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Sunday, 22 October 2017

Foreign interference in Rakhine doesn't work: China

China supports the Myanmar's government's efforts in safeguarding peace and stability and would not join other countries in condemning what many term a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against Muslims, an official with the ruling Chinese Communist

Party said yesterday.

"Based on experience, you can see recently the consequences when one country interferes in another. We won't do it," said Guo Yezhou, a deputy head of the Chinese Communist Party's international depart-

ment. He told this to reporters on the sidelines of a party congress.

China believes that Myanmar's government and people can handle its problems on its own and are "capable of handling" the situation without out-

side help, Guo said.

"China and Myanmar are friendly, neighbouring countries joined by rivers and mountains. China will be affected if there's any unstable situation in Myanmar," he added.

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A harvester in a paddy field in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Delta. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

IRRI research project works to improve rice yields

AN Australian-funded five-year research project led by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Myanmar is working to improve local rice farmers' ability to adapt to agricultural challenges and respond

to market opportunities.

Through the Australian Government's Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the MYRice project is working to transform the rice sector of low-

er Myanmar — the Ayeyawady and Bago regions — that account for more than half of the total rice-harvested areas in the country. By releasing new rice varieties and developing the capacity of local farmers, re-

searchers, and extension staff, the IRRI project has helped increase the productivity and income of small farmers, as well as foster greater overall participation by all stakeholders.

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SUNDAY SPECIAL

SUNDAY SPECIAL

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Meeting on implementation of humanitarian assistance in Rakhine

A MEETING on the systematic implementation of a humanitarian assistance project by the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) was held yesterday morning at the Yangon Region Relief and Resettlement Department, at which Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye delivered a speech.

The Union Minister said the UEHRD Committee was formed with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as chairperson to cooperate and participate in multi-sector works for Rakhine State development. The work processes will be conducted country wide with government, state government and people working together in unity, the Union Minister said.

“The Rakhine State affair is the whole country’s affair. The view of many countries in the world is negative toward our country, and the international view and the event on the ground

needs to be well understood. That is why the Rakhine State Advisory Commission was formed. Humanitarian assistance will be provided utilising the internal strength of the country”, Dr Win Myat Aye said.

The Union Minister said the young people of the country will be essential in implementing the project.

“Resettlement will be systematically conducted by the government. The youth sector is important in development, and systematic work will be conducted according to the law to prevent conflicts from occurring again in the future. Work will be done for the two societies to live harmoniously. The above mentioned work will be conducted successfully by using the strength and forces of the youth. There is a need to reduce the psychological effects and feelings in providing humanitarian assistance. Works were done for peace and tranquillity in the society”.

The Union Minister added that there is a need to collect

information from villages, and then explained about distributing humanitarian assistance.

The youth humanitarian co-ordination group then explained about the plan on assisting and participating in one of UEHRD’s work processes of humanitarian assistance. The Union Minister and Deputy Minister further explained the plan.

It was decided at the meeting to immediately form youth groups, with each group consisting of 20 youths to provide humanitarian assistance directly to affected families in Rakhine State. Each group will conduct 20 days of humanitarian assistance work. The meeting was attended by the Union Minister, Deputy Minister, Yangon Region hluttaw representative, director generals, representatives of Ayeyawady Foundation, Youth incharges from National League for Democracy, Youth humanitarian coordination group, Youth Social Group and Yangon Youth Policy. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Nine private sector task forces formed to participate in UEHRD programme

NINE task forces were formed at a meeting yesterday held at the UMFCCI headquarters chaired by Dr. Aung Tun Thet, chief coordinator of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD). The meeting was attended by representatives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (UMFCCI) and affiliated associations.

The task forces were formed for sectors in which the respective associations possess special expertise, officials said.

For the political and social development of the country, the private sector reviewed the important and urgent works required in Rakhine State. The nine task forces were formed by combining the strength of private businesses to assist sector-wise in the reconstruction and development of Rakhine State, it is learnt.

The nine task forces were: Construction and Infrastructure; Agriculture and livestock breeding; Economic Zones Development; Information and Public Relations; Job creation and Vocational Training; Healthcare; Micro-financing; Fund raising through crowd-funding; and Tourism promotion. In addition to the immediate works in Rakhine State of resettlement and hu-

manitarian assistance, the groups will set up long-term and short-term plans to increase trade and investment for establishing businesses and creating job opportunities.

Preliminary work of the groups to set up policies for effectively implementing the work, selecting members, assigning duties and responsibilities will be conducted quickly and submitted to UEHRD at a private sector meeting to be held on Wednesday 25 October for confirmation, it is learnt.

After this, work group members, representatives of UMFCCI and affiliated associations will visit Rakhine State in the last week of October to conduct a study on preliminary requirements.

A group to coordinate and lead all the groups cooperating with UEHRD will be formed and UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win invited private businesses and Myanmar businesses to contribute their professional expertise in the various sectors, it is learnt.

“We will show that private businesses can develop Rakhine State despite all the difficulties. Various platforms such as the internet, mobile phones and social media will be used for businesses and people of the entire country to participate” said Dr. Aung Tun Thet. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye addresses the meeting on implementation of humanitarian assistance projected by UEHRD in Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

Foreign interference ...

FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Guo also said that China’s principle was not to interfere in the internal affairs of another country when asked why China’s approach to the crisis in northern Rakhine was different from Western nations.

U.N. officials have described Myanmar’s strategy as “ethnic cleansing”, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Wednesday.

Myanmar’s National Security Advisor has urged the UN and international communities not to use the terms “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide” lightly regarding the issues in northern Rakhine State.

He made the remark at the meeting on the Situation in

Myanmar in the United Nations Security Council on 28th September in New York, after the terms were used in statements made by the UN Secretary-General and representatives of the member states of the council.

“There is no ethnic cleansing and genocide in Myanmar. Ethnic cleansing and genocide are serious charges and they should not be used lightly. It would be a sad commentary of our times if we allowed emotions to cloud over and assert that what is happening in Rakhine is ethnic cleansing without first undertaking a legal review and making a judicial determination,” said U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor.—GNLM—GNLM ■

Second Intha National Day held

THE second Intha National Day was held on the hill of Inlay Hpaung Daw Oo pagoda in Nyaung Shwe, Southern Shan State yesterday morning.

Forty-eight boats rowed in a performance that paid homage to the Pagoda prior to the ceremony that began with In Yoe Yar traditional dances.

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung then gave a welcoming speech,

followed by U Nay Myo, Nyaung Shwe Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative, reading the message of Intha National Day sent by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint.

The national day message sent by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than was read by Nyaung Shwe constituency 1 state Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Win.

In attendance at the ceremony were the Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, the Shan State Chief Minister and state ministers, representatives from the Hluttaw, ethnic literature and cultural groups, social societies and local residents.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits MITV and MIR

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint met with officials of the Shwe Than Lwin Company on the grounds of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) in Yangon yesterday and viewed the facilities used for news broadcasting in the respective newsrooms of Myanmar International Radio (MITV) and MRTV.

During the meeting, U Kyaw Win, chairman of the Shwe Than Lwin Company, discussed various ways for MITV to be broadcast true news to international countries.

The CEO of MITV and MRTV Entertainment U Zaw Thet Maung then explained the current state of MITV broadcasting, which include YouTube, Facebook and other website pages, and the connecting works with international news agencies. U Zaw Thet Maung also discussed future conditions, the state of social activities, and staff and broadcast costs.

Myanmar International Television was known as MRTV-3



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint visits the news broadcasting room of Myanmar International Radio (MITV) in Yangon on 21 October 2017. PHOTO: MNA

from 2001 to 2010 before the staff of MRTV and Shwe Than Lwin Media jointly began broadcasting as MITV.

The MITV channel broadcasts daily in English and in-

cludes programmes about the ethnic people of Myanmar, short biographies of well-known persons, prominent local sights in Myanmar, news, documentaries, travel stories, social life articles,

weather reports and other content.

The MITV Channel is being broadcast in English especially for Myanmar people who live abroad and foreigners who ar-

rive in Myanmar to know the real conditions of Myanmar and to learn the traditional cultures of Myanmar.

In the evening, the Union Minister visited Myanmar International Radio (MIR) located on Lower Pazundaung Road in Botahtaung Township, Yangon and viewed the preparation broadcasts, installation of editing and broadcasting equipment, studio rooms, and backup rooms. The broadcasting of commentaries, films and videos was explained by the officials of MIR, who also spoke about the current conditions of MIR and future works.

After the presentations of MIR officials, the Union Minister said the current state of affairs of MIR is interesting and pleasing, and said he believes that MIR is working at international standards and would soon be known to the world for its broadcasts.

The Union Minister then toured the grounds of Shwe Than Lwin Company by car. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Police to crack down on intoxicant users in Shu Khin Thar Beach area

THE Rakhine State Police force is taking action against those suspected of using intoxicating substances along Shu Khin Thar Strand Road in Sittway Township, Rakhine State.

“We announced that information over loudspeakers and distributed the pamphlets before we made arrests.

Taking intoxicating substances in groups along the Shu Khin Thar Strand Road in Sittway causes not only an annoyance to the public who are resting in the area but also a danger to motor vehicles. Therefore, we made arrests”, a police spokesman said.

Police said a total of 48 suspects were arrested, with the first arrests made on 15 October involving 46 people in 12 cases. The second wave of arrests were made on 17 October involving three people in two cases.

“Currently, they were released on Ks20,000 bail. Now the township development committee has posted notices on vinyl sign boards.

We urge everyone not to break the rules.”

Police Major U Aung Myat Moe said they want to prevent cars from driving around playing loud music in the downtown area and eliminate those taking intoxicating substances in groups as they are annoyances to the public who live peacefully in Sittway.

“Strand Road in Sittway is a resort for Sittway dwellers. We thank the police force for taking action and arresting those who are taking intoxicating substances in this area.” said resident Bagyi Kyaw.

Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State and the site of a state cabinet office, is a vibrant city with many government workers, departmental staff, international diplomats and local and foreign guests.

“With officials taking action like this, the Strand Road area where local people and guests rest will be more beautiful and peaceful”, a resident said. —Han Lin Naing (Sittway) ■

IRRI research project works to improve rice yields

FROM PAGE 1

“IRRI’s collaborative approach in working with farmers and local researchers has improved the livelihood of the small farming families,” said Robert Edis, research program manager at ACIAR. “Enhancing rice and pulse production can significantly help alleviate poverty and poor nutrition and improve the livelihoods of the local farmers.”

The research project helped increase farmers’ yield by 20%, increasing their income by 30%, while decreasing yield loss by an average of 15%.

“As MYRice wraps up, it’s heartening to know that this project has helped to significantly increase productivity and yield for farmers,” said Grant Singleton, IRRI principal scientist and MYRice project leader. “It has also built their knowledge base, which in turn is shaping the national agriculture policies for the benefit of farmers and Myanmar’s rice sector.”

U Aung Zaw Naing, regional minister of Agricultural, Live-

stock, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Bago Region, said, “The project helped improve the research capability of the scientists and researchers and this can push the transformation of Myanmar’s rice sector to be a top exporter again.”

Myanmar’s Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation incorporated the best management practices in rice and the high-yielding rice and pulse varieties into the country’s national policy on agricultural production.

MYRice encouraged more participatory varietal selection activity with the Department of Agricultural Research.

“We’ll ensure that the technologies and best management practices in rice that we developed with IRRI are extended to other parts of Myanmar,” explained U Hla Myint, regional director from the Myanmar Government’s Department of Agriculture.

The MYRice project reached more than 10,000 Myanmar farmers. Of this, 3,670

farmers were directly involved in field trials for suitable, climate-resilient varieties of rice and pulses and their management. Women constituted a significant portion of the participants. The formation of a platform called the Learning Alliance enabled farmers, millers, traders and other stakeholders of the rice value chain to share experiences and exchange information on market opportunities.

At the final review meeting of the MYRice project held in Myanmar Oct. 9-10, Dr. Edis encouraged the officials and staff of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agricultural Research to reflect on the legacy of the MYRice project over the past five years.

“Use the knowledge, experience and resources you have gained in order to do greater things for Myanmar,” Edis said.

ACIAR has commissioned an external review team, led by Dr. Rod Lefroy, to evaluate the MyRice activities, outputs, and outcomes for the past four and a half years.—GNLM ■

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Dried fish prices on the rise in domestic market during fishing season

THE PRICE of dried fish have been on the rise in domestic market, especially in Ayeyawady Region, this fishing season, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

According to sources from the dried fish market, despite the high in value of dried products, the trade in Pyapon market remained unchanged.

Currently, dried mackerel is sold for Ks18,000 per viss (3.6 lbs), dried banded snakehead for Ks12,000 per viss and dried bummalo for Ks6,500 per viss, residents say. On Wednesday and Saturday, those from coastal villages regularly sell a wide variety of dried products in the market in Pyapon Village at a cheaper price.

The price of those marine products is expected to decrease in early November as more species of fish are



Women sell dried fish displayed at a market. PHOTO: REUTERS

commonly found in the sea on days after the full-moon day of Tazaungmone, dried fish traders say. Myanmar's dried fish are

mainly exported to India.

Marketable fish and prawns are currently being exported to China, Thailand, Singapore, Ku-

wait, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Bangladesh and the United Kingdom and other countries.—GNLM ■

Reclamation planned for 1,000 acres of vacant land in Sagaing

MORE THAN 1,000 acres of vacant land in Sagaing Region will be reclaimed in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, according to a report of the Myawady Daily's Saturday edition.

The projected land reclamation of 300 acres of farmland in Tamu Township and 780 acres of farmland in Khamti

and Minkin townships will be implemented by the Sagaing Region Agricultural Mechanisation Department, with plans to spend Ks500 million funds contributed by the government plus financial support from the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund, also known as the Lift Fund.

Reclamation of agricultural land has been made in the region since 2016-2017 with government funds, with the intention of direct benefit to farmers without land. The new plan is targeted to start at the end of December under the supervision of the Agricultural Mechanisation Department.

All works will be made through the tender system, said an official of the aforementioned department.

A total of 500 acres of farmland in Katha and YeU towns as well as Honmalin Township in upper Chindwin area have successfully been reclaimed in FY2016-17.—GNLM ■

Ammunitions, raw opium and Yaba pills seized

AN anti-narcotics squad stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Min Min at the corner of Kanaung Minthagyi and 61st streets in Mandalay at 2pm on 20 October and seized 141 yaba pills and two mobile phones. In connection with this case, police also searched a house owned by Mahn Kyaw Khaing and detained him for possession of 4,387 yaba pills and a mobile phone. The police also searched Kyaw Lwin's house and discovered 4,662 yaba pills and a mobile phone.

