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**SUNDAY  
SPECIAL**



# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Rice in Maungtaw harvested

THE Agricultural Mechanization Department launched rice harvesting efforts yesterday on more than 45,000 acres in Maungtaw using machinery, assisting local farmers who are facing difficulties in reaping the crop.

“When we harvest rice in the fields which are abandoned by owners, we have made records for the outputs per acre with the names of farmers who own the land,” said Head of Rakhine State Agricultural Mechanization Department U Phyu Hla.

Out of more than 70,000 acres of rice in rain-fed fields in Maungtaw Township, 45,186 acres saw no signs of being harvested by owners. The effort kicked off on 1,200 acres in the Alethankyaw Village, one the villages in Maungtaw Township that was affected in the latest terrorist attacks in August.

The Agricultural Mechanization Department said it would use more than 32 harvesters, with 14 harvesters currently in operation in the fields.

The authorities arranged opening seven bases in Kyeinchaung, Chanpyin, Laymile, Mawyawady, Indin, Khamaungseik and Taungpyo villages to harvest the rice. Maungtaw Township provides 65 per cent of the food supply. —Maung Maung Htwe and Maw Si



A harvester in a paddy field in Myothugyi Village in Maungtaw, Rakhine State on 28 October 2017. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG HTWE AND MAW SI



### LOCAL NEWS

City authorities draft new car import policy on issuance of car license in Yangon

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## NV process is first step towards citizenship

AUTHORITIES have asked local people in Rakhine State to cooperate in the National Verification process, explaining the benefits of the National Verification Card (NVC).

The process is the first step before the scrutinisation of citizenship, in accordance with the 1982 Citizenship Law.

“In our mobile field trip to villagers, a few people came to us to get the National Verification cards. So, we have to clarify to the villagers about the benefits of the NV cards and advised them to hold NV cards as long as they live in Myanmar,” said U Aung Min, Director of the Rakhine State

immigration and population department.

“Regarding the NV card, we have to explain to the villagers that they can live following the rules of the 1949 Union Citizenship Act and the 1951 Union Citizenship Act,” he added.

In accordance with the two acts, actions can be taken

against those who were denied to give their necessary facts for national scrutinisation, he said.

“We hope more villagers will come to get the NV cards when they understand the benefits of the process,” said the officer.

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# Public talk on increasing dangers of narcotics on youth

A public talk titled “The danger of the increasing threat of narcotics on youth” was jointly conducted by the Information and Public Relations Department and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation in Myitkyina, Kachin State yesterday afternoon.

The public talk was attended by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, State Hluttaw Speaker U Tun Tin, State High Court Chief Judge U Tu Ja, State ministers, State Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, Kachin and Shan Literature Groups, and also NGO and INGO members who specifically deal with narcotics abuse, along with civil societies, students and the local populace.

At the public talk, Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung said “According to the features of a democratic system, when there are matters to be discussed between government officials and the public, an opportunity to discuss needs to be created. Open and transparent public talks involving state min-

isters, departmental responsible persons, experts on specific subjects, and youth organisations need to be organised and held continuously with an aim toward having the public discuss among themselves matters occurring in their region, increasing the people’s thought capabilities through participation in the discussion and creating a habit of participating in discussions. As per the title of today’s public talk – The danger of the increasing threat of narcotics on youth – discussions will be held from various angles and it is believed that youth and people will enthusiastically participate with thoughts of eliminating narcotics strongly instilled in their minds.”

The Chief Minister said the narcotics problem is seen as increasing among youth, and the government is taking action through arrests and detention as well as by providing education in cooperation with government departments and civil society groups. “However narcotics are flowing into youth in various



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung delivers the speech at the public talk in Myitkyina, Kachin State on 28 October 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

forms, and is seen to become a big threat. Furthermore, we all need to help and save the youths entrapped in the narcotic swamp as well as having the duty of removing narcotic from its root. For this we could not rely only on the government and laws but all the people must prevent and act against it with personal responsibility as well as national duty.”

In his discussion on finding a solution to the narcotic threat, at the public talk State Chief of Law Office U De Hsin Rum said “Although the talk is titled – Danger of increasing threat of narcotics on youth – actually the danger of narcotic is not only toward youth but also to elders as well. Anti-Narcotic and psychotropic substance groups were formed down to the wards and village tract-level with duties and responsibilities assigned. But narcotics are

threatening not only youth but all the people in Kachin State, and if the people participate to prevent it, this huge narcotic danger can be reduced. Thus, these public talks will be conducted in all wards and village tract with all the people, students and workers participating. If all perform this duty, the narcotic danger will be reduced substantially.”

In explaining the reason for holding the public talk, Information and Public Relations Department Deputy Director-General U Aye Kywe said “Looking at today’s countries in the world, it can be seen that all are competing and striving toward developing human resources known as social capital and thought resources known as intellectual capital in their future new generations for a beautiful and developed society in the future. While doing this, we are facing the danger of narcotics that is methodically destroying the new generation in many ways. In other ways, it is reaching a stage of destroying the flowers of our society. How to prevent this is to be discussed in today’s talk.”

On the matter of narcotic dangers faced by the state, State hluttaw representative U Zaw Win said “Regardless of how many times demonstrations are conducted to eliminate narcotics, drug dealers and pushers continue to strive in the society in wards/villages/towns of the state. The source of today’s problems of violence, theft and robbery are the bad results of narcotics. As the mindsets of youths need to be changed, youths must be given an opportunity to participate in the discussion.”

The requirement to educate youths on how their lives can be

destroyed by narcotics was then explained by author Pone Nya Khin.

“Two extremes can be seen when the reason for today’s youth being entrapped by narcotics is observed. Some were able to use it easily because they were rich. They lacked the control and love of their parents resulting in the psychological want that is replaced by narcotics that is easily available with the money they have in abundance. On the other hand, very poor youth lack the education that could provide a sound mind and use narcotics to overcome the hardship of being poor. Some try it out of curiosity or to explore it. In the artistic circles, it is thought to produce strong capabilities and then consumed. I consider narcotics to be enslaving the users. Once enslaved, they became driven and overcome by it. Their lives become unstable without it and they could not live without it. Therefore, they must be let known that they were being enslaved by it. How to let them know or educate them is to be discussed”, said the author.

Ma Nyein Nyein Ywe, a second-year Master History majoring Student from Myitkyina University who attended the talk, said: “I knew of this talk from Facebook and attended. From the talk, I knew more about the bad affects of narcotics.

I want to share it with my brothers and sisters. As I myself became aware of it, I will be able to avoid narcotics. This danger is becoming a threat. Drug users committing robbery is on the rise and there is no more security. I saw narcotics destroy the body, mind and ethics of a person.”

—Kachin State IPRD ■



Public talk jointly conducted by Information and Public Relations Department and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation in Myitkyina, Kachin State held in progress. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

# Aid flows into Buthidaung, N-Rakhine

A PARTY including Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, deputy minister U Soe Aung, State cabinet ministers, permanent secretary of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing and Chief Coordinator of UEHRD Dr. Aung Htun Thet handed over aid from the AHA centre, clothes donated from Yangon Lions Club Aid, and instant dried noodles donated from the CSR social fund association to Rakhine ethnic people and Hindus of Taungbazar Village in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State.

The Union Minister and party then went to Nga Yant Chaung Village and met with local residents of Nga Yant Chaung, Kyun Pauk and Goupee villages. During the meeting, local residents explained the reasons for returning to the villages. They said most of the villagers fled to the neighbouring country when the terrorist attacks occurred in August, and they moved and stayed in Taung



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presents assistance commodities to Rakhine ethnic people and Hindus in Buthidaung in northern Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Dakar Village as they don't dare to stay in their own villages which were under siege. Now that the region has returned to stability and they don't want to stay in other places and only want to stay their villages, they

returned to the region. There are some difficulties right now, however, it is believed they will be eased soon. While the problems of the villagers were learnt, the union minister and party discussed their requests

and gave 57 pieces of men's nether garments, 62 pieces of women's nether garments and 119 T-shirts. Ks 2.1 million for 21 households was also provided. One-hundred and three villagers from the villages of Nga

Yant Chaung, Kyun Pauk and Goupee attended the meeting.

Then, Union Minister and party went to Taungpyo Letwei and viewed the Taungpyo Bridge and border gate on the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The reception centre, the place to stay temporarily and the situation of repairing buildings were also viewed.

Then, the party viewed the situation of issuing National Verification Cards (NVCs) to the villagers by the department of Immigration and National Registration and the situation of loading and unloading goods at Ka Nyin Chaung Wharf in Ka Nyin Chaung economic zone. Upgrading roads and constructing infrastructure buildings in the zone were also discussed.

During the tour, Dar Gyi Zar Village, which was planned for the resettlement of people who left for other countries, and places to be constructed in Alae Than Kyaw resort beach were also viewed by helicopter. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee Secretariat meeting held

A UNION Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat meeting was held at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, matters relating to Union agreement section 1, holding of national-level political discussions, reviewing and redrawing of political dialogue framework and work processes, determining points to be discussed in Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong 3rd meeting, drawing up UPDJC proposals and UPDJC related points in Liaison office Terms of Reference (Lo To R) were discussed.

Secretariat member Dr. Hlyan Hmon Zarkhaung said: "Today's meeting is to prepare for the UPDJC meeting. After the preparation, we will submit to UPDJC what ought to be done so that things can be done with ease once the decisions are made. At the previous Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) anniversary, the State Counsellor stated her wish to hold the Union Peace Confer-



The meeting of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee held in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

ence before the end of this year, and today's meeting reviewed matters related to this. The difficulties we found were whether to hold national-level political discussion in every place as usual or to hold it in places like the RCSS (Restoration Council of Shan State) and ALP (Arakan Liberation Party) areas, where it was not conducted. If this is not possible, we discussed on how it should be done."

"Secondly, what is to be discussed in Union Peace Conference? Subjects need to be determined. The subjects are

two points that were unable to be decided in the last Peace Conference, which are self determination and federalism. Before the last conference, national-level political dialogues were held in six places. Many proposals submitted at those six national-level political dialogues were not submitted to the last conference. Those were being collected and it includes six on federalism, four on self determination and nine others remaining. All will not be submitted, but a selected one will be submitted", he added.

"The third point handled was preparing on how to submit to the Hluttaw and how to approve the agreements reached at the last Union Peace Conference. Preparations were made for UPDJC meetings to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. While this was done, we face some difficulties. Especially the difficulty of not getting permission to hold national level peace dialogues in RCSS and ALP area", said Dr. Hlyan Hmon Zarkhaung.

"During the 2nd Panglong meeting, national-level political dialogues were held in six plac-

es. In the 3rd we are trying to hold it in four places. The Peace Commission is trying to hold it in two signed places. In Mon State, if it is held according to ethnic national or region-wise in the 3rd, the congress will be a peace process that is engulfing the whole country stage by stage. If the process of holding the Panglong 3rd meeting in December is viewed, there is a time constraint to hold political dialogues in four places. For the country's good image, there should be step-by-step progress. We will try to make the 3rd conference more complete than the 2nd" said secretariat member U Aung Soe about yesterday's meeting

The meeting was attended by UPDJC member Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, UPDJC secretariat members U Aung Soe, U Zaw Htay, U Naing Ngan Lin, Dr. Tar Hla Pe, Dr. Hlyan Hmon Zarkhaung, U Myo Win, U Khun Myint Tun, U Sai Ngin, Daw Saw Mya Yar Zar Lin, U Sai Kyaw Nyunt and U Min Kyaw Zaya Oo.—Myo Myint (Myanmar News Agency) ■

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# City authorities draft new car import policy on issuance of car license in Yangon

May Thet Hnin

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said that the regional government is working to draft a new car import policy on the issuance of car licenses in Yangon due to the increasing number of unlicensed vehicles, vehicles registered in other regions and expired vehicles.

The news came out of the 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting held on 27 October between the Private Sector Development Committee led by Vice President U Myint Swe and businesspersons in Yangon.

"Yangon Region government has currently drafted the new policy in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce," said U Phyo Min Thein.

Effective action will be taken against unlicensed vehicles including buses, private cars and taxis.

"The government will effectively control unregistered vehicles in the future. There are two kinds of unlicensed vehicles. The first one is illegally imported cars and the second one includes some imported cars under the consignment system. Authorities forced owners of un-



There are more vehicles for busy traffic in Yangon. Yangon Region government has currently drafted the new policy in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

registered cars to pay a certain fine after investigating against them through records of traffic lights. The traffic lights point out the car which has two different number plates. Thanks to vehicle registration records of the Road Transportation Administration Department, traffic lights immediately give the signal when passing a car with the recorded number plate but the kind of it is different." Arrangements are being made by the city authorities to increase the wheel tax and parking tax for cars in the Yangon area, though it has been

registered in other regions. The removal of expired vehicles will also be carried out by the authorities systematically.

In addition, city authorities will urge users to choose cars produced in the country such as Nissan and Suzuki rather than imported used cars. From his point of view, local car dealer Ko Ayaykyo said that technology is needed to control illegal cars. A wheel tax and parking tax should be collected for cars registered in other regions. The reason is that foreign countries also collect different kinds of taxes from car

owners and spend this kind of revenue income on promoting public transportation, including paving new roads, expansion and upgrading of old roads and installation of road safety facilities.

He went on to say that the current drafting policy is suitable for Yangon but not in other regions. The supervisory committee for motor vehicle importing announced its new rules that only left-hand drive cars manufactured from the 2014 model year onwards will be allowed to import into the country from 2018 onwards.

