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SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

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Children take part in playing games at a temporary shelter in Thaton yesterday. PHOTO: THET OO (THATON)

Flood-hit children in Thaton motivated through story telling, quiz, games

THATON District Information and Public Relations Department has conducted motivation programs for the children sheltering at temporary camps in Thaton due to flooding.

The program is designed to motivate the children through the story telling, quiz and playing games while they

are sheltering at the camps.

The Thaton District Traditional Medicine Department joining hands with the district IPRD also provided medical care with traditional medicines to the flood victims at the camps in Thaton, Mon State, yesterday.

Over 2,870 people from 625 households are sheltering at

11 shelters in Mon State.

Meanwhile, the death toll from the flooding which recently hit Kayin State, Taninthayi Region, Mon State, Bago Region and Magway Region reached 17.

Over 152,000 people displaced by floods are taking refuge at temporary shelters in the regions and states.

The weather bureau has advised the people living near the rivers and low-lying areas in Mingin and Ngathainchaung in Ayeyawady delta, Monywa, Hpa-an, Thabaung and Madauk to be alerted to the floods and to keep informed of rising water in the rivers in their areas. — Thet Oo (Thaton)

Dr. Win Myat Aye receives donations, discusses aid for flood-stricken Bago Region

An event was held yesterday at the Yangon Region's Office for Social Welfare for receiving of financial aid, food supplies and other items for flood victims throughout Myanmar.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye accepted the donations and gave back honorary certificates to the donors and thanked them on behalf of the flood victims.

Donations from organizations, foundations, and thirty-one families accumulated to Ks199,631,000.

Afterwards, the Union Minister held a meeting to discuss about the floods in Bago Region and plans for rehabilitation there.

While addressing the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said areas hit with floods have had their basic infrastructure, roads, bridges and farmlands destroyed, but now that water levels are receding rehabilitation processes are beginning, such as access to clean drinking water, ensuring farmlands can be replanted, repairing roads and bridges, and enabling people access to vocational training. He said departments can gather information from village administrators, local residents,

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Ayeyawady Region moves to form association to reduce, protect orphans

A MEETING was held in Patheingyi University yesterday where the Ayeyawady Region Government, local elders, and humanitarian organizations met to discuss the formation of an association for reducing the number of orphans and providing protection for them.

Firstly, Daw Khin Hnin Nyo, the wife of Ayeyawady Region's Chief Minister, delivered a speech, and was followed by a presentation from Orphans Reduction and Protection Association's (Myanmar) chairperson Daw May Yin Tun about the association's formation. Next, the association's General Secretary Prof. Dr. Mya Thida explained about the association's role in the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and the reason for the day's meeting. Dr. Khin Than Aye, an association member, then explained of the association's current processes.

Afterwards, commemorative music for the association was played and a book on the associ-



Orphans Reduction and Protection Association's (Myanmar) members held a meeting at Patheingyi University in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ation's organization, music disc, badge, and membership concept documents were presented to Dr. Hla Myat Thwe, the chairperson of the Ayeyawady Region Women's Affairs Committee and also Regional Minister for Social Affairs. Next, concept notes from different townships were given to relevant officials and all the attendants then took a documen-

tary photo together. Present at the meeting were association chairperson Daw May Yin Tun, General Secretary Prof. Dr. Mya Thida, association members Daw Khaing Nwe Oo, Dr. Khin Than Aye, Daw Kyin Than, the regional chief minister's wife, regional ministers, department officials, local elders, humanitarian organizations, and invited

guests. In the afternoon, a public lecture was held in Patheingyi University explaining the formation of the Orphans Reduction and Protection Association, its objectives, processes and other trivia. The association's General Secretary Prof. Dr. Mya Thida explained about the problems orphans have to face, the association's fundamentals, objectives

and processes, and work related to forming the Ayeyawady Region sub-association. Association member Daw Kyin Than then explained about the meaning behind the association's logo, flag and symbol.

Next, a Q&A session was held after which association chairperson Daw May Yin Tun delivered the closing speech.

Present at the public lecture were association members Daw Khaing Nwe Oo, Dr. Khin Than Aye, regional chief minister's wife Daw Khin Hnin Nyo, regional ministers, Hluttaw representatives, department officials, local elders, humanitarian organizations, and invited guests.

In the evening, a public lecture on reproductive health was held, with students from the Technological University, University of Computer Studies, Nursing College, University of Education, and Government Technical Institute in attendance.—Maung Maung Myint (District IPRD) ■

Underprivileged Youth to access ICT courses sooner

SAMSUNG Myanmar will provide assistance for underprivileged child laborers in Myanmar to access ICT courses very soon in cooperation with Myanmar Mobile Education Project (myME).

This will be the 4th annual collaboration and donation to assist myME. Samsung Myanmar has provided donations, including buses and teaching equipment, for the myME mobile education system for three years consecutively.

Samsung Myanmar added new additional equipment on a donated bus which will be used as classroom to hold the new ICT courses for this 4th annual collaboration. The first bus donated from Samsung Myanmar in 2015 was used for Yangon, the second bus donated in 2016 for Mandalay, and the bus in 2017 was used for Yangon to expand not only teaching literacy and math, but also vocational classes.

"We are proud to be part of this journey with myME. We believe that this project can make effective and help create a better future for the teashop children. We are happy to hear about the personal growth of these kids in



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Myanmar. We will do our best to support myME, and we hope to see these kids become assets to support their communities and their country," said Samsung Myanmar's PR and Citizenship manager Ko Soe Thura.

The renovated bus will allow myME to further increase education access for ICT courses. The donation will include basic computer, internet and social media classes for Pre-Level II and Level II students, which will benefit their future education.

This ICT-course will benefit a total of 121 students per week including 25 students from SoyaAi Youth Center in Yankin Township, 21 students from two myME class locations in Shwepyitha Township, 12 students from Dagon Seikkan Township, 18 students from No. 32 ward in North Dagon

and 45 students from multiple locations in Tharkayta Township. And, it will cover 484 students per month and 5,808 students per year.

Samsung Myanmar has provided Samsung Tech Institute: mobile application training since 2003 to over 500 students with the aim to develop Myanmar's mobile sector and talented youth. Samsung Myanmar has also provided Samsung Tech Institute: technology vocation training since 2016 in collaboration with Yangon Technological University, Thanlyin Technological University, Taungoo Government Technology High School, and Loikaw Technology High School and taught mobile, TV and refrigerator repair training programs to more than 400 students.—GNLM ■

Most basic education schools' canteens threaten safety of students' health in Yangon region

BY Nyein Nyein

MOST of the basic education schools' canteens threaten the safety of students' health in Yangon region, according to the Food Security Working Group.

The information was found in an "Analysis of Consumption Habits on Safe and Healthy Foods at School' Canteens of Basic Education Schools" a survey which was conducted by the Food Security Working Group.

The research was issued after conducting the survey in 16 basic education schools' canteens from four districts in Yangon region beginning from 2018.

According to the research, the canteens of some schools were found to serve low quality food which could create problems for the health of the students. The country incomplete conduction also impacted the socioeconomic. Therefore, Most of the schools' canteens have become a liability regarding

students' health in the Yangon region, according to U Aung Myat Khine, the official of Food Security Working Group.

"The results of the research, which was also carried out in 16 basic education schools, are interesting. We have found many issues which are urgently modified and considered for the future, Myanmar education and new generation educations of our children. We also need the cooperation and support of the government ministers," said U Aung Myat Khine.

Concerning the research information, Our Food Security Working Group has already met and discussed health issues relating to food at schools with the students, teachers, patients and shop owners from school canteens.

Moreover, we have planned to submit the research paper to the Yangon region government next September, said Daw Wai Wai Lin, a project manger of Food Security Working Group. ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits flood victims in Shwekyin Township, neighboring area

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited flood victims in Shwekyin Township, Bago Region, yesterday.

Flooding in Shwekyin Township has forced local residents to seek shelter in flood relief centers in ShwetaungOo Pagoda in Gantgaw Wine Ward, the basic education high school, and in the Thaminewin Payargyi Pagoda's compound.

The Senior General and Tatmadaw officials cordially greeted local residents and provided them with food supplies, then inspected the mobile military medical team as they provided healthcare to the

local residents.

The Senior General then paid homage to the Buddha image inside the Taminewin Payargyi Pagoda.

Floods in Shwekyin Township forced 27,266 residents from 5,768 households from eight wards and forty-two villages to relocate to safer areas till 30 July.

Temporary flood relief centres have been set up in five locations in Shwekyin Township and in the forty-two villages. Reports also show that 25,500 acres out of the 34,867 acres of farmland for monsoon crops have been damaged due to the floods. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects mobile military medical team providing health care to flood victims in Shwekyin Township, Bago Region, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Dr. Win Myat Aye receives donations, discusses aid for flood-stricken Bago Region



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye accepts the donations from organizations, foundations, and thirty-one families. PHOTO: MNA

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and Hluttaw representatives and contact with rehabilitation and rebuilding committees to swiftly help the region get back on its feet. He added that the union government will form a committee for coordinating rehabilitation.

Next, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein and regional ministers, the regional Hluttaw speaker, and departmental officials explained about the dangerous rising of water levels occurring in the region since day one, the state of temporary flood relief centres, immediate food supplies, the state of roads and bridges, reports of agricultural land and crops lost in the flood, basic infrastructure destroyed, and plans going forward.

The Union Minister said the

rapid implementation of these rehabilitation processes will benefit the people and aid their socio-economic development. He added that the Rehabilitation Co-ordination Committee and the National Natural Disaster Management Committee can provide help with any difficulties in budget planning and financial assistance.

The Union Minister and his entourage also travelled to Thaton Township in Mon State and visited the temporary flood relief centre in Zaymathwe Village. They inquired about the centre's living conditions, humanitarian aid provided, healthcare and then provided food supplies, financial aid to expecting mothers, mother and infants, and nutritional snacks and soy milk for the children. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Chung-Ang University, Yangon University of Pharmacy sign MoU

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the MoU signing ceremony between South Korea's Chung-Ang University and the Yangon University of Pharmacy held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

Firstly, the Union Minister delivered a speech at the ceremony.

Next, Chung-Ang University - (CAU) President Dr. C.S. Kim explained about the collaboration processes they will be undertaking as well as future plans for continued co-operation.

This was followed with a brief presentation of Chung-Ang University by CAU Chairman Mr. J.O. Hong, alumni association of college of pharmacy.

The MoU was then signed by the Director-General of the Department of Human Resource for Health, Dr. Tin Tin Lay, Yangon University of Pharmacy Rector Dr. Yi Yi Tin, and CAU President Dr. C.S. Kim.

Next, the Pacific-AA Foundation donated Ks10 million for providing healthcare to flood areas occurring in Myanmar and Ks10 million for upgrading the Hlinethayar General Hospital, which were accepted by ministry officials.

Afterwards, the Union Minister attended a handover

event at the Ministry of Health and Sports in East Race Course Road in Yangon. At the event, WHO handed over 15,000 vials of praziquantel for treating schistosomiasis, 3,200 Kato Katz Kits (testing kits) and 300 urine filtration tests.

WHO representative to Myanmar, Dr. Stephan Paul Jost said the handover will aid in the speedy detection of diseases. He added that a team of experts from the WHO headquarters and China CDC will be coming to Myanmar in late August to cooperate with the ministry, to which Permanent Secretary Dr. That Khaing Win expressed his gratitude.

The Union Minister also addressed the event saying a separate unit for detecting

and treating diseases has been formed and will cooperate with relevant authorities in the states and regions to detect and treat diseases and spread health education.

Next, the Union Minister went to the Central Medical Stores Depot (Yangon) and inspected the state of the stored medicine and equipment, warehouse conditions, the medicine purchasing and distribution system, and office space.

Deputy Director-General (Purchasing and Distribution) Dr. Win Naing and officials presented their requirements to the union minister, who consulted with officials and provided the necessities. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the MoU signing ceremony between South Korea's Chung-Ang University and Yangon University of Pharmacy in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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CHIEF EDITORClovis Santiago
clovisantiago@gmail.com**DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR**Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Nyi Zaw Moe, Hnin Pwint,
Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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gnlmdaily@gmail.com

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Agriculture sector still accounts for less than 1% of total FDI

By May Thet Hnin

THE farming industry still makes up less than one per cent of the total foreign direct investments, said U Than Aung Kyaw, deputy director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Between April and June this year, only US\$5.6 million worth of FDI went into the agriculture sector from one investment project.

U Than Aung Kyaw continued to say that currently, now the rice mill industry has seen an influx of FDI. Foreign investors are likely to invest in sugarcane growing the rice mill industry, seed industry and manufacturing of finished agro products in the near future. These FDIs are proposed for the China-Myanmar economic corridor projects.

The country received investments from China (Taipei), the Netherlands and the US, representing 0.5 per cent of the



Farmers harvest rice in Ayeyawady Delta. PHOTO: PHOE KWAR

total FDI. Investment from the farming industry this year still accounts for less than one per cent of total FDI.

The new Myanmar Investment Law allows up to 80 % of foreign investment in the agriculture sector. Also, foreigners have the opportunity to invest 100 per cent in seed production. However, the sector has seen no significant progress so far.

Dr Soe Tun from the Myanmar Rice Federation, said

that foreign investors have interests to invest in the farming industry. The sector sees a relatively-low FDI influx as it is a long-term investment and is directly associated with the climate. There may be some risks for investors to make investments in the farming sector. It is still difficult to implement a crop insurance system in Myanmar. Land ownership also remains an important issue. This is why investment in the

agriculture sector is relatively low compared with that in the non-agriculture sector.

Investment in the agriculture industry hit \$134.48 million in the 2017-2018 FY. During the first four months of the current six-month interim fiscal period starting this April, the influx of FDI into the country exceeded \$1 billion, including the expansion of existing investments, with the majority of FDI going to the country's manufacturing sector.

The Myanmar Investment Commission has a plan to extend a helping hand to those who want to invest in ten prioritized areas of investment as quickly as possible, including agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries, export promotion industries, import substitution industries, the power sector, education services, logistic industries, healthcare services, construction of affordable housing and establishment of industrial estates. ■

New YCDC law imposes maximum fines of Ks5 million, six-month to a year sentence

THE Yangon City Development Committee Law 2018 approved on 51st day meeting of Yangon Region Hluttaw six regular session imposes penalty from Ks10,000 to 5 million depending on incompliance.

For those who damage sewage treatment system, they will face six months to a year in jail or Ks 1 to 5 million fines. If someone exhibits annoying or insulting behavior in public places in YCDC's compound, they will be charged Ks10,000 to 50,000.

In public areas and on the

pavements, those who sells the construction goods and furniture and those who provides car and vehicles wash or repair service and night parking will be fined from Ks100,000 to 500,000.

Additionally, those who running meat production business without YCDC's permit will faced a year imprisonment and/ or fines of Ks500,000 to Ks3 million. Without seeking approval from YCDC, those who are fundraising, holding entertainment events and educative talks and other events will also

be charged Ks10,000 to 50,000. The YCDC law stipulates that Ks30,000 or 50,000 fines are imposed on betel nut spit on the streets and feces disposal. Undisciplined manners of waste disposal in the streets, in the drains, in the park or playgrounds are subject to penalty of Ks30,000 to 300,000 and/or three-month- imprisonment. The waste must be discarded in the public area dustbins and the prescribed waste disposal sites.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein

mentioned law enforcement on undisciplined manners of waste disposal at Yangon Region meeting held on 4 May 2018 regarding fire outbreak at Hteinpin dumpsite.

The YCDC law was approved on 28 June and signed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. It was transferred to Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe. The YCDC will distribute pamphlets to the public to raise awareness of the penalty and fines imposed by the YCDC Law 2018.— Zarni Maung/ Moe Myint Maung ■

Improved cooking stoves to be distributed in Butalin

A PLAN is underway to distribute improved cooking stoves to a total of 6,360 households in 41 villages in Butalin Township in Sagaing Region between August and December this year under the six-year programme of Climate Change Center (CCC).

This is part of the Project of the CCC Program of Activities for Distribution of Improved

Cooking Stoves in Developing Southeast Asian Countries (Myanmar).

The project was launched this year and it will last until 2023. It targets to distribute fuel-efficient improved cooking stoves to families living in the dry zone, consisting of 27 townships in six districts Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions

through step by step approaches.

There are a lot of advantages from using the improved cooking stoves. The main benefits of improved cooking stoves include saving fuel, cooking faster, the durability and making households safer. This kind of eco-friendly cooking stoves protects environment, reduces the

use of woodfuel and emits less greenhouse gas than traditional cooking stoves, and improves the health and livelihoods of people.

