr. Tha Tun Kyaw, Yankin Children Hospital Superintendent Dr. Myint Myint Khaing and Ayeyawady Foundation Chairman

U Zaw Zaw opened the six-story Cardiac Complex.

Next, Union Minister for Health and Sports, Yangon Region Chief Minister and officials inspected the six-story Cardiac Complex and health care provided. Afterwards the opening ceremony was continued in the meeting hall of the six-story Cardiac Complex where the Union Minister delivered an opening speech. Yankin Children Hospital Superintendent and officials then explained about the background history and construction of the six-story complex and health care services provided.—MNA ■



Yankin Children Hospital's Medical Superintendent explains Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe about the health care services. **PHOTO: MNA**

Zaykabar, Chinese Company to jointly develop Yangon New World project

HUNAN province Vice Governor He Baoxiang and party yesterday inspected Yangon New World project jointly developed by China State Construction Engineering Cooperation and Zaykabar Company, with an investment US\$ 500 million.

Hunan province Vice Governor He Baoxiang and party first signed on the vinyl sheet depicting the Yangon New World project and then Chairman of Zaykabar Company Dr. Khin Shwe explained about the status of the project. "China State Construction Engineering Cooperation is a company that is at the number one position in China's construction industry. It is developing the Yangon New World project in cooperation with Zaykabar Company. 40 percent of the investment is from Zaykabar while 60 percent is from the Chinese company," said Zaykabar Chairman Dr. Khin



Hunan province Vice Governor He Baoxiang signs on the vinyl sheet depicting the Yangon New World project. **PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)**

Shwe. Yangon New World project is on 14 acres of land in Bahan Township, Yangon where the old Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel was situated. It will become the biggest project in Yangon that includes a 5 Star hotel, apartments, offices and shopping centers. Yangon New World project jointly developed by China State Construc-

tion Engineering Corporation and Zaykabar Company, will include high-rise buildings permitted by Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC). According to Zaykabar Company, the project will be implemented as soon as permission from Myanmar Investment Commission is obtained.—Min Thit (MNA) ■

Shanghai International Gold Exchange and UOB study Yangon gold market

A DELEGATION consisting of Shanghai International Gold Exchange board of directors and United Overseas Bank (UOB) Limited Vice Chairman visited the Yangon Region gold market

at Yangon Region gold entrepreneurs association office in Shwebontha Street, Yangon on 19 September.

Yangon Region gold entrepreneurs association chair-

man, secretary and members explained the delegation about the gold market and association members' recent visit to Shanghai for promoting Myanmar gold market.—Aung Thuya ■

332 acres of confiscated farmland returned to 27 farmers in Thandaunggyi, Kayin State

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to market and contract farming would bring a win-win situation for the farmers and businesses, he added.

The Union Government is carrying out scrutinizing confiscated farmland which are not used for projects and returning them to rightful owners and reclaiming land for agriculture, said the Vice President, in his capacity as the chairman of the Central Committee on Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands.

"Some issues related with the confiscated farmland is complex. I would like to urge those who are handling the land confiscation issues to be righteous and to make the best use of their experiences, skills and initiative skill to be able to find correct solutions to the problems," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio. The central committee formed in May 2016 established region and state-level sub-committees for scrutinizing land confiscation issues and laid down 52-point work process to solve the issues.

The central committee



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits a local agricultural farm in Thandaunggyi. PHOTO:MNA

solved the land confiscated issues after reviewing reports presented by the regional and state committees based on findings and remarks by the Hluttaw MPs and representatives of farmers. "In some complaints, it is found that the cases which were settled at the court, land disputes between farmers, land rights disputes, vacant land disputes are also brought to the Central Committee under the title of confiscated land," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio. While solving the land confiscated cases which occurred after

1988, the Central Committee is also pushing the ministries concerned to release the confiscated farmlands which are not used currently and to return to original owners, he added.

The Vice President also urged the farmers to grow local and foreign marketable crops which are also favourable to the climate in their area.

At the ceremony, U Ko Ko Aung, Managing Director of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise, handed over the documents related to the 332 acres of farmland

... those who are handling the land confiscation issues to be righteous and to make the best use of their experiences, skills and initiative skill to be able to find correct solutions to the problems,

Vice President U Henry Van Thio

to the local authorities.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin and Kayin State minister U Saw Myint Oo presented the temporary land right

certificates form-3 certificates to the farmers. After the ceremony, Vice President U Henry Van Thio held a meeting with local authorities at the township's Administration Office and attended to the needs for transportation, tourism sector, and loans for small and medium enterprises in the township.

During the trip, the Vice President went to a local Roman Catholic Church and presented cash and aid to the church.

On the way to Kayin State yesterday morning,

Thio inspected works on dredging sand left by the flooding on the farmlands along the Swa Creek and Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing reported on the situation.

During the inspection tour of Swa Chaung Dam, the Vice President gave instructions on establishment of a model village in accordance with rules and regulations for villages hit by the flooding last August. He also urged the officials concerned to ensure supplying irrigation water to farmland while the spillway is under construction.

On his way to Thandaunggyi, the Vice President also inspected the construction of Paletwa Bridge in Bawagali, Kayin State. He called for timely completion of the bridge which would bring easy transportation for local people. The pre-stressed concrete bridge will be 800 ft long and 30 ft wide upon completion. The Vice President and party also visited the cardamom farm at Shwenyaungpin Village in Thandaunggyi and urged the private growers to make registration for their production.—MNA ■

Ministry funds water supply, social security in Kengtung

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye handed over cash for the water supply system, people with disabilities and ethnic literature and cultural troupes in Kengtung and Mongsat districts yesterday. The ceremony was held at the Town Hall in Kengtung, Shan State (east) yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Union Minister said based on the State's Three Objectives: the rule of law and development of socio-economic life of the people; national reconciliation and internal peace; and amending the Constitution which is the basic foundation for the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union, the ministry

is cooperating with relevant departments and implementing its new policies.

Next, the Union Minister presented Ks 295 million from National Natural Disaster Management Fund for the water supply works through Shan State Deputy Administrator U Ye Naing. Afterwards the Union Minister presented Ks 9.18 million, Ks 30,000 each for 306 handicapped persons to Shan State minister for Bama ethnic affairs Dr. Aung Than Maung.

Following this the Union Minister presented Ks 300,000 each to representatives of 11 ethnic national literature and cultural groups. An ethnic national representative spoke words of thanks in return. — District (IPRD) ■

Raw gems, jades sales in Kyat to be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 17 Nov

UNDER the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee will conduct a sales of raw gems and jades in local Kyat currency at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 17 November.

Local gem merchants are to submit applications to jade sales work committee from 27 September 2018 to 3 October 2018 for the jade lots they wanted to sell.

Inspection, accepting, basic price valuation, allocation of display areas for gems to be put on sale will be

coordinated with the respective gems merchants from 10 to 31 October 2018.

Local gem mining and production companies working under official permission; local licensed finished (cut and polished) gem producers, traders and merchants; registered gem companies and local members of Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association are permitted to attend the sales.

Only buyers licensed or permitted buyers under the Myanmar Gem Law and rules will be allowed to attend the sales. Local gem merchants who

want to participate in the sales will have to pay designated deposit and entrance fees.

Starting from 5 November 2018, local gem merchants who want to participate in the sales are urged to contact the responsible officials at gem merchant registration building in Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Nay Pyi Taw. Entry/attending forms for local gem merchants can be downloaded at ministry website www.mining.gov.mm and Myanmar Gems Enterprise website www.mge.gov.mm. Online applications and registration can also be made at the website www.mge.gov.mm, On-

line Pre-Registration System.

Details about 2018 November local currency sale of raw gems and jades can also be enquired at Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise head office (Nay Pyi Taw), Myanmar gem museum (Yangon), jade mining department (Lonkin), gem mining department (Mandalay, Mogok, Mong Shu) and Myitkyina, Khamti and Mohnyin based jade mines (offices) according to an announcement made by Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee. — MNA ■

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Chin traditional weavers in Kalay face tougher challenges

CHIN traditional weaving businesses in Kalay, Sagaing Region, are facing difficulties to continue their trade due to rising prices of raw materials and lowering the selling prices of their finished products, said weavers in Kalay, Sagaing Region.

"We have to purchase the cotton from the merchants at a new high price. Then, we have to sell the finished traditional textile at the old low price. We cannot increase the price on the finished traditional textile. The merchants are also purchasing the finished traditional textile at lower than the existing prices," said U Myo Myint Naing, chairman of Shwe Htatan Chin Traditional Textile Association.

"Therefore, we cannot increase the salary for the skilled labours. And the skilled labours also do not want to work in the Chin traditional textile business as they are not earning much," he added.

Rising raw material hits traditional weaving in Kalay, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: SHIN NAY MIN**

The Chin traditional weaving businesses in Kalay have almost stopped.

As for our traditional textile businesses, the price of cotton is becoming very expensive.

The price of cotton has increased to Ks 31,000 per viss from Ks 29,500 per viss. The

price of silk has also increased 50 percent to Ks 15,000 from Ks 9,500.

Traditional textile sold at Ks 30,000 includes a skilled labour charge of Ks 10,000 while a traditional textile sold at Ks 15,000 includes a skilled labour charge of Ks 4,000. Some of the

skilled textile workers are now working as mason and other hard labour as they can more.

Most of the small scale traditional textile businesses earn less profit while the majority of the profits are earned by the merchants it is learnt. — Shin Nay Min (Gangaw)

Forest Department's officials inspect illegal teak logs in Katha Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: LU AUNG**

Nearly two tons of teak logs seized in Katha Township

POLICE seized nearly two tons teak logs in Katha Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, on Friday, according to a police report.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising those from the township forest department and the police members inspected the suspected forest area near Nyaungbintha Village on that day. Police found

17 logs of teak weighing 1.944 tons, a chainsaw and related logging equipment there and confiscated them. However, no man was found in the area.

Ongoing investigation has been made by the local police in an attempt to arrest those in connection with the case, according to the township forest ranger. — Lu Aung (Katha) ■

Two charged with drug trafficking in Kyaikmaraw Township

TWO men have been charged after they were found in possession of a cache of WY brand yaba tablets and unlawful possession of weapons on Saturday, police reported.

Acting on a tip-off, Mon State anti-drug squad searched the area near Thonebo Lake in Shinsawpu Ward-2, Kyaikmaraw Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State, where police found 55 yaba pills,

Ks105,000 and unlawful possession of weapons from Zin Bo and Ko Ko Oo.

Police are still investigating the case as part of efforts to arrest those involved in drug trafficking.

Action was taken against the two suspects under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Cho Myat Myat Htwe (Kyaikmaraw) ■

Police seized WY tablets and weapons on Saturday. **PHOTO: CHO MYAT MYAT HTWE (KYAIKMARAW)**

Manufacturing sector absorbs \$496 million from 47 foreign enterprises in past five months

THE manufacturing sector attracts foreign direct investments of US\$496.6 million through 47 projects from April to August, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

In the past five months, FDIs worth \$1.3 billion, including expansion of investments, were brought into the country. MIC has allowed 65 enterprises to invest in the country.

The agriculture sector attracted two foreign investment with a capital of \$10.6 million while two projects worth \$18.38 million enters livestock and fisheries sector. The real estate sector also received investments worth \$195.5 million from three projects. Similarly, the hotels and

tourism sector attained FDI of \$9.53 million from two project. Over \$267.9 million FDIs were pumped into other service sector.

Additionally, the manufacturing sector absorbed the overall foreign investments of US\$171 million made in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) between 1 April and 26 July this year. The manufacturing and real estate development sectors are likely to maintain the top position in attracting FDIs during the six-month mini-budget period (from April to September).

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles on the Cutting-Making and Packaging basic, which contributes to the country's GDP to a certain ex-



Workers fix parts to Ford vehicle in a factory in East Dagon Myothit, Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

tent. Garment producers are eyeing Myanmar for investment because of the cheap labour, which sometimes causes conflict between the garment factory employer and labourers, according to the market watchers.

There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, with over 300,000 workers.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in export sector. The export value of CMP was only \$850 mil-

lion in the 205-206 fiscal year, but export income from CMP industry significantly tripled within two years, with \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, stated in Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018 held on 12 September. — GNLM

Border export from Chinshwehaw declines by half

MYANMAR'S export to China via Chinshwehaw border points over the past five and a half months totalled US\$118 million, down by nearly 50 % in comparison with this time last year, when the bilateral border exports was \$223 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

This year saw a decline in export/import value of Myanmar-China border trade from the Chinshwehaw station. When compared with this time last year, the current bilateral imports slightly decreased to \$22.8 million from \$27.7 million.

Myanmar's external trade with its largest neighbor China has been carried out mainly through by sea. The two countries make border trade transaction from the five land borders, covering Muse, Lweijel, Chinshwehaw, Lanpaktee and Kengtung, in which, the Muse trade camp usually handles the largest volume and value of border trade.

According to the ministry's data, trade from all China-Myanmar borders between 1 April

and 14 September this year was valued at \$2.9 billion, consisting of \$2.1 billion from the export sector which increased by over \$300 million against the same time last year.

According to the ministry's annual statistical report, the cross-border trade via the Chinshwehaw station was valued at \$64.4 million in the 2012-2013 FY, \$246.9 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$423.9 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$385.8 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$573.2 million in the 2016-2017 FY and \$572 million in the 2017-2018 FY.

During the same period this year, the trade value of all border trade camps reached almost \$3.9 billion, up by \$555 million from this time last FY.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, manufactured goods, marine and forest products, minerals and other marketable items especially to neighbouring countries. Its imports include consumer products, intermediate goods, construction equipment, electronic devices, automobiles and medicines. —Shwe Khine ■

Trade with Philippines increases by \$8.5 million in four months

MYANMAR'S external trade with the Philippines, one of the country's regional trade partners, within the four months exceeded US\$22 million, increasing by \$8.5 million as against the same period in the last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

At this time last year, the bilateral trade was \$13.56 million, with exports amounting to \$5.2 million and imports worth \$8.3 million. This year saw an increase in value of trade from

both export and import sectors. When compared with the similar time in the previous year 2017, the current export value rose by \$3.5 million, whereas the existing import value went up by nearly \$5 million. According to the commerce ministry's yearly statistics, the Myanmar-Philippines bilateral trade amounted to \$52.432 million in the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$56.483 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$28.998 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$28.2 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$33.353 million in

the 2013-2014 FY, \$44.012 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$48.959 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

Myanmar primarily imports capital goods, consumer products and intermediate goods from international countries, including other ASEAN member countries, Asian and African states, some European countries and Western nations. It chiefly exports agricultural, animals, marine and forest products, minerals, manufactured goods and other miscellaneous. —Shwe Khine ■

Consumer goods worth \$124 million imported in 2nd week of this month

MYANMAR'S Ministry of Commerce reported that the country imported a wide variety of consumer products amounting to US\$124 million in the second week of this month.

The current figures included \$4.96 million worth of consumer goods imported by the public sector and the private sector imports of the same valued at \$119 million.

According to the ministry's statistical report, imports of consumer goods between 8 and 14 September this year exceeded \$2.4 billion, which rose by over

\$340 million, from this time last year. Over the past five and a half months, the private importers bought consumer goods amounting to nearly \$2.4 billion, increasing by \$399 million compared with the same period in the last year. However, the current public sector's imports of the same during the period decreased to \$22 billion from \$80.8 million.

At this time last fiscal year, the country's imports of consumer products were almost \$2.074 billion, including \$1.9 billion from the private sector.

The imports of consumer goods were registered at \$1.245 billion in the FY2011-2012, \$1.4 billion in the FY2012-2013, \$2.3 billion in the FY2013-2014, \$2.9 billion in the FY2014-2015, \$3.5 billion in the FY2015-2016, more than \$4 billion in the FY2016-2017 and \$4.403 billion in the FY2017-2018.

In the present six-month fiscal period commencing this April, the country also imported capital goods worth \$3.173 billion and semi-finished goods worth \$3.427 billion. —Swe Nyein ■

Myanmar People's Democratic Party presents policy, stance and work program



Chairman U Htay Kyaw of Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD).

CHAIRMAN U Htay Kyaw of Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD) presented the party's policy, stance and work program on radio and television on 22 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

Esteemed people of the Union of Myanmar,

Mingalabar and greeting from Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD). I am U Htay Kyaw, the Chairman of Myanmar People's Democratic Party. I will briefly present our party's policy, stance and work program.

Our party is a people centered party formed with Union nationals such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bama, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and Myanmar citizens.