## Yaba and gun seized in Khampat

LOCAL police seized Yaba pills (a synthetic amphetamine-based narcotic) and gun from a house near Ward 5, Khampat, on 27 October. Acting on a tip-off, members of the police searched the house of Ye Khaung and found 0.28 grams of heroin, 185 grams of powder, and two tablets of Buprenorphine.

Linked to this case, police also searched Hla Htay's house near Ward 5 and found 0.1 gram of heroin, a gun, eight lead balls, two cartridges and other items.

Similarly, another combined team involving members of Anti-Drugs Squad from Mandalay searched a man named Soe Naing on 66<sup>th</sup> road between Theikpan street and 43<sup>th</sup> street at Mahayang Ward 1 in Mahayang Township. Police



Kyaw Lin Htwe. **PHOTO: MPF**

seized 9.1 kilograms of opium lead and a mobile phone from him on the same day.

Likewise, a Lashio anti-narcotics squad searched a passenger-vehicle on Muse-Mandalay Road near the Oriental Tollgate at the entrance of Nwankhio Town

at 5 am and detained a passenger, Kyaw Lin Htwe, in possession of 9,750 yaba pills and a hand set.

All of suspects are charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar News Agency

## Fisherman stabbed to death in Andaman Sea

A FISHERMAN on Thursday was stabbed to death at about 45 nautical miles west in the Andaman Sea near Wah Island in Ye Township, Mon State, according to Ye Township Police.

According to a police report, of U Aye Tun, an owner of Seinpaik Fishing Vessel, two fishermen, Aung Aung and Zaw Zaw Aung got into a fight while working on the vessel together with other fishermen on the morning of 26 October. During the fight, Aung Aung stabbed Zaw Zaw Aung's chest and right arm with a 6-inch knife, said Police Captain Soe Mon. Zaw Zaw Aung died as a result of the stab wounds, and his body was taken to Ye Hospital from Abawkyar port at 5.30 am on Friday. Aung Aung has been charged by township police with murder under Section 302 of the Penal Code. — Htut Htut (Ye) ■



Visitors seen at Yangon Stock Exchange in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Stock trading decline quickens

THE Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) saw a faster decline in stock trading, according to a report of the Myawady Daily. At present, the average trading on the YSX is about Ks60 million a day and between 6,000 and 7,000 stocks have regularly been traded on the YSX, said U Thet Tun Oo, an executive senior manager of the YSX. He continued to say that

the current stock market is cooling down when compared with the time before the Thingyan New Year Water Festival in April. The decline in stock trading is mainly related to demand and supply and it is difficult to estimate the market. Some people said that there are a few listed companies in the market. It is a good opportunity for share trading at a time when there are only

a few listed companies in the market, said Jenna Phu, investment advisor to KBZSC. For the time being, there are four listed companies on the YSX, including First Myanmar Investment, Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings, Myanmar Citizens Bank and First Private Bank. The stock trading on the YSX on October 27 reached over Ks112 million.—GNLM ■

## Myanmar registers trade deficit of over \$2.3 bn in current FY

ALTHOUGH the import value increased this fiscal year, the country's trade deficit reached over US\$2.3 billion in the current fiscal year, according to the latest figures of the Commerce Ministry. External trade value between Myanmar and its trade partners from 1 April to 20 October totalled US\$17.58 bn, while

the county has racked up a trade deficit of over \$2.32 bn, which is \$445 million more than that of the trade deficit in the same period of last year. This time last year, there was over \$6.42 bn from the export sector and \$8.30 bn from the import sector that resulted in the trade deficit of more than \$1.8 bn. According to the min-

istry, the country had a trade deficit of over \$91 mn in FY2012-2013. The trade deficit increased to \$2.5 bn in FY2013-2014. It continued to rise to \$4.1 bn in FY2014-2015 and \$5.4 bn in FY2015-2016. The country suffered a trade deficit of over \$5.5 bn last fiscal year.—Shwe Khine ■

## Trade with Middle Eastern countries exceeded \$170 mn this FY

TRADE between Myanmar and Middle Eastern countries topped US\$170 million as of this August, according to the monthly report of the Ministry of Commerce. Over the first five months of this financial year, the country imported over \$118 mn from the Middle East states, while exports to the transcontinental region exceeded \$51 mn. Myanmar exports fishery products and agriculture

commodities including beans, pulses, and rice to the Middle East market. The total bilateral trade in the last fiscal year of 2016-2017 hit a record high of more than \$400 mn during the six consecutive years. The official statistics show that the Myanmar-Middle East trade was \$381.351 mn in 2015-2016 FY, \$373.353 mn in 2014-2015 FY, \$267.306 mn in 2013-2014 FY, \$267.297 mn in 2012-2013 FY and \$300.679 mn

in 2011-2012 FY. Since April, the trade between Myanmar and American countries was \$555 mn, trade with European communities exceeded \$1 billion and with ASEAN members totalled \$4.337 bn, according to the ministry. Myanmar is putting forth continuous efforts to boost exports in the long, medium and short term plans, finding new international markets for local products.—Nyein Chan ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

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

**နေပြည်တော်**  
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသိရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရေပင်လမ်းဆွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

**ရန်ကင်း**  
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၉၂၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

**မန္တလေး**  
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခွေ ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၉၅၀

**တောင်ကြီး**  
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

**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

**ပြင်ဦးလွင်**  
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေပျက်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

**ဝင်္ဂေတ**  
ရမ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိဆက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဝင်္ဂေတမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

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

**ခြောက်**  
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

**မော်လမြိုင်**  
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

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

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> International Police Band Concert (2017) held in Yangon

Zaw Gyi

22<sup>nd</sup> International Police Band Concert (2017) was held in Myanmar for the first time in Yangon yesterday morning.

The event was held at the junction of Strand Road and Sule Pagoda Road in Kyauktada Township. Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe in his opening speech said “Our Myanmar Police Force is formed with ethnic nationals living in the country and had the four aims of safekeeping peace and tranquility, rule of law, preventing the danger of narcotics and conducting what is good for the people. It is striving to help the people according to the law and the international police band concert was held to show peace and unity and will also give the opportunity to show the world of our country’s peacefulness and unity. Furthermore it will increase the trust and friendship between our police force and the people. It will also increase the friendship among police bands of Singapore, Viet Nam, Japan and Myanmar.

The Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Tateshi Hi-



Myanmar Police personnel in Police band performing at 22<sup>nd</sup> International Police Band Concert 2017 on Sule Pagoda road in Kyauktada Township, Yangon on 28 October 2017. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

guchi and The Mainichi Newspaper executive director Mr. Hiorta Katsumi delivered opening remarks.

Afterwards, the Union Minister for Home Affairs, the Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, The Mainichi Newspaper exec-

utive director and the Myanmar Police Chief opened the event by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

A total of 276 police personnel in police bands from Myanmar, Singapore, Viet Nam and Japan marched along the road while playing for the approxi-

mately 30,000 people viewing the parade from both sides of the road. The event was jointly held by the Myanmar Police Force and Japan’s Mainichi Newspaper to promote security and peace and to increase friendship among participating international po-

lice forces as well as to increase friendship between the people and the police force. The event was attended by the Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar H.E. Mrs. Luan Thuy Duong, Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Robert Chua, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Yangon region government ministers, hluttaw representatives, directors general of the correctional department, Bureau of Special Investigation, Myanmar fire services department, high ranking officers of the Myanmar Police Force and invited guests.

The first Police Band Concert was held in Japan in 1996. The concert is held annually and was held in Japan eight times. The event was held in Paris twice, and in Seoul, Berlin, Rome, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Ho Chi Minh and New York City once each.

On the evening of 29 October, police bands from the four countries will entertain at the Myanmar Convention Center, Mayangone Township, Yangon. People can attend free of charge, it is learnt.

## The first survey for micronutrient and dietary status to be taken in Myanmar

The first survey for micronutrient and dietary status will be taken in Myanmar, said Dr Chan Tha, the Rakhine State Minister for Social Welfare, at the educational workshop held yesterday afternoon at the hall of the Rakhine State Cabinet.

In the workshop, the state minister said that the first survey for micronutrient and dietary status will be taken with the aim of redrawing the projects which will effectively prevent and treat the problems of nutrition deficiency and excess nutrition, to promote the public nutrition status by choosing balanced diets, to review the effects of the current nutrient development processes and to ascertain the public nutrient status and dietary habits.

Dr. Lwin Mar Hlaing, assistant director of nutrition and research branch of the Public Health Department (Head quarters) explained the plans for the survey of micronutrients and nutritional status and discussed questions relating

to the situation of villages and townships where this survey will be taken and the plans to be cooperated by respective departments which are posed by the attended ministers and state departmental officials.

“As all our health staff and people know that there is false news about our country’s nutrition, putting our nation’s image down among the international countries. Our chiefs are also annoyed about this. That is the performances of organisations who were reached in the State. They said that they will take a survey.

But, they don’t take any survey and say that they reviewed and then they release to the international countries that the nutritional status in our country is very bad. Actually, the photos they used are not the photos taken in our country. The photos they used are from other countries. We surveyed at Buthidaung and Maungtau. There are no nutritionally deficient children there. Only nor-

mal children who are healthy. Therefore, we take the survey to respond to them” said Dr Chan Tha.

“We will take the first survey for micronutrient and dietary status nationwide. The current ceremony was made here to show the related departments in Rakhine State what we will do. Many sectors will include in our survey such as body weight measurement, height measurement and etc. This survey will made in next month, November.

Every state and region will be taking the survey, dividing into 30 groups of places each. Estimated survey period for each state and region will be four months”, said Dr. Lwin Mar Hlaing.

Present at the workshop were state ministers, state chief judge, state chief audit, officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, state departmental officials and health department’s staff.—Tin Tun (IPRD) ■



Rakhine State immigration officials conducting the national verification process in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

## NV process is first step towards ...

**FROM PAGE-1**

The mobile teams of the Rakhine State immigration and population department have conducted the NV process in Shwezar Village-tract in Maungtau Township since 12 October, issuing the cards to more than 100 villagers.

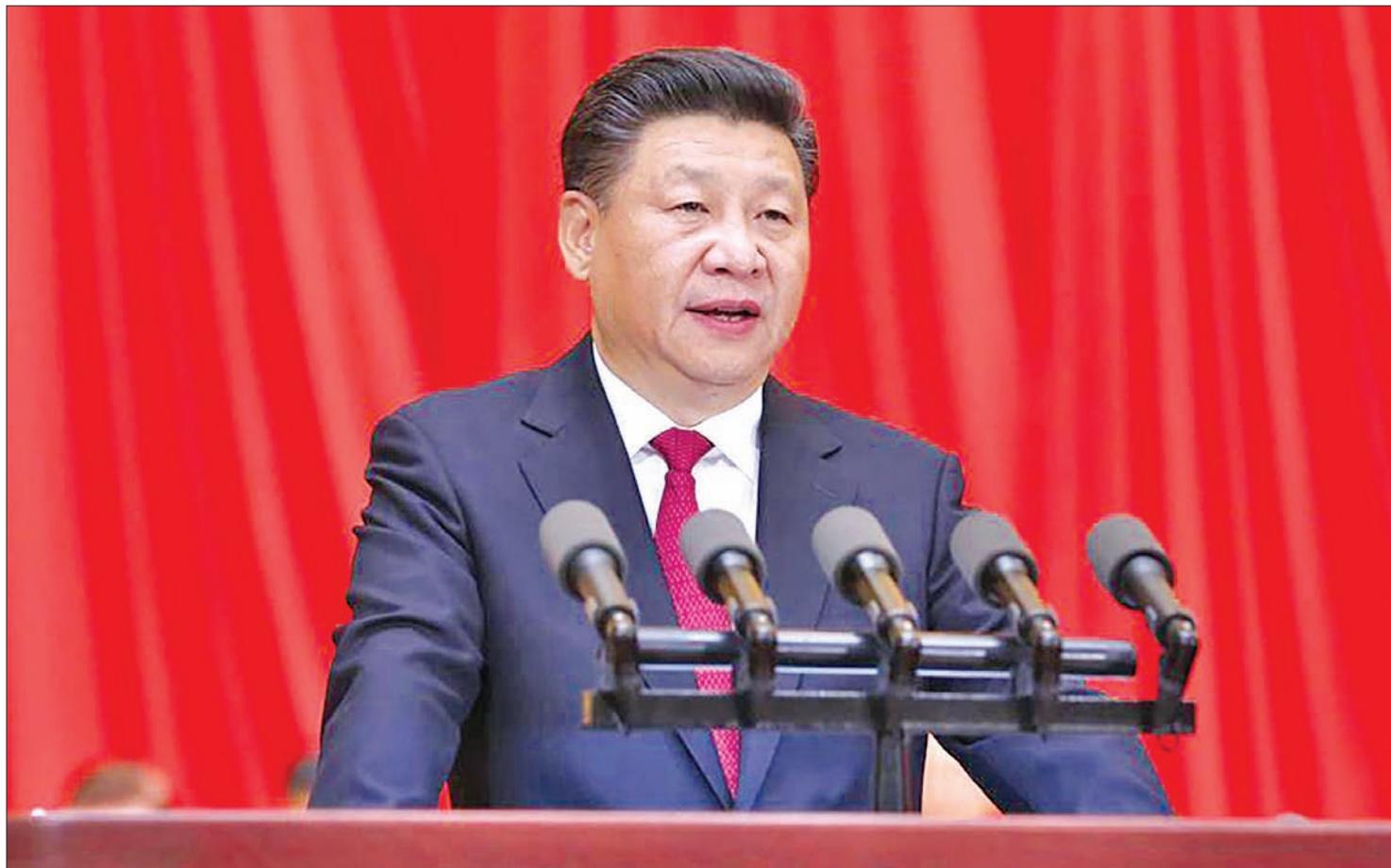
More than 7,000 cards have been issued to villagers in Rakhine State.

