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As the day’s event was to honor outstanding writers who produced outstanding literatures for the country, we also share the happiness of the award winning writers.

Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a speech at a ceremony to present Lifelong National Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award held at the National Theatre of Yangon yesterday morning.

In his speech Vice President U Myint Swe said that Sarsodaw Day, a day to honor the literati, is held every year on the 1st Waxing of Nattaw and had reached the 75th year. This day is celebrated nationwide to honor the literati who wielded the pen throughout the ages to develop the country’s literature, religion, social, political and cultural knowledge.

This is a unique cultural tradition that is a source of honor and pride for Myanmar. It gave him much pleasure to be given an opportunity to speak at such an auspicious time.

Myanmar literature that started from the Bagan era to the present moment had past more than 900 years and throughout this long period outstanding writers from the monastic sector as well as from among the common people had produced literature that are invaluable for the people and the country. All sorts of literature that were produced bring forth the development of knowledge and cultures for the people of Myanmar.

The main source of today’s literature, motion picture, music, dances, arts and culture in Myanmar is literature. That is why with an aim towards developing the Myanmar literature circle good and outstanding literature that depicted Myanmar’s traditions, practices and thoughts were selected and presented with national level literary awards every year on Sarsodaw Day.

SEE PAGE-3
Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects development works in Putao

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who is also Chairman of the Central Committee for the Development of the National Tourism Industry (CCDNTI), flew from Yangon to Putao on Friday.

He was accompanied by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, Deputy Ministers Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin, Permanent Secretaries U Tin Myint and U Win Khant, and other officials.

The Vice President first traveled to the Upper Namhtwam hydropower project located on the Namhtwam creek seven miles southwest of Putao. At the project’s meeting room, U Chit Toe, Director-General of the Department of Hydropower Implementation, explained about the project’s implementation stages and test runs for generating electricity.

The Vice President asked further questions and received additional explanation. He said Putao and Machanbaw were the only two districts with icy mountains in the entire Southeast Asia region and the Khakaborazi National Park was listed as an ASEAN Cultural Heritage. He said the diverse cultures of Jinghpaw, Yawem, Lisu, and Shan ethnic races could be seen in one place here and was also home to rare medicinal herbs and official plants. He said the district also had fruits and vegetables that were hard to cultivate in other regions and abounds with natural resources and scenery that attracted lots of tourists. He said tourism in the region was sure to increase and so there would be greater demand for electricity in the future and instructed the officials to continue searching for resources to power this project and other prospective hydropower projects.

The Vice President then inspected various areas of the Namhtwam hydropower plant and observed a test run of electricity generation.

The Namhtwam hydropower plant is located on the Namhtwam Creek seven miles southwest of Putao. The plant has four generators, each of which has the capacity of generating 800 KW, and will be able to generate 3.2 MW in total and 14.13 million kilowatt-hours annually. The plant is currently providing 24-hour electricity to Putao, Machanbaw and 25 villages during its trial run.

Next, the Vice President visited the Yawem Manau grounds where he enjoyed a traditional Yawem dance performance and then took a documentary photo with members of the Yawem Literature and Culture Committee.

The Vice President next went to Yawem National Museum and was given a briefing by U Mayit Yaw Wu, the chairman of the Central Committee for Yawem Literature and Culture.

The Vice President next went to Yamwam National Museum and was given a briefing by U Mayit Yaw Wu, the chairman of the Central Committee for Yawem Literature and Culture.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and his entourage also visited the Kaung Mnu Lone Pagoa in Machanbaw Tsp yesterday morning and made donations. He then observed the kyauk naga, Malika suspension bridge (Machanbaw) and Gubur retreat.

The Vice President then traveled to Khakaborazi National Park exhibit where Chief Administrator U Aung Maung explained about the park and Phon Kan Razi nature reserve.

Next, Kachin State Minister for Finance, Taxation, Planning and Economic, U Wai Linn, explained about processes for developing Kachin State’s economy and tourism sector.

The Vice President said department officials and the people need to collaborate to protect the natural resources in the country from being exported illegally. He requested department officials and tourism associations to work together to promote tourism in Putao, Machanbaw, and Indawgyi. He then toured the national park. Khakaborazi National Park is located in Pannandin area, Namgong Township in Putao District. It was marked as a national park on 10 November 1998 and listed as an ASEAN cultural heritage on 18 December 2003. The park is 1,472 square miles large. Phon Kan Razi nature reserve was established on 1 December 2003 and is located in both Machanbaw and Namgong Townships in Putao District. The reserve measures 1,044 square miles and is home to the takin, red panda, mountain goat, and 36 mammals, 370 bird species, 360 butterfly species, and 82 reptiles. The Vice President flew from Putao to Yangon in the evening.

—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Election Commission Chairman visits sub commissions in Taninthayi Region

VICE President U Henry Van Thio visited the sub commissions in Dawei, Myeik, Kawthaung and townships in Taninthayi Region at Dawei City Hall yesterday.

The UEC Chair attended a meeting of election sub commissions from Dawei, Myeik, Kawthaung districts and townships at Dawei City Hall yesterday.

The UEC Chair delivered a speech, saying the election sub commissions must uphold the five standards of conducting elections, namely a free, just, transparent, and reliable election that acts in line with the people’s wishes. He said members of the commissions and sub commissions must not only be knowledgeable of the laws, bylaws and rules and regulations of the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttawas and the regional and state Hluttaws, but adhere to it as well. He then explained about election commission’s rules and regulations. Next, U Thein Lin Oo, secretary of the regional election sub commission, gave a presentation on the current processes and requirements of the sub commissions in the region.

The UEC Chair then urged the regional sub election commission chair, secretary and members to use their skills and capacities to the fullest in ensuring the upcoming 2020 general elections are held successfully in accordance with the five standards of conducting elections. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Vice President U Myint Swe attends national literary award ceremony

FROM PAGE-1
National Literary Awards were presented in many forms for more than 70 years. Sarpay Beikman, established in August 1947 as the Myanmar Translation Society, had connected with the world and produced translations of world’s literatures for Myanmar literature development and Sarpay Beikman modern novel award was started in 1948.

In 1962 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award was renamed as artistic literature award and presented to nine categories. In 1963 awards were selected from both printed books as well as yet-to-be printed manuscripts. The awards were then renamed as National Literary Award in 1965. In 1969, the system of selecting from books submitted for consideration was discontinued and selection of a best book among designated categories published for the first time during a calendar year was instead made to present National Literary Award. For manuscript award, it was renamed as Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and had been presented under this name to date. The aim of presenting this award is to select outstanding manuscripts that were not published for any reason so that it can be published enabling good literature to come into existence.

The National Literary Award was presented to nine categories and was expanded year by year and this year, it is presented to a total of eighteen categories. Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award also had increased gradually from nine categories to thirteen categories this year. In addition to this, a single Lifelong National Literary Award was presented every year but starting from 2012, three were selected and presented with the award with an aim to develop Myanmar literature. This year, two persons will be presented with Lifelong National Literary Award. One produces outstanding and valuable literature while another did not publish many books but strives toward development of Myanmar literature all along.

Prize money for the awards was being increased yearly and selection process has been made systematically in a transparent way. The selection group was also formed with literature experts as well as experienced publishers. National Literature Award Selection Committee was formed with 63 members and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Group was formed with 28 members. The selection was also seen to be made systematically in three stages, said the Vice President.

Of the 2,847 books published for the first time in 2017, 11 authors in 11 categories out of a total of 18 categories were selected for National Literature Award. For Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, 25 manuscripts were selected from 316 manuscripts in 11 out of 13 categories. The awards will be presented in this ceremony.

This year is unique in a way with an addition of two categories for National Literature Award. The two categories are Essay and Reference.

Everyone knew that Myanmar was striving towards the aim of establishing a democratic federal union.

SEE PAGE-4
Vice President U Myint Swe attends national literary award ceremony

Deputy Minister of Information U Aung Hla Tun presents the award to a winner of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2017. PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-3

As such encouragement and support must be made for literature development, increase the number of people who read and have an interest in reading, conduct reading and discussion circles so that the people acquire the habit of resolving problems through dialogue, democratic practices and make sure that youths who will be the future leaders acquire knowledge and foresights.

During her literary fiction discussion with Yangon university students in August, the State Counsellor mentioned about establishing and supporting Soft Powers like arts in a developing country like Myanmar. That was why literature talk circles were being conducted in States and Regions while literary fiction discussions were conducted with higher education students, local youths who are literature enthusiasts and literature experts.

In the same way, under the guidance of the State Counsellor, the Ministry of Information has also conducted children literature festivals in States and Regions. The aim is for the youths who will be future leaders of the country to enjoy literature, gain knowledge and expertise.

Furthermore, Sarpay Beikman and Tun Foundation are also re-editing the 15 volumes of Myanmar Encyclopedia published in 1954. In addition to updating with modern facts and data, new subjects were also being included and would become a useful encyclopedia for the people.

Still going much further, classic literature works from the start of Myanmar literature 900 years ago to the year 2000 has been collected and will be published as 100 Myanmar Classic Book series starting with three volumes. As it will reflect Myanmar traditions, practices and thoughts, it will be welcomed not only by the people in Myanmar but also by international researchers.

As the day’s event was to honor outstanding writers who produced outstanding literatures for the country, we also share the happiness of the award winning writers.

The practice of honoring outstanding writers is becoming a proud Myanmar tradition. It is to maintain this proud tradition that these ceremonies were held every year with much emphasis.

While mentioning the deep appreciation to the literature awards, award winners, award selection committee and group chairmen and members who had put in all-out efforts toward the event, all are urged to continue and participate toward strengthening and development of Myanmar literature, said the Vice President.

