131st Anniversary of Construction Ministry’s Public Works Department celebrated

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin attended the 131st anniversary of the Ministry of Construction’s Public Works Department held at the Ministry of Construction in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Amintha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Myo Nyunt, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Ministers from States and Regions for communication, electricity and construction, retired officers, invited guests and officials were also in attendance.

The 131st anniversary event of the Public Works Department was held on the lawn in front of the Ministry of Construction office, where the President pressed a button to unveil the 131st anniversary commemorative stone pillar.

Youths to volunteer for rehabilitation in N Rakhine

TO carry out voluntary service for rehabilitation in northern Rakhine, a second batch of youths are receiving on-the-job training in Yangon conducted by the Union Enterprises for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD).

A total of 56 trainees from Rakhine State and other regions and states are participating in the training, which began yesterday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the training, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye called for the youths to prepare their best to overcome possible challenges when they carry out door-to-door humanitarian service for 20 days in northern Rakhine. The Union Minister expressed delight for the success of the first batch of youths who contributed their service with diligence and perseverance.

“The UEHRD is the all-inclusive project which will be implemented with the force of the people. In providing humanitarian aid to the conflict-affected people in the region, this is a chance for youths to show their abilities with firm determination”, Dr Win Myat Aye said.

“The opportunity to take part in the campaign is of great importance and will show the characteristics of our young people”, Myanmar News Agency
Implementation Coordination Meeting on NCA

AN Implementation Coordination Meeting on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said the meeting was being held one month after the first meeting in Yangon on 25 and 26 October. Many points were agreed upon in the first meeting and, in addition to holding a UPDJC meeting, starting from 17 November, work group meetings were held for four days and a secretariat meeting was held for a day. Due to the efforts of those meetings, in addition to political framework, five work guidelines were reviewed and requirements added. As many points were agreed to yesterday’s UPDJC meeting, only a few remain to be discussed.

Similarly, standard operating procedure (SOP) for national-level political discussion was approved in yesterday’s UPDJC meeting. Based on the submission by the secretariat group, in order for some points in the framework on political discussion to be discussed in JICM, UPDJC confirmed to transfer it to Implementation Coordination Meeting on NCA.

“As per the NCA, the political discussion framework was drawn up in 60 days, and some difficulties were encountered when it was actually implemented. For now, with an exception of a few left to be confirmed, the remaining is amended and SOPs were also drawn. It is strongly believed that the remaining peace process can be smoothly implemented”, said the Union Attorney-General.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said this Implementation Coordination Meeting on the NCA is the second meeting after the second anniversary of the NCA. In the first meeting, discussions were based on 21 points. Misunderstandings based on the NCA and misunderstandings against each other based on the existing laws were discussed. The main thing is that signing of the NCA is heading toward a permanent peace.

“The government, Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organisations sign the NCA with the spirit of peace. NCA was discussed thoroughly and signed after overcoming difficulties. We need to discuss openly of our requirements and in accordance with the principal of discussion and negotiation.

“However, in the present situation, there are some points that need time to be negotiated and discussed so we need to understand this as an exception and implement it. In our eagerness we must not rush the main points to implement. Implementing over eagerly will result in disagreement on these points that could delay the process even further. Both sides need to negotiate”, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said.

Yebaw Than Ge, head of work group on Implementation Coordination on NCA from NCA-S-EAO, said the work group has many responsibilities. The EAO side had proposed to review three sections in NCA implementation. He believed that the day’s meeting can discuss this quickly.

“Whether it is in the concept, process or implementation section, EAO believed that the main thing is to find the meeting point where everyone can come to. This will be discussed and negotiated today. What we understand is that there are some things that can be done in a short time and some that will need more time”, he said.

“In the day’s meeting officials from EAOs who had signed, the government and Tatmadaw as well remaining who hadn’t sign the NCA will be able to find the meeting point and make the best preparation for JICM meeting that will be held soon. It will be a beneficial meeting for the country”, said Yebaw Than Ge.

Next the approval of the meeting agenda and discussion on implementation coordination on the NCA was conducted.

Afterwards, Yebaw Than Ge, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo reviewed the results of the meeting and concluded the meeting.

The Implementation Coordination Meeting on the NCA was attended by nine representatives from the Government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw and 12 representatives from NCA-S-EAO.

—Myanmar News Agency

Ceremony to honour elderly journalists

A ceremony to pay homage and to honour elderly journalists was held for the fourth time by the Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA) yesterday morning in Yangon City Hall.

At the ceremony, MJA Chairman U Thha Saw explained the reasons for holding the event.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said the honoured elderly journalists to whom homage is being paid are the people that they admired. Their actions throughout their lives, especially their conduct for newspaper and journals, are very respectable. During his youth, much was gained from repeatedly reading and studying the writings and titles of the newspapers and journals. Next-generation journalists are urged to maintain this fine tradition, said the Union Minister.

Representatives sit down for discussions regarding the implementation coordination on nationwide ceasefire agreement in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 November 2017. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Afterwards, MJA Secretary U Kyaw Swe Min introduced the 130 elderly journalists to the attendees of the ceremony.

MJA member U Aung Thu Myaing then recited the words of homage with Dr. Pe Myint, Yangon Command commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone, MJA patron, chairman, members and ceremony attendees. Ks1 million was donated by President U Htin Kyaw for the ceremony to honour the MJA elderly journalists, which was presented by Dr. Pe Myint to MJA patron U Ko Ko.

Similarly Ks4.4 million worth of gifts donated by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was presented by Yangon Command commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone and was accepted by MJA Vice Chairman U Myat Khahng.

Ks500,000 donated by retired President U Thein Sein and Daw Khin Khin Win, Ks1.1 million donated by Union Solidarity and Development Party steering committee member U Htay Soe and wife were presented by representatives.

Ks22.2 million worth of SkyNet television receivers and licenses donated by Shwe Than Lwin company was then donated by Daw Nan Maung Loungh Sai and was accepted by MJA joint secretary (2) Daw Lat Lat Soe and treasurer Daw El El Tin.

On behalf of the honoured elderly journalists Myanmar Press Council member veteran journalists U Sein Tun Aung and MJA secretary (1) U Ye Min Oo gave speeches of appreciation.

Afterwards Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Yangon Command commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone, and officials from MJA presented the donated cash and gifts to the elderly journalists. The MJA was formed in 11 August 2012, and the ceremonies to honour and pay homage to elderly journalists were previously held in 2014, 2015 and 2016, when 56, 115 and 118 elderly journalists were honored, respectively.

—Myanmar News Agency
President U Htin Kyaw attends 131st Anniversary of Ministry of Construction’s Public Works Department

FROM PAGE-1

The commemorative stone pillar with inscription was sprinkled with scented waters by the President, the Vice President, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and Union Minister for Construction.

The President, the First Lady and entourage took commemorative photos together with event attendees.

The 131st anniversary event of the Public Works Department was continued in the Ministry of Construction meeting hall, where Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing delivered an opening speech.

The President then delivered a speech saying human beings had progressed from the stone, bronze, and iron-ages and successively strived to live under shelters to withstand the weather. From this, the skill of engineering came about and using these skills, the Ministry of Construction’s Public Works Department was established and had reached its 131st anniversary.

The Government is conducting reforms in all sectors for progress in all states and regions. This is a union where ethnic brethren live together in harmony through thick and thin. Basic infrastructures like roads and bridges need to be sound for reliable road transportation between states and regions so that trade, contact and relations are established enabling all ethnic brethren to have developments in social, education, health and economic sectors. Through this, friendship and good relations among the ethnic brethren will increase. In addition to improving the road transportation and construction of buildings for safe dwelling, the Ministry of Construction is improving rural roads continuously.

“May the Ministry of Construction be able to construct basic infrastructure required by the people such as road, bridges, houses and city development works enabling the people to have a peaceful and fruitful life”, the President said. After the President’s speech, Union Minister for U Win Khaing presented the President with a gift commemorating the 131st anniversary of the Public Works Department.

The event attendees were then shown a video of the history and work of the Ministry of Construction, the Public Works Department. Afterwards, President U Htin Kyaw; the First Lady and entourage viewed the exhibits of the 131st anniversary Public Works Department.

Next, President U Htin Kyaw, the First Lady and entourage crossed the Heritage Bridge. The Heritage Bridge was first constructed at Sagaing Region, Kawlin town in 1891 and was systematically disassembled and reconstructed by the Ministry of Construction as a 264 ft. long, 14 ft. wide, reinforced concrete body and RPT frame bridge, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

IN Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the ASEAN, the ASEAN Friendship Games and ASEAN Food Festival were convened in Yangon on 25 November 2017 at the Asia Point Bowling Centre in Yangon at 08:00 hrs.

The Ceremony was opened by the ASEAN flag raising and singing of ASEAN Anthem. His Excellency U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister of International Cooperation of the Union of Myanmar attended as the Guest of Honour and delivered the Opening Remarks.

The Minister of International Cooperation, the Ambassadors & Spouses and the invited guests had the photo opportunities.

The Bowling, Billiards and Table Tennis Games were taken place as the ASEAN Friendship Games and Winners of the Competitions were awarded. The Ceremony was attended by Ambassadors & Spouses, family members from the ASEAN Embassies residing in Yangon, the invited guests and officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency
Visitor arrivals to Sagaing Region increase this peak season

ARIVAL of local and foreign visitors to Sagaing Region has been on the rise before the high tourist season, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

The visitor arrivals have increased by 36.93 per cent when compared to the same period of last year, said U Aung Thu Oo, head of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Sagaing Region).

