

I 次の英文を読んで、以下の設問に日本語で答えなさい。

On a street in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, a seafood café is setting up for the evening rush. Styrofoam¹ boxes are ripped open. The broken tops are dumped in the street. Plastic bags full of prawns are emptied into trays, then thrown out. In a few minutes, a small mountain of trash piles up on the sidewalk. As a rickshaw² passes by, its riders throw an empty plastic drink container onto the piles. This is one of hundreds of mounds of plastic that dot this rapidly urbanizing city. In April, *The Guardian* featured a shocking photo essay on the accumulation of plastic in the Cambodian city of Sihanoukville. It showed mountains of trash dumped on streets and beaches. But this plastic dystopia³ is not unique to Cambodia. If we don't act now and cut it out of our daily lives, we, as well as the environment, will suffer irreparable⁴ harm.

We live in a world of plastic. It is an amazingly convenient material —cheap, light, flexible, and durable.⁵ Used for bags, bottles and containers, it is in our homes, schools and workplaces. But that uncontrolled use⁽¹⁾ has come at a heavy price. The worldwide total volume of plastic has reached 8.3 billion metric tons, equal to more than 800,000 Eiffel Towers, according to a 2017 article in *Science Advances*. Of this enormous amount, 6.3 billion metric tons have been thrown away as waste. Around 10 million plastic bags are used in Phnom Penh every day, according to an international NGO. Urban Cambodians use more than 2,000 plastic bags every year. Around 90% of the world's plastic waste ends up in the ocean. Most of it arrives by way of just 10 major rivers, one of which is the Mekong. Every year, 8 million tons of plastic reach the ocean, which is equal to a full garbage truck every minute.

The biggest problem is that plastic does not biodegrade⁶ easily.⁽²⁾ It stays around for thousands of years. Slowly, it leaks chemical substances that

are harmful for the environment, for animals and for people. In marine areas, many mammals, fish and birds suffer from eating plastic or becoming entangled⁷ in plastic materials. More than 90% of all birds and fish are reported to have plastic particles in their stomach. In this way, toxic chemicals accumulate and pass through the food chain. Since fish consists of more than 60% of the protein intake⁸ for rural Cambodians, this is a significant problem. For all these reasons, taking action to reduce the harmful impacts of plastic is an urgent task.⁽³⁾ So what can be done?

It is heartening that many countries have implemented policy measures to tackle their plastic problem. Last year, Kenya completely banned the production, sale and use of plastic bags. Violations may result in imprisonment of up to four years, or fines of up to \$40,000. Many other countries, including Bangladesh, Rwanda and China, are following Kenya's lead, putting in place either total or partial bans on plastic bags, or new forms of plastic taxation. In Cambodia, too, new initiatives are emerging to fight plastic pollution. In April, the Ministry of Environment introduced new regulation for the use of plastic bags. Major supermarkets such as *Aeon* and *Lucky* now charge 10 cents per bag. The Ministry of Environment is also considering plans for jute⁹ bags as an alternative. The school curriculum is being updated to educate future generations on the harm caused by plastics.

One promising idea to fight plastic pollution is known as the circular economy, which focuses on waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (3R). In a circular economy, waste is treated as a valuable material that should be reused or recycled, not only in order to reduce the volume of trash but also to generate new economic opportunities.⁽⁴⁾ First of all, this requires policies that actively encourage a 3R approach to plastic waste. For example, the EU adopted a Circular Economy Action Plan in 2016, which includes targets for recycling 75% of packaging waste by 2030 and making

all plastic packaging recyclable by the same date. The EU is also proposing a ban on the most commonly used single-use plastic products. But making ⁽⁵⁾a circular economy take off also requires the active involvement of citizens and the private sector. Even small individual acts, such as bringing one's own shopping bag to the market, contribute to lowering the amount of plastic waste. Businesses can ban plastic bags and encourage the use of biodegradable bags. The United Nations Development Programme in Cambodia has done so, at its office. Hotels and factories have the opportunity to create networks of recycling and reusing materials, simultaneously saving money and decreasing waste.

In order to introduce lasting change, it is critical to raise awareness. This can happen through environmental education and information campaigns, directed at young people especially, as well as at the private sector. Finally, new approaches to good solid waste management are essential. Given the mountains of plastic we generate, this won't be easy. But if we all commit to beating plastic pollution, we can make a monumental difference.

(Adapted from a work by Nick Beresford, Moeko Saito Jensen, George Edgar, and Maria Sargren)

(注)

1. **styrofoam** 発泡スチロール
2. **rickshaw** 輪タク (自転車やバイクに客席を取り付けたタクシー)
3. **dystopia** 理想郷とは真逆の世界, 暗黒世界
4. **irreparable** 取り返しのつかない
5. **durable** 丈夫な
6. **biodegrade** 微生物によって組織を分解する
7. **entangle** 絡まる
8. **intake** 摂取量
9. **jute** ジュート (帆布・袋などの原料になる麻)

〈 設 問 〉

[1] 下線部(1)の **that uncontrolled use** とはどのような使用状況を言っているのか, 本文の内容に沿って説明しなさい。

[2] 下線部(2)の事実によって生物ならびに人間に起きていることを, 科学的な要因にも言及して説明しなさい。

[3] 下線部(3)について, 各国が実施している対応策で, 後述の **circular economy** 以外の方策をすべて挙げなさい。

[4] 下線部(4)を日本語に訳しなさい。

[5] 下線部(5)について, 次の(a), (b)に答えなさい。

- (a) 下線部(5)を実施するために「市民」と「ホテルや工場を含めた民間部門」がなすべきことは何か, 答えなさい。
- (b) 下線部(5)を維持するための状況を作り出すには, 何をどうすることが必要だと筆者は述べているか, 答えなさい。

II 次の英文を読んで、以下の設問に**英語**で答えなさい。

They call themselves a book club. Usually they meet one Saturday a month, men and women mostly in their 20s and 30s, to discuss a literary classic. Today is unusual. Today, they have decided to discuss the story of their country. Its protagonist¹ is their prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, whose rise to the top post in late March has pulled Ethiopia back from an explosive political situation.

