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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Vice President U Myint Swe visits the booth at MSMEs exhibition in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: MNA

## MSME products exhibition launched in Ayeyarwady Region

**S**MALL and Medium Enterprises Development Committee (SMEDC) Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition and display (2018) of Ayeyawady Region products produced by local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

held in the town hall, Patheingyi Town, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday morning.

Present at the ceremony were SMEDC Vice Chairman Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Region Hluttaw Speaker, representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw,

Amyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw, Deputy Minister, region ministers, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) President and members, work committee members, departmental officials, technicians, experts, MSME business owners and officials. While addressing

the ceremony, SMEDC Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe said this was the third MSME local regional products exhibition and competition being conducted, with the aim of developing MSMEs in Ayeyawady Region, raising the quality of products and long-term competitiveness.

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## KIA/TNLA attack in Muse kills 19, injures 27

NINETEEN people were killed and 27 injured when a combined KIA/TNLA armed group attacked security stations and houses in Muse Township, northern Shan State, yesterday.

Starting early morning, some 50 armed men from KIA and TNLA armed groups attacked the Muse Township's police force and Namkham Myoma militia (local) stationed at Pan Khan Bridge, Muse Town, from the south east.

Some 30 armed men also attacked the vicinity of the home of Namkham Myoma militia (local) leader U Aik San from the south east, while some 10 armed men attacked the Muse Township police personnel and Namkham Myoma militia (local) stationed at Man Wein gate.

Naungyan Village near Pan Khan Bridge was hit by small-arms fire, as well as heavy shells.

The attackers retreated south after they were repulsed. In the attack, a police, four militia, 14 innocent civilians (12 men and two women) were killed, while a total of 27: three Myanmar Police personnel, six militia personnel, 18 innocent civilians (17 men and a woman) were wounded, according to the Office of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

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## Myanmar Investment Commission Meeting 6/2018 held in Yangon

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting 6/2018 was convened in Yangon on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and reviewed investment proposals consistent with the Myanmar Investment Law. U Kyaw Win, Chairman of MIC and Union Minister for Ministry of

Planning and Finance, Dr. Than Myint, Vice Chairman of MIC and Union Minister for Ministry of Commerce and 10 members of MIC attended the meeting.

The submission of proposals and endorsement applications from investors and post-per-

mit activities of MIC-permitted companies were discussed in the meeting.

The MIC meeting (6/2018) decided to issue one investment permits and two endorsements in relation to the investment proposals.—GNLM ■



Chairman of MIC U Kyaw Win addresses the meeting of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). **PHOTO: MNA**

## Victims of KIA/TNLA attacks provided with cash assistance

THE Shan State Government provided cash assistance for the victims of the KIA/TNLA attack that occurred in Muse Town, Shan State yesterday. MPs of the Shan State Hluttaw and authorities comforted the injured civilians who were receiving medical care at the Muse People's Hospital.

The authorities also presented cash assistance for the families of the victims who died in the attack. Nineteen people were killed and 27 injured when a combined KIA/TNLA armed group attacked security stations and houses in Muse Township, northern Shan State, yesterday.

Starting in the early morning, some 50 armed personnel from the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) armed group attacked Muse Township police personnel and the Namkham Myoma militia stationed at Pan Khan Bridge, Muse Town, from the southeast.

Shan State Hluttaw representative U Sai Kyaw Thein,

Muse District management committee chairman deputy commissioner U Haling Soe Thant, township management committee chairman township administrator U Thurein and committee members went to the Muse General Hospital and provided a total of Ks5.55 million in cash, giving Ks200,000 each to the families of 19 people who were killed, Ks100,000 each to nine seriously injured civilians and Ks50,000 each to 17 other injured. The Muse District management committee also provided Ks50,000 each to the 19 killed and Ks30,000 each to the 26 injured while township management committee delivered Ks20,000 each to the 19 killed and Ks10,000 each to the 26 injured. In addition, 20 sets of blankets, mosquitos nets and longyi and 30 pillows were distributed. The Muse District and Township Women's Affairs Organisation also provided Ks900,000 and the Pan Sae Htar Nay militia provided 1,000 Chinese Yuan. — District (IPRD)

## Compensation given to families of Maesot car accident victims

MYANMAR workers, who were victims of a car accident that occurred just outside of Maesot, Thailand, on 9 April, were presented with compensation at a ceremony held at the Department of Labour Skills Training Centre, Yankin Township, Yangon, yesterday morning.

Department of Labour Director General U Win Shein said, "A car carrying Myanmar workers who were working under an MoU system met with an accident on 9 April killing six and injuring 12 of them. The Myanmar military attaché in Thailand together with officials from the two countries provided timely assistance to the accident victims.

Compensation was provided for the first time in Myawady. This is the second time we are providing compensation out of sympathy for the workers. All workers are, in their own way, supporting our country's development, and thus, this is a loss for the country as well." The compensation totalled Ks18.205 million (Thai Baht 19,500), which includes Ks5 million from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population; Ks2.4 million



Director-General U Win Shein presents compensation to families member of victims of a car accident that occurred outside of Maesot, Thailand. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; Ks4.905 million and Baht19,500 from Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation; and Ks5.8 million from Golden Royal Mandalay Co. Ltd. The compensation was accepted by the family members of the six workers who passed away and the 12 that were injured in the

accident.

Ma Zar Chi Hlaing from Mandalay Region Pyawbwe Township said, "My sister was killed in the accident. We received Ks1.2 million today. Earlier in Myawady, we received Ks1.3 million. We will make a donation in memory of our sister so that she gains merit from it. The government has been

providing assistance since the accident occurred. I learnt that there will be more compensation money."

Golden Royal Mandalay Services Co. Ltd. Managing Director U Than Htut Oo said, "We did the best we could as persons responsible for sending the workers there. They will receive insurance money later. This is being done under the Thai process and procedure. Each victim will receive more than Baht700,000. Travel arrangements (passport, visa etc.) for a family member or next of kin to receive the insurance money are being made. Once the other side is ready, they can go and accept it. Of the 12 who were hurt in the accident, only one is still in the hospital. The rest were discharged from Tak Province hospital and are getting outpatient treatment in hotels/clinics near the factory where they are working."

Golden Royal Mandalay Services Co. Ltd. arranged for the workers to work at the Sukhonavsaon Co. Ltd. work site. A car carrying 51 workers developed a flat tyre just outside of Maesot and fell into a ravine on 9

April, where six female workers were killed and 12 were hurt.

On 10 April, the Myanmar military attaché to Thailand Brig-Gen Khin Zaw, Myawady District chief administrator, labour attaché, officials from Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation, Myanmar agency, Thai agency, a Lt-Gen from the Thai military, Tak Province Administrator and officials inspected the accident site and visited the hospital where the victims were being treated.

For the families of the six workers killed in the accident, Myawady District chief administrator provided Ks100,000 each and Golden Royal Mandalay Services Co. Ltd. provided Ks1.2 million each in Myawady, it is learnt.

Officials had made arrangements for the families of the workers killed in the accident to receive insurance money, while workers hurt in the accident were being provided with follow-up health care treatment until their full recovery. Officials are coordinating with the Thai government in order to prevent such accidents from recurring, it is learnt.—Zaw Gyi ■





I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018)



I would like the people to assist and support the peace efforts of our Union Government. I would especially want the youth to look to the future and join in this effort. I have observed that youth have been participating in these efforts.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of NLD Government on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018)

## MSME products exhibition launched in Ayeyarwady Region

### FROM PAGE-1

The first exhibition and competition jointly organized by MSMEs from Mandalay Region and Kachin State was held in Mandalay on 23 February 2018. The second exhibition and competition jointly organized by MSMEs from Magway Region, Chin State and Rakhine State was held in Magway on 24 March 2018.

The third was being held in Ayeyawady Region and after this, exhibitions of MSME products and Regional Award competitions will continue to be held state- and region-wise. In the Regional Award competition, first, second and third prizes will be presented according to business sizes: micro, small and medium. At the final closing ceremony of the competition, winners of the Regional Awards will be presented with a union-level recognized Regional Award.

With regards to the economy, the State economic policy includes supporting and assisting MSMEs that create jobs and support economic development, in addition to the State privatizing enterprises that could be reformed. For the development of SMEs, an SME Development (SMED) central committee, a work committee, an SME agency, a work review reporting group and a fund management group were formed, and as per the duties and works of the groups, SMED was being conducted all over the country with increasing momentum. For the development of the 99 per cent of SMEs in the country, state- and region-wise SME agencies and SME loan assessment committees were formed with all stakeholders participating for the development of SMEs.

With the State conducting this sort of exhibition and com-

petition, consumers could evaluate MSME products and MSMEs would know of the continuous efforts put in by other MSMEs, copy and imitate, promote creativity and innovation, cooperate with other related MSMEs along the whole supply chain, uncover the culture and traditional foods of ethnic nationals that are near extinction, enable cooperation and coordination among regions, resulting in them stepping up to reach international level.

As SMEs development agency meetings were being held during the current exhibition and competition period, practical assistance and support for the development of SMEs in the region could be done through discussions and coordination between stakeholders and MSME businesses.

SMEs needed to strive to produce value-added products with international standard packing and designs. Furthermore, by conducting research, innovation and increasing of sales through cooperation with relevant departments, quality marketable products should be produced. Relevant departments would also assist and support in creating new markets.

In accordance with policies set up by the Union Government for SMED, all are obliged to strive for MSMEs to develop, thus creating job opportunities, raising the socio-economic life of the people and from expanding the local market, aim towards producing priority products for export, said the Vice President.

Later, SMEDC member Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung spoke about the exhibition and competition.

After this, SMEDC vice chairman Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Ayeyawady Region



Vice President U Myint Swe feeds the elephants at Ngwesaung elephant camp on Pathein-Ngwesaung Road, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

For the development of the 99 per cent of SMEs in the country, state- and region-wise SME agencies and SME loan assessment committees were formed with all stakeholders participating for the development of SMEs.

Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, and Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo accepted donations for the third exhibition and display of regional products produced by MSMEs and presented documents of honour to the donating companies.

Following the opening ceremony, the Vice President and party visited the exhibition. The third

MSMEs products exhibition and competition is jointly organized by the Ayeyawady Region government and Ministry of Industry and will be held for three days.

At the exhibition and competition, 86 MSME owners are exhibiting and selling local products including traditional foods, drinks, beauty products, industry products, handicrafts, electrical and IT products in 161 booths.

After the event, the Vice President and party went to the Small & Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB), Pathein branch, and attended the opening ceremony of the SME Centre and a ceremony on giving out agriculture loans.

From there, the Vice President and party went to the Forest Department, Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation programme at 17 milepost of Pathein-Ngwesaung road and inspected the preparations being made to plant 350 acres of Pyinkado and saplings, where Forest Department Deputy Director General U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin provided the necessary explanations.

The Vice President and party then went to Ngwesaung elephant camp at 19 milepost of

Pathein-Ngwesaung road where Myanma Timber Enterprise Managing Director U Saw John Shwe Ba spoke about the camp.

The Vice President commented that Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State had many forest areas and was a place where the wild elephant population was the highest. The wild elephants were to be systematically maintained and contact with relevant departments and ministries needed to be made to prevent killing and poaching of wild elephants. The Vice President and party then fed the elephants and planted teak saplings in the camp.

Next, the Vice President and party went to the Aureum Palace Hotel at Ngwesaung Beach and attended the briefing and explanation on the status of managing coastal natural resources and the status of the hotel and travel sector development.

At the event, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Permanent Secretary Dr. Khin Zaw and Ministry of Hotels and Tourism Permanent Secretary U Yi Mon gave briefings. — Myanmar News Agency ■



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

Avocado-Workers pick avocados during harvest at a farm. **PHOTO: MMAL**

## Attempts on to export Myanmar avocado legally to China market

PLANS are underway to export the Myanmar avocado to the China market legally, in co-operation with the Ministry of Commerce and the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association, according to a report in Myawady News Daily yesterday.

"We are trying to export the Myanmar avocado to China legally. Also, we are preparing to cultivate and grow the Myanmar avocado systematically. The avocado market is likely to be good if we can legally export the fruit when the avo-

cado fruits pick up," said U Lin Thant Aung, secretary of the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association.

Although Myanmar has exported avocados to the China market in the past, the exports were illegal.

Therefore, we are making arrangements to export avocados legally to build a strong market in China.

"To export avocados to China legally, China's agricultural experts will come and check our avocado farms. If they recognise our farming

system, they will give us a certificate. Recently, we have been working on our farms. When we are ready, we will invite them to check our farming," he said.

"For the development of the avocado cultivation sector, we are planning to purchase avocado seeds from America to be cultivated in Myanmar," he added.

There are some 20,000 areas of avocado cultivation in Myanmar that produce over 10,000 tonnes of avocados annually.—GNLM ■

## Mangosteen production declines this season

OWING to high temperatures, the production of purple mangosteen, a delicious tropical fruit having great nutrient value, has declined drastically during this harvest, resulting in higher prices for the fruit, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Friday. The low yield has impacted the market. The domestic prices of mangosteen are currently rising in the market. Retailers are selling mangosteen at Ks250 per fruit. The price was only Ks150 per fruit last May, growers said.

U Khin Oo, owner of a mangosteen firm in Paung Township, Mon State, said mangosteen production dropped by half compared to the previous year when growers had a good harvest early April. This year, growers are getting only five to 10 fruits per tree, as the majority of still not fully matured fruit was destroyed in the high temperature. Wholesalers in the same township said that locally produced mangosteen fruits are mostly sent to big cities such as Mawlamyine, Yangon and Mandalay. The fruits are also available along the highway between Yangon and Mawlamyine.—GNLM ■

## Police arrest man with unlicensed flintlock rifle in Kachin State

THE police on Saturday arrested a middle-aged man in Mansi, a town in Bhamo District of Kachin State, after he was found in possession of a cache of yaba pills and opium powder, plus a flintlock rifle and related accessories, according to a police report. During the operation, a special task force comprising police, ward administrators and members of the fire service de-

partment, force stopped a suspected motorbike being driven by Tun Aye, 41, near the forest in the town at some 7.30 a.m. on 12 May. Authorities found 214 yaba tablets, opium powder weighing 55 grams, a four-foot-long unlicensed flintlock rifle and related accessories.

According to investigators, the suspect currently resides in Mawyawady Ward in the same

Stimulants and four-foot-long unlicensed flintlock rifle and related accessories seized in Kachin State. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

town. The suspect has been charged under the existing laws. Mansi Township police is carry-

ing out further investigations to apprehend others involved in the case.—District IPRD ■

## Eight killed, 20 injured in bus accident early Friday morning

EIGHT people, including a 13-year-old girl, were killed, and 20 others injured in a fatal accident on Yangon-Pyay Road early Friday morning, according to a police report.

The accident occurred between milepost nos. 153/5 and

153/6 at 1 a.m. on May 11.

An express bus carrying 48 passengers and driven by Ko Phyto, also known as Phyto Lay, 25, was travelling towards Yangon from Taungdwingyi, at full speed when it overturned suddenly. The driver managed

to escape unhurt. The accident killed eight people, including five men, two women and one girl, whereas 20 others who received injuries are undergoing emergency treatment at Inma Hospital. "Speeding is the main reason the vehicle overturned,"

a township police officer said.