Immigration and Population officials in Rakhine State have stepped up the national verification process, which is one of the recommendations of the advisory

commission on Rakhine State.

The work was suspended due to most recent terrorist attacks on 25th August, and resumed on 1 October in the areas which have returned to normalcy.

“We recorded the villagers with biometric methods for the National ID system, and so far, 70 men and 22 women from Shwezar Village-tract have been issued the National Verification card up to 25th October,” said an official who is a member of the mobile team of the immigration and population department.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Chinese President Xi Jinping. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Xi urges study, implementation of CPC congress spirit

BEIJING — General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Xi Jinping has said that the study and implementation of the "spirit of the 19<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress" is the "primary political task" for the Party and country from now on.

Xi made the remarks while presiding over the first group study of the Political Bureau of the 19<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee on Friday, focusing on the study and implementation of the spirit of the congress, according to a press release on Saturday.

Xi asked all CPC members to "study CPC congress spirit, and adhere to and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era."

"Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee should regard the study and implementation of CPC congress spirit as their first Party course to improve their political and theoretical level, in order to better take the duties bestowed by the Party and the people," Xi said. Fully understanding of the spirit is the premise to implementing it, Xi said, urging

members to stick to the Marxist standpoint and method, accord with China's reality, follow the country's development logic and improve confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

To study and implement the Party congress spirit, Xi stressed "comprehensively carrying out the work of the Party and the country by better understanding the integration, consistency, and coordination of strategic deployment of the Party and national undertaking."

"Empty talk will lead the country astray, and hard work can rejuvenate the nation," Xi said, urging solid implementation, saying if one-tenth of effort goes to planning, nine-tenths should go on implementation.

Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee should take an exemplary role, work hard and make a difference in the divisions that they administer, Xi said.

Xi said that top officials should have a strong sense of responsibility and the ability to succeed. — Xinhua ■

## Hong Kong customs seizes 830,000 suspected illicit cigarettes

HONG KONG — The customs of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) announced on Saturday that it had seized about 830,000 suspected illicit cigarettes at a border control point.

The cigarettes, with an estimated market value of about 2.2 million Hong Kong dollars (about 280,000 US dollars) and a duty potential of about 1.6 million Hong Kong dollars (about 210,000 US dollars), were seized Friday at Man Kam To Control Point, the Customs and Excise Department of the HKSAR government said in a press release.

Customs officers intercepted an incoming container truck declared as carrying assorted goods at Man Kam To Control Point and found the suspected illicit cigarettes in 104 carton boxes in the container.

The male driver, aged 53, was arrested. The container truck was detained.

Investigation is ongoing. Smuggling is a serious offence in the HKSAR. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of 2 million Hong Kong dollars (about 260,000 US dollars) and imprisonment for seven years. — Xinhua ■

## India's opposition Congress Party president hospitalised in Delhi

NEW DELHI — President of India's opposition Congress Party Sonia Gandhi was hospitalised in New Delhi Friday evening, officials said.

The 70-year-old party lead-

er was admitted at Sir Ganga Ram hospital due to an upset stomach.

She was rushed to New Delhi from Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh, where she

was on a holiday. "Sonia Gandhi was brought to the hospital this evening," an official at the hospital said. "She has been found to be suffering from upset stomach."

Himachal Pradesh is scheduled to go for polls on 9 November.

Gandhi has been listed by her party that is ruling the state as one of its star campaigners.

Last year, Gandhi suffered a shoulder injury during a party roadshow while campaigning in Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh and had to cut short her plan. — Xinhua ■

## Indonesia extends again emergency status for menacing Bali volcano

JAKARTA — Balinese authority has lengthened emergency status again for Mount Agung volcano in Indonesia's Bali Island as it remains in the highest alert, a

senior official said here Saturday. The extension kicked off on 27 October and will terminate on 9 November, spokesman of national disaster management agency

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho revealed. "The extension aims at paving the access for the authority in handling and anticipating the threat of eruption," he told Xinhua

in a text message.

Currently a total of 133,475 evacuees are taking shelters in evacuation centres and thousands others allegedly remain

in dangerous zones, according to Sutopo. A total of 1,100 people were killed in the latest eruption of the Mount Agung volcano in 1963. — Xinhua ■

# If we really lay stress on rule of law

Khin Maung Oo

EVERY individual born and brought up in human society has fundamentally human rights, regardless of sex, color, race and religion, social and educational status, etc. We will be able to hope for a human society which is peaceful and developed only if all of us are willing to take responsibilities respectively by joining hand in hand with each other even though they may have differences in political philosophy, culture and religion or belief systems.

Ethics and discipline are the fundamentals which act as a safeguard for the whole human society. For example, in Myanmar society we believe the “hiri” which means a sense of shame and “ottapa” which means the fear or dread to do something which is wrong. Thus culture, traditions and the value systems of a given society ensure the sustainability of that particular society. Myanmar society

believes that “hiri” and “ottapa” act as safeguards to keep human society from disintegrating due to deterioration of morality.

Mutual acknowledgement and respect for each other is the basis of civilized society. Having such noble emotions like compassion, empathy, having the desire to help others and a sense of friendship and understanding will go a long way for our human society to develop and prosper in this world for a long time.

Based on these fundamental ethics, we make legislations, promulgate and abide by them with a view to defending our societies against threats and dangerous attacks of external destructive elements. Legal actions are taken against those who commit criminal offences in accord with criminal law and the Criminal Procedure Code. Reprimands, seizures, arrests and punishments are made if necessary. Even if a person actually commits an offence, a person or a group

alone cannot decide a punishment as desired. That is, they cannot take the law in their own hands. Those who are entrusted with power or authority to deal with such cases are required to decide these cases in accordance with the law.

As it is, we need to educate our citizens, especially our youths the importance of obeying the laws. We need to instill in their hearts that a law abiding society has the best chance of survival in these modern times. Those who take the responsibility of “rule of law” must perform with a sense of responsibility and accountability. It needs for everyone to have just and fair protection of the law. For rule of law, it is incumbent upon those who take responsibilities in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches to respect and uphold the law. Every citizen should feel that they have the right to a fair trial and that in the face of the law they are all equal regardless of social status, rank or political

power.

No one has any rights to sell on roads. If these violators had not been arrested they would think that they have a legal right to do so. When arrested only after long periods, they feel they are being deprived of their human rights. Settlers who had lived without permission in the compound of the Yangon General Hospital made mischievous deeds of puncturing tyres of surgeons and the cars of doctors. They also blocked roads so that ambulances were unable to park.

Myanmar which had witnessed the deterioration of law and order for quite some time needs to understand that “rule of law” is essential for a just and fair society to thrive. If we are really serious about reaching our goal of establishing a Democratic Federal Union, it is incumbent upon every Myanmar citizen to respect the law and abide by the ancient principles of “hiri” and “ottapa”, having shame and having the fear to do what is wrong. ■

**N**ATURAL assets – “green infrastructure” – can provide communities with invaluable ecosystem services that clean our air, filter our water, mitigate natural disasters and improve our quality of life.

For Asia, green infrastructure will also play a vital role in raising the standard of living across Asia, an international advisor for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) told Xinhua.

Steve Howard, who is also the secretary general of the Global Foundation, a Sydney-based non-profit civic body dedicated to research, recently returned from a roundtable meeting in Malaysia this week.

The talks focused on how the AIIB can progress a number of strategic economic and social issues throughout Southeast Asia with an emphasis on the Belt and Road Initiative.

There’s a population of 600 million people in southeast Asia, which is considered a very important region of the world, many are still lifting their way out of poverty.

“In Southeast Asia what we are looking for is renewable energy, wind, solar, biomass and other forms that can replace a lot of coal burning, polluting and environmentally defective energy sources,” Howard said.

In other regions like the subcontinent, there is also a dire need for positive, progressive infrastructure.

## Promote green infrastructure to raise standard of living

Zaw Zaw Aung

In Pakistan for example, many people are living without electricity and half the population, 100 million people, still don’t have access to electricity of any sort.

And across India, 62 percent of the population do not have proper sewerage connections.

But with the right expertise and the ability to create projects that have a long lasting viable impact, the AIIB believes they can help “transform Asia.”

However it takes a long time to establish a new international institution and there are many challenges still to come.

Southeast Asia is key for the global energy transition and we are

fortunate to have an effective regional partner in ASEAN.

Increasing investment in renewable energy across Southeast Asia’s growing populations will have significant social and economic benefits across the region, liberating them from expensive fossil fuel imports, while boosting economic growth, supporting energy security, job creation and national resilience.

ASEAN is making efforts to achieve its aspirational target of 23 per cent of primary energy from renewable sources by 2025, and stand ready to co-develop longer-term plans in pursuit of a sustainable energy future.

ASEAN’s renewable target is

attainable, and found that renewable energy in the region can bring lower overall costs, contribute to cleaner cities, support a more secure and robust energy supply.

The report of an IRENA and ACE renewable energy released late last year also found that around half of the region’s renewable energy potential lies in power generation, especially in solar PV that could grow from two to almost 60 gigawatts.

Furthermore, the region’s vast biomass endowment can progress end-use sectors, such as transport, buildings and industry and bring savings of up to USD 40 billion by 2025 from reduced fossil fuels expenditure, and up to USD 10 billion per year from reduced externalities caused by climate change and air pollution.

A study on the Philippines, which makes a number of key recommendations to accelerate the development of renewable mini-grids in the Philippines.

Today is the time for Myanmar to modernize its energy sector which will contribute substantially to the socioeconomic development.

Myanmar also see this is as an opportunity for take steps into a “green future” and ready to learn expertise and knowhow for the sustainable renewal of the energy sector in Myanmar. ■

(Ref: Xinhua, Renewable Energy Focus)

## Medical instruments donated to Sittway General Hospital



Professor Dr Aung Thien Htay hands over medical instruments to head of State Medical Services Department in Sittway, Rakhine. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

A humanitarian assistance group in the United States donated medical instruments to Sittway General Hospital yesterday.

Professor Dr. Aung Thien Htay, an orthopaedic surgeon of University of Medicine 1, said that medical instruments are required for hospitals and

effectively supports patients in surgery.

As it was requested by the humanitarian assistance group for him to donate on their behalf, he presented the medical devices to Sittway General Hospital while he was in Maungtaw region giving medical treatment, the

professor said.

The State Social Affairs Minister then gave words of thanks for the donations, and after that, Dr. Aung Thien Htay presented medical instruments to the head of the State Medical Services Department and officials. —Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

## New school buildings hand over in Letpadan Township

NEW school buildings donated by Japanese people handed over to responsible personnel at Basic Education Primary School Nyaungdon (1) and Keechaung in Letpadan Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region on 27 October.

The construction of new school buildings was a mark of cooperation and friendship between Japan and Myanmar with resettlement project for schools which affected by flood.

The Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)'s

in-charge, the Township Project officer, the deputy head of Township education office and the deputy head of Township general administrative department opened the new buildings by cutting ribbons.

Thereafter, responsible personnel spoke remarks followed by presenting data of new buildings from the JICS's in-charge to the deputy head of Township education office.

Eleven schools in flood-hit Letpadan Township were donated from Japanese people, it was learnt. —GNLM ■



Ceremony of new school building donated by Japanese people launched in Letpadan Township, Bago Region. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Taiwan Excellence with New Technologies Bring Excellent Lifestyles

TAIWAN Excellence Launching campaign, sponsored by the Bureau of Foreign Trade of Taiwan and organized by the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), recently introduced feature products and technologies that have been distinguished with "Taiwan Excellence Award" covering multifaceted fields, ranging from smart home appliances, smart transportation, high technology ICT communication, and cutting-edge machinery to Myanmar consumers.

Taiwan Excellence Award represents the innovative and technological Taiwan's products that provide tremendous value to users worldwide. All products carrying this symbol have been selected as winners of specific Taiwan Excellence Awards based on outstanding R&D, design, quality, marketing, and Made-in-Taiwan merits.

Throughout 4 years' promoting Taiwanese prestigious brands in Myanmar, Taiwan Excellence has comprehensively



Taiwan Excellence launching campaign at Tatmadaw Exhibition hall in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

reinforced and intensified the cooperation relationship between Myanmar and Taiwan.

Taiwan Excellence 2017 brings new technologies that will impress people and enhance all aspects of lifestyles. Taiwan Excellence has set up an exclusive pavilion at Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall

from 28th September to 1st October at the AUTO EXPO Myanmar, POWER EXPO Myanmar and Expo Taiwan 2017 in Yangon, which will showcase a group of 33 brands with 65 Taiwan Excellence Award winning products.

