State Counsellor attends ceremony to open Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a ceremony yesterday to reopen the newly renovated Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital in Bahan Township, named after her mother and located near her childhood home.

The hospital upgrades were donated jointly by the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Myanmar and China Foundation for Peace and Development.

In her speech yesterday, she highlighted the importance of the all-encompassing compassion of nurses as a requirement for the unity of national races.

“This hospital is not only important for our health, but is important for our union and our nurses. I felt much gratitude toward the people who made the hospital in my mother’s name, Daw Khin Kyi (Women’s) Hospital, into a successful and developed hospital that will serve the people. I personally value these things,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The hospital brought back childhood memories for the State Counsellor, who experienced the compassionate nature of nurses when they occasionally visited her home.

Her mother, wife of Bogyoke Aung San, was also a nurse.

PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Chinese Ambassador’s wife Mrs. Wang Xue Hong unveil the statue of Daw Khin Kyi as they open the Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital in Yangon yesterday.
Forums to set minimum wage in Yangon

U Thein Swe, the Union Minister for the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, attended a workshop for setting the minimum wage at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The minister discussed the setting of a new minimum wage at the forum. U Zarni Thwe, General Secretary of Farmers, Agriculture and Foodstuff, said it was high time to set a minimum wage for workers because “we already have proposed to set the rate of minimum wages between the employers and the employees.”

The President’s Office has already formed the National Minimum Wage Committee and made a tri-partite dialogue to resolve the issues. The committee has already arranged to hold meetings through employers, employees and representatives.

Attendees at the forum were members of Amyotha Committee, Huttaw Representatives, labour organisation representatives, experts, employer groups, the International Labour Organisation and the Central Statistical Organisation.

— Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister for Information in Lashio

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint met with the staff of Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), the Information and Public Relations Department and the News and Periodicals Enterprise at the State Information and Public Relations Department in Lashio, northern Shan State yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said matters relating to the gathering of news, publishing and distribution sections to be reformed in accord with the new technology and offices of the Information and Public Relations Department are to be turned into the Community Centre, where people make use of it and to cooperate with state administrative organisations and social organisations.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister inspected the Community Centre of State Information and Public Relations Department associate office, MRTV sub transmission station and Sub-Printing House (Lashio).

Earlier in the morning, the Union Minister took part in the mass walk event of Lashio, in which nearly 8,500 people participated, by walking from Lashio Town Hall to Union Sport Stadium, where sport activities and competitions were continued.

—District IPRD
President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady attend pre-Christmas prayer and lunch

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin attended a pre-Christmas prayer and lunch held at Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khai ng Than’s residence yesterday morning.

Attending the lunch together with President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin were Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr Shwe Hi-wam, Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar’s Chairperson U Myo Nyunt, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khin Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Ministers and wives, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, heads of departments and invited guests who were welcomed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Mahn Win Khai ng Than, wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi and family who also gave Christmas wishes.

At the pre-Christmas prayer and lunch, President U Htin Kyaw delivered a message of greetings and had lunch together with the guests who were in attendance.

After having lunch, the President and First Lady took commemorative photos with guests who were in attendance.

At the pre-Christmas prayer Reverends and Fathers read Christmas Psalms, verses from the Bible and sang Christmas carols and hymns.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor attends ceremony to open Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital

FROM PAGE 1

“Though the ethnic women nurses came from different areas of the country, they loved each other and were united. I’ve seen none who were not compassionate. I respect the nurses and value them. In the same way, I came to understand the Union Spirit from them. There was no discrimination on where they came from. They don’t treat one patient differently from another,” she said.

The State Counsellor also underlined the health and education sectors which Myanmar needs for development.

“When I say a person is not educated, I don’t mean not having a degree. I mean not having rational thought. This is depending on the surrounding. It is not depending on whether you attended school or not. To have rationalization is to treat others correctly. It was an education for me to see the young nurses who came from all over the country living together in friendship and unity,” she said.

She also encouraged the nurses in attendance yesterday, as they play an important role in the country’s health care.

“Doctor and nurses were more important than doctors. I still have the same thought now. This is because the nurses are the one who are giving personal treatment and encouragement to the patients,” she added.

The good care provided with compassion and good will by present-day nurses can help those who can serve the country regain strength to contribute toward the country, she said. As part of yesterday’s ceremony, the Chinese Ambassador’s wife Mrs. Wang Xue Hong delivered a message of greeting and then transferred documents related to Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital, a Myanmar-China friendship hospital, which were accepted by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.

Mrs. Wang Xue Hong also presented a certificate of honour to U Chaung, the honorary chairman of the Central Organization for Myanmar-China Cooperative Relations.

This was followed by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe presenting documents of honour to Chinese Ambassadors to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and the chairman of the China Foundation for Peace and Development, who donated the upgrading of the Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital and provided hospital equipment. The Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Myanmar acting Charge d’affaires accepted the certificate of honour on behalf of the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Tha also presented certificates of honour to Central Organization for Myanmar-China Cooperative Relations senior chairman U Thilaka, who facilitated the quick renovation of the hospital. Documents of honour were also presented to the director of Art Wave Group Co., who conducted the renovations and construction of the hospital, and Chief Engineer of China Sino-harm International Corporation, a company that imported hospital equipment and provided medical training. Next, the State Counsellor, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and the Chinese Ambassador’s wife Mrs. Wang Xue Hong cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the hospital.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Mrs. Wang Xue Hong unveiled the statue of Daw Khin Kyi in the hospital.

The foundation of the hospital hall that later became Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital was laid in 22 August, 1933 and opened on 1 September, 1933. Stewardship of the hospital was transferred to a Women and Child Care organization on 15 September 1947 and was renamed Tower Lane Hospital. It was used as a hospital to deliver children.

The hospital was governed by the 13-member board chaired by Daw Khin Kyi and transferred to the social welfare department in 1949. In 1952, the hospital came under the control of Ministry of Health.

With the Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital upgraded to high standards, the pressure on Central Women’s Hospital and other hospitals in Yangon will be reduced, officials said. Additionally, arrangements are underway to train skilled midwives who will provide basic health care throughout the country.

The total cost of upgrading and renovating Daw Khin Kyi Women’s Hospital and provisioning it with medical instruments and equipment was US$2 million – Myanmar News Agency
Tomato growers receive good price for latest harvest

THE month of December saw an increase in prices of tomatoes produced in Aunglan Township, Thetgyet District, Magway Region, growers say.

“We continue to receive a handsome price for the marketable kitchen crop this harvest season which is higher than that of last year. Based on the size, quality, freshness and species, the prices of tomato are between Ks500 and Ks700 per viss (a viss is equivalent to 3.6 pounds) in the domestic market,” said U San Lynn, one of local tomato producers.

Tomatoes, a popular kitchen crop, is widely used as the main ingredient for many traditional dishes in the country. In Aunglan Township, tomatoes have mostly been grown in villages along Moekangung Creek and Bwokegyi Creek in the cold season. The fresh tomatoes are usually sent to the wholesale markets in nearby towns.

“Despite an increase in prices of tomatoes at the present time, growers worry that they may experience a decline in the prices of tomato again that they experienced in previous years. At the time, we received only K50 per viss and lost production costs,” said U San Lynn.

Normally, an acre of tomato plantation costs approximately Ks500,000, he added.

The crop is famous for its health benefits. According to an international study, tomatoes provide antioxidant protection against cancer, strengthen the heart and prevent constipation.—Shwe Khine

Rural electrification project implemented in Sittway District

ELECTRICITY authorities announced that a rural electrification project has been implemented in villages ten miles from Ponnagyun Township, Sittway District, Rakhine State.

Under the government’s rural electrification plan, installation of power facilities have been carried out in target villages with the use of the Union government’s budget so as to offer 24 hours electricity services to the villagers in the coming year.

Fish paste industry relies mainly on local market

THE fish paste, dried fish and sauce industry is mainly relying on the local market, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Even though businessmen want to penetrate the international market, there is a lack of technical expertise and investment money in the fish paste, dried fish and sauce sector.

Although fish paste, dried fish and fish sauce produced locally is exported to Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore, the vast majority of these products are bought and consumed by locals.

Myanmar exports only 20 per cent of fish paste, dried fish and sauce from local production.

“Other countries demand only raw materials of Myanmar’s aquatic products. Also, we don’t get a high price. The fish paste and dried fish are likely to be less durable because we have made them without using chemicals.

Therefore, we cannot penetrate the international market,” said U Tun Sein, the secretary of Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Association.

To be able to export these products, the Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Association has invited foreign investors to invest in the Myanmar aquatic sector, it is learnt.—GNLM

Elderly killed in hit-and-run crash in Yangon

A fatal road accident happened on Saturday early morning in Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township in Yangon that left an elderly woman dead, according to the township police.

Investigators say that the 75-year-old Daw Tin Ohn residing on Zawtika Street in Ward-67 who was hit by a Hyundai car while she passed the Ponpam Street to dispose the kitchen rubbishes at around 6 a.m. on 23 December.

She died at the scene. Police are still trying to identify the driver.

A police officer said that investigations are being made in an effort to arrest the unknown driver who immediately fled from the scene.

The driver will face legal charges under the existing Penal Code for his careless driving.—Ko Gyi Soe (Seikkan)
Pathein parasols exported to Germany

LARGE Pathein parasols, Myanmar’s traditional sun umbrellas used in hotels as interior decoration, is yearly exported to Germany through sea routes, according to a report of Myawaddy Daily.