The police are still investigating the accident and have filed charges against the driver under Section 304 (a), 337 and 338 of the Penal Code for reckless driving.—Phyo Ko Lynn (Nyaungwaing) ■





Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. **PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)**

## Prices of pulses and beans increase because of India's bean import policy

PRICES of pulses and beans have significantly increased after the announcement of India's bean import policy on 4 May and 11 May.

After India announced on 4 May that it would import 150,000 tonnes of mung beans and green gram each, the price of mung beans has increased over Ks80,000 per tonne. Imports will also be restricted to 200,000 tonnes of pigeon beans. And, the price of pigeon beans has also increased over Ks80,000 per tonne within a day, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Merchants Association.

In the first week of May, the price of mung beans increased to Ks510,000 per tonne from

Ks380,000 per tonne. The price of pigeon beans also increased to Ks480,000 per tonne from Ks350,000 per tonne.

"After the announcement of the pigeon bean import permit, the price of beans is stronger when imported between 3,000 and 4,000 tonnes with free on board (FOB). The price of beans increases depending on the FOB," said U Min Ko Oo.

There will also be difficulties for India to import beans from other countries because India's bean production has increased this year. Therefore, we encourage bean farmers to grow mung beans and green gram this year, which do not need to compete with other countries' markets, said U Toe Aung Myint, Permanent

Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

At the time of changing India's bean import policy, the price of mung beans was Ks900,000 per tonne, while the price of pigeon beans was Ks800,000 per tonne. Recently, the market for mung beans, pigeon beans and green beans cultivated in Myanmar relies only on the Indian bean market. Myanmar exports some 1.5 million tonnes of beans to India annually. The price of beans has significantly declined in the local market after India announced a new policy in August to buy only 200,000 tonnes of pigeon beans, 150,000 tonnes of mung beans and green beans each, from bean exporting countries, including Myanmar.—GNLM ■

## 11 industrial zones to be set up in Yangon region

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein has announced that some 11 industrial zones would be established in the Yangon Region. He was speaking at the Yangon Investment Forum 2018 held on 9 May at Novotel Hotel.

"We want to establish more industrial zones in areas outside the control of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC). According to our analysis in one year, we found that the development in rural and urban areas was unbalanced. For instance, workers living in Hlegu are working in Yangon. We are facing the problem of squatters because workers are moving to Yangon city from their hometown. Therefore, we want to develop the areas outside the control of the YCDC.

The YCDC city area covers some 33 townships of Yangon. Areas outside the control of the YCDC are facing tardy development," said the Chief Minister.

"The YCDC will assist in establishing industrial zones on the outskirts of the Yangon Region. The profits accrued will be used for the development of each township," said

U Phyo Min Thein.

"The 33 townships of the Yangon City are administered by the YCDC. There are 11 townships outside the control of the YCDC, if we exclude the Co Co Island. We are planning to set up the industrial zones in the YCDC peripheral areas to prevent development gaps between the YCDC controlled areas and areas on its periphery," said U Than, joint-secretary of the YCDC.

The Yangon Region government has earmarked 11 townships where the industrial zones can be constructed. These are the Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Twantay, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan, Thongwa, Taikkyi, Hmawbi, Hlegu and the Htantabin industrial zones. The industrial zones will be spread over between 750 acres and more than 1,800 acres.

"When we start implementing the projects, we will be making arrangements to access infrastructure such as water and power supplies, as well as transport," said the joint-secretary of the YCDC.

There are some 29 industrial zones, as well as the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, in Yangon. Some 53 per cent of the industrial zones in Myanmar are located in the Yangon Region. ■

## Government decides to set up credit bureaus

By May Thet Hnin

THE government has decided to establish credit bureaus that will record information about the credits and businesses of various creditors, said Vice President U Myint Swe during the 17<sup>th</sup> regular meeting with private entrepreneurs on 10 May at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry office in Yangon.

"Creditors can borrow money without a collateral. The gov-

ernment decided to set up the credit bureaus yesterday. With the establishment of the credit bureaus, the Ease of Doing Business ranking will improve," he added.

The central bank will grant permission to establish the credit bureaus soon.

The credit bureaus will record all the information and condition of the creditors. It will build trust between the bank and lenders. This system is already being practised in neighbour-

ing countries. President U Win Myint noted in his new speech that while disbursing loans to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), a credit bureau would be established which can speed up the loan disbursement process and gather information regarding the credit worthiness of such enterprises. The permission to establish such a bureau will be given within a month.

"We welcomed this news, which is good for private entrepreneurs and SMEs. Credit

bureaus are essential for the development of the country. SME financing is one of the key requirements. Credit bureaus will be reliable sources of loans," said U Aung Kyi Soe, secretary general of UMFCCI.

U Than Lwin, senior consultant of KBZ, said that setting up credit bureaus would help provide timely loans to SMEs. The credit bureaus should be established by the Central Bank. However, entrepreneurs need to provide correct information

about their credit history, he noted. "Credit bureaus must be implemented in our country. However, it is a huge challenge. What will happen if entrepreneurs do not provide correct information about their credit history? In my opinion, one bank cannot do this work. So, the government should provide assistance," he added.

The central bank had formed a committee to conduct a feasibility study on establishing credit bureaus in 2016. ■



# Coordination meeting held to publish 100 Myanmar Classics

A COORDINATION meeting to publish a series of 100 Myanmar Classics was held at the Printing and Publishing Department meeting hall, Theinbyu Street, Yangon, yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint discussed conducting a book introduction after the first three series of the 100 Myanmar Classics are ready, status of producing the first three series

and urged everyone to suggest and discuss the production of the follow-up series.

Later, 100 Myanmar Classics publishing committee members U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit), U Maw Lin (Maw Lin), U Aye Maung (Aye Maung Kyaw), U Khin Maung Soe, (Maung Thamanya), U Myo Nyunt (Sarpay Lawka), U Win Cho (Duwun Sarpay), U Ye Myint (Nan Dewi Sarpay), U Than Ohn (Maung Zeya), and officials from the Min-

istry of Information discussed the novels selected for inclusion in the series, preparations made for the book cover, publishing of the first three series by July 2018 and the timely publishing of the follow-up series.

The 100 Myanmar Classics series will include novels, short stories, poems, essays, plays and many literature sectors; a group of experts was formed to arrange its publication. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint attends the meeting on publishing 100 Myanmar Classics in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Ministry of Commerce urges farmers not to grow pigeon bean on commercial scale this season

By May Thet Hnin

THE Ministry of Commerce has urged bean cultivators not to grow pigeon beans on a commercial scale this bean cultivation season, said U Toe Aung Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

"This year, India also produced a lot of pigeon beans. It is hard to find a market for Myanmar pigeon beans because other countries are also exporting pigeon beans. So, I want our local bean farmers to cultivate pigeon beans only for regional needs," he added.

Last year, Myanmar exported 200,000 tonnes of pigeon beans to India, which is only 30 per cent of market demand.

Myanmar exports 90 per cent of its pigeon bean production to India. There are only a few other markets for pigeon beans.

So, local farmers are urged to cultivate small acres of pigeon beans.

Among the mung beans imported by India, 70 per cent of mung beans are from Myanmar. Also, Myanmar exports green gram to Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Europe. Therefore, we don't need to worry about markets for mung beans and green gram, he added.

"Pigeon beans are not likely to earn a good profit next bean season because our bean export market is being compared with Africa, even though India has been permitted to import 200,000 tonnes of pigeon beans. So, we urged local farmers to cease cultivation of pigeon beans," said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Merchants Association.

Pigeon beans are mainly cultivated in the central region

of Myanmar, as well as in Shan State.

The pigeon bean market looks uncertain in the next season. So, local farmers should cultivate corn and other edible oil crops, which can earn a good profit this year, said U Toe Aung Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

The government will make an announcement for local farmers to cultivate profit-yielding crops in time.

Following a negotiation among governments of both sides, India has been permitted to import 150,000 tonnes each of mung bean and green gram on 4 May.

Also, India has been permitted to import 200,000 tonnes of pigeon beans on 11 May. Therefore, the price of these beans has increased slightly in the market. ■



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko drives stake for construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## Work on construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda starts

A CEREMONY to drive stakes and bored piles was held in the compound of Yanaungmyin Shwe Latt Hla Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Dakhinathiri Township yesterday.

Following the religious ceremony to start work on construction of the Eternal Peace Pagoda, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and officials drove the stakes and bored piles to start work on construction of

the pagoda.

The Eternal Peace Pagoda will be built on the 1.3 acres of land and it will be 54 ft high when completed.

At the ceremony, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from the State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidaja Maharathaguru Bhaddanta Kavisara of Maha Withutayama Zegon Monastery and presented the religious objects for the ceremony to the Members of the Sangha.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Advancement of Southwest monsoon over Southern Myanmar areas expected

THERE will be an advancement of the Southwest monsoon over Southern Myanmar areas in the next two days as weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few clouds are seen elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and neighbour-

ing areas for today is rainfall or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 80 per cent, whereas for Yangon and neighbouring areas, it is isolated rain or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar's waters. The wave height will be some three to five feet off and along Myanmar's coasts. —GNLM ■



## Women in Kayah State provided with cash

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye presented cash assistance to women who are leading their households and handicapped people in Dimawhso Township, Kayah State, yesterday.

At the ceremony, a local ethnic woman expressed her thanks for cash assistant of Ks 24.5 million provided for handicapped people and Ks 16.8 million provided for woman headed households in Dimawhso Township. The Union Minister cordially met with the people attending the ceremony and took commemorative group photo.

The Union Minister and party then attended the cash assistant ceremony held in Prusho for handicapped and woman

headed households where the Union Minister delivered an opening speech. Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho expressed thanks for cash assistance of Ks. 9.8 million provided for handicapped persons and Ks. 77.4 million for women headed households.

Afterwards, the Union Minister inspected the site in Prusho Township where the Department of Social Welfare office is to be built and the status of constructing a kindergarten in Dimawhso Township and provided necessary coordination for the earliest opening of the kindergarten.

Following this, the Union Minister met with fourteen civil society organizations in Loikaw Town, kindergarten.

After this, the Union Minister and party discussed about opening 'mother circles' for the people in Loikaw, Shadaw, Bawlake, Pasawng townships at Kayah State, Loikaw Town, town hall and attended the cash assistant ceremony of Ks 11.6 million for handicapped persons, Ks 19.3 million for woman headed households and Ks 970,000 to expand 'mother circles.' A total of Ks. 131,788,100 cash assistant was provided for Kayah State in fiscal year 2018-2019.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye also held a meeting with Kayah State Chief Minister and state ministers in State Government office and discussed about development and rehabilitation works that supports the achieving of peace in Kayah



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye provides cash assistant to local ethnic people in Dimawhso Township, Kayah State. **PHOTO: MNA**

State, policies and work processes of SWRR Ministry while the Deputy Minister, Department of Rehabilitation Director General and Department of Social Welfare Deputy Director General explained about department wise cooperation matters. State Chief Minister and state min-

isters submitted requirements for state development and the Union Minister and officials coordinated on it.

The Union Minister then inspected the site where a new State Social Welfare Department office will be built. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## We'll ensure rule of law. If anything is against this, we'll remove it: Northern Command Commander

By Ye Kaung Nyunt

Members of the news media who visited Kachin State met with the head of Northern Command Maj-Gen Teza Kyaw on 11 May and enquired about the reason for conducting military operations in Kachin State, the view of the Tatmadaw and the status of assisting villagers temporarily displaced from their homes.

"We conducted military operations in the region. The aim was to control the region. The KIA (Kachin Independence Army) was conducting sneak attacks on our forces doing administrative works in Tanai region resulting in some casualties on our side. That is why we conducted the military operation to clear the area. In addition to this, they entered the Kasont side and the Namti, Mogaung, Mohnyin areas and collected extortion money. They abducted people. In fact all the fighting was started by the KIA. We responded by clearing the area. When conducting the clearance operation, there was news about civilians being wounded. A villager from Awng Lawt was reported to be killed. In fact, that villager was in KIA Brigade 2 camp. I think the answer is quite clear whether a person killed is a villager or from the armed group if that person is staying together with the armed group in KIA Brigade 2 camp."

The commander said the Tatmadaw had evidence that



Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Teza Kyaw meets with media delegation. **PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG**

the KIA had contact with some religious organisations and, in the future, action will be taken in accordance with the law.

"We saw that some villagers were intimidated in the presence of some religious groups. News media people know that there were no damages in Awng Lawt. Nothing was destroyed. When there is fighting, we don't shoot into the village. We only shoot, even than with some constraint, toward the enemy position. Roman Catholic monks from Tanai came and cooperated to resettle the villagers in Tanai. But when it's another religious group, the villagers do not go. State government sent a group to check if the villagers can stay in Tanai. But on their way, they were shot

at. The other side denied that they shot at the group. The aim of the KIA is to create displaced persons and make accusations of human rights violations," added the commander.

Responding to whether there were air-attacks and how many, the commander said, "The principle of fighting a battle is not to fight lightly, but with overwhelming force. Only then can there be the least damage and losses to our men and material. In any air-attacks, we make sure where our side is, where they are and where the villagers are. We directly attack the enemy position. We avoid the villages. If we are not sure if it is the enemy or villagers, we don't attack or shoot. We don't assume the ene-

my position. We attack only when we are sure."

The commander added, "You, media delegation was in Awng Lawt. In fact, Awng Lawt was not under the control of the state government. The village had a KIA court and education office. Our aim is to have stability and peace in the country and have rule of law. Areas should be under the control of the government. On the way to Awng Lawt, you will have seen Nyaung Yan camp. We attacked that place. Anyone staying near KIA battalion headquarters must be relatives or related, but we don't attack them. The houses remain undamaged. But they took away the people.

"We said that we will help

and allow them to stay. The village is not damaged. But they didn't come. But those who were not among such people came back. About 200 had come back.

We said we are making this place stable and peaceful. We will ensure rule of law in Kachin State. If anything is acting against this, we'll remove it. KIA needs to return to the NCA path. If not, they'll be considered as rebels conducting armed rebellion and we will remove them.

Whenever they face difficulties, they attack the cities. An example would be the bombing in Lashio. We will prevent such incident from occurring.

If the displaced people are not related or connected to KIA, we will not do anything. If they are reporting to KIA or KIA is hiding as villagers, we will expose and take action. Soldiers, civilians, and religious persons need to abide by the law. If not, action will be taken against them. Tatmadaw also have to abide by the law enacted by the government as well as the military law. We (Tatmadaw) could not break any.

Trapped persons are peoples abducted or forced by the KIA or are their people. Ordinary villagers live peacefully in their own places. If they could not, they stay in temporary place. And once they can, they return to their own places," said Maj-Gen Teza Kyaw. ■



## No limitations on access to conflict areas to evacuate civilians, but safety must be the priority

WHILE the Union Government was working towards achieving lasting peace, armed conflict between the Tatmadaw and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) erupted in April, forcing residents in the area to flee their homes.

The Kachin State Government, the Red Cross and social and religious organizations have helped the residents as much as possible.

To evacuate and assist the residents in the conflict areas, the Kachin State Government formed four working committees and sent them to four different areas to observe the situation. Depending on the security situation, it also permitted rescue groups to help evacuate the people trapped amid the armed conflicts.

But the situation remains dangerous, in large part because there are landmines in the conflict areas. The Kachin State Government considers safety the priority for the volunteers who will evacuate the people, and takes the responsibility for their well-being seriously. It is not true that we denied NGOs access to the conflict areas.

