Peace Talk with youths in Kayah

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday that, in her experience, regions and states that have endured conflict have a better understanding of the value of peace. She made the remark at a Peace Talk with Kayah State local youths in the State Hall of Loikaw in Kayah State yesterday morning.

“Peace Talk with youths has been held four, five or six times in different places. In doing these Peace Talks, youths from peaceful regions are seen to have lower understanding, knowledge and interest in peace. But in States/Regions where there is war or have just achieved peace, there is seen to be a better understanding of the changes. Peace Talks in such places go more deeply. Therefore, I expect the Peace Talk with youths from Kayah State to go in depth. The voices of the youths from here would be of interest to the whole country that is listening”, said the State Counsellor.

In her opening speech to the youths at the Peace Talk in Loikaw, the State Counsellor said the freedom that peace brings is sometimes misunderstood.
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discussed peace and development affairs with representatives of Kayah State yesterday during her visit to Loikaw.

At the meeting, she expressed her willingness to hold talks not only with youths but also other residents, inviting advice on peace and development in both Kayah State and the Union.

“Advice from the people to work together with each other for eternal peace and development in the Union through achievements in Kayah State are welcomed,” said the State Counsellor.

“Without peace, development is impossible. Without sustainable development, peace cannot be sustainable. Peace and development are dependent on each other,” said the State Counsellor.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi asked the local people to express the special challenges for peace and development in Kayah State, pointing out the country’s education system has not met the international standard in about 50 years.

Regarding economic development, the State Counsellor stressed the important roles of infrastructure, good transportation and power supply in attracting investors.

“If we have good transport infrastructure and sufficient power supply, the economy will be developed. We need skilled workers, technology etc. Our country is facing such challenges,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Following her address, local residents expressed their views on peace, education, health, development, ethnic literature and cultural issues in Kayah State.

Before the meeting, State Counsellor visited Dawsunbon Village, which is mostly populated with Kayah ethnic people, where she was welcomed by Kayan (Padaung ethnic people), who presented her with several gifts. —Myanmar News Agency
Peace Talk with youths in Kayah

FROM PAGE-1
“Some think democratic rights allow you to say as much as you want. But democratic rights include respecting the democratic rights of others. You must not talk endlessly and one-sidedly. It is to be noted that others are to be given time to speak. It is good to prepare and bring along the points you want to talk. But you can also talk about anything that comes into your mind openly and freely. Sometimes, this is more interesting”, said the State Counsellor.

Eight youths from Kayah State then spoke about justice and peace, social issues, education, health, equality, human rights, all-round development based on federalism, armed conflict, sufferings due to war, national reconciliation, farmland matters, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), women’s matters, widespread participation of the people in the peace process, and the maintaining of traditional culture and literature.

The following are excerpts from the youths who spoke yesterday.

U Shahrel, a public servant, shared his experiences with conflict.

“Before, there was no peace. During the time when the ceasefire was not totally achieved, I lost my grandfather, uncles and cousins. They were lost while avoiding the war or participating in it. This had been experienced by other nationals who are here. Fear remains inside me from these events. This was what happened before”, he said.

“At the present moment, there are still restricted areas because there is no peace. Because these restricted areas did not have peace, we know that developments in education, health, economic are restricted and slow. I expect our state to be more developed in both rural and urban areas if there is peace. A question came to my mind. How will a solution be thought out for our region that hadn't experienced peace? In working for peace, a question on how to make the people aware also came up. Finally I would like to say that if the peace demanded by the people is to be achieved, there must be justice (truth).

Without peace, there wouldn’t be truth. A country without peace wouldn’t be stable. Without stability, justice will be lost. I want our ethnic nationals to know this.

If peace is wanted, justice must first be obtained. We need to do this on our side and people who expected justice need to have the desire for peace. Especially, youths like us. Youths need to participate in the discussion. I would like to say that in implementing peace, leaders like Mother Su has the duty as well as us, other ethnic brothers and sisters too and all need to work together for it.”

Daw Alice Tun, headmistress of Level Up Academy, a private school

“I want to discuss peace and state development. I learnt that there are two types of peace. First is a negative peace and the other is a positive peace.”

Negative peace is where there is no terrorism and war. Positive peace is where our basic requirements, people were satisfied. This is known as peace and tranquility. As Shahrel said earlier, all know how it felt in having a negative peace. How it is to have a negative peace.

As our state now has a negative peace that is free from terrorism and war, battles are declining and much development is happening. Social assistance groups like NGOs and INGOs came in.

There is much assistance and helps. Investments are also coming in. From this, there’ll be regional development.

On the other hand, for all-round development, we must head towards positive peace. It is too wide if we say all-round development. I would like to talk more about social development. It will include our basic requirements of education, health and livelihood. When we get justice, human rights and equality, we will have more peace. We can say we achieve peace and development, but locals will not be satisfied with the present situation.

If our natural surroundings are destroyed, if we do not have equal rights, if we do not get the benefits, we are not at peace. When thinking about development, the feelings (satisfaction) of the locals, participation and conserving the natural surroundings are to be included. In the long run, all are to live happily together, so national reconciliation is also important.

In conclusion, we should not create causes that will create peace to be disturbed in the future. We need to put emphasis on sustainable development. Whatever development is done, development based on federalism will lead to a sustainable peace”.

U Mario, a farmer

“I am just a farmer. I didn’t have a chance to attend school when I was young. I will say frankly what is on my mind. For me, I want to discuss the peace process of ethnic races. Actually, the peace process plays a vital role in our lives. Due to the civil war which broke out for 60 years, we had to live in a state of homelessness for many decades. Consequently I didn’t study hard, and the teacher punished me in class. That is why I felt nervous when I was in front of my teacher and other people.”

State Counsellor responds to questions at Peace Talk in Loikaw

In the Peace Talk with local youths held yesterday in the State Hall of Loikaw, Kayah State, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi responded to questions submitted online.

What is the plan for regional development once peace is achieved?

“The basic requirement for (improving) the economy is a transport connection and energy (power). The role of the government in these two sectors is quite a huge task. But for the economy to be developed widely, the private sector also needs to participate. Government economic enterprises are not quite successful. They have not adapted to the present time. In replying to the question on plans for regional development, we'll start as much as we can on health and education. In areas where peace is not achieved, especially Kayah State, power (output) has increased this year. Next is transport connection. Once there are roads and there is power, the economy will follow. In short, we are emphasizing on education, health, social matters and on road links, power and investment with regards to the economy”, replied the State Counsellor.

It is clear that prolonged civil war in Myanmar is due to those who don’t want peace. How those people and organizations that don’t want peace be persuaded (organized)?

“People need to persuade them. This is the main matter that is related to the people. The main problem of the people who don’t want peace is that they don’t know the value of peace. They don’t understand the benefits peace will bring to them and all others. They don’t want peace because they don’t have the idea that having peace is better than the present situation.”

“They once know that the fruit of peace is not only beneficial to others but also for them, they’ll want peace. That is why people need to work together and make it clear that it is beneficial for all.

Places where peace has been achieved are very important. It needs to be maintained. A certain portion of our people themselves don’t want peace. That is why it is important for all to persuade and organize (so that all join together for peace)”, said the State Counsellor.