Similarly, an anti-narcotics squad from Mon State searched a house owned by Kyaw Thu, alias Kyaw Naing Oo, at No. 3/42, Htwe Nyo

Street, Thayagone village, Mudon Township at 11 pm on 19 October. Police detained him after finding 2,554 yaba pills and five M-21 7.62mm bullets, four .30 carbine bullets, three AK-47 bullets, two .22 bullets, Ks602,500, a mobile phone and one motorcycle.

Another anti-narcotics squad from Kengtung searched a motorcycle driven by Kya T near Naungpha police post, Kengtung Township at 11am on 20 October. Police detained him for possession of 2,000 yaba pills and one mobile phone.

On the same day, an anti-narcotics squad from Tachilek searched Arr Nway's house at Hway Yone (Arrkha) village,

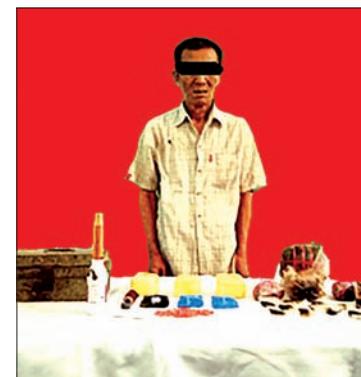
Mong Phone (B) village-tract in Tachilek Township at 10:30 am. Police seized 6,800 yaba pills and 1.85 kilos of raw opium from the house. An anti-narcotics squad from Taunggyi searched the house of Zaw Myo Tun, alias Ange, and found 800 yaba pills

and 30 grams of opium lead at Shwe Wah street, Yadanathiri Ward in Taunggyi.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■



Kyaw Thu (a) Kyaw Naing Oo. PHOTO: MPF



Arr Nway. PHOTO: MPF



File photo shows an aerial view of downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Apartments with rental prices of Ks100,000 in high demand in Yangon

APARTMENTS with monthly rental prices of around Ks100,000 are in high demand in the commercial city of Yangon in the post-Thadingyut period, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

Local real estate agents say that the rental market booms after Thadingyut festival, especially in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North) and other peri-urban areas, as the majority of potential renters sought

new accommodations away from downtown. According to the property agents, the rental prices of apartments in downtown still remains high, resulting in a decrease of rent market activity. Nyan Tun Lynn from Tainglonkyaw real estate services agency said it is his view that tenants are looking uptown because of the high rental rates in the downtown area. The rental market plays a crucial part in the smooth operation of property market, he added. In sub-urban areas,

the top-floor apartments have rented for a monthly payment of Ks80,000 while rent for a third-floor apartment in the same area is around Ks100,000. Renters mostly make three-month or six-month rental contracts. In Latha, Lanmadaw, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung and Pazundaung townships in downtown Yangon, the monthly rental fee for an apartment is between Ks150,000 and Ks600,000, said U Myint Lwin, a property agent.—GNLM ■

Import value goes up by \$1.5 bn in current FY

THE TOTAL import value reached US\$9.272 billion in the current financial year, \$1.5 bn more than that of the same period of last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Between 1 April and 6 October, Myanmar bought \$3.379 bn worth of capital goods, \$3.577 bn worth of intermediate goods and \$2.316 bn worth of consumer goods from foreign trade partners, largely from its neighbours. According to the ministry's statistics, the import

value by government sector amounted to \$509 million while the private sector imported a wide range of products worth \$8.763 bn.

This fiscal year saw a decrease in import value of capital goods by the private sector.

The sector imported capital goods worth \$3.109 bn, a decrease in value of \$105 mn matched against the last FY.

This time last year, import value totaled \$7.717 bn, including \$201 million from the gov-

ernment sector and \$7.516 bn from the private sector, with the country importing \$3.231 bn worth of capital goods, \$2.556 bn worth of intermediate goods and \$1.873 bn worth of consumer goods. Medicines, personal goods, farming machinery, household goods, construction materials, foodstuffs, luxury products, automobiles and electronic devices have chiefly been imported from Southeast Asia, Asia, Africa, Europe and Western states.—Shwe Khine ■

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade shows increase of \$4.7 mn

DESPITE the decrease in value of border import, Myanmar-Bangladesh total border trade this fiscal year increased by over \$4.7 million against the last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Bilateral trade of the two countries totalled US\$9.939 mn in over first half of FY2017-18, with the exports exceeding the

imports by \$9.897 mn. From 1 April to 3 October of this year, trade through Maungtau earned \$2.06 mn while trade from the Sittway border point was valued at \$2.645 mn. Ginger, peanuts, mung bean, dried plums, garlic, rice, saltwater prawn and fish, bamboo, blankets, candy, plum jam and footwear are included on the list of main export items

at Myanmar-Bangladesh borders.

Myanmar's international trade through sea routes accounted for 80 per cent of the total, and the rest was conducted via border gates.

The country conducts its border trade with neighbouring countries via 16 land border gates.—Swe Nyein ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

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The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၅၂၊ ၀၉၅၇၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

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မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

ကျိုင်းတုံ
မြို့သစ် (၃-၁) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၀၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

ပြင်ကြီးများ
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေချက်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

ဝင်္ကေ
ရေဘဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိဆက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဝင်္ကေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရွှေ၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

ပုံရွာ
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ ပုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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Voices from donation ceremony for UEHRD



Dr. Aung Tun Thet. PHOTO: MNA



U Zaw Htay PHOTO: MNA



Dr. Khin Shwe. PHOTO: MNA

ACEREMONY to donate money for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) was held yesterday morning at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, where State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepted Ks17.77 billion donated by businesspersons.

The following are the words of donors and officials who were at the ceremony.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet,
Chief Coordinator

“Our country can develop only through balanced cooperation of government, civil society organisations and private sectors. Today’s ceremony was held to honour the formation of a committee on Rakhine State and the implementation of a project as well as to honour the donors. Donation can be in any form. It can be in cash, in technology, even in a form of moral support. If we want our country to develop, succeed and be peaceful, people can donate what they can while businesses donate. We all need to try. At this age, while people are connected via internet facebook, can’t the people be organised through this? We are thinking about it. We need to thank today’s donors and recognise their ‘ce-

tana’.

We have a population of 51 million. If each of the 51 million donates a hundred, thousand, ten thousand, the total will be substantial. It will not only be for development of the Rakhine region, but for development of the whole country. It will show support to the new government.

As the donors are honoured, others will be enticed to step forward and do likewise. The amount is not important in donating. I would like to tell youths to come together and help in this technically advanced age. We understand that youths wouldn’t have much money. But they have strong wills. Another important thing is to change the mindset. For the country to be peaceful, it must start with you yourself being peaceful. For yourself to be peaceful, all the youths need to have good will toward one another. They need to have patience with one another and must understand each other. Today’s work is the start of this journey. Look at how happy this occasion is. The other day, donors turn up immediately after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi opened the event.

As people watch this on TV, we hope to have more donations. Some youth may feel bad and insecure for being unable to donate money because

they don’t have income. No, they can participate. For example, they can do so by their writings, by their thoughts.

When a person faces difficulty, it is a time of opportunity for that person. Difficulties faced by our country in the Rakhine region is an opportunity for our country. Don’t think of today’s donations being made by a single donor or an entity. This is solving on our own the problem the country is facing. It doesn’t mean we don’t need help from abroad. But the strength of a country lies within the country. This strength is not only the strength of the rich people or businesses. It is the strength of all the people. Every one of us needs to donate more or less within this week. We will use Facebook to make donations. People can individually say I can do this. Or I’ll do this in education, health etc. We want such responses”.

U Zaw Htay,
Director General,
Ministry of State
Counsellor’s Office

“I hosted a dinner where businesses were invited. They pledged to help. After their pledge, we arranged this donation ceremony. We explained about the programmes we will conduct in northern Rakhine State. They responded by offering to help in any way they could.

There are three priority programmes. First is repatriation and resettlement. Second is reconstruction. Third is development. In her speech, the State Counsellor spoke of development and long-term avoidance of conflicts. The enterprise will conduct all three programmes. There is a central committee for the Rakhine region. It was formed to find a long term solution for Rakhine State. Meanwhile, as the events of 9 October 2016 and 25 August 2017 unfolded, additional committees required were formed. The committee of Dr. Win Myat Aye is to specifically implement the suggestions of two Rakhine commissions, the Kofi Annan Commission and the commission of Vice President U Myint Swe. There is a Central Committee. Above it all, the international community is insisting on involvement in using their money. For example, UN organisations and INGOs are proposing to participate. Businesses and people are offering to participate. On top of it, the State Counsellor assessed the situation and formed an enterprise to involve local, foreign and government in the matter.

Priority works conducted by each committee are different from one another. A substantial amount was budgeted by

the government. On top of this, the intention was to conduct an international-level of work and thus donations were being accepted. The guideline of the State Counsellor was to have a border fence of international standard. We will strive toward this.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister and party will come on 23 October. There will be a meeting with Myanmar Minister for Home Affairs and high ranking officials on 23 October. Ministerial level meeting will be held on 24 October. When Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe went to Bangladesh, the discussion was based on the 1993 agreement. Based on this, Bangladesh made an agreement proposal. Our government had two meetings on this and the second one was held yesterday. A final draft was achieved. This had been submitted to the State Counsellor. Amendments made by the State Counsellor will be finalised when the Bangladesh minister visits. Based on the discussion, an agreement will be signed. Discussions need to be made with Bangladesh on the terms and conditions of accepting repatriation. Once the agreement is signed, there’ll be a time frame for repatriation. We have a list made by Rakhine State government. There is also a list of the remaining people.

Comparing these lists, there is a difference to the UNHCR’s announcement of more than 500,000 to 600,000. All will be reviewed. After the review, the repatriation will be as conducted in 1993. Once the review is conducted, the number to be accepted will be known. Special funds, as well as ordinary budget is used. Donations will also be used.”

Dr. Khin Shwe,
Businessman

I put up Ks1 billion. My daughter put up Ks350 million. U Aung Ko Win put in Ks3 billion. U Kyaw Win Ks1 billion. Rakhine State must be defended. Arrangements to raise chickens, pigs, ducks, goats and cows need to be made for the livelihood of the people in the region. Factories and garment factories need to be constructed. Infrastructure is another thing. The Mayyu Mountain range is difficult to cross. Roads need to be laid.

The government needs money to do this on its own. Businesses are in this on the same page as the government. Democracy must not be lost. So is the Rakhine region and border land at the border with Bangladesh. The government needs to set up firm plans and all have a plan to work together starting from the required money”.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Having nuclear weapons 'matter of life and death' for North Korea: agency

MOSCOW — Pyongyang does not plan to hold any talks with Washington about its nuclear programme, a senior North Korean diplomat said on Friday, declaring that possessing nuclear weapons was a matter of life and death for North Korea, the RIA news agency reported.

Tension has soared on the peninsula following a series of weapons tests by North Korea and a string of increasingly bellicose exchanges between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump, in a speech last month at the United Nations, threatened to "totally destroy" North Korea if necessary to defend itself and allies and called the North's leader a "rocket man" on a suicide mission. Choe Son-

hui, director-general of the North American department of North Korea's foreign ministry, told a non-proliferation conference in Moscow Washington would "have to put up" with North Korea's nuclear status, RIA reported.

"This is a matter of life and death for us. The current situation deepens our understanding that we need nuclear weapons to repel a potential attack."

"We will respond to fire with fire." Pyongyang would regard any attempts to strangle the country via UN Security Council sanctions as an attempt "to declare war".

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, addressing the same conference earlier on Friday, urged world powers to get behind a joint Russian-Chinese

roadmap for settling the crisis over North Korea's weapons programme.

"We are convinced that its implementation will promote the lessening of military activity and tension on the Korean peninsula and the forming in Northeastern Asia of a system of equal and indivisible security," he said.

The plan proposes a moratorium on North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons tests, while South Korea and the United States suspend holding military exercises. "The main task at the current stage is to prevent a military conflict which will inevitably lead to a large-scale humanitarian, economic and ecological catastrophe," Lavrov said. "All the sides involved should exercise restraint."—Reuters ■



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (C) guides the multiple-rocket launching drill of women's sub-units under KPA Unit 851, in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 24 April, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opponents call for halting construction of US base in Okinawa

NEW YORK — Opponents gathered outside the Japanese consulate in New York on Friday and called for a halt to construction of a US military base in Okinawa, southern Japan, citing the impact on the endangered dugong.

Construction is under way off the Henoko coastal area of Nago in Okinawa for the planned relocation of the US Marine Corps' Air Station Futenma from the crowded res-

idential area of Ginowan, also in Okinawa.

Noriko Oyama, an Okinawa native who led the rally, said she and other US-based like-minded people have been holding such events in front of the Japanese Consulate General every week since late September to let Americans know about the base issue.

In August, a US federal appeals court revived a previously dismissed lawsuit seeking to

halt the transfer of the Futenma base due to the potential impact on dugong.

A participant in Friday's rally, Shizuko Nagashima said she has been collecting signatures for a petition calling on the Okinawa government to designate the dugong as the prefecture's animal and act to protect it. Nagashima plans to submit the document to the prefectural government late this month.—Kyodo News ■



Protestors gather outside the Japanese consulate in New York on 20 October, 2017, calling for a halt to construction of a US military base in Okinawa, southern Japan, citing the impact on the endangered dugong. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CPC official urges China, Japan to improve ties

BEIJING — A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Saturday urged China and Japan to "stabilize and improve" ties on the sidelines of the Party's ongoing 19th National Congress.

"Sino-Japanese ties face new opportunities at the moment but challenges remain," Guo Yezhou, vice minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, told a press conference.

Asked to comment on whether Chinese and Japanese leaders are scheduling visits to each other's countries next year, he said mutual visits are very important to bilateral ties.

"But we also know that high-level mutual visits need support and understanding of the public," Guo said, urging both sides to "create better conditions and cultivate a better environment for the development of bilateral relations."—Xinhua ■

Three dead, search on for others after landslide at Malaysia construction site

KUALA LUMPUR — Three foreign workers were killed and 11 others were missing after a landslide at a construction site in George Town, capital of the north-west Malaysian state of Penang, authorities said on Saturday.

The bodies of two Indonesians and one Myanmar were pulled from the debris, while two other workers escaped with light injuries, officials said.

"Now the problem we are facing is we need to excavate a 35-metre heap of earth. We have deployed a K9 unit with three

dogs to search for victims," Penang fire and rescue department director Saadon Mokhtar said.