According to the World Health Organisation, three million people worldwide die prematurely every year due to cooking on open fire or traditional stoves.—Phoe Khar (IPRD) ■

Third Myanmar Entrepreneurs Festival launched in Yangon

By Nyein Nyein

ORGANISED by the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association, the Third Myanmar Entrepreneurs Festival has been launched at the Tatmadaw exhibition hall in Yangon, on Friday.

Among the objectives of the event are offering financial support network for entrepreneurs

together with market introduction and investor engagement, creating a good economic environment, encouraging startup businesses, including social enterprises, technology-based businesses, manufacturing and other service businesses.

The event began on August 3 will last until August 5. It is opened to the public between

9am and 5pm daily. For the convenience of visitors, the event is categorized into zones, including the corporate zone, SME zone, pitching zone, start-up zone, education zone and food and beverages zone. Enthusiasts have been invited to come to the event, where they will have an opportunity to meet with entrepreneurs, successful businesspersons and

economic experts. For youths and start-ups, this festival is a great chance to directly acquire knowledge from already successful entrepreneurs.

Also, the event includes panel discussions by entrepreneurs from well-known enterprises as well as small-and-medium-sized businesses, talks by experts, mentoring programmes and

short-term trainings for start-ups. The short-term trainings for start-ups will be conducted by ACE Inspiration Professional Development Center, HMT Co., Ltd., PSB Academy, Kaplan Myanmar University College, Strategy First Institute, Matrix Institute of Professionals, TOP HR Solutions Co., Ltd. and Youth International College. ■

Prices of pigeon peas fall from its peak earlier this month

THE prices of pigeon peas (red grams) decreased from its peak of over Ks500,000 per ton earlier this month in Yangon market, while the prices of mung beans remained unchanged, according to wholesalers.

The price of pigeon peas was (red grams) Ks489,000 per ton on July 30. It reached its peak of over Ks500,000 per ton on July 31, and falling to Ks494,000 the following day. Pigeon peas prices continued to decline in the next few days.

According to wholesalers, a ton of pigeon peas was sold at Ks490,000 on August 2 and Ks486,500 on August 3. The market was very active at the end of last month.

According to a daily trade report, 60 containers of pigeon peas were traded on July 30, 65 containers on July 31, ten containers on August 1, 25 containers on August 2 and 20 containers on August 3.

Although authorities have urged growers not to commercially cultivate pigeon peas, this kind of crop is

still largely grown, especially in central regions, as it can survive even in a bad weather condition, while other crops can also be harvested from the same farms.

The export of pigeon peas still relies mainly on the Indian market because of low domestic consumption. India allowed Myanmar to import 200,000 tons of pigeon peas this season.

So far, Myanmar exported around 100,000 tons of pigeon peas to its neighbour, planning to export the rest of its quota by the end of this month, according to the market.

One of the merchants said that the prices of red pigeon peas free on board per ton ranged from US\$340-\$360 on August 2 this year. The prices of the same ranged from \$350-\$370 per ton at this time last year.

At present, the exchange rate to the dollar is Ks1,458 in the export market.

The current price of a ton of pigeon peas is Ks60,000 more than that of the same volume of mung beans.—Maung Say Aung ■



Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Prices of mung beans remain unchanged in Yangon market

THE prices of mung beans have remained unchanged during the week starting on 30 July, wholesalers said.

According to the market, the price of mung beans was Ks422,000 per ton on July 30. It increased to Ks435,000 per ton on the following day.

The price of a ton of the same crop decreased to Ks430,000 on August 1, Ks426,000 on August 2 and Ks423,500 on August 3.

Wholesalers say that five containers of mung beans were traded on 30 July in the Yangon market.

The number rose to 45 containers on the next day. Merchants traded 15 containers of mung beans on August 1, 30 containers on August 2 and only five containers on August 3.

Local consumption for this variety of crop is high and the prices of mung beans are traditionally higher than the pigeon

peas (red grams) in the domestic market.

However, the prices of pigeon peas were significantly higher than that of mung beans in Yangon market during June and July of this year.

Mung beans have been exported to India, Pakistan, Dubai, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. India allowed Myanmar to send its import quota of 1.5 tons of mung beans this season.—Maung Say Aung ■

Zeyar Wiki mobile app to be introduced in first week of this month

ZEYAR WIKI, a newly developed mobile application that includes data from Monywa to other areas in Sagaing Region, will be introduced during the first week of this month.

Soe Naing Tun, developer of the Zeyar Wiki app, said the new mobile application will include

four categories.

The first one will comprise address and emergency phone numbers of departments relating to social, business, health and education services in downtown Monywa. The second one is a tourism directory that consists of significant destinations in

Monywa and nearby areas. The third one is entertainment and it includes updated information about movie theatres and promotional events. The fourth is an information page where users can find updated news of the town and nearby regions, he added.

The creation of this easy-to-

use mobile application is aimed at providing extensive information about Monywa and areas in Sagaing Region to travelers.

The new app is available in both English and Myanmar languages and it can be easily downloaded from www.zeyarwiki.com.—Myo Min Tun (Monywa) ■



Putin signs bill on eased procedure for external borrowings into law

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed the bill on changes of the terms for ratification of external borrowings agreements into law.

The document passed by the State Duma (lower house of parliament) on July 25 and approved by the Federation Council (upper house) on July 28 was published on the official website of legal information on Friday.

The law that amends Russia's Budget Code as it reduces the list of grounds for obligatory ratification of such agreements, was spearheaded by a group of deputies anchored by First Deputy Head of the United Russia

faction Andrei Isayev.

Currently the agreements on Russia's state external borrowings are subject to ratification if envisioned borrowings are not included in the program of Russia's state external borrowings, if raised funds exceed \$10 mln for the whole loan term, if implementation of such agreements leads to exceeding the budgeted ceiling of the state external debt, and on other grounds.

The law only stipulates obligatory ratification for agreements on state external borrowings with international financial organizations that have founding documents not ratified earlier

on the grounds as provided for in Russia's legislation on international agreements.

Moreover, amendments to the Budget Code cancel the requirement to reflect all loans exceeding \$10 mln for the whole loan term in the program of Russia's state external borrowings.

The law also removes the requirement to specify particular loans in the amount no less than 85% of the total amount of external borrowings, as well as to include loan agreements made in previous years if such agreements are still valid.

It also repeals the rule ena-



The law also removes the requirement to specify particular loans in the amount no less than 85% of the total amount of external borrowings.

PHOTO: TASS

bling the Finance Ministry and the government to make external financial borrowings outside of Russia's program of state external borrowings as part of restruc-

turing of the country's external public debt, which reduces expenditures on its servicing within the imposed ceiling of the state external debt.—Tass ■



Shipment of cherries. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japan's farm, fisheries exports likely hit 1st-half record

TOKYO — Japan's agriculture, forestry and fisheries exports for the first half of 2018 are likely to have exceeded 400 billion yen (\$3.6 billion), hitting a record for the period for the sixth straight year, sources close to the matter said Saturday.

The level, a rise of more than 10 per cent from a year earlier, indicates it is on course to reach the government's annual export target of 1 trillion yen in 2019.

The government expects such exports to keep expanding as Japan and the European Union signed a free trade agreement, and the

Trans-Pacific Partnership deal grouping Japan and 10 other Pacific Rim countries is set to take effect possibly early next year.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will announce the latest data by next Friday, the sources said.

For the first half of 2018, notable growth was seen in exports to China, the Philippines, Viet Nam and other Asian countries of beef and strawberries in particular, the sources said.

According to the ministry, year-on-year exports of beef grew 40 per cent, apples 50 per

cent and strawberries 40 per cent between January and May, with shipments of rice, sake and mackerel also showing a solid increase.

To reach the government's target of 1 trillion yen in 2019, exports need to grow around 11 per cent in 2018 and 2019, the ministry said. "If we can keep this pace the target will come into sight," a ministry source said.

The Japanese government has been asking 26 countries and regions to lift their import restrictions implemented after the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011.—Kyodo News ■

Texas indicts Arkema over 'toxic cloud' during Harvey flooding

CHICAGO — French chemical manufacturer Arkema was indicted Friday in Texas over the release of a "toxic cloud" at its plant near Houston during historic flooding last year caused by Hurricane Harvey.

The storm wreaked havoc in Houston and its environs, hovering over the area for a week and dumping record amounts of rainfall.

An Arkema-owned chemical plant in Crosby, Texas caught fire in the aftermath, as six feet of

floodwaters disrupted electrical power to cooling systems that were keeping volatile chemicals from overheating and catching fire.

The resulting thick plume of black smoke required the evacuation of hundreds of residents in a 1.5-mile radius around the plant. Nearly two dozen people received medical treatment for exposure to fumes and smoke.

A grand jury in Harris County, which includes the Houston area, charged Arkema North

America, its CEO and a plant manager with "recklessly" releasing chemicals into the air.

CEO Richard Rowe and plant manager Leslie Comardelle face up to five years in prison, if convicted. Arkema could be fined as much as \$1 million.

"Those who poison our environment will be prosecuted when the evidence justifies it," Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg said in a statement.

"Responsibility for pursuing profit over the health of innocent

people rests with the leadership of Arkema."

The company defended itself by pointing to the findings in May of the US Chemical Safety Board, which investigated the accident.

If found that Arkema had safety procedures in place for extreme weather, but had not anticipated the possibility that the plant could be inundated with as much water as it received.

Company attorney Rusty Hardin in a statement called the indictment "unprecedented," be-

cause it was connected to a natural disaster at a scale the area had never before encountered.

"Harris County will have the daunting task of trying to prove that Arkema anticipated the possibility of six feet of floodwater and then decided not to prepare for it. This will prove to be impossible, because it's not what happened," Hardin said.

Harvey killed at least 68 people, flooded 300,000 structures and displaced some 40,000 people.—AFP ■

Chile enacts historic ban on plastic bags

SANTIAGO (Chile) — Chile made history on Friday when it became the first country in South America to ban the commercial use of plastic bags.

“I want to share with you the joy that as of today we’re enacting the law,” said President Sebastian Pinera at a public ceremony in the centre of Santiago, after which he handed out cloth bags to passers-by.

Large businesses have six months to phase out the use of plastic bags, while smaller ones will be given two years to adopt the new rules. It means that any form of plastic bag other than those constituting primary packaging “necessary for hygiene or to prevent food wastage” are prohibited, the government gazette *Diario Oficial* said on Friday.

Those flouting the ban will be subject to a \$370 fine, in a country where the minimum wage is just \$800.

“Without a doubt we’re taking a giant step towards a cleaner Chile,” added Pinera.

In the meantime, companies will be limited to handing out a maximum of two plastic bags per transaction.

The law was passed on June 1 but appealed by the Associa-



Plastic bags will soon become a thing of the past in Chile following Friday’s historic announcement. PHOTO: AFP

tion of Industrial Plastics, whose objections were rejected by the constitutional court.

Chile leading the way

Chile has been one of the countries leading the way in Latin America against the use of plastic bags.

In 2014 the government of

Michelle Bachelet banned them in Chilean Patagonia and last year extended that to coastal areas.

Chile’s problem has reached epic proportions with 3.2 billion plastic bags used every year — some 200 per person, according to the government.

“A plastic bag takes seconds

to make, is used for less than half an hour between the supermarket and the home, and then takes 400 years to biodegrade,” said Pinera.

Some 90 per cent of them end up in landfill sites or the sea, where they can be swallowed by birds or fish.

The toxic impact of these pol-

ethylene bags on oceans was highlighted recently in Thailand by the death of a whale that had swallowed more than 80 plastic bags.

“We cannot continue like this,” said Pinera, adding that “nature is suffering the effect of plastic bags.”

On top of that, only four per cent of Chile’s 17.5 million people recycle.

“What we want to do is very simple: we want to change Chileans’ way of life,” said Pinera.

Environmental disaster

Latin America and the Caribbean are particularly vulnerable to this environmental disaster as the region enjoys one of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world.

According to the UN, it has 16 million square kilometers (6.1 million square miles) of sea comprising almost a quarter of the world’s fish population.

The Caribbean islands of Antigua and Barbuda were the first country in the region to ban plastic bags in 2016. That same year Colombia prohibited the use of small bags before also placing a tax on the use of bigger ones a year later.—AFP ■

France’s Yuan Meng panda celebrates first anniversary

PARIS — Yuan Meng, France’s first ever giant panda cub, celebrates on Saturday its first anniversary at Beauval zoo in central France, where large crowds joined the super star panda’s birthday bash despite very hot weather.

Cake, posters, mascots and even books and CDs on the one-year-old male cub are offered to hundreds of fans who have been queuing for long minutes in hope to catch a glimpse of the chubby bear.

The ceremony started at around 9:15 local time (0715 GMT) when Yuan Meng, accompanied by two caretakers, entered the outdoor enclosure to discover “special baby panda”, a glaze birthday cake made of honey, fruits and bamboo which did not immediately arouse its appetite.

At first, the panda cub pre-



The giant panda baby “Yuan Meng” approaches his birthday cake during his birthday celebration ceremony at the ZooParc de Beauval in Saint-Aignan, France on 4 August 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

ferred to play with his mother before tasting the cake while visitors used their phones to record every move of the ceremony’s star.

“I know there are live footage on TV, but I preferred coming and see Yuan Meng with my own

eyes. I have already visited the giant pandas several times before. Yuan Meng has grown well and it is very beautiful and cute, I took a lot of photos,” a visitor who gave her name as Bourreau told Xinhua while enjoying the cake with her husband.—Xinhua ■

Heatwave sees golf courses ban smoking while playing in UK

LONDON — Lasting heatwaves have prompted hundreds of golf clubs in the United Kingdom to ban smoking in an “unprecedented” move to reduce the risk of fires starting on dried out courses.

BBC Weather has forecast a “cold front” could disrupt scorching temperatures Saturday as it sweeps across some parts of the country, while the south of Britain is expecting thermometers to near 33 degrees Celsius.

Sustained hot weather has prompted them to tell golfers they can no longer light up while playing.

Over the past weeks, heatwaves and rare rain fall already led to yellow lawns and shrinking lakes in many parts of Britain.

The British Golf Club Managers Association (GCMA) found 60 per cent of clubs in the UK have temporarily banned smoking because of the heat-

wave conditions this summer.

They said courses should “urgently consider the measure.”

Many golfers who smoke will lay cigarettes down on the grass to keep their hands free while playing shots, increasing the potential risk for fires starting.

James Hutchinson from the British and International Green Keepers Association said many courses were like a “tinder box.”

“It is a massive issue,” he said. “I’ve been in the industry since 1988 and we have had one other summer I remember that was anywhere close to being as dry as this.”

“This decision of so many clubs to ban smoking is highly unusual.” Courses across the UK have taken the step, with most in the southeast and northwest of England in particular known to have introduced a ban.—Xinhua ■

Use innovative ideas to promote tourism

COUNTRIES around the world are using numerous innovative methods to enhance international tourism and boost their local economies. Tourism can boost a country's popularity, encourage rural areas to uphold their traditions, and generate sustainable income. Myanmar is a country rich in tourism resources.

There is a lot of cultural heritage and national ethnic traditions and customs that can attract globe-trotters to the Regions and States of Myanmar.

These must be explored for the systematic, long-term development of the socio-economic life of citizens including the tourism industry, a sector that will help the national economy. In our country, travel and tourism businesses are gradually developing. As the world has become developed, most of the travelling

is done for recreation, to see things that do not exist in one's country of origin and to gain knowledge. To attract international travellers to our country, we need to think of ourselves as hosts. If the thinking is to make money only, the business would not be as successful as we want.

A host first thinks about the requirement of the guests. We are responsible to provide good services, clean and safe food, comfortable accommodations and good sanitation. Our traditional food of ethnic minorities in regions and states can attract tourists. Some come to see what they haven't seen and to be where they haven't been before, some for recreation, some for seeking peace of mind

Anyway, to drive tourism in our country, we need to come up with innovative ideas that will take the sector to another level, taking the long term benefits for the country into consideration.

that they cannot find in their own country. They visit our country for many reasons. Anyway, to drive tourism in our country, we need to come up with innovative ideas that will take the sector to another level, taking the long term benefits for the country into consideration. But we need to find new travel destinations which can not only benefit travel agencies, but also create job opportunities for the local people.