NATIONAL LITERARY AWARD WINNERS 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Manuscript Title</th>
<th>Award Genre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ko Set Pe</td>
<td>Kabar-go-hthe-me-kel-dam</td>
<td>Novel (First prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ko Lwin Bo (May Say)</td>
<td>Ma chit-kel htiong</td>
<td>Novel (Second prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyaw Khant</td>
<td>Yin ngwein age</td>
<td>Novel (Third prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyaw Lwin (Sethmo)</td>
<td>A-way-kyi-hman-pyayung and other short stories</td>
<td>Collection of short stories (First Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min Htet Myaing</td>
<td>Thin-Oh-Chu-Yuwah-A-hmyaw-way-yar and other short stories</td>
<td>Collection of short stories (Second Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Kariz</td>
<td>Hmat-hmat-thar-thar-sagar-sugar and other stories</td>
<td>Collection of short stories (Third Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hsan Lwin (Myanmarar)</td>
<td>Law-ka-pya-din-Ah-Lin-Lat-Haung poems</td>
<td>Collection of poems (First Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hsan Myint Moh</td>
<td>Yay-pyar-lan-hmint-Pann-son-lin-poema</td>
<td>Collection of poems (Second Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maung Kyaw Nye (Pinletho)</td>
<td>Second-paw-ka-Ah-hla-poema</td>
<td>Collection of poems (Third Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lwin Maung (Mann Talkaito)</td>
<td>Myanma-sagar-Ywe-kazar-gyin-Ah-tha-pyinnyar-hmunt-Ywe-Athon-cha-pyinnar</td>
<td>General Knowledge (Art) (First Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zaw Lwin Oo (Hinbada)</td>
<td>Yik-saw-tha-mine Yik-saw-tha-hmat-tan</td>
<td>General Knowledge (Art) (Second Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pantawane (Khin Maung Myint)</td>
<td>Kaba-Kyaark-me-dwae-law-ka-hmunt-Myanma-Kyaark-me-dwae</td>
<td>General Knowledge (Science and Applied Science) (First Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maung Aung (Vet)</td>
<td>Lu-thar-A-kya-pya-lar</td>
<td>General Knowledge (Science and Applied Science) (Second Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thaung Nyunt Thin</td>
<td>Naing yman-tha-thari-kha-thi-thar-Myanma-sip-war-Ah-Lar-Ah-Lar</td>
<td>Literary Miscellany (Article) (Second Prize)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maung Thar Lin</td>
<td>Say-thar-Luvin-yaung-ma-thar-thar-dhon-chim-myar</td>
<td>Literary Miscellany (Article) (Third Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aung Pan Wai (LL B)</td>
<td>Myanmar-Yoe-thaw-kyo-so-pyinnar</td>
<td>Myanmar Art and Culture Literature (Second Prize)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kantaba Khin Maung Swe</td>
<td>Phyu-saw-saw-pa-ma-saw-mawin-kha-thar-poema</td>
<td>Children’s Literature (First Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nandar Moe Kyae</td>
<td>Kyar-yeat-his-kha-lay Children poems</td>
<td>Children’s Literature (Second Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngaing Myint</td>
<td>Sat-bee-ha-lay and other children stories</td>
<td>Children’s Literature (Third Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaythu Maung Nyo Lin</td>
<td>Si-thaung-myi-ka-nay-ba-yaa-tha-la-tye-bso-sho-kha-lay-myar</td>
<td>Youth Literature (Second Prize)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maung Nay Chi (Pyaw)</td>
<td>Pweint-thaw-paun-to-ah-lan-sone-way</td>
<td>Youth Literature (Third Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maung Lwin Eik</td>
<td>Ngear-pue-sar-e-sagur-ab-lin-gar</td>
<td>Play Literature (Third Prize)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dipan Lin</td>
<td>Kabar-thar-ab-lon-ab-bwa-sein-kha-tha-thar-myar</td>
<td>Translation (First Prize)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lifelong Literary Award Winners for 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Author Phoe Kyawt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>U Tun Yi (Archaeological Researcher)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annual review of National AIDS/STD eradication project held in Nay Pyi Taw

The opening ceremony for the Ministry of Health and Sports National AIDS/STD eradication project annual review and assessment meeting (2017) was held at the Taw Win Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe addressed the opening ceremony, attended by Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretaries and representatives of related ministries, heads of States/Regions Public Health and Medical Services, specialist doctors, team leader doctors, representatives and officials from WHO, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNODC, UNAIDS, USAIDS, UN-CDC, UNFPA, Save The Children and other international NGOs, persons living with HIV and officials.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers an address at the annual review on AIDS/STD eradication project. PHOTO: HLA MOE

Union Minister conducts resettlement and social protection works in Kayah State

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended a coordination meeting on a work program to resettle returnees returning voluntarily from refugee camps in Thailand held at Kayah State Government Office, Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday morning.

At the meeting Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye first delivered an opening remark. The Union Minister, Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Disaster Management Department Director General, Department of Social Welfare Deputy Director General then expressed thanks. The first time distribution of provisions by the Ministry of Border Affairs was conducted on 13 September at Lann Pann Village, Shan Hae Note Village-tract in Nanyun Township, Sagaing Region.

Provisions distributed to local people in Naga Self-Administered Zone

MINISTRY of Border Affairs distributed provision to the local people suffering from cough and chest infection in Naga Self-Administered Zone for the second time yesterday at Yan Nawnote Nyo Village in Nanyun Township, Sagaing Region.

On behalf of Ministry of Border Affairs, officials from Sagaing Region development supervision office and Nanyun Township development supervision office provided 613 local people from 98 households with 249 blankets, 613 sets of coat and trouser and 88 nutrition powder tins, totally worth K 5,940.7 million.

Local residents accepted the provisions and the village leader expressed thanks. The first time distribution of provisions by the Ministry of Border Affairs was conducted on 13 September at Lann Pann Village, Shan Hae Note Village-tract in Nanyun Township, Sagaing Region.

A CEREMONY to honor elderly journalists was organized by the Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA) yesterday at the Yangon City Hall. This is the fifth time the MJA has held such an event.

At the ceremony, MJA Chairman U Myat Khaing expressed the reasons for holding the event. MJA General Secretary U Tha Zaw introduced the elderly journalists, and tributes were paid to them.

Later, the MJA Chairman and officials received cash from donors and gave certificates of honor to them.

U Tun Shein (Natmauk Tun Shein) and U Ohn Kyaw (Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaw) delivered words of thanks on behalf of the journalists honored at the event. Afterwards, MJA Secretary U Daw Ei Tin expressed thanks. At the ceremony, 130 elderly journalists were presented with Ks100,000 each and officer titles.—Yi Yi Myint

Ceremony to honor elderly journalists held in Yangon

PHOTO: HLA MOE

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye presents social pension cash support to landmine victims in Kayah State and social protection works. Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister and party attended a ceremony held in Township Hall, Loikaw Town to present social pension cash support, ministry’s cash assistance to expand mother circles and victims of land mines.

The total cash support/assistance provided amounted to K 36,108,100 it is learnt.

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe presented Lifelong National Literary Awards to Sayagyi U Myint Lwin (Pho Kyawt) and literature expert Sayagyi U Tun Yi (archaeological researcher).

Awards

FROM PAGE-4

Next, Vice President U Myint Swe presented Lifelong National Literary Awards to Sayagyi U Myint Lwin (Pho Kyawt) and literature expert Sayagyi U Tun Yi (archaeological researcher).

Awards presented to Sayagyi U Tun Yi (history researcher) delivered a speech of appreciation.

Vice President U Myint Swe and party then took a commemorative group photo together with award winners.

Before the start of the ceremony, the Vice President and party inspected an exhibition where the photos of the award winners and award winning books were displayed.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region ministers, Hluttaw representatives, heads of departments, Myanmar Writers Association chairman and executive committee members, Selection Committee and Group members, award winners and their families, literature experts, literature enthusiasts and invited guests.

The earlier Lifelong National Literary Award winners were presented with Ks600,000. In 2011 it was increased to K 1 million, increased further to K 1.5 million in 2012, 2.5 million in 2013 and K 5 million this year.

For National Literary Award, the earlier winners were presented with Ks300,000 which was increased to K 500,000 in 2011. It was further increased to K 1 million in 2012, K 1.5 million in 2013 and K 2.5 million this year for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards to award winners.

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Vice President U Myint Swe attends national literary...
Work on solar power plant begins; to serve over 1,000 households in Manaung

THE construction of a solar power plant, which will supply electricity to more than 1,000 households in Manaung Township, began yesterday.

The project was launched by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Rakhine State Government, and the POSCO Daewoo Corporation.

“The plant will be built from November 2018 to May 2019 at a cost of US$2.5 million, which is being funded by the POSCO Daewoo Corporation under the its CSR scheme,” said the Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, U Win Khaing, at a ceremony to drive stakes for the plant in Manaung.

Upon completion of the plant, more than 1,000 households will get access to 24-hour power supply.

The solar power plant is the first phase of a project being implemented by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy to supply 24-hour power to Manaung Township. The project has been divided into three phases.

In the second phase of the project, a diesel-and-energy saving hybrid system will be implemented. Plans are under way to get loans for the second phase, which will supply 24-hour power to over 40,000 households in 57 villages in the township.

In preparation for the second phase, the Rakhine State Government built 51 transformers in the 2016-2017 fiscal year at a cost of nearly K4 billion with government funds. In the 2017-2018 FY, two more transformers and cable lines were set up at a cost of over K2.8 million with government funds. In the 2018-2019 FY, the government has spent K3.4 million on three more transformers and cable lines.

The third phase will supply power to the remaining villages in Manaung Township. At the ceremony, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, POSCO Daewoo Corporation’s CEO, Mr. Young Sang Kim, and other dignitaries also drove stakes to launch the power plant project.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

PyinOoLwin artists present works at Mandalay Hill Art Gallery

WORKS of artists from PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, are currently on display at the Mandalay Hill Art Gallery, according to the event’s organisers.

The art exhibition entitled ‘Art of Highland Maymyo’ officially opened on 8 December at the gallery located at the base of the Mandalay Hill near the prominent lion statues in Aungmyethazan Township. This is the second time the group has organised a collective art exhibition in Mandalay. The exhibition, which ends on 12 December, will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The exhibition showcases more than 110 works in a wide range of styles and medium, including acrylic, watercolour, and oil. The subject matters include still life, traditional arts and culture, historic buildings, ancient pagodas, and other natural landscapes of PyinOoLwin and Mandalay.