Most of those trapped were believed to be foreign workers from Indonesia and Bangladesh, including Rohingyas, he said. One Malaysian, the construction site supervisor, was believed to be buried as well.

The landslide occurred at a construction site, where two 49-storey condominium towers are being built. The cause has yet to be determined.—Reuters ■

Infinite strength of inter-faith prayers

Khin Maung Oo

IN Regions, States and cities across the nation, Peace Prayer Ceremonies of Inter-Faiths groups are being held. These ceremonies are being celebrated with a view to developing peace and prosperity in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and all its citizens, in accord with their respective religious traditions.

The State acknowledges Buddhism as a religion which is well-endowed with characteristics of value for most of the people to profess, with Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism recognized as existing religions for respective believers to worship. In other words, Myanmar,

our country is a nation with freedom to believe or worship, not mixing politics and religion. In the 2008 Constitution, it is strictly prescribed, "The abuse of religion for political purposes is forbidden. Moreover, any act which is intended or likely to promote feelings of hatred, enmity or discord between racial or religious communities or sect is contrary to this Constitution. A law may be promulgated to punish such activity."

However, with regard to the events in Maungtau in northern Rakhine State, some propagandists and agitators have been found to have spread fabricated news and rumors by shouting, "Stop Killing Muslims in Burma",

alleging that Muslims who profess Islam were being slaughtered in Myanmar. These slogans were designed for Islamic countries and Muslims across the world to feel hatred and get upset over Myanmar. We, the people of Myanmar are well convinced that these are not actual truths, but just fake propaganda.

Most of the people in Myanmar are Buddhists but we have been living cordially together with Christians, Muslims and Hindus for several thousand years. Being those who share the same land for food and shelter, we have a strong background history and we have faced difficulties through weal or woe in national affairs. Without any external

interference, different faiths and races will never be the cause for conflicts. Buddha's Teachings do not encourage bullying those who are weaker than us. These facts can be known to be true by studying Myanmar History and History of Buddhism. At such a time when international pressures is being applied unprecedentedly on our Government and our State Leaders with false allegations, we, the citizens of Myanmar need to send our prayers for the peace and prosperity in our country. We firmly believe that our prayers will surely have infinite impact on the nation. May all the citizens of Myanmar be filled with love for each other and may truth and justice prevail. ■

THE uprooted corruption in Myanmar is one of the issues or challenges for the democratic government. Until 2012, the corruption was rife in Myanmar. The notoriety of corruption tarnished the image of country and the general public disgusted the people in authority or in power. Thus, there had been lack of trust and cooperation between the public and the corrupt regimes in the last two decades. During the eras of the succeeding regimes, Myanmar had been notorious for the prevalence of malfeasance, malpractice and corruption among the public officials or public servants.

Actually malfeasance and malpractice are related to acts of bribery and corruption. In other words, they all are immoral, illegal and unfair practices. Public were reluctant to deal with public officials whenever they wanted to get access the public services. Bribery and corruption were blatantly practiced in various government offices and organizations. From top to bottom layer of hierarchy, almost every official was corrupt to some degree. The reason why they became corrupt personnel was that their salaries or wages were too low to tackle the skyrocketing prices of commodities and rising cost of living. Then they committed corruption when they were in authority. In spite of knowing that it is the violation of the public servant ethics, the corrupt public officials did not care the potential punishment by law or dismissal. At that time, rule of law was totally ignored by the corrupt officials. Even when the public lodged complaints against the officials for the bribery and corruption, the punitive action was not given to the corrupt officials. The general public have bitterly encountered the corrupt public services personnel and delayed services. Moreover, public had to go

through endless bureaucratic red tape to get some official permit or approval for doing legal business or trade.

Those who committed malfeasance, malpractice and corruption are in the administration or in the position of power. Some people in their profession commit malpractice as well. Obviously, their behavior and acts made the ordinary people troublesome and caused serious impediment to the socio-economic development. All those involved in corruption must be brought to justice for the violation of law and abuse of power indeed. During the eras of the succeeding of the regimes, rule of law was totally neglected and the judicial system was influenced by the regimes.

N.B. The Penal Code, enacted in 1861 is still in effect till now. "Of Offences By or Related to Public Servants" have been described from section 161 to 171 in Chapter IX in the Penal Code. These offences are related to corruption committed by Public servants. However, corruption has not been eradicated and it impeded economic growth badly.

As a result, people became

Eradicating corruption in Myanmar

By: Tommy Pauk

hapless and hopeless for choosing the incorruptible administrators and clean government. People were inclined to replace the corrupt administrators with the righteous ones by any means.

Now, people's desires for smooth transition, rights of democracy, good governance and clean government are being fulfilled by the democratically elected government. Furthermore, the Anti-Corruption Law had been enacted in 2013 and the Anti-Corruption Commission was formed in August 2013 in order to investigate and prosecute the violations of Myanmar Anti-Corruption Law. The Anti-Corruption Commission investigates allegations of corruption involving public officials. In addition, the Anti-Corruption Commission takes legal action against those who commits or attempts or abets any offences contained in the Anti-Corruption Law. Anti-Corruption Commission's motto is "No corruption for Prosperous Nation" and it is performing its duties and functions properly. People are also exhorted to give correct information and complaints with sufficient evidence to the Anti-Corruption Commission

whenever they encounter corruption in the public services sector. The Anti-Corruption Commission receives the complaints and information in respect to bribery and corruption. Due to effective manner of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the people's participation in combating corruption, public sector corruption cases have dramatically declined in Myanmar.

According to Transparency International's "Corruption Perceptions Index of 2014 Results", Myanmar had been ranked 156 out of 174 countries. As of Transparency International's "Corruption Perceptions Index of 2015 Results", Myanmar was ranked 147 out of 167 countries. Then, as of Transparency International's "Corruption Perceptions Index of 2016" Results, Myanmar was ranked 136 out of 176 countries. These ranks indicate that Myanmar has been combating corruption in the country effectively with the Anti-Corruption Law (2013).

Eradicating corruption in Myanmar is considered a national task. Myanmar must try to regain good reputation as a corruption-free country so that it can build up economic growth. People, government, law enforcement and the Anti-Corruption Commission are responsible for eradicating corruption in Myanmar. The functions and duties performed by the Anti-Corruption Commission are encouraging. The citizens appreciate its performance indeed. In conclusion, we Myanmar people ought to work together with the present government to tackle the corruption problem and ought not to encourage corruption!

Resources: Transparency International, Myanmar Penal Code (1861), the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Law (2013).

School canteens under spotlight for selling unhealthy drinks to children

Aung Myo Htet
Freelance Health Reporter

As the clock approaches 8.30am, the gates of primary schools in Yangon become crowded. Every morning, accompanied by parents and tutors, young students carrying their lunch boxes enter school compounds. They are ready to start their morning of classes, have a lunch break at noon to refill their energy and attend the afternoon sessions.

At a first glance, one can think of it as a delightful scene of a typical morning in the Myanmar's most populated city. However, there are increasing concerns about how schools are promoting public health through adequate and nutritious eating patterns for their students, although children may not be completely aware of their nutritional choices.

Daw Thuzar, a mother of two primary students from Shwe Poukkan township, Yangon, shares this concern: she wants her kids to avoid buying any drink or food and therefore never gives them pocket money on a school day. "We cannot know what school canteens will be offering them, as parents we are not allowed to enter the compound. My children said that they sell Korean-style barbecue snacks, and although we have no right to tell them whether they should sell it or not, I don't like them to eat it", she added.

Myanmar has one of the highest rates of malnourishing (stunting) among children aged under five in ASEAN, according to the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT). One third of Myanmar's children is suffering from stunting and half of the total children's deaths in Myanmar is connected with malnutrition, as the multi-donor fund shared in February 2017. This situation is alarming some parents.

The findings are supported by a study conducted by Daw Moh Moh Hlaing, Deputy Director and Head of the Nutrition Research Division at the Ministry of Health. The research with over 800 primary students from Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi found that 13% of urban kids are suffering from obesity, over 20% of kids who live near urban areas are physically weak while more than 12% of rural kids are suffering from stunting issue.

The study also found that more than 300 children—the 36%—do not even drink milk during the week. 63% of them only eat fish once or twice a week while 15% do not eat fish at all. Only half of the kids can afford to eat meat once a week or twice a week according to the research. Alarming, as milk, fish and meat contain the basic nutrients for children's development and make them strong and intelligent.

Eating habits are major contributors to nutrition problems, however, improving food consumption and food distribution for the nation's children does not only involve home meals, but school canteens, where children have their lunch every day.

According to the study previously mentioned which involved 17 prima-



ry schools across the country, school canteens or food stalls near education centers are selling ready-to-eat snacks or soft drinks. Only five schools from Mandalay and Taunggyi from Mawlamyine and Yangon were offering fruits.

Medical experts and nutritionists keep insisting that ready-to-eat snacks, fried food and soft drinks can be connected to cancer, hypertension, heart diseases or diabetes, the most common diseases in Myanmar. Unfortunately, kids enjoy them, especially soft drinks. Even though all of them must have been regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is operating under the Ministry of Health and Sports, some have no description about it.

A teacher from a primary school in Kabalu township, Sagaing Region, shared her related experience. During a class, she noticed the smell of her classroom was very strong and when trying to identify the source, her students were eating sweet and smelly snacks. She confirmed that her students really loved that snack and it was available at only 50 kyats per pack, but she doesn't allow anymore eating this kind of snacks during class time.

Daw Thuzar, the mother of two primary students from Shwe Poukkan township, Yangon, explained that the decision should rely on education authorities: "Vendors will continue to sell this kind of food and soft drinks as all they want and need is money. If teachers or headmasters from schools ban the selling within school compounds, vendors will not dare to sell again.", she shared.

The nation's future depends on its children, students, and as important as them, is their health status, but it is not a matter that school's representatives have been ignoring the issue. As shared by a 40-years-old lady who sells food at

a primary school canteen in Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon, a supervising committee formed by teachers controls the canteen and selling unhealthy food, snacks and soft drinks that contain chemicals is strictly banned and regulated.

In addition, instructions from the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) have been hanged at the canteen. They include rules such as selling fresh and healthy food, ban selling food containing chemicals, advice how to avoid flies over the food and how to throw away the rubbish properly. Despite the efforts, there is still available food with Chinese labels, which makes hard to identify what kids are eating. Even Parliament representatives also recognized the instructions did not really solve the problem.

Last February, Dr. A Zin Lat, Parliament representative from Shwe Bo Township, encouraged members of the Parliament to take action against unhealthy food or drinks that contain chemicals in school canteens and proposed to strictly control them, in order to avoid malnutrition in children.

"These days I don't see Myanmar children having enough nutrients that are required for their development, I only see them eating unhealthy snacks or drinks with any nutritional value and not contributing to their growth", she stated.

U Nay Myo Tun, a parliament representative from Htan Tabin township, shared his concern about the school canteens. "If we cannot control snacks that come from China, our children will suffer several diseases because of the toxicity they contain, and will have a shorter life expectancy.", he added. He referred to the news about basic food groups containing artificial dyes, mushroom poisoning, arsenics, fertilizer and

formalin found by the FDA in some markets. Although this can be a public health threat to the country, what is even more alarming is these items can be found in school canteens.

Dr. A Zin Lat explained that inspecting school canteens is not the solution they have to take as policy makers and the government of the country. According to her, it is needed to find the main importing source that supply the snacks and drinks to the retail and wholesale shops.

It has been seven months since the debate took place in the Myanmar Parliament, and now the officials in Nay Pyi Taw are planning to start the fight against school canteens.

The proposed plan consists on substituting China imported snacks with Myanmar snacks made with beans, produced and distributed by the Small-Scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the plan is under discussion with the Ministry of Health.

The price of the bean snacks is one of the main factors to take into consideration, as unhealthy snacks are consumed because they are cheap. The proposed traditional food must be priced between 100 and 200 kyats, according to the Director General of the Small-Scale Industries Department.

Another option can be using similar patterns as other developed countries such as the United States and Japan, where schools prepare the meal for primary and middle school students instead of letting them buy any food from the canteens.

During the Parliament discussion, U Nay Myo Htet, a Parliament representative from Kyauktada township, shared that schools being accountable for cooking students food can be a good way to ensure high quality food is distributed. Although he recognized the system may not be easy to adopt owing to the current political and economic situation in Myanmar, he plans to propose it again once Parliament meetings resume in mid October.

Teachers are welcoming the proposal of selling bean-made snacks instead, which can make children "full in a nutritious way, at an affordable price.", according to Dr. Thidar Soe, a teacher from No.1 Basic Education High School in new Dagon (North Dagon). She considers that a change in policy should not only involve the government, but all the related parties should be considered and included in the discussion: parents, teachers and students.

Daw Thuzar, the mother of two primary students proposed to solve the issue with her simple thought at the beginning: if school headmasters ban unhealthy snacks, vendors would stop selling them. In addition, parents like her play an important role, as she prepares her own snacks for her children, so they don't buy any additional snacks or sugary soft drinks. "I rarely give them any pocket money." ■

Trump tax cut plan gains momentum after US budget vote

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's tax reform plans won partial support on Friday when Republican US Senator Rand Paul said he was "all in" for massive tax cuts, but the party was still far from united over how to achieve the main item on its domestic agenda.

Trump's drive to overhaul the U.S. tax code cleared a critical hurdle on Thursday when the Senate approved a budget measure that will allow Republicans to pursue a tax-cut package without Democratic party support.

But Republicans, who control both the Senate and House of Representatives, have yet to produce a tax reform bill as a self-imposed deadline to overhaul the U.S. tax code by the end of the year approaches. The party's lawmakers differ widely on what cuts to make and how to pay for them.

They are under intense pressure to succeed on tax reform after failing so far to make



US President Donald Trump speaks about tax reform in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, US, on 11 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

good on their other main legislative ambition: scrapping Obamacare, the signature health-care law of former President Barack Obama.

On major world markets, stock prices advanced on Friday, bond yields rose, and the US dollar strengthened on increased hopes that Trump could make progress on his fiscal plans.

Democrats are likely to reject the Trump administration's tax plan, which promises to deliver up to \$6 trillion in tax cuts to businesses and people but will bloat the federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion over the next decade.

Senator Rand Paul, a fiscal hawk, was the lone Republican to vote against the budget measure on Thursday. He objected to

spending levels that he said would exceed agreed caps by \$43 billion, and called for spending reforms for so-called entitlements such as the Medicare and Medicaid health insurance programs.

