President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a Christmas prayer and luncheon held at Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat’s residence yesterday noon.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, wife Daw Yin May and family welcomed President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Hlay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Chairman of the Myanmar Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Hlay Yi, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and wife, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and wife, Union Ministers, Union Auditor-General, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Justices of the Supreme Court of the Union, members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, members of the Union Election Commission, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Attorney General, members of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw Council members and wives, chairmen and secretaries of the Hluttaw Affairs committees, departmental heads, Reverends and invited guests.

The luncheon began with Nay Pyi Taw Council of Churches Chairman Rev. Dr. Tin Maung Aye delivering a Christmas prayer, after which he extended his blessings to the State leaders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the people of Myanmar.
Donation ceremony held to mark Two Dragons Monastery Sayadaw’s 90th birthday

A donation ceremony to mark the 90th birthday of State Ovadacarya Sayadaw Abhidaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Agga Maha Pandita Baddanta Dhamma Siri and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhamma Siri and local residents, Hlaing, department officials and Commander-in-Chief Office, Commander of Tri-Hla, Tatmadaw officers from the Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Maha Myat Muni Monastery attended the birthday ceremony together with the Monks attended the birthday donation ceremony with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife released from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Chief Justice attends stake driving ceremony for Chin State High Court

UNION Chief Justice U Hun Htun Oo attended a stake driving ceremony for the Chin State High Court held at Chin State, Haka, yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Chin State Chief Minister U Sai Li ltain Luai, Supreme Court Judge U Myint Aung, Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bawi, Chin State Chief Judge U Win Myint Kyaw, Magway Region Chief Judge U Sein Htun, Chin State minister for road and transportation U Shwe Htee Yo, Chin State minister for development affairs, electricity and industry U Soe Htet and Ministry of Construction Permanent Secretary U Win Tint drove the stakes and sprinkled scented waters on it.

Union Chief Justice U Hun Htun Oo conducted the tradition- al ceremony upon the successful completion of the stake driving ceremony and then posed for commemorative group photos with guests and officials. Union Chief Justice and officials then inspected the ground where the State High Court will be constructed and discussed additional matters. The State High Court will be built on a 0.887 acre of land and is a 3-story reinforced concrete building measuring 167 ft. x 120 ft. It will contain three court rooms, four room offices for judges, rooms for law officers, lawyers, security room, evidence storage room, library, case storage room, meeting hall, guest room, media room, and more, which will be constructed by the Ministry of Construction Building Construction Group 2, Special Building Group 6. —MNA

Four bridges in Rakhine State to be commissioned soon

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspected Kyatsin bridge yesterday, which is under construction on the Myebon-Minbya Road in Rakhine State, along with Teingyo Bridge and Darlat Bridge on the Yangon-Sittway Road.

Teingyo Bridge, which crosses Thiri Creek on the Yangon-Sittway Road in Myauk U Township, is nearly completed and expected to be commissioned into service soon.

The iron reinforced bridge is 360 ft long and 30 ft wide, and is able to withstand loads of some 60 tons.

The bridge was built by the Group-2 of the Ministry of Construction.

Afterwards, the Chief Min- ister visited Kyatsin Bridge, which spans the Kyatsin River between milepost 22/4 and 23/1 of the road from Minbya to Me- ebon. This bridge is still under construction. Construction of the bridge started on 1 July, 2014 and is expected to be opened soon.

Once the bridge is open, the flow of commodities will in- crease and the lives of the peo- ple in the region will improve. Kyatsin Bridge is 1,920 ft. long and has a road width of 24 ft., as well as a 3 ft-wide pedes- trian path on both sides. The bridge’s foundation includes reinforced bore piles. The body of the bridge is made of rein- forced concrete, with an upper structure of a steel frame plate girder and reinforced concrete flooring.

The waterway under the Kyatsin Bridge is 215 ft. wide (65.53 metres), and the clearance between the water and bridge is 39 ft. 4 inches. The bridge can accommo- date vehicles weighing 75 tonnes and costs an estimated K11.145 billion. At present, commuting between Minbya and Myebon had to be done via the Z-craft and small crafts, which is espe- cially difficult at night.

In the afternoon, Chief Min- ister U Nyi Pu also inspected the Darlat Bridge, which has been completed and will soon be inaugurated. The bridge is 960 ft long and 30 ft wide, and can with- stand loads of 75 tons. Addition- ally, the Satyokya Bridge over the Satyokya Creek in Sittway has been completed and is expected to be inaugurated soon.

— Maw Si, Ko Min (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)
“Race’ is a collective noun applied to those who have lived through good times as well as bad together for long years, and who have accepted that they have a common destiny. It is a name given to a group of people who believe in their distinct, common identity. Although due consideration should be given to race, religion and language, a true patriotic spirit depends on a traditional desire to live together through weal or woe.”

(Excerpt from the speech given by General Aung San on the middle terrace of the Shwedagon Pagoda on 20th August, 1946)

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A COORDINATED patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at border posts 33 to 34 on 28 December, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Acting Police Major Myint Huu from No.5 Border Police sub-division, Area 1, Maungtaw Township, while the Bangladesh patrol was led by Subedar Md. Salim Mia of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

After discussions near border post 33, troops from Myanmar and Bangladesh jointly conducted the patrol along the border. —GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference concludes

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference that continued at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the conference, the chairman, Department of Traditional Medicine Director General Dr. Moe Swe, delivered the opening remarks and discussed submissions made at the conference, along with plans for future works.

Panel discussions under various themes were held throughout the day, and questions were answered as attendees joined in discussions. After the panel discussions, the closing ceremony for the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference was held. Dr. Moe Swe delivered a closing speech and presented documents of honor to panellists who participated in the panel discussion. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)
Buddhists from twelve countries hold New Year prayer in Bangkok

Buddhists from twelve countries attended a New Year prayer ceremony held at Sanam Luang in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday afternoon.

The prayer ceremony was attended by 16 Sayadaws from Myanmar, led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Tipitaka Sayadaws, State/Region Sanghanayaka Sayadaws totaling 31 sanghas and 26 lay persons, led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko.

The New Year prayer ceremony will be held in Bangkok, from 29 December until the morning of 1 January morning, and starting from 11 p.m. 31 December, Sanghas from 12 countries will conduct the New Year prayer.

Last year’s New Year prayer ceremony marking the transition from 2017 to 2018 was held at Yangon, Mingaladon Garden City, Zabu Okshaung Myat Bon Khuang Pagoda where invited sanghas from various countries conducted prayers. It was jointly organized by the Asian Buddhist Community, Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Federation and Border Areas and Hill Region Sasana Nuggaha Association.—MNA (Translated by Zau Min)

University of Veterinary Science (Yezin) holds 32nd graduation

UNIVERSITY of Veterinary Science (Yezin) held its 32nd graduation ceremony yesterday at the university in Zeyathiri Township.

At the graduation, 93 students received Bachelor of Animal Science-BASc, 11 were awarded Masters of Veterinary Science-MVSc and 218 received Bachelor of Veterinary Science-BVSc. Ph.D. degrees were also conferred on two students by the university at the graduation ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Rector of the university Prof. Dr. Mar Mar Win urged the graduates to take part in nation-building activities while carrying out their careers, as the role of veterinarians is involved today in not only health and diseases of animals, but also in the prevention of animal-to-human diseases, the safety of food from the livestock sector, and promoting the socio-economy of the rural population through the breeding of livestock.

On behalf of the nation, the rector said that graduation day brings pride to the country, as it comes together with the new veterinarians for the livestock breeding sector of the country.

Afterwards, Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary of the Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, presented prizes to outstanding graduates.

During the morning session, PhD, MVSc and BVSc were conferred on the graduates by Rector Dr. Mar Mar Win. In the afternoon, BASc, which is the first ever degree offered by the university, was conferred on 93 graduates by Prof. Dr. Mar Mar Win.

The university launched a four-year Bachelor of Animal Science-BASc program during the 2014-2015 academic year. The university also offers a six-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science-MVSc program.

The University of Veterinary Science (Yezin) was founded in 1957. In the past 61 years it awarded 93 graduates with BASc degrees, 5,446 with BVSc degrees, 220 with Dipl.LIS, 449 with Dipl.LPA, 21 with MPhil, nine with MVSc degrees, 279 with MVM degrees and 19 with Ph.D. degrees. — Zin Oo, Wai Thu Nwe (Myanma Alin) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Over 1.5 mln tons of rice exported within 9 months of 2018

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR exported over 1.5 million tons of rice and broken rice within 9 months of the current fiscal year 2018-2019, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Although Myanmar exported over 2 million tons of rice and broken rice during the six-month interim period leading to the next fiscal year 2018-2019, Myanmar only exported over 1.5 million tons of rice and broken rice within 9 months, with an estimated value of over US$528 million.