The campaign will give people the opportunity to per-

sonally experience Taiwan's superior quality products. Among the featured brands of Taiwan Excellence 2017 which pre-launched today include Tatung waterless Fusion Cooker, Transcend Dash Camera and Wearable Video Camera which will become Your most Trustworthy Eyewitness, Uni-

Max manufactures a complete set of advanced automotive products presenting the automotive trend IVI System, AVer introduces its professional auto tracking camera which will make learning without urban and rural gap, DJE is a leading welding equipment manufacturer represents high-end 3 Phase Inverter Seam Welder to Create Safe & Clean stainless Water Storage. From 28<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October at Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Yangon, the Taiwan Excellence pavilion has partnered with world-class ICT brands like AAEON, Adata, ASUS, AVer, Brickcom, BXB, Plustek, Silicon Power, TEAM, Thermaltake,  $\mu$ Handy; Machinery brands like Chin Fong, CHMER, TATUNG (motor), TECO, DJE, TSHS; Automotive Parts & Accessories related brands like COMEUP, Orange, Transcend, UniMax, Lof Solar; home appliances brands like ALYA, Carol, FECA, Heartway, Just Power, KSS, Sakura, TaDa®, TATUNG, Tokuyo, Vin-aera, Weplay. —GNLM ■

WORLD  
BRIEFS

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and his South Korean counterpart Song Young-moo peer into North Korea from Observation Post Ouellette in the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea on 27 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Mattis, in Seoul, says US can't accept nuclear North Korea

SEOUL — US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said on Saturday that he could not imagine the United States ever accepting a nuclear North Korea, warning that its rapidly advancing nuclear and missile programs would undermine, not strengthen, its security.

Mattis has been at pains during his week-long trip to Asia to stress that diplomacy is America's preferred course, a message he returned to after top-level military talks in Seoul on Saturday and at the tense border area with North Korea on Friday.

Still, he warned Pyongyang that its military was no match for the US-South Korean alliance, and that diplomacy was most effective "when backed by credible military force."

"Make no mistake — any attack on the United States, or our allies, will be defeated. And any use of nuclear weapons by the North will be met with a massive military response that is both effective and overwhelming," Mattis said.

Mattis's South Korean counterpart, Defence Minister

Song Young-moo, dismissed the idea of deploying tactical nuclear weapons to the peninsula as a response to the North's advances.

But the US-Korean alliance had the ability to respond, even in the event of a nuclear attack from the North, Song added.

Tension between North Korea and the United States has been building after a series of nuclear and missile tests by Pyongyang and bellicose verbal exchanges between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump.

The CIA has said North Korea could be only months away from developing the ability to hit the United States with nuclear weapons, a scenario Trump has vowed to prevent.

Mattis, too, said Kim's behavior had left no room to imagine accepting Pyongyang's nuclear status.

"I cannot imagine a condition under which the United States can accept North Korea as a nuclear power," Mattis told a news conference.

Trump — who has threatened to destroy the North if nec-

essary — leaves on his first trip as president to Asia next week, including a stop in South Korea to meet President Moon Jae-in.

Moon, after talks with Mattis on Friday, said the "aggressive deployment" of US strategic assets in the region, which have included overflights by US bombers, had been effective in deterring the North Korean threat.

US intelligence experts say Pyongyang believes it needs the nuclear weapons to ensure its survival and have been skeptical about diplomatic efforts, focusing on sanctions, to get Pyongyang to denuclearize.

Mattis suggested, however, that Pyongyang needed to understand that its weapons programs would not strengthen its defences. The North says it wants a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the United States.

"If it remains on its current path of ballistic missiles and atomic bombs, it will be counter-productive," Mattis said, adding North Korea would be "reducing its security."

Still, any attempt to force

the North to denuclearize could have devastating consequences, thanks in part to the large amount of artillery trained on Seoul.

During Mattis' trip to the inter-Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on Friday, he was briefed on the posture of North Korean artillery.

Defence Minister Song suggested that US and South Korean missile defences simply could not stop all of the weapons trained on the South.

"Defending against this many LRAs (long-range artillery) is infeasible in my opinion," Song told Mattis at the DMZ, citing a need for strategies to "offensively neutralize" the artillery in the event of a conflict.

Mattis replied: "Understood."

Still, Mattis reaffirmed to reporters in South Korea that military options do exist to deal with the North Korean threat that spare the South's capital, Seoul. Mattis, who has made such assurances in the past, did not disclose what those options were.—Reuters ■

### NATO says Catalonia issue domestic matter to be resolved by Spain

BRUSSELS — Spain remains an important NATO ally and Catalonia is a domestic issue that should be resolved by the Spanish institutional framework, a NATO official said on Friday.

Asked about the Catalan parliament's declaration of independence, a NATO official said: "Spain is a committed ally, which makes important contributions to our shared security. The Catalonia issue is a domestic matter which should be resolved within Spain's constitutional order."

—Reuters ■

### Facebook, Twitter, Google executives to testify at US Senate Russia hearing

WASHINGTON — Executives from Facebook Inc, Twitter Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google will testify on Tuesday before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election.

Facebook General Counsel Colin Stretch, Twitter acting General Counsel Sean Edgett, and Richard Salgado, Google's director of law enforcement and information security, are among the witnesses at the hearing on "ways to combat and reduce the amount of Russian propaganda and extremist content online," the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on crime and terrorism said in a statement on Friday.—Reuters ■

### Huge blast in Somalia's capital Mogadishu — Reuters witness

MOGADISHU — An enormous blast was heard in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on Saturday and a cloud of smoke rose above the scene.

"It is very huge and it occurred near the national theatre area, it is too early to give details," Major Mohamed Hussein, a police officer, told Reuters.—Reuters ■

# UNESCO awards Five Continents medal to TASS first deputy director-general

PARIS — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Friday named a new laureate of the medal Five Continents for outstanding achievements in the field of culture and promotion of international cooperation.

The award went to Russian journalist and author of TV documentaries, TASS First Deputy Director-General Mikhail Gusman.

Russia's top diplomat presents UN chief with film about him made by TASS

Speaking at a special ceremony at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris the organization's Director-General Irina Bokova noted Gusman's prolonged cooperation with the international organization she leads.

"The award is for your proactive support for UNESCO and all institutions within the UN system," she said.

Bokova recalled that Gusman had devoted more than ten TV documentaries to the operation of international organizations.



TASS First Deputy Director-General Mikhail Gusman. PHOTO: TASS

"This gave a multi-million audience better knowledge of the world community's efforts in the most important spheres of human endeavor," Bokova said. She noted Gusman's contribution to the activities of the leadership bodies of the International Program for the De-

velopment of Communication and major regional media alliances.

"We will need this assistance further on," she said.

Present at the Five Continents award ceremony were the first woman in space Valentina Tereshkova, the Russian For-

eign Ministry's special envoy Eleonora Mitrofanova, UNESCO's Deputy Director-General Eric Falt and Russia's representative at UNESCO Aleksandr Kuznetsov.

The award was established in 1996 on the occasion of UNESCO's 50 anniversary.—Tass ■

## US service member killed in Afghanistan helicopter crash

KABUL — A US military service member died as a result of injuries and six others were wounded after a helicopter crashed in Logar province south of the Afghan capital Kabul late on Friday, the NATO-led resolute Support mission said in a statement.

It said the crash was not the result of enemy action and the crash site had been secured.

"Resolute Support is investigating the circumstances of the crash to determine more facts and will release relevant details as appropriate," it said in a statement.

The incident came amid a buildup of US troops in Afghanistan as part of the administration's new strategy to step up the fight against the Taliban and other insurgent groups.—Reuters ■

## Brooklyn man sentenced to 15 years prison over Islamic State support

NEW YORK — A Brooklyn man was sentenced on Friday to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiring to provide material support to Islamic State.

Abdurasul Hasanovich Juraboev, 27, was sentenced by US District Judge William Kuntz in the federal court in Brooklyn.

The defendant, an Uzbekistan citizen who once chopped salad at a Brooklyn gyro shop, was one of six people charged in the same case with plotting to aid Islamic State, a US-designated foreign terrorist organization.

Prosecutors sought a 15-year prison term, the maximum possible. Lawyers for Juraboev sought no more than five years, calling him an "unsophisticated, gullible, and lonely young man" who reached "wrong conclusions" about Islam and Islamic State.

Michael Weil, a federal public defender representing Juraboev, declined to comment after the sentencing.

Authorities said Juraboev had in August 2014 posted an online threat to kill then-US President Barack Obama on behalf of Islamic State, and spoke of planting a bomb on Coney Island if the group ordered it.

Juraboev was arrested in February 2015, after buying a plane ticket to fly the next month to Istanbul, Turkey, intending to then travel to Syria to join Islamic State, authorities said.

Two co-defendants, Akhror Saidakhmetov and Abror Habibov, pleaded guilty this year, and charges are still pending against co-defendants Dilkhayot Kasimov, Azizjon Rakhmatov and Akmal Zakirov, court records show. Saidakhmetov faces a 13 December sentencing.

Saidakhmetov was also arrested in February 2015, as he was boarding a plane to Istanbul, authorities said.

The arrests of Juraboev and Saidakhmetov followed roughly five months of interactions between the men and a paid informant posing as being ideologically sympathetic.

Other defendants were charged with conspiring to pay Juraboev's and Saidakhmetov's travel expenses.

Another Uzbekistan citizen, Dilshod Khusanov, was in August charged in a separate case with having discussed with Zakirov providing funds for Saidakhmetov's trip, and helping others join Islamic State or al-Nusrah Front, another militant group.

More than 100 people have faced US charges in connection with Islamic State since 2014.—Reuters ■

## Greek police arrest suspect behind parcel bomb attacks on EU officials

ATHENS — Greek authorities have arrested a man believed to have been involved in parcel bombs mailed to European Union officials and former Greek prime minister Lucas Papademos earlier this year, police said on Saturday.

In March, police intercepted eight suspect packages at an Athens postal sorting centre after the dispatch of booby-trapped parcels to the International Monetary Fund in Paris and the German Finance Ministry.

One parcel, mailed to former German finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble was intercepted by the German Finance Ministry's mail department. But a letter addressed to the International Monetary Fund in Paris exploded, slightly hurting an administrative assistant.

"The anti-terrorism service arrested a 29-year-old male fol-

lowing a warrant ... related to parcel bomb dispatches," police said in a statement.

In May, former Greek prime minister Lucas Papademos was injured when a booby-trapped package exploded in his car in central Athens, in the worst act of violence targeting politicians in the crisis-hit country for several years.

The suspect denies involvement in the attacks or in the militant group Conspiracy of Fire Cells, which claimed responsibility for the parcel sent to the German Finance Ministry, a police official told Reuters. "Police had spotted him in videos bringing parcels to the post office on five different occasions and he was under surveillance for days," the police official said, declining to be named. "His apartment is currently being searched." — Reuters ■

# Russian defence official reveals which military districts will get cutting-edge fighters

MOSCOW — The units of the fourth army of the Southern Military District's Air Forces and Air Defence Forces will be equipped with Su-35 fighter aircraft, army commander Lieutenant General Viktor Sevastyanov told TASS on 24, Tuesday October.

"There are plans to deliver them Su-35 fighter aircraft to the units as part of the Russian Defence Ministry's activity by 2020. We are ready to put them into service and learn to use them. We've got a lot of experience," the commander said.

That said, Sevastyanov noted that, regarding that the fourth army of the Air Forces and Air Defence Forces is highly equipped with advanced facilities, "there is no dire need for Su-35s."

As for the fifth-generation fighter aircraft, "the aviation units are eagerly waiting for the Su-57s and with curiosity." "Pilots are excited to have a go in a fifth-generation plane, but it is too early to speak of deliveries to our army," the army commander reported.

In July, Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu stated that Russia had to enhance the battle capabilities of the Southern Military District by taking similar measures to neutralize



Russia's Su-35 fighter jet. PHOTO: TASS

national security threats during his speech at a defence ministry board meeting. He reiterated then about a military build-up by some countries, including NATO member states, near our country's borders. Earlier, at a similar event held this past January he pointed out the need to

activate forces in the specified area due to the Ukrainian crisis and activities by international terror organizations.

Su-35 and Su-57 history and features

The Su-35 is a modernized super-maneuverable multirole

fighter that outshines its rival analogues by cutting-edge technologies. The plane's radar visibility is several times lower than in fourth-generation aircraft.

The Su-57 (the PAK FA) made its first flight in 2010. Research and development efforts are to be completed in 2019, ac-

ording to earlier reports. The preproduction batch will consist of 12 planes, President of the United Aircraft Corporation Yury Slyusar, then-Aerospace Forces commander-in-chief, said in August that the aircraft deliveries may start in 2018. —Tass ■

## Spain sacks Catalan police chief as Madrid exerts control

MADRID/BARCELONA — Spain has sacked the chief of Catalonia's regional police force, Josep Lluís Trapero, as the government in Madrid takes control of the autonomous region to block its push for independence.

Madrid dismissed the Catalan government, took over the administration and called a new election after the region's parliament declared independence on Friday.

There have been doubts over how the Mossos d'Esquadra, as the Catalan police are called, would respond if ordered to evict sacked leader Carles Puigdemont and his government.

In an effort to defuse tensions, the regional police force

urged its members to behave in a neutral manner and not to take sides, an internal note seen on Saturday by Reuters showed.

Trapero became a hero to the secessionists after his force took a much softer stance than national police in enforcing a government ban on an independence referendum on 1 October.

The force is riven by distrust between those for and against independence and is estranged from Spain's national police forces, Mossos and national police officers have told Reuters.

"Given that there is it is likely to be an increase in gatherings and rallies of citizens in all the territory and that

there are people of different thoughts, we must remember that it is our responsibility to guarantee the security of all and help these to take place without incident," the memo said.

Trapero's dismissal was signed off by Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido.

Spain's High Court last week banned Trapero from leaving Spain and seized his passport as part of an investigation for alleged sedition, although it did not order his arrest.

Prosecutors say he failed to give orders to rescue national police trapped inside a Barcelona building during pro-independence protests last month.—Reuters ■

## British navy sacks nuclear submariners over cocaine use

LONDON — Britain's navy has fired nine sailors serving on a nuclear-armed submarine after they tested positive for using cocaine, the country's defence ministry said on Saturday.

The crew were from HMS Vigilant, one of four Royal Navy submarines which operate the Trident nuclear missile system.