That umbrella is one of the famous souvenir products of Pathein Town, Ayeyawady Region. Foreign companies mostly from countries of the European Union place orders of umbrella 6 to 8 feet in diameter. Sixty per cent of Pathein parasols went to foreign markets, whereas only 40 per cent of them are for the local market. Hotels from Ngwesaung, Chaungtha and Ngapali beaches and Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Mawlamyine towns buy Pathein parasols for decoration. Also, Pathein parasols are seen in religious events, charity events and ordination ceremony. Myanmar fine arts are painted on Pathein parasol. Foreigners appreciate Pathein parasols for their handmade quality. —GNLM

Export income up by $1.66 billion against last FY

EXPORT to foreign trade partners between 1st April and 15th December this fiscal year hit US$9.75 billion, which increased by $1.66 billion compared to similar period of last FY.

The export incomes were $2.06 billion from agricultural products, $18.2 million from animal products, $447 million from fishery products, $971 million from minerals, $153 million from forest products, $4.42 billion from finished industrial goods and $1.67 billion from other products.

Finished industrial goods topped the export revenue chart with estimated value of $4.42 billion while animal products were noted at the bottom of the chart with the least earning.

The private sector’s export earning is double the income from the government sector. Export revenues via sea routes were $6.3 billion, whereas border trade saw an estimated export value of $3.44 billion.

The Commerce Ministry is endeavouring to increase the export earnings by laying down six main objectives: trade promotion, trade facilitation, trade negotiation, trade liberalization, trade education and consumer protection, according to its one-year performance under the incumbent government’s period.

Previously, the country was heavily reliant only on extractive industries such as natural gas, timber, minerals. Now, production from those industries is declining and thus, Myanmar is emphasizing on export diversification into agriculture and industrial sectors. —Ko Htet

The restaurant decorated with Pathein parasols in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Unbelievable price of RVT condominium

▫️ RVT luxury condominium, 13th storyed building price is started from 75 to 110 USD for 1sqft, our condo have only 44 units (1unit=1900sqft), River View and Shwe Dagon, City View condominium.
▫️ Facilities — 2lift, Swimming pool, Gym, Party hall, Backup Generator, Car parking(56Nos), 24/7 Security Desk.
▫️ Location —
  ◦ 3 to 4km 10min travel from RVT condo
    ◦ ShukhInThar International School
    ◦ Royal Myanmar Education Center (RMEC)
    ◦ Dulwich International Collage
    ◦ 14km, 25min travel from RVT condo to Thilawa Special Economic Zone.
▫️ Phone - 09761799799, 09972578825, www.facebook.com/TheRiverViewTower

Now 70% Complete and will handover to customer on July 2018.
Over 97,000 baskets of paddy farmed by displaced people of Maungtaw sold

As of 21 December, a total of 97,337 baskets of paddy farmed by Maungtaw region displaced people were harvested and sold, according to the Maungtaw District General Administration Department.

The paddy were reaped with the combine harvesters of Agricultural Mechanization Department and bagged by the Department of Agriculture. So far, the Maungtaw Merchants Association and the Rakhine Paddy Trading Company have mainly bought the grain. More merchants are now being invited.

The Maungtaw region borders the Bay of Bengal and has good climate for rice paddies. It is one of the major rice producing regions of Rakhine State. Traders are now transporting the paddy grains of Maungtaw region by motor vehicles through the land routes of Maungtaw-A Ngu Maw and Maungtaw-Buthidaung and by vessels to the warehouses in Sittway.—Myint Maung/Zayar

Over 500 in Maungtaw to be formally trained as teachers

AN opening ceremony for a programme to train 500 teachers who are currently teaching kindergarten and first-grade classes was held in the B.E.H.S (2) Maungtaw school in Rakhine yesterday.

Township education officer U Khin Aung said that 500 teachers in Rakhine State will undergo training in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years.

The programme’s aim is to implement effective education and reinforce the teachers who had been teaching without formal training due to various reasons.

Training for a total of 553 teachers, including 280 kindergarten teachers and 273 Grade 1 teachers, will be conducted for 10 days starting today. Many teachers in Maungtaw transferred to other places following the 2016 terrorist attacks in Maungtaw, and were replaced with new teachers earning daily wages. “We draw up effective lesson plans for the KG classes in order for them to be familiar with their surroundings. And we teach them many new lessons like playing with toys, reciting poems and so on”, said Daw Mya The Phyu, a teacher from Buthidaung Township.

Teacher U Aung Ko Lin was posted in Wet Kyein, Maungtaw. Out of 183 schools, 105 schools have reopened since the terrorist attacks. There are 80,000 students in Maungtaw and in Buthedaung alone who need effective teachers. Township Education Officer U Khin Aung explained that education is a driving force to shape the development of the region, and it can help the stability of the state where the number of the intelligentsia increases.

“We are going to implement systematic goals of education as much as we can”, he said. —Myint Maung/Zayar
Phapros and Medi Myanmar agree to build Drug Factory in Yangon

JAKARTA. Phapros, a unit of state-owned Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia, established a joint venture with pharmaceutical giant Medi Myanmar Group to establish a non-antibiotic drug factory in Myanmar for an undisclosed investment amount.

The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding in Yangon, Myanmar, on Thursday (21/12).

“We are currently preparing for the establishment of a factory. Meanwhile, we are also looking at potential exports of over-the-counter medicines, or medicines dispensed without a doctor’s prescription,” Phapros president director Barokah “Emmy” Sri Utami said in a statement.

Medi Myanmar Group was established in 1991, with its main business involving the importation, marketing and distribution of pharmaceutical products.

Emmy said the joint venture will focus on the development of a drug factory on a 2-hectare area in the Yangon Industrial Estate.

The factory will initially produce capsules or non-antibiotic medicines before gradually expanding to intravenous medicines.

Phapros has strengthened its presence in Southeast Asia with its entry into the Myanmar market. The company also has a factory in Cambodia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, while it is currently expanding to Central Asia and Africa.

Myanmar currently imports 90 percent of its pharmaceutical requirements, with around 45 percent of it from India, 35 percent from Thailand.

Emmy said Phapros is exploring an option to export its products to Myanmar in a bid to expand the company’s distribution area. The company is also seeking partnerships with other pharmaceutical firms in that country. Southeast Asia has vast potential for pharmaceutical products. According to data compiled by global consulting firm Boston Consulting Group, the region is expected to generate around $40 billion in pharmaceutical sales in 2020.

Meanwhile, the total value of Indonesia’s market for pharmaceutical products amounts to $4.7 billion annually, which accounts for 27 percent of the total pharmaceutical market in Southeast Asia.

—Jakarta Globe

Singapore stands at the top of chart with the largest investment this fiscal year

SINGAPORE put US$1.71 worth of investments in 30 projects as of the end of November in the current fiscal year, followed by China with estimated investments of over $1 billion in 43 enterprises.

According to statistics of MIC, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Netherlands, Thailand, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, the UAE, the UK, the USA, Viet Nam, Marshall Island, Norway, Pakistan, Taiwan, etc invested in Myanmar.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has granted approval to 163 projects with capital of more than US$5 million.

From left, Indonesian Ambassador Ito Sumardi, Phapros president director Barokah ‘Emmy’ Sri Utami, Phapros president commissioner M. Yana Aditya and Medi Myanmar Group founder Win Si Thu after signing a memorandum of understanding in Yangon on 21 December 2017. PHOTO: COURTESY OF PHAPROS

Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DIC offices are authorized to give approval to investment proposals with capital of not more than US$5 million (Ks6,000 million).—Htet Myat

Myanmar-India trade tops $940 million

BILATERAL trade with India since April was valued at nearly US$940 million, including $461 mn from the import sector and $477 mn from the export sector, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar-India border trade as of this October totalled $38.554 mn, comprised of $30 mn from exports and $8 mn from imports while bilateral trade by sea amounted to over $900 mn, covering $477 mn from exports and $453 mn from imports.

Myanmar conducts border trade with India mainly through the Tamu and Reed border points. However, the country mostly uses marine trade routes for bilateral imports and exports.

The country usually exports ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other kinds of fruits and vegetables, plus human hair, fishery and forest products to the neighbouring country and imports medicines, oil-cakes, electronic products, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.—Shwe Khine

Photo: Aung Kyi Myint (U Kyi Win)

“There is no power that can compare with the power of the support, trust and unity of the people. I believe that whatever difficulties we may have to face can be overcome by the power of the unity of our people.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered to the people by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor on 12 October, 2017)

Photo: courtesy of Phapros

PhaungtawOo Pagoda (Inle)
By Ti Kyi Maung

Wish for Progress of Electricity Sector, Major Necessity of the Nation!

I N S U F F I C I E N C Y of electricity, shortage of infrastructures including power plants, transportation and communication and lack of strengthened policies are being pointed out by most of the entrepreneurs from abroad who would to invest in Myanmar. Lack of strengthened policies can be amended in a short period of time but it will take time and efficient investments to fulfill the need of power supply and better infrastructure.

Beneficial for multi-sectors

In building up our nation which is still full of many requirements into an economically developed country, it must be prioritized to revalorize the economic status of every individual. For the economic development it also needs to urgently implement investments in the sector of infrastructure including the projected electricity. It is necessary for the State Government to make unoccupied approach in energy in the power circle. Here, unconventional approach is none other than consideration through methods beneficial for multi-purposes. On study of the electricity sector in Myanmar; it has been observed that there have been electricity consumed by machines estimated at 185 million kwatt (MW) and 1796 billion watt hours (kWh). In 2010, power requirement was created 1844 megawatts at conservatively-approximate.