When doing things for travel business, we need to see how things are done in other countries in our region. Today, tourists are flocking to see and help endangered Ayeyawady dolphins, which are on the verge of extinction. Tourists are interested in seeing the fishing with the help of dolphins. Creating this kind of ecotourism are helpful not only for income for local people but also for conservation of nature and rare species.

Another example is our elephants, which are now retired from their logging activities and have become tourist attractions. But innovative ideas for attracting tourists should also focus not only for the country but also for the animals.

When we think about new ideas for the tourism business, the most important thing is that our innovation needs to benefit all the people of our country because our country is a Union. We must work together and become united. Our country needs to develop in unique and innovative ways that reflect our culture and heritage.

Taungbyone Nat Festival in the month of Wakhaung is assuming international Character

By MahaSaddhamma Jotikadhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

MYANMAR is Theravada Buddhist Country where a great majority of its people professes that Buddhism. But there are other belief systems or faiths before, contemporary or after Buddhism. The reason is plain. Buddhism of Theravada type is very tolerant. It can happily co-exist with any belief system or religious faith. Today we have the Department of Religious Affairs and Culture. Religious Affairs cover all religious and belief systems current in the country. Throughout Myanmar history till today, there were aimed conflicts and wars with neighbours and beyond. But not caused by religious differences but by political, economic or border problems. The absolutely wrong accusations like "genocides racial extermination" which responsible servicemen of the U.N and other international communities due to misinformation or disinformation are invited to Myanmar and see themselves to know the real situation in Myanmar throughout. After they have seen the truth, they should be honest impartial and brave enough to "correct" their groundless accusation on Myanmar and kind and honest enough to present Myanmar as they see.

Buddhist Festival in Wakhaung month is the Festival of Charity by lucky draw lots. But the Nat Festival of Taungbyone is more well-known internationally. Myanmar word Nat is a derivative of Pali word "Nahta" which literally means a resplendent being worthy of respect and homage. Even Lord Buddha is referred to as the Nat of 3 worlds _ Human, Devas and Brahmans or as Tiloka Guru. The Sage of three worlds are Human, Devas and Brahmans.

Regarding Myanmar 37 nats, originally they were humans (kings, queens, war heroes, military commanders, ministers and even monks who had done good service for the state, country or the people. But due to violent deaths (assassination, murder, killed on the battle fields, burnt by fire, snake bite, tiger attack, poison, diseases, natural disaster

earthquake, storm, lightning, thunder etc.) Their soul could not rest in peace. They wander until they are given a place to rest in peace (in the form of nat shrines). They bless and help humans who propitiate them and they molest and do harm to humans who neglect them.

Greek gods and goddesses of Mt. Olympus and Hindu devas and deities never lived a human life. They were born god, goddesses, devas and deities. But their behaviour and their way of life are similar to that of human. They love, hate, they have anger, jealousy and greed. So they have stories, but at the time of their annual sports, games held at Mt. Olympus they suspended their wars or armed conflicts and participated fairly and peacefully in the sports contests. The winners were crowned with a wreath of laurel leaves on the head.

Myanmar 37 nats are human heroes and heroism. So they never born abandon their human character. So they never abandon their human character. Besides they are Myanmar ethnic Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Shan, Rakhine, Mon and Bamar even one neigh-



The Taungbyone Nat shrine is crowded with people during the festival. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

bor kind became nat, during his visit to Myanmar when he died of malaria Yunbyin Nat. Myanmar Kings tried to eliminate Nat worship but they failed because firstly Theravada Buddhism neither supported nor opposed Nat worship. Secondly Myanmar people came to have two types of religions. Theravada Buddhism to escape from the whirlpool of Samsara (Endless Cycles of Births and Rebirths, and all sufferings and cravings) and to reach Nivirna the end of all sufferings and cravings as both body and soul becomes exist. That is the religion for your life here after. But living beings need to improve their life in present life. For that they need assistance and favour of nat spirits. Hence propitiation at nat festivals.

So nat shrines are seen in the compounds of Great Pagoda and Temples. In Bagan, the Great Shwe Zigone Pagoda has two shrines in the Inner Circle known as Atwin 37 Mins and in the outer circle known as Apyin 37 Mins.

Like other Myanmar Kings, King Mindon held 37 Nats Conference where Nat mediums (ewfxdef;ewfuawmf) were invited to standardize 37 Nats history, their seniority, rank, place of their origin, the time of their festivals, types of offerings to be made, songs and music and their jurisdictional areas. Recorded

on folding papers (Parabite with illustrations of paintings).

When the last king Thibaw and royal family were deported to Ratanagiri near Bombay (Mumbai) the entire Mandalay palace and palace city were sacked by the British soldiers. Royal libraries and archives were sorted out. Most important were moved to Yangon to become Bernard library. The remaining 40 bullock carts loads of records and archives were burnt in front of the palace.

Luckily records of King Mindon's 37 Nats Conference escaped. The first British Governor of British Burma Sir Richard Temple made a research on these records and he produced a monumental work in book form titled "The 37 Nats of Burma" with original colourful pictures of the 37 Nats. It is indeed a magnificent opus of the Governor Sir. R.C Temples you can learn all about Myanmar 37 Nats.

Taungpyone Nat Festival originated in the time of King Anawrahta (1044-77 A.D) and among his knights _ Nga Htwe Yu, Naga Lone Let Phe, Nyaung U Pe, Kyan Sitha was one equestrian forester Byatta who visited

daily Mt. Popa hill range (Popa means flowers) where especially champac golden fragrant flower of timber trees grow wild with other floral trees, plants and creepers). He gathered information and collected flowers for the palace use. In course of time he met a flower seller of the locality a beautiful young girl named Mei Wunna. Byatta and Mei Wunna fell in love and she gave birth to two sons later named Shwe Phyin Gyi and Shwe Phyin Ngwe. When King Anawrahta found out those love affairs, he was angry because Byatta was his adopted son why should he marry a jungle girl. He executed Byatta who became nat at Popa. When the King knew his adopted son had left two sons who should be his adopted grandsons. He sent his men to bring the two grandsons by force. The mother Mei Wunna died of broken heart and she became nat at Popa.

When King Anawrahta visited China to worship sacred Tooth Relic of the Lord Buddha he took with him his two adopted grandsons who performed their heroic deeds in China. On return home Anawrahta made a stop at the village of Taung-

byone where he built a Pagoda in which sacred relics presents given him by Chinese Emperor were to be enshrined. He issued a royal order that every one of his entourage must contribute each a paint of water and a brick in building the Pagoda. His two grandsons failed to carry out that duty because they wasted their time in courting a young girl of the local village named Ma Shwe U (Beautiful like a gold egg). She resisted saying she was already engaged to her lover Ko Yin Maung who was away in upper Myanmar. Myanmar to supervise teak raft floated down the Ayeyawady River. The two brothers especially the younger one was very arrogant. They were royal grandsons why should you jungle girl refuse our love overtures. Out of anger Ma Shwe U cursed them may you die of violent death such as tiger attack and snake bites etc.

When King Anawrahta found out his own adopted grandsons failed to contribute their share of water and bricks as he saw at the entrance of the Pagoda they were missing. He must take action. He must do King's justice.

SEE PAGE-10

မြန်မာ့နေ့စဉ် ဝေဖန်ချက်
လူငယ် အက်ဖွဲ့ ပြီးရေးပွဲတော် (ပွင့်လေး)
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နောက် (၉) နာရီမှ ည (၅) နာရီအထိ မန္တလေးတက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်းတိုင်း၊ လူငယ်အဖွဲ့ ဝန်ထမ်းများက ဆောင်ရွက်သည်။

Flood Warning (Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 4-8-2018)

According to the (13:30 hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Monywa is observed as about (1½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas at Monywa Township, to take precaution measure.

Flood Bulletin (Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 4-8-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River
According to the (13:30 hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (4) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River
According to the (13:30 hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (4½) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may fall about (1½) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Ngawun River
According to the (13:30 hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ngawun River has exceeded by about (½) foot at Thabaung above its danger level. It may rise about (½) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory
It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and lowlying areas in Hpaan, Thabaung Townships and Madauk, to take precaution measure.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 4th August, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 5th AUGUST, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Bago and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (7 - 10) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Wood sculptures business faces difficulties due to lack of raw teak

THE wood sculptors are facing difficulties due to shortage of raw teak in Amarapura and Chanmyathazi townships in Mandalay Region. Therefore, they worry that their business will disappear in the future, according to wood sculptors.

The forest Law also prohibits more than one ton of teak in each house for the wood sculptures business. The wood sculptures sculptors cannot buy sufficient raw teak from government. Therefore, they are buying raw teak from outside with the high price for the business need.

“We need six tons of teak for making ten 6-feet of ceilings. But we are facing difficulties because we have only one ton of teak in each house. If we exceed more than one tons, the forestry department will seize us. The forestry department seized teak from two



Sculptors carving wood at their work place. PHOTO: KHINE SAT WAI

houses in this month. When we are buying teak from black market, we have a fear of other strangers will see our teak. Therefore, we worry that our business will disappear in the future if we don't dare to handle anymore,” said U Aung Zaw Min, a sculptor.

The wood sculptures are

used to decorate the hotels, religious buildings and restaurants as trendy mark of Myanmar culture.

There are two types of wood sculptures market: high quality wood sculptures for local market and low quality wood sculptures for Thailand market.

— Khine Sat Wai ■

40 dams, reservoirs overflow through spillways

THE water level in some dams and reservoirs in regions and states exceeded the full tank levels due to torrential rain and overflowed through their spillways.

People have been urged not to worry about the overflowing water as it goes through spillways into the rivers, said the

Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

A total of 40 dams including Zeluthaw Dam from Bago Township, Bago Region and Bawbin Dam 1 and Dam 2 from Gyobingauk Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region are currently overflowing, said the department.— MNA ■

Food, water provided for flood victims, cautions issued

THE National Natural Disaster Management Committee (NNDMC) has issued advice and caution to people in Maduak, Monywa, Hpa-an and Thabaung townships living near the river area and in lower parts of the ground. Kayin Sate Chief Minister Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint provided food for flood affected people in Gyine, Kyone Saunt,

Kaye Kannar villages in Hpa-an Township yesterday morning.

In providing support, a total of 462 households including, 194 households from Gyine Village, 268 households from Kaye Kannar villages and 268 households from Kyone Saunt Village respectively achieved food supply and purified water.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Taungbyone Nat Festival in the month of Wakhaung is assuming international Character

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The two adopted sons were arrested and executed by flogging their throats. Because of this violent death they became nat-spirits. When the royal entourage began to return to Bagan, Anawrahta barge did not move. The King beat the water “Any nat-spirit dare to withhold me” where upon the two adopted grandsons as nats appeared. You have done my service for which you be given reward. Two nat shrines were built near the pagoda and let the local people worship them and hold festival for them when the Pagoda Festival is held. All agricultural lands in the area were given to the two nat brothers the yields should be spent in the holding of Pagoda festival and nat festival.

The two nat brothers were still bachelor they had no wives in human life. They as nat spirits resumed their courtship with Ma Shwe U. When younger brother asked her the last question “Would you marry me?” She yelled out “no” and kept on cursing them. Finally the nat brothers brought out their tiger and let it carry Ma Shwe U uphill where she was

eaten by the tiger. That hill is known “Mei U Taung”. Wild tigers are still seen up there till today.

Since British Colonial Days, Taungbyone Nat Festival was well known home and abroad for two reasons. Believers propitiate them because they help you in difficulty, bring good fortune, answer your prayers and give blessings. There are nat mediums (နတ်တော်) who can communicate between the consultant and the nat spirits with a promise to fulfill your obligation to the nat spirits if you succeed. Amazingly believers are not only Myanmar, Myanmar ethnic people or Buddhists they are from other faiths and races, Islam, Christian, Hindus, Chinese, Indian, Thai, and even some Singaporean as well as from western world. At the festival time they gather at Taungbyone. Sometimes they themselves are possessed by nat spirits and they dance in trace to the exciting songs and music of the festival.

Here two cases of an American Consular and a Danish UNDP Department Head may be cited. The writer withholds their names. With the profes-

sor of Mandalay University one American consular visited Taungbyone Festival. He offered Johnnie Walker whisky to the two nat brothers and said to them “I have always been posted in Asia and South East Asia. You two nat brothers if you can make my next posting to Geneva I shall always bring a good presents to you at your festival. A month later, the order came out transferring him to Geneva. Coincidence or what? He kept his promise of sending presents to Taungbyone brothers every year.

The wife of the UNDP Program Chief in Myanmar was a believer in spirits. General Ne Win assigned me to go with her to Taungbyone Nat Festival. She was not only a believer but also an academic researcher. We two booked at the Mandalay Hotel and daily visited Taungbyone 2 days ahead. She interviewed local authorities, tapped achieves at monasteries and nat mediums.

On one of the peak days of the Festival called ချိုးရေတော်သုံး: ceremonial bathing of the Statues of two nat brothers in the Ayeyawady River; the Nat shrine was over crowded with dancers. As she

was watching she said to the writer that the music was so exciting she could not resist the temptation to dance because the two nat brothers possessed her body. So saying she danced in trance.

After nearly 40 minutes when the music stopped, she recovered from trance. The writer told her she was dancing. She said she had a wonderful time with the two nat brothers. She became a confirmed nat medium. When she returned home, she too with her consecrated 37 nat statues. In her country she became a nat medium who could make future telling or the future of the consultant.

Two special days of Taungbyone Festival are the two nat brothers' bachelors' day called yone hto Pwes (ယုန်ထိုးပွဲ) wild rabbits in the local forests are hunted and roasted. With local fermented toddy juice or country spirits the local youths (swains) drunk and very merry in party come to the Nat shrine to offer the roasted rabbits and fermented toddy juices or any kind of intoxicant drinks. On the way these drunk and merry youths indulge in all kinds of male youth activities, songs,

dance, music and sexual jokes and gestures to the point of obscenity. Freedom is given for this male bachelors' Day and Night. After they offer the roasted rabbits and intoxicant drinks these village boys indulge in all sorts of young males activities to their hearts' content. Songs, dances and hand gestures demonstrate sex activities. Young male visitors home and abroad join it. Police and local security officers allow that kind of Festival's freedom provided that it does not become “License”.

Lighter side of Taungbyone Festival today is that it is becoming a kind of International Gay Festival. Real nat mediums and transvestites gather and dance not necessarily typical Myanmar nat songs and music. Michal Jackson's and other hip hop songs and music are performed.

Myanmar musical ensemble being a seven-tone scale can play any music. Chinese, Thai, American, European, African, Indian, Russia, Korean etc. gays are having a wonderful time at Taungbyone Festival. Hotels, guest houses and private homes are fully booked for that International Festival.

Pompeo calls for pressure to be maintained on N Korea

SINGAPORE—US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on Saturday for pressure to be maintained on North Korea as a UN report warned Pyongyang is circumventing tough sanctions imposed over its nuclear weapons programme. In Singapore ahead of a major security forum, Pompeo said he had urged other countries to strictly enforce United Nations sanctions against North Korea, which reports suggest has made slow progress towards disarmament following a landmark June summit.

The US's top diplomat said he had "emphasized the importance of maintaining diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea to achieve the final, fully verified denuclearization that DPRK has agreed to," using the initials of the North's official name. "I must say from my meetings here, the world is united in seeing this achieved," Pompeo told a press conference.

"We're determined to do it, Chairman Kim is committed to doing it. I'm optimistic that we will get this done." His comments came as a UN report said Friday that North Korea has resorted to a "massive increase" of illegal ship-to-ship transfers of oil products at sea to evade sanctions.

The 62-page report sent to the Security Council also listed violations of a ban on North Korean exports including coal, iron and seafood that generate millions of dollars in revenue for the reclusive regime.

Pompeo has met with the foreign ministers of China and South Korea in Singapore, as well as with his Southeast Asian counterparts.



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attends the 51st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - US Ministerial Meeting in Singapore on 3 August, 2018. Leaders, ministers and representatives are meeting in the city-state from 1 to 4 August for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM). PHOTO: AFP

His North Korean counterpart, Ri Yong Ho, is also in the city-state for the ASEAN Regional Forum, which takes place later in the day. But Pompeo said he was yet to meet with him on the sidelines of the gathering.

At the summit with President Donald Trump in June, the North's leader Kim Jong Un signed up to a vague commitment to "denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula"—a far cry from long-standing US demands for complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament.

While there have been small signs of progress since the summit, news reports indicate Pyongyang is continuing to build rockets and there have been concerns that some member states are relaxing the enforcement of sanctions on the North.

