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New Year Message from President U Win Myint on auspicious occasion of the New Year

Dear esteemed and respected citizens,

I send warm greetings for your good health and happiness on the auspicious occasion of the New Year.

I wish to inform all of you that the Union Government has been working with unceasing vigilance and unflagging zeal for the fruition of national interests of the country.

I wish to convey glad tidings that from this year forth and in the coming years there will be more good opportunities in the political, economic and social sectors.

For peace and prosperity in our country in the future and for the tranquility and happiness of our citizens, I wish to assure you all that our Union Government will strive with earnestness, to realize the good aspirations and goals.



President U Win Myint.

It is my belief that we will be able to meet and overcome the difficulties and crises we are currently facing by holding on to truth and justice.

I would also like to make an earnest appeal to the people to give more co-operation and assistance to the Union Government's efforts for peace in the Union, establishment of the Democratic Federal Union and development.

I send good wishes to all the people for their auspiciousness and well-being.

I hope that all the people will join us on our federal democratic journey with energy and high spirits.

Thank you all.

(Translated by Kyaw Mying)

New Year Message from Vice President U Myint Swe for New Year of 2019

Dear ethnic nationals, citizens of the union,

On the auspicious occasion of the 2019 New Year, I send these greetings and good wishes for the good health, prosperity and auspiciousness of all ethnic national brothers and sisters living in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.



Vice President U Myint Swe.

I pray with metta and send these greetings in the hope that all union citizens will realize their aspirations for peace and national reconciliation at the soonest and that their socio-economic life will be elevated from all aspects.

I pray that all union citizens are blessed with health and happiness in the New Year. ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

New Year Message from Vice President U Henry Van Thio for New Year of 2019

Dear esteemed respected ethnic national brothers and sisters of the Union,

I send these good wishes with metta to all Union citizens living in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for their good health, prosperity and happiness and auspiciousness at this auspicious time of the New Year.

It is my fervent wish that at this time when we enter the new year after the end of the old year of 2018, all of you would be able to strive with energy and zeal for internal peace which is an important factor for the establishment of the Democratic Federal Union which is the aspiration and hope of all ethnic national brothers and sisters; development of the socio-economic status of the people; and the rule of law.

As we make strenuous efforts, I wish to urge with great seriousness that we should turn the challenges and difficulties we encounter into opportunities,. We should solve our problems in unity with collective strength based on Union spirit.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

I pray that all ethnic national brothers and sisters, citizens of the Union obtain the good results of progress and success in the New Year. ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

INSIDE TODAY



NATIONAL
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives former joint chief of staff of ROK
PAGE-4

BUSINESS
Myanmar pulses exports cross 1.4 million tons Apr-Dec
PAGE-5

NATIONAL
Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint inspects Film Development Centre, newspaper offices
PAGE-7



LOCAL NEWS
Thousands of pilgrims head to Mount Popa for New Year, cause traffic snarls
PAGE-10

Dr. Bhaddanta Nandamala Bhivamsa, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University

For the year 2019, I wish Mingalar, or greatest blessings, for all human beings and gods.

I wish that I, along with the monks and the people residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, live with auspiciousness or greatest blessings (Mingalar), make genuine progress, and overcome challenges.

I wish the people strong commitment, diligence, unity, and farsightedness while working to make the Republic of the Union of Myanmar last forever.

I wish everyone longevity, health, and peace.



Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Bhamo Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa

I wish for all the people of the world to cultivate and share loving kindness in the New Year. If there is no loving kindness, there will be armed conflicts and wars, which are not good for the world. So, please, cultivate and share loving kindness to ensure peace in the world.

This is the way to cultivate loving kindness, according to the Mitta Sutta:

'May all beings be well and safe, may their hearts rejoice.

Whatever beings there are — weak or strong, long or short, big, medium-sized or small, subtle or gross, visible or invisible, residing near or far, those that have come to be or are yet to come, may all beings be joyful (without exception).

Let one not deceive nor despise another person. In anger and ill-will, let one not wish harm to others. Let one cultivate boundless thoughts of loving kindness towards all beings.'



Bhamo Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa.

I wish all the people in the world make use of the 11 ways of cultivating loving kindness for health, peace, and love in 2019.

(Translated by AMS)

New Year wishes by religious leaders

Dr. Samuel Kyaw Hla, Patron, Judson Church Council on Yangon University Campus, Chairman, Myanmar Medicine Council,

I would first like to thank God for granting me this opportunity to express my wishes for the New Year. The current need for Myanmar is peace. I wish the country achieves the peace aspired to by its leaders and people. I am confident this will happen.

Right now, all interfaith groups, races, and organizations are wishing for peace. I would also like to wish Myanmar peace and prosperity in 2019. I believe this wish will come true.



Dr. Samuel Kyaw Hla

U Nanda, Chairman of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

I am a Myanmar-born Gurkha man. On behalf of the All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, I wish for peace, stability, and development in Myanmar. Secondly, I wish for a drug-free Myanmar. Our country is working hard to tackle the menace of drugs and I would like to urge people to participate in the anti-drug



U Nanda



Dr. Hla Tun



U Thein Lwin



Haj U Aye Lwin



Samuels, the Head of the Jewish Community



Cardinal Charles Bo



U Shwe Thi

drive. I wish the people of Myanmar health and peace in the New Year.

Dr. Hla Tun, Secretary, Thanandanadama Palaka (Hindu) Federation

Firstly, I wish all the people residing in Myanmar health, wealth, and peace. I wish Myanmar enjoys all-round development in the New Year.

Secondly, I wish the year 2019 brings peace and further development and benefits to the country and its ethnic people. Thirdly, I wish all the people residing in Myanmar health and peace of mind. I will pray for this.

U Thein Lwin, Chairman, All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation

I wish all the indigenous people of Myanmar and the people of the world health and wealth in 2019. I wish our hope for a nationwide ceasefire with all ethnic armed organizations is achieved in 2019. I wish our people a good harvest in January, prosperity, and development.

Haj U Aye Lwin, member of an interfaith group

I wish Myanmar transforms into a nation where people from different religions and races can live in dignity, while respecting each other. I also wish all the people of the world peace.

Sammy Samuels, the Head of the Jewish Community in Yangon

I wish all the people of different religious faiths and races in Myanmar peace and harmony in the New Year.

Cardinal Charles Bo, the Head of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference

I want to express my delight for this chance to convey my greetings and wishes for the New Year. In the year gone by, we had good experiences and faced challenges. The New Year brought good news about the Tatmadaw suspending military operations for four months as part of peace-making efforts.

I wish the ethnic armed organizations, the Tatmadaw, and the people make more efforts for the peace process in 2019. I wish for cessation of all armed conflict in Myanmar in the New Year, and wish all indigenous people of Myanmar live in harmony and unity, like a family.

Daw Nyo Mi, Member, All Myanmar Bahá'í Faith Organization

On behalf of the Myanmar Bahá'í faith, I would first like to wish "Mingalarbar" to the people of different religions in Myanmar. I would like to urge the people and organizations to love each other, to unite to make endeavors led by the State Counsellor a success, and to work together for nation building.

U Shwe Thi, Vice Chairman, All Myanmar Bahá'í Faith Organization

On behalf of the Bahá'í Faith, I wish all Myanmar people enjoy the blessings of God and lead happy and peaceful lives. All the people in the world are now hungry for peace. I wish our brethren and the people of the world achieve eternal peace soon.■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

"Let us strive collectively to create such a nation as was envisaged by the architects of our independence: a nation practicing pure principles that guarantee justice and freedom, and equal rights that enable all our people to live in peace."

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the 2nd Anniversary of the Government on 1st April, 2018.)



Phan Khon game, a Myanmar traditional game. **PHOTO: KYI MYO THET**

2019 New Year greetings from Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat

I send this message of greetings to our esteemed and respected ethnic national brothers and sisters for their good health and well-being on the auspicious occasion of the New Year 2019 of the Christian era.

This is a time when we are putting our utmost efforts for national reconciliation, which is of vital importance for us; for national unity and internal peace. If we take lessons from the old year and if we all cooperate with renewed minds and bodies, trust and understanding, I believe that we would be able to build successfully the Democratic Federal Union, which our ethnic national brothers and sisters have been yearning for and which will enshrine the principles of "democracy, human rights and equality" in the not too distant future.

For our country to develop and progress, peace and stability and rule of law are very important. The Hluttaws have been putting in their utmost efforts to the best of their physical and intellectual abilities for the legislation of just laws.

At this auspicious time of the New Year, I wish to send these good wishes urge that all ethnic national brothers and sisters join hands and work together for the emergence of the Democratic Federal Union which all of us have been yearning for.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

2019 New Year greetings from Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than

First of all I wish to send these good wishes with metta for good health, well-being, wealth and auspiciousness to all our esteemed and respected ethnic national brothers and sisters, and those living abroad.