Objectives laid down

Myanmar has drawn up the National Electricity Plan—NFET In 2020, it was targeted to electricity 10 percent of rural and urban areas, 75 percent in 2023 and 100 percent in 2030. To do so, electrification for the region within the reach of national power grid will be carried out through grid electrification system whereas electrification for the region beyond the reach of national power grid will be carried out through off-grid electrification system. Arrangements are being made for distributing power to houses through the power resources, solar energy for hydropower and wind-operated electricity using natural resources by building Mini-Grid lines under the off-grid lines project. The system focuses on nationwide electrification, not guaranteeing the production of power needed for the development of industries. In making various approaches as to fulfilling the national power requirement the State Government will be 1844 megawatts at conservative-approximate.

Urgent need

Accordingly, the State Govern- ment invited investors from home and abroad to invest in the country. The State Government alone invested in some enterprises local and inter- national investors invited to operate enterprises under the JV System (Joint Venture System) or BOT System (Build, Operate and Transfer System). But, until now no-one was found yet to energetically take part in the power sector, energy efficient. One of the major causes is that reasonable power charges cannot be fixed yet so far, it was learnt. There may also be other causes. At the time when the State Government alone could not invest for national power urgent requirement, reluctance to invest in the proj- ects as for the global investors may be attributed to uncertainty to get profit or lack of economic prospects of getting benefit. Whatever it is, electricity requirement must be essentially solved out. To overcome the present difficulty electricity must be produced by the country or otherwise investors must be let to invest for production of electricity in the country. Pro- vided that these two ways are unsuccessful, the third and last way is the country must be open to foreign investors to invest for electricity trading. Cross border electricity trading will be currently con- vention in the long run, as well as beneficial for our economic growth, so it would be necessary to make necessary arrangements to enter the cross border electricity trading in the future.

With a view to building ASEAN-

AN Power Grid, informal meet- ings were held at the ASEAN meetings starting from 1977, and now it is beginning to be imple- mented. Laos now renounced as the battery of South East Asia managed to produce 30 billion kilowatts annually, selling 21.1 billion kilowatts to foreign coun- tries. At the 35th ASEAN Ener- gy Ministerial Meeting held in September 2017, Laos signed agreements with Malaysia and Thailand, to sell electricity from Laos to Malaysia via power grid lines in Thailand. In near future agreements are underway to sell electricity from Laos to Sin- gapore. If Myanmar will approach to enter the sphere of the cross border electricity trading, at the initial period Myanmar will purchase electricity urgently needed for the country, but in future Myanmar may be able to sell its electricity product to neighboring countries such as China, India and other regional countries. Moreover, Myanmar will have an access to hire its gridlines in electricity trading between neighboring countries.

Only if power requirements had been overcome

If electricity require- ments have been managed to be overcome, we shall be successfully able to be imple- mented with great momentum. No one will deny if it is said that adequacy of electricity is the vi- tality for the national economic development. It is necessary for the Government to make firm decisions with bravery in some cases, especially in such a time when electricity requirements are to be fulfilled in shortest pe- riod of time, while performing its tasks within the limited budget. The major objective of the country is in the acquisition of elec- tricity with a meager amount of the investments from the Government in a short period of time, hence the need to focus on the success of our objectives. Troubles by Aung San

For equality among all races and peace and tranquility across the country, we must all strive to build up nationwide peace.

One Independence message to remember

ONE-MAN HEROIC-EFFORTS cannot bring about the Jewel of Independence. For all of us to enjoy human rights including the right to live our country, the national cause for all of us to take part in the revolution for the Independence. “That is the real essence of the Independence Declaration to be delivered to the public at the mass meeting, which was written by Bogyoke Aung San at the meeting held on 1st March 1945 at his residence at 143 Mahabandula, and 1396 billion kwatt hours (kWh). In 2010, power requirement was created 1844 megawatts at conservatively-approximate. The findings rely partially on amber specimens from Myanmar. In one of them, a tick is trapped in the hardened resin alongside a feather from a dinosaur that lived during the Cretaceous Period. At that time, there was enough oxygen, so it’s able to capture small bits of the ecosystem almost instantly,” says Eduardo Pérez-de la Fuente, Smithsonian’s National Natural History and an author of the study published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications. “Amur can actually preserve interactions between organisms. This is the case with the feather and the grasping tick.”

The tick and feather paleo support a theory that Pérez-de la Fuente has already spent years developing, based on others ticks trapped in amber from the same period. Those ticks didn’t have dinosaur feathers encased with them, but there were tiny hairs. The hairs resemble those left behind by a type of beetle larva that Pérez-de la Fuente has already found in amber.

“If we had this indirect evidence about the relationship between ticks and feathered dinosaurs, Pérez-de la Fuente says, but the dinosaur fossils didn’t have any direct evidence for the relationship until they saw the tick and feather trapped together in amber.

Many cautious the evidence doesn’t necessarily exclude other types of feathered dinosaurs were not the only ones that lived in nests. He also says follow-up research needs to be done to understand how a new ancient species of tick identified in the resin. The flier tick family. Pérez-de la Fuente acknowledges there is more work to be done to clarify the ancient feathers and their blood-suck- ing behaviors. For example, one amber specimen contains a tick engaged with blood, but Pérez-de la Fuente and his co-authors couldn’t determine if the tick was engaged with bone that blood because the tick wasn’t entirely encased in amber, so the iron in the blood was contaminated with minerals.

That specimen and the others in the study were gathered in Myanmar, which is famous for its large amber deposits. “Private collectors had been capturing the amber since the late 19th century,” says Pérez-de la Fuente. One collector donated a piece of amber to the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Another helped analyze ticks in amber he purchased and is listed as an author of the new study—Ricardo Pérez-de la Fuente reticulated, so the iron in the blood was contaminated with minerals.

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A tick grasping a dinosaur feather is preserved in 159 million-year-old amber from Myanmar. PHOTO: PEREZ-DE LA FUENTE AL/NATURE COMMUNICATIONS
US Senate leader McConnell sees a more collegial 2018

WASHINGTON — US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Friday said a shifting landscape will lead him to work with Democrats on immigration and financial regulation early in the new year, following a year of acrimony and partisan legislation.

In an end-of-year news conference, McConnell touted a list of Republican accomplishments since President Donald Trump took office in January. It started with the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and ended with an overhaul of the US tax code.

But in January, McConnell’s already razor-thin 52-48 Republican majority will shrink to 51-49 with the swearing in of Senator-elect Doug Jones, the Democrat who surprised the political world with a win in a special election in the deeply Republican state of Alabama.

Adding to McConnell’s difficulties, special Senate procedures are fading that allowed him to pass a tax bill and try to repeal the Affordable Care Act this year without any Democratic support.

That means that McConnell’s victories—if he has them—will require more collaboration and less confrontation.

The pivot was the centerpiece of his news conference remarks.

“There are areas where I think we can get bipartisan agreement,” McConnell said.

First on his list was legislation to change Dodd-Frank banking regulations, he said would help smaller financial institutions.

The Kentucky senator noted that Senate Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo has advanced legislation that is co-sponsored by several Democrats.

McConnell also pointed to bipartisan efforts to help undocumented immigrants, known as “Dreamers,” who were brought into the United States when they were children.

If negotiators from both parties can come to a deal for the Dreamers that Trump’s administration can support, “we’ll spend floor time on that in January,” McConnell said.

On Thursday, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer complained that throughout 2017 Republicans “have been hell-bent on pursuing a partisan agenda.”

When asked by a reporter of possible bipartisan successes in 2018, Schumer pointed to the need for infrastructure improvements but said that Trump has been “all over the lot” on how to accomplish road, airport and other construction projects.

With the November 2018 congressional elections approaching, Democrats might have less incentive to cooperate with Republicans, especially after Schumer’s party won decisive victories in special elections this month and last in Alabama and Virginia.

McConnell hinted it would be tougher to find agreement with Democrats on some other legislative issues, including welfare reform, which Trump says he wants to push ahead with in 2018.

McConnell said he would consult with Trump and House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan in January over prospects for welfare reform.—Reuters

Russia not to participate in “arms race” escalation with US — senator

MOSCOW — Russia is not going to participate in escalation of the “arms race” with the US, head of the Federation Council’s defense and security committee, and former Commander-in-Chief of the Aerospace Force, Viktor Bondarev told TASS on Saturday.

“I would like to stress, Russia would not escalate the arms race, as we are not going to attack anybody,” he said. “This is why, it is not worth expecting the tension’s escalation from our side.”

“If this escalation may develop, then only from overseas, and its forms and scale are hard to predict.”

The US military have been working on hypersonic weapons (its X-51 cruise missile has passed tests), the country threatens to quit the INF Treaty (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty — TASS), continue building up the nuclear potential,” he continued.

“To every possible threat our state programme of weapons has a worthy response. But, at the same time, Russia focuses not on repelling possible attacks, but on continuing improvement of the country’s defence, on design and supplies of newest precision weapons and equipment,” he said.

The new state programme to 2027 reflects “fundamental, not temporary, tasks,” he stressed. They, in addition to the listed above, include development of the defence industry, further modernization of the Armed Forces, and high-quality training.—Tass

Trump travel ban should not be applied to people with strong US ties — court

WASHINGTON — A US appeals court on Friday said a travel ban by President Donald Trump’s administration targeting people from six Muslim-majority countries should not be applied to people with strong US connections.

The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit also said its ruling will be put on hold pending a decision on the travel ban by US Supreme Court.—Reuters

Peru interior minister resigns following political crisis

LIMA — Peruvian Interior Minister Carlos Basombrio said President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski accepted his resignation on Friday after a political crisis engulfing the government nearly toppled the head of state over unproven graft allegations.