Sanctions warning

Pompeo said the US was

"heartened" by Pyongyang's recent return of the remains of dozens of American soldiers killed during the Korean War; but warned that Washington would take the infringement of sanctions by other countries "very seriously".

"We have seen reports that Russia is allowing for joint ventures with North Korean firms and granting new work permits to North Korean guest workers," Pompeo said. "If these reports are proven accurate and we have every reason to believe that they are, that would be in violation" of UN sanctions, he added.

Saturday's forum, hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), brings together top diplomats from 26 countries and the European Union for talks on political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific.

The foreign ministers from all nations involved in stalled

"six-party" negotiations with North Korea aimed at reining in Pyongyang's nuclear programme will be at the gathering: China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the US. Cutting off oil and fuel to the North would require enforcement primarily by China, which supplies most of North Korea's energy needs, but also by Russia, which delivers some oil to Pyongyang.

Pompeo said that during his meetings in Singapore, he called for countries to "strictly enforce all sanctions including the complete shutdown of illegal ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum".

He added in a tweet that his discussions on North Korea with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi sent "a strong signal to the region that, despite differences, #China & the US can work together to get important work done." —AFP ■

Bush doctor's killer commits suicide: US police

CHICAGO—A manhunt in Texas ended on Friday with the suicide of the suspect accused of killing the former doctor of ex-US president George HW Bush.

Mark Hausknecht was killed in broad daylight two weeks ago, while riding his bicycle to work.

The 65-year-old cardiologist at Houston's Methodist Hospital treated the former president in 2000 and was considered a preeminent doctor.

Police found the body of their chief suspect, 62-year-old Joseph James Pappas—an ex-law enforcement officer believed to have been nursing a grudge against the slain doctor. More than 20 years earlier, Pappas's mother died on the cardiologist's operating table. Police said it was the only connection they could find between the two men. Pappas killed himself after police responded to an eyewitness sighting of him near the Houston neighborhood where he lived.

"He committed suicide when he was confronted by two members of the Houston Police Department," Police Chief Art Acevedo told a news conference.

Based on surveillance images, police believe Pappas was on a bicycle just behind Hausknecht on the morning of 20 July. The former cop then surpassed the doctor on the road, turned and fired two shots, according to authorities.

Police issued an arrest warrant and charged Pappas with murder, and asked for the public's help to find him, expressing concern that he had displayed marksman-like skill in the killing, and remained armed and potentially suicidal. —AFP ■

Colombian army accuses ELN rebels as six people kidnapped

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA—Three police officers and a soldier were among six people kidnapped by suspected ELN Marxist guerrillas in the lawless jungle area of northern Colombia, the army said on Friday.

The six people were traveling in a boat on the river Arquia when they were "illegally detained by armed men wearing military uniforms," the army said. The kidnapping took place just two days

after outgoing President Juan Manuel Santos admitted defeat in his bid to sign a ceasefire with the National Liberation Army rebels ahead of his handing over power to hardline right-wing successor Ivan Duque on Tuesday.

The two sides released a joint statement following the Cuban-hosted talks saying that "significant progress has been made."

On Wednesday, Santos had

said there was "very little missing" from an agreement. President-elect Duque however has called for a tougher stance on negotiations with the ELN, the last militant group fighting authorities in Colombia following the historic 2016 peace agreement signed with larger FARC guerrillas. The army said the kidnapped soldier was on the boat suffering from a tropical disease, and was in need of "urgent treatment." —AFP ■

Peru works to strengthen Pacific Alliance

LIMA — Peru is working to strengthen the Pacific Alliance by setting up an infrastructure fund and developing a strong capital market, Peruvian Minister of Economy and Finance Carlos Oliva said Friday.

The South American country assumed the rotating presidency of the Latin American trade bloc, which also includes Mexico, Chile and Colombia, during the group's summit in the Mexican resort of Puerto Vallarta in July. "The world is

moving at a certain speed and we have to catch up with that speed," Oliva told Xinhua. In the field of finance, the alliance aims to promote an Integrated Latin American Market (MILA) that comprises the stock exchanges of all four members. "It has to do with the development of the capital market. We have made some progress with the MILA and the funds passport, but we are aware that we need to keep moving forward," said Oliva.—Xinhua

Europe's record-high temperatures

PARIS—The temperatures peaking in Europe are close to the highest ever on the continent, where 48 degrees Celsius (118.4 Fahrenheit) is the record.

Here are three examples of extreme highs in Europe:

1977: Europe record in Greece

The thermometer hits 48 degrees Celsius on July 10, 1977 at Greece's Eleusis, several kilometres (miles) west of central Athens. Trapped in a serious drought, the country experiences several wildfires, including in the Tatoi pine forest, the former estate of the royal family 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of the capital. It is the record high in Europe, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

The agency lists the world record as 56.7 degrees Celsius in Death Valley in California on July 10, 1913, although this is disputed by some experts.

2003: 47.3 degrees Celsius in Portugal

On 1 August, 2003 the village of Amareleja, in southern Portugal, the temperature reaches 47.3 degrees Celsius, a record for the country. Europe is sweltering through a major heatwave which causes an estimated 70,000 deaths from June



Children cool off in a fountain at Madrid Rio park, located on a bank of Manzanares river in Madrid on 3 August, 2018. Three men have died from heatstroke in Spain as Europe sweltered in a record heatwave today, with temperatures hitting a scorching 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in some areas and meteorologists saying only scant relief is in sight in the coming days. **PHOTO: AFP**

to September, of which 2,700 in Portugal.

Amareleja is known as the hottest village in Portugal but had by 2005 not recorded a single heat-related death, its mayor tells AFP that year.

"It has always been very hot here," a 72-year old inhabitant says AFP. "It takes no-one by surprise. We are used to it."

2017: 47.3 degrees Celsius in Spain

On 13 July, 2017 the mercury rises to 47.3 degrees Celsius in the small town of Montoro near Cordoba in southern Spain. It is the highest temperature ever recorded in Spain.

For a week, daytime temperatures remain above 40 degrees Celsius, according to the El Pais

daily.

The town's houses are covered with red sandstone to keep them cool, the paper reports at the time.

It also copes by programming summer events such as the theatre and the circus late in the evening, with the town swimming pool staying open until two in the morning, it says.—AFP ■

Russian defence firm to offer Tigr armoured vehicles with enhanced anti-mine protection

MOSCOW—Russia's Military Industrial Company is completing work on the new generation of Tigr armoured vehicles capable of withstanding a blast of 2kg in TNT equivalent under its bottom instead of the current

0.6 kg, the company's press office told TASS on 25 July.

"The Tigr armoured vehicle is being upgraded for the purpose of increasing its mine resistance to 2kg in TNT equivalent and raising its ballistic

resistance to the class 6a under the GOST state technical standards and boosting the vehicle's carrying capacity to 2 tonnes," the company said.

The previous modification of the Tigr-M vehicle features class 5 armour and provides protection against explosives weighing up to 0.6 kg in TNT equivalent. Therefore, the upgraded vehicle's mine resistance will grow more than three-fold. The vehicle's increased carrying capacity will provide a possibility to mount new modules with heavy armament on it.

"The work on the heavy upgrade of the Tigr armoured vehicle is being carried out in compliance with the schedule. So far, as we promised, we plan to offer the vehicle this year," the defence manufacturer said.

The class 5 protection shields military hardware against ordinary 7.62mm bullets with the ordinary steel core fired from the SVD sniper rifle within a firing distance of 10 meters. The class 6a ballistic resistance under the GOST standards offers protection against armor-piercing incendiary bullets with the special core fired from the SVD sniper rifle within a firing distance of 10 metres.

According to open sources, Tigr armoured vehicles are used by Special Forces and military police in the fight against terrorists in Syria. In such armed conflicts, a serious threat is posed by terrorists' ambushes with the use of snipers and improvised explosives planted along the routes of military convoys. — Tass ■



The upgraded vehicle's mine resistance will grow more than three-fold. **PHOTO: TASS**

German tourist shot in head in Canada recovering from surgery

OTTAWA, CANADA—A German tourist who was shot in the head while driving in western Canada was recovering in hospital from surgery on Friday, police said.

Meanwhile a manhunt for the shooter, described by police as a Caucasian male with long dark hair driving a small black sedan, has expanded. And authorities are asking for a possible witness in a passing RV (recreational vehicle) to contact them.

The 60-year-old German man was traveling with his family along a highway about 60 kilometres (37 miles) west of Calgary, Alberta en route to Banff National Park just before noon local time on Thursday when he was shot.

This caused his truck to swerve into a ditch and hit a tree.

The man was airlifted to a Calgary hospital and underwent surgery to remove the bullet that penetrated his skull.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Constable Laurel Scott told AFP he is "in critical but stable condition."

Three members of his family with him were treated for minor injuries sustained in the crash. Germany's foreign ministry said in a statement that it was "aware of the incident."

It said the victim "is not in danger of death" while adding that it has reached out to offer support to his relatives.

Canadian police suspect this was "an aggravated road rage incident" involving the small back sedan that passed the victim's truck on the two-lane road as the shot rang out.

The driver of the RV being sought as a witness was headed in the opposite direction and stopped at the crash but departed soon after calling emergency services.

More officers, a canine unit and an RCMP forensic team, meanwhile, have joined the manhunt for the suspect.—AFP ■

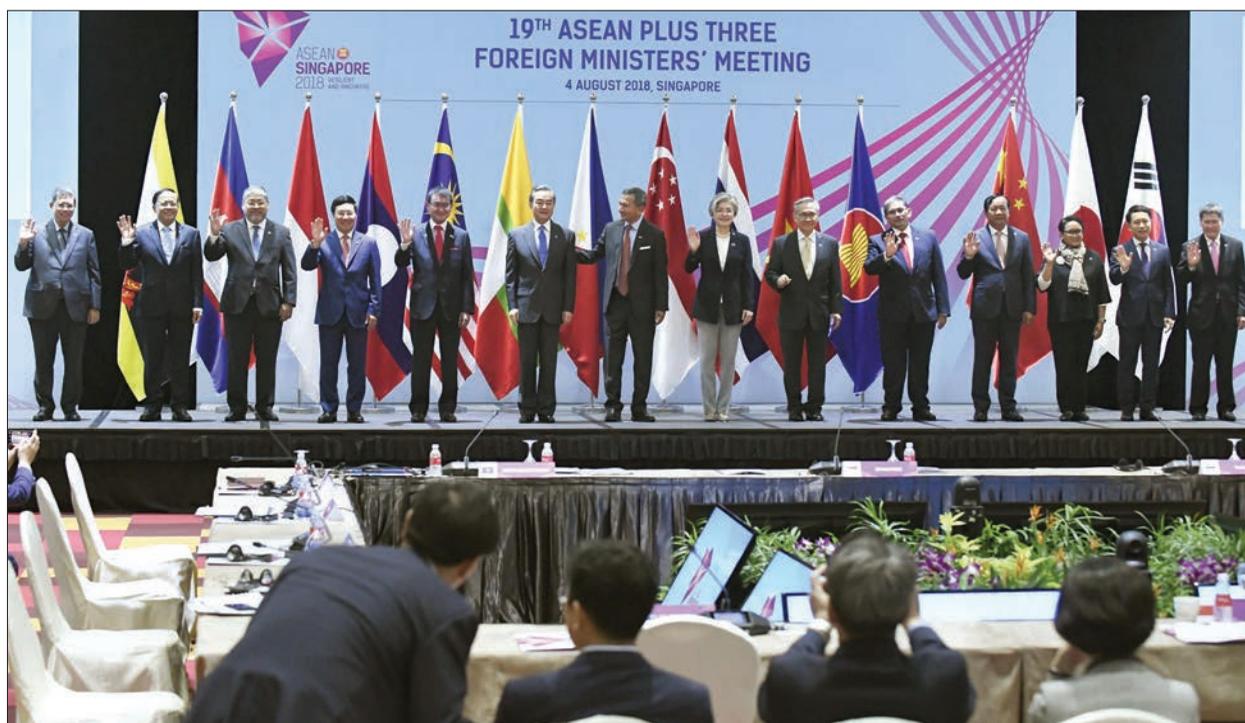
ASEAN-plus-3 vow to boost economic ties, tackle trade protectionism

SINGAPORE — Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, China and South Korea agreed on Saturday to bolster economic cooperation, voicing opposition to trade protectionism by the United States.

The ministers confirmed that they will speed up negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, by which ASEAN is trying to forge trade partnerships with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

It is important to “cement our economic ties” and “conclude key initiatives such as RCEP,” Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said at the opening of a so-called ASEAN-plus-three meeting in the city-state.

The 16 RCEP partici-



Foreign ministers attending an ASEAN-plus-three meeting pose for photos in Singapore on 4 August, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

pating countries are seeking a broad agreement on their free trade talks by the end of the year.

Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Kono also said,

“I am certain that RCEP will contribute greatly to economic integration in East Asia, given the current global situation where protectionism is on the

rise.” South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha expressed fears about the negative impact of recent US trade restrictions, while

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi indicated that Beijing will continue to fight the trade war initiated by Washington. “Rising anti-globalization and trade

protectionism among major countries is fueling tensions and threatening our aspiration for sustained economic growth,” Kang said during the meeting.

Wang told reporters on Saturday that China should launch a “counterattack” to the United States. Remarks by the foreign chiefs came amid mounting concern that the US-China tit-for-tat tariff fight is likely to shrink trade volume worldwide, which would weigh on the global economy that has been on a recovery track.

Sales of Chinese products in the United States, one of the world's major markets, are also expected to become sluggish, possibly dragging down the economies of ASEAN nations that have supplied components to manufacturers in China.—Kyodo News ■

China's additional tariff plan against US products “rational and restrained”: MOC

BEIJING — China's new countermeasures to impose additional tariffs on about 60 billion US dollars worth of products from the United States are “rational and restrained,” a spokesperson with the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said on Friday. The Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council on Friday unveiled lists of 5,207 items of US products to be subject to additional tariffs of four different rates—25 per cent, 20 per cent, 10 per cent, and

5 per cent. The decision was made in response to a US plan to raise tariffs to be imposed on 200 billion dollars of Chinese goods from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.

“China's countermeasures with differentiated tariff rates are rational and restrained, and were proposed after extensively soliciting opinions and careful evaluation,” the spokesperson said in a statement. The measures have taken into full consid-

eration factors including the people's well-being, the bearing capacity of companies, and maintaining the functioning of the global industrial chain, according to the spokesperson.

“China always believes that consultation based on the principles of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit is the effective way of resolving trade differences, and any unilateral threat or blackmail will only aggravate contradictions and hurt the interests of all

sides,” the spokesperson said. The spokesperson pointed out that, because the United States had repeatedly escalated the situation in disregard of the interests of enterprises and consumers of both countries, China was forced to take the countermeasures to protect national dignity and its people's interests, defend free trade and multilateral mechanisms, and safeguard the common interests of all countries in the world.—Xinhua ■

US pledges \$300 million in security funding for SE Asia

SINGAPORE — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday pledged \$300 million in new security funding for Southeast Asia.

Pompeo announced the aid package while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a series of meetings in Singapore between foreign ministers of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their partners such as the United States, Japan and China.

Earlier this week, Pompeo unveiled \$113 million in new US investment to support technology, energy and

infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific, widely seen as a step to counter China's rising clout in the region through President Xi Jinping's multibillion-dollar “One Belt, One Road” cross-border infrastructure initiative. The chief US diplomat also expressed concern about a US media report that thousands of North Korean laborers are being allowed to enter Russia on new work permits. US officials say the move is a potential violation of UN sanctions aimed at cutting cash flows to Pyongyang while pressing it to give up nuclear weapons. — Kyodo News ■

Announcement for Anti-Corruption of Companies and Business Associations incorporated under The Myanmar Companies Law 2017

1. The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration had issued the announcement for anti-corruption code of ethics for companies and body corporates incorporated within the Republic of the Union of Myanmar when making business deals with ministries concerned or government organizations, and companies or organizations in the private sector.
2. The details of Announcement can be referred on the website of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration www.dica.gov.mm.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1058 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1058 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK
EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Elizabeth Mitchell to star in 'Welcome to Pine Grove!'

LOS ANGELES—Actress Elizabeth Mitchell has joined the cast of romantic comedy "Welcome to Pine Grove!"

Mitchell will play the daughter of Ellen Burstyn's character, reported Variety.

Michael Lembeck is directing the film from a screenplay by Donald Martin based on a story by Harrison Powell.