Myanmar earned some US$207.950 million from over 396,572 tons of rice and broken rice exports through border trade routes, and over US$240.584 million from over 720,984 tons of rice and broken rice export via maritime trade.

Myanmar exports rice and broken rice with ships to China, as well as through Mute 105 border trade routes.

However, rice being shipped from the Mute route has been temporarily suspended, said U Than Oo, the secretary of Bayinnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

“Currently, merchants have to rely on normal trade routes. Border trade sales are temporarily suspended. Now, Myanmar is exporting 50 per cent of rice and broken rice to foreign countries. The exports of rice are only being relied upon through maritime trade,” he added.

“We need more rice exporters and investors to export more rice through normal trade routes, because the export volume has declined in border trade. We also need more factories, warehouses, trucks for transportation, machinery for cargo and labourers,” said U Than Oo.

Recently, the price of exported rice was K10,200 per bag at the Bayinnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

During the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar exported over 3.6 million tons of rice to foreign countries. (Translated by Htay Mar)

Myanmar-Malaysia trade went down over 49% in October

TRADE between Myanmar and Malaysia totalled US$50.5 billion during the first month of the current fiscal year 2018-2019, down by $48.9 million, or 48.6 per cent, from the corresponding period last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

This year’s bilateral exports reached US$13.4 billion, while bilateral imports exceeded US$37 million. When compared with last year, this year saw a decline in value of both bilateral exports and imports. The current export value decreased slightly, by $0.006 million, however, the current import value declined by over US$47 million, as against the same month last year.

At this time during the 2017-2018 fiscal year, bilateral trade was US$38.4 billion, with US$13.4 billion in exports and US$24.9 million in imports.

Myanmar’s imports from Malaysia include oil, consumer goods, plastic ware, chemicals, stone and glass, footwear, minerals, metals, construction appliances, wire, medical products, electronic devices and intermediate goods. Each month, the country exports marine products, clothing, forest-based products, agricultural commodities and other miscellaneous products to Malaysia.

The ministry’s annual statistical report showed that trade between the two nations hit US$600 million during the mini-budget period between April and September 2018, increasing by over US$66 million from the corresponding period last year.


According to the Director of Investment and Company Administration, Malaysian investment in Myanmar during the previous 2017-2018 FY was US$21.8 million. Its investments in Myanmar during the six-month period totalled US$7.34 million. It made new investments worth about US$1.18 million in the first two months of the 2018-2019 FY—Shwe Khine (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Prices of chili peppers increase in domestic market

PRICES of chili peppers increased by some K1,000 per viss (1.6 kilogrammes or 3.6 pounds) in the domestic market late this year, in comparison with the same period last year, according to local merchants.

Retailers say that prices of chili peppers grown in the delta regions were K2,100-K2,200 per viss (6.6 lbs) this summer. These prices went up to K4,300-K4,400 per viss during the monsoon period when newly harvested chili peppers reach the market from Pyawbwe and Meiktila in Upper Myanmar.

Myanmar also imports chili peppers from India, its second largest neighboring country. Prices of chili peppers imported from India were some K3,500 per viss in early 2018. In the middle of the year, the price increased to K4,500 per viss. When compared with the corresponding period last year, prices of chili peppers increased by K1,000 per viss, on average.

This time last year, prices of chili peppers were about K3,500 per viss.

As a marketable product, chili peppers are primarily used for culinary purposes because of their being a hot spice.—Maung Say Aung (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar earns almost $3.3 bln in international trade

MYANMAR earned nearly US$3.3 billion from the export sector during the present 2018-2019 fiscal year; an increase in value by US$485 million over this same time last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce’s Friday report.

From 1 October through 21 December, 2018, private exporters sold US$2.7 billion worth of goods, while US$580 million worth of products were exported by the public sector.

From this same period last year, the country earned almost US$2.9 billion from exports, consisting of over US$2 billion by private exporters and US$171 million from public exporters. Compared with the corresponding period in the last 2017-2018 FY, the private sector’s exports increased by US$622 million, but the public sector’s exports declined by US$136 million.

During the period, Myanmar exported six major groups of commodities, plus other miscellaneous items, including agro products worth US$467 million, animal products valued at US$149 million, marine products worth US$207 million, minerals worth US$274 million, forest-based products at US$43 million and manufactured goods worth US$1,754 million, as well as other products reaching US$187 million, with a total of US$3.263 billion. Between April and September this year, Myanmar exported goods amounting to US$8.8 billion, with US$2.2 billion from the public sector and nearly US$6.6 billion from the private sector.—Khine Khant (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)
MNA begins flying to Chengdu, PRC

STATE-owned Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), has begun flying to China’s Chengdu, as a ceremony was held at Terminal 1 foreign department, Yangon International Airport, at 9 pm on 28 December.

At the ceremony, U Win Khant, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport and Communications, delivered a speech. Additionally, Ms. Li Xiaoyan, Minister Counsellor from the China Embassy to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, also gave a speech. 

Like that, Captain Than Tun, Chief Executive Officer of MNA, explained about MNA’s new route to China’s Chengdu, and an official from Yangon Airport Co., Ltd gave a welcoming speech.

Afterwards, Permanent Secretary U Win Khant and officials cut ribbon to formally open the ceremony.

MNA started flying its sixth international route to China’s Chengdu, Sichuan Province, on 28 December using Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft from international terminal-1 on 28 December. "At present, MNA flies to 80 domestic airports and international destinations, including Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Chiang Mai and Bodh Gaya." Now, MNA has extended its service to China’s Chengdu,” said Captain Than Tun, CEO of MNA.

The price of a round-trip ticket for the Yangon-Chengdu trip is US$330 per person, at present. The Yangon-Chengdu flight will fly every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:20 pm. The Chengdu flight will fly every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, departing at 3:35 am from Chengdu airport.

Myanmar National Airlines was established on 15 September 1948 as Union of Burma Airways (UBA). After a period in isolation, along with many of Myanmar’s industries, the airline has now been reborn as Myanmar National Airlines.——MNA

Ngawun Bridge (Laymyathnar) to open in February 2019

TO ensure the smooth flow of local commodities in Ayeyawady Region, the Ngawun Bridge (Laymyathnar) will be opened in February 2019, according to the Ministry of Construction.

The Ngawun Bridge was built on Laymyathnar-Katu-Pantawgyi road in Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, with K 11.45 billion of capital funds from Ayeyawady Region. The bridge is a two-way concrete bridge measuring 600 meters long. It also includes two other main sections, a 170 meter long bridge at one end on the Laymyathnar side and a 190 meter long bridges at the another end on the Pantawgyi side. The two-way concrete bridge is 24 meters wide, flanked by 3.6 feet wide pedestrian walkways, while the clearance is 6.1 meters high and 53 meters wide. The bridge can handle loads of up to 75-tons, according to the Bridge special team-16.

According to data from the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory, northernmost, and the more than 800 islands in the Myeik Archipelago in the southern part of the country. Besides, Yangon and Mandalay are home to several important cultural, historical, and religious sites, including Buddhist temples, monasteries, monuments, and colonial buildings.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Tourist arrivals in Yangon exceed one mln in 11 months

MYANMARS commercial capital, Yangon, welcomed more than one million tourists from January to November this year, said U Naing Win, the director of the Yangon Region’s Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Tourism has grown at a good pace this year thanks to support from the country’s head of government and the authorities in the regions and states, he said.

“The tourism sector saw more progress after the government allowed visa-free entry to Myanmar for citizens of Japan, South Korea, Macau, and Hong Kong, and visa-on-arrival to Chinese visitors. This year, we have mainly seen tourists from Thailand and China,” he said.

According to data from the Directorate, more than 120,000 foreign travellers came to Myanmar by air, while over 8,000 tourists visited the country aboard cruise ships. The Chinese made up the majority of tourists visiting Myanmar this year. They mostly chartered flights to the Yangon and Mandalay international airports.

Myanmar’s main tourist attractions include the ice-capped Mt. Hkakaborazi, the country’s highest mountain, located in its n
Second day of Children’s literature festival in Muse District

Muse District’s Children’s Literature Festival continued its second day from 9 am to 5 pm yesterday. The festival was bustling with students, literary enthusiasts, parents and local residents from Muse, Namkhan, Kutkai, Manhero, and Pansai (KyuKok) Townships.

The festival held contests for storytelling, poem recitals, coloring, assembling puzzles, impromptu speaking, and various games.

There were also two literary talks held at the festival. One of the topics was ‘Future of children’s literature’ and discussed by Sayar Min Htet Maung, Sayar Hnin Kar Moe, U Win Cho and Sayama Daw Kyi Mhwae Eain with Sayar Maung Lin Yeik as moderator.

The other topic for the literary talk was ‘Promoting reading among children’ and was discussed by Maung Khine Lat, U Kyaw Hlaing, Ko Lay Myat and Lei Win Kyi (Cho) with Maung Kyi Win as moderator.

