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Students from IDP camps sitting for the first half-year examination at Satyonesu Ward Sub-Basic Education High School. PHOTO: NAY LIN

Schools reopen in Maungtaw, Buthidaung as stability returns

Min Thit (MNA)

SCHOOLS temporarily closed in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships after ARSA extremist terrorist attacks have now reopened as peace and stability return to the region.

Yesterday, students could be seen attending school and resuming their normal routines, according to the head of state education department in Sittway.

"In Maungtaw, primary, middle and high schools were reopened. In Buthidaung too, up to 21 schools were re-

opened. Teachers have also returned to schools and are teaching the students", said U Aung Kyaw Tun head of the state education department.

A high school headmaster said academic life has been fully restored in Maungtaw.

"School was reopened on 19 September, but some students were unable to attend. All teachers are present", said U Aung Myint Thein, headmaster of No. 1 Basic Education High School in Maungtaw Township.

According to the office of the head of the Rakhine

State Education Department, schools in Maungtaw and Buthidaung towns were reopened, but schools in villages were not yet opened due to security situations.

"Opening of schools in rural areas of Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships depend on security. Schools in ethnic villages are safe and secure, but we need to think about schools in Bengali villages. If the administrative side considers it safe, these schools will reopen. Teachers are ready", said U Aung Kyaw Tun.

According to the Rakhine State Education Department, about 3,000 students who fled from Maungtaw and Buthidaung towns to Sittway after ARSA extremist terrorist attacks were attending schools in Sittway so that there would be no gap in their education.

"There are students from kindergarten to matriculation class from relief camps attending this school. Books and stationery were provided to them free and they were attending class together with students from this school.

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SUNDAY SPECIAL

SUNDAY SPECIAL

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Today's issue contains an 8-Page special pull-out supplement.



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Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker delivers rice to Sittway IDP camps

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors delivered 3,000 bags of rice to displaced people sheltering at camps in Sittway and Maungdaw yesterday.

They left for Sittway yesterday and were welcomed in Sittway by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and donors then went to IDP camps in Sittway and delivered the rice bags. Thirty rice bags were given to 308 people from 89 households in Adatehtan Monastery temporary relief camp, 30 rice bags for 265 people from 93 households in Dhammarama Monastery temporary relief camp, 30 rice bags for 338 people from 102 households in Maramargyi Monas-

tery temporary relief camp, 50 rice bags for 486 people from 114 households in Hindu temple temporary relief camp and 70 rice bags for 686 people from 286 households in Danyawadi Sports Ground temporary relief camp were donated.

While meeting with local ethnic nationals in the temporary relief camps, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung explained the government's programmes for regional development, road communication and security in Maungdaw region and gave words of encouragement.

U Aye Tha Aung and donors will continue to provide assistance to ethnic nationals in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships from 1 to 3 October, it is learnt. —Win Min Soe (IPRD)■



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung donates rice bags to displaced people in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister meets MMPA executive members, attends opening of MMPA Cinema

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended a opening ceremony of the Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon (MMPA) cinema which was held in conjunction with a ceremony to welcome and farewell incoming and outgoing MMPA executive members held at MMPA on Wingaba Road in Bahan Township, Yangon.

The Union Minister and MMPA Chairman U Lu Min touched the Magic Ball to open the MMPA cinema, and some scenes were screened to demonstrate the cinema's video and audio systems. Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint then delivered a speech to commemorate the event.

In his speech, the Union Minister said it is an auspicious occasion because new MMPA executive members were systemat-

ically elected according to rules and regulations agreed upon by motion picture personnel and old MMPA executive members graciously transferred duties. "Whichever sector you are in, it is required to work together for the development of your work and society. Recognition is given to MMPA for selecting executive members as per their wishes for the development of the sector. This selection is a good example for the country as well as other organisations. People in the country were interested in the selection of the new executive members. Present Chairman U Lu Min and new Chairman U Zin Wine's acting ability, as well as leadership skills, are much admired. The Union Minister urged the use of these skills diligently for the motion picture



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, MMPA executive members and artists attend dinner party for opening of MMPA Cinema on 30 September 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

personnel's affairs and added that the Ministry of Information will support the MMPA in the best possible ways.

Afterwards, MMPA Chairman U Lu Min gave a speech followed by another speech from the newly elected MMPA Chair-

man U Zin Wine.

MMPA Chairman U Lu Min then presented a certificate of honour to U Zin Aung Soe of Clover Solutions, who donated audio equipment for the MMPA Cinema.

Later, the Union Minister

attended a dinner held in the lawn in front of the statues of the fathers of Myanmar motion picture industry. The day's event was attended by officials from Ministry of Information, MMPA officials and artists.—Myanmar News Agency■

Donation for villagers remaining in villages

RAKHINE State minister for Social Affairs Dr. Chan Thar led donors from Myitta Ariyan Foundation to donate foods, clothing and cash to security personnel and villagers remaining in villages in Maungdaw district yesterday afternoon.

First, Dr. Chan Thar and party went to No. 1 Border

Police command commander office and donated food in recognition by the people of the security personnel and Police Maj-Gen Thura San Lwin and officials accepted the donation. Next, the party donated offerings to Ywamakyangtike Sayadaw of Kyeinchaung village, Maungdaw Township and

donated food, clothing and cash assistance to villagers remaining in the village.

With regards to the donation, Myitta Ariyan Foundation chairman U San Kyaw said "There are many donations to relief camps but donation to those who didn't flee (the violence) are few. That is why

we are going to the villages to donate. Each household is provided a cash donation of Ks 15,000. Total value of donation including cash and goods is about Ks 30 million. We plan to visit about seven to eight villages to donate."

After the ARSA extremist terrorist attacks of 25 August,

local people were facing difficulties and some have fled while some remains.

This is why Myitta Ariyan Foundation led by state minister for social affairs went to donate villagers remaining in Kyeinchaung and Yan Aung Myin villages.—Thant Zin Win, Naing Lin Kyi ■

Forum on printing industry development

WITH an aim for continued existence and development of the print industry and to provide modern printing technology to printing businesses, the Ministry of Information and the Myanmar Printers & Publishers Association (MPPA) organised the Myanmar Printing Industry Forum – 2017 which was held yesterday morning at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivered a speech, in which he noted that opportunities for printing businesses and printing technologies would be discussed.

Printing press and printing technology has changed, and with the onset of electronic media, there is fear of the print media sector disappearing. Despite those fears, researchers pointed out that print is far from disappearing, but rather than appearing in the old form, it is appearing in many new forms and will continue to develop, the minister said.

Printing businesses need to innovate for the existence and development of print industry, and it is for this reason that today's forum was held, said the Union Minister.

"Individually or collectively as a group, people in the business should discuss and review. New ideas and methods to develop the entire printing



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint looks at printing paper at the Forum on printing industry development held in Yangon on 30 September, 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

industry will come out of discussion like this. By working together, opportunities for success will be achieved", he said.

The Myanmar printing industry is not at a stage where anyone should be worried, the minister continued. But globally, the print business is believed to be declining. At a time when discussions and thoughts were put in for existence and development, our country's printing businesses discussing to find ways for development is a sign

of being ahead of time rather than being late. Therefore, our printing businesses should discuss ways recognising opportunities and develop them while obtaining new technology and achieving success. The Union Minister also expressed his hopes that good results will come out of the forum for printing technology and printing industry development.

Afterwards, MPPA Chairman U Min Han gave a welcoming speech.

U Kyaw Thu from Graphic Consult Group, Fuji Xerox Asia Pacific Operation Pte. Ltd Operation Manager Mr. Timothy J. Howard, Myo Kyun Tha Co. Ltd. Managing Director U Thein Zan and MPPA joint secretary U Kyaw Htay Min discussed "Modern printing technology," "Publishing and printing digitally," "Graphic systems" and "Development of print industry", respectively and forum attendees asked questions on the topics.

In the afternoon, the Ministry of Information's Printing and Publishing Department, MPPA, printing businesses and experts discussed the topics of opportunities for development of businesses related to the printing business and technology development in printing and publishing.

The forum was attended by the MPPA Chairman, the Vice Chairman, executive members, experts from local and foreign printing businesses, departmental officials and interested persons.

"With the appearance of social media, printing businesses that rely on newspapers, journals and magazines are declining. Currently, printing businesses appear to be weakening.

The forum was held to prevent this. The belief is that if a public company that involves all materialises from this forum, it would be able to face the competition from foreign investment," said MPPA Chairman U Min Han.

MPPA was formed in 1990 with an aim to instill unity among members, achieve technological parity internationally in development, increase job opportunities and act as a bridge between member businesses and the government.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Schools reopen in Maungtaw, Buthidaung as stability returns

FROM PAGE 1

There were quite a number of them when the terrorist attacks started, but as peace returns to the region, some already went back and only a few remains in this school", said deputy headmaster U Than Myint of the Satyonesu Ward Sub-Basic Education High School, Sittway.

Tenth-grader Maung Kyaw Naing fled to the Sittway relief camp with his family from Maungtaw township when terrorist attacks occurred on 25 August and looks forward to returning to his hometown.

"Due to the terrorist at-

tacks, I fled from the village with my family to Sittway.

We are currently staying in the relief camp and I am attending Satyonesu Ward Sub-Basic Education High School. Once our region is peaceful, I will return to the village with my family. I'll attend school in the village", Maung Kyaw Naing said.

It is learnt from the office of the head of the state education department in Sittway that when schools closed due to terrorist attacks are reopened, overtime classes will be organised in order to make up for any lost teaching periods.

Laungdon Village post-primary school in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State remains open

AFTER the 25 August extremist terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), primary schools in villages were closed, but the Laungdon Village post-primary school in Maungtaw Township remained opened through the efforts of a local ethnic teacher U Me Chay, with monetary support from the Wai Lu Kyaw Foundation.

"The school teaches from primary to fifth standard. All the teachers fled to Maungtaw and Sittway when the events occurred, but 129 students remained. With the Muslim students, there used to be a total of more than 800 students.

No Muslim students remain now. I taught in this school for four years. When the event occurred, there were gaps in the teaching, but due to the monthly support of Ks50,000 per month provided by the Wai Lu Kyaw Foundation and author Waihin Aung, I've been teaching alone for seven days because other teachers are afraid to come.

My feeling is that the students are discouraged for being unable to learn. If young people do not learn, they will not achieve their life's targets. But Ko Kyaw Win met with Ko Waihin Aung and arranged to provide help, so I was able to

continue to teach and I am very happy about this" said U Me Chay.

Ko Kyaw Win, a local who helped look after the school, said the remaining 129 students still represent a diverse cross-section of ethnicities.

"Students in this school include Rakhine, Mro, Thet, Daingnet, Marama, Bama, Palaung and Kayin youngsters. Forty-eight are in primary, 36 in first standard, 19 in second standard, none in third standard, 24 in fourth standard and two in fifth standard. They all live in Laungdon Village and there is a police post nearby."— Myanmar News Agency ■

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CBT project for villages in protection zone for Ayeyawady Dolphin

BEGINNING this high season, a community-based tourism (CBT) project will be implemented in six villages situated within the Ayeyawady Dolphin protected zone, said U San Yu, assistant director of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mandalay Region).

In collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will carry out implementation of the CBT project in the designated areas towards its goal of increasing number of tourist arrivals.

Fishing with the help of Ayeyawady dolphin is unique to Myanmar. The cooperative fishing practice between fishermen and dolphins attracts international visitors, with residents earning extra income from demonstrations of fishing



A pair of Ayeyawady dolphins are seen in the conservation area in the Ayeyawady River near Mandalay. **PHOTO: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

with dolphins.

The ministry continues to improve local businesses, including small-scale pottery businesses, edible oil production, production of bamboo hats and cheroot-making firms with the aim of creating more em-

ployment opportunities for locals, U San Yu said.

Six villages, including Myitsein, Myitkangyi, Hsethe, Seinpangon, Ayegyun and Myaeson villages, located between Mingun and Kyaukmyaung segment of the Ayeyawady River,

have been chosen to implement community-based tourism this peak season. According to an official survey, there are 26 dolphins in the Mingun-Kyaungmyaung protected area.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)■

Toyota Hiace to be sold via installment plan

TOYOTA Aye and Son Co., (TTAS), Toyota's authorised dealer in Myanmar, is now arranging to sell the 16-passenger Toyota Hiace, suitable to be used as a school bus, to those wishing to operate school bus services through an installment plan, according to TTAS.

A proposal about the new plan has already been submitted to the relevant government departments, according to the company.

U Myo Aye Zaw, general manager of TTAS, said the company will sell the Hiace vehicles, produced by Japa-

nese automotive manufacturer Toyota, at a price of around US\$33,000 each.

Those wishing to operate this type of car as a school bus will be able to purchase the cars through a five-year installment payment plan with a down payment of 30 per cent.

The TTAS guarantees that these Hiace vehicles meet the Department of Road Transport Administration's safety standards applicable to school buses.

The TTAS said it has already coordinated with the banks for the installment payment plan.—GNLM ■

Buildings in Yangon-Dala bridge project area to be cleared next month

WITH the Yangon-Dala Bridge Project to begin in early 2018, authorities are planning now to remove buildings within the project area this October, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

The total land area of the

bridge project includes school buildings, monasteries, shops and houses. Authorities have already provided suitable compensation for properties of those people in project area after making several negotiations.

Authorities have already

relocated schools and religious buildings included in the project area.

With a US\$31.34 million loan granted by the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), the bridge will be constructed across the Yangon River to link local roads

in downtown Yangon. The approximate cost for the project is about \$168.17 million.

The bridge will take five years to build and will be 6,144 ft in length. It is estimated that the new bridge will be finalised in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.—GNLM ■

Golden Triangle mountain bike invitational contest to be on 17 December

AN invitational mountain bike contest of Golden Triangle Region is due to take place in Tachilek, a town in eastern Shan State, on 17 December, according to a Saturday report of the

Myawaday Daily.

All interested individuals from Myanmar as well as enthusiasts from Laos and Thailand are invited to take part in the competition.

The tournament is being jointly organised by the Department of Physical Education under the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Tachilek Mountain Bike Group, a Tachil-

ek-based group which has about 70 members.

This is the first time for the Tachilek Mountain Bike Group to hold this type of sport event.—GNLM ■



Merchants appraise a jade stone at the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Jade cutting, carving businesses trying to survive in declining market

THE flow of jade into Mahar Aung Myay jade and gem market in Mandalay has been decreasing during this rainy season, and the number of Chinese buyers has also declined, making survival difficult for those engaged in jade carving busi-

nesses, according to a report in yesterday's Myawady Daily. Contributing to the cool jade market was low demand from China and recent confiscation of precious metals along Mandalay-Muse Road, said the jewellers. In addition, the rainy

season limits mining operation, forcing gem diggers to go back to their native towns, resulting in a labour shortage.

Only tourists from Hong Kong, China and Japan buy jade bracelets and statutes at jewellery markets. —GNLM ■

Four states and one region received no foreign investment in first half of this FY

KACHIN, Kayah, Chin and Rakhine states and Magway Region failed to attract any foreign investment in the first half of this fiscal year, according to a recent announcement of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Hard-to-reach places such as Kachin, Kayah and Chin states only have rare opportunities to attract foreign investments. Magway Region and Rakhine State have also found it difficult to attract investments.