Basombrio made the announcement on Twitter without giving a reason. Kuczynski had confirmed in a televised interview Sunday that Basombrio tried to resign last week but the president hoped he could persuade him to stay. Kuczynski thwarted a bid in Congress late Thursday to force him out, with the help of opposition lawmakers who want Kuczynski to pardon imprisoned ex-president Alberto Fujimori, who has served 12 years of a 25-year sentence for graft and human rights crimes.—Reuters
Ululations, tears as white Zimbabwean farmer returns to seized land

Commercial farmer Darreyn Smart is welcomed at Lesbury Estates by village elders and children at a farm in Headlands communal lands east of the capital Harare, Zimbabwe on 21 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iraqi Shi’ite paramilitaries deploy to Syrian border

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Shi’ite paramilitary groups have deployed to the frontier to back up border guard forces who came under fire from within Syria over the past three days, one of their commanders said on Friday.

There was no immediate word on who opened fire from Syrian territory, but forces arrayed against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria expect the group's will resort to guerrilla warfare after losing its urban bastions earlier this year.

“After several Iraqi border guard positions came under several attacks by missiles, and backup from security forces was late, the 13th brigade of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) was deployed and targeted the origins of the launch,” PMF commander for west Anbar, Qassem Mesleh, said in a statement.

“Operations command and the infantry brigade are now present on the Iraqi-Syrian border in border guard positions to repel any attack or movement by the enemy,” Mesleh said.

Irish forces on 9 December recaptured the last swathes of territory still under Islamic State control along the frontier with Syria and secured the western desert.

It marked the end of the war against the militants, three years after they overran about a third of Iraq's territory.

Rasool, the military spokesman, denied backup to the border guards had been late.

“The primary responsibility for the borders lies with the border guards and the army, however,” said Rasool.

He said Iraqi forces coordinate with both the Syrian army, which is backed by Russia, Iran and Iraqi-backed Shi’ite militias, and the US-backed alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias known as the Syrian Democratic Forces opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

He said parts of Syria — including many areas on the border with Iraq — were still under Islamic State control.

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Driver charged with attempted murder over Australian vehicle attack

MELBOURNE — The man accused of deliberately ploughing into Christmas shoppers on a busy street in the Australian city of Melbourne was charged on Saturday with 18 counts of attempted murder.

The Thursday incident was the second serious vehicle attack in Australia's second biggest city this year.

Police said they had charged the man, former Afghanistan refugee Saeed Noori, 32, after formally interviewing him about the attack that police had earlier described as a “deliberate act”.

Police have said Noori, 32, is known to have mental health problems and to use drugs and they did not believe the attack was terrorism-related.

Police suspect Noori was behind the wheel of a white SUV when he deliberately sped up and drove into dozens of pedestrians crossing the road at one of the busiest intersections in Melbourne’s central business district.

Noori is set to appear in a Magistrates Court later on Saturday.

Islamist militants have used vehicles to attack people several times in Europe and the United States over the past couple of years.

In January, six people were killed in Melbourne’s central business district when a man used his vehicle to mow them down. Police also ruled out terrorism for that attack.

Following the January incident, authorities installed 140 concrete bollards in the city centre.

South Australia State premier Daniel Andrews said 12 people remained in hospital, including three who in critical condition.

He said there would be an increased police presence at Melbourne events, including the Boxing Day Test Cricket, carols and other major sports events.
Reconnaissance squads in east Russia give Ratnik combat gear the ‘deep freeze’ test

MOSCOW — Reconnaissance squads of a combined-arms army stationed in the Amur, Jewish Autonomous and Khabarovsk Regions in the Russian Far East have tested the Ratnik combat gear in winter conditions during a two-day reconnaissance raid, the Eastern Military District reported on Friday.

“The servicemen were the winter version of the Ratnik combat outfit acted autonomously for about 40 hours at one of the district’s training ranges, accomplishing the tasks of carrying out surveillance and gathering data on a notional enemy, and also setting ambushes,” the Eastern Military District’s press office reported.

“While practicing combat training missions, the servicemen acted on the predominantly mountainous-woody and steppe terrain with air temperatures ranging from minus 23 degrees Celsius in the daytime to minus 35 degrees Celsius at night,” the press office said.

The servicemen gave high marks to the combat gear in winter conditions, praising its functional camouflage abilities, the warming element, the heat-insulating mat and the footwear.

Following the tests, recommendations were worked out for using the combat gear in the conditions of the Far Eastern winter: Over 1,000 Ratnik outfits arrived for military units and formations of the Eastern Military District in May.

The Ratnik is a system of advanced protective and communication equipment, weapons and ammunition. It comprises around 40 protective and life support elements and allows a soldier to get continuously updated information about the situation in the combat area.

In addition, the Ratnik includes a self-contained heater, a backpack, an individual water filter, a gas mask and a medical kit.

The second-generation Ratnik combat gear has been arriving for Russia’s ground forces, the airborne Force and marines since 2016. An advanced Ratnik-3 combat gear with an integral exoskeleton and a helmet visor-mounted target designation system is currently being developed for Russia’s Armed Forces.

An advanced Ratnik-3 combat gear with an integral exoskeleton and a helmet visor-mounted target designation system is currently being developed for Russia’s Armed Forces. PHOTO: TASS

Police evacuate Bonn Christmas market, probe suspicious package

BERLIN — Police brought in experts and an explosives robot to investigate a suspicious package found at the Christmas market in the west German city of Bonn late on Friday.

Bonn police cordoned off and evacuated a large area of the market just before 9 pm local time, and experts were still examining the object five hours later, a spokesman said.

“We assume it’s not dangerous, but we’re still investigating,” the spokesman said. He said the object was discovered shortly before the market was to close for the evening, so it was not crowded. Germany is on high alert for potential attacks a year after failed Tunisian asylum seeker Anis Amri killed 12 people when he hijacked a truck and drove it into a crowded Berlin Christmas market.

Chancellor Angela Merkel, marking the first anniversary of the attack on Tuesday, said Germany should learn from security shortcomings exposed in the incident.

German authorities evacuated part of a Christmas market in Potsdam near Berlin earlier this month after a package containing powerful firecrackers, wires and nails was delivered to a nearby pharmacy.

Officials later said that criminals had used the incident to try to extort millions of euros from logistics firm DHL, which had delivered the package.

Police in Berlin have investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident.

China punishes over 8,000 people for misuse of government funds — Xinhua

SHANGHAI — China has punished 8,123 people for committing fiscal violations after an audit of how the government’s 2016 central budget was spent revealed multiple problems, the Xinhua state news agency reported.

Hu Zejun, head of the National Audit Office, announced the infringements while briefing lawmakers on Saturday.

Xinhua said. A broad anti-graft campaign in China, aimed at rooting out deep-seated corruption in the ruling Communist Party, including the misuse or embezzlement of government funds, has ensnared more than 1.3 million officials.

Hu said that of the offenders, 970 were punished for misusing funds earmarked for a poverty relief campaign intended to lift everyone in rural areas out of poverty by 2020. Another 1,363 were punished for irregularities in the use of funds meant to provide affordable housing, she said.

She said 800 people in state-owned enterprises and 73 people in eight major banks were found to have committed violations, along with 265 people who were punished for malpractice involving medical insurance funds.

Hu also said about 48 billion yuan ($7.30 billion) of the funds earmarked for affordable housing projects had been left unused for more than a year, she said, while another 1.37 billion yuan of misused funds were recovered. The unused affordable housing funds had since been put to use, she said. Hu gave no details of what punishment the violators faced.

Ukraine’s Poroshenko vows to work for quick exchange of prisoners-Germany

BERLIN — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko told German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday that he would work to implement a rapid exchange of prisoners held on both sides of the line of conflict in eastern Ukraine, a spokesman for Merkel said on Friday.

Merkel spoke by telephone with Poroshenko on Friday, a day after she spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the spokesman said.

Merkel and Poroshenko welcomed a decision by the parties to recommit to a ceasefire agreement signed in 2015 ahead of the Christmas holiday, and both agreed it should lead to a longer-term improvement of the security situation in the region.

A Russia-backed separatist insurgency erupted in 2014 and the bloodshed has continued despite the ceasefire. More than 10,000 people have been killed, with casualties reported on a near-daily basis.

Firefighters tackle blaze at London Zoo

LONDON — More than 70 firefighters were tackling a blaze at London Zoo on Saturday after fire broke out at the attraction’s cafe and shop, the fire brigade said.

There were no reports of any animals affected by the blaze which broke out shortly after 0600 GMT, London Fire Brigade said, although the fire was near an area where visitors can handle and feed animals. “Approximately three quarters of an adventure cafe and shop and half of the roof is currently alight,” the fire brigade said in a statement.

Ten fire engines were sent to the zoo, located in Regent’s Park in central London, and the cause of the fire was not yet known, the statement added. “ZSL London Zoo is currently dealing with an incident on site. We will update as quickly as the situation allows,” the zoo said on Twitter.
China, India agree to properly handle border issues

NEW DELHI — Senior officials of China and India have agreed to properly handle border issues so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in their border areas.

At the 20th round of talks between Chinese and Indian special representatives on boundary issues in the Indian capital on Friday, Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi exchanged views with Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on bilateral ties, national and regional issues, border issues and international and regional issues of common concern.

Both sides said the China-India relations have maintained the momentum of steady development under the guidance of leaders of both countries, and common grounds between the two countries far outweigh their differences. Both China and India should better manage and handle differences in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and in the spirit of mutual respect and accommodation of each other’s concerns, they said. Yang and Doval agreed to strengthen strategic communication and boost strategic mutual trust so as to push forward exchanges and cooperation in various fields and achieve common development.

Both sides believed that settling border disputes at an early date suits the fundamental interests of both countries. The two parties should strengthen coordination and communication, properly handle relevant border issues, and safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Both sides also decided to give full play to the important role of talks between the special representatives on boundary issues, maintain contacts and negotiation, and boost strategic dialogue and communication in a bid to create favorable conditions for the development of the China-India relations.