At 41, Mr. Abiy is one of the youngest leaders in all of Africa, itself the continent with world's youngest population. And he is changing some of the old ways of doing things. Since taking office, Mr. Abiy has held town hall meetings around the country and listened to what people had to say. He has apologized for the killings of protesters by government forces and called for unity among the country's many ethnic groups. Perhaps most unusual of all, he has welcomed political differences of opinion — almost unheard of in a country where dissidents² have often been imprisoned. On Friday, his office said on Twitter that it would no longer block 264 websites, blogs and television stations, many of them pro-opposition.

“He feels our pain,” said one member of the book club, a university lecturer named Mekonnen Mengesha, 33. “Because he's our contemporary. We have a generation gap with the old leaders.” However, not everyone is cheering the changes. On Saturday, someone tossed a grenade³ into a rally for Mr. Abiy in Addis Ababa, injuring several people, according to officials. A spokesman said the prime minister was “safe.”

Ethiopia is Africa's second most populated country after Nigeria. And even for Africa, it is astonishingly young. The median age⁴ of its 100 million people is 18. Satisfying their demands — both economic and political — will be Mr. Abiy's biggest test. Already, he has made some

uncommon, politically strategic moves. He ordered the end of emergency rule earlier than planned. It was imposed for the second time in less than two years to control the widening, mostly youth-led anti-government demonstrations that had been disturbing the country. He also pardoned one of his country's top level political prisoners, a British citizen named Andargachew Tsige who had been sentenced to death in connection with his role in Ginbot 7, which the government regards as a terrorist group.

"Prime Minister Abiy is the kind of guy who is good at saying the right things to a domestic audience and giving the right gestures to international development partners," said Tamrat Giorgis, editor of *Addis Fortune*, an English language weekly paper. What he has yet to see, Mr. Giorgis said, is whether those words and gestures amount to a strategy of liberalization.⁵

Still, Mr. Abiy did make a number of bold moves this month. His government said it would honor a peace deal to settle a bloody border dispute with Ethiopia's neighbor and rival, Eritrea. This has the potential to end Mr. Abiy's biggest national security headache. The government also said it would sell shares of two of the biggest state-owned enterprises, opening the doors for a flow of cash into the country's economy to solve a foreign currency shortage. And Mr. Abiy went to Cairo, a rare trip for an Ethiopian leader, in an attempt to ease tensions with Egypt over a hydropower⁶ dam his country is building on the Nile.

"If the economy is the prime minister's most pressing⁷ challenge, the peace deal with Eritrea is the riskiest," said Rashid Abdi, the Horn of Africa director for the International Crisis Group. That is because it could encourage opposition against Mr. Abiy from the old guard of his party, which he has unseated.⁸ "He has raised huge expectations through his bold policy announcements and, perhaps, by his effective way of speaking," Mr. Abdi said. "Managing them could prove very difficult."

Mr. Abiy is also different from former Ethiopian politicians because of who he is. He is part Oromo, one of the country's largest ethnic groups. Its members have long complained of being isolated and having little influence. Mr. Abiy is no stranger to the Ethiopian establishment, though. A former military officer, he rose through the ranks of the political coalition⁹ that calls itself the Ethiopian People's Democratic Revolutionary Front and has virtual complete power. The party controls Parliament entirely, along with the justice system. It enjoys the support of a powerful military. Civil and political rights are limited. Land is controlled by the government.

Mr. Abiy represents the younger, more reformist¹⁰ wing of the party, though it has yet to implement systematic political or economic reforms. He has not said anything about negotiating with opposition groups inside the country and abroad, for instance. And he has done little to assure ordinary citizens that their institutions — the police, justice, the press — can be independent.

"Is it possible for him to deliver under this system?" asked Mr. Mengesha, the university lecturer. One of the book club members, Ms. Getachew, pointed out that the prime minister had yet to organize a national dialogue with the opposition. Nor had he proposed a road map for political reforms leading to the next elections. "He is raising a lot of expectations," she said. "At the end of the day, he is still leading the country with the old party structure, the old government structure, the old laws." Where their own story would go, the members of the book club couldn't say. The protagonist of this story was turning out to be as complicated as the central figure in the last book they read, *The Prince* by Machiavelli.

(Adapted from a work by Somini Sengupta)

(Notes)

1. protagonist: main character
2. dissident: someone who publicly criticizes the government
3. grenade: small bomb thrown by hand
4. median age: the age used to divide a country's population into two equal parts: one-half below the median age and one-half above the median age
5. liberalization: making an economic or political system more open
6. hydropower: the production of electricity by the force of fast-moving water
7. pressing: urgent
8. unseat: to remove from office
9. coalition: a union of two or more political parties
10. reformist: progressive

〈Questions〉

- [1] According to the passage, what is unique about Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's way of governing the country? Write your answer in about 30 words.
- [2] According to the passage, what is Ethiopia's most important national security problem? How does Mr. Abiy intend to tackle it? Write your answer in about 30 words.
- [3] What do the underlined sentences mean? Explain the meaning in your own words.
- [4] According to the passage, why is Mr. Abiy not so different from former Ethiopian politicians? Write your answer in about 30 words.
- [5] According to the passage, what do the book club members think about the new prime minister? Write your answer in about 30 words.