Senior artists from around the region, including well-known artist U Mar Lar, U Zaw Win, the patron of the Upper Myanmar Watercolour Association, students from the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay), and art lovers attended the opening of the exhibition.—Maung Pyithu (Mandalay) (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Drugs worth over K2 mln seized in Tachilek

ACTING on a tip-off, an anti-drug squad stopped and searched a motorcycle in Tachilek, a town in eastern Shan State, on Friday and seized a cache of drugs worth K2 million.

The motorcyclist, identified as Tu Tu, was driving from the Arkhar market on Bogoke Road in Yanaungmwe Ward on Friday afternoon when he was intercepted by the police.

The police found WY brand yaba tablets worth K2 million, a handset, and 5,000 Thai Baht from his bike.

The police arrested Tu Tu and another man, identified as Na Po Shi, who was riding with him.

The police also conducted a search at a home in Maekhaung Ward in the same town, where Tu Tu and his friend, identified as Ye Min Tun, were residing. They found 13 yaba pills worth K18,000, drug-related objects and a handset.

A total of more than 2,000 yaba pills were seized from the three suspects, who have been charged with smuggling drugs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Wai Yan Lynn (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)
Public sector exports of manufactured goods decline by $115 mln

PUBLIC sector exports of manufactured goods in the first two months of the current fiscal year totalled US$489.562 million, a decline in value by $115 million from the same period last year when the sector earned $605.388 million, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

From 1 October to 30 November, Myanmar earned $1.357 billion from the export of manufactured goods, with the private sector raking in $868.189 million.

While there was a decline in the value of public sector exports of manufactured goods, private sector exports rose more than $400 million compared with the same period last year.

In the current fiscal year, the public sector also exported minerals worth $0.049 million, forest products worth $1.119 million, and other miscellaneous products worth $38.048 million.

During the first 61 days of the current FY, the public and private sector exported agricultural products worth $432.908 million, animal products worth $99.598 million, marine products worth $154 million, minerals worth $217 million, forest products worth $29 million, and other items worth over $154 million, totalling $1.088 billion.

According to the ministry’s annual data, the country exported manufactured goods worth $4.632 billion during the mini-budget period between April and September this year.


—Swe Nyein  ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Cultivation of winter crops in Kantbalu now 50% complete

THE cultivation of winter crops across the Kantbalu District in Sagaing Region for the fiscal year 2018-2019 is currently over 50% complete and efforts are being made to meet the production target within the set timeframe, according to the Kantbalu District Agriculture Department.

The district’s agriculture department is targeting to grow over 400,000 acres of a wide variety of winter crops in Kantbalu Township and 68,618 acres in Kyunhua Township this FY. So far, a total of 288,1288 acres of crops have been planted in Kantbalu Township, while growers have cultivated over 34,000 acres of crops in Kyunhua Township.

Winter crops which are being cultivated in the region include maize, cabbage, lettuce, tomato, sunflowers, peanut, sesame, ladyfinger, haricot bean, and green bean.

An official with the department said the authorities are implementing plans to produce good quality seeds, raise awareness on systematic farming, boost production of marketable crops, reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, and develop organic plantations.

“Agro-culturalists from the department are sharing their knowledge and experience on crop planting, soil preservation, and crop protection.

Cultivation techniques and weather information are also being shared with growers through call centers,” he said.

The department is helping farmers increase commercial production of good quality crops, in anticipation of healthy exports, he said—Aung Win Nyein (Kantbalu)  ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Cultivation of winter crops including tomato across the Kantbalu District in Sagaing Region for the fiscal year 2018-2019 is currently over 50% complete.  PHOTO: SUPPLIED
By Zaw Gyi
PHOTO PAYAZ

A WTH the smooth flow of trade, foreign investment could be elevated that could raise the business in the economic development of the nation”, Director-General U Kyaw Hla at Customs Department; Daw Khin Khin Nwe, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Enterprises Association; U Aye Han, Managing Director of United Paints Group of Co., Ltd., ; and Vice President of Taninthayi Region, Ay Aye Phyo, Secretary-General of Myanmar Entrepreneurs Association.

Roundtable Discussions on ways and means for the economic development of the nation

The roundtable discussions were held on 10 December at the Customs Department on seven subjects: (1) Smooth trade of goods, by which the smooth flow of trade, foreign investment could be elevated that would raise the business in the economic development of the nation; (2) Enhance Ruling on Classification and Valuation (WTOVA); (3) Foreign trade (4) Ease of doing business, investment and employment; (5) Post Clearance Audit (PCA); (6) Administration Reform and Modernization; (7) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

The discussions were held for the benefit of business, investment and employment. They identified the facilitation in the economy, which is the function of the Customs Department.

As the users are lack in skill and are driving to collect revenue for the nation”. With that policy we could raise the business in the economic development of the nation in line with the rules, regulation and relevant laws and regulations of the international standard.

As such, the Customs Department has decided to conduct matters according to the law of the relevant country.

The Customs Department has decided to conduct meetings with the relevant country.

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Chinese export growth slows in November: customs data

BEIJING (China)—China's export growth slowed last month weighed down by slowing global demand and trade tensions with the United States, official data released on Saturday showed.

Exports rose 5.4 per cent for November on-year, short of the 9.4 per cent forecast by Bloomberg News, while imports rose 3.0 per cent on-year, also below the forecast, according to customs administration data.

China's overall trade —what it buys and sells with all countries —logged a $44.7 billion surplus in November, up from $35 billion the previous month, the data showed.

The sagging export and import growth is another bad sign for China's economy, which grew at its slowest pace for nine years in the third quarter, expanding 6.5 per cent on-year for July-September.

China's trade surplus with the US has reached records highs this autumn as China has cut back imports from the US while American importers have rushed goods across the Pacific to beat the higher tariffs most expected in January.

Last week as part of a trade truce, US President Donald Trump agreed to hold off on plans to raise tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese imports to 25 per cent beginning on 1 January, leaving them at the current 10 per cent rate. But unease over the agreement has dented stocks this week with major US indices falling more than two per cent to close the market's worst week since March and one that left both the Dow and S&P500 in negative territory for the year.

China reacted furiously after a top executive and daughter of the founder of Chinese telecom giant Huawei was arrested in Canada this week following a US extradition request.

The arrest threatens to rattle the trade war truce with the United States, analysts say. Confusion over what was achieved at the Trump-Xi meeting has already contributed to the unease.

The White House has said China agreed to purchase a “very substantial” amount of agricultural, energy, industrial and other products and would begin buying products from US farmers “immediately”.

Russian trade surplus up 65.5 per cent in first 10 months this year

MOSCOW—Russia’s trade surplus rose 65.5 per cent year on year to 170.8 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of this year, the Federal Customs Service of Russia said on Friday.

During the same period, Russia’s imports totaled 198.1 billion dollars, up 7.3 per cent from a year earlier, while exports totaled 368.9 billion dollars, up 28.2 per cent.

Fuel and energy products accounted for 64.4 per cent of the exports, up 5.2 per cent in volume and 36.3 per cent in value.

Metal products, another major item contributing to the trade surplus in the period, accounted for 10 per cent of the exports, up 11.6 per cent in volume and up 25.4 per cent in value.—Xinhua

OPEC agrees joint 1.2 mln bpd cut with partners

VIENNA (Austria)—OPEC members and 10 other oil producing nations agreed on Friday to cut output by 1.2 million barrels a day in a bid to boost prices. Energy ministers reached the deal—which takes effect from any production cuts to take into account the effects of punishing US sanctions on its energy sector. “Officially Iran is exempted from this resolution,” UAE Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said.

Not enough?

The price of Brent crude, the European benchmark, surged five per cent on Friday after reports of the deal emerged. But some said the reduction may not be enough to keep oil prices buoyant. “I would describe the cuts as close but not close enough with regards to eliminating the global oil glut,” said Stephen Brennock, oil expert at London brokerage PVM. “A combined reduction of 1.5 mbpd was needed to avoid a supply surplus in the first half of next year,” he told AFP. “Accordingly, the price outlook for the coming few months still remains skewed to the downside despite today’s knee-jerk reaction.”

The deal was announced after Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak held bilateral meetings with several OPEC and its partners, which together account for around half of global output, agree that a glut in the market had led to oil prices falling by more than 30 per cent in two months. Friday’s deal does not however include Iran, which had demanded an exemption from any production cuts to boost output by 1.2 million barrels a day in a bid to boost prices. Energy ministers reached the deal—which takes effect from any production cuts to take into account the effects of punishing US sanctions on its energy sector. “Officially Iran is exempted from this resolution,” UAE Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said.

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The deal was announced after Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak held bilateral meetings with several counterparts, including Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh before the full meeting. However, the major players all had their own reasons to look to others to act first and the details of how any cuts will be shared out will be key. For Russia, which leads the non-member countries in the so-called OPEC+ alliance, “it’s much more difficult to cut than for other countries, because of our climatic conditions,” Novak said on Thursday.

OPEC Kingpin Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, had to bear in mind pressure from the United States after President Donald Trump demanded in a tweet on Wednesday that the cartel boost output so as to lower prices and help the economy. The kingdom’s diplomatic position however has been badly weakened by the furore over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Trump insists he will stick by Riyadh despite the outrage but he has been also ramping up the pressure for more oil.—AFP

China-US trade surplus hits record in November: China data

BEIJING (China)—China’s trade surplus with the US ballooned in November to a record $35.6 billion as exports rose and imports shrank, official figures showed on Saturday.

Exports to the US rose 9.8 per cent for November on-year, while imports for the month fell 25 per cent on-year, the data from China’s customs administration showed. The record monthly surplus exceeds the $31.8 billion recorded in October and comes despite a raft of US tariffs on Chinese goods.

China’s trade surplus with the US for the first 11 months of the year stood at $293.5 billion, up from $251.3 billion during the same period last year.—AFP

A cargo ship is seen at a port in Qingdao in China’s eastern Shandong province on 8 December, 2018. PHOTO: AFP
WASHINGTON (United States)—Former US secretary of state Rex Tillerson said that President Donald Trump repeat-
edly wanted to violate the law, describing him as “undisciplined” and uninterested in details.

Tillerson, who was fired in March, made no attempt to deny his poor relationship with Trump during a rare interview Thursday night as part of a charity dinner in his native Texas.