We cannot say that there are no people who are trapped amid the armed conflicts. Some areas are within the reach of the Kachin State government's administration, but some are not.

Some of the people trapped in the conflict areas were evacuated and sent to the homes of their relatives of their own volition. Others are being sheltered temporarily at monasteries and churches due to security concerns.

The aid provided to the victims can help them for a short period. Armed conflicts cause loss of lives on both sides, and civilians are innocent victims.

The first priority is for peace to prevail and the second is the rule of law in Kachin State.

The rule of law includes elimination of illegal drugs. Without peace, no one can fully carry out development works. This is one of the reasons why elimination of the illegal drug trade is necessary.

To evacuate the civilians, the voices of the people are very important. The evacuation committees of the Kachin State Government are ready to evacuate the people once they have received information from the people.

As the Union Government is committed to cessation of armed conflicts which have lasted for more than 70 years and to laying down a foundation for building a democratic federal republic for and by the people, all people and organizations are urged to cooperate for the flowering of new thoughts and new opinions and join hands to build a democratic federal republic in unity. ■

# The Holder of NV Card and the Freedom of Movement

By Maung Muditar

ANY person residing in continuity within the jurisdiction of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar irrespective of national race, religion is required to abide by the existing laws and also needs to hold a Citizenship Scrutiny Card (or) National Registration Card (or) some sort of Identification Card.

### NV Card means

NV card means the Identity Cards for National Verification for a person who is to undergo for scrutiny assessment for citizenship. Before the issuance of NV Card, the Temporary Identification Card known as White Card was being issued in the past.

In accordance with the stipulations mentioned in the 1949 Union Citizenship Residency Regulations Act Section (5) Sub Section (1) and the 1951 Union of Myanmar Residency Registration Regulation By-Law Section (13) Sub Section (3), the Temporary Identification Cards were being issued to those residing in Myanmar. On 11 February 2015, the Office of the President of Myanmar issued a Notification Number 19/ 2015 declaring that the validity of Temporary Identification Cards expired on 31 March 2015 and that cards were to be surrendered not later than 31 May 2015.

Subsequently, NV Cards were issued beginning 1 June 2015, it was learnt. The NV Cards were being issued to those persons who are not included in the list of the national races of Myanmar but actually residing within the jurisdiction of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and also to those persons who were residing at the border areas without holding any identification cards. The NV Cards are being issued with the clear and good purpose to identify the persons residing within the jurisdiction of the country while they are supposed to undergo scrutiny process or waiting for such verification procedure under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law.

The majority of such Temporary Identification Card holders were people of Islamic faith residing in Rakhine State. These people residing in Myanmar are

required to differentiate with those persons residing in other country. Therefore, arrangements are being made to issue the NV Cards in an attempt for the purpose of scrutiny process of verification of Myanmar citizenship.

Many people thought in general that the NV Cards are issued exclusively only in the Rakhine State. In fact, the NV Cards are issued in all Regions and States of the country. From 1 June 2015 to 24 April 2018, a total of (61,961) NV Cards were issued in the country and that (15,424) NV Cards were issued in Rakhine State.

Apart from Rakhine State, the NV Cards holders residing in other Regions and States have had cooperated in full with the scheme of citizenship scrutiny process, eventually acquiring some type of identification cards to enjoy the status of full citizenship rights.

### Responsibilities to abide and follow

Those who are holding NV Cards have the responsibilities to abide and follow.

The NV Card is to be maintained and kept properly in hand by the holder and that the person must show to the officer who asked for it under the 1951 Union of Myanmar Residency Registration Regulation By-Law Section (29).

The NV Card is not transferable to other (or) not to be entrusted to any person.

When a NV Card was lost, damaged (or) unreadable, it is to be reported to the relevant Township Immigration Office.

Marking or alteration is not to be made on the NV Card.

No person must hold more than one NV Card.

If a NV Card is found somewhere else, it is to be handed over immediately to the relevant officer.

If the holder of the NV Card passed away, the household head or the member of household must hand over the NV Card to the relevant Officer within seven days.

The NV Card holders must abide by the local rules, regulations and directives issued by the Regional and State Governments.

If a NV Card holder is traveling, the person must take the NV Card in person to enable to show the relevant office if and when required.

If and when, the person is awarded with citizenship card, then the NV Card is to be surrendered to the relevant officer.

If anyone breach the above mentioned rules, the person is liable to be taken legal action under the Immigration Act Section (6) Sub Section (2).

While NV Card holders have the responsibility to observe the rules, they also have the rights to enjoy as follows.

As the NV Card holder has been registered as the person residing within the jurisdiction of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the NV Card stands out as Identity Card to witness as a person residing under the sovereignty of Myanmar.

The NV Card holders have the equal rights similar to others who are holding recognized identification cards in their departure for international waters (including the fishery business).

The NV Card holder has the right to apply to undergo the scrutiny process for citizenship. However, during the period of scrutiny process for citizenship, the person must hold and maintain the NV Card.

Those persons who applied for scrutiny process must be given a decision for a certain status under the Myanmar Citizenship Law. The person has the rights to enjoy according to the citizenship status under the existing law.

Those offspring who are born of NV Card holders have the rights to apply to undergo scrutiny process for citizenship under the existing law.

Those who are holding NV Cards have the rights to travel to any parts of the country with the approval and permission of the relevant Regional and State governments under the local rules, regulations and directives.

Those who are holding NV

Cards residing in the Rakhine State have the rights to travel legally to Bangladesh through the established official Border Gates with the Border Pass.

Those who are holding NV Cards in the Rakhine State have the rights to travel freely within the township that they are residing. The travel must be in accordance with the rules, regulations and directives issued by the Rakhine State government.

The NV Card holders have the equal rights similar to others who are holding recognized identification cards in their departure for international waters (including the fishery business). (The persons must have relevant identification cards and NV Cards along with

the jurisdiction of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Moreover, the person is entitled to apply for scrutiny process in acquiring the citizenship. After the legal scrutiny process, a decision on the status would be awarded to the person and the lawful reward could be enjoyed. The benefits and entitlements are clearly defined for the NV Card holders.

Therefore, the NV Card is the first and foremost document to hold on in the scrutiny process on the pathway to enjoy rights of citizenship. The NV Card holder has been recognized as person residing in the jurisdiction of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. In accordance with the term "National Verification", the holder must undergo for scrutiny process.

From 1 June 2015 to 24 April 2018, a total of (61,961) NV Cards have been issued. Among those who applied for citizenship, (91) persons have been awarded Citizenship Cards and (525) persons have been granted Citizenship Approval Status, making a total of (616) persons. These persons are granted full rights as citizenships according to law.

In the past, the application process of the NV Card holders were mostly delayed for some extended time. During the present government, the application of the NV Card holders are processed according to law within five months from the date of application, and eventually an appropriate identification card is being issued.

In the Rakhine State, the persons who have come under the NV Card program are being intimidated, killed, encountered death threat and put on heavy pressure by the terrorists. Therefore, the number of persons is few coming up in the application for the NV Cards. Eventually, the persons who apply for citizenship scrutiny process are also few.

The advantages for the NV Card holders are clearly and visibly mentioned. Moreover, they are allowed to travel to Bangladesh with Border Pass through legally established border gates. For those who have engaged in the fishing trade are allowed to go to the international waters. The NV Cards are the legal documents to witness as lawful residents resid-

ing inside Myanmar. The authorities and officials are handling and processing with priority on the cases for the NV Card holders who wanted to travel other places on education, social and emergency health matters.

These days, a matter of controversial talk was brewing among the public with much suspicion and alarm that the NV Card holders are allowed to travel freely to other regions and states. In fact, if the NV Card holders wanted to travel to other places in the country, the persons must apply the travel authorizations to the relevant regions and states in accordance with the local orders and directives. When the travel permission is accorded, then the person must get the Temporary Travel Form (4) and start the journey to designated place.

This set of procedure is already existed in the past and that the orders and directives are still in continuity in travel process. Without undergoing the process of scrutiny and in the absence of citizenship status, the full rights of citizenship could never be enjoyed. In other words, the NV Card holders could not travel freely at owns will in the country without the proper authorization. Approval of travel from the authority is to be sought. The application must be filed with sound reasons on the intended travel. If a person wanted freedom of movement to travel liberally, then it is required to ask for scrutiny process for the citizenship scheme at the earliest.

If a person is not in line with the stipulated procedures and set rules, then it may have to seek permission from the authorities for the intended travel. With the proper processing and formalities of township, state and central, the person may have the full rights as the status being awarded.

With this information regarding the rights of travel for the NV Card holders, it may be wise to repeat that they are not (not) allowed to move on without the proper permissions of local authorities under the existing orders and directives. It is my honor and pleasure in clarifying and sharing the ground reality to the esteemed readers and public over the travel plan of NV Card holders.

(Translated by UMT of Ahlon)

## New UN report calls for Asia-Pacific to step up development reform efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

COUNTRIES in Asia and the Pacific have made inroads towards achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, but progress remains uneven across the region, according to a new report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Launched at the 74th Commission session (CS74), which opened today in Bangkok, the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2017 assesses how far the region has progressed in implementation of the SDGs, two years after the 17 Goals were adopted by world leaders in 2015. The Report shows that satisfactory progress has been made at the regional level towards eradicating poverty (Goal 1), promoting health and well-being (Goal 3), and achieving quality education for all (Goal 4).

However, progress on many of the targets has fallen short and in some cases, is deteriorating. Out of the 57 targets analyzed in the Report, 37 show insufficient progress in the region, while negative trends are noted on seven targets related to decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), industry (Goal 9), climate action (Goal 13) and sustainable use of oceans and forests (Goals 14 and 15).

Launching the report at the CS74 senior official's segment, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP underscored that while there is success to celebrate, much more needs to be done to ensure that no one is left behind by 2030.

"Our region needs to significantly step up its development reform efforts in several areas. Inequalities are found to be widening because rapid economic growth has not always been equitably shared," said Dr. Akhtar. "More balanced and equitable growth must remain a priority. Across all the SDG areas, work to find multilateral solutions to overcome transboundary challenges must be enhanced for our benefit and that of future generations."

The Report highlights significant disparities in progress across subregions and countries according to income level, which could further threaten the Asia-Pacific region's ability to achieve the SDGs. There are also major gaps in the availability of data. Only 25 per cent of the official SDG indicators can currently be used to assess progress in the region, which limits robust assessments by countries and can impede efforts to overcome development challenges. Political leaders and high-level government and UN officials from across the region are convening at CS74 this week to discuss the theme of 'Inequality in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. The annual gathering comprises two parts, including the senior officials segment from 11 to 12 May, in preparation for the ministerial segment, which will be held from 14 to 16 May at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok. —ESCAP ■

### Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



## US to help N Korea economy if it “quickly” denuclearizes: Pompeo

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo offered on Friday to help improve North Korea’s sanctions-hit economy if the country “quickly” dismantles its nuclear weapons programme.

“If North Korea takes bold action to quickly denuclearize, the United States is prepared to work with North Korea to achieve prosperity on par with our South Korean friends,” Pompeo said as the two countries prepare for what will be the first bilateral summit on 12 June in Singapore.

He called for “robust verification” in ridding Pyongyang of nuclear weapons as part of an effort to achieve the permanent and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Pompeo made the remarks during a joint news conference with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha after their talks in Washington.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are planning for “a full day of meetings on the 12<sup>th</sup>, with some time reserved to carry over, if necessary,” suggesting talks could extend into the following day.

“Certainly, the best outcome would be an agreement for complete and total denuclearization,” Sanders said at a press briefing.

Pompeo called for “a robust verification program” so as to “ensure that North Korea doesn’t possess the capacity to threaten not only the United States, but the world with nuclear weapons.”

Such a program should involve partners around the world, such as South Korea and Japan, according to the chief US diplomat. The Pompeo-Kang talks



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (L) and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un shake hands on 9 May, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

came ahead of a meeting between Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae In on 22 May at the White House at which the two leaders are expected to ensure close coordination ahead of the Trump-Kim summit.

Referring to his meeting on Wednesday with Kim in Pyongyang, Pompeo said he referred to the possibility that the United States would assure Kim of his regime’s security in exchange for full denuclearization.

Pompeo said he discussed “challenges, the strategic decision that Chairman Kim has before him about how it is he wishes to proceed and if he is prepared in exchange for the assurances that we’re ready to provide to him if he is prepared to fully denuclearize.”

Kim is chairman of the North’s ruling Workers’ Party of Korea. Kang said the international community will not ease or lift sanctions on North Korea until the world sees visible and meaningful action by Pyongyang

toward denuclearization.

Rather than merely words or promises from North Korea for denuclearization, “we very much hope to see further steps, more concrete steps toward denuclearization being produced at the US-North Korea summit,” Kang said.

“So we’re not talking about sanctions relief at this point,” she said.

Kang dismissed speculation that a drawing down of the 28,500 American troops stationed in North Korea could be part of a deal on ending Pyongyang’s nuclear weapons ambitions.

“We would like to emphasize again that the US military presence in Korea is a matter for the ROK-US alliance first and foremost,” she said, referring to the acronym for South Korea’s formal name, the Republic of Korea.

She said the US military presence in South Korea “has played a crucial role for deterrence and peace and stability of the region.” — Kyodo News ■

## Catalan lawmakers vote on new regional separatist leader

BARCELONA — Catalonia’s parliament will vote Saturday on whether to appoint hardline independence supporter Quim Torra as regional president, after deposed leader Carles Puigdemont stepped aside from the running.

Torra, a 55-year-old father-of-three, is an independence advocate cut from the same cloth as Puigdemont who picked him and has tasked him with continuing his fight with Spain’s central government to achieve independence.

On Friday, Torra said his government would march on with its “process of construction of a republic” in a sign that the secession crisis is far from over even if Catalonia does finally get a regional government after months of political limbo. Still, he is not expected to get enough support during Saturday’s parliamentary vote of confidence, which requires an absolute majority that he doesn’t have.

He will get another opportunity in a second round, likely to take place on Monday, where he will only need a simple majority — although even that is not assured. There are currently 70 lawmakers in the regional parliament who are pro-independence, against 65 who are not.

But four of the 70 are from the radical anti-capitalist, separatist CUP party which has said it will vote for Puigdemont — and no one else.

If they decide to abstain, Torra will scrape through in the second round with a simple majority. But if they vote against, he will not succeed.

Catalonia has been in political limbo since Spain’s conservative central government imposed direct rule on the semi-autonomous region after it unilaterally declared independence on 27 October, sacking Puigdemont and his cabinet. Regional elections were held in December, which separatist parties won again.

But since then, every candidate picked by the separatist camp has fallen flat.

Puigdemont is abroad in self-exile and faces jail if he



Quim Torra is not expected to get enough support during Saturday’s parliamentary vote of confidence. **PHOTO: AFP**

returns, while other candidates such as civic leader Jordi Sanchez are in prison, charged with rebellion for their role in the independence drive.

### Tensions in separatist camp

Antonio Barroso, deputy research director at Teneo Intelligence, told AFP that Torra — an editor who also held high positions within pro-independence associations — will likely act as Puigdemont’s “surrogate”.

He will be faced with deep divisions in the separatist camp, composed of the CUP, the left-wing ERC party and Puigdemont’s Together for Catalonia grouping, he added in a research note.

“The problem is that separatist parties continue to disagree on what to do next,” he wrote.