What is the plan for Kayah State development, creating more job opportunities for youths and achieving higher knowledge and intellect?

“Education is required to get better jobs. Road links are required. Investments will need workers. Workers need to be able to work to a certain level. Only then, with good road links and power, will investors think of investing.

Then there will be requirements for people, qualified people, who can work. All are inter-related. It is not good to be educated and unhealthy. Health needs to be good too. This is what I mean by all-round development. Where are you living? Can we communicate (travel)? If we cannot communicate and there is no power, it would be very difficult to set up a business. We need to do all these things”, said the State Counsellor. — Myanmar News Agency
Ancient statues of Buddha unearthed in Kalay District

DOZENS of ancient Buddha statues were discovered in Pathe (North) Village, Minkin Township, Sagaing Region, by residents earlier this month, according to a resident. About 50 Buddha statues made of bronze, silver and marble, some of them portrayed with their legs folded into a cross-legged position, were found buried in the ground of agricultural land owned by U Lone Orr located near a basic education high school.

One of villagers said that the heads of the Buddha statues first appeared after a pig dug up of the land under a large tree with his nose. Residents then unearthed a bronze and two marble statues over one foot in height, followed by 47 other statues. Those statues are now being honoured by residents at a monastery in Pathe Village.

Sitting, standing and reclining styles are the three major iconographic postures of Buddha images and statues in Myanmar.—Chindwin Thar

Water supply infrastructure to be built in Yangon region

WATER supply infrastructure will be built in the Yangon Region by forming and construction equipment manufacturer Kubota, together with other Japanese and south Korean partners, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The project will be implemented with an aim to meet growing industrial and household demand for clean water. “Kubota and its partners have received orders worth about US$ 92.7 million to establish a water supply system including pumping stations, treatment facilities and pipelines from the Yangon City Development Committee,” said an official from Kubota Corporation.

The project is part of the water supply project of the Greater Yangon Strategic Urban Development project being implemented with low-interest loans from the Japanese Government. Kubota will build water supply stations, reservoirs and water treatment plants at a cost of 5.4 billion Japanese Yen in cooperation with South Korea’s construction and engineering company Posco. The project will be completed within two years.

Kubota will build 45 kilometers of pipeline linking to Thilawa Special Economic Zone to other projects. The water supply system can only provide water for the industrial zone. Later on, the water will be supplied to the entire zone upon completion of the upgrading of water supply system. With this and a more reliable supply of electricity, it is expected to attract more foreign investment to the industrial zone.—GNLM

Pharmaceutical factory to be established

A pharmaceutical factory will be established in Yangon by Medi Myanmar Group of Myanmar in cooperation with Indonesia’s Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the third week of December in Yangon, but have not yet officially revealed the amount of investment. “Currently, we are preparing to establish a pharmaceutical factory. At the same time we are looking into the potential for production and export of over-the-counter drugs,” said Mr. Baro Kah Emmy Sri Utami, Director of Phapros.

Currently, Medi Myanmar Group is an importer and distributor of pharmaceutical drugs and medical equipment, it is learnt.—GNLM

Blue water lake in Hpa-An crowded with visitors

THE number of local people visiting a naturally occurring blue water lake at the foot of Lon Nya Mountain in Hpa-an township, Kayin State has recently increased, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The water in the lake becomes an intense blue colour during and after the rainy season, when rainwater flows down from the Lon Nya Mountain and picks up minerals from the mountain, giving the water its unusual colour. The water is blue only in the raining season and shortly afterwards. During other parts of the year, the water is normally coloured.

“The blue water lake is crowded with local visitors mostly on weekends. But only around 10 foreign tourists have visited the lake. People who visit it during the rainy season can play with the water. There is also thanaka wood and Kyauk-Pyin stone slabs for grinding thanaka,” said Ko Saw Thaw-Myne, a local resident.

The blue water lake in Hpa-An has become very popular since 2015. The number of visitors has also increased this year than last year, it is learnt.—GNLM
More than 210 tons of fish products exported into Bangladesh via Sittway

MORE than 210 tons of fisheries products with an estimated value of US$0.20 million was exported to Bangladesh during the week of 9th-15th December through the Sittway border gate, according to the news recently released by the Commerce Ministry. This figure shows an increase of 117 tons against the previous week. In addition to freshwater fish, tamarind, dried plum, ginger, preserved plum jam, cereal and vermicelli are exported. Myanmar’s border trade with Bangladesh flows in and out of Sittway and Maungtaw checkpoints. Trade values were $7.74 million at Sittway and $7.6 million at Maungtaw gates. Both land points of entry showed an increase in trade compared to similar period of last FY.—GNLM

Myanmar freshwater prawn prepping for export

MYANMAR’S Shooting Star Company and Thailand’s Bio Tech have joined together to produce Myanmar freshwater prawn for the domestic and export markets, according to yesterday’s report of Myawady Daily.

Those freshwater prawns are of Myanmar origin and will be farmed in Twantay Township, Yangon Region. Operation will commence next month.

Prawn larvae will be produced with the technical assistance of Bio Tech. Those species will be distributed in the local market. If there is a surplus of prawn larvae, it will be exported to Thailand, said U Hla Hlay, the deputy officer of Yangon Region Fishery Department.

Prawn hatcheries are slated for Bogale, Pyapon and Labutta in Ayeyawady Region. Around 20,000 to 30,000 prawn larvae can be farmed per acre in Twantay Township.

Saltwater and freshwater prawn farming businessmen are currently facing challenges due to inefficiencies in the breeding process. Out of 27 hatcheries for freshwater prawns, only about three are left due to difficulties in the hatching process.

Only 40,000 tonnes of freshwater and saltwater prawns can be produced in the country, prompting prawns to be imported from Thailand to fulfill the requirements of local prawn consumption.—GNLM

Myanmar imports over 8,000 tonnes of fertilizer by sea routes

MYANMAR imported 8,176 tonnes of fertilizer worth US$1.9 million from international countries during the week ending 16 December, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 10 to 16 December, the country imported fertilizer from China, Viet Nam, Canada, South Korea, Pakistan, Thailand and Malaysia. The import volume of fertilizer was a decrease of over 2,300 tonnes matched against the previous week’s total of more than 10,500 tonnes.

Myanmar usually imports ammonium sulfate, potassium chloride, ammonium chloride, compound fertilizer, nitrogen, foliar and urea from Europe, East and West Asia, and Southeast Asia.

The agricultural sector is the main driver of the economy in Myanmar. The demand for fertilizer has increased year by year. To improve public health, farmers have been urged to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and develop organic farms by using natural fertilizer obtained from waste or by-products of fauna and flora.—Shwe Khine

Commerce Ministry to introduce beans and pulses to China

WITH a view to exploring new markets for various beans and pulses which have not yet penetrated China, the Myanmar Beans Market Promotion Forum is slated to be held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhang Autonomous Region of China on 8th January, according to yesterday’s report of Myawady Daily.

“This effort is for pulses which are restricted on importation by India to penetrate a new market. We cannot heavily rely on only sole market. The pulses items which are new to China’s market will be introduced at this forum and we will get to know which pulses varieties are used in making China’s snacks. Additionally, it is also the launching event for medicinal beans”, said an official from the Trade Department. The Ministry of Commerce, in cooperation with Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, is planning to gain access to new markets following India’s restriction on pulses importation that caused financial hardships for Myanmar growers.