We are now transitioning from the Christian year 2018 to the New Year, 2019. As we have passed one year, we should reassess the numerous events we have encountered in the past year such as causes and effects, the good and the bad and by drawing life lessons from them we should build better situations for the future. In the New Year we should strive with renewed spirits, energy and bodies, based on loving-kindness and good character for uplifting the socio-economic life of the people. Only then will be we able to establish the peaceful, developed and prosperous Democratic Federal Union, which is the common goal and aspiration of all the people. As we march towards our goal, as peace and development are interdependent, we should cast aside our animosities, hatred, ego and pride for peace and national development. I urge you to work in every peace process without prejudice, cooperate and carry out any task that may be given to you, be it "a grain of sand or a piece of brick". Like the saying "A task which cannot be accomplished by one may be accomplished by ten thousand". I would also like to urge all of you to put in joint efforts and work with collective strength.

I pray that all citizens of the Union will have happiness, peace and prosperity. As I send this New Year message I pray that all of you will be able to act with the teachings of your respective religions in your hearts. ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

2019 New Year message of Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing



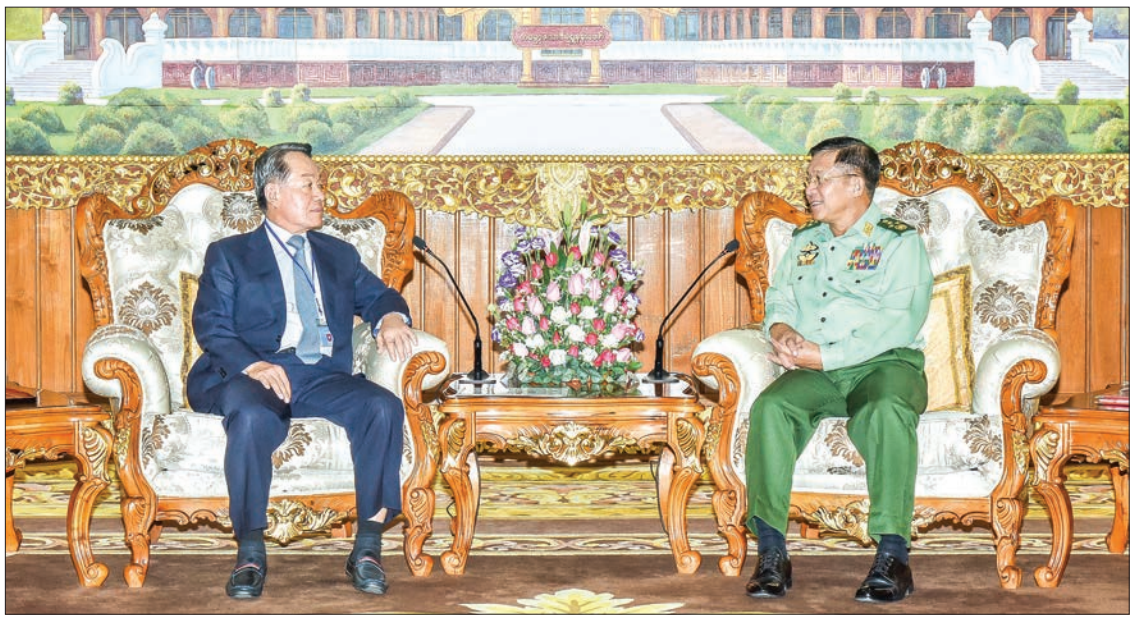
C-in-C Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

On the auspicious occasion of the 2019 New Year, as I send this message of greetings, I wish all esteemed and respected ethnic national brothers and sisters to be blessed with auspiciousness.

Just as all human beings need to work for advancement in their lives, all of them wish to live in peace. I wish to state that our Tatmadaw will work to fulfill the wish of all human beings. We will work with all the people by joining hands with them. Let me wish once again for the good health and happiness of the all the people. ■*(Translated by ZM)*

71st 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 National Sovereignty.
2. For the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union, to strive towards creating a suitable Constitution for the State in accordance with democratic standards.
3. To effectively combat and protect against the use of drugs and narcotic substances which can harm and erode the health and character of all citizens.
4. To continuously strive with determined effort for the balanced and equitable development of all states and regions.
5. To assist from all fronts the Union Government's efforts for private sector development and the emergence of a fully-developed market economy.



C-in-C Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with former Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of Republic of Korea (ROK) retired Navy Admiral Choi Yoon-hee in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives former Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of ROK

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received former Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Republic of Korea (ROK) retired Admiral Choi Yoon-hee at the Bayintnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views and discussed matters related to the status of promoting friendship between the two countries, status of constructing Thanlyin Basic Education High School No 3 school building with the aid of ROK in Thanlyin Township which was damaged by Cyclone Nargis and additional constructions in other regions, status of ROK aid projects for education, social and business development of Myanmar, Myanmar's position and support for eternal peace and a nuclear free zone on the Korea peninsular, and bilateral visits of various levels to strengthen and promote friendships between the two militaries. — MNA (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Taninthayi Region's health staff get mobile tablets for real-time information

THE Union Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Myint Htwe, attended a ceremony to distribute mobile tablets to health staff in Taninthayi Region at the Dawei Town Hall, Taninthayi Region, yesterday morning.

A total of 729 basic health staff and 38 township and station doctors from the Taninthayi Region attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Taninthayi Region's Chief Minister, Dr. Lei Lei Maw, said travel in the region is difficult due to its geography and therefore, the distribution of mobile tablets will enable timely and complete transfer of regional data and information. Mobile tablets will help reduce the gap between urban and rural areas and put healthcare within reach of everyone, he said. The minister also asked people to cooperate and participate in raising the quality of people's lives, including their health. Afterwards Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe gave a speech.

He said the ministry has distributed over 9,400 mobile tablets in six regions and states, including Taninthayi, and is increasing the momentum of disseminating health-related information and knowledge.

"The distribution of mobile tablets to basic health staff will not only enable the spread of health-related information and data, but also allow the conduct of health surveys. Based on the information and data collected, necessary healthcare can be provided," he said. "An electronic Health Management Information System (DHIS-2) is being implemented nationwide. Mobile tablets will allow the system to be extended to rural health centres.

In addition to helping monitor the inventory of medicines, the use of mobile tablets will also help track the expiry date of medicines to allow timely purchase and re-stocking of medicines and medical supplies," he said. "The use of mobile tablets will allow for continuous medical education and development of medical expertise. Just like an umbilical cord providing an embryo, or fetus, with nutrients from the mother, mobile tablets will connect basic health staff, township, and station medical doctors with professors in medical universities," the Union Minister said.

SEE PAGE-6

Rakhine State Chief Minister lays cornerstones for Yammawady Home for the Aged, inspects construction of the Kinchaung Bridge in Yanbye Township

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu attended a ceremony to lay cornerstones for Yammawady Home for the Aged yesterday in Yanbye Township, Rakhine State.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Yanbye Association (Yangon) explained about the brief history of the home for the aged and the Rakhine State Chief Minister delivered an opening address.

Rakhine State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Mining U Kyaw Lwin expressed his thanks for construction of the building.

Rakhine State Chief Minister, state ministers, Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister and Chairman of Yanbye Association laid the cornerstones launching the construction of the building.

The Yammawady Home for the Aged is established on five acres of land. The building will includes a 72x48 feet prayer hall, a 70x30-feet building for men, a 70x30-feet building for women, a 30x15 feet medical dispensary room, a 40x20 feet dining room, a 20x15 feet kitchen, a staff hostel, a store and a 20 feet high pagoda.

The Rakhine State Chief Minister and party inspected the construction sites and fulfilled the requirements.

After the ceremony, they continued to the 66/11 KV, 5 MVA (Zin Chaung) power stations in Zin Chaung village, Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State, and Township Electricity Engineer U Chan Myae Aung made the explanation of the work process. The Zinchaung Power Station is supplying power to neighboring areas of Zinchaung village.

Next, they proceeded to the construction site for Kinchaung Bridge where they observed the works of the project. Upon completion, the Kinchaung bridge will be 1256 ft long and 34 feet wide.

In the afternoon, Rakhine State Chief Minister and party attended the meeting held at the Zinchaung High School in Kyaukpyu Township. During the meeting, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said that the meeting was held aiming to fulfill the requirements of the Rakhine State, and all were urged to discuss the matters openly for the regional development.



Kinchaung Bridge is under construction in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: TIN SOE**

The local residents discussed the requirements of transportation, electricity, drinking water, healthcare and education. The Chief Minister and officials provided cash assistance and fulfilled their needs. In the evening, Rakhine State Chief Minister and party went to Kyaukpyu Township and provided cash assistance to the fire victims. — Mawsi, Ko Min ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



A farmer visits his peas plantation before harvest in Sagaing. **FILE PHOTO: WIN OO (ZEYATAING)**

Myanmar pulses exports cross 1.4 mln tons April-December

WHILE the change in India's policy on importation of pulses hurt beans and pulses trade this year, Myanmar shipped over 1.4 million tons of different varieties of pulses to foreign markets in the nine months from April to December.