“I think part of it was obvi-
ously we are starkly different in our styles. We did not have a com-
non value system,” Tillerson told veteran journalist Bob Schieffer of CBS News, which broadcast an excerpt on Friday.

“I’d have to say to him, ‘Well, Mr. President, I understand what you want to do, but you can’t do it that way—it violates the law, it violates a treaty.’

“He got really frustrated,” he said. “I think he grew tired of me being the guy every day that told him you can’t do that and let’s talk about what we can do.”

Tillerson, a former chief ex-
cutive of oil giant ExxonMobil, had no government experience and had never met Trump when his nomination was promoted by Republican Party insiders, who hoped for a stable figure who could nonetheless appeal to the tycoon-turned-president with his outsider status and business background. Tillerson immedi-
ately struggled to fit in, focusing on internal State Department streaming rather than broader foreign policy goals as his rela-
tionship frayed with Trump.

“It was challenging for me coming from the disciplined, high-
lly process-oriented ExxonMobil Corp to go to work for a man who is pretty undisciplined, doesn’t like to read, doesn’t read briefing reports, doesn’t like to get into the details of a lot of things,” Tillerson said.

Trump is proudly anti-intellectual, saying that he succeeds by follow-
ing his instincts and knows better than experts. Asked about his reading hab-
its in an interview shortly after taking office, Trump said he was “looking at a book” but was dis-
tracted by phone calls every time he tried to get started.

Trump’s most visible foreign policy actions include pulling out of international agreements includ-
ing the Paris accord on climate change and a demilitarization deal with Iran. Trump announced Tillerson’s firing by tweet and, in a final indignity, the White House made it known that the nation’s top diplomat was on the toilet when he learned the news.

He was replaced by Mike Pompeo, a brusque former con-
grassman and CIA chief whose style appears more to Trump’s liking.—AFP

Merkel loyalist wins German party leadership battle

Germany’s conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) newly elected leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (L) is congratulated by German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R) during the CDU congress on 7 December, 2018 at a fair hall in Hamburg, northern Germany. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, a close ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, on Friday won a party vote to succeed the veteran leader at the helm of the centre-right CDU. PHOTO: AFP

HAMBURG (Germany)—Anne-
gret Kramp-Karrenbauer, a close ally of Angela Merkel, won a tight race to succeed her as party leader on Friday, seeing off a longtime rival of the German chancellor.

The contest, which required a run-off vote to secure a 52-per cent majority for AKK as she is known, is expected to increase the likelihood that Merkel will be able to see out her fourth term until 2021. AKK, 56, pledged to maintain continuity after 18 years of Merkel at the helm while opening up the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) to more grassroots democracy. In a brief, upbeat ad-
dress before the vote that brought many delegates to their feet, she called on the party to reject the politics of fear as the far-right makes inroads in Germany and Europe. “We must have the courage to stay the course against the Zeitgeist,” she said.

AKK beat corporate lawyer Friedrich Merz, 63, who had quit politics in 2009 after losing a pow-
er struggle against Merkel and long nursed a grudge against the more centrist chancellor. The third candidate—vocal Merkel critic and current health minis-
ter Jens Spahn—lost in the first round. Merkel, 64, had earlier mounted a staunch defence of her moderate course since becoming chancellor in 2005.

Accepting a lengthy stand-
ning ovation from delegates, many tearful and holding “Thanks, boss” placards aloft, a visibly moved Merkel said the party had won four national elections under her by holding fast to its principles. “In difficult times we shouldn’t forget our Christian and democratic stance,” she said.

‘Show what we’ve got’

Pointing to the rise of pop-
ulism worldwide and what she called a breakdown of shared Western values, Merkel said the order she had championed was at risk. “Whether it’s the rejection of multilateralism, the return to na-
tionalism, the reduction of inter-
national cooperation to deal mak-
ing or threatened trade wars... hybrid warfare, destabilisation of societies with fake news or the future of our EU—we Christian Democrats must show in the face of all these challenges what we’ve got,” she said.

Handpicked by Merkel as general secretary of the party in February, AKK was immediately seen as the chancellor’s anointed crown princess. Her modest style, even temper and largely middle-of-the-road policies mirror Merkel’s, but each woman is respected for the flash of steel they have shown at decisive moments. While she has called for tougher policies on refugees who commit crimes, AKK firmly backed Merkel’s fateful 2015 decision to welcome more than one million asylum-seekers from crisis zones such as Syria and Iraq.

Six dead in stampede at Italian nightclub: firefighters

ROME (Italy)—Six people died in a stampede at a nightclub near An-
cona in central Italy after panic erupted in the early hours of Saturday morning, firefighters said. “The cause may have been the dispersal of a stingy substance, the young people fled and trampled over each other.

Sunday, six people died and dozens are injured,’ the fire service said in a statement on Twitter.

Local reports said around 1,000 people were in the Blue Lantern club in the town of Corinaldo on the Adriatic coast for a performance by Italian rapper Sfera Ebbasta. The accident happened around 1:00 am (0000 GMT). “We were dancing and waiting for the concert to start when we smelt this pungent odour,” a 16-year-old boy who was taken to hospital told the media. “We ran to one of the emergency exits but we found it blocked, the bouncers told us to go back.”—AFP

Eleven killed, including five hostages, in foiled Brazil bank robberies: mayor

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil)—Eleven people—six bank robbers and five hostages including a child—were killed on Friday in a pre-dawn assault on two banks in a northeast Brazilian city foiled by police, the local mayor said. The violence erupted in the city of Milagres, in the northeastern state of Ceara, with a fierce pre-dawn shootout between the armed robbers and the police. “Our information from the hospital is 11 victims killed—six bandits and five hostages,” the mayor of Milagres, Liezio Landin, told Radio Band News. He said four of the hostages, including the child, were all from the same family. They had been grabbed by the fleeing robbers as they were going to the nearby airport to catch a flight. Landin said that “the criminals killed the hostages and the police killed the criminals.” Some Brazilian media gave height of 3.5 to 4 meters, of up to 15, and said the child killed was a 14-year-old boy.

The attempted robbery of the two banks occurred at 2:17 am (0417 GMT). When police arrived a shootout lasting 20 minutes ensued, reports said.—AFP

Nearly 300 detained as Paris braces for ‘yellow vest’ protests

PARIS (France)—Paris police detained nearly 300 people on Sat-
urday ahead of fresh anti-government “yellow vest” protests which authorities fear could turn violent for a third weekend in a row. Clad in their luminous road safety jackets, dozens of demonstrators—who accuse President Emmanuel Macron of only looking out for the rich—gathered at dawn on the Champs-Elysees, the scene last Saturday of the worst rioting in Paris for decades. “We had to come to Paris to be heard,” said protester Herve Benoit, arriving with three friends from the Dordogne in western France.—AFP

WORLD
Duterte seeks martial law extension in southern Philippines

MANILA—President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday asked legislators to extend martial law across the southern Philippines until the end of 2019 in order to quell continuing violence in the restive region, officials said.

Duterte’s request, which could be approved as early as next week, comes despite critics voicing concerns that the move threatens human rights and places too much power in the leader’s hands. However, the president’s spokesman Salvador Panelo said a third extension was needed in the southern region of Mindanao to “protect the nation and its people”. “A halt may only frustrate the progress we are witnessing in Mindanao and may even strengthen the rebellion and propel it to other parts of the country,” Panelo said in a statement. Duterte initially put the Mindanao region under martial rule after gunmen flying the black Islamic State flag attacked the mainly Muslim city of Marawi in May 2017, sparking a five-month battle that killed 1,200 people. Martial law allows the military to establish control with measures like curfews, checkpoints and gun controls in a nation where civilians are allowed to own firearms. It is a particularly sensitive matter in the Philippines because martial rule was used by dictator Ferdinand Marcos to remain in power during his two-decade reign, which ended in 1986 with a bloodless uprising. Military and police chiefs have both recommended to Duterte that martial rule remain in force in the area after 31 December to quell continuing violence by other Islamist groups and communist rebels, officials said. But critics warned that another extension is incomprehensible after the abuses that occurred in the preceding year and a half. “The victims of martial law are the people’s rights—civil, political and human rights.”

President of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: AFP

Hope, anxiety surround Japan over opening up to more foreign workers

TOKYO—Business leaders on Saturday welcomed Japan’s move to accept more foreign workers as a way to ease the aging nation’s acute labor crunch, but some local governments appeared unsure how they should brace for a possible influx of foreigners.

“We welcome the enactment that is to earnestly deal with the issue of securing supporters for social life and the industrial base as Japan faces a serious population decline,” Hiravii Nakamichi, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, said in a statement. The legislation, enacted in the predawn hours despite fierce resistance from opposition parties, will create a new visa system to effectively accept more workers in sectors in desperate need of labor such as construction, nursing care and farming.

Many foreigners who are currently engaging in jobs at places such as construction sites and convenience stores have been so-called technical interns who have come from developing countries to acquire skills, and foreign students who are allowed to work part-time.

The new visa system, to start from April, comes in response to growing calls from the business circle for the government to do something about the aging nation’s acute labor shortage as the economy realizes modest growth.

“Our farming industry already depends on foreign labourers. We hope that the new system will enable them to work longer,” said an official with Tsunomagi village in Gunma Prefecture, known for its cabbage farming. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Kathmandu Int’l Mountain Film Festival kicks off with films from 31 countries

KATHMANDU—The 16th edition of Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival (KIMFF) kicked off in Nepal on Friday with the participation of more than 70 films from 31 countries. The five-day festival showcases documentaries, fiction, experimental films and animations on various issues covering adventure; mountaineering; culture; ancient lifestyles; social, environmental and conservation issues that affect highland communities worldwide. With support from Kathmandu Metropolitan City, a partner of this annual festival, Himal Association organizes the grand occasion, aiming to promote the young talent in and outside the country.

This year, the festival is being held under the theme “Women Move Mountains”, exploring the role of women in society and encouraging women in the filmmaking. The film festa was jointly inaugurated by five influential women from different professions at City Hall amid the presence of over 400 audience. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, KIMFF Chairman Basanta Thapa said that the festival through its line-up of films and events will entertain audiences and engage them in conversations around issues that affect the Nepali public, with a special spotlight on women. The festival will conclude on Tuesday with an announcement of best films in various categories.—Xinhua

‘Kill or be killed’ says rebel group behind Papua massacre

SORONG (Indonesia)—Construction workers massacred at a remote jungle work camp in Papua were legitimate military targets, a rebel group said on Friday, as authorities hunted for more bodies after the grisly weekend attack which killed at least 16.