More than US\$4 billion of foreign investments flowed into Myanmar in first half of the current fiscal year.

In the incumbent government's period, the MIC set three different zones in which entrepreneurs will enjoy the benefits of tax exemption and relaxation from three to seven years. The zones are divided into three categories, each with a different status. The places which are still weak in development

are identified as zone 1, places which are fairly developed as zone 2 and places which are developed as zone 3, according to an announcement of the MIC with the approval of the Union Government.

Investments in Zone 1 areas are granted tax holidays of seven consecutive years, whereas the investors in zone 2 can enjoy tax exemption for five straight years. Zone 3 will have a tax break of three consecutive years.

Zone 1 areas with the least development include 14 townships in Kachin State, seven townships in Kayah State, seven townships in Kayin State, nine townships in Chin State, 34 townships in Sagaing Region, four townships in Taninthayi Region, five townships in Bago Region, 13 townships in Magway Region, ten townships in Ayeyawady region, two townships in Mandalay Region,

two townships in Mon State, 17 townships in Rakhine State and 42 townships in Shan State.

The fair development areas for zone 2 are four townships in Kachin State, three townships in Sagaing Region, seven townships in Taninthayi Region, 23 townships in Bago Region, 12 townships in Magway Region, 13 townships in Mandalay Region, eight townships in Mon State, 13 townships in Yangon Region, 14 townships in Shan State, 17 townships in Ayeyawady Region and eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw. The developed areas for investment zone 3 are 14 townships in Mandalay Region and 32 townships in Yangon Region, according to MIC's announcement.

The areas of the zones can be fixed by MIC depending on the region and state development needs under the approval of the Union Government. —Ko Khant ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special"
အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ
ပေါင်သည့်

နေပြည်တော်
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နေပြည်တော်
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ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of
Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
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ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဓမ္မပျံလွှာကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

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စစ်တွေ
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မိမိကကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းမြင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
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မော်လမြိုင်
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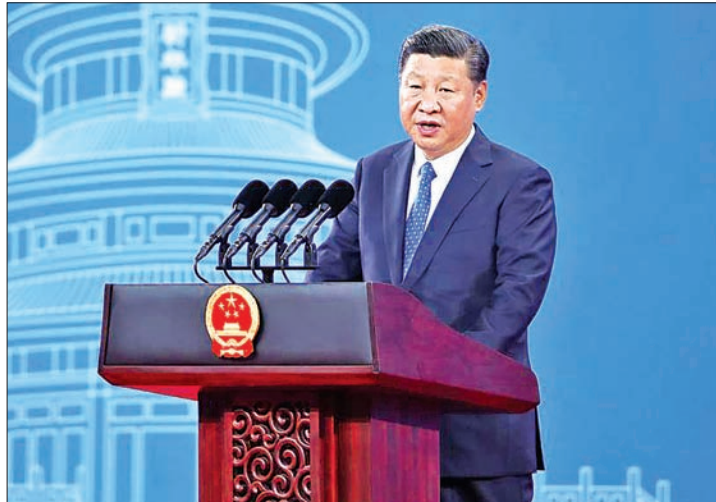
China's Xi says study capitalism, but Marxism remains top

BEIJING — Communist Party members should study contemporary capitalism but must never deviate from Marxism, Chinese President Xi Jinping said, offering a clear signal there will be no weakening of party control weeks ahead of a key Congress opening.

The party brooks no challenge to its rule, and Xi has overseen a sweeping crack-down on civil society since assuming power almost five years ago, tightening the party's grip over the internet, media and security infrastructure, and locking up rights lawyers and dissidents.

Speaking at a study session of the Politburo, one of the party's elite ruling bodies, Xi said that while times are changing and society is developing, the basic tenets of Marxism remain true, state news agency Xinhua said late Friday.

"If we deviate from or abandon Marxism, our party would lose its soul and direction," Xi said. "On the fundamental issue of upholding the guiding role of Marxism, we must maintain unswerving resolve, never wavering at any time or under any circumstances."



Chinese President Xi Jinping speaks during the 86th INTERPOL General Assembly at Beijing National Convention Centre on 26 September, 2017 in Beijing, China. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Xi said the party should better integrate the basic tenets of Marxism with the "reality of contemporary China and learn from the achievements of other civilizations to create and develop Marxism", Xinhua said.

"Xi also asked Party members to study contemporary capitalism, its essence and patterns," the report added, without elaborating.

China has transformed its economy since it began landmark reforms in the late 1970s, and is now the world's second-largest economy. Private firms are now supported and encouraged, but the state-

owned sector remains a major driver of growth and investment, though some industries like iron and steel are suffering from worryingly high levels of over-capacity.

Xi said the party must continuously develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, continuously enhance China's comprehensive national strength and fully demonstrate the advantages of China's socialist system.

Next month's party Congress, which opens on 18 October, will see Xi further cement his grip on power and usher in a new generation of senior leaders.—Reuters ■

Tokyo's Koike reaches deal with opposition party ahead of Japan poll

TOKYO — Popular Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, whose fledgling conservative party poses a growing challenge to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling bloc, agreed on Saturday to cooperate in next month's election with a small party based in western Japan.

The deal potentially broadens the geographic reach of Koike's new Party of Hope, formally launched just this week, ahead of the 22 October poll.

Abe called the election hoping to keep his conservative Liberal Democratic Party-led coalition's majority in parliament's lower house, where it had a two-thirds "super" majority before dissolution.

But Koike has upended the political landscape with her new party and some Japanese believe she could become the country's first female premier. Koike and Osaka Governor Ichiro Matsui, who heads the small conservative Japan Innovation Party, announced the deal to coordinate candidates in Tokyo and Osaka, western Japan, at a news conference with Hideaki Omura, governor of Aichi prefecture in central Japan and the head of a tiny local party.

"In a situation where 'Abenomics' is stalled, we must proceed with reform in each region," Koike told the joint news conference in Osaka, referring to Abe's economic policies.

"We have agreed to mutually cooperate in the coming election with those who share that aspiration," she added.

Koike's Party of Hope is already cannibalising the failed main opposition Democratic Party, which in a stunning move this week decided to have its lower house members leave the party and run on her ticket. The party, a mix of conservatives and liberals, had struggled with rock-bottom support and defections. Koike, a former LDP lawmaker and defence minister, has said she would only take in those who agree with her conservative stance on security policies, leaving liberals out in the cold. Abe, for his part, is warning that Koike's new party would cause bring "confusion, not hope" and stressing that the LDP-led coalition is the only reliable choice at a time of rising tensions over North Korea's missile and nuclear arms programmes.

"North Korea has twice launched missiles over Japan," he said in remarks carried by NHK public broadcaster. "We must join with international society to meet this threat."

Last year, Koike infuriated the LDP's Tokyo branch by running for governor without party approval. She defeated her LDP rival by a landslide and then led a novice local party to a historic win with the backing of Abe's junior coalition partner.—Kyodo News ■

Kim Jong Nam murder trial in Malaysia set to start on Monday

KUALA LUMPUR — The two women charged with the murder of Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, are expected to plead innocent when their trial begins Monday in Malaysia, a trial expected to probe whether the North Korean government ordered the execution.

Siti Aisyah, 25, and Doan Thi Huong, 29, women from Indonesia and Viet Nam respectively, are charged with having "common intention" with four North Koreans still at large to kill Kim Jong Nam in the departure hall of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport budget airline terminal on 13 February.

The two women face the death penalty if convicted of

murder.

Police said the women smeared the face of Kim Jong Nam, the eldest son of former North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, with highly lethal VX nerve agent, listed as a weapon of mass destruction by the United Nations and banned by the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention.

Malaysian police also sought Interpol's assistance in detaining four North Koreans who fled Malaysia just hours after the assassination. Those four men are among eight North Koreans whom police identified as having links to the murder.

Three North Koreans on that list sought refuge at the North Korean embassy in Kuala Lumpur after the murder. Malaysian

police eventually managed to question all three, and subsequently allowed them to return to North Korea.

In early March, the only North Korean formally detained by the Malaysian police was released and deported due to lack of evidence.

Malaysian police have claimed the women knew what they were doing, but their defense lawyers insist they are innocent victims duped into thinking they were participating in a prank for a television show. Both allegedly had no idea who Kim Jong Nam even was.

Judging from the coverage of pre-trial proceedings, hordes of local and international media are expected to descend on Shah

Alam, the sleepy capital of Selangor state, where the trial will be held in the Shah Alam High Court.

Kim Jong Nam's murder has been a gripping drama with its audacity and geo-political intrigue. The trial hopefully could shed light on some unanswered questions, like how two women from poor families in obscure villages became entangled in a high-profile murder that grabbed global headlines, and how they avoided being poisoned themselves. The murder dealt a blow to diplomatic relations between Malaysia and North Korea.

The once cozy relationship has soured, with Malaysia expelling the North Korean ambassador and ending a visa free

arrangement after Pyongyang accused Malaysia of smearing its reputation by insisting North Koreans were behind the murder.

On Thursday, Malaysia also banned its citizens from traveling to North Korea, citing security concerns as tension escalates on the Korean Peninsula over North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile development programs.

In an earlier pre-trial proceeding, Judge Azmi Ariffin fixed 23 days for the joint trial scheduled to conclude on 30 November.

Siti Aisyah is represented by five lawyers and Doan by two.

The North Korea embassy in Kuala Lumpur has also appointed a Malaysian lawyer to act as an observer.—Kyodo News ■

Half of Bali volcano evacuees told to return home as not in danger

SEMARAPURA, Indonesia — Local authorities on Indonesia's Bali said Friday that more than half of evacuees fleeing a possible eruption of the island's Mt Agung should return home, since they are not in harms' way and their evacuation poses a burden.

"They must be sent back to their villages, because they will become a burden — a burden for those who accommodate them, a burden for other evacuees who left their houses," Bali Governor I Made Mangku Pastika told a press conference.

He said that of 78 villages in Karangasem Regency in the eastern part of Bali that would mostly be affected by an eruption of Mt Agung, only 27 are situated within the danger zone.

"About 70,000 people from the 27 villages are unsafe because they will be potentially hit by hot clouds and lahar (a type of mudflow or debris flow) if Mt Agung erupts," he said.

Pastika stressed there is no reason for villagers living outside the danger zone, namely radius

ranging from 9 to 12 kilometres from the peak, to evacuate.

In the past couple days, however, the total number of evacuees has reached 144,389, as of noon Friday, as people living outside the danger zone, fearing of getting killed by the eruption, also evacuated.

The country's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation raised the status of Mt Agung to the highest eruption alert on 22 September following its increasing activities.

Pastika said a process of validation will take place for the next one week to determine which evacuees must be sent back to their villages and which ones can stay in temporary shelters.

Regarding the estimated 18,000 head of cattle that remain in the danger zone, the governor said he will speak with authorities in other provinces that usually import cows from Bali to seek a solution and provide land to accommodate them.

The cow is a sacred animal



Photo taken on 29 September, 2017, shows Mt Agung on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. Local authorities said more than half the evacuees living in the shadow of the volcano can return home due to the burden their relocation had putting on local resources. Kyodo News

for Hindu Balinese. After evacuation was advised, many villagers had to sell their cows at very cheap prices because they did not know how to otherwise care for them.

"I sold my three five-month-old cows at only between 2 million (about \$151) and 3 million rupiah," Wayan Mawa, 30, who lives in the village of Sebudi, about 6 km from the volcano's caldera, told Kyodo News from a sport stadium where he is sheltering.

"I bought them between 6.5 million and 10 million rupiah, but I had to sell it at very low prices," he added.

And although residents in unaffected areas provide land for accommodating cows of the evacuees, others prefer to leave their cows at their villages and chose to return to their houses at daytime to them, risking their lives.

In a related development, the volcanology agency said in its latest update on Mt Agung, that "recorded volcanic earthquakes still show high numbers," indicating "brittle failure inside the volcano caused by magma movement."

"Satellites have detected new steam emissions and ther-

mal areas within the summit crater; these areas have expanded during the past week and now include a new area of emissions in the centre of the crater," the agency said.

"White steam clouds are occasionally observed rising 50-200 meters above the summit, and currently, the emissions activity are observed to be more frequent," it added. The 3,142-metre volcano last erupted in 1964, killing about 200 people. Its 1963 eruption killed 1,549 people with an additional 200 later killed by the flow of cold lava caused by heavy rains.—Kyodo News ■

China makes targeted reserve requirement rate cut to boost lending to small firms

BEIJING — China's central bank on Saturday cut the amount of cash that some banks must hold as reserves for the first time since February 2016 in a bid to encourage more lending to struggling smaller firms and energize its lacklustre private sector.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said on its website that it would cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) for some banks that meet certain requirements for lending to small business and the agricultural sector.

The PBOC said the move was made to support the development of "inclusive" financial services and will be available to all medium and large-sized banks that meet requirements starting in 2018.

The reserve requirement

rate will be cut a further 50 bps — or 0.5 per cent — for banks whose loans to the targeted groups account for 1.5 per cent of their balance of outstanding newly added loans for the previous year.

The rate will be cut a further 100 bps for banks whose loans to the designated groups account for 10 per cent of all loans, the PBOC said.

China's cabinet had recently flagged a possible move, saying the government will take a number of measures, including tax exemptions and targeted reserve requirement ratio cuts to encourage banks to support small businesses.

The PBOC said the move was made to support lending of under 5 million yuan to small

firms, loans to individual proprietors and for agricultural production, and lending that supports innovation, the poor and education.

The move is in line with existing policy to encourage more targeted lending to more vulnerable sectors of the economy, even as the government tries to cut down on speculative investment in the financial sector and property and rein in a rapid buildup in overall corporate debt.

But in the last two years, the central bank has preferred using new policy tools such as short- and medium-term lending facilities for a similar purpose. Most economists polled by Reuters had not expected an RRR move before 2018.

The PBOC said in a state-

ment that the targeted RRR cut did not constitute a change to its prudent and neutral monetary policy. RRR is the amount of cash as a percentage of deposits that banks must park at the central bank as reserves. The current rate for major banks was set at 17.0 per cent after the last general RRR cut that took effect in March 2016. The central bank in February extended a preferential programme that allows financial institutions that support rural finance and small enterprises to apply for a lower required level of cash reserves.

But despite still-strong credit growth nationwide, many small businesses and farmers remain in desperate need of funds and do not have easy access to ample cheap credit that state-run

firms enjoy.

Also on Saturday, the central bank said it will maintain prudent and neutral monetary policy and use multiple monetary policy tools to keep liquidity basically stable. The statement, which came after the third quarter meeting of the PBOC's monetary policy committee, said China will continue with interest rate and exchange rate reform while keeping the yuan basically stable.

China's economy grew 6.9 per cent in the first half of the year, bolstered by a hot property market and a government infrastructure spending spree.

But business activity surveys have repeatedly shown large companies are reaping the benefits more than smaller ones.—Reuters ■

Nurturing Flower Buds Not to Wither

Khin Maung Oo

VERY recently, juvenile offences, events and actions of unhappiness were heard on media and social website pages. Juvenile cases and problems should be dealt with great care. Being naïve in intellect and knowledge, it will be the best way that they are well-trained to become well-behaved ones by their parents, teachers, guardians and seniors.