After the 2015 General Election, the general political situation of Myanmar was found to require Nation builders and politicians. To fill this loophole, the party was officially registered on 18 May 2017. At the moment, the party is conducting organisational works all over the Union in accordance with the law and it has become known as the Legal Personality Party.

Party headquarters is located at No. 3, U Ba Thin Road, Bago Street Ward, Htauk Kyant locality, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region.

The reason for forming MPD Party was to take part in small ways in the process of the democracy transition and Nation building works such as development of multi-party system, resisting authoritarians, establishing a people's democracy government system, people themselves participating in managing the affairs of the people and the people creating their own fate. The party will work for the National policies of non-disintegration of the Union and national unity and perpetuation of sovereignty for the interests of the people and the State.

The party aim to transfer the

State power to the rightful owners the people so that they can create and decide their future.

The basic principle of the party is to resist all kind of authoritarian/dictators and authoritarian/dictatorial systems and establish a true democracy people's government system with rules-based democratic political institution system.

The party policy is based on Public Policy that can be directly beneficial for the State and the people. A Constitution that reflects the will of the people and is in harmony with the State's situation and a Federal Union based on the Constitution is to be established firmly with good policies.

The party stands firmly on the three basic stances (pillars) to work for the interests of the people and the State. The party resist the direct copying of "ism" and ideologies that are not in accord with Myanmar's history, culture and people; illogical and inappropriate; and harmful to the people and State. It will not cooperate with people and organisations that are under the influence or control of outside (foreign) forces and will cooperate with people and organisations with similar policies and aims.

The three basic stances (pillars) of the party is

- (1) National Interest
- (2) National Security and
- (3) National Development

The three edicts that Myanmar People's Democratic Party would maintain forever are the three universal principles of freedom, equality and justice and work towards these to flourish forever in the State and among the people.

The party will protect and promote the People's Initial Rights (PIRs).

When the people's representatives elected by the people, who are the original owner

of the sovereign power of the State, are not performing the duties assigned by the people, the party will work for the people to have the "Right to recall" those representatives. If the officials from administrative, legislative and judicial sectors are not doing their assigned works properly, the party will work for the people to have the "Impeachment Power" to condemn and impeach those officials. The party will also work towards enabling the people to practice the "Referendum Power (RP)."

For the people's affairs sectors such as ethnic national affairs, Union peace, religion, national, political, administrative, legislative, judicial, economy, farmers affairs, workers affairs, education, health, social security, women's affairs, students and youth affairs, children and elderlies, persons with handicaps, political parties, civil society organisations, international relations, development and party work processes, Myanmar People's Democratic Party had established detailed sector-wide works. The ultimate destination can be reached only through good policy and good work processes. Regardless of how good the policy and work processes are, implementing representatives are the key. If the selection and election is based on party, only good policy and processes will be obtained. If the selection and election is based on the candidate, good implementers will be obtained. Therefore, both the party and the candidate need to be considered carefully so that the constituents can select and elect the candidate that can represent their constituency.

In this by-election Myanmar People's Democratic Party candidates will be competing in three constituencies.

Esteemed constituents residing in the villages of Bago Region, Ottwin Township constituency 1,

Myanmar People's Democratic Party is a party that knew and understood the socio-economic situation and requirement of the rural constituents. The party had selected and assigned a candidate who understand not only the life of the rural people but liveliness of urban people that are vital for the State. The candidate is active, capable, educated and qualified. At present, the candidate is serving as a chairman in charge of creating agriculture lands from vacant, fallow and



Party logo.

virgin lands and conducting development works in Okpo and Minhla areas in Bago Region. As the candidate is conducting rural and social works, the candidate is suitable for the wishes and fundamentals of the constituents. The name of the Bago Region Hluttaw representative candidate is U Chit Khaing.

Esteemed constituents residing in Yangon Region, Seikkan Township,

Myanmar People's Democratic Party is a party that knew and understood the socio-economic situation and requirement of the urban constituents in the same way as rural constituents. An educated and capable resident of Seikkan Township who is an engineer is being selected and assigned by the party as a candidate. The candidate had good social welfare spirit and will work the fullest to fulfill the wish and socio-economic requirement of the Seikkan Township constituents. The name of the Yangon Region Hluttaw representative candidate is U Ziwa.

Esteemed constituents residing in Yangon Region, Tamway Township constituency,

For Tamway Township that is progressing in all sectors with momentum, Myanmar People's Democratic Party believe that the main basic needs of the constituents would be to have a chance to elect a Hluttaw representative who is a qualified development expert with excellent management skill. The party had selected a candidate with such qualification who holds a Master degree in development. The name of the Pyithu Hluttaw representative candidate is U Myint Hsan Tun.

Esteemed constituents,

Myanmar People's Democratic Party is presenting the candidates representing the party to the constituents with full confidence and trust.

Esteemed people of Myanmar,

As Myanmar People's Democratic Party is a new party, it would like to point out the party's outstanding image to the people.

- (1) It is a party based on the people.
- (2) It is an organisation,

laws and rules based party that is not based on any individual.

(3) It is a party that is not biased in the way the people wanted.

(4) It is a party that is not attached to any race, region or an individual.

(5) It is a party that is free from ultra-nationalist policy, narrow minded nationalist policy and discriminative policy.

(6) It is a party that is free from any financial connection with outside (foreign) organisations and individuals.

(7) It is not under the influence of any foreign entities and is totally unattached and independent.

(8) It is party that is against authoritarian/dictatorial political system and authoritarian/dictatorial systems.

(9) It is a party that is against extremism and terrorism.

(10) It is a party that has not and will not form any alliance with any parties, organisation or front and work independently within the law.

(11) For the benefit of the State and the people, the party will not serve under or be a master of any party or differentiate parties but will work together in cooperation with other parties as equal.

(12) It is a party that considers the people at the apex of society while considering the party as a subordinate entity to people.

(13) It is a party that the people are expecting, stand with and for the people.

Esteemed people of Myanmar,

Our party symbol represents the State and the people and will stand with the State and people as long as the world exists.

Esteemed people of Myanmar,

I would like to conclude by pledging that MPD party will ever be loyal and serve the State and the people.

May the people of Myanmar be happy and prosperous, avoid dangers and mishaps, and have their wishes and desires fulfilled.

Thank you.

(Unofficial translation)

Hot tech sector prompts shakeup in S&P 500 stock indexes

NEW YORK — The hot and rapidly changing tech sector has prompted the S&P 500 stock index to reshuffle its components, opening up more chances to invest in Google, Netflix, Facebook and other stars after Friday's trading session.

Facebook did not yet exist and flip phones were cutting edge in 1999 when the industry classification system was launched, but much has changed in tech, telecommunications and media.

The reorganization of the industry groupings, the biggest in the history of the system, affects three of the 11 sectors within the S&P 500. A new "communication services" group has been created that will be bigger and more growth-oriented than the sleepy "telecommunication services" sector it is replacing. The change will split some of the five "FAANG" behemoths associated with the stock market's surge into different groups, allowing investors to have more exposure to the companies. The shift comes only weeks after Apple and Amazon eclipsed \$1 trillion in market capitalization and shows again how technology companies are moving into ever-expanding economic terrain.

"The ways in which people communicate and seek information have transformed," S&P Dow Jones Indices said.

"Integration between telecommunications, media, and



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

PHOTO: AFP

internet companies in terms of both infrastructure and content have advanced the communication industry into a much broader field as evidenced by the convergence between telecom and cable companies." The rejiggering of the groups will lead to a shifting of billions of dollars of shares in these companies, especially through exchange-traded funds that are linked to S&P sectors.

While analysts do not expect a pickup in volatility because the move was announced last year, further investment in technology is likely because there will now be two groups heavily weighted to the sector instead of one.

"Because some portfolio managers might have a restriction on how much they can go in, if they want more exposure on the technology, this will be one way to do it," said Quincy Krosby, chief

market strategist at Prudential Financial. The change will leave Apple as the only "FAANG" member in the "information technology" group. Facebook and Google — through its parent Alphabet — were shifted to the new communication services group from information technology, while Netflix, another FAANG member, was moved into the new group from the consumer discretionary sector. The fifth FAANG member, Amazon, will remain in the consumer discretionary group.

Other prominent companies moved into communication services include Disney, Comcast, Twenty-First Century Fox, eBay, Twitter and CBS. In all 24 companies in the S&P 500 are being shifted, with the top 15 having a total market capitalization of about \$2 trillion, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.—AFP ■

Amazon aims to make Alexa assistant bigger part of users' lives

SEATTLE (United States) — From the kitchen to the car, Amazon on Thursday sought to make its Alexa digital assistant and online services a bigger part of people's lives with an array of new products and partnerships.

Updates to the internet giant's Alexa-infused Echo smart speakers will allow them to tend to microwave cooking and even have "hunches" regarding what users may want or have forgotten.

When Alexa is told "corn on the cob," a digital Echo speaker starts an AmazonBasics microwave oven in a faux home demonstration room, setting the preferred time and voicing what

it is doing.

But when asked to add 30 seconds, Alexa pauses and then starts to play songs by the band "Thirty Seconds to Mars."

Such misunderstandings are routine enough with smart speakers that they have become fodder for humor, and even cropped up while Amazon devices and services senior vice president David Limp showed off new devices in a nearby building a short time earlier.

Alexa has gotten smarter, more conversational and even intuitive during the past year as Amazon teams work hard on getting the digital assistant to better understand people, according to Limp.—AFP ■



David Limp, Senior Vice President of Amazon Devices, introduces the "Echo Sub" speaker, one of more than 70 Alexa digital assistant-enabled products launched during an event in Seattle. PHOTO: AFP

Global markets breeze higher on record-breaking Wall Street

LONDON — Asian and European stock markets rose Friday after Wall Street bristled to fresh record peaks on mounting US economic optimism, dealers said.

New York had zoomed overnight to all-time pinnacles, as investors concluded that trade war concerns were overblown as the world's biggest economy powers ahead.

"The record high notes hit by US indices ... are setting the tone for both Asian and European markets as the week draws to a close," said City Index senior analyst Fiona Cincotta on Friday.

London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was the standout performer in Europe, jumping 0.9 percent despite the rejection of

British Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plans by EU leaders.

China stimulus boost

In the eurozone, Frankfurt and Paris climbed by 0.5 percent and 0.7 percent respectively, as Chinese economic stimulus measures eclipsed festering trade war worries.

Asian equities enjoyed another day of strong buying to finish the week with a flourish.

Shanghai surged 2.5 percent after the Chinese government unveiled the stimulus packaged aimed at lifting domestic consumption.

"For the moment Asian stocks have shrugged off trade war concerns with the focus shifting to China's new stimu-

lus package which is expected to boost consumption and cut import tariffs from other countries," added Cincotta.

"Miners continued to perform strongly within the index as a slightly weaker dollar is working in favour of commodity prices."

The weaker greenback makes dollar-denominated raw materials cheaper for buyers using stronger currencies. That tends to stimulate demand and prices, in turn boosting mining sector stocks.

Dealers were given a strong lead from Wall Street, where the Dow and S&P 500 chalked up record closes on positive US data, including jobless claims and household net worth.

"Make no mistake, the US

economy is running on all cylinders," said Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trade at Oanda.

"Robust growth, soaring employment and rising capital investments, suggesting the healthy US economy is more than just a short-term knock-on effect from the intravenous elixir of easy credit and fiscal glucose."

EM currencies bounce

The upbeat mood on trading floors was being felt across the board, with embattled emerging market currencies seeing a recovery.

Those currencies -- beaten down in recent weeks by fears of contagion from crises in Turkey, South Africa and Argentina -- were also basking in the op-

timism as traders sought out higher-risk assets.

South Korea's won rose 0.4 percent, while the Indonesian rupiah added 0.3 percent and the Indian rupee was up 0.7 percent, pulling it away from recent record lows. South Africa's rand and the Turkish lira jumped more than one percent.

China's yuan extended gains after Premier Li Keqiang said this week that Beijing would not devalue the unit to offset the impact of Donald Trump's import tariffs.

Traders are awaiting next week's Fed policy meeting, where it is expected to lift interest rates again, while its statement will be pored over for forward guidance regarding further hikes.—AFP ■

Creating jobs for youths through vocational education is government's top priority

THE role of vocational education is expanding worldwide. Only when vocational education is developed in a country, there will be better livelihoods and living standards for its people. Myanmar's vocational education sector needs more development since it guarantees a job and income upon completion. A person with no income may upset the peace and stability of their community which is why creating jobs is a top priority of the Union Government.

It does not mean that we are not looking down on higher education but wishes for everyone to understand that vocational training is as valuable as a college or university degree.

It is critical that people should also focus on vocational studies that will make them job makers and not job seekers. This is the way we should go in an attempt to fulfill the growing skill requirements of a demanding labour market.

“It is critical that people should also focus on vocational studies that will make them job makers and not job seekers.”

Students and parents are urged to value vocational education because Myanmar society normally appreciates university education rather than vocational education. Vocational education is regarded as second-class in Myanmar.

Some of the most developed countries in the world such as Switzerland, Sweden, and Germany have progressive vocational education systems that are on par with university education, and the Myanmar government

is working towards a similar goal.

In order to achieve this goal, more young people should be encouraged to undertake vocational education to get jobs.

Today, an increasingly technology-based economy calls for unprecedented suppleness and adaptability on the part of those charged with producing a capable workforce.

In order to ensure greater job opportunities, the government training and vocational institutions have been further strengthened in Insein, Pyin-Oo-Lwin and Kyaitlatt. In addition, the Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI), the Nyaung Shwe Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) and the Nay Pyi Taw English Proficiency Training School were further introduced.

Similarly, before 2021, the government will open 36 technical institutes, government technical high-schools and vocational training schools, along with an increase of 2,933 teachers. Two-year educational colleges will be advanced to four-year degree colleges.

During the last three financial years, the education budget has been gradually increased. In the 2016/17 financial year, the budget was 1,726 billion Kyat; in the 2017/18 financial year, the education budget was 1,756 billion Kyat; and in the 2018/19 financial year there will be an increase to 2,175 billion Kyat in expenditure.

The increase in budget will surely benefit vocational training for human resource development.

It is high time parents, students and the public started regarding vocational studies as a priority and a sustainable lifelong undertaking.

The Lisu National Development Party (Dulay Party) paper being read on the occasion of 2018 International Day of Democracy

MINGALAR PAR!

First of all, allow me to extend my heartiest greetings to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Union-level dignitaries, Hluttaw Representatives, persons from IPU, members of civil societies on this International Day of Democracy.

I am U Arr Moe Si, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative for Khau Lang Phu Township elected from Lisu National Development Party (Du Lay Party). On the occasion of International Day of Democracy that falls on 15 September 2018, I would like to urge to all brethren in the country to come together in joining this year's maxim "oversight" in conjunction with the motto of "Let us work together for the flourishing of democracy".

Dear people who love democracy,

In today's world, most of the nations are using democratic system as their administrative instrument. Democratic system means the people's participation and cooperation for the national interest with common aim and objective of people's desire centering on people's oriented concept.

When we talked about democracy, the responsibility comes along with opportunity, and therefore, each and every citizen has to take the responsibility. By serving dutifully by each individual, we would be able to build a stable and flourishing democracy.

In a democratic culture with growing democratic pathway, we could vividly monitor the course of actions of the responsible government officials



U Arr Moe Si

seriously listening the demands of the public, the sincere welcome and acceptance of the requirements, the consideration with much attention, the desire and aspiration are being discussed in the parliaments, and the assessment and evaluation whether they are in line with the basic laws.

In a democratic system, we can see many important basic principles. These principles are the equality, the people's participation, patience, transparency, responsibility, accountability, free and fair elections, and the acceptance of election results, the practice of multi-party democracy system, the rule of law, the protection and control over abuse

and misuse of power.

It could be seen that the rule of law is the basis of sustainability and the foundation of democracy. In the absence of the rule of law, the democracy could never flourish.

In all the democratic nations, the fundamental rights of the people or the citizen rights are incorporated solidly in the Constitution. Protection and security are being provided in accordance with the law not to harm or hurt to a person's life or individual liberty.

Dear people who love democracy,

In a democratic system, it could be assumed that each and everybody has the equal rights and opportunity, however, the persons may differ in terms of feature, age, and color. Whatever it may be, the intelligence and cleverness of a race finer than another race should never be given special privilege. This is also to apply of a class over another class in the context of privilege.

In a democratic system, the entire people have the opportunity to take part in the tasks for the interest of the majority, resulting with continued development of the country. In other words, the further development of the people makes them to prefer the democratic system.