The story is inspired by Powell's grandmother's own experience of moving into a re-

tirement community.

In the film, Burstyn plays an independent widow who moves into the Pine Grove Senior Community after accidentally setting her home on fire and realises that it is like being in

high school all over again.

Mitchell plays a successful real estate agent with a complicated relationship with her mother.

The cast also includes James Caan as the love inter-

est of Burstyn's character and Ann-Margret, Loretta Devine, Jane Curtin, and Christopher Lloyd as Pine Grove residents.

The Astute Films production is currently filming in Atlanta.—PTI ■

Excited about 'Sarfarosh 2': John Abraham

MUMBAI—Confirming that he will be featuring in the sequel of Aamir Khan's "Sarfarosh", actor John Abraham says he is geared up for the action-drama, which will be different from the original.

Directed by John Matthew Matthan, the 1999 film featured Aamir, Naseeruddin Shah, and Sonali Bendre. "Sarfarosh" chronicled the story of an Indian police officer's quest to stop cross-border terrorism.

In an interview with PTI, Abraham says, "John Mathew Matthan and I are co-producing the film. We are still working on the script but yes it's happening with me. We plan to go on floors next year. He is probably the only director whose house I went to after seeing 'Sarfarosh' and said 'Man what a film'."

"Sarfarosh" opened to critical acclaim and went on to win the National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing

Wholesome Entertainment.

When asked if he is apprehensive since the original featured Aamir, Abraham said, "I'm in fact very excited. I love Aamir Khan, I'm his big fan. It's a challenge but it's a different character, different story but the ethos is the same. It's going to be very exciting."

The actor's line up of films, beginning with "Satyamev Jayate" releasing on August 15, includes "Batla House", and "RAW: Romeo Akbar Walter."

"Batla House" will be the most explosive film you've seen. It'll show how polarised the world is and it's straight in its face. If we accept 'Batla House' it'll be the most successful film," he says.

Directed by Nikkhil Advani, the film, features Abraham as the cop who led the Batla House encounters. The encounter occurred in September 2008 against Indian Mujahideen ter-

rorists in the Batla House, a locality in Jamia Nagar in Delhi.

"It's an honest film and Nikkhil is an honest director. We have got something so explosive in our hands and we will treat it with a lot of caution," the actor adds.

Abraham recently shot for the first schedule of "RAW: Romeo Akbar Walter", directed by Robbie Grewal. The actor said there will be 18 different looks of his in the spy-thriller and the shoot was "pretty intense."

The actor says his line up of films resonates with what he wants to do as an actor-producer.

"This is probably an inflection point in my career where I can say, at least in terms of the cinema that I'm getting out as a producer, as an actor, the next five years are probably my best five years," he said.—PTI ■

Ben Affleck, Matt Damon team for movie about McDonald's monopoly scheme

LOS ANGELES—Fox Studios is developing "How an Ex-Cop Rigged McDonald's Monopoly Game and Stole Millions" as a film with Ben Affleck attached to direct and Matt Damon starring.

Damon and Affleck will produce through their Pearl Street company, reported Deadline.

The "Deadpool" writing team of Paul Wernick and Rhett Reese has been roped in to pen the script. Fox won movie rights to Jeff Maysh's true-crime story, recently published in the Daily Beast, which detailed how ex-cop Jerome Paul Jacobson rigged the McDonald's Monopoly game in 2001, allegedly stealing millions of dollars. The story starts by describing how Michael Hoover claimed he had won the USD 1 million grand prize after

collecting Monopoly pieces and a camera crew was dispatched to his home in Rhode Island.

"The camera crew listened patiently to his rambling story, silently recognizing the inconsequential details found in stories told by liars. They suspected that Hoover was not a lucky winner, but part of a major criminal conspiracy to defraud the fast-food chain of millions of dollars. The two men behind the camera were not from McDonald's. They were undercover agents from the FBI. This was a McSting," the story reads. The revelation led to a wide conspiracy that involved mobsters, psychics, strip-club owners, drug traffickers and a family of Mormons who falsely claimed to have won more than USD 24 million in cash and prizes.—PTI ■



Lamorne Morris joins Vin Diesel's 'Bloodshot'

LOS ANGELES—Actor Lamorne Morris is set to star alongside Vin Diesel in Sony Pictures' "Bloodshot".

Morris will play the role of scientist Wilfred Wigans, who becomes Bloodshot's unlikely ally, reported Variety.

Dave Wilson of Blur Studios will direct and Neal H Moritz is producing.

The movie also stars Toby Kebbell, Eiza Gonzalez, Mi-

chael Sheen, Sam Heughan, Talulah Riley, and Alex Hernandez.

First published in 1992, "Bloodshot" revolves around a mortally wounded soldier with powers of regeneration and meta-morphing made possible through nano-machines in his bloodstream. "Bloodshot" was created by Kevin VanHook, Don Perlin, and Bob Layton for Valiant.—PTI ■

Top math laureate gets new medal after prize stolen

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL—A Kurdish refugee whose top mathematics prize was stolen minutes after he received



Kurdish mathematician Caucher Birkar will get a replacement for his stolen Fields Medal. PHOTO: AFP

the honour this week in Rio de Janeiro will get a replacement medal Saturday, organizers said.

Caucher Birkar, 40, received the gold Fields Medal, which is considered math's equivalent of the Nobel Prize, on Wednesday.

Less than an hour later, it emerged that his briefcase containing the award had vanished and when the case was found later at the Rio convention center hosting the event, the medal was missing.

But for Birkar—an Iranian Kurd who won political asylum and citizenship in Britain—minus one plus one equals gold again.

"On Saturday, he will receive an identical medal to the one that was stolen," said a spokesman for the International Congress of Mathematics, which organized the award ceremony.

Three other mathematicians were awarded the same prize, which is handed out only every four years.—AFP ■

Blend of novices, veterans to fly on first private US spaceships

TAMPA, United States—NASA on Friday announced the first nine astronauts who will fly to space on Boeing and SpaceX vehicles in 2019, a mix of novices and space shuttle veterans.

These pioneering flights to the International Space Station aboard commercially built crew capsules will restore the American ability to send people into orbit for the first time since the US space shuttle program retired in 2011.

For the past seven years NASA astronauts have hitched rides to the orbiting outpost on Russia's Soyuz spacecraft, at a cost of some \$80 million a seat.

"This is a big deal for our country and we want America to know that we are back, that we are flying American astronauts on American rockets from American soil," said NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine at a ceremony to announce the crew members in Houston, Texas.

An uncrewed Orbital flight test is scheduled for later this year, with the first crew on board in mid 2019, NASA said.

For SpaceX, a demonstration flight with no passengers is set for November 2018, and the first manned flight set for April 2019.

Those named for the crew test flights for Starliner include NASA shuttle veterans Eric Boe and Christopher Ferguson, along with Nicole Aunapu Mann, a naval aviator who was named a NASA



NASA astronaut Suni Williams is seen during a NASA event where it was announced that she, and NASA astronaut Josh Cassada are assigned to the first mission to the International Space Station onboard Boeing's CST-100 Starliner, on 3 Friday, August, 2018 at NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas. Astronauts assigned to crew the first flight tests and missions of the Boeing CST-100 Starliner and SpaceX Crew Dragon were announced during the event. PHOTO: AFP



The first US astronauts who will fly on American-made, commercial spacecraft to and from the International Space Station. PHOTO: AFP

astronaut in 2013 and will be making her first flight to space.

"It is going to be a proud moment for America," she said.

SpaceX's first crew tests will be manned by shuttle astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley.

After that, the companies move on to actual missions. NASA "has contracted six missions, with as many as four astronauts per mission, for each company," the agency said.

On board Starliner's first mission will be NASA veteran Sunita Williams, a retired Navy captain and experienced space shuttle astronaut, and Josh Cassada, a Navy pilot making his first flight to space.

SpaceX's first crew will include naval aviator Victor Glover, also a novice to spaceflight, and shuttle veteran Michael Hopkins.

More astronauts will be announced to join the crews at a later date, NASA said.—AFP ■

WADA bars Stockholm lab from conducting specific test

MONTREAL, Canada—The World Anti-Doping Agency has partially suspended a laboratory in Stockholm for failing to conform with accepted standards in the conducting of one type of test.

In a statement released on Thursday, WADA said that during the partial suspension the Doping Control Laboratory at the Karolinska University Hospital "can continue carrying out its regular anti-doping activities".

But all routine samples that require Gas chromatography combustion isotope ratio mass spectrometry method of analysis "shall be securely transported with a demonstrable chain of custody to another WADA-accredited laboratory".

The test can be used to detect anabolic agents such as testosterone that have been administered rather than produced by the body.

WADA, which from time to time suspends accredited laboratories that fail to meet established standards, said the suspension would remain in place "pending disciplinary proceedings carried out by an independent Disciplinary Committee".

The committee will be mandated to make a recommendation to the WADA Executive Committee, the entire process aimed at ensuring that the lab's testing method complies with that specified by the International Standard for Laboratories.—AFP ■

China's Huawei eyes smartphone summit after passing Apple

BEIJING—China's Huawei on Friday said it could replace Samsung as the world's top smartphone maker by late next year, just days after data showed it surpassed Apple for the number-two spot despite being essentially barred from the key US market. The chief of Huawei's consumer division, Richard Yu, made the remark at the release of business results for the first half of 2018, during which unlisted Huawei said it shipped more than 95 million smartphones, an increase of about 30 per cent.

"It's no question that we become the number two next year. In Q4 next year it's possible we become number one," Yu said in Shenzhen, the southern Chinese city where Huawei is based.

He added that "the past six months have been incredible".

Huawei took second place from Apple in a tightening global smartphone market during the second quarter, according to

figures released on Tuesday by tech-industry trackers International Data Corporation (IDC).

South Korean titan Samsung remained on top in April-June, shipping 71.5 million handsets for a 20.9 per cent market share, IDC said. But Huawei sold 54.2 million phones for a 15.8 per cent market share, followed by Apple's 41.3 million iPhones that gave it 12.1 per cent of the market. It was the first time since early 2010 that Apple was not in the top two.

IDC said 342 million smartphones were shipped during the second quarter, down 1.8 per cent from the same period of 2017 and the third consecutive quarter of year-over-year declines.

Market saturation and rising prices are among factors blamed for cooling growth rates.

The leader in global telecommunications equipment, Huawei is essentially blocked

from selling phones in the United States on security grounds owing to suspicions of the company's links to the Chinese government.

Huawei has long disputed any such links. Frozen out of the US phone market, Huawei has made inroads worldwide largely by shipping high volumes of its cheaper handsets in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Mo Jia, a Shanghai-based smartphone market analyst with Canalys, said achieving Yu's end-2019 goal would be "very challenging" given the market doldrums and competition.

"After all, it does not have the ability to enter the world's third-largest market—the US. This is an obvious shortcoming," Mo said. "For Huawei to surpass Samsung, it depends on whether it can continue to carry out its current strategy of pursuing low-end product volume."—AFP ■

Myanmar beat Cambodia at AFF U-16 Championship 2018

MYANMAR beat Cambodia with a decisive 4-1 result at the Group A play of AFF U-16 Championship 2018 in Surabaya,

Indonesia.

Both teams played well by putting their utmost efforts and showing their



Cambodia (blue) vies for the ball with Myanmar (red) in Group A play of AFF U-16 Championship 2018 in Surabaya, Indonesia. **PHOTO: MFF**

dribbling skills from the start.

The score at the end of first half was 0-0 as Myanmar needs better finishes.

In the second half, Myanmar changed their tactic with using the power play.

But just three minutes after the re-start, Cambodia gained a super chance and was finely finished by Met Samel.

That goal prodded Myanmar into action and sustained pressure saw Cambodian defender Ry Leap Pheng conceding an own goal in the 56th minute as Naing Htwe then had an easy header just three minutes later.

With Cambodia back pedalling, Myanmar went on to complete the rout with Naung Soe finally making good on the cross from Khun Kyaw Zin Hein in the 65th minute and La Min Htwe made a fabulous incisive shot right at the end.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola is plotting a Premier League title defence. **PHOTO: AFP**

Guardiola says Man City will only make a move for 'special talent'

LONDON — Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola said on Friday he will only dip into the transfer market for a "special" talent after a relatively quiet summer of business for the Premier League champions.

City's only high-profile signing so far has been Riyad Mahrez from Leicester in a club-record £60 million (\$78 million) deal but Italy international midfielder Jorginho plumped for Chelsea.

"We will see," Guardiola said of the club's transfer business ahead of Sunday's Community Shield match against FA Cup winners Chelsea. "If at the end we decide to bring another one, it is because he's a special player, can be a special player for the future, not to have one more player for the number.

"So, I'm so satisfied—all my period here, even the first year—with the squad we have. Now from Monday we'll be all together. We are going to start to think what we have to do to this season to maintain the level of last season."

Several players are likely to move on before the window closes on Thursday, with goalkeeper Joe Hart looking to make a permanent exit after difficult loan spells at Torino and West Ham.

Guardiola said he was delighted that Brazil forward Gabriel Jesus, 21, had signed a contract extension.

"Gabriel has improved a lot since he came," the City boss said. "His courage, his fight to put every effort for the team is incredible." Jesus is one of a number of players back in the City reckoning after the World Cup, with Kevin De Bruyne and Raheem Sterling the only squad members yet to return to the fold.

Summer signing Mahrez has been given the green light to feature at Wembley on Sunday after an ankle complaint but Guardiola is unable to call upon midfielder Douglas Luiz as he waits on a work permit.

Jorginho swoop

New Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri swooped in at the last minute to bring Jorginho to Stamford Bridge from Napoli. "We were close but, in the end, Jorginho decided to stay with (former Napoli boss) Maurizio," Guardiola said.—AFP ■

Hanthawady draws Yadanabon in MNL U-21

AS a postponed match of U-21 Myanmar National League 2018, Hanthawady U-21 football team played a 2-2 draw against Yadanabon U-21 at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Hanthawady played with their best defensive from the kick off and gained their opener at the 18 minute mark with a goal scored by a header from Htet Ko Ko.

Again at the 41 minute mark, Hanthawady scored their second goal by a brilliant kick from Nay Lin Htet and the match became more heated up.

However in the extra time of the first half, Yadanabon could make their consolation with a penalty shoot kicked by Arkar and the first half ended with 2-1 win for

Hanthawady.

With using the speedy wing field plays, both teams attacked with to and fro efforts in the other half.

Remarkably, at the 79 minute mark Yadanabon's star Arkar scored an equalizer for his team and the match ended with 2-2 at the final whistle blow.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

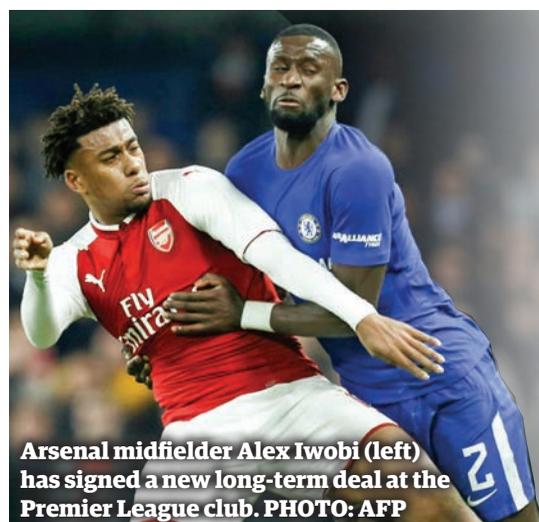
Murray withdraws from Toronto, Wawrinka gets wildcard

WASHINGTON — Former world number one Andy Murray withdrew from next week's ATP Masters Toronto event on Friday, with his wildcard passed along to another three-time Grand Slam champion, Swiss Stan Wawrinka.

Both stars are making comebacks

from injuries. Britain's Murray missed 11 months with a right hip injury before reurning in June. Wawrinka was out eight months with a left knee injury. Murray's move came hours after an emotional three-set victory at the ATP Washington Open that ended at 3:02 a.m. Friday and

left him crying into a towel for minutes after the match. The three-hour marathon was Murray's third grueling three-set win of the week. He has been on court for eight hours and 11 minutes entering a scheduled quarter-final Friday against Australian teen Alex De Minaur.—AFP ■



Arsenal midfielder Alex Iwobi (left) has signed a new long-term deal at the Premier League club. **PHOTO: AFP**

Alex Iwobi signs new long-term Arsenal deal

LONDON — Alex Iwobi has signed a new long-term deal at Arsenal, the Premier League club announced on Friday. Arsenal did not specify the length of the deal for the 22-year-old Nigeria international, who came through the ranks with the Gunners, but reports said it would run until 2023. Midfielder Iwobi scored three goals in 26 league games under the now-departed Arsene Wenger last season.