These days, disappointing news concerning with children are being talked about here and there. A case was filed against 3 children who happened to take K 300 from the donation cash-box. One of the two children whose parents absconded from home without paying debts

was killed in the event of torture by the creditor. And, children in their early school age were also punished so that they may be mentally harmed. Above all, the worst thing is that innocent children were killed without any reasons.

Some of the said children affairs were effectively solved by authorities concerned. Yet, due to lack of legal knowledge on rights and future of children, as for their parents and guardians, cases of negligence of children and violations over the minors are being still heard.

Weakness of authorities concerned in dealing with the very recent case of three children who happened to have taken K 300 from the donation cash-box led to a furore among the public, as if taking out

a pierced thorn by using an ax instead of a needle. An event of taking a legal action against a very small minor case done by children below mature age, made the public burst out their anger, staging a demonstration.

As a matter of fact, we have had juvenile codes in the country. If needed, their offences are to be dealt with according to the prescription of juvenile codes. Under section 2/A of the juvenile code 1993, those under 16 are defined as children, while in section 2/B those under 18 above 16 defined to be youths. Being under 16 years of age, the above-said 3 children must be dealt with according to juvenile rights and codes.

Children must be said to be the great-

est investment of a country. Children must be corrected if they are found to have gone astray or mentally dissolute, if ever. If they are well cultivated since younger age, they will surely become trustworthy and reliable for their families, societies and country.

If they are wrongly cultivated under fear and inferiority complex, they will wither. Any good results cannot turn out from them when they have grown up, as if buds are picked up or males are castrated. Then it will become a great worry for the country in future.

Accordingly, parents, guardians, teachers and authorities concerned should prioritize protection, nurture and development of children. ■

Fake News are Rampant

Khin Maung Myint

AT a time, even when the heads of states, such as the presidents, the prime ministers, and the responsible government officials around the world have no scruples, whatsoever, about faking news themselves or directing their staffs to do so, it's no wonder the fake news are becoming rampant. In certain countries, fabricating or faking of news have become a lucrative business.

The fake news are everywhere. They can be seen in the business competition, in the political lobbying, in diplomatic wrangling, as military strategy, in the arms race, even in the election campaigns and in various other uses as many as you can imagine. Though they may vary in nature, their main objectives are the same—to achieve their own gains by deceptions—which are unethical. The fake news had even become the key player in deciding who is elected and who is not, in major election, even in a certain very developed country.

Our country too is being severely attacked with the fake news and the false propagandas. It wouldn't be far from the truth if I say that our country is the hardest hit victim of fake news and false accusations lately. The fake news managed to convince gullible and naïve people around the world, including the most responsible persons of certain authoritative world organizations and countries. They are accusing our country of committing genocides, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, without any concrete proof.

Their accusations are completely contrary to the real situations that are actually happening on ground. In reality it was the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, or the (ARSA) terrorists and their handlers from abroad, who are the ones committing the arsons and massacring. They are killing even their own kind, who they suspect of collaborating with the authorities.

I had been aware that the spreading of the false and faked news were in vogue and were gathering momentum since after the incidents that took place in 2012 in Northern Rakhine. The social media provided them a very convenient tool to spread false and fabricated informations about the plights of the so-called Rohingyas. The Internet websites, such as the #Rohingya, the #Arakan and the #Rakhine are flooded with misinformations and faked photos posted by people around the world who blindly support the ARSA, without knowing the truths or are intentionally ignoring them. Some very well known international media groups are also lending them a hand in promulgating fake news in the print, as well as on the broadcast media.

The term Rohingya emerged around the late 1960s. However, it was not widespread as now and not many people outside of the Rakhine State had ever heard of that name before. Even in Rakhine, only a handful of people knew about their presence in those days. The self-identified term was linked to an underground movement group called the "Rohingya Muslim Independence Revolutionary

Front (RMIRF)", which was uncovered, apprehended and jailed, but that news wasn't publicized much in those days. However, the extensive propagandas after the 2012 incident made that name to become world-renown. The propagandas were done through the spreading of false and faked news on the social media and also with the help of some well established international media.

They claimed that as their ancestors had dwelt in the Rakhine State since many centuries ago and thus they are an ethnic national race of Burma. That was a false claim and didn't have any historical record to support it. In reality the people who migrated from the East Bengal of India many centuries ago were never known or recorded as that term, but only as Bengali. When that tactics failed, they claimed they are discriminated, harassed and persecuted and accused that they are being unfairly denied citizenships. All of their accusations are false. They are in fact present day illegal migrants, who are not entitled to be granted citizenships, let alone to be recognized as an

Fabricating or faking of news a lucrative business.

ethnic race. The genuine descendants of those who were granted citizenships since the British annexation of Rakhine in 1824 were entitled and were being recognized as citizens, down many generations until today. After the latest clashes, in which the ARSA terrorists were the real perpetrators who committed the atrocities of massacring, arsons and laying of the anti-personnel mines, some leaders including the UN chief, UN human rights chief, the Bangladeshi Prime Minister, and some leaders from the West falsely accused our country, using harshest terms, such as genocides, atrocities and crimes against humanity, which are totally unfounded. I'm sure their accusations were based on the fake news from the well known

international media that are one-sidedly advocating for the ARSA terrorists.

The latest reports of the number of people who were supposed to have fled to Bangladesh, too were also very doubtful. In my opinion they were being inflated intentionally. Though all military operations had ceased as of 5 September, they claimed that refugees continued to flood into their country. That couldn't be true.

One day the report said about 270,000 refugees had arrived there, but the next day the number shot up to over 400,000. That meant over 130,000 people arrived there in the next 24 hours. I am very familiar with that place where the fleeing people made the river-crossing and had some experience repatriating illegal migrants across that river in 1969. Judging from the photos and video clips in which only a few people were seen crossing the river

and based on my own experience, I know for sure that over a hundred thousand people, including elderlies, disabled, children and pregnant women couldn't have made it within a matter of 24 hours. That was abso-

lutely impossible.

These fake news are being intentionally spread for various reasons, but the main reason is to discredit our country and at the same time rally the support of the UN to pressure us into receiving back those who fled there. In the mid 1970s, our country was bullied to take back double the number of what were actually expelled or fled from our country.

I can go on writing about the fake news endlessly, but I think I had made my point that they had done much damage to our country. Because of them we are being condemned, criticized, ridiculed and pressured, or to put it bluntly, we are unfairly being bullied.

SEE PAGE 9

Books donation to Information and Public Relations Department libraries

A ceremony to donate a hundred book titled *Ithtiya Mahn* (female’s might) and other short stories written by author Khaing Yin Mon (arts and science) to Ministry of Information, Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) libraries was held yesterday morning in IPRD training hall.

First, the donor and author Khaing Yin Mon (arts and science) explained about the reason for donation and IPRD Director General U Maung Pe gave words of thanks. Author Khaing Yin Mon (arts and science) then donated to the director general 100 Ithiya Mahn and other short stories books, each book worth Ks. 3,000 and the director general in return presented a certificate of honor.

Author Khaing Yin Mon (arts and science) then donated Ks 100,000 to Myanmar Libraries Foundation. – Myanmar News Agency ■

Children in remote Kachin State to receive Japanese encephalitis vaccine

ABOUT 330,000 children under the age of fifteen years residing in far-flung Kachin State will receive the Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccine through the government’s immunisation programme beginning in mid-November, according to the Myawady Daily.

The head of the Public Health Department (Kachin State) said preparations are being made prior to the Japanese encephalitis vaccination programme, which is planned to be carried out in November and December on a national scale.

According to the World Health Organization, the Japanese encephalitis virus, a leading cause of viral encephalitis in Asia, is spread by mosquitoes. The virus is primarily transmitted by the *Culex* species of mosquitoes. The first case of JE was recorded in Japan in 1871.

The symptoms of the deadly virus include fever, headaches and disorientation. Survivors may suffer permanent mental or neurological problems.

Training has been given by the health department to its staff in each township to successfully implement the vaccination plan.

According to the schedule, the school-based Japanese encephalitis vaccination programme will start on 15 November and will continue until 23 November, whereas the community-based immunisation programme will be from 11-20 December.—GNLM ■

POEM

A Work of Art

In S.T. Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*:
After the Ancient Mariner had shot the albatross with a bolt,
The shipmates blamed him for his wanton, merciless act;
But they changed their views later
as the weather changed to a pleasant calmness,
and they praised him again!

The world- renown university took pride in our leader;
And proudly hung her portrait in the hall with honour;
But without getting to the root of the truth,
How the harsh realities are going on here!
Misconceived as if this Lady, who values justice and humanism
More than any one on earth, were doing horrors
to the disgrace of the university;
Their whims took her portrait off the wall.
This put me in mind
of those shipmates’ whimsical reactions
that changed with the weather changes.

But the University should be well convinced
That the Lady, the essence of Buddhism being deeply inculcated,
Remains calm, unmoved by showers of praise or scathing criticism.

A work of art is an artwork, cherished in our hearts forever,
whether it is hung on the wall or off from the wall.

Zaw Tun

Fake News are Rampant

FROM PAGE 8

I had never thought that the world community could be so gullible to believe the groundless faked news. If this trend should continue it would be very difficult to believe any individual, organization, country or the international media in the future. ■

(Khin Maung Myint (U) served as the secretary of the Sittway District Security and Administrative Committee in Sittway, from 1968 to early 1970).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to Mr. Roger Hearing, BBC Journalist

15 September 2017

Roger! Roger! Hello!
Are you listening?
If you are listening, you must be Hearing!

Sorry, you must be Mr. Roger Hearing, BBC journalist.

Do you remember me? We met long time ago, way back in 1993. I am Maung Maung Aye of the New Light of Myanmar daily. At that time I was an editor. During your ten-day trip to Myanmar I was liaison officer as well as your part-time porter.

I hope you will not forget your visits to Bagan, Mandalay and Pyin-Oo-Lwim, the scenic hill station. There in Pyin-Oo-Lwin, you, in spite of my warning, drank sugarcane juice. We got back to Yangon and the following day on an Air Force plane bound for Lashio you felt sick. At that time you were thirst for a cup of hot green tea. But it was served only when the plane was airborne. Do you remember what you said to the sergeant after he had served you with the green tea? You said, ‘You save my life.’

We went to the town of Lashio in Shan State to cover the narcotic rugs destruction. Senior Myanmar officials and foreign diplomats flew to the destruction site in helicopters. Since you came alone, I had to carry your tripod and shoot your news coverage for some time.

Your schedule included a trip to Maungdaw district in Rakhine State. From Yangon we flew to Sittwe and then heli-

icoptered to Maungdaw. You saw how the local people led their lives. I don’t know how you viewed the situation then and there. What I would like to point out is the problem of the so-called ethnic minority of Bengalis did exist then. In fact, it originated decades before. Why?

Bangladesh, formerly, East Pakistan, shares borders with India in the west and Myanmar in the east. As you know its border with India is heavily guarded. In the north stands the Himalayas with little space for human settlement and in the south the vast water body of the Bay of Bengal.

The size of Bangladesh is about one-fourth of Myanmar whereas its population (2016 estimates) stood over 163 million compared with the population of the latter over 51 million (2014 estimates). Due to rapid increase in its population Bangladesh has no solution to the problem except Myanmar’s porous border. Myanmar’s border section some 40 miles long is yet to be fenced. The Naf River between the two countries is narrow enough for every able-bodied person to swim across to Myanmar and back to Bangladesh.

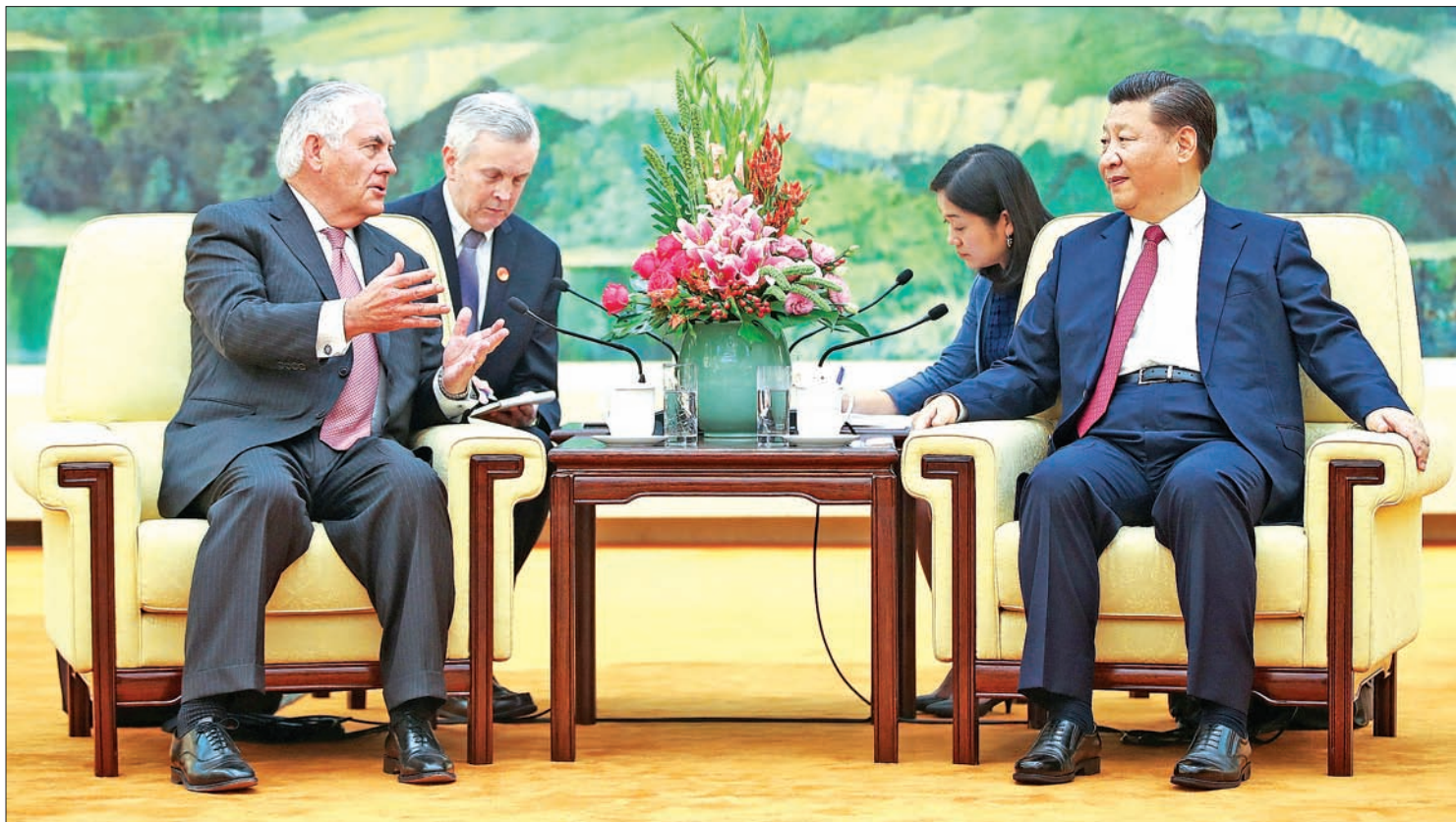
On Myanmar side have lived mostly Rakhine people or Arakanese. As far as I know they are devout Buddhists. They would not like to take the lives of even creatures, leave alone human lives. You may describe them the majority if you meant in the distant past. Today, their number is very much reduced to just a small minority with little chance to earn their living. As a result they have been displaced by the new arrivals who have entirely different family planning.