"Myanmar's pulses market recovered on the back of increasing demand from India late this year. Between September and November, Myanmar exported nearly 300,000 tons of mung beans. Demand from India hiked mung bean prices to K1 million per ton. Mung bean is currently priced at K780,000 per ton. While the price of pigeon peas had also soared to K850,000 per ton, it declined to K730,000 per ton recently," said U Min Ko Oo, the secretary of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

With exports exceeding 1.4 million tons between 1 April and end of December, the volume of exports has increased by 150,000 tons compared with the corresponding period of last year.

While India is the main market for Myanmar pulses, the country exports around 30,000-40,000 tons of pulses to countries in the European Union, Japan, and China annually, said U Min Ko Oo.

In the external market, mung bean is fetching US$510 per ton, pigeon peas are priced at $480 per ton, and the price of green gram is ranging from $800-1,000 per ton. In August, 2017, India set a quota on pulses importation to protect local growers. The change in India's import policy hurt the entire Myanmar pulses supply chain, including growers and traders, with the price of pulses plummeting to K400,000 per ton.

"This downward trend in prices was not good for the market. Growers suffered huge losses when they tried to sell their stocks. They were trapped in a losing situation as of August this year," said U Min Ko Oo.

Myanmar's pulses export sector relies heavily on the Indian market. Therefore, traders are worried about possible changes in India's importation policy. —Myint Maung Soe
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

'Made in Myanmar' exhibition to be held at Kandawgyi Park

By Nyein Nyein

A 'Made in Myanmar' exhibition will be organized from 4 to 6 January at the Myawsin Island in Kandawgyi Park to promote local products, enhance their quality, and help producers hone their business skills, said Daw Wai Mar Tun, the event's organizer.

"With the dollar gaining against the Kyat, importers are facing difficulties. We would like to enhance the image of locally made products through the expo, and introduce products made by local SMEs to the public," said Daw Wai Mar Tun.

The event will feature 133 stalls under five categories, namely food and beverages, fashion and cosmetics, souvenirs and handicrafts, pharmacy, and other services.

The event will include panel discussions and traditional performances such as the Latpanpwinkaut (picking up flowers) dance and the simikwat dance (candlelight dance). The exhibition will be open from 11 am to 11 pm every day.

"The event will serve as a good opportunity for vendors who want to introduce their products to customers. In addition to this, small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs may get a chance to expand their businesses through the expo," said Daw Wai Mar Tun. Currently, there is no market where local products are displayed in the same place. This will be the first ever event showcasing 'Made in Myanmar' products.
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Imports of consumer, capital, intermediate goods decline in current fiscal

THE value of imports of consumer, capital, and intermediate goods fell slightly in the financial year 2018-2019, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

In the last two and a half months of the current financial year, Myanmar imported consumer goods, such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil, worth US$779 million. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, the value of both public and private sector imports declined by $35.8 million.

In the current FY, the country imported capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and airplane parts, valued at $1.35 billion, a decline of $6.4 million compared with the same period last year.

Intermediate goods make up the majority of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials serving as the main import items. In the current financial year, the country imported raw materials worth $1.5 million, a decrease of $26.5 million against the same period last year.

Additionally, Myanmar also imported raw materials worth $494.7 million for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector. Myanmar's total imports stood at $4.13 billion in the last two and a half months of the current FY, compared with $4.08 billion in the corresponding period of last year. — Ko Htet
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



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Taninthayi Region's health staff get mobile tablets for real-time information

FROM PAGE-4

"Mobile tablets will be used to conduct health talks on the treatment and prevention of the high incidence of diabetes and hyper-tension. All are urged to help make Taninthayi Region a model in raising the level of people's health, through this collaboration between the ministry and the Taninthayi Region's government," said the Union Minister.

After the speeches, mobile tablets were distributed to basic health staff and township and station doctors.

Thereafter, the Public Health Department's Deputy Director-General, Daw Aye Aye Sein, explained the use of mobile tablets, while Shan State's health ambassador, Ma Nan Hmwe Kham, and Yangon Region's health ambassador, Dr. Soe Nyi Nyi Tun, showed health personnel how to operate the mobile tablets.

Later, the Taninthayi Region's Head of Public Health and Medical Services, Dr. Tun Min, gave a vote of thanks and spoke about increasing healthcare works.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister visited the Dawei People's Hospital and inspected the hospital's out-patient department, the physiotherapy department, the X-Ray department, the laboratory, the blood bank, the treatment ward, the children's ward, and the five-storey extension, built with the support of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), and asked them about their requirements.

The Union Minister and officials then paid a visit to the Dawei Nurse Training School and met with Dawei People's Hospital superintendent Dr. Aye Aung, specialists, doctors, nurses, health personnel, and officials from the ministry's departments in the region.



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe meets wtih patient at Dawei People's Hospital in Taninthayi Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the meeting, the Union Minister spoke about 2018 being designated as the staff housing year. As of 15 December, a total of 6,100 apartment rooms for staff have been constructed and over 7,100 are under construction, he said.

The Union Minister also spoke about raising the health of the people through sports and the all-round development of the entire health system. He also asked the staff to regularly check the websites and social media sites of the departments in the ministry and have a sense of ownership on their work.

The Union Minister then coordinated on the difficulties and requirements submitted by the staff. Later in the evening, the Union Minister met with Taninthayi Region's Chief Minister to discuss and coordinate on improving and increasing healthcare services and works in Taninthayi Region.

On Sunday, the Union Minister and officials inspected Ye Township People's Hospital in Mon State and met with the staff and coordinated on their requirements. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

New Year wishes by peace negotiators

News – Ye Gaung Nyunt
Photo – Pho Htaung



Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong (Vice Chairman) Chin National Front (CNF).



Nai Han Thar (Vice Chairman) New Mon State Party (NMSP).



U Hla Maung Shwe (secretariat member) Union Peace Development Joint Committee (UPDJC).



Khun Myint Tun (Vice Chairman) Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO).

Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong (Vice Chairman) Chin National Front (CNF)

I pray that 2019 is an auspicious year of peace for our country. I especially pray for the success of the peace process that everyone had yearned for. I expect at the least to reach an agreement on federal basic principle. It'll become easier once an agreement is reached on this. I request the government and our ethnic armed organisations to strive toward this.

Let us all pray for the success of this peace process, for the establishment of a democracy federal union based on federal system and to stop the internal armed conflicts that had been running for seventy years. This is our New Year prayer.

Nai Han Thar (Vice Chairman) New Mon State Party (NMSP)

I pray that in the coming New Year the more than seventy years long internal armed conflict is stopped. Hatred among ethnic nationals living in the same land and drinking the same water is removed and can live together in peace and unity. A true federal union with equality and self-determination and a democracy country established where the people are free from oppressions, restrictions and have full democracy and human rights. May the people displaced by conflicts and fled into the mountains, hills and forest return to their own towns and villages with full assurance.

May the people living miserably at camps near the border in the neighboring countries come back to their own towns and villages with full assurance. May the migrant workers working while facing many difficulties in neighboring countries come back to the country to live and work in peace.

May the patriotic soldiers fighting for their country and people return to their families and live peacefully. May our country that had been lagging behind economically for years come to be on par with other countries and become a modern and a developed country. In order to conduct these political, social and economic transitions may there be understanding, trust and agreement between the government, Tatmadaw, armed ethnic organisations and political parties.

U Hla Maung Shwe (secretariat member) Union Peace Development Joint Committee (UPDJC)

There were many progresses and successes in the peace process throughout the entire 2018 but there are many things left to be done. The third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong was held in 2018. In October a special meeting was held between ethnic national leaders and officials from the government, Tatmadaw and Hluttaw. Throughout 2018, regular meetings and unofficial meetings were held. In 2019 we'll implement the fourth and fifth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong as agreed by all.

We also need to implement the announcements by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office and NRPC in December 2018. Two ethnic armed organisations signed the NCA in 2018. We'll continue to implement the NCAs in 2019.

We'll continue to strive for groups who hadn't signed the NCA to sign it in 2019 and to successfully participate in the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. We will reach the peace process that the people desire when all cooperate and work together. If we put in our best effort and work together in 2019, we will become a better society and achieve a better peace process for our country. May all the people achieve freedom, peace and happiness starting from 2019.

Khun Myint Tun (Vice Chairman) Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO)

I hope that all relevant persons work more for the benefit of the union rather than for their own organisations and people in the coming New Year.

We'll strive toward achieving basic principle on federal in 2019. We'll discuss thoroughly based on the limited time available. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint inspects Film Development Centre, newspaper offices

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint inspected the Film Development Centre and newspaper publishing houses in Yangon yesterday.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint arrived at the Film Development Centre of the Film Promotion Division under the Information and Public Relations Department at No. (50), Shwe Taung Kyar Street, Bahan Township, and heard reports on measures being taken to promote the film sector, as presented by officials. Afterwards, the Union Minister inspected Myanma Alinn Daily's Advertising Unit and Book Shop at No. 58, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Myanma Alinn Advertisement Printing Machine and distribution sessions at No. 53, Natmauk Street (1), Bahan Township, and Kyemon Daily's Advertisement and distribution sessions, along with the Editorial sessions at No.77, at the Corner of 52nd street and Maha Bandoola Street, Pazundaung Township.





Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint inspects the Film Development Centre of the Film Promotion Division in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

After hearing reports during his inspection of the two state-run dailies, the Union Minister gave instructions to the newspapers' officials. —MNA■

(Translated Myat Thandar Aung)

New Year Greetings from artists



Academy Nay Toe.



Academy Eaindra Kyaw Zin.



Zan Khi.



Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi.



Academy Tun Tun.



Aye Wutt Yi Thaung.

NOW that the year 2018 has just come to an end and we are entering the New Year 2019. We have left the old year in the past. With the old year out and a new one in, we will have to move forward with new mind and New Year spirit while taking lessons from our weakness and defects that can turn into strength and vigorous mind.

Academy Nay Toe

Time is changing incessantly from moment to moment. Life is filled with many lessons from which we need to learn. With the change into the New Year, I wish all of you peace of mind. I also pray that sympathy and truth will prevail among us.

Academy Eaindra Kyaw Zin

All my fans are my bread winners as well as my vigor. That's why I wish all of you in this New Year to encounter good things in life while leaving behind unpleasant things in the past. I promise that we are trying to our fullest capacity to create an awesome art that entails valuable lessons with fully essence.

Zan Khi

On this auspicious occasion of the New Year, I send my good wishes to everyone to be physical and mental well-being who can serve the interests of your respective family, town and country. As for me, I am making an effort to make my music more productive in the year 2019.

Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi

As we celebrate the New Year, I extend my best wishes to everyone to possess fantastic lives. I will be striving to make many films that can feel refreshed for my fans. Moreover I am trying to produce better quality films. I wish all the prosperity and happiness for our country.

Academy Tun Tun

I am going to make a donation in the New Year and will spend all the money that gained from Rose Anyeint performance. I am turning 35 years old and getting older and older. When I was in my childhood, I ushered the New Year with my friends. Later I have to spend it with my family. I wish all the people in Myanmar to abstain from doing bad things while serving for the welfare of others.

Aye Wutt Yi Thaung

As we celebrate the New Year, I extend my best wishes to everyone. May you forgive other wrongdoings with love while striving to build a better community. I am going to spend my New Year with vigorous mind.

Kyaw Kyaw Bo

On this New Year occasion, I wish all of you success and happiness and ease. I promise that we are going to make brilliant performances in the New Year.

May Kha Lar

I wish you to be free from misfortunes. I hope that we should create better circumstances that can be acceptable to all of us.

Thin Zar Wint Kyaw

Wishing you a beautiful new year that is full of joy and happiness. Being an artist, I am going to spend my new year together with my loving fans.

Nay Che Oo

I wish all the people in Myanmar peaceful and happy. I do hope that doing good deeds will surely lead to pleasant results. I would like to urge all of you to welcome the New Year with a spirit of charity.

Khin Wint Wah

Another year is gone. I feel that I am taking many lessons year by year in my life. When I was a kid, I felt excited around this time. This 2019 New Year, may you have happiness, good health and prosperity. —Ko Lin ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Kyaw Kyaw Bo.



May Kha Lar.



Thin Zar Wint Kyaw.



Khin Wint Wah.

A New, Prosperous World in the New Year 2019

TODAY is the first day of the New Year. 2019 has arrived and 2018 has passed. The Global New Light of Myanmar wishes all citizens good health, in body and mind.

Ushering in a new year involves changing from an old to a new era. In keeping with the law of impermanence, the old is gone and the new has come. Impermanence is the law of nature. All temporal things, whether material or mental, are involved in a continuous change and are subject to decline and destruction. Time will always bring change.

Time waits for no man. So, man has to work and do good deeds in this mundane world. Waste of time means waste of life.

> It is regrettable to see man unable to discard his greed, anger, selfishness, and pride. If we cannot break the cycle of hatred and splinter into groups, the world will be far from prosperous.

It is man's duty to make good use of his time. He must review his deeds – how he behaved in the past, how he dealt with others, or how he spent his time helping others. Then, building on lessons from the past, he must shape his future.

It has been 70 years since Myanmar regained her independence. As we embark on a new year, all citizens must review whether they can build a country which deserves independence or build a good life which deserves independence. If every man can build a precious life during his lifetime, there will be a prosperous world, a paradise on earth.

Only by practicing the four cardinal virtues and the principles of shame and fear can a man build paradise on earth. Discarding greed, anger, ignorance and pride, and serving others through loving kindness is the way to reach the goal of a new, prosperous world.

To err is human. So, it is important to avoid wrongs and hold on to the right attitude. It is regrettable to see man unable to discard his greed, anger, selfishness, and pride. If we cannot break the cycle of hatred and splinter into groups, the world will be far from prosperous.

We should resolve in the New Year to change our mindset to make our country thrive. Let us work to achieve this goal.



Independence and Eternal Peace

By Maung Khine Mar
(Ahtet Min Hla)



The peace talks between the government and the signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 October, 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

WORTHWHILE in attaching with the words such as cherish, appreciate and treasure is the 4th of January 2019 on which we celebrate with much joy and happiness for 71st Anniversary of Independence Day. It has been (71) years that we regained independence from British colonialists and stand tall as a sovereign nation among the nations of the world.

Before going down into servitude in three stages, Myanmar had her own monarchy and autonomy, possessing superior and fine culture and residing together with diverse brethren in peace and harmony for many centuries.

During the reign of King Anawrahta, King Bayint Naung, and King Alaungpaya, the Kingdom was united with strong defence forces.

With the rising waves of colonialism across the world, Myanmar was ravaged by three wars in three stages and went down into life of misery and servitude.

Waging war on 5 March 1824, the British attacked Myanmar through First Anglo-Myanmar War with the pretext of Shinmaphyu Island incident, and that on 24 February 1826 the country had surrendered to British through the Yandabo Agreement. After the two years long war, Myanmar gave up lands of Manipura, Assam, Rakhine and Tanintharyi.

During the reign of King Bagan Min of Amarapura Dynasty, the British waged Second Anglo-Myanmar War on 5 April 1852, and annexed Lower Myanmar starting from Aunglan Town to downward Mottama, Bago and Yangon on 20 December 1852.

As the colonialists had intention in wiping out Myanmar from the map of the world, the British used the pretext of Bombay Burma Company incident and on 11 November 1885 started the aggressive war during the reign of King Thibaw Min.

On 29 November, they took away King Thibaw Min on Thuriya ship to Yangon, and thence to Ratnagiri of India.

Lord Dufferin, Governor of India, declared Burma as province of India on 1 January 1886.

Liberated

Since the very day, when the independence was lost, people from all walks of life including the nationalities continuously fought back the colonialists.

Eventually after many decades, Myanmar regained Independence on 4 January 1948, and now it has been (71) years standing among the nations of the world as sovereign nation.

Independence and Peace

Today, Myanmar is an independent and sovereign nation, however, eternal peace is yet to attain, and therefore, the Union is moving with slow pace in its development. All the problems, difficulties and complications of the country centered at civil war. Immediately after (3) month, the Burma Communist Party went underground, igniting continuous civil wars that are still devastating in the country.

Staying alive at the status of Least Developing Country, the country is deprived of the human rights, security, economy, education, health, civil-military relationship in the demoralized and conundrum atmosphere, and the culprit is civil wars.

In fact, the building of peace is the same with the preservation of sovereignty, and that the task is to be implemented with the internal strength. It is therefore, all the stakeholders namely the successive governments, those who loved peace, and civil societies had poured out and still hammering in achieving peace.

Looking back into the episodes regarding the peace initiative, the first civil society that came out in quest of peace was "State Peace Association" headed by Thakin Kodaw Hmaing founded on 19 September 1948 with the intention to stop civil wars.

Words of Thakin Kodaw Hmaing regarding peace initiative was remarkable and unforgettable as he spelt out at "Sun Café" after his return from Germany for medical treatment on 27 August 1960. He said that it was the worst period according to his experiences as the whole of the nation was in misery and distress for (11) years since independence, that the root cause was the civil wars inherited from the colonialists, that if the civil conflicts could not be ended then the nation would be absolutely devastated, that he always urged since 1948 in setting aside the hatred, forget animosity, and work for peace, that the killing among brethren was enough.

Successive governments had worked out peace initiatives, since the AFPFL era, but in vain. During the rule of the Revolutionary Council, it declared General Amnesty in 1963, and discussed the ceasefire plan with the Burma Communist Party on 2 September 1963 that stretched out to 31 October 1963. Eight rounds of discussions were fruitless.

Moreover, in 1963, a peace talk was initiative with the combined forces of National Democracy United Front (Ma Da Nya Ta) comprising the KNU, Mon Pyi Thit Party, Karenni National Progress Party, Chin Leading Organization, but the efforts were unsuccessful.