The National Liberation Army of West Papua (TPNPB) has claimed responsibility for the deadliest bout of violence in years to hit Papua, an Indonesian-controlled region wracked by a low-level independence insurgency. “We killed them because they were members of the Indonesian military in disguise. They’re our enemy,” Sebby Sambom, spokesman for the TNPBP, told AFP. “This is war. It’s kill or be killed.” The rebel group said this week it had killed two dozen people working for a state-owned contractor. Indonesia’s military has confirmed 16 dead and said at least three more company workers were unaccounted for.

An earlier eyewitness account supplied by the military described execution-style shootings and rebels slitting the throats of workers who tried to escape. On Friday, the military said most of the victims’ hands were tied together with some suffering gunshot or knife wounds and blunt-force injuries. One worker was almost decapitated. A soldier was also killed by rebels while investigating the killings this week, authorities said. “We have five children—he was the youngest. Our only son,” said the soldier’s distraught mother, Septiani. Authorities said they were scouring the jungle in search of more victims and the suspects, who could number as many as 50. “There are around 40 to 50 of them scattered around various places,” Papua military spokesman Dax Santuri told AFP. “They have the support of the locals.” The contractor’s employees were helping build bridges and roads to boost infrastructure in the impoverished region.—AFP

File photo taken in October 2018 shows a Vietnamese trainee (L) working at a steel bar factory in Chiba. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

外婆的菜谱：煎饼果子的做法

材料：
- 面粉 200克
- 清水 150毫升
- 鸡蛋 1个
- 盐 适量
- 芥末酱 适量
- 黑芝麻 适量

步骤：
1. 将面粉、清水、鸡蛋、盐混合，搅拌均匀。
2. 将面糊倒入平底锅中，用中火加热。
3. 待面糊定型后，用铲子将面糊翻面。
4. 在面饼的表面涂抹芥末酱，撒上黑芝麻。
5. 煎至两面金黄即可。

Tips:
- 面糊的比例可以根据个人口味进行调整。
- 煎饼果子的口感可以根据所需进行调整。

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Hummingbirds thrive at innovative Mexico gardens

MEXICO CITY (Mexico)—In a dimly lit corner of a bustling market in Mexico City, vendors of anklelets, voodoo dolls and other mystical objects sell tiny, taxidermied hummingbirds as charms to bring luck in love. Sold for 2,000 pesos (about $100) each, the lifeless corpses are a symbol of the threats faced by hummingbirds, which are known for their speedy wings, delicate beauty and key role in pollination.

These threats, which also include climate change, have led Mexico’s largest university, UNAM, to launch an ambitious project to monitor and protect hummingbirds with urban gardens. “Hummingbird gardens are, biologically speaking, the best strategy in big cities to conserve the species,” says researcher María del Coro Arizmendi, who heads the project.

She got her inspiration from former US first lady Michelle Obama, who included a variety of flowers in her famous White House garden to attract bees—another threatened pollinator. The university’s hummingbird gardens feature specialized feeders as well as brightly colored, tubular flowers that attract the birds, which are known for hovering in the air as they drink their nectar, flapping their wings up to 200 times per second. The gardens also have nets so scientists can capture the birds, tag and release them, enabling researchers in Mexico, the United States and Canada to track their migration patterns and monitor the impact of climate change.

Delicately holding the minute birds in their hands, Arizmendi and her fellow researchers fit them with tiny aluminum anklets, inscribed with ID numbers so small they can only be read with a magnifying glass.

Launched in 2014, the project now has five gardens around the Mexico City metropolitan area, and has inspired private citizens to create dozens of others—all of which help feed hummingbirds on their long migratory route, which stretches from Alaska to South America.

“Don’t have you to live in the White House. It doesn’t matter if you have a big yard or just a flower pot. If people attract and feed these birds, using whatever space they have, it contributes enormously to conserving the species,” says Arizmendi.

Mexico City has 17 of the world’s 330 hummingbird species. Mexico City has 17 of the world’s 330 hummingbird species. Of those, one is threatened, one is endangered and one is critically endangered: the short-crested coquette (Lophornis brachylophus). —AFP

German farmers sue government over missed climate targets

VETSCHAU (Germany)—Dismayed by the German government’s failure to meet climate protection targets, dairy farmer Heiner Luetke Schwienhorst has filed a lawsuit against Berlin to force it into action. “Some describe this as a fight between David and Goliath. To me, that’s Do what you promised” says Arizmendi. With the help of lawyer Roda Verheyen, the plaintiffs lodged their case at the administrative court in Berlin at the end of October. The court now needs to decide if there is any merit to the case. Verheyen is no stranger to such climate cases. In another high profile case in Germany, she helped bring to court a challenge by a Peruvian farmer against an energy giant RWE over climate change damage in the Andes. While the initial ruling went against them, the case is now at the appeals court. Verheyen said that in her latest case, the issue is whether the government can be held liable for failing to implement climate protection measures, as the targets set are not written into law.

“Here the plaintiff families say, yes. Do what you’ve promised, government, implement the 2020 climate protection goal.”—AFP

Environmentalist dressed as a storm cloud (1) and a burning tree protest during a demonstration. PHOTO: AFP

 Mexican City has 17 of the world’s 330 hummingbird species Mexico City has 17 of the world’s 330 hummingbird species. 

 CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
 MV ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (004 N/S) Consignees of cargo carried on M/V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (004 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2018 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 MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES Phone No: 2301185

 CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
 MV SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (1837/1838) Consignees of cargo carried on M/V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (1837/1838) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.T.M.L.P 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 MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD Phone No: 2301185

 CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
 MV ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1002 W/E) Consignees of cargo carried on M/V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1002 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P/M.L.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 MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S’PORE) PTE LTD Phone No: 2301185
British Golden Globe sailor rescued in Pacific: official

SANTIAGO (Chile)—British Golden Globe Race sailor Susie Goodall was plucked from a stormy Southern Ocean by a Chilean ship on Friday, a day after her yacht was dismasted, Chile's Maritime Rescue Services told AFP. Goodall “was rescued at 1500 GMT and is already on the AFP.” Goodall “was rescued at 1500 GMT and is already on the AFP.” Goodall “was rescued at 1500 GMT and is already on the AFP.” Goodall “was rescued at 1500 GMT and is already on the AFP.” Goodall “was rescued at 1500 GMT and is already on the AFP.”

“I was pitchpolled (rolled end over end) and I was thrown across the cabin and knocked out for a while.”

While “beaten up and badly bruised” she was safe and had managed to bring flooding under control and get her engine going, giving her some maneuverability when the rescue ship arrived, race organizers said.

In text updates, Goodall said she endured “a loong night”.

“The boat is destroyed. I can’t make up a jury rig,” she said.

The rescue vessel Tian Fu was expected to dock in Punta Arenas on 12 December.

The youngest competitor in the race and the only woman, 29-year-old Goodall was briefly knocked unconscious when mountainous seas upended her yacht DHL Starlight early Thursday, tearing off its mast and crashing much of her equipment. Goodall had managed to get her engine running but it failed after just 20 minutes, complicating rescue efforts as Chilean authorities diverted the Tian Fu to the area. Race organizers said Goodall had managed to use a sea anchor to slow her yacht down, making a rescue less dangerous.

Goodall was attempting to navigate the southern Pacific’s notorious Roaring Forties as part of the Golden Globe Race.

The young Briton sent a series of frantic text messages to race organizers throughout her ordeal. “Taking a hammering! Wondering what on Earth I’m doing out here,” she texted as the storm hit.

When concerned organizers finally managed to contact her by satellite phone several hours later, she confirmed her boat had been damaged but said the hull had not been breached. “The boat is destroyed. I can’t make up a jury rig,” she said.

“The only thing left is the hull and deck which remain intact.”

“We were pitchpolled (rolled end over end) and I was thrown across the cabin and knocked out for a while.”

While “beaten up and badly bruised” she was safe and had managed to bring flooding under control and get her engine going, giving her some maneuverability when the rescue ship arrived, race organizers said.

In text updates, Goodall said she endured “a loong night”.

“In need of a good cuppa tea! But sadly no cooker,” she messaged. The Golden Globe Race involves a gruelling 30,000-mile solo circumnavigation of the globe in yachts similar to those used in the first race 50 years ago, with no modern technology allowed except the communications equipment.

Entrants set off from France on 1 July and are expected to finish in April next year.—AFP

Jodie Whittaker confirms return for ‘Doctor Who’ season 12

LOS ANGELES—Actress Jodie Whittaker has confirmed she will be returning for another season of “Doctor Who”.

Whittaker is the first female Time Lord in the history of the cult sci-fi series.

“I really can’t wait to step back in and get to work again. It’s such an incredible role. It’s been an extraordinary journey so far and I’m not quite ready to hand it over yet,” Whittaker told The Hollywood Reporter.

The 11th season of “Doctor Who” will end on Sunday, with the show returning for a New Year’s Day special. Season 12 is expected to start shooting in early 2019.—PTI

Rap star Kendrick Lamar, women nominees lead Grammy race

NEW YORK (United States ) —The soundtrack of Marvel’s “Black Panther” propelled rap superstar Kendrick Lamar to the front of this year’s Grammy pack with eight nominations, closely followed by fellow rapper Drake whose album “DAMN.” made him the first rapper to win a Pulitzer Prize for music—once again there is a chance to win the coveted Album of the Year prize after three prior losses.