"It's always been my childhood dream to represent Arsenal," he told Arsenal Player. "To get an extended contract is an amazing feeling and I hope I'm doing the Arsenal family proud, as well as my family." Iwobi, the nephew of Nigeria great Jay-Jay Okocha, played in three of his country's matches at the World Cup in Russia. "I'm very pleased Alex has signed a new contract with us," said new boss Unai Emery.—AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

5 AUGUST 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

LET'S FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS TO POSSESS A GLORIOUS FUTURE



By Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University

NOWADAYS, human beings are living in a world which is made up of different people with different behaviors. Most of the people are being alive for love. Others are being alive for themselves. Some people, however, are being alive for money as they think money can make everything. Even though everyone in the world is seeking money, there are different ways of seeking money. Some people find money by selling goods. Some people find it by curing unhealthy people. Some find it by using their capabilities and their intellects. Some, however, are finding money by inappropriate ways. They just know that they have to get money, and they do not consider whether the approach they are taking is good or not. And they do not consider whether the money they got is ill-gained or not. They get money from their victims who are drug users.

Drug is an illegal substance which some people take in order to feel happy, relaxed, or excited (according to the dictionary). Everybody knows drugs are not good for human beings. However, some people are creating their victims to get money for themselves. They produce drugs and distribute it to a lot of people. Most of the victims are youths, because most of the youths would like to try something new for themselves. They start smoking and then start to use drugs. Some of the youths start using drugs because of their friends. Some use because of the neighborhood environment. Some use drugs out of curiosity. Whatever, using drugs can affect human beings and all of their possessions.

Drugs can drag down people's optimistic attitude and their future. Drugs can destroy our societies. Nowadays, the rate of crime is increasing. In this situation, drugs play a role. When some of the youths do not have enough money to use drugs, they steal other people's possessions. They rob the jewelry and even kill people. By seeing these incidents, we can conclude that drugs use results in many negative things. So, distributing drugs, producing drugs and using drugs should be strongly prohibited. Most of the youths fall prey to drug dealers. So, educators should share their knowledge to youths as much as they can by giving examples. Finally, what I would like to express is, "Let's fight against drugs to possess a glorious future".

DRUGS



Tense ဂုဏ်ကို ထပ်မံလေ့လာနိုင်ရန်အောက်တွင် ပေးထားပါသည်။
Future Tense (အနာဂတ်ကာလ) ကိုတင်ပြပါမည်။

1. (simple present tense) – He takes physical exercise every morning.

သူ နံနက်တိုင်း ကာလလေ့ကျင့်ခန်းယူလေ့ရှိသည်။

2. (present continuous tense) – He is doing his school exercise now.

သူ ယခုကျောင်းလေ့ကျင့်ခန်းများ လုပ်နေသည်။

3. (simple past tense) – He left for Mandalay yesterday.

သူမနေ့က မန္တလေးသို့ထွက်ခွာသွားသည်။

4. (present perfect tense – simple) – He has not written to me since July.

သူကျွန်တော်ထံ စာမရေးသည်မှာ ဇူလိုင်လကတည်းကပဲ။

He has not played football for five years.

သူ ဘောလုံးမကစားသည်မှာ ငါးနှစ်ရှိပြီ။

5. (present perfect continuous tense) He has been living in Rangoon for 20 years.

သူ ရန်ကင်းမှာ နေနေသည်မှာ အနှစ် ၂၀ ရှိပြီ။

6. (Past perfect tense) – He bought a house after he had sold the car.

သူကားရောင်းချပြီးနောက် အိမ်တစ်လုံးဝယ်ခဲ့သည်။

The plane had already left when he arrived at the airport.

သူ လေဆိပ်သို့ရောက်သောအခါ လေယာဉ်ထွက်ခွာသွားပြီးဖြစ်သည်။

7. (past continuous tense) – The telephone rang while he was having a bath.

သူရေချိုးနေစဉ် တယ်လီဖုန်းမြည်ခဲ့သည်။

It was raining when I woke up this morning.

ယနေ့မနက် ကျွန်တော်နိုးလာသောအခါ မိုးရွာနေသည်။

Future Tense အနာဂတ်ကာလ

အနာဂတ်ကာလတွင် ပုံစံအမျိုးမျိုးရှိသည်။ တစ်ခုစီလေ့လာရန်အောက်တွင် တင်ပြထားပါသည်။

A. Simple Future Tense

(နိုးနိုးအနာဂတ်ကာလ)

ရှေ့လာမည့် တစ်ချိန်ချိန်တွင် ဖြစ်မည်ကိုပြလိုလျှင် **shall, will** တို့ကို မူရင်းကြိယာရှေ့တွင် ထည့်ရသော ဤ **Simple Future Tense** ကိုသုံးရသည်။

1. I shall visit Maymyo next month.

ကျွန်တော်နောက်လတွင် မေမြို့သွားလည်မည်။

2. We shall go on a picnic next week.

ကျွန်တော်တို့ နောက်အပတ်တွင်ပျော်ပွဲစားထွက်ကြမည်။

3. He will arrive here this evening.

သူ ဤနေရာကို ယနေ့ညနေတွင် ရောက်လာလိမ့်မည်။

4. She will return from Patheingyi next month.

သူမ နောက်လတွင် ပုသိမ်မှ ပြန်လာလိမ့်မည်။

5. They will sign an agreement at the end of this conference.

သူတို့ ဤညီလာခံအဆုံးတွင်သဘောတူညီချက်တစ်ရပ်ကို လက်မှတ်ထိုးကြလိမ့်မည်။

Shall နှင့် **will** ကို မှန်ကန်စွာ သုံးစွဲတတ်ရန် လိုသည်။ အောက်တွင်လေ့လာပါ။

Shall ကို **First Person** ဟုခေါ်သော **I, We** တို့နှင့်တွဲသုံးလျှင် သာမန်အနာဂတ်ကာလကို ပြသည်။

သို့ရာတွင် **shall** ကို **Second Person** ဟုခေါ်သော **You** နှင့် **Third Persons** ဟုခေါ်သော **he, she, they** တို့နှင့်တွဲသုံးလျှင် (က) အမိန့်ပေးခြင်း (**Command**) (ခ) ကတိပေးခြင်း (**promise**) (ဂ) ခြိမ်းခြောက်ခြင်း (**Threat**) (ဃ) စိတ်ပိုင်းဖြတ်ချက် (**Determination**)

နှင့် (င) သေချာပေါက်ဖြစ်မည် (**Certainty**) တို့ကိုပြဆိုသည်။

ဥပမာ -

1. Thou (you) shall not steal.

သင်တို့မခိုးရ (အမိန့်)

2. You shall have my book next week.

သင်ကျွန်ုပ်၏ စာအုပ်ကို နောက်အပတ်တွင်ရမည်။ (ကတိ)

3. You shall be punished.

သင် အပြစ်ပေးခံရမည်။ (ခြိမ်းခြောက်)

4. You shall obey me.

မင်း ငါ့ကိုနာခံရမည်။ (ပိုင်းဖြတ်ချက်)

5. If he dies, no man shall pity him.

သူ သေသွားလျှင် မည်သူမျှ သူ့ကို သနားလိမ့်မည် မဟုတ်။ (သေချာမှု)

Will ကို **you, he, she, they** တို့နှင့်တွဲသုံးလျှင်

သာမန်အနာဂတ်ကိုပြသည်။

1. He will join the army next month.

သူ့နောက်လ စစ်ထဲဝင်လိမ့်မည်။

2. She will teach us a new lesson tomorrow.

သူမ ကျွန်တော်တို့ကို မနက်ဖြန်သင်ခန်းစာ အသစ်တစ်ခု သင်ပေးလိမ့်မည်။

3. They will go fishing this evening.

သူတို့ ယနေ့ညနေငါးသွားများကြလိမ့်မည်။

Will ကို **I, We** တို့နှင့် တွဲသုံးလျှင် အဓိကအားဖြင့် စိတ်ပိုင်းဖြတ်မှု (**Determination**) နှင့် သေချာ ပေါက်ဖြစ်မှု (**Certainty**) ကိုပြသည်။

ဥပမာ -

1. I will kill you.

ငါ မင်းကိုသတ်မည်။ (သတ်ဖြစ်အောင်သတ်မည်)

2. We will take part in agricultural work this year.

ငါတို့ ယခုနှစ် လယ်ယာလုပ်ငန်းတွင် (မပျက်မကွက်) ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲကြမည်။

3. I will attend your wedding reception.

ငါမင်းရဲ့ မင်္ဂလာဧည့်ခံပွဲကိုတက်ဖြစ်အောင်တက်မည်။

သို့ရာတွင် **I** နှင့် **We** တို့ပါသော စာကြောင်းကို မေးခွန်းပုံစံဖြင့် ရေးပါက **shall** ကိုသာသုံးရသည်။

1. Shall I switch off the light?

ကျွန်တော် မီးပိတ်လိုက်ရမလား။

2. Shall we go now?

ကျွန်တော်တို့ ယခုသွားကြမလား။

ထို့အပြင် **can, could, should, must, may, might** တို့ကို မူရင်းကြိယာဖြင့် တွဲဖက်၍ အနာဂတ် ကာလအဖြစ် သုံးနိုင်သည်။

(a) **Can, could** နိုင်သည်။ (စွမ်းဆောင်နိုင်မှုကိုပြသည်)

1. He can swim across this lake.

သူ ဤရေကန်ကို ဖြတ်ကူးနိုင်သည်။

2. This boy can carry two bags of rice.

ဤလူကလေး ဆန်နှစ်အိတ်သယ်နိုင်သည်။

3. He said that he could not solve the problem.

သူက သူပြဿနာကို မဖြေရှင်းနိုင်ခဲ့ပါဟုပြောခဲ့သည်။

(**Could** ကို **can** ၏အတိတ်ကာလအဖြစ် သုံးထားခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။)

(b) **Should** သည် **shall** ၏ အတိတ်ကာလပုံစံဖြစ်သည်။ 'သင့်သည်' ဟုလည်းအဓိပ္ပာယ်ရသည်။

1. I told her that I should leave for Bago early the next day.

ကျွန်တော်က ကျွန်တော်နောက်တစ်နေ့ စောစော ပဲခူးသို့ ထွက်ခွာမည်ဟု သူမကိုပြောခဲ့သည်။

(**Should** ကို **shall** ၏အတိတ်ကာလပုံစံ အဖြစ်သုံးထားခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။)

2. I hoped that I should meet her again.

ကျွန်တော် သူမကိုနောက်တစ်ကြိမ်တွေ့မည်ဟု မျှော်လင့်ခဲ့သည်။

(**Should** ကို **shall** ၏အတိတ်ကာလပုံစံအဖြစ် သုံးထားခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။)

3. You should learn this passage by heart.

သင် ဤစာပုဒ်ကို အလွတ်ကျက်သင့်သည်။

4. Children should go to bed early.

ကလေးများ အိပ်ရာစောစောဝင်သင့်သည်။

ဤနေရာတွင် **ought to** ကိုလည်း သုံးနိုင်သည်။ 'သင့်သည်' ဟု အဓိပ္ပာယ်ရသည်။

5. You ought to take physical exercises every day.

သင်နေ့တိုင်း ကျန်းမာရေးလေ့ကျင့်ခန်းယူသင့်သည်။

6. We ought to take part in agricultural work.

ငါတို့ လယ်ယာလုပ်ငန်းတွင် ပါဝင်သင့်ကြသည်။

ထို့အပြင်အခြား 'သင့်သည်' ဟုအဓိပ္ပာယ်ပါသော ပုံစံတစ်ခုမှာ **had better** နောက်တွင် မူရင်းကြိယာ လိုက်၍သုံးရသောပုံစံဖြစ်သည်။ စကားပြောရာတွင် အသုံးများသည်။

7. You had better go out.

သင် ထွက်သွားသင့်သည်။ (သင့်ထွက်သွားလျှင် ကောင်းမည်)

8. You had better do your homework now.

သင်အိမ်စာကို ယခုလုပ်သင့်သည်။

(c) **Must** ရမည်။

1. We all must work hard.

ငါတို့အားလုံးကြိုးစားကြရမည်။

2. You must take this medicine every night.

သင်ဤဆေးကို ညတိုင်းသောက်ရမည်။

3. It is an important meeting. We must attend it.

ထိုအစည်းအဝေးသည် အရေးကြီးသော အစည်းအဝေးတစ်ခုဖြစ်သည်။

ငါတို့တက်ရောက်ကြရမည်။

Must ကို အတိတ်ကာလ၌ သုံးလေ့မရှိ။ **must** အစား **had to** ကိုသုံးရသည်။

4. She had to get up early yesterday.

သူမ မနေ့က စောစောထခဲ့ရသည်။

5. I missed the last bus last night, so I had to walk back home.

ကျွန်တော် ညက နောက်ဆုံးဘတ်(စ်)ကား လွတ်သွားသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် အိမ်ကိုလမ်းလျှောက်ပြန်ခဲ့ ရသည်။

(d) **May Might**

May ကို 'ဖြစ်ကောင်းဖြစ်မည်' (**Possibility, Probability**) ကိုပြရန်အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့သုံးနိုင်သည်။

1. He may pass the examination.

သူ စာမေးပွဲအောင်ကောင်းအောင်လိမ့်မည်။

2. She may sell the car if she needs money.

သူမ ငွေလိုလျှင် ကားကိုရောင်းကောင်းရောင်းလိမ့်မည်။

ခွင့်ပြုချက် (**Permission**) ပြရန် အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့သုံးနိုင်သည်။

3. You may go.

မင်းတို့သွားနိုင်ပြီ။

4. May I sit here?

ကျွန်တော် ဒီနေရာမှာထိုင်နိုင်ပါသလား ခင်ဗျာ။

ဆန္ဒပြုရန် အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့သုံးနိုင်သည်။

5. May every flower bloom!

ပန်းတိုင်းပွင့်ပါစေ။

6. May you live a long life!

သင် အသက်ရှည်ရှည်နေရပါစေ။

Might ကိုမူ 'မသေချာမှု'ကို ညွှန်ပြရန်သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

7. He might come.

သူလာကောင်းလာလိမ့်မည်။ (သေတော့မသေချာဘူး)

8. She might marry him even if she knew the truth.

သူမ အမှန်ကိုသိလျှင်တောင်မှ သူ့ကို လက်ထပ်ကောင်းလက်ထပ်လိမ့်မည်။

(မသေချာ)

(C) **Immediate Future Tense**

အလွန်နီးကပ်သော အနာဂတ်ကာလ ဖော်ပြလိုသော အနာဂတ်ကာလသည် အလွန်နီးကပ်နေလျှင် **Present Continuous Tense (is, are + V+ing)** ကိုအချိန်ကာလ အပိုင်းအခြားဖြင့်တွဲ၍ သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။ စကားပြောရာတွင် အသုံးများသည်။

1. I am leaving for Mandalay tomorrow morning.

ကျွန်တော်မနက်ဖြန်မနက် မန္တလေးသို့ထွက်ခွာမယ်။

2. She is arriving here tonight.

သူမ ယနေ့ညကိုရောက်လာလိမ့်မယ်။

3. We are holding a meeting this evening.

ငါတို့ယနေ့ညနေ အစည်းအဝေးတစ်ခု ကျင်းပကြမယ်။

(အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် **This morning** ကိုအတိတ်ကာလနှင့် တွဲဖက်သုံးစွဲ၍ **This evening, tonight** တို့ကို အနာဂတ်ကာလနှင့် တွဲသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။)

Hong Kong Airport: random jotting

By Saya Mya (MOFA)

Leaving Shwedagon and Yangon blue sky

“Giving back to the communities and institutions that help us achieve success is a value we share and a privilege we embrace.” [Dinesh Paliwal]

The writer of this article always loves to read beautiful and true inspirational quotes as a human being who was born and brought up most of the years in life with “Undesirable Disadvantages”. However, as a simple government employee, the author passed through bumpy, hard and tough roads in the service, and honourably retired after 42 long years.

After retirement, the writer is giving back on self-help basis, in a manageable scale, writing Myanmar-English knowledge books, at a loss out of own purse, for the English learners.

While enjoying the luxury of a pensioner, our loving daughter working in Hong Kong sponsored the author and better half to have some fun together, despite her heavy work schedules.