In a democratic system, the prescribed rights for the minority in a country could never be revoked by anyone. These rights could never be cancelled or removed by the government, the majority or the lawmakers.

Dear people who love democracy,

The development of the nation, the rule of law, and the stability and peace are the requirements in building the smooth transition to the democratic nation. In doing so, the internal and external destructive elements against peace must be deterred and blocked.

In a democratic transition, it is necessary in making the democratic rights strong and solid, and therefore, the actions and words that are detrimental to democracy must be avoided. In this regards, the government and the entire people, by abiding existing laws and by-laws, must be free from personal attachment and siding with party faction, and it is important to work for the interests of the state and the citizens.

Dear people who love democracy,

Myanmar is a country where diverse national races live and coexist together with different values of culture, tradition and faith. Among the multiplicity and diversity of national races, it is very important to have harmony and unity to come into one stream. In such integration, it is necessary for the emergence of federal union accepted by all which is directly related with national reconciliation and the success of peace process.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the entire people to work together hand in hand for the continuation of flourishing democracy and the emergence of peaceful and developed nation. Thank you.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Tatmadaw appointed representatives group's paper being read on the occasion of 2018 International Day of Democracy

FIRST of all, allow me to extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all the dignitaries and the persons attending this 2018 International Day of Democracy for their mental and physical health and prosperity in serving the people and the nation.

Mingalar Par. I am Amyotha Hluttaw Tatmadaw Representative Colonel Than Htaik. It is my pleasure and honor for having the opportunity in reading out the paper on behalf of the Tatmadaw appointed representative group at the auspicious 8th International Day of Democracy held by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

In today's world, the countries across the globe are celebrating the International Day of Democracy since 15 September 2008 with the aim and objects for the growth and development of democracy practices, for the flourishing of democracy spirit, and for the implementation of tasks in line with the democracy norms.

In Myanmar, the multi-party democracy system was introduced in 2011, and since then the celebration has entered to eighth anniversary. Every year, the International Day of Democracy is held with appropriate motto, and this year's maxim is "oversight" in conjunction with "Let us work together for the flourishing of democracy".

The most important factor for the thriving of democracy is that the people, including all walks of

life, must come together and cooperate in politics, economics and social sectors. In carrying out such cooperation, the main and basic norm is that each and every citizen must have matured mind that must abide by the law and stick to discipline in all the tasks being undertaken.

In reaching such goal, it is necessary to carry out tasks in line with the democracy culture, to understand the meaning of democracy with correct ideology, to cooperate with right outlook in common sense, and only then disciplined democracy practice could be implemented. All the acts with lack of rule and lack of discipline would only create the chaotic democracy atmosphere.

In building developed and flourishing democratic system, the three pillars that steered the nation must be utilized as a check and balance arrangement. The transparency and openness, the implementation of plans with responsibility and accountability, the acceleration in force for the development and uplifting of economic and social status along with education and health sectors that people have aspired are needed to elevate the life of the people. In this regards, the people must have the desire to accept the concept so that long lasting and strong democratic system would sure to take shape.

In the democratic practice and norm, the entire



Colonel Than Htaik

citizens must abide by the existing laws and the Constitution with value and respect. In abiding with respect to the mother law which is the Constitution, the spirit of law is to be followed with accuracy and precision.

While working together for the flourishing of democracy, the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panlong meetings are being held through the initiation of the State which is urgently needed for the stability and peace of the nation.

Only when the armed conflicts and the armed insurgencies have ended with eternal peace, the people's desire for democracy and development could be achieved. Therefore, it is necessary that all the people must participate with unity in all the work programs.

In conclusion, it is to say that democratic system means that doing the righteous tasks with the consents of majority in cooperation. Whether it is right or wrong, when the majority ruled and accepted the "flower" as the "flour", then it is not democracy; and that everyone knows that. ["Flower" and "flour" are homophones because they are pronounced the same but you certainly can't bake a cake using daffodils.]

When the majority is doing in that way, then it might turn into forced democracy. For the development of the country, it needs to work together in correct and justified democracy practice, and that a show performed by one person only would not be feasible. This year's maxim is "oversight" in conjunction with the motto of "Let us work together for the flourishing of democracy"; and for the successful achievement of that goal, the (54) million population of the national races must cooperate with right attitude, right outlook with the application of right circumstances. With these concept and impression, let us hail and honor the International Day of Democracy. Thank you.

Translated by UMT (HK)



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 2:00 pm Saturday 22nd September, 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs M.S.T: During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Eastern Shan and Kayah States, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Ayeyarwady Region, scattered in Yangon Region, Kachin, (Northern and Southern)Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayin States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Napyitaw. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Naypyitaw(Zayarthiri) (1.74 inches, Yangon(Kabaaye) (1.50)inches, Machanbaw and Loilin (1.38)inches each, Putao (1.34)inches, Ann (1.10)inches and Nyauntone (1.08)inches.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 23rd September, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from Central Myanmar areas. **FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd September, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd September, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd September, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather Forecast for Third 10 days of September, 2018 Bay of Bengal condition

Southwest monsoon is likely to withdrawal from Central Myanmar areas during (22-27) of September and Deltaic area during (28) September and (3) October. A Low Pressure Area may form over the Bay of Bengal and further intensify into a Depression. Monsoon will be weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Rain Condition and Rainy days

Rain or thundershowers will be expected below normal rain in Bago and Ayeyarwady Regions, Southern Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and about normal in Sagaing, Mandalay Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

Rainy days will be expected (6) to (8) days in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and (4) to (5) days in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan, Chin and Kayah States.

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Tanzania ferry disaster toll passes 200

NAIROBI (Kenya) — The death toll from a crowded ferry capsizing in Lake Victoria rose sharply to 207 Saturday, a Tanzanian minister said, as rescue workers found a lucky survivor.

Public radio quoted the transport minister as updating the number of dead from 170 earlier in the day.

Joseph Mkundi, a lawmaker for the Ukerewe district, told AFP there were 41 known survivors among the passengers of the MV Nyerere — a ferry built to carry 100 people, according to state media.

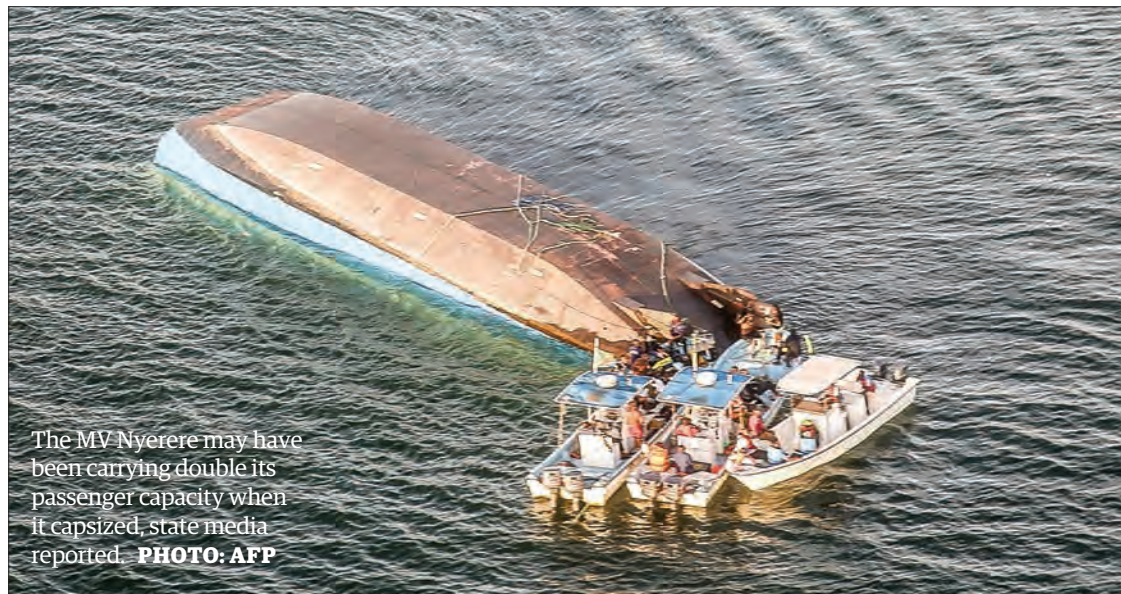
It capsized on Thursday close to the pier on Ukara Island.

Although hopes were fading of finding any more survivors by day three of the search effort, workers rescued an engineer who had managed to locate a pocket of air in the vessel.

According to Mkundi, the engineer had shut himself into a “special room”.

Tanzanian President John Magufuli on Friday ordered the arrest of ferry management.

Witnesses told AFP the ferry sank when passengers rushed to one side to disembark as it approached the dock. Others blamed the captain, saying he



The MV Nyerere may have been carrying double its passenger capacity when it capsized, state media reported. PHOTO: AFP

had made a brusque manoeuvre.

In a speech broadcast on TBC 1 public television, Magufuli said “it appears clear that the ferry was overloaded.”

He added: “negligence has cost us so many lives... children, mothers, students, old people.

“I ordered the arrest of all those involved in the management of the ferry. The arrests have already begun,” he added.

National mourning

The president declared four days of national mourning and said the government would cover the funeral expenses of the

victims.

State television cited witnesses reporting that more than 200 people had boarded the ferry at Bugolora, a town on the larger Ukerewe Island. It was market day, which usually sees the vessel packed with people and goods.

“I have not heard from either my father or my younger brother who were on the ferry. They had gone to the market in Bugolora to buy a school uniform and other supplies for the new school term,” said Domina Maua, among those seeking information about loved ones.

Sebastian John, a teacher, said such tragedies had become part of life for those living on the lake.

“Since my birth, people have gone to their deaths on this lake, but what are we to do? We did not choose to be born here, we have nowhere to go,” he said.

Overloading and ‘negligence’

Tanzania’s Electrical, Mechanical and Services Agency, which is responsible for ferry services, said it was unknown how many passengers were aboard the MV Nyerere.

The ageing vessel, whose hull and propellers were all that remained visible after it overturned, was also carrying cargo, including sacks of maize, bananas and cement, when it capsized about 50 metres (55 yards) from Ukara dock.

The cause of the accident was not immediately clear, but overloading is frequently to blame for such incidents.

The country’s opposition has accused the government of “negligence”.

“We have often raised concerns about the poor condition of this ferry, but the government turned a deaf ear. We have repeatedly denounced this negligence,” said John Mnyika, deputy secretary general of Chadema, the main opposition party.

Mnyika said overloading was “another failure of the authorities” and criticised “inadequate relief efforts as well as delays” in the rescue operation.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and the leaders of Uganda and Kenya offered their condolences, while Pope Francis in a statement expressed “the greatest solidarity with those who have been bereaved”.—AFP

S Sudan’s peace monitors urge warring parties to comply with peace deal

JUBA — South Sudan’s peace monitors on Friday urged warring parties to fully comply with a peace agreement signed recently so as to build trust and confidence.

Thomson Fontaine, deputy chief of staff of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), said full compliance by the signatories to the peace agreement, signed last week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will help build confidence and aid economic recovery after over four years of conflict. “Full compliance to the agreement is very critical to build confidence and provide an enabling environment for the much-needed focus on the growth of the economy among other things,” he said in a statement issued in Juba.

He expressed confidence that the compromises taken by both parties were in good faith and that the parties will work together moving forward.

President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, leader of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army-in-opposition (SPLA-IO), agreed to the final peace deal mediated by Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an east African bloc.

Fontaine appealed to the people of South Sudan to embrace working together for the good of the country.

“As we celebrate the International Day of Peace, may we all embrace the spirit of togetherness and agree that there are no beneficiaries to the conflict,” he said. He said millions of people are living in refugee camps in neighboring countries and that the world is watching with eagerness as to whether the sides will honor their commitment to the implementation of the peace agreement this time around. — Xinhua ■

Yemen faces worsening threat of famine: UN aid chief

UNITED NATIONS (United States) — International aid agencies are losing the fight against famine in Yemen, where 3.5 million people may soon be added to the eight million Yemenis already facing starvation, the UN aid chief warned on Friday.

A sharp drop in the value of Yemen’s currency that has sent fuel prices spiraling compounded with renewed fighting has led to a worsening of what the United Nations already considers the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

“We are losing the fight against famine,” Mark Lowcock, the under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, told the Security Council.

“We are already seeing pockets of famine-like conditions — including cases where people are eating leaves because they have no other form of sustenance,” he said.

The council was meeting at Britain’s request to discuss the worsening crisis in Yemen,

where a Saudi-led coalition is fighting Iran-aligned rebels who control the capital Sanaa.

Lowcock said the situation had deteriorated “in an alarming way in recent weeks” and that the crisis may be approaching “a tipping point, beyond which it will be impossible to prevent massive loss of life.”

The stark warning came ahead of next week’s gathering of world leaders at the United Nations for the annual debate on global issues that will feature meetings on Yemen.

After a lull in fighting, Saudi-backed government forces this week launched a series of attacks on rebel-held Hodeida, the Red Sea port city that also serves as the entry point for humanitarian aid deliveries.

The fight for Hodeida, which the Huthis seized in 2014, was put on hold for 11 weeks as the United Nations struggled to bring warring parties to peace talks in Geneva.

But the talks collapsed earli-

er this month after the northern Yemeni rebels refused to attend.

Three quarters of Yemen’s population — or 22 million people — are in need of humanitarian aid, including eight million who need food relief to survive, according to UN figures.

The Yemeni rial has lost 30 per cent of its value over the past month, driving a sharp increase in the cost of food, almost of all of which is imported.

Lowcock called for council support for immediate measures to stabilize the economy, support the exchange rate and keep all ports and main roads open.

“The lifeline through which the aid operation runs now hangs by a thread,” he said.

The Saudi-led alliance intervened in the Yemen conflict in 2015 in a bid to bolster embattled Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, whose government is recognized by the UN, in his war against the Huthi rebels.

Nearly 10,000 people have been killed in the war. —AFP ■

New bombshell revives debate on Trump fitness for office

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump faced a new challenge to his authority on Friday after US media reported that his deputy attorney general had discussed ways to force him from office on grounds of incompetence, just months into his presidency.

In the latest bombshell to rock the troubled administration, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* reported that Rod Rosenstein in May 2017 had suggested secretly recording Trump for evidence of White House dysfunction — and using that to formally remove him from power. Coming on the heels of an explosive book by respected White House chronicler Bob Woodward, the reports added to mounting evidence indicating that numerous people in Trump's own government have serious doubts about his fitness for office — and have actively worked to undermine him.

As the number two Justice Department official, Rosenstein oversees the probe into whether Trump's 2016 election campaign colluded with Russians in defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The Time and *Post* reports were both based on secret memos by a former FBI director — which some speculated may have been leaked in order to undermine Rosenstein, and in turn the Russia special prosecutor Robert Mueller.

Rosenstein branded the re-

ports “inaccurate and factually incorrect.”

“I never pursued or authorized recording the president and any suggestion that I have ever advocated for the removal of the president is absolutely false,” he added.

And the Justice Department released a statement by a former senior official — who would not be identified — saying that he was “in the room” at the time and that Rosenstein was only joking.

“The statement was sarcastic and was never discussed with any intention of recording a conversation with the president,” said the former official.

Trump's son Donald Trump Jr held up the reports as evidence of disloyalty among the president's entourage.

“Who are we kidding at this point?” he tweeted, above a link to the *Times* article. “No one is shocked that these guys would do anything in their power to undermine @realdonaldtrump.”

Trump's Republican ally Mike Huckabee meanwhile urged Attorney General Jeff Sessions to fire Rosenstein — or for Trump to fire them both if he refuses.

Washington was convulsed this month by the release of Woodward's book on the inner workings of the White House — which he described as mired in a perpetual “nervous breakdown”

with staff battling to control an unstable president.

Compounding Woodward's account, *The New York Times* went on to publish an op-ed by an anonymous senior official — whose identity remains a mystery — claiming that select administration staff members are so alarmed by the president's “erratic” and “amoral” behavior that they actively sabotage his most extreme policy efforts.

“We believe our first duty is to this country, and the president continues to act in a manner that is detrimental to the health of our republic,” the writer said.

Mueller probe threatened?

The latest reports were based on private memos written by then-interim FBI director Andrew McCabe, summarizing discussions with Rosenstein.

Because Rosenstein oversees the Russia probe, there was immediate speculation that the memos may have been leaked in order to damage Rosenstein, and by extension Mueller—more than to hurt Trump.

Rosenstein appointed Mueller in May 2017 as the special counsel for the Russia investigation.