His song from the Marvel superhero movie’s soundtrack, “All the Stars,” is also in the running for both Record of the Year, which recognizes the overall performance of a song, and Song of the Year, which awards writing. Canadian rapper Drake meanwhile got love from the academy across the top categories for his album “Scorpion” and hit “God’s Plan.” The leading nominees will face stiff competition on 10 February at the Staples Centre in Los Angeles from fellow rappers Cardi B and Childish Gambino—as well as Lady Gaga, who snarled a string of nominations in both of those top categories for her hit “Shallow,” performed with co-star Bradley Cooper in the film “A Star Is Born.”—AFP

‘The King’ of the road: German town puts Elvis on traffic lights

FRIEDBERG (Germany) —Cross the road, it’s now or never Or that’s what residents in the German town of Friedberg may start humming when their traffic light jumps to green to reveal a hip-swivelling Elvis Presley. The jailhouse rocker performed his military service there between 1958 and 1960 and the town remains all shook up about its celebrated visitor. To commemorate the “Love me Tender” singer’s link to Friedberg, located north of Frankfurt, local authorities have transformed three traffic lights into Elvis lights. On red, they show the music icon standing at his microphone. On green, Elvis is seen mid-hip shake, performing his trademark move on tip toes. The town, which calls itself “the army home of Elvis”, already has a giant Elvis statue.

Elvis holds a special place here and that’s why he is honoured and appreciated,” local resident Heidi Huebner told AFP after she snapped a picture of the novelty traffic light. Although he served in Friedberg, Elvis actually lived off-base in the neighbouring town of Bad Neuenahr, which proudly holds an Elvis festival every year.

It was in Bad Neuenahr that Elvis met his future wife Priscilla. The couple wed in the United States in 1967 but divorced six years later. Elvis died unexpectedly in 1977 at just 42 years old. German towns and cities have a lively tradition in customising traffic lights, often to pay tribute to a famous resident. The city of Bonn has installed some that light up with Beethoven’s face, while the western town of Trier celebrated the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx’s birth with traffic lights of the bearded philosopher. A string of German cities have also adorned their traffic lights with same-sex couples to mark gay pride events.—AFP

9 DECEMBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
China launches rover for first time on the far side of the moon landing

BEIJING (China)—China launched a rover early Saturday destined to land on the far side of the moon, a global first that would boost Beijing’s ambitions to become a space superpower, state media said.

The Chang’e-4 lunar probe mission—named after the moon goddess in Chinese mythology—launched on a Long March 3B rocket from the southwestern Xichang launch centre at 2:23 am (0623 GMT), according to the official Xinhua news agency. The blast-off marked the start of a long journey to the far side of the moon for the Chang’e-4 mission, expected to land around the New Year to carry out experiments and survey the untrodden terrain.

“Chang’e-4 is humanity’s first probe to land on and explore the far side of the moon,” said the mission’s chief commander He Rongwei of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, the main state-owned space contractor. “This mission is also the most meaningful deep space exploration research project in the world in 2018,” he added according to state-run Global Times.

Unlike the near side of the moon that is “tidally locked” and always faces the earth, and offers many flat areas to touch down on, the far side is mountainous and rugged. It was not until 1959 that the Soviet Union captured the first images of the heavily cratered surface, unclouking some of the mystery of the moon’s “dark side”. No lander or rover has ever touched the surface there, positioning China as the first nation to explore the area.

“China over the past 10 or 20 years has been systematically tickling off the various firsts that America and the Soviet Union did in the 1960s and 1970s in space exploration,” said Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. “This is one of the first times they’ve done something that no one else has done before.”

Next up: humans

It is no easy technological feat—China has been preparing for this moment for years. A major challenge for such a mission is communicating with the robotic lander: as the far side of the moon always points away from earth, there is no direct “line of sight” for signals. As a solution, China in May blasted the Queqiao (“Magpie Bridge”) satellite into the moon’s orbit, positioning it so that it can relay data and commands between the lander and earth.

Adding to the difficulties, Chang’e-4 is being sent to the Aitken Basin in the lunar south pole region—known for its craggy and complex terrain. PHOTO: AFP

The journey is expected to last two weeks, during which the lander will deploy the Yutu-2 rover. The mission’s chief commander, Li Zhi, said the rover would perform six tasks. PHOTO: AFP

Aitken Basin is destined to land on the far side - as well as mineral and radiation tests, Xinhua cited the China National Space Administration as saying. The experiments also involve planting potato and other seeds, according to Chinese media reports.—AFP

More than half of global population now online: UN

GENEVA (Switzerland)—Some 3.9 billion people are now using the Internet, meaning that for the first time more than half of the global population is online, the United Nations said on Friday. The UN agency for information and communication technologies, ITU, said that by the end of 2018 a full 51.2 per cent of people around the world will be using the Internet. “By the end of 2018, we will surpass the 50/50 milestone for Internet use,” ITU chief Houlin Zhou said in a statement.

“This represents an important step towards a more inclusive global information society,” he said, adding though that “far too many people around the world are still waiting to reap the benefits of the digital economy.”

He called for more support to “technology and business innovation so that the digital revolution leaves no one off-line.” According to ITU, the world’s richest countries have been showing slow and steady growth in Internet use, which has risen from 51.3 per cent of their populations in 2005 to 80.9 per cent now.

The gains have meanwhile been more dramatic in developing countries, where 45.3 per cent of people are currently online, compared to just 7.7 per cent 13 years ago. Africa has experienced the strongest growth, with a more than 10-fold hike in the number of Internet users over the same period, from 2.1 per cent to 24.4 per cent, the ITU report showed.

The report also showed that while fixed-line telephone subscriptions continue to dwindle worldwide, to a current level of just 12.4 per cent, the number of mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions is now greater than the global population. And it found that mobile broadband subscriptions have skyrocketed from just four subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2007 to 69.3 today.—AFP

Researchers explore new way of killing malaria in the liver

WASHINGTON (United States)—In the ongoing hunt for more effective weapons against malaria, international researchers said on Thursday they are exploring a pathway that has until now been little studied—killing parasites in the liver, before the illness emerges.

“It’s very difficult to work on the liver stage,” said Elizabeth Winzeler, professor of pharmacology and drug discovery at University of California San Diego School of Medicine. “We have traditionally looked for medicines that will cure malaria,” she told AFP. For the latest research, published in the journal Science, scientists dissected hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes to remove parasites inside them. Each parasite was then isolated in a tube and treated with a different chemical compound — 500,000 experiments in all. Researchers found that certain molecules were able to kill the parasites.

After around six years of work, 631 candidate molecules for a “chemical vaccine” have been identified—a normal vaccine that would allow the body to make antibodies. “If you could find a drug that you give on one day at one time that will kill all the malaria parasites in the person, both in the liver and in the bloodstream, and last for three to six months. Yeah, that’d be super but there is no drug like that right now,” said Larry Slutsker, the leader of PATH’s Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) programs. Reducing the number of doses is crucial.

That’s because many medications available today must be taken over three days, said David Reddy, CEO of Medicines for Malaria Ventures. But often, after the first dose, a child begins to feel better and the fever lessens. Parents then keep the other two doses in case another of their children falls ill. “That has two impacts. First the child does not get cured properly and secondly it builds drug resistance,” Reddy said.

Illness develops

Malaria is caused by a miniscule parasite, called Plasmodium. Female mosquitoes transmit the parasite when they bite people for a meal of blood (males do not bite). Then, the parasite lodges in the liver and multiplies. After a couple of weeks, the population explodes and parasites run rampant in the blood. At this stage, fever, headache and muscle pain begins, followed by cold sweats and shivering. Without treatment, anemia, breathing difficulties and even death can follow, in the case of Plasmodium falciparum, which is dominant in Africa. The research published on Thursday offers a “promising path, as long as it last several months,” said Jean Gaudart, professor of public health at the University of Aix-Marseille. Gaudart said new approaches are necessary because resistance is on the rise in Asia against the most effective treatment using artemisinin, derived from a Chinese plant. “We really need new compounds,” he said. Now it’s up to researchers to confirm which of the 631 molecules identified have a real shot at wiping out this global scourge.

The World Health Organization said last month that global efforts to fight malaria have hit a plateau, with two million more cases of the killer disease in 2017—219 million—than the previous year.—AFP

Malaria infected mosquitoes ready for dissection in the manufacturing facility of Sanaria, Inc, in Rockville, Maryland during vaccine production. PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
Myanmar cane-ball team wins gold in 19th ASEAN University Games

MYANMAR grabbed a gold medal in the traditional cane-ball (chinlone) competition at the 19th ASEAN University Games, held at the Wanna Theikdi cane-ball sports ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A total of four teams from Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Laos participated in the competition.

Myanmar took the gold medal with 395 points. Laos secured the second place with 390 points, and Malaysia finished in the fourth place.

The Deputy Minister for Education, U Win Maw Tun, the Deputy Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Mya Lay Sein, the Director-General of the Department of Higher Education, Dr. Thein Win, the Director-General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education, U Myo Hlaing, officials, invited guests, and fans watched the sporting event.

 Afterwards, an awards ceremony was held and the Deputy Ministers handed out the medals to the winning teams. —MNA

Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin

Shan United hire local talent

IN preparation for the upcoming season of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019, Shan United has boosted the team by recruiting young footballers from Sagaing United, Magway, and Yadanarbon football clubs.

Shan United has signed a two-year contract with former Magway F.C. players Nanda Kyaw and Sat Phyo Wai, and former Yadanarbon F.C. player Ye Yint Tun.

The club has hired Sagaing United player Pyae Sone Aung on a three-year contract.

Shan United had been looking to recruit the four players based on their exceptional performance in the previous season of the Myanmar National League, said a source.

Taunggyi-based Shan United is focusing on winning the upcoming season and is eager to sign on local talented players, said a source with the Myanmar National League.—Lynn Thit(Tgi)

Guardiola confident Man City will avoid UEFA ban over spending

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Pep Guardiola is confident that Manchester City will not be banned from the Champions League at the end of an ongoing Financial Fair Play investigation after speaking with the club’s senior figures. UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin has promised that there will be action “very soon” regarding its assessment of allegations that City broke FFP rules.

The German magazine Der Spiegel, using material purportedly obtained from the whistleblowing outlet Football Leaks, reported in November that City had set up sponsorship deals to circumvent regulations limiting how much money owners can put into a club.

Having lost all matches in the qualifiers, Myanmar is out of the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship. Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia will next play on 9 December to advance into the next stage of the championship.—Lynn Thit(Tgi)

Guardiola says City would accept a ban but does not believe it is likely after discussions with chairman Khaldoon al Mubarak and chief executive Ferran Soriano.