Festivalgoers also flocked to twelve exhibition booths featuring traditional accessories of ethnic Shan, ethnic Bamar, ethnic Rakhine, ethnic Lisu, and ethnic Kayin, raising awareness on drugs, traffic rules, anti-human trafficking, fire prevention, public health education, basic education schools, and ICTC private school.

In the entertainment part of the festival, students from basic education high schools and ICTC private school performed 20 dances and musicals.

People also lined up at bookstalls and snacked on charity food provided by New Starlight Construction Company.

The Children’s Literature Festivals held throughout Myanmar are aimed at sharpening the mental aptitudes and perspectives of children, refining their creativity and enunciation, familiarizing children with literature, instilling reading habits, and creating a happy environment for children. —Muse District IPRD

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Newly created Condominium Management Committee ready to support developers

BASED upon Condominium Law 2016, the Ministry of Construction created the Yangon Region Condominium Management Committee earlier this month to support developers building official condominium buildings.

Regarding the new committee, U Khin Zaw, joint-secretary of the Yangon Region Condominium Management Committee said, “Now the Condominium Law and bylaw have come out. We have received the nod for the formation of the working committee. Those who want to construct condominiums have to contact Yangon Region Urban and Housing Development Department to make sure that the processes are in accord with the law. Thanks to it, condo owners will own not only their land, but also apartments.”

He went on to say that official trading will enable owners to enjoy the rights enshrined in the Condominium Law, which also allows foreigners to own up to 40 per cent of a condominium. Thanks to this, the condo market is expected to be revived.

Chaired by the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport, the management committee was founded with nine members on 5 December. The deputy director-general of Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction will serve as a secretary to the committee.—Thi Thi Min

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)
We must welcome every political party and organization that raises questions, notions, amendments or proposals that benefit all the citizens. We must be objective in our discussions. Exacting laws or amending existing laws can be another democratic union in the duty of MPs in looking out for the people that elected them.

The tenor regular session of the National Assembly is discussed to manage to pass 9 of the 26 bills it discussed in the last year. There are still 36 bills left for the Ellawas to discuss. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted four laws including the Second Law Amending the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enforcement of their Benefits. They are carrying out efforts to complete the farmer issues and related topics important to the nation and its people should remember to uphold fairness, equality and compassion so that they bring out the true essence of a free and independent democratic nation.

Legislative pillar upholds true essence of democracy

By Htin Htin

It is learnt from the Glob- al New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) on 30th December 2018 that the 71st Anniversary Independence Day National Objectives are as follow: 1. All National Ethnic Races to defend and protect with “collective strength” to ensure Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the Unity of National Ethnic Races and Perpetuation of the National Sovereignty and Territory of the Union. To strive towards creating a suitable Constitution for the State in accordance with democratic standards. 2. To effectively contest and protect the use of democracy and sovereignty from harm and erode the health and character of all citizens. 3. To continuously strive with determined effort for the balanced and equitable development of all states and regions; and 5. To assist from the advance of the people that elected them.

The legislative pillar is responsible for shaping the democratic system. Before gaining independence, representatives in the legislative system were in charge of managing in processes for national freedom, rehabilitation, building up the nation, and enacting laws for governing the nation. They brought the democratic system to life and carried out the rights of citizens and na- tional development.

In a democratic system, the Hluttaw needs to be strengthened upwards from the administration as they are building blocks of the nation. Its members of parliaments (MPs) also need to possess the required capabilities. MPs need to cooperate and work as a team. Discussions in the Hluttaw need to be of bias for one’s political party or organization. MPs should lobby in their national issues and the national interest of the people, the union and the nation.

We must welcome every political party and organization that raises questions, notions, amendments or proposals that benefit all the citizens. We must be objective in our discussions. Exacting laws or amending existing laws can be another democratic union in the duty of MPs in looking out for the people that elected them.

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Be Alert, Be Brave, Be Diligent and Be Vigilant in Safeguarding Myanmar’s Independence

A military band performs during the flag-raising ceremony on the 70th anniversary of the Independence Day at the Independence Monument in the Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon on 1 January, 2018. Photo. PHUKO KYAW

EARTHYGLOBE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.6 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (14) miles east of Mawlaik), was recorded on 29th December, 2018 (FOR 30th December, 2018:). It has not caused any damage to life and property. Forecasts of the Mawlaik earthquake are (60%) certainty is (60%).

17th Anniversary Independence Day National Objectives

1. All National Ethnic Races to defend and protect with “collective strength” to ensure Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the Unity of National Ethnic Races and Perpetuation of the National Sovereignty. To strive towards creating a suitable Constitution for the State in accordance with democratic standards.

2. To effectively contest and protect the use of democracy and sovereignty from harm and erode the health and character of all citizens.

3. To continuously strive with determined effort for the balanced and equitable development of all states and regions.

4. To assist from the advance of the people that elected them for private sector development and the emergence of a fully-developed market economy.

M Y A N M A R breathed life into its constitution and be- came one of the main factors of independence and became a sovereign state. In fact, even from the moment we first started implementing a constitutional system, we need to make sure the sovereignty in this planet is in accordance with the democratic union, MPs discussing or debating laws and other topics and enactment four laws including the Second Law Amending the Law of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence are permanent, ex- istence.

All National Ethnic Races to defend and protect with “collective strength” to ensure Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the Unity of National Ethnic Races and Perpetuation of the National Sovereignty and Territory of the Union. To strive towards creating a suitable Constitution for the State in accordance with democratic standards.

2. To effectively contest and protect the use of democracy and sovereignty from harm and erode the health and character of all citizens.

3. To continuously strive with determined effort for the balanced and equitable development of all states and regions.

4. To assist from the advance of the people that elected them for private sector development and the emergence of a fully-developed market economy.

R A Y INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North and a fresh to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30th December, 2018: Rain will be fairly widespread in Shan State and isolated in Naypyitaw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeawaddy and Thanlyin (Bay) Regions, Karen, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions and generally fair in the remaining Regions.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave is about 4 feet and the seas will be choppy. FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th December, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th December, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th December, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Myanmar Daily Weather Report ( Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 29th December, 2018)

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Be Alert, Be Brave, Be Diligent and Be Vigilant in Safeguarding Myanmar’s Independence

A military band performs during the flag-raising ceremony on the 70th anniversary of the Independence Day at the Independence Monument in the Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon on 1 January, 2018. Photo. PHUKO KYAW
WASHINGTON (United States)—President Donald Trump threatened Friday to seal the US-Mexico border “entirely” if Congress does not approve billions of dollars in funding for a wall. In a burst of early morning tweets, the president said the alternative to funding his controversial wall project would be total separation from Mexico—including making US car companies pull their factories based on the other side of the frontier. The threat again upped the ante in a political row that has led to a partial shutdown of the US government and seems set to dominate the start to the third year of Trump’s presidency. “We will be forced to close the Southern Border entirely if the Obstructionist Democrats do not give us the money to finish the Wall,” Trump tweeted. Trump said he would then take US-Mexican relations back to the days before the NAFTA agreement opened free trade across Canada, Mexico and the United States. That would “bring our car industry back into the United States where it belongs,” he said. It was not clear how separating the two huge neighbors would work. Bilateral trade totaled an estimated $615.9 billion in 2017, according to US government figures. Neither did Trump make any mention of the new free trade agreement, known as the USMCA, which he only recently signed with the two neighboring countries to replace NAFTA and which he has repeatedly praised as a huge boost for American commerce. In Mexico, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador sidestepped Trump’s threat, telling journalists: “We don’t want to be imprudent and we don’t think we should get into this.” $5 billion question Trump wants $5 billion in funding for a wall along the more than 2,000-mile border, which he says is currently too porous to stop illegal immigration and which he claims has become a magnet for criminals, drugs and even terrorists. Opponents—especially in the Democratic party but also some in Trump’s Republican party—say that a physical wall is impractical and that the idea is being used as a political tool to whip up xenophobia in Trump’s right-wing voter base. Both sides have dug in. Democrats refuse to approve funding and the president—who has made hardline immigration policies a centerpiece of his presidency—has retaliated by refusing to sign off on a wider spending bill, leaving some 800,000 federal employees without pay. Negotiations on lifting that partial government shutdown, perhaps by providing some border security funding, have sputtered out and no new debate is scheduled before next Wednesday. The president, who had already scrapped a Christmas visit to his Florida golf resort, has also “canceled his plans for New Year’s,” his incoming chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, said on Fox News. Asked about the startling rhetoric, Mulvaney told Fox that Trump “is trying to draw light to the fact this is a crazy discussion to be having.” For one Republican Congress member, Brad Wenstrup, the paralysis over the wall reflected “a lot of political posturing.” “I would hope that it could be ended soon,” he told CNN television. “If you sit down and talk about that, why is that such a hard thing to do?” Caravan invasion Experts are divided on solutions to policing the long, often inhospitable border separating the world’s biggest economy from the far poorer countries to its south. Although there is a huge cross-border drug trade and immigrants often enter illegally, others have genuine claims for asylum. Central Americans are also deeply integrated in the US economy, often performing physically demanding, low-pay jobs in construction, agriculture and other vital sectors. Trump has consistently painted the asylum seekers and economic migrants as a threat to the days before the NAFTA and the Wall,” Trump tweeted. Trump’s threat to seal the Mexico border upped the ante in a political row over immigrant that prompted a partial shutdown of the US government. PHOTO: AFP

