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Sunday, 21 October 2018



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife pay their last respects to the remains of Myaing Gyi Ngu Sayadaw U Thuzana who passed away on 13 October. **PHOTO:OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife pay last respects to remains of Myaing Gyi Ngu Sayadaw

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla yesterday paid their last respects to the remains of Myaing Gyi Ngu Sayadaw U Thuzana who passed away on 13 October.

The Senior General and

his wife, accompanied by senior military officers, arrived at the NanOo Monastery in Myaing Gyi Ngu, Kayin State, yesterday morning and paid their last respects, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

Afterwards, Senior Gen-

eral Min Aung Hlaing and wife attended a ceremony to donate dry rations and offertories for the final rites of Sayadaw U Thuzana and donated rice, cooking oil, food and offertories to a Member of the Sangha.

Following the ceremony,

they viewed the preparations for holding the final rites of the Sayadaw.

The Sayadaw passed away at the age of 71 in a hospital in Bangkok and his remains were transported to his monastery in the town of Myaing Gyi Nyu in Kayin State. — MNA ■

112 new houses for IDPs handed over to Rakhine State Gov't

A TOTAL of 112 houses constructed by the Shan State Government, Kayin State Government and Sagaing Region Government for the internally displaced people (IDPs) were handed over Rakhine State Government yesterday.

The ceremony to hand over the buildings was held at two new villages of Myawady and Mingyi separately.

At the first event at the new village of Myawady in Maung-taw Township, Shan State Minister Dr. Nyi Nyi Aung handed over new 30 houses to Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

Following the ceremony, the new village was officially inaugurated by the dignitaries.

A ceremony to hand over the new houses built by Kayin State Government and Sagaing Region Government was held at the new village of Mingyi.

First, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint explained the purpose of the donation.

At the ceremony, 37 houses built by Kayin State Government and 45 houses by Sagaing Region Government were handed over the Rakhine State Government.

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Myanmar tourism promotion groups hold 3rd cord meeting

THE 3rd coordination meeting of the Myanmar tourism promotion groups was held at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon yesterday afternoon. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung delivered an address at the meeting.

The Union Minister said the day's meeting will discuss the collaboration between the Myanmar Tourism Association and other relevant associations to promote tourism between Myanmar and other countries including Japan, South Korea, China, ASEAN, Europe, and also domestic tourism and a digital marketing committee, with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism providing lead facilitation.

He said the meeting will focus on the allotted funds for promoting tourism in FY 2018-



Union Minister U Ohn Maung addresses the 3rd coordination meeting of the Myanmar tourism promotion groups being convened at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

2019 and to review and discuss the projects and cost estimates for each working group. He said each working group's project will

be evaluated to ensure whether they are used in accordance with the financial guidelines, systematically implemented, beneficial,

and to make sure they are completed within the proposed deadline period.

He urged the different work-

ing groups to direct their allotted funds in the most important and necessary sectors for promoting their targeted tourism market.

This was followed by officials presenting explanations of the budget proposals of their respective tourism development working group, their projects and processes, cost estimates, and current state of affairs. The Digital Marketing Committee also covered the Digital Marketing Strategic Framework, and an official from the ministry's finance department explained about their financial rules and regulations concerning the tourism development budgets.

The Union Minister then gave necessary guidance and delivered a concluding speech to end the meeting.—MNA ■

Liver Symposium held in Yangon

MYANMAR Liver Symposium 2018 was held at Novotel Yangon Max this morning with an opening speech by Permanent Secretary Professor Dr Thet Khine Win of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

In his speech, the professor said that through the symposiums like this one, medical practitioners in the country would be informed the latest treatments on liver diseases; that based on the international experiences, people living with liver disease can be treated more effectively resulting in elimination of jaundice; that under National Hepatitis Control Program, Hepatitis C treatment was initiated last year at some hospitals in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw spending millions of kyats; and that the programs has been extended in Myitkyina and Mawlamyine this year.

The professor elaborated on vaccination against hepatitis (b) for the new born in the country saying that vaccination against hepatitis (b) was included in normal immunization programs for the new born and under one year of age. One of the milestones of medical field in Myanmar was successful liver transplantation in 2004 performed by Myanmar surgeons, he said. He expressed his hope that the symposium will much contribute to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and research of liver diseases.

Finally, he urged partner organizations to cooperate in National Hepatitis Control Program.

At the opening ceremony, Myanmar Peace Commission Chairman Dr Tin Myo Win, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel, Mr Stan Sze of

B.K.Kee Foundation, Dr Khin Pyhone Kyi of Myanmar Liver Foundation, Dr Tom Lee of Community Partners International and Dr Mindie H. Nguyen also gave speeches focusing on purpose of holding the symposium, background history of B.K.Kee Foundation which sponsored the symposium.

The symposium was jointly organized by National Hepatitis Control Program of the Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar Liver Foundation, B.K.Kee Foundation, Stanford University and Community Partners International and sponsored also by Myanmar Medical Association.

The symposium lasts two days from 20 and 21 October. Experts and officials will make presentation on hepatitis (b) and (c) virus and liver diseases.—MNA ■



The new office building for the Myanmar Press Council is formally opened in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Press Council gets new office

THE new office building for the Myanmar Press Council was formally opened by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Yanon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Vice Chairman-1 of the Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Kyaing, Vice Chairman-2 Dr. Myo Thant Tin and U Kyaw Naing (Author -Het Myat) yesterday in Yangon.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, Vice Chairman-1 U Ohn Kyaing explained about the history of the building, which is former newspaper house of the Guardian Daily, located at No. 392-396, on the Merchant Street in Botahtaung Township.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said the Ministry of Information arranged for the MPC which represents the whole me-

dia community of Myanmar to open its new office at the historic building.

On the occasion, he also stressed the importance of approach to solving problems caused by friction between the government and the media.

Friction between the government and media is a part of every democratic society as there is interrelationship between them, he said. The Deputy Minister called for cooperation between the government and media in the face of international pressure piled on the country while it is confronting obstacles and huge challenges that has been existed for 50 years.

Myanmar is in transition to democracy for just seven years and it came to freedom of press just five years ago.—MNA ■



Officials from Ministry of Health and Sports together with foreign health experts and dignitaries pose for a documentary photo at Myanmar Liver Symposium 2018 held at Novotel Yangon Max yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Promote Human Rights

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is ensuring greater knowledge and understanding, promotion of awareness and protection. In prisons, prison camps, police cells and court detention cells, significant improvements in food and accommodation can be seen.

(Excerpt from the report on the current work of the Union Government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

Union Information Minister visits Kyemon, Myanma Alin Dailies in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with staff of Kyemon and Myanma Alin Dailies in Zeyar Thiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister inspected clinic, recreation centre, meeting hall, library, CTP room, computer learning centre, arrangements made for Press Machine Museum and delivery vans.

At the nursery school for children of staff, wife of the Union Minister presented toys to the children.

Afterwards, the Union Minister inspected hostels, staff housing and shops.

Before meeting with staff of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint inspected the newsrooms and printing press of Myanma Alin Daily, Kyemon Daily.

In meeting with staff of News



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the meeting with staff of News and Periodicals Enterprise yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

and Periodicals Enterprise, the Union Minister expressed his pleasure for witnessing clinic, library, recreation centre and nursery school.

He also said that a place at the Kayaybin Junction will be a place worthy of staying if all

staff family members are living in harmony. He urged officials to organize sports events, conduct literature talks and create reading corners so as to create setting of a harmonized community.

The Union Minister also urged staff to take pride in own

jobs for cultivating innovative and creative ideas with good results. He urged them to be a good staff who valued their jobs.

The staff, for their part, presented their needs such as gathering news, good working environment, supporting sports

gears. NPE Managing Director U Ye Naing and Director General of Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint replied to the queries.

After his closing speech, the Union Minister cordially greeted the staff. — MNA ■

112 new houses for IDPs handed over to Rakhine State Gov't



Chief Minister U Nyi Pu delivers the address at the ceremony to hand over new houses to Ywathit Village. PHOTO: THET LWIN SOE

FROM PAGE-1

Kayin State Minister for Bamar Ethnic Affairs U Teza Htut Hlaing provided 100 solar lamps, 110 blankets and food to the villagers.

Following the ceremony, the chief ministers and officials formally opened the new village and inspected the houses. — Kyaw Thu Win, Aung Kyaw Oo ■

Members of Union Legal Aid Board meet with officials from regional, township level Legal Aid Boards

THE Union Legal Aid Board held a meeting with the officials from regional and township-level legal aid groups in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were members of the Union Legal Aid Board U Kyaw Hoe, U Kyaw Htay, U Maung Maung Hla Thaung, U Kyaw Soe Bo, Secretary U Khin Zaw, chairmen and secretaries of Legal Aid Boards from Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States, and Chairmen and secretaries of Legal Aid Boards from Thaninthayi and Ayeyawady Regions.

During the meeting, member of the Legal Aid Board U Kyaw Hoe clarified the legal affairs and ongoing processes instructed by President U Win Myint.

The issues discussed at the meeting include measures

to be taken for promoting the rule of law, correcting the judiciary pillar, eliminating bribery and corruption, equal rights for all citizens in accordance with the citizenship law, providing legal aid to the convicted offenders, crime victims, the accused, witnesses, measures being taken to disseminate the information and legal right of the individual citizen, eliminating wrongful detention and unlawful arrest at the detention centres, prisons and jails, implementation process and policies of the Union Legal Aid Board, free access to court proceedings, providing legal aid for the needy, children, women, people with disabilities, displaced people, opening legal aid board offices and appointing the office staff.

At the meeting, My Justice Programme Consultant

Ms. Susan Lee, Senior Legal consultant U Han Zar Tun and Legal Advisor Dr. That Nay Tun clarified the process and discussed the matters relating to legal aid policies and its point of views, implementation processes, making introduction to mobile application to provide legal aid, research and records for legal aid and turning a new page to a new chapter in providing legal aid in Myanmar.

The meeting will end today, and members of Legal Aid Board U Khin Zaw, U Kyaw Htay and U Kyaw Soe Bo will make the presentation on the Myanmar Legal Aid Board and its measures, sharing records and documents to the Legal Aid Board from the regions and states, work process, policies and regulations. — MNA ■

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Youths in Rakhine State attend GIZ's vocational training

UNDER the project of improving income prospects for young people in Rakhine State conducted by the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and Myanmar, a batch of 93 youths are attending a training for mechanics in Sittway. The opening ceremony of the training was held yesterday and it was attended by local authorities and officials from the ministries concerned.

During the training, the youths will receive skills for repairing the engines of tractors, motorbikes and agricultural machinery, wiring and sewing.

"Vocational skills and vocational education are the



GIZ's vocational training being opened in Sittway, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: WIN MIN SOE (IPRD)**

lifeblood for development of a region and only when job opportunities are created, can

the youths in the region earn income for their livelihood," said U Phone Bwe, Rakhine

State Minister for Chin Ethnic Affairs at the opening the ceremony.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

CCTVs installed at jetties along Chindwin River

CCTVs have been installed at jetties along the Chindwin River between Monywa and Khamti townships in Sagaing Region for the safety of the passenger speed vessels, according to Sagaing Region's Department of Marine Administration. "Chindwin River is one of the third worst rivers in the world. The towners and villagers along the Chindwin River are using it as main mode of transportation of goods. Now, we have installed the CCTV along the river to ensure the safety of the passenger vessels and to reduce the accidents. Moreover, if we receive complaints of passengers, we will take the legal action against those ves-



A set of CCTV seen at a jetty along Chindwin River between Monywa and Khamti townships. **PHOTO: WIN OO(ZAYADINE)**

sels which break the safety rules. CCTVs were installed in 2017 and in October 2018 at the jet-

ties of the townships concerned. Authorities have come to focus on the safety of the passenger

vessels along the river after a passenger vessel accident has occurred near Michaungtwon Village, Kani Township on 15 October 2016. At present, the number of passenger vessels accident has declined in Chindwin river," said U Aung Than, head of Sagaing Region's Department of Marine Administration. The CCTVs were installed in Chindwin River in Monywa Town and at the jetties in Kani, Mingin and Kalewa towns in October 2017 while CCTVs were also installed in upper Chindwin regions such as Mawlaik, Phaungpyin, Homalin, Hkamti towns and Namtaw Sanpya Village jetties in October 2018.—Win Oo(Zayadine) ■

Two arrested for dealing drugs in Mansi Township

TWO men have been charged with drug dealing after they were found in possession of a cache of yaba pills worth over Ks93.6 million on Saturday evening in Mansi Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State, according to a police report.

Acting on a tip-off, police

raided a home of the suspect named Khet Kaung, 20, of Mon-sint Village, at around 4 pm on 19 October, where he lives with his brother-in-law Zaw Zaw Aung, 32. Police found 24 packets containing 46,800 WY brand yaba tablets hidden within the compound of the house.

The township police have filed charges against the two suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, carrying out further investigations in an attempt to apprehend others connected with the case.—Win Naing (Kachinmye) ■

Power sub-station being built in Yangon's Tamway Township

YANGON Electricity Supply Corporation said it is working to construct a 66 KV GIS power sub-station in Tamway Township, Yangon East District, Yangon Region.

Under the new project, a 66/11_6.6 KV, 2x 30 MVA transformer, which was bought with

loans borrowed from the Asian Development Bank, will be placed at the new station located behind the Tamway temporary market in Tamwaygyi Ward.

For the time being, transformer and related accessories have been transported between

Thilawa and Botahtaung port terminals and the project area by since Friday night, 19 October.

"The machinery will nightly be transported from ports to the target place until Monday, 22 October," said one of managers from the corporation.—597 ■

Four murder cases recorded in Ye Township in October

FOUR murder cases have been recorded in Ye Township, Mon State, during this month, according to an official of the township police station. Personal conflicts are major factor in such crimes. The majority of murder occurred during fighting between fishermen in their workplaces.

"Police are accelerating their efforts to raise crime awareness among residents in an attempt to reduce the crimes rates, making other law enforcement activities in the region," a local police officer said. Efforts have been made by the police in order to arrest the offenders who are still at large.—Htut Htut (Ye)

MFF urges to breed Myanmar striped catfish amid overseas strong market

By May Thet Hnin

WITH the high consumption of Myanmar striped catfish in East Asian countries such as China, Japan, Korea and South-East Asian counties, as well as regions of America, Europe, Middle East, Myanmar Fish Federation (MFF) urges to breed Myanmar striped catfish amid the signs of strong market growth overseas.

The officials from MFF conducted a public lecture titled “Myanmar Striped Catfish and At Present” at MFF office, Yangon on 19 October. “Myanmar striped catfish market becomes bigger year after year. Recently, three fish buyers have made orders to purchase Myanmar striped catfish. Additionally, we have already received the orders to export at least around 40 or 50 containers monthly for the whole year. Fish are in high demand. Sliced fish meat as well as skin,

fish oil and fish ball are in good demand. Therefore, we only need to produce Myanmar striped catfish sufficiently,” said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of the Myanmar Fish Federation.

At present, Myanmar fish breeders primarily farm 65 per cent of Rohu, 15 per cent of striped catfish, seven per cent of freshwater sliver, four per cent of white mrigal and nine per cent of other remaining fish. Suspension of Myanmar’s Rohu fish imported by Saudi market led to price fall in the domestic market. “Rohu fish farming harvested its produce after 13 months. Striped catfish farming harvests its produce every three or four months a year and thus, it has favorable strong points such as disease resistance, short breeding period and rapid growth,” said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, a vice chairperson of MFF.

“Even the fish breeders do



PHOTO: AFP

not want to breed the striped catfish. In fact, they should breed the striped catfish on a manageable scale,” she added.