He said: “We will not be banned, no. That’s what I think because I trust in my chairman, with my CEO, what they have explained to me. I trust in them.

“If it happens, because UEFA decide that, we will accept it and move forward.” While City are being investigated off the pitch, the team are continuing to enjoy fine form on it, leading the Premier League by two points going into the weekend’s fixtures. Guardiola’s side, unbeaten in their opening 15 league games, visit Chelsea on Saturday, where they are likely to face Jorginho, a player Guardiola tried unsuccessfully to sign from Napoli in the summer.

The Italian midfielder, 26, instead followed head coach Maurizio Sarri from Naples to Stamford Bridge in July, signing a five-year contract.

It has meant that Guardiola has had to continue to rely heavily on Fernandinho in the midfield anchor role, with the Brazil international the only outfield player to have started all 13 of City’s league games to date.—AFP
CRITICIZING others is one of the easiest things to do in this world. If we look around us, we become aware of how people are in favor of criticism. They say negative things about others with strong reasons, or occasionally, without any proper reasons. Being alive in this world means you will be judged for being who you are with one way or another. People tend to judge so quickly without seeing the whole picture. The hilarious fact is that we are even criticized for our appearance. Plastic Surgery is becoming a common thing in Myanmar these days. As we notice, people with plastic surgeries are more likely to get a lot of criticism. Are those people going under the knife because they want to? No, they do it because of the SOCIAL STANDARDS. The society rarely gives attention unless we have good looks or wealth. This is how it was designed.

Since people are not allowed to behave freely due to the judgmental society, they start to wear masks. People considered it as FAKE, and there we go again. When we are unable to remove our masks and become comfortable in our own skin, people call it “BAD”. There are still some people out there who are truly good at heart, but society takes advantage of their kindness.

Here is a reminder: Just because some people are reminding you of an aspect of yourself that you don’t like doesn’t mean you should criticize them. People have different values in their lives. Think before you bring your criticism, because every word carries weight. Also, imagine how free you would be if you could shift your focus from judgement back to love and care.
(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Answers

1. The girl who painted this picture has been selected Layechn.
2. The actor who plays the leading role in this film has won the Academy Award.
3. These are the troops who defeated the rebels last week.
4. I know the man who bought her car.
5. This is the girl whose father made a speech at the PTA meeting yesterday.
6. The woman whose jewellery was stolen last night has gone mad.
7. The train which left Yangon this morning has not reached Prome yet.
8. This is the hen that lays an egg everyday.
9. I sold the bicycle to the man.
10. He will move for good.
11. He is a fish out of water.
12. He is a queer fish.
13. They have gone back to their country for good.
14. He is on good terms with his neighbours.
15. He is a queer fish.
16. I want your promise in black and white.
17. He is building a castle in the air.
18. Ko Ko.
19. 10. He will move for good.
20. I can't make head or tail of this problem.
21. They are working hand in hand with the peasants.
22. They laid down their arms.
23. He is an old hand at rowing.
24. U Kyaw Kyaw is a man of parts.

Lesson 13

Relative Pronouns (အာလိုအားဖြင့်အားဖြင့်)

(A) This is the girl.
1. I got the book from the girl.
2. This is the girl whom I sold the bicycle to.
3. This is the girl who bought yesterday.
4. The writer whom I heard yesterday.
5. The man who played with the girl.
6. The book which is written by Ko Ko.
7. Books which are printed in that country.

(B) Prepositions (အာလိုအားဖြင့်အားဖြင့်)

1. This is the man.
2. This is the house.
3. This is the place.
4. The girl who painted this picture has been selected Layechn.
5. He is a queer fish.
6. He is a fish out of water.
7. This is the girl.
8. I sold the bicycle to the man.
9. He will move for good.
10. This is the film which I like best.
11. The girl who painted this picture has been selected Layechn.
12. The house where she spent her childhood is now very old.
13. This is the place.
14. The cow belongs to my uncle.

(C) Relative Pronouns (အာလိုအားဖြင့်အားဖြင့်)

(A) This is the girl.
1. I got the book from the girl.
2. This is the girl whom I sold the bicycle to.
3. This is the girl who bought yesterday.
5. The book which is written by Ko Ko.
6. Books which are printed in that country.

(B) Prepositions (အာလိုအားဖြင့်အားဖြင့်)

1. The girl who painted this picture has been selected Layechn.
2. This is the house.
3. This is the place.
4. The girl who painted this picture has been selected Layechn.
5. Ko Ko.
6. Books which are printed in that country.
8. I sold the bicycle to the man.
9. He will move for good.
10. This is the film which I like best.
11. This is the place.
12. This is the house.
By Kurt Knowles Carter  
(Hn Zaw Lwin)  
First Year (English)  
Dawei University

I am a university student. As a student, I have not many problems with the place I live. People live in different places of the world. Some people live in their birthplaces throughout their life. Some people move to better and pleasant places, so they can get whatever they want conveniently. Places, where no one wants to live, have no security, no peace, no food and no development. I can live with any kind of person. However, there are places I don't like and I don't want to live in. These places are earthquake zones, flood areas and places where have no security, no peace, no development and so on.

There are many places in Myanmar for different kinds of people to live. Some places are suitable for businessmen to live, some for merchants and traders, and yet some for technicians and technocrats. For them, the suitable place may be Yangon, Mandalay and other big cities in our country. These places are earthquake zones, flood areas and places where have no security, no peace, no development and so on.

Yangon is situated in the southern part of Myanmar, to the east of Ayeyarwady Region and to the south of Bago Region. Yangon is the commercial city with a good transport. So, we can get from Yangon to every part of country and foreign countries easily by any means of transport. It is also the gateway to Myanmar for foreigners. With a large number of facilities and large buildings, Yangon is the most developed place in Myanmar. Besides, there are a lot of cinemas, supermarkets, mini-stores and restaurants in Yangon. We can enjoy various kinds of food. We can go everywhere in Yangon by YBS buses with airconditioners consily. We can pay homage to the world famous Shewdagon Pagoda in Yangon. It give us peace in our mind and pleasure. These are advantages of living in Yangon but there are disadvantages that is why the place I don't want to live in is Yangon.

Yangon is a crowded city with a population of nearly six millions. In daytime, most of the areas of Yangon, especially the city centre, are full of people and there, usually occurs traffic congestion. Yangon is a crowded city with a population of nearly six millions. In daytime, most of the areas of Yangon, especially the city centre, are full of people and there, usually occurs traffic congestion.
Let’s go birding in Myanmar

It is Myanmar that rich in biodiversity with various forest types that are home of numerous flora and fauna. Myanmar boasts more than 16,000 plant species, 389 mammals, 1,984 birds, 251 reptiles, 119 amphibians, 128-fresh water fish species according to the report “National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020)” prepared by Forest Department. By these data, we can know that Myanmar is one of the biodiversity richest countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

In avifauna sector, Myanmar is recognized as having the greatest diversity of bird species in Southeast Asia, with at least 1,096 avifauna species including many endemic birds, endangered birds and other specially birds. Of which, six are endemic, two have been introduced by humans and ten are rare or accidental. Besides, about 20 birds of them are globally threatened species.

Bird species endemic to Myanmar include Jordan’s Minivet (Pericrocotus albidus), Hooded Treepie (Crypsirina cucullata), Burmese Bushlark (Mirafra microptera), Burmese Tit (Aegithalos sum), White-throated Babblers (Pycnonotus guttatus) and White-breoned Nuthatch (Sitta victoriae). The two introduced bird species are Javan Myan (Acridotheres javanicus) and Java Sparrow (Padda ostonea). The ten rare or accidental are White-tailed Tropicbird (Phaethon lepturus), South Polar Skua (Stercorarius maccormicki), Dark-rumped Swift (Apus acuticauda), Tree Pipit (Anthus trivialis), American Pipit (Anthus rubescens), White-throated Starling (Sturnia sinensis), Varis's Bunting (Emberiza varis), Pallas’s Bunting (Emberiza pallasi), and Yellow-billed Glossbucker (Pseudopasser semitorquatus).

With these various species of birds and various types of forests, Myanmar is a very interesting region for bird lovers or bird watchers. It can provide unforgettable birding experiences to them due to its diverse topography and climate conditions which create numerous different ecosystems and support an incredibly wide range of associated species. Birding or bird watching in Myanmar, therefore, becomes very popular in Asia for all of Myanmar various colorful birds.

For birding or birdwatching times in Myanmar, the periods from October to May is recommended because of fine weather conditions in these periods. The best time will be on the days of November, December, January and February. The times from June to September is not good for birding because it will rain around the country. However, some places can be visited for birding around the whole year.

For bird lovers, to recommend birding sites in Myanmar, there are many destinations providing wonderful experiences of Myanmar’s nature and excellent photo opportunities. Some are very amazing and unique. Among them, some notable, important and famous sites have been listed according to their respective states and regions around Myanmar. Each site has been expressed together with the recorded bird species number, the forest types and the significant information summarized of the site in the bracket.