A Palestinian protester prepares to throw back a tear gas canister during demonstrations and clashes with Israeli forces at near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel on 28 December 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Spain moves to extend statute of limitations for child abuse

MADRID (Spain)—Spain’s cabinet approved a draft law on Friday which will extend the statute of limitations for cases of physical or sexual abuse of children. Under the bill the statute of limitations for these types of crimes would begin when the victim turns 30, instead of 18 as it currently stands under Spanish law, the government said in a statement. Campaigners have long argued that many victims take years to digest the abuse they have suffered and report them, meaning that in many cases the offenders cannot be prosecuted. The proposed change to the criminal code, which still has to be approved by parliament, would affect sexual crimes, physical abuse, human trafficking and attempted mur-
RIYADH (Saudi Arabia)—Saudi Arabia’s new foreign minister struck a note of defiance Friday in the face of international outrage over critic Jamal Khashoggi’s murder, denying the kingdom was in crisis and that his predecessor had been demoted.

Ibrahim al-Assaf, a former veteran finance minister who was briefly detained last year in what Riyadh said was an anti-corruption sweep, replaced Adel al-Jubeir as foreign minister in a major government shake-up on Thursday ordered by King Salman.

The surprise reshuffle was seen partly as an attempt to elevate the kingdom’s marginalised old guard, adding a veneer of checks and balances to the policy decisions of 33-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who faces intense global scrutiny over the 2 October murder of journalist Khashoggi.

But speaking to AFP in his first interview since his appointment, Assaf insisted the restructuring was motivated not by the Khashoggi affair, but the need to make the government machinery more efficient. “The issue of Jamal Khashoggi... really saddened us, all of us,” Assaf told AFP at his residence in Riyadh, adorned with mahogany furniture, a wall-mounted elephant tusk and other hunting trophies.

“But all in all, we are not going through a crisis, we are going through a transformation,” he added, referring to social and economic reforms spearheaded by the crown prince.

Ibrahim al-Assaf, the new Saudi foreign minister, denied the kingdom was in crisis and that his predecessor had been demoted, speaking to AFP at his residence in the Saudi capital Riyadh. PHOTO: AFP

**Combative foreign policy**

Assaf, 69, inherits the ministry after a series of combative foreign policy moves by the crown prince, who along with regional allies imposed a blockade on neighbouring Qatar, launched a military campaign in Yemen and engaged in a bitter diplomatic row with Canada.

Topping it all, Khashoggi’s murder in Saudi Arabia’s Istanbul consulate by what it calls “rogue” agents is testing relations with key ally Washington, particularly after a US Senate resolution recently held Prince Mohammed responsible for the killing. When asked whether his biggest foreign policy challenge was to repair the kingdom’s tarnished reputation, Assaf replied: “I wouldn’t say ‘repair’ because the relationship between my country and a vast majority of countries in the world is in excellent shape.”

Before him, Jubeir also sought to vigorously defend the government and the crown prince, widely known as MBS, on the international stage over Khashoggi’s murder.

In Thursday’s reshuffle, Jubeir was appointed minister of state for foreign affairs, fueling speculation that he had been demoted after he failed to quell global criticism over Khashoggi.

“This is far from the truth,” Assaf said. “Jubeir’s new role, he insisted, was tantamount to a division of labour and not a demotion, in a bid to accelerate the task of remaking a ministry known to be overly bureaucratic.”

Adel represented Saudi Arabia and will continue to represent Saudi Arabia... around the world,” Assaf said. “We complement each other.” Jubeir was not immediately reachable for comment.

**Checks and balances**

A seasoned bureaucrat, Assaf was briefly held in Riyadh’s Ritz-Carlton hotel last year along with hundreds of elite princes and businessmen, in what the government called a crackdown on corruption. Saudi officials say he was released after being cleared of any wrongdoing, and he subsequently led a government delegation to the World Economic Forum in Davos earlier this year.

His reappointment to a cabinet role indicates the government is seeking to slowly “rehabilitate” the experienced old guard, widely seen to be sidelined by the young prince, observers say.

“King Salman is seeking to bolster his son by appointing seasoned technocrats like Assaf who are not from MBS’s inner circle, indirectly reinstating an internal system of checks and balances that was swept away in MBS’s drive to consolidate power,” said Becca Wasser. “Adding experienced government hands from an older generation, will serve to check some of MBS’s impulses,” the policy analyst at the US-based RAND Corporation told AFP.

The elevation of seasoned allies in Thursday’s reshuffle has bolstered the authority of Prince Mohammed after the removal of younger aides in his inner circle implicated in Khashoggi’s murder; including former royal court advisor Saud al-Qahtani.

Assaf, who is on the boards of state oil giant Aramco and the vast Public Investment Fund, said his appointment as the top diplomat would help bring his financial experience to foreign affairs amid a current “dipl” in the economy.

**The top crude exporter**, facing a sharp fall in oil prices, is scrambling to restore confidence in foreign investors rattled by a series of what many see as rash foreign policy decisions. “Economic relationships now dominate foreign affairs,” Assaf said. —AFP

China customs gives green light for US rice imports

BEIJING (China)—China’s customs administration announced Friday it had approved US rice imports, a move that comes during a 90-day tariff truce between the two countries which are engaged in a bruising trade war. US rice that meets inspection and quarantine requirements will be allowed to enter the country, according to a notice by China’s customs authority. PHOTO: AFP

US rice that meets inspection and quarantine requirements will be allowed to enter the country, according to a notice by China’s customs authority. —AFP

The approval comes more than a year after the two countries agreed on a phytosanitary protocol that would allow US rice imports in China for the first time. Relations between China and the US have continued to thaw following a truce agreed by both leaders on the sidelines of the G20 in Buenos Aires. Earlier this month, China’s major state-owned grain stockpiler said it had resumed buying US soybeans, and Beijing announced it would suspend extra tariffs added to US-made cars and auto parts starting January.

On Thursday, China said that trade negotiators from China and the US are planning to meet in January for talks. —AFP

7 killed in road accident in northern India

NEW DELHI—At least seven people were killed and four others injured on Saturday when a speeding vehicle hit two cars in northern Indian state of Haryana, police said. The accident took place in Ambala district, about 45 km south of Chandigarh, the capital city of Haryana. In the wee hours today seven people, including two minors, were killed and four others injured after their cars were hit by an unidentified vehicle on Ambala-Chandigarh highway here, a police official in Ambala said. “We are being told the cars had stopped on road and the vehicle hit them from behind,” the police added.—Xinhua

Trump advisor heads to Turkey, Israel after Syria pullout

WASHINGTON (United States)—US national security advisor John Bolton said Friday he would visit Turkey and Israel to coordinate on Syria, after President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw all US forces. Bolton said he would head in January to both Turkey— which has enthusiastically backed Trump’s sudden move— as well as Israel, a close US ally where the pullout has caused concern. “We will discuss our continued work confronting security challenges facing allies and partners in the region, including the next phase of the fight against ISIS, as the US begins to bring troops home from Syria,” Bolton tweeted. —AFP
Bomb kills three Vietnamese tourists, guide near Egypt pyramids

GIZA (Egypt)—Three Vietnamese holidaymakers and an Egyptian tour guide were killed Friday when a roadside bomb blast hit their bus as it travelled close to the Giza pyramids outside Cairo, officials said.

The bus was carrying a total of 16 people including 14 Vietnamese tourists, an Egyptian driver and a tour guide, according to the statement.

Armed security personnel quickly deployed to the site and cordoned off the area for inspection. The white tourist bus could be seen with its windows shattered and surrounded by soot-covered debris. Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli visited the injured tourists in hospital, where he announced that the tour guide had died from his wounds. Madbouli urged against “amplifying” the incident as he insisted that “no country in the world can guarantee that its 100 per cent safe”.

“It’s possible at times that an individual incident takes place here or there,” he told journalists. “We have to know that it’s possible that it would be repeated in the future.”

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. —AFP

Canadian teacher detained in China is freed

OTTAWA (Canada)—A Canadian teacher arrested in China for administrative reasons—a case officially unrelated to the ongoing diplomatic row between Beijing and Ottawa—has been freed, authorities said Friday.

Global Affairs Canada “confirms that a Canadian citizen, and Ottawa—has been freed, authorities said Friday.