To export the striped fish, we need to breed according to the good aquaculture practice, ISO, Hazard analysis and critical control points. Viet Nam, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, China and Thailand are breeding the striped catfish.

Viet Nam earns US\$2.2

billion annually from export of striped catfish. Even so, they have \$1 billion demand; however, they could not be proud because they don’t have not enough space to conduct fish farming. Myanmar attempts to get this market share by breeding striped catfish, said U U Win Kyaing. MFF has planned to establish a private company for striped catfish farming. Those interested shareholders will be accepted starting

from 30 October. A single share is worth Ks100 million and the private businessmen will bring in Ks25 billion and a request for the government-backed loans of Ks25 billion. The single fish species will be farmed in the 100-acre wide fish ponds, legally developed last year in Pantanaw Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region. MFF has urged local breeders to farm striped catfish, betic and Tilapia. ■

Banana growers reap handsome profits this season



Growers seen with bunches of bananas in Nyaung-U Township.
PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAYAUK)

BANANA growers in Nyaung-U District, Mandalay Region, said they reaped a healthy profit from the sale of Pheegyan, a marketable banana variety with high quantity, in this harvest season.

U Aung Htay, a grower from Letpanchepaw Village-tract, said growers in the village cultivate the marketable Pheegyan banana on a commercial scale. This variety of banana is usually grown in March-April and harvested during the same months. The banana plantations in the village have been irrigated with the use of river

pumping system.

Based on sizes and freshness, a bunch of bananas are currently sold for Ks550-Ks800 in the domestic market, according to the growers.

Growers said that there is no need to bear the cost a lot for transportation charges. The merchants came to the area of plantations to purchase bananas by cars and three-wheeled vehicles. The most of banana merchants come from Bagan-Nyaung-U, Pakokku, Myingyan and Ngathayauk townships.—Ko Htain (Ngathayauk) ■

Import value goes up by almost \$220 million in two weeks

Myanmar’s total import value over the first 12 days of the current 2018-2019 fiscal year topped US\$710 million, up by \$219 million matched against the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period of October 1 to 12 this year, Myanmar bought over \$130 million worth of capital goods, over \$300 million worth of intermediate goods and about \$178 million worth of consumer goods. During that time, the government sector bought the three major groups of commodities amounting to \$49 million from international partner countries, whereas the private sector im-

ported over \$660 million worth of the same.

At this time last financial year, the import values totalled \$490 million, including \$12.8 million by the public sector and \$477 million by the private sector. When compared with the same period last year, the imports of foreign goods by the public sector increased threefold while the private sector export of the same rose by \$183 million.

Myanmar imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, foodstuff and electronic devices mainly from

neighbouring countries.

According to the ministry’s monthly statistical report, the country’s total import reached its peak of \$18.7 billion in the last 2017-2018 FY. Its import was valued at \$9 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, \$13.8 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$16.6 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$16.5 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$17.2 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.

During the past six-month interim fiscal period from April to September this year, the country’s import value reached \$9.8 billion, increasing by \$737 million from this time last year. — Shwe Khine ■

Border trade value exceeds \$226 million in current fiscal year

THE value of border trade from 1 October through 12 October this fiscal year reached US\$226 million, recording an increase of \$105 million when compared to that in the same period of last year, according to the statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade value included \$145 million in exports and \$80 million in imports. This time last year, border trade was valued at \$120 million.

Myanmar is trading with her neighboring countries, China, India, Bangladesh and Thailand. Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through Muse,

Lweje, Kanpikete, Chin Shwe Haw and Kengtung gates while Myanmar is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed. The country’s border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sitway and Maungtaung, as well as Thailand via Tachilek, Myawaddy, Kawthoung, Myeik, HteeKhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

The growth in export through border trade is due to the major increase in Muse border trade camps, which performed the largest trade out of all 16 border trade camps. Among all the gates, the Muse border gate sees the largest volume and value of total border trade, with

an estimated value of more than \$155 million this FY, followed by Myawaddy with \$27 million and Chinshwehaw with \$10 million. The value of border trade at the Lweje, Kengtung and Tachilek stations decreased this FY. Myanmar mainly export agricultural products, animal products as well as forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country.

Currently, some 80 per cent of the country’s external trade is carried out via sea routes. — Zwe ■



in
Picture

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife present robes to a Member of the Sangha as they visit Kayin State to pay last respects to the remains of Myaing Gyi Ngu Sayadaw U Thuzana. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar concludes visit

United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgenner and delegation departed from Yangon by air at 3.20 p.m. yesterday.

The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy and delegation were seen off at the Yangon International airport by Deputy Director-General of the Economic Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Daw Marlar Than Htike and officials from the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA ■



PHOTO: MNA

GDJV companies group introduces project in Dawei

GREENFIELD Dawei Japan Village-GDJV consortium held a ceremony to introduce its project, in conjunction with Japanese traditional cultural ceremony at the DDPC of the Royal Palace Hall in Dawei yesterday.

The ceremony was opened with the Japanese traditional drumming and Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Lei Lei Maw delivered an opening address.

In his opening remark, the Chief Minister underlined the Dawei Special Economic Zone for the development the Taninthayi Region.

"This project will be commenced in the open season and plans are under way to repair Htee Kee Road, as a result, the region will be developed soon," said the Chief Minister.

GDJV (Greenfield Dawei Japan Village) is a Japanese companies group that included many types of building construction techniques, and the leading of the group is Greenfield Economy Geopolitical Research Institute.

The Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ), in cooperation with Myanmar, Thailand and Japan, is one of the main SEZs in Southeast Asian region.

Then Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar, First

Secretary of Royal Embassy of Cambodia to Myanmar, vice chairman of Kanchanpuri District of Thailand, Commercial Counselor from Viet Nam Embassy in Myanmar and Chairman of Yangon International Hotel made their introductions. Afterwards Chairman of Regional Hotelier Association U Kyaw Win expressed his thanks at the ceremony.

Also attend at the ceremony were Regional Chief Minister and ministers, Deputy Speaker of the Regional Hluttaw, regional chief justice, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads of the region, Japanese business personnel, Chairman and members of Kanchanpuri District Merchants Association, members of the Merchants Association from Myeik and Dawei, officials and invited guests. — (Taninthayi Region IPRD) ■



Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Lei Lei Maw. **PHOTO: (TANINTHAYI REGION IPRD)**

WORLD NEWS

EU, Singapore sign free trade deal

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — The European Union and Singapore signed a landmark trade deal on Friday on the sidelines of a Europe-Asia summit that Brussels hopes can be a rebuke to protectionism in Washington.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong signed the accord in Brussels with European Council President Donald Tusk, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, and Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, whose country currently holds the EU Presidency.

Hailing the Singapore agreement, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said "we can make it clear that the world is about creating win-win

situations."

These deals "make it clear that what benefits one, can also benefit the other," she added as she arrived for an EU-Asia summit where the deal was signed, in a tacit criticism of US President Donald Trump.

The text still needs to be validated by the European Parliament before it enters into force in 2019.

The leaders also signed of the EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement, the more controversial aspect of the package as it sets up a special court to decide business conflicts.

After a successful battle spearheaded by environmental activists in Europe, this aspect

of the deal must now face ratification by the EU's 28 member states, a process that could take months or years.

"It is a very important stepping stone, this is the most ambitious agreement we have ever made with a developing country so it sets the standard ... for whatever we do in the region," EU Trade Commission Cecilia Malmstrom said on Wednesday.

"What we have with Singapore is ... paving the way for a future region-to-region agreement," Malmstrom added.

The deal with Singapore came after the EU suspended effort to strike a bloc deal with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASE-

AN) in 2009 amid widespread disagreements, including European concerns over Myanmar's human rights record.

The EU has instead pursued

deals with individual ASEAN countries and concluded talks in 2015 with Vietnam.

The European Commission hopes the Viet Nam deal can be submitted for approval to the EU member states and the European Parliament before European elections next May. — AFP ■



The European Union Commission headquarters in Brussels. **PHOTO: AFP**

Next IMF loan will be 'the last': Pakistan finance minister

ISLAMABAD (Pakistan) — Pakistan's finance minister promised Saturday to end the country's reliance on International Monetary Fund bailouts to shore up its shaky economy, as officials prepare to negotiate a new loan.

Asad Umar's pledge comes days after Pakistan's central bank warned inflation could double in the coming year — hitting 7.5 percent — while the country's growth target rate of 6.2 percent would likely be missed.

"This will be the 13th and the last IMF programme," Umar said during a speech at the Karachi Stock Exchange.

Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration has sent mixed messages over whether Pakistan will enter another IMF programme, with the former cricketer suggesting this week

that going to the fund may not be necessary.

But Umar spoke in grave terms of the country's balance of payment crisis, which has sparked a depreciation of the rupee and sent stocks tumbling.

"We are heading towards bankruptcy very fast. We have to save the 210 million Pakistanis," Umar added.

An IMF team is set to arrive in Pakistan in early November to begin negotiations.

Similar vows to end reliance on IMF loans have been made by past governments including former premier Nawaz Sharif's administration, which received a \$6.6 billion loan to tackle a similar crisis in 2013.

Khan's new administration took office in August vowing to weigh up whether to seek



Pakistan's finance minister Asad Umar. PHOTO: AFP

an IMF bailout as it sought other avenues of financing, including from "friendly" countries such as China and Saudi Arabia.

But aid has been in short supply and economists' warn-

ings have grown urgent.

The government also announced this week that Khan would attend a controversial Saudi Arabian investment summit in the coming days.

The meeting has been

shunned by leading policy-makers and corporate chiefs in response to the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul — a scandal that has tipped Riyadh into a diplomatic crisis.—AFP ■



Petrobras is the jewel in Brazil's crown: Latin America's most valuable enterprise, a \$100-billion oil and gas group whose crude output puts the country in the top 10 league globally, rivalling that of many OPEC members. PHOTO: AFP

State-owned oil company Petrobras: Brazil's crown jewel

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil) — Petrobras is the jewel in Brazil's crown: Latin America's most valuable enterprise, a \$100-billion oil and gas group whose crude output puts the country in the top 10 league globally, rivalling that of many OPEC members.

Yet it is also the most indebted oil company in the world. And it is at the heart of the biggest corruption scandal to rock Brazil: a graft probe that has claimed numerous political scalps, not least that of former leftist president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Much attention in Brazil and abroad is now being focused on Petrobras because of what looks likely to be a Brazilian presiden-

tial election victory by Jair Bolsonaro. The ultraconservative has expressed a willingness to oversee further sales of Petrobras' non-core assets.

Petrobras was founded 65 years ago as a government monopoly to tap the tiny reserves that existed at the time. It grew in the mid-1970s when shallow offshore fields was discovered, but they were not big enough to provide self-sufficiency for the vast South American nation. Brazil's real oil bonanza happened in late 2006 when Petrobras discovered what turned out to be huge amounts of crude lying under the oceanic crust far offshore — so-called pre-salt deposits.—AFP ■

Global stocks mixed amid worries over China, Italy

NEW YORK (United States) — An early rally on Wall Street fizzled Friday as global bourses finished mixed amid a range of worries that included Italy's messy budget dispute with Brussels and slowing Chinese growth.

US stocks opened strongly following good earnings reports from Procter & Gamble, American Express and others, but the market lost steam at midday. All three major indices had slumped more than one percent on Thursday.

"In a week when developments seem more mixed than bearish, markets are struggling to stabilize from an early-October shock that began in Bonds and ended in Equities," JPMorgan Chase said in a research note.

The analysts said earnings would be a positive catalyst for stocks over the next two or three weeks, but warned of a medium-term hit after the period of "peak" earnings growth ends.

The Nasdaq was the worst performing of the three major indices, ending down 0.5 percent

at 7,449.03, following a session in which it swung more than 150 points.

The S&P 500 finished with a small loss, while the Dow edged higher.

In Europe, the Frankfurt and Paris bourses declined, while London rose as Italy's fight with Brussels over its budget plan sparked worries about the eurozone.

On Thursday, the European Commission formally warned Italy that its budget plans for 2019 were a serious concern, demanding "clarifications" over Rome's "unprecedented" deviation from EU rules.

Late Friday afternoon, Moody's downgraded Italy's debt rating by a notch, citing the "material weakening in Italy's fiscal strength, with the government targeting higher budget deficits for the coming years," as well as debt holding near the current 130 percent of GDP "rather than start trending down as previously expected."

Chinese growth slows

Earlier Friday, Asian stock

markets also traded mixed, with Shanghai bouncing back from early losses despite data showing Chinese economic growth slowed to its weakest level in nine years.

The world's second largest economy expanded 6.5 percent year-on-year in the July-September quarter as a campaign to tackle mounting debt took its toll — along with trade frictions with the US.

It marked the worst performance since the start of 2009

Shanghai equities nevertheless finished the week with a rally after a rare joint intervention by some of China's top financial officials.

However the pronounced slowdown weighed on markets elsewhere because China is a crucial driver of global economic growth.

"The Chinese economy is slowing — but that's down to a deleveraging process and concerns about trade and a global slowdown, as interest rates rise," CMC Markets analyst Michael Hewson said.—AFP ■

Let's overcome challenges and build peace through the power of friendship

HAVING friends, especially good friends, is a sure sign of success. The value of friendship is immense. Having friends is one of the most fundamental aspects of finding and achieving happiness.

So it is safe to say we are all better off if we have a number of close friends and if we can find activities that bring us happiness that we can share with others.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi defined a friend and friendship in her exclusive interview with NHK earlier this month. "I think friendship means understanding, basically, trying to understand rather than to just make your own judgement, but prizes come and prizes go."

“

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding which comes from true friendship.

challenges then there's no need to fear any challenges. This is most important. When the friends by your side have the same mindset as you, you automatically gain strength. Your worries and fears will decrease. You are not facing anything alone; if there's even just one other person with you it's all the more empowering. Try to be a good friend and make lots of good friends too," said the State Counsellor.

In fact, the two songs sung by the school children to entertain the State Counsellor are very meaningful for the children, because the songs suggested that our next generation will have nothing but improvements in their lives, not just for themselves, but for our communities, our country and a new peaceful world.

Whether peace will be attained in the time of children depends on each child. If you can find friends and partners to walk by your side then you will succeed in whatever you set out to do. That's why, we would like to urge teachers to explain our next generation how important of getting great friends at this age as a duty and becoming good friends for others.

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding which comes from true friendship.

Again, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has urged school children from Lansel Boarding School in Shwe Set Ward in Myitkyina on Friday during her visit to the boarding school for children from hilly regions to try to acquire good friends.

She explained the value of a true friend and good friendship to the children to understand that they can overcome challenges and persevere against darkness threatening their worlds through the power of friendship comes from understanding.

"Try to acquire good friends from a young age. If you have friends who will stay by your side when you're facing

Acting in a spirit of cooperation to mitigate the hazards of natural disasters

By Myat Moe Thwe

PEOPLE are often encountered many natural disasters such as forest fire or wildfire, super storm and flash flooding that have occurred as a consequence of global warming and climate change across the globe. It's seen that people have to face different impacts of climate changes and severe weather conditions that can cause in many different places at an alarming rate. At present, its effects of a climate change can also be seen in our environment that would befall us as a direct consequence and its related menaces in many parts of the world, especially small island countries, developing and less-developed countries.

Natural hazards

It is learnt that Myanmar is one of the most disaster-prone nations in the Southeast Asian region. According to the data, there were totaling 1218 natural disasters that happened from 2012 through 2018 including inundating, storms and windstorms. As a result, series of natural disasters in ASEAN region have affected up to 66 million people and the total economic cost of the disaster has amounted to US\$ 15.9 million. As it is well known to us, the effects of natural disasters have a direct adverse effects on the socio-economic development of

a country. These can make hindrance to the speed of economic growth and nation's future prospects. According to the data conducted from 2006 through 2015, it was learnt that average 1.82 per cent of the country's GDP has lost every years on account of these natural hazards that could hamper the progress of socio-economic development of the country, on the ground that the money that could use as a source for financial investment to help the country's development has turned into rehabilitation programmes.