There are countless tourism destinations in Myanmar, including natural landscapes, mountain ranges, beaches, archaeological sites, ancient monuments and biodiversity hotspots. The ASEAN member country is one of the best places to observe a diverse range of customs, traditions and lifestyles of ethnic tribes living in their native habitats.

Efforts are being made by tourism authorities to explore new destinations in the region. Sagaing Region has a lot of tourist destinations.

Mingun Pahtodawgyi and the largest ringing bell known as Mingun Bell, Sagaing Hill and Thonboddhay Pagoda are popular tourist destinations. Every year, foreign travelers visit the region’s Naga New Year Festival to observe the tribe’s culture.—GNLM

Government and private entrepreneurs to meet for pre-discussion of Tax Law

May Thet Hnin

GOVERNMENT and private entrepreneurs will meet to discuss about Tax Law which will be proposed to Hluttaw in April. The pre-discussions will be held beginning at the end of this month, said U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister:

“The law could not be amended after the law had been drawn and just before the approval by the Hluttaw. Therefore, our government side will conduct the pre-discussion together with the entrepreneurs at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office with an aim to get the appropriate tax and convenience for the people,” he added. “National economy will be developed only when the private sector develops. So, the government will provide the assistance to the small and medium entrepreneurs for their difficulties and obstacles in accordance with the laws,” said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. Collecting the tax plays an important role for the country. Therefore, every citizen should pay the tax. But tax should not burden the citizens, said U Ye Myint, the Joint Secretary of the Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association. “We want to amend the withholding tax. When we are paying tax at the office, rules and regulations are found out to be different from one townships to another,” said U Ye Myint Maung. “For a start up, we want them to get the tax exemption for their business for the first 2 or 3 years. The government should also grant and provide the assistance for the business for the social benefits,” said Dr. May Pyae Sone Kywe, an executive committee member of Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association. ■

Four injured in rollover accident

FOUR people were injured in a single-car crash after a vehicle overturned on the Sagaing-Monywa Road on Thursday evening, according to a police report.

The accident happened near mile post No. 29/6 on the road in Natkhayai Village in Sagaing Township, when travelling towards Sagaing Town on 23 November evening, the police said.

The car loaded with Myanmar traditional musical instruments being driven by U Zaw went off the roadside and overturned because the driver lost control of his car, police said. One passenger sustained serious injuries while three others received minor injuries. They all were taken to a nearby hospital.

Police have filed criminal charges against the driver for his careless driving under Section 337/338 of the Penal Code.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words, please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Myanmar-East Asia trade totals $6.9 billion in first half of this FY

EXTERNAL trade between Myanmar and East Asian countries over the first half of this fiscal year totalled US$6.99 billion, according to a monthly report of the Commerce Ministry.

From April to September, the import of commodities from East Asian states was $3.87 billion, while export value reached $3.11 billion in total.

China was ranked first on the list of the top three East Asian traders with $5.52 billion, including $2.51 billion from normal trade and $3.01 billion from border trade, followed by Japan with $925 million and South Korea with $402 million.

Bilateral trade with Taiwan stood at over $86 million, while trade with Hong Kong was valued at $32 million. However, trade with North Korea was less than $1 million.


Myanmar, EuroCham sign MoU on economic cooperation

May Thet Hnin

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on economic cooperation was signed between Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (MyanTrade) under the Ministry of Commerce and the European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (EuroCham) on Friday in Yangon.

The MoU defines the roles and responsibilities of EuroCham with regard to the responsibilities and programme activities which are funded by the European Commission in order to expand and develop business and economic relationships between Myanmar and the EU by offering various activities.

Mr. David Levart, Chairman of EuroCham, said: "This is the first MoU MyanTrade signed with the foreign chambers. It will lead to bilateral trade and relations between Myanmar and European Union to promote investment of the companies of the EU, and to improve market access and exposure of Myanmar."

He added, "This MoU will be instrumental in setting up the strategic priority to promote trade and investment between Myanmar and EuroCham."

The signing of the MoU is vital not only for economic development but also for the political sector as well, said U Aung Htoo, Deputy Commerce Minister.

"The newly signed MoU is expected to highly support implementation of the ministry's export strategy and the country's export target to European countries. The MoU signing amounts to reiterating desires to further promote cooperation between EU countries and Myanmar. It also shows that EU countries are interested in investments and trade in Myanmar", said U Aung Htoo.

The major trading sectors between the EU and Myanmar are textile, agro-product, fishery and forestry. The trade between Myanmar and European countries has increased to US$1.5 billion from $0.5 billion. The current conflicts in northern Rakhine State have had slight impacts on trade between Myanmar and European states, especially in the tourism industry, said Executive Director Mr. Filip Lauwerysen of EuroCham.

However, the existing European companies in Myanmar have a desire to increase their investments, while other EU companies are conducting detailed research on investment opportunities in Myanmar, he added. EuroCham is planning to publish a Business Confidence Survey 2017 in mid-December of this year. Published last December, the Business Confidence Survey 2016 states key insights into the current business environment of Myanmar, as experienced by European companies.

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Voices of the first group of UEHRD youth volunteers

THE first group of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) youth volunteers went to villages in Maungtaw District, Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships from 13 to 21 November for 9 days and provided humanitarian assistance.

Under the theme “20 days of youth for the people”, groups were formed comprised of youths of all faiths to provide humanitarian assistance effectively, to participate in resettlement and redevelopment processes and assist in regional development and conflict avoidance.

Youths who want to participate in the “20 days of youth for the people” should be 18 to 35 years of age and able to commit to a long-term programme. More groups will be formed and sent in the coming weeks and months. The following are the voices of the UEHRD youth volunteer first batch who were interviewed by the news group while they were in Maungtaw town.

U Maung Maung Gyi, Maungtaw Township Relief and Resettlement Department

Youth volunteers went to Maungtaw and Buthidaung region for nine days from 13 to 21 November and provided humanitarian and food assistance. They went to 19 Mro villages and two Bengali villages in Maungtaw Township, 12 ethnic national villages and two Bengali villages in Buthidaung Township. When the youths visited the villages, they collected data about the people, what is required and what needs to be done for development. In providing assistance, five persons were set as a unit and provided with foodstuff such as rice, cooking oil, salt, peas, onion, canned fish and potato.

The youth volunteers are from all regions and are of all faiths. As locals came along to translate, language difference wasn’t much of a problem. Our department was involved in order to provide the necessary donated foods for the youth volunteers to distribute. Transport, food, lodging and security for the youth volunteers were provided in coordination with district general administrative department. The first batch has completed their work and we are now preparing for the second batch.

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Youth volunteers from the first group of UEHRD deliver humanitarian aid to villages in Maungtaw, Buthidaung. PHOTO:MNA

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Although they came from different places, they treated each other like siblings and worked in unity. This is the first time in my life to see such unity. —U Ni Maung from Maungtaw

U Maung Maung Gyi

Youth volunteers from the first group of UEHRD deliver humanitarian aid to villages in Maungtaw, Buthidaung. PHOTO:MNA

Youth volunteers from the first group of UEHRD deliver humanitarian aid to villages in Maungtaw, Buthidaung. PHOTO:MNA

Youth volunteers from the first group of UEHRD deliver humanitarian aid to villages in Maungtaw, Buthidaung. PHOTO:MNA
Senior General visits special forces training school

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was in Quanzhou, the People’s Republic of China to observe special forces of the Army Advanced Training School in the People’s Republic of China yesterday morning.

The Senior General and party were welcomed at the Training School by the head of the training school Brig. Gen. Xiao Qin Liang and officials. The head of the Advanced Training School explained the situations of the trainees inclusive Myanmar trainees and the training programmes for the special forces. Afterwards, a delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also visited Southern Theater Command of the People’s Republic of China and Commander of the Southern Theater Command Vice Admral Yuan Yubai and officials welcomed at the Commander’s office. Then, Sr. Col. Lei Neng explained matters relating to the situations in neighbouring countries and relations associated with Southern Theater Command, tasks of Southern Theater Command.

After that, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Southern Theater Command Commander Vice Admiral Yuan Yubai discussed matters concerning the bilateral dialogues for peace and stability in border areas between the two armed forces, promoting cooperation, development of border areas, enhancing bilateral friendly relationships between the two armed forces and tours of mutual visits. Then, the Commander of the Southern Theater Command hosted a lunch for the Senior General and party.—MNA

Preparations for all-round youth development

PREPARATION works for the All-Round Development Event for Youth to take place from 1 to 3 December on the Yangon University campus, Kamayut Township, are being carried out.

Ministry of Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Yangon Region Government jointly organised the event with the aim of exchanging and sharing knowledge, skills, ethics and values of Myanmar youths and for the future Myanmar society to be built by them.

The event will feature literacy activities such as youth debates, seminars, English skills competition, youth panel, talks with youth actors, technology displays, rare books displays, photos of well-known authors, a book fair, reciting of poems, artistic activities such as singing, dancing, performances by persons with disabilities, ethnic costumes and artistic works, musical instruments display and sport activities including recreation sports, sport competitions and group walking.

Youth associations’ food shops will also be included in the event. Interested persons are invited to participate.—Zaw Gyi

13 Myanmar migrant workers, Thai driver killed in road accident in Thailand

THIRTEEN Myanmar migrant workers and the driver of the Toyota Hiace in which they were travelling were killed in a road accident in central Thailand on Friday.

The unidentified driver was believed to have fallen asleep behind the wheel and rammed his vehicle carrying the migrant workers into the rear of a 10-wheeled truck on Asia Highway in Sing Buri province, about 140 km north of Bangkok at about 3am on 24 November.

Fire engulfed the vehicle immediately after it crashed into the truck.

Suspects arrested, drugs and arms seized in Tachilek

Sharuk Kasinirat, a Thai national wanted by Thai police, was arrested by Tachilek anti-narcotics police on Friday evening.