Interested entrepreneurs are invited. For further information, call the Trade Department at 09-254024.—GNLM
FROM PAGE-3

I think that other ethnic races have the same feelings like me. The only thing that is rooted in our mind is fear, i.e., how to overcome fear. I request you to understand me. We value honesty and want to live a simple life. Whenever we open food shops, we sell delicious food and curries, out of respect, to our superiors as usual.

We suffered a lot, especially youths, old people and women, during the civil war. We felt frightened because of constant conflicts and violence which can cause severe damage. I feel that it is high time for the armed races to cease the civil war as soon as possible. I would like to urge them to stop at once.

Daw Hnin Nu Wai, agriculturist

“The main thing I would like to point out is the “internal peace process”. First of all, we need to create trust-building, mutual respect and openness among our brethren. In this way, we can achieve perpetual peace in our society.

It is better to stop the conflicts and wars so that we can maintain peace and tranquility. As you also know, everyone wants peace. Peace is far away from us due to selfishness, hatred, thirst for power and exploitation. It is necessary for us to share loving kindness with one another. All the public are well aware that we are orientated towards peace. We do need unity, mutual respect and negotiation in order to shape peaceful environment. Our country is changing into a democratic nation, and the NCA is very important to sign peace agreement. I am sure that our Tatmadaw will safeguard our people and nation.

Moreover, people should know the agreements of NCA and be entitled to participate in this process. I am very glad to participate in this talk. I want all youths to discuss in our dialogue. I strongly believe that we are marching towards the path of Democracy”.

U Soe Yazar Win, writer

“All of you know that there are equal rights and belief in our national anthem. The roots which can disturb the peace process are getting un-equal rights and policies which can lead to a ruined state. Without stability and peace, we cannot build a democratic federal state. We are in need of foreign investment and technologies to boost our economy and living standards. Moreover, we must re-open the schools and try to create learning opportunities for the children in this region”.

Daw Moh Moh Htin Zaw Mon, a private businesswoman

“The things I will discuss now are women and peace, which are inseparable in our society. The role of women in the peace process is very rare compared to other sectors. Women are victims of conflicts and wars which can separate their families. Here in Kayah State, we cannot fully enjoy the fruits of peace and stability until now. As you also know, there still remain many restricted areas in our state. Jobs and employment were very difficult to obtain for our ladies in Kayah State mainly due to a lack of peace and stability. Another problem is poor transportation systems in the region. Joblessness rates were very high in those days even though there were many graduates. Some people cannot afford to pursue their education because of many hardships. Currently, our state chief minister is trying his best to open classes for those who want to pursue further studies. We do need peace to improve the standard of living in our Kayah State. All are responsible to work together in order to develop the region. The joblessness rate is very high and we need to cope with this problem urgently. We need many women like Mother Su who plays an important role to shape our country.

National reconciliation and peace is important at the union level as well as in the state/region level. Just as there are people like the State Counsellor and others in the union level, there should be similar people in our state/region. On peace and national reconciliation in regions, just as duties were assigned partially to the government and people in power, will budgets be drawn for matters related to peace? Will the budget be drawn for national reconciliation? These are my own thoughts. I expect that there are better paths and processes.

In our region, there are organizations and people who are working for national reconciliation. For example, on 16 December, Kayan National Party issued an announcement that includes national unity.

Even if the states/regions government think only a little about the importance of national reconciliation and peace, the work of national reconciliation and peace that we are doing will go a long way. It will be more strong and firm.

We say national reconciliation is important because there had been many acts that disrupted national reconciliation in the past. These acts are still ongoing. An example is the political dialogues in Shan State. National reconciliation shouldn’t be ignored. Only where there is national reconciliation can there be sustainable development. The federal democracy republic that ethnic nationals wanted will be strong and firm.

I would like to discuss that national reconciliation shouldn’t be ignored in working for peace”.

U Phara Rae Rilo, staff of Kayah State Hluttaw

I want to discuss the national reconciliation. When we see the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre headed by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, we can understand how the national reconciliation is important for our country.

The national reconciliation is very important in the Union level and in the region and state levels. Regarding the national reconciliation, duties should be assigned to someone who has authority in regions and states and one of my idea is whether we should draw budget for peace process or national reconciliation in regions and states.

In our state, there are several organizations which are working for the national reconciliation. If region and state governments considers the national reconciliation an important step for the country, our efforts for peace process will reach to a certain extent.

There are some attempts to derail the national reconciliation process in regions and states. That reminds us of not to reduce our efforts for the national reconciliation.

Daw Olivia, advocate for preservation of Kayaw literature and culture

“Our people mainly want peace and development. I want to discuss more literature and culture. All ethnic nationals had literature and culture. Literatures and culture sound so nice but (people) don’t want to do much about it.

Literature and culture is hard work. There is no salary like public servants. It is for the love of our own people and literature that this work is being done. Although ethnic national literature is being allowed to be taught, we need the support and help of literature experts. We need teaching aids.

At the present moment it seems like the aim is to be allowed to teach only. This is my view. In some schools, ethnic literature is taught outside of normal school hours, so ethnic literature is not taken seriously. Rooms are provided to teach, but soft pens (to write on the board) were not provided. There is no funding. We seek donations from well-off people among our own people to teach the children.

Daw Olivia further discussed providing effective support for ethnic literature, both technical support and teaching, and to provide support so that teachers are qualified”.

State Counsellor responds to discussions of local youths from Kayah State

State Counsellor conducted a Peace Talk with Kayah State local youths in the State Hall of Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday morning and responded to discussions made by local youths.

Responding to a statement made by U Shahrel, a public servant who lost several relatives during the internal conflict in Kayah State and asked how a solution for the areas of the state that are still experiencing fighting could be achieved, the State Counsellor said the key is to try and understand all aspects of the disagreement.

“Each of us need to think of what justice and fairness is. We need to look at it from both sides. We are unable to achieve peace yet because of our weakness in seeing both sides. If we understand the other side, if we understand the requirements and worries they had, we can find an answer more easily,” Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi responds to discussions of local youths from Kayah State at the Peace Talk in Loikaw. PHOTO: MNA

If the country is developed, if the region is developed, literature and culture will also develop.

The State Counsellor said that when people have basic democratic rights, fear has a tendency to shift.

“Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The government fears the people. They are afraid because people may not vote for them. People need to know that the government also fears the people. With this knowledge, do what ought to be done”, said the State Counsellor.

In her discussion on matters discussed by Daw Hnin Nu Wai, an agriculturist who spoke of all-round development and “positive” and “negative” peace, the State Counsellor said: “Negative peace and positive peace are actually peace and development. Peace and development cannot be separated. When there is peace, there is development. Only when there is development can the peace be maintained. Conflicts rising from lack of development have resulted in the destruction of the peace. Because if there wasn’t peace, development could not be done and there is no development. These two need to be seen and understood separately, but both could not be done separately. Both need to be done together.”