That's why it is much needed to speed up the measures to respond the hazardous challenges not only in the region but also into the global whole. India has undertaken the rescue, relief and rehabilitation works after the earthquake and Indian Ocean tsunami occurred in 2004. Likewise, International Day for Disaster Reduction - IDDR has been celebrated across the world with the aim of drawing the attention of the people and launching the campaigns to mitigate the disasters and carrying out these tasks extensively.

The IDDR has been holding in many states and regions in Myanmar for nine years and it has been initiated as a campaign from 2011 through 2014 in towns and cities across the country. On that day, measures



had been taken as a top priority for the benefits of the children, women, handicapped and other senior citizens. This ceremony has been held with the aim of mitigating the damages and handing down this tradition and culture.

The Seven Global Targets

Similarly, In March 2015, the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai City, Japan and a new framework for concrete indicators of progress towards those goals to be measured against the disaster losses. The Sendai Framework Agreement is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and many countries had been urged to carry out these goals during 2015-2030.

The Seven Global Targets

(a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rates in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.

(b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower average global figure

per 100,000 in the decade 2020 -2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.

(c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.

(d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.

(e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

(f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030.

(g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

The International Day for

Disaster Reduction (IDDR) has been held with the aim of promoting a global culture of disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. And this day has grown into a major global awareness event celebrated in many ways to encourage efforts to build more disaster-resilient communities and nations. The 2016 theme is "Live to Tell: Raising Awareness, Reducing Mortality", which targets to reduce mortality globally.

The theme of 2017 "Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement" seeks to raise global awareness about effective actions, policies and practices taken to reduce exposure to disaster risk at the community level thereby contributing to saving homes and livelihoods.

The International Day for Disaster Reduction 2018 under the theme of The SDGs and Disaster Risk Reduction: Meeting Target C of the Sendai Framework (Reducing the economic loss of disasters).

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks.

It aims to achieve the

substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries around the world.

Regarding the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, national governments have been using the Sendai Monitor platform to track progress using a series of indicators that inform seven Global Targets originally agreed in 2015. Moreover the UN General Assembly adopted a set of 38 agreed indicators based on work led by an open-ended intergovernmental expert working

group (OIEWG) on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction. As for the countries, assignments have been made to submit the progress of the reports, and Myanmar had submitted its first report utilizing Online Monitoring System on September 18, 2018. The report contained the numbers of casualties caused by disasters from 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. Another report from 2005 to 2014 will have to submit in order to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the disaster risk reduction. According to the statistics of the reports conducted from 2006 to 2015, measures will have to make to reduce the loss of GDP by 1.82 percent in 2030.

Disaster Mitigation

The important thing is that every country makes an effort to reduce the damages caused by the disaster and natural disasters have been increased due to global warming and climate change. With this in mind, acting in a spirit of cooperation is needed and it is of great importance for the people to have awareness regarding the hazards of disasters and to put it into practice in daily life.

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
 (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 20th October, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21st October, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Bago and Yangon Region, Kayah State, scattered in Ayeyawady Region, (Southern and Eastern) Shan State and isolated in Naypyitaw with isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9)feet Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (2-5)feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of fairly widespread to widespread rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Rakhine State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st October, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st October, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st October, 2018: Partly cloudy.

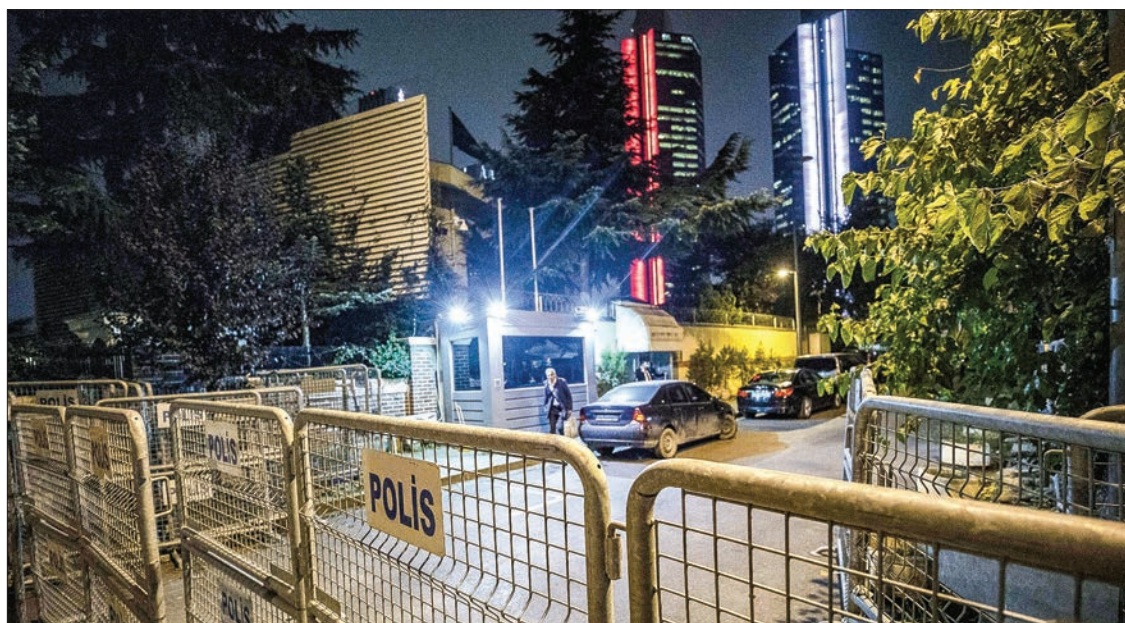
Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Police barricades are seen outside the entrance of the Saudi consulate as the waiting continues on the disappearance of Prominent Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, in Istanbul, Turkey on 19 October, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Saudi Arabia admits journalist is dead, 18 people detained

CAIRO — Saudi Arabia admitted Saturday that missing dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi is dead, with its public prosecutor claiming the US resident got into a fight with people he met at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and died as a result.

Investigations into his disappearance earlier in the month are continuing, and 18 Saudi nationals have been detained, according to the Saudi Foreign Ministry.

The kingdom also fired several intelligence officers including some close to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the ministry said, though it made no reference to the crown prince's possible involvement in the case.

"The kingdom expresses its deep regret at the painful outcome and stresses the commitment of the authorities in the kingdom to bring the facts to the public," it said in a statement.

US President Donald Trump said on Friday he thinks the Saudi's account is "credible" but that what happened to Khashoggi is "unacceptable."

Trump told reporters in Arizona that he could consider imposing sanctions on Saudi Arabia. But he appeared unwilling to get too tough on the nation's key ally in the Middle East, given Riyadh's role in countering Iran's influence in the region and as a major buyer of US military equipment.

Khashoggi, a columnist for the Washington Post who had been critical of Saudi Arabia's royal family, vanished after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October.

US media have reported that Turkish investigators heard audio recordings that suggested Khashoggi was tortured and killed.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Friday the United States "will continue to closely follow the international investigations into this tragic incident and advocate for justice that is timely, transparent, and in accordance with all due process." —Kyodo News ■

Tanzanian police say driver identified in billionaire kidnapping

NAIROBI (Kenya) — Tanzanian police said on Friday they had identified the driver of a vehicle used in the kidnapping of Tanzanian billionaire Mohammed Dewji, who was snatched over a week ago.

Dewji, 43, who is considered Africa's youngest billionaire, was seized by gunmen as he entered a hotel gym in Tanzania's economic capital Dar es Salaam Thursday morning last week.

His family is offering a reward of half a million dollars (435,000 euros) for information that would help police find him.

Police chief Simon Sirro told a press conference that surveillance videos at the hotel had captured images of the vehicle used by the kidnappers, a dark

blue 4X4.

"We have been able to identify the vehicle. So we have advanced a lot in our investigation, we will publish these photos," he said.

"On top of that we know this car entered the country on 1 September from a neighbouring country," Sirro added, refusing to name the country.

"We already have the names of the vehicle's owner and the driver," Sirro said he would send Tanzanian police to the neighbouring country in question, without giving any details.

He said that of 27 people arrested eight were still in custody.

The opposition has called for independent international investigators to take over the probe,

citing an increase in kidnappings and attacks in which no one is ever brought to book. Dewji is chief executive of the MeTL Group, which operates in a dozen countries and has interests in agriculture, insurance, transport, logistics and the food industry.

According to Forbes, he is worth \$1.5 billion (1.29 billion euros) and ranks 17th on the list of African billionaires.

He was a member of parliament from 2005 to 2015, and in 2013 became the first Tanzanian to feature on the cover of *Forbes* magazine. Two years later, he was named *Forbes*' Africa Person of the Year.

Dewji is also the main shareholder in Tanzania's Simba FC football club. —AFP ■

Zimbabwe post-poll violence inquiry to summon army, police

HARARE (Zimbabwe) — An inquiry probing the killing of six people after soldiers opened fire on post-election protesters in Zimbabwe will summon police and the army to appear before it, an official said on Friday.

Kgalema Motlanthe, the former president of South Africa and the commission chairman, said the military and police would give evidence next month.

"We will be hearing from the army and the police," Motlanthe told a news conference in the capital Harare where the killings occurred on 1 August.

"We will ask all pertinent questions and expect to get pertinent answers," he said.

Motlanthe was appointed by President Emmerson Mnangagwa to lead a seven-member team to investigate the killings.

The deaths occurred after protesters took to the streets accusing the country's electoral commission of delaying the announcement of results for the 30 July general election.

Mnangagwa succeeded long-time ruler Robert Mugabe who was ousted in November 2017 following a brief military takeover.

This week, several witnesses, including relatives of the deceased, gave their testimony.

Elizabeth Rubinstein, sister of one of the victims, Gavin Dean Charles, called for justice.

"I find what happened to him was brutal and it... (caused) indescribable pain to my family. The perpetrators should face justice," a sobbing Rubinstein said in her evidence to the inquiry.

She said her unemployed brother was hoping to get a job after Mugabe's ouster.

"He just wanted a better life. He was harmless, and to be shot twice, unarmed. The pain has been indescribable. My mum is not well, she had a stroke (and) she is not aware of his death. If we tell her it will kill her," she said.

Some of the relatives want the government to compensate the victims' families.

The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), the main opposition party has vowed not to take part in the inquiry calling it a "circus" and a "big sham".

"The actual issue is supposed to be on how soldiers ended up in the streets, firing live ammunition at unarmed civilians," MDC said in a statement on Thursday.

The commission has three months to complete its investigations and report back to the president. —AFP ■

Multiple blasts rock Kabul polling stations: official, witnesses

KABUL (Afghanistan) — Multiple explosions rocked polling centres across Kabul on Saturday, as voters cast their ballots in long-delayed legislative elections.

Voters were seen fleeing a school in the north of the Afghan capital after a blast, an AFP correspondent said, with witnesses reporting explosions at other polling centres.

A man told AFP "he was trying to vote but then had to run for his life after the blast" at the school that had been turned into a polling centre.

He saw several casualties evacuated.

Interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi confirmed another two explosions near polling centres.

There were no casualties because voters were inside the buildings, he told AFP.

At least one official said there were "fatalities and injuries" from the explosions.

The blasts come after the Taliban warned voters on Saturday to boycott the "sham and theatrical process to protect their lives".

Around 70,000 security forces have been deployed to protect polling centres across the war-torn country. —AFP ■

US hopes to receive senior N Korean to prepare summit

WASHINGTON (United States)—US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Friday that he hopes to receive his North Korean counterpart in Washington in the coming weeks to arrange a new summit.

“I’m very hopeful we’ll have senior leader meetings here in the next week and a half or so between myself and my counterpart to continue this discussion so that when the two of them get together, there is real opportunity to make another big step forward on denuclearization,” Pompeo said in an interview with govern-

ment-supported Voice of America. A visit to the US capital by North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho would be another landmark in the rapidly warming relationship between the two countries, which never signed a treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War.

President Donald Trump held a first-of-a-kind summit with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un in Singapore in June and has been eager for a second meeting, with some political watchers predicting an announcement before the 6 November congressional



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks to the press before boarding his plane at Mexico City International Airport on 19 October, 2018 in Mexico City, Mexico. **PHOTO: AFP**

elections. “We’re working on finding dates and times and places that will work for each of the two leaders,” Pompeo said, agreeing when asked whether the summit would take place “in the very near future.” Trump has seen his diplomacy with North Korea as a signature foreign policy success

following sky-high tensions.

Pompeo said that Kim had told the United States that he has made a “strategic decision” that “we no longer need our nuclear arsenal for our country to be successful.” “I’m very happy that he’s made this decision, but to execute on

that is complex and will take time,” Pompeo said.

Critics say that North Korea has taken only symbolic rhetorical steps in hopes of reducing pressure and is unlikely to give up a nuclear arsenal the regime has spent decades building.— AFP ■



The legal action comes with speculation mounting that Ecuador was preparing to end its standoff with the British government by terminating Assange’s six-year asylum. **PHOTO: AFP**

Assange sues Ecuador over ‘fundamental rights’

LONDON—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange sued the Ecuador government on Friday for violating his “fundamental rights” and limiting his access to the outside world while in asylum at its London embassy.

The 47-year-old Australian’s legal action comes with speculation mounting that Ecuador is preparing to end its standoff with the British government by terminating his high-profile stay.

Assange found refuge in the embassy in 2012 after a British judge ruled he should be extradited to Sweden to face allegations of sexual assault.

That case has since been dropped but Assange fears being extradited to the United States to face charges over the WikiLeaks website’s release of troves of sensitive US government files.

WikiLeaks said its general counsel arrived in Ecuador on Thursday to launch a legal case against the government for “violating (Assange’s) fundamental rights and freedom”.

“The move comes almost seven months after Ecuador threatened to remove his protection and summarily cut off his access to the outside world, including by refusing to allow journalists and human rights organisations to see him,” WikiLeaks said.

It added that the embassy was requiring Assange’s visitors—including journalists and lawyers—to disclose “private or political details such as their social media usernames”.

The Ecuador government issued no immediate statement in response.— AFP ■

Worried Britons to rally for new Brexit vote

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Britons dreading life outside Europe will rally from all corners to London on Saturday to try to stop their country’s looming breakup with the EU.

The march on parliament is set to be a noisy and festive affair uniting tens of thousands in the seemingly hopeless task of convincing Prime Minister Theresa May to hold a second Brexit referendum.

Even dogs are coming.

Organizers of the so-called People’s Vote March are asking people to dress up their favourite pets in costumes so that they could bark along the scenic route through the historic heart of London. The message itself will be

serious: the Brexit its supporters promised ahead of the June 2016 referendum that set the divorce in motion looks nothing like the one being negotiated today. Campaigners say they would have voted differently had they known the true costs involved. “It’s time the great silent and not-so-silent majority made their feelings known about Brexit,” anti-Brexit activist Gina Miller wrote in The Independent newspaper. “We must shout with one voice: ‘Not in my name!’”

The pro-EU newspaper’s online petition demanding a binding vote on any deal agreed before the March deadline has been signed nearly a million times.

Divided nation

The British premier has

made it abundantly clear that she has no intention of allowing a do-over. “They now want a second referendum to go back to the British people and say ‘Oh, we’re terribly sorry—we think you’ve got it wrong.’” May told parliament on Wednesday.