Acting on a tip-off, Myanmar anti-narcotics police were staking out a house on Home Mat Street, Yan Aung Myay Ward, Tachilek where the suspect Sharuk Kasinirat lived as Ar Chu, a Myanmar national. On Friday evening, a gunshot was heard from the house and the police raided the house. Sharuk Kasinirat (a) Ar Chu and Kai (a) Mr Prasan were arrested together with 62,200 stimulant tablets, ready-mixed stimulant powders weighing 2.1 kg., 900 FTC tablets, seven blocks of opium weighting 2.31 kilos, assorted chemicals, a press, a mixer and other paraphernalia commonly used in the illegal drugs trade. A pistol, two magazines, hundreds of bullets, Thai and American currency, two vehicles, two mobile phones and assorted accessories used to produce tablets were also found. A case under Myanmar law has been opened against the two arrested person.—Myanmar News Agency
Systematic urbanization of our towns and cities

With the development of technology, our living styles, behaviors, social relations and civilization are changing. During changes of our social lives, urbanization is increasing with great momentum day by day.

Many people from rural areas are coming to urban areas with great expectations. It must be said that people have moved to greater pastures since time immemorial, assuming they would have a better living conditions. According to the move from rural areas to their related towns, towns to cities and megalopolis.

Amnesties of places – for academic and vocational learning, job opportunities, locations of entertainment and enjoyment of people to pursue their interest. This is why urban areas can fulfill people’s requirements – learning, employment, enjoyment and extending the horizons of social relations.

On the other hand, job opportunities are decreasing in small towns and rural areas. Circles of social relations can be said to be narrow in these areas. Especially, only cities and big cities are the ones which are growing in size and population.

Therefore systematic planning of urbanization is of great importance for the bettmerment of future generations, not only for the sake of solving current situations.

By nature, a city will extend its area with the increasing population. It is necessary for authorities concerned to systematically manage the urban space. This is urbanization plan. Implementation of the urbanization plan and mega-projects are to be taken into consideration with vision and with a broad view. Not only construction of buildings, roads, bridges and basic amenities but also economic and job opportunities, social problems.

At a time when rural areas are driving people, especially youths, out of their villages and towns, cities are inviting them, thus cities are becoming larger and larger. With the development of cutting-edge technologies and new buildings, urban sprawl is rapidly growing. Rapidly urbanization with uncontrolled urbanization, cities unemployment, people’s capacities are decreasing. People are facing economic and social problems.

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Meeting for publishing 100 Myanmar Books Series and republishing Myanmar encyclopedia held

THE fourth coordination meeting for publishing the 100 Myanmar Books Series was held yesterday afternoon at Sarpy Beikman on Merchant Street in Yangon.

In the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, himself a well-known Myanmar book author, said all sorts of books, both fiction, non-fiction, will be included in the 100 Myanmar Books Series, scheduled to be published soon. The Union Minister gave suggestions for the novels to be selected by forming a group committee. The Union Minister also commented on forming a committee to review the 81 selected novels so far and the status of republishing a Myanmar encyclopedia.

The president of the 100 Myanmar Books Publishing Committee, Dr. Sithu U Thaw Kaung, also suggested books for the Myanmar Books Series. The 100 Myanmar Books Series work committee joint secretary (1) U Than Ohn (Maung Zayar) also explained about final novels selecting committee to be formed and poems to be selected.

Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung explained the aim of publishing 100 Myanmar Books Series which is to be distributed in early 2018.

The Director General of Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint and Deputy Director General U Ko Ko Naing discussed the font design and size which are to be used in the book series and coordinated with experts.

The Myanmar encyclopaedia editorial committee secretary (2) Saw Lwin (Maung Thwe Thit) explained the implementation works of Sarpy Beikman officials on the instructions and discussions made by the experts. Then, the Union Minister delivered the closing speech.

Before the meeting, the Union Minister viewed the Sarpy Beikman Book Shop on Merchant Street. In the evening, the Union Minister and officials went to University of Yangon, Kamayut Township and viewed the preparation works for the opening ceremony of “Youth All-Round Development” event which is to be held from 1 to 3 December in Yangon University Campus and provided suggestions and coordinated on the requirements.

The event will feature literacy activities, innovative showrooms, artistic activities, entertainment, sporting activities, book shops and food shops.—Myanmar News Agency

Slight decrease in night temperatures expected in Upper Sagaing, Kachin and Chin

A SLIGHT temperature decrease in the evening hours are expected in upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin states, as the low pressure area over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and the adjoining equatorial Indian Ocean still persists. There will be a few clouds over the North Bay and remain partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal, according to the Daily Weather Report of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and the neighbouring area and Mandalay and the neighbouring area for today is isolated rain and thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent, and for Yangon and neighbouring areas the rain and thundershowers will be isolated. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent.

The forecast is scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region and Shan State, isolated in Lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Tanintharyi regions, Rakshin, Kayah, Kachin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states. — GNLM

Efforts aim to extend Yangon Port to mouth of Andaman Sea: Yangon Chief Minister

May Thet Hnin

YANGON Region government is coordinating with the Union government to extend Yangon Port and upgrade other jetties, said U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, at the 12th meeting between the Vice-President 1 and local entrepreneurs on 24 November.

“We conduct surveys on the extension of Yangon port to the mouth of the Andaman Sea. We will implement the projects with the help of international maritime companies and organisations,” he added.

Yangon Port plays a crucial role in boosting international trade by sea freight transport thanks to its geographical advantages. This is why the city authorities are putting forth concerted efforts to implement the Yangon Port improvement project.

The new scheme is expected to transport a large amount of cargo to international countries through Yangon Port in connection with neighbouring landlocked countries including China. Port development depends on the flow of cargo. It is difficult to operate port service businesses without cargo for a long time. At present, even Thilawa International Port Terminal is struggling to operate cargo transport services so as to cover port expenses, said U Phyo Min Thein.

Surveys on sediments, sand and silt have been made in the project area. Before the new port is constructed, it is needed to consider the dangers of sea waves and other forms of natural disasters. The new port is likely to face the Yangon River to protect it from sea waves.

Negotiations have been made to upgrade jetties along the Yangon River with the aim of boosting internal trade via sea routes. For the time being, internal trade mainly relies on inland road transport.

Myanmar has a total of nine major ports, including the Port of Yangon, which handles 90 per cent of the total cargo transport. The vast majority of jetties across Yangon have been built since the colonial era.

2017 China-Myanmar tourism and culture road show

AS a follow-up activity to Lancang-Mekong cooperation, a China-Myanmar tourism and culture road show event was held yesterday afternoon in Mingalar Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

First a documentary on tourism in Yunnan Province was shown after which Yunnan Province tourism association chairman Yuan Bing and Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism director general U Tint Thwin delivered a speech.

After showing documentaries on tourism in Ruili and another town in China, traditional songs, dances of China and Myanmar dances including Kayin “domyane” were performed.

China-Myanmar tourism and culture road show will be conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bagan and Mandalay it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency
Egyptian forces strike militants after deadly mosque attack

CAIRO — Egypt’s military said on Saturday it had carried out air strikes and raids overnight against militants held responsible for killing more than 230 worshippers at a mosque in North Sinai.

The bloodiest attack in Egypt’s modern history, in which militants gunned down worshippers, brought condemnation from leaders from Washington to Moscow, while President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi declared three days of mourning in the shocked nation.

No group has claimed responsibility, but Egyptian forces are battling a stubborn Islamic State affiliate in the region, one of the surviving branches of the militant group after it suffered defeats by US-backed forces in Iraq and Syria.

“The air force has over the past few hours eliminated a number of outposts used by terrorist elements,” the army said.

Witnesses say gunmen set off a bomb at the end of Friday prayers at the Al Rawdah mosque in Bir Al-Abed, west of El-Arish city, and then opened fire as worshippers tried to flee, shooting at ambulances and setting fire to cars to block roads.

Images on state media showed bloodied victims and bodies covered in blankets inside the mosque.

Striking a mosque would be a shift in tactics for the Sinai militants, who have previously attacked troops and police and more recently tried to spread their insurgency to the mainland by hitting Christian churches and pilgrims.

The massive casualties in the Sinai attack and the targeting of a mosque stunned Egyptians who have struggled through instability after the 2011 uprising ousted long-standing leader Hosni Mubarak, and the years of protests that followed.

“May the souls of all those who die rest in peace, Muslims and Christians alike... these people have no religion,” said Abdullah an unemployed man in downtown Cairo referring to the attackers. “Every other day someone dies, every other day a church is bombed ... where is the security?”

Local sources said some of the worshippers were Sufis, whom groups such as Islamic State consider targets because they revere saints and shrines, which for Islamists is tantamount to idolatry. Islamic State has targeted Sufi Muslims and Shi’ites in other countries like Iraq.

Pakistan police fire tear gas to break up Islamists’ sit-in blocking capital

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani police used tear gas and watercannon in clashes with stone-throwing Islamist protesters on Saturday, as they moved to clear a protest by the religious hard-liners who have blocked main routes into Islamabad for more than two weeks.

Clashes immediately broke out between members of Tehreek-e-Labaik, a hard-line Islamist party, and some 4,000 police sent to break up the protest camp, police official Saood Tirmizi told Reuters.

“Police used water cannons initially and now are firing tear gas shells at the protesters,” Tirmizi told Reuters.

He said dozens of protesters had been taken into custody.

Television footage showed smoke billowing and fires burning in the streets as officers in heavy riot gear advanced.

“We are in our thousands. We will not leave. We will fight until end,” Tehreek-e-Labaik party spokesman Ejaz Ashrafi told Reuters by telephone from the scene. The protesters have been a key reason for his support to back him, and he is expected to run for re-election next year.