This is only food for thought to have the perspective of the problem. These days, however, the world media and even some Nobel laureates see things differently. You had been there and seen yourself, at least at a glance. If you were Daw Aung San Suu Kyi what would you say or do?

Please say something about the issue so that I can see which side you are on. ■

Yours truly,
Maung Maung Aye
(The New Light of Myanmar)

President Xi meets US secretary of state



US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (L) meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) at the Great Hall of the People on 30 September, 2017 in Beijing, China. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping met with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Saturday, discussing US President Donald Trump's state visit to China later this year.

"Currently the most important event in our bilateral relations is President Trump's China visit in November," Xi said. "His visit will be a major opportunity for the develop-

ment of China-US relations."

Xi said China-US ties had been generally stable, and that he had maintained sound communication with President Trump.

Chinese and US teams should implement consensus reached by the two heads of state, grasp the direction of bilateral relationship, respect each other, and focus on co-operation while dealing with

differences properly, Xi said.

"China attaches great importance to President Trump's visit, and I look forward to working with him to outline and advance our bilateral relations in the years to come," Xi said.

He said the teams on both sides should work closely to make the visit "successful and special."

Tillerson conveyed Trump's greetings to Xi, saying

the US president looks forward to his visit to China.

Hailing the progress in US-China relations under the auspices of the two presidents, Tillerson said the United States values its relations with China and hopes to increase mutual trust and practical cooperation in various areas as well as to jointly tackle international and regional challenges. —Xinhua ■

Moscow denies Ukraine's accusation that it left troops in Belarus

MOSCOW — Russian troops that took part in war games in neighbouring Belarus have returned to their bases, a Russian general said on Saturday.

"As for units of Russian forces that took part in a mutual strategic military exercises 'Zapad 2017', they all returned to their permanent disposition," TASS news agency quoted Major-General Igor

Konashenkov as saying. "Zapad" is the Russian word for "west".

Konashenkov spoke after Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief Viktor Muzhenko said Russia had left troops behind after staging the war games despite promising not to.

Relations between Kiev and Moscow nosedived after Russia annexed the Crimean

peninsula in 2014 and supported the outbreak of a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine that has killed more than 10,000 people.

Muzhenko told Reuters that Russia had withdrawn only a few units from Belarus and had lied about how many of its soldiers were there in the first place.

Konashenkov said Mu-

zhenko's remarks on Russian troops in Belarus were a fantasy. He said the comments were "a reason for an immediate resignation for such an executive officer," referring to Muzhenko. A Belarusian defence ministry spokesman said the last train of Russian troops and equipment had left Belarus on Thursday, 28 September. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia says ready to work with North Korea to resolve missile crisis

MOSCOW — Moscow is prepared to work with Pyongyang to try to find a peaceful resolution to the North Korean missile crisis, the Russian Foreign ministry said on Friday.

The comments came in a statement issued by the ministry after a meeting between Russian ambassador-at-large Oleg Burmistrov and Choe Son-hui, director-general of the North Korean department of North Korea's foreign ministry. Choe also met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov, the ministry said. "The Russian side confirmed its readiness to combine efforts in the interests of finding ways to solve the problems in the region by peaceful, political and diplomatic means," it said. —Reuters ■

Iranian, Iraqi government forces to hold joint border drills — Iran TV

DUBAI — Iranian and Iraqi central government forces are to hold joint military exercises near their borders, Iran's state television reported on Saturday, as part of Tehran's effort to support Baghdad after the Kurdish independence referendum.

State television quoted a military spokesman as saying the decision to hold the war games was taken at a meeting of Iranian military commanders which also "agreed on measures to establish border security and receive Iraqi forces that are to be stationed at border posts". —Reuters ■

Quake of magnitude 5.5 strikes in China's Sichuan province — USGS

BEIJING — An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.5 struck 78 kilometres (48 miles) west of the Chinese city of Guanyang in Sichuan province, the United States Geological Survey said.

The depth of the tremor was 10 km (6 miles), USGS said.

There were no immediate reports of damage, though people close to the epicentre said on Chinese social media that they felt shaking. —Reuters ■

Israelis prepare for Jewish day of Atonement



An ultra-Orthodox Jewish man bakes a Hallah (Jewish Bread) in preparation for Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement and the holiest day of the Jewish calendar in Rechovot, Israel, on 28 September, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

JERUSALEM — Israelis were getting ready for the holiest day in the Jewish calendar on Friday, when an entire nation comes to halt for Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement.

Jews traditionally fast on this day and hold intense services in synagogues through most of the day, asking for God's forgiveness. Yom Kippur begins on Friday at dusk and ends on Saturday at sunset.

Memorial prayers for the deceased, said four times a year, are recited on Yom Kippur. On

Saturday, at nightfall, the shofar (horn) is sounded once to mark the end of Yom Kippur.

During the two-day holiday, the entire country virtually comes to standstill. Restaurants, cafes, cinemas, and other businesses and public institutions, are all shut down. There will be no radio or television broadcasts. People completely refrain from using vehicles, except for medical emergencies.

Many people, predominantly seculars, go out on the streets with bicycles or by foot to stroll

in the empty high streets. The beaches of Tel Aviv are typically full on this day.

On Thursday, Israel's military announced a two-day closure to be imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip starting on Thursday at midnight.

Exit and entries to the Palestinian territories will be allowed on in humanitarian cases, the military said in a statement.

Israel put closure on the occupied territories during most of the Jewish holidays, charging that Palestinian militants might

use the holiday to carry out an attack.

This year, Yom Kippur marks 44 years to the 1973 Arab-Israel War, dubbed by Israelis as the Yom Kippur War since the surprise attack by Egyptian and Syrian armies started on this day.

The war is remembered in the Israeli collective memory as a traumatic event since it claimed the lives of many soldiers due to Israel's lack of preparedness to the attack. — Xinhua ■

Drone strikes kill 15 IS militants in eastern Afghanistan

JALALABAD (Afghanistan) — At least 15 militants loyal to the Islamic State (IS) group were killed and their hideout was completely destroyed in drone attacks in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar on Friday night, a local official said on Saturday.

"An unmanned plane of NATO-led troops targeted IS militants' hideout in Nazian district of Nangarhar province on Friday night, leaving 15 rebels dead," Attaullah Khogiani, the provincial governor's spokesman told Xinhua on Saturday.

The NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) troops, stationed in Afghanistan, usually conduct drone strikes against militants in the conflict-battered country.

Militants loyal to the IS that are active in parts of Nangarhar province have yet to make comment. — Xinhua ■

Congo military plane crashes in Kinshasa, no survivors — airport director

KINSHASA — A military cargo plane crashed in Democratic Republic of Congo's capital Kinshasa on Saturday, killing the crew, the director of the city's main airport said.

It was unclear how many crew members were on board. Government and military officials could not immediately be reached for comment. "There was a crash of a cargo plane. It's a military plane," George Tabora, the director of Kinshasa's N'djili Airport, said. "It wasn't transporting passengers. The crew did not survive the crash."

An agent at Congo's aviation agency, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the plane was an Antonov 12 destined for the eastern city of Bukavu. It failed to take off properly from N'djili and crashed into the surrounding neighbourhood of Nsele, he added. It was not immediately clear if anyone was killed or injured on the ground. — Reuters ■

Afghan Shi'ites fear further attacks on Ashura celebrations

KABUL — The Afghan capital Kabul braced on Saturday for further possible attacks ahead of Ashura, the holiest day on the Shi'ite Muslim calendar, a day after an attack claimed by Islamic State that killed at least five people near a large Shi'ite mosque.

Ahead of the celebration on Sunday, signs of increased security were in evidence across Kabul, with extra police checkpoints and roadblocks in many areas, while security was also increased in other cities.

Afghanistan, a majority Sunni Muslim country, has traditionally not suffered the sectarian violence that has devastated countries like Iraq, but a series of attacks over recent years have targeted the Shi'ite community.

"We are concerned about this. We had internal fighting in the past but never religious fighting," said Arif Rahmani, a member of parliament and a member of the mainly Shi'ite Hazara community that has been particularly targeted.

The government has provided some basic training and weapons for a few hundred volunteer guards near mosques and other meeting places but many fear that the protection, which covers only some of the city's more than 400 Shi'ite mosques, is insufficient.

In 2011, more than 80 people were killed in Ashura attacks in Kabul and the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and there have been a string of others since, with 20 people killed in a suicide

attack on a mosque in Kabul a month ago.

Friday's attack, by suicide bombers posing as shepherds walking their sheep along a road outside the Hussainya mosque in the Qala-e-Fatehullah area of the city, did not reach the mosque itself but wounded 20 people in addition to the five killed.

No up-to-date census data exists for Afghanistan but different estimates put the size of the Shi'ite community at between 10-20 per cent of the population, mostly Persian-speaking Tajiks and Hazaras.

Ashura, on the 10th day of the month of Muharram, celebrates the martyrdom of Hussein, one of the grandsons of the Prophet Mohammad, and is marked by large public com-

memorations by Shi'ite Muslims.

President Ashraf Ghani condemned Friday's attack and said it would not break the unity between religions in Afghanistan. But at a time when rivalry between the patchwork of different ethnic groups in the country has increasingly come into the open, Rahmani said the evident objective of the attacks was to ratchet up the tensions to create instability.

"In the past, there were warnings that there were groups that wanted to stir ethnic and religious conflict among Afghans but now it is reality," Rahmani said.

"There are people who want to create disunity among ethnic and religious groups," he said. — Reuters ■



The issue of transferring production technology for the S-400 systems to Turkey was not discussed. PHOTO: TASS

Turkey makes down payment on S-400 systems — Russian presidential aide

TULA — The contract on supplying Russian S-400 missile systems to Turkey is being fulfilled and Ankara has already made the advance payment, Russian presidential aide for military and technical cooperation Vladimir Kozhin said on Friday.

"The contract has entered into force, the advance payment has been made, I cannot say about the timeframe now," Kozhin said.

The issue of giving to Turkey production technologies for S-400 systems has not been discussed;

the parties have agreed only supplies of produced systems, he added. "We are not speaking about it, as yet we speak only about supplies of ready weapons, technologies — no," he said.

On 12 September, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that Ankara had signed an agreement with Moscow to purchase S-400 missile systems and had already made an advance payment. Kozhin told TASS such a contract had been signed and was about to be implemented. Turkish Undersecretary for Defence Industry Ismail

Demir said the delivery of S-400 systems would begin within two years.

Russia's S-400 Triumf (NATO reporting name: SA-21 Growler) is the latest long-range anti-aircraft missile system that went into service in 2007. It is designed to destroy aircraft, cruise and ballistic missiles, including medium-range missiles, and surface targets. The S-400 can engage targets at a distance of 400 kilometres and at an altitude of up to 30 kilometres.—Tass ■

Britain's Johnson wants maximum two-year Brexit transition

LONDON — British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson said a transition period from the European Union after Britain's exit from the bloc in March 2019 must not last more than two years.

In an interview with The Sun newspaper ahead of the ruling Conservative Party's annual conference next week, Johnson also said the transition period should be under existing arrangements and ruled out paying for future access to the EU single market.

"Am I impatient about it, do I want to get it done as fast as possible? Yes, absolutely. Do I want the delay to go on longer than two years? Not a second more," Johnson was quoted as saying in the tabloid newspaper.

He also said speculation about his leadership intentions had been "massively" overdone.

Earlier this month, some of Johnson's cabinet colleagues said he was "backseat driving" on Brexit after setting out his vision of the UK's future outside of the EU days before a key speech by Prime Minister Theresa May.

In the speech in Florence on 22 September May outlined a transition period of around two years of trading on the same terms, but no payments for single market access.



Boris Johnson, Britain's Foreign Secretary, arrives for a cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street in London on 21 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The crucial thing I want to get over to Sun readers about Brexit is that it is going to be great and we need to believe in ourselves and believe we can do it. It is unstoppable," Johnson said.

However, in an interview with The Times newspaper, Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said that "over-optimism" about Britain's future outside the EU "sells people short" and called for "serious people" to take charge of Brexit.

At the Conservative party conference in Manchester, May will set out plans to build "a road to a better future" for Britain, hoping to head off a rebellion over her handling of Brexit and the June election.—Reuters ■

Spanish police occupy Catalan tech hub before banned vote

MADRID — Spanish police have occupied the Catalan government's communications hub on the eve of a banned independence referendum which Madrid is attempting to thwart, the regional authority said on Saturday.

Tens of thousands of Catalans are expected to vote in a ballot that will have no legal status as it has been blocked by Spain's Constitutional Court and Madrid has sent thousands of police to the northeastern region to stop it taking place.

But Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont told Reuters on Friday that the referendum would go ahead regardless.

"Everything is prepared at

the more than 2,000 voting points so they have ballot boxes and voting slips, and have everything people need to express their opinion," Puigdemont said.

On Saturday a Catalan government spokesman said at least four police officers had entered the center in Barcelona which controls the regional government's telecommunications and IT and were expected to stay there for two days.

This followed an order by Catalonia's High Court on Friday for police to prevent electronic voting taking place. The court also instructed Google to delete an application it said was being used to spread information on

the vote.

Police and Spain's interior ministry did not confirm the action. The head of the Catalan regional police has ordered officers to evacuate and close polling stations by 6 am. on Sunday, before the voting is due to open at 9 am.

At a closing rally for the independence campaign in Barcelona on Friday, people formed the slogan "Referendum is democracy" in large white letters on a stage in front of a cheering crowd, many draped in the red-and-yellow Catalan flag.

Other Catalans camped out in polling stations in order to defy court orders to close them. —Reuters ■

German police arrest suspect over alleged supermarket extortion attempts

BERLIN — German police said on Saturday they had arrested a suspect in the case of an alleged extortionist who attempted to force supermarkets into coughing up tens of millions of euros by slipping a potentially lethal poison into baby food.

Police in the south-western lakeside city of Konstanz said they would ask a judge to approve an extension of custody for the 55-year-old German man arrested by police special forces late on Friday, after concluding he was a prime suspect.

"The suspicions have solidified," they said in a statement.

In mid-September, a suspect was recorded on security

cameras placing quantities of poison in products for sale in some southern German supermarkets. He told the police via email that he done so, and threatened to do it nationwide and elsewhere in Europe unless given money.

Police said they had found some baby food spiked with ethylene glycol, a colourless, odourless liquid used in the manufacture of antifreeze, which can be deadly if consumed.

Police added that, despite the arrest, the public should remain vigilant for signs of tampering when buying food.—Reuters ■

EU declines to rank rival bids for agencies leaving Britain over Brexit

BRUSSELS — The European Commission has shied away from ranking which cities should host Europe's drugs regulator and banking authority after Brexit, saying the decision is up to the 27 member states which will remain.