“There’ll be no second referendum. The people voted and this government will deliver on it.” Yet what May’s government is actually delivering is not entirely clear.

The alternatives facing Britain at the moment range between a clean break without any agreement and one in which little changes except for London losing its voice in the EU.— AFP ■

Leftist’s party urges Brazil authorities to act on WhatsApp election messages

BRASÍLIA (Brazil)—The Workers Party of leftist Brazilian presidential candidate Fernando Haddad on Friday urged electoral authorities to take swift action over a flood of misinformation by WhatsApp they blamed on the far-right frontrunner, Jair Bolsonaro.

“We need urgent action. We are calling on the tribunal to speed things up,” the party’s leader, Gleisi Hoffmann, said in Brasilia after meeting the head of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Rosa Weber.

The plea was made a day after Haddad accused Bolsonaro of being behind a “defamatory” WhatsApp campaign trafficking lies against him, following a press report that companies had been

hired to bulk message voters with attacks on the Workers Party. Bolsonaro has denied the allegations, and said he was not responsible for what his supporters might do.

WhatsApp, which is owned by Facebook, is the preferred social media service for Brazilians. As an 28 October run-off between Bolsonaro and Haddad nears, the app is being used to transmit viral messages for and against each candidate.

The Workers Party contends the reported contracts to attack it on WhatsApp amount to illegal financing of Bolsonaro’s campaign and has lodged a formal complaint with the electoral tribunal.— AFP ■



The AG600, codenamed Kunlong, lands on the water surface of a reservoir near Zhanghe Airport in Jingmen, central China's Hubei Province on 20 October, 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China-made large amphibious aircraft completes first water takeoff

WUHAN — China's independently-developed large amphibious aircraft AG600 completed its first water takeoff and landing in the city of Jingmen in the central province of Hubei on Saturday morning. The AG600, codenamed Kunlong, is designed to be the world's largest amphibious aircraft. It completed its maiden flight in December 2017.

At around 8:51 am, the plane took off from the surface of a reservoir near Zhanghe Airport of Jingmen under the command of captain Zhao Sheng and his crew. It landed smoothly and steadily on water after a 14-min-

ute flight.

The AG600, a large-scale special-purpose civil aircraft designed to assist with forest firefighting and water rescues, is the third member of China's "large aircraft family" following the large freighter Y-20 and large passenger aircraft C919.

Developed by Aviation Industry Corporation of China, the aircraft is powered by four domestically designed turboprop engines and is roughly the size of a Boeing 737. It has a maximum takeoff weight of 53.5 tonnes.

The aircraft is designed for both land and water takeoffs

and landings. The lower part of the aircraft body is designed as a "V" structure to improve its anti-wave ability. When used to help put out a forest fire, it is able to collect 12 tonnes of water at a time and make multiple trips to fetch water.

The aircraft can carry out sea rescue operations under complex meteorological conditions and can withstand two-meter-high waves. It is capable of carrying 50 people during a maritime search and rescue mission. It also provides support for China's marine monitoring and safety patrol. —Xinhua ■

Japan to invite ASEAN air force officers to observe SDF training



Japanese Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

SINGAPORE — Japan's Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya said on Saturday Tokyo will invite com-

missioned air force officers from every member state of the Association of Southeast Asian Na-

tions to observe Air Self-Defence Force training.

"The Indo-Pacific region is facing complicated security issues, and we need to collectively deal with them," Iwaya told a meeting in Singapore with his counterparts from the ASEAN region, an area in which China has been increasing its influence.

Iwaya also expressed his willingness to invite field officers to the Self-Defence Forces' tabletop exercises while expanding Japan's humanitarian and disaster-relief support to the region.

"Defence cooperation between Japan and ASEAN is important in reinforcing a free and open Indo-Pacific," Iwaya said.

The meeting between Japan and ASEAN defence ministers was first held in 2014. In 2016, Japan proposed its "Vientiane Vision" for maritime security cooperation, an initiative which envisages Japanese assistance in such areas as information gathering and surveillance. —Kyodo News ■

Viet Nam dissident Khoi urges Facebook to protect freedom of expression

SAN FRANCISCO (United States) — Mai Khoi, a dissident musician dubbed Viet Nam's Lady Gaga, has appealed to Facebook's directors to safeguard freedom of expression as the government looks to bolster its control of the web.

With 53 million users, Facebook is extremely popular in Viet Nam — where the internet has become a battleground for activists like Khoi.

A controversial cybersecurity bill, due to come into effect in January, will require internet companies to remove "toxic" content and hand over user data if asked by the communist government to do so.

It also requires firms to host servers in-country, which has sparked fears of further government meddling.

"Protecting freedom of expression should be an official policy of Facebook, but sadly, it's not," Khoi told AFP during an interview at the city's airport.

"Facebook is the only space in Viet Nam where we can talk freely, express our mind freely and we can access uncensored information, and sometimes organize the peaceful protests. That's why the government is scared. So now they try to control Facebook," she said.

"The crackdown is very heavy."

Banned from selling her CDs and organising concerts, Khoi performs secret gigs away from the watchful eyes of police — and is now afraid of becoming an online target.

Facebook and Google have so far declined to comment on Viet Nam's impending cybersecurity law, though rights groups have slammed the bill.

Khoi said during Friday's meeting with Facebook, she urged the company to prevent government supporters abusing the network's community standards to silence dissidents.

"Facebook said they already worked on this. But in reality, in Vietnam, many independent journalists and activists have their accounts locked and the post deleted every day," she added.

Placed under informal house arrest in late 2017 after she brandished an anti-Donald Trump sign when the US president visited last year, Khoi was also banned from running in parliamentary elections a year earlier.

"I think Facebook should do the right thing to show what they do is protecting freedom of expression," Khoi said. —AFP ■

At least 50 dead in India train disaster: police

AMRITSAR (India) — At least 50 people were killed on Friday after a train plowed into revellers gathered to watch a Hindu festival in India's northern Amritsar city, police said. The train hit a crowd standing on the railway line to watch a fireworks show during Dussehra celebrations, police and eyewitnesses said.

"There was a lot of noise as firecrackers were being let off and it appears they were unable to hear the approaching train," a police official at the scene told AFP. An eyewitness told a local TV channel there was "utter commotion" when the crowds noticed the train "coming very fast" towards them.

"Everyone was running helter-skelter and suddenly another train crashed into the crowds of people," he said.

"There are more than 50 casualties. The priority now is to take the injured to the hospital," Amritsar city police commissioner S. S. Srivastava told reporters.

India is home to hundreds of railway crossings that are unmanned and particularly accident prone, with motorists often ignoring oncoming train warnings.

Nearly 15,000 people die on the country's railways every year, according to a 2012 government report. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has ordered an inquiry into the latest disaster.

"The tragedy is heart-wrenching," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on Twitter.

"My deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and I pray that the injured recover quickly." —AFP ■

Scientists spot six near-extinct vaquita porpoises

MEXICO (Mexico)—The near-extinct vaquita marina, the world's smallest porpoise, has not yet disappeared from its habitat off the coast of Mexico, a research team said on Wednesday after spotting six of them.

The vaquita has been nearly wiped out by illegal fishing in its native habitat, the Gulf of California, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) warned in May that it could go extinct this year.

But "all hope is not lost" for saving the species after the recent sightings, said Lorenzo Rojas of the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA), pre-

sending the researchers' findings.

In an 11-day study conducted in late September and early October, marine scientists spotted six vaquitas, including a calf.

The team emphasized that the study was not a full population estimate, which they will present in January after further research.

In the last full population estimate, carried out in 2017, CIRVA found there were only 30 vaquitas left.

Known as "the panda of the sea" for the distinctive black circles around its eyes, the vaquita has been decimated by gillnets used to fish for another species, the also endan-

gered totoaba fish.

The totoaba's swim bladder is considered a delicacy in China and can fetch up to \$20,000 on the black market.

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio and Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim have thrown their backing behind the campaign to save the vaquita.

Last year the Mexican government launched a bold plan to round up remaining vaquitas with the help of trained dolphins and relocate them to a protected enclosure.

However, it had to be aborted when one of the first captured vaquitas died.—AFP ■



Known as "the panda of the sea" for the distinctive black circles around its eyes, the vaquita has been decimated by gillnets used to fish for another species, the also endangered totoaba fish.

PHOTO: AFP



A photo shows a unique 1,000m-long spider-web covering the road beside the Vistonida lake, near Xanthi, northern Greece, on 18 October, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Spider swarm cloaks Greek lake in 1,000-metre web

THESSALONIKI, (Greece) —Lake Vistonida in northern Greece has become an arachnophobe's worst nightmare after it was cloaked recently by massive webs spun by hundreds of thousands of small spiders.

Biologists say the recent phenomenon, though rare, is not unheard of and is caused by unseasonably warm weather prompting an increase in the local population of mosquitoes and gnats.

"It's caused by an overpopulation of spiders...there is an abundance of food available," local environmental park biologist Euterpe Patetsini told Alpha TV.

Draped over roadside bushes, fences and small trees, the webs have a combined length of about 1,000 metres (1,100 yards).

"Weather conditions are ideal for them to multiply," she said.

The spiders are from the genus Tetragnatha, known as stretch spiders due to their elongated bodies. They are known to build webs near watery habitats, with some spe-

cies even said to be able to walk on water.

A similar case was noted in the western Greek coastal town of Aetoliko last month.

The webs are expected to recede as temperatures drop and heavier rainfall sets in.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1014 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1014 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-10-2018 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1822 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1822 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV RAINBOW IVY

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RAINBOW IVY are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 KING STAR SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (012 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (012 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185



Karl Marx died in London in 1881 at the age of 64. PHOTO: AFP

Russian exhibit puts Marx in the picture, 200 years after his birth

SAINT PETERSBURG (Russia) — No Russian artist painted revolutionary thinker Karl Marx during his lifetime and yet his image even now 200 years after his birth remains ubiquitous.

Hundreds of those images — on canvas, in bronze, on vases, tapestries and posters — have now been brought together in a new exhibition in Saint Petersburg. “Attitudes towards Marx have changed many times, but the works of art will stay forever,” said Evgenia Petrova of the State

Russian Museum at the opening of the three-hall display.

Statues of the German philosopher, whose theories were turned into the basis of communism by his followers, are still a common sight in Russia and most cities have a street named after him, despite the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s.

Marx died in London in 1881 at the age of 64. His grave at the city’s Highgate Cemetery is still a major tourist draw.

The exhibition includes

pre-Russian revolution works such as a 1905 bust by sculptor Anna Golubkina, as well as irony-tinged contemporary works.

“For those of us who grew up in the Soviet era, Marx, Engels and Lenin were like the Holy Trinity. They were everywhere in public life,” said Tatyana Yakovleva, a 69-year-old pensioner visiting the museum.

“The exhibit, Karl Marx Forever”, runs until 14 January, 2019, at the State Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg. —AFP ■

‘Venice of the East’ plays host to first Bangkok Art Biennale



The city’s venerated Bangkok’s temples, heritage sites and high-end shopping centres are playing host to artworks from all over the world until February. PHOTO: AFP

BANGKOK — More than 100,000 small white porcelain skulls cover a walkway at a temple in the Thai capital, an evocative installation on mortality featured in the first-ever Bangkok Art Biennale.

“In Buddhism, we believe that death is around you — any step could be your last,” said Nino Sarabutra, whose work is one of dozens on display at the maiden event, which kicked off on Friday.

“And for this installation, I want to remind people that any step could be their last. If (they)

want to leave something behind, they have to do it today.”

The city’s venerated temples, heritage sites and high-end shopping centres are playing host to works from all over the world until February.

Some 75 local and international artists are taking part, with Yayoi Kusama and Marina Abramovic among the high-profile names contributing.

The decision to hold the star-studded biennale in the Southeast Asian city was an-

nounced at its more famous predecessor in Venice last year.

“Bangkok has always been envisioned as the Venice of the east,” artistic director Apinan Poshyananda told AFP Friday, alluding to the city’s Chao Phraya river and old canals.

“The idea to have a biennale is to ignite and create Bangkok to be not the world centre but at least one of the centres of art destinations,” he said.

The sites are spread out across the city at 20 different venues, with many hugging the river in the old part of town while others take on modern Bangkok’s malls and central business district.

Polka dot and pumpkin-shaped lanterns by Japan’s Kusama hang between the floors of Central World, one of Bangkok’s prime shopping destinations. Over at Wat Arun, tourists next to two large warrior-like figures with Chinese and Thai motifs.

The fibreglass figures are joined together in an installation called ‘Giant Twins’ by Thai artist Komkrit Teptian. —AFP ■

‘Romance and magic’: Marie Antoinette’s jewels on show before auction

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Marie Antoinette’s dazzling diamonds and pearls, unseen in public for two centuries, went on show in London on Friday before going on sale next month in one of the most important royal jewellery auctions in history.

The treasures were secretly whisked out of Paris in 1791 in the aftermath of the French Revolution and have been privately owned by relatives ever since.

The collection, held by the Italian royal House of Bourbon-Parma, is being sold by Sotheby’s auction house in Geneva on 14 November.

On show at their London headquarters, the lots include 10 pieces which belonged to Marie Antoinette, the last queen of France before the French Revolution. She was guillotined in Paris aged 37 in October 1793.

“The romance, magic and universality of her name is because she represents that sophistication of l’ancien regime. She is it,” Andres White Correal, Sotheby’s senior director of jewellery, told AFP.

“It is the sale of the 21st century. Because how do you top Marie Antoinette? Also because it’s so scarce. There isn’t much left.”

The highlight is Queen Marie Antoinette’s Pearl, a natural pearl and diamond pendant valued at \$1-2 million (870,000-1.75 million euros).

A natural pearl and diamond necklace composed of three rows of more than 100 slightly graduated pearls is expected to fetch \$200,000-300,000, as are a pair of natural pearl and diamond pendant earrings.

A monogrammed ring containing a lock of her hair is valued at \$8,000-10,000.

“The ring is a small diamond ring with a lock of her hair inside, with the monogram MA set with rose diamonds,” Sotheby’s jewellery specialist Benoit Repellin told AFP.

“The value of the diamonds themselves is very low

but there is an emotional value and a historic value behind it.”

Spirited out of France

A fine natural pearl and diamond necklace is priced at \$40,000-70,000, while a double ribbon bow diamond brooch is estimated at \$50,000-80,000.

When king Louis XVI, his wife Marie Antoinette and their children tried to flee the French Revolution in March 1791, the royal jewels were smuggled out of the country into the trust of a confidant in Brussels.

They were then sent on to relatives in Austria and passed down through the generations.

“It is one of the most important royal jewellery collections ever to appear on the market and each and every jewel is absolutely imbued with history,” said Daniela Mascetti, deputy chair of Sotheby’s jewellery Europe.

“This extraordinary group of jewels offers a captivating insight into the lives of its owners going back hundreds of years.”

White Correal compared Marie Antoinette to Egyptian pharaoh Cleopatra and Britain’s Diana, princess of Wales.

He said there were queens with greater political and historical stature but Marie Antoinette “had the allure”.

The Bourbon-Parma sale also contains jewellery belonging to Charles X, the last monarch styled king of France, including a diamond tiara; jewels from empress Marie Therese of Austria — Marie Antoinette’s mother — and from Austrian emperor Franz Joseph I, who died in 1916.

The fleur de lys design tiara, made in 1912, contains diamonds from the collection of Charles X, Marie Antoinette’s brother-in-law, who died in 1836. It is estimated at \$350,000-550,000.

The collection has been exhibited in Hong Kong, Dubai and New York and will go on to Singapore, Taipei and back to Geneva where they will go under the hammer. —AFP ■

Giant galaxy supercluster found lurking in early Universe

PARIS (France) — Scientists have discovered a primitive “supercluster” of galaxies forming in the early Universe, just 2.3 billion years after the Big Bang.