After securing convictions of seven people associated with Trump, Mueller's probe increasingly threatens the White House and the president himself.

Trump has repeatedly pres-



US President Donald Trump speaks during a rally at JQH Arena in Springfield, Missouri on 21 September, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

sured Rosenstein and Sessions to shut down what he calls an illegal “witch hunt.”

The president did not respond specifically to the shock news reports, but at a political rally in Missouri late Friday he referred to “what's being exposed at the Department of Justice and the FBI.”

“You have some real bad ones. You see what's happening at the FBI—they're all gone, they're all gone,” he said.

“There's a lingering stench and we're going to get rid of that too,” Trump finished.

Chuck Schumer, the top Democrat in the Senate, immediately sought to pre-empt any attempt to fire Rosenstein.

“This story must not be used as a pretext for the corrupt purpose of firing Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein in order (to)

install an official who will allow the president to interfere with the Special Counsel's investigation,” Schumer said.

The Times said Rosenstein made the comments in a particularly chaotic period, in the weeks right after he was appointed deputy attorney general.

Rosenstein's alleged allusion to the 25th amendment of the US Constitution, which provides for removing a president if they are judged unfit for office, came just after Trump fired FBI director James Comey — invoking a memo written by Rosenstein.

According to the *Times*, Rosenstein was unhappy about being “used” by Trump in the firing of Comey, as well as concerned about other turmoil in the White House under the new president. —AFP ■

Suspected Hezbollah financier arrested in Brazil



Ahmed Assad Barakat (in handcuffs) has been described by Washington as a “global terrorist”. PHOTO: AFP

SAO PAULO — Brazilian police on Friday arrested a Lebanese citizen on suspicions of raising funds for Lebanon-based Shiite military group Hezbollah, which the United States considers a terrorist group.

Assad Ahmad Barakat, 51, was arrested on Brazil's three-way border with Argentina and

Paraguay close to the world-renowned Iguazu Falls, accused of carrying fake identity documents, federal police said.

“Members of the Barakat Clan made purchases worth \$10 million, without declaring their value, at a casino in the Argentine city of Iguazu,” Brazilian police said, “with the view

to laundering the organization's money.” The money was allegedly destined for Hezbollah's coffers, but the funds and other assets were frozen by Argentine authorities, Brazilian police said.

Barakat spent six years in a Paraguayan prison for tax evasion but was released in 2008, after which he moved to Brazil.

In 1989 he had obtained Paraguayan nationality but was stripped of it in 2003 following his conviction. Yet in April he was issued a Paraguayan passport, according to Asuncion, which says it is investigating that case.

In 2006 Barakat was added to a US list of individuals and groups operating in the triple border area and financing Hezbollah, which has close links to Iran's regime. The US Treasury Department described Barakat as a “global terrorist,” and said his network was a “major financial artery to Hezbollah.” —AFP ■

Russia, Turkey agree borders of Syrian demilitarized zone

SARAJEVO (Bosnia and Herzegovina) — Russia and Turkey have agreed on borders of a demilitarised zone in northern Syria, Russia's top diplomat said on Friday, part of a deal that could check an assault on the last rebel enclave in Idlib. “Just yesterday or the day before, the militaries of Russia and Turkey agreed the concrete frontiers of the demilitarized zone,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said after talks with his Bosnian counterpart Igor Crnadak.

Moscow says the demilitarized zone would help stop attacks from Idlib on Syrian army positions and Russia's military bases in the region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan agreed the establishment of the 15 to 20 kilometre (9.3-12 miles) buffer

zone on Monday after talks that lasted more than four hours.

Security in the zone, which includes parts of Idlib and neighbouring provinces including the city of Aleppo, will be overseen by Turkish contingents and Russian military police. The agreement will prevent military action against the city of Idlib, Russia's defence minister said. “It's an intermediate step... but a necessary step,” Lavrov said of the zone.

“By mid-October, all (fighters of the Al-Nusra Front) must leave this demilitarised zone, and all heavy military equipment must be pulled out of there,” he said.

Russia is a key ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime, helping the Syrian government establish control over most of the country's territory after intervening in the multi-front conflict in 2015. —AFP ■



A vendor arranges newspapers featuring reports on Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang's death at a newstand in Hanoi on 22 September, 2018. Vietnam's President Tran Dai Quang, a former police chief known as a tough politician and committed communist with little tolerance for dissent, died on 21 September aged 61 after a serious illness, state media reported. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan to agree to bilateral trade deal talks with US

TOKYO—Japan will begin bilateral trade negotiations with the United States, acquiescing to demands made by US President Donald Trump in hopes of seeing the local auto industry exempted from threatened tariffs, people close to the matter said on Saturday.

The plan would be a shift from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's preferred multilateral trade relationship with the United States under the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but he has not given up hope of drawing Trump back into the now 11-nation agreement.

Tokyo will propose a joint statement laying out how to move forward with planned negotiations when Toshimitsu Motegi, state minister in charge of trade

talks, meets with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on Monday in New York, the sources said. If Tokyo and Washington agree on its content, a statement could be released Wednesday after Abe and Trump hold talks in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Japan is to agree to talks on a bilateral deal on the condition that the United States hold off on imposing additional tariffs on the Japanese auto sector, according to the sources.

Tokyo is expected to continue resisting demands that agricultural tariffs be dropped below levels agreed in TPP talks, hoping to encourage Washington to return to the multilateral framework, they said.—Kyodo News ■

Indian govt proposed Reliance Defence as partner in Rafale: French media quoting Hollande

NEW DELHI—In a significant development, a French media report quoted former French President Francois Hollande as purportedly saying that the Indian government proposed Reliance Defence as the partner for Dassault Aviation in the Rs 58,000 crore Rafale jet fighter deal and France did not have a choice.

Reacting to Hollande's remark that is at variance with the stand taken by the Indian government, the defence ministry spokesman said on Friday, "The report referring to former French president Hollande's statement that government of India insisted upon a particular firm as offset partner for the Dassault Aviation in Rafale is being verified." The spokesperson also said, "It is reiterated that neither the government nor the French government had any say in the commercial decision."

Dassault Aviation, the makers of Rafale, had chosen Reliance Defence as its partner to fulfill offset obligations of the deal. The government has been maintaining it did not have any role in selection of the offset partner. Hollande's remark is set to escalate the political slugfest over the controversial multi-billion dollar deal.

The French media report quoted Hollande as saying "we did not have a say in this...the Indian government proposed this service group and Dassault negotiated with (Anil) Ambani group. We did not have a choice, we took the partner who was given to us."

The Congress and other opposition parties latched on to the report and stepped up their attack on the Modi government over the deal.

"President (Former) Francois Hollande should also enlighten us how the price went up from 590 crore in 2012 to 1690 crore in 2015 per Rafale fighter jet? Escalation of a mere 1100 crore. I am sure the Euro equivalent would not be a problem to calculate," Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari tweeted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the procurement of a batch of 36 Rafale jets after holding talks with then French President Hollande on 10 April, 2015 in Paris.

The opposition has been accusing the government of choosing Reliance Defence over state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to benefit the private firm though it did not have any experience in the aerospace sector.—PTI ■

Abe to retain key ministers in Cabinet reshuffle: official



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at his office in Tokyo on 21 September, 2018. **PHOTO: Kyodo News**

TOKYO—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will likely retain key ministers in an upcoming Cabinet reshuffle following his re-election as Liberal Democratic Party president, a senior government official said on Friday.

Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko, and economic revitalization minister Toshimitsu Motegi are likely to remain in their posts, according to the official.

Within the LDP, policy chief Fumio Kishida, who earlier gave up his bid to enter the leadership race, is also likely to stay in the post, the official added.

But Abe is set to replace farm minister Ken Saito, who belongs to an intraparty group led by former Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba, the sole rival defeated in the LDP leadership race on Thursday, the official said, adding no lawmakers from Ishiba's faction will likely be offered Cabinet posts or key executive positions in the ruling party.

Asked about the reported policy for the upcoming Cabinet reshuffle, Ishiba showed displeasure, telling reporters, "We're the same LDP fellows. It's absolutely wrong to judge by who (the candidates) supported and it's not sincere to the country and people."

In a press conference after the LDP election, Abe said he will reshuffle his Cabinet and the party leadership after returning home later this month from New York, where he is scheduled to attend the UN General Assembly. The government is arranging the Cabinet reshuffle on 1 or 2 October, the official said.—Kyodo News ■

Cambodia deports pardoned Australian filmmaker in espionage case

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia will deport Australian filmmaker James Ricketson after he received a royal pardon following his conviction on espionage charges, an immigration police spokesman said on Saturday.

"He will be deported this

(Saturday) afternoon," General Department of Immigration's deputy chief and spokesman Keo Vanthan told Xinhua.

James Ricketson, 69, was released from a Cambodian prison on Friday after receiving a royal pardon at the request of the coun-

try's Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

The Australian filmmaker was convicted last month of spying and collecting information that could jeopardize national security and was sentenced to six years in prison.—Xinhua ■

Coca-Cola, Walmart to cut plastic pollution in oceans



A seagull struggles to take flight covered by a plastic bag in Chile. **PHOTO: AFP**

MONTREAL — Coca-Cola, Walmart and other big multinationals pledged on Thursday to help reduce plastic pollution in the world's oceans in support of a campaign by five of the G7 industrialized nations.

Britain, Canada, France, Germany and Italy, along with the European Union, signed the Ocean Plastics Charter at a leaders' summit in Canada's Charlevoix region in June.

The United States and Japan abstained but non-G7 nations Norway and Jamaica are also backing the plan to ensure 100 per cent of plastics are recyclable by 2030.

The nations aim to develop more viable alternatives to plastic packaging, to work towards a goal of all plastics being recycled and reused by 2040.

On the second day of a G7 ministerial meeting in Canada's Atlantic port city of Halifax, Canadian Environment Minister Catherine McKenna announced "a new partnership with businesses" to reduce plastics waste.

Backers include Loblaw's, Walmart, Nestle Canada, IKEA, Dow Chemicals, the Coca-Cola Company, BASF Canada and A&W Canada.

Unilever also announced that it was launching a non-profit entity to reduce consumer and business waste, while Volvo upped its target to make 25 per cent of the plastics in its cars recyclable by 2025.

The G7 group of the world's major economies

are also looking to tackle a growing source of marine pollution: lost fishing nets and gear, which account for 70 per cent of plastic waste floating on the surface of the sea, Canada's Fisheries Minister Jonathan Wilkinson said.

About 640,000 tonnes (tons) of nets and other fishing gear are discarded in the oceans each year, killing an estimated 136,000 seals, dolphins, sea lions, turtles, small whales and other seabirds, according to the World Animal Protection group.

"This is a really big problem," Wilkinson told AFP from the Halifax talks.

"There is a consensus among G7 countries that this is a very important issue... and there is a clear commitment to address it," he said.

According to the United Nations environment

agency, 70 per cent of the large plastic waste that floats on the seas comes from fishing.

Josey Kitson, executive director of World Animal Protection, called the plastic debris "death traps" for many seabirds, fish and marine mammals, but expressed hope that the G7 will address the problem.

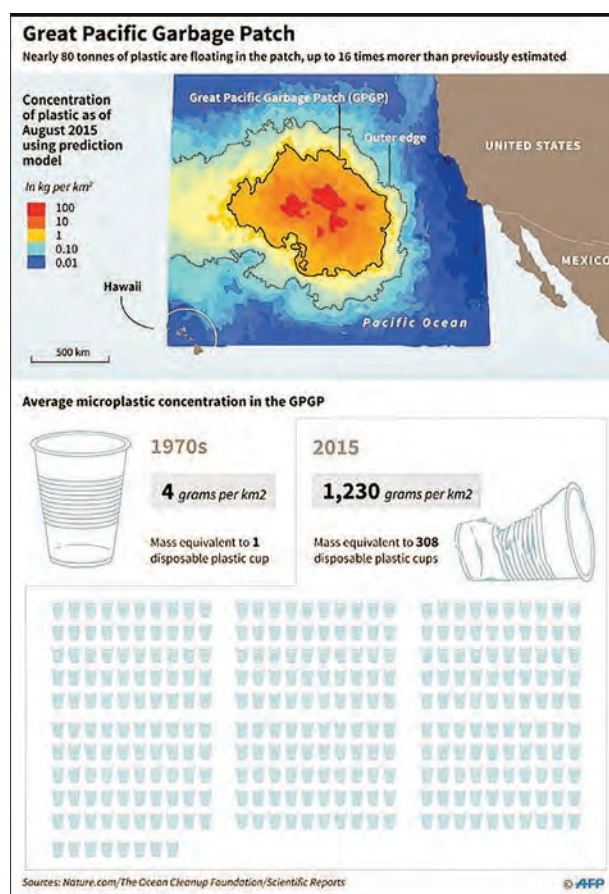
Wilkinson said G7 and other governments represented at the Halifax meeting are exploring fixes such as incentives for fishers to reuse gear

and dispose of aging nets properly.

The aim is "to actually clean it up (but also) not discharge it in the first place," he said.

The G7 is also looking at ways of tracking discarded gear back to vessels in order to identify polluters.

Although no timetable has been set, the G7 ministers have agreed to "discuss this issue again" at the Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi in November, Wilkinson said. —AFP ■



Pacific garbage patch. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tornado batters area near Canadian capital Ottawa

OTTAWA (Canada) — A tornado sparked chaos near the Canadian capital Ottawa on Friday, injuring dozens as homes were damaged, cars flipped over, and over 130,000 people left without power, local media said.

Meteorologists reported gusts whipped up to around 120 miles per hour (190 kilometres per hour), with the city of Gatineau, about five miles north of the capital, taking the brunt.

Images on social media showed homes with damaged rooftops and trees torn apart, as debris was seen swirling through the air in dramatic video footage.

"There was a power cut and less than a minute later, the wind began to hit

the windows," Vincent-Carl Leriche, who filmed the video, told AFP.

"The debris was flying everywhere, I had never see anything like it except in Hollywood," the 30-year-old, from Gatineau's Mont-Bleu neighborhood said, adding he saw sofas and freezers that had been blown into the street.

Ottawa emergency services official Anthony Di Monte told local media around 30 people were injured, five seriously.

Meanwhile, electricity company HydroQuebec reported over 130,000 customers were without power in the Ottawa area Friday evening. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urged residents to check on neighbors who might need help. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1108W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1108W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FRIDA VOY. NO. (004N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS FRIDA VOY. NO. (004N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS Ministry of Construction INVITATION FOR BID

- The Government of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of "Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2 MY-P17". It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for the construction of the pilot projects listed below for "Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2(MY-P17)."
- The Department of Highway (DoH), Ministry of Construction now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of the work below:

IFB No	Project ID	Works
DOH-1A	NgaThineChaung-Gwa Road in Ayeyarwady Region	18.1km Concrete Pavement Road, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-1B	NgaThineChaung-Gwa Road in Ayeyarwady Region	17.798km Concrete Pavement Road, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-2	Taungoo-Latetho-YarDo Road in Bago region	16.86km Concrete Pavement Road, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures

- Selling of Bid Documents: (20.9.2018) to (26.9.2018)
- Submission of Bids: (12:00) noon on (9.11.2018)
- Opening of Bids: (13:30) hours on (9.11.2018)
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidder at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of: Fifty Thousands Myanmar Kyat (ks. 50,000/-)
- Interested eligible Bidder may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of Project Inspection and Quality Control Department (Construction), Department of Highways, Ministry of construction, Building No.(11), NayPyiTaw.
- Contact Person: U AUNG KYAW HAN
- Phone No: 09-5080-434 / 09257728844 / 09450330580
- E-mail address: dohjica.sector@gmail.com
aungthurawin.thipaw@gmail.com

Is Robert Redford retiring from acting? Maybe not, he says

NEW YORK—The Sundance Kid may have a few acting adventures left in him.

Last month, screen legend Robert Redford said he was finished with acting, and planned to focus on directing in his golden years. But in an interview published Friday, Redford says he may have spoken too soon.

“That was a mistake. I should never have said that,” the 82-year-old actor told the entertainment publication *Variety* late Thursday at the New York premiere of his latest film, “The Old Man & the Gun.” “If I’m going to retire, I should just slip quietly away from acting, but I shouldn’t be talking about it because I think it draws too much attention in the wrong way. I want to be focused on this film and the cast,” he said.

The comments backtracked from what he told *Entertainment Weekly* in early August: “Never say never, but I pretty well concluded that this would be it for me in terms of acting.”