"We do not tolerate drugs misuse by service personnel. Those found to have fallen short of our high standards face being discharged from service," a Royal Navy spokesman said.

The Daily Mail newspaper reported that the sailors had failed drugs tests while the submarine was docked in the United States to pick up nuclear warheads and undergo work, and the sailors had been accom-

modated in hotels on shore.

A defence ministry spokesman declined to comment on the location of the incident but said: "There is no evidence to suggest any individual was under the influence while performing their duties."

The ministry also confirmed the submarine's commander had been relieved of his command pending investigation, but declined to give details. Previous reports said this was due to an earlier unrelated incident.

Britain's four nuclear-armed submarines each carry eight operational missiles and 40 nuclear warheads, and have a crew of 135. Since 1969 Britain has had at least one nuclear-armed submarine on patrol at all times.—Reuters ■

## N Korea accuses Abe of playing up nuclear threat to win election

BEIJING — North Korea on Saturday accused Japan's ruling party of playing up a nuclear threat posed by Pyongyang to achieve a huge win in last weekend's general election.

The North's Korea-Asia-Pacific Peace Committee also criticized Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for planning to ask US President Donald Trump to ratchet up pressure on Pyongyang when he visits Tokyo early next month. In a statement carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency, the committee claimed that in campaigning ahead of the 22 October election, Abe's Liberal Democratic Party "kicked up a hysteric anti-(Pyongyang) racket, noisily trumpeting about the story of nuclear threat from the north and solution to the abduction of Japanese." The LDP won 284 of the 465 seats in the election, and together with its smaller coalition partner, Komeito, secured a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives. During the election campaign, Abe focused on Japan's heightened security concerns given North Korea's continued testing of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in defiance of UN resolutions forbidding such activity and crippling economic sanctions. Earlier this week, Japan's Deputy Prime Minister

Taro Aso attributed the ruling party's electoral victory to North Korea's rising threat, a view he altered on Friday in the face of criticism from opposition lawmakers.

"Abe and his group should know that they are playing a dangerous gamble by putting the prospect of their island country and the destiny of their people at stake," the North Korean statement said. In connection with Trump's visit to Japan from 5 November, it warned that "the whole Japanese islands can bury into the bottom of the sea if they go reckless by acting a stooge in the US racket for escalating confrontation with the (North Korea) and in its war moves while chiming in with old lunatic Trump's crazy remarks." During his three-day visit, besides holding talks with Abe, Trump is scheduled to meet with families of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s. North Korea has not conducted any major arms test since it launched an intercontinental ballistic missile in mid-September.

But verbal threats from North Korea continue, and Japanese, South Korean and US officials are preparing for a possible provocation during Trump's five-nation Asia trip, which will also include visits to Seoul and Beijing. —Kyodo News ■

## China-made tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells put into operation



A tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells is seen in Tangshan, north China's Hebei Province on 27 October, 2017. A China-made tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells was put into commercial operation Thursday in Tangshan, north China's Hebei Province. It is the first commercial hydrogen-powered tram in the world and made by China Railway Rolling Corporation (CRR) Tangshan Co, Ltd. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Cambodia deports 61 telecom extortion scam suspects

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia police on Saturday deported 61 Chinese nationals wanted in China on suspicion of extorting money over the internet and by phone, they said, but Taiwan said 19 were from Taiwan. Several hundred suspected scammers have been arrested in Cambodia, which has emerged as a major centre of rackets that have cost the victims

billions of dollars. Pictures sent to Reuters on Saturday showed suspects wearing red shirts with their wrists bound together ahead of the deportation.

Uk Heisela, chief of investigation at Cambodia's immigration department, said Chinese police had arrived to pick up the suspects. "The Immigration Department deported 61 suspects, including 13

women, who were involved in extortions on the internet," Uk Heisela told Reuters.

Uk Heisela said they had been detained during raids on 17 and 21 October in the capital, Phnom Penh, and in Kandal and Preah Sihanouk provinces. Taiwan's government said 19 of them were from Taiwan, and that it had lodged a strong protest with China

about the deportations.

Taiwan has been unhappy that Taiwanese extortion suspects have been deported to China in the past and has accused Phnom Penh of acting at the behest of Beijing.

China considers self-ruled Taiwan sovereign territory and Cambodia is one of China's closest allies in Southeast Asia. —Reuters ■

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SHAMIM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAMIM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (158)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (158) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## Isla Fisher joins Matthew McConaughey in Beach Bum



Actress Isla Fisher. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Actress Isla Fisher will star opposite Matthew McConaughey in Harmony Korines upcoming movie titled “Beach Bum”.

The film is a comedy that follows the misadventures of Moondog (McConaughey), a rebellious and lovable rogue who lives life large. Fisher will play Moondogs wife, reported Variety.

The movie will be written and directed by Korine.

Le Grisbi Productions John Leshner, Anonymous Contents Steve Golin, Iconoclasts Charles-Marie Anthonioz, Mourad Belkeddar, and Nicolas Lhermitte will produce the project.—PTI ■

## Chinese film crowns at 54<sup>th</sup> International Antalya Film Festival

ANKARA — Chinese film “Angels Wear White” won the Best Film Award late Friday at the 54th International Antalya Film Festival in Turkey’s Mediterranean City of Antalya, the first time a Chinese film wins the highest award of this event.

The film, directed by Chinese female director Wen Yan (also known as Vivian Qu), tells a story that happens to two adolescent Chinese girls who are sexual assaulted by a middle-aged man at a hotel and feel helpless in seeking justice.

“The film focuses on a worldwide social problem, and thus eventually calls up com-

mon awareness among audiences,” Wen told Xinhua after the award ceremony. Moreover, the Best Actress Award was given to Wen Qi, a 14-year-old Chinese actress who roles a vital hotel waitress in “Angels Wear White”.

The Best Director Award was given to Iranian director Mohammad Rasoulof for his film “A Man of Integrity”. The International Antalya Film Festival, one of the longest-running art events in Turkey, attracts 10 movies from different countries to participate in its competition section this year.—Reuters ■

## Karl Urban and Ashley Greene join ‘Snowblind’ cast

LOS ANGELES — Actors Karl Urban and Ashley Greene are set to star in action-adventure “Snowblind”.

Marcus Alqueres will direct the project which also features Forrest Goodluck, reported Variety.

Hank Woon has adapted the

script from Don Roff’s novel of the same name.

“Snowblind” follows the story of a US Ranger haunted by painful memories of a family tragedy, who becomes stranded with his platoon in a remote chalet in the woods. As they fight for survival and against their

own inner demons, they are torn apart by a discovery they make a box filled with USD 5 million in cash and a dark, disturbing secret. The project is being developed by the Coalition Group’s Johnny Wunder and Luisa Iskin, along with Traveling Picture Show Company.—PTI ■



PHOTO: PTI



Actress Olivia Munn. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Olivia Munn replaces Zoe Saldana in Hummingbird

LOS ANGELES — Actress Olivia Munn has replaced Zoe Saldana in an upcoming action-thriller “Hummingbird”.

The 37-year-old star was roped in after Saldana bowed out of the project citing scheduling problems due to the “Avatar” sequels, reported Deadline.

The film is being helmed by Marcus Kryler and Fredrik Akerstrom with John McClain writing script.

The story revolves around a female black-ops assassin, whose latest mark forces her to confront her true identity.—PTI ■

## James Toback denies sexual harassment allegations

LOS ANGELES — Filmmaker James Toback has responded to the dozens of sexual harassment allegations saying he has never made any unwanted sexual advances towards women.

In an expletive-laden interview with Rolling Stone, Toback

said he never harassed anyone and has always done casting for his films based on the acting abilities. “I dont want to get a pat on the back, but Ive struggled seriously to make movies with very little money, that I write, that I direct, that mean my life to me.

The idea that I would offer a part to anyone for any other reason than that he or she was gonna be the best of anyone I could find is so disgusting to me. And anyone who says it is a lying c\*\*\*s\*\*\*\*\*... Can I be any clearer than that?”

He added, “No one whos

ever worked with me would ever say anything like that. No one.”

Toback said that he doesnt offer film roles to anyone “unless they deserve them” and slammed the accusations as “offensive, insulting and disgusting.” Asked about the baffling number of

women who have come forward against him, Toback said that the accusers “gang up.” “There was an article years and years ago with a bunch of anonymous people. People read things... its all, you know, me too, me too, me too, me too, me too.”—PTI ■

## Event 3 of Level-2 Peace Music Festival held in Nay Pyi Taw

The third event of the level-2 Peace Music Festival competition was held yesterday at Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw. Present at the event were Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung, deputy minister Dr Htun Naing, high ranking officers and officials from Ministry of Information, staff from respective departments and invited guests.

Two vocalists, Ma May Thu Kyaw and Ma Kyu Kyu Hlaing, advanced to level 3 of the peace music festival. The event 3 of level-2 which was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday took part nine contestants. Events 1 and 2 of level-2 were held in Mandalay on 21 and 22 October, and four were selected for level 3 in those two events. After the two events, four winners emerged -- Sa Paung, Linn Thit, Phone Wai Thwin and Khin Thuzar Tun.

Event 4 of level-2 will also be held today at Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw. Another two performers will also be selected from this event. Two each from the four events of the level two and another two under the judg-



Contestants competing at the level-2 Peace Music Festival.  
**PHOTO: MNA**

es' recommendation totaling 10 will be selected for the level 3.

The 10 contestants will take part in the Grand Final for first, second and third place and seven consolation prizes. The first prize winner will receive Ks30 million, the second prize winner Ks20 million, the third prize winner Ks10 million and each consolation prize winner Ks3 million. The country's popular vocalists and all the contestants will entertain the public at the Grand Final. Participants of the music festival and other

well-wishers presented donations for the IDP camps. The festival is held in honour of the peace process effort and the country's advance toward democracy. All the events of the competition will be broadcast live from the Facebook Pages of MRTV [www.facebook.com/mrtvwebmediaportal](http://www.facebook.com/mrtvwebmediaportal) and Peace Music Festival [www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival](http://www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival) and will be broadcast from MRTV after the news of 8 o'clock on the event days.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## New Athens museum provides its own toy story

ATHENS — A mother's determination to make Christmas special for her daughter is the inspiration behind the latest addition to Greece's cultural scene - a toy museum.

Maria Argyriadi learned how precious toys are the hard way. Clutching an old, worn black and white photograph from childhood showing her own toys beneath a Christmas tree, she relates the story of how during the festive

season her parents could not afford more than one new toy.

Her mother would secretly take her old toys aside and repair them, as well as make patterned dresses and undergarments with crinolene, and put them all back under the tree.

The idea to become a toy collector occurred to her during a visit as a young woman with her husband to an antique flea market in Athens in 1970.

"I saw a bear, similar to one I had and loved. (It was) torn, without an ear, an eye... My mother's words, to love my toys and not to throw them away, have remained with me, and I thought how is it possible for someone to have thrown this away?"

Argyriadi, a mother of two, took the bear and sewed it up. "I took care of it. That was the first, and slowly I started to collect," she told Reuters Television. That bear now sits in a case, along with the other childhood toys that her mother repaired, in the new Benaki Toy Museum in Athens.

Argyriadi amassed a collection of more than 20,000 toys, of which 3,000 are on display. They span a period from antiquity to the 1960s, and come from Greece, Germany, France, Britain, the United States, Africa and Asia.—Reuters ■



People look at a screen at the Benaki Toy Museum in Athens earlier this month. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Ancient Papua New Guinea skull called oldest-known tsunami victim

WASHINGTON — A mysterious partial skull unearthed in Papua New Guinea in 1929 that once was thought to belong to an extinct human species now turns out to have another unique distinction. Scientists believe it belongs to the oldest-known human tsunami victim.

Researchers said on Wednesday that new examinations of the sediments where the 6,000-year-old skull was found detected hallmarks of a tsunami, with a composition remarkably similar to the remnants of a deadly 1998 tsunami that lashed the same area. The skull was discovered near the town of Aitape, about 7 miles (12 km) inland from Papua New Guinea's northern coast. It is one of the earliest human remains from the island of New Guinea, and initially was mistaken for a species called *Homo erectus* that died out about 140,000 years ago. Later scientific dating revealed it was actually 6,000 years old.