On Friday, Paul said in a post on Twitter that he was "all in" for the "biggest, boldest cuts possible - and soon!" But he did not address the specifics of the tax plan.

Trump on Friday expressed optimism about the tax reform, saying Paul would eventually back the proposed tax measure when it comes up for a vote.

"The Budget passed late last night, 51 to 49. We got ZERO Democrat votes with only Rand Paul (he will vote for Tax Cuts) voting against," Trump wrote on Twitter. "This now allows for the passage of large scale Tax Cuts (and Reform), which will be the biggest in the history of our country!"—Reuters ■

May wins Brexit reprieve, faces tough weeks ahead

BRUSSELS — British Prime Minister Theresa May won a modest reprieve in stalled Brexit talks on Friday, with European Union leaders signalling their readiness to move the negotiations forward in the coming months.

But despite a more positive tone, a weakened May now faces a delicate political balancing act as she tries to meet EU demands for more concrete pledges on Britain's divorce bill without stoking a backlash from Brexit campaigners at home, some of whom would prefer she walk away from the talks.

EU leaders said at a summit in Brussels that they would begin preparations to move into "phase two" of the Brexit negotiations in December, a step forward that would allow London to discuss its future trade relationship with the bloc.

Yet they also made clear that May would have to move between now and the end of the year on settling a financial bill that EU officials have estimated

at around 60 billion euros (53.72 billion pounds).

"I think it is very clear what additional steps need to be taken," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told a news conference at the end of the summit, saying movement on the financial settlement was crucial for progress in December.

French President Emmanuel Macron was tougher, saying the two sides had not yet completed even half of the work on the

financial settlement and accusing Britain of "bluffing" by using the media to suggest there could be no deal.

"A lot is in the hands of Theresa May," he said. An EU official said it took just 90 seconds for the 27 other leaders to adopt their Brexit conclusions at the end of the meeting, underlining how united they are.

May has said she cannot provide a specific financial pledge until she knows the shape of the

future relationship. The EU is insisting that the two sides agree on an exit bill, the rights of EU citizens in a post-Brexit world and Irish border issues before delving into future ties.

Asked whether she had improved an offer of about 20 billion euros, May said she had repeated commitments she made in a speech in Italy last month, when she said the bloc would not be out of pocket when it came to its budget which runs until 2020.

"What I made clear to my EU counterparts in relation to financial contributions... is that nobody need be concerned for the current budget plans ... and that we will honour the commitments that we have made during our membership," she told a news conference before returning to Britain.

"Now there has to be detailed work on those commitments... we are going through them line by line and we will continue to go through them line by line."—Reuters ■



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, British Prime Minister Theresa May and Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat take part in an EU summit in Brussels, Belgium on 20 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

WORLD BRIEFS

China economy on track to hit 2017 growth target — state planner

BEIJING — China's economy is on track to meet the official growth target for 2017, the head of the state planning agency said on Saturday.

"We expect to achieve the full-year growth target of about 6.5 per cent," He Lifeng, chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), told a briefing on the sidelines of China's Communist Party Congress. Most economists believe actual growth should easily beat the target. The economy grew 6.8 per cent in the third quarter of the year, and 6.9 per cent in the first half.—Reuters ■

Oil market is improving and stabilizing, Saudi oil minister says

BAGHDAD — The global oil market is improving and stabilizing, Saudi Oil Minister Khalid al-Falih said in Baghdad on Saturday.

In a speech at the opening of the Baghdad International Exhibition, Falih praised the cooperation between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, which he said, contributed to "the improvement and stability we are seeing in the oil market".

Falih is the first Saudi official to make a public speech in Baghdad for several decades.—Reuters ■

Knife-wielding man wounds five people in Munich

BERLIN — A man wounded five people with a knife in the southern German city of Munich on Saturday and was being hunted by police, police and the fire department said.

None of the injuries were life-threatening, police said, adding that the attacker's motive remained unclear.

They urged people in the city to remain at home as they had received conflicting information about which way the attacker had gone.—Reuters ■

Putin and Erdogan give positive assessment to joint efforts in Astana process

MOSCOW — Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey gave an encouraging assessment to joint efforts in the framework of the Astana process, the Kremlin press service said.

“During a detailed exchange of opinions on the Syrian problem, the sides gave an encouraging assessment to joint efforts in the framework of the Astana process, which could be seen in the setting up of de-escalation

zones in Syria,” the report said.

“They discussed the prospects for a regular seventh meeting on Syria in Astana at the end of this month and mentioned the practical issues related to a further coordination of efforts toward settling the situation in Syria,” it indicated. “Putin and Erdogan expressed satisfaction with the current rate of development of Russian-Turkish cooperation in various areas,” the report said. “They stressed successful

implementation of the agreements reached at the September 28 summit in Ankara, including the ones on bilateral trade.”

Putin and Erdogan made arrangements for continuing personal contacts.

“On the whole, the conversation was marked by a business-like and fruitful atmosphere and aimed to broaden cooperation on the bilateral and regional agendas likewise,” the press service said.—Tass ■



Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey. PHOTO: TASS

Death toll from Egypt gun battle rises to 52 killed — sources

CAIRO — At least 52 Egyptian police and conscripts were killed and six more wounded in a gun battle on Friday during a raid on a suspected militant hideout in the western desert, three security sources said.

Sources had said late on Friday at least 30 police were killed. Egypt is battling an Islamist insurgency concentrated in the Sinai peninsula from two

main groups, including an Islamic State affiliate, that has killed hundreds of security forces since 2013.

The interior ministry released a statement on the operation on Friday but has so far not given any details on casualties. At least 23 police officers were killed and the other victims were conscripts, the sources said.

Security sources on Friday

said authorities were following a lead to a militant camp in the desert where eight suspected members of Hasm Movement were believed to be hiding. The group has claimed attacks around Cairo targeting judges and police.

A convoy of four SUVs and one interior ministry vehicle was ambushed from higher ground by militants firing rocket-pro-

pelled grenades and detonating explosive devices, one senior security source said.

Militants are mostly fighting in remote northern Sinai where the Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis group pledged allegiance to Islamic State in 2014. Attacks mostly hit police and armed forces, but militants have also targeted Egypt's Christians and tourists.— Reuters ■

Israel says will intensify response to Syrian fire

JERUSALEM — Five projectiles from Syria set off air raid sirens in Israeli towns on Saturday, prompting the Israeli military to say it would step up its response to stray fire from the civil war that has repeatedly spilled over the border.

The projectiles crossed into the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights and the military said in response it targeted three Syrian artillery guns.

No damage or injuries were reported in Israel. The Syrian military said the attack on one of its posts caused “material damages”. Israel has largely stayed on the sidelines of the Syrian war, keeping watch over the Golan Heights frontier and carrying out targeted air strikes or returning fire on a specific threat.

But the military's statement suggested it may start escalating its retaliations. “Whether errant fire or not, any future occurrences will force the Israel Defence Forces to intensify its response,” it said. Israel “holds the Syrian regime responsible and won't tolerate any attempt to breach Israeli sovereignty or threaten Israeli civilians' safety,” it added.

In its own statement, the Syrian military said it warned against “such aggressive acts and holds Israel fully responsible for the consequent results”.

Israel captured the Golan in the 1967 Middle East War.—Reuters ■

Suicide bombers attack two Afghan mosques, at least 72 dead

KABUL — Suicide bombers attacked two mosques in Afghanistan on Friday, killing at least 72 people including children, officials and witnesses said.

One bomber walked into a Shi'ite Muslim mosque in the capital Kabul as people were praying on Friday night and detonated an explosive, one of the worshippers there, Mahmood Shah Husaini, said.

At least 39 people died in the blast at the Imam Zaman mosque in the city's western Dasht-e-Barchi district, interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack, but a statement from the group did not provide evidence to support its claim.

Shi'ite Muslims have suffered a series of attacks in Afghanistan in recent months, many of them claimed by the Sunni Muslim militants of IS. Separately, a suicide bomb-

ing killed at least 33 people at a mosque in central Ghor province, a police spokesman said.

The attack appeared to

target a local leader from the Jamiat political party, according to a statement from Balkh provincial governor Atta Mo-

hammad Noor, a leading figure in Jamiat. No one immediately claimed responsibility.— Reuters ■



Afghan men inspect inside a Shi'ite Muslim mosque after last night attack in Kabul, Afghanistan on 21 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



The new helicopter should be able to fly in any geographical region and any weather conditions. PHOTO: TASS

Russian defence contractor developing new heavy helicopter prototype

ROSTOV-ON-DON — Russian Helicopters Group will modernize the Mil Mi-26 helicopter for Russia's Defence Ministry and is now developing a prototype of a new Mi-26T2V rotocraft, the company's press office reported on Friday.

"On the basis of the design documentation developed by the Moscow Mil Helicopter Enterprise, Rostvertol Company

is carrying out work to develop a prototype of a new Mi-26T2V helicopter with the subsequent flight trials," the rotocraft manufacturer's press office said.

Based on the customer's requirements, the Mi-26T2V helicopter should be able to fly in any geographical region and any weather conditions. The number of the crewmembers of a modernized helicopter has

remained unchanged and equals five men.

"The new helicopter will embody the latest technical solutions considering its use in combat conditions. I want to note that the talk is about the upgrade of precisely the military version of the Mi-26 rather than the Mi-26T rotocraft, which is exported," Russian Helicopters CEO Andrei Boginsky was quot-

ed by the company's press office as saying.

The upgraded Mi-26T2V helicopter will have a lifting capacity of 20 tonnes. The helicopter will be fitted out with modern NPK90-2 integrated onboard radio-electronic equipment and also with an onboard defensive aids system to protect the helicopter against missiles of various homing types.—Tass ■

Qantas flight to San Francisco turns back after 'technical issue'

PRAGUE — Czechs voted on Saturday in the final day of a parliamentary election likely to bring a billionaire businessman to power on promises to cut taxes, weed out political corruption and stand firm against immigration.

Andrej Babis's ANO party held a narrowing double-digit lead going into the vote, which started Friday and ends at 2 pm (1200 GMT) on Saturday.

The Central European country has enjoyed rapid growth, a balanced budget and the lowest unemployment in the European Union, but voters have grown tired of traditional political players, giving rise to Babis and other protest parties.

As many as nine parties had a chance of winning seats in the 200-member lower house, possibly complicating coalition-building for the victor.

ANO has maintained its rhetoric of opposition to the ruling system despite serving in the outgoing government along with Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka's centre-left Social Democrats and the centrist Christian Democrats.

Final polls gave ANO about 25-27 per cent support, at least twice that of the Social Democrats in second place.—Reuters ■

Spanish government meets to impose direct rule in rebel Catalonia

MADRID — The Spanish cabinet was meeting on Saturday to prepare to impose direct rule on Catalonia and thwart a drive by the autonomous region to break away from Spain.

It will be the first time in Spain's four decades of democracy that Madrid has invoked the constitutional right to take control of a region and rule it directly from Madrid.

Independence supporters were due to rally in the Catalan capital Barcelona on Saturday afternoon.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy insists that Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont, who heads the wealthy northeastern re-

gion's government, has broken the law several times in pushing for independence, thus justifying the imposition of central government control.

Direct rule would be temporary and could range from dismissing the regional government to a softer approach of removing heads of specific departments.

The exact measures must be agreed and voted upon in Spain's upper house, the Senate, and Rajoy wants the broadest consensus possible.

The main opposition Socialists said on Friday they would back special measures and had agreed on the holding of regional elections in January.

The government declined to confirm this, saying only that regional elections were likely and the details would be announced on Saturday.

Rajoy received the backing of the head of state, King Felipe, on Friday, who said at a public ceremony that "Catalonia is and will remain an essential part" of Spain.

"Spain needs to face up to an unacceptable secession attempt on its national territory, which it will resolve through its legitimate democratic institutions," said the king, a ceremonial figure who had criticised Catalan leaders earlier this month.

The independence push has

brought on Spain's worst political crisis since a failed military coup in 1981 several years after the end of the Franco dictatorship. It has met with strong opposition across the rest of Spain, divided Catalonia itself, and raised the prospect of prolonged street protests

It has also led Madrid to cut economic growth forecasts and prompted hundreds of firms to move their headquarters from Catalonia. Spain has the euro zone's fourth-largest economy and Catalonia accounts for a fifth of it.

Pro-independence groups have mustered more than one million people onto the streets in

protest at Madrid's refusal to negotiate a solution. Heavy-handed police tactics to shut down an independence referendum on 1 October that the government had declared illegal drew criticism from human rights groups.

Regional authorities said about 90 per cent of those who cast ballots voted for independence. But only 43 per cent of voters participated and opponents of secession mostly stayed home.

Activist organisations ANC and Omnium have called on their supporters to rally at 1600 BST in Barcelona, the region's principal city, in protest at the jailing of their leaders over sedition accusations.—Reuters ■

CPC officials confident of poverty alleviation success

BEIJING — By the end of this year, the 19 impoverished households, most of whom include people with physical or mental disabilities, in a remote village in northwest China, will be lifted out of poverty thanks to government assistance.

Through heavy investment in infrastructure, financial support for animal husbandry and agriculture, some 177 families, or about one quarter of the Zengjipan village in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, have already been lifted above the poverty line, said Zhu Yuguo, a delegate to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and village Party chief.

The ongoing congress has reaffirmed the nation's target to eliminate poverty in 2020 to achieve its goal of a moderately prosperous society. At the end of last year, China had 43 million impoverished people living in rural areas, after 55 million people were lifted above the poverty line from 2012 to 2016.

Despite difficulties, a number of congress delegates from impoverished areas across the country have expressed their confidence in accomplishing the target.

"With favorable Party and local government policies, our villagers have worked hard and now have much improved lives," said Zhu. "The residents sincerely thank the Party



The presidium of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) holds its second meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on 20 October, 2017. Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli attended the meeting. PHOTO:XINHUA

for the great changes over the past few years."

Zhu said that previously the village had rough roads, no nearby drinking water sources, suffered frequent droughts and villagers were very poor.

Now, residents have new homes, paved roads, tap water, community centers and money in their pockets. The per capita income reached 8,200 yuan (1,240 US dollars) last year, compared with just 2,400 yuan in 2010.

"It's encouraging that the Party has a consistent policy to tackle poverty. Some 500,000 people are still living in poverty in my city," said Liu Xuerong, Party chief of Huanggang City in Hubei Province and delegate to the congress.

This year, nearly 180,000 people are expected to be lifted out of poverty in Huanggang.