1. In Kachin State
   - Hkawkawlan National Park (283 bird species/ evergreen, hill pine and moist upper mixed deciduous forests)
   - Hpphan Raiz Wildlife Sanctuary (132 bird species/ evergreen forest)
   - Hkawkawlan Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (347 bird species/ dense lowland evergreen, temperate mountain and sub-tropical mountain forests)
   - Indawgyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary (268 bird species/ Indawgyi is the largest mixed lake of South East Asia and the third largest lake in the world)

2. In Chin State
   - Nat Ma Taung (Mt Victoria) National Park (282 bird species/ hill savannah, hill evergreen, moist upper mixed deciduous and pine forest/ the highest site for birding and highest peak in Chin State)

3. In Sagaing Region
   - Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park (225 bird species/ central mixed deciduous forests/ the historical famous Alaungdaw Kathapa-Strine is present in the park)
   - Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary (225 bird species/ grass savanna, dry deciduous and mixed deciduous forests)
   - Tamatimi Wildlife Sanctuary (244 bird species/ tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests)

4. In Tanintharyi Region
   - Tanintharyi Area (322 bird species/ tidal, beach, evergreen, mixed deciduous, dipterocarp and hill forests/ the custom of local Salau ethnic nations can be observed)
   - In Bago Region
     - Myaungyi Wetland Bird Sanctuary (128 bird species/ a few trees and shrubs)
     - Pyay Area (144 bird species/ dry zone/ it is ancient “Pya” capital of “Thagyhtayce”)
   - Phu Ruea Elephant Camp (137 bird species/ moist upper mixed deciduous forest, dry upper mixed deciduous forest and lower mixed deciduous forest)

5. In Mawlamyine Region
   - Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary (132 bird species/ dry deciduous forest)
   - In Mandalay Region
     - Bagan Area (132 bird species/ scrub and scattered trees/ it is one of the richest archaeological sites in Asia, with over 2,000 ancient pagodas)
     - Sagaing Hill (17 bird species/ evergreen forest, moist upper deciduous forest and pine forest/ Mt. Sagaing is a great extinct volcano and also a historical and cultural important place)

6. In Kayin State
   - Pyo-U-Lwin Area (122 bird species/ tropical mixed deciduous forests)
   - Inle Lake (254 bird species/ it is a large bird sanctuary and a major source of hydro electric power for southern Myanmar)
   - Kalaw Area (139 bird species/ moist deciduous, dry deciduous and pine forest)

7. In Mon State
   - Pho Kyar Elephant Camp (157 bird species/ moist deciduous, dry deciduous and swamp forests)

8. In Shan State
   - Inle Lake Bird Sanctuary of Inle Lake (324 bird species/ it is an ancient bird sanctuary and a major source of hydraulic power for southern Myanmar)

9. In Rakhine State
   - Rakhine Ruma Elephant Range (96 bird species/ evergreen forest, mangrove forest)

10. In Yangon Region
    - Hlaingyi Wildlife Park (Over 179 bird species/ semi-evergreen, deciduous and swampy forests including small wetland areas/ it is a popular recreational & educational park)
    - Let Kale Lake Shore Beach (148 bird species/ mangrove forests)

11. In Shan State
    - Indawgyi Wetland Bird Sanctuary of Inle Lake (324 bird species/ it is a large bird sanctuary and a major source of hydro electric power for southern Myanmar)

12. In Ayeyarwaddy Region
    - Melminshya Nyan (Island) Wildlife Sanctuary (37 bird species/ mangrove forests)

These birding sites have their respective key birds which have not been present here yet. The key birds can be known by studying each site in detail. Bird lovers should study the sites where they want to visit. Some sites can offer unique things to their visitors. Some are famous for their beauty. For example, Bagan is the most important archeology zone in Myanmar and is famous for its over 2,000 ancient pagodas, temples and historical sites built by Burmese Dynasty. In Inle Lake, the unique traditional style of one leg-rowers, fishing, floating market and floating agriculture are attractions. Nga Taung National Park is home to a variety of rare and beautiful birds and fauna including the endemic birds - White-browed Nuthatch and Burmese Shrike. In the Alamugaw Kathpa National Park, the famous Alamugaw Kathpa-Shrine is located, drawing at least 30,000 pilgrims a year paying homage to the shrine. For Mi: Hkkakawarite, it is a snow-capped peak in Shan State.

Bird species endemic to Myanmar include Jerdon’s Minivet (Pericrocotus albifrons), Hooded Treepie (Crypsirina cucullata), Burmese Bushlark (Mirafra microptera), Burmese Tit (Aegithalos sum), White-throated Babblers (Pycnonotus guttatus) and White-breoned Nuthatch (Sitta victoriae). The two introduced bird species are Javan Myan (Acridotheres javanicus) and Java Sparrow (Padda ostonea). The ten rare or accidental are White-tailed Tropicbird (Phaethon lepturus), South Polar Skua (Stercorarius maccormicki), Dark-rumped Swift (Apus acuticauda), Tree Pipit (Anthus trivialis), American Pipit (Anthus rubescens), White-throated Starling (Sturnia sinensis), Varis's Bunting (Emberiza varis), Pallas’s Bunting (Emberiza pallasi), and Yellow-billed Glossbucker (Pseudopasser semitorquatus).

With these various species of birds and various types of forests, Myanmar is a very interesting region for bird lovers or bird watchers. It can provide unforgettable birding experiences to them due to its diverse topography and climate conditions which create numerous different ecosystems and support an incredibly wide range of associated species. Birding or bird watching in Myanmar, therefore, becomes very popular in Asia for all of Myanmar various colorful birds.

For birding or birdwatching times in Myanmar, the periods from October to May is recommended because of fine weather conditions in these periods. The best time will be on the days of November, December, January and February. The times from June to September is not good for birding because it will rain around the country. However, some places can be visited for birding around the whole year.

For bird lovers, to recommend birding sites in Myanmar, there are many destinations providing wonderful experiences of Myanmar’s nature and excellent photo opportunities. Some are very amazing and unique. Among them, some notable, important and famous sites have been listed according to their respective states and regions around Myanmar. Each site has been expressed together with the recorded bird species number, the forest types and the significant information summarized of the site in the bracket.

1. In Kachin State
   - Hkawkawlan National Park (283 bird species/ evergreen, hill pine and moist upper mixed deciduous forests)
   - Hpphan Raiz Wildlife Sanctuary (132 bird species/ evergreen forest)
   - Hkawkawlan Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (347 bird species/ dense lowland evergreen, temperate mountain and sub-tropical mountain forests)
   - Indawgyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary (268 bird species/ Indawgyi is the largest mixed lake of South East Asia and the third largest lake in the world)

2. In Chin State
   - Nat Ma Taung (Mt Victoria) National Park (282 bird species/ hill savannah, hill evergreen, moist upper mixed deciduous and pine forest/ the highest site for birding and highest peak in Chin State)

3. In Sagaing Region
   - Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park (225 bird species/ central mixed deciduous forests/ the historical famous Alaungdaw Kathapa-Strine is present in the park)
   - Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary (225 bird species/ grass savanna, dry deciduous and mixed deciduous forests)
   - Tamatimi Wildlife Sanctuary (244 bird species/ tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests)
There's that car over there.

I can't just let it get away.

BAM!

I didn't need to anything.

People have to put effort in everything they do.

That's right.

You have to study hard when getting an education.

Put effort into your job.

Work hard to be prosperous.

But you gradually get older while trying so hard.

Then does that mean you don't need to try so hard when you're old?

Of course not. It just means you have to put effort in keeping healthy.

I am low-paid compared to most people.

I am not as wealthy as my friend, Ko Hla Maung.

I don't own cars or houses like him.

But my love for you is more bountiful than anyone else.

One week later

Auntie, have you seen my girlfriend? I can't contact her.

Ah! Haven't you heard? She eloped with Ko Hla Maung.

What?!
When man becomes hostile and greedy...

I have studied a poem in a prescribed English text when I was in Grade X. It was a long poem composed by the well-known poet named Henry Wadsworth Long Fellow. I did not know the poet but our English teacher introduced the name of the poet and gave us a brief explanation about him before he made his lecture. We found the poem and the poet very interesting as our teacher’s explanation could entirely bewitch us. He was so good at his teaching that we had an opportunity to understand not only the paraphrasing but the background history in which the poem was based. Due to our teacher’s smooth, interesting and reasonable explanation, we had much sorrow and sympathy upon the character in the poem.

Since then, whenever I happened to think the poem, I was heart-broken to those who were cruelly oppressed by the oblivious people. Nowadays, when we hear the news of human trafficking in newspapers and on television, I think this human trafficking affair does not occur only at the current era. It has been occurring for ages. I get angry for human beings are being considered and treated as non-living things. Human beings are living things not non-living ones. Although human beings are the most developed and highest standard organisms in the world, some people buy and sell them as non-living things. This is the rudest behavior and non-humanitarian act and the most unacceptable one for the cultured people.

However, such act was done and is being done by man. It was done in the west world in a great extent. It could be said as ‘Slave-trafficking’. It was also a real historical human trafficking. The white who were developed in the west world in a great extent. It could be said as ‘Slave-trafficking’. It was also a real historical human trafficking. The white who were developed in the west wereMemory was meaningful for him as his life was free from unbearable condition of a slave. Nowadays, the system of slave has been over for centuries in the world and even the era called globalization occurs. However, an another type of slave system gets prominent in the society. It is now known as ‘Human trafficking’. Who are committing it? There will be an only answer. Those who become hostile, greedy and unsympathetic are committing that sin.
Very Important Thing for Every Society

It is said that “A tiny hole makes the ship submerged into water”. This means that even a small piece of thing can destroy the whole sectors of our society. Mutual love and respect are crucial between us. Forgiveness and leniency will be absent without mutual love and respect. So, everyone is learned to have these two facts.

A month ago, the football match “Chelsea Vs Manchester United”, one of the great matches of the Premier League, was held in London. I watched it on TV at home. In the first half, the hosts, Chelsea played aggressively through their attacking style against United. Afterwards, the London club scored an opening goal headed by the defender Antonio Rudiger from the corner. Some of Chelsea’s fans mocked up Jose Mourinho, United’s manager who also took in charge at Chelsea about three years ago. In the second half, United changed their tactics and transformed it into active and effective attacking. United’s striker Anthony Martial equalized against Chelsea. Later, Chelsea tried to speed up their pressing attacks but the visitors secured their second goal also scored by Anthony Martial. Thereafter, Chelsea continued their attacks and the midfielder Ross Barkley netted for the hosts in the stoppage time as Chelsea avoided from their first defeat by United this year.

When Chelsea got their second goal, one of the coach members of Chelsea celebrated extremely in front of Mourinho. Then, Mourinho became furious and responded angrily. The authorities tried to disperse both of them. And the final whistle was announced. New Chelsea’s manager Maurizio Sarri apologized to Mourinho and told him to calm down. Jose also accepted Sarri’s apology and he was released from his tensions.

In this case, I did not mean to tell about the football match, only to understand about the importance of mutual respect. Maurizio Sarri’s respect on Jose Mourinho can be seen as a good sample or model for all though Chelsea were held by United. Mutual respect conveys good things between each other. I would like to urge all of you that mutual respect is a key to success. Let’s build together a better society with mutual love and respect.