The structure, nicknamed Hyperion, is the largest and most massive to be found so early in the formation of the Universe, which sprang into existence around 13.7 billion years ago.

Its titanic mass is one million billion times that of the Sun.

“This is the first time that such a large structure has been identified at such a high redshift, just over two billion years after the Big Bang,” said Olga Cucciati, a researcher at the Astrophysics and Space Sciences Observatory in Bologna and lead author of a study detailing the discovery.

Redshift is a measure of the changing wavelength of light travelling away from an observer.

“Normally these kinds of structures are known at lower redshifts, which means when the Universe has had much more time to evolve and construct such huge things,” Cucciati said.

Located in the constellation of Sextans (The Sextant), Hyperion was identified by analysing the vast amount of data obtained from the VIMOS Ultra-deep Sur-

vey, which provides a unique 3-D map of how more than 10,000 galaxies are distributed in the distant Universe.

Hyperion is similar in size to nearby superclusters, though it has a very different architecture, the researchers said.

The findings were published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

“Superclusters closer to Earth tend to have a much more concentrated distribution of mass with clear structural features,” explains co-author Brian Lemaux, an astronomer from University of California at Davis.

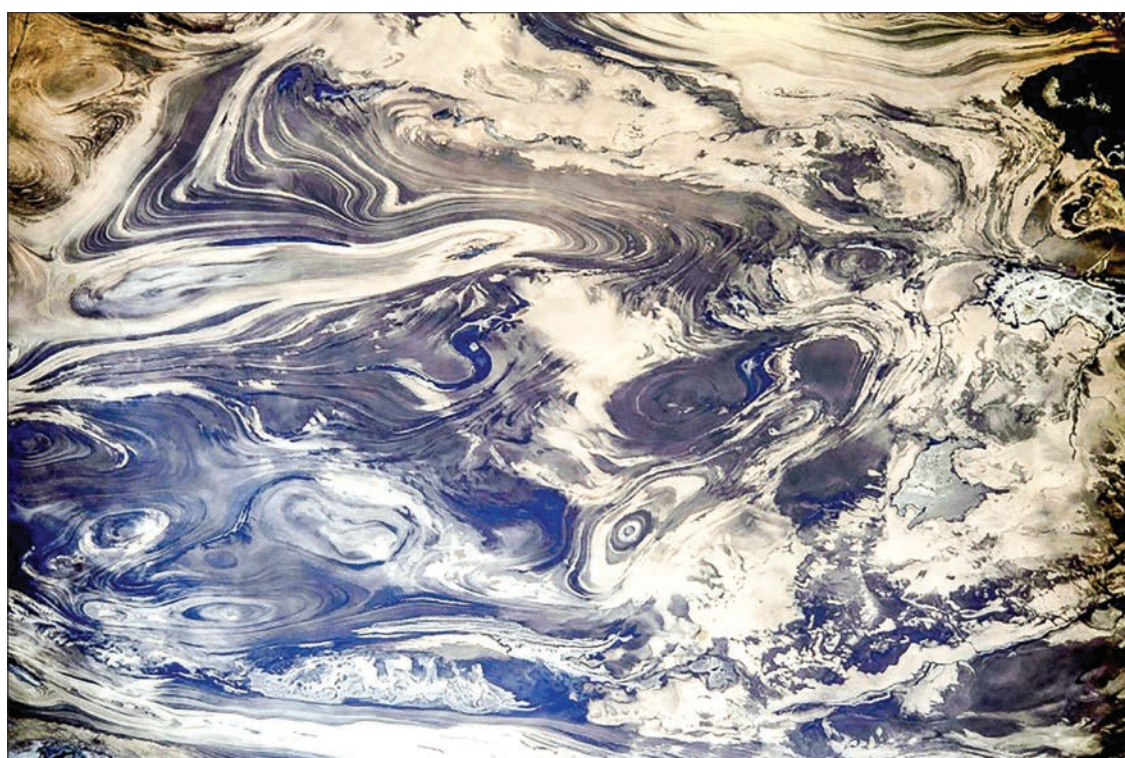
“But in Hyperion, the mass is distributed much more uniformly in a series of connected blobs populated by loose associations of galaxies.”

This contrast is most likely due to the fact that nearby superclusters have had billions of years for gravity to gather matter together into denser regions — a process that has been acting for far less time in the much younger Hyperion.

Over time, Hyperion will likely evolve into something like the Virgo Supercluster, which contains our own galaxy, the Milky Way. —AFP ■



Scientists have discovered a “supercluster” of galaxies, nicknamed Hyperion, the largest and most massive to be found so early in the formation of the Universe. **PHOTO: AFP**



New analysis of rock structures has scientists arguing that life on Earth started 220 million years earlier than originally thought. **PHOTO: AFP**

Evidence of earliest life on Earth disputed

PARIS (France) — When Australian scientists presented evidence in 2016 of life on Earth 3.7 billion years ago — pushing the record back 220 million years — it was a big deal, influencing even the search for life on Mars.

But that discovery, based on an analysis of primordial rocks in Greenland, has now been challenged, with another team of researchers arguing in a study published on Wednesday that the structures presented as proof of microbial activity were, in fact, geologically forged by underground heat and pressure.

The truth hinges on whether the cone-shaped formations in question are genuine stromatolites, layered structures left in the wake of water-dwelling microorganisms.

Previously, the earliest confirmed stromatolites were found in 3.45-billion year old rocks in Australia.

Being able to accurately

date the first stirrings of life on our young planet — roughly a billion years old at the time — has important implications for understanding how it emerged and evolved.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, Abigail Allwood of the California Institute of Technology and colleagues analysed the three-dimensional shape of the disputed formations, along with their orientation in space and chemical composition.

The 3-D view led them to conclude that the alleged fossils lacked internal layers, a signature trait of stromatolites. Upon closer examination, the cone-like shapes were shown to be ridges that typically arise over millions of years through a natural deforming process called metamorphism.

Also missing, they said, were the chemical traces of microbe activity.

“We believe that the current

evidence does not support the interpretation of these structures as 3.7 billion-year-old stromatolites,” Allwood’s team concluded.

Their analysis, the study continued, should also serve as a “cautionary tale” in interpreting rock formations in the search for life on Mars.

Mark Van Zuilen, a geomicrobiologist at the Institut de Physique du Globe in Paris, said the reassessment is convincing, and suggests the Australian stromatolites should regain their status as the earliest confirmed proof of life on Earth.

“These observations provide strong evidence for physical rock deformation and therefore offer a non-biological explanation for the observed structures,” he commented in *Nature*.

Allen Nutman, a professor at the University of Wollongong in Australia and lead researcher on the 2016 study, was not available for comment. —AFP ■

US stem cell researcher accused of faking results

WASHINGTON (United States) — A cardiovascular specialist known for his stem cell research has seen his once high-flying career falter as several top-flight US institutions have accused him of falsifying data in his studies.

So far, more than 30 articles by Piero Anversa are now believed to be fraudulent, including one retracted on Wednesday by the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*.

In a remarkable statement, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston this week said Anversa,

the former lab director at the institutions, had included “falsified and/or fabricated data” in those articles.

Harvard and the hospital advised the relevant journals to retract the articles at issue.

In the world of scientific research, a retraction is the worst disavowal of the author’s work. It means the article or study has serious problems or errors, intentional or not.

The article pulled by the *NEJM* made headlines in 2011. Numerous media outlets including AFP covered its publication

at the time.

Anversa had announced the discovery of the first human lung stem cells that are self-renewing, saying they could offer important clues for treating chronic lung diseases.

Anversa then announced several other “discoveries” about cardiac stem cells, earning praise and amassing credibility in the field — which allowed him to get tens of millions of dollars in federal grant money.

But for the past several years, doubts accumulated about the veracity of his work.



More than 30 articles by Piero Anversa, a cardiovascular specialist known for his stem cell research, are believed to be fraudulent. **PHOTO: AFP**

Other researchers were unable to reproduce his lab results in the same conditions. Scholarly articles were corrected, and the

first retraction came in 2014, by *Circulation*, a journal published by the American Heart Association. —AFP ■



Tun Tun Min (red) lands a punch on Dave Leduc (blue) in 3rd Lethwei World Championship in Yangon in August. **PHOTO: TUN TUN MIN'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

Tun Tun Min to fight against Lethwei World Champion Dave Leduc in Dec

FORMER openweight Lethwei World Champion Tun Tun Min will fight against current Lethwei Open Weight World Champion Dave Leduc in December in Yangon according to announcements on the Lethwei champions' webpages. "The Nomad" has announced his next fight will take place on 16 December in Yangon against former openweight champion Tun Tun Min.

After winning a Lethwei World Championship title in August this year, openweight Lethwei champion Dave Leduc made his decisions to challenge any

lethwei fighter in Myanmar.

The openweight lethwei champion, Leduc said on his social media page that he must accept all the challenges.

Current Lethwei World Champion Dave said, "Contract is signed. One of my belts will be on the line in December. Former champ Tun Tun Min challenged me. I accepted his challenge and we will meet December 16th in Yangon. This will be our third fight and the biggest fight in Myanmar Lethwei history.

"I would prefer fighting foreigners to show the true power

of Lethwei against other martial arts, but former champ Tun Tun Min challenged me. I accepted his challenge and we will meet on December 16 in Yangon," he added. Former Lethwei Champion Tun Tun Min also said on his social media page that I will try my best to regain the lethwei world championship title. I love lethwei and I had begun my life of lethwei since my childhood, eight years old. All my experience will tell my story.

This time, both great fighters will have to face each other again in Myanmar. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar faces loss to debut in Qatar friendly tour

AS part of preparation for taking part in the 2018 Suzuki Cup, Myanmar national selected men's football squad faced a loss to its debut friendly match against Al Duhail SC with a narrow margin of 1-2 in Doha, Qatar on 19 October.

Myanmar's head coach Antoine Hey made changes a little to the lineup used in the match against Bahrain and mended the blunders experienced in the match against Bahrain. Zin Min Tun was stationed at the front area as a lone striker.

Except Zaw Min Tun, Aung Thu, Ye Ko Oo, David Dan, Kau-ang Set Naing, Hsan Set Naing and Phone Thitsa Min, the head coach made substitutions of the remaining players in the first half and the second half.

Al Duhail SC, which is comprised of most talented players, led the first half with 2-0. Than Htet Aung gave an equalizer for Myanmar, taking an advantage of the fault made by the defender of the opponents' team at 76th minute of the second half. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



Myanmar midfielder Sithu Aug (yellow) dribbles a ball into the area of the opponents' team. **PHOTO: MFF**

Hazard can be world's best if he stays at Chelsea - Sarri

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Eden Hazard can still become the best footballer in the world even if he stays at Chelsea, Blues manager Maurizio Sarri said on Friday.

Hazard has made no secret either of his desire to win the Ballon d'Or, the annual prize for the best player in the game, or wanting to play for Real Madrid.

The 27-year-old Belgian playmaker has though insisted it would "not be a problem" for him to finish his career with Chelsea if a move to Real was not forthcoming.

Meanwhile Sarri said Hazard could realise his individual ambitions while remaining at Stamford Bridge.

"He's a fantastic player," Italian boss Sarri said. "And so it will be very important for us if he will remain with us. Very, very important.

"I think also he can win everything, also the Ballon d'Or, here, without playing in Spain.

"Because, for example, if Chelsea were able to win the Champions League, Belgium won the European Championships, he would be able to win everything, without playing in Spain." Hazard's current Chelsea contract expires in June 2020 and for all his talk of wanting to play for Spanish giants Real, there has been no dip in his form for the Blues this season.

Since returning from a World Cup where he helped Belgium finish in third place, Hazard has scored seven goals in six Premier League starts and two substitute appearances.

"I can finish with Chelsea," Hazard told Sky Sports ahead of Saturday's match with Manchester

United. "No problem at all. I am very happy with this club, with the team, my family is happy here.

"So If I don't go to Spain, it is not a problem.

"I love the fans — I think the fans love me.

"What happens in the future, I will be happy, so that's it." Hazard joined Chelsea from Lille in June 2012 and signed his current deal in February 2015.

If no contract extension is agreed by the end of this season, Chelsea could see Hazard leaving on a free transfer at the end of the following campaign, so an agreed move could yet be in the interest of the club as well as the player. —AFP ■



SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

21 OCTOBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Parents, irreplaceable ones for us

LET'S imagine that you are asked a question, "Who loves you the most in the world?" it may be confusing first. If you are an adult, you may think your sweetheart or your life-partner loves you the most. Actually, your parents are the only ones who will always love you. No one in this world will love you more than your parents. Other may claim that they love you, and you may also think that your friends do, but they may be fake ones. But your mother and father love you from the bottom of their heart and that is never feigned. The love of your parents is the best thing in the world, and there is nothing to compare with their love. They always bless you and pray for your better future without thinking about their profits.

They fed you first, instead of eating themselves. They send you to school, so that you can make a place for yourself in this world. They taught when you were a kid by giving time even if they were busy with their work hours at the office or making money outside. They gave you everything you asked for. They not only spend their money on you, but also spend a lot of years of their life in taking care of you. They provided shelter, clothes, and medicine whatever you needed, as well as education, and teach you how you can survive in this world. The reason is that parents always want to see their children as successful persons. Sometimes parents even suppress their own desire and happiness to make their children successful.

From your childhood, your parents gave you all you needed. The toys that you cried for, the clothes you wanted and the snacks you wanted in whatever it is. As you are in school, the books you wanted, the school bag you desired, and everything is provided to you at any moment you ask for them. Every parent in the world will always support their child, no matter how they are rich or poor. Not only in good time but also in the bad situations, parents will always be by your side, and provide with everything they can. They do everything as much as they can, just for the sake of their children.

Your friends may abandon you, but parents will never do this. They will always have their doors open for their children. If you have an argument or problems with a friend, he or she may be no longer your friend, but if you have these problems with your parents, they are still your parents. They will always understand you without blame for your faults, and protect you from all the possible dangers in every extent they are capable of. Think about those who do not have parents, and consider yourself as the luckiest person to have parents in your life. It's obvious that parents' love upon their children is unique in the world, and we should realize earlier that they are irreplaceable ones in our life. It's no use to cry when they pass away without looking after back while they are alive. Thus, let's pay gratitude to our parents by caring for them while they are alive.



By W Myat Tun

Prophecies and Predictions about 'the future' from Nostradamus, Huxley, Orwell and Hawking

By Dr. Myint Zan

I READ with interest the news item that 'Hawking's final book offers brief answers to big questions' that appeared in page 15 on the 17 October 2018 issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

In this comment I will only concentrate on two of Stephen Hawking's 'predictions' regarding the future. In the version of the excerpts from his book that I have read on the web the late astrophysicist and scientist stated:

QUOTE

At some point in the next 1,000 years, nuclear war or environmental calamity will "cripple Earth." However, by then, "our ingenious race will have found a way to slip the surly bonds of Earth and will therefore survive the disaster."

UNQUOTE

One of the most well-known scientists in the late 20th and early 21st century (definitely since his iconic A Brief History of Time was published in 1988) has made a prediction going as 'far away' (at least in human life spans) as the next 1000 years!

One wonders whether the equivalent of an 'international sage' (as Stephen Hawking indeed was in our times) in the 11th century Current Era (say in the year 1018 Current Era) has made predictions of what the world would look like in the year 2018? If so, to what extent- if any- of that sage or groups of sages 'predictions' can be said to have come true or have 'materialized'?