Responding to the discussion of U Mario, a farmer who asked how to overcome fear after decades of conflict, the State Counsellor said: “Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The government holds an election according to a democratic system. The government fears the people. They are afraid because people may not vote for them. People need to know that the government also fears the people. With this knowledge, do what ought to be done”, said the State Counsellor.

In her discussion on matters discussed by Daw Hnin Nu Wai, an agriculturist who spoke of all-round development and “positive” and “negative” peace, the State Counsellor said: “Negative peace and positive peace are actually peace and development. Peace and development cannot be separated. When there is peace, there is development. Only when there is development can the peace be maintained. Conflicts rising from lack of development have resulted in the destruction of the peace. Because if there wasn’t peace, development could not be done and there is no development. These two need to be seen and understood separately, but both could not be done separately. Both need to be done together.”

Responding to the discussion of U Mario, a farmer who asked how to overcome fear after decades of conflict, the State Counsellor said: “Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The State Counsellor said that when people have basic democratic rights, fear has a tendency to shift.

“Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The government holds an election according to a democratic system. The government fears the people. They are afraid because people may not vote for them. People need to know that the government also fears the people. With this knowledge, do what ought to be done”, said the State Counsellor.

In her discussion on matters discussed by Daw Hnin Nu Wai, an agriculturist who spoke of all-round development and “positive” and “negative” peace, the State Counsellor said: “Negative peace and positive peace are actually peace and development. Peace and development cannot be separated. When there is peace, there is development. Only when there is development can the peace be maintained. Conflicts rising from lack of development have resulted in the destruction of the peace. Because if there wasn’t peace, development could not be done and there is no development. These two need to be seen and understood separately, but both could not be done separately. Both need to be done together.”

Responding to the discussion of U Mario, a farmer who asked how to overcome fear after decades of conflict, the State Counsellor said: “Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The State Counsellor said that when people have basic democratic rights, fear has a tendency to shift.

“Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The government holds an election according to a democratic system. The government fears the people. They are afraid because people may not vote for them. People need to know that the government also fears the people. With this knowledge, do what ought to be done”, said the State Counsellor.

In her discussion on matters discussed by Daw Hnin Nu Wai, an agriculturist who spoke of all-round development and “positive” and “negative” peace, the State Counsellor said: “Negative peace and positive peace are actually peace and development. Peace and development cannot be separated. When there is peace, there is development. Only when there is development can the peace be maintained. Conflicts rising from lack of development have resulted in the destruction of the peace. Because if there wasn’t peace, development could not be done and there is no development. These two need to be seen and understood separately, but both could not be done separately. Both need to be done together.”

Responding to the discussion of U Mario, a farmer who asked how to overcome fear after decades of conflict, the State Counsellor said: “Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The State Counsellor said that when people have basic democratic rights, fear has a tendency to shift.

“Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The government holds an election according to a democratic system. The government fears the people. They are afraid because people may not vote for them. People need to know that the government also fears the people. With this knowledge, do what ought to be done”, said the State Counsellor.

In her discussion on matters discussed by Daw Hnin Nu Wai, an agriculturist who spoke of all-round development and “positive” and “negative” peace, the State Counsellor said: “Negative peace and positive peace are actually peace and development. Peace and development cannot be separated. When there is peace, there is development. Only when there is development can the peace be maintained. Conflicts rising from lack of development have resulted in the destruction of the peace. Because if there wasn’t peace, development could not be done and there is no development. These two need to be seen and understood separately, but both could not be done separately. Both need to be done together.”

Responding to the discussion of U Mario, a farmer who asked how to overcome fear after decades of conflict, the State Counsellor said: “Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The State Counsellor said that when people have basic democratic rights, fear has a tendency to shift.

“Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The government holds an election according to a democratic system. The government fears the people. They are afraid because people may not vote for them. People need to know that the government also fears the people. With this knowledge, do what ought to be done”, said the State Counsellor.

In her discussion on matters discussed by Daw Hnin Nu Wai, an agriculturist who spoke of all-round development and “positive” and “negative” peace, the State Counsellor said: “Negative peace and positive peace are actually peace and development. Peace and development cannot be separated. When there is peace, there is development. Only when there is development can the peace be maintained. Conflicts rising from lack of development have resulted in the destruction of the peace. Because if there wasn’t peace, development could not be done and there is no development. These two need to be seen and understood separately, but both could not be done separately. Both need to be done together.”

Responding to the discussion of U Mario, a farmer who asked how to overcome fear after decades of conflict, the State Counsellor said: “Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The State Counsellor said that when people have basic democratic rights, fear has a tendency to shift.

“Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”

The government holds an election according to a democratic system. The government fears the people. They are afraid because people may not vote for them. People need to know that the government also fears the people. With this knowledge, do what ought to be done”, said the State Counsellor.

In her discussion on matters discussed by Daw Hnin Nu Wai, an agriculturist who spoke of all-round development and “positive” and “negative” peace, the State Counsellor said: “Negative peace and positive peace are actually peace and development. Peace and development cannot be separated. When there is peace, there is development. Only when there is development can the peace be maintained. Conflicts rising from lack of development have resulted in the destruction of the peace. Because if there wasn’t peace, development could not be done and there is no development. These two need to be seen and understood separately, but both could not be done separately. Both need to be done together.”

Responding to the discussion of U Mario, a farmer who asked how to overcome fear after decades of conflict, the State Counsellor said: “Fear makes people do the wrong thing. Because of fear, they do what they are told to do. Even though they know it is not right, they do it because they fear their superiors. Thus, they do the wrong thing. They did not do what they should have done. Fear puts you on the wrong path. People need to have their rights in order to remove this fear.”
Agricultural Development Sector of Myanmar

By Aung Thu Soe [Phyinthu Khinlaroe Representative]

BRINGING a country which mainly depends on agriculture, Myanmar has 76 percent of the population living in rural areas, rearing pigs as their main occupation. Raising food is the most basic necessity for the national consumption. Adequacy of rice is of greatest importance for the country. We find it difficult in exporting the rice surplus to other countries. It may be attributed to poor quality of rice. Quality of mixed-up, contaminated rice and contamination of pesticides and their residues.

Agricultural good practice (G.P.)

Less attention was paid to the market’s need in the past, as for us. Consequently, we lost the market to others. However, we now pay more attention to high-quality crops only. We tried to increase per-acre-high-yield rice and found that it can never be null. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.

Insufficiency of water for growing land

Agriculture wholly depends upon climate conditions. Without adequate water, nothing can be grown. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.

Less attention was paid to the market’s need in the past, as for us. Consequently, we lost the market to others. However, we now pay more attention to high-quality crops only. We tried to increase per-acre-high-yield rice and found that it can never be null. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.

Insufficiency of water for growing land

Agriculture wholly depends upon climate conditions. Without adequate water, nothing can be grown. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.

Less attention was paid to the market’s need in the past, as for us. Consequently, we lost the market to others. However, we now pay more attention to high-quality crops only. We tried to increase per-acre-high-yield rice and found that it can never be null. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.

Insufficiency of water for growing land

Agriculture wholly depends upon climate conditions. Without adequate water, nothing can be grown. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.

Less attention was paid to the market’s need in the past, as for us. Consequently, we lost the market to others. However, we now pay more attention to high-quality crops only. We tried to increase per-acre-high-yield rice and found that it can never be null. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.