“ERC wants to execute a ‘moderate shift’ to keep secessionist politicians out of legal troubles, avoid direct rule by Madrid, and try to garner long-term support for independence.”

“In contrast, Puigdemont’s strategy is to continue using every opportunity... to continue challenging the Spanish authorities and keep the secessionist momentum alive.”

Oriol Bartomeus, politics professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, told AFP Torra had in his career shown “a pretty clear inclination towards the sector of the independence movement that is not really in favour of political normalisation.”

In March he gave a rousing speech to the regional parliament calling on separatists to keep up their campaign against the central government. “Do not think for a moment we will give up, not even a millimetre, to defend the justice, legitimacy and honourability of this cause,” he thundered. — AFP ■

## White House slams Iran for ‘reckless actions’ against Israel, Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON — The White House on Friday slammed Iran for its “reckless actions” that it warned pose a “severe threat” to stability in Middle East.

The statement came after Iranian forces in Syria were accused by Israel of launching some 20 missiles into the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, prompting

Israeli strikes against positions held by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) inside Syria.

The White House said that Iran “pours resources into exporting destabilizing influence throughout the Middle East, even as the Iranian people are victims of a struggling economy.”

“Already this week, the IRGC has fired rockets at Israeli citizens, and Iran’s proxies in Yemen have launched a ballistic missile at Riyadh.

“These actions are further proof that the Iranian regime’s reckless actions pose a severe threat to regional peace and security.” — AFP ■



# Iraq to vote in first nationwide poll since IS war

BAGHDAD, (Iraq) — Iraq on Saturday holds its first parliamentary election since declaring victory over the Islamic State group, with the country hoping to shore up a fragile peace as it looks to rebuild.

The vote comes as tensions surge between key players Iran and the United States over the nuclear deal, sparking fears of a destabilising power struggle over Iraq.

Roughly 24.5 million voters face a fragmented political landscape five months after the jihadists were ousted, with the dominant Shiites split, the Kurds in disarray and Sunnis sidelined.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi — who took over as IS rampaged across Iraq in 2014 — is angling for a new term, claiming credit for defeating the jihadists and seeing off a Kurdish push for independence.

But competition from within his Shiite community, the majority group dominating Iraqi politics,



An Iraqi voter has her biometric voting card checked with her fingerprint upon arriving at a poll station in Iraq's northern city of Kirkuk on 12 May, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

should divide the vote and spell lengthy horse-trading to form any government.

Whoever emerges as premier will face the mammoth task of rebuilding a country left shattered by the battle against IS — with donors already pledging \$30 billion.

Over 15 blood-sodden years since the US-led ouster of Saddam Hussein, disillusionment is widespread with the same old faces from an elite seen as mired in corruption and sectarianism.

More than two million people remain internally displaced and IS — which has threatened the

polls — still poses a major security threat.

Iraq has long been a crucible for the rivalry between Iran and the US, with Tehran exerting influence over Shiite politicians and Washington deploying troops to fight IS.

## Shiite rivals

Overall, just under 7,000 candidates are standing and Iraq's complex system means no single bloc should get anything near a majority in the 329-seat parliament. Abadi — who has balanced off the US and Iran — is facing two leading challengers to his Victory Alliance.

Ex-premier Nuri al-Maliki is widely reviled for stirring sectarianism and losing territory to IS, but draws support from hardliners.

Hadi al-Ameri — a former transport minister — led Iran-backed paramilitary units that fought IS alongside Baghdad's

troops and heads a list of ex-combatants.

Votes in the Sunni heartlands once dominated by IS — including Iraq's devastated second city Mosul — are up in the air as traditional alliances have been shredded by the fallout of jihadist rule.

Political forces in the Kurdish community — often seen as potential kingmakers — are also in disarray after a September vote for independence backfired spectacularly.

The Kurds look set to lose some of their clout on the national stage after Baghdad unleashed a battery of sanctions and seized back disputed oil-rich regions.

A senior security official told AFP that some 900,000 police and soldiers are on high alert to protect the vote, with airports and borders shut for the day.

Polling stations are open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm (0400-1500 GMT) and initial results are expected in three days.—AFP ■

## Syria fight against IS in Damascus stalls, dozens dead: monitor

BEIRUT — At least 86 pro-regime fighters were killed in Syria over the past week in battles against the Islamic State group as regime forces push to clear jihadists from their last stronghold in Damascus, a monitor said on Saturday.

The jihadists have lost 57 fighters in the clashes in the Hajar al-Aswad district on the outskirts of Damascus since 5 May, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Since mid-April, forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad have pounded IS in its last Damascus bastion.

Retaking the area, which includes Hajar al-Aswad and the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmuk, would place the regime in full control of the capital and its surroundings for the first time since 2012.

"The clashes continue. Despite its firepower, the regime has been unable to achieve any significant advance on the ground for a week," Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said.

"IS is entrenched in tunnels and underground shelters and it has been conducting counter-at-



Explosions appear on the skyline of southern Damascus during regime strikes on 28 April, 2018, targeting Islamic State jihadists in the Palestinian Yarmuk refugee camp and neighbouring areas. **PHOTO: AFP**

tacks since Saturday."

At least 203 pro-government fighters have been killed along with 159 IS jihadists since 19 April, according to the Observatory.

Government forces have retaken 60 per cent of Hajar al-Aswad, but jihadists still control 80 per cent of Yarmuk, the monitor said. Once a thriving district home to some 160,000 Palestinians and Syrians, Yarmuk's population has fallen to just a few hundred people. The regime continued to pound the area with air strikes and artillery fire on Saturday, the Observatory said.

IS has been expelled from most of the country since it declared a "caliphate" across large swathes of Syria and neighbouring Iraq in 2014.

But it still holds around five per cent of Syrian territory, in eastern and central desert holdouts and on the edge of Damascus.

Syria's war has killed more than 350,000 people since it started in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests before spiralling into a complex conflict involving world powers and jihadists.—AFP ■

## Armed group kills 26 ahead of Burundi referendum

NAIROBI — An armed group has killed 26 people in north-west Burundi, the security minister said on Saturday, days ahead of a constitutional referendum that could see President Pierre Nkurunziza rule until 2034.

Alain Guillaume Bunyoni said that the attackers were "terrorists" from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

"The terrorists coming from and returning to Congo shot and burned: 26 dead and seven wounded," the minister said in a statement.

The attack came as tensions rise days ahead of a constitutional referendum on 17 May which could allow Nkurunziza to stay in power for 16 more years.

The government has in recent weeks deployed soldiers to border areas after accusing exiled opposition groups of seeking to disrupt the vote.

Witnesses told AFP of an hours-long orgy of violence

that began around 10:00pm (2000 GMT) on Friday in a village in Cibitoke province bordering Congo and Rwanda.

They said a group, armed with guns and knives, killed dozens of people and also set fire to buildings.

"These criminals went house to house and committed real carnage," said a local official speaking on condition of anonymity. He said he was "horrified" by the violence.

"Some of the victims were stabbed, others were shot, there is even a whole family that was burned alive in their home."

The perpetrators and their motive are not yet known but local residents said the attackers crossed into DR Congo after carrying out the raid.

"For now, these criminals have not been identified, but an investigation is underway to determine their identity," said a police officer, who did not want to be named.—AFP ■



## Nervy Europe watches on as Italian populists, far-right continue govt talks

ROME — Italian anti-establishment and far-right leaders are inching closer to a deal over a joint government under the watchful eye of Europe as they meet on Saturday to hash out a deal that could be announced as soon as Sunday. Matteo Salvini, leader of the nationalist, strongly eurosceptic League, and head of Five Star Movement (M5S) Luigi Di Maio are set to meet in Milan on Saturday to continue talks over a “German-style” government contract, which both hope to sign “as soon as possible.”

They may report on the progress of their talks as early as Sunday to President Sergio Mattarella, who could then nominate the new prime minister on Monday. That person is unlikely to be either Salvini or Di Maio. On Friday Italian media reported Di Maio’s political advisor Vincenzo Spadafora speaking of a tight team with “less than 20 ministers”, but no names have been revealed. The composition of the government team will be influenced by the number of seats held by M5S, which is more than Salvini now that he will take part in this proposed government separately from the right-wing coalition that won 37 per cent of the vote on 4 March.

### ‘Significant progress’

On its own, the League picked up 17 per cent, while the M5S is by far Italy’s largest single party after conquering nearly 33 per cent of the electorate. “We are making significant progress on the government programme by finding broad points of convergence on issues that are important to Italians,” said Di Maio after meeting Salvini in the lower house Chamber of Deputies on Friday. Italian media report that both parties agree on rolling back increases to the age of retirement, while the M5S is willing to follow the League’s hardline anti-immigration policies.—AFP ■

## Malaysia’s Najib quits as head of coalition, party after poll loss

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA — Malaysia’s defeated leader Najib Razak on Saturday quit as head of the Barisan Nasional coalition and its main party after leading the coalition to a shock loss.

“I have taken the decision to step down as president of UMNO and chairman of Barisan Nasional (BN) immediately,” he told a press conference, surrounded by senior party members.

The United Malays National Organization (UMNO) is the main party in the coalition.

An opposition alliance headed by new Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, 92, inflicted a shock defeat on BN in Wednesday’s election, ejecting the coalition from power after more than six decades of unbroken rule.

Mahathir, the world’s oldest elected leader, had retired as premier in 2003 after over two decades in the top job but staged a surprising comeback in a



Malaysia’s former leader Najib Razak. PHOTO: AFP

bid to oust his ex-protege Najib.

He was spurred out of retirement by allegations that Najib oversaw the wide-scale looting of sovereign wealth fund 1MDB. Najib and the fund deny any wrongdoing.

“If the party failed in the general election, the leader has the moral obligation to step aside. So based on this principle I have decided to give up both positions,” Najib said.

Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, the former deputy prime

minister, would take over as UMNO president, he said.

“I urge all UMNO members to unite and support the new leadership.”

Earlier, Najib was banned from leaving the country with his wife after speculation mounted that they were about to flee, in a possible bid to avoid prosecution over the 1MDB case. He insisted he was only planning to take a short break and return to Malaysia next week.—AFP ■

### Invitation for Price Quotations

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Electric Power Project (EPP). The IDA No. of the financing agreement is No. 5306 MM. The Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in its role as implementing agency of the EPP, intends to apply the portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued.

MOEE now invites eligible suppliers to express the interest in supplying the following items.

Item No.	Reference No.	Description	Quantity	Units
1.	G-03	Digital Gas Meter & skid Accessories	10	Sets
2.	G-04	(a) 33kV Energy Meters	27	Nos
		(b) 33kV Current Transformer	24	Sets
3.	G-05	(a) 66kV Energy Meters	40	Nos
		(b) 66kV Current Transformer	23	Sets
4.	G-06	(a) The Universal Relay Test Set and Commissioning Tool	2	Sets
		(b) Double Stage Vacuum Transformer	2	Sets
		Oil purifier		
		(c) Turbine Oil purifier	3	Sets
5.	G-07	(a) 125V Battery Bank (300Ah) & Battery Charger Complete with DC Distribution Board	5	Sets
		(b) 230V Battery Bank (300Ah) & Battery Charger Complete with DC Distribution Board	10	Sets

Eligible Suppliers having expressed interest will receive a Request for Quotation by E-mail, sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line (Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018, at 2 P.M Myanmar time), after which no Quotations will be accepted.

Suppliers will be selected following the shopping Method as per the “Guide for procurement of Goods, words and non-consulting services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by world Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 (revised July 2014).

Please submit sealed Quotation to; U Khin Maung Win, Managing Director, Electric Power Generation Enterprise Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw, for detailed information please contact to U Han Zaw, Chief Engineer, Gas Turbine section, mobile phone +959428610206 and U Aung San Win, General Manager, Procurement section, mobile phone +959457733044 or Office phone +95678104319, E-mail: [procurementepge.wb@gmail.com](mailto:procurementepge.wb@gmail.com) . Please indicate your E-mail address as only electronic copies of the RFQ will be send.

### INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract G-109 for the supply of Spare Parts for HONDA high ground clearance motorcycles and under Purchase Order/Contract G-122 Spare Parts for TOYOTA vehicles. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference No.	Lot N°	Item N°	Description	Quantity
G 109	1	1-33	HONDA Motorcycle Spare Parts and Repair Kits	33 items
G-122	1	1-16	TOYOTA Vehicle Spare Parts	16 items
Supply to			Yangon Regional Department of Rural Development Office, Botahtaung Township, Yangon	

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Friday 8 June 2018 at 11 am Myanmar time**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in two separate numbers. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071/ Email: [unioncddprocurement@gmail.com](mailto:unioncddprocurement@gmail.com). Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: [www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org](http://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org).



## Nepali ruling, opposition party leaders meet visiting Indian PM

KATHMANDU — Nepali ruling and opposition party leaders met with visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Saturday, with both sides expressing willingness to foster relationship between the two countries. The Indian prime minister held separate meetings with Chairman of ruling CPN Maoist (Centre), Pushpa Kamal Dahal, President of major opposition party Nepali Congress Sher Bahadur Deuba and Rashtriya Janata Party-Nepal President Mahantha Thakur in the Capital, according to spokesman at the India's Ministry of

External Affairs Raveesh Kumar. "Prime Minister Modi is engaging across the political spectrum in Nepal. During these meetings, the two sides exchanged views on strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries," the spokesman tweeted. Also on Saturday, Modi performed special worship in Muktinath and Pashupatinath, the two venerated temples in Nepal. Modi arrived in Nepal on a two-day state visit on Friday morning at the invitation of his Nepali counterpart KP Sharma Oli. He is scheduled to return home later in the day.—Xinhua ■



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to people after offering prayers at shrine Muktinath, a sacred pilgrimage for both Hindus and Buddhists in Mustang, Nepal on 12 May, 2018. Modi said on Friday that his government has given top priority to relations with Nepal under his Neighborhood First Policy. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Sacked Philippine chief justice to appeal her ouster

MANILA — The ousted top judge of the Philippines will appeal against the decision to sack her, after she battled with President Rodrigo Duterte over his deadly drug war, her spokesman said on Saturday.

Maria Lourdes Sereno's colleagues voted on Friday to remove her as Supreme Court chief justice in an unprecedented decision that has sparked a legal firestorm.

"She will file MR (motion of reconsideration)," her spokesman Carlo Cruz said in a message to AFP without elaborating.

Duterte had openly called for Sereno's removal from the court, calling her an "enemy" after they

clashed over his bloody war on drugs and alleged abuse of power.

Sereno's expulsion came due to a petition by the chief government lawyer — a Duterte appointee — who argued that she was not qualified for her position and accused her of not filing statements of assets and liabilities in previous years — accusations she categorically denied.

Legal experts, including other Supreme Court judges, have argued that Sereno's sacking is a violation of the constitution, which says a justice can only be removed through impeachment in Congress.

In opinions released

Saturday, dissenting judge Marvic Leonen called the move "a legal abomination" while fellow justice Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa said, "this case marks the time when the Court commits seppuku (ritual suicide) — without honour". Pacifico Agabin, an expert in constitutional law at the University of the Philippines College of Law, told AFP Sereno's appeal was unlikely to succeed, saying: "I don't think any one of the justices will have a change of mind".

Sereno, who has urged her supporters to "fight for justice and demand accountability", is the latest high-profile critic of Duterte to be tar-

geted after speaking out against the president.