So, what does the future



Retire? Maybe not yet, Hollywood icon Robert Redford says at the New York premier of his latest - perhaps last - film “The Old Man & the Gun.” **PHOTO: AFP**

hold? Is “Old Man” his last movie or not?

“I’m not answering that,” he told *Variety*. “Keep the mystery alive.” In the August interview, Redford said that he would “move toward retirement” after “Old Man” because he’s been in the acting business for more than 60 years.

“I thought, well, that’s enough. And why not go out with something that’s very upbeat and positive?” he told *Entertainment*

Weekly.

Director David Lowery told *Esquire* magazine that Redford had mentioned during the filming of “The Old Man & the Gun” that it would be his last film as an actor.

The film, set for release in the United States on 28 September, sees Redford play Forrest Tucker, the real-life bank robber whose criminal career and multiple escapes from prison spanned more than 60 years. —AFP ■

Questions raised about US museum’s Abraham Lincoln hat

CHICAGO (United States)—It has been a question plaguing the museum dedicated to one of America’s greatest presidents: Is the hat real?

The hat in question is of the stovepipe variety that adorned the head of Abraham Lincoln—recognized for his fashion sense and lauded for ending slavery.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Illinois had displayed the chocolate brown, beaver fur hat as one

that had in fact been on the 16th US president’s head.

It is a prized possession, a big visitor draw, and valued at \$6.5 million—one of only three such Lincoln hats displayed at an American museum.

But it may not be Lincoln’s hat after all.

FBI analysts and curators at the national Smithsonian Institution have analyzed the hat at the unpublicized request of the Illinois museum’s foundation, an independent organization responsible for fundraising and acquiring objects.

Even DNA testing was done—comparing samples taken from the hat to Lincoln’s blood recovered from the night of his assassination in 1865.

The result: inconclusive.

Historians wrote a report telling the museum it “might want to soften its claim about the hat” given the fact that its origins cannot be definitively authenticated. —AFP ■



The stovepipe hat which DNA testing did not conclusively show had belonged to President Abraham Lincoln. **PHOTO: AFP**

Barbados appoints Ambassador Rihanna

NEW YORK (United States)—Rihanna is now Ambassador Rihanna, after her home country tasked her with promoting investment and tourism.

Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley said that Rihanna—real name Robyn Rihanna Fenty—has been conferred the title of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

While the singer will not be formally accredited to another country, Mottley said that Rihanna—whose more colorful songs include “Bitch Better Have My Money”—would be in charge of bringing investment as well as encouraging education and tourism.

“I couldn’t be more proud to take on such a prestigious title in my home country. Every Barbadian is going to have to play their role in this current effort, and I’m ready and excited to take on the responsibility,” Rihanna said in a statement dated Thursday.

Rihanna, 30, grew up in a troubled home in Barbados and was propelled to fame after visiting US producer Evan Rogers recognized her talents.

The singer, who since achieving stardom has lived primarily in Los Angeles and New York, has scored 14 number-one singles on the US Billboard chart, more than any artist except The Beatles, Elvis Presley and Mariah Carey. —AFP ■



Rihanna attends the Fenty Beauty by Rihanna event at Sephora on September 14, 2018 in Brooklyn, New York. **PHOTO: AFP**



Rihanna attends her 4th Annual Diamond Ball at Cipriani Wall Street on September 13, 2018 in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Manto’ screening restored after initial hiccups

MUMBAI—“Manto” is finally screening in theatres across India following cancelation of its first show. “Manto”, starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui as legendary Urdu writer Saadat Hasan Manto released on Friday, but multiplex chain PVR Cinemas had to cancel the morning shows due to technical glitch. “Hugely disappointed... six years of work and many people’s collective intent and commitment was to find its culmination this morning. Am assured by @Viacom18Movies it will be fixed at noon today. Please let us know if it has not been. Spreading #Mantoiyat will not stop,” Nandita had posted on Twitter. PVR had assured fans and the director that they were working towards solving the problem and would soon start screening the film. “Hi, We would like to inform you that due to some technical glitch, the shows of the movie, ‘Manto’ were cancelled. However, we would never want you to miss out on a good movie and are trying our best to bring you the shows of this most awaited movie. —PTI ■

First to red planet will become Martians: Canada astronaut

OTTAWA—Astronauts traveling through space on the long trip to Mars will not have the usual backup from mission control on Earth and will need to think of themselves as Martians to survive, Canada's most famous spaceman half-jokingly said on Friday.

Current predictions are that humans will reach Mars—up to 400 million kilometers (250 million miles) from Earth—in the coming decades.

But the vast distance means communications with mission control would be delayed by up to 22 minutes.

As a result, astronauts would need to be self-reliant on the voyage, which clocks in at 2.5 years round trip in travel time alone.

"If I were commander of that

crew as soon as the Earth started fading in the rearview mirror, I would get the crew together and say: 'We are no longer Earthlings, we are now Martians. That's who we are. We need to redefine our relationship with the planet that birthed us,'" former astronaut Chris Hadfield said.

"It's going to be very difficult not having Mother Earth next to you and it's going to be really important for that crew to define who they are as the most distant explorers in human history," he said.

Hadfield, whose 2013 rendition of David Bowie's "Space Oddity" aboard the International Space Station was watched by millions, was taking part with fellow astronauts in a fireside chat with students at the University



Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield—made famous for his rendition of the David Bowie song "Space Oddity" while aboard the International Space Station—strums his guitar on the ISS in this 2012 NASA photo. **PHOTO: AFP**

of Ottawa.

Robert Thirsk—who holds the Canadian record for the most time spent in space—said new Canadian Space Agency recruits Joshua Kutryk and Jenni Sidey-Gibbons "are going to go

to deep space, returning to the moon, to an asteroid... and then 20 years from now we're going to be on the surface of Mars exploring."

In the short term, "the idea of living on the moon... is becoming very, very real," said Kutryk.

The Canadian astronaut was on hand for last week's final tests in the southwestern US desert of the Orion interplanetary spacecraft, designed as he said to "will bring humans back to the moon in the next few years." —AFP ■

Japan space probe drops hopping rovers towards asteroid

TOKYO—A Japanese space probe on Friday released a pair of exploring rovers towards an egg-shaped asteroid to collect mineral samples that may shed light on the origin of the solar system. The "Hayabusa2" probe jettisoned the round, cookie tin-shaped robots toward the Ryugu asteroid, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). If the mission is successful, the rovers will conduct the world's first moving, robotic observation of an asteroid surface.

Taking advantage of the asteroid's low gravity, they will jump around on the surface—soaring as high as 15 metres (49 feet) and staying in the air for as long as 15 minutes—to survey the asteroid's physical features with cameras and sensors.

So far so good, but JAXA must wait for the Hayabusa2 probe to send data from the rovers to Earth in a day or two to assess whether the release has been a success, officials said.

"We are very much hopeful. We don't have confirmation yet, but we are very, very hopeful," Yuichi Tsuda, JAXA project manager, told reporters.

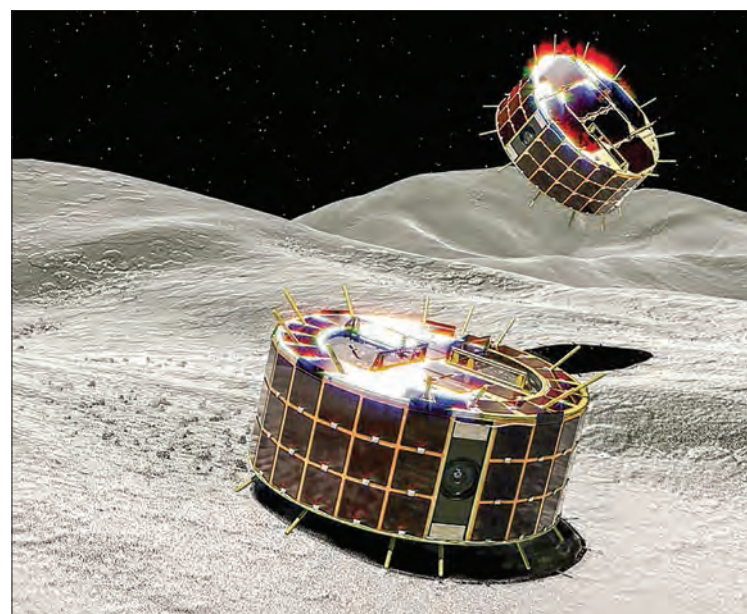
"I am looking forward to seeing pictures. I want to see images of space as seen from the surface of the asteroid," he said.

The cautious announcement came after a similar JAXA probe in 2005 released a rover which failed to reach its target asteroid.

Next month, Hayabusa2 will deploy an "impactor" that will explode above the asteroid, shooting a two-kilo (four-pound) copper object into the surface to blast a crater a few metres in diameter.

From this crater, the probe will collect "fresh" materials unexposed to millennia of wind and radiation, hoping for answers to some fundamental questions about life and the universe, including whether elements from space helped give rise to life on Earth.

The probe will also release a French-German landing vehicle named Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout (MASCOT) for surface observation. —AFP ■



The rovers will use the low gravity environment to hop on the asteroid's surface. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mathematician claims to have solved modern math's "holy grail"

LONDON—British mathematician Michael Atiyah claims that he has a "simple proof" for the Riemann hypothesis, which has been one of the greatest challenges in math since German mathematician Bernhard Riemann brought it out in 1859.

According to a tweet posted by the Heidelberg Laureate Forum, a networking event for mathematicians and computer scientists from all the world, the British-Lebanese mathematician will address the forum on Sept. 24 and show the world his proof of the hypothesis. "Will he (be) presenting a proof of the Riemann Hypothesis? Yes, that is what his abstract says," read the tweet.

The Riemann hypothesis is modern math's holy grail. Although it is almost incomprehensible for people without intensive math training, it describes the distribution of prime numbers among positive integers.

Prime numbers, very simple by definition, are the building blocks of modern mathematics, especially number theory. Achievements in prime number theory have been widely applied to computer sciences and telecommunications.

But prime numbers are also mysterious and inexplicable: in

what pattern does a prime number emerge in the line of positive integers has remained elusive to generations of mathematicians.

Riemann proposed a theory that can, in a way, shed light on that mystery. But he couldn't prove it. Neither could all the brilliant minds that came after.

In 2000, the Clay Mathematical Institute announced the Millennium Prize Problems: seven of the most difficult problems still eluding mathematicians at the turn of the millennium. These problems were so important that solving any one would win a mathematician 1 million US dollars.

Also because the Riemann hypothesis is so difficult, many mathematicians have decided to go ahead with their research and have developed over 1,000 theorems based the assumption that the hypothesis is correct. So if it is proven, it will be a huge relief to many.

Atiyah, 79 years old, is considered as one of the greatest living mathematicians and has won almost all possible prizes in mathematics. Now the entire community of science is holding its breath for Atiyah to present his proof and to see whether it holds. If it does, it will be the greatest achievement in mathematics in decades. —Xinhua ■

Myanmar to play two friendly matches with Thailand

IN preparation for the 2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualification, Myanmar U-19 women's national football team will play two friendly matches against ASEAN's football powerhouse Thailand U-19 women's national football team in Yangon according to an announcement of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The friendly matches will take place in Yangon on 5 and 7 October said an MFF official.

For those who are interested to watch the matches, entry is free of charges, he added.

The details about the matches will be released soon

by MFF according to the MFF.

The Myanmar U-19 women's national football team, consisting of 31 players is camped and trained here. Head Coach Daw Thet Thet Win will handle the team said an official.

Recently, the team played friendly matches with Myanmar National Women's football team, women's football clubs from KBZ Bank Women's League and local men's football teams.

On the other hand, Thailand women's national U-20 football team participated at the 2004 FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar U-19 national football team seen with football coaches.
PHOTO:MFF



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland is off to a flying start at the 2018 Tour Championship. **PHOTO:AFP**

McIlroy in the hunt at Tour Championship

ATLANTA — Former world number one Rory McIlroy is making a bid to close out his season in style by winning the 2018 Tour Championship.

The 29-year-old from Northern Ireland is lurking just back of co-leaders Tiger Woods and Justin Rose after firing 68 for a five-under 135 total on Friday.

He is alone in third and just two shots back of the leaders at the halfway stage of the season-ending tournament.

McIlroy birdied two of his first three holes but then lost a shot with a bogey on the par-four number four. His two

birdies on the back nine were offset by a pair of bogeys en route to a two-under 68.

"I was not quite as good off the tee today as I was yesterday, but I still gave myself plenty of chances," he said.

"If I'm disappointed about anything, it's probably the two pars on the par-fives.

"I had a six-iron and a four-iron into them, and I made two fives. If I can make two fours there, I'm all of a sudden seven-under instead of five-under and probably in the last group."

It has been a strange year for McIlroy. He has a win, three

second place finishes and five other top 10s which would be a respectable season for most PGA pros.

But McIlroy feels this could finally be the weekend where everything in his game finally comes together.

"There's still 36 holes to play. I like this golf course," he said. "This is my fourth or fifth time at the Tour Championship, and I've played it pretty well every time I've come here.

"The course suits me. It suits the ball striker. I feel like my game has continuously gotten a little bit better over the last few weeks." — AFP ■

Giroud and Morata battle for Chelsea starting spot

LONDON — Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri has a tough decision to make over whether to pick Alvaro Morata or Olivier Giroud for a testing encounter with West Ham on Sunday.

The Stamford Bridge club are top of the Premier League table after five wins out of five but the fixture list has been relatively kind to them so far.

West Ham had a miserable start to their campaign but victory against Everton has lifted the mood and they will be further buoyed by last season's results against Chelsea — when they took four points off their London rivals.

Belgian playmaker Eden Hazard has been the star man for Chelsea so far this season, scoring a hat-trick in their 4-1 demolition of Cardiff last week to lead the race for the Premier



Strikers Olivier Giroud (left) and Alvaro Morata are battling for a place in the Chelsea starting team. **PHOTO:AFP**

League Golden Boot. But who will Sarri pick to lead the line at the London Stadium? Up until last weekend Morata, 25, was getting the nod, with French World Cup winner Giroud — a

stronger physical presence — consigned to the bench.

But Giroud got his chance against Cardiff and Hazard made no secret of his admiration for his teammate, hailing him as

the world's best target man after the Frenchman laid on two goals for Hazard.

"Olivier's a target man, maybe the best in the world — I think so," said Hazard, appear-

ing to make it clear who he would prefer to see in the line-up.

"When he gets the ball he can hold the ball and we can go in deep with him, so for us it's a pleasure to play with him.

"When Alvaro (Morata) was playing it's completely different, he's a different player than Olivier, but they both have great qualities, so I'm happy to have good strikers in the team."

Spanish striker Morata was criticised last season over his lack of a killer touch after a bright start to his career at Chelsea and has only found the net once so far this season.

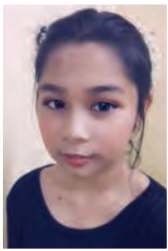
Sarri said he needs goals to boost his fragile confidence following Chelsea's 1-0 win against PAOK of Greece in their Europa League opener on Thursday, for which he was back in the starting line-up. — AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

23 SEPTEMBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



By A.W. Khin Myat Phone
Grade 11 A, BEHS 4,
Botahtaung



HOME defines the place where we live. The meaning of the word “home” is quite simple, but honestly, it means a lot more than its definition. As we are humans, we have to find somewhere to shelter ourselves and our families, in case it becomes dangerous in battling the rains, heat, snow and all weather conditions. The place is also a protection as well from thieves and robbers. To keep away from all of these, people began to look for houses to make their home.

Home is where we begin. It is a place where we were born, either as the only child or with our beloved siblings. It is the safest playground, and we mess things around with our brothers and sisters when we were still very young to know life. Time flies, and as we grow older, the age of our home becomes older too. The shadows of us playing around will remain in the rooms of our homes.

“Home is where the heart is”. There is no place like home. Though we may be in a five-star hotel or in luxury guest houses, all provided with high class facilities, still we miss our own homes. Because it is a place where our feet may leave but our hearts will always remain. The taste of the love of our home becomes sweeter when we go abroad for further studies or even for better jobs. Getting away from the place where we belong can be a little bit odd and that’s why the word, “homesick” comes alive.

House is made of walls and beams. However, home is made of love and dreams. The rooms hold the laughter and the windows always open to the possibilities of life. It gives us the feeling of belongingness. If walls could talk and the ceilings could see, they would tell the stories of happy families.