“What is happening is an attempt to stop us from our efforts in the fight against terrorism,” he said on Friday.

North Sinai, a mostly desert area which stretches from the Suez Canal eastwards to the Gaza Strip and Israel, has long been a security headache for Cairo because of its sensitive borders. Local militant group Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, once allied to al Qaeda, split from it and declared allegiance to Islamic State in 2014. But attacks in the Sinai worsened after 2013 when Sisi led the overthrow of President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood after mass protests against his rule. — Reuters

Bangladesh arrests militant suspect in US blogger murder

DHAKA — Bangladesh police said on Saturday they had arrested an Islamist militant wanted in connection with the 2015 killing of a US blogger critical of religious extremism.

Deputy police commissioner Masudur Rahman said the man, identified as Arafat Rahman, 24, a member of al Qaeda-inspired militant group Ansar Ullah Bangla Team, was suspected of taking part in the killing of writer Avijit Roy.

Roy, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin, was hacked to death by machete-wielding assailants in February 2015 while returning home with his wife from a Dhaka book fair. Roy’s widow, Rafida Ahmed, was seriously injured.

Rahman said Hossain, who was identified after analysing CCTV footage, was arrested on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka, on Friday night.

“Police sent to break up the protest camp, police official Saood Tirmizi told Reuters.

He said dozens of protesters had been taken into custody.

Television footage showed smoke billowing and fires burning in the streets as officers in heavy riot gear advanced.

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A policeman walks with armoured personnel carriers (APC) as they try to remove hurdles put up by the supporters of the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan, an Islamist political party, along the main road leading to the airport in Karachi, Pakistan on 25 November, 2017. PHOTOS: REUTERS

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Russia’s upgraded Tu-160 strategic bomber to make debut flight in February 2018

MOSCOW — Russia’s upgraded Tupolev Tu-160M2 strategic bomber will perform its first test flight in February 2018, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin reported to President Vladimir Putin during a working meeting on 16 Thursday November.

“We plan that the aircraft will be built already in 2019. Serial deliveries should begin in 2023 while we plan to carry out the first flight of the Tu-160M2, which has been rolled out of the workshop today, in February next year,” the vice-premier said.

“Everything is fine, just perfect. I congratulate the aircraft builders and I think we will deliver good news to the Defence Ministry [it was the Russian Defence Ministry that insisted on resuming the production of the upgraded Tu-160 aircraft, which had proven its worth as a supersonic bomber],” the Russian president said.

As the vice-premier said, it was Russian President Putin who made a decision to strengthen the Russian nuclear triad, including its airborne component, by way of resuming the production of the Tu-160 strategic bomber on a new technical and technological basis.

“I am reporting to you that today, these days when the Kazan Aircraft Enterprise is celebrating its 90th anniversary, the Tu-160M2 aircraft has been rolled out of the enterprise’s workshop,” Rogozin said.

A source in the Russian defence industry told TASS on 9 November that the Tu-160M2 strategic bomber prototype originating from Soviet aircraft breakthroughs will take to the skies for the first time from the airfield of the Kazan Aviation Enterprise in February 2018.

“The plane with the factory number 804 based on Soviet aircraft breakthroughs will be rolled out of the final assembly workshop of the Kazan Aviation Enterprise and delivered to the flight testing station in November this year. The plane is expected to perform its debut flight from the enterprise’s aerodrome in February next year,” the source said.

This “will be the first combat aircraft capable of performing the same assignments, which operational 16 Tu-160 planes do,” he said.

“The 804th plane will be subsequently upgraded to the Tu-160M2 variant,” the source said.

It was reported in 2015 that Russia had made a decision to resume the production of Tu-160 bombers in their upgraded Tu-160M2 modification and re-schedule the development of the new-generation bomber PAK DA (Perspective Airborne Complex of Long-Range Aviation) for a later term.

The Russian Defence Ministry reported that the serial production of Tu-160M2 bombers should begin in 2023. The Russian Aerospace Force intends to purchase no less than 50 such aircraft. Aerospace Force then-Commander-in-Chief Viktor Bondarev said earlier that the Tu-160M2 might take to the skies for the first time already in late 2018.

Tu-160 is the Soviet strategic missile carrier armed with cruise missiles that can carry nuclear warheads. Along with the Tu-95MS missile carrier, the Tu-160 makes part of Russia’s strategic nuclear forces along with the ground-based missile systems and submarines.

According to data from public sources, the Russian Aerospace Force currently operates 16 such aircraft built during the Soviet period. About a half of these bombers has already undergone repairs and modernization.

Russian Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov earlier said that all the Tu-160 bombers operational in the Aerospace Force will be fully upgraded.

—Reuters

Germany’s Luerssen awarded 2.6 bln USD Australian Navy patrol vessel contract

CANBERRA — A German company has been awarded the 2.6-billion-US-dollar contract to design and build Australia’s 12 new Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).

Luerssen will begin construction on the first two ships at the government-owned ASC Shipbuilding facility in Adelaide at the end of 2018.

The remaining 10 ships will be built at the Austal shipyard south of Perth in Western Australia (WA).

Under the contract, announced by Australian Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne, Austal will be forced to sever ties with Fassmer, a European shipbuilder considered one of Luerssen’s biggest rivals.

Jay Weatherill, premier of South Australia, praised the federal government for making the right decision.

“Since there are 400 families (in South Australia) that were going into Christmas wondering whether they had security, Weatherill told reporters in Adelaide on Friday night.

“Now we will see a pipeline of work that can bridge the gap between the end of the Air Warfare Destroyer project and the beginning of the Future Frigates project,” he said.

“This is exactly what we’ve been asking for and it’s a great decision,” he added.

The new fleet of ships will be used by the Australian Navy to conduct intelligence and surveillance missions as well as providing disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.

Austal said that while it was happy to be involved in the construction it was disappointed that bid partner Fassmer would miss out.

“Obviously they’re disappointed that they’re not involved but they like us bid (on) a lot of programmes around the world, and you win some and you lose some,” said David Singleton, chief executive officer (CEO) of Austal.—Xinhua

Iran says Israel’s nuclear programme threatens regional security

TEHRAN — An Iranian official said that Israel’s nuclear programme and its atomic arsenal threatens the security of the Middle East region, Press TV reported Saturday.

Reza Najafi, Iranian Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), denounced what he called the West’s “double-standard approaches” on Israel’s move to develop its nuclear programme.

Israel’s continuous nuclear programme and its stockpile of atomic arsenal also discredit the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), said the envoy addressing a meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors in Vienna. He also urged Israel to join the NPT so that its nuclear installations would be subjected to the full monitoring of IAEA safeguards.

“The Zionist regime (of Israel) has unfortunately overlooked legitimate demands of the international community over the past years and continued to advance its military nuclear programme in blatant violation of all international regulations and with the blind support of certain countries,” he was quoted as saying.

Israel’s military nuclear activities are the main cause of concern among regional nations and the international community, Najafi added, urging the international community’s complete ban on any type of nuclear cooperation with Israel.—Reuters
Cuba marks anniversary of Fidel death as post-Castro era nears

HAVANA — Cuba marks the first anniversary of the death of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro on Saturday with a week of vigils nationwide, as the island embarks on a political cycle that will end 60 years of the Castro brothers’ rule.

Fidel, a towering figure of the 20th century who built a Communist-run state on the doorstep of the United States and defied US efforts to topple him, died aged 90 on 25 November last year.

The Cold War icon had already been largely out of public view for a decade, having formally ceded the presidency to his younger brother, Raul Castro, in 2008 due to ill health. Cubans say his death changed little on the island.

The pace of reforms instigated by Raul to update the Soviet-style command economy has continued as hesitantly as before. Cuba’s relationship with the United States, meanwhile, has actually worsened due to US President Donald Trump’s more hostile stance.

More significant politically, analysts say, will be the electoral cycle that starts on Sunday with a municipal vote and will end with the selection of a new president in late February. Raul, 86, has said he would step down at the end of his two consecutive terms.

The transition is expected to be gradual as Raul will remain head of the Communist Party. It comes, however, as the country faces a tricky time with a decline in aid from ally Venezuela, weaker exports and a resulting cash crunch.

“Not even we know what our future will be,” said Ariadna Valdivia, 45, a high school teacher. “Raul is ending his term in 2018. Fidel is already history, and I don’t really see any way of improving things.”

“Salaries are the same, food is always getting more expensive and now we have Trump tightening the embargo.”

—Reuters

Japan to spend around $17 billion to subsidise education — media

TOKYO — Japan’s government will set aside around 2 trillion yen ($13.45 billion) to subsidise education costs and improve elderly care as part of an economic package due early next month, the Asahi newspaper said on Saturday.

The government will earmark 800 billion yen for a new programme that will offer free day care for children 3 to 5 years old from April 2019, the newspaper said. The package will also set aside around 100 billion yen to raise wages for workers at elderly homes and day care centres, the newspaper said.

To fund the spending, the government will use an increase in employer contributions to the national sales tax scheduled for October 2019 and an increase in employer contributions, the newspaper said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made increased spending on education and assistance for low-income families a top priority after a big win in lower-house elections last month.—Reuters

California beach evacuated after shark attack

SAN FRANCISCO — A beach in Monterey city on California’s Central Coast was evacuated after a fisherman was bitten by a shark attack, the county sheriff’s office said on Friday.

The man, who was spearfishing in the Still Water Cove in Pebble Beach, was bitten on his right thigh, the Monterey sheriff’s office said on its official Facebook page.

Two off-duty officers fishing nearby area responded to the calls for help and applied a tourniquet to the man’s leg to stop the bleeding.