Insufficiency of water for growing land

Agriculture wholly depends upon climate conditions. Without adequate water, nothing can be grown. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.

Less attention was paid to the market’s need in the past, as for us. Consequently, we lost the market to others. However, we now pay more attention to high-quality crops only. We tried to increase per-acre-high-yield rice and found that it can never be null. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.

Insufficiency of water for growing land

Agriculture wholly depends upon climate conditions. Without adequate water, nothing can be grown. As a challenge and an opportunity, the new farmers and businesses were brought together with foresight and effort. It did not result in a high annual budget. It was spent but it failed to bring about any results for farmers.
Reorganizing of Union Legal Supporting Group

UNION Chief Justice has issued a notification dated 29 December 2017 on the reorganizing of the Union Legal Supporting Group it is learnt.

The full notification is as follows:

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Supreme Court
Notification 1018/2017
12th Waxing of Pyatho 1379 ME
(29 December, 2017)

Reorganization of Union Legal Supporting Group

1. The Union Legal Supporting Group formed in accordance to Section 5 of the Union Legal Supporting Law with the Union Supreme Court Notification 865/2017 dated 15 November 2017 is reorganized with following persons.

   (a) U Nyan Win
       Advocate (No-1203)                         Chairman
   (b) U Soe Lwin
       Director
       Union Judicial Supervisory Office
       Union Supreme Court                      Member
   (c) U Aung Tuan
       Director
       Department of Prosecution
       Union Attorney-General’s Office            Member
   (d) U Thein Htay
       Director
       Bureau of Special Investigation
       Ministry of Home Affairs                  Member
   (e) Daw Lee Win Win
       Director
       Social Welfare Department
       Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement  Member
   (f) Dr Khin Mar Yi
       Professor (Head of Department)
       Department of Law, Yangon University
       Department of Higher Education
       Ministry of Education                     Member
   (g) U Kyaw Hte
       Advocate (No. 1933)                       Member
   (h) U Kyaw Htay
       Advocate (No.1488)                        Member
   (i) U Thein Lin
       Director
       Foreign Economic Relations Department
       Ministry of Planning and Finance          Member
   (j) U Kyaw Soe Bo (a) U Kyaw Soe
       Advocate (No-1616)                        Member
   (k) U Maung Maung Hla Thaung (a) U Hla Thaung
       Advocate (No.1666)                        Member
   (l) Daw Nan Khun Ohn
       Advocate (No.4470)                        Member
   (m) U Khin Zaw
       Advocate (No.1475)                        Secretary

2. Rights and responsibilities of the Union Legal Supporting Group are in accord with the prescription of Section 6 and 7 of Union Legal Supporting Law.

Htin Htun Oo
Union Chief Justice

U Myint Swe appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concurrently accredited to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. — Myanmar News Agency

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (39/2017) Concludes

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation delivers the concluding speech. PHOTO: MNA

THE Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (39/2017), conducted by the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Winziminyarzar Hall of the Ministry at 10 a.m. yesterday, with a closing address delivered by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation.

Present on the occasion were Retired Ambassadors, Director-Generals and Responsible Officials of the Departments under the Ministry, Senior Diplomats, Professors and Instructors as well as trainees. On this occasion, Director-Generals and Retired Ambassadors presented the certificate to trainees.

The 12-week long course comprised the subjects related to diplomacy, negotiation skills, international relations, international law, international conferencing, contemporary international affairs, economics, etc., and also the simulation exercises for some subjects. And it was attended by 207 trainees.

Since 2000, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has conducted Basic Diplomatic Training Courses for the public who are interested in diplomacy and international affairs. At present, there are 6,733 trainees graduated from the training program.

AGTI Society donates Ks10 million for Rakhine State Maungtaw region

FORMER students of AGTI (Associateship of Government Technical Institute) Society donated Ks10 million to implement the redevelopment works in the Maungtaw Region of Rakhine State, it is learnt.

The former students of AGTI Society donated Ks10 million “for the health, education and redevelopment of the ethnic nationals and people of Buthidaung, Yathidaung and Maungtaw townships of Rakhine State who were attacked by ARSA extremist terrorists on the morning of 25 August”, a representative said.

The donation was made in the guest hall of the Rakhine State Chief Minister’s office yesterday morning and was accepted by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, (Rakhine) state ministers and officials who in return presented documents of honour. — Win Min Soe (IPRD)

1,150 tablets of WY/R brand drugs caught in Maungtaw

SECURITY forces seized 1,150 psychotropic drug tablets in Maung Ni Village on Mi Set Gyi East Road, Myoma Taung Ward, Maungtaw Township and found 1,150 psychotropic drug tablets inscribed with the WY/R logo in a white sack. The tablets were in 23 packets, with each packet containing 50 tablets, for a total of 1,150 tablets worth about Ks2.3 million. A case has been opened while the investigation continues. – Myanmar News Agency
Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

In commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of Independence Day, the Myanmar Post Office of the Ministry of Transport and Communications is issuing three special 100 Kyat stamps starting at 9 am on 4 January in states/regions capital post offices.

In honour of Independence Day, the Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, the Yangon Post Office and the Mandalay Post Office will affix a postal date on the stamps bought on 4 January, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

Border trade with ITCs reaches Ks30 billion as of 15th December

The value of border trade using the Individual Trading Card (ITC) amounted to Ks30 billion as of 15th December, which includes the export value of Ks28 billion and the import value of Ks2 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myawady border trade is reported to have the largest volume of trade with a value of more than Ks28 billion. According to Ministry statistics, the export value with the ITC was Ks6.8 million as of 15th December, while the import value with ITC was Ks23.4 billion. The trade value via ITCs at individual border points was: Ks1 billion at Tamu trade camp; Ks2.5 billion at Muse border gate; Ks681 million at Thchefeh trade camp; Ks70 million at Lwejei trade camp; Ks4 million at Chin Shwe Haw border gate; Ks1 billion Kanpikatee; Ks599 million at Kawthaung border town; Ks966 million at Reed border trade camp, Ks90.63 million at Hsaintalan border trade camp; 1 billion at Kawthaung gate and Ks140 million at Keng Tung border trade camp. The total trade value with ITCs was Ks18.97 billion in the fiscal year 2016-2017. The Ministry of Commerce has permitted 292 ITCs in 2012-2013 FY; 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY; 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY; 146 cards in 2015-2016 FY; 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY and 134 cards in this fiscal year as of 15th December.

Since its introduction, the ministry has issued a total of 1,306 ITCs to date.—Zwe

Police arrests suspect for child smuggling at Thandwe Airport

POLICE arrested a woman on suspicion of smuggling a child at Thandwe Airport on Wednesday.

During interrogation, Ma Mi Mi Hay, 30, who lives in Myothit Ward, Ponnagyun Township, said that she accepted the job to transport Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee, 8, from a IDP camp of Sittwe to Yangon for K100,000. The job was offered by U Tin Than, 49, of Hsinlaung Village, Thandwe Township, she said. She was arrested by the police shortly after U Tin Than gave two air tickets to her at the airport.

While police were inspecting Ma Mi Mi Hay, U Tin Than managed to escape.