The EU executive said its assessment, published on Saturday, was wholly based on the information provided by governments in their bidding war to host the two agencies, which will be forced to relocate from Britain when it leaves the bloc.

"It (the assessment) respects the member states' decision that the criteria should be unweighted and does not provide a ranking or shortlist of any kind," the Commission said in a statement.

Nineteen member states have bid to host the European Medical Agency (EMA) and eight want the European Banking Authority (EBA).

The final say on where to move the agencies rests with EU leaders who will try to reach a deal at their next summit in three weeks' time, with a final decisions a month later. —Reuters ■



Photo taken on 30 September, 2017, shows two Osprey aircraft at a commercial airport on the Okinawa Prefecture island of Ishigaki. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

US military begins inspecting 2 Ospreys after emergency landing

NAHA, (Japan) — The US military on Saturday began inspecting two Osprey aircraft at a commercial airport in Okinawa after one was forced into an emergency landing the previous day.

The incident came on the heels of other emergency landings and crashes involving the tilt-rotor aircraft in Japan and over-

seas. Osprey aircraft have caused concerns, particularly among residents of Japan's southern island prefecture, since their deployment in 2012 at a US base there.

The emergency touchdown at Ishigaki airport Friday afternoon was followed hours later by reports that another Osprey crashed while taking part

in an operation against Islamic State in Syria, leaving two US service members injured. The US military described the incident as a hard landing.

The two Ospreys, based at US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, landed at the airport on the island of Ishigaki around 5 pm Friday after one of them saw

abnormal notifications on an instrument panel while en route to the Philippines for an exercise, according to Japanese government officials.

Officials of the fire department in Ishigaki which responded to the incident said the aircraft was leaking oil near its right engine.

There was no sign of

the other Osprey experiencing any trouble, the government officials said.

An Osprey made an emergency landing on 29 August at a commercial airport in Oita Prefecture, southwestern Japan, due to engine trouble and was grounded there for more than a week while it underwent repair. —Kyodo News ■

International tea forum, selenium products expo close

BEIJING — The 2017 International Tea Forum and the Fourth Selenium Products Expo closed on Friday in the Enshi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, central China's

Hubei Province. Opened on Tuesday, the events have attracted over 200 tea enterprises, 400 companies of selenium industry and nearly 2,000 guests from over 38 countries and re-

gions. A series of special activities were held during the events, including the Tea Masters Cup International competition, Global Tea CEO Forum and a summit to mark the 200th

anniversary of the discovery of selenium.

The events have yielded abundant fruits as 30 deals and agreements in trade and investment were inked, involving a total

trade volume of 40 million US dollars and investments exceeding 10 billion yuan.

As the World Capital of Selenium, Enshi is to hold the 5th Selenium Products Expo in 2018. —Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SHAMIM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAMIM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Replicant or human? 'Blade Runner 2049' reignites existential debate

LOS ANGELES — Was Harrison Ford's Officer Rick Deckard a human or a Replicant robot in 1982's "Blade Runner"?

That is the question that fans of Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller have been pondering for 35 years and now in a long-awaited sequel, that question is explored further.

Out in theaters 6 October, "Blade Runner 2049" takes place 30 years after the original film, when human-like robots called Replicants were hunted by police officers called 'blade runners' in a dystopian Los Angeles.

In the new film from Time Warner Inc's Warner Bros, LAPD Officer K (Ryan Gosling) hunts illegal Replicants hiding on a decaying Earth and he stumbles across something that can disrupt the current strained co-existence between humans and Replicants. He is tasked with finding Deckard (Ford) for answers.

"It's an existential story," director Denis Villeneuve told Reuters.

"It says a lot about reality. It says a lot about our relationship with broken dreams. It says things about as human beings we are programmed by our genetic background and our education, and that we are like trapped by that background and it's very difficult for us to get free out of it," he added.

Before journalists including Reuters saw "Blade Runner 2049" at advance press screenings, they were read a note from Villeneuve urging



Director of the movie Denis Villeneuve (2ndL) and cast members Ryan Gosling (L), Ana de Armas (2ndR) and Harrison Ford (R) attend a photocall for the film "Blade Runner 2049" in Paris, France on 20 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

not give away any key plot points.

What is known is that an older, rugged Ford reprises his role as Officer Deckard. The veteran actor called the film an "experiential opportunity" for audiences to engage in the philosophical rhetoric.

"There's a wonderful emotional context in the film, which is one of the things I most admire about it," Ford said. "So much of what I had

an ambition for seems to have been achieved."

Scott's "Blade Runner" envisioned Los Angeles in 2019 as a sprawling urban metropolis infused with Eastern and Western cultures. In "Blade Runner 2049," Los Angeles has sprawled across much of California, and is built on top of Scott's world, the gritty city a melting pot of English, Japanese and Russian influences.

Villeneuve said he made

"Blade Runner 2049" as a standalone movie but given the new film's higher stakes and bigger scope, a continuing franchise is not out of the question.

"The idea was to make a movie inspired by the universe of 'Blade Runner' with a very specific story and yes, I'm positive that if (it) ever is welcomed, Ridley will come up with another idea," the director said.—Reuters ■

Is 16th-century charcoal sketch a naked Mona Lisa?

PARIS — A French art expert believes a charcoal drawing kept in a collection for more than 150 years may be a preparatory sketch made by Leonardo da Vinci of the Mona Lisa.

The black-and-white drawing of a woman, nude from the waist up, known as the Monna Vanna, was previously attributed to Leonardo's studio, suggesting it was done in his style by a pupil or follower, not by the master himself. But after preliminary tests at the Louvre Museum, experts believe the sketch may well have been drawn by Leonardo. Among the signs, according to curator Mathieu Deldicque, are the fact the drawing was made during the same period as the Mona Lisa, the paper is from the same region of Italy, and the technique is very similar to that of the Mona Lisa.

"We know the drawing was made during the lifetime of Leonardo da Vinci, we know that the paper was made in Italy, between Venice and Florence, and the third discovery is the high quality of this drawing in the face of the Monna Vanna and in her arms," Deldicque told reporters.

"That's very interesting because the arms are the same as the Mona Lisa's." Leonardo, who lived from 1452 to 1519, was an engineer, scientist, inventor and sculptor, as well as one of the finest artists of the Italian Renaissance. He painted the Mona Lisa, also known as La Gioconda and regarded as the world's most valuable artwork, at the beginning of the 16th century. It is believed to depict Lisa Gherardini, the wife of a successful merchant.—Reuters ■

OJ Simpson set for imminent release from Nevada prison

LOS ANGELES — Onetime "Trial of the Century" defendant OJ Simpson could be freed as early as Sunday from prison in Nevada, where he has been held since 2008 for a botched robbery, but the time and place of his release remain secret, his plans largely unknown.

Simpson, 70, won his freedom from a Nevada parole board in July after nine years behind bars, at a hearing that did not take into account his 1990s trial for the murder of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and a friend, Ron

Goldman. The onetime football star turned actor and TV pitchman nicknamed "The Juice" during his playing career was found not guilty in 1995 following that sensational, 13-month trial in Los Angeles, which was televised live daily, transfixing much of the nation. A civil court jury subsequently found him liable for the deaths and ordered him to pay \$33.5 million in damages to the victims' families, a judgment that remains largely unpaid.

The Nevada Department of Corrections, seeking to avoid the

kind of media frenzy that often accompanies Simpson, has declined to say exactly when and where he would be released.

A department spokeswoman warned media not to try to chase his vehicle from the prison gates, saying officials could postpone the release for weeks if necessary to avoid "risk to the community" from such a frenzy.

Also unclear is the former star athlete's ultimate destination. He told parole board members he hopes to move to Florida, where he has friends and family,

a plan that must be approved by probation authorities there.

During the parole hearing, Simpson joked that he was willing to stay in Nevada, but "I'm sure you don't want me here."

His Las Vegas-based attorney, Malcom LaVergne, reiterated the Florida plans during an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America" program on Friday, adding that his client was looking forward to spending time with family members, eating steak and seafood and buying an iPhone.

LaVergne could not be

reached for comment by Reuters.

Florida corrections officials say they had not received a parole transfer request for Simpson and had not been contacted by their counterparts in Nevada.

Simpson is a native of California, born in San Francisco, and played his final years as a pro football player for that city's team, the 49ers. He lived in Los Angeles at the time of the murders.

But California corrections officials say he has not filed papers to live in that state either.—Reuters ■

Artist Jin-Woo Park's creations showcased at Yangon Gallery



Korean artist Jin-Woo Park's 52nd solo show exhibition opened on 30 September. **PHOTO: NAT YE HLA**

KOREAN artist Jin-Woo Park's realistic works that depict natural light and come from his creativity and unconstrained thoughts are shining at the Yangon Gallery. His exhibition opened last night and will continue until 5 October.

The exhibition is his 52nd

solo show following exhibits in many countries including Japan, the US and China.

"The artistic techniques he uses to create un-stereotyped artworks are very attractive for Myanmar artists," said U Tin Win (Beikthano), one of Myanmar's well-known art masters.

His artworks that feature blended colours, unconstrained conformation analysis and constitutive beauty attracted Myanmar artists and art enthusiasts to the gallery on opening day.

The exhibition is his first solo show in Myanmar following his participation in a group exhi-

bition of international and local contemporary artists at the same gallery in December last year.

The Korean artist got the idea to hold his solo exhibition in Myanmar during his first visit to Bagan, Myanmar's national landmark that is dotted with ancient pagodas containing mural

paintings following his participation in last year's exhibition with international and regional artists.

At his opening yesterday, he also disclosed his plan for exhibiting the works of six Myanmar artists in South Korea.

—Nat Ye Hla ■

Hell's bells! Britain to get less bong for its buck in Big Ben blunder

LONDON — Renovations that will silence the Big Ben bell in the British parliament's famous clock tower for four years will cost more than double the original estimate, officials said on Friday.

The commissions overseeing the work at Westminster have agreed to set aside 61 million pounds (\$81 million) as opposed to the 29 million pounds estimated last year.

The House of Commons said there was now a greater understanding of the work that needed to be done on the masonry of the Elizabeth Tower, which houses the famous bell, and that surrounding ground conditions were more complex than initially thought.

"We acknowledge that there have been estimating failures and we understand the concern of the commissions," the Clerk of the House of Commons, the Clerk of the Parliaments and



Scaffolders work on the Big Ben clock tower which is undergoing maintenance in Westminster, London on 28 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the Director General said in a joint statement.

Big Ben ceased its regular bongs in August, and will remain silent for most of the next four years while the works are carried out.

The hammers, which have

struck the 13.7 tonne bell every hour for most of the last 157 years, will be locked and disconnected from the clock, although the bongs will still sound for important events such as the New Year's Eve celebrations. —Reuters ■

Hot and sweet and red all over, Serbian village hangs peppers out to dry

DONJA LOKOSNIC (Serbia) — The village of Donja Lokosnica has turned red, as the pepper harvest hanging out to dry on almost every wall brings a wash of intense color to this Serbian farming community.

Most of the 1,300 inhabitants are involved in growing red peppers, which are air-dried before being ground into paprika, a vital spice in Balkan cuisine.

Part of the crop is hung to dry in late September, strung up from trees, roofs and on walls — where they look like thick, crimson ivy. The self-proclaimed "paprika capital of the world," off the highway between Belgrade and Macedonia's capital Skopje, has been growing sweet and

hot peppers for generations in a cycle lasting nine months each year.

"Life goes by with paprika," says Verka Stojanovic, a woman in her 80s. Individual pepper seeds are planted in plastic cups starting on 8 March and are transferred to the ground in May. The plants love heat and the 2017 harvest was abundant, meaty and rich in color and taste thanks to a scorching hot summer.

The peppers are "sweet as sugar, but also hot," Verka said.

Some of the peppers are sold fresh and can be used to make ajvar, a traditional Serbian condiment that also contains garlic, chili pepper and roasted aubergine. —Reuters ■

ONE Championship: Aung La N Sang to fight Pierre Alain Ngalani

Kyaw Zin Tun

Aung La N Sang, also known as Burmese Python, the middle-weight champion of the ONE Championship, will defend his title against Pierre Alain Ngalani on 3 November in front of a hometown crowd at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

Pierre Alain Ngalani is a Cameroonian-born mixed martial arts fighter, kickboxer and four-time Muay Thai world champion, fighting out of and representing Hong Kong. He is well known for his speed and trademark move "The Panther High Kick". Ngalani currently competes in the heavyweight division of the ONE Championship.

Aung La N Sang posted on his Facebook page that his opponent for this match is a very big fighter and heavyweight division fighter. I would have to try very much to be able to win. How stronger he is, I will try my best.



As I fight before my beloved fans, I believe I can.

"All my life, I've never seen myself more special than anyone. I don't think I am faster, stronger or more talented. But I believe that if I continue to work hard towards a goal, I can achieve it. That goes true with anyone; you

can achieve what you go after if you put all your heart and mind into it. God will bless you for the things you put work into, but don't expect to achieve something you haven't worked hard for. Also, don't talk bad about others, instead use that time and energy to work on bettering yourself. I am

excited about the opportunity to fight a heavyweight and I know the danger the man poses on me.

But I am putting all my effort into giving myself the preparation necessary.

Thank you all for your love and support. See you all soon!" Aung La N Sang wrote. ■

Qualify football teams for 2018 AFC U-16 Championship releases

Kyaw Zin Tun

Sixteen U-16 football teams including the team from host country Malaysia advanced to the 2018 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-16 Championship that will be held between 20 September and 7 October 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. The 16 teams were selected from qualification matches played using 10 groups. The 16 teams that advanced included 10 winners of each group and the six best runners-up. Jordan, Tajikistan, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, North Korea, Indonesia, South Korea, Australia and Japan advanced as group winners while India, Oman, Thailand, Viet Nam, Afghanistan and host Malaysia advanced as best runners-up.

Most of the teams that advanced this year met in the same tourney last year. All the teams except four — Jordan, Tajikistan, Indonesia and Afghanistan — previously advanced to the 2016 AFC U-16 Championship.

According to AFC U-16 Championship statistics, Japan has qualified 14 times and taken two championships, while South Korea qualified 13 times and earned two championships. Iran, North Korea and Thailand have each qualified 10 times.

Jordan and Tajikistan have qualified two times each, while Afghanistan qualified for the first time this year. Indonesian player Sutan Diego Zico stands as the most prolific goal scorer, having garnered 10 goals this year. Japanese player Keita Nakano stands in second place with eight goals, while Australian player Tyson Savas is in third place with seven goals.

North Korea wins 1st berth to Pyeongchang in figure skating

OBERSTDORF, (Germany) North Korea won its first berth to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics next February after its figure skaters finished sixth in the pairs contest at the Nebelhorn Trophy on Friday, amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The event taking place in southern Germany is designated by the International Skating Union as the qualifier to fill the slots for the 2018 Winter Games' figure skating competition, excluding the berths secured by national teams through last winter's world championships.

After Friday's free skating,

North Korea's Ryom Tae Ok, 18, and Kim Ju Sik, 25, scored 180.09 points in total, including Thursday's short programme, and secured a place at the upcoming Olympics in South Korea.