Other Duterte critics have also been ousted, punished or threatened, including Senator Leila de Lima who has been jailed, the Commission on Human Rights and an anti-corruption prosecutor who investigated allegations that Duterte has hidden wealth.

Duterte has faced global criticism for human rights abuses particularly related to his bloody campaign against illegal drugs which police say has claimed the lives of around 4,200 suspects in nearly two years.

Rights groups allege the actual number is three times higher.—AFP ■

## China, Viet Nam to expand cross-border self-drive tours

NANNING — China and Viet Nam have announced plans to expand cross-border self-driving tours to boost tourism in the two countries. In June, China and Viet Nam will launch cross-border self-driving

routes from the southern Chinese cities of Guilin and Fangchenggang, to Mong Cai and Ha Long City in Viet Nam.

The original self-driving route was launched between Fangchenggang

and Mong Cai in November 2016. Viet Nam has allowed the northern Quang Ninh province to pilot self-drive tours from China to Ha Long city since March.

Self-driving tours through the Viet Nam-Chi-

na border have become popular after the launch of the Fangchenggang to Mong Cai route. The number of outbound tourists from Fangchenggang rose to more than 3.1 million in 2017.—Xinhua ■

### Myanmar Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.10 feet to 20.50 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of May 15th to May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reached over 20 feet high above the chart datum to inform the high tide to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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# Eurovision carnival comes to Portugal for first time

LISBON — A peaceful Danish Viking, an Estonian soprano in a giant dress and a gay-themed dance will be on display at Saturday's Eurovision final in Portugal, which is toning down the frills at the annual song contest.

Favourites include Cyprus' fiery song "Fuego" by Eleni Foureira and Israeli singer Netta Barzilai's "Toy", whose lyrics "I am not your toy" sum up the concerns of many women who have adopted the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment.

The 25-year-old former singer in the Israeli Navy band accompanies the uptempo song with trills, clucking sounds and chicken-like dance moves.

The final gets under way at 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) at Lisbon's riverside Altice Arena, Portugal's largest entertainment venue.

Highlights will undoubtedly include Denmark's red-bearded Rasmussen, whose song is based on a legend about a Viking who refused to fight, and a special dress worn by Estonian soprano Elina Nechayeva which flows down from her waist, beyond her feet and out across the stage.

The dress comes to life with lightening displays and laser effects while she sings.

## China ban

Eurovision was first held in 1956 with the aim of uniting Eu-



Denmark singer Rasmussen's song is about a peaceful Viking. PHOTO: AFP

rope after World War II.

Today it has a combined global audience of around 200 million people — more than the Super Bowl in the United States — and has served as a global launching pad for the likes of ABBA and Celine Dion.

This year's final won't be seen in China though.

The European Broadcast Union has barred a Chinese video service, Mango TV, from airing the event after it edited out a romantic dance sequence

by two men from Ireland's entry in the first semi-final on Tuesday, and blurred out rainbow flags in the audience.

Ireland made it to Saturday's final. Despite an ever-increasing number of TV music contests such as Pop Idol, fans say the show — the longest-running international TV competition according to Guinness World Records — is in a category of its own.

"I like the mix of flags, and the singing in the local languages and the mix of people," Lorenzo

Formento, a 40-year-old Italian logistics manager who lives in Madrid and came to Lisbon for the final, told AFP.

"I think it is very cheerful, it is more about this than the songs. Everyone knows the songs are not that good."

## 'Can't sleep'

Portugal is hosting the event for the first time after its entry, jazzy solo ballad "Amar pelos dois" ("Love for two") by Salvador Sobral, won the contest last year in Ukraine.

Cash-strapped public broadcaster RTP has vowed to stage a more "theatrical" contest that makes less use of flashy electronic visual effects, following in the footsteps of Sobral who said after his win that "music is not fireworks, music is feeling".

This year's contest will cost around 20 million euros (\$24 million) to stage, the lowest amount since 2008 when it started to have two semi-finals.

Sobral will perform his winning song from last year at the final with his idol, Brazilian music icon Caetano Veloso.

It will be the first time that he hits the stage since he underwent a heart transplant in December.

"I think I will faint. Before I never get nervous and now I can't sleep. It's surreal," he said in an interview published Wednesday in Portuguese daily Publico.

After two semi-finals held this week, 20 countries moved to Saturday's final while Britain, Italy, Spain, France and Germany got free passes as they are the biggest contributors to the European Broadcasting Union.

Host Portugal also automatically qualified. Viewers and professional juries in all 43 participating countries will pick the winner, with the televoting and juries each representing 50 percent of the outcome.—AFP ■

# Film legend Godard snubs Cannes, again

PARIS — In his now traditional no-show, film legend Jean-Luc Godard failed to turn up for Friday's premiere of his new movie at the Cannes film festival.

It is the third time since 2004 that the reclusive Swiss-French director has snubbed the world's top film festival, also staying away in 2010 and 2014.

In contrast, two other contenders for the Palme d'Or top prize from Iran and Russia are desperate to attend but have been banned from travel by their governments.

Four years ago, Godard blamed mysterious "problems of a Greek type" — at the height of the euro crisis — for keeping him away from the premiere of his "Film Socialism".

His new film, "The Image Book", has received a decidedly lukewarm response, with New



2018 is the third time since 2004 that the reclusive Swiss-French director Jean-Luc Godard has snubbed the world's top film festival in Cannes, also staying away in 2010 and 2014. PHOTO: AFP

York Times critic Matthew Anderson calling it an "incomprehensible mash-up of poor pictures and choppy sound".

Godard announced later that he would give a news con-

ference on the film by FaceTime Saturday, a method famously used by the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during the failed coup there in 2016.—AFP ■

# Jay-Z and Tidal coming up with new Prince album

LOS ANGELES — Music mogul Jay-Z and music streaming service Tidal are releasing a new posthumous Prince album.

The announcement comes after Prince Estate and Tidal settled their legal dispute, reported Entertainment Weekly.

Jay-Z is working with the Prince Estate to select "previously unreleased music sourced from Prince's vast archive of Vault recordings" for the upcoming release, which is expected to drop in 2019.

The album will first stream exclusively on Tidal for 14 days and a download will be available seven days after its debut.

A physical release will follow thereafter from the Prince Estate.

"Our only goal is to share Prince's music with his fans as he wanted. After (a) thoughtful and honest conversation with him, he chose Tidal as his partner for 'HitnRun' Phase One and 'HitnRun' Phase Two, and we will continue to respect and honor Prince's enduring legacy and wishes with this new collection," Jay-Z said in a statement.

Prince's estate had sued Jay-Z's Roc Nation, which owns Tidal, in 2016 for copyright infringement over claims Prince's music had been streamed without permission.—PTI ■



# Singapore Airlines Travel Fair 2018

SINGAPORE Airlines Travel Fair 2018 held at Myanmar Plaza in Yangon from 18 to 20 May 2018 will offer customers special deals to over 40 destinations around the world. Attractively priced Business Class, Premium Economy Class and Economy Class promotional fares departing from both Yangon and Mandalay on both Singapore Airlines and SilkAir will be available.

Popular destinations such as Singapore, America, Australia, Europe and Japan will be featured during the travel fair. These promotional fares include at least 30 kg check-in baggage allowance and a choice of in-flight meals. Customers can also enjoy Singapore Airlines' in-flight entertain-

ment system, KrisWorld, which offers more than 1,900 on-demand entertainment options in all classes.

Partners of Singapore Airlines Travel Fair 2018 include MasterCard, CB Bank, Changi Airport Group, Sabre and Singapore Tourism Board, as well as travel agents.

Customers who visit the travel fair will get to enjoy free perks and exclusive gifts, including complimentary SGD 20 Changi Dollar Vouchers and Singapore Explorer Passes. All passengers transiting in Singapore Changi Airport will be entitled to a further SGD 20 Changi Dollar Voucher for spending at the airport.

There will be exclusive ben-



efits for all tickets transactions made via CB Bank cards.

Singapore Airlines and SilkAir currently jointly operate

20 weekly services between Yangon and Singapore, while SilkAir operates twice weekly services between Mandalay and Singa-

pore. Network wide, Singapore Airlines and SilkAir serve 101 destinations across 35 countries and territories.—GNLM ■

## ‘Rick and Morty’ renewed for 70 episodes

LOS ANGELES — Cult hit animated show “Rick and Morty” has been given a massive 70-episode renewal order by

Adult Swim.

The order is part of a new long-term deal the network has signed with series creators Jus-

tin Roiland and Dan Harmon.

The show follows a sociopathic genius scientist Rick who drags his inherently timid grand-

son Morty on insanely dangerous adventures across the multi-verse.

The new deal will more than double the amount of episodes the series has currently aired, reported Variety.

Harmon told GQ magazine that the 70-episode deal came after a long negotiation process.

“It was a lot of back and forth, but Justin and I just needed enough episodes and the right kind of deal structure that would give us permission to do what we want to do, which is truly focus on the show. We got all that, and we’re both very excited,” he said.

It is still not clear how the new episodes will be divided into season, or the timeframe for their production and broadcast.—PTI ■



Photo: PTI

## “The Long March” opera to return to China’s prime theater

BEIJING — An opera dedicated to the epic Long March led by the Communist Party of China (CPC) will return to the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing this summer.

The NCPA announced that the “The Long March” will show from 28 June to 3 July. Tickets are now available.

The three-hour opera is an original NCPA production, which debuted in July 2016 to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of the Long March. It is the 11<sup>th</sup> opera produced by the NCPA featuring Chinese national themes.

The Long March was a military maneuver carried out by the Workers’ and Peasants’ Red Army of the CPC from 1934 to 1936.

During this period, they left their bases and marched through raging rivers, frigid mountains and arid grassland to break the siege of Kuomintang forces and continue to fight Japanese aggressors. Many marched as far as 12,500 kilometres. —Xinhua ■

## Rock carving of world’s earliest banknote discovered in China

CHONGQING — A rock carving of a “Jiaozi,” which is believed to be the world’s earliest paper currency, was discovered in southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality, archaeologists said on Friday.

Jiaozi was printed in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) and is regarded by most

experts as the world’s first paper currency, according to Dazu cultural research center.

Deng Qibing, archaeologist with the center, said that the carving was found on a stone inscription at the Dazu Rock Carvings, a World Heritage site, in Chongqing.

Beside the Jiaozi carving,

more than 40 coins were loosely carved on the stone.

Carvings of ancient coins are often found at the site, but this is the first time for archaeologists to discover paper currency carvings.

Deng said that the discovery was valuable to the study of the local history at the time the Dazu

Rock Carvings were created.

More than 50,000 individual rock carvings lie in the grottoes of Chongqing’s Dazu District. The carvings date from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and were placed on the World Heritage List by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1999.—Xinhua ■



## Dagon FC beats Kachin United in General Aung San Shield 2018

AFTER a struggle play, Dagon FC beat Kachin United by a score of 3-1 in one of yesterday's General Aung San Shield 2018 knockout matches at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

Kachin United lined up with goalkeeper Zaw Htet Lin along with Bo Bo, Bawm Yaw, Zaw Shan, Captain Paw Du Aung, Oladimeji, Chit Hla Aung, Aung Aung Oo, Thu Rein Win, Jonathan and Yan Kha.

Dagon United's lineup included keeper Kyaw Khine Oo along with Kyaw Soe Moe, Kyaw Kyaw Htet, Khant Min Eain, Soe Myat Thu, Aung Khaing Tun, Thaw Tar Cho Lar, Kyaw Nyein Chan Aung, Zaw Lwin Oo, Zaw Lin Oo and Captain Chit Soe Paing.

Although Kachin United were better in terms of playing and talent, using a mix of local stars with two expatriate footballers, they failed to finish nearly every golden scoring opportunity in yesterday's match.

At the 5-minute mark, Dagon's Soe Myat Thu scored the opening goal for his team with the support of his teammate.

At 18 minutes, Aung Khaing Tun scored Dagon FC's second goal, putting the pressure on Kachin United to get on the board and stay in the match.

Kachin's Pyu Du Aung responded by scoring with a header just before the end of the first half with the help of a good corner kick from a teammate.

The second half was as exciting as the first, with frequent attacks by both teams.

Unfortunately, Kachin United put the ball into its own net at the 75-minute mark due to a huge mistake by Kachin's midfielder Jonathan, resulting in a 3-1 win for Dagon FC.

With yesterday's win, Dagon FC advances to the next step of the tourney.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Two taekwondo fighters kick each other in yesterday's South Korean Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo Championship at National Indoor Stadium (1) in Yangon. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)**

## South Korean Ambassador's Cup taekwondo championship launched in Yangon

IN order for Myanmar Taekwondo athletes to achieve more success at international tournaments, an opening ceremony of the taekwondo tournament titled "11th South Korean Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo Championship" was launched at National Indoor Stadium (1) in Yangon yesterday.

The opening ceremony was

attended by South Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang Hwa, Chairman of the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Mya Han, other officials and taekwondo athletes.

The journey is aimed at teaching taekwondo in Myanmar and South Korea interchangeably, and for Myanmar taekwondo athletes to achieve success in-

ternationally, said Mr. Lee Sang Hwa. The ceremony continued with shows of Taekwondo bouts, commemorating the friendship with Korea. After the show, the competitions began.

This year, there were a total of 997 taekwondo fighters; a total of 23 teams from different states and regions will compete.—Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn) ■

## Myanmar to play Thailand today in AFF U-16 Girls' Championship final

THE Myanmar U-16 Girls' football team will play against Thailand's U-16 Girls' team at Bumi Sriwijaya Stadium in Palembang, Indonesia in a match that will decide the winner of the 2018 AFF U-16 Girls' Championship.

Both teams have done well in the tournament in the past, with Thailand, the defending champion and Myanmar winning the bronze medal in the same year.

Myanmar will be led by head coach Daw San San Thein.

The Myanmar team is comprised of new, fresh and talented footballers, including

Myat Noe Khin and Swe Mar Aung.

Myat Noe Khin is the leading scorer of the tourney with 9 goals, while Swe Mar Aung is close behind with 7 goals.

Myanmar will have to contend with Thailand's relentless attacking, especially with Thailand's Janista Jinantuya, who has scored 5 goals in the tourney, making her the third top scorer following the Myanmar girls.

As defending champion, Thailand will be a tough opponent for Myanmar. The match has all the makings of a thriller.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Brazilian star Neymar apprehensive ahead of return

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's star striker Neymar admits "fear" ahead of his return for the World Cup after a lengthy layoff following surgery for a broken bone in his foot.

In an interview published on Friday on former Brazil legend Zico's YouTube channel, Neymar said he is in a race against time to get mentally ready for the tournament in Russia. "Everything's going well, thank God, but there's always this fear when you come back and I need to get rid of that fear as soon as possible to arrive at the World Cup," the 26-year-old, who has been out since the end of February, said. The interview with Zico, a great from Brazil's 1980s team, took place last week,



Brazil's star striker Neymar. **PHOTO: AFP**

just before Neymar returned to France, where he is expected to restart training shortly with Paris Saint-Germain. He still hopes to

be completely rehabilitated by the 14 June start of the World Cup. Brazil's opening game is against Switzerland on 17 June.—PTI ■



# SUNDAY SPECIAL

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

13 MAY 2018  
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Daniel  
Technological University (Hmawbi)

# Can computer games lead to violent crime?

As internet technology (IT) improves, more people today are using modern devices such as smartphones and tablets that make their lives more convenient. These devices are undeniably useful. Our government is making investments to improve the technology of the country, and are giving scholarships to local residents who want to study technology and are passionate about improving the country with advanced technology. Because of this government's great performance, you can clearly see that we have quickly developed and modernised technology, much more than in the days of yore.