Japanese rocket positions 2 satellites in different orbits

TANEGASHIMA, Japan — Japan successfully placed two satellites in different orbits on Saturday using one rocket, a first for the country and a feat it hopes will enable future launch costs to be reduced.

The H-2A rocket took off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan at 10:26 a.m., carrying a climate research Shikisai satellite and a low altitude test satellite, named Tsubame. The satellites will travel in orbits at altitudes of 800 kilometres and lower than 300 km, respectively.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, working in conjunction with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, hopes that the successful launch will in future allow it to dispatch multiple satellites using one rocket. Up until now, each of the agency’s satellites has been launched individually.

The H-2A rocket first released Shikisai into orbit before conducting two engine burns to decelerate and descend to an altitude of around 480 km where Tsubame separated.

Shikisai will travel on a path that will see it return to the same orbit after a certain period, allowing it to investigate changes in water circulation and the mechanisms involved in climate change over a set time. Tsubame, equipped with an ion engine which uses fuel more efficiently than gas jet propulsion, will maneuver into lower orbits of 300 km or below and be assessed for its ability to stably travel at low altitudes where atmospheric resistance is about 1,000 times greater than that experienced by most Earth observation satellites which travel at altitudes of 600 to 800 km. When Tsubame reaches an altitude of 270 km some 15 months after launch, it will be tested to see whether it can maintain that altitude using its thrusters, with the goal of having it gradually descend to an altitude of 180 km.

Currently, orbits lower than 300 km are undeveloped and have yet to be fully utilized by satellites, according to JAXA. Positioning a satellite in low orbit enables the possibility of capturing high-resolution images, among other potential functions.

—Kyodo News

Santa Claus comes to town riding an elephant in Thailand

BANGKOK — A troupe of elephants bearing presents visited students in Thailand’s old capital of Ayutthaya on Friday to spread Christmas cheer.

Four elephants, with their mahouts were dressed in Santa Claus suits, arrived at Ayutthaya’s Jirasart Wittaya School to hand out toys, balloons and snacks to delighted children.

‘I’m so glad today because elephants are coming to school. And they are giving presents’, said nine-year-old Patcharamon Udomsanti.

The elephants also entertained the children with some dance moves, shaking their tails from side to side.

“It’s so nice that they can share our festival. We share it with them, and the Thai share their festivals with us like Songkran,” said Rita Laureys, a Belgian teaching English in Thailand, referring to the Thai new year.

Thailand is a predominantly Buddhist country with Christmas making up only about 0.7 per cent of the population, nevertheless, many people enjoy Christmas festivities.—Reuters

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Thailand is a predominantly Buddhist country with Christmas making up only about 0.7 per cent of the population, nevertheless, many people enjoy Christmas festivities.—Reuters

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**Claim’s Day Notice**

**MV SHIBA VOY. NO. ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIBA VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M/V SHIBA VOY. NO. ( ) and will be discharged into the premises of M/L T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPIING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

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**Claim’s Day Notice**

**MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on M/V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

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**Claim’s Day Notice**

**MV OLYMPIA VOY. NO. ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on M/V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185
Aaron Sorkin finds unlikely feminist heroine in ‘Molly’s Game’

LOS ANGELES — When writer and producer Aaron Sorkin met with Molly Bloom, the ‘poker princess’ who ran high-stakes games with Hollywood’s top celebrities, he did not expect to be impressed.

“I thought the person that I was going to be meeting was someone who was cashing in on their brush with famous people, which is not something I’m a huge fan of,” Sorkin said.

“But I was stupid and that’s not the person that I met... This was an incredibly compelling woman.”

Sorkin, best known for creating the political TV series “The West Wing,” makes his directorial debut with “Molly’s Game,” adapted from Bloom’s book of the same name. The film is out in US theatres on 23 December.

Bloom’s book chronicles poker games she ran from 2002 to 2011 that drew celebrities such as Tobey Maguire, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ben Affleck and helped her rake in $4 million a year at her peak. Bloom, now 39, was once charged with running an illegal gambling business and was sentenced in 2014 to a year of probation and 200 hours of community service.

Sorkin said he was impressed that Bloom refused to divulge names and secrets of her high-profile clients other than those already named in court documents.

“I think that her character resonates in a remarkable way that frankly I don’t think any of us could have really seen coming. She is a feminist icon, but it is her own brand of feminism,” he said.

An accident prevents Bloom, played by Jessica Chastain, from qualifying for the US Olympic skiing team in 1999. She heads to Los Angeles, where she meets a man who runs a celebrity-filled high-stakes poker game.

Rio ballerinas struggle amid Brazil’s financial crisis

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rio de Janeiro’s opulent Municipal Theatre has gone quiet this year as months of unpaid wages emptied its calendar of major works and pushed many ballerinas and opera singers into poverty.

The gold and marble theatre located in Rio’s historic downtown had celebrated the wealth of the city when it was built at the turn of the 20th century. But now, dancers’ deadlines, performance schedules and their ragged ballet slippers reveal just how far Rio has fallen.

“It’s gotten to the point that, it’s funny to say, I don’t even have money for a bus ticket. I could pay my basic bills and feed myself or I could pay for the bus,” said dancer Duncan Fernandes, a member of the Municipal Theatre Ballet Corps.

The 33-year-old now pedals to training on a borrowed bike, but three crashes in hectic Rio traffic have left him with an inflamed hip that he fears could shorten his career.

Salaries have been delayed intermittently since 2015 as Rio’s finances began to falter from a deep recession and the cost of hosting the 2016 Olympic Games.

But dancers and singers say the crisis now is unprecedented in the theatre’s history.

Fernandes is among a group of theatre staff who have not received salaries since November, including an obligatory year-end bonus for 2017 that Brazilians count on.

The theatre is funded by the Rio state government, which said it is working to correct the situation.

“The delay is not the result of a lack of importance the administration places on the theatre, but there is a lack of available cash resources,” Rio state’s finance agency told Reuters in a statement.

“The salaries will be paid as fast as possible in accordance with resources available.”

Rio state’s massive deficit this year led to cut backs in essential services like policing, causing the national government to send in the army to quell violence at times, and prompting a federal rescue plan announced in September to help stabilise the state’s finances.

A first installation of a 2.9 billion-reais (655 million pounds) loan allowed the state government on Wednesday to pay Municipal Theatre workers their unpaid year-end bonuses as well as October salaries. Another instalment expected to be released in January will go towards November salaries, the state finance agency said.

In the meantime, many performers have taken up odd jobs.

Salaries have been delayed from November, the agency told Reuters in a statement. “The salaries will be paid as fast as possible in accordance with resources available.”

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JAPAN-Indonesia art project connects tsunami-hit Aceh, Tohoku

BANDA ACEH, (Indonesia) — A group of colorfully dressed girls performed an energetic traditional welcome dance for Japanese artist Takashi Murakami, who was visiting their elementary school in Banda Aceh, the capital of Indonesia’s westernmost province of Aceh, for a tree-planting event on Friday morning.

After planting trees with other volunteers in 16 locations in the Tohoku area of northeastern Japan that was devastated by a tsunami in March 2011, Murakami came to Aceh, which experienced another massive tsunami in December 2004, to do the same. But instead of planting cherry trees, or “sakura,” as part of the Sakura 3-11 Project that he co-founded, he and the Acehnese students planted champak trees, locally known as jeumpa, whose fragrant flowers are popular in Aceh, just like sakura blossoms are in Japan.

Right after the planting, he handed off a sakura baton, such as used in a relay race, to one of the students, while noting it is the 17th school he has visited to host the sakura baton project. —Kyodo News
Behold the Christmas story — in a limestone cave

LJUBLJANA — One of the world’s largest limestone caves, the Postojna Cave in western Slovenia, is a long way from a stable in Bethlehem, but its traditional living nativity is getting more than shepherds and wise men visiting.

The annual performance — staged along a 5 km (3 mile) path inside the cave — has become one of Slovenia’s top tourist attractions.

“It is definitely a special feeling to sing in what is essentially a natural cathedral, created by nature, the acoustics of the space are entirely different,” said Slovenian opera singer Irena Yebuah Tiran who is performing in the spectacle this year.

The tradition of living nativity scenes started in 1889 and features costumed performers, actors and singers amid light and sound effects.

This year 150 performers are acting out the Biblical story of Christmas in 16 scenes set along the path.

The nativity scenes will be open to the general public for six days, starting on 25 December, and organisers expect some 17,000 visitors from all over the world to come and enjoy the unique spectacle.

The cave itself was formed over millions of years and became well known and a tourist spot in the early 19th century, later to be served by an underground train.

Graffiti on some of the walls, however, are said to date as far back as the 13th century. —Reuters

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Italian chef’s new restaurant chain: free food made from scraps

MILAN — Italian Michelin-starred chef Massimo Bottura plans to open two new restaurants in Paris and Naples next year, but wealthy diners are not welcome. The food will be free, made from supermarket scraps and served only to the poor.

Bottura’s prestigious restaurant in Modena, northern Italy, charges around 250 euros a head.

But in Milan, his Refettorio Ambrosiano feeds the poor; many of them homeless — and now he plans to expand the charitable experiment further.

Housed in an old theater on the outskirts of the city, the Refettorio cooks free meals with leftovers from shops, following recipes created by Bottura and other famous cooks.

“I never thought these ingredients were waste,” he told Reuters. “I always thought bread crumbs, some overripe tomatoes, brown bananas, they are just opportunities for us. To show what we can do with our creativity.”

Bottura started the project in 2015 to reuse leftovers from the eateries of Milan’s international Expo. With the support of church foundation Caritas Ambrosiana, the initiative has become a permanent project.