On 14 November 1963, ceasefire plan and the peace initiative were all stopped, and later, Law Protecting the National Unity was enacted on 28 March 1964.

The year 1980 saw the peace talks with KIA, and the year 1981 witnessed peace discussions with the Burma Communist Party.

Post 1988 period was filled with the endeavors of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and the State Peace and Development Council in quest of peace through Exchange Arms for Peace Dialogue with (17) armed groups, and could stop arms conflicts temporarily.

Fine-tuning of both sides

Over the years in 2011-2012, the peace initiative was crafted in new paradigm, and on 18 August 2011 a peace call was extended, which was resulted with the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 7 August 2015. On 15 October 2015, the government and eight Ethnic Arms Organizations (EAOs) successfully signed the agreement.

On 13 February 2018, New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Democratic United (LDU) joined the NCA. The agreement is yet to sign by (7) EAOs namely the UWSA, NDAA, SSPP, KIO, OSLF –TNLA, AA and MNDAA, and also KNPP and NSCN-K.

The NLD government has issued the Myanmar National Reconciliation Process, and also by UPDJC Secretariat Member retired general U Khin Zaw Oo, and the Peace Commission welcomed them to the peace table indicating to loop in the framework of the NCA.

Joining more signatories in the NCA could be interpreted as the journey is much nearer to peace, where the salvos and noises of the guns and cannons could be stopped. Only at that time, the foundation of the democracy federal system would be solid.

In fact, the peace process in reality is easier said than done, because when something seems like a good idea but would be difficult to do.

On 19 September 2017, the State Counsellor expressed her belief that the entire people now abhorred the war and wanted peace, and therefore, all the hurdles and challenges should be cross over and continued the peace journey.

Looking at reality on the ground, the contributions of the people, the perseverance of the stakeholders, the assistance provided by friendly countries, the level of the peace strategy, and the solid peace framework of the NCA, all point to the dawn of a peaceful era.

In the past, there were (130) Union Peace Conference –21st Century Panglong was held from 31 August 2016 to 3 September 2016.

The Second Panglong was held 24-29 May 2017 and 37 points Union Accord were approved by the Union Peace Conference-21st Century, and 14 points Union Accords were approved at the Third Conference during 11-16 July 2018.

> Looking at reality on the ground, the contributions of the people, the perseverance of the stakeholders, the assistance provided by friendly countries, the level of the peace strategy, and the solid peace framework of the NCA, all point to the dawn of a peaceful era.

Scheduled conferences are in the pipeline in 2018 and 2019, but the 2018 conference would have to be postponed to 2019.

Optimistic news emerged when combined EAOs namely MNTJP / MNDAA (National Party, and Democratic Alliance) ; PSLF/ TNLA (Palaung, and Ta'aung) ; and ULA / AA (Rakhine) have declared on 12 December 2018 that their organizations warmly supported the peace initiatives of the government and that they are ready solve the political issues through dialogue.

The declaration was lauded disagreements between the two sides, and now, there remains only a few disagreements left to resolve, indicating the enormous success.

In conclusion, hailing the 71st Anniversary of Independence Day, the writer of this article would like to wrap up that the eternal peace is very much vital for the independence and sovereignty, and therefore, the existing opportunities with regards to peace should be implemented in high gear, so that Myanmar could stand tall as a nation in the midst of international community.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Monday 31 December 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24)hours, rain has been widespread in Eastern Shan State, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Mon State and isolated in Yangon Region and Kayin State. Weather has been partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago regions, Kachin, (Northern and Southern) Shan, Chin and Kayah states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (2°C) below December average temperatures in Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon regions, Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Bago Region, Southern Shan, Kayah and Kayin states, (5°C) above December average temperature in Mon State, (8°C) above December average temperature in Eastern Shan State and about December average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (-5°C) in Haka, (-2°C) in Ramthlo, (3°C) in Putao, (4°C) in Tiddim, (5°C) each in Hsipaw, Heho and PyinOoLwin. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Hpapun (0.16) inch and Monghsat (0.08)inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 1st January, 2019: Rain will be fairly widespread in Eastern Shan State, scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Naypyitaw, Bago and Yangon Regions, (Northern and Southern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin and Chin State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of continuation of rain in Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st January, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st January, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1st January, 2019: Partly cloudy.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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, in person, or by email to **ce@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.).–
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Thousands of pilgrims head to Mount Popa for New Year, cause traffic snarls

THE number of pilgrims visiting Mount Popa (Taung Kalat) has crossed the 10,000-mark in the New Year holidays, resulting in traffic congestion in the area, said Win Hlaing, a member of Mount Popa's board of trustees.

Normally, Mount Popa receives over 100 pilgrims a day. With thousands of pilgrims visiting this year, the stairways and the pagoda platform are crammed with people.

"The mountain has become so overcrowded that visitors cannot even stop at shops along the stairway. Some elderly people have chosen to stay at the foot of Mont Popa," said Win Hlaing.

"Over 15,500 tourists visited Mount Popa in 2018. Macaque monkeys, which are found everywhere on the mountain, have become a major attraction, with tourists taking their pictures and feeding them. Visitors also enjoy the scenic views from the top of the mountain," said U Kyaw Win Swe, a member of Mount Popa's board of trustees.

Mount Popa lies 50 km southeast of Bagan in the Mandalay Region of central Myanmar. It is a prominent pilgrimage site in the country.—Ko Htein (Ngathayauk) ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Pilgrims visit Mount Popa during New Year holidays. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN (NGATHAYAUK)**

Rakhine Investment Forum to be held on Ngapali Beach from 21 to 23 Feb

By Nyein Nyein

THE Rakhine Investment Forum will be held from 21 to 23 February at the Ngapali Beach, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"As part of the three-day forum at Ngapali Beach, a visit to potential investment sites will be organized on 23 February," said U Aung Naing Oo, the Director-General of the DICA.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has been organizing investment fairs to attract local and international investors and to ensure the states and regions develop more evenly.

The DICA has been apprising local and international investors of the latest developments such as the recent enactment of the new Myanmar Investment Law and new opportunities for investments.

Under the new Myanmar Investment Law, those investing in undeveloped regions will be given tax exemptions as an incentive. The new law has also authorized Investment Committees of regions and states to approve local and foreign projects not exceeding an initial investment of K6 billion, or US$5 million.

According to the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP), lack of infrastructure such as electric supply, transportation, and weak logistics pose hurdles to investment in Myanmar. The possible negative fallout from the political climate in the country, a sluggish economy, weak regulations, limited investments, uncertainty in the investment approval process, poor promotion of investments, underdeveloped infrastructure and regulations, weak financing, and unskilled workers also act as barriers to investments in the country, the MIPP states.

The MIPP has also listed the global economic climate and prospects, competitiveness in the ASEAN Economic Community, changing demand, erratic weather, and disasters as factors that affect investment in Myanmar. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Maubin's children's literature festival concludes



Cultural troupe performs dance at the Children Literature Festival in Maubin yesterday. **PHOTO: NAY WIN MYINT (IPRD)**

THE children's literature festival (Maubin) jointly conducted by the Information and Public Relations Department, Basic Education Department and Maubin District Management Committee came to an end yesterday at Myat Pyinnyar Hall, B.E.H.S (1) in Maubin.

At the closing ceremony, female students from B.E.H.S-2 entertained the audience with traditional Bagan dance;.

Regional Hluttaw representative U Zaw Moe, U Hla Myint, National Literary Award winner Dr. Myo Thant Tin, Head of Ayeyawady Region Information and Public Relations Department U Hla Myo Aung, District Administrator U Nyi Nyi Htwe, Township Education Officer Daw Thin Thin Myaing, District IPRD Daw Tin Thuzar Hlaing and officials presented prizes to winners of the painting, colouring contests, games, table tennis, storytelling and poetry contests.

Afterward, officials presented certificates of honour to those who supported the festival.

The festival came to an end with song and dance by the students. — Nay Win Myint (IPRD) *(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)*

New Year greetings

UMFCCI Patron U Aung Ko Win

UMFCCI (Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry) is an organisation that is continuously supporting the country's economic development in accordance to the economic policies set down by the government and as a patron of UMFCCI, I would like to first say that together with the responsible officials of UMFCCI we'll strive for the country and its people to obtain economic opportunities.

I wish that starting from the New Year the people of the country obtain absolute peace, achieve improvement and progress in businesses, obtain rule of law, a secure and safe social situation, become outstanding and knowledgeable citizens, be a healthy person with full health care that are human resources that the country can depend upon and have increasing job opportunities.

I wished again that may all our people be prepared and ready in all sectors to become dutiful citizens while a modern developed country is being established under the leadership of the government.

UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win

UMFCCI is leading the private sector for peace, tranquility and development of Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the socio-economic development of the people and is consistently cooperating and working together with the government and international partner organisations. At the same time we were honored and appreciative of the government closely working together with our private sector economic organisations for sustainable economic development of the country through private sector development.