Police has opened files against the two suspects at the GiTaw Police Station. —Myanmar News Agency

Stimulant tablets and marijuana seized in Maungtaw

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested four men in connection with yaba pills and marijuana found in a house in Maung Ni Village in Maungtaw Township on Wednesday night and discovered 660 stimulant tablets and 1,456 g of marijuana, estimated worth Ks1,378,000.

They also arrested Adu Har Shein, the owner of the house, and other three who were found in the house.—Myanmar News Agency

Issuing of NVCs and NIDs in Maungtaw

MUSLIMS living in Shwezar Village, Maungtaw Township were being issued with NVCs (National Verification Cards) and NIDs (National Electronic IDs), and as of 25 December, 1,457 were issued with an NVC and 1,503 were issued with an NID, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

Poppy plantation in Waingmaw Tsp destroyed

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD

Photo; Information Committee

Ma Mi Mi Hay. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

Photo; Information Committee

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

The Global New Light of Myanmar 30 December 2017

Anniversary of 70th Independence Day

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD

Photo; Information Committee

Ma Mi Mi Hay. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

Photo; Information Committee

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD

Photo; Information Committee

Ma Mi Mi Hay. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

Photo; Information Committee

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD

Photo; Information Committee

Ma Mi Mi Hay. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

Photo; Information Committee

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD

Photo; Information Committee

Ma Mi Mi Hay. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

Photo; Information Committee

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD

Photo; Information Committee

Ma Mi Mi Hay. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

Photo; Information Committee

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD

Photo; Information Committee

Ma Mi Mi Hay. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

Photo; Information Committee

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD

Photo; Information Committee

Ma Mi Mi Hay. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

Photo; Information Committee

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD

Photo; Information Committee

Ma Mi Mi Hay. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thar Nge (a) Har Me Du Shaw Shee.

Photo; Information Committee

Three 100 Kyat commemorative stamps for 70th Anniversary Independence Day

The combined team comprising local authorities and police had destroyed poppy cultivation in Kanpakti area in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, from 13 to 21 December. They destroyed poppy trees on 136 acres in total in six villages in the township. —PHOTO: WAINGMAW TSP IPRD
Land of the freeze: arctic wave hits northern United States

NEW YORK — An arctic blast sent most of the US Northeast and Midwest into a deep freeze that set record lows in several spots on Thursday as forecasters warned the frigid temperatures could last through the New Year holiday.

A cold front bearing down on the Pacific Northwest was expected to dump as much as 3 feet (1 m) of snow from Friday morning in parts of Washington state and the northern Rocky Mountains, the National Weather Service said.

The weather is set to test the mettle of hundreds of thousands in New York's Times Square as they ring in the New Year on Sunday night. Forecasters said the temperature is likely to dip under 10 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 12 C), well below the typical average low for the day.

In Times Square, thousands were bundled up for a chill that hit the city. “It’s really cold but I love it. My fingers feel like they’re going to break but it’s OK,” said Tashena Easton, 28, a registered nurse from Miami, Florida. For a time, the hashtag #ItsSoCold was the top trending US topic on Twitter on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Tioga, North Dakota, about 200 miles (320 km) north of Bismarck, was one of the coldest spots in the continental United States on Thursday at minus 15 F (minus 26 C) early on Thursday afternoon. For most of the region encompassing New England, northern Pennsylvaniar and New York, the National Weather Service issued wind chill advisories or warnings as temperatures were expected to be below 10 degrees F in a wide area.

Some employees stayed overnight to avoid getting stranded, Jim Donnelly, the hospital’s chief nursing officer, said on Thursday.—Reuters

Beijing renovates charging posts for electric cars

BEIJING — Beijing is renovating public charging posts for electric cars to make them conform to new national standards.

Beijing has 112,600 charging posts, including 88,800 private ones and 31,800 public ones, the Beijing Municipal Commission of City Management said.

Some of the charging posts are operated on old equipment and standards. The renovation will improve safety features, compatibility and the openness of the facilities, it said.

So far, over 12,000 public charging posts have been renovated. Electric car drivers can access www.evehicle.cn to download an app to check the location and availability of charging facilities and make payments.—Xinhua

Macedonia introduces emergency measures as smog chokes capital

SKOPJE — Macedonia took emergency measures against dense smog enveloping its cities, an annual winter scourge in the Western Balkans blamed on a mix of coal burning, aging industry and high-polluting emissions from older vehicles.

The government said residents of Skopje and Tetovo had been granted free travel on trains and buses to discourage use of cars while those with chronic illnesses and pregnant women were excused from work. Outdoors sports activities were also banned.

Local media said shops ran out of face masks as many people sought to protect themselves from the subzero and largely windless air in Skopje, which sits at the bottom of a valley. A World Health Organisation (WHO) study published early this year said Skopje was among 10 European cities with the highest concentration of toxic particles.

Skopje and four other Balkan cities in that list rely for their energy including heating during frigid winters on high-polluting lignite coal, a holdover from decades of old Communist Yugoslav rule. Sarajevo, Tužla and Zenica in Bosnia, as well as Kosovo’s capital Pristina, suffer from similar high air pollution.

A recent study by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) found 16 aging, communist-era lignite plants in areas of former Yugoslavia emit as much pollution as all of the European Union’s 236 power plants combined.

With an eye on future EU membership, the governments of ex-Yugoslav republics have pledged to tackle emission levels.

Under the EU’s Industrial Emissions Directive, emissions in the region would have to be reduced by 90 per cent for sulfur dioxide, by 67 per cent for nitrogen oxides and 94 per cent of fine dusts or particulates by 2028.

But the region plans to invest billions of euros in building more coal-fired plants with a total capacity of 2,600 megawatts (MW) to meet rising demand for electricity as old plants are phased out in the next decade. Environmentalists fear the renewed investment in coal could backfire if governments are forced to spend hundreds of millions of euros more to meet EU environmental standards to qualify for accession to the bloc.—Reuters
India rooftop restaurant fire kills 14 during birthday party

MUMBAI — Fire swept through a rooftop restaurant in the Indian financial hub of Mumbai early on Friday, killing at least 14 people, most of them women attending a birthday party, including the celebrant who had just turned 26, police and family said.

The fire department received a call about the blaze in a commercial building in the Kamala Mills district around 3 in the morning, an official said. “The fire brigade and police are investigating the cause of the fire, but we still don’t know how it started,” a senior police officer told Reuters.

Kamala Mills is home to several corporate offices and is a major night life district, with several high-end pubs and restaurants opening up in recent years.

Several media outlets were evacuated safely,” the Times Network said in a press release. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences. “Anguished by the fire in Mumbai. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. I pray that those injured recover quickly,” the PM’s Office tweeted.—Reuters

Firefighters carry a victim on a stretcher after a fire at a restaurant in Mumbai, India, on 29 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The fire started at a 1 Above, a popular bar-restaurant on the top floor, which engulfed the whole building in less than 30 minutes, media reported.