It was a beautiful Sunday morning on 24 June 2018, perfect with the clear blue sky of Yangon; and we passed the ‘Great Shwedagon Pagoda’ from the side of Pyay Road on our way to the airport.

My foreign friends always talked about Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and praised its grandeur and splendor. Even with different religious faiths, they happily and interestingly visited Shwedagon. Buddhists around the globe believed the pagoda to be more than 2,500 years old and is the most sacred site for the Buddhist population of Myanmar.

Flying Myanmar National Airlines (MNA)

As I boarded the aircraft of MNA, my old and ripe age of 75 rolled back in reverse to 57, as two extremely sweet and charming Myanmar airhostess flashed welcoming smiles and helped the geriatric



to the seat. Myanmar National Airlines, formerly the Union of Burma Airways, Burma Airways, and Myanma Airways, is a state-owned airline and the flag carrier of Myanmar, based in Yangon. The author flew to Hong Kong by MNA, and witnessed the general improving status of our beloved airline. I wish all the best and success to MNA.

Hong Kong International Airport

At 2:30pm local time, the MNA bird landed on the Hong Kong soil.

Our loving daughter was waiting at the exit tube of the aircraft, from where we had to walk a long, long way to arrive at the immigration counter, as the terminal is very large. Hundreds or, perhaps, over a thousand of visiting passengers were queuing in zigzag row to get to the immigration counter.

One handsome junior immigration officer saw me in limbo, and asked me, “Grandpa!!! You looked tired. Come with me to another counter”.

He was a man with a soft heart towards senior citizens. I am thankful to you, good guys.

Impressive airport

Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is the main airport in Hong Kong. It is located on the island of Chek Lap Kok, which largely comprises land reclaimed for the construction of the airport itself.

The airport has been in commercial operation since 1998.

In 2015, HKIA handled 68.5 million passengers, making it the 8th busiest airport worldwide by passenger traffic.

Past difficulties and hardships

Chek Lap Kok Airport was designed as a replacement for the former Hong Kong International Airport (commonly known as Kai Tak Airport) built in 1925. Located in the densely built-up Kowloon City District with a single runway extending into Kowloon Bay, Kai Tak had only limited room for expansion to cope with steadily increasing air traffic.

By the 1990s, Kai Tak had become one of the world's busiest airports – it far exceeded its annual passenger and cargo design capacities, and one out of every three flights experienced delays, largely due to lack of space for aircraft, gates, and

a second runway.

New idea (US\$20 billion)

In 1988, the Port & Airport Development Strategy (PADS) Study was undertaken by consultants, headed by Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited, reporting in December 1989.

Construction of the new airport began in 1991. As construction progressed, an agreement was reached with Mainland China that as much as possible of the airport would be completed before the handover to China in July 1997. In the event, British Prime Minister John Major opened the Tsing Ma Bridge, the main access to Lantau Island and the airport and its supporting community in May 1997, prior to the transfer of sovereignty to China. Actually, the airport itself was opened in July 1998.

The airport was officially opened in an opening ceremony by President Jiang Zemin at noon Hong Kong Time on 2 July 1998. Hours later, Air Force One, carrying United States President Bill Clinton, landed at the airport and became the first foreign visitor to arrive at the new airport. The actual operation of the airport commenced on 6 July 1998, concluding the six-year construction that cost US\$20 billion.

Master Plan 2030

One year after on 2 June 2011, the Airport Authority announced and released their latest version of a 20-year blueprint for the airport's development, the Hong Kong International Airport Master Plan 2030. The study took three years and according to the authority, nine consulting organizations have been hired for research, observation, planning and advice. The main focus is to improve the overall capacity and aircraft handling ability of the airport. Based on this, two options have been developed.

SEE PAGE-S-7



Human Space Exploration and (Cause of) Dinosaur Extinction Anniversary Thoughts

By Dr Myint Zan

THE 20 and 21 July 2018 was the 49th (pre-'gold' or pre-50th) anniversary of humans, by the name of the late Neil Armstrong and Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin, setting foot on the Moon for the first time in human history. I would like to reflect on this occasion some events and thoughts regarding space exploration.

PART I: INTO SPACE

First Human-Made Satellite 'Sputnik' in Space

On 4 October 1957 the then Soviet Union launched a satellite named Sputnik 1 into Space

Sputnik was roughly larger than a basketball and its radio signals from Space can be heard even by the then amateur sky-watchers (and sky-listeners, so to speak) of over sixty years ago.

The successful launch of Sputnik 1 by its Cold War adversary shocked the elites and indeed some of the people of the United States, which spurred and accelerated their inchoate efforts of Space exploration into a 'Space race' (between the US and then USSR) and the rest,

as they say, is 'history'.

First 'Dog' in Space

Less than a month after the Sputnik launch, the Soviet Union also beat the United States in sending a 'sentient being' or a biological animal, a female dog by the name of 'Laika' into Space on 3 November 1957, where the Space craft made a full orbit of the Earth. Laika apparently died soon after she reached Space in Sputnik II. One wonders whether the then Soviets had to go through an (animal) ethics committee for approval to use an animal for space exploration purposes!

First Human (Male) in Space

And then Yuri Gagarin (died March 1968) and Vostok. Upon the Vostok's and Gagarin's safe return to Earth after orbiting it for about 109 minutes, the then Soviet Communist party leader the late Nikita Khrushchev (died September 1971) laid down the 'gauntlet': 'Now, let the capitalist countries catch us'.

First Female in Space

It took some time for the capitalist country (the United States) to catch up with the Soviet Union for, again in June 1963, Valentina

to venture out of the Space craft and walk in Space. (Apparently, both Tereshkova and Leonov are still alive, and several years ago, I have read that Ms Valentina has stated to the effect that she would like to travel to the planet Mars even if it is on a one-way ticket, so to speak, with no return to Earth!)

Catching Up and Over-taking the Soviet Union by the United States in the Space Race

But the capitalist country, the United States, not only 'caught up' with but overtook the Soviet Union when the late Neil Armstrong and Edwin ('Buzz') Aldrin became the first and second human beings, respectively, to set foot on the Moon around 9:30am Burma Standard Time on 21 July 1969 (20 July 1969 in the United States and parts of the Western hemisphere).

From about 20-21 July 1969 to 17 December 1972, twelve American men (males) had set foot on the Moon and, in the words of the late United States President John F. Kennedy (May 1917- 22 November 1963), in his speech to the US Congress on or about 25 May 1961, pledging to '... land a man on

from what I have read, they are travelling beyond the planetary orbits of the Solar system and it might take (again at least) dozens of decades or a few centuries for the Voyager Space crafts to reach the 'edge' of the ('our') Solar system.

Over Forty Thousand Year Journey towards the Nearest Star-System

I have also read that if the Voyager spacecrafts were still functioning and at the rates they are 'travelling' it would take about or more than 40,000 years to reach the nearest Star system of, I think, Alpha Centauri! (Forty thousand years ago homo sapiens might still have been hunter-gatherers and might or might not have discovered the use of fire or agriculture and almost certainly no human group had, at that time, discovered or invented the wheel.)

PART II: 'FROM SPACE'

Scientific Fact of Existence of Dinosaurs from About 225 Million Years Ago to About 65 Million Years Ago

Long, long (very, very long) before homo sapiens exist (to use the 'historic present tense') or existed (to use the simple or 'past perfect' tense), it is a scientific fact that creatures now called 'Dinosaurs' were on the Earth from about, roughly, 225 million years ago (m.y.a) to about 65 m.y.a.

In 1980, in a scientific article published in the prestigious scientific journal Science, the father-son duo of authors Louis and Walter Alvarez and co-authors Frank Asaro and Helen Michel postulated that the main (they do not seem to claim it to be the sole) cause of extinction of many animals around 65 million years ago, including Dinosaurs, was that a 'bolide' (or asteroid) fell on the Earth with the equivalent after-effects of thousands of 'Hiroshima style' atomic bombs exploding all over the then Earth, causing a 'nuclear-winter' which engulfed it for centuries, if not millennia, and the Dinosaurs and up to 90% of the animals then -- to extravagantly use the vernacular -- 'choked collectively to their deaths'.

Subsequent findings and research including discovery of evidence of a large impact crater called Chicxulub found off the coast of Mexico and other theoretical models by computers and field work by scientists, astronomers, geologists and others have amply indicated the verifiable -- indeed verified -- scientific fact that such a bolide or asteroid collision did occur roughly 65 million years ago.

There were loud murmurs of dissent or scientific doubts or challenges initially that the bolide collision with the Earth near the now Gulf of Mexico, where a large crater 'evidencing' that there was such a collision 65 million years ago, was the main cause of the sudden extinction of the Dinosaurs, but if there were still dissents to this theory they are now not as significant as before. In any case, the scientific and historical fact that such a collision did occur is now beyond (scientific) dispute.

It can be stated that the general or at least majority scientific view would be that the above 'theory' is now a strong, though not un rebuttable, scientific hypothesis.

no 'bolide collision' 65 million years ago, there would have been no reason(s) why the Dinosaurs (the longevity of these creatures deserve a capital D in describing them) would not continue to roam or dominate the Earth for the next 65 million years and smaller mammals (some of which did survive and came through the 65 m.y.a bolide collision) would still be crawling the Earth 'at the feet of those giants (Dinosaurs)'.

According to Gould and some other scientists, we, humans, arguably owe our emergence and 'thriving' to that bolide collision which (to paraphrase William Shakespeare) 'thrust itself' upon the Earth (Shakespeare's lines are: 'Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them').

To again paraphrase the Bard (from the play Julius Caesar: the fact that humans are, on Earth, NOT 'underlings' is not 'due to the stars nor to ourselves' but to that particular bolide (or asteroid) collision that hit the Earth 65 million years ago. (Shakespeare wrote 'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in the stars but in ourselves that we are underlings').

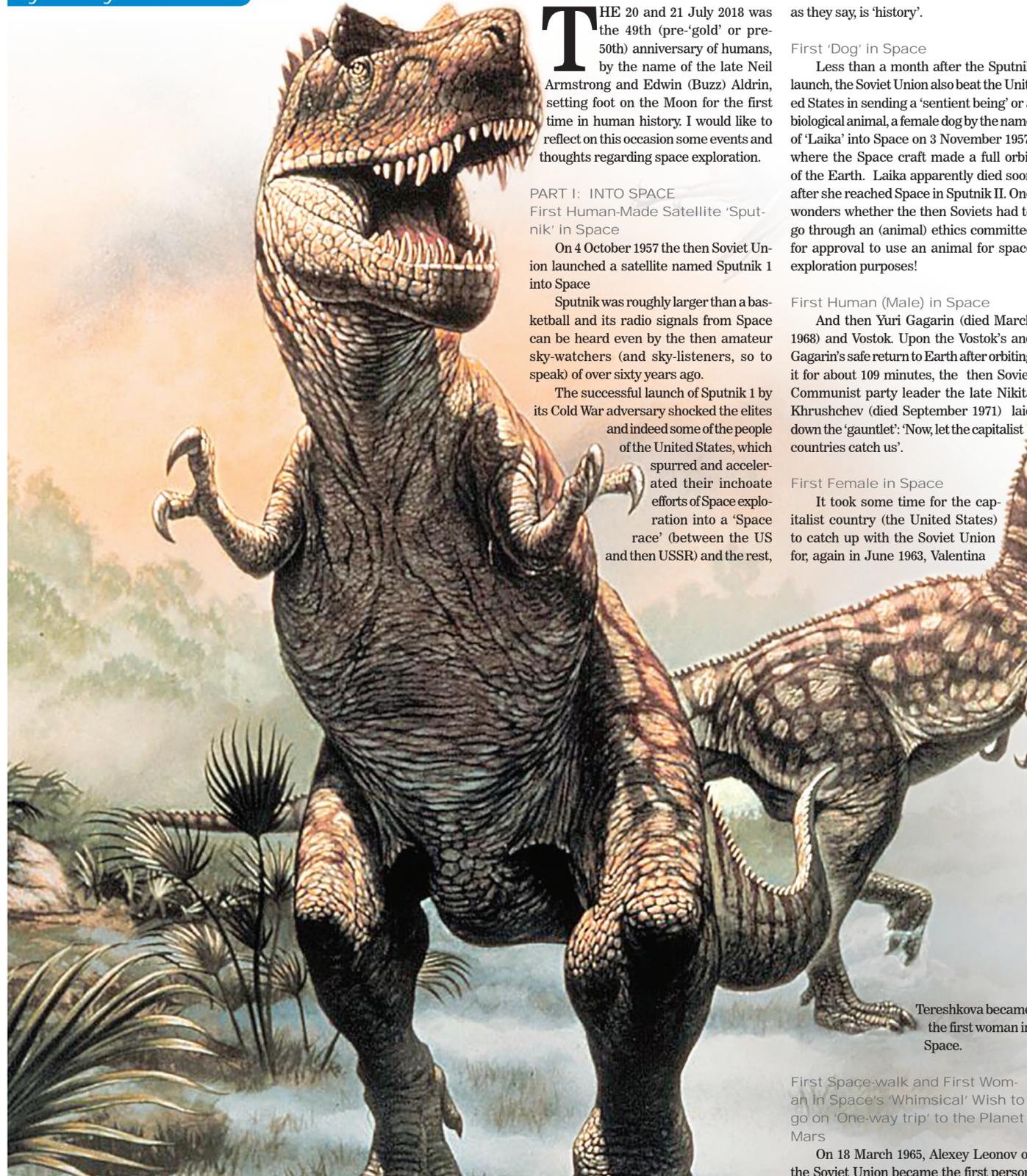
Historical Narration and Counter-factual 'Whimsical' Thought

All of the above is mainly 'historical narration' and none of it is original. But I would like to conclude not as an 'original thought' but then at least with a completely counter-factual -- indeed whimsical albeit in one sense humbling idea: IF (if, IF) Dinosaurs had launched a (not unmanned but 'undinosauried' so to speak) Space Craft into the Cosmos during the initial emergence of these creatures all those 225 million years ago, at the speed of say the Voyager space crafts 'travelling' 'now' (perhaps several thousand miles an hour), and if the Space crafts were still functioning, the 'Undinosauried' space craft would perhaps still be in 'our' Milky Way galaxy and perhaps (extra-terrestrial) 'aliens' might still have not 'discovered' or 'cross-paths' with it.

Paying Tribute to the Scientists for Space Exploration and Study of the Dinosaurs and their Extinction

I salute the thousands of persons, including cosmonauts, astronauts, engineers, scientists and many others, who worked towards, participated in and contributed their knowledge and efforts in order to achieve the great feats of human Space exploration of the past, before and since the Sputnik launch of October 1957 and the Moon landing of July 1969.

I also give tribute to those scientists who work in a narrower (but still of human interest and scientific relevance) field of studying the Dinosaurs, their mode of existence and cause of their extinction Dinosaurs qua Dinosaurs. (According to some scientists, the very distant descendants, so to speak, of the Dinosaurs are supposedly birds: hence the 'caveat' of the extinction of the Dinosaurs 'qua' -- as-Dinosaurs.)



Tereshkova became the first woman in Space.

First Space-walk and First Woman in Space's 'Whimsical' Wish to go on 'One-way trip' to the Planet Mars

On 18 March 1965, Alexey Leonov of the Soviet Union became the first person



the Moon [before the decade of the 1960s was out] and safely returning him to the Earth'-- all of them were safely brought back to the Earth.

Voyager Spacecrafts Moving Past the Planetary Orbits of the Solar System

On August and September 1977, respectively, the Voyager II and Voyager I (Voyager II was launched before Voyager I unmanned ('unpersonned?') spacecrafts were sent into Space by the United States which a few years ago have left the planetary orbits of the ('our') Solar system and,

And then suddenly (certainly in 'geological time' -- time calculated in terms of the formation of the Earth about 4500 m.y.a), almost in an 'instant' and only slightly more than an instant in terms of 'zoological time' so to speak (time calculated when the first micro-organisms were formed around 3700 m.y.a on Earth) the Dinosaurs disappeared.