Unlike traditional soup kitchens, guests don’t queue. Everyone gets served at the table. “I call it a restaurant, not a soup kitchen,” Bottura said.

This limits the number of daily guests to 96, but Bottura and Caritas say it helps them regain confidence and take back control of their lives.

“Quantity does not define success,” said Caritas head Luciano Guazzetti. “The way you offer your help is the key and it is even more important what your help can trigger in them.”

About one-third of the food produced worldwide each year, around 1.3 billion tonnes, is wasted or lost, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. —Reuters

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Swedish roofs can handle Santa’s sleigh — if he’s

STOCKHOLM — Sweden’s houses should be able to cope when Santa and his sleigh land on their snowy roofs this Christmas as long as he doesn’t try to deliver too many presents in one go.

The portly Father Christmas probably weighs about 130 kg (330 lb) and his reindeer and sleigh a tonne, the Swedish construction company NCC calculated, allowing another 50 kg for gifts.

Swedish building requirements would easily handle that weight, plus 50 per cent extra pressure from the force of the landing on the roof, and half a metre of snow, construction designer Thomas Lecher said.

However, presents for all the world’s 2 billion children, as well as a sack big enough to hold them, would weigh at least 200,000 tonnes if delivered on a single run.

“Under that sort of pressure, a Swedish house would be about as strong as paper,” Lecher said.

“But it is clear as day that he has access to some sort of Christmas magic.” —Reuters
YANGON United celebrated victory 4-2 on Zwekapin United in football friendly match yesterday at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon.

Yangon United lined up with three of its main expatriate players: Yamazaki, Emmanuel and Cassio and one national team member: star player Yan Aung Kyaw.

Nine minutes after the match began, the icebreaking goal was scored by Yangon's Yamazaki with a penalty shot.

Yangon padded its lead at the 30-minute mark when Emmanuel scored with an assist from teammate Yan Aung Kyaw. In the second half, Yangon made some substitutions with additional stellar players and the quality of the play increased.

Yangon's Cassio showed some flashy tricks over Zwekapin Goalie and earned the team's third goal of the match just after the start of the second half.

At 56-minute mark, Zwekapin fought back with a goal by Pyone Cho. Zwekapin players felt more confident after their first goal, and at 60 minutes, Zwekapin's Paulo scored with a beautiful kick into the net.

But Yangon level of play did not wane, resulting in the fourth and winning goal by Cassio at the 89-minute mark.—Kyaw Zin Lin

Players from Yangon and Zwekapin United vie for the ball in yesterday’s match at Yangon United’s Sport Complex. PHOTO: YUFC

Myanmar football’s FIFA ranking jumps 10 levels

Kyaw Zin Lin

MYANMAR Football’s world ranking jumped 10 levels, from 140 to 150, according to a FIFA announcement yesterday.

In the previous month, Myanmar stood in 150th place in FIFA’s rankings, 22 levels higher than the previous March.

In previous FIFA-recognised international football friendly matches, Myanmar drew with India 2-2 in away play, drew with Kyrgyzstan 2-2 in home play and defeated Malaysia 1-0 in home play.

As Myanmar stands 140 in the FIFA World Ranking, 27th in Asia, and 4th in the ASEAN region.

The Myanmar national football team, then known as the Burma national football team, finished second in the 1968 Asian Cup. They participated in the Summer Olympics in 1972 and in the Asian Games.

The Burma team was dominant in Asia in the 1960s and 1970s, having won the Asian Games twice; in 1966 and 1970, and the Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) on five successive occasions; in 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971 and 1973. During this golden era, the Burma team produced several talented footballers including Suk Bahadur; a Burmese football star that many consider the greatest Myanmar footballer of all time. Since then, Myanmar’s highest achievement was a silver medal in 1993.

However, under the team’s rebuilding years, Myanmar football has witnessed significant progress. The U-20 Myanmar team stunned the world by qualifying for the FIFA tournament for the first time ever in the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup, after advancing all the way to the semi-finals in the 2014 AFC U-19 Championship as the host team.

Milner urges Liverpool to become ‘more boring’ after Arsenal draw

LONDON — Liverpool must learn to switch off their attacking flair and tightens up defensively in certain situations to prevent opponents from scoring, midfielder James Milner said after Friday’s frantic 3-3 draw with Arsenal in the Premier League.

Liverpool held a 1-0 lead at half-time and made it 2-0 early in the second half but their defensive frailties were exposed once again as Arsenal scored thrice in five minutes to take the lead before Roberto Firmino equalised in the 71st minute. “We’ve got to be more boring. Obviously we’re very good going forward but those are the times in the game when you’ve got to tighten up, not make mistakes for those five minutes,” Milner told Sky Sports. “All the goals were our fault, really, and that’s something we have to learn from and we need to do it quick, because it seems to be a thing for us this year. “We play such good football and sometimes we just need to switch that off for five to 10 minutes in a game and learn about the game, sense the situations when it’s time to take it easy, play a bit tighter and keep the ball...” Liverpool’s poor defending has constantly negated their free-flowing attack this season with the team hosting prolific goal-scorers in Mohamed Salah, Philippe Coutinho, Sadio Mane and Firmino, but failing to keep the door shut on their opponents. Juergen Klopp’s side sit 17 points behind league leaders Manchester City in fourth position, having conceded the most goals among the league’s top four teams.

—Reuters
IN the world, women are surviving as species of human beings. Not only in the earlier time but also in the present time, women take part in the important matters. Some of the women are living with their family at home and doing house works, daily chores and serving their husbands’ and children’s needs. Some of them are living alone and working themselves. Some of them, however, are doing for the others, helping the others or doing humanitarian activities. Different women are living in different areas of the world with different lifestyles. However, the thing we should not neglect is that every three women on the world are being oppressed with violence. Why does this matter exist? We need to think about it. Most of the people believe that “The World is Male-Dominant”. Most may think women cannot beat men by strength. But they can beat men by intellect, creative thinking and capabilities. There are so many women who led the world and are leading the world. But some men want to oppress women by using their strength. The above matter mostly occurs between husbands and wives, between boyfriends and girlfriends.

In the earlier times, most of women did not learn language and literature. The only thing they do was that they got marriage when they were adult and lived at the husbands’ houses and did daily chores. So, their life was simple and just depended upon their husbands. There were women who had been oppressed in the earlier times. However, people could not help them. Nowadays, there are women who are working for women cannot tolerate the oppressiveness with violence. Moreover, they are trying to create gender equality network. They help the women who are being victims under violence. Some of the women tolerate the violence for their children and some for their love. The women who help these ones explain that “Zero tolerance for Violence”. On the other hand, most of single girls on the world are facing with dangerous men. Some of inhumane men are waiting their victims to do inhumanity doings. Therefore, most of women are living in the dangerous area. We, all of humane people need to help them to escape from that area.

Everybody needs to help the women who are being manhandled. If so, we all will be the humane persons. Women are also humans and so, they should not be discriminated by men in every areas (school, work, public areas, etc.). Discrimination is a kind of breaking human right. Thusly, we have to avoid discrimination and try to cease-and-desist women abuse thinking “Women are not Underdogs”.

Women are not Underdogs

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 digit@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.

Unity in Diversity

*Black and White:
Left and Right:
Day and Night:
Dark and Light:

*However different the conditions
Keep them all in good positions.

*With the aim of Win-Win development
Let’s make a harmonious agreement.

*Think high of what to pay
What to gain not to say.

*Not for… self, but for National Family
Create and form up unconditional Unity.

Shwe Kyay (YUFL)
Lesson 32: Voices (Active Voice and Passive Voice) 4

Hello Students!

Today’s Lesson is your 4th Lesson for Active and Passive Voices. In the previous weeks, we have studied about Active and Passive Voices for Simple (Present, Past, Future) Tenses, Continuous Tenses (Present, Past, Future) and for Perfect Tenses (Present, Past, Future).

Today, we are going to study about Perfect Continuous Tenses (i.e. Present Perfect Continuous, Past Perfect Continuous and Future Perfect Continuous).

Look at the following examples on Present Perfect Continuous Tense.

I. The girls have been plucking the flowers.
The flowers have been being plucked by the girls.
(2) Children have been eating ice-creams.
Ice-creams have been being eaten by children.
(3) Mother has been cooking rice and curry.
Rice and Curry have been being cooked by mother.
(4) She has been feeding the cats.
The cats have been being fed by her.
(5) They have been playing football.
Football has been being played by them.
(6) Daddy has been practicing tennis.
Tennis has been being practiced by Daddy.
(7) I have been watering the plants.
The plants have been been watered by me.
(8) She has been writing the letter.
The letter has been being written by her.
(9) They have been doing the cleaning.

Here are the answers for the last week’s exercise.

Exercise 31.
I. Change into Passive Voice.
(a) Football has been played by children.
(b) A new song has been sung by me.
(c) Our breakfast has been had by us.
(d) Your homework has been done by you.
(e) The plants have been watered by him.
(f) Cheese cakes have been baked by Aunt Mary.
(g) His new car has been driven by Uncle Sam.
(h) A new portrait has been painted by her.
(i) Their clothes have been packed up by them.
(j) Their lessons have been prepared by teachers.

II. (A) To change into Past Perfect Tense.
(a) Children had played football.
(b) I had sung a new song.
(c) We had had our breakfast.

(B) To change into Passive Voice.
(a) Football had been played by children.
(b) A new song had been sung by me.
(c) Our breakfast had been had by us.
(d) Your homework had been done by you.
(e) The plants had been watered by him.
(f) Cheese cakes had been baked by Aunt Mary.
(g) His new car had been driven by Uncle Sam.
(h) A new portrait had been painted by her.
(i) Their clothes had been packed up by them.
(j) Their lessons had been prepared by teachers.