To consider, not only us, the humans, but also for the other animals, home is where they love to be. Just take a quick look at the little birds of different colours and shapes, the tall, tall trees are their homes. They dare not imagine their lives without these trees. Similarly, we cannot imagine our whole life as homeless. Do we?

It really does not matter how big or small our homes are. What it certainly matters is that there is no one who is not happy at home. A person with a tiny home loves it, and a person who can live in a domus also love it there. A collection of love is kept behind the curtains and sometimes home isn’t just four walls. It is two eyes and a heartbeat. There is a feeling when we are at a

SEE PAGE- S-3

Mro people's 'taungyar' traditions

By Uzin Kuthala
(Malamye)



PHOTO: Uzin Kuthala

MRO people are believed to have migrated to greener pastures and finally settled down in Paletwa Township, Chin State, and the northern regions of Rakhine State. According to history, up to the present day, these tribes were found to have lived in the above-mentioned regions for generations in terms of population and duration.

Mro people mostly get engaged in their livelihood of taungyar (slash-and-burn farming). By the time Thazin flowers blossom in the Myanmar months of Nadaw and Pyatho, Mro people gather at a public rest house in the middle of their village for a pot of intoxicating brew kept in the rest house. There they are frequently given advice by village elders on auspicious days in connection with allocation of land for slash-and-burn agriculture.

They usually build a rest house in the middle of their village. When guests arrive in the village, they take them to the rest house to be introduced to the young and old alike. This custom has been practiced in some villages, whereas other villages no longer practice it. Many contemporary exam-

ples will suffice to illustrate the point: the village public rest house is for consultation and exchange of information, solidarity and introduction of strangers to local villagers.

When the appointed days come, the heads of households take in their hands sharpened swords and wear a cane basket with a sling; then they shout in unison and hold worshipping of nats (spirits) from hills and mountains. When the slash-and-burn operation is nearly done, they take their whetstones from behind to sharpen their swords, facing towards the East. At the same time, they have to use the water from a bamboo tube and from nowhere else. They have to fill up the bamboo tube in advance for the next day. Then they take home a clod of earth and put it under the pillows to have a sweet dream.

Next morning, they go to an astrologer to read their dreams and listen to his interpretations whether the dreams are good or bad. If the interpretations are bad, they usually avoid the slash-and-burn areas to find new ones. Mro people avoid jungles infested with wild animals or evil spirits.

The slash-and-burn farm-

ing has been carried out in accordance with the number of family members. They, in turn, work on the farm collectively. Once they get engaged in slash-and-burn operations, they usually avoid bathing. They believe that if they do, they will suffer. The collective ways of slash-and-burn operations are threatened to be on the verge

of extinction, according to some village elders.

The operations have to be completed before the end of the Myanmar month of Nadaw. Fallen trees and dense undergrowth are left dried under the sun for the two months of Pyatho and Tabodwe. During this period, men have to get household chores and goods finished and women will have to polish rice by pounding. Taking a rest is regarded as moving from one job to another, according to a saying.

During a moon-lit night of Myanmar month Tabaung, the village headman opens and drinks from the pot an intoxicating brew kept in the village rest house beforehand and villagers, in turn, take a sip of the brew. Then they get an appointed date for burning the fallen trees and the dense undergrowth.

Before setting fire, the guardian spirits are called upon to bear witness and wildlife is requested to flee the forest in which they live. Villagers armed with swords, bayonets, bows and arrows and tommy guns will be waiting at streams and

creeks for fleeing animals, such as deer, monitor lizards, and boa constrictors. They shoot and kill them, taking them not to their respective houses, but to the rest house.

Villager elders, over 50 years old, cook and eat the meat in comradely association with other villagers. Cucumbers, chillies, pumpkins and other crops are grown in-between Taungyar paddy land. These fruits and vegetables are harvested, while Taungyar paddies are kept for their food.

Before harvest, blood from fowls and pigs are spread on bamboo posts and nats are worshipped with salted and cooked chicken or pork to produce more rice paddies.

According to the definition of culture, every race has its own traditions, which consist of unique characters. Traditional culture of one race depends on locations, religions and their way of living. Before the advent of contemporary religious beliefs, primitive people worshipped water, earth, hills and mountains for their security.

According to Rakhine historical treatises, Mro tribes are believed to have settled down in the Rakhine region around BC 4000-3500. Ancient Mro people worshipped the Sun and Moon as their common gods or saviours, rather than water, hills and mountains until BC 600. By that time, they were believed to have changed their faith to Buddhism. Their faith in Buddhism has relatively decreased in comparison with other Buddhists. Nowadays, the main religions among Mro communities are Buddhism and Christianity, and some Mro people still continue to practice nat-worshipping.

References:

Old essays on Mro people, personal interviews
Rakhine New Treatise, Danyawaddy New Treatise, History of Khamee tribe
Translated by
Arakan Sein



PHOTO: Uzin Kuthala

Morning festival



By Laura Htet
UDE English

IT is a morning of neither wind nor rain. The new born day is perfectly clear and fresh. Therefore, the kingly sun is predominantly bright at the crack of dawn. The early morning seems splendid with glittering sunshine.

Flocks of little birds are chirping in celebration of the glorious morning party with their songs of natural instinct. The sweet notes rendered by a band of a variety of birds provides a melodious music. Backed by richly arranged songs, the morning looks grand and magnificent. The sun's rays glitteringly splash golden and silvery lights on the swaying leaves of banyan trees in the gentle breeze. Around the towering banyan tree, birds are having their life time, flying hither and thither. They are also flying, resting and rejoicing about the banyan tree. Their orchestral music is floating from around the old banyan tree, far and far away. It looks as if the young angel left her royal realm for the befitting morning festival in order to sing and dance with such melody.

We have passed numerous mornings which were gloomy and damp, mornings of rain, haze and chill, mornings of winter and summer mornings with some remaining dew. We have experienced several kinds of morning, varying from season to season. We have seen certain mornings peculiar to places we happened to be in. We have to overcome all mornings, such as pleasant mornings, dismaying mornings, dreadful mornings and peaceful mornings. Although we cannot enjoy the comfort of sunshine as well as birds' songs, we should welcome every morning as the beginning of a newborn day, as a precious thing. With a goodwill that each morning would represent peace and splendor, may all of you sing the sweet, sweet song of love at every daybreak.



FROM PAGE- S-1

place where we are supposed to love, but all we have in our heart and mind is just the word, "home".

I know that one day I, as well, have to leave my home where I have painted colours of sweet moments and where I have joined laughter bridges with my

parents, a place which I have built up with warm memories of golden olden days. I fear that if I come back and everything I have made with heart will all be gone someday just like Leo Christopher's (author of Sleeping in Chairs) words:

"Home is wherever you leave

Everything you love
And never question that it will be there
When you return."

Whenever I imagine of being away from home, oh, it feels so sad deeply at the bottom of my heart. The four walls of my home are the expressive things of me

growing up and playing around and everything that reminds me of who I really am.

All in all, a house is built by a pair of hands but a home is built by tenderness between family members. What's more, home is where we stick our daydreams on the ceilings and where we

keep away those nightmares in the cupboards. It is the place which protects us against mean things from the outside world. So, while seeking for better life, we should not forget where we rooted from. Finally, no matter east or west, home is the best place for us, after all.

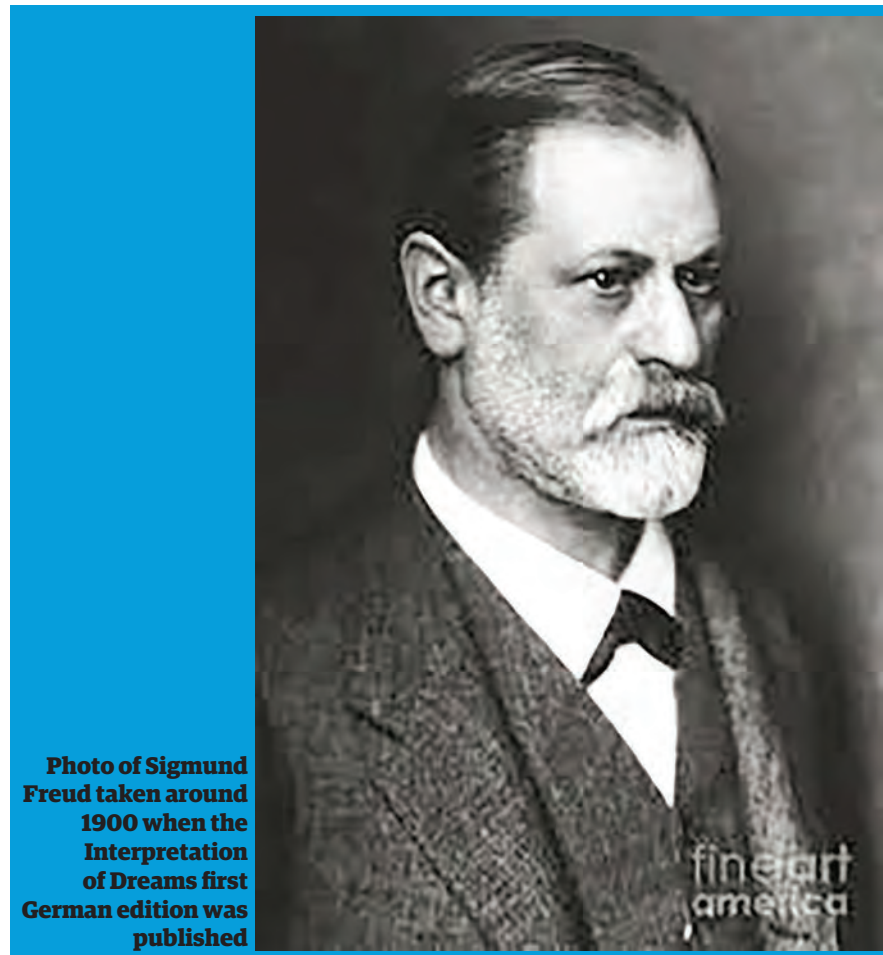


Photo of Sigmund Freud taken around 1900 when the *Interpretation of Dreams* first German edition was published

there and soon after the start of the Second World War.

Around 2300 years earlier, Aristotle was born in Stagira in Northern Greece but studied, researched, taught, philosophized, wrote and 'flourished' in Athens most of his life. Both Aristotle and Freud were forced to flee their native lands and died in exile just about a year after they became 'exiles' or 'expatriates'. (The Burmese phrase မြန်မာ့ 'miscreants who ran away from their home country' – derogatorily devised by the then Burma Socialist Programme Party regime to denigrate late former Prime Minister U Nu and his followers' doomed rebellion in the 1970s was also the fate that befell such eminent persons like Aristotle and Freud. A similar fate befell Karl Marx who spent more than 30 years of his life as an expatriate မြန်မာ့ from his native Germany and – like Freud – died in London in March 1883. Former Burmese Prime Minister U Nu of course did not die in exile but in his native land in February 1995, after returning to Burma in July 1980 spending over 11 years in exile.)

This article intends to take a brief glimpse and comment on one aspect of

dreams. And the meaning and significance of humans' dreams can be interpreted in a sense, only to those 'gifted' to do so, such as Sigmund Freud.

From my understanding and very much paraphrasing – though one trusts not misinterpreting Freud's 'interpretation of dreams' – the unconscious which (sort of) 'wells up' (from the bottom of the human mind's dark recess like in a deep well) or emerges in dreams wants to 'quickly go back' to the dark recesses and prefer to stay unnoticed by the (conscious) 'Ego' of humans.

What is in the unconscious is (mis) represented in the 'manifest content': that is what one sees in the dream. The 'manifest content' of dreams (that is what the dreamer remembers perhaps only some of the time immediately on waking up) are soon generally forgotten by the dreamers. Even if dreams are remembered as they are revealed ordinarily they do not make 'sense'.

According to Freud (but in my own words), as a 'double protection' or 'double blocking' by the unconscious, the manifest content distorts or hides what is the real

from identifying what is in the unconscious the actual 'meaning' of the dream, 'the latent content' is distorted or disguised by the manifest content.

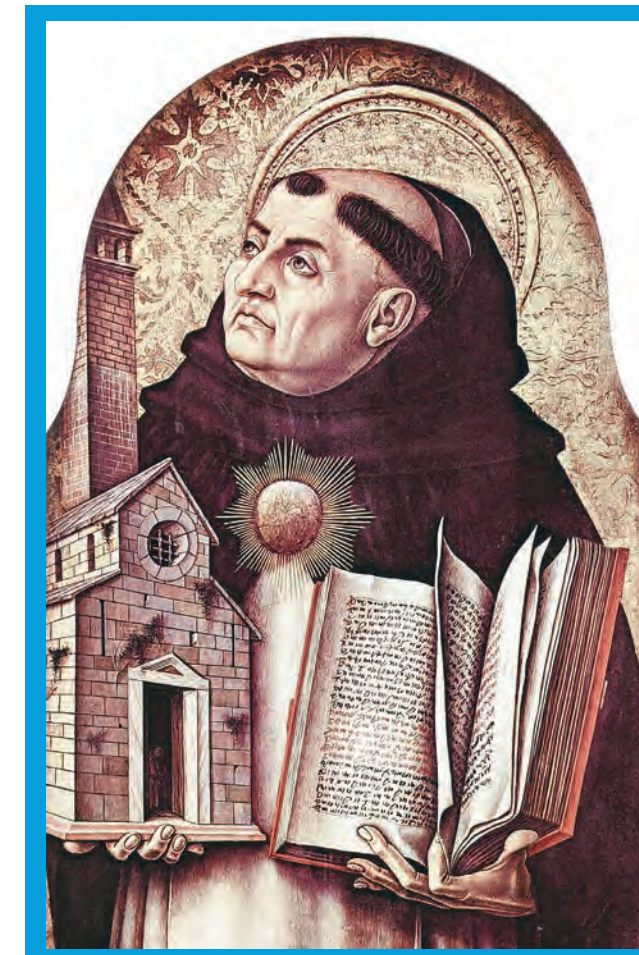
In addition, even most of the manifest content of the dreams are relegated by the unconscious back to the unconscious so that the conscious mind 'forget' even the 'manifest content' of the dreams generally fairly quickly. (After writing the initial draft of this article the writer went to bed around 3:30 am in the morning, dreamt some dreams, recall some aspects of them immediately on waking up, briefly pondered about them but now a few hours later have virtually completely forgotten even the manifest content of the dreams which I dreamt just several hours ago.)

When Freud published his 'dream' book over 110 years ago at the start of the 20th century, medical, behavioral, physiological and neurological sciences, not to say that of general human psychology, was not as advanced as now. Even in the 1980s, if not earlier, quite a few of Freud's theories, including his dream theories, have been critiqued – some would say they are already debunked.

humans do they 'dream' every time they sleep? (Just before I wrote this I had a quick read of only one article on the world wide web entitled 'Do Animals Dream?' and it states that, as early as 1959, experiments with cats showed that cats 'were seeing images during REM [Rapid Eye Movements while asleep], though we can't say for sure if they were dreaming like we do'.) (2) If animals (especially some mammals, such as cats and dogs) do 'dream', do they also have (mis)applying – or is it 'distorting'? – Freud's theory regarding human dreams, have conscious, unconscious and subconscious minds as humans apparently do?

Freud of course was by no means the first person or group of persons to 'interpret' human dreams. Such interpretations go back thousands of years and can be seen in many cultures throughout the world. Freud was also not the first to posit the existence of the unconscious in human minds. But arguably, Freud may be, if not the first, then the leading pioneer of 'concretely' linking the unconscious to dreams. (Freud and his still substantial – albeit compared to several decades ago somewhat dwindling – supporters and followers would certainly claim the pioneering nature of Freud's dream theories.)

A 'curial curiosity' (the shades of theological usage here should become apparent later) is why only Sigmund Freud was able to 'break through' or 'pierce the veil' of the unconscious and not other philosophers, psychologists and medical doctors of yore till Freud did so in the latter part of the 19th century? Why is it that only Freud and not virtually all humans before him (so to speak) have any such supposed breakthroughs or 'insights' into and about human dreams?



Saint Thomas Aquinas

persons who are 'touched' by God or who had the 'gift' of glimpsing God's 'eternal law'. (Reference to Christian theologian Aquinas juxtaposed with Freud's theory explains the 'curial' nature of the writer's curiosity stated above.)