Several media outlets also used the compound for their offices and the offices of at least three national news channels suffered damage. “The magnitude of the fire was huge, disrupting our operations temporarily. All our employees were evacuated safely,” the Times Network said in a press release. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences. “Anguished by the fire in Mumbai. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. I pray that those injured recover quickly,” the PM’s Office tweeted.—Reuters

Firefighters carry a victim on a stretcher after a fire at a restaurant in Mumbai, India, on 29 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

China says reports of Chinese ships sending oil to DPRK untrue

BEIJING — China on Friday said the reports of Chinese ships sending oil to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) “do not accord with facts.”

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying made the remarks at a daily press briefing. Reports alleged that a Chinese ship sent oil to a DPRK ship at high sea on 19 October. The United States said Thursday that it was disappointed with China allowing oil to enter the DPRK.

Hua said that China had immediately investigated the relevant ship and found that it has not docked in any Chinese ports and had no entry and departure records of Chinese ports since August.

She said China did not know if the ship had docked in the ports of any other countries. “The relevant reports do not accord with facts,” she said. “China has always comprehensively and strictly implemented the UN Security Council’s resolutions and carried out its due international obligations.”

“China has never allowed any Chinese citizens or enterprises to conduct any activities that run counter to Security Council resolutions,” she said.

“If there is solid evidence proving that there is on the Chinese side any violation of the Security Council resolutions, China will surely deal with it in accordance with laws and regulations.” Meanwhile, Hua called for “comprehensive and balanced” implementation of all DPRK-related resolutions.—Xinhua

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (075)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (075) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 on 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLOVES VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLOVES VOY. NO. ( are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 on 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TURST VOY. NO. (1801)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TURST VOY. NO. (1801) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 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 on Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (002)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 on 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 INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V BANG SAONTONG VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANG SAONTONG VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW-1 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 on 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 WONG SAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 2301928
albanian tiff festival selected for oscar nomination race

TIRANA — The Oscar Academy has selected Albania’s International Film Festival (TIPP), as one of Academy’s official festivals, Agron Domi, director of this festival told reporters Thursday.

Domi expressed enthusiasm about the news, noting that Albanian festival would have the Oscar nomination for the short film award.

According to him, this is a great opportunity for all Albanian filmmakers as it opens a new window for them.

“Among other things, it gives TIFF, as the only international film festival in the Balkans, the opportunity to suggest short film for “Oscar” but also a high reputation for displaying premieres of European films and not only,” Domi told reporters.

There are only 8 important international festivals that their winner is nominated for “Oscar” shorts in animation, action or documentary categories.

This means that the winner of the International Film Festival in Tirana, who will receive the Best Film Award, will qualify for screening in the short film category for “Oscar”.

Therefore, Domi opened Thursday the applications for the 10th edition of TIPP; inviting all filmmakers to present their movies.—Xinhua

Veteran male rock’n’roll acts had biggest 2017 world tours

LOS ANGELES — Veteran, white male rock stars raked in the most cash from world tours in 2017, according to an annual list released on Thursday, while the highest-ranked women — Celine Dion and Lady Gaga - failed to make the top 10.

Irish band U2 grossed a leading $316 million from its 30th anniversary, 50-date “Joshua Tree” tour. It was followed by hard rock band Guns N’ Roses which took in $292.5 million, according to trade publication Pollstar’s ranking of the Top 20 worldwide tours of 2017.

British band Coldplay came in third, with $238 million, on a list where Bruno Mars, 32, of Puerto Rican and Philippine descent, was the only musician of colour in the top ten. Mars grossed $280 million. Ed Sheeran, 26, was the youngest singer in the top ten, pulling in $214.1 million.

At a whopping $1.500 average, Bruce Springsteen’s limited Broadway run had the highest ticket prices and grossed $87.8 million to give the “Born to Run” singer 14th place.

In 11th place, Dion was the top female artist with $101.2 million, while Lady Gaga’s “Joanne” tour grossed $85.7 million for 15th place.

The touring numbers mark a strong contrast with US music sales and streaming preferences, where hip hop and R&B music this year became the most consumed music genre, according to a July Nielsen Music report.

The Top 20 tours grossed $2.66 billion in 2017, a record high and an increase of more than $264 million from 2016, Pollstar said.

Pollstar’s ranking is based on ticket sales data and does not include revenue from merchandise which can add a sizable chunk to tour earnings.— Reuters

Sylvester Stallone spends USD 400k on statue of himself

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actor Sylvester Stallone has splashed out over USD 400,000 on his replica Rocky statue from “Rocky III”.

The “Expendables” star handed over the hefty amount for the replica after making an anonymous bid at it in an auction, reported TMZ.

The statue is nine foot tall, weighs 1800lbs and was purchased by Stallone for USD 403,657, before being shipped to Los Angeles.

It was made by the artist, A Thomas Schomberg, and the original, which was used in the movie, has been put on display in Philadelphia. This one had been displayed in the San Diego Hall of Champions but it had to be sold off after the place closed down.—PTI

I’m content even without being in a relationship: Barrymore

LOS ANGELES — Actor Drew Barrymore says she never knew she could be “this content” without being in a relationship.

The 42-year-old star, who is currently single after splitting from husband Will Kopelman last year, said she is really focused on raising her kids - Olive, five, and Frankie, three, reported InStyle magazine.

“My daughters are so fulfilling that I feel like my cup is just avalanching over. If love took on a physical analogy form, I’d be an overstuffed turkey or pinata.

“So I’m not really hungry for it at this moment. I don’t think I would have ever known that I could be this content, this whole, without being in a romantic relationship. That would have been a surprise to my younger self,” Barrymore said.—PTI

Sam Smith wants to collaborate with Stevie Wonder

LONDON — Sam Smith says he dreams of working with legendary singer Stevie Wonder.

The 25-year-old singer-songwriter, who is a long-time fan of the music icon, has revealed he would love to fulfill his ambition of working with Stevie on his next album, reported Contactmusic.

“I don’t want to do it unless it is natural, but it would be great to sing with Stevie Wonder. That’s the dream. I just love him. I would freak out,” Smith said. He is also an admirer of Amy Winehouse and Joni Mitchell.

“I also wish I had written any Amy Winehouse or Joni Mitchell song. I wish I had written (Rihanna’s hit) ‘Umbrella’ too. When that song came out I thought ‘Oh my God, I’m gay’.”—PTI

Irish group U2 receive an award at the 2017 MTV Europe Music Awards at Wembley Arena in London, Britain, on 12 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS
Don’t miss the chance: Shopping with us to buy products of social enterprises at Weekend Bazaar

A small wooden booth in the promotion area of MarketPlace by City Mart shopping centre displays handicrafts and personal and household effects; such fancy items as earrings and necklaces; creative purses made of recycled materials but good souvenirs; organic clothing which are the finished products turned from raw materials found in Myanmar; and foods. Just out of curiosity, I asked and found out that it was a social enterprise.

Pursuing such marketing strategy for selling high quality products through social enterprise will surely contribute to burgeoning of markets for community, and is vital for developing countries.

A social enterprise can be a for-profit or non-profit organization that applies commercial strategies to produce good results and maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being. Generating income in a sustainable way through these processes is a part of its goal. Especially, vocational trainings were conducted for those who have less employment opportunities than the normal people, women and disabled persons.