The fisherman was then taken to a trauma center for surgery. His condition was not immediately known.

An aerial search spotted a large aquatic animal, which may have been a shark, off Pebble Point, the sheriff’s office said.

It was the second attack of its kind in Monterey Bay this year.

In May a kayaker was knocked into the water by a shark but survived without being bitten.

—Xinhua
Hugh Jackman on ‘Logan’: ‘It’s time to leave the party’

LOS ANGELES — “I know Aussies are not known for leaving the party at the right time but (after) 17 years, it’s time to leave the party,” Hugh Jackman quipped as he discussed his last time playing X-Men superhero Wolverine in this year’s gritty action hit “Logan.”

The Australian actor made his breakthrough as the gruff, clawed mutant Wolverine in 2000’s “X-Men” film and has since played the character eight times on screen. But with this year’s “Logan,” Jackman said he and the filmmakers took the biggest risk for his final performance as the mutant hero.

“This was not a given moneymaker,” Jackman said in an interview.

“People considered this to be the biggest risk, the most foolish risk ever taken, and I think people assume you’re just doing a sequel because it’s a moneymaker, but my experience from being within it is that it’s always felt like a risk and I think that’s to be embraced.”

“Logan” was the first time Jackman, 49, played his character in an R-rated film, where he was allowed to embrace the darker, more tormented side of Wolverine.

In the film, an older, wearier Logan struggles with alcoholism as he rescues a young mutant girl and unwillingly aids her in her journey to get to safety, the two forging an unlikely friendship despite both their explosive tempers.

“This is a man whose life is centered on violence,” Jackman said. “It seemed very difficult thematically, not just in terms of graphic violence but the consequences of violence, it seemed impossible to make that as a PG-13 movie and really get into the thematic of that and on a serious level.”

The film received strong praise from critics when it was released in March, grossing more than $400 million worldwide according to BoxOfficeMojo.com. Film studio 20th Century Fox is hoping Jackman’s new take on the character will give “Logan” a competitive edge in the upcoming awards season, which does not usually favor big-budget comic book films.

“It’s a great time for us as actors or creators of stories,” Jackman said. “I’m thrilled that the Academy (of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, voters of the Oscars) is seeing that there are less boundaries in a way of what makes a really good film, and the genre shouldn’t dictate that.”

—Reuters

Liam Payne talks about his problems with mental health

LOS ANGELES — Singer Liam Payne has opened up about his battle with mental health during time with his former band One Direction.

The 23-year-old singer said he used to force a smile during many performances as he struggled to cope with the band’s success.

“I shouldn’t have been able to do as many shows as we did, if I’m honest about it, if I’m brutally honest about it,” Payne told The Sun.

“Going out and putting that happy smile on my face and singing the songs, honestly, sometimes it was like putting on one of those costumes, going out there and, underneath the costume, people don’t really see what’s going on,” he added.

He said the tipping point came when he broke up with his ex-girlfriend Sophia Smith in October 2015 and after that the band cancelled a show in Belfast citing the reason that Payne was not well.

“I let it get to me that day. I wasn’t in a good place. And unfortunately I was going through a tough time and I let it get to me a little bit too much. That was it,” he said.

“The more we did, I just don’t think we stopped and celebrated enough how great things were and I think that’s what got on top of us in the end,” he added.

—PTI

Mark Hamill pays tribute to late Carrie Fisher on Thanksgiving

LOS ANGELES — On the occasion of Thanksgiving, actor Mark Hamill paid a tribute to late Carrie Fisher and thanked her for the memories.

The 66-year-old actor posted a photo with Fisher on Twitter and captioned it, “Thankful for the memories.

Directed by Rian Johnson, the film also features Daisy Ridley, Mark Hamill, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Adam Driver, Gwendoline Christie, Domhnall Gleeson and Andy Serkis.—PTI

LOS ANGELES — “The Force Awakens”. Fisher passed away on December 27 last year due to “sleep apnoea and other causes”.

“The Last Jedi”, releasing in December, will mark the last appearance for Fisher in a movie. Directed by Rian Johnson, the film also features Daisy Ridley, Mark Hamill, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Adam Driver, Gwendoline Christie, Domhnall Gleeson and Andy Serkis.—PTI

One Direction star Liam Payne has got a new tattoo to flaunt. PHOTO: PTI

Australin actor Hugh Jackman poses for a portrait in Los Angeles, California US on 10 November, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS
Russia’s Underground Museum of Permafrost frozen in time

KRASNOYARSK — The deepest hall of the unique permafrost museum in Igarka, in Russia’s Krasnoyarsk Region, which was previously used for research purposes, will be soon open to visitors.

The museum is one of Igarka’s main attractions on the tundra-covered Taimyr Peninsula. Its small wooden building is decorated with carved sculptures of mammoths, muskoxen and cave lions.

The permafrost museum is famous for its underground halls where thermostats do not rise above minus 4-6 degrees Celsius. This temperature is ideal for maintaining the permafrost in its natural condition.

The museum’s halls, which go as deep as 14 metres, were dug manually in the late 1930s - early 1940s. Visitors can take a look at the ice dating back to the mammoth era, bird cherries, which are 40,000 years old, and larch-tree trunks, which are even older.

The permafrost museum also features an exposition dedicated to the dark history of Soviet political repressions, the history of Igarka and the construction of the secret Salekhard-Igarka railway, which was abandoned after Josef Stalin’s death in 1953.

According to Anna Usoltseva, the head of the museum’s historical department, some visitors came to the museum last year, which is a big deal for the remote northern facility.

The museum began as a laboratory founded in 1936 to study permafrost.

The museum’s ‘birthday’ or foundation date is considered to be 19 March, 1965, when the then laboratory chief, Dr Alexander Pchelintsev, opened an exposition dedicated to permafrost and the history of its study.

“The flora and fauna samples frozen into ice or permafrost should be the museum’s exhibits,” Pchelintsev wrote in his diary.

Online sales? Maybe one day, says Chanel

PARIS — France’s Chanel has no immediate plans for online sales of its coveted outfits or handbags, a senior executive said on Friday, making it one of the fashion world’s last holdouts as rivals experiment with websites to win over new clients.

The label, known for its tweed suits and $4,300-plus quilted leather bags, already sells perfumes online, like its Chanel No 5, as well as eyeglasses and beauty products.

But it will draw the line there for the foreseeable future, said Bruno Pavlovsky, president of fashion at Chanel.

“If you give everything to everyone straight away, I think you lose that exclusivity,” Pavlovsky told a Vogue conference in Paris. “I’m not saying we won’t try it one day, but if we do it will be because we’ll really think there’s some added value.”

Luxury goods brands were slow to develop e-commerce sites as they worried that making products too widely available would erode their cachet.

But most have now taken the plunge. Conglomerate LVMH (LVMH.PA), parent to Louis Vuitton, hired a former Apple executive and recently launched a site hosting multiple labels, though its online strategy at each of its brands still varies wildly.

Web sales will make up some 10 per cent of revenues in the luxury goods market this year, according to consultancy Bain, which projects they could reach 25 per cent by 2025.

But Chanel’s out-of-step attitude was not a drag on the business, Pavlovsky said, adding that the label, founded by Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel in 1910, was reaching an increasingly young audience and had waiting lists for best-selling bags.

Controlled by secretive billionaires Alain and Gerard Wertheimer, Chanel does not regularly release financial results.

According to figures filed with the Amsterdam exchange, Chanel’s net profit fell nearly 35 per cent in 2016 and sales dropped 9 per cent to $5.7 billion. Most major rivals have enjoyed a sales bounce in 2017.

— Reuters

Vatican, Chinese fund to hold joint art exhibitions in 2018

ROME — The Vatican and a Beijing-based fund have been working to organize joint art exhibitions which will take place simultaneously in the Vatican Museums and in China’s Forbidden City in the spring of 2018, the Vatican Radio has reported.

The two exhibitions are part of a joint project called “Beauty unites us,” which is promoted by the Vatican and China Culture Industrial Investment Fund.

The two sides will lend each other 40 works of art from their collections.

The idea is to promote “cultural collaboration through the universal language of art,” according to the Vatican Radio.

This will be the Vatican’s first-ever show in China, Vatican Museums Director Barbara Jatta told Vatican Radio in an interview posted online. “It is much more than an exhibition,” Jatta said.

“It is a project of friendship and cultural and artistic exchange,” Jatta said, adding that Pope Francis wants “to build bridges and create dialogue between different cultures, through the diplomacy of art.”

Most people don’t realize that over half of the Vatican Museums collections are made up of non-European works of art, said Father Nicola Mapelli, curator of the Vatican’s Anima Mundi Museum, which houses tens of thousands of works of art from Asia, Australia, and the Americas.

Over the centuries, China had sent precious gifts to Catholic popes, including paintings, statues, and other priceless works, said Mapelli.

These beautiful items will be loaned for exhibition in Beijing, while China will loan 12 paintings by Chinese artist Zhang Yan as well as other works of art illustrating the thousands of years of Chinese art history, according to Mapelli. “We are trying to build bridges through art,” Mapelli said.

China Culture Industrial Investment Fund Secretary General Jiancheng Zhu said the event is very important for promoting mutual trust and understanding.

— Xinhua
Chelsea keeper Courtois among world’s best, says Conte

LONDON — Chelsea manager Antonio Conte has described Thibaut Courtois as one of the best goalkeepers in the world and is eager for the Premier League champions to extend the Belgian’s stay at Stamford Bridge.

The 25-year-old Courtois has been ever-present in Chelsea’s starting line-up since permanently signing for the London club in 2014, helping them win two league titles and one League Cup, and has featured in every match for Conte’s team this season.