"Financial assistance plays a crucial role," Liu said. By the end of September, the city's outstanding loans for poverty

relief increased by nearly 40 per cent year on year to 16.3 billion yuan. Special insurance has been made available for farmers who make a living by raising goats or other livestock, or growing crops such as tea, ginger or Chinese yams.

"Eliminating poverty is a vital step for the country to achieve socialist modernization. In Huanggang, we have confidence in this," Liu said.

Poverty alleviation efforts will continue the momentum in Tibet Au-

tonomous Region to ensure the region does not fall behind in the national endeavor to build a moderately prosperous society, said Norbu Dondrup, vice chairman of the regional government and delegate to the CPC congress.

At the end of 2016, Tibet had 442,000 people living below the national poverty line out of a total population of about 3.2 million.

The government will help herders and farmers develop businesses. Chil-

dren from poor families will receive subsidized college education, and the government will help young graduates find jobs and start businesses so they can support their families, according to the delegate.

"Grassroots Party organizations must be strengthened to act as the backbone for poverty reduction," said Wang Liangcheng, a congress delegate and first secretary of the Party branch in Limin Village in southwest China's Sichuan Province. Wang, deputy head of the county pricing supervision bureau, was sent to the village to help with poverty relief efforts in 2015.

He has helped the village plant crops and establish cooperatives to increase farmers' incomes. Currently, 103 previously poor families in the village have moved into new houses and now live above the poverty line.

The number of impoverished people in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region had dropped from 2.6 million in 2013 to 1.2 million by the end of 2016.

"We have the confidence and the methods to lift the remaining impoverished households out of poverty by 2020," said Niu Xuexing, Party chief of Hotan Prefecture, in southern Xinjiang and delegate to the congress.

—Xinhua ■

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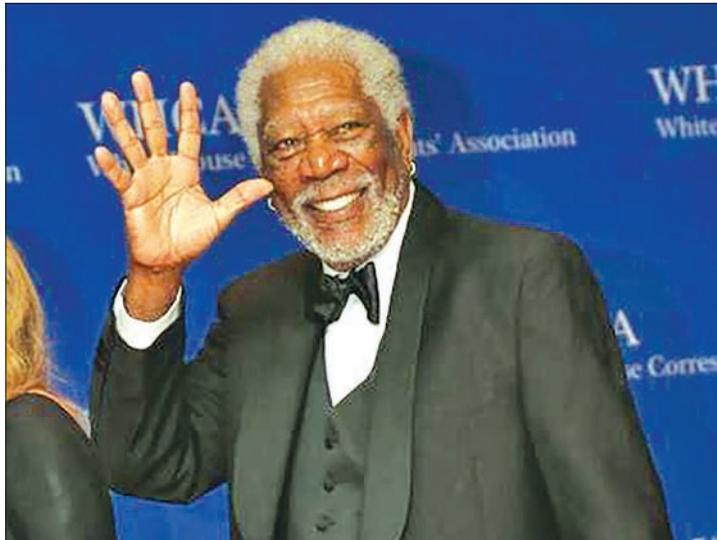
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Morgan Freeman to play Colin Powell in biopic



Veteran actor Morgan Freeman. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actor Morgan Freeman will star as Colin Powell in an independent biopic on the former U S Secretary of State.

The movie will revolve on the 2003 speech by Powell to the United Nations to seek support for the Bush administration's plan to forcibly remove Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, based on intelligence that Iraq was developing nuclear weapons, reported Variety.

Powell later described the event as a low point in his career, where the intel reports later stood discredited.

He was the first African American to serve as a Secretary of State.

Reginald Hudlin is attached to direct "Powell", from a script by Ed Whitworth, which was on the 2011 Black List.

Ashok Amritraj's Hyde Park Entertainment and Freeman's Revelations Entertainment will act as production banners.

Freeman also starred in the 2009 historical biopic "Invictus", portraying South African President Nelson Mandela.—PTI ■

Alicia Keys to return to 'The Voice'

LOS ANGELES — Singer Alicia Keys is all set to return to the reality TV singing series "The Voice".

The 36-year-old Grammy winner will join Adam Levine, Blake Shelton and debutante coach Kelly Clarkson in the 14th season of the NBC musical competition, reported Deadline.

"We are thrilled to welcome back Alicia's positive energy, competitive spirit and sheer talent. She brings unparalleled expertise and has proven she knows how to help artists win.

"The chemistry among Alicia, Kelly, Adam and Blake will make for a wildly unpredictable and compelling season 14," said Paul Telegdy, president, Alternative and Reality Group, NBC Entertainment.

Keys last mentored in season 12 of "The Voice", where her team's contestant, Chris Blue was adjudged the winner.

—PTI ■



Singer Alicia Keys. PHOTO: REUTERS

Scott Haze in talks to join Tom Hardy in 'Venom'

LOS ANGELES — Actor Scott Haze has been roped in to star in "Venom", which features Tom Hardy in the title role.

The actor is joining Riz Ahmed, Michelle Williams and Jenny Slate in the film to be directed by Ruben Fleischer,

according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Character details for Haze are being kept under wraps.

The film is being produced by Avi Arad, Matt Tolmach and Amy Pascal.

"Fifty Shades of Grey" scribe Kelly Marcel is also on board to co-write the project with Scott Rosenberg and Jeff Pinkner.

"Venom" opens in theatres on 5 October next year.—PTI ■

Rose McGowan cancels a public appearance



Rose McGowan. PHOTO: PTI

LONDON — Actress Rose McGowan has pulled out of a public appearance after accusing media mogul Harvey Weinstein of rape.

The 44-year-old actress had revealed that she was raped by the producer in a series of tweets directed at Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and alleged that she was ignored, reported FemaleFirst.

McGowan will not attend the Tallgrass Film Festival, where she would have been recognised with an Ad Astra Award for her directorial debut, "Dawn".

"We are sorry to announce that we've just been informed that Rose McGowan has cancelled all upcoming public appearances due to compounding factors surrounding recent revelations in the Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment case.

"While we were disappointed that Rose cannot be here with us in person, we understand that her well being is the priority. We support her and our thoughts are with her," read the statement from the organizers.

The festival will now hold a panel discussion, "#WokeWomen: A Candid Conversation with Tallgrass Female Filmmakers" in the "Charmed" stars honour.

"The whole world is now aware, in large part due to Rose's efforts, about the rampant sexual harassment within the entertainment industry, and so in her honour, we have pulled together a panel of women filmmakers who will be attending the festival with their films, for a frank conversation, because the message doesn't stop here," the statement continued.—PTI ■

Peace Music Festival's level-2 contest kicks off in Mandalay



MRTV Director-General U Myint Htwe (Right) accepts cash donation. **PHOTO: MANDALAY SUB-PRINGING HOUSE**



Sa Paung competing in the level-2 contest of the Peace Music Festival in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MANDALAY SUB-PRINGING HOUSE**



Lin Thit competing in the level-2 contest of the Peace Music Festival in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MANDALAY SUB-PRINGING HOUSE**

DIVIDED into four groups, the level-2 contests of the Peace Music Festival began in Mandalay yesterday, according to organizers of the festival.

The event will also be held in Nay Pyi Taw. The event became after 36 selective contestants have been chosen from the level -1 contests in 11 cities. In

yesterday event in Mandalay, two winners: Sa Paung and Linn Thit were selected. Private donors donated more than K13.6 million yesterday for the level-2 contests which are scheduled to be held in Mandalay on 21 and 22 October.

Mandalay Region Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Sai Kyaw

Zaw, Director-General of the Myanma Radio and Television U Myint Htwe and officials accepted the donation. The festival is held in honour of the peace process effort and the country's advance toward democracy, officials said.

During the final stage, 10 selected songs for 10 contest-

ants to sing will be composed by well-known composers. A Music Live Show will be held featuring famous vocalists performing solos, duets and group entertainment. The last three winners will receive the largest prizes.

It has been targeted to award 300 lakhs for the first prize winner, 200 lakhs to the

second prize winner and 100 lakhs to the third prize winner, with seven consolation prize winners to be awarded at 30 lakhs each.

The final selection will be held in Yangon and events of competitions will be broadcast live.—Mandalay Sub-Printing House ■

Cuba unveils Jose Marti statue, a gift from Trump's hometown

HAVANA — Cuba unveiled a replica of a New York statue of independence hero Jose Marti on Friday, putting a gift from the hometown of US President Donald Trump on public display at a time of heightened US-Cuba tensions.

The equestrian statue depicts Marti moments before his death in a cavalry charge in 1895, during the fight against Spanish colonial rule.

The original, sculpted by US artist Anna Hyatt, has stood for decades at the south entrance to New York City's Central Park, not far from the gleaming Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue.

After former US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced a detente in 2014, the Bronx Museum of the Arts decided to gather donations to make a copy of the



A school teacher explains about the bronze replica of a New York statue of Cuban independence hero Jose Marti after it's unveiling in the historic centre of Havana, Cuba on 20 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

sculpture as a gift for Havana.

The goal was "to strengthen the bridge between our two countries," the museum said.

Marti, a poet and political essayist, was living in New York at the time he drew up plans for an invasion of Cuba as part of the

rebellion against Spain.

The nearly 19-foot (6-metre) tall statue was just delivered from the United States two weeks ago, after a series of setbacks in the normalization of relations between the old Cold War foes.

The Republican Trump imposed new restrictions on travel and trade with the Communist-run island in June, as he disparaged what he called his Democratic predecessor's "terrible and misguided" policy toward Cuba. Since August tensions between the two countries have deteriorated further, over a series of alleged attacks affecting the health of US diplomats in Havana.

"By unveiling this monument that comes from over there ... we say this is the only path forward, there is no other," said Eusebio Leal, the official Havana

City Historian, alluding to hopes for a future marked by improved US-Cuba ties.

He noted that the statue had been strategically placed. It faces the Florida Straits, with the US coast just 90 miles (145 km) in the distance.

Marti, who spent 15 years in exile in the United States, is revered throughout Cuba and Fidel Castro hailed him as the "intellectual author" of the armed uprising that led to his 1 January, 1959, Cuban Revolution.

Busts of Marti appear everywhere in Cuba, Havana's international airport is named after him, and there is a towering monument to him in Havana's Revolution Square. Cuba says it will officially inaugurate the statue on 28 January when it marks the 165th anniversary of Marti's birth.—Reuters ■

Myanmar U-19 football team heads to Cambodia for AFC U-19 Championship qualification

After playing a friendly match in Japan on Friday, the Myanmar U-19 football team left for Cambodia yesterday to compete in the 2018 Asia Football Club U-19 Championship qualification.

Led by the team's administrator and coaches, a total 23 footballers comprising the Myanmar U-19 team arrived in Cambodia yesterday at 10:30pm local time.

The team included administrator U Tin Myint Aung, chief coach U Chit Naing, team secretary U Wai Moe Aung, assistant coach U Min Thu, goal coach U Sai Maung Maung Oo, team doctor Dr Kyaw Thant Zin, physiotherapist U Lwin Oo Ko, media officer U Zaw Min Hteik and video analyst U Thaw Zin Soe.

The players are: goalkeepers Htet Wai Yan Soe, Aung Myint Myat and Htun Nandar Oo; defenders Aung Wanna Soe, Kyaw Pyone Wai, Naing Ko Ko, Pyae Phyo Maung, Sithu Moe Khant, Soe Moe Kyaw, Than



File photo was taken Myanmar U-19 football players during their training session. PHOTO:MFF

Hteik Zin and That Paing Htwe; midfielders Ant Maw Oo, Lwin Moe aung, Myat Kaung Khant, Nan Hteik Zaw, Wunna Tun; and forwards Hein Htet Aung, Htet Wai Phyo, Pyae Sone Hlaing, Wai

Yan Oo, Win Naing Tun, Dwe Ko Ko and Zaw Hmone Aung.

The Myanmar U-19 national football team will compete against the Philippines on 24 October, Cambodia on 26 Octo-

ber and China on 30 October, all part of the Group G play.

Of the 43 teams in 10 groups at the qualification, 16 teams will advance to the 2018 AFC U-19 Championship.—Kyaw Zin Tun ■

Schalke climb to fourth after beating Mainz

BERLIN — Schalke 04 scored a goal in either half to beat Mainz 05 2-0 and climb to fourth in the Bundesliga with their second consecutive win.

Germany international Leon Goretzka put them ahead after 13 minutes and Guido Burgstaller scored for the second straight game in the 74th to make sure of the three points. Schalke, who have had a rocky start to the season under coach Domenico Tedesco, had control of the game and allowed only one shot on goal

from Mainz the entire first half. Leaders Borussia Dortmund, two points clear at the top on 19, travel to Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday, hoping to bounce back from last week's defeat by RB Leipzig and their surprise midweek draw at Cyprus's APOEL Nicosia in the Champions League.

Champions Bayern Munich will be looking to make it two league wins in a row under coach Jupp Heynckes when they take on Hamburg SV.—Reuters ■



Gaetan Bussmann (C) of Mainz breaks through during the Bundesliga match between FC Schalke 04 and 1. FSV Mainz 05 at Veltins-Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany on 20 October, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Brighton stun West Ham with 3-0 away victory

LONDON — Brighton and Hove Albion won a top flight away match for the first time in 34 years when they stunned West Ham United 3-0 at the London Stadium in the Premier league on Friday.

Striker Glenn Murray scored a brace and Jose Izquierdo curled in a shot from outside

the box to lift promoted Brighton to 10th in the standings, leaving West Ham in 17th just above the relegation zone.

It was also a first top flight win in four years for their manager Chris Hughton, who had last presided over a Premier League away win in charge of Norwich City.

Brighton made a bright start and deservedly went in front after 10 minutes when Murray headed a free kick by Pascal Gross into Joe Hart's net.

Izquierdo increased their lead in first half added time with a curling shot from outside the box that beat Hart's dive, a hammer blow to the visitors who had

improved and looked more likely to equalize.

Murray completed the rout with a penalty in the 75th minute after he was brought down by Pablo Zabaleta.

Brighton defended resolutely during West Ham's best spell in the latter stages of the first half but the home side lacked

MFF U-13 Boys' States & Regions Tournament begins

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE opening ceremony and opening matches of the MFF U-13 Boys' States & Regions Tournament 2017 will be held today at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The coordination meeting of the football teams' administrators and a scheduling ceremony for the tournament was held yesterday afternoon at the Meeting Room of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The tournament schedule was made by drawing lots. This tournament was jointly arranged by the MFF and Ministry of Education (MOE).

The 17 teams participating in this tournament were divided into four groups, Group A to Group D. Group A includes Kayah, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Chin and Mandalay, while Group B includes Rakhine, Ayeyawady, Shan (south) and Shan (east) teams. Group C includes Kachin, Mon, Taninthayi and Yangon teams, while Group D includes Sagaing, Shan (north), Magway and Kayin teams.