"As probably the oldest-known tsunami victim in the world, the Aitape skull speaks volumes about the long-term exposure of human populations along the world's coastlines and how such events in the past will have undoubtedly had fundamen-

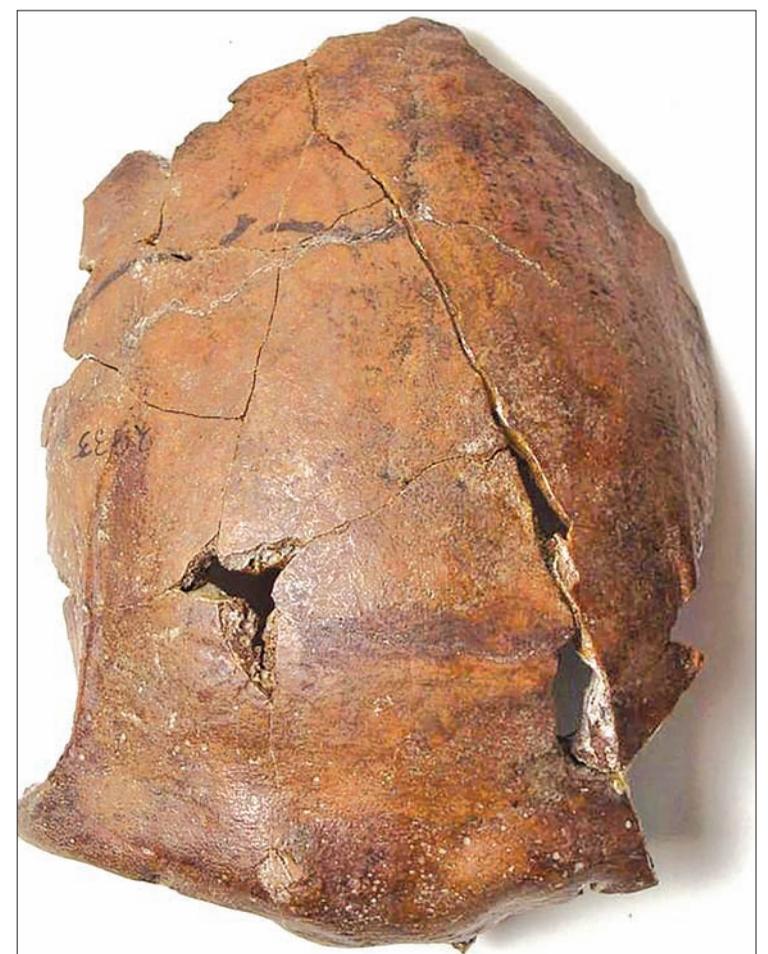
tal effects on human migration, settlement and culture," said tsunami expert James Goff of the University of New South Wales in Australia.

The scientists examined geological deposits at the river-bed site where the skull was found, identifying clear signs of tsunami activity. They spotted microscopic organisms from the ocean in the sediment, similar to those found in soil after the 1998 tsunami.

"We also employed chemistry and examined the size of sediment grains," finding they were indicative of a tsunami, said anthropologist-archaeologist Mark Golitko of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and the Field Museum in Chicago.

Tsunamis, giant waves typically caused by underwater earthquakes or volcanic eruptions, are particularly dangerous natural disasters. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, caused by a massive earthquake off Sumatra, killed more than 230,000 people.

The 1998 Papua New Guinea tsunami killed more than 2,000 people, wiped out villages, destroyed crops and forced many survivors to relocate. The tsunami 6,000 years ago apparently was similar.—Reuters ■



The cranium of a person who lived in what's now Papua New Guinea, 6,000 years ago is pictured in this undated handout photo obtained by Reuters on 25 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Myanmar loses to China 0-1 at AFC U-19 Championship 2018 Qualification

THE Myanmar U-19 national football team lost to China by a score of 0-1 yesterday in the AFC U-19 Championship 2018 Qualification at National Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The Myanmar lineup included goalkeeper Tun Nanda Oo and players Thet Paing Htwe, Soe Moe Kyaw, Si Thu Moe Khant, Lwin Moe Aung, Win Naing Tun, Myat Kaung Khant, Hein Htet Aung, Pyae Sone Naing, Naing Ko Ko and Aung Wunna Soe.

China lined up with goalkeeper Peng Peng and players Chen Guoliang, Zhu Chen Jie, Jiang Sheng Long, Yeerfan Yezimujiang, Liu Ruofan, Xu Haoyang, Chen Guokang, Xu Yue, Su Shihao and Abudurousuli Abudulamu.

The two teams played evenly until 37 minutes, when China midfielder Liu Ruofan scored what turned out to be the winning goal. The score occurred when China's Su Shihao passed the ball from near the right corner of the Myanmar goal to



Myanmar football player, Hein Htet Aung (white) vies for ball against two China players (red) PHOTO: MFF

the penalty area where the ball bounced off the back of Myanmar defender Si Thu Moe Khant, and then off of Myanmar's Si Thu Moe Khant. The ball ended up with China's Liu Ruofan, who scored from the penalty area. Myanmar tried mightily to get the equaliser, but the game ended with a score of 0-1.

Myanmar's head coach U Chit Naing said there should be some satisfaction today for the effort put forth by the team against bigger opponents.

"As the Chinese defenders are tall, our attacked balls were broken. The Chinese goalkeeper could also defend our attacked balls, therefore, our scoring

chances were missed. In the first half, our team was given a goal by a fault from our back", U Chit Naing said. Of the three games played in Group G, the Myanmar team notched one win and two losses. In Group G, China is sure to qualify, garnering nine marks and standing in first place.—Kyaw Zin Tun ■

## Martial strike sinks Spurs at Old Trafford

LONDON — Substitute Anthony Martial's 81<sup>st</sup> minute strike gave Manchester United a 1-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford on Saturday to keep them in touch with Premier League leaders Manchester City.

After last week's surprise defeat at Huddersfield Town, Jose Mourinho's team could ill afford another slip-up but they found it hard to break down a resilient Spurs defence.

Tottenham, without their top scorer Harry Kane who was ruled out with a hamstring injury, could have gone in front themselves in the 76<sup>th</sup> minute when Christian Eriksen threaded a superb ball towards Dele Alli but the England midfielder's effort went the wrong side of the post. After Romelu Lukaku headed a Jesse Lingard cross against the post, United finally broke through and it was in direct fashion.

A long ball from keeper David De Gea was flicked on by Lukaku into the path of the on-running Martial and the Frenchman confidently slotted past Hugo Lloris. United move on to 23 points, two behind leaders City who are at West Bromwich Albion later on Saturday, while third-placed Spurs are on 20.—Reuters ■

## Ceremony for AFC "A" Certificate Coaching Course held

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE ceremony for the AFC "A" Certificate Coaching Course was held yesterday afternoon at the main hall of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The chairman of the MFF, U

Zaw Zaw, gave a speech in which he said that long-term planning is needed for a coach. Every single player must be trained to development, to be able to play with the team and to be able to do exercises by themselves. Similarly, coaches must dream

about how far they can go as a coach. If there is no dream, it is difficult to find motivation in real situations. With coaches from some countries working with other countries around the world, the coaches in Myanmar are also urged to do their best

and work around the world. The 20 trainees were then given certificates. Present at the ceremony were MFF's chairman U Zaw Zaw, MFF's general secretary U Ko Ko Thein, invited guests, trainers and trainees, according to the MFF Facebook page. ■

## Wozniacki fends off Pliskova to reach Singapore final

SINGAPORE — Caroline Wozniacki stood her ground in the face of some incredible early pressure before pulling away from Karolina Pliskova to eke out a 7-6(9), 6-3 victory in a captivating semi-final showdown at the WTA Finals on Saturday.

The victory, completed in four minutes under two hours, was built on the Dane's resilience, consistency and greater variation on the key points, and put the 27-year-old into her second final in the eight-woman event after losing in 2010.

Wozniacki goes on to meet the winner of the second semi-final between Venus Williams and

Caroline Garcia later on Saturday, while Pliskova is left to rue a defeat that prevents her from being able to replace Simona Halep as world number one.

"We have had a lot of close matches this year and I was hoping today was my turn. It feels great to be in the final and I have been playing some great tennis this week," Wozniacki said in a courtside interview.

Both players had raced out of the blocks in their previous three matches in Singapore but perhaps mindful of what was at stake, they made a cagey start to their semi-final, unable to stamp any sort of authority on proceed-

ings. Pliskova was the aggressor and found more success when she committed to her attacking shots, while Wozniacki was content to use her supreme court coverage and stonewall defence to stay in touch.

The first five games went with serve until the Czech edged ahead by instigating a run of four straight breaks of serve as Wozniacki staved off three set points in the 10th game stay alive in the set and eventually forced a tiebreak.

The Dane then raced into a 6-1 lead over the sleepwalking Pliskova before the Czech rose from her slumber to first save all five set points and then fash-

ion three more of her own, which Wozniacki somehow managed to survive. Wozniacki continued to cover every inch of the court to set up another set point, her sixth, with more defensive brilliance, and the former number one sealed the opener 11-9 in the breaker when Pliskova found the net with a backhand.

The Dane was full of confidence and attempted to break free with an early break in the second set to move 3-1 ahead but Pliskova refused to buckle and stormed back by stepping in to take her shots early to get the contest back on serve.

Wozniacki changed tactics

again, however, and opted to push the ball into the corners to force Pliskova into some vital errors as she struggled out of position and the Dane broke once more for a 5-3 lead. This time there would be no way back for Pliskova as Wozniacki sent a backhand cross-court winner past her stranded opponent to storm into the final.

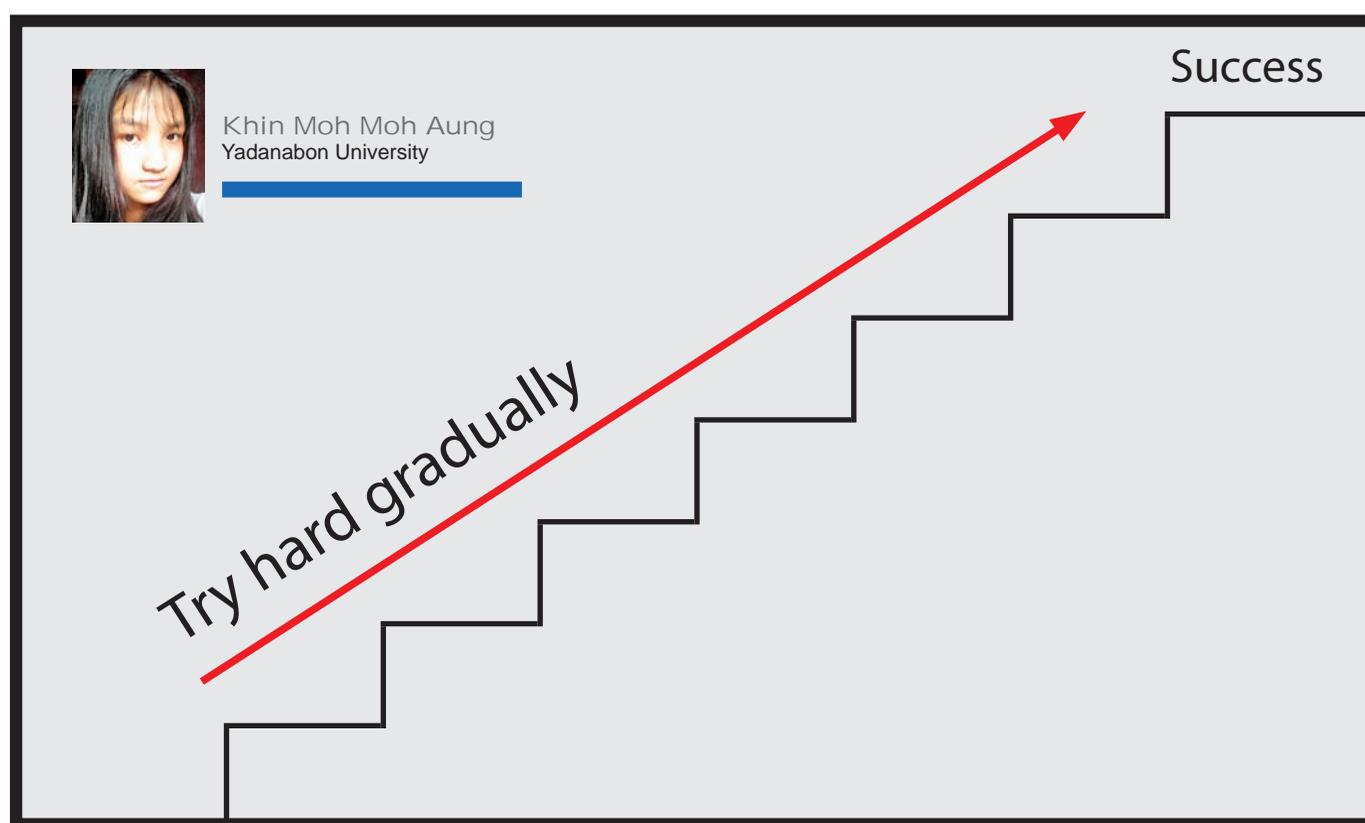
"It was a little bit crazy, managing to come back from those set points and then not feeling so good about myself after being 6-1 up in the tiebreak. It was kind of a roller-coaster and I am just happy that I got the first set under my belt," Wozniacki added.—Reuters ■

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

29 OCTOBER 2017  
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

# Try hard gradually to receive big clap



As everybody knows, today world is changing a lot. Likewise, we, human beings are also changing in many things, behaviour, eating style, wearing style, etc. The only thing which does not change is “We cannot succeed without any effort”. We are not able to receive successes without having effort. Some people want to achieve success without trying. Like the saying, “No Pain, No Gain”, we cannot get anything by lacking industry. Different people have different trouble about eating, wearing, shelter and including financial problem. Besides, some people have relationship problems. Whatever, we have to seek the solution to overcome these problems.

As I am a human, I have also many problems throughout my life. I was not born from a rich family. Therefore, I always confront with financial problem. At first, I was very depressed because of these financial problems. Gradually, I was trying to reflect myself by thinking “I cannot overcome these problems with just crying. I need to seek solution by holding industry and zeal.” Now, I am trying hard to grab the success.

Everything cannot be got easily and immediately. We can see this statement in learning a language. We cannot speak, listen, read or write immediately when we face a language which we do not know. We are able to speak, listen, read or write by learning gradually. Moreover,

we cannot drink clear water immediately without finishing digging a well.

As we are humans, we can try as much as we can by using our creative brain. In my opinion, everyone has creative thinking but he or she does not know where she has to use it or when she has to use it or how she has to use it. So, in my point of view, we can create our glorious future by creating our newest ideas and powerful industry and zeal by using our newest energy. Providing our industry, we can see the bright things in our life. The bright future is warmly welcoming to give us the big clap for our trying. Therefore, the thing I want to reveal is that “Try Hard Gradually to Receive Big Clap”.