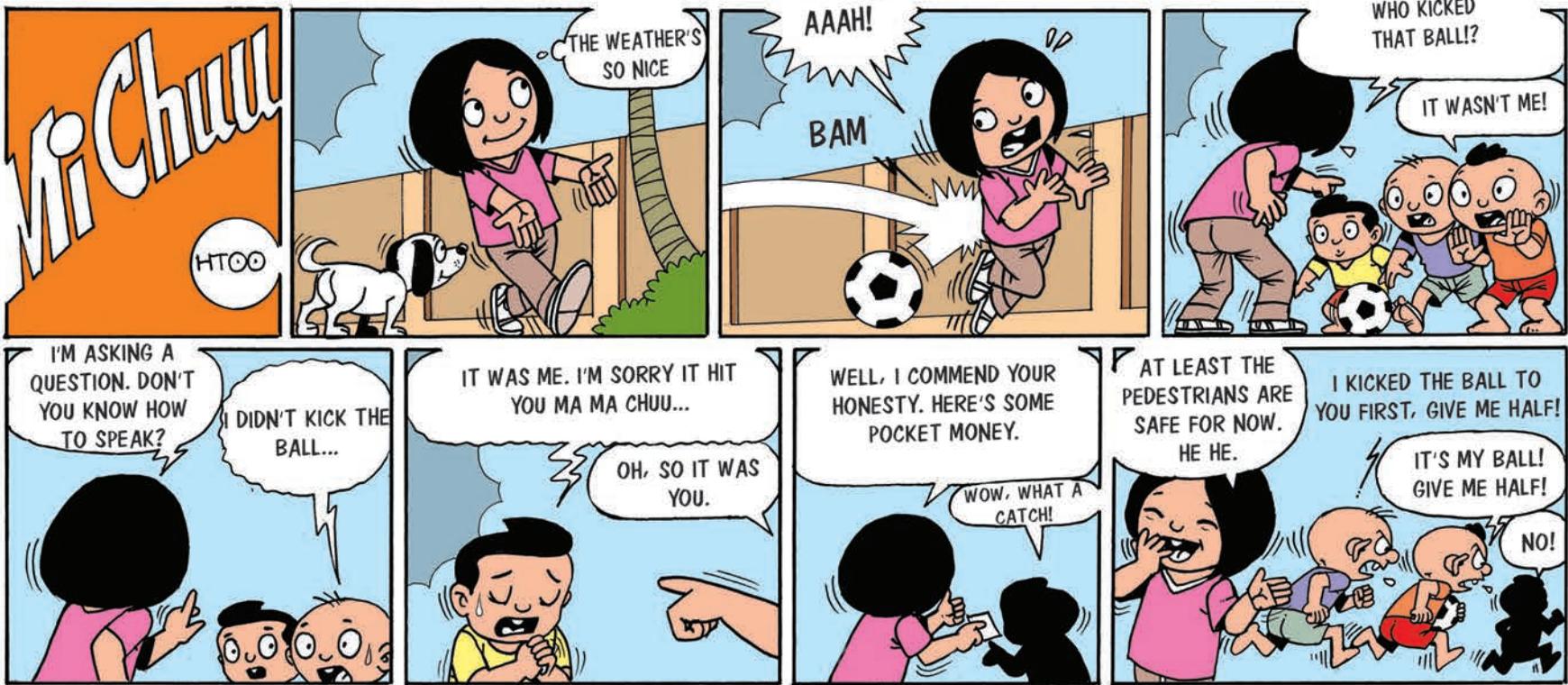
Landmark Scientific Article Postulating the Major Cause of Extinction of the Dinosaurs

Why? What were (or are) the cause or causes of the Dinosaurs' sudden (that means spread over, perhaps, a few thousand years) extinction?

PART III: 'WHIMSICAL' OR HUMBLING THOUGHTS AND TRIBUTES TO SCIENTISTS
Waxing 'Philosophical' or being plain humble: Mammals or Homo Sapiens (Arguably) Owe 'their' Existence on that Asteroid Collision with Earth 65 Million Years Ago

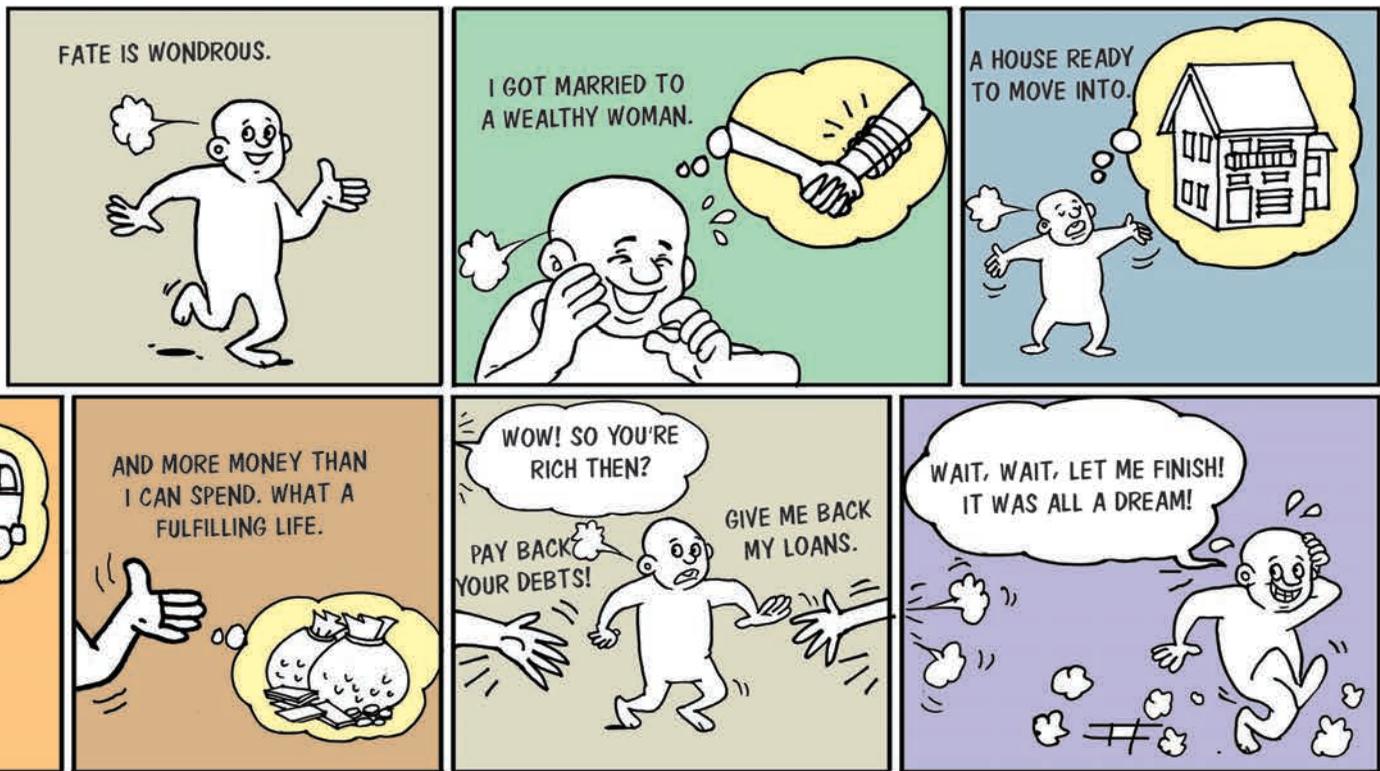
To wax 'philosophical' or indeed to be humble, the late (among others) paleontologist and science historian Stephen Jay Gould (10 September 1941-20 May 2002) has written to the effect that the Dinosaurs 'ruled' or 'reigned' the Earth for about 160 to 180 million years and IF (If, IF) there were

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



What are Human Beings Made of?

By Dr. Nu Nu Win

Retired Professor, Department of Educational Psychology,
Sagaing University of Education



HAVE you ever heard a Nursery Rhyme starting with, “What are little boys made of? Snaps and snails and Puppy dogs’ tails...?”

So also, we want to inquire “What are human beings made of?”

A human being is made of not only physically but also psychologically. Here, the role of heredity and environment form the most important roles for a human being to become one at present.

First of all, “Heredity” comes from an individual’s parents and fore-fathers and we have to accept it as it is, but we can modify some of it.

The other one is “Environment,” which we can try a lot to get good conditions, but sometimes it all happened according to someone’s fate.

In other words, we can call these “Nature” and “Nurture”.

Nature or Heredity comes as it is inherited from both sides of parents, and although we cannot change most of it, we can modify it a little carefully and patiently. It is as its “Nature”. But, what if we can “Nurture” this “Nature” or “Heredity” by modifying the “Environment” of an individual.

“
Nature or Heredity
comes as it is
inherited from both
sides of parents, and
although we cannot
change most of it,
we can modify it
”

Here, Heredity includes an individual’s height, weight, overweight or underweight, small or big, tall or short, complexion, colours of the eyes, hair, lips, most of which are physical, and the psychological or mental, such as intelligence, patience and so on. The health condition of an individual has

its heredity base, but also it can be changed according to its environment, style of eating, life style, health habits, stress and strain, an individual’s life experiences, conditions of air and water in their environment, and so on.

For example, an individual can be underweight according to his heredity, but if they get healthier and fresh foods to eat, and have better and healthier environment to live in, they can gain weight.

In the same way, although a child was born as an overweight baby, according to their nurture and unhealthy environment, they can become thinner as they grow up.

So also, sometimes, an experience can greatly change an individual (good or bad) to their personality and their life. Also a great change in their attitudes towards something or someone.

But, we can never say what kind of experience we can meet at which time in our life. It can be according to our fate too.

Therefore, Human Beings are made of “Heredity and Environment” or “Nature and Nurture”. Both are important for an individual’s life and personality.

Blind Date

By Khin Yadana Htet

I know the day we met
That we are meant to be,
I know our fate was set
That you are the one for me.

I don’t even know you
I only know your name,
I am not sure what to do
I don’t know whom to blame.

I know I thought you attractive
I can tell that you are nice,
The butterflies are so active
That I can’t think twice.

Everything I did that day
Didn’t show you who I am,
Every time you come my way
My heart begin to ram.

My actions aren’t natural
My reactions aren’t real,
I feel so very terrible
But my heart I do not wield.

I know the day we met
That we are meant to be,
I know our fate was set
As friends, as lovers, as enemies.

Here We Stand

By Dr. Zaw Tun

Here we stand
on the sand bed
and the River of Time flows...

We know
we all will have to go
when the sand bed is gone,
when the sun rays go.

There, the old Sun now retires.
These footprints of ours should show
the right path to our fumbling youngsters
before the sun rays go.

FROM PAGE-S-3

Option 1: Two-runway system

The approximate cost of this plan is \$23.4 billion Hong Kong dollars in 2010 prices, or HK\$42.5 billion in money-of-the-day prices. However, the Airport Authority estimates that the airport will reach its maximum runway capacity sometime around 2020 if no extra runway is added.

Option 2: Three-runway system (about one flight every 36 seconds)

It is estimated that the airport would be able to handle a maximum of 620,000 flights per year (102 per hour, or about one flight every 36 seconds), and meet forecast annual passenger and cargo throughput of about 97 million and 8.9 million tons by 2030 respectively.

There are possible drawbacks. The estimated cost is approximately \$86.2 billion (2010) Hong Kong Dollars, or HK\$141.5 billion (at money-of-the-day prices). There are also environmental and local noise pollution concerns.

Conclusion

As an old ordinary senior citizen pensioner, the author of this article is highly impressed on the Master Plan as it is created through the study which took three years to work out with nine consulting organizations for the research, observation, planning and advice.

In fact, it is not a small bit, but a Herculean task to be handled by right persons for the right work. There is a saying that every nice piece of work needs the right person in the right place at the right time.

The Field Watcher's Hut



By Laura Htet
UDE English



The rainy season...

The cycle of the seasons becomes complete with the intruding wind called monsoon. It is an early chance that makes us free from the torture of summer. The shower of rain continually pours everywhere in our motherland, Myanmar. It is a time of beauty without rival in which tender leaflets and various kinds of green buds and emergences appear in sight simultaneously. One might have experienced the feeling of the sudden chill in their chest inhaling the hurried wind which carries the trace of rain.

At that time...

Some patches of water can be seen hither and thither in the wide and distant fields. Those who become alert and busy in a painting backgrounded with horizon are the farmers, the heroes of Myanmar's barns. In spite of occasional rolls of thunder at the beginning of raining season, they have no time to take care of themselves and their gestures in their workplaces preparing to etch the land are fully dynamic.

The small hut, a four-legged one standing in the middle of water, is the lonely shelter in those fields and rain with strong wind. Although it stands alone in such surroundings, it will never be down-hearted. It gathers strength zealously to join together its owner's duty. It will never

Between his or her birth and death, his or her life is like a small hut which is being tortured among the rough weather.

fall down even when any rain or wind jostles and beats up. It is the beauty that will carry out its responsibility well.

The gifts of nature which modify its life and beauty are the lotuses blooming everywhere. Some are red and some white. Under the horizon, they get along with the small hut. Although it naturally beautifies the nature without decoration, the wide fields, the small hut, the wind and the rain together represent a poem free from ostentation.

The small hut...

In such weather, it never looks up the sky, never hangs down its head, never sways from side to side when the wind blows and is going to carry out its responsibilities resolutely. Contentedly accepting its beauty, its nature and its surroundings

presented by its life, it continues its route boldly. It will not regard that the harsh wind will blow violently or the flood will jostle it. It is just an amazing small hut.

In a similar way...

Man comes into the world alone. Man leaves from the world alone. Between his or her birth and death, his or her life is like a small hut which is being tortured among the rough weather. Countless numbers of ups and downs in his or her life are jostling them in every moment. In fact, he or she is also alone while alive although he or she has got family, friends or relatives and their help or support. While facing success, much cheer appears. However, while facing failure, those who made cheer disappear one by one. Throughout the life, he or she is trying hard for the earning in order to live in a stable manner. Like the small hut in the fields, a human man's life is among all-round difficulties such as harsh wind, heavy rain and loneliness for the field watcher's hut. Trying to withstand such difficulties, the life of man gets stronger and stronger till he or she becomes a well-matured and well-experienced one. Therefore, everyone should take notice the strength and steadfastness of the field watcher's hut and try to withstand the way of the mundane world.

MR. Wisdom is a man of understanding. He receives praise from the King of the country, as well as the people in the country, because of his profound wisdom. The children say he is a very kind person.

He always teaches people to seek strength and happiness from within. He said there is no authentic happiness except which originates from within.

One early morning, the red sun began to appear on the horizon. Mr. Wisdom was on his journey across the country to help people. He often did like this.

During his journey, he saw an old man sitting under a tree, whose eyes wandering in all directions. Mr. Wisdom thought that the man appears to be poor and lacking in strength.

Mr. Wisdom introduced himself. "Hello, Uncle, how are you?" "I am Mr. Wisdom. Nice to meet you."

The old man smiled back and greeted Mr. Wisdom in return.

"My name is Mr. Poor. I live in this yard, but my house was severely damaged. Therefore, I mostly stay under this shady tree."

Mr. Wisdom asked the old man, "Why don't you repair the house?"

"I am in no mood to repair that building, and to clean the brushes in the yard," the old man replied.

Mr. Poor explained that after his beloved wife passed away last three years ago, he experienced loneliness because he had no one to stay with and make him happy.

"My wife was my happiness," he added.

"Oh, dear Mr. Poor, do you think someone can make you happy?" asked Mr. Wisdom.

"No, I don't know," the old man replied.

"Dear Mr. Poor, it cannot be. Your permanent happiness

Real happiness comes from within



By Gyaw Orwell

exists only within your soul. Don't seek it outside," Mr. Wisdom advised the old man.

Mr. Poor thought for a few moments, gazing at the school-children passing by them on their way to school.

A little girl holding cotton candy paused and looked at Mr. Wisdom and Mr. Poor with an inquisitive manner.

"How are you? I am Mr. Wisdom," Mr. Wisdom greeted to the girl.

The little girl greeted back Mr. Wisdom with a smile.

"Dear little girl, your cotton candy is very big. Will you eat alone the at cotton candy?", Mr. Wisdom asked.

"Yes, of course," the little girl replied.

"Are you sure you can eat all that cotton candy?" Mr. Wisdom asked. "Don't worry, Uncle," she answered, "I am a lot bigger on the inside than on the outside."

Mr. Poor repeated the girl's words.

"I'm a lot bigger on the inside than on the outside."

Mr. Wisdom told Mr. Poor, "That is the answer you need, isn't it?" "Yes, sure!" Mr. Poor replied.

When her brother was calling, the little girl left them. Mr. Poor gazed at the little girl until she disappeared from his view.

"I'm a lot bigger on the inside than on the outside," Mr. Poor repeated. He never felt sorrow from that day onward.

That is the happiness comes from within.

That is what real strength is — being bigger on the inside.