May the UMFCCI executives, sister organisations and members enthusiastically cooperate and participate in this process in the coming New Year and may the country, the people and private sector business persons achieve progress, development and good results.



UMFCCI Patron U Aung Ko Win.



UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win.



Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank Chief Executive Officer Dr. Zeya Nyunt.



Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd (MTSH) Chairman U Win Aung.



Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Federation and Border Areas and Hill Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) Chairman Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Zawtadara Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr. Khin Swe.



Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) Chairman U Thet Lwin Toe.



Dr. Tun Lwin (meteorology expert).

Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank Chief Executive Officer Dr. Zeya Nyunt

I'm glad to be able to give a New Year message. I hope that 2019 would be a good year for Myanmar people. May business and properties increase as a rising a tide. May we resolve together the problems the financial sector is facing and hope that SME (small and medium enterprise) sector progress.

Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd (MTSH) Chairman U Win Aung

May the Myanmar people reach the politically most important goal of peace in the coming New Year. Together with peace, may there be economic development of ethnic nationals. May there be a quick socio-economic development. Peace and economy is always connected. May the people cooperate and work hand in hand with the government in the discussions and development works for peace.

Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Federation and Border Areas and Hill Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) Chairman Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamme Zawtadara Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr. Khin Swe

I wish there is all round development all over Myanmar in 2019. Especially the improvement of economic situation is wished for. Starting from the bottom to the middle and the top. First class rich persons pull the second class rich persons. The second class will pull those in the bottom. Only then will the country develop. If ill-wills toward others are reduced and have "mudita" (sympathetic or unselfish joy or joy in the good fortune of others), all will have good livelihoods.

Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) Chairman U Thet Lwin Toe

We journeyed under a faint light of a moon hidden by clouds in 2018 and had hoped for the light of the dawn. May local and foreign travellers be free from danger in 2019 and wished that the businesses of hotel and travel business persons and all related to travel sector develop and progress like a rising tide.

May the fellow traveller ethnic brothers and sisters head towards a peaceful and a new Myanmar that is free of mist and clouds in 2019 with strength and unity.

Dr. Tun Lwin (meteorology expert)

From 2012 to 2017 Myanmar was in the top ten countries of world that is having the worst results from climate change and stood as the second worst country. At the end of 2018 in December, a new announcement was made for the top ten countries most affected by climate change and Myanmar has dropped to the third worst country. After staying at number two position for many years, it is a good tiding to drop to number three. This is because of efforts made after Nagis and it is a good indication.

My prayer for this year is for all to know that a country is built with knowledge. May there be more educated persons. These persons also need to have the will to serve their country. May there be more educated persons with such wills. May they make the country a better one. — Thi Thi Min ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL's

2019 New Year's Message

Dear fellow citizens of the world,

I wish you a happy, peaceful and prosperous new year.

Last New Year, I issued a red alert, and the dangers I mentioned still persist. These are anxious times for many, and our world is undergoing a stress test.

Climate change is running faster than we are.

Geo-political divisions are deepening, making conflicts more difficult to resolve.

And record numbers of people are moving in search of safety and protection.

Inequality is growing. And people are questioning a world in which a handful of people hold the same wealth as half of humanity.

Intolerance is on the rise.

Trust is on the decline.

But there are also reasons for hope.

The talks on Yemen have created a chance for peace.

The agreement signed in Riyadh in September between Ethiopia and Eritrea has eased long-running tensions and brought improved prospects to an entire region.

And the agreement between the parties to the conflict in South Sudan has revitalized chances for peace, bringing more progress in the past four months than in the previous four years.

The United Nations was able to bring countries together in Katowice to approve the Work Programme for the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Now we need to increase ambition to beat this existential threat.

It's time to seize our last best chance.

It's time to stop uncontrolled and spiraling climate change.

In recent weeks, the United Nations also oversaw landmark global agreements on migration and refugees, that will help to save lives and overcome damaging myths.

And everywhere, people are mobilizing behind the Sustainable Development Goals — our global blueprint for peace, justice and prosperity on a healthy planet.

When international cooperation works, the world wins.

In 2019, the United Nations will continue to bring people together to build bridges and create space for solutions.

We will keep up the pressure.

And we will never give up.

As we begin this New Year, let's resolve to confront threats, defend human dignity and build a better future — together.

I wish you and your families a peaceful and healthy New Year.

■

N Korea's Kim vows more summits with South next year: Seoul



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reportedly "expressed a strong determination to visit Seoul while watching future situation". **PHOTO: AFP**

SEOUL(South Korea) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to meet the South's President Moon Jae-in "frequently" next year to discuss denuclearisation of the peninsula in a rare letter sent to Seoul, Moon's office said Sunday.

The leader of the isolated North met with Moon three times this year — twice at the border truce village of Panmunjom and once in the North's capital Pyongyang — as a reconciliatory push gathered pace.

During Moon's visit to Pyongyang in September, Kim promised to pay a return visit to the South's capital Seoul "at an earliest date," sparking speculation he may visit by the end of this year.

But the much-anticipated trip has not yet materialised, which left the young ruler feeling "much regret," according to Kim's letter sent to mark the end of the year, Moon's spokesman said.

The North's leader "expressed a strong determination to visit Seoul while watching future situation," Kim Eui-kyeom told reporters.

Kim Jong Un also "expressed an intention to meet with Moon frequently in 2019" to pursue peace and "solve the issue of denuclearising the peninsula together," the spokesman said.

The official did not elaborate on how the letter was delivered.

Moon welcomed the latest message, saying Kim had also expressed "active intention to carry out agreements" made in his previous summits with the US and the South, without elaborating further.

"I welcome chairman Kim's intention to solve together the issue of denuclearisation...by meeting frequently even next year," Moon said in a statement.

The two neighbours technically remain at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended with a ceasefire instead of a peace treaty.

Moon — a dovish former human rights lawyer — has advocated dialogue to push the impoverished but nuclear-armed North toward denuclearisation.

Cross-border ties improved markedly in 2018 as Kim made a series of reconciliatory gestures — including a historic summit with US President Donald Trump in June in Singapore.

But progress in pushing the North to give up its atomic arsenal has stalled as Washington and Pyongyang accuse each other of dragging their feet and acting in bad faith.

Critics say North Korea has made no concrete commitments and is unlikely to surrender its nuclear weapons, while Washington's policy of maintaining pressure through isolation and sanctions has left Pyongyang seething.

Trump said last week that he was "looking forward" to his second summit with Kim, which the US says may take place early next year. —AFP ■

Bangladesh PM wins election landslide as opponents demand new vote

DHAKA(Bangladesh) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was declared the landslide winner Monday of an election marred by deadly violence that the opposition slammed as "farcical" and rigged.

Hasina's ruling Awami League party and its allies won 288 seats in the 300-seat parliament, with the main opposition securing only six seats, Election Commission secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed said.

Sunday's vote, which hands Hasina a record fourth term, was overshadowed by clashes between rival supporters that killed at least 17 people and allegations of ballot box stuffing and intimidation at polling stations.

Hasina's government had mounted a crackdown on the opposition, an alliance led by the Bangladesh National Party (BNP), which urged the country's election commission to void the results.

"We are demanding that a fresh election is held under a neutral government as early as possible," Kamal Hossain, who heads the alliance, told reporters.

Deadly violence that blighted the election campaign spilled over into voting day, even as authorities imposed tight security with 600,000 troops, police and other security forces deployed across the country.

Thirteen people were killed in clashes between Awami League and BNP supporters, police said, while three men were shot by police who said they were protecting polling booths. An auxiliary police member was also killed by armed opposition activists, according to officials.

The opposition alliance accused Hasina's party of using stuffed ballot boxes and other illegal means to fix the result.

BNP spokesman Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal said there were "irregularities" in 221 of the 300 seats contested. Bangladesh election commission spokesman S.M. Asaduzzaman told AFP the body had "received a few allegations of irregularities" and was investigating.

Hasina has not responded to the accusations but said in the run-up to the vote that it would be free and fair. One voter, Atiar Rahman, said he was beaten by ruling party activists in the central district of Narayanganj. "They told me not to bother, 'We'll cast your vote on your behalf'," he told AFP. The opposition said the unrest was stirred up to deter voters, and presiding officers reported a low turnout across the country.

Sunday's deaths brought to 21 the official police toll for election violence since the ballot was announced on November 8.—AFP ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has receivedfinancing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The IDA Noofthe financing agreement is No5889-MM. The Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) of the Ministry of Construction, in its role as implementing agency of the FLERP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract C2-DRRD-G10 for the supply of Tippers, Plate Compactors and Bitumen Handsprayers.DRRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Procurement Package C2-DRRD-G10: Tippers, Plate Compactors and Bitumen Handsprayers

Lot No.	Item No.	Description	Quantity
1	1	Tipper 10 tons	18
2	1	Plate Compactor 4 tons	6
3	1	Bitumen Handspray	6

Supply to	1st partial delivery within 45 days to: Department of Rural Road Department, Ministry of Construction, Lower Myanmar Based Office, Pale Myothit, NweKhway Compound, Yangon 2nd partial delivery on 1 October 2019 to: Department of Rural Road Department, Ministry of Construction, Union Territory, ZabuThiri Township, DekkhinaThiri District, Nay Pyi Taw

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a wiitten fonn to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference numberabove. Eligible suppliershaving expressed interest will receive anINVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ).

Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Thursday7 February 2019 at 10:00 am Myanmar time,** after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in three(3) contracts. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Methodas per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits& Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011 and revised July 2014.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ)to:- Daw Tin Moe Myint, Deputy Director-General, Department of Rural Road Development, Department of Rural Road Development under the Ministty of Construction, Yanaung (2) quarter , North of (200) Bedded Hospital, Pyinmana, NayPyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Telephone (+95-67) 24821. Electronic mail address: flercproject.dn-d@gmail.com and/or ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send.



The Global New Light of Myanmar sends its best wishes to our valued readers, distributors, advertisers, media agencies and all the people of Myanmar for good health, happiness, and success. May you be greeted every day with auspiciousness in the New Year.

3 IN 1 INSTANT TEA MIX
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HITACHI
RHINO CEMENT
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marketplace by City Mart
TRISTAR TYRE
STAR MART

Holidaymakers throng New Year destinations nationwide

Htam Sam Cave in Hopone draws visitors on New Year Day



Holidaymakers visit Htam Sam Htam Cave in Pa-O Self Administered Zone in Shan State. **PHOTO: HTET HTET**

Bidding goodbye to 2018 at Myeik Archipelago



Holidaymakers taking a boat trip to experience nature around Myeik Archipelago on the New Year Day yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MYO NAING (MYEIK IPRD)**

Bagan's pagodas crowded with year end holidaymakers

ANCIENT pagodas in the archaeological zone of Bagan-NyaungU crowded during the New Year holidays.

The current situation is Myanmar different from what the international media portrayed. Myanmar is peace, said Mrs. Erika, a tourist from Milan, Italy.

Among the visitors were 35 Japanese students from the Time Study Language school from Japan.

"Japanese people choose Bagan first to visit in Myanmar. Generally, they visit other places after Bagan. They love food in central Bagan," said Kamar Nilar, from the school.

Local visitors and tourists have been observing the ancient pagodas in Bagan-NyaungU by pony carts, cycles, cars, E-bike in the cold season.

The local visitors are also keen to observe the history of ancient Bagan" said Ma Swe Swe Thein from Kyaukpadaung.

"The New Year Day is the peak day for visitors and all rooms of the hotels, motels and guest houses are full today. So, I have to stay at a monastery," said Ko Wei Zin Lat from Mandalay.

Three artificial mountains built for enjoying the Sunset in Bagan. They are Nyunletaben plateau located in north of Sulamani Pagoda, Komaukkyi plateau located in south of Sulamani Pagoda and artificial plateau in Minnanthu Village.— Ko Htin, Ngathayauk IPRD ■

(*Translated by JT*)



People visit's Bagan famous Pagoda on the New Year Day. **PHOTO: PE LEIN**

Experiencing nature in Shan State on New Year Day



Families enjoying picnic on the New Year Day yesterday at Heikpa Waterfall, Loilem District, Southern Shan State. **PHOTO: MOE LWIN OO (LOILIN)**

Ayeyawady Art Festival in Pyay welcomes New Year



Artist making sand sculpture at the Ayeyawady Festival in Pyay attracking holidaymakers. **PHOTO: SHWE NAN MAY**

NASA spaceship zooms toward farthest world ever photographed

TAMPA (United States) — A NASAspaceship is zooming toward the farthest, and quite possibly the oldest, cosmic body everphotographed by humankind, a tiny, distant world called Ultima Thule some four billion miles (6.4 billion kilometers) away.

The US space agency will ring in the New Year with a live online broadcast to mark historic flyby of the mysterious object in a dark and frigid region of space known as the Kuiper Belt at 12:33 am January 1 (0533 GMT Tuesday).

A guitar anthem recorded by legendary Queen guitarist Brian May — who also holds an advanced degree in astrophysics — will be released just after midnight to accompany a video simulation of the flyby, as NASA commentators describe the close pass on www.nasa.gov/nasalive.

Real-time video of the actual flyby is impossible, since it takes more six hours for a signal sent from Earth to reach the spaceship, named New Horizons, and another six hours for the response to arrive.

But if all goes well, the first images should be in hand by the end of New Year's Day.

And judging by the latest tweet from Alan Stern, the lead scientist on the New Horizons mission, the excitement among team members is palpable.

"IT'S HAPPENING!! Flyby is upon us! @NewHorizons2015 is healthy and on course! The farthest exploration of worlds in history!" he wrote on Saturday.

What does it look like?

Scientists are not sure what Ultima Thule (pronounced TOO-lee) looks like — whether it is round or oblong or even if it is a single object or a cluster.

It was discovered in 2014 with the help of the Hubble Space Telescope, and is believed to be 12-20 miles (20-30 kilometers) in size.

Scientists decided to study it with New Horizons after the spaceship, which launched in 2006, completed its main mission of flying by Pluto in 2015, returning the most detailed images ever taken of the dwarf planet.

"At closest approach we are going to try to image Ultima at three times the resolution we had for Pluto," said Stern.

"If we can accomplish that it will be spectacular."

Hurtling through space at a speed of 32,000 miles (51,500 kilometers) per hour, the spacecraft aims to make its closest approach within 2,200 miles (3,500 kilometers) of the surface of Ultima Thule. The flyby will be fast, at a speed of nine miles (14 kilometers) per second. Seven

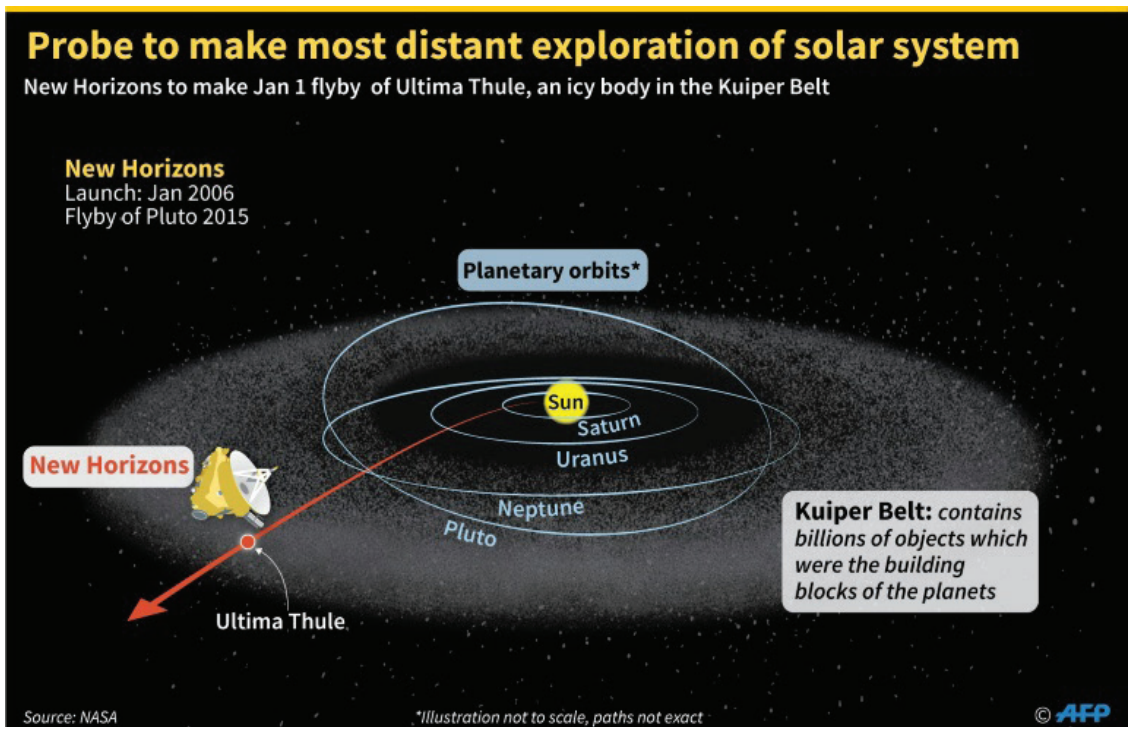


PHOTO: AFP

instruments on board will record high-resolution images and gather data about its size and composition. Ultima Thule is named for a mythical, far-northern island in medieval literature and cartography, according to NASA.

"Ultima Thule means 'beyond Thule' — beyond the borders of the known world — symbolizing the exploration of the distant Kuiper Belt and Kuiper Belt objects that New Horizons is performing, something never before done," the US space agency said in a statement.