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Manila (Philippines)—A 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck off the Philippine island of Mindanao on Saturday, triggering a tsunami warning, with small waves expected to hit southern parts of the country and neighbouring Indonesia.

The quake struck southeast of Daruo City at a depth of 59 kilometres (35 miles), the US Geological Survey said, a week after a volcano-triggered tsunami killed more than 400 people in Indonesia. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said “hazardous tsunami waves from this earthquake are possible” along the coasts of Indonesia and the Philippines.

However, waves were forecast to be less than 30 cm (12 inches) high, it said, while Philippine monitors warned that “minor sea level disturbances” were to be expected. “People are advised to stay away from the beach and not to go to the coast fronting the Philippine Sea,” for about two hours, the Philippines’ government seismology office said in its tsunami warning.

It said cities in the south of the country felt “moderate” shaking but civil defence offices in the affected areas said they had no immediate reports of damage or casualties from the quake. According to the USGS, there was a low likelihood of casualties and damage, although it warned recent earthquakes in the area had caused landslides.

The Philippines and Indonesia lie on the so-called Ring of Fire, a vast Pacific Ocean region where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. —AFP

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The Philippines and Indonesia lie on the so-called Ring of Fire, a vast Pacific Ocean region where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. —AFP
Winter storms batter large swaths of US

CHICAGO (United States)—At least three deaths were attributed to severe weather in the US as heavy snow and high winds snarled air and ground transportation during a busy holiday travel period. More than 500 flight cancelations and 5,700 delays were reported Friday as the winter storm blanketed areas from the north central plains and the Midwest with eight to 12 inches (20-30 centimeters) of snow.

As much snow, if not more, was forecast to fall in the coming days in the southwestern state of New Mexico, along with a deluge of rain in some southern and eastern states—ruining New Year travel plans for thousands of Americans. Millions more in the South were warned of potential flooding from heavy rains. A 38-year-old woman in Louisiana was killed Wednesday evening when lightning struck a tree, which then fell on her home, according to TV station WDSU. In Kansas, police said icy roads caused a fatal car crash Thursday on an interstate highway. Another crash involving a snow plow and a car in North Dakota claimed one life.

More than 6,500 flights were delayed and some 800 more were canceled on Thursday, according to the flight tracking website FlightAware. Some airline passengers reported being stranded for days. “I didn’t want to spend three days in the airport, missing out on the holidays—New Year’s and all that,” Anthony Scott told Texas television station KDFW at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. “I have to go back to work the first of the year. So this is my time,” he said. “This was my little vacation. I’m not trying to spend it in the airport.”

Road travel treacherous

Numerous roads were closed Thursday in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Kansas and Iowa. Ground crews worked to clear affected areas, but many remained packed with snow and ice Friday. The South Dakota Department of Transportation said advisories warning against travel remained in effect. “Roads are icy, blowing snow is still limiting visibility,” the agency said. “Crews are working but mother nature is making safe travel tough.”

North Dakota on Friday lifted a no-travel advisory that had been issued for the entire east side of the state, even as drifting snow continued to frustrate drivers. National Weather Service (NWS) officials in Minnesota cautioned that roads in the upper Midwestern state were cloaked in snow. The weather service predicted the treacherous weather would continue through the weekend across the country. Heavy snow was expected in the southwestern state of New Mexico from a new storm, with as much as 18 inches possible, NWS said. To the south, heavy rains were forecast in the central Gulf Coast, in the Florida Panhandle, and stretching east to the mid-Atlantic. A risk of flash flooding was possible in a few areas. The nasty weather was still no match for a colossal blizzard that smothered the eastern United States in January 2016. That storm shut down New York and Washington, leaving 15 people dead and impacting some 85 million residents.—AFP

Galapagos bans fireworks to protect unique wildlife

QUITO (Ecuador)—Fireworks have been banned on the Galapagos Islands to protect the archipelago’s unique fauna, the local government said on Friday.

The local council said in a statement that it had agreed “unanimously a resolution that prohibits the importation, sale, distribution and use of fireworks or pyrotechnics in the Galapagos province.”

Those fireworks that produce light but no noise have been excluded from the ban. The islands are home to thousands of residents as well as being a Thursday on an interstate highway. Another crash involving a snow plow and a car in North Dakota claimed one life.

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Government of Mandalay Region

Mandalay City Development Committee

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI)

1. The Buildings on the 3.1672 acre land owned by MCDC (Former Nadi Myanmar Hotel, 62nd Street, Between 36th & 37th Street, Maha Aung Myay Township Mandalay) are to be upgraded. Call for tender with PPP will be made for the implementation of Mixed-Used Development project including business infrastructure, investment and services. Therefore, those who are interested, local companies or consortium cooperating with foreign entrepreneurs are invited to submit EOI.

2. The entrepreneurs who are interested will be charged 500000 kyats for EOI application form to credit account. For any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Mandalay City Development Committee:

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30 DECEMBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
The new black: Young Spanish designers reclaim traditions

MADRID (Spain)—Young Spanish designers are reclaiming their “Spanishness”: age-old traditions, religious imagery and even the colour black, which centuries ago was a signature of the country’s all-powerful monarchy.

That is one of the messages at the “Modus” exhibition currently running in Madrid, which explores the influence of Spanish history and tradition on global fashion, including up-and-coming designers.

“It’s a very important moment (for Spain) with designers like Palomo Spain, Leandro Cano, ManeMane, who are reclaiming Spain’s position in fashion,” says exhibition curator Raul Marína. “Young designers are making noise again, and they’re doing so via inspiration that is totally Spanish.”

Black and side hoops
Take black, a colour that has come to symbolise French chic as epitomised by Coco Chanel’s 1920s little black dress. Its use in fashion actually originated in 16th-century Spain.

Before that, it had been a difficult colour to wear. After multiple washes or through constant use, the dye would just subside and turn into a greyish, brownish mush. But then Spain conquered the Americas, and more specifically Mexico in the 16th century. There Spanishiers discovered it in its own way. The same century where brand founder Miguel Becerro comes from. The same century that Spain promoted black, it also became the “verdugado”, a structure worn under a skirt that held it into a fashionable shape. That fashion statement also spread Europe-wide. Later Spain unleashed another trend—the “guardainfante”, loosely translated as “infant-guard,” side hoops that extended the skirt at the sides.

“They said it hid ladies’ pregnancies,” says Marína. The quirky “guardainfante” was famously immortalised in painter Diego Velázquez’s masterpiece “Las Meninas.” That influence is visible in Juanjo Oliva’s yellow, bell-shaped velvet dress, on show in the exhibit.

Bullfighting, flamenco
Then comes Spain’s world-famous exports-flamenco and bullfighting have inspired designers from other countries. A Givenchy bullfighting-style jacket made out of black velvet with arabesque-like red embroideries and pearls. A black Lanvin dress with a cascade of ruffles and cream-coloured polka dots inspired by southern Andalusia’s flamenco tradition. “It’s often said that internationally, foreign designers have soaked it up and felt prouder about Spanishness than us,” says Marína. But that’s changing, he adds. Religion, tradition are making a comeback.—AFP

Chinese lanterns dazzle in ancient French town

GAILLAC (France)—As darkness falls each winter night in the little French town of Gaillac, the glow of dusk is replaced with another—that of a thousand colourful Chinese silk lanterns.

The thousand-year-old town in the southwestern Tarn region, known for its wines, was not the most obvious place to launch what it trumpets as “the biggest Chinese event in France.” But Gaillac happens to be twinned with Zigong, China’s Sichuan province which is famous for its lantern festival. For the second winter running Gaillac has transformed into a miniature version of its Sichuan twin, lighting up nightly with a dazzling array of giant lanterns in the form of dragons, flowers, birds and pandas. Among the delighted spectators was a 90-year-old who came to Gaillac for two months to put up the lanterns, he said.

Bringing the famous lanterns to Gaillac was “a mad gamble”, he said. Zigong’s own festival, in February, has been running for centuries and attracts millions of visitors each year.

In Gaillac, a town of 18,000, Gausserand had to find private sponsors to cover the costs, and he wasn’t even sure if people would come.

But 250,000 people attended last year’s inaugural edition—an “enormous surprise” to town authorities which brought some three times as many visitors than at the same time in 2017. “The festival creates a strong bond between town staff, volunteers and about 80 Chinese workers who come to Gaillac for two months to help put up the lanterns,” he said.

Shop windows, hairdressers, bars and residents’ balconies all have red lanterns and dragons on display at a time of year when most French stores sport Christmas decorations.

Chinese fever has also reached the bookshop, which has filled its window with fiction, graphic novels and tourist guides on China. Extra footfall from the Chinese event in France. “But extra footfall when the regional economy is usually flat”, says the bookshop owner.

Seniors are delighted by a doubling of tourists, and even more to flood in—by 15 December until 6 February, is a huge boost for local hotels, restaurants and shops. For Marion Duclot, a senior official in the Gaillac GRAU, the festival is expected to attract millions of visitors each year.