Consequently, young people these days are mesmerised by these things such as mobile phones, computers or tablets. They have come up with ways to use them since their childhood,

starting with playing games, then using social media, and chatting with friends on Facebook or on Skype.

Playing games on mobiles or on computers are what really fascinate young people because it is obviously different from the real world. It is made up of great and exquisite 3D effects and stimulates users' mind to be active. They even feel proud of themselves being good team players, because most of these games are played as part of a team. In those games, they use weapons, superpowers, and magical effects to kill others. That is why parents are concerned that this can lead to violent crimes as a result. Owing to their manners and mindset after playing games, some people do not want their children to play intense games like Clash Of Clans (COC), Mobile Legends (ML),

Defense of the Ancients (DOTA) and other similar games. Is it really going to lead to violent crimes? Who knows! But surely it will if they act and think this is real life. And furthermore, it takes a very long time to finish a game, so it can possibly be something for parents to worry about concerning their children's education.

Unfortunately, most latter-day guys (also young boys who were born recently) are thinking that playing games are their lives because not only do they play games on mobiles or on computers, but they also try to argue with friends and partners about how to kill and get awards in games. Some may post their virtual awards hilariously on social media all the time to boast how good they are at it. Most gamers are forgetting that it is only for relaxation, not for

life. I see many people my age are busy with phones, seeking ways how to be a winner in a game, not in life. And I hear a lot of swear words used when they are killed in the virtual world because they are so redundantly enthusiastic about it. This is what possibly leads to violent crimes, just because they can not control their mind and continue making nonsensical discussions about games in real life. And a child can get a destructive and malicious mind from this, because the whole game is all about killing and getting virtual awards.

Children from yesteryear, when there was no modern technology and no killing games, were also happy that they played with friends, mostly outside of the house, where they could properly do physical exercise.

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## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

## GET YOUR CITY HERO KIT NOW!



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







(ယခု **Lesson (2)** တွင် **am, is, are, was, were** တို့ကို “ရှိခြင်းပြု” ကြိယအဖြစ် သုံးပုံနှင့် “ကူညီသောကြိယာ” အဖြစ်သုံးပုံကို တင်ပြပါမည်)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

- 6. **There is no place like home.**  
မိမိနေအိမ်နှင့်တူသော နေရာဟူ၍မရှိ။
- 7. **There is no sign of rain today.**  
ယနေ့ မိုးရွာမည်လက္ခဏာမရှိ။
- 8. **There is a time and a place for everything.**  
အရာရာတိုင်းအတွက် အချိန် တစ်ချိန်နှင့်နေရာ တစ်နေရာရှိသည်။
- 9. **There is a time for every thing – a time to work and a time to rest, a time to love and a time to die.**  
အရာရာတိုင်းအတွက် အချိန်တစ်ချိန်ရှိသည်။ အလုပ်လုပ်ရမည့်အချိန်ရှိသကဲ့သို့ နားရမည့်အချိန်လည်း ရှိသည်။ ချစ်ရမည့်အချိန် တစ်ချိန်ရှိသကဲ့သို့ သေရမည့်အချိန် တစ်ချိန်လည်းရှိသည်။
- 10. **There is plenty of virgin land in this area.**  
ဤဒေသတွင် မြေရိုင်းများစွာရှိသည်။

(D) TENSES အချိန်ကာလ

- (1) **am, is, are** တို့သည် Simple Present Tense (ရိုးရိုးပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကာလ) ကိုပြသည်။
- (2) **was** နှင့် **were** တို့သည် Simple Past Tense (ရိုးရိုးအတိတ်ကာလ) ကိုပြသည်။
- (3) ရှိခြင်းပြုကြိယာ **am, is, are**, တို့ကို Present Perfect Tense အဖြစ်သုံးလိုလျှင် အများနာမ်နှင့် တွဲပါက **have been** ကို သုံး၍ အနည်းနာမ်နှင့် တွဲပါက **has been** ကိုသုံးရသည်။
- (4) ယင်းတို့ကို Future Tense (အနာဂတ်ကာလ) အဖြစ်သုံးလိုလျှင် **shall be, will be** ဟု ပြောင်းသုံးရသည်။

ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

(a) **Simple Past Tense (was, were)** ရိုးရိုးအတိတ်ကာလ၊ အကြောင်းအရာ တစ်ရပ်သည်။ အတိတ် ကာလတစ်ချိန်ချိန်တွင် ဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့သည်ကို ပြလိုလျှင် **was, were** သုံးရသည်။ (တိကျသော အချိန်ပိုင်းပြ စာလုံးများ၊ စကားစုများနှင့် တွဲသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)

- 1. **Father was in Mandalay last week.**  
အဖေသည် ယခင်အပတ်က မန္တလေးတွင် ရှိခဲ့သည်။
- 2. **They were at the reception last night.**  
သူတို့ မနေ့ညက စဉ့်ခံပွဲတွင်ရှိသည်။
- 3. **The cat was in that room a few minutes ago.**  
ကြောင်သည် လွန်ခဲ့သောမိနစ်အနည်းငယ်က ထိုအခန်းထဲတွင်ရှိသည်။
- 4. **We were not in Yangon last summer. We were at Ngapali.**  
ကျွန်တော်တို့ ယမန်နှစ်တွေ့နန်းက ရန်ကုန်မှာမရှိခဲ့ကြပါ။ ငယ်ရောက်နေခဲ့ကြသည်။
- 5. **There was a big tree here 15 years ago.**  
လွန်ခဲ့သော ၁၅နှစ်က ဤနေရာတွင် သစ်ပင်ကြီးတစ်ပင်ရှိသည်။
- 6. **There were 4,000 students in our school last year.**  
ကျွန်တော်တို့ကျောင်းတွင် မနှစ်က ကျောင်းသူ ကျောင်းသား ၄,၀၀၀ ကျော်ရှိသည်။

(b) **Present Perfect Tense (has been, have been)** အကြောင်းအရာ တစ်ရပ်သည် အတိတ်တစ်ချိန်ချိန် မှစ၍ ယခုတိုင်အောင်တစ်လျှောက်လုံး ဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့သည်ကို ပြလိုလျှင် ယင်းကိုသုံးရသည်။ ယင်းသည် အတိတ်နှင့်ပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကို တွဲဖက်သုံးစွဲထားသောကာလဖြစ်သည်။ (**since, for**) နှင့်တွဲသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

- 1. **U Htay Lwin has been in Yangon for two weeks.**  
ဦးဌေးလွင် ရန်ကုန်ရောက်နေသည်မှာ နှစ်ပတ်ရှိပြီ။
- 2. **She has been at the University for three years.**  
သူမ တက္ကသိုလ်ရောက်နေသည်မှာ သုံးနှစ်ရှိပါပြီ။
- 3. **He has been with us since morning.**  
သူ့ကျွန်တော်တို့နှင့်အတူရှိနေသည်မှာ မနက်ကတည်းကပဲ။
- 4. **Daw Khin Khin has been in India since 1978.**  
ဒေါ်ခင်ခင် အိန္ဒိယနိုင်ငံ ရောက်နေသည်မှာ ၁၉၇၈ ခုနှစ်ကတည်းကပဲ။
- 5. **There has been no rain here for three days.**  
ဒီမှာ မိုးမရွာတာ (မရှိသည်မှာ) သုံးရက်ရှိပြီ။

(c) **Future Tense** အနာဂတ်ကာလ (Shall be, will be)  
အနာဂတ်တစ်ချိန်ချိန်တွင် ဖြစ်မည်ကို ပြလိုလျှင် ယင်းကိုသုံးရသည်။

- 1. **He will be in Yangon tomorrow.**  
သူမနက်ဖြန် ရန်ကုန်မှာရှိလိမ့်မည်။
- 2. **She will be here soon.**  
သူမ မကြာမီ ဒီမှာရှိလိမ့်မည်။ (ရောက်လာလိမ့်မည်။)
- 3. **They will be at the station at 7 tomorrow morning.**  
သူတို့ မနက်ဖြန်နံနက် ၇-နာရီတွင် ဘူတာရုံ၌ရှိလိမ့်မည်။  
**The sun will be above our heads in half an hour.**  
နေမင်းသည် နောက်နာရီဝက်တွင် တို့ခေါင်းပေါ်မှာရှိလိမ့်မည်။

(E) Interrogative and Negative Forms

အမေးဝါကျနှင့် အငြင်းဝါကျ

(a) **am, is, are, was, were** တို့ဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော စာကြောင်းများကို (က) အမေး ဝါကျ အဖြစ်သုံးလိုလျှင် ယင်းတို့ကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့ဆုံးသို့ ထုတ်ရသည်။ (ခ) အငြင်းဝါကျအဖြစ် သုံးလိုလျှင် ယင်းတို့နောက်ကပ်၍ **Not** ထည့်ရသည်။

- 1. **Ko Ko is in the dining room.**  
**Is Ko Ko in the dining room?**  
**Ko Ko is not in the dining room.**
- 2. **There is a clinic near our house.**  
**Is there a clinic near your house?**  
**There is not a clinic near our house.**
- 3. **There was a hotel in our town five years ago.**  
**Was there a hotel in your town five years ago?**  
**There was not a hotel in our town five years ago.**
- 4. **There were 80 teachers in our school last year.**  
**Were there 80 teachers in your school last year?**  
**There were not 80 teachers in our school last year.**

(b) **Has been, have been** တို့ဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသောစာကြောင်းများကို (က) အမေးဝါကျအဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းလိုလျှင် **has, have** တို့ကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့ဆုံးသို့ထုတ်ရသည်။ (ခ) အငြင်းဝါကျအဖြစ်သို့ ပြောင်းလိုလျှင် **has, have** နောက်ကပ်၍ **not** ထည့်ရသည်။

- 1. **He has been in Myanmar for two months.**  
**Has he been in Myanmar for two months?**  
**He has not been in Burma for two months.**
- 2. **They have been at the school since morning.**  
**Have they been at the school since morning?**  
**They have not been at the school since morning.**

(c) **Shall be, will be**, တို့နှင့်တည်ဆောက်ထားသော စာကြောင်းများကို (က) အမေးဝါကျအဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းလိုလျှင် **shall, will** တို့ကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့သို့ထုတ်ရသည်။ (ခ) အငြင်းဝါကျအဖြစ်သို့ပြောင်းလိုလျှင် ယင်းတို့နောက်ကပ်၍ **not** ထည့်ရသည်။

- 1. **He will be at the airport tomorrow morning.**  
**Will be he at the airport tomorrow morning?**  
**He will not be at the airport tomorrow morning.**
- 2. **We shall be at the tennis court this evening.**  
**Shall we be at the tennis court this evening?**  
**We shall not be at the tennis court this evening.**

ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

- 1. **Ko Ko is on duty.**  
ကိုကိုတာဝန်ကျနေသည်။
- 2. **U Hla is on leave.**  
ဦးလှခွင့်ယူထားသည်။
- 3. **Father is at work.**  
အဖေအလုပ်လုပ်နေသည်။
- 4. **Iran is at war with Iraq.**  
အီရန်သည် အီရတ်နှင့်စစ်ဖြစ်နေသည်။
- 5. **He is in love with Swe Swe.**

- သူ ဆွေဆွေနှင့်ချစ်ကြိုက်နေသည်။
- 6. **He is in jail.**  
သူထောင်ကျနေသည်။ (Jail ရှေ့တွင် the မထည့်ရ)
- 7. **U Aye is out of work.**  
ဦးအေး အလုပ်ပြုတ်နေသည်။
- 8. **She is out of practice.**  
သူမ အလေ့အကျင့် ပြတ်နေသည်။
- 9. **Your essay is out of order.**  
သင်၏ စာစီစာကုံး အစီအစဉ်လွဲနေသည်။
- 10. **The flowers are out of her reach.**  
ပန်းများသည် သူမ လက်လှမ်းမမီသော နေရာတွင်ရှိသည်။
- 11. **Victory is within our reach.**  
အောင်ပွဲသည် ကျွန်တော်တို့၏ လက်တစ်ကမ်းအတွင်းမှာရှိသည်။
- 12. **He is on his way to school.**  
သူကျောင်းသို့ သွားလျက်ရှိသည်။
- 13. **We are in the same boat on the same journey.**  
ငါတို့သည် တစ်လှေထဲစီး တစ်ခရီးထဲသွားများဖြစ်ကြသည်။

(ခ) ဘာသာစကားတိုင်းတွင် ယင်းကိုသုံးစွဲသောလူများ၏ ဓလေ့စရိုက်အလိုက် ပေါ်ပေါက်လာသော ထူးခြားသည့်စကားစုများရှိသည်။  
ဥပမာ - အတောင်အလက်၊ လက်ကျလက်နု၊ ယောင်တောင်တောင် ကြောင်တက်တက်။  
ထို့အပြင် မူရင်းအဓိပ္ပာယ်အပြင် ဒုတိယအဓိပ္ပာယ်ပါရှိသော စကားစုများ။  
ဥပမာ - မြေထိုးသည် (ကုန်းတိုးသည်) ယင်းတို့ကို အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် **Idioms** ဟုခေါ်သည်။  
ယင်းတို့ကို ကျက်၍ သုံးစွဲတတ်ရန်လိုသည်။  
အောက်ပါတို့မှာ **is, are** တို့နောက်တွင် ဝိဘတ်များ (**Prepositions**) လိုက်ထားသည့် **Idioms** များဖြစ်သည်။

- 1. **Mar Mar Aye is on the air.**  
မာမာအေး အသံလွှင့်နေသည်။
- 2. **Nyi Nyi is out of his mind.**  
ညီညီစိတ်နောက်နေသည်။
- 3. **He is in a tight corner.**  
သူအကျဉ်းအကျပ်ထဲ ရောက်နေသည်။
- 4. **The house is on fire.**  
အိမ်ကိုမီးလောင်နေသည်။
- 5. **The mad dog is at large.**  
မွေးမွေးလွတ်နေသည်။
- 6. **He is up to his neck in debt.**  
သူမှာ ကြွေးလည်ပင်းခိုက်နေသည်။
- 7. **He is on the wrong side of 40.**  
သူအသက် ၄၀-ကျော်ပြီ။
- 8. **I am on good terms with my neighbours.**  
ကျွန်တော် အိမ်နီးချင်းများဖြင့် သင့်မြတ်ပါသည်။
- 9. **U Mya Thin is under her thumb.**  
ဦးမြသိန်းသည် သူမ ဩဇာအောက်ရောက်နေသည်။
- 10. **Ko Lay is at home in Physics.**  
ကိုလေးသည် ရူပဗေဒတွင် တော်သည်။
- 11. **He is under the influence of liquor.**  
သူအရက်မူးနေသည်။ (အရက်ဩဇာအောက်ကျရောက်နေသည်။)
- 12. **There is no room for you in this office.**  
ဤရုံးတွင် သင့်အတွက်နေရာမရှိပါ။  
(**room** မှာ အခန်းဟူသော အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖြင့် သုံးထားခြင်းမဟုတ်၊ နေရာဟူသော အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖြင့် သုံးထားခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။)
- 13. **They are in the evening of their lives.**  
သူတို့သည် ဘဝ၏ညနေပိုင်းသို့ ရောက်နေကြပြီ။ (အိုကြပြီ)