After the opening ceremony, Nay Pyi Taw will play against Mandalay, Bago against Chin, Kachin against Yangon and Mon against Taninthayi. The tournament will be held for 15 days, from 22 October to 5 November. ■

a cutting edge in the box with suspended striker Andy Carroll watching from the stands.

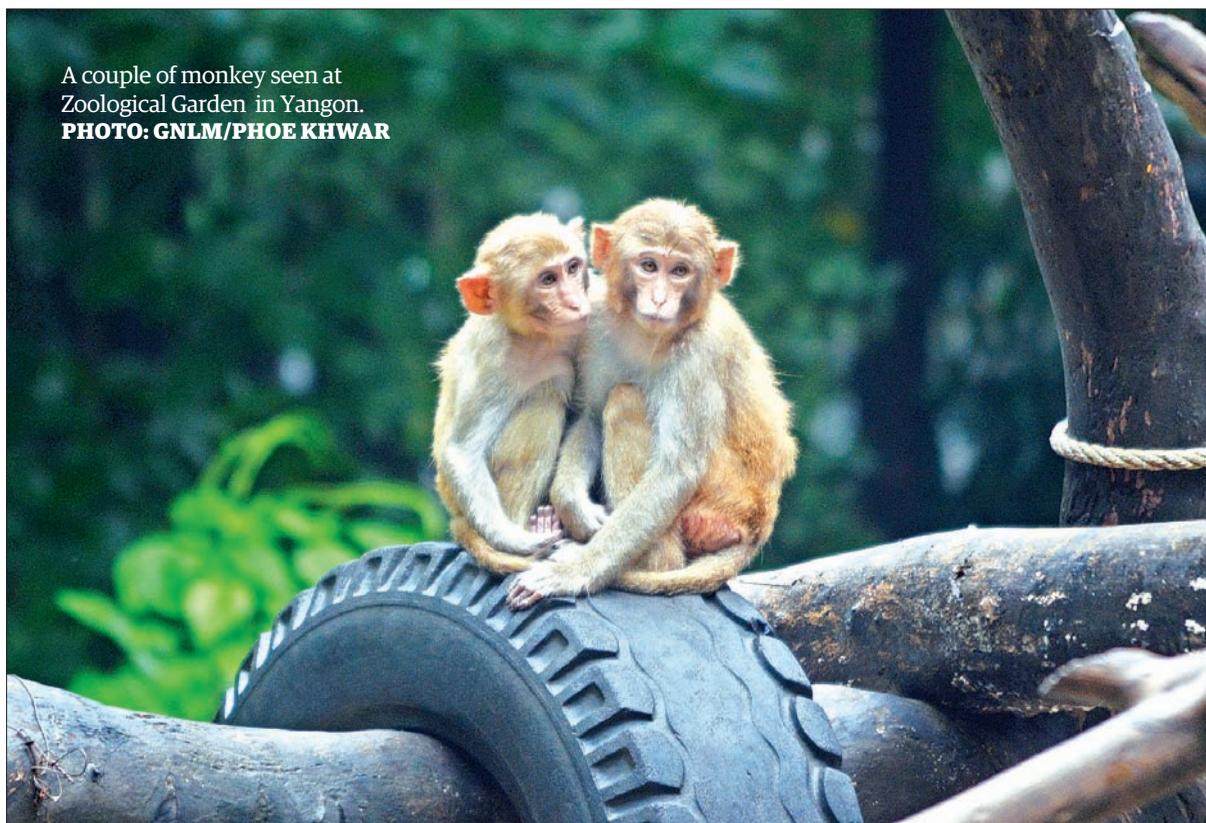
Manuel Lanzini come closest for the Hammers with a free kick in the 65th minute but the team's poor showing overall had fans filing out of the ground long before the final whistle.—Reuters ■

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

22 OCTOBER 2017
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Should Animals Be Used for Scientific or Commercial Testing?



A couple of monkey seen at Zoological Garden in Yangon.
PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

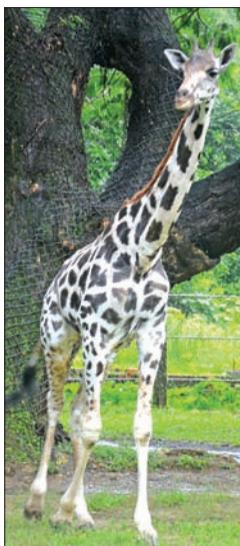


Ma Khin Lapyae Naing
Student, Connect University

ACCORDING to US Statistics speaking of research, an estimated 26 million animals are used every year in the United States for scientific and commercial testing. Animals are used to develop medical treatments, determine the harmfulness of medications, check the safety of products destined for human use, and other biomedical, commercial, and health care uses. Research on living animals has been practiced since at least 500 BC. According to California Biomedical Research Association, proponents of animal testing say that it has enabled the development of numerous life-saving treatments for both humans and animals, that there is no alternative method for researching a complete living organism, and that strict regulations prevent the mistreatment of animals in laboratories. Opponents of animal testing say that it is cruel and

inhumane to experiment on animals, that alternative methods available to researchers can replace animal testing, and that animals are so different from human beings that research on animals often yields irrelevant results.

First of all, I will tell the public opinion on animal testing. According to May 2013 Gallup poll, 56% of Americans say medical testing on animals is morally acceptable and 39% saying it is morally wrong. Younger Americans are less likely to accept animal testing. 47% of people aged 18-34 say that animal testing is morally acceptable, whereas 60% of people aged 35-54 and 61% of people aged 55 and older say it is morally acceptable. 67% of registered voters in the US are opposed to using animals to test cosmetics and personal care products, according to a 2013 nationwide poll con-



ducted by Lake Research Partners. The poll found that women are more likely to object, with 76% of women under 50 and 70% of women over 50 being opposed to animal testing, and 63% of men under and over 50 being opposed. 52% of voters said they feel safer using a product that was tested using non-animal methods, while 18% said they feel safer with products tested on animals.

According to Alistair Currie (policy advisor for charity People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), she said "Animals feel pain and fear just as we do, and their overwhelming natural inclinations, like ours, are to be free and to protect their own lives, not to be locked in a small cage inside a laboratory, where they are subjected to abuse and suffering that would be illegal if they took place anywhere else. Why conduct tests on the wrong species when sophisticated computer and

mathematical models, human tissue and cell cultures and smarter, more focused clinical and epidemiological studies can show us more accurately what happens to human bodies with diseases? Research institutions need urgently to rethink their policies, and align themselves with more progressive science". My opinion is that animal testing is cruel and inhumane. Animals can suffer like humans do, so it is discrimination against animals to experiment on them while we refrain from experimenting on humans. Since the majority of animals used in biomedical research are killed during or after the experiments, and since many suffer during the studies, the lives and wellbeing of animals are routinely sacrificed for poor research. Alternative testing methods now exist that can replace the need for animals. Drugs that pass animal tests are not necessarily safe because animals are very different from human beings, they do not get many of the diseases we do, such as major types of heart disease, many types of cancer, Alzheimer's disease, HIV.

SEE SUPPLEMENT-G

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

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Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 24 : Making Sentences (1)

Hello , dear students !

Today let's try to make sentences of your own.

As you have already known the Eight Parts of Speech, Genders, Numbers, Sentence Structures, Sentences, Clauses and Phrases, and Tenses, I hope that you can make your own sentences by using all these knowledge.

And here in this Lesson I want you to study how you can extend your sentences from very simple and basic one to a flowery one.

Let me tell you one of my childhood experience.

It was the time when I was a young girl of Grade 1. I used to cut beautiful pictures from the magazines and paste these into my drawing book. That is what I was allowed to do when I was young. My father let me do like that. But under every picture, I have to make a short sentence of my own, such as: .. This is an apple .

This is an orange.

This is a girl.

One day, I pasted a picture of a woman. and write "This is a woman." Just very simple and straightforward.

When I show it to my father, he said, "Let's see it again Thamee, here we call a woman with dignity "a lady", so you can write here "This is a lady" instead of "This is a woman." Then let's see it again, she's a Chinese woman so we can fill this word to our sentence "This is a Chinese lady." and as she has a fan in her hand, you can write "This is a Chinese lady holding a fan."

That is how my father taught me how to extend my very simple sentence to become a flowery sentence.

At that time, I was so interested in how we can extend our sentences become more flowery.

From that time onwards, I used to extend my sentences by adding adjectives , adverbs and when I become older and older , by adding more and more phrases and clauses.

e.g. Instead of saying "a beautiful flower" we can say "a fresh beautiful yellow flower"

Instead of saying "She wears a bright jacket", we can say "She wears a stylish jacket as bright as a new pin."

You can see how your words, your sentences and your expressions can become more attractive and beautiful . By making words and sentences like this and if you can write sentences one after another in a series, you can get a beautiful paragraph, and by linking all these paragraphs in suitable series, we can get a good essay.

So, today let's try to make your own beautiful sentences today.

Exercise 24

I. Make sentences of you own by using the following words . Please try to make stylish and beautiful flowery sentences by using the Vocabularies you have already known.

(1) lady, (2) gentleman, (3) song, (4) book, (5) hand-bag, (6) actor, (7) child, (8) house, (9) school, (10) town

II. Try to make words out of this and make sentences of your own with your words .

CONSTANTINOPLE

You can make words by using the alphabets in this word .

e.g. You can make words as "Cat, not, state" etc., but you cannot make words as " come", because we have no "m" here.

It goes like that .. cat ... I have a very pretty white cat.

Can .. We can sing this beautiful song sweetly.

State .. I want to attend the States University.

Please try to make beautiful and flowery sentences as much as you can.

III. This time try to make your sentences by using some phrases.

e.g . She will go to town with her brother .

You can use the phrases like the followings and also with phrases of your own .

(1) at the door, (2) on the table, (3) though the window, (4) under the tree, (5) in the classroom, (6) over the mountains, (7) down to the valleys, (8) up the hill, (9) on the highway, (10) out of school.

IV. Now try to make sentences of your own using the following clauses and also with your own clauses .

(1) When I come back, (2) while she was cooking, (3) whom I saw yesterday, (4) which I like most, (5) where the river flows, (7) who is my cousin, (8) when the moon is up, (9) when it rains, (10) where the land ends

V. Now try to write about 10 sentences of your own (a paragraph) on the following topics

(1) My Native Town
(2) My Family
(3) My Best Friend

- (4) My Favourite Teacher
- (5) The Song I Like Best
- (6) My Birthday Party this Year
- (7) Thadingyut Festival Night
- (8) When I was in Mandalay
- (9) My Visit to the Zoo
- (10) The Tree in our Garden

Hope that you can do all these exercises easily . Please try to make beautiful sentences of your own .

Bye for today Class ! See you next week .

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

Email : dr:nunuwintin,rose.dawn@gmail.com

Here are the answers to your last week's Exercise . Exercise 23.

- I. Sample sentences of "It" Pattern.
 - (1) It can be said that she was a Princess.
 - (2) It was heard that once he was rich.
 - (3) It rains cats and dogs.
 - (4) It can be proved that his answer is correct.
 - (5) It seems to have a cue.
- II. Sample Sentences of "There" Pattern.
 - (1) There can be less rain this year.
 - (2) There seems to have a storm.
 - (3) There will be more audience tomorrow.
 - (4) There were people who like this concert.
 - (5) There was once a town in this place.
- III. Fill in the blank spaces
 - (a) Is , (b) rain, (c) is, (d) seems to be, (e) will be, (f) was, (g) may be, (h) will be, (i) are, (j) can be
- IV. Fill in the blank spaces
 - (a) It, (b) There, (c) There, (d) It, (e) It, (f) There, (g) It, (h) There, (i) There, (j) It

Hope that you have done well !

Bye Bye ! See you next week !

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

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Some Different Attitudes and Opinions by Different Stakeholders on the Present Education System (4)

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

IN her last article, Article (3), the writer has already mentioned the attitudes and opinions by the students and parents and even by the teachers on the Arts subjects as History and Geography, and also stated some causes because of which these attitudes and opinions came to be happened.

According to the writer's serious thinking, she found the following some causes as the Basic Cause of this issue : ..

- (1) The System that discriminate Arts and Science Combinations to take in the Basic Education Level
- (2) The Inferiority Complex of being Arts Students according to the System
- (3) Lack of Encouragement both from Teachers and Parents on these Subjects
- (4) Lack of Job Opportunities for these Arts Combination
- (5) Lack of Interests and Capacity on these Subjects by Teachers
- (6) Shortage of Teachers who can point out the Importance and Usefulness of these Subjects

In today's article, the writer wants to discuss some ways and means so that all these causes can be eradicated as much as possible.

First of all, we can change the combination system according to their marks the students made in their Eighth Standard Examination and let them take whatever combination they want to study according to their own choice. It had already done and at the present time, they can study whatever subjects they want to.

But, it's a great but that most of the students and parents are in favour of studying the Science combination with Biology, so that they can join the Universities of Medicine. This is the top favourite combination (the Physics, Chemistry and Biology combination) just because it leads to join the University of Medicine. Although they cannot join the University of Medicine, they can join some other Universities concerned with Medicine such as University of Nursing Science and so on.

And also with this combination, they can join Technological Universities if they get high marks in Mathematics and Physics which have more hope for getting a decent job for the graduates.

The second favourite combination is the Combination of Physics, Chemistry and Economics. If the students cannot join the Universities of Medicine and Technological Universities, there are chance to get a decent job with a good salary, if they have some knowledge of Economics, as there are more and more



different private companies and other economics trades.

But, although we have done a lot for the first cause, we cannot draw the favour of students to study History and Geography. This is because of the causes (2) to (4) which are : ..

- (2) The Inferiority Complex of being Arts Students according to the System
- (3) Lack of Encouragement both from Teachers and Parents on these Subjects
- (4) Lack of Job Opportunities for these Arts Combination

So, although the first cause which is (1) The System that discriminates Arts and Science Combinations to take in the Basic Education Level had already been brushed out, still, the students have the inferiority complex of being Arts Students, and lack of encouragement both from Teachers and Parents too.

Just because the teachers and parents are so used to the old system and in the depth of their heart, there can be the look down habits to the Arts subjects. That is why, it is difficult to change their deep-rooted opinions and attitudes to these subjects.

So, almost all schools have still less students who take the Arts combination.

Among these above causes, the most important is the 4th one, that is lack of job opportunities for this Arts combination.

That is the main point which makes the students less attracted to take this combination.