In Zigong, Sichuan, to bring the famous lanterns of Zigong to Gaillac has paid off for the local town authorities which brought sponsors to cover the costs, and another—that of a thousand-coloured array of giant lanterns.

Gausserand was on a trip to China a year ago when the news of the alternative came. The thousand-year-old town of Zigong, Sichuan, to bring the famous lanterns of Zigong, Sichuan, to Gaillac has paid off for the local town authorities which brought sponsors to cover the costs, and another—that of a thousand-coloured array of giant lanterns.

Finnish city to celebrate New Year with laser show amid rising firework ban demand

HELSINKI—While the public voice for banning fireworks is rising, the city of Espoo in southern Finland will be the first city in the country to celebrate the New Year with laser light show instead of firecrackers, media reported on Friday.

In Finland, New Year is usually celebrated with fireworks provided by municipalities, but this is thought to be old-fashioned by the city of Espoo, Lea Rintala, director of Culture Services Unit of Espoo, told Finnish national broadcaster Yle.

“We are a sustainable development city and rockets don’t really suit well with that. However, over the years we have received some feedback about this, so we are now trialing a laser show,” Rintala was quoted as saying.

She added that the news of the alternative to fireworks has already generated a surprising amount of interest.—Xinhua

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
India to send three-person crew on landmark space mission

NEW DELHI (India)—India will send a three-member team into orbit for up to a week when it launches its first manned space mission expected in 2022, the government announced Friday.

Indian ministers approved $1.4 billion to provide technology and infrastructure for the programme, according to a government statement.

The sum would make India’s one of the cheapest manned space programmes, stepping up its space rivalry with China. But the statement said India also hopes to take part in “global” space projects.

India will become the fourth nation after Russia, the United States and China to send a manned mission into space.

Ministers approved financing to launch an Indian-developed craft into a “low earth orbit” for a duration ranging from one orbital period to a maximum of seven days, the statement said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in August that India will launch a manned space flight by 2022 with at least one astronaut. The cabinet had not approved the project however.

There will be two unmanned and one manned flights to launch the Gaganyaan (Sky-Vehicle) Programme, the statement said.

Without giving a date for the blast off, the government said the manned flight would be “within 40 months” of Friday’s meeting.

Modi has hailed the national space programme as a prestige project.

The government has stated that space flights will boost the economy, generate jobs and enhance capabilities in areas such as medicine, agriculture and fighting pollution.

A successful manned mission would allow India to become a “collaborating partner in future global space exploration initiatives with long term national benefits,” said the statement.

The country has invested heavily in its space programme in the past decade.

The Indian Space Research Organisation announced in July that it planned to send an unmanned mission to the moon in 2019.

India launched an orbiter to Mars in 2013 which is still operational and last year launched a record 104 satellites in one blast-off.

New Delhi is competing with other international players for a greater share of the satellite market, and hopes its low-cost space programme will give it an edge.

China put its first humans into space in 2003 but its Shenzhou programme cost more than $2.3 billion.

Experts say the United States spent the equivalent of about $110 billion at current values on preparatory flights and the mission to put the first man on the moon in 1969.—AFP

Sky watchers in Moscow to enjoy Quadrantid meteor shower, total lunar eclipse in January

MOSCOW—Sky watchers in Moscow will be able to enjoy two spectacular celestial phenomena - the Quadrantid meteor shower peaking overnight to 4 January and a total lunar eclipse on 21 January.

Sky watchers in Moscow will be able to enjoy two spectacular celestial phenomena - the Quadrantid meteor shower peaking overnight to 4 January and a total lunar eclipse on 21 January. PHOTO:TASS

India will send a three-member team into space for up to a week when it launches its first manned mission expected in 2022, the government announced. PHOTO:AFP

NASA spaceship closes in on distant world

TAMPA (United States)—NASA’s unmanned New Horizons spacecraft is closing in on its historic New Year’s flyby target, the most distant world ever studied, a frozen relic of the solar system some four billion miles (6.4 billion kilometers) away. The cosmic object, known as Ultima Thule, is about the size of the US capital, Washington, and orbits in the dark and frigid Kuiper Belt about a billion miles beyond the dwarf planet, Pluto.

The spacecraft’s closest approach to this primitive space rock comes 1 January at 12:33 am ET (0533 GMT). Until then, what it looks like, and what it is made of, remain a mystery.

“This is a time capsule that is going to take us back four and a half billion years to the birth of the solar system,” said Alan Stern, the principal investigator on the project at the Southwest Research Institute, during a press briefing Friday. A camera on board the New Horizons spacecraft is currently zooming in on Ultima Thule, so scientists can get a better sense of its shape and configuration —whether it is one object or several. “We’ve never been to a type of object like this before,” said Kelsi Singer. New Horizons co-investigator at the Southwest Research Institute. About a day prior, “we will start to see what the actual shape of the object is,” she said. The spacecraft entered “encounter mode” on 26 December, and is “very healthy,” added Stern. — AFP

Sky watchers in Moscow will be able to enjoy two spectacular celestial phenomena - the Quadrantid meteor shower peaking overnight to 4 January and a total lunar eclipse on 21 January. PHOTO:TASS

NASA’s unmanned New Horizons spacecraft is closing in on its historic New Year’s flyby target, the most distant world ever studied, a frozen relic of the solar system some four billion miles (6.4 billion kilometers) away. The cosmic object, known as Ultima Thule, is about the size of the US capital, Washington, and orbits in the dark and frigid Kuiper Belt about a billion miles beyond the dwarf planet, Pluto. PHOTO:AFP
SPORT

30 DECEMBER 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Myanmar U-22 football team prepares for international friendlies

TWENTY standout footballers make up the Myanmar U-22 national football team, which will compete during international football friendly matches in Oman later next month, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The team, headed by head coach U Kyi Lwin, started training in Yangon yesterday.

Actor Nay Htet Lin to be Vice Chairman of Rakhine United FC

WITH the aim of attracting more football fans and supporters for Rakhine United FC in the upcoming season, famed Myanmar actor Nay Htet Lin will help the team by taking the position of Vice Chairman, according to an official statement by Rakhine United FC.

“As I am a Rakhine ethnic person, I will help the football team, which is representing the Rakhine State. My duty is to help attract more fans and supporters,” said Nay Htet Lin.

“The main reason I want to take this position is to encourage youths across Rakhine State to become interested in playing football and to promote talented young footballers to become members of Myanmar National Team’s footballer,” he said.

Rakhine United Football Club is a professional football club, based in Rakhine State, which plays in the Myanmar National League. Rakhine United FC stood 9th position in the previous season.

Currently, the team has already recruited three expatriate players to improve the team.

“The team will be led by head coach U Than Wai. In the upcoming 2019 season, the team will use Wathiri Stadium in Sittway as its home field,”—Lynn Thit(Tg) ■

Lakers guard Rondo out for a month

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Los Angeles Lakers veteran guard Rajon Rondo will be out of the lineup for a month after undergoing surgery on his right hand, the NBA team announced Friday. Rondo injured a ligament in his right ring finger during the Lakers’ 127-101 win over the Golden State Warriors on Christmas.

Rondo had 15 points, 10 assists and five rebounds in the game. The Lakers said the surgery was a success but Rondo still has four to five weeks of rehabilitation to go.

“Rajon Rondo, who suffered a Grade 3 sprain to his right ring finger during Tuesday’s game at Golden State, underwent successful surgery today to repair a ligament,” the team said in a statement.

The Lakers are already without LeBron James, who injured his groin against the Warriors. James is not expected to need surgery; but the groin strain could cause him to miss several games, including Friday against the Los Angeles Clippers. The Lakers lost their first game without James on Thursday, a heartbreaking 117-116 defeat to the Sacramento Kings.—AFP ■

New Australian Open heat policy to counter oven-like conditions

MELBOURNE (Australia)—A new extreme heat policy that dictates when it is safe to play will be introduced at next month’s Australian Open to better deal with frequent oven-like conditions on court.

“The ‘Heat Stress Scale’ will be used for the first time at a Grand Slam to help prevent players from fainting and suffering exhaustion, relying on more weather-measuring devices at Melbourne Park,”—AFP ■

Organisers said it followed “cutting-edge research and testing into the specific effects of heat stress on tennis players.”

New rules will allow for a 10-minute break between the second and third sets in women’s singles matches when a four–on a scale of one to five—is recorded on the HSS prior to or during the first two sets of a match.

Men will get a 10-minute breather after the third set if a four is reached.

If the heat stress scale goes to five, play can be suspended.

Tennis Australia chief medical officer Carolyn Broderick said the scale took into account the effects of heat on the human body including the maximum stress an athlete can safely withstand, the sweat rate of that person and their core temperature.

“The scale also accounts for the physiological variances between adults, wheelchair and junior athletes while also taking into account the four climate factors—air temperature, radiant heat or the strength of the sun, humidity and wind speed.”