Courtois’ contract expires in 2019 with the shotstopper saying he would hold extension talks after the end of the campaign.

“I can say Courtois is one of the best, maybe the best goalkeeper in the world,” Conte told reporters. “And he is a very important player for Chelsea. But the renewal of contract is a task for the club.

“He knows very well my opinion and my thoughts about him... As you know very well, if a big player decides to not sign a new contract it is very difficult for the club to face this issue. These types of situations are not simple but every club has to try and solve all these situations.”

—Reuters

‘Lion’ Ibrahimovic joins scrap for a United starting spot

LONDON — Zlatan Ibrahimovic marked his early return from injury last week by boasting that “lions don’t recover like humans” — and Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho will be particularly relieved that is the case.

Ibrahimovic had been expected to be sidelined until January after suffering knee ligament damage in April, but the 36-year-old Swede worked his way back to fitness two months ahead of schedule to make his comeback from the substitutes’ bench in last Saturday’s victory over Newcastle United. His return could not have been timelier for Mourinho.

“Ibrahimovic’s return is going to be fantastic,” Mourinho said. “And he is a very important player for Chelsea. But the renewal of contract is a task for the club.

“He knows very well my opinion and my thoughts about him... As you know very well, if a big player decides to not sign a new contract it is very difficult for the club to face this issue. These types of situations are not simple but every club has to try and solve all these situations.”

—Reuters

Moyes hails West Ham support after Leicester draw

LONDON — David Moyes has praised West Ham United’s supporters after a 1-1 draw with Leicester City in the Premier League on Friday, the first match at London Stadium since the Scot took over as manager.

While the fans expressed dissent in Moyes’s first game in charge at Watford last weekend — holding up signs slamming the club and its owners — they were vociferous in their support on Friday. “I thought the crowd were fantastic, so all the negatives I’ve heard about the crowd, I thought the opposite and that they were great, they really were,” Moyes told reporters after the match. “I think any player will tell you that West Ham has always been a tough place to come over the years, with a tough crowd and they can make it that way in this stadium as well, and I think they did tonight.”

—Reuters

Manchester United’s Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

PHOTO: Reuters
A HUMAN eye is a wonderful thing. It lets us view things. They can give us another eye color, or we could just use eye contact to simply view things. But its not that simply you see. Some people aren’t that lucky, and have impaired vision. This includes near-sightedness and far-sightedness.

A common phrase used about the eye is that, “the eyes are the window to the soul.” This phrase is not necessarily true; however, it gives a good perspective on how people use eyes to judge a person’s character. First of all, eye contact is a great communication tool and can be used effectively in social situations. Second, the teacher can use eye contact to help their interaction with students. Third, employers want a future employee to have good eye contact to know that the employee is listening and will understand the job they are asked to perform. Eye contact is important and can determine a person’s true thoughts and opinions. The use of eye contact in socializing is important.

Eye contact can determine a person’s attitude and true feelings. People use eye contact in social situations to determine how and what a person is truly feeling. Along with attraction with eye contact, there is a connection between the amount of eye contact a person uses and how confident he or she is with his or herself. Making eye contact immediately tells your speaker that you are interested in what he or she has to say. If you look away and fail to make eye contact with someone who is speaking to you, they will take it as a sign that you are not interested in what they are talking about. The eyes can even have conversations of their own in social situations. You can be saying one thing and your eye could be saying another. You can use your eyes to tell people things that you do not want to say it out loud.

Conclusively, eye is one of the most important parts in your body. Your eye defines your personality and expression. Your actions. Therefore, practicing good eye contact is a skill for effective and vital communication.

The Value of Family Gathering

EVERYONE has a family, even orphans. Right now, almost everyone should be living in a family. Imagine your life without a family or homeless people and orphans, which they have different lifestyles.

Without a family or parents, you are hopeless. When children grow older, their parents want them to be better educated and successful. Therefore, parents send their children abroad to have better education. On the other side, it is a bad thing because you have less opportunity to spend time with your family. Family gathering is very important. Usually, you go to school and tuitions and have to spend less time with the family. Moreover, orphans do not have a family to support them for their education and most of them need to take care of their basic needs.

You may have two families in life. First, you are a son or a daughter in a family. In other words, you are the follower of your parents. Next, you become a father or mother in a family. So, you are the leader of your children. However, you may change in position, you can possess one family. Especially for a child, it is useless, meaningless and worthless not to be able to face with family members needed.

Gathering is very important in any way because it is a guilty time of some people. Thus, you can discuss feelings or open up the things you covered. And you can also search for a solution to a problem. You can share views and ideas with your family members in turn. Even if you don’t do so, you can still talk one another and enjoy the things, which some people usually need for an enjoyable time. What I want to say is that family is the most important thing a person can ever have.
Lesson 28: Where and When to Use Which Tenses (3)

Hello Dear Students!
Nice to meet you again!

Today Lesson is another Choice of where and when to use which tense.
This time will be a Choice between Perfect Tense and Perfect Continuous Tense.

Lesson 27, we have a Choice between Simple Tense (Present, Past and Future) and the Perfect Tense (Present, Past and Future).

When we have two actions in a sentence, we need to know which action comes first. For the first action, we use “Perfect Tense” (i.e. Present Perfect, Past Perfect, and Future Perfect) and for the second action we use “Simple Tense”
(Simple Present, Simple Past and Simple Future).

That is what I have told you in my last Lesson 27.
This time, we have a choice between Perfect Tense and Perfect Continuous Tense.

Let's think for awhile.
Both are Perfect; it means both actions are done. The only thing is the Perfect Continuous is the Tense in which the action continues at that time and for the Perfect Tense, the action was already completed or the action was perfect.

These can be all Present Perfect Continuous, the Past Perfect Continuous and the Future Perfect Continuous, the Past Perfect and the Future Perfect.

e.g.
(1) While I have been walking to his house, he has already had his dinner.
(2) He had been starting his trip before the rain had stopped.
(3) While she will have been trying to arrive at school in time, they will all have finished their homework.

In sentence (1), the first action finished is “having his dinner” and the second action is “walking to his house”.
Sentence (1) means while the action of “walking to his house” (not yet finished walking, it is still continuing, and at this time the action of “having dinner” has already finished.

One action is still continuous and at that time the other action has finished.
Here, I do not want to advice you to see which is the first action and which is the second action. The important thing is “which action has finished or completed” and which action is continuing.

For the continuing action, we use the Perfect Continuous Tense and for the already finished action, we use the Perfect Tense.

But please notice that at the time of speaking, both actions are already completed.
The same thing can be seen in the Past and Future too.
So, we use Present Perfect Tense “he has already had his dinner” for the completed action and we use Present Perfect Continuous Tense for the still continuing action “While I have been walking to his house”. (Both Tenses are in the Present)

In sentence (2), one action is “the rain stopping” and the other action is “starting his trip”.
So, we use Past Perfect Tense “before the rain had stopped” for the completed action and we use Past Perfect Continuous Tense for the continuing action “He had been starting his trip”. (Both Tenses are in the Past)

In sentence (3), one action is “they all will have finished their homework” and the other action is “she will have been trying to arrive at school”.
So, we use the Future Perfect Tense “they all will have finished their homework” for the completed action and the Future Perfect Continuous Tense for the still continuing action “While she will have been trying to arrive at school in time”. (Both are Tenses in the Future.)

Now, here comes the Exercises now.

Exercise 28

I. Make sentences from the followings using Present Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous Tenses:
(a) She drives to the party. They all finish their dinner.
(b) He goes back home. She starts singing.
(c) She comes back home. Her mother finishes her cooking.
(d) The doctor arrives at the hospital. The patient already dies.
(e) We try to find out the truth. He goes back home.
(f) It rains. We drive our car to arrive home.
(g) Maung Maung finishes his homework. The teacher comes to the class.
(h) I sleep. He calls me on phone.
(i) She stays at home. Till the rain stops.
(j) The sun shines again. Before the storm goes away.

II. Change the sentences you have made into Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous Tenses.

III. Change the sentences you have made into Future Perfect and Future Perfect Continuous Tenses.

IV. Try to write ten sentences of your own with Present Tenses (Perfect and Perfect Continuous), with Past Tenses (Perfect and Perfect Continuous) and with Future Tenses (Perfect and Perfect Continuous Tenses).

Hope that you can do your exercises very well!

Answers to Exercise 27.

I.
(1) When she comes to the party, they all have finished their dinner.
(2) When she starts singing, he has gone back home.
(3) When she comes back home, her mother has already finished her cooking.
(4) When the doctor arrives at the hospital, the patient has already died.
(5) When we see the truth, he has already gone back home.
(6) It rains only when we have arrived back at home.
(7) Maung Maung has just finished his homework, when the teacher comes to the class.
(8) I had already slept, when he called me on phone.
(9) She had stayed at home, till the rain stopped.
(10) The sun shone again, when the storm had gone away.

II.
(11) When she comes to the party, they all had finished their dinner.
(12) When she started singing, he had gone back home.
(13) When she came back home, her mother had already finished her cooking.
(14) When the doctor arrived at the hospital, the patient had already died.
(15) When we saw the truth, he had already gone back home.
(16) It rained only when we had arrived back at home.
(17) Maung Maung had just finished his homework, when the teacher came to the class.
(18) I had already slept, when he called me on phone.
(19) She had stayed at home, till the rain stopped.
(20) The sun shone again, when the storm had gone away.

That's all for today Class.
Hope that you have done well! Bye for now Class!

See you next Sunday!
Your English Teacher (GNLM).
Email: dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com
Mental Health of Teachers

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

NOWADAYS, the Ministry of Education is trying to promote the quality of Education as well as it’s quantity. In changing the Education to a better quality and quantity, the role of teachers is very important. For the teachers there are so many plans to improve the quality of teachers and Teacher Education.