As organizations within and without the country and civil society organizations are nearly entirely to rely on donors abroad, financial difficulty is a big challenge for them. So, approaches have been made from the point of sustainable development to settle this problem and they are trying to stand on their own. In such efforts, focus is on production of locally made products by locals, and wastes are turned into consumer goods to raise awareness of bad consequences of using plastic materials. The question then arises as to where can these products be sold?

To solve this problem, City Love & Hope Foundation formed by City Mart Holding Co., Ltd introduces Weekend Bazaar programme. This is also to follow the rules of Corporate Social Responsibility including social activities.

Daw May Zin Soe Htet, Marketing Director of City Mart Holding Co., Ltd said that the Weekend Bazaar programme has been initiated with the combined strength of groups which are trying to stand on their own, and to contribute to survival of those who are struggling to earn their livings.

To realize this goal, a suitable and sustainable approach has been made for them with the aim of enabling them to adapt to the programme; cultivating them to come up with good results in civil society; and solving social problems from profit point of view.

The Weekend Bazaar programme introduced by MarketPlace by City Mart situated in Golden Valley in Yangon on 20 December 2014 gave birth to 19 social enterprises.

Social problems include poverty, hunger, lack of job opportunities, difficult access to a good quality education, health and nutrition problems, uneven social conditions, gender discrimination, political influences, economic environment, etc. In carrying out social activities, Social Enterprise also known as SE has to face numerous challenges within and without it in addition to various limitations.

Limitations within it are human resources problems called Human Capital, degree of perception, and lack of access to capital.

British Council published Social Enterprise Landscape in Myanmar in September 2013 in which it states that limitations of lack of basic physical infrastructure; undeveloped banking system; limitations for development organizations to provide services in their supply of goods that make profits for them; high staff salary in donor funding structures and lack of volunteers; high cost for renting office and land for the real estate business; and changing political and economic environment are major hindrances for making plans for long term development plans.

This causes great effects on long term development plans implemented by organizations in the country and poses a great challenge to their survival.

Programme Director U Kyaw Kyaw of Myanmar Deaf Community Development Association (MDCDA) pointed out the fact that it has been very difficult for disabled persons to go to Heinmye Market to buy raw materials to make handicrafts and the materials they need are very expensive because the amount of selling these materials are too small. The disabled persons cannot get materials as they want and when shortages of these materials occur, they cannot make handicrafts as much as they can. He also said that as MDCDA has not enough funding, they cannot store and distribute raw materials and finished goods.

MDCDA was established in 2009. Basic handicraft courses were conducted for 102 disabled persons and their products have been sold at market festivals including Weekend Bazaar of City Love & Hope Foundation. These products are also available online.

Different raw materials are used to produce flower buttons, hairpin, necklace, hairclip, decorated flowers and bracelet. As these products are displayed at supermarkets to which most shoppers visit, they have a great opportunity to attract domestic customers directly. The sellers are to pack their products neat and tidy to display at Weekend Bazaar and they have a good practice of doing such thing and as a result there are orders for them.

Financial sector plays a pivotal role in development of social enterprise. To stand on one’s own capital is also important. The organizations belonged to them will surely conduct courses for them and direct them how to produce domestic goods, but to find market is one of the most important steps in the process.

Foreign guests are targets for selling handicrafts produced by social enterprise.

Founder of Amazing Grace Naw Eh Wah said, “Small enterprises have to face difficulties in finding a place to sell their products. If they join the Weekend Bazaar Programme, they are in no need of paying for a booth and thus the programme contributes much to them. I hope this programme will be expanded.”

Most of the staffs are women with less employment opportunities and disabled persons are also included. Coaches go right down to their homes to conduct handicrafts making courses and help promote their skills to produce quality products.

Weekend Bazaar is a place of introducing handicrafts, products made of recycled materials, and other goods and services to the people. Weekend Bazaar Programme is aimed at contributing to sustainable development of social organizations based in the country.

The programme will be on 30 and 31 December at MarketPlace by City Mart in Sixth-and-a-half-mile. On weekends, the programme will be taken place at MarketPlace by City Mart in Golden Valley and Tamwe Ocean Super Center alternately.

The products on display are recycled products manufactured by disabled youth, and handicrafts created by war victims children and women.

Let us help Social Enterprises by participating in Weekend Bazaar Programme aiming at producing more meaning than creating handicrafts.
**Independence Day Lethwei Fight to be held in Toungoo**

A Lethwei bout marking the 70th Myanmar Independence Day will be held on 4 January in Toungoo, Bago Region, according to the Myanmar Ring website.

The event is supervised by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation and organised by Myanmar Media Group.

Seven men’s fights and one women’s match will be included on the card at the Independence Day Lethwei Fight.

“Our Myanmar Media Group has been arranging the Lethwei event simultaneous-ly for five years, including this year. We arranged the events to maintain the tradition rather than to make a profit.”

Entrance fees for the event are only Ks5,000 and Ks3,000. If you see the foreigner fight event, you will see our goodwill for the event,” said Ko Lin Htet Aung, CEO of Myanmar Media Group.

The seven men’s fights at the event feature Nay Ruby (STL) versus Pat Khun Chun Pi Yar Pan (Thailand), Swan Htet Naing (Burma Thway) versus Fighter (STL), Zaw Chit Aung (Burma Thway) versus Kyaw Win Aung (Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit), Mike Thway (Burma Thway) versus Sith Min (Yarma Nya Arman), Hlae Gyi (STL) versus Thein Nyi Nyi (Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit), That Lu (Yamaunya Arman) versus Ye Thway Aung (Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit) and Thura Lake (Burma Thway) versus Soe Lin Aung (STL).

A special women’s fight at the event will feature Bayaw Ni Kar (Phae Khone) versus Mwrye Bwe Ma (Mwayhouse Min).

The Independence Day Lethwei Fight is sponsored by Victory Myanmar Group and will be held at Kaytumadi Stadium, Toungoo Town, Bago Region at 2pm on 4 January.

——GNLM Sport

**Burnley’s flowering the result of player development, says Dyche**

LONDON — The blossoming of Burnley this season is the result of a collective drive for incremental player improvement at the club, manager Sean Dyche said ahead of Saturday’s Premier League trip to Huddersfield Town.

Burnley, one of the Premier League’s smaller clubs in terms of resources, have been a revelation this season. They have already collected 33 points from 20 games and are just seven short of last season’s tally.

The Clarets punched above their weight to stun defending champions Chelsea in their opening game and have also held Tottenham Hotspur, Liverpool and Manchester United along the way.

“I’ve been pleased with the development of the players. It’s a big underlying thing of mine. Is the team continuing to move forward? I believe it is,” Dyche said.

Individually and collectively we’re getting stronger and that’s a really big marker for me as a manager.

“That’s beyond results. Results are what I’m measured by as a manager but there’s a journey beyond that and that’s the one for me. I keep seeing these players improving and that’s really pleasing going into the New Year.”

Burnley battled to avoid relegation last season and their success this campaign has raised hopes of challenging for a spot in Europe. Dyche, though, is solely focused on that incremental development, starting with improving his squad when the January transfer window opens.

“It was a very good season to stay in the Premier League and then to build on that into this season ... over the whole year it’s very pleasing,” he said.

——Reuters