(B) **Am, is, are, was, were** များကို ကူညီသော ကြိယအဖြစ် သုံးခြင်း။  
(က) **Adjectives** (နာမဝိသေသနများ)ကို ကြိယအဖြစ်သုံးစွဲလိုလျှင် ယင်းတို့ရှေ့တွင် **am, is, are, was, were** များကို ကူညီသော ကြိယအဖြစ် ထည့်ရသည်။  
ဥပမာ - **tall** အရပ်ရှည်သော  
(a) **Ko Ko is tall.**  
ကိုကိုအရပ်ရှည်သည်။  
(b) **They are healthy.**  
သူတို့ကျန်းမာကြသည်။  
(c) **She was fat.**  
သူမ ဝသည်။

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

ဤအင်္ဂလိပ်စာသင်ခန်းစာများသည် ၁၉၈၁-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လမှ ၁၉၈၃-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလအထိ ဂ်းဒီးယန်း မဂ္ဂဇင်းတွင် ဖော်ပြခဲ့သော သင်ခန်းစာများဖြစ်ပါသည်။  
ကျောင်းသားကျောင်းသူများနှင့် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာကို လေ့လာလိုက်စားသူများ လက်မလွှတ်သင့်သော သင်ခန်းစာများဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အပတ်စဉ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း အပိုင်းလိုက် ဖော်ပြပေးသွားပါမည်။



# Technology allows for quality distance education

Dr. Thazin Lwin  
Professor & Head  
Chemistry Department  
Yangon University of Distance Education

**D**ISTANCE education technology allows students to take advantage of the convenience and flexibility of taking classes at the times and locations they prefer. Although distance education is convenient and can potentially employ rich multimedia materials, there are unresolved issues related to students' engagement in the learning process. In contrast to the environment in traditional educational settings, distance education instructors and peers are not physically present in a classroom, so students may lack opportunities to interact, collaborate and receive feedback and social support, thus leading to less engagement in learning activities. Moreover, distance education provides students much more freedom in how and when they interact, and therefore, their ability to regulate their own learning seems to be critical. Given the potential limitations associated with limited supervision, monitoring of student progress and opportunities to provide feedback to students, it would be useful for distance education instructors and course designers to have a better understanding of what factors influence student engagement.

Online education is one of the most dynamic and enriching forms of learning that exist today. Online education is a subcategory of distance education, which has been defined as the formal delivery of instruction in which time and geographic location separate students and instructors. The reasons for the advancement of online education are multifaceted. Online education overcomes the time and place constraints that restrict access to instruction in traditional educational settings. Other reasons include the relatively low cost and availability of computer technologies, increased pressures relating to employment, financial and family responsibilities, as well as the high cost of higher education and the limited availability of scholarships.

Online education offers appealing educational alternatives and provides lifelong learning opportunities for those whom a traditional university setting does not work. Educational institutions around the world, whether at the elementary, secondary, or higher levels, offer a wide range of online courses in a wide spectrum of disciplines. For example, in the United States, various universities and business corporations collaborate in establishing online universities that offer a wide variety of online courses in various disciplines. One such collaboration is the Western Governors University (WGU),

a joint venture of 19 western states and 16 corporate partners to create a virtual university. WGU has gathered hundreds of distance-delivered courses from institutions across the United States into their online catalog, which is comprised of courses that are offered by different institutions in the same subject area. Prospective online learners can select the course that best suits their needs.

The rapid growth of online distance education worldwide has prompted the need to revise delivery structures and re-think pedagogical practices that were once appropriate. As new technologies emerge, instructional designers and educators have unique opportunities

to foster interaction and collaboration among learners, thus creating a true learning community. The existence of distance education relies on the creation of learning communities. Through technology, interaction and collaboration are now attainable in either asynchronous or synchronous learning networks. The emergence of social software, software that enables a group of individuals to collaborate via the Internet, has added a new dimension to online learning. The versatility of social software and other collaboration tools available today support constructivist environments that seek to motivate and cultivate. This article explores the functions and benefits of us-

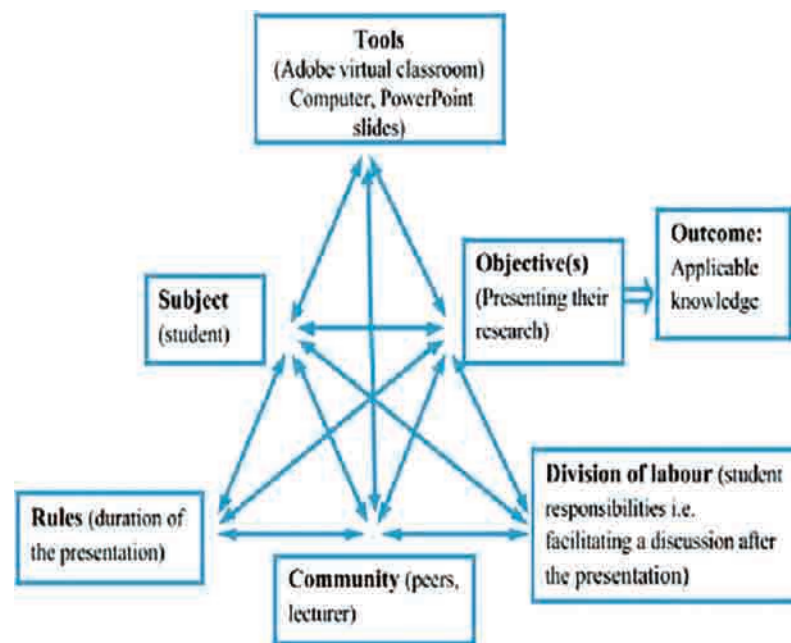
ing emerging social software in distance education. Current trends in the field of distance learning indicate a radical shift in both instructional design and pedagogy. As technology evolves, so will the tools be available to make it happen.

In academic settings, engagement refers to the quality of effort students make to perform well and achieve desired outcomes. Previous research has indicated that several factors, such as the use of course tutors, the quality of technology and motivational factors are positively linked to student engagement levels in distance education environments. The concept of engagement has attracted increasing attention in the research of motivation and student achievement. This study sought to further explore how motivational and learning factors may influence specific types of engagement. The three types of engagement (behavioural, emotional and cognitive engagement) were used to frame the investigation of engagement issues.

Motivation can be a prerequisite of learner engagement. For instance, because of a long-term goal for credentials, learners can be motivated to engage in courses. Motivation can also be a feeling of satisfaction/success when being engaged in worthwhile learning. Either way, student motivation and engagement are closely related elements of student learning that can have an impact on learning outcomes. In spite of the fact that there is no universally accepted definition of what comprises engagement, student and college success, student retention and student motivation are always linked to engagement. For instance, some of the early studies defined engagement in terms of aspects such as interest, effort, time on task and motivation. The online learner engagement is defined as students' active participation in e-learning activities (i.e. discussion threads, virtual classroom) to achieve learning goals. Motivation is considered an essential element to engage learners and thereby enhance students' learning experiences.

Student motivation is influenced by various factors. The Students' Motivation Towards Science Learning (SMTSL) survey was developed around these factors after extensive research and observations regarding science student motivation. Factors addressed in the scope of this study were self-efficacy, performance goals, active learning strategies, task learning values, achievement goals, and learning environment stimulation.

**Dr. Thazin Lwin is a professor and the head of the Chemistry Department at Yangon University of Distance Education**



## TIPS FOR MOTIVATING STUDENTS

- Give frequent, early, positive feedback that supports students' beliefs that they can do well.
- Ensure opportunities for students' success by assigning tasks that are neither too easy nor too difficult.
- Help students find personal meaning and value in the material.
- Create an atmosphere that is open and positive.
- Help students feel that they are valued members of a learning community.

The book "Tools for Teaching" by Barbara Gross Davis (1993) offers great ideas and tips about increasing student motivation in classes.



## Motivational Strategies

Dörnyei (2001)

1. Set a personal example with your own behavior.
2. Recognize students' effort and celebrate their success.
3. Promote learners' self-confidence.
4. Create a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere in the classroom.
5. Present tasks properly.
6. Increase the learners' goal-orientedness.
7. Make the learning tasks stimulating.
8. Familiarise learners with L2-related values.
9. Promote group cohesiveness and set group norms.
10. Promote learner autonomy.





Mahouts take care of elephants at the Wingabaw Elephant Sanctuary in Bago. **PHOTO: THWE THWE TUN**



Visitors enjoy elephant ride at the Ngaliketha Elephant Sanctuary in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Elephant sanctuaries will also be eco-friendly camps

By Maung Lu Aye

**T**O protect Myanmar's elephants who no longer need to work in the logging industry, Myanmar introduced the Elephant Conservation Based Tourism (ECBT) programme, which established elephant camps that will attract local and foreign tourists.

Over the last decade, the number of wild elephants has declined significantly.

Of the 5,000 elephants owned by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise and private enterprises, some were left idle after the Myanmar Timber Enterprise suspended logging.

Myanmar has the second largest number of domesticated elephants after India. Myanmar has 4,748 registered elephants that are kept as pets, used for timber extraction and other heavy lifting and at tourism sites for elephant rides.

Seventy-two elephants were killed by hunters between 2010 and 2016. Currently, Myanmar has an estimated 2,500 wild elephants in Myanmar's rainforests.

Myanmar signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to protect Myanmar wild elephants and has passed laws against poaching.

The Myanmar government has also constructed wild elephant preserves to protect the elephants against hunters and has plans for several more in the near future, including Hukaung Valley Elephant Reserve, Alaungdaw Kathapa Elephant Reserve, Shwe U Daung Elephant Reserve, Myauk Zar Mayee elephant

Reserve, Rakhine Wildlife Reserve, and Rakhine Yoma Reserve.

Nationally, Myanmar has set aside 9,205 square miles for elephant sanctuaries. Local and international non-governmental organisations are also planning to expand the amount of land dedicated to wildlife reserves in Myanmar: Mingalar Myanmar, a local NGO, and an elephant conservation organisation from Australia have announced plans to establish an elephant reserve in Myanmar.

Elephants Lake Camp, the elephant sanctuary is a pioneer project in terms of conservation of animals and forests.

The ministry opened the Elephants Lake Camp in Yenwe, Toungoo District, in central Myanmar to conserve elephants naturally without tethering their legs to chains and protect old, injured, pregnant, disabled, injured and newborn baby elephants. Mingalar Myanmar, a local NGO, and an elephant conservation organization from Australia have announced plans to establish an elephant reserve in Myanmar.

The Elephants Lake Camp will become one of the biggest elephant camps in Southeast Asia.

The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources is planning to implement mobile elephant clinics to provide treatment to injured elephants and other animals. An elephant medical treatment centre will be constructed in the Elephants Lake camp. Further plans are on to conduct wild elephant and animal conservation, rescue and research, capacity building for the locals and mahouts, upgrade their living standards and increase

their income.

To implement the Elephants Lake camp in the Bago Yoma, the Myanmar Timber Enterprise will provide elephants, while the Forestry Department will grant permission to use the land. Mingalar Myanmar will provide social development assistance to the local people and mahouts.

The authorities are planning to conserve some 300 elephants within 10 years. The Elephants Lake camp is being constructed on more than 17,000 hectares in the Ye Nwe forest reserve.

Initially, a security department will be constructed. Then, an elephant medical treatment centre will be constructed. On completion of the Elephants Lake camp, the authorities will implement an eco-tourism project to attract local and foreign visitors.

Of the roughly 5,000 working elephants in Myanmar, approximately 2,900 belong to state-owned enterprises, while the remainder are under private ownership. For decades, these elephants were taken from the wild or bred, trained and forced to endure a lifetime of arduous work toppling and carrying heavy tree trunks.

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Up to May, 2018, 18 elephant sanctuaries have been opened nationwide.

### Wingabaw Elephant Sanctuary

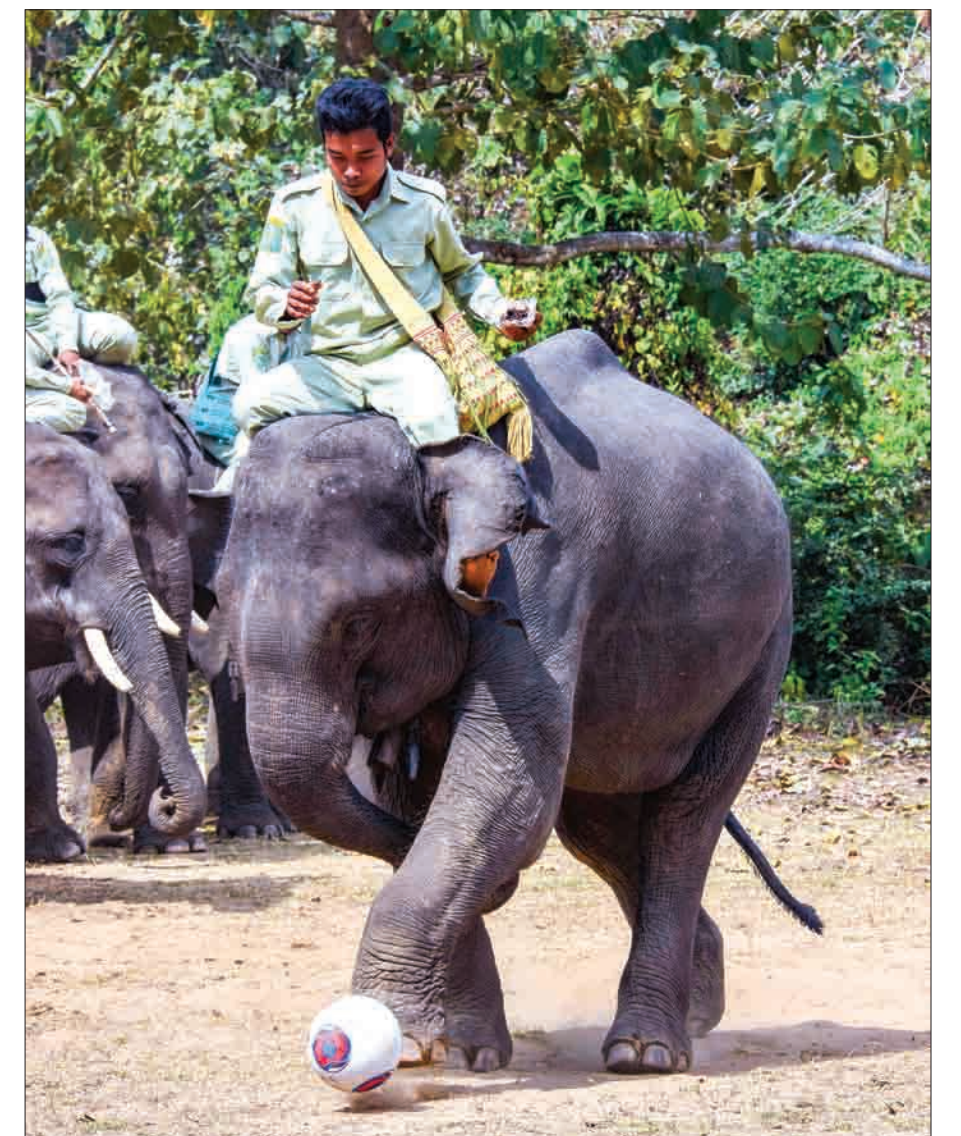
The Wingabaw elephant camp was established in 2016 and is located 14 miles from Bago City, about 50 miles from Yangon. The camp houses adult elephants, orphaned wild elephants and orphaned baby elephants.