An astrologer (?) or (to use the term advisedly) 'futurist' in the 16th century Michel de Nostredame (better known as 'Nostradamus') (1503-1566) did publish initially in the year 1555 (apparently in medieval? French language) his 'prophecies' regarding the (then) future. (Un)fortunately perhaps Nostradamus poetic quatrains were written so vaguely that inadvertent or deliberate (mis)interpretations can and arguably has been made. Nostradamus was said to have 'predicted', among others, the rise of Adolph Hitler (1889-1945), the assassinations of United States president John F. Kennedy (1917-1963) and perhaps even his younger brother Senator Robert Kennedy's (1926-1968) assassinations well. In addition (of course only after the event occurred) the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon was, almost in special pleading, argued to have been predicted by the 16th century French 'seer' over 400 years before these events occurred!

Stephen Hawking, in contrast, did not write his 'predictions' in enigmatic quatrains in medieval French (subject to various and varying interpretations) but in plain English going to the (relatively) 'near future' of the next '100 years' about 'computers overtaking humans in intelligence' (GNLM, 17 October 2018, p. 15). One prediction by Stephen Hawking deals (in human terms) the quite far away future of the next one thousand years as excerpted above.



PHOTO: AFP

One does not know whether there were or there were not predictions say in the early 11th century (i.e. 500 years before Nostradamus 'flourished' and predicted –or is it prophesied? in the mid-16th century) about events 100 or one thousand years hence (that is predictions during the early 11th century as to what would occur respectively in the early 12th or in the early 21st centuries)?

The wonders of the world wide web (did Nostradamus envision or 'prophesy' such technology in his Prophecies first published over 550 years ago in 1555?) facilitates this writer to conduct a quick search. That 'search' 'reveals' that in the year 1018 Current Era, a thousand years ago, the Kingdom of Pagan (Bagan) there reigned a monarch by the name of Kunhsa Kyaunghpyu. And in Stephen's homeland of England a quick search on the World Wide Web specifically Wikipedia indicates that 1000 years ago in the year 1018 Current Era the famous King Canute (who apparently perhaps apocryphally ordered the tides to 'stop') was the monarch. Were there or not prophecies in ancient Pagan and ancient England written in 'old Burmese' and 'old English' by the sages in those times and places of what to expect or envisage a thousand years hence?

Though not in the form of concrete predictions as Stephen's posthumously published book there are two different novels first published in 1932 and 1949 respec-

tively about what can then be called 'dystopian visions' (or is it versions as well?) of the future. The novels are Brave New World by Aldous Huxley and Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell. Both novels have been translated into Burmese by (Dr) Zaw Than and (Daw) Wint Pyone Myint respectively.

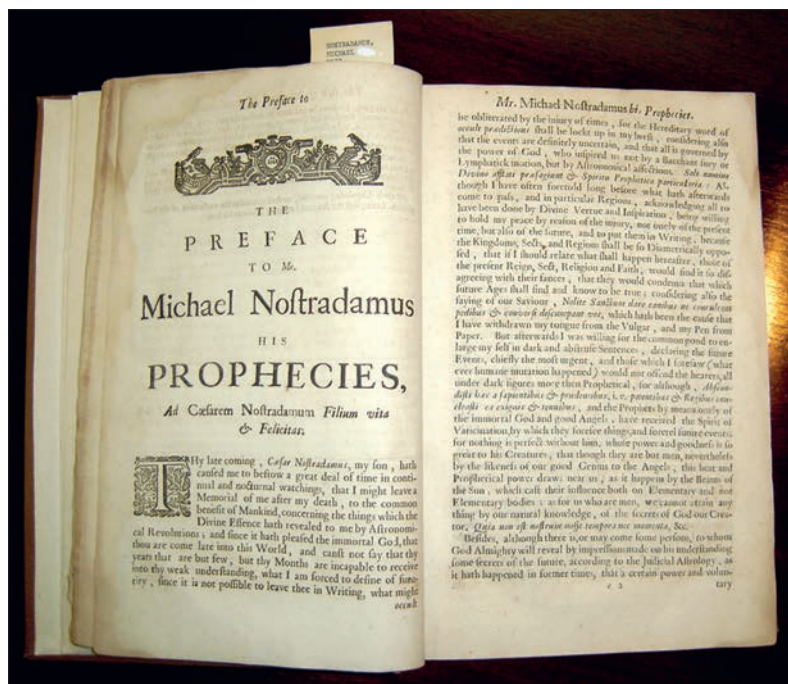
Nineteen Eighty-Four (first published 1949) was set in the then future year of 1984. In Brave New World the scene was set in 632 'After Ford' (Current Era or 'AD' 2540 in the Gregorian calendar over 300 years from the early 21st century). Huxley's 'vision of the future' was 'farther' in the future than Stephen's initial prediction of computers taking over in the 'next 100 hundred years' (in the early 22nd century) but not as long range as the 1000 year time line. As excerpted above Stephen Hawking's predicted that in a thousand years hence there could be 'world wide calamity but our ingenious race [sic meaning humans] [would] slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'survive' perhaps even 'thrive' on other planets.

Coming back to the relatively recent past, in early November 1952, the historian Arnold Toynbee (1889-1975) whose 43rd death anniversary is on 22 October 2018 also predicted what the world would be like 50 years from then. Toynbee's predictions (so to speak) were published under the title 'The World in 2002 AD' in the November 17, 1952 issue of Time magazine. Less enigmatic than Nostradamus quatrains of over 450 years ago, and less dystopian than the phantasmagoric (or is presciently futuristic?) novels Brave New World (1932) and Nineteen Eighty-Four (1949) Toynbee's predictions of 1952 vis-à-vis 2002 (a time frame that have passed for more than 15 years now) are arguably still not as concrete as those of Stephen Hawking.

Here this writer will only concentrate on one sentence dealing with technology from Toynbee's predictions of 1952. He stated: QUOTE In the 21st century [there would be] a countermovement in which mankind will turn back from technology to religion. UNQUOTE.

Perhaps technology is currently being used not only to spread 'religion' or in some circles atavistic ideologies but –to quote from President Donald J. Trumps favorite 'cliche': he was 6 years old when Toynbee made that prediction – also 'fake news'. I might add that such espousers (one trusts only a few) of fake news occur both locally and internationally. 'Fake news' emanate including from but not limited to the person who arguably popularize that term.

The thought that comes to the writer's mind after reading excerpts from the late, great Stephen Hawking's Brief Answers to the Big Questions is this: some where between 100 years to a thousand years from now if homo sapiens still survives whose work and predictions regarding the then future would be considered the most prescient and would be 'talked about' then (if humans still 'talk' to communicate): Nostradamus' Prophecies (first published 1555), Aldous Huxley's Brave New World (first published 1932), George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four (first published 1949) or Stephen Hawking's Brief Answers to the Big Questions (first published 2018)?



The Natural Scenic Beauty of Mya Kha Nauk Mountain



HAVE you ever been annoyed by the air pollution of the city? Are you willing to start an adventure to attain true happiness by breathing fresh air? If so, please read on and join us on this exciting adventure.

You can see the different ranges of mountains in the eastern of Mandalay. It will take about 20 to 30 minutes drive by car from Mandalay to arrive the foot of mountains after passing the Mandalay Technological University.

Among those mountains, the Mya Kha Nauk Mountain is 3018 feet high which a stone's throw away from Mandalay. After leaving your vehicles at the parking and can start a stunning journey. You have to pass nine peaks to arrive at the top of Mya Kha Nauk Mountain. The beginning of trekking is the most challenging walking the first peak because it is very steep. Therefore you can be exhausted but no worries it just takes 15 minutes. But, you can leave your stresses and worries on the foot of MKN and enjoy for a moment. On the way of Mya Kha Nauk Mountain, you can see the farms, three villages, one monastic school, many street water pots and a stream.

By the east of the MKN mountain, you can see the Shan Ranges. By the west of MKN mountain, you can see the Mandalay City and Irrawaddy River. By the south and north of the MKN mountain, you can see the wild mountains. At the top of MKN mountain, there is a big winding you can feel. Surprisingly, you can visit the monastery and see the similar image of Kyaiktiyo pagoda. At the top of the mountain, the wind always blows loudly and it make your hair on the air if you have long hair like sailing under the sun rise, however you would not

feel hot as Mandalay weather. Also, you can have conversation with your fellows or with monks when you visit Monastery campus.

In closing, you should also make sure that you are prepared before you go to Mya Kha Nauk because there are no restaurants and no place to charge your phone and camera batteries. In case, we like to recommend to bring slippers or shoes, to bring your lunch and enough water for the climb, to bring your hat. In the whole trip of MKN, you can take many stunning pictures with the nature at least one more, can have small conversation, meditate and listen to the Mya Kha Nauk Monastery principle's doctrines. Moreover, you as a MKN tracker at least need to be in top physical condition and experienced a one hour walk. According to Author Mary Davis, "To walk in nature is to witness a thousand miracles." Hence, as a being human in the globe, how would you handle in your life to penetrate the true meaning of life.



Eulogy to the Month of Thadingyut

When swelling clouds have scudded away,
A new blue sky follows;
When there sparkle diamond stars
on the black velvet of the night,
a sea of yellow oil lamp lights,
on the balmy pagoda glows.

Let the Light shine where
Darkness has reigned,
Let Peace heal where War
has pained.
Remember
Blood brotherhoods must
come together,
Joining Hands and
entwining Hearts
Hand joys and love to this
Mother Earth.

By Zaw Tun

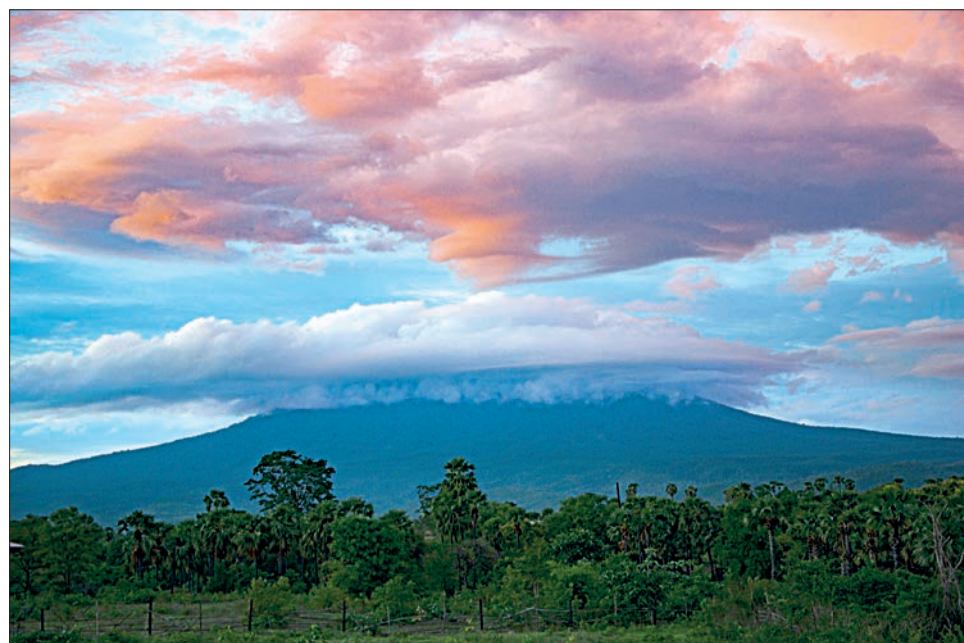


By Htwe Ko Yadanabon Univeristy

Unfinished painting of the past scenery of Popa Mountain Region

By Than Tun
(Myanmar Geoscience Society)
(Translated into English by
Khin Maung Win)
PHOTOS: Chan Thar

Since the early part of 2017, the researchers explored the area to find out more features of geologic significance that would support the on-going endeavors for Popa Region to be listed in the UNESCO National Geopark Project.



It is considered Popa Volcano has emerged in the arid Myingyan plain of central Myanmar since the later part of Miocene epoch that is some 15 million years ago. Now it has become extinct, been raised to a height of 4980 feet and generated a scenic beauty with lush green vegetation and fair weather. So it has been dubbed “an Oasis” in the hot arid Myingyan plain of central Myanmar and remarked as one of the most beautiful places of Myanmar.

The name Popa (ပုပ္ပ) has derived from Pope (ပုပ္ပ) in Pali that means “flower” in Myanmar as the whole mountain proper and its surroundings are flourished with flowers of all descriptions. The Popa area is easily accessible as it is located in the middle of the country and hence local inhabitants enjoy a better life especially from agricultural and tourism sectors and local pilgrimage. It is only 29 miles away from Bagan, a well-known tourist attraction where thousands of ancient religious edifices of different sizes, shapes and architectural designs and unspoiled traditional cultures of the villages occur. Furthermore, Popa Taungkalat (steep-sided rocky mountain which is considered by many geologists to be the remain of volcanic plug) is also famous for its abodes of 37 Nats (spiritual beings) where Nat believers usually gather and hold the Nat Pwes (Nat-worshipping ceremonies) which obviously attract the local visitors as well as foreign tourists. Therefore, Popa is a place year round busy with visitors.

The history of Popa area is an integral part of the Bagan. Kings of Bagan were in one way or another connected with Popa. According to the historical record king Pyusawhti arrived in Popa by riding the royal elephant in AD 167; king Thelegyaung visited Popa in AD 352 and built a shrine for Nat Tint Te and his sister; Anawyahta could have mobilized in Popa area to rebel against and dethrone the Bagan king Sokkate in 1044; and Bagan king Uzana had singled out an ordinary Popa lady and raised her to his queen in the name of Queen Saw in 1249. (Tin Naing Toe 2014)

Geology of Popa Area

Popa mountain is situated on the central volcanic line of Myanmar and at the northern extreme of Bago Yoma (Bago Mountain Range). Popa mountain was formed mainly by volcanic rocks of Andesite and Basalt. In some places volcanic rocks were found interbedded with Irrawaddian Sandstones. The areal extent of the Popa Volcano is about 215 sq.kl.

Irrawaddian Sandstone containing fossil woods and vertebrate fossils

occur commonly in this area. Irrawaddian group generally consisting of sandy grits, sandstones and mudstones occur extensively on both sides of the Irrawaddy River starting from Myitkyina region in the north and extending to the south down to Cape Negrai through the Yangon region. The discovery of vertebrate fossils of ancient crocodiles, elephants, buffaloes, cows, deers and rhinos from this Irrawaddian rocks much attracted the vertebrate paleontologists. The faunas found in the Irrawaddian rock group were found to be similar to those found in India. The age of the Irrawaddian rocks is Upper Miocene (Pontian) to Pliocene. The fossils discovered indicate that those mammals inhabited in this area.

Miocene Epoch

In the geologic time scale Miocene epoch starts from 23 million years ago and ends at 5.3 million years ago. Most of the fauna and flora of Miocene time are similar to those of the present age (except those found in South America and Australia). The present position and distribution of the continents during Miocene epoch is almost the same to that of the present time. Mammals were developed and diversified in Miocene time and global warming that persisted till the end of Middle Miocene

also shed some effects on the fauna and flora of that time. Middle Miocene saw the temperate climate with 4 to 5 degree Celsius higher than the temperature of the present day. Then, during Miocene time the tectonic plates collided resulting the formation of mountain ranges including prominent Andes and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges. Mammals were flourishing in Miocene and it is metaphorically denoted as golden age for Hominids and Apes. Hominids including the transitional forms Ggartopithecus, Dryopithecus and Sivapithecus were primarily developed in Africa and Eurasia. The Miocene warming began 21 million years ago and continued until 14 million years ago, when global temperatures took a sharp drop. By 8 million years ago, temperatures dropped sharply once again, and the Antarctic Ice sheet was already approaching its present-day size and thickness. Greenland may have begun to have large glaciers as early as 7 to 8 million years ago although the climate for the most part remained warm enough to support forests. Life during the Miocene Epoch was mostly supported by the two newly formed biomes, kelp forests and grasslands. Grasslands allow for more grazers, such as horses, rhinoceroses, and hippos. Ninety five percent of modern plants existed by the end of this epoch.