Previously, organisers could only activate the extreme heat policy and halt play or close roofs when the temperature exceeded 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) and the Bureau of Meteorology’s wet bulb globe temperature index—which is used to estimate heat stress in humans—hit 32.5 Celsius.

Suffocating weather at Melbourne Park has caused serious problems with players in the past.

Among those suffering at the 2018 tournament was Gael Monfils, with fears for his health in a mid-afternoon match against Novak Djokovic.

The Frenchman, known as one of the fittest players on tour, looked dazed and confused in his second set and eventually received medical assistance.

He said afterwards he was “dying” on court, while France’s Alize Cornet had her blood pressure and pulse monitored by a doctor during a medical timeout, saying later she was going to faint.

One of the worst years for heat at the Open was 2014, when many players were in trouble.

Among them was Blaz Kavcic who was placed on a drip, while Frank Dancevic said he was hallucinating about cartoon character Snoopy in his dazed state.—AFP ■

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A
NOTHER year; another fresh set of goals and resolutions! With the brand New Year 2019 approaching at a fast pace, we might have already created or are in the process of creating our own list of resolutions. While it surely sounds pretty exciting with all these new goals and changes, they are notoriously hard to be gone through or made a reality! Examples of top resolutions include staying healthy, losing weight, learning new languages, spending less, wearing a new fashion trend, being organised, but according to statistics, only 8% of those who make New Year’s resolutions achieve them sadly. But you can rest assured that it is possible to keep your resolutions, just by following simple tips and tricks!

Some underlying fundamental factors contributing to a failure or setback in New Year’s resolutions include procrastination, apathy, and lack of motivation. To eliminate these factors and succeed in our resolutions, first of all, we need to start off with being clear and specific with our goals, by planning ahead. For instance, instead of saying “I will visit new places”, a well-define goal would be “I will visit 3 new cities in Europe for this year”. And lots of people vow to lose weight as a New Year’s resolution, but whether they have registered at a gym or got their workout gear ready to get straight into it as the new year begins, is another question. This is why our New Year’s resolutions are merely a pipe dream, without a strategic or practical well-thought-out action plan!

Secondly, it is important for our target goals to be measurable, i.e., not just thinking of losing weight or saving money, but including “X pounds” of weight or “X amounts of money” and for this, it may be helpful to record or monitor one's weight every two weeks, or get on track of daily savings through a mobile app or simply a little notebook. This keeps us from missing out on knowing the degree of our achievement in relation to time on our resolutions. Furthermore, setting attainable goals is also key to a successful stick to our New Year’s resolutions. Often we make gigantic and complicated goals, and most of the times they can be far from being realistic. As a result of this, we easily quit and have our motivation and confidence eroded due to a lack of immediate gratification. On the other hand, setting the same old resolutions or too easy ones that do not require hard work needs to be avoided.

Including goals relevant to our life in our resolutions can develop ‘focus’, which is one of the essentials to accomplish new-year resolutions besides willpower. An example would be that a pregnant lady who has been smoking for a long time thinks of quitting it, as she wants to be a healthier mother for her children or spend on disposable nappies instead of her cigarettes in the future. As a result, it is easy to quit and have our motivation and confidence eroded due to a lack of immediate gratification. On the other hand, setting the same old resolutions or too easy ones that do not require hard work needs to be avoided.

By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
3rd year medical student

SEE PAGE- 5-3
(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

**ENGLISH LESSON**

By C. T. O

1. She always tells the truth.
   - He told her that he was short of money.
   - He told her not to waste her time.
   - He is a soothsayer.

2. He never tells lies.
   - He told her that he was short of money.
   - He told her not to waste her time.
   - He is a soothsayer.

3. Mother tells us a story every night.
   - He never tells lies.
   - He told her that he was short of money.
   - He told her not to waste her time.

4. Time will tell.
   - She always tells the truth.
   - He told her that he was short of money.
   - He told her not to waste her time.

5. Believe it or not, it is not a tale.
   - He never tells lies.
   - He told her that he was short of money.
   - He told her not to waste her time.

6. It is easier said than done.
   - It was through industry that she passed the examination.
   - She is likely to pass the examination.
   - She laid down her arms.

7. She told me not to waste my time.
   - He is lying on the bed face downwards.
   - I don't care your likes and dislikes.

8. She left many words unsaid.
   - He went away disappointed.
   - I don't care your likes and dislikes.

9. You can never tell.
   - She is likely to rain today.
   - Ko Ko can speak English like an Englishman.

10. The night work is telling on my health.
    - They heard a sound the like of which nobody had ever heard before.
    - He is likely to pass the examination.

11. I don't care your likes and dislikes.
    - We must be economical of our time and money.
    - She is lying.

12. I have a special liking for canned fish.
    - He economizes by using buses instead of taking taxis.
    - Life is a winding road.

13. The author of this book likens life to a long journey.
    - We must be economical of our time and money.
    - She is likely to rain today.

    - She is lying.
    - We must be economical of our time and money.

**D) Wind**

- Wind
- Wound
- Wounded

1. A strong wind was blowing when I went out for a walk.
   - He is a liar.
   - A lie has travelled round the world while truth is putting on her shoes.

2. The river winds through the forest.
   - She is lying.
   - We must be economical of our time and money.

3. Ko Ko was wounded in the Battle of Shwedagon.
   - Ko Ko laid the injured boy gently on the bed.
   - He is lying on the bed face downwards.

4. The doctor is examining his wounds.
   - The surgeon laid the injured boy gently on the bed.
   - Ko Ko laid the injured boy gently on the bed.

**E. Economy**

1. Ma Ma is studying Economics.
   - She is lying.
   - She is likely to rain today.

2. She wants to be an economist.
   - He is a liar.
   - He is likely to pass the examination.

3. We must strive (try) to further develop our economy.
   - She is lying.
   - They heard a sound the like of which nobody had ever heard before.

**F. Industry**

1. We must try to develop both the heavy and light industries.
   - She is lying.
   - We must be economical of our time and money.

2. Ma Ma is very industrious.
   - She is lying.
   - They heard a sound the like of which nobody had ever heard before.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)
Reading: My Cup of Tea

READING becoming my passion depends a lot on my mom and dad. Both of them are bookworms and they used to tell me fairytales before bed when I was younger. As I became a little bit older, old enough to read on my own, I started off with short stories then, I get to the level of reading novels.

Whenever I get a little piece of time, I throw myself onto my bed and chill with a very fascinating book. There ain’t any other vibe as cool as this. I am fond of this hobby amongst all of my hobbies because I believe that it takes me to the place where I can be who I really want to be at some times. It’s like dreaming with open eyes. Sometimes I become a lost girl, a dragon rider, a detective and even a superhero. Those are the characters which the books make me become whenever I sit down and open them. I have heard once that a reader lives thousands of lives before death unlike those who read nothing, who only have one lonely life which they are given.

Books are so magical. They take us to where we have never been to. The paragraphs, short and long sentences change our personalities. Words and words, they collide each other then become the greatest stories which tell about our real life. Thus, sometimes we may have to learn a lot from reading books as they have the power to change us. The quote which daddy always tells me that is by Francis Bacon (Former Lord Chancellor) says, “Some books are to be tasted, Others to be swallowed, And some to be chewed and digested.”

Additionally, the problem with reading a book which we love is that we want to know what are written on those next pages, what is going to happen till end, how the end is going to end but yet we do not want to finish it because we know that there is a strange feeling in us whenever a book overs. This is just a big problem with reading. Reading is somehow an addictive drug as well. Most readers want more and more when they finish one book after another. Like Benedict Cumberbatch, one of the best British actors, says about himself on reading: “Because reading is one of the joys of life, And once you begin, you can’t stop, and you’ve got so many stories to look forward to.”

No matter how busy you may be, always remember to find a little time to read a piece of writing.

Reading is installing a brand new software into our brain. Therefore, we will start to know more about life, we can start to distinguish between good and bad. Reading opens the door to the ocean of knowledge and books are the stairways to a fantasy heaven. Asking the bookworms why they read, they will answer that they don’t just read books to get smart, they read to escape from this mean and mighty world full of too much reality and negativities.

When I get hurt, I usually make myself lost in the library as I believe that a library is a hospital for all those who have wounds inside which no one can see or nobody can know. Nobody else can heal or cure those wounds expect the books. Reading is a kind of therapy that everybody needs some times.

In this case of reading, there are many genres to choose from. Such as documentary, biography, fictions and nonfictions. Mostly, fictions are people’s favourites which include adventure, comedy, thriller or horror, detective, romance or drama, fantasy and many more. Some go for romance while others go for fantasy. These days, we can read not only with books but also online. There are lots of ebooks online which we can read comfortably at anywhere and any time. There are plenty of goodies we can get from reading books (or any other things to read). While reading our brain is just focusing on one thing so that our concentration skills can improve. Our heart is beating steadily as we are breathing in and out regularly so, reading can reduce heart failure and makes us healthy in a way.