Thomas Aquinas divided 'law' (lex in Latin) into four categories. Aquinas stated that *lex aeterna* (the eternal law of God) is known only to God and very few humans who are 'touched' or blessed by him. *Lex divina* ('divine law') is the law of God revealed through the Christian Scriptures. *Lex naturalis* ('natural law') is the law of nature which (ordinary humans can discern through reason), and *lex humana* are human laws. According to Aquinas, *lex humana* are necessary because, notwithstanding the existence of the three other categories of laws, some humans act selfishly so the rulers and society in general has to make (through legislation and custom) human laws for the stability and harmony of human society.

This article is not to elaborate on those laws according to Aquinas but to attempt to link Aquinas' statement that only God Himself and those 'who are touched by God' or have had the 'gift from God' can discern what is the eternal law of God with that of Freud's dream theory.

From this writer's reading (admittedly from secondary sources, only in English translation and only in summary) and understanding of Aquinas' postulate or 'posit' regarding *lex aeterna*, Aquinas apparently did not claim that he had full insight into the eternal law of God. To slightly paraphrase from the late Stephen Hawking's last sentence in his phenomenal best seller *A Brief History of Time*, Aquinas apparently did not claim 'to [fully] know the mind of God' (one might add only and even in relation to the *lex aeterna*).

Arguably, and at least by implication, Freud has no such reticence. Of the thousands of thinkers and philosophers that

preceded him – even narrowing down to the 'genre' of human dreams (not human dreams as in 'ideal' or 'hopes') – it was arguably he who proposed, if not asserted, that 'dreams are royal road(s) to the unconscious'. If sophisticated thinkers – not to say ordinary humans – were denied insights into their own dreams, how is it that the personage of ('Master') Sigmund Freud (alone?) was able to (correctly?) 'decipher' dreams and link them to the unconscious?

Also, if *lex aeterna* is available to be discerned (apart from the Deity Himself) only to those touched by God (such as saints), how is it that the existence – though arguably perhaps not necessarily the content – of *lex aeterna* was only discovered or postulated by the learned Doctor (and not doubting) Thomas?

Saint Thomas Aquinas and his devoted and devout followers might well point to the grace and gift of God though Doctor (a different sort of doctor from that of Saint Thomas) Sigmund Freud, a professed atheist, might deny such 'bestowals' regarding his own insights on dreams and other psychoanalytic theories.

Thomas Aquinas and Sigmund Freud flourished in different centuries and they died just over 675 years apart (in March 1274 and September 1939 respectively). Their contributions to various genres of human knowledge and their scholarship were (and are), if not landmarks, then significant developments in the history of human ideas.

This article is written in part with an ironic 'take' regarding one aspect of each of the great Masters' writings. On the occasion of the 79th anniversary of the passing of Sigmund Freud, I give my tribute to both the learned Doctor(s) Sigmund Freud and Saint Thomas Aquinas for their contributions in understanding human lives, human dreams (this time in both sense of the word) and human ideas.

Freud's postulates about dreams and the unconscious, Aquinas posits about God's 'Eternal Law'

By Dr. Myint Zan
PHOTOS: Supplied

Sigmund Freud and his 'Dream' theory

23 September 2018 would be the 79th anniversary of the passing away of Sigmund Freud (6 May 1856 - 23 September 1939). Sigmund Freud, one of the 100 most influential persons in history, according to author Michael H. Hart's *The Hundred: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History* (first published 1978, revised edition 1992), died in exile in London, just about a year after he left Austria and his (almost) native Vienna to escape Nazi persecution.

Just as the versatile genius of the classical – and our-times – Aristotle (circa 348 to circa 322 Before the Current Era, BCE) had to flee his ('sorta') native Athens fearing for his arrest and trial in 322 BCE, two thousand two hundred and sixty-one (2261) years before Freud, Freud also had to die in exile. Aristotle died less than a year after he fled Athens to what was then the Macedonian Empire.

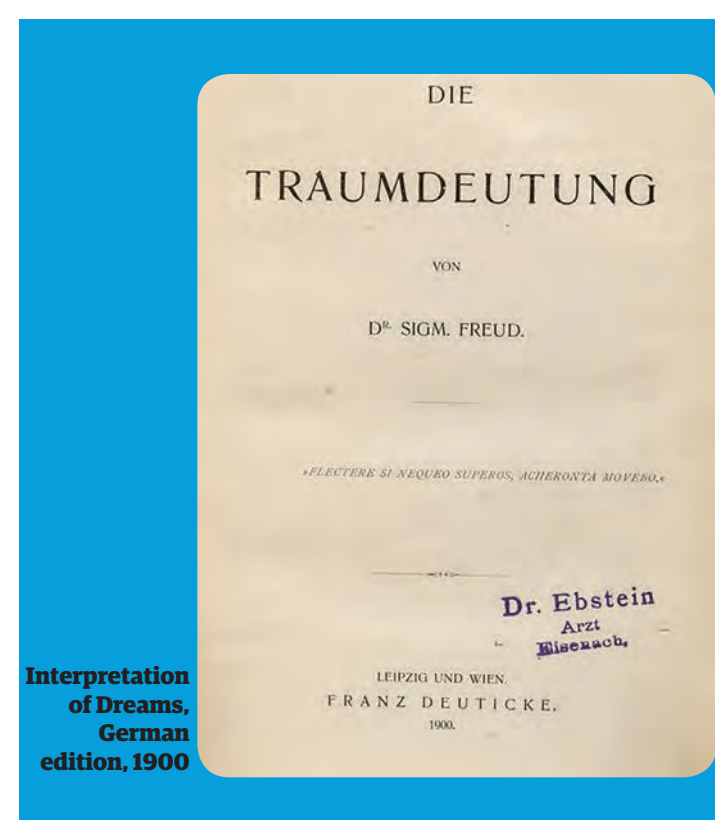
Sigmund Freud was born in what was then Frieberg, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire (now Příbor in the Czech Republic), but lived over 75 years in Vienna before leaving Vienna in June 1939, in Freud's own words, "to die in freedom". Freud died in September 1939 at Hampstead, near London, just 15 months after his arrival

Sigmund Freud's various psychological and psychoanalytic theories.

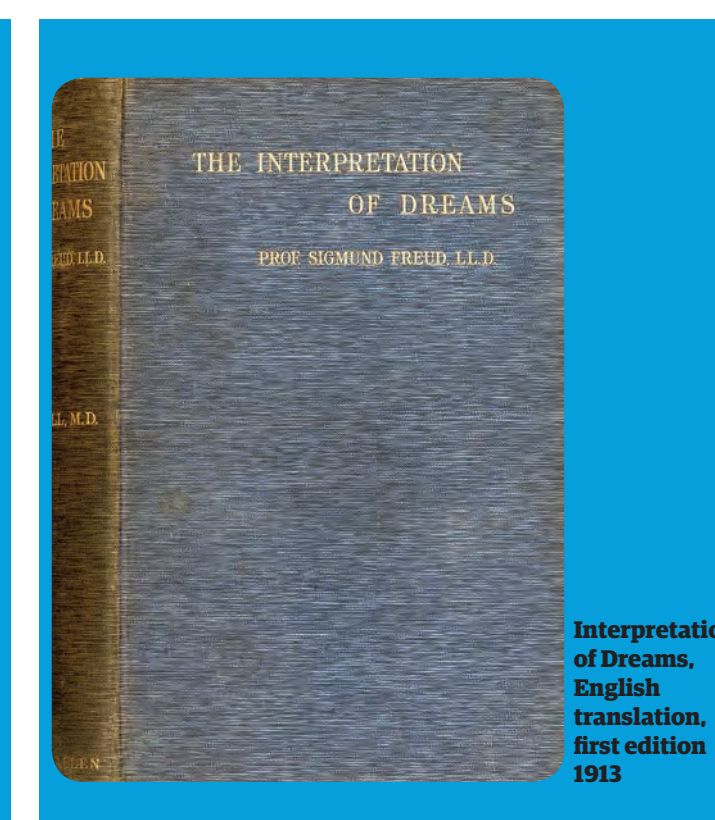
In November 1899, Sigmund Freud published *The Interpretation of Dreams* (originally in German) though in the book its publication date was mentioned as '1900'. In his book, Freud states that dreams are (among others) 'wish fulfillments' and 'royal road(s) to the unconscious'.

All humans, according to Freud – and from my recall – dream every night (whether such 'dreamers' would include babies, including day-old or month-old babies, according to Freud, this writer does not know) that they slept or perhaps – not only during 'night-time' but also in day-time sleep – they dream. (Humans would sleep during the day, too, and they would also 'dream' during day-time sleep and not as in the commonly understood term of 'day dream' as in 'fantasizing'.)

Freud states in his 'dream book' that most humans would forget their dreams almost immediately after waking up. According to the writer's recall of what Freud in effect writes, the reason that humans forget their 'dreams generally is that humans' conscious mind want to suppress' (or is it repress?) what is in their 'unconscious' minds. During sleep the unconscious wishes and desires of humans are partly (sort of) 'popped up' in



Interpretation of Dreams, German edition, 1900



Interpretation of Dreams, English translation, first edition 1913

and secret meaning which Freud calls 'the latent content'. The implication by Freud is that until he 'discovered' or posited the 'latent content', very few humans were able to identify and 'correctly' interpret the manifest content of dreams. In order to 'protect' the Ego or the conscious mind

One curiosity of the writer is whether Freud has made any research or tentatively put forth his views if (not theories) on whether (1) animals, especially mammals and the mammals closest to humans perhaps since human civilization such as dogs and cats, also dream and, if so, like

Saint Thomas Aquinas and Lex Aeterna ('Eternal Law')

The Christian philosopher Thomas Aquinas (1225? - 7 March 1274) lived and died more than six centuries before Freud. Aquinas stated that *lex aeterna* (the eternal law of God) can only be discerned by



(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

LESSON - 8

If - clause ပုံစံသုံးမျိုးကို ပိုင်နိုင်စွာ နားလည်အသုံးပြုတတ်အောင် ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

(A)

- (a) If she runs, she will catch the train.
သူမ ပြေးလျှင်၊ ရထားမီလိမ့်မည်။
She will catch the train if she runs.
ဟုလည်း ရေးနိုင်သည်။
- (b) If she ran, she would catch the train.
သူမ ပြေးမယ့်အခါ၊ ရထားမီလိမ့်မည်။
(ပြေးလိမ့်မည်မဟုတ်။)
She would catch the train if she ran.
ဟုလည်း ရေးနိုင်သည်။
- (c) If she had run, she would have caught the train.
သူမသာ ပြေးသွားခဲ့ပြီးဖြစ်လျှင် သူမ ရထားမီပြီးဖြစ်လိမ့်မည်။
(မပြေးခဲ့၍ မမီခဲ့)
She would have caught the train if she had run.
ဟုလည်း ရေးနိုင်သည်။

(B)

- (a) If he is late, she will be angry.
(b) If he was late, she would be angry.
(c) If he had been late, he would have been angry.
(late နှင့် angry တို့မှာ **adjectives** များရခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။)

(C)

- (a) He will be beaten if he breaks the glass.
(b) He would be beaten if he broke the glass.
(c) He would have been beaten if he had broken the glass.

(Beaten မှာ **Past Participle (V3)** ဖြစ်၍ စာကြောင်းမှာလည်း **Passive Voice** ပုံသဏ္ဌာန်ဖြစ်သောကြောင့် **been** ထည့်ရခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။)

(D)

- (a) If he can do it, he will do it.
သူလုပ်နိုင်လျှင် လုပ်လိမ့်မည်။
If နောက်ကပ်လျက် စာကြောင်းတွင် **can** ပါ၍ ကျန်စာကြောင်းတွင် **will** ပါသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။
အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် ဝါကျတစ်ခုတည်း၌ စာလုံးတစ်လုံး နှစ်ခါထပ်သုံးလေ့မရှိပါ။ ထို့ကြောင့် အထက်ပါစာကြောင်းကို အောက်ပါအတိုင်းရေးလေ့ရှိသည်။
He will do it if he can.
(နောက်ဆုံးမှ **do it** ကို မြှုပ်ထားသည်။)
- (b) He would do it if he could.
သူလုပ်နိုင်လျှင် လုပ်လိမ့်မည်။
(**Could** နောက်မှ **do if** ကို မြှုပ်ထားသည်။)
- (c) He would have done it if he could.
သူလုပ်နိုင်ခဲ့ပြီးဖြစ်လျှင် လုပ်ခဲ့ပြီးဖြစ်လိမ့်မည်။
(စာကြောင်းနောက်ဆုံးမှ **have done** ကိုမြှုပ်ထားသည်။)
ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

(E)

1. (a) If he cries, she will cry.
(b) If he cried, she would cry.
(c) If he had cried, she would have cried.
2. (a) If they come late, they will be left behind.
(b) If they came late, they would be left behind.
(c) If they had come late, they would have been left behind.

3. (a) She will lose the game if she is careless.
(b) She would lose the game if she was careless.
(c) She would have lost the game if she had been careless.

(F)

- လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းလုပ်ကြည့်ပါ။
Verb Form ဖြစ်သည်။ အဖြေကိုအောက်တွင် ပေးထားပါသည်။
1. If he does not come early, he (miss) the train.
2. If they failed, they (try) again.
3. If she had heard the news, she (telephone) you.
4. If he (get) a job, he will leave college.
5. If she (sell) the house, Ko Ko would buy it.
6. If they (leave) early, they would have arrived there by now.
7. If she were a doctor, she (operate) on me herself.
8. If he (be) a film director, he would make her an actress.
9. Where (you go) if you could go anywhere in the world?
10. If he had found out the truth, he (not marry) her.
11. You will become fat if you (not take) exercises regularly.
12. I would not help her if she (not help) me.
13. The teacher would have punished him if he (not do) the homework.
14. She (come) here if she could.
15. He would not have gone away if it is (rain).

Answers

1. will miss
2. would try
3. would have telephoned
4. gets
5. sold
6. had left
7. would operate
8. were
9. would you go
10. would not have married
11. do not take
12. did not help
13. had not done
14. would come လည်း မှန်သည်။
would have come လည်း ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။
15. had rained.

(G)

If ... not အစား **Unless** ကို သုံးနိုင်သည်။ အောက်ပါတို့ကို လေ့လာပါ။

1. If you do not work hard, you will fail.
Unless you work hard, you will fail.
2. If she does not leave now, she will be late.
Unless she leaves now, she will be late.
(If နေရာတွင် **Unless** သုံး၍ **does not** ကို ဖြုတ်ကာ **leave** တွင် **s** ထည့်ရသည်။)
3. If he did not take my advice, he would never succeed.
Unless he took my advice, he would never succeed.

4. If she is not angry, she will speak to you.
Unless she is angry, she will speak to you.

(H)

- လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းလုပ်ကြည့်ပါ။
အောက်ပါ စာကြောင်းများကို **Unless** နှင့်ပြန်ရေးပါ။
1. If he is not busy, he will attend the meeting.
2. If she does not take the medicine, she will not get well soon.
3. They will arrive early if the train does not break down.
4. He would miss the morning-show if he did not get up early.
5. If he had not got the job, he would have gone back to his village.

Answers

1. Unless he is busy, he will attend the meeting.
2. Unless she takes the medicine, she will not get well soon.
3. They will arrive early unless the train breaks down.
4. He would miss the morning show unless he got up early.
5. Unless he had got the job, he would have gone back to his village.