## Green Caregivers



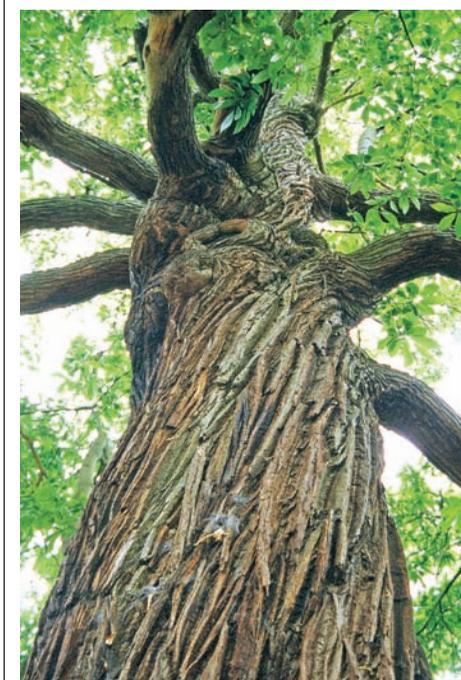
Trees ...  
They are green utopia trees.  
Never feel reluctant to give theirs.  
Ever welcome to those  
who stop and relax in their shades.

They are green blockhouses.  
No floods ...  
No soil erosions ...  
They think these are their duties.

So, why?  
Some want to endanger them  
for their own profits.  
They are priceless resources,  
Not just show-case jewels.

If we don't protect them,  
they'll disappear like utopia trees.  
If so, the world'll be unhealthy  
Many consequences'll affect residents, too.

Pan Pwint Thet Tant



## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

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# Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

## Lesson 25 : Where and When to Use Which Tenses (1)

Dear Students, Hello! Welcome to a New Chapter to Modify your Tenses and Sentences!

I have already taught you about how to modify your simple sentences into flowery sentences.

Sometimes, we are wavering which tenses we are going to use.

Today Lesson is the First Answer for you when and which Tenses we should use.

(1) Today, I hereby want to tell you when you are going to use Simple Present Tense and when you should use Present Continuous Tense in the same sentence where you have two kinds of Verbs or two actions in a sentence.

Let's see the following example sentences.

- (a) While he is reading the newspaper, he sees that amazing news.
- (b) While her mother is cooking, she comes into the kitchen.
- (c) I go out while it is raining.

Here, we have two actions in Present in these sentences. But, look at these sentences .... We can see that one action is in a continuous style. It means that one action is still going on, not yet finished.

But, the other action just tell us what the subject does in a very plain fashion.

In sentence (a) we have two actions such as : read and see. But one action "read" is still continuous where the other action "see" just tell what happens.

So here in this sentence, we use the continuous

action "read" in Present Continuous Tense and the other action "see" in Simple Present Tense.

In sentence (b), we have two actions "cook" and "come. Here in this sentence the action "cook" is not yet finished. The action is still going on or continues . So, we use the action "cook" in Present Continuous Tense and the other action "comes" just a Simple action in the Simple Present Tense.

In sentence (c ), there are two actions "go out" and "rain".

Here in this sentence, the action "raining" is still continuous and the other "go out" just show the Simple action.

So, in this sentence, we use the verb "rain" in Present Continuous Tense and the verb "go out" in Simple Present Tense.

The same idea is applied to the Past Tense too.

For the two actions happened in the Past, we use "Simple Past Tense" for the Simple action in the Past and "Past Continuous Tense" for the continuing action in the Past.

e.g.

- (a) While he was reading the newspaper, he saw that amazing news.
- (b) While her mother was cooking , she came into the kitchen.
- (c) I went out while it was raining.

So, we come to know when to use the Simple Present or Simple Past and when to use the Present Continuous and the Past Continuous Tenses.

Here come the exercises for you.

### Exercise 25

I. Use Simple Present or Present Continuous Tenses for the following actions. Make sentences from the given.

- (a) I see the stars. I look at the sky.
- (b) We go to Singapore. My friends stay there.
- (c) He sees the truth. He listens to their talks.
- (d) She stays at home. She sees the young boy.
- (e) You go out in the rain. The wind blows so roughly.
- (f) I have my dinner. He comes into my room.
- (g) She sings a sweet song. She plays the piano.
- (h) He plays football. He sits for the exam.
- (i) You comes to know the answer. The teacher writes the answer on the blackboard.
- (j) We dance on the floor. He plays the piano.

II. Change the sentences in No. I into Simple Past and Past Continuous Tenses.

I hope that you have understood well when and where to use Simple Tenses and Continuous Tenses.

See you next week !  
Your English Teacher (GNLM)  
Email: dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com

#### Answers to the Last week's exercise.

As I have asked you only to make flowery sentences, and some short passages to write, I think it is no need to give you answers.

Try your Best to do these.

You can contact me on my email. if you find any difficulty .



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# Professional Growth

By Dr. Khin Zaw  
Retired Rector, Yangon University of Education

"Those who can, do;  
Those who can't, teach;  
Those who can't teach, teach the teachers."

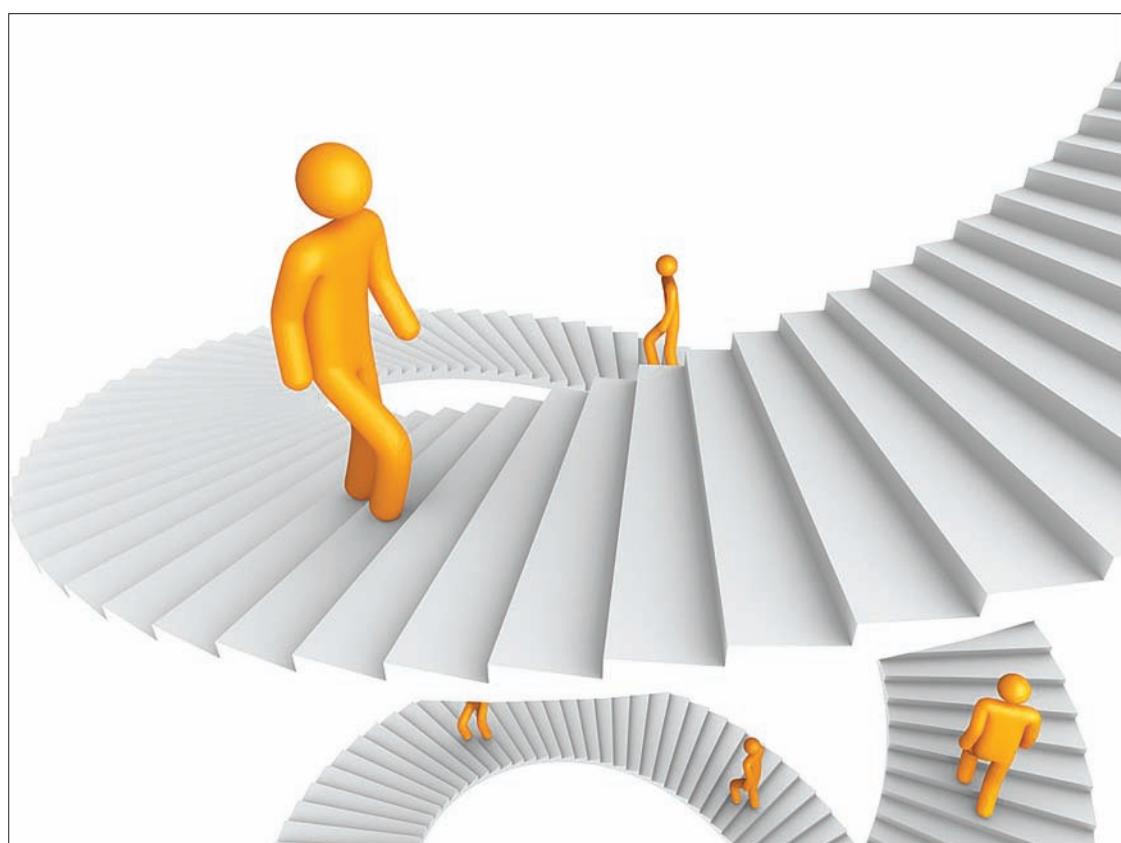
John Keats

In this John Keats describes against teachers and those who teach them. His approach seemed too antagonistic, but a few of his points hit the spot.

There are some teachers, hopefully not too many, who mark time until the next pay cheque, take snap courses rather than really useful ones during summer sessions, fail to keep up with the research in their field, and as a result, lower the entire PROFESSIONAL LEVEL of the far larger number of competent, enthusiastic, bright teachers represent the other side of the coin. His accusations also comfortably fit a few of the sometime scholars who teach in teacher preparation programs and institutes.

Philosopher Brubacher poses this "ethical" question to all teachers, from Kindergarten to University ... "Does the teacher possess a body of HIGHLY EXPERT knowledge which is so beyond the layman's ken that a special ethical obligation devolves on the teacher to be quite a single-minded in looking after the educational welfare of his public? There is no doubt that this situation obtains vis-à-vis the pupil. Vis-à-vis the parent, however, some qualifications may be necessary.

The parent may frequently know as much subject matter as the teacher, IF NOT MORE ..... whether in addition the teacher commands a body of technical information and skill in the science, philosophy, and art of teaching which quite exceeds that of the parent will no doubt vary with the mother's vocation before she was married and with



the teacher's length of PROFESSIONAL TRAINING and years of EXPERIENCE.

As long as the training of teachers was accomplished in a one or two-year period in traditional / conventional schools and academies, teaching could make little claim to being a learned profession. As that period, however, has lengthened it to at least four years at a junior college, a fifth year for a professional degree (B.Ed.), three further years for a master's degree, and particularly three to five more years for a doctoral degree, teaching has made great strides towards the dignity of a learned profession with all the ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS that designation has been seen to entail.

Just as there are no sudden starts or stops in the total educational process, there are no sharp beginnings in preparing for the teaching profession. The first step was before one remem-

bers, when one was first taught something.

The other steps were in a continuous process of learning stages, through the elementary grades, high school, college, and then teaching itself. But, the preparation does not stop at that point. It cannot stop, especially in the current race against international disaster. It cannot stop, if teachers are to provide the leadership that their communities have every right to expect of them. Negatively, professional growth "is a reflection of the occupational neurosis, the fear of SHRINKING to the SIZE of one's students. The long vacations, the sabbatical leaves, the distressing eagerness of culture with a capital C ..... all are necessary depression chambers for the teacher out of her classroom.

Positively, such growth comes from a real desire to keep up and move ahead, a desire that cannot be imposed by others

through lengthy assignments, cajoling or arguments.

Growth during the preparatory period and after actual entry into teaching is necessary to avoid stagnation, archaic attitudes and techniques, and a status quo which means a steady drifting back.

In-service preparation is also one of the most important components in the total teacher education program. More and more of schools and colleges face the fact that young teachers, just like young engineers and doctors, are not finished products. Before one can do a first-class job for his school, it in turn has a responsibility to him. This does not mean that the college or university has not accomplished its task well; it may have, but there usually are still plenty of sharp edges to be rounded off.

The route of in-service courses, lectures, seminars, and conferences is one way of help-

ing smooth out some of rough spots. Even better is the other route of college and university courses, summer workshops and extension classes, degree or nondegree courses, lecture series adapted to specific region or district with one professor or a team of them can usually be almost as flexible a scan be.

It may be necessary to travel to take advantage of such university level courses, but the key point is not distance. It is more likely to be one's answer to these questions: Have I had it? Have I had enough education? Can I face any educational contingency, today or tomorrow? "

A series of staccato "Yes" answers may be enough to make one step for a moment and wonder, especially if the limit of his education is just a little four-year degree. In the competitive market, we always have good positions, A HIGHER DEGREE takes on an ADDED IMPORTANCE. No one would be foolish enough to say that it provides the TOTAL answer, "but all things remaining equal" the HIGHER DEGREE acquires significance in the job-seeking picture of the WEST.

Thus Professor Aqbraham is explicitly stating that, in a learned profession like education, a B.A. or B.Sc. is NOT enough. M.A., M.Sc. or M.Ed. is better, but, a; things being equal, it is BEST to possess the top-of-the-line doctoral degree, the Ph.D. or Ed.D. or the D.Sc.

(to be continued.)

## References

1. John Keats, Schools without Scholars (Boston : Houghton Mifflin Company, 1958)
2. Brubacher, op.cit., p 226
3. Martin Mayer, The Schools (New York : Harper and Row, Publishers, Inc., 1961)
4. Abrahams, op.cit. p.194.



# Sinma (or) new potential for a beach resort

By Thurein (Myanmarsar)

**O**UR country, Myanmar can be said as gifted with the nature's beauty especially in the western and southwestern coastal part of the country which is richly endowed with the sandy beaches that can be developed into a beach resort. Some other countries having only a few coastal beaches could have developed their scarcely endowed beaches into a beautiful and fascinating seaside resorts and raked in the foreign currency from visitors.

In Myanmar, there are a lot of beaches, however only a few of which could have been developed into seaside beach resort. Some more are in the course of development and many are still left as untouched nature. Among the developed ones, Ngapali Beach Resort of the Rakhine State is the most beautiful beach which can be comparable to Nepali Beach of Italy in the aspect of natural beauty.

The beach resorts that can be reached within a short time from Yangon are Ngwe Saung Beach Resorts and Chaungtha resort of Ayarwaddy Region. They can be accessed by 5 hours drive from Yangon. The road to those beaches are busy especially in open season with cars carrying both local and foreign visitors from Yangon. After 4

hours drive, Pathein, capital city of Ayarwaddy Region is reached and has to pass the Pathein suspension bridge, move on along the winding roads across a hilly region till it gets to Ngwe Saung village and its beach resort. Though Ngwe Saung beach was developed much later than Chaungtha beach, it has become more popular among beach lovers within a short time.