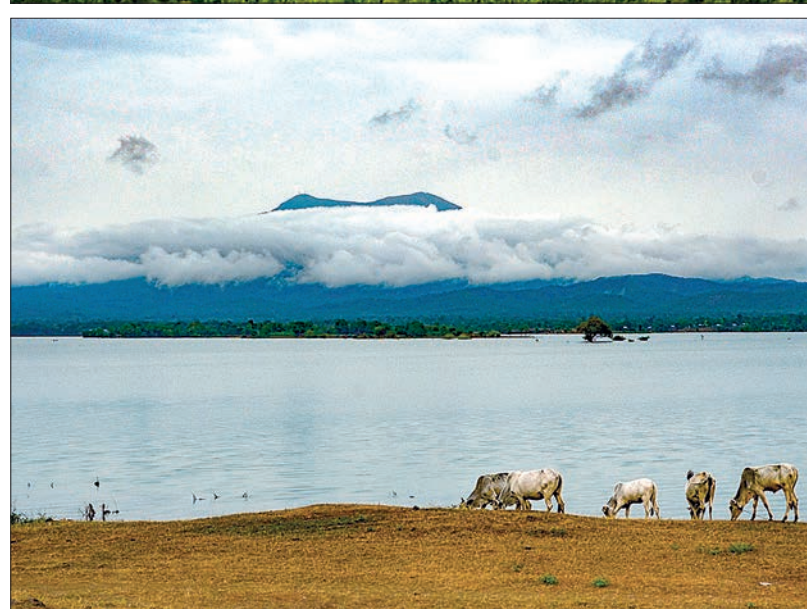
Popa Mountain Area, a fair place in hot and arid central Myanmar

Since the early part of 2017, the researchers from Myanmar Geoscience Society and Geology Department of Yangon University in collaboration with Department of Geological Survey and Exploration and Popa Lover's Association had explored the area to find out more features of geologic significance that would support the on-going endeavors for Popa Region to be listed in the UNESCO National Geopark Project. Geology of Popa Volcano has been studied

since colonial time to the present. However no record of discovery of petrified forest and the fossils of elephant, deer, buffalo, bull, crocodile and tortoise is present till the recent study and exploration has been made. Now recent study could confirm the presence of temperate forest and the animals that prowled in that forest in Popa area in Miocene time as evidenced from the findings of petrified trees and woods and fossils of other animals embedded in Mio-Pliocene Irrawaddian Sandstones in the western part of the area near Thanpho and Gyanlo village.

Popa region in Mio-Pliocene time that was the period between 23 ma and 1.5 ma saw warm temperate lush green forest containing large trees having the height 78ft. to 125 ft. and the girth being 6ft. flourished. Rivers and streams were flowing across the forest and immense grass land which had started developing in later part of Miocene due to climate change from warm wet to cool dry. Drones of large animals including Stegophodon (ancient elephants), buffaloes, cows, deer, wild ox, crocodiles, fish, turtles and other reptiles were the main inhabitants of the area. To have an imaginary picture of the scenery of Popa region of Mio-Pliocene time is very entrancing and entertaining. It is quite different from the scene of present Popa area. Some experts gave the remark that the petrified trees were older than the fossilized remains of the animals. However the present study showed those fossilized plants and animals were coeval in age as they were found together in Mio-Pliocene Irrawaddian beds in the northwest and west of Popa Mountain. In Miocene Period Western Mountain Ranges had not been emerged yet and Popa area had temperate climate with adequate rainfall favorable for large trees to grow. After the emergence of Western Mountain Ranges the central part of Myanmar including Popa area became rain-shadowed resulting the vanishing of the forest due to scanty rainfall and most large mammals and reptiles also disappeared on account of unfavorable environment.

The article is concluded with the urge to researchers of new generation to carry on the exploration of this area to be able to present a complete account on the scenario of Popa area in Mio-Pliocene time and try to discover more geologic features of high significance which is essential in pursuit of a place in the list of UNESCO National Geopark Project. ■



ENGLISH LESSON 9

By C. T. O

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

- (a) The earth moves *round* the sun.
ကမ္ဘာမြေကြီးသည် နေမင်းကို လှည့်ပတ်ရွေ့လျားသည်။
- (b) We sat *round* the table.
ကျွန်တော်တို့ စားပွဲပတ်ပတ်လည်တွင် ထိုင်ခဲ့ကြသည်။
- (c) He looked *round* the room.
သူ့အခန်းပတ်ပတ်လည်ကို ကြည့်လိုက်သည်။
- (d) We went *round* the town.
ကျွန်တော်တို့ မြို့ထဲလျှောက်လည်ခဲ့ကြသည်။
- (e) Come *round* about 6 pm.
ညနေ ၆ နာရီ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်လောက် လာပါ။
24. 'အထဲမှာ' အတွက် **inside** သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
Don't let the dog come *inside* the kitchen.
ခွေးကို မီးဖိုခန်းထဲသို့ မလာပါစေနှင့်။
She was standing just *inside* the gate when I passed by.
ကျွန်တော်ဖြတ်လျှောက်သွားသောအခါ သူမသည် ဝင်းတံခါးအတွင်း ဘက်နားတွင် ရပ်နေသည်။
25. 'အောက်မှာ' အတွက် *below* ကိုသုံးနိုင်သည်။ **above** နှင့် ဆန့်ကျင်ဘက်ဖြစ်သည်။
- (a) Write your name *below* this line.
သင့်နာမည်ကို ဤမျဉ်းအောက်တွင်ရေးပါ။
- (b) The temperature is five degrees *below* freezing-point.
အပူချိန်သည် ရေခဲအမှတ်အောက် ငါးဒီဂရီရောက်နေပြီ။
- (c) Your essay is *below* the standard.
သင့်စာစီစာကုံးအဆင့်အတန်းမမီ။
26. 'ဘေးမှာ' အတွက် **beside** ကိုသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။
- (a) Come and sit *beside* me.
ကျွန်တော်ဘေးမှာလာထိုင်ပါ။
- (b) She wants to live *beside* the sea.
သူမ ပင်လယ်ဘေးမှာ နေလိုသည်။
27. "By" ကို အသုံးပြုပုံအမျိုးမျိုးရှိသဖြင့် နမူနာများကို လေ့လာ ခြင်းဖြင့် သုံးတတ်အောင် ကြိုးစားပါ။ အကြမ်းအားဖြင့်မူ 'အား ဖြင့်' ဟု ဘာသာပြန်ကြသည်။
- (a) He came *by* the nearest road.
သူ့အနီးဆုံးလမ်းမှလာသည်။
- (b) I go *by* the post office every morning on my way to school.
ကျွန်တော် နံနက်တိုင်းကျောင်းအသွားတွင် စာတိုက်နားမှ ဖြတ် သွားလေ့ရှိသည်။
- (c) The enemy attacked *by* night.
ရန်သူသည် ညအချိန်တွင် တိုက်ခိုက်ခဲ့သည်။
- (d) The streets are lighted *by* electricity.
လမ်းများကို လျှပ်စစ်မီးဖြင့် ထွန်းညှိထားသည်။
- (e) The cat was killed *by* the dog.
ကြောင်ကို ခွေးသတ်ခဲ့သည်။
(Passive Voice တွင် **by** သုံးသည်။)
- (f) He will go to Mandalay *by* train.
သူ မန္တလေးသို့ မီးရထားဖြင့်သွားလိမ့်မည်။
- (g) He has learnt the passage *by* heart.
သူ စာပိုဒ်ကို အလွတ်ကျက်ပြီးပြီ။
- (h) Don't judge people *by* appearance.
လူများကို အသွင်အပြင်အားဖြင့် မဆုံးဖြတ်ပါနှင့်။
- (i) The bullet missed him *by* two inches.
ကျည်ဆန်သည် သူ့ကို နှစ်လက်မ ကပ်လွဲသွားသည်။

- (j) The enemy soldiers tell *by* the thousands.
ရန်သူစစ်သားများ ထောင်ချီ၍ကျဆုံးခဲ့သည်။

Essay – writing

ပေးထားသော အချက်အလက်များ (Outlines) ပေါ်အခြေခံ၍ စာစီစာကုံးရေးသားပုံကို ဤသင်ခန်းစာတွင်တင်ပြထားပါသည်။

ပေးထားသည့် နမူနာ စာစီစာကုံးများမှအခြေခံပညာရေးအဆင့် မြင့်တန်း **English Text books** တွင်ပါသည့် **outlines** များကို အခြေခံ၍ ရေးထားသည့်စာစီစာကုံးများဖြစ်သည်။

ပေးထားသည့် အချက်အလက်များလောက်သာ ပြန်ရေးလိုက်လျှင် ပြည့်စုံမည်မဟုတ်ပါ။ စာစီစာကုံးတစ်ပုဒ်လည်းဖြစ်လာမည်မဟုတ်ပါ။

ပေးထားသော အချက်အလက်များပေါ် အခြေခံ၍ ဆက်စပ်ဆီလျော်သော စာကြောင်းများ ဖြည့်စွက်ရေးသားတတ်ရန် လိုပါသည်။

ဤအချက်ကို လေးနက်စေလို၍ အောက်ပါနမူနာ စာစီစာကုံးများ ကို တင်ပြခြင်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။ လေ့လာပါ။

Goal in life

Points given for the essay –
Goal in life ... to become a famous painter
Things you do ...

- (spend) pocket money on paints and paint-brushes
- (take) painting and drawing lessons from the drawing master in school twice a week
- (draw) pictures and paint after school and on holidays
- (also draw) cartoons for the school magazine
- (have won) many prizes in school
- (hope) to be a famous painter

Begin your essay like this:
My goal in life is to become a famous painter.

My goal in life is to become a famous painter.
I am a schoolboy. I am in the ninth standard. I am rading at Insein No.1 Basic Education High Level School. I work hard at my lessons. But I am interested in painting.

I spend my pocket mony on paints and paint-brushes. I take drawing and painting lessons from the drawing master at school twice a week. He is a good teacher and he likes me very much. I draw pictures and paint after school and on holidays. I draw cartoons for the school magazines and wall papers. I have won many prizes at school. I shall work hard to pass the ninth standard examination this year and the tenth standard examination next year. My parents are not rich. They want me to be an engineer or a teacher. I have told them that I want to be an artist like U Ngwe Gaing. So, when I pass the tenth standard examination. I shall not go to college. I shall join the State School of Fine Arts in Yangon. I shall learn drawing and painting for two years. Then, I shall earn my living as a painter. When U Ngwe Gaing was young, he did not earn enough as a painter. But, painters of today have good incomes. I shall study the paintings of well known artists. I shall read books on painting. I shall paint

for journals, magazines and pictorial books. I shall work hard to become a famous artist like U Ngwe Gaing.

Glossary

wall papers	နံရံကပ်စာစောင်များ
income	ဝင်ငွေ
earn a living	သက်မွေးဝမ်းကျောင်းပြု
State School of Fine Arts	ပန်းချီပန်းပုသင်တန်းကျောင်း
pictorial books	ရုပ်စုံစာအုပ်

Football, a popular game

Ideas that can be used to support it:

(a) played in all parts of the world
(b) included in the Olympic and South East Asian Games
(c) people who do not play the game still love to watch it
(d) popular in Myanmar
(e) have Inter-State and Division matches
(f) Myanmar regularly takes part in the Asian Games
(g) Myanmar has won many matches

Football is a popular game. It is played in all parts of the world. It is included in the Olympic and South East Asian Games. It is an outdoor game. It is played in a large field.

We need two teams to play it. One team contains 11 players. The teams wear different uniforms. We also need a ball and to goal-posts. The team which scores more goals than the other wins the game. Football has become a national game of Myanmar. It is played at schools and clolleges, offices and factories and towns and villages. It is played only by men and boys. But in some countries it is also played by women and girls. In Myanmar we have Inter-State and Division matches. They are held in the Aung-san Stadium. People who do not play the game still love to watch it because it is an exciting game. The Inter-State and Division matches are watched by thousands of people. Myanmar regularly takes part in the Asian Games and have won many matches.

I love playing football. I play it every evening. I am on the school team. I want to become a famous footballer. A good player needs strength, stamina, skill, speed and sporting spirit. I shall try to become a famous player.

Glossary

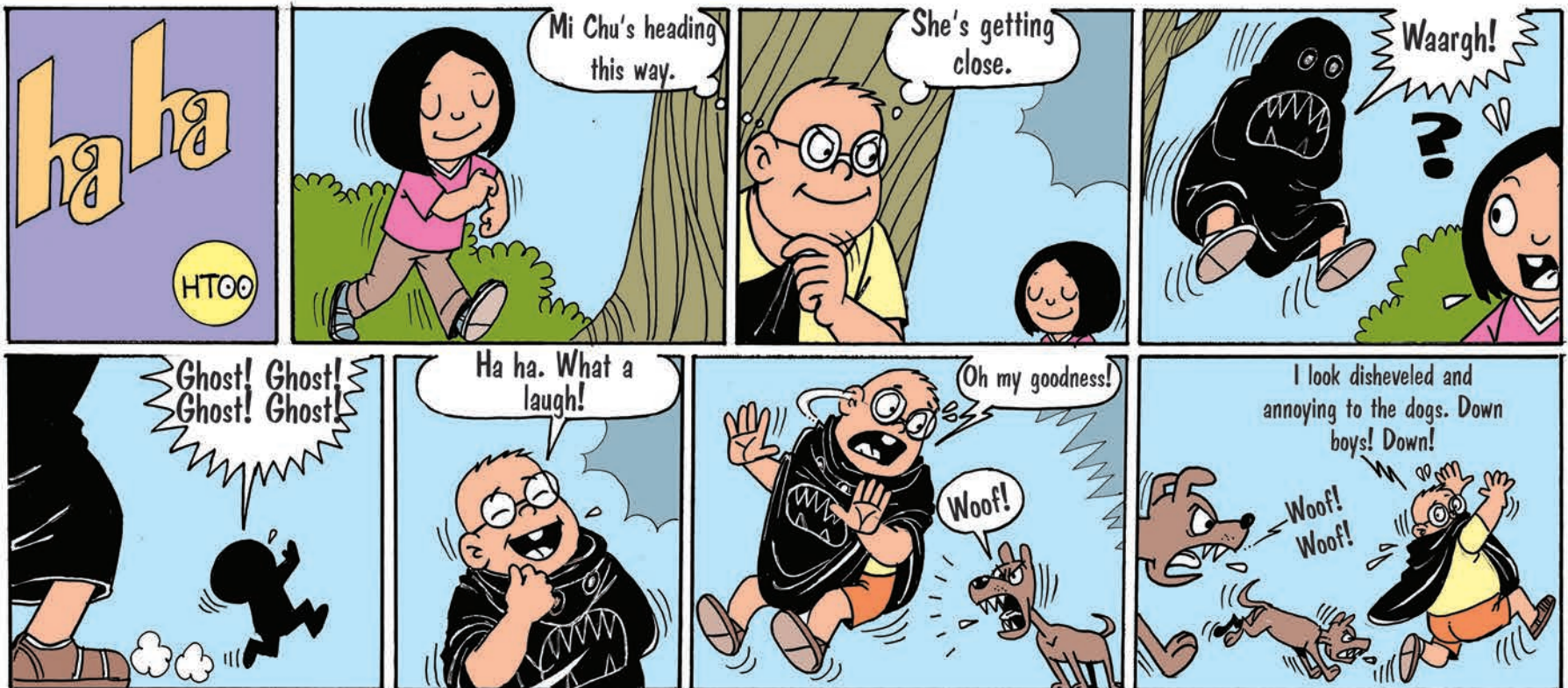
outdoor game	အိမ်ပြင်ကစားခုန်စား
scores more goals	ဂိုးပိုသွင်း
goal-posts	ဂိုးတိုင်
exciting	စိတ်လှုပ်ရှားဖွယ်ကောင်းသော
Inter-State and Division matches	ပြည်နယ်နှင့်တိုင်းပွဲများ
stamina	သက်လုံ
skill	ကျွမ်းကျင်မှု
speed	လျင်မြန်ဖျတ်လတ်မှု
sporting spirit	အားကစားစိတ်ဓာတ်