Here, concerning the teachers and their quality, one thing we need to take into consideration is the Mental Health of Teachers. With teachers without good Mental Health, we cannot improve our quality and quantity of teachers, and so also the quality of Teacher Education.

How can an individual who has not good Mental Health, teach and train his or her pupils well? Even with him or her self, he or she cannot adjust well in his or her own life. How can such a person deal well with the pupils, who are still immature either they are children or adolescents? Moreover, most of our children and youths in school usually have so many problems of their own, especially with their home problems, such as financial, social, and so on.

So, when a teacher who has not good mental health, cannot stand even to his or her own problems, are so sure that they cannot have patience and ability to stand and solve the problems of their pupils. And how can such kind of teachers teach and train their pupils well, to become individuals with all-round developments?

Therefore, the Mental Health of teachers are of crucial importance in the field of Education.

But, it’s a great but, who has consider that the Mental Health of Teachers important? Who has take it into consideration that it is of much importance to support the conditions that can create the good Mental Health of Teachers?

Nowadays, as a Teacher to the present teachers all over the country, the author has heard so many problems with which the present teachers have to face and these conditions that can create the teachers mentally unhealthy. As the author is one of their most beloved teachers and to whom they have rapport, most of the teachers let me know all about the difficulties and problems they are facing these days.

Let’s see what their problems are.

First and foremost comes the financial problems and security problems. And so many others follow.

Let’s see one after another.

First thing, the financial problem.

As everybody knows, the job of a teacher is the one which cannot make a person rich in its nature. And also, if a teacher tries to become rich through his teacher’s life, it can also lead to corruptions.

But, although he cannot become rich by the job of a teacher, it is important to have enough income to support himself and his family. Here, a family not only means his own family with his wife and children, but also a family with his parents and his brothers and sisters.

Imagine, how a person can be happy and lives in peace, if he always needs to support his family with decent basic food, basic housing in which to take refuge safely and hygienically, basic and decent clothing, and so on? And sometimes, they need more in emergency cases as the health problems of their old-aged parents or for their young children.

Everybody knows very well that how these conditions are these days.

Without these enough support, how much an individual teacher can have good Mental Health to support and deliver their students well?

The second most important thing is the security of teachers in different places and regions all over the countries.

Only last year, we have lost a male teacher who was cruelly killed by some armed terrorists in Kachin State. He was a young teacher and well-loved by his pupils. Although some said it happened just because he had scolded some pupils who were absent from class on a school day, the killers are not found out yet up to this day. Where’s the security and fairness for the teachers who take the responsibility to teach children from the remote areas?

What can our Mother Ministry of Education do for all these such sorrowful things?

And we have already heard some other sorrowful stories during the time of crisis in Rakhine State too. During these days some teacher friends from Yangon had anxiety for their female friends from the crisis places and phoned them and inquired about their situations. The answers by these teachers break my heart. They said, “It depends on our luck. We have no security here. But we have pills with us, the poisonous pills. If the terrorists break through into our residence we will take the pills and die, we won’t let those terrorists do all the disgust things on us.”

For those young female teachers, can the Ministry of Education or the Education Department of Rakhine do any other security? Why? Why? Why?

And we also have another heart-broken stories of many teachers who are drowned in the Chindwin River? They are the ones who had come back from their schools to their native towns to their families on Thadingyut holidays. Who had taken the responsibility to search them from their drowned river? Who had said the words of sorrow as soon as possible when they lost their lives in the cruel Chindwin water?

Even according to the regional traditions, they did not accept their dead bodies into the villages where once they had taught the village children in their village schools. What a heart-broken story it is!

In such cases, as we have still regions which do not still have peace and tranquility, still some civil wars among ethnic people, how can our young teachers risk their lives and their dignity to go and serve as teachers in their village schools.

If they do not want to go, the authority in the Ministry only said, “You can get out of the job, if you cannot go there”. Just with these words, all these young ones who do not want to lose their jobs, have to take risks, even their lives to go and serve there to the village schools of remote areas.

If something happens, who will take the responsibility?

That’s the security conditions of our country for our young and old teachers these days.

So, for these financial and security problems, how can our teachers have Good Mental Health in their jobs and in their schools?

With teachers who have not Good Mental Health in our schools, the promotion and improving our Education Status can still be in a state of Utopia.

These are the very top and most important two problems for the Mental Health conditions for our teachers.

There are many many more ones to come. It will be continued in the coming weeks.

Here, what the author wants to say is to emphasize the importance of Mental Health conditions of Teachers (which was usually forgotten by the authorities to support) who are always in the important place to carry out the Educational plans in practical, so that our Education Status become higher and better.

It is the for the Future of our country and for the Future citizens of our country. (To be continued.)

Dr. Nu Nu Win, Retired Professor and Head of Department, Department of Educational Psychology, SUOE.
A visit to a Daing Net ethnic tribe village

By Nay Htet Khaung

Since arriving in Maungtaw two weeks ago to cover the development activities in Rakhine, we, reporters from the Myanmar News Agency, were hoping to visit the villages of ethnic people in Rakhine.

It was on Friday, 25 November when our wishes came true. We woke up on Friday morning and set off on our trip to the hilly areas by car. After a one-hour drive, we arrived at Rinechaung Village, then we proceeded to the Yanmaungpyin Village of the Daing-net people.

Daing Net is one of the many ethnic tribes in Rakhine State. In the hills in northern Rakhine, the Daing Net, Mrs and Rakhine live peacefully together, relying on the slash and burn cultivation method that is a traditional livelihood.

The Daing Net people are also found in the hills in northern Rakhine. Daing Net villagers expressed their hopes for “security for their safety”.

“We heard that some Daing Net villages were killed by ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) terrorists in the latest attacks. So we have anxiety for our safety. We urge authorities to make arrangements for our safety,” said one villager.

The villagers have already heard the fate of some of their tribe in the terrorist attacks. On 25 August, security forces evacuated 35 surviving members of the Daingnet ethnic tribe from Yankar Zaydi Village who were attacked by extremists, resulting in the death of five villagers, according to the Information Committee of the State Counselor’s Office. On that day, 22 Daingnet ethnic villagers left their village on Saturday for Yanmaungpyin Village in an effort to ensure safety for their people after the violence in northern Rakhine rapidly escalated the previous day.

When they reached Yanmaungpyin Village, they were attacked by about 35 terrorists who were armed with sticks and machetes. U Maung Ba, 55, survived the attack.

A couple of Mro women wash their clothes in the creek as their children take bath. PHOTO: MIN THET

Mro village of Gyalchalangu

Mro village of Gyalchalangu was the next step. In a field outside the village, we were treated to a scene of two women traditionally reaping rice with sickles.

Rice fields and forests are the workplaces for the villagers. Even women over 70 go into the forest and pluck vegetables that grow naturally, sharing the duties of survival. Everyday, men go to cultivation fields, which they establish with the traditional slash and burn method in the hills.

But since the terrorist attacks in 2016 and 2017, the villagers are fearful to go their fields in the hills, as they believe they are working at risk of their lives.

They have noticed that their relatives living in the hills have moved to open areas beside the road to Maungtaw.

“For our livelihood, we need just food. But we don’t want to work in hills today. We need plots near our village where we can grow crops,” said Shwe Nip, 28, another villager.

The Mro villagers are proud of their lifestyle and of wearing their traditional dress. They take pride in the culture which has been passed down to them by their ancestors.

They are all healthy and strong due to fresh air and daily work.

There are no fly-proof toilets in this village and in other Mro villages. The nearby forest is their toilet, said a villager.

Most of the villagers have not been to Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State. They wish to stay in their village in northern Rakhine.

“What we need today is a rural dispensary for our health care,” said U Shwe Nip, before he said goodbye to us.

By car. After a one-hour drive, we arrived at Rinechaung Village, then we proceeded to the Yanmaungpyin Village of the Daing-net people.

School children learning at the school in Yanmaungpyin Village. PHOTO: MIN THET

A Mro woman washes clothes in the creek as her children take bath. PHOTO: MIN THET

A couple of Mro harvest rice traditionally at the village of Gyalchalangu. PHOTO: MIN THET

Mro women return home carrying firewood. PHOTO: MIN THET

Sein, 28, managed to escape and said that security forces arrived in Yankar Zaydi village on Sunday and rescued 35 tribe people who had remained. The surviving 16 villagers who were attacked near Nyanmaungpyin Village arrived at the district police station the next day. Ma Oo Khin Kha, 17, suffered slash wounds and was hospitalised.

The same day, school children at the Yanmaungpyin Village school is evidence that shows the situation is improving.

“The situation is normal at present. But, we want to urge the authorities to emphasise the security of our villagers living in the hills,” said Bo Win Zaw, from Yanaungpyin Village.

The Mro village of Gyalchalangu

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A couple of Mro harvest rice traditionally at the village of Gyalchalangu. PHOTO: MIN THET

A Mro woman washes clothes in the creek as her children take bath. PHOTO: MIN THET

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**Sunday Special Comics**

26 November 2017

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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**Comics**

- **Bone:**
  - **My Ball is Gone!**
  - **Pay it back!**
  - **Huh? It’s fine?**

- **Sob Sob:**
  - **My Tire is Flat!**
  - **Pay it back!**
  - **Better run!**

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**People Will Be People**

- **You’re Always Running Around!**
  - **Hmm?**

- **Slow Down! Looking at you is tiring.**

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**Traffic is almost always congested.**

**That’s why I have to rush.**

---

**Urggh! You smell of alcohol from dawn to dusk.**

**You’re wasting your time with that! Get a job!**

**Have you dipped your life in alcohol?**

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**Sunday Joke**

- **Do you have any hopes or dreams left?**
  - **Of course! My big dreams fuel my drinking.**
  - **Care to tell me what those dreams are?**
  - **I’m hoping to win that grand prize from a beer cap!**
  - **Oh no!**
Ivory Prostheses: A Myanmar Success Story

ON 9 November 2017 Dr Bartek Szostakowski an orthopaedic surgeon from Poland delivered the Dr San Baw Memorial Lecture during the opening ceremony and plenary session of the joint conference of the Myanmar Orthopaedic Association and ASEAN Arthroplasty Association at Novotel Hotel Max in Yangon. Dr Szostakowski’s Memorial Lecture title is ‘Ivory Prostheses: A Myanmar Success Story’.