In 2013 it became the venue for yacht race of 2013 SEA Games. Thenceforth Ngwe Saung Beach Resort has become a favourite place for weekend recreation especially for Yagonites and expatriates. Leaving stifling and bustling city to enjoy open fresh air with some odour of sea and sitting on white sand of clean, cool and calm beach is a moment indelible from the memory.

The visitors can have a motorcycle ride from beach to Thazin village and then to Chaungtha village along a winding and curving road. If you take one and half hour drive by cycle to enjoy the scenic beauty of the area and can study the way of life of the local people and their livelihood. By only half an hour drive along the coastal path a village called Thazin which is in pristine condition can be reached. As the road to Thazin village is an earth road, it is more suitable to use the motorcycle rather than car. There are two streams on the way to pass through to reach Thazin which is a highly populated well developed village having large sports ground and clean tidy and smart State High School. There are also rows of palm trees along the sea coast as a wind guard for the village. Village monastery is a place where people used to hold all kinds of religious ceremonies. Children of the Sinma village and smaller villages around it usually go to the school by themselves without any company of parents like in big cities. It is delightful to see the children in group with green longyi and white shirt going to school and carrying their knapsacks on their backs and lunch box in their hands. Some are coming with bicycle and some with motorcycle.

The livelihood of the most of the local people is the trading of marine products. Besides, selling handicrafts using the bamboo, palm and related materials and marine shells is also a major business of the local people. Mini stores and grocery shops can also be seen in front of some houses along the main road. Some young people of the village proceed their education in Pathein and some even in Yangon for further formal education at Universities or at other private institutes for applied subjects. Some youths are going to Pathein or Yangon for good jobs while some stay at village with their parents and lead the family business, mostly in farming business. Some continue their university education at Pathein University through distant education system while they are working at Ngwe Saung Hotel.

If you look towards the sea from the village you can find an island locally called as Sin Ma Island. Straight back to the village from the island a small golden stupa at the summit of a hill can be observed. Another islet one mile away from the village can be accessed by walking in the low tide time. Walking to the islet is seemingly tireless



because it is enjoying to look at the sea shells of different shapes and colours and can pick up the most beautiful shells during the walking to destination.

Sinma creek of Sinma village is a tidal creek and the water flows inland towards the village in high tide period and it flows back into the sea in low tide time. In rainy season it becomes a place for keeping the fishing boats. Another strange scene that can attract the strangers is the villagers who cross the creek to other side to fetch the water and come back crossing the creek at the mouth of it during low tide time shouldering the water pot. It is also pleasant to see the golden stupa at the top of the hill from fishing boat in the sea. If you proceed from Sinma, a big village called Ngayoke Kaung and then further on Gawringyi island can be reached. Road

communication is not good for car trip for the time being. Nevertheless, It can be accessed by boat within 45 minutes.

It is a question whether Sinma can one day become flourished with tourism. Potential is high as the place is still in pristine stage, beach is formed by white clean sand and there exist an unspoilt marine eco- system with fresh rocky exposures. The simple, sincere, hospitable and smiling local people are the another attraction to become a flourished beach resort. However, it is to be cautious not to impose bad impact on the local people and natural environment and to be a sustainable developed area when it is developed into a beach resort.

Some 20 years back there was only Chaungtha Beach. Then came the Ngwe Saung which was rated superior to Chaung-

tha on the reason that water is clear and sand is clean at Ngwe Saung. We should also be well aware of the fact that trash management should be in the priority list. We have to take example of other beach resorts of the developed countries where beaches are clean and always crowded with holiday makers. It is because the beaches are kept always clean and disciplined.

However, we have to be mindful that sometimes it is good to keep nature as original. Nature cannot be created and renewable. Natural resource is invaluable. Therefore the beautiful natural environment should not be taken easily to be developed and spoil for the sake of national income. Sometimes it is good to develop, sometimes it is better to maintain its original beauty. Think it deeply.

Translated by Khin Maung Win

# SUNDAY COMICS

I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SELF-DEFENSE BOOK.

HTOO

OH! WHAT!?

HA HA! YOUR SHOCKED FACE LOOKS SO FUNNY.

HEY FATTY, GIVE ME BACK MY BOOK.

SELF-DEFENSE ISN'T FOR YOU.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AGAINST SOMEONE WHO RUNS FAST?

THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO CATCH UP TO YOU.

HA HA HEE HEE.

ARRGH! YOU REALLY HIT ME WITH A PELLET!

PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon Maung Shwe Win

YOU LOOK IRRITATED FROM WORK, ARE YOU TIRED?

HMM

IT'S INDIGESTION!

THEN YOU MUST HAVE A HEAVY CHEST TOO.

CHEW PROPERLY SO THAT YOU EXTRACT ALL THE NUTRIENTS.

EVEN A CHILD KNOWS THAT.

NO! IN THE WORKPLACE THERE IS NO RESPONSIBILITY, SUCKING UP TO THE RICH AND STEPPING ON THE EMPLOYEES.

THAT IS WHAT MY INDIGESTION IS ABOUT!

SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon Maung Maung Aung 2017

EVERY HUMAN BEING SHOULD READ.

LITERATURE ATTRACTS THE MIND.

SAD STORIES MAKE YOU CRY.

FUNNY ONES MAKE YOU LAUGH.

WHAT YOU SAY MUST BE TRUE. OUR WHOLE FAMILY WAS CRYING AFTER READING SOMETHING.

WHAT BOOK WAS IT?

THAT IS ALSO LITERATURE.

OH MY!

To, Granny. Grandpa passed away yesterday. Please come quickly.

END

# “Sometimes I think there is too much fear about each other (in Rakhine) and that is not good”: Italian Ambassador

**A wide-ranging interview with Italian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pier Giorgio Aliberti by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Italy and Myanmar.**

**Q: Our diplomatic relations have been established since the 1950s so can you elaborate on the progress of our relations?**

**A:** Mingalabar and thank you for this opportunity. Yes, we are one of the few European embassies that never stopped and we have been here during difficult times and better times. There is a special link between the two countries and the people. There are people from Italy who want to come here because they are fascinated by the country.

**Q: What is your impression on our democratization process?**

**A:** Well I arrived here in June 2015 so I have witnessed the transition and also the elections in November 2015, I was an observer. I could see the people queuing up so early in the morning and there was so much enthusiasm. I think the expectations were extremely high not only in the country but also abroad. Also I think we are realizing that democracy is a long path. At the same time there are many issues if you talk about federalization because it's basically how to share power. This is a universal issue where you have to share power between the center and the periphery. Of course here there is a little bit of history and that's why it's a little bit more difficult. I think the government was right in putting the peace process as a priority because this is linked to how to share power and how to share resources. It will take time.

**Q: Could you tell us about Italy's contribution to the peace process?**

**A:** We consider peace an essential part of the transformation of a country which is why the three main sectors for us are governance, state building and peace. We are in a Joint Peace Fund because Myanmar is one of the three Asian countries which are a priority for us. We have been supportive of the ongoing peace process and the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) was a stepping stone. I think some ethnic groups have some differing views but when you want to participate in a process and like a train if its running you got to catch it. I think more ethnic organizations should be part of the process and be ready to discuss and have political dialogue that will lead to federalism.



Italian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pier Giorgio Aliberti speaks during the interview with GNLM and MRTV at the Embassy of Italy in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Many institutions have been established like the JMC (Joint Monitoring Committee) and although it's a good start it's still a bit weak. I have visited many JMC offices at the state level around the country. We still have a long way to go and I think we need to be patient not only from Myanmar but also from abroad.

**Q: Can you tell us some feedback about your recent trip to Rakhine State?**

**A:** I think Rakhine is one issue among many other issues and the international community has always been very focused on this because it's a special situation. Myanmar has been doing a fantastic job to get out of isolation after 50 years of it. The international community has difficult issues such as the coexistence of different races, different people, and different ethnicities. Myanmar is a good example of this as you have more than 135 different races to organize. But there are other people who have, for whatever reason, been living in Rakhine and sometimes I think there is too much fear about each other and that is not good. I think the most recent speech by the State Counsellor was very instructive and she was mentioning compassion and kindness and I think we need to be more compassionate about how people suffer there. I think something more could be done in terms of favoring coexistence. We have the same issue in Europe and in Italy we have people coming in from North Africa and Libya and people are scared that they can have terrorists there. For peaceful coexistence we have to create opportunities for livelihoods because if people go fishing and go to the market then they are not thinking about becoming

terrorists so I think if there is a more equal society then coexistence is possible there.

When I visited northern Rakhine, there are some areas where people lived together easily and when I go to downtown Yangon you have mosques and people live together so religion is not a problem. I think we have to move forward and find a way to ensure coexistence. I think fear is the main reason why some people don't accept coexistence and not hatred or racial attitude like some people say.

**Q: How so you think we can handle immigration and such things near the border?**

**A:** Well that's a one million dollar question. We are grappling with these ourselves so it is not so easy. In Italy we are trying to limit...

**Q: Italy is rich but Myanmar has a weak monitoring for immigration.**

**A:** Of course now I feel bad that the government reinforced the agreement to Bangladesh to close the border and that of course can be part of the solution.

**Q: But it also costs a lot?**

**A:** Of course it costs a lot but I think you can get the support of the international community provided that it's not about closing the border but helping people living together. The idea basically is trying to give a chance to people by providing more jobs so that maybe they can live peacefully and they can be integrated. In Italy in the last 40-50 years there have been a lot of changes because we didn't have immigrants

When I visited northern Rakhine, there are some areas where people lived together easily and when I go to downtown Yangon you have mosques and people live together so religion is not a problem.

before but now we have plenty and they are people who are contributing a lot to our economy so it's an important part of a country's development to accept diversity.

**Q: Could you tell us more about Italy and Myanmar's cooperation in areas like economy?**

**A:** We are focusing on three main areas. First is rural development, second is governance and third is support to the private sector.

For rural development we are working specifically with the World Bank to meet community needs in rural areas because in many countries we see that if you do a top-down approach, it doesn't work. So I think it's better to listen to people for what they need, a bottom-up approach. We tend to focus more on the poorer states like Chin and Rakhine.

The second aspect is governance which is peace building and the Joint Peace Fund, which is about 100 million dollars to contribute to this. We are also trying to help in terms of better coordination donors with the government.

The third part is support for the private sector because we believe it is essential to the economy of the country. There we are focused more on one specific sector which is cultural heritage and tourism. We in Italy have rich natural heritage and we see that it is important not only for our cultural heritage but also in terms of economic development because it's linked to tourism. In Italy 10 per cent of GDP comes from tourism. We are working with the government and Yangon Heritage Trust to first of all restore old buildings and then to have rules to protect these buildings.



# Coffin dance

Coffin Dance, an intangible culture in Myanmar, is performed in the funeral or the last rite of a Buddhist Monk

By Htay Win

THE coffin dance is a kind of dance in which sixteen performers perform moving in unison putting the monk coffin in the decorated movable monastery. The base of the decorated movable monastery is made of bamboos in the form of the square grids. The movable monastery is decorated with color papers and it looks like the palace and the monastery. In other words, it looks like a palanquin.

The performers have to wear the uniforms to dance. They perform together with the rhythmic beats of Myanmar orchestra and different kinds of songs.

The coffin dance is performed in the funeral festival of the monk. The funeral festival of the monk is called Antima Zarpana (the last rite) in Pali language. It means it is the last funeral festival of the monk in honor of the monk who will attain Nirvana. There is no further life for him after attaining Nirvana.

According to the Buddhists tradition, as soon as the monk is dead, his body is not cremated at once. His body is kept the temporary monastery made of bamboos and the color papers.

It is called Sankyaung. Sankyaung means the monastery where the monk temporarily lives. After the harvest time, especially in March, the funeral festival is held in a grandeur scale.

In the coffin dance, both men and women have opportunities to perform. So, the women are empowered regardless of the gender in Rakhine society. The coffin dance can be seen in Rakhine and Mon societies in Myanmar in their monk funeral festivals. The Rakhine and Mon dynasties had cultural relations in terms of the adjacent coastal areas. And, in the reign of King Minrazargyi in Mrauk U period, he could control Mom kingdom. So, we can see Thai or Mom culture in some places of Rakhine until now.

The history of the coffin dance began in the 16th century in Mrauk U period in Arakan when it was the heydays of Rakhine dynasty. In the funeral festival, there are two kinds of palanquin. They are the dance palanquin and the pulling palanquin. In Mrauk U period, Shin Mra Wa, a cousin of King Minbar, stabbed himself with a knife for protecting the sovereignty of Mrauk U according

to the astrology he understood. Before he died, he instructed the ministers to bury him at the place where he fell down. But, instead, the king honored him pulling and dancing the palanquin with his corpse with holding the funeral festival because he was a honorable man.

The coffin dance being an active performing, the people are happy seeing the performance. Actually, the performance represents bravery, patriotism, obedience and unity in the society.

According to Rakhine traditions, the coffin dance is honored for those who have long lives before they die in the village. The cultures were flowing from place to place. The coffin dance is also performed for the dead people in some countries in Africa. But they do not make any decorations for the coffin. But, in Rakhine society, they make the palanquin with bamboos to be able to dance like conducting the military parade. Rakhine people perform the coffin dance as a tradition in the funeral festival of the monk for happiness, unity and patriotism. They maintain it for generations as an intangible culture in Myanmar.

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