III. (A) To change into Future Perfect Tense.
(a) Children will have played football.
(b) I will have sung a new song.
(c) We will have had our breakfast.

(B) To change into Passive Voice.
(a) Football will have been played by children.
(b) A new song will have been sung by me.
(c) Our breakfast will have been had by us.
(d) Your homework will have been done by you.
(e) The plants will have been watered by him.
(f) Cheese cakes will have been baked by Aunt Mary.
(g) His new car will have been driven by Uncle Sam.
(h) A new portrait will have been painted by her.
(i) Their clothes will have been packed up by them.
(j) Their lessons will have been prepared by teachers.

That’s all for today.

Hope that you all have done your exercises very well!

See you next week Class! Bye for now!

Your English Teacher (GNLM)
Email: <dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com>

Here comes the Exercises.

Exercise 32.
I. Change the following sentences into Passive Voice.
(a) Children have been playing football.
(b) I have been singing a new song.
(c) We have been having our breakfast.
(d) You have been doing your homework.
(e) He has been watering the plants.
(f) Aunt Mary has been baking cheese cakes.
(g) Uncle Sam has been driving his new car.
(h) She has been painting a new portrait.
(i) They have been packing up their clothes.
(j) Teachers have been preparing their lessons.

II. (A) Change the sentences in No. I into Past Perfect Continuous first and then
(B) Change them into Passive Voice.

III. (A) Change the sentences in No.I into Future Perfect Continuous First and then
(B) Change them into Passive Voice.

That’s all for today’s lesson. Hope that all of you can do these exercises very well!

See you next week Class! Bye for now!

Email: <dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com>
How to Attain Mental Health for Teachers (2)

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

In the article last week, the author has mentioned three factors to attain Mental Health of Teachers. These are:...

(1) Well-paid Salary or Efficient Salary,
(2) Conditions of Security and
(3) Fairness from the Upper-hands.

Today, she wants to continue to add more factors to attain Mental Health of Teachers.

The fourth one is (4) Enough Time and Conditions for their Further Study and the fifth one as (5) Enough Time for Relax.

Let's discuss about the fourth one first:

(4) Enough Time and Conditions for their Further Study

As everybody sees, teachers should not stop their study concerning the subjects they are teaching and also about Education. They should have always up to date knowledge with these matters so that they are not giving knowledge or teaching their pupils the knowledge that comes not from a stagnant pool, but knowledge that comes from a ever-flowing river or waterfalls. During these days, we can call the time as knowledge age or wisdom age, as all different kinds of knowledge are developed or burst out very quickly. Different experts from different corners of the world has done different experiments and different researches and all new findings come into the bank of knowledge very quickly. That is why, we teachers need to be life-long learners so that we can give our students the most modernized knowledge concerning the subject matter they are teaching.

Another flowing knowledge is concerned with Education. What is going on over the world concerning Education. What other people from other corners of the world are working, experimenting and searching for new ways of thinking and new ways of teaching and learning to our young ones. Even the following pillars are changing from day to day according to the needs of people and time and conditions. Up till now these pillars are:

(i) To Learn to Know
(ii) To Learn to Do
(iii) To Learn to Learn
(iv) To Learn to Think
(v) To Learn to Create
(vi) To Learn to Live together peacefully.

These can grow on and on in numbers according to the demands that come from the world, the people and their surroundings.

Even today, we need to learn how to attain the sustainable developmental goals which are in need for the whole world. We teachers should know these and how we need to prepare ourselves and our societies how to attain such sustainable developmental goals.

The author has recently gave a talk on what are these and how we teachers should prepare ourselves so that we can meet and overcome and attain all these concerning from our Education field. The first talk was in the Education Talk, which is one of the occasions of the Silver Jubilee of the Sagaing University of Education this year. The 2nd Talk was in the Education Talk to the students and teachers of the University of the Development of National Races in Ywarthikkyee, Sagaing. Both talks were held in June, 2017 and the author has talked about what are these 17 SDGs and how we teachers need to prepare ourselves what and how we are going to teach our students for attaining these 17 SDGs.

All such kinds of knowledge together with what we are going to prepare ourselves to meet the ends when the time comes to do so.

Not only with such continuous learning, but also with new ways and means to teach our students, the knowledge of new findings from the up to date researches on Education, what is really happening all around us in the field of Education should be learnt and known not only by teachers, but also by all persons in responsibility and authority in Education.

And what more is whether the teachers and these persons have the time and conditions and facilities to learn all these updated knowledge.

Usually and naturally, all teachers are quite absorbed in their own world of teaching, they have no time and chance to study all these. Let’s think of a usual working day for a teacher. The Teacher gets up early in the morning, quickly prepare to go to school after having breakfast, so that he or she can take an extra teaching before the school starts. Then the teacher is usually absorbed in the whole day school hours from 9 o’clock in the morning till about 3:30 pm. in the evening when the school is over. He or she is busy all day teaching, taking care of the students’ attendance and their all round welfare, making lists and collecting and preparing data of different factors concerning the school, doing corrections to the pupils’ homework and classwork, writing daily diaries, writing plan and preparations for the coming lessons and so on.

After school, we need to take another extra teaching hours for the sake of our pupils. Only about late in the evening he or she has to go home. But, after doing housework or cooking or helping with the family members for awhile, some has to take care in the night study of their pupils again.

So, where is the time for such kinds of teachers to study up to date knowledge concerning with their subject matters or concerning with Education in the modern time?

And how about the facilities to reach these knowledge, such as Internet Access, modern books with modern knowledge in the school library, extra money enough to buy these up to date books and so on? All these are essential to reach these up to date knowledge so that a teacher will be well-equipped with all these modern up to date knowledge.

We really need all these to attain (4) Time and Conditions for their Further Study. If not, how and when our persons in authority fulfill these needs.

And let’s think about the fifth one as (5) Enough Time for Relax.

“All work and no play make Jack a dull boy” is the very very old saying in Education.

The author believes that teachers need enough time and conditions to relax every day for awhile. As we have mentioned above when is the time for teachers to relax? Where are the conditions for them to relax?

As teachers have to struggle a lot everyday to meet the ends for his or her own family, they really do not have enough time for their own to relax. And if we say about the conditions for relax, the author thinks it will be more difficult to get such a fair condition for them. Have they enough money to spend extra for their hobbies and interests? Have they decent place for teachers for their relaxation?

And some teachers absorbed themselves easily in drinking alcohol just for relaxation. It is really a non-decent and lack of moral dignity for teachers to do such things.

So we have enough space for doing health exercises and sports in every school? Have every village, people to go on in good terms with the teachers? Have all village heads or head masters who take care of the general welfare of teachers in their village schools and so on.

If all these can be fulfilled not only by the Ministry of Education, but also from every village in our country, we can have teachers with Good Mental Health, after relaxing happily enough for their day-ends, then only they can come up to the schools the next morning, active and eager to start another day for their students only with good mental health.

(to be continued)

Dr. Nu Nu Win, Retired Professor and Head of Department, Department of Educational Psychology, SUOE.
By Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an) & Min Thu

With the abundance of geographically attractive land-scape—the Four Famous and Great Rivers, moun-tain ranges surrounding in four directions, natural forests, rivers, crooks and water falls, coral reefs of the archipelago existing in the southern and south-west of the nation, mangroves and myriad of naturally beautiful locations, inbound of globe-trotters are increasing more and more, thus tourism in-dustry of the country is remarka-bly developing.

Kayin State

Plentiful are tourist attrac-tions in Kayin State, and so it is more and more attracting tourists from home and abroad, year by year. In 2014, it managed to invade over 10,000 visitors and more than 37,400 local visitors. According to the office of the deputy director (Hpa-an Branch) the hotel and tourism department, there were 33,194 tourists and 21,040 local tourists up to September, 2017.

Hpa-an Township

Only in Hpa-an and Myawady townships in Kayin State, tourism were granted to travel under restriction. Every visitor from home and abroad is free to travel in other tourism-re-sorted regions. But, tourism restriction was imposed only in Hpa-an and Myawady excluded.

Thandawgyi Township

Thandawgyi township situ-ated at 400 ft above the sea-level in the northern part of Kayin State is geographically surrounded by mountain ranges and natural land-scape of beauty. Because of its an-nual rainfall amounting to more than 200 inches and all-year-long cool weather like famouse Pyin On Loai, Thandawgyi became an exciting location for the tourism attraction.

Town of Thandawgyi

Thandawgyi township long became a summer vacation resort camp early in Pyin On Loai, it was learnt. After the end of 2nd Ar-my-Brigade War, the British colon-ialists occupied Lower Myanmar and the middle part of the country, having arranged to open the sum-mer vacation camp and summer residential sites in Thandawgyi, after finding the all-year-long areas opened for the resort camp for the injured soldiers in battles. Only in later years when nearly the whole country was occupied, the resort camp was moved to Pyin On Loai, the then Maymyo.

Yet, after gaining Independ-ence the country was void of tran-qility due to the civil war. The then inexhaustibility to get there forced Thandawgyi to become a ghost town this location for peo-ple apart from local dwellers in the rural region.

Newawbo Mountain for Prayer

Being followers of Christiani-ty mostly all the local people residing in the region built prayer halls at the holy summits of the mountain, named it “Newawbo mountain for prayers,” starting from 1891. From then on, arrivals of visitors, especially Christians resided in the region.

Visit Myanmar Year

When 1996 was designated as Visit Myanmar Year, Thandawgyi region was included in the list of designated traveler place, thus attracting people to recognize it as a resort camp. Thereafter the region started to develop with visitors and prayers from near and far. The numbers of visitors increased from several hundred in 1996 up to several thousand in 2012.