According to project scientist Hal Weaver of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, mankind didn't even know the Kuiper Belt — a vast ring of relics from the formation days of the solar system — existed until the 1990s.

"This is the frontier of planetary science," said Weaver.

"We finally have reached the outskirts of the solar system, these things that have been there since the beginning and have hardly changed — we think. We will find out."

Despite the partial US government shutdown, sparked by a feud over funding for a border wall with Mexico between President Donald Trump and opposition Democrats, NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine vowed that the US space agency would broadcast the flyby. Normally, NASA TV and NASA's website would go dark during a government shutdown.

NASA will also provide updates about another spacecraft, called OSIRIS-REx, that will enter orbit around the asteroid Bennu on New Year's Eve, Bridenstine said. — AFP ■

Volunteers strive to stave off shutdown chaos at US parks

TWENTYNINE PALMS (United States) — Sabra Purdy is just back from Joshua Tree National Park in southern California, which was crammed with tourists. It is high season, and to prevent chaos from the partial shutdown of the US federal government, she put on her gloves, cleaned toilets and picked up trash.

The 40-year-old businesswoman joined other members of the business community who benefit from park-related tourism, and together they performed some serious maintenance in the 790,737-acre (320,000-hectare) park while waiting for politicians in faraway Washington to end their budget impasse.

The shutdown began on 22 December, with Congress at loggerheads over whether to include the $5 billion sought by Donald Trump to fund a wall on the border with Mexico, a central pillar of his election campaign and of his presidency. The result: hundreds of thousands of federal workers were sent home without pay, including 21,383 employees of the National Park Service (NPS), responsible for 418 facilities nationwide, including national parks, monuments, historic sites and even the White House. But most parks were left open, and without the usual entry fee. "In the long run, the rangers who work here are committed to preserve the area and just their mere presence probably keeps things from happening that shouldn't," said Sherman Craig, who was visiting Joshua Tree from New York.



The time between Christmas and New Year's is among Joshua Tree park's busiest. **PHOTO: AFP**

A Park Service statement issued for a shutdown earlier in the year laid out a bare-bones plan.

"The NPS will not operate parks during the shutdown — no visitor services will be provided," it said. "NPS will cease providing visitor services, including restrooms, trash collection, facilities and roads maintenance (including plowing), campground reservation and check-in/check-out services, backcountry and other permits and public information."— AFP ■

Israeli scientists find flowers can hear insects

JERUSALEM _ An Israeli research found that the night-primrose flowers, exposed to the sounds of bees and moths wings, distribute the flower pollen and raise the concentration of sugar in their nectar in only three minutes.

Hebrew-language newspaper Haaretz reported on Sunday that the researchers say the discovery may have an impact on understanding the evolution of flowers and insects.

Recent studies have shown how plants respond to light (sense of sight), mechanical stimulation (sense of touch) and chemicals that evaporate in the air (sense of smell).

The latest study by scientists of the Tel Aviv University in the central Israel presents a rapid response of plants to sound.

The study also shows that the reaction of the plants depends on the frequency of the buzzing sounds. When they were exposed to sounds at a higher frequency than those of the pollinators, no increase was found in the sugar concentration in the nectar.

Because nectar production is an energy-demanding activity, plants can accurately invest their resources and focus on pollen activity times. As a result, pollinators will receive more reward per unit of time they invest in a flower.

This discovery may also have further implications, including influencing the evolution of plants and insects.

According to the researchers, the development of flower shape can also be influenced by factors affecting the plants' hearing ability.

The findings suggest that plants are also affected by other sounds, including human-made ones, that may damage the ability of flowers and bees to communicate.— Xinhua ■

Arsenal's season at crossroads as Fulham await

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Riding high until two weeks ago, Arsenal's season has taken a sudden downturn that has thrown the focus firmly onto the club's plans for the January transfer window.

Prior to the visit to Southampton in mid-December, the Gunners had gone 22 games without defeat and while form had been more patchy since the end of October, the trajectory of Unai Emery's side was undeniably on the up. Defeat at St Mary's Stadium, however, triggered a run that has brought just one win in five games, including Saturday's humiliating 5-1 defeat at league leaders Liverpool.

With Chelsea winning at Crystal Palace a day later, Arsenal now sit five points off the top four and anything less than three points in the home meeting with fellow London side Fulham on Tuesday will further undermine the club's hopes of reclaiming a place in the Champions League.

Arsenal have started to appear increasingly vulnerable at the back, a weakness that was ruthlessly exposed by Jurgen Klopp's side at Anfield.



Arsenal boss Unai Emery faces a testing time following the Gunners' 5-1 loss at Liverpool. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Injuries not the problem'

The sight of his defenders chasing shadows and failing in their attempts to constrain Liverpool's thrilling front three will have made painful viewing for Spanish manager Emery and came just three days after Stephan Lichtsteiner's mistake had gifted Brighton an equaliser in the 1-1 draw at the Amex Stadium.

Injuries haven't helped with defenders Nacho Monreal, Hector Bellerin, Rob Holding and Shkodran Mustafi all missing the trip to the south coast, while Laurent Koscielny is still feeling his way back to form and fitness after an extended lay-off.

Mustafi returned for the Liverpool game yet while the changes to the back-line have done nothing to help the team establish some stability, Bernd Leno insists injuries cannot be used as an excuse following the Liverpool defeat.

"I don't think that was the difference," said the goalkeeper.

"Of course we conceded five goals but I think we as a team made too many mistakes. We have enough quality, even when somebody is injured...injuries were not the problem.

"We have to look forward because we have another important game on Tuesday. It's the first game of the year and on Tuesday we want to beat Fulham at home. We need to win."

Arsenal's problems have not been restricted to their back line, but the frailties suggest Emery needs to bolster his defence in the transfer window.

It's not a new problem for the club but with Lucas Torreira now offering more steel in front of the back four, there is the possibility to develop a more convincing defensive core.

Meanwhile, uncertainty continues to surround the Arsenal future of Mesut Ozil who has so far failed to win over the new coach and missed the visit to Anfield with a knee problem.

"I don't know if it's big or not big, but it's his knee," said Emery when quizzed about the playmaker's absence.

With Alexandre Lacazette also appearing frustrated after being withdrawn at Brighton and then left on the bench at Liverpool, the coming weeks will go a long way towards shaping the remainder of Arsenal's season. —AFP ■

Kobayashi first Japanese opening Four Hills winner in 21 years

OBERSTDORF(Germany)— Ryoyu Kobayashi became the first Japanese man in more than 20 years to win the opening leg of the Four Hills ski jumping competition in Oberstdorf, Germany on Sunday

He scored a combined 282.3 points after two jumps to beat Germany's Markus Eisenbacher who finished in second on 281.9pts and Austria's Stefan Kraft in third with 280.5pts.

The 22-year-old is seeking to become the first Japanese Four Hills overall tournament champion since Kazuyoshi Funaki in 1997/1998 who also won in the German Alps 21 years ago.

However, Kobayashi refused to get carried away despite success in front of more than 25,000 spectators in Bavaria. "I'm not thinking about the overall title yet, I will take it step by step and now I'm looking forward to jumping in Garmisch-Partenkrichen," he said. The second of the German legs of the Four Hills takes place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen on Tuesday. The competition then moves to Austria where the jumpers will compete at Innsbruck on January 4 and Bischofshofen two days later.—AFP ■

Man City bounce back as Pogba shines again for Man Utd

MANCHESTER(United Kingdom) — Manchester City cut Liverpool's lead at the top of the Premier League to seven points with a 3-1 win at Southampton as Paul Pogba shone again for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United by scoring twice in a 4-1 victory over Bournemouth on Sunday.

City's shock run of three defeats in four league games has allowed the unbeaten Liverpool to close in on a first title since 1990 with the sides set to meet at the Etihad on Thursday.

But after Jurgen Klopp's men thrashed Arsenal 5-1 on Saturday to open up a nine-point lead, the champions responded despite an early scare at St Mary's.

"We knew it, that with the position of Liverpool, if we drop points then it is over, it is finished," said City boss Pep Guardiola. "It would be almost impossible. Of course they are going to drop points but not too many."

Charlie Austin wasted a great chance to give Southampton the lead before David Silva slotted home Bernardo Silva's cross to put the visitors in front.

However, just as in defeats to Crystal Palace and Leicester, City surrendered the lead when Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg blasted high past Ederson eight minutes before half-time.

The game swung back in back in City's favour just before the break as James Ward-Prowse turned Raheem Sterling's cross into his own net before Alex McCarthy couldn't keep out Sergio Aguero's header.

Guardiola's men should have added to their advantage as Aguero hit the bar and McCarthy made amends by denying Gabriel Jesus.

Fernandinho had been badly missed in City's recent defeats, but his return from injury made a huge difference in midfield and Southampton ended with 10 men after Hojbjerg was shown a straight red card for scything down the Brazilian five minutes from time.—AFP ■



Back in business: Sergio Aguero (right) scored in Manchester City's 3-1 win over Southampton. **PHOTO: AFP**