The elephant camp has been open to the public since 3 November, 2016. The 86.2-acre camp is currently has seven orphaned baby elephants and 10 adult elephants.

Tourists can come to watch the elephants being bathed between 7 a.m. and 8.30 p.m. daily.



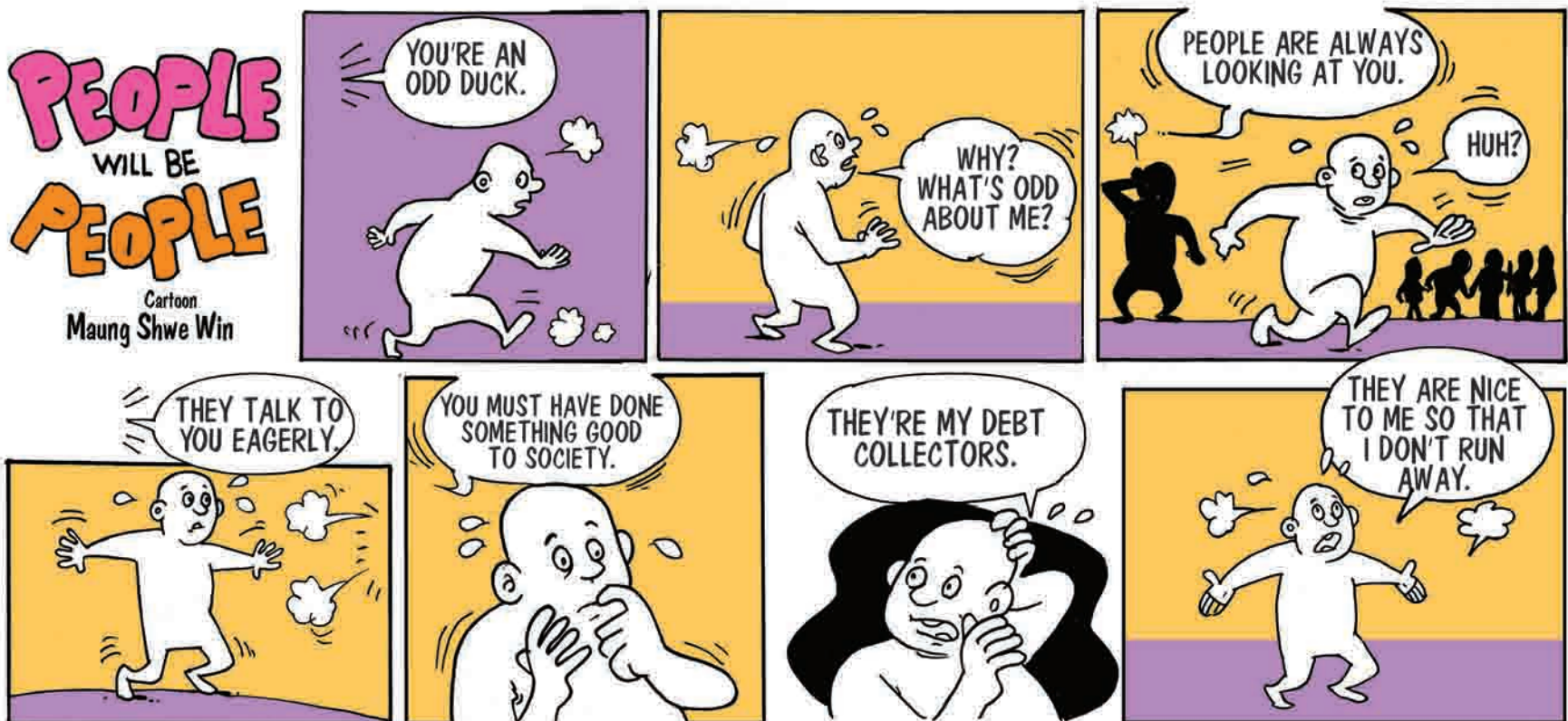
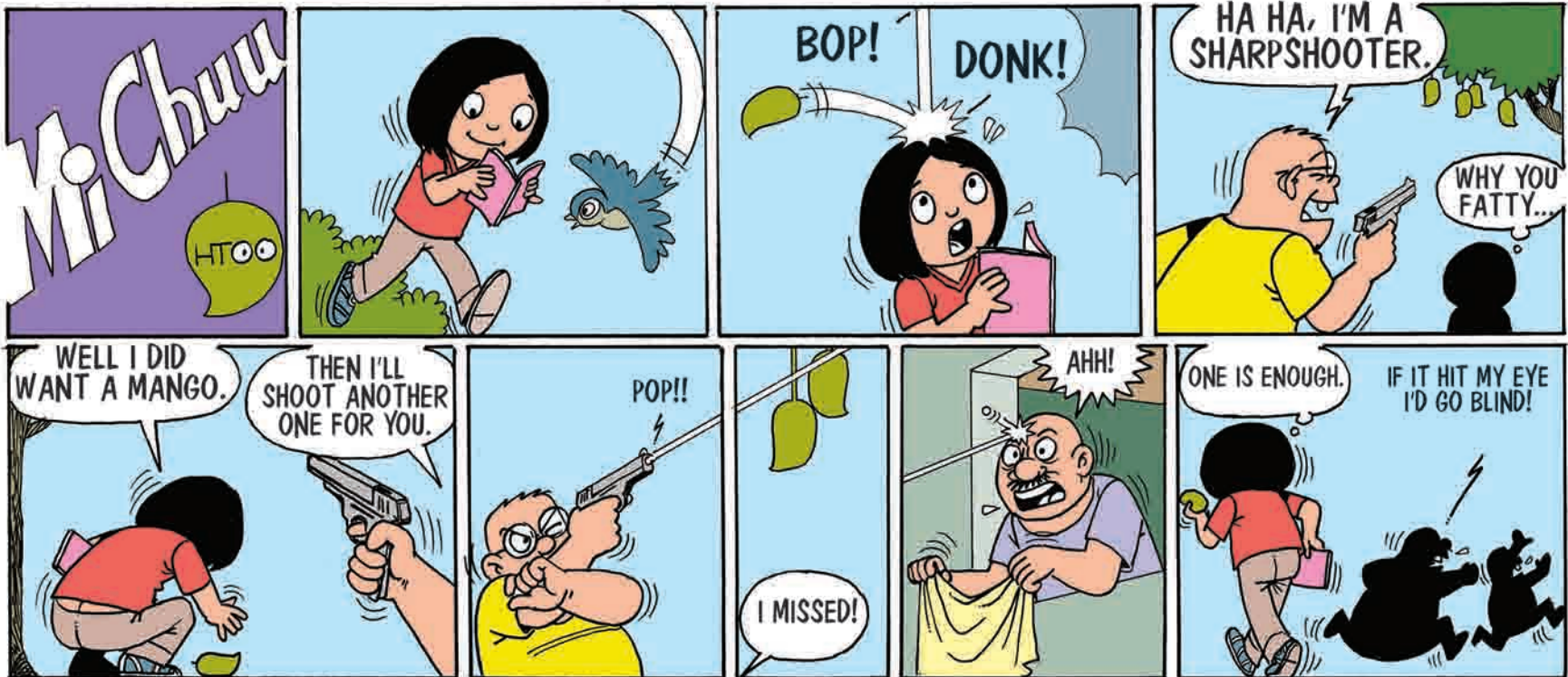
Elephants drink water at natural stream in the Mokkha Elephant Camp in Minhla, western Bago Region. **PHOTO: PAUKSA (MINHLA)**



An elephant demonstrates football skill at the Phoekeyar Elephant Camp. **PHOTO: MNA**



# SUNDAY COMICS



## SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon Maung Maung Aung 2018





# EVEN THE ANIMALS . . .



- In a village of remote area,  
There was a cow, who worked for farmers.  
When she became old, the owner decided to send her to butcher,  
She ran and ran until the owner could not find.  
The clever owner tied the cow's calf and let the calf cry,  
The old cow became very unbearable to hear it and came back to the farmer,  
With tears, she allowed them to do what they wished to her.
- In a jungle of Sagaing Region,  
Alaungdaw Kathapa is a famous place for pilgrims.  
There are mountains to climb and streams to cross,  
People need elephant-ride as it is hard to walk.  
There, a mother elephant refused to work her duty,  
Without seeing her baby.  
So the little elephant walked beside his mother,  
People could not separate the son from the mother.  
Whenever I hear such kind of story,  
I feel great sympathy.
- One day, a stray female dog came to my grandma,  
The dog was very starving and breast-feeding mother.  
Granny gave some foods to her,  
The female dog left as soon as after eating with hunger.  
Granny quietly followed her to see,  
Where she kept her own puppies.  
Wow! The mother dog vomited out all the foods she just ate,  
In front of her puppies and let them take,  
So the starving puppies also very happily ate.  
Granny saw it with her own eyes,  
Although they are animals,  
Loves of those mothers are the most fantastic of its kind.

Meiji Soe



## Can computer games lead to violent crime?

### FROM PAGES 1

They even had more friends because they could communicate well and knew how to blend in conversations. Though those kids played tough games with weapons like plastic guns or plastic knives, those were not going to lead violent crimes genuinely. They might use sarcastic words to losers after games, but I am sure that they would have a mutual understanding between the two sides of teams, for they knew each other very well. And it was a way for children in those days to build good communications skills.

In my opinion, modern technology is essential for improving the country's

standard of living, but we should not abuse that idea. We are obliged to use it in the right way. If someone plays games on mobiles or on computers, it is all right because playing games can reduce stress, but not for a long time because this is NOT the real world. We would be better off living in the real world hanging out with family and friends and giving time and doing things together that can make you become closer with family and your surroundings. We as a country need more great technicians for modern technology, but we should never forget the old saying: "Too much of anything is good for nothing".

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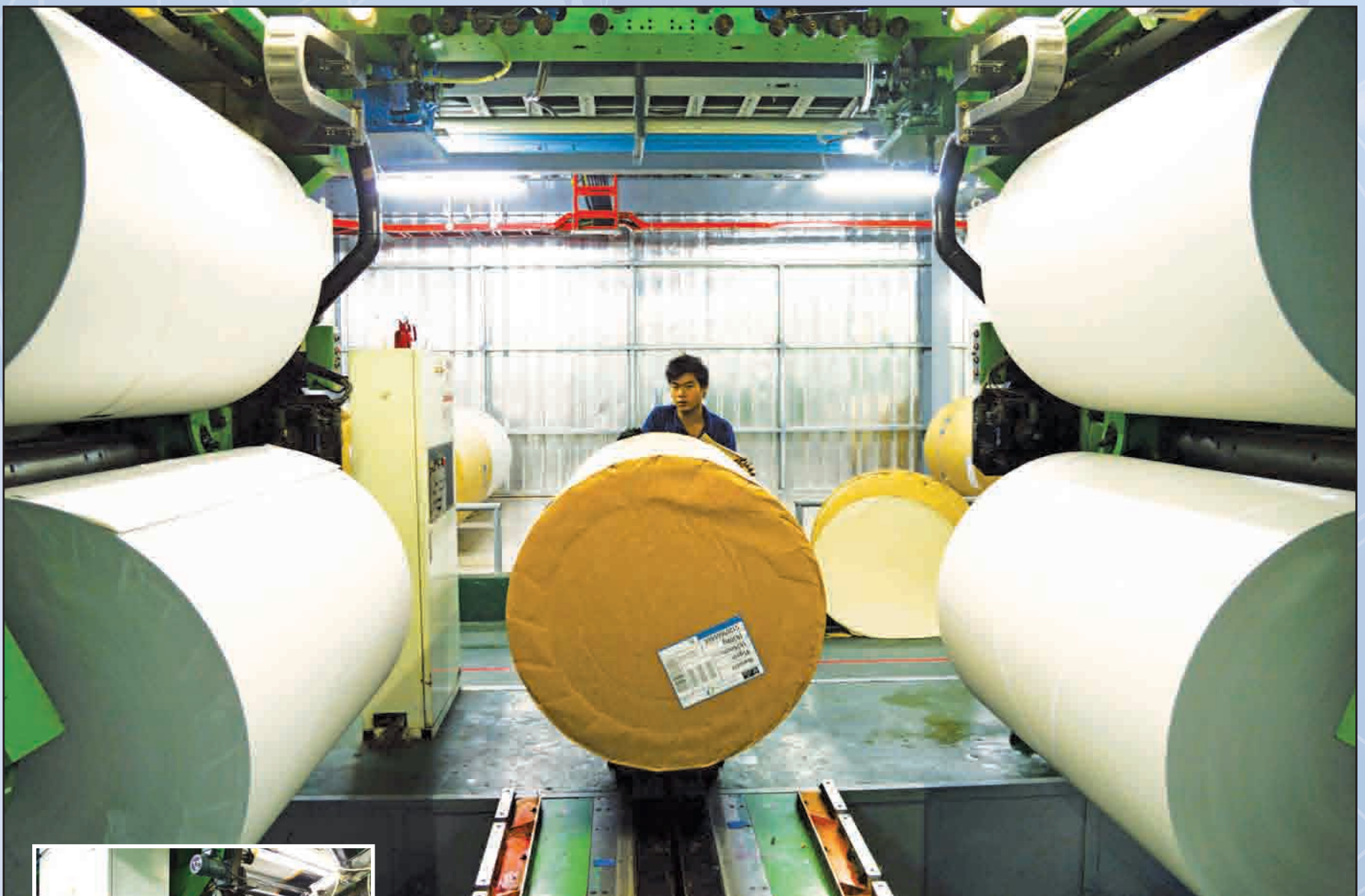
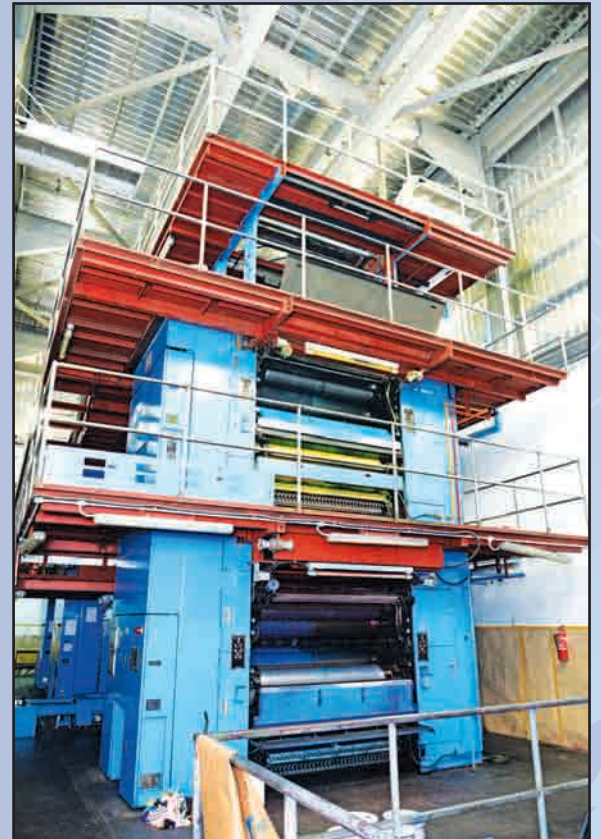


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