A few of the highlights of the Dr San Baw Memorial Lecture by Dr Szostakowski, the first to be given by a non-Myanmar inclades, among others interesting snippets of information such as the ship manifest (passenger list) from Southampton UK to New York, which the late Dr San Baw (29 June 1922-7 December 1984) travelled to the United States of America, in April 1964, to study at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine, brief description of the Master of Medical Science thesis submitted to it by Dr San Baw in late 1957 though at that time NOT dealing with ivory prostheses can be said to lay down the seeds of Dr San Baw’s pioneering medical research where he implanted with ivory hip prostheses in the fractured hips of 300 patients between 1969 to 1980 with about 87% success and the patients ages ranged from 14 years old to 87 years old. The Global New Light of Myanmar interviewed Dr Bartek Szostakowski about his memorial Lecture which is reproduced below.

Q. Please briefly introduce yourself and explain how you became interested in late Dr San Baw’s work with ivory prostheses.

A. I am an orthopaedic surgeon working at the Department of Sarcoma, Soft Tissue and Bone Tumours at the The Maria Skłodowska Curie Memorial Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology in Warsaw Poland. I came across Dr San Baw’s work purely by an accident almost 4 years ago while gathering material for one of my presentations on hip replacement. His ivory hip replacement concept appeared so amazing and unbelievable that I have decided to research this further. Unfortunately beside very few information available online I was not able to find any solid portion of knowledge that would answer my questions on how it was possible to construct hip made of ivory and have such amazing results that are hard to repeat nowadays with modern implants. It took me over 6 months to get through to Prof Myint Zan who is a son of late Dr San Baw and slowly step by step I was getting to know Dr San Baw and his pioneering work. As a result of this cooperation at the end of 2014 I have published an article about his ivory hip development in Bone and Joint Journal News which is a part of one of the most prestigious orthopaedic journals formerly known as British edition of Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery.

Q. Please briefly explain the findings you have made regarding Dr San Baw’s work and its significance in the field of orthopaedic surgery.

A. Practically speaking Dr San Baw’s hip implant is the only biologic joint implant in the history of orthopaedics being a xenograft (tissue from a species different from the recipient) that has successfully been implanted in the human being in several hundred cases with results comparable to allograft (tissue transplant within same species for example bone graft from another human) or professionally machine made implant. His work on ivory hip has very likely laid foundations for future developments of bone substitutes and biological coatings. My feeling is that maybe not very soon but surely in the near future patients will benefit from developments based on his experience with ivory.

Q. We understand that as far as hip replacements are concerned there are four pioneers or stages: prostheses mainly devised by (a) Austin Moore (2) Thomson (3) San Baw and (4) John Charnley. In non-technical terms please briefly explain them.

A. Charnley hip replacement is a total hip replacement which in practise is completely different type as it replaces both head of femur (ball) and acetabulum (cup) of the diseased joint and in its essence was designed for hip arthropitisis. Austin-Moore, Thompson and San Baw ivory hips are all hemiarthroplasties which means that they only replace head of femur leaving acetabulum patient’s own. Hemiarthroplasties were designed for hip fractures but also can be used in other pathologies of the hip excluding hip arthropitisis where both head and acetabulum are affected. San Baw’s arthroplasty can be considered as the only biologic hemiarthroplasty and although in the history of orthopaedic surgery we find solitary examples of ivory implants of different joints where ivory was utilised as substitute only San Baw’s ivory hip can be considered as successful and properly implemented project with longest follow up and amazing success stories with some patients using his ivory hips for more than 40 years.

Q. You have stated in your Lecture to the effect that Dr San Baw’s pioneering work with ivory prostheses did not and does not get the recognition it deserved/deserves internationally and perhaps to an extent nationally Why was (is) this so? Please briefly describe your contributions in the form of articles you have written so that internationally and perhaps Dr San Baw’s work is not entirely relegated to obscurity.

A. Together with my colleagues from the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in London – major orthopaedic teaching centre and UK’s leading orthopaedic hospital we have published two articles in most quoted orthopaedic journals that will mark Dr San Baw’s input in the orthopaedic surgery and his pioneering work in the field of biologic implants. Our first article was published in the Bone and Joint Journal News in 2014 and was describing his ivory prosthesis and history of its development. Second article is recently published in Clinical Orthopaedic and Related Research short review of the method along with a case report of the patient who is living with ivory implant for over 25 years. Ivory hip concept came to live again and draw attention among orthopaedic surgeons worldwide allowing to reestablish San Baw’s position in the history of orthopaedic surgery and hip replacement. Clinical Orthopaedic and Related Research has decided to place image of San Baw’s ivory hips on the cover of its December issue.

Q. Any future plan(s) to cooperate with Myanmar Orthopaedic Surgery Association?

A. Yes I will surely maintain close contacts with doctors that I met at the conference and will be happy to offer my help if required or I can add something from my end to the fast growing orthopaedic community of Myanmar. Following words of Benjamin Disraeli “Great countries are those that produce great people.” and surely very few nations can be blessed with such great minds as Dr San Baw’s. –GNLM

Photo of Dr San Baw holding his ivory hip prosthesis being interviewed by a reporter from the Voice of America (VOA) at the British Orthopaedic Association Conference in September 1969. It first appeared in an article published in the FORWARD magazine (Rangoon) on 15 November 1969 by the late U Tha Ban in both Burmese and English versions and the reported was wrongly identified as an orthopaedic surgeon.
Different People in Different Culture

FLAMES are dancing in the fireplace. Winter’s stormy wind, blowing here and there in dark, is wrestling with the smokes in the chimney. I am sleepy near the fireplace.

I listen to their conversations carefully. However, I can’t understand them well. Only after thinking about them, I can realize a little bit about what they are talking. Sometimes, I just smile as soon as they beam and, frown when they grimace, pretending to comprehend what they are saying. However, it is tasteless. They will also think about my saying in the same way.

According to our tradition, when having food, we serve it to elders first. But, for them, they hand over me the food first. Sometimes, I can’t enjoy it comfortably. Only after taking the food what I want, elders and others take the rest. How it’s so difficult.

We eat our food, drinking the broth, mixing with cooked pieces. But they take in another way; they enjoy cooked pieces of meat, fish, vegetables in a curry, only after having soup with no salt and cooking oil. I yearn the taste of ripen tamarind. I long for rice and warm curry.

We take food what we want with our own mind, taking this plate and that plate. We just finish our hunger in any good way. How it is so free! But, they can’t fulfill their hunger unless they say these words very often: “May I take a pinch of salt, please.”, “Excuse me!”, and “Thank you.” on the table. These effusive words can’t be uttered easily from my lips. Only after endeavoring to say these words, they stammer out. I am wondering it might be better to smile situationally rather than saying the word “Thank you!” in a fabricated way, I can’t decide.

It is not easy for me to translate my words in mind to adapt with their words. It is also difficult for me to try to comprehend their words by translating into my language. I can’t translate the word “Phonegyi” to make them understand what I mean. I find it is not true to translate a word in their language “Nat”.

How it is tight to wrap my hands, legs and body from dawn to dusk. It is so uncomfortable to suffer chest and back pains. Wool clothes are itching.

It is really uncomfortable not to squat down, not to stretch, and not to lie on back. It is not relaxed to incline and twist all day. My trousers don’t let me to sit cross-legged in private.

When I visit somewhere, children look at me (as if I were an alien)* and adults smile at me without any reason. How it is bad to be stared though I am a good man.

It is suffocated to live either in a house or a room where doors and windows are closed.

I will suffer a lapse in my work when I mind their customs. When I live in my own ways, I will receive their derisive smiles. They are not mindful of my tradition but I have to be careful of their norms. It is a burden on me.

Is it better that the yellow one tries to understand about the white one and the white one to the yellow one? Both rice and wheat give nutrients to us. In the fireplace, the heat is gradually decreasing. Winter’s stormy wind is now calm. The time has come to midnight. I, accompanying to a hot-water bottle, am also trying to fall asleep under thick blankets in my stuffy room.

Translated by Nwe Phyo
(Cherryland)

Family

Father looks like the sun for our own world. For us he gives the light for our own world.

Mother looks like the moon for our own world. For us she gives the bright for our own world.

Brother looks like the star for our own world. For us he gives the might for our own world.

Sister looks like the flash for our own world. For us she gives the fresh for our own world.

From this time on, we are also not here. For this and that, we have to part each other.

From that time on, they are also not there. For this and that, they have to part each other.

However, we are very very far or not near, We are really really close together.

Thin Hlaing Hmwe (J unior)

Wants and Needs

Duty and Hobby
If one parallels with the other
Which one keeps you lively?
Choose something you hold dear
And regret never

Dignity and Money
If one parallels with the other
Which one makes you happy?
Think what keeps your soul pure
And live without fear

Oh dear! Think it clear
With your heart sincere
Your life will be secure

Honey Soe(B.M.T.M)

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

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