The pair had won the bronze medal at the Sapporo Asian Winter Games in February.

Regional tensions have been rising recently due to North Korea's nuclear test and multiple missile launches, while International Olympic Committee chief Thomas Bach has expressed hope that the country will take part in the Pyeongchang Games.—Kyodo News ■



North Korea figure skaters Ryom Tae Ok (L) and Kim Ju Sik acknowledge the crowd after their performance in the pairs free skate at the Nebelhorn Trophy in Oberstdorf, Germany, on 29 September, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Man United's Pogba out long-term with injury, says Mourinho

LONDON — Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba is facing a long spell on the sidelines due to a hamstring injury, manager Jose Mourinho said on Friday.

Pogba suffered the injury in United's 3-0 Champions League win over Basel this month and

has missed the past four games.

"He's injured, he cannot play tomorrow and it's not an injury that I can have the hope like I have with (Antonio) Valencia or (Phil) Jones," Mourinho told a news conference ahead of the home Premier League game

against Crystal Palace on Saturday. Mourinho did not put a time scale on Pogba's return but said he was thinking about the 24-year-old France international in the same way as Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Marcos Rojo, who are expected to miss the rest of

the year. "So long-term injuries I don't speak about them," Mourinho said. "Ibra and Pogba and Rojo, these players I don't think about them." The Portuguese manager also confirmed midfielder Michael Carrick and centre back Phil Jones, who missed

Wednesday's 4-1 Champions League win at CSKA Moscow, remain unavailable. A late decision will be made on the fitness levels of Antonio Valencia, Marouane Fellaini and Anthony Martial, who was forced off in the second half in Moscow.—Reuters ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

1 OCTOBER 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Be a good reader, to become a unique leader



Kyaw Zin Tun
1st year (University of
Abdhimma)

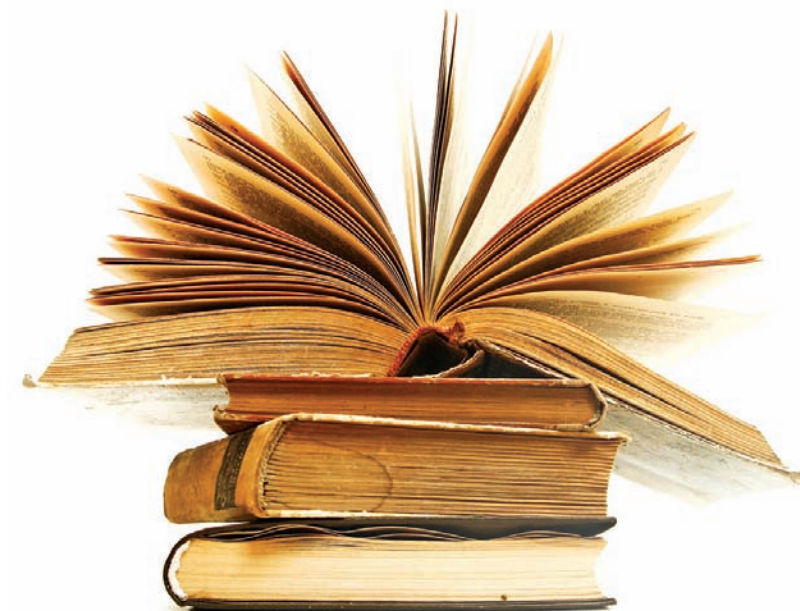
To succeed, believe in to read. In 2012, after I graduated from the University of Maubin, specialization in Zoology, my parents want me to work as a government staff in our rural places such as a teacher or health officer. For me, I had a dream. I want to experience the challenges of the life when I was young. I decided to stay in Yangon to search the improvement of my life.

My mom told me that you're not enough to stand on your feet; you're not twenty yet; you have never been to Yangon; you're a naive and there is no our relatives there; I am worried about you; When you start work, you are not going to be able to do well because you hadn't any experiences.

I told my mom that I shall go to Yangon because I want to stand on my feet. I need improvement. I want to learn and work in the big cities. When I do the work, I will just do my best. Then, I believe that I will be able to do the best results.

"Mom, don't worry about me, I have many friends. These are the books. Then, I have a super power. That is I believe in to read." I replied with a smile.

And now I have come to Yangon in 2013 as a first time. I lived with my cousin in the same hostel. I tried my best learning and working. I faced a lot of culture shot in Yangon as I lived in my small village for many years. I felt depress many times because of my funny behavior that dissimilar with the others. Whenever I felt depress, I mostly lived with my friends, the books. They always



vision and encourage me to see my strength. Therefore, every holiday I met and stayed with my friends, the books without fail.

Today is also my super holiday. I am reading a book dreaming about my future to become a writer. One of the story in the book that I am reading now reminded and inspired me that to believe and achieve the dreams of me.

In the story, a man was walking through an elephant camp, and he noticed that the elephants weren't being kept in cages. All the elephant were held not to escape from the camp by a small piece of rope tied to one of their legs.

As the man gazed upon the elephants, he was completely confused because the elephants didn't just use their strength to break the rope and escape the camp. They could easily have done so, but instead they didn't try to at all.

Curious and wanting to know the answer, he asked a trainer nearby why the elephants were just standing there and never tried to escape.

The trainer replied, "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The only reason that the elephants weren't breaking free and escaping from the camp was because over time they adopted the belief that it just wasn't possible.

After the story, I have come to understand that our human being needs the new system of beliefs to move the new places as the old belief system can't make us changing our lives.

I closed the book and kissed it. Then, I mumbled that Oh! Fresh belief is in fresh read, I do find it, and I must be a writer in English. If there is something we want, the books will be ready to explore for us. Sincerely to say, holiday read always upgrade my inner belief. I do believe to read. Be you all the good readers, to become the unique leaders.

Altar Culture
Myanmar

On an altar against a tree
Stands a water crock accompanied
With a cup and thatched cocoon for shield
And offers passersby a cup of water free

"Come visitor come here and release
All the burden along the way you've carried
Take a short rest under this shady tree
Drink this water to make your weariness appease"

Rich or poor, upper, middle or lower
Streetside water crock never says never
Striving to calm the passersby ever
Makes everyone fresh as flower

Out of kindness and generosity
Bears a culture of a nationality
And not fail to provide an exemplary
On its people's personality

People fetch water more than necessary
Not only drink, also spit it out and empty
Onto the ground for nothing
Also it be a modern culture out of generosity?

Honey Soe(B.M.T.M)



SUPPLEMENT-F

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

Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 21: Verbs — Tenses(4)

Dear Students,

For Tenses, you have already learned Simple Tenses, Continuous Tenses and Perfect Tenses.

Today, we are going to study Perfect Continuous Tenses (i.e. Present Perfect Continuous Tense, Past Perfect Continuous Tense and Future Perfect Continuous Tense.)

Let's study the following examples.

- (1) We have been living here for more than half a century.
- (2) He had been working in this Company for 15 years up till 2010.
- (3) They will have been playing in this team for 10 years in 2020.

In sentence (1) the action shows that "We have been living here for more than half a century and it means that we are still living here."

(The action started in the past, have lived for years and still continuous to live at the present.) This is Present Perfect Continuous.

In sentence (2), the action shows that "He had been working in this company for 15 years up till 2010. But not now. The action of "working" is in the Past." Not now.

(The action started in the Past, had worked for years up till 2010. But not now. The action had finished in the Past and continuous in the Past, up till 2010. Not now.)

In sentence (3) the action shows that it will be in the Future. They started playing in this team in the Past, still continue to play in this team and in an exact time of "2020" it will be 10 years.

The exact thing which will happen will be in the Future, not in the Present, not in the Past. Only in the year "2020" (i.e. in the Future) it will be 10 years..

So the action started in the Past, Perfect in the Past, still continues at the Present and what will happen in the Future. So, this Tense is called "Future Perfect Continuous".

From the above example, you will come to know when to use which Tense.

All three show the being of Perfectness and Continuation, but one in the Present, another in the Past and the last one in the Future.

Let's do some exercises now.

Exercise 21.

- I. Write down 5 sentences of your own in the Present Perfect Continuous Tense.
- II. Write down 5 sentences of your own in the Past Perfect Continuous Tense.
- III. Write down 5 sentences of your own in the Future Perfect Continuous Tense.
- IV. Fill in the following blank spaces with suitable tense (Present / Past / Future Perfect Continuous Tense) of the given Verbs.
 - (a) I (see) this attractive car for more than 3 months here on this road.
 - (b) We (sing) in this Orchestra for more than 2 years.
 - (c) She (teach) in this school up till 1984, but not now.
 - (d) They (stay) in this quarter for 6 years in 2020.
 - (e) He (work) in my garden for a decade now.
 - (f) You (be) his best friend up till his last breath.
 - (g) Mg Mg (show off) like an actor for more than 10 years.
 - (h) Mi Mi (buy) in this market for years in the Past, but not now.
 - (i) Swe Swe (love) the children since they were born.
 - (j) Daphne (take) her duties as a big sister to all her juniors since 2000.
 - (k) Nyi Nyi (be) away from home 10 years in 2021.
 - (l) Ko Ko (drink) since 2000.
 - (m) Mya Mya and Hla Hla (be) friends since their childhood days.
 - (n) Hlaing and Khaing (be) daughters to her since they reached her school.
 - (o) The bell (ring) since early this morning.

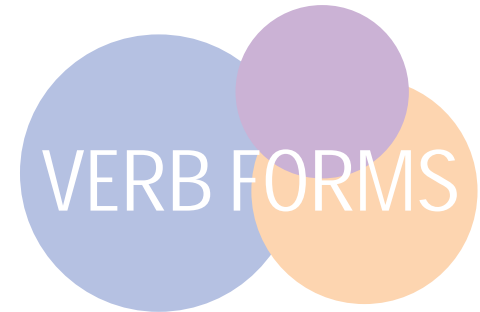
That's all for today's Lesson.

I believe that you all can do all these exercises easily.

Bye Bye Class ! See you next week !

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

Email: drnunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com



Here are the answers to your last week's Exercise 20.

- I. Five sentences in the Present Perfect Tense.
 - (a) I have painted the room yellow.
 - (b) The girls have cleaned their hands.
 - (c) She has done her cooking.
 - (d) We have done our homework.
 - (e) He has brought back my book.
- II. To Change these into Past Perfect Tense.
 - (a) I had painted the room yellow.
 - (b) The girls had cleaned their hands.
 - (c) She had done her cooking.
 - (d) We had done our homework.
 - (e) He had brought back my book.
- III. To change into Future Perfect Tense
 - (a) I will have painted the room yellow.
 - (b) The girls will have cleaned their hands.
 - (c) She will have done her cooking.
 - (d) We will have done our homework.
 - (e) He will have brought back my book.
- IV. To Fill in the blank spaces.
 - (a) has, (b) have, (c) has, (d) studied, (e) played, (f) has, (g) finished, (h) has, (i) has, (j) has, (k) has, (l) seen
- V. To fill in the blank spaces.
 - (a) had, (b) had, (c) played, (d) prepared, (e) washed, (f) played, (g) played, (h) cried, (i) found, (j) searched
- VI. To Fill in the blank spaces.
 - (a) Done, (b) walked, (c) will, (d) have, (e) have, (f) written, (g) cleaned, (h) given, (i) been, (j) won.

Hope that you have done your exercises well !
Bye Bye Class ! See you next week.



A shop selling books is crowded with visitors at the Children's Literature Festival in Taunggyi on 4th June, 2017. PHOTO: THAN MIN AUNG

Children's Literature Festival in Monywa from 13 to 15 Oct

By Aung Min Han

A literary exhibition designed to turn children on to reading is to be held at from 13 to 15 October at Monywa University in Monywa.

The Children's Literature Festival includes 35 entertainment programs on the first day, 50 on the

second day and 40 on the third day, and booths selling children's books.

Besides, poem recitation contest, story telling contest, extemporary talk contest, painting contest, paper folding contest and games etc. will be included in the festival which is jointly conducted by Ministry of Information,

Ministry of Education and Sagaing Region Government.

Children and visitors can also enjoy magic shows, puppet shows and Myanmar traditional martial arts at the festival which is the fifth one after the festivals in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi.

Some Different Attitudes and Opinions by Different Stakeholders on the Present Education System(3)

Dr. Nu Nu Win
(Retired Professor and Head of Department)

THE writer has already mentioned the stresses suffered by the students of today, both young and old because of some causes in our Education System these days. Today, the other factors found from the research will be mentioned.

Concerning with their feelings on going to school (or Universities), nearly all students said they are happy to go to school just because they have to see their friends and teachers, they get the chance to play and talk with their friends. It clearly shows and it is so natural that all school boys and girls and all University students, as they have reached the social age while they learn their social surroundings and friends. They will come to know day by day how and whom to choose as their best friends.

As for the school lessons, most of the students like to study as they can follow day after day about their lessons. There are only a little, as small as 2 % said they cannot follow their studies.

Together with this, all students said they have to attend tuition classes from their own teachers or from other tuition teachers as well. The tuition fees has been in a range from 4000 Kyats to one and a half lakhs as the classes become higher and higher. The highest tuition fees are the fees from the Universities of Medicine and the University Correspondence Courses of all Arts and Science Universities.

But, all students thought and also the parents thought that these tuitions are quite effective for the students to understand and to get higher marks in the examinations. So, as there is a great demand from the customers's (students and parents) side, it is not very easy to demolish these tuition culture in a very short time. We need to take time to make it disappear regularly day after day. It is also concerned with the Assessment System too.

So, to demolish the tuitions, we need to change the Assessment System first and foremost, especially the assessment system of deciding one student's life only by the marks he or she got from the 3 hours' papers of the Matriculation Examination. And we also need to reduce the

teacher-pupil ratio (from 1:40 to 1:25) so that all teachers can have the ability to control and pay attention on each and every individual pupil. For these teachers, we need to train more teachers in quantity as well as in quality.

So also, we need more decent classrooms too.

After all these what we need are in perfect condition, we can change our classrooms into all international classroom rank.

Concerning with the classrooms and school buildings and other teaching aids etc., the students want more practical lessons, especially in Science subjects. Some schools have laboratories, but not the chance to learn in these labs practically, just because the lack of other facilities in the labs. So, laboratories and their facilities are in the first place to modify and to supply in abundance so that every student can participate practically.

So also with the libraries. Students want more chance to go to the libraries and more modern books which can attract them to read. We need to provide and fill the cupboards in our libraries with modern books which can attract the students to read. All these together with the apparatus from the gymnasiums are mentioned by the students. Sometimes, not only the facilities, but also the time allotment to be in the labs, libraries, and gymnasiums are the modern students' demands.

For these facilities and opportunities, the higher demands come from the Basic Education side, not so much from the University students as they have their opportunities to a satisfactory condition.



But, concerning with the Cleanliness, Neatness and Tidiness, more satisfactory conditions are in the Basic Education Schools, both urban and rural and all schools from primary to high schools. They said all students and all teachers and staff have to do special cleaning day on Fridays every week and all Students on duty have to do every day.