So, unless they get the chance to join the mother Departments as tutors, it is difficult for them to get decent jobs concerning these subjects in which they can apply their knowledge from their studies.

So, job opportunities for these Arts should be created more, such as in the Historical Research Departments, Departments under the Ministry of Culture,

Ministry of Hotel and Tourism and so on. It means we need to upgrade and empower for these departments. Among these, the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism can be the most probable to expand and extend their job opportunities from which they can attract the tourists all over the world which can also lead to foreign income and investment to our country.

Also, they can join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) if they know their study very well.

But, for all these jobs, they should have fluent English too, both in all four skills. This is the exceptional point that most of the Arts students lack.

So, now comes to the last two points which are : ..

- (5) Lack of Interests and Capacity on these Subjects by Teachers
- (6) Shortage of Teachers who can point out the Importance and Usefulness of these Subjects

For these two causes, we should train specially for teachers on these subjects which can not be improbable if we try our best to let them use special ways and means and methods to attract the pupils to become interested in these subjects.

First of all, the author wants to share her experience during her study in Israel concerning History. During the study, we went round some schools and watched their teaching of different subjects. In a High School which used teaching facilities in abundance, there was a presentation by three boys of the Sixth Grade about their History Lesson on "King David" their great King.

The three boys who had appointed to do this presentation had already made three slides on power point.

- (i) The Biography of King David
- (ii) Why King David was well-liked by the People and
- (iii) Why he fell down in his last days.

They have studied books from the library and slides from the teachers too. After they had studied hard for about two weeks, they did their presentation like this.

After their presentation, the whole class can ask questions to them and they can discuss openly about their opinions and attitudes on this lesson. This is the modern classroom and by these three power-point slides, the author thinks it is enough for a History Lesson: to come to know the Biography, to be able to take examples from what that King had done, and to be able to get lessons from the mistakes and wrong deeds by that King. It really reaches the objective of the subject.

So, if all history classes since their childhood days in the primary classes can be done like that, it can attract the children to study History in their older days, since they are in the Primary Classes.

Only one thing is we need to support more teaching facilities and books that can attract the children to study and do presentations and discussions in their childhood days.

So also, we can do a lot for the Geography Lessons too.

We can ask help to provide more books and maps about their countries from the Embassies of these countries here in our country. We can ask statistics and tables from the MIMU too. When she was teaching Geography in the high schools as a Senior Assistant teacher, the author asked these Embassies and we got a great help from them. It was a kind of blessing.

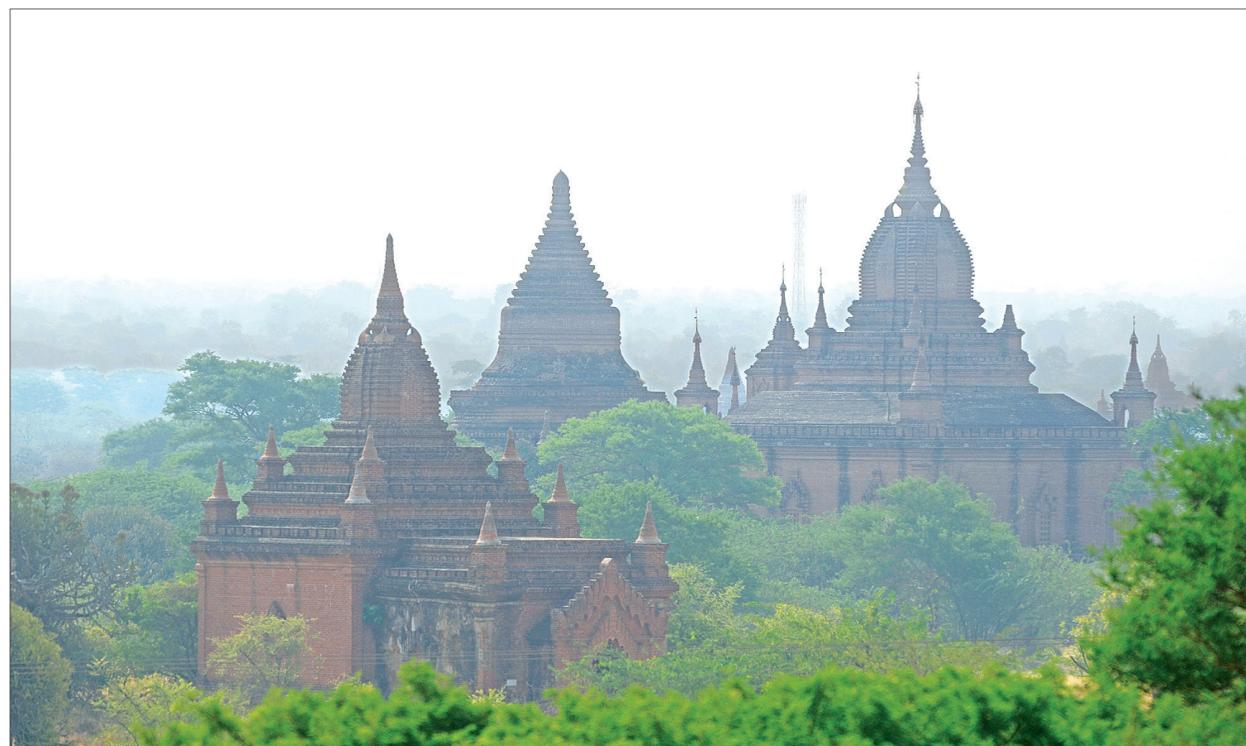
And for the Myanmar Geography, the author used not only the text book, but also the cuttings of extracts from the newspapers together with the students to produce a wall paper on Geography News for the month after the end of each month. The students had to join to do so in turn for different classes and this can really make the students to become more interested in their lessons.

We had also made teaching aids as different maps and moulds together. All these point out the students' participation.

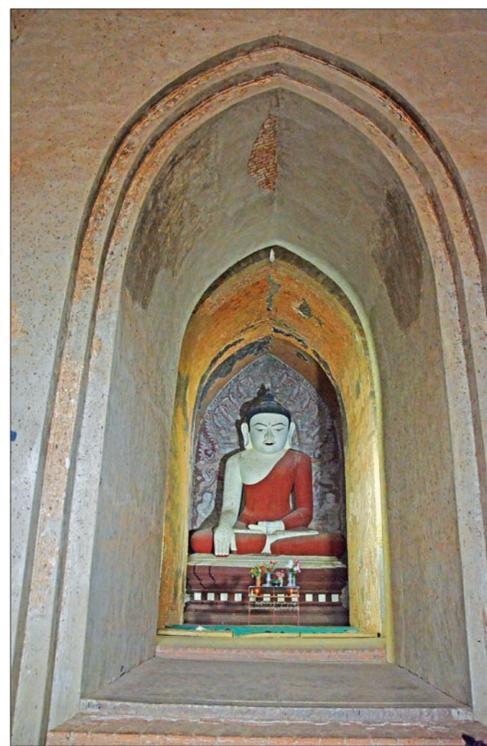
So, to make the students have more interest in these Arts subjects, teachers need to change their teaching methods and also need to make them realize the value and importance of these subjects so that we can have citizens with love for the country and its independence and patriotism for its nation.

Welcome for more ways and means and advice!

Dr. Nu Nu Win, Retired Professor and Head of Department, Department of Educational Psychology, SUOE.



PHOTOS: PHOE KHWAR



Final Inventory of monuments of ancient Bagan still an unsolved puzzle

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

The origin of life and human beings on our planet called "Earth" is still a mystery and unsolved puzzle for researchers of different types. Men of religions give religious explanations -commonly creation of Almighty God[s]. Scientists of various disciplines, based upon their chance finds and excavated artifacts trace the origin to Pre-historic, Historic and Post historic Ages. Fossils artifacts and antiquities which paleontologists, geologists archaeologists and historic researchers found underground and sea beds and ground under aquatic bodies inland, along sea coasts or sea lanes are of course proved material evidences. There are also spiritual theories and evidences which men of religions claim to have discovered to tell the beginning of life and human civilization.

Histories of all human civilizations have never ending stories of life and human origin. To give but a few are ancient civilizations of Egypt along the Nile River, Babylonian civilizations of the Fertile crescent especially that Land between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, and ancient civilizations in China along the valleys and planes of the Yellow River and the Yantse River, Mohanjarodo civilization in the valley of the Indus River of India. Similarly, the Ayeyawady and the Mekaung Rivers of Southeast Asia have their rightful shares in the origin of civilization. We should not leave out later civilizations like Greek, Roman and South American civilizations.

These sites of civilizations have been producing artifacts since researchers began their work in the past e.g. The valley of the Nile known as the valley of the Dead [life here after kingdoms] revealing more

and more pyramids, and more and more mummified dead bodies. The same is true of other similar sites in other countries e.g. China is finding, more and more remains of the Great Walls as well as many other archaeological sites in the valleys of its famous rivers, Terra cotta live size soldiers of Emperor Shi Hwan Ti. Same is the case with regard to Japan, Korea, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka etc. etc. Therefore final inventory of ancient monuments in any old country is not possible.

Though Ancient Bagan's civilization is not as old as those mentioned above, it is about to be enlisted in the UNESCO Record of World's Cultural Heritage Sites. So it has become the focus of UNESCO attention as well as interest of international archaeologists. Bagan lasted nearly three centuries, with a long dynasty of 55 kings, who were Theravada Buddhists in religion and who tried their best to prove that they were noble kings by constructing not only religious monuments but also several other economic and socio-cultural buildings such as water reservoirs, canals, rest houses, sanctuaries, military outpost, meditation centers for the pious aged etc. etc. Palaces, great houses of the ruling class, and houses of the people within the area of 25 square miles of Bagan Proper of 300 years are indeed a great challenge to any inventory maker.

However there were attempts to make inventory of monuments and buildings of ancient Bagan which were recorded in the form of rhymed riddles they are as follows:-

လှည့်စက်နိဗ္ဗာန်
Creaking sounds of bullock carts' axes
တည်တံ့ဟုဘုရားခေါင်း

That is the total number of Bagan edifices.

The first line လှည့်စက်နိဗ္ဗာန် when converted to numbers we get 4446.

Later, in about Nyaung Yan dynasty [1599-1752 A.D]. Another riddle couplet appeared.

ဝင်းဝင်းထိန်လှ
Bright, Bright, Brilliant, Bright.
မြင့်မီပိတ္တ
That's total monuments at Bagan's Site.

When ဝင်းဝင်းထိန်လှ is converted to numbers, we get 4474-a difference of 28 between it and the former. It seemed that 28 more monuments emerged at Bagan in Nyaung Yan dynasty. [1599-1752 A.D]

When the writer's capacity as the Director General of Archaeology Department, was at the office U Aung Kyaing and the late U Than Swe and U Mon Bokay of the Bagan Branch of Archaeology Department presented to him their inventory based upon their Survey of monuments still standing on ground as.

တောင်ကြီးအုတ်နီ
Great red brick monastery
ဟိုပြည်
That's old Bagan's inventory.

When the first line တောင်ကြီးအုတ်နီ is converted to numbers we get 2217. Then again U Aung Kyaing gave him another rhymed riddle of Bagan Inventory as.

မြတ်ဘုရားစေတီ
Sacred monumenes'total number
ဖြူရွှေလင်း
white, gold and bright yonder

ဟိုပြည် ဘယ်တိုင်းကလေး
Bagan, peerless old kingdom
မတူလှန်သင်္ဂြိုဟ်
matchless pagodas, edifices run
စောနီများ

Four words မြူရွှေလင်း in the second line when converted to number we get 5444.

It is possible that more and more monuments underground, covered by wild vegetation or washed away and deposited in the river and lake beds were either chance found or excavated.

In Myanmar chronicles it was recorded that King Narathihapate [1254-1287 A.D] ordered his men to pull down medium and small size monuments to get bricks and stones to hurriedly build fortresses to prevent or to repulse the invading Tartar equestrian soldiers sent by Chinese Emperor Kublai Khan to occupy Bagan.

Also since our childhood as well as at schools our elders and teachers told or taught us that as the River Ayeyawady used to change its course, Bagan river banks were eroded and many monuments were washed down to the river bed or carried away to other places. The following is the riddle couplet giving the total number of monuments washed down by the Ayeyawady River.

ရွှေလင်းလင်း
On the bright moonlit night thither,
ဘုရားတစ်ဝေချိုးခေါင်း
Pagodas went down to bathe in the River.

Three words in the first line when converted to number we get 444. which had been washed down by the Ayeyawady River.

The famous lacquered Buddha Image at Saley town, only a few miles south of Bagan was salvaged from the billows of the Ayeyawady River in high monsoon in the early British Colonial days. Besides at Bagan Site Museum and Lacquere Museum, you can see on display some artifacts of

Bagan donated by farmers and fishermen of Bagan areas.

When a great earth quake of 1978 pulled down many Bagan monuments of different sizes and shapes the Government formed a National Committee for repair and restoration of earth-quake hit Bagan Monuments, including, archaeologists, geologists, historians, engineers and architects. The writer was included in that committee. We were headquartered in the precincts of Bagan Swe Zigon Pagoda. It took 2½ years to complete our assignment. During the writer's involvement in the duties of that committee he had got from the local monks and elders two rhymed riddles regarding the total number of bells and total number of households in Bagan in its hey days. They are as follows:

ဗိဇ္ဇာညီညီ ဟိုခေါင်းခေါင်း
Bells of different kinds
At ancient Bagan they chimer

At old Bagan in its heydays bells were hung not only at monuments, monasteries and shrines for sending out messages of deeds of religious merit, but also they were hung [some hidden] for alarm when natural disasters were expected, when enemies were invading or at night when nocturnal patrols were on duty round. Visible Bells were of large size. Invisible bells were medium and small size hidden in the mouths of statues of lion, elephant and dragons mouths Boundary outposts had also alarm bells. Three words ဗိဇ္ဇာညီညီ in the first line are numbers 333. So there are 333 bells at Bagan.

ကိုးကိုးစာနဲ့ ဟိုခေါင်းခေါင်း
"Repeat "9" nine times, it is told.
That's the inventory of Bagan household".
99999999 total houses in Bagan in its heydays.

At the same time UNESCO with the agreement of the Government and Ar-

chaeology Dept. sent an expert restorer from Pondicherry, a Frechman named Piere Pichard who dutifully carried out his duties. He personally liked Bagan and local people. He made an inventory of 2334 monuments. But he said that figure was not final, subject to change as he and his colleagues were discovering more and more monuments.