(I) I Wish

1. I wish I were a bird.
ကျွန်တော် ငှက်တစ်ကောင်ဖြစ်နေလျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။
2. I wish I had a house of my own.
ကျွန်တော့်မှာ ကိုယ်ပိုင်အိမ်တစ်လုံးရှိလျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။
3. I wish I could swim like a fish.
ကျွန်တော်ငါးတစ်ကောင်လို ရေကူးနိုင်လျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။
4. I wish I knew her name.
ကျွန်တော် သူမနာမည်ကို သိနေလျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။ အထက်ပါစာကြောင်းများကို ကြည့်လျှင် **I wish** နောက်မှ လိုက်သော စာကြောင်းများတွင် **Unreal Past Tense** (အစစ်မဟုတ်သော အတိတ်ကာလ) သုံးထားသည်ကို တွေ့ပါလိမ့်မည်။ စိတ်ကူးယဉ်သက်သက်ဖြစ်သည်။
- (a) အပုဒ် (၁) တွင် ဒုတိယစာကြောင်းမှာ ဖြစ်သည်နှင့် အဆုံးသတ်သော စာကြောင်းဖြစ်၍ စိတ်ကူးယဉ် ကာလသက်သက်ဖြစ်သော **were** ကိုသုံးရသည်။
- (b) အပုဒ် (၂) တွင် ပိုင်ဆိုင်မှုပြ ကြိယာ အတိတ်ပုံစံ **had** ကိုသုံးရသည်။
- (c) အပုဒ် (၃) တွင် **can** ၏ အတိတ်ပုံစံဖြစ်သော **could** ကိုသုံးရသည်။
- (d) အပုဒ် (၄) တွင် **know** ၏ အတိတ်ပုံစံဖြစ်သော **knew** ကိုသုံးရသည်။ နမူနာများကို ထပ်မံလေ့လာပါ။
5. I wish I were 20 years younger.
ကျွန်တော် အသက် ၂၀ ပိုငယ်နေလျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။
6. I wish she were my younger sister.
သူမသာ ကျွန်တော့်ညီမလေးဖြစ်လျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။
7. I wish I knew how to speak Japanese.
ကျွန်တော် ဂျပန်စကားပြောတတ်လျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။
8. I wish I had a younger brother like you.
ငါ့မှာ မင်းလို ညီတစ်ယောက်ရှိနေလျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။
- (e) သို့ရာတွင် ဖြစ်ပြီးသည်တို့ကို မဖြစ်သေးသကဲ့သို့ လည်းကောင်း မဖြစ်ရသေးသည်တို့ကိုဖြစ်ပြီးသကဲ့သို့လည်းကောင်း ဖော်ပြလိုလျှင်မူ ဒုတိယစာကြောင်းတွင် **Past Perfect Tense** (အတိတ်မတိုင်မီ အတိတ်ကာလ) ကို သုံးရသည်။
1. I wish I had been to Ngapali.
ကျွန်တော် ငပလီရောက်ဖူးလျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။
(*ရောက်ခဲ့ဖူးဖြစ်ချင်သည်*ဟူသော အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖြင့် သုံးခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။)
2. I wish I had bought that house.
ကျွန်တော် ထိုအိမ်ကို ဝယ်ခဲ့ပြီးဖြစ်လျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။ (မဝယ်ဖြစ်ခဲ့)
3. I wish I had not sold the car.
ကျွန်တော် ကားမရောင်းခဲ့မိလျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။ (ရောင်းခဲ့ပြီး)
4. I wish I had taken the examination.
ကျွန်တော်စာမေးပွဲဖြေပြီးခဲ့ဖြစ်လျှင် သိပ်ကောင်းမှာပဲ။

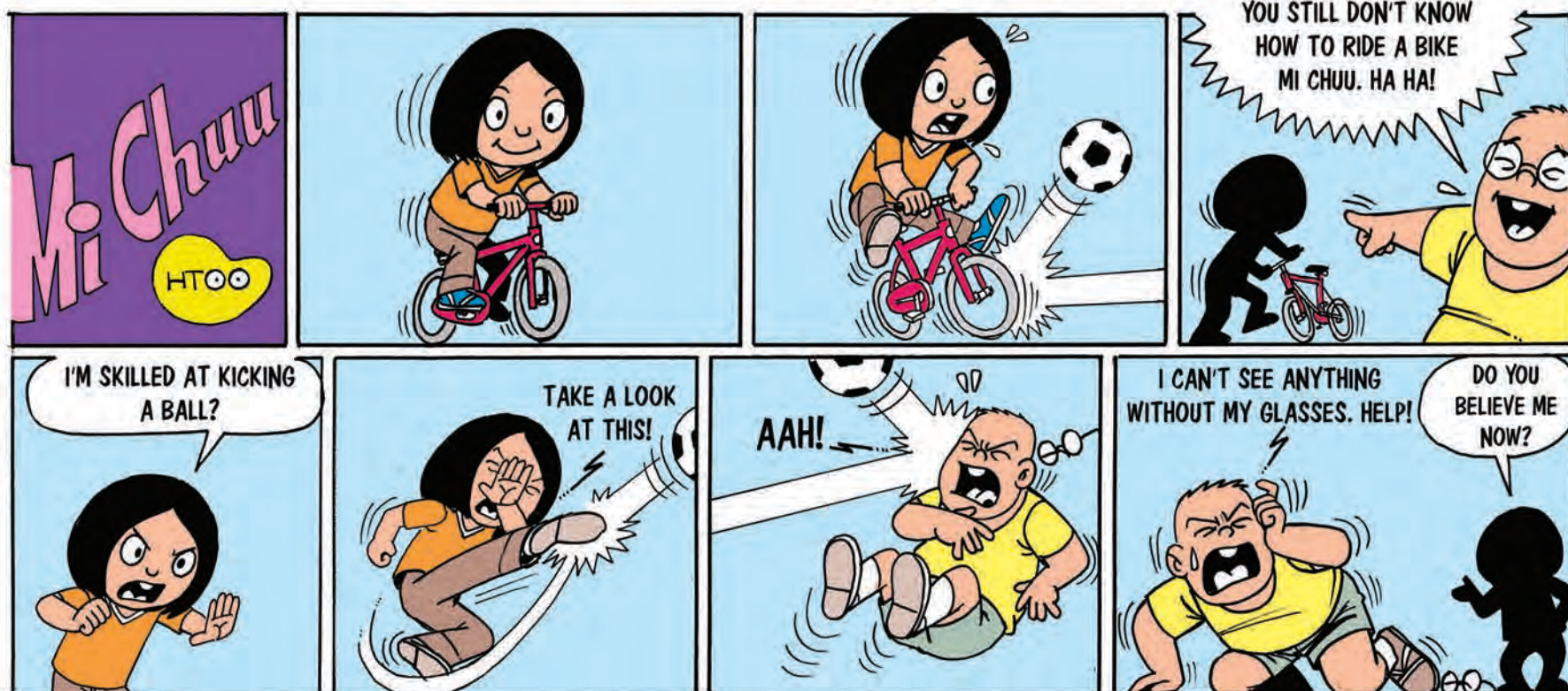
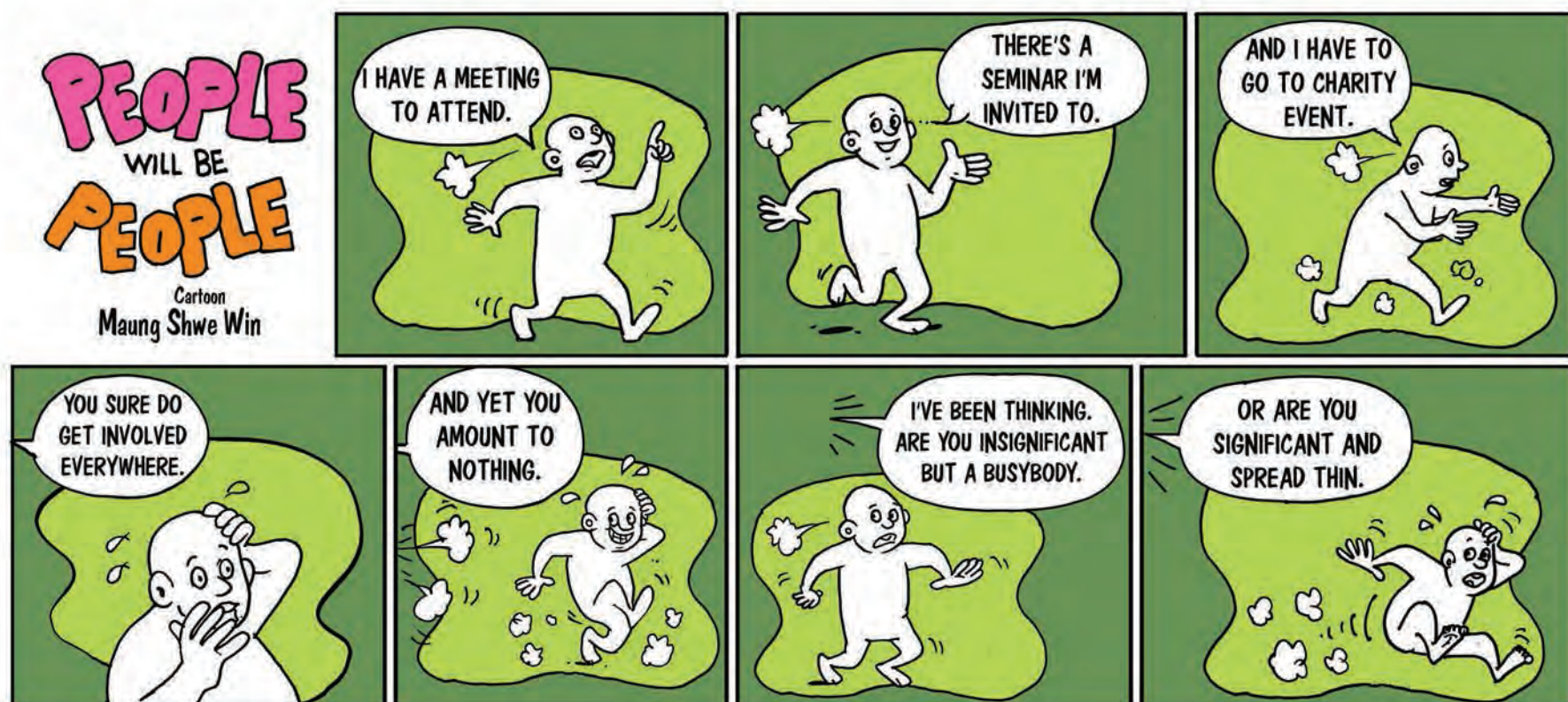
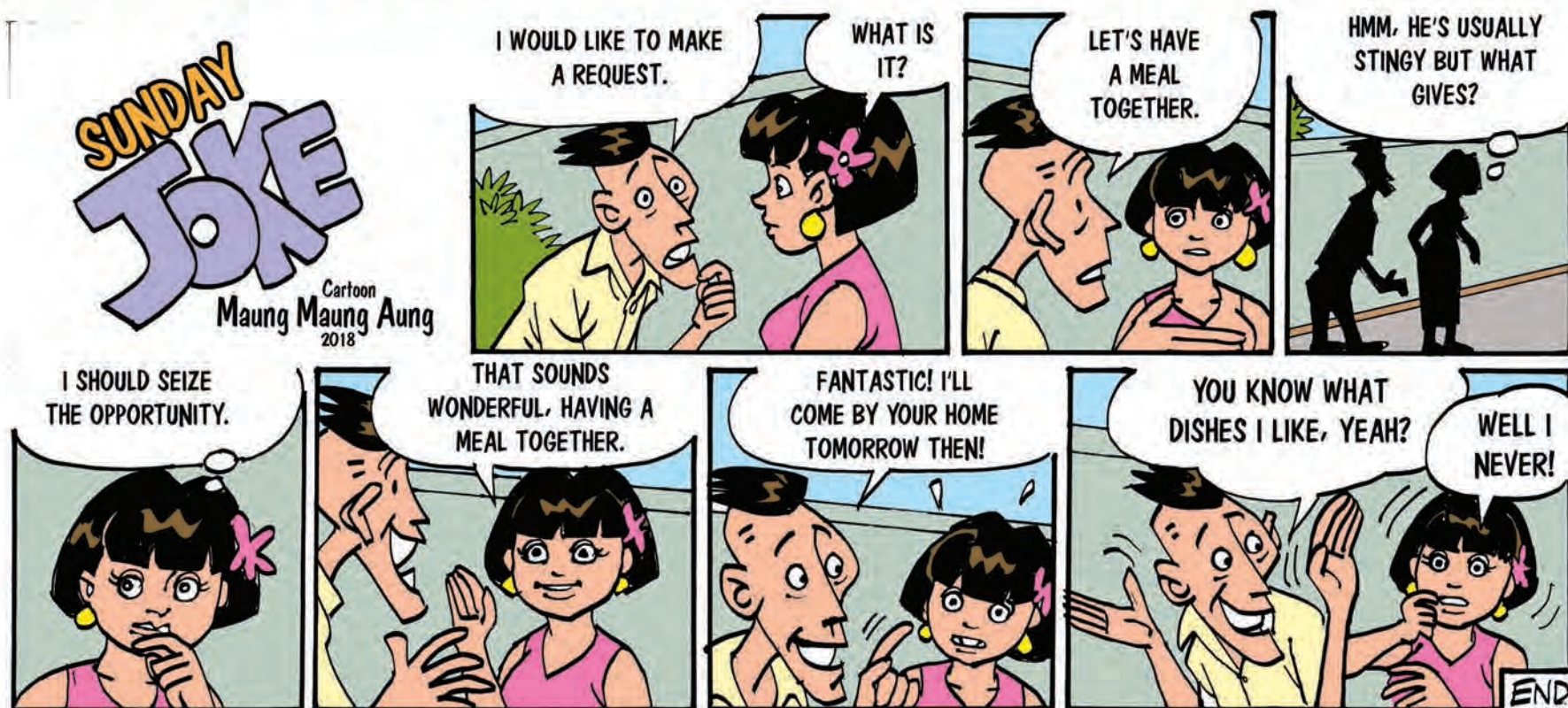
လေ့ကျင့်ခန်းလုပ်ပါ။ (Verb Form)

အဖြေကိုအောက်တွင် ပေးထားသည်။

1. I wish I (be) a famous writer.
2. He wishes he (have) a car.
3. She wishes she (can sing) like Mar Mar Aye.
4. I wish I (know) how to play tennis.
5. He wishes he (be) to Myitkyina.
6. I wish I (marry) her.
7. She wishes she (join) the Institute of Education.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

SUNDAY COMICS





Design: BT



Daniel
Technological University
(Hmawbi)

SOMETIMES, I feel like I am in a mess. I thought, I shouldn't be here. I wish, they could understand my feelings about them.

One day, my eyes opened slowly for the first time and I had a chance to see the beautiful world. I thought, the world was beautiful. Yes, it actually was. It was so good to see because I had lived my eyes shut up, may be three days or something, I could not remember.

Everything beside me was wonderful. A woman is lying beside me and I thought, she was my mother. I guessed right, because she did not refuse to breastfeed me. I was so happy to have her in my life. I was not alone for sure because other guys were also doing what I was doing. My brain told me that they were my brothers and sisters. They looked cute. And then, we played together when my mother went to somewhere we did not know.

Sometimes, I saw some creatures that did not look like us. They were tall, strong, scary. But some of them were really kind, though. My brother told me that we should live the way they wanted. So we did not have to worry about food. I did not think so; we were just who we were. I just wanted to live my life happy. Besides, my mother would feed me all of my life. So I chose to live light-heartedly.

Unfortunately, one day, my mother was gone forever. She did not come back

to us. I was deadly hungry and I decided to go where she would be. I did not tell anything to my siblings, and I went the way she always went before she was gone. It was such a long way to go.

To be honest, I did not even know where to go and I forgot to go back home where my brothers and sisters were. I could not care to go home because I was hungry, and I wandered around places where I smelled something delicious. I could not believe my eyes that there were so many people. The thing was, they were eating good foods and doing things I had never seen in my life. I could not help running to them. When I was near them, they looked down at me. Some of them smiled at me but some looked cruel and they even hit my body with their foot or sticks. The problem was that I still did not have anything to eat.

For the first time, I was mad at them. When one was about to hit me, I instantly bit them with my sharp teeth. I did not mean to do it. But then, they shouted at me. Most of them ran towards me and they hit me with sticks, threw stones at me, saying something I did not understand. I told them back that I was not mean, that they were the ones who started this problem. The more I explained to them with my loud voice, the more I got hurt from them. So, I left this place. And I ran to somewhere they would not be.

Now, I was so tired. I could not find my mother anymore. Suddenly, I found out someone who looked like us. But it was a male and I did not think he was going to help me. His look was so mean to me. I had nothing but to run away from him.

Finally, it was night. I looked like a mess. Hunger, anger, fatigue got over me and I was about to fall down. I guessed, fortune favored me once. I saw a creature was doing something that I could not describe, but it gave me good smell. So as soon as that one was not there, I just went nearby and I snatched the good smelling thing with all my might. I did not expect it to be that hot. A kind of hot liquid drowned over my body and I shouted loud with all my might because it was too hurt for me. Then, that one creature I mentioned before came to me and hit my head and body while I was in pain trying to resist the burning feelings. I could not fight back. She kept hitting me and I shouted loud. I just meant to say that I was hungry. She did not understand.

I moaned slowly and I thought about my first day of seeing this world. It was beautiful. Now, where am I? Am I still in that beautiful world? I kept questioning myself. Then, I felt like my eyes were heavy and soon it was locked. But in my head, I felt very relaxed and I was so happy again. I guessed, I was in another world and I opened my eyes. Yes, I was!

**Invitation to young
writers for Sunday
Special**

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