For me, reading has been here with me since I knew how to spell words and read to escape from this mean and mighty world full of too much reality and negativity. Don’t just read books to get smart, they are the stairways to knowledge and books are the stairways to a life which they are given. So, start to distinguish between good and bad. Reading opens the door to the ocean of knowledge and books are the stairways to a fantasy heaven. Asking the bookworms why they read, they will answer that they don’t just read books to get smart, they read to escape from this mean and mighty world full of too much reality and negativities. When I get hurt, I usually make myself lost in the library as I believe that a library is a hospital for all those who have wounds inside which no one can see or nobody can know. Nobody else can heal or cure those wounds expect the books. Reading is a kind of therapy that everybody needs some times.

In this case of reading, there are many genres to choose from. Such as documentary, biography, fictions and nonfictions. Mostly, fictions are people’s favourites which include adventure, comedy, thriller or horror, detective, romance or drama, fantasy and many more. Some go for romance while others go for fantasy. These days, we can read not only with books but also online. There are lots of ebooks online which we can read comfortably at anywhere and any time. There are plenty of goodies we can get from reading books (or any other things to read). While reading our brain is just focusing on one thing so that our concentration skills can improve. Our heart is beating steadily as we are breathing in and out regularly so, reading can reduce heart failure and makes us healthy in a way.

For me, reading has been here with me since I knew how to spell words and build sentences. Books get me under their influence. Their stories inspire me. Thus, reading is a part of me. Reading is my cup of tea.
The species was discovered in the country’s remote northeastern state of Kachin, not far from the border with China. The discovery was made by an international team of scientists who have been conducting surveys in Myanmar’s remote forests for the past decade.

The discovery of the Golden-Headed Langur is significant because it is a new species of primate that has been little studied and understood. The species is known to be found in the remote forests of Myanmar, where it is believed to be the only primate species that is known to exist in the country.

The Golden-Headed Langur is a diurnal primate that is primarily found in the canopy of rainforests. It is known to be a solitary animal, and it is believed that the species has a unique diet that includes fruits, leaves, and flowers.

The discovery of this new species will help to better understand the diversity of primate species found in Myanmar and will help to inform conservation efforts to protect these animals.

Reference:
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Hey, can you kick the ball back to us please?

I'll kick it to wherever I want! Get!

No!

Ahh!

Aah! The mother is coming for me. Help!

Bark! Bark!

You're a big meanie. Now we have to go after the ball.

Ha ha!

Oh! This stupid puppy is going to get itself stepped on.

Arf... arf

Get off the sidewalk!

Um, the old year's almost about to give way for the new year...

Hm, the old year's almost about to give way for the new year...

The day and months all pass by so quickly.

Well, you've greeted the new year. Tell me your new year resolutions.

And we become one year older.

I'm speechless.

Um, Er, I'll have to buy the new calendar first.

Whatever the case, we'll have to welcome the new year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Happy New Year!!

Dad, I'm going to be late tonight. It's New Year's.

So?

Dad! The whole world is going to welcome the new year.

The world has its own reasons for doing that.

They are welcoming in the new year with renewed spirits and resolutions.

Year on the other hand, did nothing in the old year, nor have ambitions for the new one.

The new year you're welcoming in will have no meaning at all.

Urgh!

2018

2019

End
Saydaw U Ottama:
Rakhine’s Outstanding Patriot

By Maung Thet Wai (Ann)

S
AYADAW U Ottama was the first patriot who instilled nationalistic spirit in the whole people of Myanmar when our country was under the British rule. I wrote this article in accordance with the Buddhist scriptures and again with Myanmar traditions of paying respect for the elders. I did so in memory of Saydaw’s outstanding qualities to free from the yoke of imperialism.

He passed away 79 years ago on 7 September, 1939. But, the youths of today know little about the Saydaw; the reason is probably because no one write about the Saydaw in their poems, articles and biographies.

But the biography of the Saydaw was written ceremoniously in the Hindi encyclopaedia in Varanasi City, India. Japan too published books about the Saydaw during the Second World War.

In the literary talks in Sittway in 1996, Saya Paragu remarked: “We should not forget the Saydaw. I found his statue in a hall to my satisfaction. I really want his statue to be known all over the country.” He did not prioritize the wellbeing of the Rakhine people and the propagation of the Buddhist Sasana even if he was a Rakhine national and Buddhist monk. Indeed, he fought for Myanmar independence at the sacrifice of his own life, the Saydaw instilled patriotism in our people; actually he was the principal architect of independence.

The author would like to recall some parts of his biography. He was born in Sittway, Rakhine State of parents U Mra Tha Os and Daw Aung Krawa Phyu on 27 December, 1879. Of three siblings, he was the eldest son and assumed the childhood name of Paw Htoo Aung. He stood second in the Fifth Grade and was awarded a certificate by the English Commissioner himself. Although he received the certificate, he was not satisfied and happy. Accompanied by his younger brother, he went to the Strand Road and tore the certificate apart and threw the pieces into the Kandalan River. He told his brother not to accept the second and the third, but only the first.

At the age of 15, he became a novice by his parents’ consent and visited Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Taunggyi, Pakokku and Maubin towns and studied the Buddhist Scriptures. At 20 he joined monkhood and visited eastern countries of India, Japan and China, Middle East country of Egypt and European country of France for study tours. During his tours, he was believed to have learned nine different languages. During his stay in India, he competed with Indian pundits for the chairmanship of Hindu Maha Smriti. To become a chairman of Hindu Association was his political will; at that time the Saydaw was in India.

In 1909, he returned to his homeland of Myanmar. As our country was under the British rule, even in the events of Young Men Buddhist Association, members of YMBA blessed: “Long live King George and Queen Mary.” In the same way, the students chanted in unison: “For the King and Queen to live long.”

In 1911, his homeward journey from Japan, he visited Korea, China, France and Indochina. In Saigon, he discussed with Prince Mingun on Myanmar political affairs over luncheon. In the year, he returned to his homeland of Myanmar. As our country was under the British rule, the Saydaw accompanied him to China. In 1911, his homeward journey from Japan, he visited Korea, China, France and Indochina. In Saigon, he discussed with Prince Mingun on Myanmar political affairs over luncheon. In the year, he returned to his homeland of Myanmar. As our country was under the British rule, the Saydaw accompanied him to China.

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University Life and Extra-curricular Activities

We normally go to university to continue tertiary education. In my view, it is not worthwhile going to university with a mere purpose of getting a degree. We should go beyond the confines of the classroom to spread our wings. In other words, we should not be bookish at all times like we used to be in high school. Apart from pursuing academic qualifications (hard skills), we should partake in extra-curricular activities to equip ourselves with soft skills such as interpersonal skills, leadership skills, problem-solving skills, etc. that can hardly be acquired in the classroom.

During our salad days at university, we have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities – from sport, music and dancing to personal development and community service programs. We can choose the activity that suits our pastime. For example, if we are articulate and fond of engaging in debate, we can join a Debate Club. Through volunteering activities, we have a chance to meet new people of different personality traits and diverse backgrounds. So, we can build up friendships outside our usual circle and expand our social network. We can also learn how to interact with others effectively, how to establish harmonious relationship with them and how to team up with them for the sake of common welfare. In other words, extra-curricular activities instill the spirit of cooperation in us and cultivate the habit of building unity in diversity. Simultaneously, it helps us understand the saying “Many hands make light work”.

Furthermore, getting together with many people makes us feel a sense of belonging and boosts our confidence to assimilate into our community. It combats loneliness and depression as well as paranoia. It encourages us to be compassionate and considerate towards others, and respect different viewpoints of the others. In this way, we can improve our communication skills that are essential to live in concord with different types of people in our society.

When we take part in extra-curricular activities, we have to balance our time to study and to engage in activities on regular basis. Thus, we can enhance our time management skills and get to perceive the value of time. If we run a club as organizers, we have to tackle the challenges to promote reputation of the club and to fulfill members’ expectation of the club. In this way, we can gain hands-on experience of leadership skills, problem-solving skills and negotiation skills. Moreover, occupying in such leadership positions reinforces a sense of responsibility in us and enlightens us about the qualities of a good leader.

Nowadays, the job market becomes highly competitive. Thus, only academic achievement is not enough to project ourselves as ideal candidates among the sea of applicants. We need to showcase a range of best traits over and above our academic qualifications. Here, we can apply the aforementioned soft skills and experiences we have gained from extra-curricular activities to create an impressive CV.

To sum up, in the springtime of life at university, we should get out of our comfort zone and attempt to discover our potential by participating in extra-curricular activities rather than fiddling around and wasting our precious time.

By Kyal Sin Phu
2nd year Honours Student (English Specialization)
University of Yangon

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