He was right. Since he left, Myanmar archaeologists have been discovering more archaeological mounds where ruined monuments are unearthed. Bagan archaeological zone has three areas

- 1. Inner zone of Bagan Proper
- 2. Buffer zone around it and
- 3. Periphery zone extending as far as Mt Popa at a distance of over 30 miles, Tuyin hill range at 7 miles to the south and Tant Kyi Taung hill range on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River.

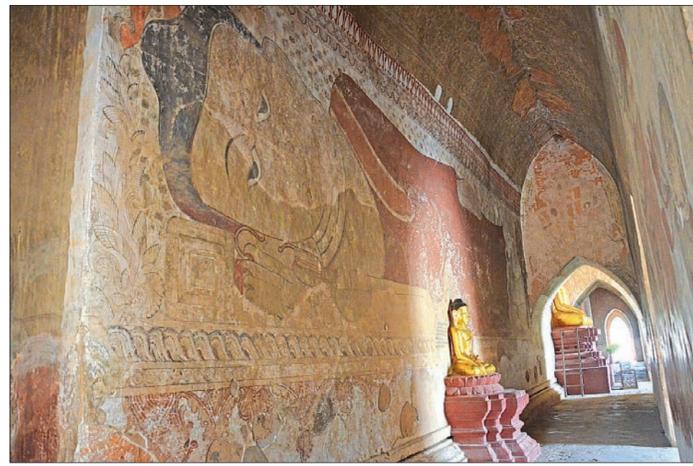
The earth quake of 24 August 2016 that destroyed and damaged many monuments drew the interest of international community and focu of UNESCO. UNESCO experts wanted the Inventory Final and Exact.

The Global New Light of Myanmar the esteemed Daily of Myanmar on 5.9.2017 reported with a photo of old Bagan monument that "more than 2000 monuments inventoried in Bagan". The Association of Myanmar Architects [AMA] quoting the City News Daily announced that "there are a total of 3822 monuments in the ancient sites of Bagan Archaeological Zone". But AMA wanted the real number of monuments after earth quake. The vice-chairman of AMA U Maw Linn wanted as soon as possible the final inventory to check if the monuments are original design or not.

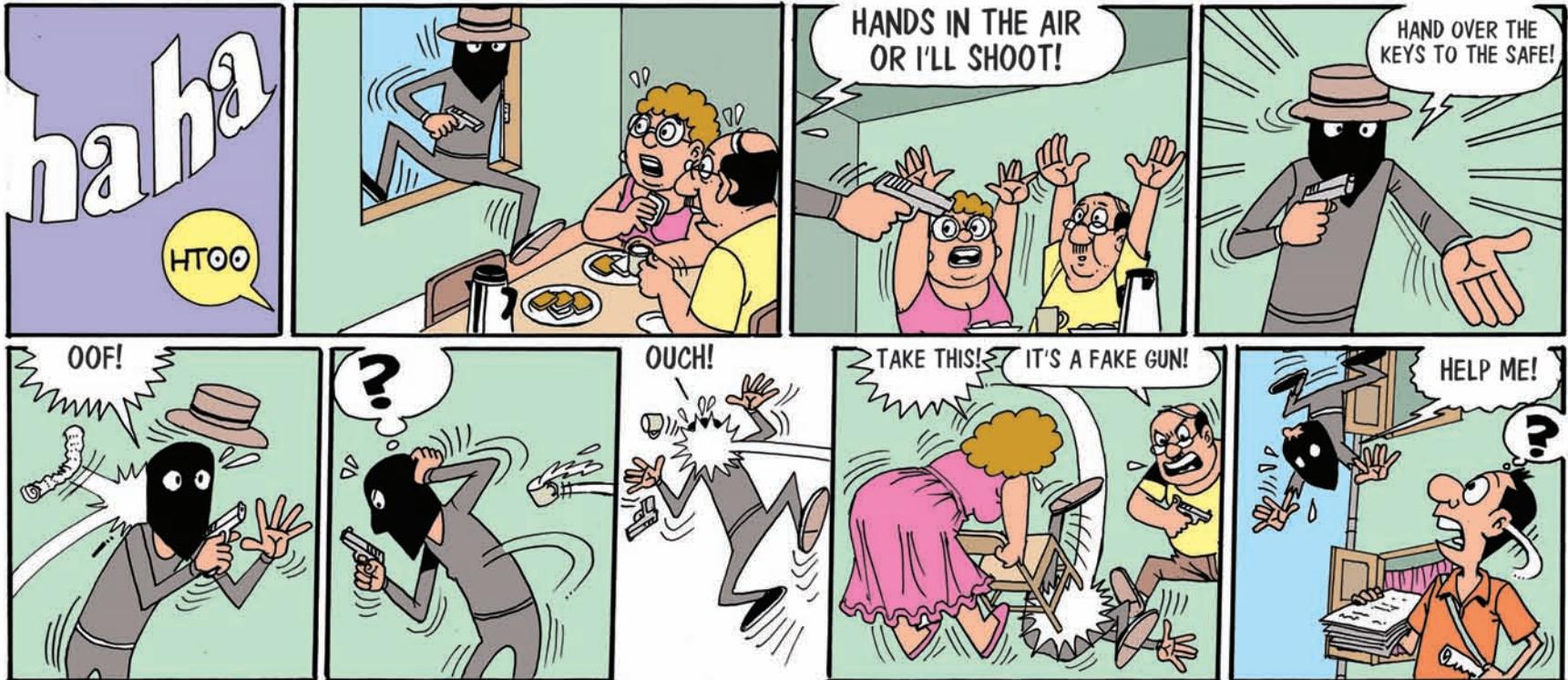
In its bid to acquire a designation as a UNESCO award of World Cultural Heritage spite for Bagan by 2019, AMA and Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library are working hand in hand for preparing a final Inventory of Bagan ancient monument.



A sunset of Ayeyawady River. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



SUNDAY COMICS



Government is crafting strategies to expand its taxation base : Sean Turnell

How do you evaluate the economic policies of the National League for Democracy (NLD)?

TURNELL: The NLD's first year in power addressed Myanmar's macroeconomic imbalances, particularly the country's fiscal deficit, which is expected to hit 4.8% of GDP by the end of 2017. The objective is to ensure the deficit does not exceed the 5% threshold set by the IMF, under which governments are better positioned to guarantee the fiscal sustainability of their national budgets.

The need to control these macroeconomic imbalances naturally slowed down the government's ambitious reform strategy, delaying to some extent spending increases on health, education, infrastructure and electricity. As a result, the NLD decided to focus on rebalancing the economy and trying to deliver growth. This will benefit Myanmar in the long run, since maintaining large fiscal deficits can bring high inflation or excessive borrowing from the central bank. Despite the merits of this route, the government should have better communicated its intentions, particularly to the business community. The latter saw the modesty of the government's macroeconomic measures and absence of rapid economic growth as an inability to run the economy.

In 2018 we can expect to see some changes in government strategy, as the Cabinet recognises the importance of shifting the current policy towards growth. With more solid macroeconomic foundations and the support of international stakeholders, I believe Myanmar will be able to take this important step.

What are the underlying reasons for the slow execution of concessional funds and soft loans from international stakeholders?

TURNELL: First, it is an effect of the overheated economy left behind by the previous government; Myanmar's rising inflation and growing fiscal deficit had to be tackled. Second, one needs to look at the stage the national bureaucracy is



In 2018 we can expect to see some changes in government strategy, as the Cabinet recognises the importance of shifting the current policy towards growth.

Sean Turnell,
Macquarie University Economics Professor, Special Economic Adviser to the State Counsellor

at currently. Local authorities lack the capacity to efficiently handle the influx of concessional loans and funds coming from some institutional stakeholders. It will take time for ministries to fully learn how to allocate those funds.

Furthermore, the government and its ministries are still undergoing significant changes. After decades of military rule,

After decades of military rule, the public administration and national bureaucracy need to be reformed. Inflexible procedures and bureaucratic inertia are two of the major challenges that need to be addressed in a system that is still too attached to its hierarchical past.

the public administration and national bureaucracy need to be reformed. Inflexible procedures and bureaucratic inertia are two of the major challenges that need to be addressed in a system that is still too attached to its hierarchical past. This may help explain why some of the funds allocated to Myanmar's National Electricity Plan have yet to be utilised. The government has focused on reshaping and redefining the role of some public

administration departments, as well as changing the mindset of the national bureaucracy by stressing the importance of critical thinking and introducing more transparent procedures.

How can Myanmar address its current account deficit without creating trade restrictions on imports?

TURNELL: While the budget is under the direct control of the government, the problem with the current account deficit is that it is only tangentially influenced by government policy. Looking at the way the economy has been developing, we can expect imports to increase as the country becomes wealthier. In this sense, part of the current account deficit tells a positive story, because if you break down its imports, Myanmar is bringing in a great number of capital goods that will boost growth in the near future as the country starts expanding its manufacturing base. As the Myanmar people become wealthier, demand for consumer goods is expected to grow. One of the most important measures to address these imbalances is to make sure that the administration continues with its managed float of the kyat – unlike in the past when the national currency was dramatically overpriced under a fixed exchange rate policy. This will help the government tame inflationary and other pressures. At the beginning of 2016, inflation reached 16%, and we expect to bring it down to around 7.8% by the end of 2017. Having a competitive currency is critical for countries that are vulnerable to variations in global commodity prices. A floating exchange works as a shock absorber by helping the economy remain stable. Build-

ing a competitive and productive economy will come from channelling investment into the right areas, namely infrastructure, and from improving the regulatory environment so that private sector players feel confident enough to invest.

Given Myanmar's low tax revenue, what can be done to expand the national tax base?

TURNELL: Taxation and democracy are intimately linked. In Myanmar, there is already "representation", and there now needs to be reasonable levels of "taxation". On this front, officials are looking to work on some of the policies undertaken by the previous government. One of these is to make the taxation of large companies a more efficient process.

Second, the government is crafting strategies to expand its taxation base. Officials are conscious of the fact that the country is not ready for every citizen to pay income tax.

While universal income tax is a long-term objective, the government is focusing on improving commercial taxation by introducing a very simple and universal turnover tax. This would help prepare the ground for the launch of a value-added tax or goods and services tax in the future, as those two levies are more sophisticated.

Besides commercial tax, the government is studying the possibility of establishing a property tax, as well as rationalising the multiple tax or tariff rates applied to imports. The idea would be to adopt a single, uniform and relatively low tariff, because the golden rule in this field is to keep taxes as low and easy to implement as possible. —Michael Nesbit, Analyst, Oxford Business Group

Should Animals Be Used for Scientific or Commercial Testing?

FROM SUPPLEMENT-A

According to Dr. Simon Festing (Chief Executive in Understanding Animal Research), he explains that in some cases, animals must be used because "you can't get a beating heart in a test tube or get a computer to cough". Since many of the biological systems between humans and animals work in the same way, it is easy to draw comparisons between species that can lead to scientific advancements. He states that "it would be wrong to gloss over

the fact that animals do suffer in research for the benefit of people, but most of this discomfort is mild and it's similar to when you take your pet to the vet. It may involve sampling of blood or minor operations". He also believes that researchers are so secretive about animal testing because of animal extremists who tend to exaggerate and distort the evidence. I must say that he does a good job at explaining the advantages of animal testing through the use of factual evidence and previous experience.

As a doctor that has obviously worked in an area that has used animal testing, his knowledge on the subject appears credible. He has given me a new outlook on the advantages and disadvantages on animal testing. I have always only seen the negative views of animal testing, but he opens up another door for me.

In conclusion, I believe that we should accept the animal testing. I do agree that animal testing is necessary at times for scientific and biomedical research because

it allows medications to be tested before being sold on the market to humans and some experiments require actual test subjects that can be checked. Because of animal testing, new medicines and treatments are gained that can improve the well-being of humans (and even animals in some cases). Hopefully, animal activists will come to accept that animal testing is determined similarly by an honest attempt at advancing knowledge and relieving suffering and disease in the world.

Courage



Paing Soe Lin
Paleik, Mandalay

Man has courage. I do not know exactly where courage comes from. If I say according to my experience, courage is a strange power. I have heard of an event concerning with courage said by elders when I was young.

Once, a wealthy man who owned over ten ships heard an unexpected news while having his meal. It was one of his own ships went down under the sea. After hearing that news, his family and his followers became excited. But the wealthy man was not quite excited like a stature and he even did not spoil his appetite. When his men found out this, they were surprised.

"The wealthy man is calm and seems without any worries."

The wealthy man having his meal heard what they said. At that moment, he then replied. "Hey, for me, even though a ship sank, I have no worries and even another ten ships left." "No need to care."

This plot does not seem strange with a simple opinion but thinking carefully, it becomes thoughtful. It becomes to be con-



sidered whether the courage we have is caused by our qualifications or background circumstances. And our courage is not probably inborn. It is possible that our courage is because of our experience, our collective qualifications and our background circumstances.

After taking two men, one is expert in swimming and another one does not know how to swim, on a boat towards the middle of a river. Afterwards, try to turn the boat over. We may simply think who is afraid more about the boat to be turned over. Likewise, we may likely accept that our courage appears because of our own ability, circumstance and experience.

As a learned student does not worry about the exam, as a student who has not learned worries about the exam, as walking with a flash-light in the darkness becomes courage and belief than walking without flash-light, as a wealthy man with hundred thousands of money does not worry about a few thousands of money to lose, a man who earns from hand to mouth is anxious about a hundred kyat to lose.

Such events partly express the basic cause of human's courage. In fact, courage is not a man's born-spirit. We should comprehend that courage is caused by a man's qualification, background, experience and belief.

A Beautiful Mind



May More
3rd year student
University of
Distance Education

I am a lucky girl for having great parents who protect from every danger and guide me how to manage my future life. Although they are not rich, they fulfill what I desire as possible as they can. I didn't understand very well how great their undying devotion for me before a little girl came to our house.

She was only thirteen years old who was sent as a housemaid to my house by her mom. She said she had to move many places and each place lasted for six months. At first I didn't understand why she moved often from house to house and later she explained why and that made me feel a great pity for her.

Her mom sent her to work at one place and take all money that she earned. After six

month her mom appeared and sent to other workplace which gave much money than previous ones.

She was talking about her life and how to struggle for family living with tearful eyes. In addition the most miserable thing is that her mom spent all money on gambling. Despite this she is unlikely upset about that and she want her mom to be happy. I am completely impressive such a beautiful mind she has got and also the way she thinks.

Most teenagers including me are pampered and sometimes act badly behaved on their parents when they do not get what they want.

We must mimic her attitude and should behave in a decorous manner on our parents.



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