How I helped an old woman who was ill

- (meet) an old woman waiting for a taxi
- (look) thin and weak
- (feel) sorry for her
- (help) her to go to the hospital
- (tell) me she (be) very poor and live only on boiled rice
- (comfort) her and (promise) to visit her every evening
- (take) food to her a (promise)
- Soon recover and (be) thankful to me for looking after her

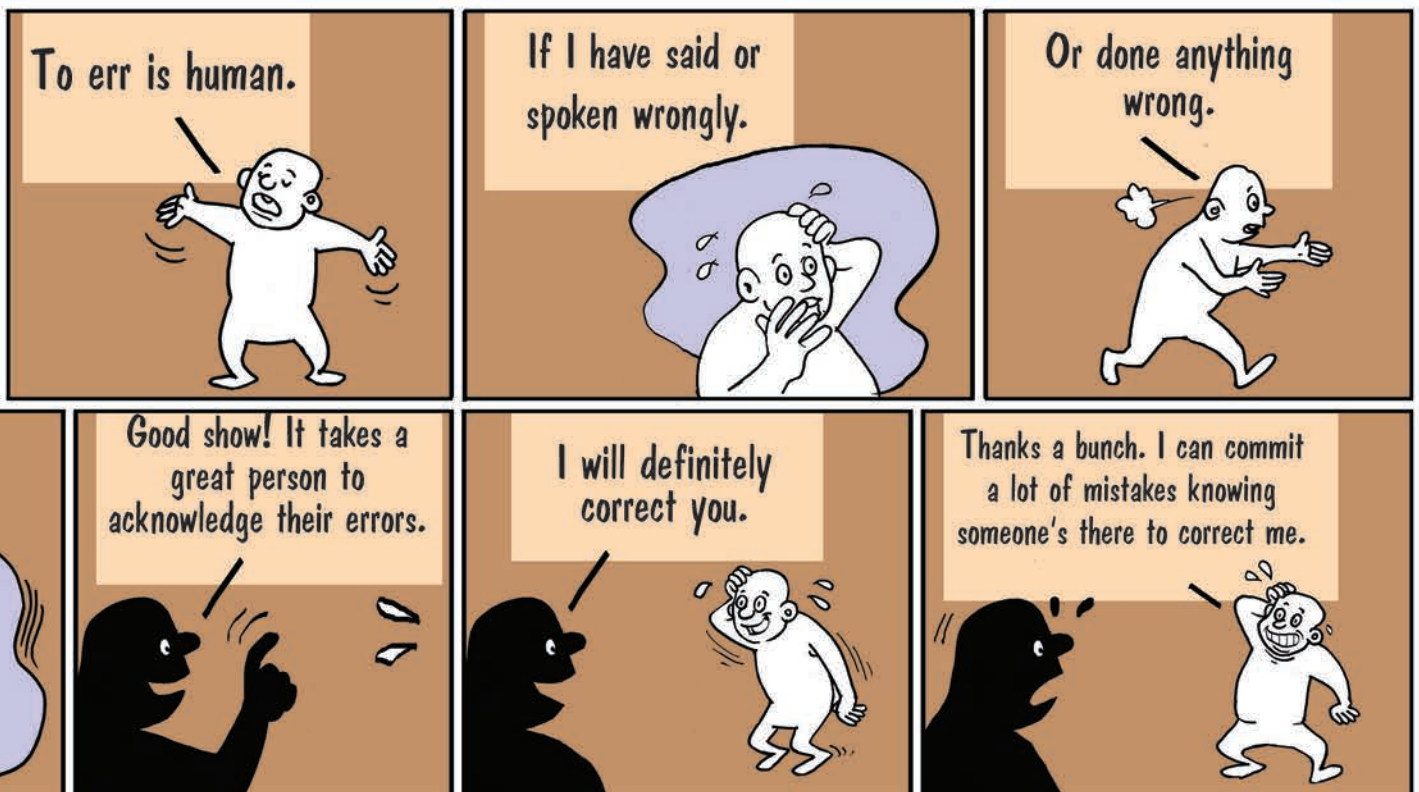
(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

SUNDAY COMICS



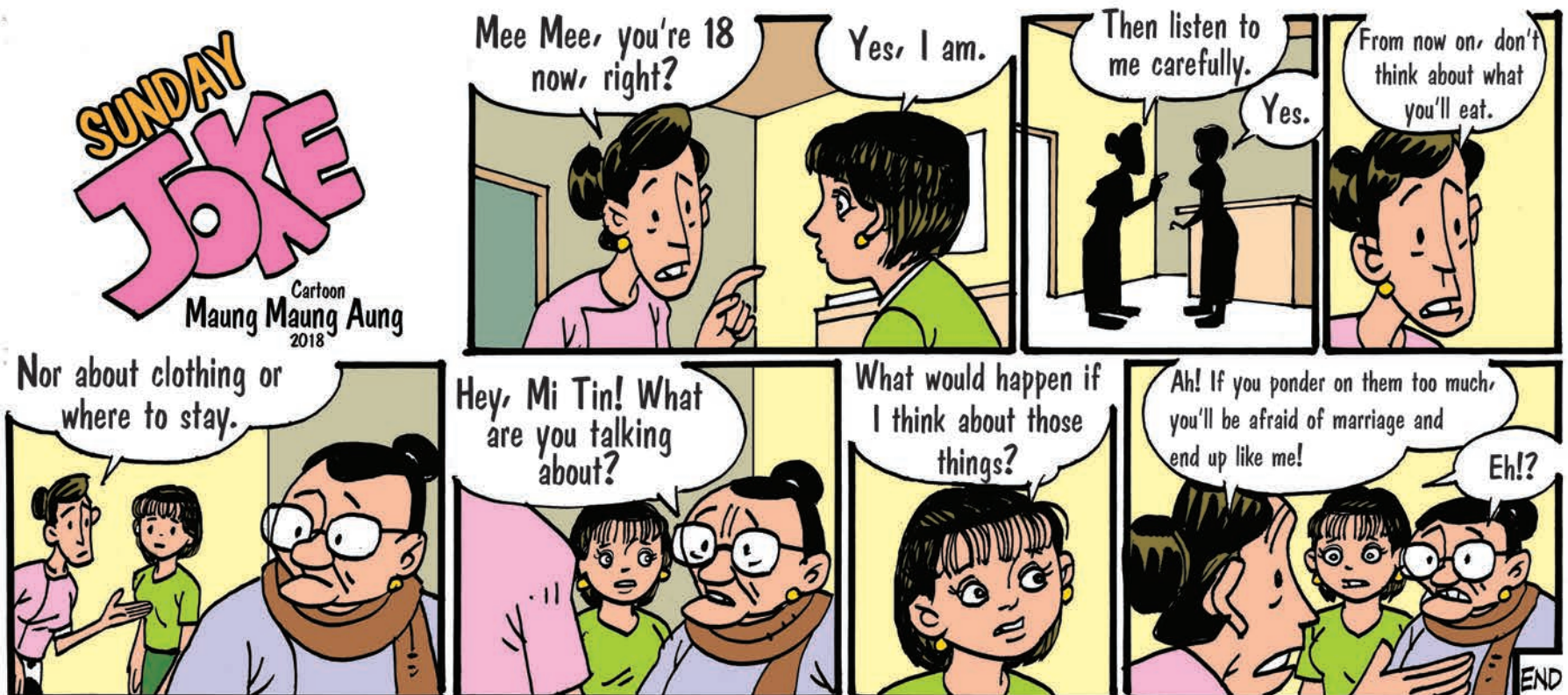
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

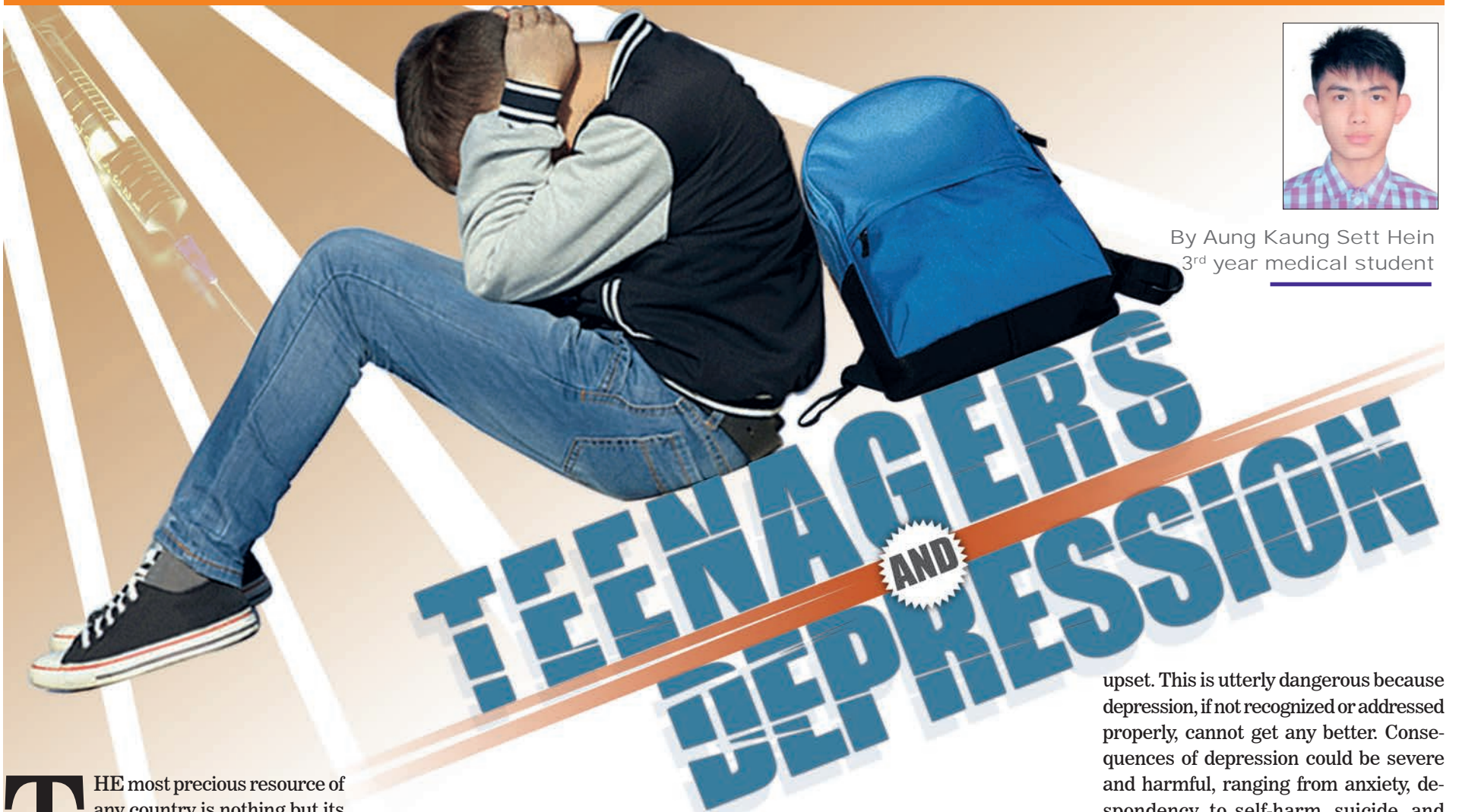
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018





By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
3rd year medical student

THE most precious resource of any country is nothing but its human resource, which largely consists of teenagers and young people. Teenagers are not only the nation's present but also its future, its treasure, pride, and joy. To prevent a human resource curse in any land, these young teenagers must be valued and taken care of in a way that could help them realize their own potentials and capabilities. But as valuable as they are, teenagers of this day and age could be susceptible to a higher risk of depression and a simmering discontent with their lives.

Depression is a mental and emotional disorder that shows symptoms of constant sadness, loss of interest in activities and decreased self-esteem. This could slowly gradually impact the way a teenager thinks, feels, and behaves, leading to emotional as well as physical problems. Growing reports about teenage alcoholism, drug problems, cutting and eating disorders are all clearly highlighting the fact that depression during teenage years is a very real issue, as all those crises are linked with depression. Especially in an age inundated with social media and smartphones, even though these cannot be directly blamed for depression

striking teenagers, they are partly responsible for unhealthy addictions as well as constant comparisons among teenagers, producing bouts of insecurities, stress, and feelings of inadequacy, which are again strongly linked to depression.

Teenagers could be more vulnerable to depression, because teenage years in a life are when a lot of things seem confusing and unclear, with both physical and emotional changes vaguely happening along with time and a large combination of mixed feelings taking place in their mental continuum. During this period, they usually start being self-conscious and end up comparing themselves to people around them, and thinking that other people's gain equates to their loss, and other people's fortunes mean their misfortune. This could lead to teenagers not realizing their own worth and potential and instead feeling pressured to act or be a certain way. To avoid this, teenagers must be encouraged by parents and teachers to always be themselves and be educated that they do not need to use other people as a measuring scale to rate themselves.

Some unfortunate teenagers suffer from depression as a result of being bullied. Bullying and harassment, in any

form, whether it is physical, verbal or online, have a detrimental effect on a person's self-confidence and mental well-being, leading to feeling helpless and hopeless. It not only escalates the rate of depression during their teenage years but it is also responsible for long-lasting depression later during adulthood. All forms of bullying are wrong and unjustifiable, and teenagers who have been victimized must be unconditionally supported and assisted professionally as required. Collective measures at a local and national level must be regularly taken on campuses, streets, and online platforms to prevent, stop, and intervene bullying whenever it is discovered. Moreover, family circumstances could also precede or cause depression. Family and parents are a teenager's inspirational force in his/her life, and teenagers who grow up in a happy loving family being cherished and cared are less likely to become depressed compared to those who live amongst family problems and do not obtain sufficient affection they deserve, because the latter start feeling insecure and worthless.

Unfortunately, these days, signs of depression in teenagers are erroneously dismissed as being simply moody or

upset. This is utterly dangerous because depression, if not recognized or addressed properly, cannot get any better. Consequences of depression could be severe and harmful, ranging from anxiety, despondency, to self-harm, suicide, and violence. Teenagers who have become depressed due to family issues could end up running away from homes as a way to escape seemingly unalterable parts of their life and relieve their stress. Depressed teenagers could lose interest in their academics for a lengthy period of time and perform poorly in exams, as their focus is more on other elements surrounding their life.

It is important for parents to be able to recognize symptoms of depression in their children, such as irritability or loss of interest in things they used to be interested in. Awareness of teenage depression needs to be raised in school and university campuses, as well as through media. Depression is a horrible disease that takes or ruins precious teenagers' lives every single day around the world. Talking and listening to depressed teens and at least letting them know that "it can get better" can even alleviate their initial depressive symptoms. Hence, we should invest in a future where depression is prioritized as a serious issue to be instantly addressed, and professional support is made accessible for teens battling with depression.

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