But, there are a lot of complaints on the clean environment from the University students. All University students, except the Universities of Education have complaints. (In the Universities of Education, there are volunteer students groups that do all these maintenance of Clean and Clear, Neat and Tidy.) The other University students complain that as their Universities are mostly outside the town, and also just because of the weakness in fencing, all animals, all dogs and cows and goats are easy to come into the University campus and make the Campus dirty. This is the first point.

The second point is as these Universities are at the outskirts of the towns, there are the bus terminals in the Campus. All these bus drivers and conductors are so dirty that they make their campus dirty and untidy.

The third point is, as the Campus are so so wide, the staff who are concerned with cleaning the Campus cannot afford to reach every corner of the Campus to do the cleaning and so also those who are in charge cannot supervise them effectively. Those are the facts pointed out by our largest stakeholders, the students.

The writer hopes these findings from her research can give food for thoughts for authorities who are concerned with all Education fields, both Primary and Secondary, and also with the Tertiary level.

To be continued next week.

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The most massive Dhamayangyi. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Dhamayan the most massive, Thabyinyu the highest, Ananda the finest

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)



BAGAN known as the hub of Myanmar Culture of 11 to 13 centuries AD has been said to have 4446 ancient edifices. The number 4446 was denoted by Myanmar alphabets composed in a poem so as to not forget the figure. Tradition says the Myanmar alphabets correspond to certain numbers. Not to forget the amount of some prominent things Myanmar used to represent them with alphabets which were arranged in a poetic phrase. For example The number of Bagan cultural edifices were denoted by လှည့်ဝံသံနိဋ္ဌာသံ that is 4446 and ဝင်းဝင်းသံနိဋ္ဌာသံ was used in Ava period under the reign of Moenyin King to mark the number 4474 of Bagan religious edifices. Supposedly in Konbaung Era, ဗြဟ္မစူဠဝင်း was used to represent 4445 Bagan edifices if it is read backward.

According to the surveyed tally of the department of archaeology and national museum in the past decades the number of Bagan stupas and temples was 2217 that was represented by ကျောင်းကြီးအုတ်နံရံ. According to the list collected between 1982 and 1991 by a French architect, Pierre Pichard there were 2834 pagodas in Bagan. After August 24, 2016 earthquake the number of ancient edifices including stupas and temples were collected again and the tally of that time amounted to 3822. The list included the rebuilt old stupas and also the unexcavated mounds.

The ancient edifices of Bagan area included stupas, one-storied temple, two, three, four storied buildings, caves, library

building and ordination hall. Pagodas were classified into two types, solid pagodas have been known as stupas and the pagodas with cave inside are known as temples. The great stupas were built by kings. Thabyinyu, Dhamayangyi and Ananda are the prominent temples of Bagan era. Dhamayangyi is the most massive, the Thabyinyu is the highest and the most artistic handiwork can be seen at Ananda.

The most massive Dhamayangyi

Dhamayangyi is situated on the right side of the road from the western entrance of Ananda to Minanthu village. It is a one-storied temple and the largest of all religious edifices in Bagan. The pyramidal protrusions at the angles of the roof make it seemingly upsurging and more distinct among the Bagan stupas and temples. It looks somewhat like the pyramids of Egypt if looked from a far point and as it is so huge that it can be seen clearly from the distance. Dhamangyi is not only the biggest but the masonry workmanship is also unique and unrivalled. Excellent brick layering can be seen in Dhamayangyi. It is not an exaggeration to say that there is no space between the bricks even for a needle. It exhibits exquisite masonry works with mortar layer scarcely seen between the bricks. The arch and the walls look consolidated and firm. Dhamanyangyi was so massively and firmly constructed that it could stand against the earthquakes without any remarkable damage.

The base plan of the Dhamayangyi is square as in Ananda. It has double-tiered sloping roof and four entrances at four cardinal directions. It has four terraces. Narathu who built the Dhamayangyi was the great grandson of King Kyansittha and it seemed that Narathu took the plan of Ananda for his Dhamayangyi.

Dhamanyangyi has two spacious ambulatory corridors inside it. Outer ambulatory chamber has high arched roof. The entrances to the inner ambulatory chamber has been blocked with no apparent reason. There many questions have arisen on “Why” and “When” those entrances have been blocked. There are many opinions regarding the blocking of entrances to inner chamber.

Among the protruding anterrooms (praying shrine) of Dhamayangyi, the western anterroom has two sitting images on a single pedestal. Two stone inscriptions, one having the MY 567 inscribed on it and another having MY 578 are found together with the two images. In the northern face of the stupa a square stone pillar with inscription of 527 and 582 MY can be seen.

Bagan history told that the Dhamayangyi was built in AD1163 by King Narathu (AD 1160-1165) who was notoriously known as Kalakya Min. The stupa was considered to be completed in 1165. The name, Dhamayangyi had derived from the original Dhamayanthi (illuminated rays of Dhamma) which actually was the name of a monk of Bagan era who resided in the monastery just west of the stupa.

Thabyinyu the highest temple in Bagan

Thabyinyu is situated 1500 ft. apart in the southwest of Ananda pagoda. It is 61 m (201 ft.) high above the ground and it is famous as the tallest of all ancient buildings in Bagan. The name Thabyinyu was considered to refer to the wisdom of the Enlightened One (Omniscience).

King Alaung Sithu copying the shape and architecture of Pobaryone Monastery constructed and donated by Withakha (a female great donor during the period of living Buddha) built the Thabyinyu in AD 1144. The scholars considered Thabyinyu to be not only the pagoda (temple) but also a monastery cum library. Thabyinyu is a two-storied building and each level has three terraces, decorative upward structures and small stupas at 4 angles of the roof. To get light in the inner chamber; ventilation windows were installed at each level. It seems Thabyinyu has only two levels if looked from outside, but it actually has four levels inside the structure. Inside the stupa there is a stair running from the base up to the base of Sikhara.

There is a big Buddha Image with Bagan craftsmanship on the ground floor of the temple and another Buddha Image of the upper level was repaired as its head had been severed due to the 1975 earth quake. Among the mural paintings, the paintings of a pair of Buddha’s footprints and Sakka and Bhramas paying obeisance to Buddha on the ceiling of western praying shrine can be seen.

Furthermore, a small stupa with the



Thabyinyu the highest temple in Bagan. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

name of Garoechoe pagoda existed near Thabyinyu pagoda. Actually that small stupa was built by the bricks which had been the tally markers in the course of building Thabyinyu. Two brick pillars 18 ft. apart from each other can be seen in the southwestern corner of the monastery compound which is located just east of Thabyinyu.

Ananda, the finest of all

Ananda is located in the southeast of Thraba Gate, an entrance to Bagan. Stone inscription recording the year Ananda had been built was not known yet. However; it has been widely accepted that King Kyansittha (AD 1084-1113) built Ananda in 1090. The praying shrines are present in four vestibules of Ananda. They were decorated with tiered roof and the walls of the inner and outer circular corridors were fully embellished with finely made stucco reliefs of Buddhas, Jatakas and other stories. The four sides of the central core pillar have niches which are occupied by the 4 huge standing Buddha Images. At Ananda temple one can enjoy looking at the fine craftsmanship of ten traditional arts and crafts of Myanmar. The base and the roof of the temple were decorated with Terracotta Plaques. Ananda is 920 years old and it is famous as the finest and the most facinating temple of Bagan.

The name Ananda was supposed to come from Ananda, younger brother of Buddha or from Infinite Wisdom (Ananta Pinna) of Buddha or a Sanskrit word Anand that means “very beautiful.”

King Kyansittha had supplicated to 8 Arahats about his wish to build a big temple in Bagan. Arahats could have shown Nandamu Cave Temple to Kyansittha by their mystical power. Some opinion arose that Kyansittha built a replica of Nandamu Cave Temple and it was supposed that Nandamu became Ananda after years.

There are ventilation slits for air and

also for light between the inner ambulatory and outer ambulatory corridors. The walls of both chambers were fully ornate with small bas relief of Buddha Images depicting the life of Buddha from birth to enlightenment.

The roof above the central superstructure consists of five successively diminishing terraces. The ambulatory corridors are covered by sloping arched roof. The tradition says that Ananda, the main temple has 10000 satellite small stupas, 1000 tiny stupas in niches of 3 corridors. An archaeologist, Minbu Aung Kyaing supported the notion of having 10000 satellite small stupas by pointing out the fact if the apparent presence of 1032 satellite small stupas is added by tiny stupas of the wall niches it may amount to 10000 in total. There are three corridors and inner corridor is meant for the monks, the middle one is for Kings, royal families and palace people and the outer one is meant for ordinary people.

Ananda stupa has numerous decorative statues or images including 28 Nat(spiritual being) images, 148 mythical lions. King Kyansittha had decorated the Ananda temple with fine mural paintings and amazing craftsmanship of 10 traditional arts and crafts. The base of the wall of outer corridor of the Ananda temple had been occupied by two rows of niches, each row having 40 niches and each nich bearing stone sculpture that in combination depicts the life of Buddha.

Four Standing Buddha Images, each having height of 31ft. 5 in. are placed at four sides of the praying vestibules. The images are known as the highest ones in Bagan area. It exhibits the skill and efficiency of the builders of Bagan who could achieve such a tall statue without any mechanical aids. The two images in the north and south praying shrines are original and the other two are later copies.

The original Kawnagamana Buddha



Ananda, the finest of all. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

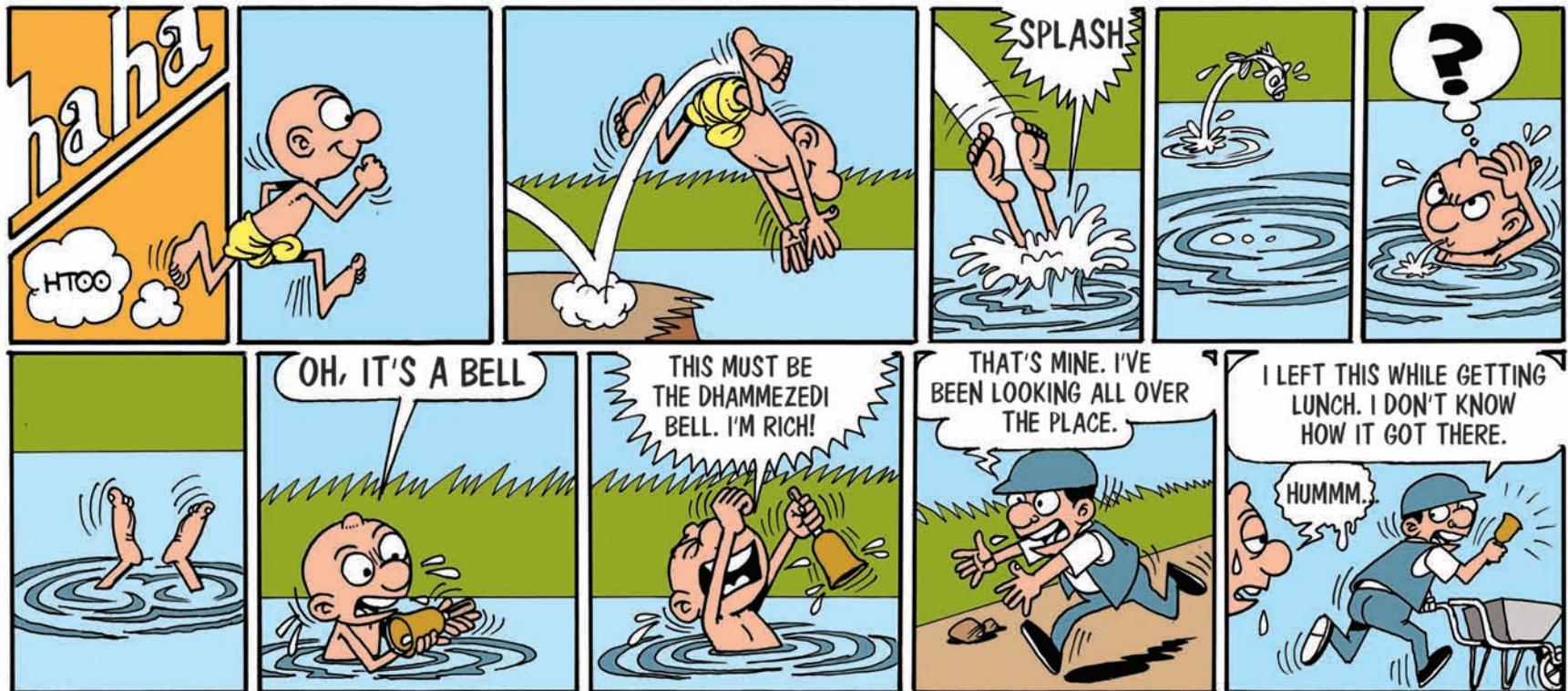
Image in the eastern vestibule was made of teak wood, the Kassapa in the southern side was made of pine wood, Kakusanda Buddha in the north was made of Saga wood and the last Buddha, Gautama facing the west was made of alloy (gold, silver, copper, iron, lead).

The eastern Buddha Image had been destroyed by fire and Bagan Mayor, U Boe supplanted the damaged with the new one in 1866. However; U Wa of Nyaung U mended the Image in 1906 and the present Standing Buddha in the east side was the contribution of U Wa and U Boe. The western Image made of alloy was also destroyed in the Ava-Hanthawaddy war (AD1742-1752) and U San Nyein of Bagan donated the present Image of Gautama of the west praying shrine in 1891AD. The roof of the praying shrines or vestibules were opened in slits so as the natural light to shed on the face and body of Buddha images. The main intent of those light-giving slits was for the pilgrims to be able to see Buddha with the help of the moon light in the late afternoon and night. The bases of the wall of praying shrine of four Buddha Images were decorated with niches in which Arahats images were placed. The two statues placed in the niches on either side of the wall of western shrine where Gautama Buddha Image existed has been supposed to be King Kyansittha and Shin Arahats. Nevertheless, archaeologist U Aung kyaing commented that the regalia put on the statue and facial presentation of supposedly King Kyansittha exhibited some discrepancy with those seen on the painting and stone statues of Bagan period.

The above mentioned temples have their own distinct characteristics and so more frequented than other pagodas of Bagan. Local pilgrims and foreign tourists as well are urged to visit without fail those three temples, Dhamayangyi the massive, Thabyinyu the highest and Ananda the finest.