Public-oriented tourism in-dustry

Due to the progress in polit-i cal and peace process in 2012, Thandawgyi region in Kayin State was chosen as the tourism industry and simultaneously public-oriented tourism industry commenced to be implemented in December 2014.

Though situated in north-ern part of the Kayin State, it touches with border of Kayah State, Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw Council and Mandalay Region, being 230 miles far away from Mandalay Region, 206 miles from Yangon and 191 miles from Loi-ka, Kayah State.

Situated it is only 28 miles far from north-east of Tron-gos in Bago Region, and Tron-gos Thandawgyi Road has zigzag bends. But, upward road and downward road had been sepa-rately built and tarredamed. In the whole-country such a kind of road was scarcely built up into upward and downward road seen merely two one is in Maymyo and another in Thandawgyi.

Consequence of Peace

As a result of the emergence of peace in the region, tourism industry has developed in the region of Thandawgyi, and thus arrivals of tourists from home and abroad are increasing day by day. Now they have had an access to visit many places such as tea-leave plantations, coffee-plantation, cardamom plantation and various kinds of crops plantations of thousands of acres owned by the Tatmadaw in Thandawgyi region, ancient soldices in the colonial era, natural hot spring and wa-ter falls, remarkable Newawbo Mountain for Prayers and Newawbo Mountain, traditions and cultures of local populace from nearby villages, depending upon the permission of the regional government and authorities concerned.

It is learnt that Mountain for Prayer and Newawbo Moun-tain are crowded with local and foreign visitors more than ever on 25th April annually when cere-monies for giving praise to the Lord is held and on 1st Waning of Puthon on which Kayin New Year Day is held.

Places to Lodge

The Union Government had already organized to open seven lodgings houses with more than 20 rooms each for the visitors from home and abroad to lodge, in the experimental period. At one time, over 70 tourists can stay there, it was learnt. Moreover, Church Union and religious or-ganizations were said to have arranged to accommodate sev-eral hundred of visitors to lodge by opening 20 rest houses. Now that rest and tidy restaurants run by the locals are providing delicious foods to the customers with excel lent catering services, consumers can enjoy tastes of traditional foods.

Working Group and commit-tees

Under the leadership of Thandawgyi Tourism Dev-elopment Working Group, the development of public-oriented tourism industry in Thandawgyi under implementation. Execu-tive committee comprised of local stakeholders and advisory committees comprised of authori-ties concerned, responsible or-ganizations partner associations were also formed.

The Working Group and the two-committees formed have ar ranged the local people to have an access to take part in tourism industry in every sector. As a result, the local populace can give accommodation services, run business on restaurants and to open snack shops and regional product selling depots, thus achieving developments in social and economic sectors.

Translated by Khin Mye Myo
THE DAYS WHEN WOMEN WERE FRAIL ARE LONG GONE.

WOMEN ARE NOW WORKING ON THE SAME LEVEL AS MEN.

SHOW EVERYONE A WOMAN CAN DO THE SAME JOB AS A MAN.

YOU’D BE SURPRISED DADDY.

HMM!

HOW WILL YOU PROVE THAT?

HERE, I STOLE JOHNNY FOR MYSELF.

AHHH!
History, Language, Literature and Religion of Lisu Nationals

By Yoe Yar [Ma Ka Na]

Lisu nationals belong to Kachin national ethnic group, one of over one hundred national ethnic races. Mostly, they live in Kachin and Shan States whereas some are spreading into Mandalay and Sagaing Regions as well. Their original location was the high land called “Mu Ku Di,” in Mongolia since time immemorial, it was learnt. Due to the increasing amount of dwellers in the region, they moved toward different places. From Mu Ku Di they went to greener pastures—Shiparr, Lachaw, Larkyi region [now Lanchaung in China], and thence Kyedu, Koedu and Likyan regions. From there, they moved to upper part of Mekong Basin and Naw Mi in the upper part of Than Lwin River. According to the saying, “Lisu originates in Lanchaung,” they were not named Lisu yet while living in Mu Ku Di. On arrival at Lanchaung, they started to be called “Lisu.”

Lisu language
Since prior to the invention of Lisu writing, they had spoken language. Depending upon their location, spoken languages are different slightly but they know to each other.

Out of the three main speaking languages—Original Lisu Spoken Language, Lisu Naw spoken language and Sihlaymei spoken language, Original Lisu spoken language is mostly used.

Lisu literature
Before the emergence of Lisu language writing Lisu nationals used to eke out their living at farming and making art crafts. So, they used to mark what they wanted to write with signs and symbols. Starting from 1906, English missionary Father JO Freiser and Kayin national Sayargyi U Ba Thaw invented Lisu language based on Roman Characters. It has 40 alphabets in all. Lisu language is being used by Lisu nationals as the Christian religious literature. And, it is used in educational and social spheres as well.

Religious Belief of Lisu
It can be found in three categories namely, Deism, Christianity and Buddhism.

Deism
It was the earliest belief. Since their forefathers’ time, they worship gods/deities. They believe that there are many kinds of deities, firmly regarding that deities can lift up people, bring about good luck to its believers and they have mighty powers. If something occurs to them, they pray for them, asking for helps. Once in the past when they excessively professed deism, they greatly relied upon those governing god spirits. Numbers of nats/gods they worship are numerous.

Christianity
Long long ago, they use to worship deities for generations. But, due to the arrivals of Christian missionaries they started to profess Christianity, becoming Christian believers. The first-ever Lisu nationals who converted into Christianity were U Ngwar Tar and Daw Gu Nar Du. Christianity gradually spread toward border areas in Myanmar where Lisu nationals lived, reaching Putao, Chiphe, Sollaw, Sumprabun, Tanai, Machanbaw and other regions. In this way, Lisu nationals converted into Christianity from Deism. But, in some places Deists and Buddhists can be found.

Buddhism
Some Lisu nationals profess Buddhism. Especially, these Buddhist Lisu can be seen in Mogok in Southern Shan State and in some areas in Kachin State. Some Lisu nationals entered the Buddhist Order, the monkhood. These Buddhist Lisu nationals deeply believe in Buddha’s Teachings.

Translated by Khin Maung Oo
I’m impatient, but must be patient

As soon as I enter the room, the Grade-4 students stand up and start greeting.

“Good morning, teacher”

“Good morning, ok, sit down”

After greeting, I take an English book from one student to teach lessons. Although I prepare to teach lessons, some students are playing. Some are eating the snacks. Some are talking loudly to each other. So, I shout, “Don’t speak in the class loudly.”

But, they are still talking, eating and playing. They don’t care my words. So, I am angry with them. At this time, I think again that I am a teacher. So, I am very patient. However, I shout again with a very loud voice.

“Be quiet in the class. I want to teach you English lessons well.”

“Yes, teacher,” the students reply in unison. I notice that they know that I’m very angry with them. So, the room is silent. Then, I write notes for “Negative Sentence” on the blackboard. But, I heard a cry in western part of the class. Someone makes a shout.

“Soe Aung hurts Lin Htet.”

Yes, this is right. Lin Htet is crying. I have to say Lin Htet to satisfy.

“Don’t cry, boy, I will punish Soe Aung.”

When I say Lin Htet that I will punish, he stops crying. I make a pinch for Soe Aung. Then, I start to teach again.

But, Nga Pain reaches near me. He says, “Teacher, Kyauk Doe steals my pencil.”

“An!” I exclaim. As soon as the first problem is solved, next problem starts. I will have to solve this. I have to call Kyauk Doe.

Kyauk Doe comes quickly to me. A red pencil.

“I don’t take. I took it from my home.”

“Why do you take Nga Pain’s pencil?”

“An!” I wailed. I start to teach less-

Views of Migrants

It is the wish of everyone to live a happy and free life in a country where they get equal opportunity and thus secure a better future for themselves and their families. There are not many nations that can guarantee such political and economical freedom. Many migrants would find immigrating to other countries that can draw solutions to their problems.

Although the migrant’s travel to another place, the arrival of most immigrants is for personal reasons, it is no doubt also a benefit to the developments in many ways. However, there is much more complex definition of migration. For migrants to interpret migration they must find the source or reason for migration. People move from one location to another is because they consider the new location to be more favorable, in some respects then their old location. The common idea is that migrants migrate to be in a better situation in one form or another. In some extreme circumstances people may be forced to leave a country. When migrants have no alternative but to move out of the country.

War is a dominant factor for physical movement of people from one place to another. Throughout the existence of humanity, there have been many wars with many still continuing and showing no signs of slowing down. Moreover, migrants aren’t only humans. Migration refers to the movement of people, animals or data from one place to another. People and animals especially birds mostly move from one place to another in search of better conditions. The causes of human migration include political, social and economical factors.

In political and social migrations, and as we know in politics some countries especially the underdeveloped one. There is some civil wars between the citizenship, this fact meant start there is no peace in that country and automatically we know that when there is no peace there is no normal life because when the war start it damaged anything and everyone who is in front of it and because of all that some people choose to travel abroad and avoid any trouble caused by the war. In social ones the underdeveloped countries know and suffer at the economic level, it leads to the people to immigrants abroad in order to gain money and find a work. Therefore they choose to travel abroad where the work is available and the cost of living isn’t rising, and where they can improve on their social situations.

Economic migration is influenced by many different reasons. Migration flows from the less developed countries to the more developed countries. The most underdeveloped countries suffer from the low salaries that the workers get, which push many of them to think of the immigrations. Also those countries don’t afford for all the people enough jobs especially for the young-er’s that are considered as new comers to the job market when they discover that there isn’t enough jobs for them and so that their decision will be surely to travel abroad or to immigrant definitively.