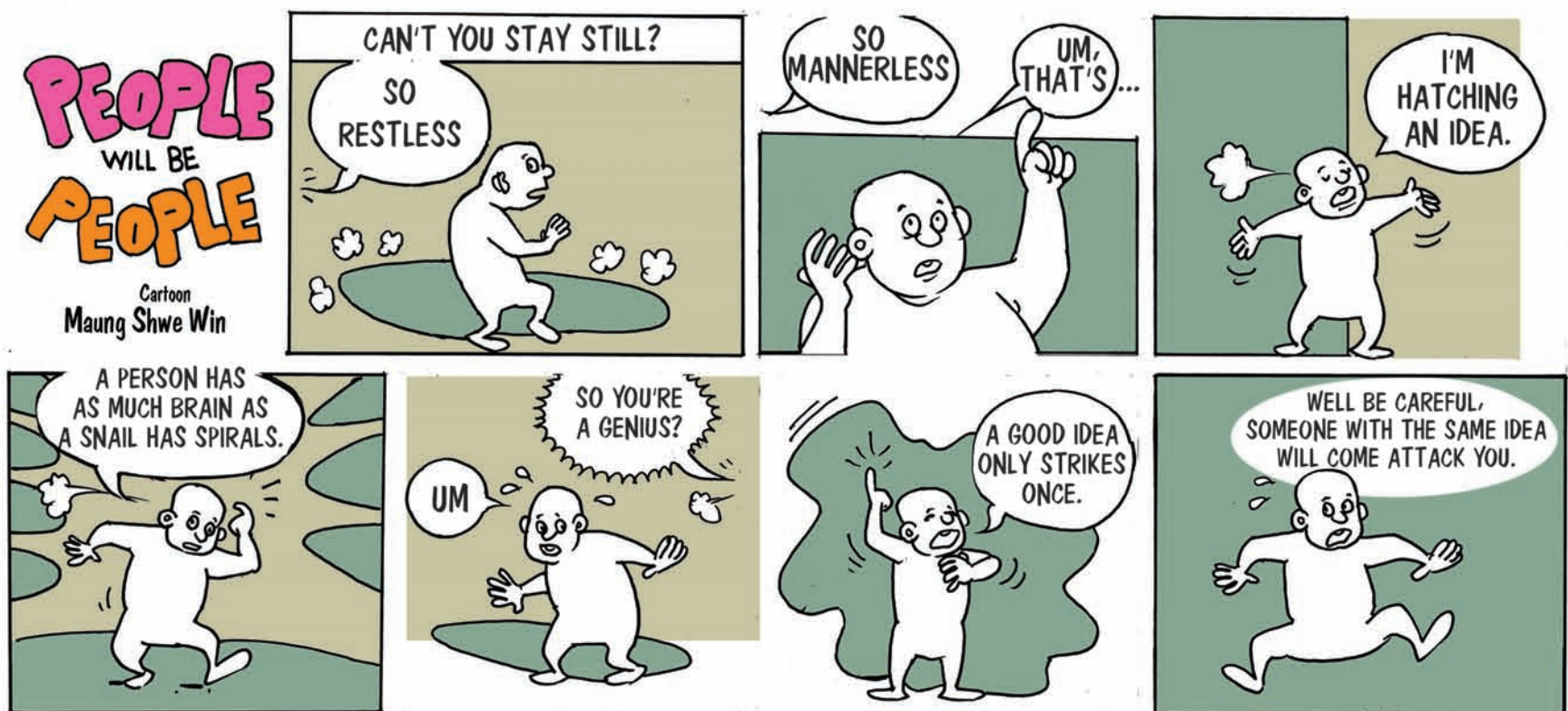
Translated by Khin Maung Win

SUNDAY COMICS



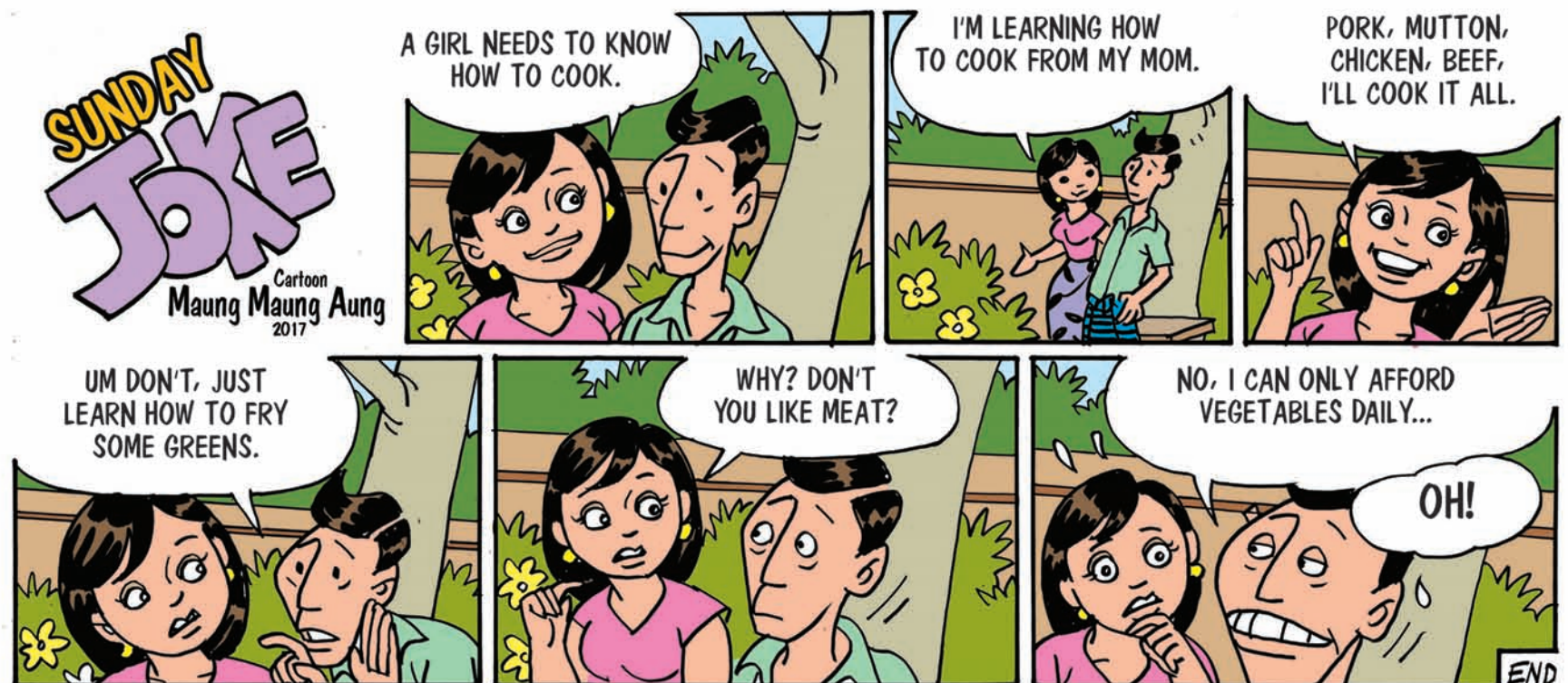
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2017



END

India's Today Ground Report from Bangladesh

Many Hindu women forced to remove sindoor, read namaz: Horror engulfs Hindu women in Bangladesh camps

In an exclusive chat with India Today, many Hindu women from Maungtaw revealed that they were harassed, forced to remove sindoor, break bangles among other things in Bangladesh relief camps.

HINDU people living in Bangladesh relief camps have purportedly become a soft target for Muslims in the country. Both have taken shelter after coming from Myanmar but the difference is in the numbers, and that is the key.

Hindu women say they were forced to remove sindoor, break bangles and even tie the Puja calls herself Rabia now- the change happened this month. She is a Hindu Rohingya who left Myanmar in hope of a refuge.

But circumstances turned her life upside down. Puja, now Rabia, lost her husband to violence in the last week of August in Myanmar. She says he

I was told I would be allowed to live only if I changed my religion. I was made to wear burqa and stay with them to learn their traditions for almost three weeks. I was made to read namaz... I had to say Allah, but my heart was beating for Bhagwan... My co-dwellers started searching for me and came to know that I was living in a Muslim camp."

The red saree is the only one she has now and her three-year-old son has no clothes at all. This reporter met many more such women in the Hindu Rohingya camp in Kotupalong area of Cox's Bazar



This image captured from the Indiatoday's interview with Puja alias Rabia.



Twenty-eight-year-old Rica Dhar. PHOTO: MANOGYA LOIWAL

was not killed by the Army but by men clad in black with their faces hidden, who were abusing in the name of religion. Theoman says her husband and entire family were shot in front of her but she was left alive to live as a captive.

"They took us to the forest and said I would have to read namaz or they would release me... My sindoor was removed and my religious shakha pola bangles broken.

district of Bangladesh.

If Puja became Rabia, Rica was being turned into Sadia. Twenty-eight-year-old Rica Dhar adjusted her orange saree to feed her year-old son as she narrated a similar tragic tale.

"On Friday (August 25) they entered all the Hindu residences and attacked. First the mobile phones were taken away and then men were tied and beaten brutal-

ly. My husband worked as a goldsmith. They took away all my jewellery and began beating me. All Hindus were identified and taken to a nearby hill. They were then killed in a row. Only eight women were allowed to stay among them mostly young and beautiful. They were told 'You will have to turn Muslim and marry us' We had no option but to surrender and go with them... We were taken to the forest and left without food to weaken us mentally also. Then we were brought to a camp in Bangladesh... Once my Hindu relatives heard about it they brought me to this place."

Both Rica and Puja say there were six more women

besides them who shared their fate. After they could not be traced anywhere in Myanmar or Bangladesh, they were identified at the Kotupalong Rohingya camp where they were kept under close watch by those who were allegedly executing this forcible conversion.

The government officials were clueless about what was going on till India Today Group brought this to their notice. "We do not have any such information," said Md. Ali Hossain, Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar. "If it has occurred, we will take necessary action." Men hailing from the same Rakhine state went out in search of these women and allegedly faced torture themselves.

Puja alias Rabia can now breathe easy. "I am back in the Hindu camp for the past three days after being rescued by my some women," she says. Around five lakh Rohingyas have entered Bangladeshi territory and are scattered in different parts of this district.

Among them, a significant number is of Hindus. When this reporter apprised Bangladesh's information minister Hasanul Haq Inu about the situation, he promised action. "The news is very bad and astounding... we have taken all measures to put Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist families in separate camps," he said. "We will be investigating this and we will be very tough."—Indiatoday



Hindu villagers react as they identify the bodies of their relatives found by government forces in a mass grave near Maungtaw in Northern Rakhine state, on 27 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ADVERTORIAL

We Are City Heroes To Safeguard Our Metropolis

USUALLY, every individual would like to see their city as a clean and peaceful place with its natural environs. Yet, continual utilization of easily available plastic bags and water bottles is none other than the fact that they themselves are destroying beauty of the city, its landscapes and natural environment.

Starting from early hours of preparing for purchase of our morning meal, we use disposable plastic bags and plastic purified water bottles and plastic soft drink containers, throwing the used ones away in an undisciplined way. It is an interesting matter who will safeguard our dwelling places—city and wards for imminent dangers not to come to us after making people come to be well convinced that these habits are increasingly deteriorating our natural environment and its beauty.

Whenever we go out shopping we should bring with us recyclable shopping bags for plastic bags. We should carry water in our own containers for plastic water bottles. And, if we dispose domestic rubbish and refuse in a disciplined way, we all will become city heroes who are protecting our city from increasing environmental pollution in every corner we can take part. With the advanced technology, we are increasingly using plastic jobs ranging from motor vehicles to disposable plastic bags. Among those items, the major commodities we use since early morning are these disposable bags and purified water plastic bottles and disposable take-away food containers.

In our country, we mostly use disposable plastic for package, followed by disposable purified water plastic bottles. Excessive use of these kinds of plastic which will take over



400 years to be completely destroyed resulted in emergence of enormous piles of rubbish on earth and at seas. Its annual worldwide use amounted to 500 billion tons. Provided that they are spread on the ground one after another, it will go round the world for 4200 times, said by Ocean Crusader based in Australia, Frances, New Zealand, Germany, North America, South Africa, Sweden and UK.

In Australia, one-liter purified water plastic amounting to 582.9 million in FY 2009-2010, with only 36% of the amount reusable. According to Ocean Crusader, the remaining amount turned out to be trashes.

The only way to destroy is burning them. Had the way been

used, it can cause huge volume off air pollution. So governments only urge to choose the way of reducing its uses. In Myanmar, if one asks what kinds of trash are mostly found in back-alleys and major roads, unanimous answer will be disposable plastic jobs—bottles and bags. Though huge disadvantages of plastic utilization was not found yet in Myanmar like developed countries, it will be in for very soon, if the potential risks go uncared.

So as to protect dangers of plastic use, discussions were made to draw a bill on its uses at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting in the reign of the former government. Civil societies and economic enterprises and industries as well are making efforts

on their part.

Recently, famous film stars themselves launched an educational campaign in Bagan Region, titled, "Say, No Plastic bag." [We would like to use "Refuse use of plastic bags," if the quote is not its original wording.]

From 2014 on, in all sub-City Mart Supermarkets too, a program "No Plastic Bag Day" has been being implemented every 5th of the month whereas in marketplace by City Mart as well every last Monday and Tuesday of the month with the co-operation of customers.

Besides, it has been learnt that City Hero Kits are being sold out as of 21st September with a view to encouraging customers to protect our city from

environmental pollution by using reusable bags and personal own use water containers for purified water plastic bottles.

City Hero Kits contains City Hero Shopping Bag, City Hero water bottle, to be used for plastic jobs and City Hero badges to fasten on clothes as a symbol of honor. Restricted amounts of City Hero Kits have been produced, exclusively designed for City Heroes of Yangon. It is hoped that City Hero Badges will remind us of reducing utilization of plastic jobs. Especially earnings from the sale of City Hero Kit will be used in the task of the conservation of our national environment, according to Ma Hnin Le Wai, Marketing Executive.

City Hero Kit contains city-hero-brand shopping bag, personally used water container, a badge and Honor Certificate of City Hero.

Only if efforts are made not to use disposable bags as much as possible since prior to its use, which are difficult to be destroyed and it will take several years to be destroyed, will prevention be able to be made not to cause environmental pollution.

It will cost a lot to recycle plastic at the time when it turns up as rubbish. As it takes time much to be destroyed, it greatly causes destruction to soil, ground water and natural environment. It will help to protect our dwelling place and its surrounding areas only if we ourselves reduce uses of plastic jobs and we can make our fellow dwellers practice this habit.

Let us change ourselves into City Heroes as our city is waiting for city heroes who care for natural environment, systematically throw rubbish and protect environmental pollution.

A TALE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10

Creativity of mother to protect her young baby from foxes- A deer mother tales

By Khin Maung Phone Ko

ONE day in the time of sunny spring when everything is bright and green, a mother deer brought out her newly born baby three-month-old deer called Dodo. When in the spring time other predators like foxes, were also roaming around to find prey. Two foxes saw the deer mother and

Dodo which they are interested to catch. The foxes went to the direction of them. But deers are helpless to protect their life, except running away with a swift speed.

But not a small little one dodo could not run and could be left behind mother deer. It was like the foxes for easy attack on their prey. However, God of cre-

ation provide a DMT chemicals only given to the animals and plants. With this DMT or other coined as spirit molecules, the mother deer struct on creativity and asked her child to go and hide or her child know how to get out of foxes sights. When the little one is safely hiding under bushes, the deer mother show ran in sight of foxes and diverted them from her

baby. Then two foxes chased the mother who out run them and wait again for foxes to come nearer and ran again. The running and chasing activities diverted the foxes away from the hiding baby. Finally, Foxes had given up to chase and had gone away. Then the mother deer came back to call her baby out of the bushes where it was hiding. Then the mother

deer and Dodo enjoy roaming on the sunny bright and beautiful land scape of the jungle.

Bible Verses:

Listen, my son to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.